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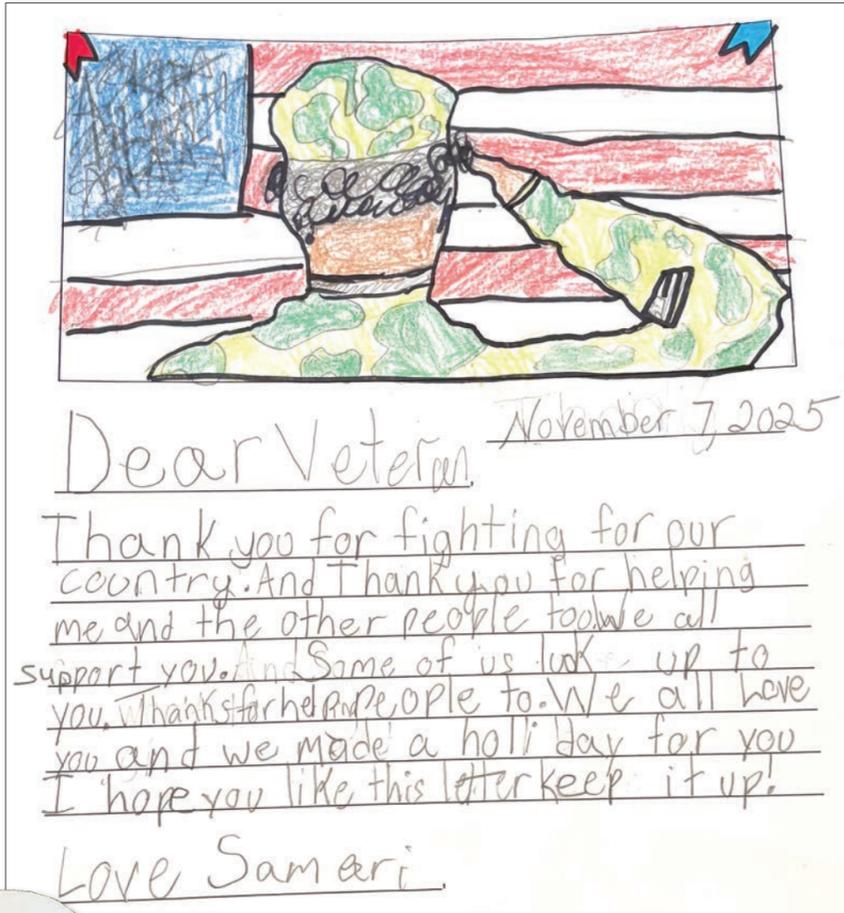
Velis delivers letters from more than 20 schools to vets home

Letters were given to veterans this week

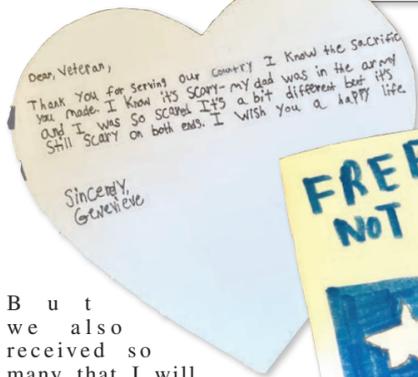
HOLYOKE – Ahead of Veterans Day, Senator John C. Velis collected over 1,000 letters from local students from across the Hampden and Hampshire District that will be shared with the residents of the Holyoke Veterans Home and currently deployed troops.

Marking its sixth year, Senator Velis continues to organize this annual tradition, which includes participation from more than 20 schools in Agawam, Chicopee, West Springfield, Westfield, and many other communities.

“It is truly so special to see our community come together year after year to recognize Veterans Day and help educate an entire generation about the service and sacrifice behind this holiday,” shared Senator John C. Velis. “This year, we were not only able to deliver thousands of letters and bring joy to the residents of the Veterans Home, what really inspired the start of this annual tradition.



State Sen. John Velis, D-Westfield, who is a veteran himself, continued his tradition of delivering letters from student to residents of the Holyoke Veterans Home. Submitted photos



But we also received so many that I will also be bringing some of these letters with me to share with my fellow service members during my own deployment in the very near future.”

Velis shared that students of all ages, from preschool all through high school, helped create well over 1,000 letters, cards, and other artwork.



David O'Connor latest awardee by committee

By Brendan Rooney
 Correspondent

HOLYOKE – On Tuesday, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day committee officially announced that David “DJ” O'Connor was crowned the recipient of the 2026 George E. O'Connell Award. The reveal came via a gathering at the Elks Lodge in the Paper City.

The award is one of the Committee's most prestigious honors; it should be known that this award is bestowed upon a long-standing member of the Parade Committee who has made significant contributions to the fundraising efforts of the Parade and or the Association. O'Connor first joined the Holyoke St. Patrick's Committee in 1983, and from his first day among the ranks, he has been a cornerstone of the organization. In addition, O'Connor has served on numerous committees—including the Colleen Contest, Grand Marshal's Reception, and Music Committees—and held key leadership roles as Sergeant-at-Arms and Master of Ceremonies for the John F. Kennedy Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony. His involvement with the parade and its fabled legacy includes serving as the 2006 Parade President and receiving the prestigious Rohan Award in 1999. O'Connor also plays a vital role in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race, ensuring that hundreds of volunteers are properly staffed and positioned—an essential responsibility for the safety and success of this beloved event.

Offering insight into why O'Connor garnered the achievement was 2026 Parade President Jim Wildman.

“DJ O'Connor represents the very best of what the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade stands for – dedication, pride, and a tireless commitment to



2026 George E. O'Connell winner David “DJ” O'Connor. Submitted photo

keeping our tradition alive.” Wildman said. Before adding, “For more than four decades, DJ has been a driving force behind the scenes, helping ensure that the Parade continues to go down the street each year. Whether he's volunteering at events, leading committees, or rallying community and business support, DJ gives everything he has to this organization and to the City of Holyoke. His leadership, generosity, and love for the Parade family truly embody the spirit of the O'Connell Award.”

In addition, O'Connor is a native son of the Paper City and the owner of Mass. Surgical Supply, LLC, where he has worked for 42 years, continuing the family business his father began. A 1979 graduate of Holyoke High School, O'Connor's journey took him to Ohio and Florida before returning to his hometown in 1983, where he immediately reconnected with his roots and began his long service to the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade. Also, O'Connor is a proud member of the

See AWARD, page 10

School committee member announces transition plan

By Gregory A. Scibelli
 gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Patty Norris Lubold won a write-in campaign to be the new representative of Ward 6 on the Holyoke School Committee.

Following her victory, Norris Lubold, who will take the seat on early January, says she will have a comprehensive transition plan that will include interacting with members of the communities and meeting with school teachers, administrators, and other officials to prepare for her time on the committee.

She said having the plan will allow her to hit the ground running when she does take office as well as give the community an opportunity to meet her and share their concerns. Here full plan was outlined in a press release on Wednesday:

“As I begin this important work, my first priority is to listen to and learn from

students, families, educators, and community partners to help shape policies that reflect our values and needs,” Norris Lubold said. “Transparency, collaboration, and evidence-based decision-making will be at the heart of my service.”

Over the next 60 days, Norris Lubold will:

- Conduct listening sessions with teachers, staff, parents, and students, to better understand district priorities and their impact.
- Meet with the superintendent, key administrators, and state and local elected officials to hear from them in their own words how they view HPS goals, learn about challenges, and ongoing initiatives.
- Attend committee orientation sessions, observe meetings, and review applicable policies, performance data, and other key documents.

See PLAN, page 10

KofC donate \$7,000 to Kate's Kitchen

Also, supported other local organizations

By Kristin Rivers
 krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE – Members of the Knights of Columbus #4044 stopped by Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry on Nov. 7 to present a \$7,000 donation and winter coats.

Also, the Knights supported other nearby local organizations with similar donations to Neighbors Helping Neighbors in South Hadley and Kate's Kitchen in Holyoke.

The donation comes as there's increased demand for help after SNAP benefit cuts and during the federal government shutdown.

See DONATE, page 10



The Knights of Columbus #4044 donated \$7,000 and winter coats to Kate's Kitchen on Nov. 7.

Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Chamber looking to help city families with food insecurity

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – While the government shutdown was slated to end Wednesday evening following a deal being reached re-open it, there are still many families contending with food insecurity for a variety of reasons, including the rising cost of many food items.

Even with the government re-opening, it could take time before SNAP benefits reach those who need it, and the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce is looking to help.

Wednesday, Interim Chamber Director Lisa Totz announced the chamber would be seeking donations throughout the city to help residents who are in need.

Totz said in a press release: The Greater Holyoke Chamber is issuing an urgent appeal to the business community and all Greater Holyoke residents: with SNAP benefits discontinued for nearly half of our community, many families now face the prospect of food insecurity and serious financial distress. The Chamber, as a proud representative of local businesses,

the broader community, and as organizer of the Holyoke Farmers Market, recognizes our responsibility at the vital intersection where business and community meet.

Now more than ever, we are counting on businesses, organizations, and individuals to join us in meeting this challenge. We are launching a food drive to provide immediate support and ensure local families have access to shelf-stable food and essential supplies during this critical time and going forward.

We are seeking donations of non-perishable food

items, baby supplies, and toiletries. High-need items include beans, rice, grains, oatmeal, nut butters, canned fruits and vegetables, soups, pasta, sauce, shelf-stable milk, baby food, diapers, and toiletries. Monetary contributions (cash, check, or digital payments) are also welcomed, and every donation will be converted directly into non-perishable food or grocery store gift cards for local families in need.

Donations can be dropped off at the Greater Holyoke Chamber office by appointment or during our regular business hours:

Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10:30 to 4:30 p.m. Please feel free to call to confirm presence at office, 413-534-3376.

“Together, we can ensure no family is left behind in this time of crisis,” Totz said. “Chamber members wishing to organize a collection drive on our behalf are encouraged to reach out for more information. Our community needs our help—now and for the future. How will your organization respond when your neighbors are counting on you?”

WTC holding food drive

HOLYOKE – The Wealth Transition Collective is organizing this season to help support Margaret’s Pantry, a division of Providence Ministries for the Needy here in Holyoke. Their goal is to raise awareness and encourage local participation and to help provide food for families. Their food drive will go from Monday, Nov. 17 to Friday, Nov. 21 and donations can be dropped off at 1632, Northampton St., Holyoke. For more information, contact the Wealth Transition Collective at 413-584-1805.

COLLEGE NEWS

Craig elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA – Stephanie Craig of Holyoke, Massachusetts, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation’s oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Westfield State University.

Craig is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Valley Springs Changes expands Intensive Outpatient Program

HOLYOKE – Valley Springs Changes is pleased to announce the expansion of its Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) in Holyoke with evening hours on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m.

The IOP is designed for adults (18+) experiencing mild to moderate psychiatric distress, including depression, anxiety, mood disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), social withdrawal, dual diagnostic substance use disorder and other mental health concerns. As an outpatient service, it enables flexibility in treatment setting, providing

care to patients in both group and individual settings from licensed therapists, psychiatrists and social workers. The IOP also provides medication supported treatment for full wrap-around services.

“Expanding our Intensive Outpatient Program with evening hours is a critical step toward greater access for interventional mental health services in Western Massachusetts,” said Director of Outpatient Services Kelley Crowley, LICSW. “We know that for many patients, inpatient therapy may not be indicated, but structured and consistent treatment is still critical to their recovery and day-to-day resilience.

This program is specially designed to meet their needs and wrap-around their day-to-day lives so that they can preserve their critical daytime routines.”

The program serves individuals stepping down from inpatient care, those who need more support than traditional outpatient therapy and those balancing work, school and other daytime routines.

“The goal of an intensive outpatient program is to provide adaptive, individualized support in an outpatient setting, meeting patients where they are and wrapping around their daily lives in meaningful ways,” said Chief Medical Officer

Gabriel Arimoro, MD. “Some of our goals in outpatient therapy may include improving personal communication skills, helping patients to develop more effective coping strategies, building self-esteem and confidence, improving interpersonal relationships and addressing the root causes of mental health challenges.”

Better mental health begins with an assessment—a confidential conversation that provides important information to providers and clinical team members who will make a plan of care recommendation. When you or a loved one has mental health concerns, it is important to find

appropriate, effective care and begin the journey back to wellness.

In addition to the Intensive Outpatient Treatment program provided at Changes, Valley Springs Behavioral Health Hospital provides inpatient treatment for individuals struggling with mental health and co-occurring disorders. The Holyoke hospital offers caring, compassionate treatment for children and adolescents (ages 5 to 17), seniors, and adults.

Valley Springs Changes Intensive Outpatient Program is located at 45 Lower Westfield Road in Holyoke. For more information, call 413-466-6370.

United Congregational Church hosting homemade pie fundraiser through Nov. 21

HOLYOKE – Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and Thanksgiving is not the same without at least one pie for dessert. They’re so delicious but can be so cumbersome to make. If you’re looking for tasty desserts on a time crunch, the United Congregational Church of Holyoke has got the solution for you: treat your table and your heart with a homemade pie that gives back during the Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser.

Now through Friday, Nov. 21, you can order hand-

made pies for \$15 each by calling the church office at 413-532-1483 or emailing office.uccholyoke@gmail.com. Choose between Apple Crumb, Double Crust Apple, or Pumpkin. Pies can be picked up Monday Nov. 24, Tuesday Nov. 25 or Wednesday Nov. 26 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.

Let’s share the love, one slice at a time. And no, we don’t mind if you claim you baked it yourself.

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all individuals, regardless of where they are on their journey. If you’d like to learn more about UCCH, please visit our website at www.uccholyoke.org, find us on Facebook or

Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday

through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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<input type="checkbox"/> The Holyoke Sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Ware River News
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Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 12, 2025

Turley Publications would like to help you show off the newest member of your family this Christmas, FOR FREE!

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EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 24-28, 2025.

Thursday, Nov. 20 at 2 PM for November 27 issue

- Agawam Advertiser News • Country Journal
- The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Friday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue

- Sentinel • Quaboag Current

Monday, November 24 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue

- The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Tuesday, November 25 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue

- Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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MiraVista announces new Associate Chief Nursing Officer

HOLYOKE – MiraVista Behavioral Health Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Elizabeth “Beth” Sandstrom, BSN, RN, as Associate Chief Nursing Officer (ACNO). Sandstrom brings more than a decade of experience leading nursing and clinical operations in behavioral health, home health, and post-acute care settings, with a strong focus on quality, regulatory readiness, patient safety, and workforce development.

Sandstrom has led clinical teams across multiple states, managing care delivery for behavioral health inpatient programs, detox and

residential treatment centers, skilled nursing units, and community-based acute treatment services. Her leadership experience includes roles as Director of Nursing, Director of Operations, and Utilization Review Director, where she drove improvements in documentation standards, medication safety, incident reduction, EMR workflow optimization, and regulatory compliance.

Most recently, Sandstrom served as Director of Operations and Director of Nursing with Amedisys Home Health, where she led a team of more than 35 clinicians, strengthened care coordination practices,

and implemented Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) strategies to enhance patient safety and reduce medication-related errors. Prior to that, she served as Director of Nursing for Promises Behavioral Health in Worcester, overseeing nursing services across six programs serving more than 140 patients, with responsibility for staff training, Joint Commission preparation, and clinical workflow reliability.

Her earlier career included leadership roles at Sprenger Health Care, BriteLife Recovery, Sunrise Detox, and the Behavioral

Health Network in Springfield, where she oversaw operations at both adolescent and adult recovery programs, supervised multidisciplinary teams, and developed Medication Administration Program training and EMR documentation protocols.

“I am honored to join MiraVista and support a nursing workforce that demonstrates skill, dedication, and compassion every day,” said Elizabeth Sandstrom, ACNO. “My focus is to ensure that nurses have the resources, training, and structural support necessary to provide safe, consistent, patient-centered care. When we strength-

en nursing practice, we strengthen the entire care environment—and together, we will continue to expand access to treatment for individuals and families in our region.”

“Elizabeth brings a strong operational lens and a proven ability to align clinical workflows with quality and safety goals,” said Shelley Zimmerman, Hospital Administrator, MiraVista Behavioral Health Center. “Her experience leading interdisciplinary teams, improving documentation and regulatory readiness, and implementing standard work that supports reliable practice will contrib-

ute meaningfully to our ongoing work to grow services and deliver high-quality behavioral healthcare.”

Sandstrom holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix and an Associate Degree in Nursing from Mount Wachusett Community College. She is licensed in Massachusetts and South Carolina with compact licensure and holds certifications in Infection Control Prevention, NIATx Performance Improvement, Trauma First Aid, Tobacco Treatment Education, and Joint Commission Green Belt training.

Campaign kicks off

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Mall is proud to partner with The Salvation Army for their annual Red Kettle Campaign Kick Off event. This event signals the start of an initiative which funds programs and services for thousands of families, youth, and senior citizens in our community and across Massachusetts each year.

Bell ringers will be accepting donations at various exterior entrances and interior locations across the shopping center until Dec. 24. The event will also feature a performance from the Holyoke High School Madrigal Choir.

To complement the

Red Kettle Campaign, The Salvation Army is set to host another annual tradition, the Angel Tree. This program provides clothing and toys for children in need.

According to The Salvation Army, each Angel Tree is decorated with numbered paper angel tags with the first name, age, and gender of a child who is in need of a gift. Contributors remove one, or more, tags from the tree and purchase appropriate gifts for the child or children described on the tags. Guests are encouraged to visit the Angel Tree on the Upper Level near AT&T beginning on Nov. 14 until Dec. 24.

De La Luz to host hurricane relief benefit

HOLYOKE – De La Luz Soundstage will host an all-day Hurricane Relief Benefit for Jamaica on Sunday, Nov. 16 from 1:30 to 8:30 p.m., bringing together some of the Valley’s most beloved musicians in solidarity with communities recovering from recent hurricanes in Jamaica’s mountain region of St. Elizabeth Parish.

All proceeds from the event will go directly to the Mystic Bowie Cultural Center, a registered 501(c)(3) organization based in Accompong Town, Jamaica. The Center, founded by acclaimed reggae artist Mystic Bowie, provides education, arts, and cultural

programs for youth in the region—many of whom have been severely impacted by storm damage and ongoing recovery needs.

“This event is about community showing up for community—across distance and borders.”

The lineup features a vibrant mix of roots reggae, rock, ska, funk, and dance, including performances by The Valley Moonstompers Society (two sets), Peter J. Newland & RadioX, Fever,

Won Word Trend, DeeJay Theory, DJ Cancer, and a special burlesque interlude by The House of Grottesque.

The Moonstompers’ closing set will feature an all-star roster of guest musicians: Cinamon (Brown Bones), Michael Wilbur (Moon Hooch), Matt Penza & Chris Regan (Fear Nuttin Band), Danny Pease & Kenn Kosiba (DPR), Freddy McCondie (formerly of The Meditations), and Robin Setal (formerly of Burning Spear), with additional guests expected throughout the night. The kitchen and bar will be open all day, serving food and drinks as part of the festivities. Suggested dona-

tion is \$20–\$40, and no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

“This event is about community showing up for community—across distance and borders,” said event organizers. “Music connects us, and this is a way to channel that connection into real support for people rebuilding their lives.”

The Hurricane Relief Benefit for Jamaica will take place at De La Luz Soundstage, located at 114 Race Street, Holyoke, MA. Doors open at 1:30 PM. For more information, visit www.delaluz.org or follow @delaluzsoundstage on social media.

Holyoke Community College opens registration for winter, spring 2026 classes

HOLYOKE – Registration is now open for Wintersession and Spring 2026 semester classes at Holyoke Community College.

HCC’s 10-day Wintersession term begins Monday, Jan. 5, and ends Friday, January 16. The Spring 2026 semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Students can earn up to four transferable credits by taking Wintersession classes in anthropology, communications, criminal justice,

economics, environmental science, geography, law, management, mathematics, nutrition, psychology, social science, and sociology.

Most Wintersession classes are offered entirely online.

Full 15-week spring semester classes begin Jan. 20. HCC will also run three accelerated spring flex start sessions: Flex Start I classes begin Jan. 20 and run for seven weeks; Flex Start II classes begin Monday, Feb. 2, and run for 12 weeks;

Flex Start III classes begin Monday, March 23, and run for seven weeks.

Thanks to the state-funded MassEducate and MassReconnect programs, a community college education is now free for all Massachusetts residents who have yet to earn a bachelor’s degree.

“MassEducate provides an exciting opportunity for eligible students to attend college without the concern or weight of how to pay for it,” said Mark Hudgik, HCC

dean of strategic recruitment initiatives, admissions, and financial aid. “There has never been a better time to enroll.”

Eligible students who want to earn a certificate or degree need only to complete the standard HCC application, complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the 2025-2026 school year, and register for at least six credits (typically two classes).

Students who were

admitted for the fall 2025 semester but unable to begin classes for any reason do not need to reapply for spring. They can make an appointment with the HCC Advising Center to register for classes by going to hcc.edu/act.

“Our admissions counselors, academic advisers, and financial aid staff are available to make sure prospective students get all the assistance they need,” said Hudgik.

Class schedules for both

Wintersession and Spring 2026 semester classes can be found on the HCC website: hcc.edu.

To enroll, please go to hcc.edu/admissions.

HCC Admissions and Financial Aid offices are open Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays, 1-4:30 p.m. The Advising, Career, and Transfer center is open Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



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Sat., Nov. 15th Boston's Erin Og	Sat., Nov. 22nd Ireland the Band



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Guest Column



Consider the 'wearing out' factor while deciding when to claim Social Security

Dear Rusty:

Enjoyed your recent article on claiming SS benefits.

I feel, however, any decision making should also include what I call the "wearing out" factor. Yes, financial need, health and longevity are definite criteria for a decision. The inevitable problem, I just turned 83, is the speed at which many of us descend down the back side of that hill after we hit around age 65.

Yes, one might live to 85-90 but as you age after 65, many physical limitations begin to appear. Only then does one realize their earlier retirement decision, waiting to max out SS, might not have been honestly evaluated to the extent needed.

I speak from experience: after having reached 60 in excellent health, I took early retirement from work, then Social Security at 62 and glad I did so. I figure the degree of slope on the backside of that "hill" will increase with age (it did quickly for me), so one best start enjoying a retirement life as soon as financially possible.

Signed:
Glad I claimed at 62

Dear Glad I Claimed at 62:

Thank you very much for your excellent perspective on the "wearing out" factor. And please know that I wholeheartedly concur with your opinion that waiting for a higher Social Security benefit is not always the most prudent choice. For perspective, however, we have found that far too many people claim Social Security as soon as they are eligible at 62 simply because "it is there," without fully analyzing whether that is the best option considering their personal circumstances.

You are correct, enjoying your retirement life while you are still physically able is a valid consideration. And that is why we always suggest that evaluating both your financial needs as well as your health and life expectancy is important.

Fulfilling one's "bucket list" is, indeed, an important consideration

and if claiming Social Security at age 62, after evaluating all factors, enables one to do that, then that is exactly the right choice. It obviously was for you.

Age does, indeed, tend to slow us down, so if taking the SS money early means being able to enjoy life while you still can, then that is a good decision. But having more money as you age can also make your "golden years" a lot more comfortable.

As we have recently witnessed, inflation has an insidious way of reducing our financial comfort in retirement. Despite having a retirement pension from your primary working career, imagine how another 25% in your monthly Social Security payment, had you claimed at full retirement age instead of age 62, would help make your senior years more comfortable.

The fact is that no one can predict how long they will live nor whether they will do so in good health. All we can do is evaluate all our options under varying circumstances and make our claiming decision based on that analysis. And that is precisely what we advocate for at the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Service. In no way did I intend to say that claiming at 62 was never the right choice; only that everyone should look at their complete personal circumstances when deciding when to.

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

A healthy orchard begins in planning phase

It was a lot of fun to take part in a "meeting of the minds" this past week, where we were discussing key maintenance tasks in the young orchard at Old Sturbridge Village.

I left the meeting inspired for my own young orchard, and with renewed interest in heirloom apples altogether.

I must make a trip to Cold Spring Orchard to get some Caville Blanc for the Thanksgiving pies before they are all gone! They are surely the best pie apples, to me at least!

Perhaps indulging in your favorite apple varieties have inspired you to consider a home orchard as part of your landscape. If so, this column, straight from the archives, is for you. Enjoy the re-visit, as you ask yourself some important questions. We all know that the key to successful home apple orchards appears to be forethought. Purchasing fruit trees should not be an "impulse buy."

What variety do you want to grow? While I like heirlooms, you may prefer some of the newer, disease resistant types.

Or maybe you want apples that span the seasons, say Paula Red to start, Honey Crisp for mid-stream and Gold Rush to finish it off. Perhaps you'd like to make cider or bake lots of pies.

There are apples that are specifically suited to how you'd like to use them. My favorite place to buy trees by mail order is through Fedco in Maine. Call 207-426-0090 or log on to fedcoseeds.com/trees to request their "Trees" catalog.

You will glean lots of useful information within the pages of this catalog. I am thrilled to know that they are grafted on site and accus-

tomated to our climate! How tall to you want your trees to get? Apple trees are available in dwarf, semi-dwarf and standard size. Their ultimate size is determined mostly by the rootstock onto which the named variety is grafted. Each has their pros and cons. Dwarf trees can generally be maintained without a ladder. They come into bearing sooner but because of their size produce fewer apples than larger trees. Staking and irrigation are often necessary, because of limited root systems. They can be planted relatively close together (six-eight feet) and are generally short-lived. Semi-dwarf trees are midsized, bear well and are most productive for two or three decades. They are usually spaced 12-14 feet apart from one another.

Standard, or full-size trees are those beauties of our grandparent's era. Extremely hardy, many are still around and might even be bearing fruit! Plan on 18 feet or more between trees, with a mature height of 15-20 feet tall!

Where will you plant them? With the size of the trees determined, you can now figure out how many will fit in the space designated for your home orchard. The best spot is one that receives six-eight hours of full sun per day. Deep, well-drained soil is ideal; never plant where you know the water table is high. In my opinion, a few trees positioned close to the house will be maintained bet-

ter because they are in eye-shot as compared to those placed strategically out in the back-forty. They tend to nag you as you walk by: "Time to prune!" "Why are those leaves curled?" What is that orange spot?" You get the idea.

Is my soil any good? Fall is a great time to take a soil test.

First, slice a six-inch core of soil from your intended orchard with a stainless steel trowel. Remove surface debris and air dry.

Repeat several times and mix the cores together. Then, measure out a cup of soil to send to the lab. If the locations you plan on planting your apple trees vary considerably, test them separately.

Official directions and an order form are found on <http://soiltest.umass.edu>. The standard soil test is \$20. Mention on the test that you are growing apples and pH and fertilizer recommendations will be specific to that crop.

You can do something this fall to make planting easier next spring. Mark out where your trees are to go and dump a generous amount of compost on top of the grass in a circle three feet in diameter. This will start to break down the sod and get the microbes in the soil working.

With the planning part behind you, it will be a lot of fun to await the arrival of your trees come springtime.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



by Roberta McQuaid

the HOLYOKE Sun

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

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

The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

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

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

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

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

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



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Saluting Our Local Heroes

(A Grunts Protest of Home)

We are men who stand alone,
Twelve thousand miles away from home,
Hearts empty of all but blood,
Bodies covered with sweat and mud,
You don't know what it's like over here,
You and your party girls and beer,
Plant your signs on the White House lawn,
Burn your draft card, we march at dawn,
Pop some pills, roll in the sun,
Simply refuse to carry a gun,
There's nothing else for you to do,
And I'm supposed to die for you!

WE REMEMBER THEM
In the blowing of the wind
and in the chill of winter,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

In the opening of the buds and the rebirth of spring,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

In the blueness of the skies and
the warmth of summer,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

In the rustling of the leaves and
the beauty of autumn,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

When we are weary and in need of strength,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

When we are lost and sick at heart,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

When we have joys and
special celebrations we yearn to share,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

When we see our nation's young marching behind
our flag or hear "TAPS" played,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

So long as we live they shall live
for they are a part of us,
WE REMEMBER THEM.

And when we answer the final roll we know that
our BROTHERS and SISTERS will fulfill their duty
and greet us with the words of compassion and
friendship and peace and love.
WE REMEMBER THEM.

- Hank Houghton

President, AVIP/VVA Chapter 294
Retired Staff Sergeant, 82nd Airborne, U.S. Army
Vietnam Veteran



Freedom

No matter what my fellow Americans say or do,
I'm writing here to give this message to you,
I love my Country and the people therein,
I'll fight for my Freedom; I know that we'll win,
I'll fight for their rights to say what they will,
I'll never condemn them for the anger they spill,
The freedom of speech; the freedom to protest,
This Freedom is what makes our Country the best,
So if you wonder what actions is best here at home,
Remember YOUR SOLDIERS out there all alone,
Please practice these freedoms while I'm over here,
I'm willing to give my life for a Country
I hold most dear,

And while I'm gone on this mission for you,
Please care for my loved ones; they've sacrificed too.

- Hank Houghton

President, AVIP/VVA Chapter 294
Retired Staff Sergeant, 82nd Airborne, U.S. Army
Vietnam Veteran

Kia

Years have passed,
Our hearts still sore,
As time goes on we miss you more,
Of grief and sorrow we've had to share,
But the parting from you,
Was the hardest to bear!

Poor Is The Nation That Has No Heroes.
Shameful Is The Nation That Having Forgets!

- Hank Houghton

President, AVIP/VVA Chapter 294
Retired Staff Sergeant, 82nd Airborne, U.S. Army
Vietnam Veteran



Boots

They say the hardships a soldier endures
are best expressed by his or her feet.
They carry them through this world, walk the dog,
take them to school,
and carry them on their first date.
Finally, they reluctantly speed him or her into the
hell of combat time after time.

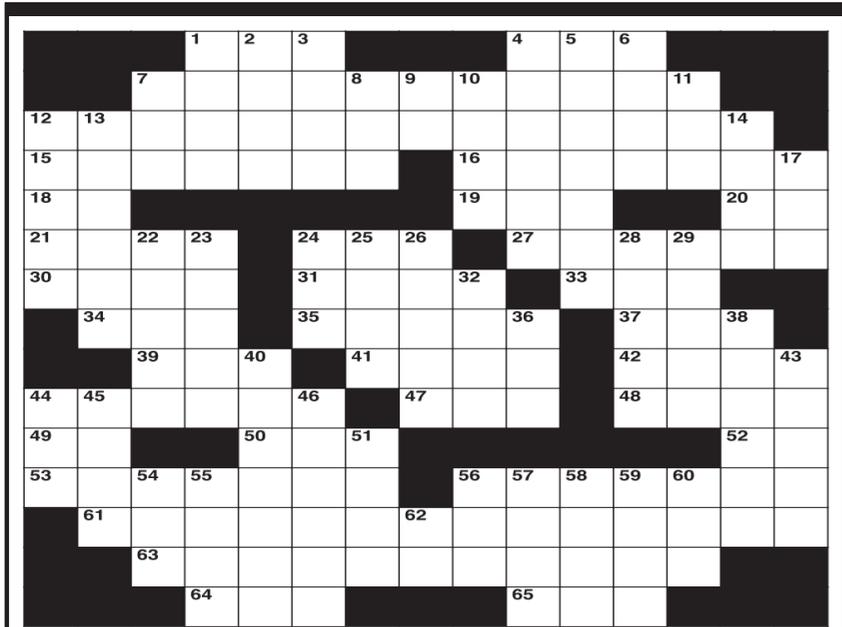
It is no wonder that they remain behind
as a lasting memory of his or her final charge.
One that could have carried them to safety, but
instead brought them unwanted glory
and eternal loneliness.

These boots remain mired in the mud of Mekong
Delta, the Deserts of Afghanistan and Iraq,
and countless other countries.

Where they will be forgotten just like the love,
memories and hopes of the soldier who wore them!

- Hank Houghton

President, AVIP/VVA Chapter 294
Retired Staff Sergeant, 82nd Airborne, U.S. Army
Vietnam Veteran



CLUES ACROSS

1. Expression of surprise
4. Keyboard key
7. One who works on lights
12. Notable children's story
15. Fall back into a bad pattern
16. Eye parts
18. Atomic #18
19. Of she
20. Farm state
21. One point south of southeast
24. British media entity
27. Asian garment
30. Drench
31. Expressions of pleasure
33. Turf
34. UK trade union (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

35. Bleated
37. Fifth note of a major scale
39. Paddle
41. Monetary unit of Italy
42. American classical pianist
44. Shuts down for the day
47. Seize
48. Soluble ribonucleic acid
49. Greeting
50. Some cars still need it
52. Atomic #22
53. Let go
56. Marched in public
61. U.S. residents, Mexicans and Canadians
63. Hostilities
64. Speak aloud
65. River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

1. Razorbill genus
2. Longtime Baltimore tight end
3. Performs on stage
4. Supports a sentiment
5. Rugged mountain ranges
6. Broadway songwriter Sammy
7. Snake-like fish
8. Men's fashion accessory
9. Hospital worker
10. Something to scratch
11. No (Scottish)
12. Volcanic ash
13. Of this
14. American jazz drummer Watts
17. Drop down
22. English dialect
23. Predatory seabirds
24. Imams' deputies
25. Fertility god
26. Fence material
28. Parks and DeLauro are two
29. Distinctive smell (Brit.)
32. Protein-rich liquids
36. Touch lightly
38. Season for Catholics
40. Boat race
43. Police actions
44. Chinese river
45. Waterfall (Scottish)
46. Walk ostentatiously
51. Type of carpet
54. Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano
55. Sea eagles
56. An enclosure for confining livestock
57. Dry
58. An increase in price or value
59. The highest point of something
60. Government lawyers
62. Larry and Curly's pal

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

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Knights, Pacers renew old rivalry

HOLYOKE – Chicopee and Holyoke football played 100 games on Thanksgiving morning before both schools moved on from the holiday rivalry. It has been a few years since the teams played in the regular season as well. But last Thursday night, Chicopee and Holyoke drew each other in a nonplayoff

game for Week 9. Holyoke, which has struggled during the season, defeated Chicopee 35-12 to improve to 3-6 on the season. Chicopee fell to 5-4. The Pacers drew a road game against Monument Mountain in Week 10 while Holyoke will travel to neighbor West Springfield.



Reinaldo Andino makes a great sack for the Knights.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Karson Pearson-Ducler goes for a tackle.



Avery Feliciano goes after the Chicopee ball carrier.



Jesus Morales emerges on a run.



Scarlett Mendes gets the header.



Ishanellys Rivera hustles up the field.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Soccer season ends with win

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School girls soccer team did not qualify for the state tournament this season, and played their final game of the regular season two weeks ago in nonplayoff action.

ed Franklin Tech in their final matchup, with Kyra Lippman scoring two goals with an assist. Leilany Figueroa also had two goals and an assist. Mia Healy and Kyleigh Dorman had single goals in the win. Holyoke had a 5-10-3 overall record.

The Knights defeat-



Kyleigh Dorman looks to clear the ball away.



Kyleigh Coutinho advances up the field.



Kyra Lippman goes after the loose ball.



Abigail Bechard makes a quick pass.

Cougars dominant in season opener

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College women's basketball opened their season in front of a packed house in the Bartley Center last Thursday evening, hosting regional opponent Quinsigamond CC. The Lady Cougars were dominant from the tipoff, racking up points on their way to a 93-38 win. Nine of Holyoke's ten players tallied points in the contest, and all ten grabbed at least one rebound. The Cougars' 93 points is the most the team has scored in a single game in the post-COVID era.

Freshmen Annastacia Dixon (Keene, NH / Keene HS) and Johany Andrades (Springfield, MA / Putnam Vocational Technical HS) led the way for the Lady Cougars, each registering a double-double in the victory. Dixon scored a team-high 25 points, shooting 11 for 13 from the floor and 3 for 6 from the free-throw line, and brought down a team-high 12 rebounds. Andrades scored 14 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to notch her double-double. She led Holyoke in assists with eight and had six steals in the contest. Freshman Tatiyana Zuniga (Westfield, MA / Westfield HS) had a team-high seven steals to go along with 16 points. Sophomore Erin Bullough (South Hadley, MA / South Hadley HS) shot 6 for 8 from the floor, including 2 for 3 from three-point range, to score 14 points.

The 1-0 Lady Cougars' season was launched by a ceremonial pregame jump ball that was tossed up by HCC president George Timmons. Holyoke will travel for their next three matchups before playing their only other November home game on Saturday, Nov. 15 at 1 p.m. versus Five Towns College.



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WSU Owls capture conference championship

WESTFIELD – Senior forward Kaleigh Murphy (Pembroke, Mass.) scored a goal and added an assist as top-seeded Westfield State University defeated fourth-seed Worcester State University 4-2 in the 2025 MASCAC Championship game from Alumni Field in Westfield, Mass. on Saturday afternoon.

The Owls win back-to-back conference titles as today marked Westfield's 18th victory of the season and 16th consecutive win, both active school records. The Owls (18-3) punched their ticket into the NCAA Division III Tournament and will await the destination and opponent which will be determined on Sunday, November 9 at 9:00 P.M. as part of the NCAA Selection Show. For the Lancers (9-12), their season comes to an end after two play-off wins, defeating Salem State before upsetting Bridgewater State to reach

the title game.

Murphy was named the 2025 MASCAC Tournament MVP. She wasted no time giving the Owls a lead, tallying her 18th marker of the season just four minutes into the game. Sadie Stauffer (Suffield, Conn.) directed an initial shot which was deflected in front to the stick of Caroline Andrade (Watertown, Mass.) whose shot was saved. The rebound found Murphy who swept in the goal for a 1-0 Westfield lead.

Worcester responded midway through the quarter with Emily Curran (Fall River, Mass.) backhanding home a goal off a saved shot by Emma Gniadek (Worcester, Mass.) for her first goal of the season.

A well-executed penalty corner resulted in a shot from the top of the arc from Murphy, finding the stick of Stauffer who tipped the shot up and into the cage for a 2-1 advantage with 11:46 to go in the

half. The goal was a just reward for Stauffer, after previously having a goal disallowed for a high shot upon conversation from the officials.

1:53 into the second half, the Lancers would respond for a second time to equalize the contest after a trip in the box generated a Worcester penalty stroke. Curran stepped up to take the stroke, flicking the attempt to the right side of the cage for her second of the season.

The Owls quickly seized momentum back in their favor, scoring two minutes and 26 seconds after Curran's second goal. Once again, Westfield capitalized on a penalty corner, tallying directly off the insert with Erin Lane (Canton, Mass.)

hitting Caroline Andrade (Watertown, Mass.) who fired a shot through traffic towards goal which bounced the pad of Lizzy MacDonald (Medford, Mass.) and into the cage.

In the fourth quarter, Westfield exerted championship effort, holding Worcester without a shot attempt while adding an insurance score with less than five to go. Kacey Curran (Fall River, Mass.) rifled a shot from the right side of the shooting area which was padded aside by MacDonald with the rebound finding Shannon Gover (Norwood, Mass.) in the middle of the goal mouth where she tucked in the fourth goal of the game and her second of the season. The Owls outshot the Lancers 9-0 in the quarter and 23-11 in the game.

Gover, a key component to the back line of the Owls defense, stepped up into the offensive play in a timely manner, notching her third career goal. Gover and the rest of the Owls defense did an exceptional job of limiting the Lancers leading goal scorer Kaylie Ciccone (Douglas, Mass.) who was held to just one shot on goal, a short side shot that was saved by Gniadek.

The Owls win their second straight MASCAC Championship, both under the leadership of head coach Carden Brown. The Owls have recorded three straight double-digit win seasons in Brown's three years at the helm, setting the program win record last season before shattering such record this season.

MacDonald put forth a strong effort in net for the Lancers, making 11 saves in the game. Gniadek picked up three saves for her 12th win of the campaign.

Thunderbirds suffer tough loss to Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, CT – The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-8-1-1) fell victim to a second-period surge by the Bridgeport Islanders (5-6-1-0) in a 6-1 loss on Saturday at Total Mortgage Arena.

Starting his first game of the season, Will Cranley was busy in the opening period in the Springfield crease, but the 23-year-old answered the bell with 14 first-period saves, which included a handful of beauties as the T-Birds survived nearly 90 seconds of a two-

man disadvantage at the end of the period.

At the other end, Marcus Hogberg was equally sturdy in the Bridgeport crease, keeping Springfield off the board through nine shots in the first 20 minutes.

Bridgeport finally broke through on Cranley at 1:26 of the second when Alex Jefferies picked



the corner over Cranley's blocker to give the Isles a 1-0 lead.

Eetu Liukas added to the lead during a Bridgeport penalty kill just 2:10 later, driving to the front of the net and tipping a Daylan Kuefler pass over Cranley's shoulder.

The Islanders only added to the T-Birds' tough stretch at 9:02 when Adam

Beckman crashed the paint and deflected a Matt Maggio cross-ice pass in behind Cranley to make it a 3-0 game.

The T-Birds finally answered the Bridgeport run with a power play tally from Juraj Pekarcik at 15:32, as the rookie fired a shot from the left-wing circle off a defender's legs and past Hogberg, cutting the margin to 3-1 entering the third. Marc-Andre Gaudet picked up his first AHL point on the primary assist.

Springfield had two more opportunities to cut into the lead in the third on the power play, but again Hogberg and the Bridgeport penalty kill stood tall. Joey Larson, who scored three times in the first two meetings between the clubs, added to his red-hot start when he fired a wrist shot past Cranley at 13:39, and Chris Terry and Marc Gatcomb followed that up with goals 23 seconds apart to round out the scoring in the back half of the third.

Worcester Railers fall to Maine Mariners 4-2

WORCESTER – The Mariners won again Sunday afternoon, 4-2, although it was a close game that the Railers might have taken, or at least tied.

Worcester had yet another goal disallowed due to goalie interference, this one deposited by Riley Ginnell at 19:28 of the first period. It would have closed a 2-0 deficit to 2-1 but was waved off. Since the fourth Maine goal was into an empty net, the wave-off was huge.

It was also the second in the last two games that call went against the Railers.

"Both nights, I think they were wrong," coach Nick Tuzzolino said. "They decide what they decide but I think it happens a lot to us in this building."

These goalie interference reviews are becoming a plague. There seem to be one or two every game.

They take up time and kill the flow. They are like football pass interference calls. If six people look at them you'll get six different interpretations.

"I definitely saw our guy being physical with their defenseman outside the paint," Tuzzolino said. "There was a fight for ice. That's bound to happen...I think you can call goalie interference on almost every goal, but it is what it is."

The game marked the Railers debut of former Holy Cross goaltender Thomas Gale, who played two ECHL games for Wheeling last year. Worcester's goaltending has been inconsistent thus far. Gale seemed to play well enough to earn another start.

"He was good," Tuzzolino said. "I think maybe the first two he might like back. Then in

the second period he stops maybe two or three Grade As, at the end of the first he stops a breakaway. Great energy, great attitude, really fought down to the wire."

"He was a fire starter, a spark. Not a knock on our other goalies but they've had a lot of mental battles and needed a mental break."

The Railers goals were scored by Drew Callin and Kolby Johnson, playing in just his third game of the season. Lynden McCallum had two for Maine, giving him five for the two games here this weekend. Jacob Perreault and Sebastian Vidmar had the other Maine goals, Vidmar into

an empty net.

Luke Cavallin made 22 saves for Maine to improve his career record versus Worcester to 11-5-0.

Maine scored early and late in the first period.

Perrault notched a power play goal at 1:58,

blasting a shot home from the left circle on the first shot Gale faced in a Worcester uniform.

Maine's man advantage came about after Railers forward Jesse Nurmi

was called for an obvious slashing penalty at 1:50.

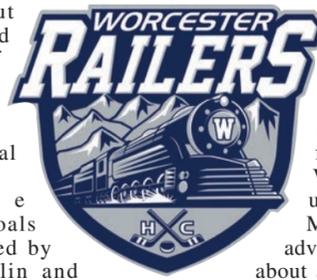
McCallum scored his fourth goal of the weekend at 17:17. He snapped a shot under the crossbar from the right circle; the Mariners have been very

good so far this season against Worcester at putting the puck on the top shelf.

The home team closed the gap on a power play goal of its own just 1:48 into the second period. Callin beat Cavallin from between the dots with a quick wrist shot after taking a pass from Ryan Miotto. It was a one-goal game for about six minutes.

McCallum went top shelf at 7:46 to re-establish the Mariners' two-goal lead. It could have been worse for the Railers, though. Maine had a 17-7 edge in shots and Gale made several excellent saves.

Johnson scored at 9:35 of the third period, right off a draw in the left circle. The puck found him alone about 15 feet away from Cavallin and he beat him with an instant release.



Happy Thanksgiving

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FOR RENT



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.

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City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council as well as the Holyoke Planning Board will hold separate public hearings to hear a zoning ordinance change proposal to review & amend the sign ordinance as needed to reduce the increased posting of a variety of signs on public property and other changes that may be offered. The Planning Board public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. via www.zoom.us** Meeting ID: 836 3939 8493 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same meeting ID. Ordinance Committee public hearing will be held on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 6:30pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via zoom.us Meeting ID 814 8732 9079 Meeting Passcode 201048 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. To provide comments to the Planning Board, please contact Brianna Tejada at tejadab@holyoke.org. To provide comments to the Ordinance Committee, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Planning Board Chair, Mimi Panitch, Ordinance Chair, Israel Rivera 11/14, 11/21/2025

City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council as well as the Holyoke Planning Board will hold separate public hearings to hear a zone change application from R-2 to BG of Ella Sussman at 9 Martin Street (122-00-018) to change the existing use of its unit from a residential use to solely a commercial use for the operation of the applicant's part-time psychiatric nurse business. The Planning Board public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. via www.zoom.us** Meeting ID: 836 3939 8493 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same meeting ID. Ordinance Committee public hearing will be held on **Wednesday December 3, 2025 at 6:30pm** at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via zoom.us Meeting ID 814 8732 9079 Meeting Passcode 201048 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 to the Planning Board, please contact Brianna Tejada at tejadab@holyoke.org. To provide comments to the Ordinance Committee, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Planning Board Chair, Mimi Panitch, Ordinance Chair, Israel Rivera 11/14, 11/21/2025

CITY OF HOLYOKE

RFQ 2026-07 RIVER TERRACE PHASE 2 DESIGN REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS Professional Design Services for Design Engineering Services for River Terrace (CSO-21B) Combined Sewer System Separation (Phase B)

The City of Holyoke Department of Public Works (DPW) seeks qualifications from engineering firms to complete the final design and bid-ready construction documents for the River Terrace (CSO-21B) Combined Sewer Separation Project. To date, the project has been designed to the 60% design level. The proposed scope of work requested as part of this RFQ includes confirming and updating utility base mapping as previously surveyed against current utility records, potential field investigations (e.g. test pits) to identify and resolve any potential design conflicts with utilities, finalizing design plans and profiles, completion of any necessary regulatory permitting, preparation of technical specifications, preparation of cost estimates, assistance with documentation necessary to obtain State Revolving Funds for the construction phase of the project, and preparation of final bidding documents. It should be noted that Final Design documents must be completed for submission to on or before July 1, 2026 to comply with the City's Consent Decree.

This project may be funded in whole or part with Federal Funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility to receive Federal Funds and must comply with all Federal Requirements including Part 200.

RFQ documents may be obtained electronically through the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Department by submitting an email request to Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer, at morrowj@holyoke.org. Responses will also be submitted by email. **Letters of Interest shall be submitted electronically to Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer, at morrowj@holyoke.org and are due on December 12, 2025 at 2:00 PM** (local time), based on the digital time stamp when received. Late applications will not be accepted. Letters of Interest submitted through any other means, such as mail or hand delivery, will not be accepted and will be rejected by the City as non-responsive. The City intends to select a consultant within 60 days of receipt of the RFQ responses. Work on the project must commence within 30 days of contract execution. The City reserves the right to reject any and all submissions, to waive any minor informalities and technicalities, or to cancel the solicitation if it is in the public interest to do so. This procurement is being done following all applicable Massachusetts, including but not limited to MGL 30B, MGL Ch7C. 11/14/2025

Wednesday November 12, 2026 after 9:00 AM. Questions due by November 26, 2026, at 2:00 PM. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in the city's best interest. 11/13/2025

City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 6:30pm** to hear special permit application of Lyman Group LLC at 40 Lyman Street (038-02-001.1) to replace the existing retail marijuana special permit issued to Leaf Lux on December 1, 2020, including a request to waive certain submission requirements. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via zoom.us Meeting ID 814 8732 9079 Meeting Passcode 201048 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to submit a comment for this public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Ordinance Chair, Israel Rivera 11/14, 11/21/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD25P2237G

In the matter of:
Hector Perez-Gautier
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dept of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Hector Perez-Gautier** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Diamar Andino-Gautier of Holyoke, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **11/26/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer.

Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: October 28, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/14/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. BR25P1098GD

In the interests of
Evalyze Brielle Pessolano
of New Bedford, MA
Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **05/12/2025** by **Ayahna I. Arce** of Holyoke, MA will be held **12/05/2025 01:45 PM Review Hearing.** Located: **Probate & Family Court, 4th Floor, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103.**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: November 12, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/14/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25A0145AD

In the matter of:
Kaylieann Angelie Rosario
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6

TO:
Raul Geraldo Rosario
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:

Zeila Dyann Vazquez of Springfield, MA

Johnathan Alexis Vazquez of Springfield, 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: 12/08/2025.

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

Date: November 3, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/07, 11/14, 11/21/2025

City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

The Ordinance Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, December 3, 2025 at 6:30pm** to hear special permit amendment of F&M Hiway, Inc / Schermerhorn's Restaurant at 224 Westfield Road (157-00-072) to reduce the number and total square footage of signage from the previously issued special permit. Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via zoom.us Meeting ID 814 8732 9079 Meeting Passcode 201048 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to submit a comment for this public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

Ordinance Chair, Israel Rivera 11/14, 11/21/2025

City of Holyoke

Office of Procurement

INVITATION TO BID

IFB 2026-12

STAINED GLASS

RESTORATION REBID

DCAMM CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIRED

Sealed bids for City Hall Stained Glass Windows Restoration Project Phase V, Holyoke, MA will be received on **Friday December 12, 2025** at the City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer **until 2 PM prevailing time**, at which said Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All bids shall be submitted within a sealed envelope addressed to the "City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer" and titled "**Stained Glass Restoration REBID, Bid#2026-12DPW**".

The work under this contract shall include complete restoration of the contract specified quantity of stained-glass windows as well as the furnishing and installing of new window frames and protective glazing. All work shall be performed in accordance with the project specifications and generally accepted practices and all applicable standards established by the appli-

cable industry and regulatory agencies. The City Hall is listed in the State Register of Historic Places, all work must comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and the project is being partially funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund, Massachusetts Historical Commission. This project may also be funded with supplemental federal funds and respondents will be verified for their eligibility to receive funds. Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 149, Sections 44A-44J and minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. Chapter 149, Section 26-27H, inclusive as amended. A non-mandatory Pre-Bid briefing will occur on November 21, 2025, at 10:00 AM EST at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St, Holyoke, MA 01040 in the Ballroom. Attention is called to the minimum wage rates required to be paid for all labor on this project. Wage rates are established in schedules issued by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, in accordance with Section 26A - 27D, or Chapter 149 of the M.G.L., as amended, and the U.S. Department of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts. Said schedule(s) are included in the bid package and the contractor will be responsible for paying the higher of the two rates. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in the city's best interest. **ELIGIBLE CONTRACTORS MUST HAVE DCAMM CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY.** 11/14/2025

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
2026 UTILITY LINE
MATERIAL

Sealed bids for furnishing the above material will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until **2:00 p.m. December 16, 2025**, 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 in the best interest of the City of Holyoke.

Please mark sealed envelopes "**Bid for 2026 Utility Line Material**" and address them to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept
99 Suffolk St
Holyoke, MA 01040
11/14/2025

City of Holyoke
Public Hearing Notice

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 836 1170 1011; CALL IN *67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance Section 7.8.5, a Special Permit for an Antenna, to be located at Churma Dr (080-00-039); submitted by Cellco Partnership.

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 9-4 p.m.

APPLICANT:
Cellco Partnership
d/b/a Verizon Wireless
PLANNING BOARD:
Mimi Panitch
11/07, 11/14/2025

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

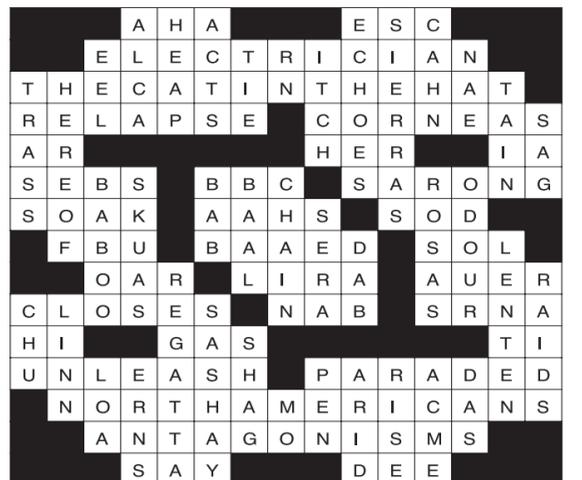
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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

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.



Taber Art Gallery displays 'Hyper Color'

HOLYOKE – Five artists from western Massachusetts use brilliant colors to explore spirituality, memory, intuition, time, and rebellious joy in the latest exhibit at the Holyoke Community College Taber Art Gallery.

"HyperColor" opened Monday, Nov. 3, and runs until Thursday, Dec. 18.

The show features the work by Andrae Green, Donnabelle Casis, Kim Carlino, Sharon Leshner, and Sunny Allis.

The gallery will host a reception on Thursday, Nov. 13, from 5-7 p.m. with an artists' panel discussion at 6 p.m.

"On its face 'HyperColor' is an exhibition about color, but it's also about the ways people explore and express themselves without shame or hesitation," said Taber director Rachel Rushing. "The artists in this exhibition are fearless in their use of color to explore the internal worlds of dreams, memory, and intuition as well as the ways we connect to the world around us with curiosity and play."

All five artists are active in community and education. Carlino and Leshner are

local muralists. Leshner's most recent mural is located at 787 Dwight St. in Holyoke, and made in partnership with The Children's Museum at Holyoke. Carlino's latest project is located at 23 Laurel St. in Northampton and was commissioned by Valley Community Development for a set of newly renovated affordable apartments.

Green maintains studio space in Holyoke, teaches at the Hartford Art School, and has work on view at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Casis hosts "Art Beat Report" on WHMP 101.5 FM, a segment about art news in the Pioneer Valley, and has work on view through 2026 at both the Albany International Airport and the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle, Washington.

Allis has worked for years as an educator with schools and communities of all ages and backgrounds on topics like sculptural storytelling, world building, kinetic sculpture art, and puppetry. Their most recent positions include Clark Art Institute and Hampshire College.

"I hope visitors connect with the passion of these artists and the joy and curiosity their work inspires," Rushing said.

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, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.



This is one of the works on display for the "Hyper Color" exhibit at the Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College in Holyoke now through Dec. 18. Submitted photo

Clothing and Food Drive to benefit 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.

History Room presents pair of activities

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke History Room at Holyoke Public Library will present two new activities. On Monday, Nov. 17, A House in Holyoke through Time. The Smith Family Homestead will be talked about by Robert Comeau. The event, sponsored by the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, will be held at

5:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

The homes built by Revolutionary War veteran Lewis Smith and his descendants tell much about the history of this northern end of Holyoke, which was actually part of Northampton until 1909. Come learn about how the Smith's Ferry neighborhood

got its name and about the tree nursery, the art fraudster, and the community center that once occupied this land (the present-day home of Jericho).

The, on Wednesday, Nov. 19, the History Room brings in two professional genealogists monthly to oversee our Genealogy Lab in the Computer Classroom.

DONATE, from page 1

Grand Knight Ron Grenier explained the organization is all about gestures of kindness and helping others.

"That's what the Knights of Columbus is for. They help the needy, anybody that's in distress," Grenier said. "We have a lot of need out there right now. They need help and it's something that we're able to do and that's what we're doing."

Grenier said the Knights were honored to help.

"It makes you feel good. We enjoy doing it and we have a lot of charities that we take care of throughout the year, but this one here is so special," Grenier said.

He added the Knights will also be holding their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Castle of Knights on Thursday, Nov. 27, from Noon to 2 p.m., with volunteers also doing deliveries. Access Care Partners is offering their support this year.

"Everyone's welcome, no questions asked and the more the merrier," Grenier said. "We enjoy it and we look forward to it every year."

Executive Director Kim Caisse shared the donations will be a big help and noted the nonprofit has been seeing "many, many more families."

"Last week, I understand, we went to the Chicopee Library and we saw 160 families and we normally see around 60 or 70, so that just goes to show how many people are in need right now," Caisse said.

Caisse said Lorraine's is here to support the community and give back however they can.

"It means a lot to us and that's what we're here for. Lorraine's has been around for over 40 years and we always served the community by giving out free food at our pantries and also a dinner every night, Monday through Friday, and it just means so much to us to be able to give back to the community and we're here to just make sure that people have food on the table, especially now and with the holidays coming up," Caisse said.

She added the biggest staple items Lorraine's needs right now include peanut butter, one-pound bags of rice, pasta, tomato products, canned beans, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned meats, tuna, chicken and more. Also, volunteers, holding food drives—as some local businesses are currently doing—and monetary donations are always welcome.

Caisse thanked the Knights for their donation.

"I am grateful and just overwhelmed by the donation that they gave us. It just means so much to us that they continue to support us all the time. It's really humbling to know there's people in the community doing this for us," Caisse said.

Lorraine's Board of Directors President Donna Marratta was moved by the Knights' donation, calling it "A Godsend."

"People have the misconception that people who come to a pantry are homeless. No. People that come to a pantry are you and I. If I had lost my check, I was on a single income. Even before SNAP, the amount of people were rising because now we're coming into the

winter months, so now you have the extra bill of heating," Marratta said. "Also, with a family, you want to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, maybe have little gifts. So, it always gets tighter, but the need is all-year round. Sometimes, this time of year, people are a little more generous, but in the middle of summer or in May, we need the food just as much as we need it now."

Marratta said how Lorraine's and other food banks can help fill that gap for those who are on SNAP benefits.

"Most of the people that come are families, elderly," Marratta said. "Right now, people are very concerned."

She also stressed the importance of making sure the staple items Lorraine's provides are continually stocked.

"We get the bread and the produce comes from the grocery stores. Big Y, Stop & Shop, Target, BJ's. Without them, we wouldn't have anything on our shelves, and then we get some of the staple items from the Food Bank (of Western Mass), we're able to order," Marratta said.

Caisse said this.

"This is what the community is about. Here in Chicopee, I have to say when we put the word out that we're in need, the community is always there for us and we're so grateful for that and all that they always do for us," Caisse said.

Grenier's message was this.

"We know there's a need out there. We're there to help out as much as we can. We enjoy doing it. It's a lot of work, but that's what we're there for," Grenier said.



2026 George E. O'Connell Winner David "DJ" O'Connor and his family. Submitted photos

AWARD, from page 1

Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Holyoke Elks.

O'Connor will be honored at the Grand

Coronation Ball on Saturday, February 14, 2026. From there, Parade season carries on in full effect as one month later, the 49th Holyoke St.

Patrick's Road Race kicks off on Saturday, March 21, 2026, and closing out the holiday weekend is the 73rd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade on Sunday, March 22, 2026.

PLAN, from page 1

Identify early opportunities to engage the community and advocate for equitable improvement in Holyoke's schools.

"I am committed to building trust and serving as an advocate for accessible, high-quality education for all students regardless of how they learn," Norris Lubold

said. "My door will always be open for feedback, and I look forward to partnering with our community to deliver meaningful results."

Norris Lubold was not originally slated to run for the seat. Pat Beaudry was the only candidate who submitted nomination papers for Ward 6, a seat held by William Collamore since 1976. Beaudry then withdrew from the race after he

announced he was moving out of Ward 6, thus making him ineligible to hold the seat.

Beaudry immediately endorsed a write-in campaign by Norris Lubold about a month before the election. Another Ward 6 resident, Christian Carde, also launched a brief write-in campaign, but Norris Lubold came out on top in the Nov. 4 municipal election.

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