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Rotary design near finished

Roundabout subject of discussion downtown

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Mayor Joshua Garcia's office recently announced progress on the creation of a new roundabout, or rotary in the downtown area.

According to a press release from Garcia's office, design of a Holyoke's first official roundabout is nearly complete, according to the city's Engineering Department. Proposed intersection improvements at Beech Street, Resnic Boulevard, and West Franklin Street include a new teardrop-shaped, "hybrid" roundabout designed to improve traffic safety. The project also includes accommodation for pedestrians and bicyclists.

While the intersection at the top of Lyman and Hampden Streets functions similarly to a roundabout, City Engineer Matthew Sokop said the Lyman-Hampden Street rotary lacks the specific geometric features designed to slow traffic that define a true roundabout.

According to Sokop, another intersection with huge car crash numbers emerged as a candidate for the roundabout.

The Beech Street, Resnic Boulevard, and West Franklin Street intersection project was initiated after the publication of MassDOT's "2017 Top Crash Locations Report" which included the intersection as one of the top 200 crash intersections statewide between 2015-2017. Since that time, a road safety audit was completed, and the project was selected to receive both design and construction funding through the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's State Transportation Improvement Program.

A hybrid roundabout is a modified version of a regular roundabout that is specially shaped to fit a complicated intersection. Instead of every street meeting a perfect circle, the design may be oval, peanut-shaped, teardrop-shaped, or otherwise adjusted to match the existing roads, nearby buildings, traffic patterns, and available space.

There are several locations throughout Western Massachusetts that have hybrid roundabouts. Some are more complicated than others, such as the roundabout in the center of East Longmeadow.

The basic idea is still the same as a traditional roundabout: drivers slow down, travel in one direction around the center area, and yield before entering. The "hybrid" part means the layout is customized for that location rather than being a traditional circular roundabout.

The purpose is to make traffic movements clearer, reduce vehicle speeds, shorten or better organize cross-

See UPDATE, page 10

Lajoie remembered by HPS



Lynn Lajoie passed away last week. She was a longtime educator for the Holyoke Public Schools. *Submitted photo*

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Public Schools community is saddened to learn of the passing of retired HPS educator Lynn Lajoie on Friday, November 6, surrounded by her family.

Lajoie dedicated more than 30 years to Holyoke students and their families in a number of roles, including as a former teacher, reading coach, and English language arts coach. She retired as assistant principal of Morgan School in 2023. She graduated from Holyoke High School, earning a bachelor's degree from Elms College and a master's degree from American International College before beginning her career as a teacher with Holyoke Public Schools.

"Lynn was a bright light who touched so many lives through her joy, laughter, and unwavering belief in her students, her colleagues, our schools, and our community," said HPS Superintendent Jackie Glasheen. "She will surely be missed by all who knew and loved her."

Glasheen expressed condolences on behalf of the school community.

"On behalf of the entire Holyoke Public Schools community, we extend our heartfelt condolences to Lynn's family, friends, colleagues, and loved ones during this difficult time," Glasheen said. "This is a significant loss for our community. Lynn will be deeply missed, and we will honor her memory as we move forward together."

City council makes moves on banning shock gloves

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent



HOLYOKE – The city council made moves towards banning shock gloves in the city at their meeting on Nov. 5.

Councilors Mimi Panitch, Purcell, Devine, Anderson-Burgos, Magrath-Smith and Maisonette and Anne Talheimer proposed an order to ban the use of shock gloves (or generated low output voltage emitter gloves) within the city.

This order specified that the city could not acquire these gloves through purchasing them or accepting them as a gift.

The gloves differ from typical incapacitation devices, such as stun guns and tasers. They shock the skin to cause neuroperipheral disruption rather than using probe projectiles.

"It inflicts localized pain on subjects in order to enforce compliance rather than muscular disruption," Talheimer said during a public safety committee meeting.

While these gloves are not currently in use in Holyoke, many on the council wanted to take steps to ensure they would not be utilized in the future.

The council voted to send this item to ordinance so they can discuss it further.

This order was initially

See GLOVES, page 10

Rivera-Ortiz convicted of murder in 2022 homicide

HOLYOKE – Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni has announced that Pablo Rivera-Ortiz, 42, of Holyoke, was found guilty of Murder in the First Degree in connection with the July 2022 shooting death of Desiree Rivera-Lopez, 36, of Holyoke.

On Friday, November 6, 2026, following a jury trial in Hampden Superior Court, a jury returned a guilty verdict against Rivera-Ortiz on the charge of Murder in the First Degree under both theories of deliberate premeditation and extreme atrocity or cruelty.

On Saturday, July 23, 2022, at approximately 12:05 a.m., Holyoke Police officers responded to 35 North Bridge St. in Holyoke for a report of a possible domestic altercation. Upon arrival, officers located Rivera-Lopez suffering from a gunshot wound. She was pronounced deceased as a result of her injuries.

An investigation was immediately launched by the Holyoke Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office. Rivera-Ortiz was subsequently arrested and charged in connection with Rivera-Lopez's death. He was arraigned in Holyoke District Court on July 25, 2022, and held without the right to bail.

Rivera-Ortiz is scheduled to be sentenced on Friday, Nov. 13.

The Commonwealth was represented by Assistant District Attorneys Max Bennett and Kate McMahon, and Victim Witness Advocate Lauren Counter.

Local author to present interactive book talk

HOLYOKE – Local author Karen M. Blanchard will present an interactive book talk featuring her book, "Life at the Table: Everyday Family Stories from Mealtime to Memories," on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 11 a.m. at the Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St.

The free event will feature selected readings from Blanchard's short-story collection, which explores the laughter, family traditions, celebrations, difficult conversations, and everyday experiences that unfold around the family table.

Breaking from traditional readings, the program invites audience members to reflect on their family memories. Through guided questions and conversation, participants will be encouraged to recall the people who gathered around the dinner table, the traditions they shared, and the moments that became lasting memories.

"When I wrote this book, I wanted to capture the ordinary moments that happen around our family tables," Blanchard said. "What I've discovered is that when people hear one of my stories, they often begin remembering their own. That's what makes these conversations so meaningful."

Blanchard will pose questions like: What did the table you grew up around look like? Who gathered there? What family traditions do you remember? What conversations have stayed with you throughout your life?

Blanchard believes that sharing memories helps preserve family histories and encourages connections between generations.

"So many of our family stories are never written down or shared," Blanchard said. "Sometimes all it takes is

See BOOK, page 10

Applications now open for Colleen Pageant

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the 71st Annual Holyoke Grand Colleen Pageant, a cherished tradition celebrating Irish heritage, community involvement and the accomplishments of young women throughout the region.

"The Grand Colleen Pageant is a wonderful tradition that brings together Irish heritage, community pride and the next generation of young leaders," said Kate Caligaris, Colleen Committee Chair. "It's an opportunity for these young women to make lasting memories, build meaningful connections and take an active role in the celebrations that make Holyoke so special. We look forward to welcoming this year's contestants and celebrating all they bring to the tradition."

"The Grand Colleen Pageant is a wonderful tradition that brings together Irish heritage, community pride and the next generation of young leaders."

- Kate Caligaris, Colleen Committee Chair

Young women residing in Holyoke, South Hadley, Easthampton and Southampton are eligible to apply.

Contestant Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be 17-22 years of age as of March 17, 2027
- Resident of Holyoke, South Hadley, Easthampton or Southampton
- 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

- **Oct. 1:** Applications open
- **Dec. 27:** Deadline to submit application to enter the Grand Colleen Pageant
- **Dec. 27:** Colleen Orientation 2 p.m.

See COLLEEN, page 10

Next HHS production to feature pair of plays

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School Theater Company invites the community to an evening of mystery, mayhem, and laughter with two one-acts: "And Then There Was One – A Spoof" and "And Then There Was One, Too – Another Spoof" by Michael Druce. Performances will take place Nov. 18, 19, and 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the John F. Sears Auditorium at Holyoke High School North, 500 Beech Street.

This two-part comedy mystery puts a playful spin on the classic whodunit, bringing together suspicious characters, unexpected twists, and plenty of reasons to laugh. Join our student performers and backstage crew for a night of live theater—and see if you can solve the mystery before it all unfolds live on stage at Holyoke High School.

This production is co-directed by class of 2027 Performing & Media Arts student Darius Baez and includes students from grades 9-12 in all areas of the production from acting to set creation, sound and lighting design, costumes, marketing and more! The HHS Theater Company puts students at the heart of the production.

Admission is by suggested donation: Students: $5, HHS Staff: $10, General Admission: $15. Tickets can be purchased online until November 17. On the day of the performances, tickets will be available for cash only at the door. Online ticket sales and donations are sponsored by MIFA Victory Theatre.

The Holyoke High School Theater Company is a student-centered after-school theater club dedicated to fostering creativity, collaboration, and excellence in the performing arts. Under the leadership of Theater Teacher and Producing Artistic Director Bevan Brunelle, students engage in all aspects of theatrical production—from writing and acting to design and direction—building skills that prepare them for success on and off the stage.

Community support helps the HHS Theater Company continue providing students with opportunities to perform, create, collaborate, and bring live theater to Holyoke. Interested community sponsors can email Ms. Brunelle.

Both "And Then There Was One – A Spoof" and "And Then There Was One, Too – Another Spoof" are produced under agreement with Pioneer Drama Services.

UCCH to sell pies for Thanksgiving

HOLYOKE – Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and the holiday is not the same without at least one pie for dessert. If you're looking for tasty desserts on a time crunch, the United Congregational Church of Holyoke has got the solution for you: a homemade pie that gives back during the Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser.

Now through Friday, Nov, 20, you can order handmade pies for $15 each by calling the church office at 413-532-1483 or emailing office.uccholyoke@gmail.com. Choose between Double Crust Apple or Pumpkin. Pies can be picked up between Monday, Nov. 23 and Wednesday, Nov. 25 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the United Congregational Church of Holyoke, 300 Appleton Street, Holyoke.

All proceeds will go to the PB&J Lunch Bag Program at Kate's Kitchen, helping feed neighbors in need right here in our community.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all individuals. 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.



Submitted photo

Taber Art Gallery Director Rachel Rushing, right, and one of her printmaking students examine a copper plate and print that are part of the current gallery exhibit.

HCC exhibit explores civic engagement

HOLYOKE – A new exhibition at Holyoke Community College's Taber Art Gallery explores the connection between printmaking and civic engagement from the 1960s to the present.

"Collectively Pressed," open now through Dec. 17, presents works by Emory Douglas, a graphic artist and member of the Black Panther Party in the 1960s; the Guerrilla Girls, a group of anonymous women artists dedicated to fighting sexism and racism; the See Red Women's Workshop, a feminist silkscreen collective from England; Tré Seals, founder of Vocal Type, a foundry that creates fonts inspired by minority cultures and protest movements.

"The artists in this exhibition are icons in the world of art and culture for their dedication to use art to shed light on injustice and openly criticize power structures built and designed to exploit people," said Rachel Rushing, director of the Taber Art Gallery. "When I feel despondent, and I'm tempted to think my work doesn't matter in the face of overwhelming suffering and fear, these are the artists I look up to."

Ths show also features the work of current HCC printmaking students.

"At its core, the printed image is about democratic communication, making this show a fitting nod to the recent U.S. semiquincentennial – the signing of the Declaration of Independence," said Rushing.

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.





Holyoke Pizza named 'Best Pizza Restaurant in Holyoke for 2026'

Dear Holyoke Pizza Team,

We are pleased to inform you that Holyoke Pizza has been officially recognized as the **BEST of 2026 Holyoke Award Winner in the Pizza Restaurant category** - an honor based on verified data from Google Reviews as analyzed and certified by Business rate provides intelligent ranking solutions and comprehensive review, management services to help local businesses thrive in competitive markets through data-driven insights and proven strategies.

This recognition is part of the BusinessRate BEST of 2026 Awards, which identify local leaders in customer satisfaction, brand reputation, and service excellence. Your BusinessRate Score is a complete performance metric that combines all factors with a simple, easy-to-understand score. This comprehensive rating shows how your business ranks against local competitors.

Congratulations again on this outstanding achievement; earned not by application or nomination, but by the authentic feedback of your own customers.

Warm regards,
Kyle Pittman
BEST of 2026 Holyoke Awards

BEST OF 2026 AWARD WINNER BusinessRate

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HCC to host fall annual graduate reception Nov. 30

HOLYOKE –Holyoke Community College will honor its fall semester graduates with a special recognition event on Monday, Nov. 30.

The college's fourth annual Fall Graduate Reception runs from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on the HCC main campus, 303 Homestead Ave., beginning in the Leslie Phillips Theater for the official ceremony and continuing with a reception in the Campus Center.

HCC initiated the fall ceremony in 2023 to more deeply engage graduates who complete their degrees and certificates in December by the end of the fall semester.

According to the HCC Registrar's Office, about 250 students will be fall 2026 semester graduates. Many of them will transfer to four-year schools for the spring 2027 semester.

The goal of the family-friendly event is to recognize HCC's newest graduates and strengthen their connection to HCC.

Fall 2026 semester graduates are also invited to participate in the college's 80th Commencement ceremony on June 5 as members of the Class of 2027.

During the first part of the event in the Leslie Phillips Theater, Registrar Allison Wrobel and President George Timmons will offer introductory remarks, followed by student speakers. HCC alum Trudy Monson '97, president of the HCC Alumni Council, will welcome the fall graduates as new members of HCC's Alumni Association.

About 6:15 p.m., students and their families will be directed to the Campus Center for appetizers, activities, and photo opportunities.

Santa headed for Holyoke Mall

HOLYOKE — Santa Claus is set to make his return from the North Pole to Holyoke Mall on Friday, Nov. 20, with a special arrival event Saturday, Nov. 21. Children, families, and pets are invited to whisper their Christmas wishes to Santa from opening day through Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24 at his temporary holiday home in Café Square.

A Full Calendar of Holiday Magic and Special Events:

• Santa's Grand Arrival: The magic begins at 10:45 a.m. on Saturday November 21 at the Red Entrance near Round 1. Guests are encouraged to arrive before 11:00am to gather for Santa's arrival to make sure they don't miss his grand entrance featuring Marcotte Ford, the Holyoke Police and Fire Departments, and the Hampden County Sheriff's Office motorcycle and mounted patrol units. Then, kick off the holiday season with festive fun at Santa's Village in Café Square from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Activities include free balloon art by Brie's Balloons, a special performance by Colby Academy of Dance, and of course photos and visits with Saint Nick himself.

• Daily Visitation Hours: Santa's schedule begins on Friday, Nov. 20 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Hours expand as the holiday inches closer and full details are available here. Reservations are strongly encouraged and can be made by visiting whereissanta.com. Visitations to see Santa are free, but cellphone photos are prohibited.

• Pet Photo Nights: Mondays and Tuesdays from Nov. 23 through Dec. 14, between 4 and 7 p.m. Proud pet parents can unleash holiday cheer by bringing their furry or feathered friends to meet Santa Claus. Reservations are required online under the "Pet Night" designation.

• Santa Cares Sensory Visitation Event: Sunday, Dec. 6, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. This private experience is held during mall off-hours to provide a calm, sensory-friendly environment. The set will feature dimmed lighting and no background music, allowing children of all abilities to interact with Santa comfortably. Online reservations are required under "Sensory Santa".



Santa is expected to arrive at the Holyoke Mall next week. *Submitted photo*

Holyoke Mall holiday hours announced

HOLYOKE – The countdown to the holidays has begun and Holyoke Mall is excited to share their extended hours to provide guests with increased flexibility during the busy holiday shopping season.

"The holidays are a time for creating memories, and in-person shopping is part of that tradition," said Marketing Director Kristen Hinckley. "Customers can enjoy the festive atmosphere, discover products firsthand, visit with Santa, and share a meal together all in one place."

Holyoke Mall will close on Thanksgiving, November 26, except for Planet Fitness, which will be open from midnight to 2:00pm, and Round 1, which will be open from 10:00am-2:00am. The center will reopen from 7:00am to 9:00pm on Black Friday, November 27. Visit here for a complete calendar of Holyoke Mall's extended holiday shopping hours for the 2026 season.

Santa Claus will be at Holyoke Mall starting November 20 for visits and photos in Café Square, with his Grand Arrival Event taking place on November 21. More details about the event will be shared soon.

Please note, anchor, restaurant, and entertainment venue hours may vary. Guests are encouraged to call ahead to confirm a specific venue's hours of operation.



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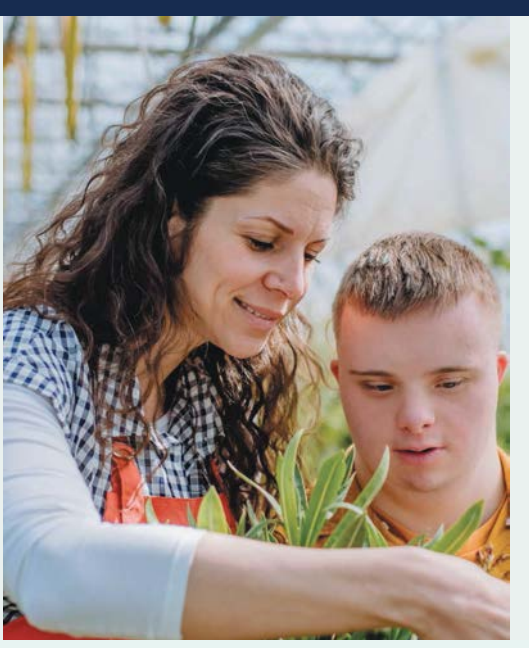
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Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor



How can I find out what I've contributed to Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I have a simple question (I think).

How do I find out how much I have paid into Social Security over the years?

Signed: Curious Senior Citizen

Dear Curious Senior:

I expect you might rightfully believe you have contributed quite a lot and, fortunately, there are a couple of convenient ways for you to find out how much you have actually paid into Social Security over your lifetime:

1. If you have an online Social Security account (www.ssa.gov/myaccount) you can simply go to your online "my Social Security" account and click on the link for "Social Security Statement."

In that online Social Security statement, you will see a listing of your lifetime earnings, and at the bottom of that listing you will see how much you and your employers on your behalf have paid in Social Security FICA payroll taxes (or SECA self-employment taxes) over your lifetime.

2. If you do not have your online Social Security account set up, you can also contact the Social Security Administration, either your local SS field office get the local office contact information at www.ssa.gov/locator or call 1-800-772-1213 to ask that a copy of your personal "Social Security Statement" be mailed to you.

Obviously, getting this information online is the most efficient method, so you may wish to create your online account if you don't yet have one. Instructions for doing so can be found at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Having this online account will open the door for you to access all the information Social Security has for you, including details of your monthly benefit and your lifetime earnings history.

FYI, many who seek this information are looking to understand when (or if) they might get back all their contributions once they start collecting Social Security benefits. Of course, much depends on the age at which you claim your benefits, but as a general guide, it usually takes about 5 years or less for you to get back in SS benefits all that you have personally contributed to Social Security. However, the length of time to "breakeven" is longer for self-employed individuals, who must pay both the employee and employer portion of Social Security payroll taxes.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column

Carrots beckon to be harvested

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



My youngest daughter loves cooked carrots with a little drizzle of maple syrup, whereby my older one likes them raw with peanut butter on the side.

It's funny that these incentives that we started back when they were little kids and we wanted them to eat their vegetables stuck through the years!

Regardless of what the girls like to eat their carrots with, I am so glad they eat them. Carrots are a nutritious root vegetable, containing beta-carotene which our bodies convert to Vitamin A, potassium and other vitamins, dietary fiber and antioxidants which vary according to the color of the carrot.

For years I struggled to grow carrots when my friends seemed to have an easy time of it. Either the seeds didn't germinate well, or if they did, bugs ate the seedlings when they were just an inch tall.

One year I got past that only to have the roots taste so bitter at harvest that I ended up throwing them all out. All that work for nothing!

The last few years I've done much better, and as we speak my carrots beckon me to finish the harvest. So far I've been in a "pick as needed" mode, but since I don't want to deal with insulating them under layers of straw, time is running out and I better get them out of the ground.

Here are some tips for growing great carrots.

Ideally your soil should be deep, loose and free of stones. Carrots grow well in raised beds for this reason.

Regular garden beds should have the soil loosened to about a foot deep. Be wary of using fresh manure or other sources of fertilizer that are super high in nitrogen. While it's true that carrots like some nitrogen, having ultra rich soil will make for fibrous, hairy roots.

Experts say that if you are going to amend it should be done the fall prior.

It can take a long time for carrot seeds to sprout. Gardeners have tried all sorts of extraneous measures to get them to germinate more quickly and with greater consistency.

Here are some things I have read about and some I have tried.

The old radish trick – try sowing radish seed interspersed among your carrot seed. The radishes will sprout first, marking the row and providing some shade for the developing carrot seedlings. Some people pre-sprout. Place seed in a moist paper towel and set it in a warm spot in the house and it will sprout.

Immediately after sprouting it is sown in place in the garden. The rows are kept moist and ideally the seedlings take hold.

Sadly, I have read that sometimes this causes roots that end up misshapen. Sometimes gardeners use wood, shade cloth or burlap to keep the seedbed moist.

If you miss when the seeds sprout, they could be smothered under these coverings or worse yet, get tangled up in the fabric. Check daily and remove coverings on the first notice of germi-

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Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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.



Hairy woodpecker

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

I received an email this week from a reader, who shared a photo of a white-breasted nuthatch he took. He said he has not seen a hairy woodpecker in three years.

The Hairy Woodpecker is a medium-sized woodpecker found across North America, characterized by its black-and-white plumage. Males have a red patch on their head; females do not.

They typically inhabits forests and is known for its energetic climbing behavior while foraging for insects in tree bark.

The hairy woodpecker is the larger of two look a likes – the hairy woodpecker and the downy woodpecker. Although they both possess the same black and white feather pattern color and the red patch on the back of head (males only), the hairy woodpecker has a much longer bill than the downy woodpecker.

The hairy woodpecker measures approximately 9.8 inches in length and has a wingspan of about 15 inches. Its diet mainly consists of insects particularly wood-boring beetles, which it extracts from tree bark.

They also excavate their own nesting cavities often in the dead stub of a living tree. The entrance to the nest is about 2 inches tall and 1.5 inches wide, leading to a cavity 8-12 inches deep.

The inside widens at the bottom to make room for the eggs and the incubating bird. It's typically bare except for a bed of wood chips at the bottom.

They are known for their distinctive drumming sounds, which they use to communicate and establish territory.

The hairy woodpecker's call is a short, sharp peek and is similar to downy woodpeckers, but slightly lower pitched and often sounding more emphatic. They also make a rattle or whinny. This call is also similar to the downy, but does not descend in pitch at the end.

Ravens

The man, who sent the photo of the white-breasted nuthatch said where he lives, the supermarkets are "raven territory." He recommended reading the book "Ravens in Winter" by Bernd Heinrich..

Bald eagles

A Petersham resident spotted four bald eagles, two in a tree and two flying above, on Saturday, Oct. 31 around 10 a.m. on Popple Camp Road, Petersham. He said, "Perhaps the unlucky rabbit road kill caught their attention or they were a reminder to us all to vote on Nov. 3."

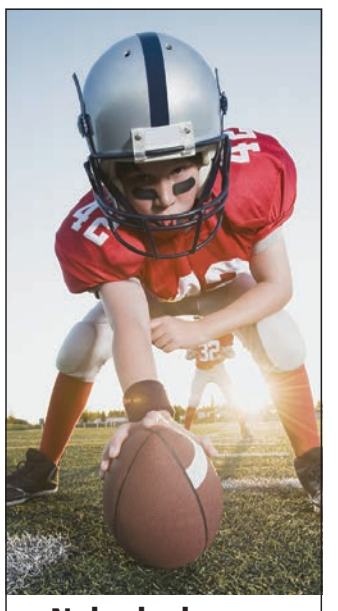
Large flock of blackbird

Three of my grandchildren and I saw a large flock of blackbirds flying overhead in Spencer on Friday, Oct. 30. I guessed there were at least 200 birds, maybe more, in the flock.

Other birds

I spotted a flock of about a dozen robins along the road side recently. I wondered if

See BIRDS, page 5



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 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 nationalmsscociety.org.

MS
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

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 newspaper 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.*



New flu vaccine comes with a dose of uncertainty

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

The 2025-26 flu season was a humdinger. About 31 million flu-related illnesses and 24,000 deaths were reported – from a disease that can be mostly prevented or at least mitigated with an annual flu shot.

This year's flu season, however, brings with it a new flu vaccine that works differently from the traditional ones. It holds promise, but I don't think you should rush out and find it just yet.

Earlier this month, the FDA approved mFLUSIVA, an mRNA flu vaccine from Moderna, which is based in Cambridge. It was mRNA technology that allowed the creation of COVID-19 vaccines so quickly during the pandemic and, even though controversy and skepticism persist, the vaccines had a role in ending the pandemic and getting us back to our usual lives.

The flu vaccine created through mRNA (or "messenger RNA") doesn't have to be incubated in chicken eggs like traditional vaccines. The encoded genetic information instructs the body to produce a fragment of a virus that then sets off a stronger immune response that was 27% more effective than regular flu shots, according to the FDA.

The formula can be adjusted to "rapidly emerging new flu strains, a capacity we have not had before," Georges C. Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, told the New York Times. It was approved for adults over the age of 50, especially those with underlying health conditions.

The vaccine is being rolled out this fall, but there are a few caveats.

One is side effects. The stronger immune response may mean that you experience more in the way of fever, injection-site pain and headache than with the traditional vaccine. That's to be expected; however, some people may wish to avoid those side effects.

Another is availability. Moderna says mFLUSIVA will be available "in a few weeks" at "select retailers" this fall, but we don't know what that means yet for your local pharmacy.

There's also a question of ongoing testing. The FDA granted accelerated approval in time for the coming flu season based on a Phase III clinical trial with more than 20,000 participants. This allows Moderna to market and distribute mFLUSIVA, but final approval depends on the outcome of a Phase IV clinical trial to verify its benefits.

Who will pay for the new vaccine? It might be you.

Medicare, Medicare Advantage and private insurers typically won't cover a vaccine until it's approved by a CDC committee known as ACIP, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. The committee hasn't met for over a year after a judge voided appointments made by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., secretary of Health and Human Services. A new CDC director was only recently confirmed by the Senate. Stay tuned.

The takeaway is clear: Do not assume mFLUSIVA will be covered at zero cost. Contact your health insurance provider or Medicare plan directly to verify whether you'll have to pay out-of-pocket.

And don't wait to see if you can get the mRNA vaccine. Protect yourself and your family by getting regular flu shots as early in the season as you can. Remember that it takes about two weeks for your body to develop enough antibodies to fight off the flu.

Flu season is inevitable. Getting the flu doesn't have to be.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a Monson resident, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate. She is the author of several books on advocacy and founder of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which equips medical professionals with the knowledge and skills to start their own advocacy businesses. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

BIRDS, from page 4

they were gathering to migrate south or if they were some of the robins that over winter in this area.

I spotted a red-tailed hawk fly across the road on election day, Nov. 3. I have seen a red tailed hawk three different days and in different locations recently.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

GARDEN, from page 4

nation. Continue to keep the bed watered or seedlings will perish.

I planted my carrot seeds in shallow furrows just after Memorial Day and kept the plot watered until they were up and growing. Although carrot seed can germinate in early spring – even when soil temperatures are below 50 degrees, I have had better luck with later sowings.

Another concern gardeners have has to do with sowing the tiny seeds and/or thinning the seedlings.

Carrots mature to the right size when given at least two inches between plants. I usually try to sow my seed a half-inch apart and then thin to two inches.

Thinning is a pain to do, especially in bigger plantings, but it can be done. In order not to damage nearby seedlings, I often use a tiny pair of scissors to cut away the crowding seedlings.

A thumb and index finger can also be used to pinch away the excess plants right at the soil line. Sometimes gardeners mix carrot seed with sand or dry coffee grounds to make sowing the small seed easier; using seed tape or pelletized seed are other, albeit expensive, options to ensure more equidistant seedlings.

Regular carrot seeds are viable for two-three years whereas pelletized seed is viable for a year. Tape and coated seeds do still need to be kept as moist as regular sowings – maybe even more so, due to the additional layers.

This past year I thinned early on but probably should have done it again when the plants were bigger. I do have clusters of roots within my rows where some carrots look like "baby" carrots and others are full size.

Ah, such it life. The small ones will take a little more work to deal with, but will taste just as good, I imagine.

It'll be fun to serve carrots at our Christmas dinner. After harvest I'll store them unwashed in perforated bags in the fridge until I am ready to use them. And maybe I'll serve them with a drizzle of maple syrup.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

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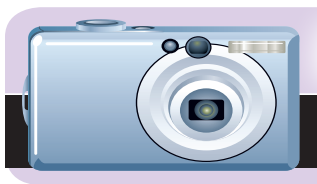


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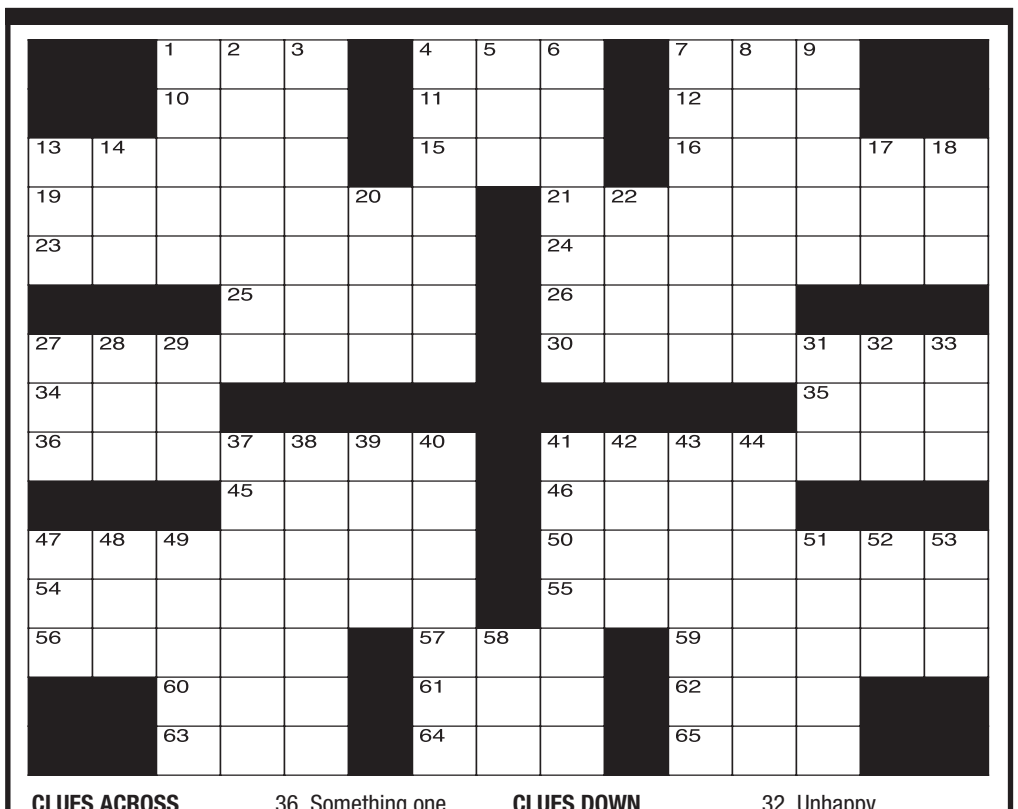
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CLUES ACROSS
1. Tire pressure metric
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator Fleming
11. Male adult
12. Norse mythological figure
13. Coffin cloths
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. We all take them
21. Nobleman's jurisdiction
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Rummy-like card game
25. Unable to move
26. Type of horse
27. Parted
30. Woman's cloak
34. South American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Something one takes
41. Dish detergent manufacturer
45. Romanian river
46. Personification of pity
47. Makes upset
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instrument
55. Support
56. Informal term for money
57. Catch doing something wrong
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Automobile
62. "Losing My Religion" rockers
63. High-resolution scientific instrument
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN
1. Indoor plant
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Irish rap group
7. Ageless
8. Lists indicating curriculum
9. Pokes at
13. Public television station
14. They __
17. Cooking tool
18. Separately managed account
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Unhappy
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Lists of items to be discussed
39. An informal body of friends
40. Indispensable quality
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. A place to dock
44. Festive singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Northernmost point of mainland Wales
49. Most worthless parts
51. Type of "bear"
52. Take or consume
53. Defunct European organization
58. Swiss river

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

CHURCH DIRECTORY





Your Community Church

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

First Baptist Church
Pastor Theresa Temple
1976 Northampton St., Holyoke
(413) 533-7728
firstbaptistchurchholyoke@comcast.net
Facebook: First Baptist Church of Holyoke, MA
HOURS: Sunday worship service
(winter hours) at 10:30 a.m.
(summer hours) at 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Studies,
one at 11 a.m. and one at 5:30 p.m.

Our Lady of the Cross Parish
Very Rev. Michael Pierz
Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com
Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke
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Saturday: 4 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Polish), and 10:30 a.m.
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(9 a.m. on legal holidays)
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Monday-Saturday: 8 a.m.
Saturday: 3:15 p.m.
Anytime by Appointment
DEVOTIONS:
Monday - Saturday
Divine Mercy Chaplet: 7:50 a.m.
Rosary: 8:05 a.m.
Parish Offices are located at:
15 Maple St., Holyoke
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
(413) 532-5661
parish@ourladyofthecross.com

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Rev. Debora Stein
34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke
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Office: stpetersholyoke@gmail.com
Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com
Website: www.stpetersholyoke.org
Social media:
facebook.com/stpetersholyoke
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Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Friday, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
WORSHIP:
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(also on Facebook Live) &
Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
Other: Prayers with Pastor -
Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. -
on Facebook Live.

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Days and Hours of Services:
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Sunday: 10 a.m.
Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)

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1810 Northampton St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
Every Sunday at 9 a.m.

Holyoke Medical Center to open sports collaboration

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center will open its new Sports Medicine Collaborative in December at 100 University Drive in Amherst, under the medical direction of Jonathan Fallon, DO, MS. The collaborative will bring together a multidisciplinary team of specialists to help patients recover from injuries, improve function, and return to activities they enjoy. Appointments are now being accepted by calling (413) 534-2887.

"The Sports Medicine Collaborative will combine orthopedics, injury care, sports medicine, and rehabilitation. We are happy to welcome Dr. Fallon to our team and are excited for the expansion into Amherst," said Spiros Hatiras, President and CEO of Holyoke Medical Center. "The location on University Drive is very convenient, especially for the athletic partnerships Holyoke Medical Center has in place in that area."

Dr. Fallon is a board-certified, fellowship-trained physician bringing nearly 20 years of experience caring for individuals and athletes. His clinical specialties include sports medicine, arthroscopic surgery (minimally invasive joint surgery), and shoulder surgery. He also serves on the editorial staff of the Journal of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics (JAOAO), reviewing submissions related to sports medicine and shoulder and elbow care.

"My interest in sports medicine primarily came from my specialty in shoulder and elbow anatomy. During my arthroscopy and sports medicine fellowship at UMASS, I had the opportunity to care for the Boston Red Sox. This sparked my interest with the rehab process and the journey a patient takes from injury to healing and getting back to athletic activities," said Dr. Fallon. "It's important to me to understand not only the medical condition in front of me, but also the many aspects of a patient's life that influence their recovery and ability to return to health."

The Sports Medicine Collaborative will offer a holistic and multidisciplinary model of care, combining injury care, sports medicine, regenerative medicine, rehabilitation, strength and conditioning, nutrition, and performance optimization to provide patients with a unique experience. Holyoke Medical Center's coordinated approach will empower patients to recover, improve function, and achieve their peak potential.

To learn more about the Sports Medicine Collaborative or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Fallon, call (413) 534-2887.

City to remember those lost in roadway crashes

HOLYOKE – The city's Bike and Pedestrian Committee and partners invite the public to the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims on Friday, Nov. 13 in front of City Hall, 536 Dwight Street.

"Remembrance" is a global event held every November to honor those who have lost their lives or been impacted by roadway crashes. This day also serves as an opportunity for governments and those working in road safety to demonstrate the scale and impact of road-related deaths and injuries and to advocate for immediate action to end this public health crisis.

The theme of the Day of Remembrance this year is "Investing in safety rather than speed, and advocating for safer street design, speed limits, and traffic enforcement." The organizing committee invites elected officials, volunteers, and members of the public to share the work they are doing to make the streets safer for bicyclists, pedestrians, and drivers.

Speakers will include Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, State Senator John Velis, former Holyoke City Councilor Kocayne Givner, and Holyoke Biking & Pedestrian Committee Chair Kristen Sykes.

The Holyoke Traffic Safety Task Force and the Holyoke Safer Streets Initiative will also be discussed. Mayor Garcia will read A World Day of Remembrance proclamation.

History Room sponsors lecture

HOLYOKE – On Saturday, Nov, 14 at 1 p.m., Amy Mittelman will talk on Constance and Donald Green: An Unsolved Mystery at Holyoke Public Library located at 250 Chestnut St.

While doing research for her recently published book, Dames, Dishes and Degrees: Faculty Wives in America, Amy stumbled across an unsolved mystery concerning the sudden death of Donald Green, a prominent Holyoke businessman, in 1946.

He was the husband of Constance Green, author of Holyoke, Massachusetts: A Case History of the Industrial Revolution in America (1939), an in-depth narrative of Holyoke's history. Mittelman will discuss the mystery surrounding Green's death, the Greens' connection to Holyoke history, and her book, which reveals what really went on behind ivy-covered walls and in faculty wives' clubs.

Mittelman's writing is informed by her varied experience as a nurse, historian, business-owner, and spouse of a college professor.

Volunteer tax preparers sought

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program provides free tax preparation assistance to taxpayers, with a special focus on seniors. Our program is seeking new volunteers to prepare returns for the upcoming tax season.

We need to grow our volunteer pool to continue to complete more returns in 2026. Our need is greatest in Chicopee, Holyoke, Belchertown, and Springfield but anywhere in Hampden, Hampshire or Franklin Counties volunteers are needed. We prepare taxes at 20 Senior Center sites in the three county area.

You don't need to be a tax expert to volunteer. If you have basic tax knowledge, maybe you have prepared your own tax returns we provide extensive training for volunteers. AARP provides training, IRS Certification and ongoing support for you to be successful.

Interested or have questions please visit www.aarp.org/taxaidevolunteer for more information and to register. You can also contact Daniel Welch, Tax-Aide District Coordinator at dnl.welch@comcast.net

Make a difference and help your neighbors get the free tax assistance they need.

Bethany Assembly of God celebrates anniversary of The Singing Christmas Tree

AGAWAM – Bethany Assembly of God invites the regional community to add Christmas cheer to their holiday season by attending the 50th Annual Singing Christmas Tree, taking place Dec. 4 to 6 and Dec. 11 to 13.

These special Golden Anniversary performances are free to the public and will be hosted in Bethany's auditorium at 580 Main Street in Agawam.

Under the direction of Dr. Randal Quackenbush — who previously produced and directed the award-winning Singing Christmas Tree in Sacramento, California — this landmark production combines powerful music with dynamic theater.

Production Highlights

Performers: Features an 80-voice choir, full orchestra, and a live children's choir.

Production Values: Includes dramatic presentations accompanied by theatrical lighting and special effects.

Milestone: Celebrating 50 years of community tradition in Western Massachusetts.

Performance Schedule

Fridays (Dec. 4 and Dec. 11): 7 p.m.

Saturdays (Dec. 5 and Dec. 12): 6 p.m.

Sundays (Dec. 6 and Dec. 13): 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Admission is free. For additional details or inquiries, call (413) 789-2930.







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Knights fall in tough Week 9 matchup

EAST LONGMEADOW – Last Friday evening, Holyoke High School football drew a tough Week 9 matchup against East Longmeadow of the AA Conference. East Longmeadow took advantage of several turnovers and some big passes for a 46-0 win. Holyoke fell to just 3-5 on the season and their Week 10 opponent will be Longmeadow. Holyoke plays Longmeadow at home on Friday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m.



Darel Sierra-Feliciano takes the snap.



The Holyoke defensive line tries to make a play.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Kyler Douchette and Gabriel Centeno-Feliciano go for a tackle.



Camden Felsentreger makes a block on the line.



Jayden Velez goes on a carry.



Eladio Pacheco goes for a diving catch.

VolleyHall welcomes new class

HOLYOKE – With heartfelt reflections, laughter and memories, the International Volleyball Hall of Fame (IVHF) celebrated its Class of 2026 Saturday evening, Oct. 17 in Holyoke, Massachusetts, honoring nine individuals whose accomplishments and contributions have helped shape volleyball around the world.

The Enshrinement Dinner and Ceremony brought together honorees, families, friends, volleyball leaders and supporters for a moving tribute to the careers - and the people behind them - that have left a lasting mark on the sport. Through videos, award presentations and personal remarks, the evening celebrated extraordinary achievement while recognizing the relationships, sacrifices and opportunities that made it possible.

The Class of 2026 included Dr. Ary Graça (Leader, Brazil), Fabi Alvim (Indoor Player, Brazil), Alison Cerutti (Beach Player, Brazil), Yoel Despaigne (Indoor Player, Cuba), Ekaterina Gamova (Indoor Player, Russia), Denis Le Breuilly (ParaVolley Leader, Jersey), April Ross (Beach Player, United States), Takashi Shimoyama (Referee, Japan), and Laurent Tillie (Coach, France). Also recognized were special award winners Dr. Gabriel Cherebetiu (Mintonette Medallion of Merit, Romania/Mexico), John Cook (Mayoral Award of Excellence, United States), Starlings USA (Court of Honor, United States) and Alejandro Coccia (Award for Media Excellence, Argentina). Their recognition highlighted the many ways individuals and organizations contribute to volleyball through service, storytelling, leadership and access to the game.

VIPs and visitors from 14 different countries, representing the Federation International de Volleyball (FIVB), the international governing body of the sport, as well as many different federations and confederations, converged on Holyoke for this truly global ceremony.

HCC Women's basketball gains experience with trip

VALHALLA, NY – The Lady Cougars basketball team spent the weekend away, playing a pair of non-regional games at Westchester CC (NY) in the Johnny Jones Memorial Tournament. Holyoke squared off against Suffolk CC (NY) on Saturday before a matchup with tournament hosts Westchester CC on Sunday. The Cougars kept the game close on Saturday, falling 54-50 to Suffolk before a 72-43 loss to Westchester on Sunday.

The Cougars gained valuable early-season experience and played hard in both games, faring well against the pair of strong opponents. Holyoke not only learned and improved while on the court but also used the time on the road and time together as a group to bond as a team off the court.

Women's basketball has a 0-3 overall record, playing only non-NJCAA and non-regional opponents so far this season. Holyoke played their first regional (conference) game on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

Thunderbirds grab split with Hershey Bears

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (4-5-2-1) were unsuccessful in carrying over momentum from the night before, falling 6-1 to the Hershey Bears (7-5-0-0) on Saturday night inside the MassMutual Center.

After a pedestrian showing a night ago, the visiting Bears, unsurprisingly, had a strong push in the opening 20 minutes, putting 17 shots at Springfield goaltender Will Cranley, with the T-Birds' backstop making answers 16 times, including a pair of point-blank denials on Jonny Brodzinski and Theodor Niederbach on back-to-back opportunities.

The only time Hershey dented Cranley came on a 5-on-3, set up by two Springfield penalties less than a minute apart. Brodzinski slid a perfect diagonal pass to the right circle, where second-year pro Andrew Cristall one-timed it through Cranley's five-hole for his first goal of the season and a 1-0 Bears lead at 14:26.

Mitch Gibson got the start in the Hershey crease, where much of the pressure he faced came in the opening half of play. Chris Wagner and Otto Stenberg each found themselves with their point blank chances, with Gibson making a pair of pad-flashing stops. The T-Birds got one power play of their own in the first, but could not find the twine.

Hershey picked up right where they left off as the second period got underway. Longtime AHL enforcer and former Springfield Falcon Dalton Smith provided the next punch in the goal column, crashing the net front and putting a backhander over Cranley's glove to make it 2-0 just 1:13 into the second.

The Bears' defense was unyielding, as the T-Birds did not have a single shot for the first nine minutes of the second. Springfield drew two power play opportunities, but the Hershey penalty kill kept Gibson from having to face much in the way of shots. Unlike an evening earlier, the Bears did not allow any push-back in the second, and the 2-0 score carried into the third.

Springfield's power play struggles continued early in the third, and things were made worse when Petr Sikora beat Cranley on a shorthanded 2-on-1 to extend Hershey's lead to 3-0 at 3:05.

Brodzinski's continued success against Springfield came to the forefront when he connected on a snapper in the slot at 9:17, making it 4-0 on his fourth point of the weekend.

Zach Dean finally ended Gibson's shutout bid on a forehand roof shot in close at 10:41, but the Bears never looked back. With Cranley pulled for an extra skater during 4-on-4 action, Ryan Chesley sailed a loose puck into the empty net at 14:15, and Sikora added his second of the period for good measure at 18:15 to round out the Bears' offensive explosion.

Worcester Railers fall to Wheeling Sunday

WORCESTER – Maybe a trip south is what the Railers need to start going north in their division.

They lost to Wheeling Sunday afternoon, 5-3, and were swept by the Nailers in their two-game weekend visit to the DCU Center. Worcester will play eight of its next nine games on the road starting with three against the Greensboro Gargoyles in Waffle House country later this week.

The Railers' only home game in the next 26 days will be versus Reading on Nov. 22.

The afternoon started fairly well for the home team as it scored the first goal, generally a good omen. It ended with Wheeling scoring five of the next seven, though.

For the day their goals were scored by Adam Samuelsson, Jordan Kaplan and Vinny Corcoran. Sam Stange had two assists. Gabe Carriere stopped 26 of 31 shots.

Connor Federkow had an assist, his first in 23 games with Worcester.

Wheeling got two goals from Matt Crasa. Dustin Geregach was 1-1-2, Dante Sheriff 1-2-3 and Remy Parker had a goal. Nailers goaltender Philip Svedeback made 14 saves.

Samuelsson put Worcester ahead with a nifty goal at 9:27 of the first period. He beat Svedeback with a 45-footer from the base of the left boards. Samuellson had about six square inches to shoot for in the top right corner and put the puck right there.

It was the first goal by a Railers defenseman this season and the second of Samuellson's career in Worcester. His first one last season came in his 59th game. It took just three this year.

Geregach tied it at 17:21. The puck went in over Carriere's glove as it changed direction on the way in from the left side.

The Railers sagged in the second period, though, and fell behind by 3-1 as the clock headed toward 12 minutes. Parker put a 35-footer off the far post from the left circle at 8:40. Crasa batted in a second rebound to give Wheeling a two-goal edge at 11:19.

Kaplan gave his team some momentum with a power play goal at 18:46. He was set up just in front of the net by Sterzer, who carried the puck down the right side.

The final period was a dud. Crasa scored at 10:14, then Corcoran slammed home a pass from Anthony Repaci at 12:12 to make it 4-3. That marked Worcester's first shot on goal of the period. Sheriff's goal at 15:25 was a weird one from a tough angle to the right of the Railers net.

Classifieds

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

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Grinding stumps of all sizes,
insured & certified.
Senior discounts.
Call Dave **413-478-4212**

HENRY'S TREE SERVICE LLC
We do what others don't.
We grind stumps of any size, provide cleanup and add loam and seed.
Certified & Fully Insured.
Free Estimates
Over 30 Years Experience
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& Military Discounts
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HELP WANTED

We seek an energetic, enthusiastic, and well-organized person for the position of **OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR/ CLERICAL PART-TIME**.
This is a part-time position of 20 to 25 hours per week at $680, depending on Workload. Need to be detail-oriented, possess good customer service skills, some cash & items handling skills.
Apply Email:
wowwhunn@outlook.com

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

EARLY DEADLINES

FOR ADS, CLASSIFIEDS & LEGAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 23-27, 2026.

Thursday, Nov. 19 at 2 PM for November 26 issue
• CLASSIFIEDS FOR ALL PAPERS •
• Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Friday, November 20 at 2 PM for November 26 Issue
• Agawam Advertiser News • Sentinel • Quaboag Current

Monday, November 23 at 2 PM for *November 26 Issue*
• The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Tuesday, November 24 at 2 PM for *November 27 Issue*
• Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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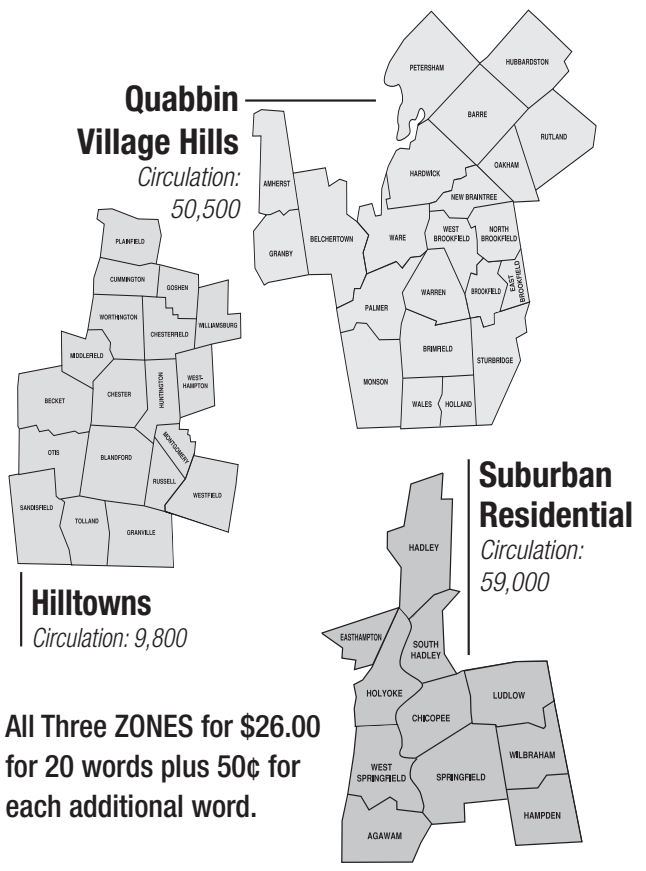
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: ***FRIDAY AT NOON***

CATEGORY:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price $26.00
21 Base Price $26.50	22 Base Price $27.00	23 Base Price $27.50	24 Base Price $28.00
25 Base Price $28.50	26 Base Price $29.00	27 Base Price $29.50	28 Base Price $30.00
29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 Base Price $32.00
33 Base Price $32.50	34 Base Price $33.00	35 Base Price $33.50	36 Base Price $34.00
37 Base Price $34.50	38 Base Price $35.00	39 Base Price $35.50	40 Base Price $36.00



All Three ZONES for $26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

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GREAT VALUE!

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Make checks payable to **Turley Publications**

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

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 application of Dario Jara Ramones at 131-133 Westfield Road (122-00-071) to change the use from a two-dwelling to a three-dwelling use per 7.4.1. Hearing will take place on **Monday, December 3, 2026 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 826 2872 5330 Meeting Passcode 978842 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-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair, Richard Purcelll
11/13, 11/20/2026

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 application of Salmar Realty Inc c/o Peter Martins for a drive-thru facility within a commercial development at 500 Easthampton Road Lot A (213-00-003) per 7.1.6. Hearing will take place on **Monday, December 3, 2026 at 6:30 pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 826 2872 5330 Meeting Passcode 978842 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-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair, Richard Purcell
11/13, 11/20/2026

NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 267-269 Sargeant Street, Holyoke, MA 01040

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Coterie Investment Group, LLC to TVC Funding, III, LLC, dated November 30, 2022, and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25161, Page 521, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment of mortgage from TVC Funding III, LLC to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of OBX 2023-NQM10 Trust, dated July 21, 2026, and recorded with said Registry in Book 26431, Page 195,, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold by **Public Auction** at 1:00 o'clock P.M. on the 08th day of December 2026 at the mortgaged premises located at 267-269 Sargeant Street, Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

To wit: Beginning at a point in the Northerly side of Sargeant Street, Two Hundred (200) feet Westerly from the Westerly Side of Saint Jerome Avenue;

thence running NORTHERLY at right angles to said Sargeant Street, One Hundred (100) feet Westerly from the Westerly side of Saint Jerome Cemetery;

thence WESTERLY along the Southerly Line of said Cemetery, Fifty (50) feet;

thence SOUTERLY at right angles to the last mentioned line, One Hundred (100) fee to said Sargeant Street;

thence EASTERLY along said Sargeant Street, Fifty (50) feet to the place of beginning.

Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagor by deed recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 24808, Page 25.

Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. High bidder to sign written memorandum of sale upon acceptance of the high bid. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified or bank check at Friedman Vartolo LLP, 1325 Franklin Avenue, Suite 160, Garden City, NY 11530, within thirty (30) days from the date of the sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB,
not in its individual capacity
but solely as Owner Trustee of
OBX 2023-NQM10 Trust
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
Friedman Vartolo LLP
1325 Franklin Avenue,
Suite 160
Garden City, NY 11530
11/13, 11/20, 11/27/2026

CITY OF HOLYOKE
/ HOLYOKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
DESIGNER SERVICES
RFQ 2027-18SD
Dean Technical High School
Early Education & Electrical Shops Renovations
November 2026

The Holyoke Public Schools ("City") hereby requests qualifications from firms for designer services for the design, bidding, construction administration, and relocation with renovations of the current early education and electrical shops within Dean Technical High School, including required construction services. The successful designer will manage this process under the direction of the Superintendent and their designee and in cooperation with the Facilities Department. The total project cost is estimated at $910,000.00, exclusive of designer fees. The not-to-exceed fee limit for this project is $90,000.

Grant funds awarded for this project must be expended by the deadline established in the applicable EOE grant agreement. The City will confirm the controlling deadline before contract execution.

Funding Source & Procurement Authority: This program is funded via State allocations administered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Education (EOE). Funds disbursed under Fund Code 40TC are subject to the rules and regulations of 815 CMR2.00.

This solicitation is being conducted in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 7C, Section 44 – Section 58, and all contracts must be strictly awarded in accordance with the requirements of the Request for Qualifications. If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFQ or otherwise provide additional information, an addendum will be issued to all prospective proposers who received copies of the original request. The Owner is requesting qualifications from qualified and properly licensed architects to design, bid, and provide construction administration for the renovation, relocation, and buildout of two instructional programs within the existing technical high school building, and the project consists of the following two primary components:

Electrical shop relocation and renovation: Relocate the existing Electrical Technologyprogram from its current location to a designated shop within the school, including renovation of the receiving space to support classroom instruction, electrical laboratory activities, hands-on technical training, equipment operation, and safe student work practices. Early Education shop relocation and buildout: Relocate the existing Early Education program to a different designated shop within the school. Renovate the space into a functional early childhood learning and demonstration environment, including a dedicated bathroom buildout, a separate and secure entrance, an outdoor play area, and the facilities, equipment provisions, and safety features necessary to support the program's educational objectives. All work shall be coordinated with school administration, facilities personnel, the design team, and applicable regulatory authorities. The architect shall provide all services required to facilitate the design, bidding, construction administration, supervision of materials, equipment, permits, testing, inspections, stamped drawings, and incidental work necessary to deliver complete, code-compliant, and operational instructional spaces. The project shall be designed and constructed to accommodate both the technical training of high school students and, where applicable, supervised interactions with children in the Early Education program. Starting on November 11th, 2026 documents are available electronically by requesting them from morrowj@holyoke.org.

Documents will be received in person to the Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Holyoke MA 01040 until 2:00PM on 12/10/2026, where they will be recorded into record.

A pre-response site visit will be held on 11/20/26 at 10:00 am Dean Technical High School, 1045 Main Street, Holyoke, MA 01040.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions and waive minor informalities. .
11/13/2026

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. HD26A0041AD
In the matter of:
Dallas Colton McCullough
CITATION
G.L. c.210, Section 6

To: Sierra Dawn McCullough

Any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth

A petition has been presented to said court by **Tawnee Renee Gonzalez and Harry Enrique Santiago Jr. of Chicopee, MA** requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **SPRINGFIELD** ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: **11/24/2026**

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court

Date: October 13, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/30, 11/06, 11/13/2026

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.
HD24P2156EA
Estate of:
Grace A O'Donald
Date of Death: 08/30/2024
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Arthur J O'Donald, III of West Springfield, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 11/30/2026.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 09, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/13/2026

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD24P2156EA
Estate of:
GRACE A O'DONALD
Date of Death: 08/30/2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Arthur J. O'Donald, III of West Springfield, MA**.

Arthur J. O'Donald, III of West Springfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
11/13/2026

CITY OF HOLYOKE
/ HOLYOKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
OWNER'S PROJECT MANAGER SERVICES
RFQ 2027-20SD
McMahon School HVAC Upgrades and Installation
November 2026

The Holyoke Public Schools ("City") hereby requests qualifications from experienced and qualified Owner's Project Manager (OPM) firms to provide comprehensive project management services for the planning, design, procurement, construction, commissioning, and closeout of the proposed Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) renovations at McMahon School.

The successful OPM will manage this process under the direction of the Superintendent and their designee and in cooperation with the Facilities Department.

The total project construction budget is $3,240,000.00, exclusive of OPM, designer, and commissioning fees.

The Owner seeks a firm with demonstrated experience managing HVAC renovations in public schools, occupied educational facilities, building mechanical systems, construction budgets and schedules, and Massachusetts public construction procurement requirements.

The selected firm must be familiar with applicable Massachusetts General Laws, public bidding procedures, designer selection requirements, contractor selection requirements, and all other procurement and contract administration requirements applicable to the project.

The purpose of this RFQ is to identify the most qualified firm or firms for consideration under the applicable qualifications-based selection process.

This solicitation is for professional OPM services and is not a request for construction bids. The selected OPM will be responsible for managing procurement of a contractor for the City and assisting in the negotiation process.

The not-to-exceed fee limit for this project is $162,000.

The McMahon School HVAC Renovations Project is funded, in whole or in part, through a grant awarded by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC). The selected Owner's Project Manager (OPM) shall acknowledge this funding source and recognize that the project is subject to the applicable terms, conditions, and funding requirements established by MassCEC.

This solicitation is being conducted in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 7C, Section 44 – Section 58, and all contracts must be strictly awarded in accordance with the requirements of the Request for Qualifications. If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFQ or otherwise provide additional information, an addendum will be issued to all prospective proposers who received copies of the original request.

Starting on November 11th, 2026 documents are available electronically by requesting them from morrowj@holyoke.org.

Documents will be received in person to the Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Holyoke MA 01040 until 2:30PM on 12/10/2026 where they will be recorded into record.

A pre-response site visit will be held on 11/20/26 at at 12PM at McMahon School, 75 Kane Road, Holyoke, MA 01040.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions and waive minor informalities.
11/13/2026

NOTICE OF
PUBLIC AUCTION
Swinging Bridges
Auction Company Lic #2755

A Public Auction will be held 11/21/2026. Unclaimed items to be sold at 9 A.M. Pawn Depot Inc., 448 Appleton St., Holyoke, MA 01040. 20% buyers fee, 6.25% MA Sales Tax.
11/06, 11/13/2026

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
2027 UTILITY LINE
MATERIAL

Sealed bids for furnishing the above material will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m. December 1, 2026**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:

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

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

Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for 2027 Utility Line Material**" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
11/13/2026

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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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PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Filmmaker McGahee brings 'Blood Harvest' to local cinema

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Oct. 24, Western Massachusetts filmmaker Geno McGahee came out with his latest work of film horror.

"Blood Harvest: Night of the Scarecrows" is, what one could say, a story from the dark side of life's street.

The event took place at Agawam Cinemas, obviously in the town of that name. These theaters are an intimate venue and an asset to town and region.

Theaters, once ubiquitous, are vanishing, so a place to watch films with others is a pleasure.

Around 7 p.m. fans arrived and the discussions among them were lively.

One of the scarecrows was there to shake the hand of your correspondent. Rick Caride, one of the movie's team set us up for a picture.



Correspondent Richard Murphy is shown with one of the scarecrows.

The genre is where McGahee has more than a little expertise. "Blood Harvest: Night of the Scarecrows" is also not the first time he has investigated the dark lives of scarecrows.

Most of us think of the suits of straw in gardens and fields as just silent figures to keep unwanted birds from feeding on grains. Ah, but maybe they can become malevolent beings that themselves feed on our species.

McGahee looks at those ungodly beings going back to his "Rise of the Scarecrows: Hell on Earth" many years ago.

Our good man is, however, able to go far afield in looking at mystery and horror.

McGahee works with a talented retinue that appear in many of his films. Also, though working in horror, he can go off that reservation as his "Christmas Invitation" was as close as he will ever get to the Hallmark style, though it is a tad rougher than normal Hallmark.

McGahee and the retinue went out west to make a couple of movies that were a departure. "Deadly Western" saw the team mount up and ride.

While out west, McGahee et al would make "Fatal Justice". This movie would be a homage to his favorite film, "Twelve Angry Men".

In late winter of this year, McGahee released "Dark Places", a story of a college student who fights her own battle with horror in a local New England venue. "Dark Places" also premiered at Agawam Cinemas.

October 2026, it was time to do the classic horror that is "Blood Harvest: Night of the Scarecrows".

The movie begins with Mitch, played by Eric Michaelian, coming home from the city to visit with his dad, Ben, played by Brent Northrup. They sit together and discuss their lives.

The son, a writer is not moving forward at speed with his latest project. Dad, a widower is himself not doing well. It seems domestic but is not really.

Stacy, Lorrie Bacon, comes by. Stacy works at a market and is supportive of Ben.



Turley Photos by Richard Murphy

Filmmaker Geno McGahee (center) and his team members are shown at the premiere of "Blood Harvest: Night of the Scarecrows".



Cast members visited with audience members.



Geno McGahee and the cast answer questions.

Neither Mitch nor Stacy can be said to be lucky in love, but they hit it off and begin a relationship.

Mitch and Stacy ramble in the woods and meet up with a party of campers and they are invited to party with them in an evening. The couple returns and the soiree proceeds.

Camping and partying in the woods? This cannot end well.

Another character, Cooper, appears. He has had a run in with evil in the woods. The local sheriff can hardly be described as someone serving justice.

Dear old dad, Ben, has his own secrets involved with his wife's end of life.

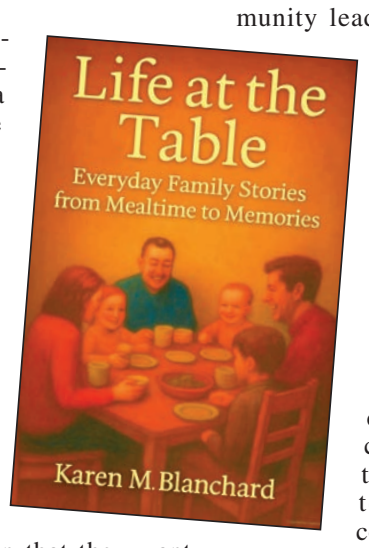
The Scarecrows attack, of course, and it will be a close run thing, as the Duke of Wellington put it.

The last scene is a comedy in itself.

So, "Blood Harvest: Night of the Scarecrows" ended to applause and McGahee, and team stood to the front to answer questions of which there were many and then it was out into the world to count the days to the release of his next oeuvre.

BOOK, from page 1

a familiar memory or a simple question to bring those stories back. I hope people leave thinking about a story of their own that they want to share with someone."



Blanchard is a longtime nonprofit professional with more than 35 years of experience in human services and community leadership. She is also the founder of KB Consulting & Creative Works, where she provides nonprofit consulting and develops programs centered on communication, storytelling, and connection.

The event is free and open to the public. Copies of "Life at the Table" will be available for purchase and signing.

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GLOVES, from page 1

discussed in the city council meeting on Sept. 2. Many residents of Holyoke came forward during public comment in support of the order.

"We shouldn't even consider spending money on [shock gloves]," Dan Doherty said.

"I'm in support of this ban," AJ Beatty said. "This is a cruel and unusual punishment that can be used on an individual without the individual even having been convicted of a crime."

Several residents expressed concern on how painful but easy to use these gloves could be.

"There is a difference between a gun and a glove of nails in terms of how easy it is to use that to hurt people," Matthew Weisberg said. "The ease of access to pain infliction just seems cruel."

Holyoke community members felt that these gloves were unnecessarily violent and were not necessary within the zones of the city.

"It just doesn't feel like who we are," James Lewis said. "I think Holyoke police are good at establishing peace, so let's let them do that."

Following that city council meeting the order was sent to the public safety committee.

The committee proceeded to have a discussion on the matter.

During the meeting, Police Chief Brian Keenan stated that he did not believe any police department in Massachusetts utilized these gloves.

"It's not on my top 300 list of things to bring in," Keenan said. "We're not going to get shock gloves."

Keenan did not believe that the gloves would be brought into policing within Holyoke nor within Massachusetts.

The committee appreciated Keenan's words, but expressed worries that if a police chief came forward with a different view, they may be able to bring the gloves into Holyoke.

With that in mind, the public safety committee agreed unanimously to bring the order before the council.

Now the ordinance committee will continue to discuss the order.

After the committee discusses the matter they will make a recommendation to the council, and the council will take their vote.

COLLEEN, from page 1

- **Dec. 30:** Grand Colleen Pageant Rehearsal, at Holyoke High School, 6 to 8 p.m.
- **Jan. 2:** Grand Colleen Pageant at Holyoke High School Auditorium, 6 to 9:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 20:** Grand Coronation Ball at The Log Cabin, Holyoke

For application information and additional details, please visit the Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee website at holyokestpatricksparade.com or contact Kate Caligaris, Colleen Committee Chair at 413.627.8716 or holyokecolleens@gmail.com.

For more information about the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade and Parade Week events, visit holyokestpatricksparade.com.

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UPDATE, from page 1

ings, and improve safety for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and large vehicles.

Completion of the final design is anticipated in December 2026. Filing for an environmental review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act also is anticipated in early December.

Local community-based organizations have recently received project updates and contact information for questions. Additional public information fact sheets are being developed for distribution at area businesses, online, and throughout the community in late November and early December.

Feedback from residents will be sought for the project.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to stay informed as the project advances. The City maintains a dedicated project webpage with additional information and updates: Holyoke.org/Public Works/City Engineer.

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