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Some of the inductees attended last week's football game as Athletic Hall of Fame members were recognized at.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

## Voting Nov. 4

City Council, school committee seats on the line in election

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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HOLYOKE – Though the mayor's seat is likely not on the line, there will be many contested races on the ballot for the city council and school committee when voters head to the polls this Tuesday.

In the at-large city council race, there are nine candidates for six seats. Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, the current council president leads the pack, along with Michael Sullivan, Patricia Devine, Kevin Jourdain, Howard Greaney, Jr., and Israel Rivera. Jennifer Keitt, Mimi Panitich, and Christopher Dunay are challengers.

Ward 3 Councilor David Bartley will be challenged by Anne Thalheimer. Ward 4 will be up for grabs between Peter Diaz, Jr. and Ricard Paul Purcell. Wards 2, 5, 6, 7 councilors will be unopposed. Nicole Marie Maisonet is the only councilor running in Ward 2, and will be new to the body barring a write-in candidate.

There were two seats that had to be narrowed down in a primary this year. It was held on Sept. 16. In Ward 1, the city council seat currently occupied by Jenny Rivera had three candidates needing to be narrowed to two. Rivera, the incumbent, remained in the race with 49 votes, while challenger Victor Machado DeJesus carried 62 votes. Jose Candelario was eliminated from the race, only receiving 17 votes.

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## New class into HHS Athletic Hall of Fame

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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HOLYOKE – Last weekend, the Holyoke High School Athletic Hall of Fame held its induction ceremony and dinner, introducing its latest class.

The Class of 2025 featured Ron DeRoy, Brian Griffin, Mike Levin, Tina Mertes, Robert Sisson and Leslie St. Lawrence, will indeed be a celebration of some of Holyoke's most outstanding athletes.

Rick Lajoie, who heads up the Hall of Fame, provided the following information about all of this year's inductees. The inductees were also honored at last Friday night's football game between Holyoke and Taconic. They were introduced to the crowd at half-time of Holyoke's win over the Beavers.

This year's inductees were:

**Ron DeRoy** graduated from Holyoke Trade School in 1975 and was the school's only three-sport captain. He earned eight varsity letters at "Trade", as a member of the basketball, baseball and soccer teams. A starting forward and leading rebounder, DeRoy helped lead the

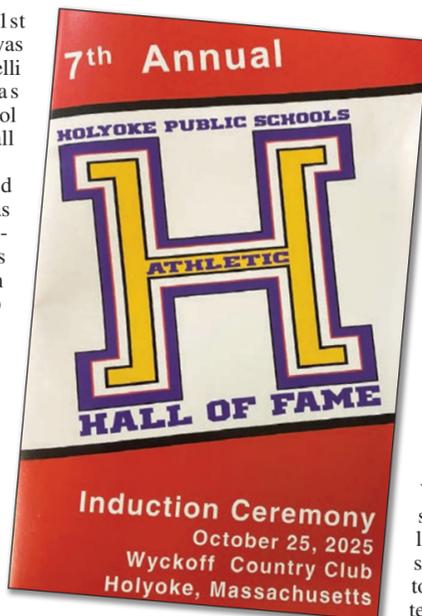
Hawks to the second round of the Bay State Class D Tournament as a sophomore. After being named captain the following year, DeRoy received the team's "Coach's Award" given annually to the team's most dedicated player, when the Hawks posted a 12-6 record and the WMass DIII tournament bid. As good as DeRoy was on the hardwood, he was even better on the baseball diamond. A four-year starter, he won the Bi-County League batting title with a .410 average in his senior year and was named to the 1975 "Coaches All-League" team for the Bi-County League. DeRoy had begun the year as the starting goalie and team captain for Trade's first ever soccer team under coach Victor Zwirko.

**Brian Griffin** emerged as the starting quarterback as a sophomore for Holyoke that went to the MIAA 1A Superbowl, but he exploded in his senior year. Griffin scored the winning touchdown with 5 seconds left in the Turkey Day game against rival Chicopee, and after finishing the year completing 72 of 140 passes for 1,098 yards with 10 TD passes and rushing for 624 yards and 3 running TDs, he

was not only named 1st team All WMass, he was named the Angelo Bertelli Award recipient as WMass' top high school and prep school football player.

The point guard for the Knights, he was a solid offensive contributor in Holyoke's 1999 and 2000 Western Mass DI Championship seasons. The starting catcher in 2000, he was named 2nd team All-WMass. Named a "Player to Watch" for the 2001 season, Griffin enjoyed a tremendous season at the plate as well as behind it, hitting .422 to earn 1st team All WMass recognition, and was also named "Most Athletic" by the Class of 2001.

Nobody was more dangerous with a stick in his hands than **Mike Levin**, as the 1985 Holyoke High grad carved impressive numbers with his hockey stick and baseball bat, earning all-star status in both sports. As a junior, Levin led the team to the Valley League title, batting .423, and was named to the All-Western Mass 1st Team. In his senior year, the



Purple Knights went 20-1 and won the Massachusetts State DI Championship. Levin batted .450 batting and repeated as an All-WMass 1st Team selection

Levin traded his baseball bat for hockey stick each winter and earned a spot on the first line as a sophomore. The Knights' top goal scorer with 12 while also recording 21 assists, he was voted their "Rookie of the Year"

and was also named to the All-WMass 2nd team. Returning to the team as a senior, he again led the team in scoring with 21 goals and 17 assists and received All-WMass 1st team recognition.

One of Holyoke High's most outstanding female athletes, **Tina Mertes** led the B Division in scoring in 1983 and was named 1st team All-Western Mass. As a senior, Mertes again led the Knights in scoring, was named to the All-WMass 2nd team and finished her soccer career as the school's all-time leading scorer.

Each winter, Mertes took to the ski slopes and received Pioneer Valley All-League recognition and qualified as a member of the US Junior Olympic Team in her freshman year. In her sophomore year, Mertes received her first of three consecu-

See HALL, page 6

## Planning Board slot to be filled

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke invites interested residents to apply to serve on the City's Planning Board.

The Board's responsibilities include reviewing preliminary and definitive plans for building projects by considering public testimony and City department comments in conjunction with the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance.

Among other tasks, the Planning Board is charged with adopting a comprehensive plan and an official map of the city, serving as the local authority for the Subdivision Control Act, adopting regulations governing subdivisions, serving as Site Plan Review Authority, drafting and submitting zoning amendments and, in certain instances, acting as the Special Permit Granting Authority.

Planning Board members serve five-year terms. The Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

## Garcia: City preparing to help residents in need

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua Garcia said the city preparing to help residents in need who could be affected by the ripple of lost services from the current government shutdown at the federal level.

Amid various reports that food stamps, now known as SNAP, benefits, fuel assistance, and other needs, could soon run out, the mayor held a press conference Wednesday to talk about how the city is preparing for that possible reality.

Holyoke has the

second largest SNAP recipient population in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Approximately 43.3% of residents receive some amount of SNAP benefits.

Garcia introduced a new initiative called No. 1 Hungry. The program will be posted on the city's website and will continue information about food pantries, community meals, and other resources residents can use to get food during this time. Food pantries are likely to see the biggest spike in need if SNAP benefits are discontinued on Nov. 1.

Additionally, a citywide

*"We are hoping to start with \$100,000 in the fund and grow it. We want to show people that their local government cares."*

- City Treasurer Rory Casey

food drive will be starting and will run through the end of the calendar year. Tim Rivers, Holyoke Health Director, says donation boxes will be placed at all city offices, fire stations, police stations, and this Tuesday, will be at all polling locations. Voters who

are able to are encouraged to make donations to assist people in need.

Rivers said those who make donations can enter a prize drawing every two weeks.

In the public schools, Superintendent Anthony Soto says while more than

3,500 breakfasts and lunches are served every day, they are prepared to do more.

"Our staff is working hard to support our students," Soto said. "We will connect them with resources."

The district has backpack program that sends ready-to-eat meals home with students every week. The program currently services about 300 students. Soto said that number could grow as the shutdown continues.

City Treasurer Rory Casey spoke during the press conference. He announced

See NEED, page 10

## WMass' connection to governor aide LaMar Cook arrested for drug trafficking

SPRINGFIELD – Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni announced Wednesday that an ongoing investigation has resulted in the arrest of LaMar Cook, 45, of Springfield.

The investigation is being conducted by the Massachusetts State Police Commonwealth Interstate Narcotics Reduction Enforcement Team (CINRET West), the

Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney, with assistance from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and other partner agencies.

To date, investigators have seized multiple parcels contain-



LaMar Cook

ing a combined total of approximately 21 kilograms of suspected cocaine, including approximately 8 kilograms that were intercepted on Saturday, October 25, 2025, during a controlled delivery operation in Springfield. The controlled delivery

took place at 436 Dwight St., the Springfield State Office Building, where the suspect was employed. On Monday night, October 27, 2025, investigators executed a search warrant of the suspect's former office within the office building.

LaMar Cook was arrested on Tuesday, Oct. 29 in the evening while operating his vehicle in Springfield. He has been charged with Cocaine, Trafficking in,

200 grams or more (in relation to the approximately 8 kilograms seized from the Springfield State Office Building operation); Unlawful Possession of a Firearm; Unlawful Possession of Ammunition; and is expected to be arraigned in Springfield District Court today, Oct. 29, 2025. Cook is presumed innocent of all allegations

See COOK, page 10

# High School to present fall production

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School Theater Company invites the community to an evening of mystery, laughter, and suspense with “The Final Act,” an original Murder Mystery Dinner Theater written by Fynn Maldonado, a member of the Holyoke High School Class of 2026 in the Performing and Media Arts academy. The performance takes place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13 at De La Luz Soundstage located at 114 Race Street in Holyoke.

Maldonado and produced under the direction of Bevan Brunelle, “The Final Act” is an immersive theatrical experience that pulls the audience directly into the story. Guests will enjoy a three-course sit-down meal—salad, main course, and dessert—while the mystery unfolds all around them. As the drama builds, patrons will collect clues, piece together evidence, and compete to solve the mystery before the final act is revealed. Every table has a chance to uncover the

truth... if they can connect the dots in time. This one-of-a-kind event invites guests to dine, watch, and even become part of the plot. A limited number of VIP “Suspect Add-On” packages allow participants to step into the story by submitting a photo and five personal “facts” to become a suspect in the case. VIP Sponsor Seating includes premium table placement, one soft drink ticket, a signed cast poster, and a sponsor listing in the official playbill. Tickets

are: General admission: \$30; Students admission: \$20 (must show student ID at door); and, V.I.P Sponsor Seating: \$45. No tickets will be sold at the door. All ticket sales close at 8 p.m. on Sunday, November 9, and guests must be 11 years or older to attend. Business casual attire is encouraged for this immersive, student-created evening of intrigue. Tickets are available online only at <https://delaluz.org/events/the-final-act/>.

# Hibernian Clothing and Food Drive for Providence Ministries

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.

# Committee opens Colleen applications

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke is proud to announce that applications are now open for the 70th Annual Holyoke Grand Colleen Pageant on Jan. 3. For seven decades, the Grand Colleen Pageant has been a signature event of Holyoke’s St. Patrick’s celebrations, honoring the heritage, pride, and accomplishments of young women of Irish descent. Serving as the kickoff to Parade season, the pageant is more than a competition - it is an opportunity to represent one’s community, celebrate Irish culture, and join a legacy of ambassadors who have played a special role in the city’s most cherished tradition. This year, the Committee is excited to announce an expanded eligibility that opens the door for even more young women to participate! In addition to residents of Holyoke and South Hadley, contestants from Holyoke’s bordering communities of Easthampton and Southhampton are now eligible to enter the competition. “Being chosen as the Grand Colleen is about so much more than wearing the crown,” said Kate Caligaris, Colleen

Committee Chair. “It’s about leadership, pride in one’s Irish heritage, and the chance to be part of something larger than yourself. We’re thrilled to welcome young women from our neighboring communities to share in this tradition.”

**What’s new this year?**

- Expanded eligibility: Young women from Holyoke, South Hadley, Easthampton and Southhampton 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 Southhampton
- Be single (never married, not a parent)
- Claim Irish ancestry
- Complete a resume and application

**Awards & 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

Apply now! [www.holyokestpatrickspageant.com/apply](http://www.holyokestpatrickspageant.com/apply). For any questions, please contact Kate Caligaris, Colleen Committee Chair at 413.627.8716 or [holyokecolleens@gmail.com](mailto:holyokecolleens@gmail.com).

# DAISY Award nominations available to Holyoke Medical Center nurses

HOLYOKE – Nurses at Holyoke Medical Center will soon have the ability to be nominated for The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses®. The international award is part of the DAISY Foundation’s mission to recognize the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care they provide patients and families every day. The DAISY Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, by members of his family. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. (DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System.) The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families. Nurses may be nominated by patients, families, and colleagues. The award recipient is chosen by a committee at Holyoke Medical Center to receive The DAISY Award. Awards are presented throughout the year at celebrations attended by the Honoree’s colleagues,

patients, and visitors. Each Honoree receives a certificate commending her or him as an “Extraordinary Nurse.” The certificate reads: “In deep appreciation of all you do, who you are, and the incredibly meaningful difference you make in the lives of so many people.” Honorees also receive a DAISY Award pin and a beautiful and meaningful sculpture called A Healer’s Touch, hand-carved by artists of the Shona Tribe in Zimbabwe. Said Bonnie Barnes, FAAN, Doctor of Humane Letters (h.c.) and Co-Founder of The DAISY Foundation, “When Patrick was critically ill, our family experienced first-hand the remarkable skill and care nurses provide patients every day and night. Yet these unsung heroes are seldom recognized for the super-human, extraordinary, compassionate work they do. The kind of work the nurses at Holyoke Medical Center are called on to do every day epitomizes the purpose of The DAISY Award.” “Holyoke Medical Center is proud to join many

healthcare organizations across the globe participating in The DAISY Award program. Nurses go above and beyond every day. It’s important that nurses at HMC know their work is highly valued, and The DAISY Foundation provides a way for us to do that,” said Margaret-Ann Azzaro DNP, RN, CENP, Sr. Vice President, Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer at Holyoke Medical Center. In addition to the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses, the Foundation expresses gratitude to the nursing profession internationally in thousands of healthcare facilities and schools of nursing with recognition of Nurse-led Teams, Nurse Leaders, Nurses Advancing Health Equity, Nursing Ethics, Nurse Educators, Nursing Students, Lifetime Achievement in Nursing and through the J. Patrick Barnes Grants for Nursing Research and Evidence-Based Practice Projects, Medical Mission Grants and their new Health Equity Grant programs. More information is available at <http://DAISYfoundation.org>.



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# 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.

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USDA INSP. BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS... <b>\$2.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BREADED FISH STICKS... <b>\$2.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG... <b>\$1.17</b> lb
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# Moriarty recognized with 2025 Distinguished Service Award

HOLYOKE – The National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) has announced that Michael Moriarty, Executive Director of OneHolyoke CDC and a longtime advocate in the movement to advance Early Literacy in the Commonwealth, is a recipient of NASBE's 2025 Distinguished Service Award, recognizing exceptional contributions to education.

This prestigious award honors three board leaders annually, this year from Massachusetts, Georgia and Tennessee, and represents NASBE's highest accolade for state board members.

Moriarty recently completed his tenure on the Massachusetts State Board

of Education after 10 years of service, during which he chaired the state's Early Literacy Subcommittee, and was a member of the budget subcommittee and commissioner evaluation committee. Moriarty was also an active member of NASBE's Early Literacy Working Group.

Prior to chairing Massachusetts' Early Literacy Subcommittee, Moriarty pioneered tying budget requests to literacy programs, years before it became common in state policy. A final report incorporating Moriarty's comprehensive recommendations on early literacy is being adopted by the state's education department.

According to Matt Hills, vice chair of the

Massachusetts board, "His impact as a colleague, especially on literacy policy, will long outlast his time on the board. Michael brought clarity, persistence, and heart to the work, and for that we are deeply grateful."

A lifelong resident of Holyoke, Moriarty also served for 13 years on the school committee and was instrumental in the formation of the Holyoke Early Literacy Initiative (HEL). The community-wide collaborative focused on increasing the number of students who were proficient in reading by the end of third grade. Moriarty



Michael Moriarty

has also been a vocal advocate for arts education.

Moriarty has served as Executive Director of OneHolyoke CDC since 2013, a mission-driven nonprofit that believes every resident of Holyoke should live in a dignified home and a safe, attractive neighborhood. Before attending law school, Moriarty taught in Holyoke for five years, subjects included Latin, English, and social studies. As an attorney, he has also taught at Middlesex and Holyoke Community Colleges.

The two other recipients of NASBE's Distinguished

Service Award are Kenneth Mason, member of the Georgia Board of Education, and Lillian Hartgrove, member of the Tennessee State Board of Education.

According to NASBE President and CEO Paolo DeMaria, "Kenneth, Michael, and Lillian have dedicated time, talent, and energy to improving education for students across the country. Their leadership has strengthened state boards, advanced innovative policies, and inspired colleagues and communities. We are proud to recognize their extraordinary service with the Distinguished Service Award."

NASBE serves as the only membership organization for state boards of education. A nonpartisan, nonprofit

organization, NASBE elevates state board members' voices in national and state policymaking, facilitates the exchange of informed ideas, and supports members in advancing equity and excellence in public education for students of all races, genders, and circumstances. Learn more at [www.nasbe.org](http://www.nasbe.org).

OneHolyoke CDC is the only certified Community Development Corporation based in the City of Holyoke. Founded in 1971, OneHolyoke CDC has created over 160 new homes in the Flats, Churchill and South Holyoke neighborhoods, rehabilitated hundreds of apartments and provided thousands of home improvement grants to homeowners through the Neighborhood Improvement Program.

## 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

## Inked in symbolism: A Tattoo talk with Donnabelle Casis

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is excited to announce an upcoming presentation with Donnabelle Casis, corresponding with the museum's Current exhibit: Identity in Ink: The Art of Tattooing. This talk will dive into the history of Filipino tattooing. Visitors will learn about symbolism found in common tattoos and the practice of hand-tapped tattooing. This method of tattooing is touched upon in the exhibit, but Casis will dive deeper,

sharing her own connections to tattooing.

Donnabelle Casis is an artist, psychic medium, Reiki Master Teacher, sound therapy practitioner, and intuitive development mentor through my practice, SonorousLight, LLC. Her visual art practice involves painting and kinetic sculpture. About her work, Casis says, "I draw inspiration from my Filipino heritage, particularly the symbols and patterns found in tribal tattoos and textiles. These designs are deeply

rooted in storytelling, identity, and spiritual connection."

Identity in Ink merges modern tattooing with the history of the art form. The art of tattooing is one of the ancient traditions in human history. Etching pictures and symbols into skin has been around for thousands of years and has held countless meanings throughout different cultures and times. Some are still rooted in tradition and rituals, but tattoos have evolved into powerful symbols of self-expression,

storytelling, and identity. Casis's presentation will be the perfect way to celebrate this exhibit.

Inked in Symbolism will take place on November 10th, 2025, from 6pm-7pm. Registration is encouraged, but not required. Register for this event on Wistariahurst's Eventbrite page. We hope to see you for this exciting talk to close out the exhibit.

Identity in Ink: The Art of Tattooing is on view through Nov. 11. Open gallery hours for this exhibit

will be on Mondays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Tuesdays (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.). These gallery hours are open and free to the public, so that all of our community members can stop by to explore this exhibit, discover unique artistry, and engage with educational information surrounding the history of tattoos. This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

## Elks hosting Hoop Shoot 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.

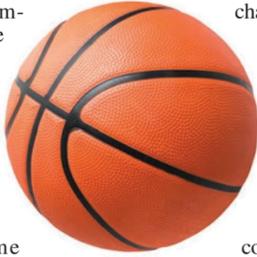
National champions will have their names permanently inscribed on a plaque at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts — an honor that celebrates their dedica-

tion 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.



## Library to host writing workshop

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library will hold a Journey to Wellness Writing Workshop on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The event will be held in the Community Room. To register for the event, contact Abbey at [abuedinger@holyokelibrary.org](mailto:abuedinger@holyokelibrary.org). There is no cost for the program.

## Volunteers needed to restore graves Nov. 8

HOLYOKE – The Veterans Services is honored to host a Graves Restoration Event on Saturday, Nov. 8 at the Calvary Cemetery located at 2140 Northampton Street. The event will begin at 10 a.m. Rain Date will be on Nov. 15.

This event is to restore and preserve our deceased veterans markers so that

they are kept in a presentable form for posterity.

Tools and supplies will be provided.

There are no hazardous chemicals (to humans, animals or environment) used in the process of restoration.

If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Klinge at [klingew@holyoke.org](mailto:klingew@holyoke.org) or 413-322-5630. All are welcome.

## Halloween 'drive-thru' event this weekend

WINDSOR, CT – The fifth annual Great Halloween Drive-Thru, located in Windsor, CT next to Brown's Harvest Family Farm, 1911 Poquonock Avenue will be open for its final weekend for the season. Visitors stay in their vehicles and drive through the farm along a journey of spooky holograms, special effects, sounds and projections. The Great Halloween Drive-Thru is not scary. There are no live actors and no jump scares. The animated hologram shows, projections and special effects throughout the park are ideal for families and children.

Spooky fun without the scare, The Great Halloween Drive-Thru is family owned, created, and operated and draws visitors from all over MA, CT, VT, and NY.

Tickets are \$30 per car (cash only) paid at the entrance.

"We've had a busy season," said creator Frank Campiti. "People have come from all over New England and New York to experience this family friendly event. We've had families coming every night we're open saying their kids love it so much, it's all they talk about! Parents are always looking for fun things to do with their kids and this is an experience the whole family can enjoy together. We have no live actors and no jump scares so visitors can

celebrate Halloween without the scary factor. This is the kind of event people of all ages enjoy."

The Great Halloween Drive-Thru is sponsored by AMP Electrical, Inc. and WMAS-94.7 FM.

About Campiti Ventures: Campiti Ventures, run by Suffield resident Frank Campiti, is responsible for the highly successful The Great Halloween Drive-Thru and Suffield Summer Fair and Fireworks.

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## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



### Do I need to sign up for an online Social Security account?

Dear Rusty:

I recently heard the tail end of a radio program, which was discussing "signing up for my Social Security account."

I am now 76 years old and have been receiving my SSA monthly amount directly into a credit union account for years. Since the time when I applied to begin receiving Social Security, I have had no need to contact SSA again since everything is working fine. I do not like having to use the Internet. It seems the government is just giving me busy work and requiring me to remember usernames, passwords, etc. just when I am trying desperately to simplify my life. Can you shed any light on the need to sign up for an online SSA account by answering this:

- 1) What is the background regarding this "call" by the SSA to create an online account?
- 2) Why is the SSA wanting us to have "accounts"? Mysteriously, no one I have asked is able to give me a reason why we should have "accounts" on-line.
- 3) What happens if I do not sign-up for an "account"?
- 4) Is there a window of time during which we must "sign up"?

Thanking you in advance for any light you can shed on this issue.

**Signed:**  
**Concerned Senior**

Dear Concerned:

While creating an online Social Security account is recommended by the Social Security Administration, doing so is more of a convenience than a necessity.

It is mainly a way to confirm your identity to Social Security in advance, in case you need to contact them in the future to make changes to your SS account. If you don't plan to make any changes, then it is not mandatory for you to create an online "my Social Security" account. Nothing will change for you – you will continue to get your monthly benefits as you have been doing all these years.

Regarding your specific questions:

1. What is the background?  
Social Security has, for many years, been encouraging people to do business with them "online." This is, essentially, a way to improve the efficiency of a) getting your needs handled more quickly, and b) improving SSA's internal efficiency so as to handle more transactions with fewer staff.
2. Why does SSA want you to have an online account?  
SS fraud has become an issue, with nefarious individuals constantly trying to get at a person's

Social Security (and other) government benefits. As part of its process for online access, SSA has evolved to a quite secure online identification process, which includes modern security techniques. These include things like "Two-Factor Identification" and use of certain specific identification measures through two main programs for access to government systems (known as LOGIN.gov and ID.me). These create a single pre-verified way to access multiple government systems (such as SSA, IRS, VA, etc.). It means that only one ID and password are required to access numerous government systems and ensures that those who access the account are the correct person. It is primarily a way to protect your benefits from others and prevent fraud.

3. What happens if I do not sign-up for an "account"?

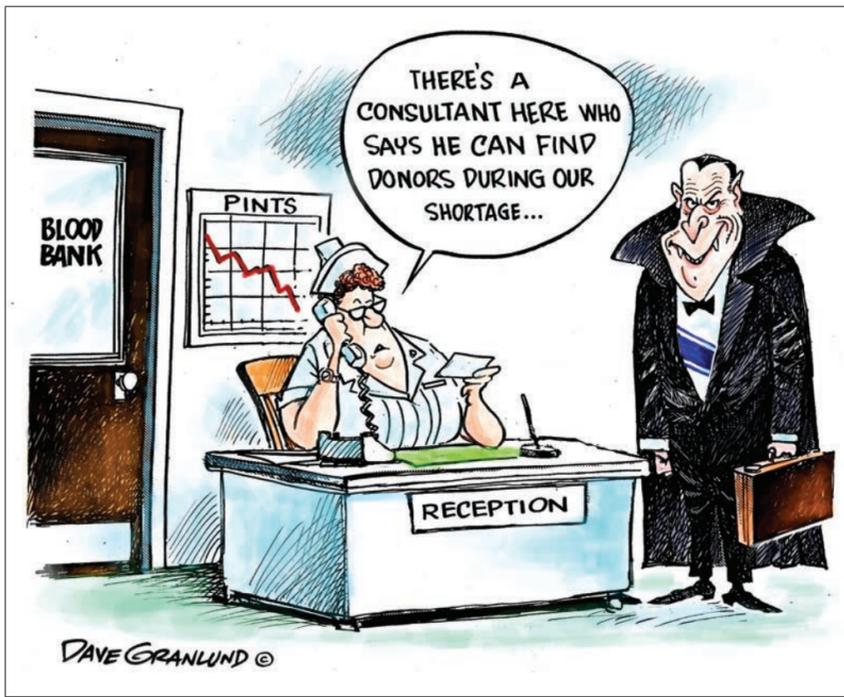
Nothing will happen, unless you have a need to change something with Social Security. For example, if you for some reason wanted to change the financial account to which your SS benefits are deposited. With a secure LOGIN.gov account you could make that change quickly using your online account. Without a secure online account, you would, instead, need to make an appointment to visit your local Social Security office to make the change and provide proof of who you are. Again, this is to reduce fraud.

4. Is there a window of time during which we must "sign up"?

As indicated above, there is no time in which you must "sign up." If you do not sign up for online access, and don't need to change anything with respect to your SS benefits, then you do not need to create an online account.

So, while creating an online SSA account is highly recommended, it is not mandatory for those who have no need to interact directly with the Social Security Administration.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



### Pumpkins of lore and legend

I miss the days of carving pumpkins with the kids. Last year was the first year time got away from us and we just didn't get around to doing it.

I guess the rituals aren't quite as important as they used to be when the girls were younger. Alas, time marches on.

I still got a kick out of decorating the porch with pumpkins, big and small, orange and white. Not a Jack-o'-Lantern to be seen, just a pretty autumnal scene.

It is safe to say that we New Englanders have a fond affection for the pumpkin. And by the look of the neighborhood, we enjoy this fruit (yes, fruit) more on our doorsteps these days than we do in our kitchens.

This wasn't always the case; in fact, the pumpkin was a staple in the diets of Native Americans long before the pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock.

The pumpkin is thought to have originated in Mexico. Seeds found there of a distant Cucurbit relative were dated all the way back to 7000 to 5500 B.C.! In our more recent past, Native Americans taught colonists how to plant pumpkins; soon they became indispensable in their diets.

The hard outer skin of the pumpkin allowed it to be stored for a long period of time, sustaining the community throughout the winter months. It was also versatile, used in stews, bread baking, and even in desserts.

Historians speculate that the pumpkin pie may have evolved from the century's long practice of removing the top of a pumpkin, straining out the seeds and more stringy flesh, adding milk, honey and spices and baking it for hours in hot coals. Today, we continue to enjoy pumpkin pie, but mainly as a holiday treat.



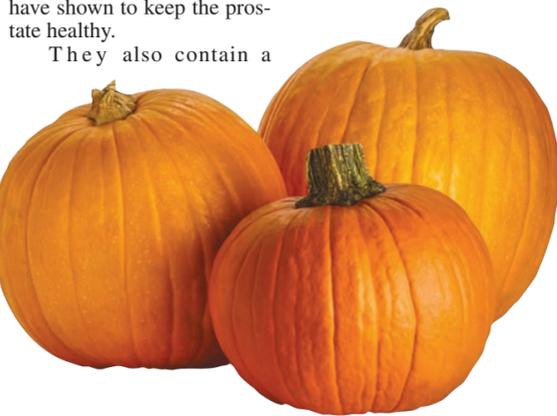
by Roberta McQuaid

healthy dose of magnesium.

Did you ever wonder where the tradition of carving Jack-o'-Lanterns originated? It is thanks in part to an the Irish folk tale of Stingy Jack, an unsavory figure who unwelcome in Heaven, outsmarted the devil and was left to roam the earth with only a burning coal to light his way. According to the legend, Jack put the coal in a carved out turnip (which he was fond of stealing!) and has been roaming ever since.

"Jack of the Lantern" has become simply "Jack-o'-Lantern." In Scotland and Ireland people made their own Jack-o'-Lanterns out of turnips or potatoes. In England, large beets were used. The tradition came with the immigrants to America; here they found the pumpkin perfect for carving. And so it has continued! Maybe I will have to carve one myself, just for old time's sake.

*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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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



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### The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to *The Holyoke Sun*, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Friday's

newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

#### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

per plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in *The Holyoke Sun*.



## The trials of the Appalachian Trail

and I felt a red-hot sensation on my right arm, followed by another on my left arm. Before I even looked down, I knew that I had just been stung by Yellow Jackets... the most despicable spawn of Satan that has ever inhabited this planet.

Tom must have unknowingly stepped on a ground nest, and they were coming out for vengeance as I walked past.

I screamed in agony as a swarm of them descended upon me—stinging my ankles, thighs, and arms. It felt as though someone was shooting red-hot flaming arrows directly into my skin. A sound that was unrecognizable even to my own ears came out from somewhere deep inside of me. A guttural sound. Like a deep moan intermingled with a high-pitched wail. It bordered on primal. Tom turned at the sound—later telling me that he thought the sound was coming from a wounded animal.

I screamed to Tom to “RUUUN!” at a decibel that could be heard from miles away, since Tom is deathly allergic to Yellow Jacket venom. With adrenaline coursing through my body, I raced along the rock-strewn path like an Olympic medalist, waving my arms to ward off the monsters that were attacking me.

When it seemed as though I was no longer being chased, I finally stopped and bent down to swipe off a dozen Yellow Jackets that were still clinging to my merino wool socks. The pain in my ankles was excruciating, and I began screaming and crying all at once.

I unclipped my pack and dropped it to the ground so that I could pull out my first aid kit. Within seconds, more yellow jackets were upon me. “They smell the pheromones!” Tom yelled. With no thought of his own safety, he flailed his arms to ward them off and screamed, “RUN Julie!”

Leaving my pack behind, I ran like the speed of light until the wasps finally gave up their chase.



A few minutes later, Tom came barreling up the trail with my enormous backpack in hand. His concerned face was filled with desperation when he saw me. I had been stung over 2 dozen times. Tears were rolling down my face. My arms and thighs were already swelling from the venom, and my ankles were so swollen, they were unrecognizable.

Tom insisted I use his EpiPen, since I had a severe reaction to Yellow Jacket venom in the past. I refused. “We still have 4 more days out here. If YOU get stung, it’s life or death. If my throat starts to close, you can inject me. If not, we’re saving the EpiPen in case you get stung.”

Fortunately, we were only a mile and a half from

the water spigot at the next road crossing. Once we got there, I took off my shoes and socks and ran cold water on the stings in a vain attempt to reduce the pain and swelling. I even went so far as to text my kids to ask them to google whether or not urine could reduce the pain and swelling of Yellow Jackets venom. (Desperate times call for desperate mea-



Submitted photos



asures!) Alas, they responded that it was just a fallacy. Tylenol was my only option.

Needless to say, I spent a pretty sleepless night in our tent that night due to the pain. The intense itching would begin the following morning. Oh, the joys!

Our 7-day hike through New York State was definitely the single most challenging backpacking trip we have ever taken. But each trial made us even more

grateful for the blessings we encountered along the way. The sunrises and sunsets. The conversations with fellow hikers around a campfire. The enormous trees. The rare flowing stream. Even the bear encounter while we were brushing our teeth at a primitive tent-site on our second night on trail seemed like a gift.

But that’s a story for another day. Let the adventures continue!

“B E E E E E E E S !  
R U U U U U N !”

It was midafternoon on the fourth day of our backpacking trip through New York State on the Appalachian Trail. A 93-mile hike from the New Jersey border to the Connecticut border in early October.

The first three days had confirmed what others had warned us—the trail through New York would not be easy. Especially this year, when most of the ‘reliable’ streams were bone dry due to the drought. Many days, we were forced to detour off the trail and hike into towns to procure water. With temps in the 80’s, dehydration was an ever-present worry. In addition, the added weight of up to 6.6 pounds of water on our backs made the technical scrambles up steep rock ledges even MORE precarious.

On day 4, we were hustling, intent on hiking as many miles as possible so that we could reach a reliable water source—a water spigot at a pump house—before pitching our tent for the night. We were 12 miles into our day when the unimaginable happened.

Tom was about 75 feet ahead of me, when he suddenly paused and turned back to make sure that I was still behind him. When he saw me a short distance away, he continued on.

Fifteen seconds later, I reached the spot where he had momentarily stopped,

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
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59						60									
62						63						64			

**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. El \_\_, Texas town
- 5. Rocker’s tool
- 8. A lot
- 12. Traveling by ground
- 14. Spelling competition
- 15. Two-toed sloth
- 16. Small perfumed bag
- 18. “Much \_\_ about nothing”
- 19. Tough-skinned mollusk
- 20. Removes from record
- 21. It warms the planet
- 22. Leafy green
- 23. Quality of arriving favorably
- 26. Living thing
- 30. “Six of Crows” author Bardugo
- 31. Got around a rule
- 32. Resin from burned substance
- 33. Iraq seaport

**CLUES DOWN**

- 34. Religious leaders
- 39. Fugitives are on it
- 42. Samson’s influencer
- 44. Italian city
- 46. A quality of lacking interest
- 47. Predatory tropical fishes
- 49. Nobel physician
- 50. Luck
- 51. Stationary part of a motor or generator
- 56. Orthopedic professional group (abbr.)
- 57. One point south of due east
- 58. It follows 79
- 59. Paper currency
- 60. Anger
- 61. Spanish seaport
- 62. Sleep in a rough place

**CLUES DOWN**

- 63. Famous museum
- 64. Selves
- 1. Bullfighting maneuver
- 2. From a distance
- 3. Soul and calypso song
- 4. Expressions of delight
- 5. Lower in esteem
- 6. Inner region of an organ
- 7. Flowers
- 8. A bog
- 9. Remove a fastening
- 10. Membranes
- 11. Enormous
- 13. One who abstains from drink
- 17. Malayan wild ox
- 24. Type of student
- 25. Rejecting all moral principles
- 26. Sino-Soviet block
- 27. Egyptian unit of weight
- 28. Wrong
- 29. Make a mistake
- 35. Indicates location
- 36. Boxing’s “GOAT”
- 37. Where wrestlers compete
- 38. Timid
- 40. Disney town
- 41. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- 42. Male parent
- 43. Remove for good
- 44. Simple shoes
- 45. Flowers
- 47. Hindi courtesy title for a man
- 48. Not pleased
- 49. “Atlas Shrugged” author
- 52. CIA officer and writer
- 53. Hoodlum
- 54. \_\_ Von Bismarck, Iron Chancellor
- 55. Woolen rugs

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11

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 parish@ourladyofthecross.com  
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 Reconciliation (Confession) Monday - Saturday 8 a.m.  
 Saturday 3:15pm  
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 ROSARY 8:05 a.m.  
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**St. Peter’s Lutheran Church**

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 Sunday: 8 a.m.  
 Sunday: 10 a.m.  
 Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)



Members of the 1979 football team were honored.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Tina Mertes receives her plaque with honor.



The 1990 boys tennis team poses with their hall plaque alongside their coach Steve Morneau and committee hosts for the evening.

**HALL, from page 1**

...tive All-WMass 1st team awards, before placing 1st in the slalom and 3rd overall in the US. Ski Association Eastern Regionals High School Championship. In her senior year, Mertes had the "trifecta" at the PVIAC "Individuals" Championship, before adding the slalom and giant slalom titles at WMass Championship meet. Mertes emerged as the team's starting first baseman as a junior, and had her best season in 1985, batting .380 with 21 RBIs, and was named to the All-WMass 2nd Team.

**Robert Sisson** will always be remembered for his swishing a three-pointer at the buzzer in the 1993 Western Mass DI Championship game to dethrone the four-time defending champion Central High School, but Sisson was much more than just one shot. He is easily one of the top hoop players to have ever played at Holyoke and may be quite possibly the best of the best, as he was a three-time, All-WMass 1st teamer and finished his high school career third on Holyoke's all-time scoring list with 1,118 points.

Sisson was an easy choice as the 1993 DI Tournament "MVP" and his first All-WMass 1st Team award. He was a repeat 1st team All-WMass selection as a junior and led the Knights another Western Mass DI championship as a senior, where he was again named WMass DI Tourney "MVP". Sisson followed recorded 21 points and 12 rebounds to pace the Knights to a 76-65 semi-final overtime win against St. John's of Shrewsbury, to bring Holyoke to State finals for only the second time in school history.

**Leslie St. Lawrence** wasted no time making waves on the Holyoke High School swim team and broke her first school record just after Christmas of her freshman year. She would go on to set three individual HHS records and be part of a record setting relay team before the year was over and earned the first of four straight 1st team "All-WMass" honors.

As a junior, St. Lawrence qualified for every individual event for the Western Mass Championship meet. She



Bill Keating's family members accepted his award on his behalf as he was recognized as a contributor in this year's class.



Brian Griffin is presented his Hall plaque.

placed 2nd in the 100 butterfly and the 200 freestyle at the WMass Championship. As a senior, she won the WMass 200 free and 100 butterfly titles and led off Holyoke's first place winning medley.

In recognition of her tremendous success at the championships, St. Lawrence received the "Outstanding Swimmer Award," given to the girl with the most "career" points at the WMass Championships after finishing with 101 points. St. Lawrence owned six individual HHS school records and was a part of the school's all-time fastest medley relay when she graduated.

**The 1979 football team** was undefeated and brought home Holyoke's first-ever Super Bowl Trophy. It was only the third time in school history a Holyoke football team had gone undefeated. They scored 234 and only allowed 76 points scored against them. It was Coach John Gilligan's last year as head coach. The Knights would defeat Chicopee 6-0 in the team's annual Thanksgiving Day matchup, a tradition that lasted for 100 years.



Robert Sisson receives his induction alongside his family and former teammates.



Ron DeRoy is all smiles as he is inducted.



Leslie St. Lawrence is inducted to the Hall.



Former cross country coach Dave Reinhart poses with his wife after he was inducted to the Athletic Hall of Fame last Saturday.



Mike Levin poses alongside his family with the Hall hosts.

**The 1990 boys tennis team** won the Western Massachusetts Division 2 championship. The team was full of seniors and led to Holyoke's best season ever in the sport. Under coach Steve Morneau, the Knights would win the Western Mass. title for the third time in four years, and entered the state tournament, defeating Hudson 4-1. Unfortunately, their quest for a state title was denied as they fell to Duxbury in the state finals. Three members of the starting lineup that season, Eric Westcott, Mark Monreau, and the doubles team of Mike Parelengas and Mike Mahoney went a perfect 14-0 that season.

Two legends were also inducted, **Robert DesFosses** was a member of the boys swim team in 1962, and set multiple school and league records and was recognized as an All-American before he graduated. He helped lead Holyoke to the PVIAC championship, winning two individual titles. He went on to compete at the New England meet. He helped lead Holyoke to a Western Mass. title in 1964 and set school records in the 50 and 100 meter freestyle. His biggest accomplishment was 50 freestyle record time of 22.8 seconds.

**Roger Marquis, Sr.** was a baseball player for Holyoke

in the early 1950's. As a pitcher, he had perfect 6-0 record as a sophomore and won games in the Western Mass. and state championships. Holyoke went 22-2 in 1953, won the league, Western Mass., and defeated Milford for the state championship. He struck out 10 to lead Holyoke to a win over Pittsfield in the Western Mass. finals that year. Marquis had an outstanding senior year, batting .442 with three home runs and 25 RBI. He finished his high

school career with 263 strikeouts. He was signed by the Baltimore Orioles on Sept. 2, 1955 and did appear in a game and had an at-bat for the Orioles. He left professional baseball in June 1957.



# SPORTS

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## Knights grab first win since Week 2

HOLYOKE – Its been a struggle for the Holyoke High School football team, which fell to 1-5 after losing rival South Hadley last week. But the Knights finally got back in the win column last Friday night as they defeated Taconic High School of Pittsfield. The

offense was finally able to get going for the Knights in the Suburban North matchup. Holyoke racked up 40 points in a 40-22 win. The Knights improved to 2-5 and have a rare Saturday matchup this weekend at Hoosac Valley High School at 1 p.m.



Quarterback Devin Velez makes a pass attempt.



Georlee Aponte makes an over the shoulder grab.



Devin Velez takes off on a run.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Jesus Morales combines with two other teammates for a tackle.



Derek Nunez and Avery Feliciano attempt to make a tackle.

## Season closes for girls volleyball team

HOLYOKE – Last Tuesday evening, Holyoke girls volleyball faced Belchertown in nonplayoff action. The Orioles picked

up a 3-0 sweep of the Knights, winning straight sets 25-18, 25-16, and 26-24. Holyoke's season ends at 6-12.



Ashantyls sends a bump away.



Kelcy Brunelle tips the ball over the net.



Melliani Santana Rodriguez lifts a bump for the Knights.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Paola Berrios Martinez gets the easy spike.

## Kyra Lippman hat trick keys win for Knights

HOLYOKE – Holyoke's fourth win of the season came after Kyra Lippman made a hat trick against Central High School.

The top scorer for the Knights achieved the same feat a week later when Holyoke traveled

to Monument Mountain of Great Barrington last Friday, but the Knights were not on the good end of that score as the Spartans defeated Holyoke 9-4. Leilany Figueroa had a single goal in the win. Holyoke entered nonplayoff action with a 4-10-3 record.

# Worcester Railers get first win in overtime over Admirals

NORFOLK, VA — The Worcester Railers HC (1-3-0-0) beat the Norfolk Admirals (2-1-1-0) in their second matchup of the weekend on Saturday, October 25th with a final score of 3-2 in front of a crowd of 7,645 at the Norfolk Scope Arena. The Railer are back on the ice at the DCU Center on Friday, October 31st against the Reading Royals at 7:05 p.m.

The Admirals scored the first goal of the game at 0:56 into the second with an unassisted shot from Brady Fleurent (1-0-1). Worcester retaliated with a goal from Cole Donhauser (1-0-1) at 12:59, assisted by captain Anthony Repaci (0-1-1) to

even the score. Norfolk closed the second period with a final goal from Justin Young (1-0-1) at 18:17 to give Norfolk a lead heading into the third. Ryan Miotto (1-0-1) evened the score 2-2 for Worcester with a goal at 2:20 into the third, assisted by Riley Piercey (0-1-1). A final goal to break the tie in overtime came from Matt DeMelis (1-0-1), assisted by Michael Ferrandino (0-1-1) to win the game for Worcester.

Both teams came out swinging for their second matchup in Norfolk. Lincoln Hatten got into an early brawl with Admirals' Brayden Nicholetts, each earning five minutes in the

penalty box for fighting just three minutes into the first. Teammate Justin Young served Nicholetts' penalty as he headed into the tunnel for a checkup from Norfolk medical staff. Worcester went on their first power play of the game at 4:52, Norfolk's Marko Reifemberger took a turn in the box for holding a stick. No score for Worcester on the power play, but the Railers managed to gather up a bit of offensive zone time and apply some pressure on Worthington and the Norfolk net. No score from either side for the first. The Admirals went on their first power play of the game in the second half of the period, a slashing call

on Max Dorrington at 11:26. Worcester managed to execute another successful penalty kill, their first of two of the period. The Railers went into the tunnel with a 0-0 score to close out the first. Worcester outshot Norfolk by one with a shot count of 10-9 for the first period. Both teams had two power play opportunities for the period.

The Admirals didn't wait long to score to start the second as Brady Fleurent (3rd) sank the first goal of the game for Norfolk at 0:56 unassisted. Fleurent stole the puck from a Railers forward and potted the shot past Henrik Tikkanen to make it 1-0. Worcester worked for a stretch of the

second to even the score. Cole Donhauser (2nd) finally broke through Alex Worthington with a goal at 12:59, as he sent a backhanded shot off the stick of Admirals' Brehdan Engum and over the shoulder of Worthington. The Admirals' Justin Young (1st) snuck a shot under the pads of Tikkanen from the left circle to give Norfolk a one-goal lead to finish the second (1-2). Worcester outshot Norfolk 15-10 in the frame. Neither team had any power plays or penalties for the second period.

A quick setup pass from Riley Piercey at just under two and a half minutes into the third allowed Ryan

Miotto (1st) to even the game 2-2, adding another goal to Worcester's tally. The rest of the third showed end-to-end action from both teams, but the score stayed locked 2-2 as the Railers headed into their first overtime of the season. The game-winning goal for Worcester came from Matt DeMelis (1st), set up with a pass from Michael Ferrandino, who nabbed the first win for Worcester at 4:34 into overtime. Worcester and Norfolk tied for shots 8-8 in the third. Worcester outshot Norfolk 6-1 in overtime. Worcester had one power play and Norfolk had one penalty in the third, a call against German Yavash for cross-checking.

## Plymouth State spoils WSU's homecoming

WESTFIELD — Plymouth State QB Braden Lynn ran for two touchdowns and threw for one to offset a three touchdown-pass performance from Westfield's Miles Foerster, as the Panthers outlasted the Owls, 42-35 to spoil Westfield's homecoming on Saturday at Alumni Field.

Plymouth State improves to 6-1 overall and 5-1 in the MASCAC. Westfield is now 2-5 and 2-4 in the conference.

Westfield led 28-21 after a 10-yard TD run from Curtis Dion with 7:54 left in the third quarter.

Plymouth marched 65 yards on eight plays on the ensuing drive, capping the series with an 8-yard off tackle TD run from Reece Davis to tie the game at 28-all after Seamus Ross' extra point.

The Panthers caught a break on the next series,

as the Owls fumbled and TJ Taveras recovered the ball at the Westfield 21-yard line, setting up a short field. Four plays later Lynn scrambled for a 66-yard completion and trimmed the lead to 42-35 after Andrew Currier's extra point with 6:03 left in the game.

Westfield was forced to punt after a third-down sack, and Plymouth again put together a long drive this time 82 yards in 10 plays, this one capped by a 9-yard TD scramble from Lynn for a 42-28 lead with 7:48 left in the game.

Westfield wasn't done, and after a 24-yard Brandon Paquette kickoff return set the Owls drive up at their own 40-yard line. Two plays later Foerster rolled left, then threw all the way back across the field to Aidan Patterson, who caught the ball at the 34-yard line and scampered through traffic,

all the way from the right side of the field back to the

left, where Foerster, hustling on the play, threw the final block for Patterson to skip into the endzone untouched for a 66-yard completion and trimmed the lead to 42-35 after Andrew Currier's extra point with 6:03 left in the game.

Foerster finished 8-11 passing for 163 yards with three TD's. Patterson ran for 58 yards, and caught two passes for 71 yards. Westfield's Casey Tang caught four passes for 77 yards including a pair of touchdown catches.

Andrew Lovell and Josh Marino led the Owls defense with 13 tackles each, and Marino added an interception with a 10 yard return.

Westfield will be back in action at home next Saturday, hosting Mass Maritime at noon, which will also be the Owls senior day game before they close the year with two straight games on the road.

## T-Birds fall at home to Wolf Pack

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-5-0-0) could not hold off a hungry Hartford Wolf Pack (2-4-0-0) squad in a 6-3 defeat on Saturday at the MassMutual Center in the second battle of the Braman Pest Control I-91 Rivalry Series.

From the onset of the game, the Wolf Pack, a night after getting shut out on home ice, peppered pucks on Georgi Romanov, with the T-Birds goalie standing tall to stop the first 13 tries that came his way.

The netminder's strong opening minutes allowed Springfield to get to the lead at 13:36 when Corey Schueneman squeezed a wrist through traffic and past Dylan Garand to make it a 1-0 game.

A Wolf Pack power play quickly tipped the game on its head, though, as Brett Berard cashed in

Hartford's first man-up goal in 15 tries at 16:15 to tie the game, 1-1. Blake Hillman followed 2:15 later with a back-post tap-in after a beautiful move by Bryce McConnell-Barker set up the chance. Hartford carried the 2-1 lead into the intermission after outshooting Springfield 17-4 in the opening period.

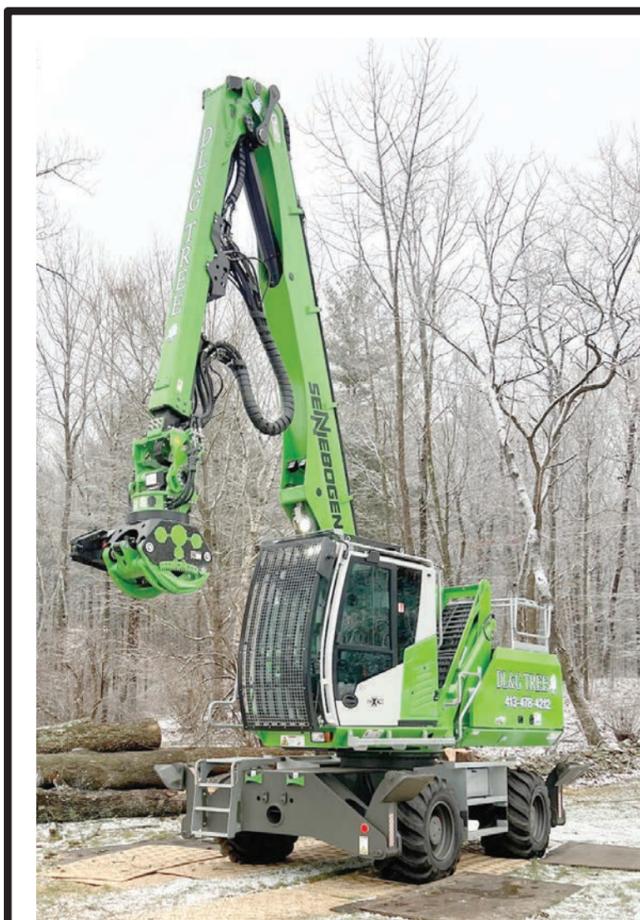
Unfortunately for Romanov and the T-Birds, things did not improve as the second period began, as Brendan Brisson crashed the net front and cashed in his own rebound at the 44-second mark of the period to extend the lead to 3-1. Carey Terrance's second goal in two games against Springfield made it 4-1 at 2:09, and Gabe Perreault deflected a Justin Dowling shot home at 2:26, and in the blink of an eye, the Hartford lead grew to 5-1.

After a goaltend-

ing switch and a timeout, Springfield replied with Leo Loof potting his first career AHL goal at 3:39 to make it 5-2. Dalibor Dvorsky and Juraj Pekarcik each assisted on Loof's goal, their second assists of the night.

The T-Birds could not pull any closer, though, as McConnell-Barker found the net after a fortuitous bounce on an odd-man rush ended up on his tape at point-blank range. His second goal in two games against Springfield pushed the score to 6-2, but would prove to be the only goal Hartford put behind Vadim Zherenko on 13 shots.

The T-Birds continue their three-game home-stand next Friday with a Halloween night match-up against the Hershey Bears. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. inside the Thunderdome.



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## Wreath bazaar set for Nov. 22

AGAWAM – The Agawam Congregational Church will once again host its Holly Wreath Bazaar this Christmas season, taking place on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Browse a variety of goods from our talented crafters and stop by our country store and bakery for fresh vegetables, pies, bars, cookies, and candy. Try your luck at our raffle table—plus, one lucky visitor will win a door prize. Before you head out, treat yourself to lunch at our hot lunch café.

## AG's office to hold landlord-tenant rights workshop

AGAWAM – On Monday, Nov. 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Agawam Public Library, the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office will hold a Landlord-Tenant Rights Presentation. This informative presentation meant to be helpful to both landlords and renters. This training covers the rights and responsibilities for both tenants and landlords, specifically: what landlords are responsible for versus what tenants are responsible for, types of tenancy agreements and what makes their lease terms different, minimum housing conditions, subletting, evictions, and who enforces each topic. If you are looking for guidance on these topics, you won't want to miss this workshop.

## Spaghetti dinner fundraiser

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](http://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](http://HarmonyHouseWMA.org) to learn more about the organization, event, volunteer opportunities, or to donate.

## Dentist seeks leftover candy

AGAWAM – For more than 20 years, Dr. Michael Calabrese of Feeding Hills has been accepting donations of unwanted Halloween candy from Agawam residents that gets sent to military men and women serving overseas.

This year's candy collection will kick-off on Saturday, Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at his dental office at 850 Springfield Street, Suite 2, Feeding Hills.

The Event Chair is his Dental Hygienist, Cecilia Calabrese, and our Coordinator for school children collection is Agawam Mom, Lisa Wild.

Aldo Mancini of the Marine Corps League handles logistics of getting the candy distributed to the troops.

As a special incentive, anyone bringing in candy donations on Nov. 1 between 10 a.m. to 12 noon will be entered into a drawing for dinner and a movie: \$100 gift certificate to Captain Jimmy's Restaurant and movie passes to Agawam Cinema

If you are unable to get to the office on Nov. 1 we will continue to accept donations during regular office hours (Tuesday – Friday) ending Nov. 7.



## Event to be held Dec. 13

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) nonprofit 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 [agawam-friends.org](http://agawam-friends.org) or email us at [wreathfriends@gmail.com](mailto:wreathfriends@gmail.com).

## Don't let 'vampire power' suck the fun out of spooky season

Ghosts, skeletons, and goblins will soon freely walk neighborhood streets asking for sweet treats, and Eversource is alerting customers they may have already inadvertently invited vampires into their homes and businesses. Vampire power, also known as phantom load, ghost energy or standby power, is electricity that is consumed by some appliances and electronics even when they're turned off. If not kept in check, it can account for up to 10 percent of a household's

energy use and cost as much as \$100 a year, according to the Department of Energy.

One simple way to eliminate the energy drain is by unplugging devices like gaming consoles, laptops, toasters and coffee makers when not in use. Even without a device attached, a plugged-in charger is constantly using electricity, so once a device is charged, unplugging it prevents additional energy usage. While it can be inconvenient to constantly plug and unplug certain devices,

using a power strip with an on/off switch can help keep it simple because a quick flip of the switch prevents standby power for any device on the strip.

"We all have electronics in our homes that are using electricity without us even realizing it, and the more electronics or appliances you have in standby mode, the more it can add up on your energy bill," said Eversource Energy Efficiency Director Kate Peters. "Taking the time to unplug devices or turn off

power strips, especially when you're going away on vacation, is just one simple way to lower energy use a little bit. But stopping phantom power from haunting your electric bill isn't the only way to control usage; we have a variety of energy efficiency programs and solutions available that we hope customers will take advantage of."

For more information on the energy efficiency programs available that can lower usage and impact bills, visit [Eversource.com](http://Eversource.com).

## STCC invites the public to explore careers in health care

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will host an Allied Health Careers Exploration Night on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the School of Health & Patient Simulation (Building 20) on the STCC campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Anyone considering a career in health care is encouraged to attend and learn about the many in-demand allied health programs available at STCC. Visitors will have the chance to:

- Learn about STCC's healthcare degrees and certificate programs.
  - Tour the college's state-of-the-art patient simulation labs.
  - Connect with faculty, current students and healthcare professionals.
  - Explore career paths in fields such as nursing, dental hygiene, respiratory care, medical coding and more.
- "This event is a wonderful opportunity for anyone thinking about a health care career to see firsthand what STCC has to offer," said Christopher Scott, Dean of the School of Health and Patient Simulation. "Attendees will



Attendees at Allied Health Careers Exploration Night on Nov. 13 will have an opportunity to meet students and professors to learn about the various programs available at STCC. *Submitted photo*

be able to meet instructors, experience our simulation spaces and discover programs that can lead to rewarding, high-demand jobs."

The night will feature tours of STCC's SIMS Medical Center, a nationally recognized patient simulation facility, and tours of departments. The SIMS Medical

Center is one of only a handful of simulation centers in New England accredited by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, a distinction that underscores its commitment to excellence in healthcare education and training.

Advanced registration at [stcc.io/alliedhealthcareersnight](http://stcc.io/alliedhealthcareersnight) is encouraged. While

no registration is required, visitors are asked to check in with organizers in the first-floor lobby of Building 20, on the Pearl Street side of the campus.

For more information, contact the School of Health & Patient Simulation. Email [SHPS@stcc.edu](mailto:SHPS@stcc.edu) or call (413) 755-SHPS (7477)

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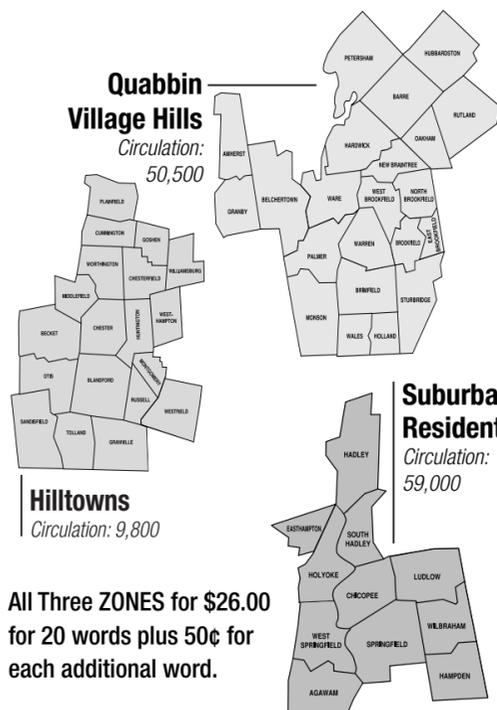
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33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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# Inaugural Quabbin Days kick off at Visitor Center

By Ryan Drago  
rdrago@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The inaugural Quabbin Days kicked off Oct. 10 at the Quabbin Visitor Center.

Quabbin Days is a celebration of the beauty and heritage of the Quabbin Region and the towns that surround it. This newly incorporated celebration consists of four days across various towns that are connected to the Quabbin Reservoir.

This kick-off helped promote the Quabbin region and what it has to offer.

“It’s just an amazing place right in our backyard,” said Clayton Sydla, president of the Quabbin Fisherman’s Association.

Sydla says this kickoff is about the opportunities the Quabbin offers, including being a wonderful place to fish. The weather was perfect for the occasion as various state legislators attended the kickoff to honor the Quabbin and its past.

Project Coordinator Ed Comeau spoke first and he said he hoped everyone in attendance appreciated the sheer beauty of where they live as Quabbin is their neighbor. The towns surrounding the Quabbin hope to promote tourism, hiking, and various opportunities for visitors all over the world to enjoy.

“I hope Quabbin Days becomes an annual tradition,” Comeau said.

The first to speak during the kickoff was state Sen. Jake Oliveira, who is a big advocate of the Quabbin Reservoir. Oliveira mentioned that many residents who live in the eastern part of Massachusetts don’t realize that their drinking water comes from the Quabbin.

Many western Massachusetts towns are also served water by the Quabbin Reservoir.

Providing the Quabbin Reservoir involved a lot of sacrifice, including the disincorporation of four Massachusetts towns,



Sen. Jo Comerford, Office of State Sen. Peter Durant Communications Director Kim Mongeau, Quabbin Fisherman’s Association President Clayton Sydla, state Rep. Todd Smola, Ed Comeau of Friends of Quabbin, state Sen. Jake Oliveira, state Rep. Aaron Saunders, and state Rep. Susannah Whipps. This was during the kickoff of Quabbin Days at the Quabbin Visitor Center.

Turley Photos by Ryan Drago

Enfield, Dana, Prescott and Greenwich. The project also provided a lot of jobs in the 1930s and 1940s and Oliveira shared that his grandfather was employed during this project that created the reservoir.

Oliveira had a lot of memories from going to the Quabbin and sees it as a very special place. Oliveira ended by presenting a citation from the Senate and was given to Comeau and the Friend of the Quabbin in recognition of this four-day celebration to honor the Quabbin.

State Rep. Aaron Saunders came up to speak and said “we have a complicated relationship with the Quabbin.” Having the Quabbin provides recreational opportunities, tourism and natural beauty of the region.

Saunders wanted to acknowledge the surrounding towns and local boards who do a lot to keep this resource going.

Senator Jo Comerford spoke next and feels it is “our job to recognize and honor that service” of what it took to bring Quabbin Reservoir to this region.

Comerford hopes Quabbin Days will continue for years to come and offers an opportunity for many residents of eastern and western Massachusetts.

Next to speak was state Rep. Todd Smola, who is quite the fisherman, who says it is a spectacular experience to explore this body of water on the actual water. Four towns were moved off the map to provide this water resource that serves over 2.5 million people.

“We’re proud of this resource,” Smola said. “Make sure the voice of the Quabbin is heard.”

Representative Susannah M. Whipps came up to speak next and mentioned how many residents of the Commonwealth depend on this water source. Whipps finds it important to pay attention and be stewards of this region.

Sydla spoke and expressed appreciation for all the representatives and senators who watch over the Quabbin and make sure it is still supported. With Quabbin Days officially kicked off, Sydla hopes

to see more people explore Quabbin in the near future. Sydla enjoys going out on the water and is a well-accomplished fisherman with 11 gold pins.

Former State Trooper and Selectman for the Town of Ware, John Carroll came out during the kickoff. Carroll said it was nice to recognize the sacrifice people of the four lost towns made to benefit the Commonwealth.

Carroll always appreciated the beauty of the Quabbin and describes it as an amazing place. Carroll enjoys walking the dam

daily and views spectacular sunsets.

Many guests stuck around to explore the visitor center, which featured displays and history of the Quabbin, as well as a documentary presentation on how the Quabbin was built back in the 1930s.

Comeau is on the executive board of the Friends of the Quabbin and hopes after this first celebration of Quabbin Days, the Quabbin will build on this momentum. The inspiration of Quabbin Days came from the passion of enjoying the Quabbin and the economic

drive for tourism.

Quabbin Days has encouraged towns, local businesses, and community groups in the Quabbin region to host events that highlight the region’s heritage and natural beauty.

Comeau views this first year as a big success and the Friends of Quabbin will continue to improve on it. Comeau is also a nature photographer and has been involved in photography for many years and says he enjoys it so much.

For more information on Quabbin Days, visit quabbin-days.org.

## NEED, from page 1

emergency fund to help with crises.

“We are hoping to start with \$100,000 in the fund and grow it,” Casey said. “We want to show people that their local government cares.”

He said resolutions aimed at establishing this emergency fund will be presented to the Holyoke City Council in the coming weeks and he is hoping for support from the councilors and Garcia claims he will not ask the council for anything “unrealistic” as the

city works to come up with contingency plans for it residents in need.

In the coming week, residents in need of assistance should go to www.holyoke.org and keep an eye on the city’s website for updates on assistance available.

## COOK, from page 1

until proven guilty.

The investigation stems from two prior seizures conducted by law enforcement earlier this month. On October 10, 2025, investigators intercepted and searched two suspicious packages at Hotel UMass in

Amherst, which were found to contain approximately 13 kilograms of suspected cocaine. Evidence collected during that operation was consistent with the narcotics recovered during the most recent controlled delivery in Springfield. The investigation into the UMass seizure remains ongoing and may result in additional

charges related to the prior shipments in Hampshire County.

This investigation is ongoing and active.

Cook served as the Western Massachusetts deputy director of Gov. Maura Healey’s office since 2023 and was terminated from his position, effective immediately, after his arrest.

## VOTING, from page 1

The other seat needing to have candidates finalized was for the Ward 5 School Committee seat. Jens Michaelsen received 72 votes and Aida Luz Oquendo received 54 votes to advance to the general election. James Alan Rossmel had 49 votes and was eliminated.

With those two races finalized, the entire ballot now takes shape.

Mayor Joshua Garcia is unopposed barring a major write-in campaign. He is likely to win his second term in a walk after outlasting several candidates to win the mayor’s seat in

2021. City Clerk Brenna Murphy Leary is also unopposed.

The Ward 5 school committee seat is the only known contested race for School Committee with Michaelsen and Oquendo facing off.

Gladys Lebron-Martinez will run in Ward 1 without opposition. She previously represented Ward 1 on the city council.

Ward 2’s Rosalee Tensley Williams, Ward 4’s Orland Isaza, and Ward 7’s Ellie Wilson are all unopposed.

Yadilette Rivera-Colon is the current vice chair of the school committee and will run unopposed in Ward 3.

In Ward 6, with the withdrawal of Pat Beaudry, Patty Norris Lubold and Christian Carde have announced a write-in campaign for the vacant seat. Longtime Ward 6 member William Collamore is retiring and did not seek re-election to the seat he has held since 1976.

The general election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 4 with polling locations open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The last day to register to vote was Oct. 25 and the last day to request a vote by mail ballot was Oct. 28.

Go to www.holyoke.org/clerk-voter-information to get more information on the election.

## Public Notices

**City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing**  
The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit for home occupation application of Amelia Box for a wood window restoration business at 57 Taylor Street (073-00-007) per sec 4.8.2. Hearing will take place on **Monday, November 17th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St., and can be accessed remotely via [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us) Meeting ID 834 3349 4516 Meeting Passcode 963679 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at [Anderson-Burgos@holyoke.org](mailto:Anderson-Burgos@holyoke.org) or by phone 413-322-5525.  
DGR Chair, Kocayne Givner 10/31, 11/07/2025

**City of Holyoke Legal Notice**  
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing

on **Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via [Zoom.com](http://Zoom.com); ID **83974921923**; CALL IN: **\*67 646 558 8656**, or in person at City Hall 536 Dwight in the Old Tax Collector office regarding the application for a New Seasonal of an **Off-Premise All Alcohol License for 787 Min Mart LLC at 399 Hillside Avenue**, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.  
Applicant: 787 Mini Mart LLC  
License Board: Jose Correa, Chairman 10/24, 10/31/2025

**City of Holyoke Legal Notice**  
The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 5:15 pm.** You can join via [Zoom.com](http://Zoom.com); ID **83974921923**; CALL IN: **\*67 646 558 8656**, or in person at City Hall 536 Dwight in the Old Tax Collector office regarding the application for a **New On-Premises Malt & Distilled Spirits License for Los Masters Social Club Inc. at 65 Commercial**, pursuant to

M.G.L. Ch.138.  
Applicant: Los Masters Social Club Inc.  
License Board: Jose Correa, Chairman 10/24, 10/31/2025

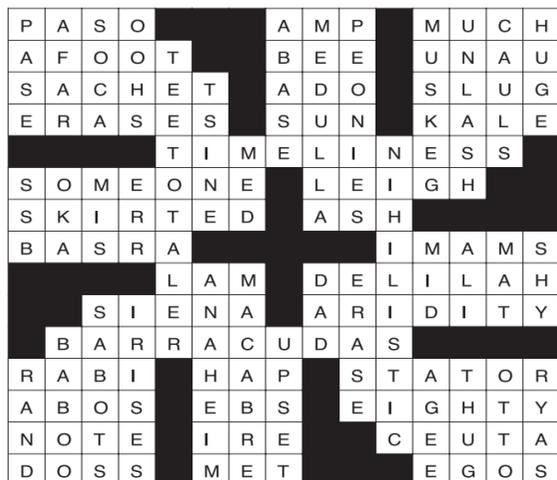
**City of Holyoke Conservation Commission**  
Pursuant to MGL Chap. 131 §40 and the Holyoke Wetlands Protection Ordinance, the City of Holyoke Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, November 13th, 2025, at 6:15 p.m.** remotely via [Zoom](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89073362339) at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89073362339> on an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation filed by VHB on behalf of Wyckoff Estates, LLC for the verification of wetland resource area boundaries and the field delineation of parcels off of Easthampton Road (MBPs 139-00-001, 139-00-003, 141-00-002, 213-00-006A) in Holyoke, MA.  
Jeffery Horan, Chairperson 10/31/2025

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)



## 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](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

► In The News

# Hundreds turn out for 'Out of the Darkness' Community Walk

By Kristin Rivers  
krivers@turley.com

AGAWAM – Hundreds gathered at School Street Park on Oct. 25 for the 2025 Out of the Darkness Community Walk in support of raising awareness for suicide prevention.

The annual event featured a Honor Bead Ceremony with community members sharing their stories and wearing a color sharing their connection to the cause whether the loss of a child or spouse to a personal struggle or attempt, remarks from American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Massachusetts Chapter Event Co-Chairs Karen Carreira and Lyndsey Nunes, State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) and State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield), community resource tents including free hugs and information on the 988 hotline, raffle prizes, music overseen by a DJ at Siagel Productions, hope seeds given out by youth volunteers during the walk itself and more.

As each honor bead was presented, participants also lifted their own to show their personal connection to the cause.

In 2024, Fundraising from this walk has helped support mental health first aid training in schools including in Ludlow, South Hadley, Chicopee, Monson, Palmer and Ware, local colleges including Elms College and the University of Massachusetts – Amherst—who did a Talk Saves Live event and a Campus Walk—presenting and sponsoring a portion of the Western Mass Veterans Conference and other programming in schools and communities throughout Western Massachusetts.

The top five fundraising teams were Team Nathan, Rusty's Free in the Wind, Randi's Rainbow, Team Edwards/First Churches and Whalen 3:16, while the top five individual fundraisers were Carol Beal, Karen Carreira, Michael Carreira, Kristin Rivers and Denise Lemenager.

The walk was sponsored by Easthampton Savings Bank (bankESB), Elm Electrical, Westfield Gas & Electric, Pioneer Behavioral Health, Color for Resilience, the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Helpline and Westek Architectural.

To learn more, visit [afsp.org/chapter/Massachusetts](http://afsp.org/chapter/Massachusetts).



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Massachusetts Chapter Event Co-Chairs Karen Carreira and Lyndsey Nunes open the ceremony.



Walkers start their trek.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers



A shot of attendees during the walk ceremony.

## LIVE IN SPRINGFIELD NOVEMBER & DECEMBER EVENTS

**JUDY COLLINS**

**SAT NOV 1**

**EAST FOREST**

**SAT NOV 8**

**ARTURO SANDOVAL**

**FRI NOV 14**

Celebrity Series of Boston  
**YO-YO MA**  
WE THE PEOPLE SIMULCAST

**FRI NOV 21**

**The Irish Tenors**

**FRI NOV 28**

**TAKE 6**

**THU DEC 11**



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