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State Sen. John Velis delivers cards to Veterans earlier this week.
Submitted photo

Velis continues tradition of bringing letters to veterans

HOLYOKE – Senator John C. Velis delivered letters from local students in the Hampden and Hampshire District to residents at the Veterans' Home in Holyoke in honor of Veterans Day. This marks the fifth consecutive year that Velis has organized this initiative with over 20 different schools from Westfield, Agawam, West Springfield, and other communities participating.

“What began as an effort to find a way for our community to safely share our appreciation with Veterans at the Home during the COVID-19 pandemic, when visita-

MCAS no longer high school diploma requirement

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – In Massachusetts 59% of people vote to get rid of MCAS as a high school graduation requirement.

In Holyoke, about 73% of voters, or 10,296 out of 14,184, voted in support for the repeal of MCAS as a graduation requirement.

Mayor Joshua Garcia felt that this truly showed how much Holyoke supported the removal of this exam as a graduation requirement.

“Holyoke overwhelmingly supported this,” Garcia said. “There is a shared concern...how we make sure our kids excel no matter what.”

This new measure will go into place immediately, meaning the class of 2025 does not need to pass MCAS in order to graduate.

This question passing is particularly impactful for the city of Holyoke, where many have

struggled to pass the MCAS in the past.

“Here in the city we have a unique set of social determiners and health challenges and disparities and I think by finally eliminating this as a requirement is going to allow kids to better do what it is they need to do and get their diplomas,” Garcia said.

Garcia believes that this will be a good step for the city of Holyoke.

“I think for those kids who do well in the classroom but for various reasons are having a difficult time passing a standardized test, now they will be able to get their diplomas and graduate,” Garcia said.

Many kids in Holyoke have struggled to meet the MCAS graduation requirement. Not only can this delay their graduation but it can also cause an immense amount of pressure on the students.

See VETERANS, page 12

See MCAS, page 9

CPA ballot question passes

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The ballot question on reducing the CPA surcharge from 1.5% to 1% passed in Holyoke, with 8,744 voting for it and 4,419 voting against.

This ballot question was placed on the ballot after extensive discussion from the city council over the course of a year.

Many on the council were hesitant to put the question on the ballot as they were concerned that it would prevent the CPA from being able to do its full work for the city.

Other councilors agreed that the CPA was important, but wanted to ensure that residents would have a chance to vote on their taxes.

Eventually, the council passed the question and it was placed on the ballot for this year.

According to City Council Member Meagan Magrath-Smith, this reduction will save most residents of Holyoke \$11 to \$25 next year on their taxes.

See CPA, page 9

Writers group dedicates time to NaNoWriMo

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Western Massachusetts Writers Guild met at Holyoke Public Library as part of their work during National Novel Writing Month.

Every November is NaNoWriMo and many writers across the world will come together to set goals for their writing throughout the month. Writers often try to use it as a challenge in order to get more content written.

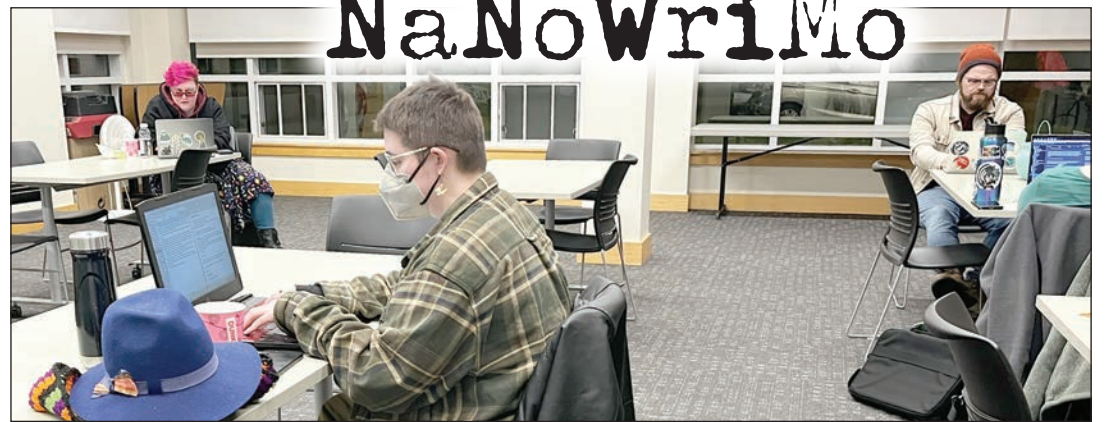
The guild hopes that providing a space for people to write throughout this month will allow them to get started on any projects they want to work on.

“We have a goal of trying to support other writers,” Guild Leader Kyle Chambers said. “We’re a productivity-focused group where we get together... and the number one goal is to sit down and write.”

Chambers specifically hopes that this group can help to give people a place to get started on their own work.

“I think a lot of writers don’t know where to begin and that is kind of the spirit of Novel Writing Month is just getting together and getting words on paper,” Chambers said.

They also hope that this



Writers focused on supporting each other at the session.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

group will be a good chance for people to get out and meet other writers while also having the opportunity to focus on their own writing.

During the meeting at the library group gathered together and enjoyed a variety of snacks in between writing sprints.

“Writing sprints are little bits of productivity where you focus solely on what you’re writing,” Chambers said. “You’re not trying to edit, you’re just being productive and putting words on paper.”

After doing the writing sprints the group talked about how the writing time went for them. They were able to share any breakthroughs they had in writing or talk about moments that they were stuck on.

This guild meets throughout the year in order to provide



The Western Massachusetts Writers Guild gathered at Holyoke Public Library to hold a writing and productivity focused meeting.

writers a consistent place to go and write.

“We meet up once a month to check in, do some editing work and keep ourselves



Western Massachusetts Writers Guild Leader Kyle Chambers concentrated on his writing.

accountable,” Chambers said. Anyone is welcome to join this group, no matter their age and whether they have been writing for years or if they are

See WRITERS, page 9

Committee names O'Connell recipient

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke has announced tonight that the 61st recipient of the O'Connell award is Jeff Walsh. The George E. O'Connell Award is given to a member of the Parade Committee who has made significant contributions to the fundraising efforts of the Parade. The announcement was made tonight at the Parade Committee's monthly meeting.



Jeff Walsh

Since joining the St. Patrick's Committee, Walsh has been instrumental in raising needed funds for the Parade, whether as co-chair of the Mike Ahearn Golf Tournament or other fundraising events. He is always there to lend a hand wherever needed on Road Race and Parade Day year after year.

Walsh's passion for music is what compelled him to create and bring before the membership in 2019 an entirely new event, known as "Marshal Mania". This concert event traditionally held the first weekend in March has become an annual kick-off for Holyoke to begin celebrating Homecoming Weekend and is one of the Committee's key fundraising events for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade.

Walsh's involvement with the Committee goes back to 2017 when his daughter, Margaret Walsh, was named the Grand Colleen. Since then, the Committee has been grateful to Jeff and his family for their support.

"Jeff Walsh is one of our most

hard-working and dedicated members," said John Beaulieu, parade president. "Fundraising is essential for putting on Parade weekend, and without the support of our sponsors and for members like Jeff Walsh, the Parade would not be possible. I'm so grateful to him and I look forward to seeing his family march in the Parade on March 22, 2025."

Walsh lives in Holyoke with his wife Dianne and he is father to Amanda, Margaret, and Ryan, and is a grandfather to Camden and Reilly. He is a graduate of South Hadley High School and Westfield State University. Currently, he is the president of Everett & Associates in Springfield.

Walsh will be honored at the Coronation Ball and Awards Dinner in February 2025. Tickets and more information are available online at www.holyokestpatricksparade.com.

Colleen pageant application open

HOLYOKE – The Saint Patrick's Committee of Holyoke is excited to announce that its application for the 69th annual Grand Colleen pageant is now live on their website. Eligibility, requirements, and the online application can all be found at holyokestpatricksparade.com/apply.

Applications will be accepted now through Sunday, Dec. 29. On Monday, Dec. 30, all contestants will have an orientation meeting at the Wyckoff Country Club and the pageant will take place on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025 at Holyoke High School.

Each year the Grand Colleen Pageant decides the five finalists who then go on to the Coronation Ball to have their Grand Colleen crowned. The Grand Colleen reigns with her Colleen Court on a majestic float over the two-mile parade route.

Not only does the honor of being a Colleen represent women who are proud of their Irish heritage and community, but the journey helps them build connections, gain self-confidence, and develop skills that will help in their present and future career paths.

2024 Grand Colleen Elizabeth Gourd said, "I want to encourage anyone who is considering running or running again to please do so. This contest pushes you about 10,000 feet outside of your comfort zone but it will reward you for every single foot. It has changed my life for the better and I hope it can do the same for you."

The 72nd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade will be held on Sunday, March 23 and the 48th Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2025.

Wistariahurst Museum to hold holiday open house

HOLYOKE – You better watch out, you better not cry. Better not pout, Wistariahurst is telling you why: our Holiday Open House and Festive Market is comin' to town! On Dec. 7 and 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the mood will be right and the spirits up during this captivating weekend of jubilation. Our beloved museum will be decorated with the splendor of the holiday season and filled with cheer as we welcome guests back into our halls. Visitors will be able to explore the first floor of the museum, listen to holiday-themed music, and discover the fun of our Wisty Railroad train set on display. But wait, there's myrrh! Our winter wonderland will feature our Festive Market with local vendors selling a variety of

products such as art, jewelry, and other amazing items perfect for your gift exchanges this year. Our Holiday Open House is guaranteed to bring joy to your world with historical fun and holiday cheer.

"There is nothing better than feeling the magic of the holiday season inside of the museum," Rachel Powell, office assistant, muses. "The greatest gift we see at the museum is seeing people of all ages come together to celebrate the museum and community in the warmth of our halls."

Wistariahurst Museum's 4th Annual Holiday Open House and Festive Market truly offers something for everyone, and we're so excited to welcome the entire community to join

us and share in the joy of the season. Our event is a time for celebration and a time to make cherished memories, so we've made sure to make admission to this event free and open to the public.



Hear about Holyoke history at library

HOLYOKE – On Monday, Nov. 18 at 5:30 p.m., join us for Robert Comeau's third annual talk on A House in Holyoke Through Time.

This year, Bob explores the varied

history of 250 Pleasant Street, which was home to a private school for children in the Highlands and later a private residence.

Free and open to the Public.

Food Fest West scheduled for Nov. 20

AGAWAM – The Food Fest West will be taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 20, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Crestview Country Club, 281, Shoemake Ln.

Join for a night of full of fun and

great cuisine, raffle, memorabilia auction and sample amazing food from local restaurants.

For more information and tickets visit westoftheriverchamber.com.



THANKSGIVING REVIEW

"Hi Paul, she was great! Lots of plump meat and just enough fat to help prevent her from drying out. We will be having leftovers for a very long time."
— Beth from Belchertown

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Spreading kindness and hope: Girl Scouts deliver inspiration

HOLYOKE – World Kindness Day, recognized globally on Nov. 13, will bring the delivery of journaling books, hand-decorated by area Girl Scouts with motivational messages like “It’s good to be you,” to patients on the adolescent unit at MiraVista Behavioral Health Hospital.

The books, a collaboration during a recent Service Fair between the Pioneer Valley Coalition for Suicide Prevention and Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts, will be particularly appreciated on World Kindness Day during an event scheduled for 3 p.m. at MiraVista (1233 Main Street, Holyoke) said Kimberley Lee, Chief of Creative Strategy and Development at MiraVista.

“World Kindness Day urges the doing of thoughtful acts and to have supportive messages sent to our adolescent patients by understanding young people on this day is real encouragement for them,” Lee said. “Having mental health challenges, which manifest at any age and

range in diagnoses, can create feelings of self-doubt and loneliness, and this outreach project, along with the work of our clinicians, help counter those emotions.”

Sara Crawley, Service Unit Manager for the Nonotuck Service Unit of the Girl Scouts of America, known locally as the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts said the fair devoted to community service drew about six local area nonprofits and some 40 Girl Scouts and “was a way of celebrating the birthday of Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts.”

“She was born October 31,” Crawley said. “From the beginning, service to the community was part of the foundation of Girl Scouting. We honor her legacy by continuing that tradition.”

Jen Matoney, co-chair of Pioneer Valley Coalition for Suicide Prevention, one of the state’s 11 regional coalitions under the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention, said the book project

drew the interest of high school as well as elementary school-aged Girl Scouts.

“Our volunteers answered questions that came up, followed the girls’ lead about what they wanted to talk about, organically providing age-appropriate, facilitated conversation about wellness and the importance of naming, sharing and-or writing down emotions,” Matoney said.

She said that the decorated covers carry personal messages designed to first let the adolescent patients at MiraVista know “they are thought of and cared about, that they matter, and that healing, hope, and recovery are possible.”

“Secondarily,” she added, “we hope they may find journaling or doodling useful as a positive coping skill and self-reflection tool that anyone, at any age can use.”

Matoney said that the project reflects the mission of PVCSP “to promote wellness and hope and reduce suicide and

despair.” She said members consists of both social service professionals and individuals who have been “personally impacted by suicide, known as having lived experience,” and that this particular project held a “very high importance” for her.

“My beloved mom, Lynn, died from depression and suicide in 2007 at the age of 58,” Matoney said. “Among her many roles, she had been my Girl Scout troop leader for 10 years. With her gentle, reserved approach, endless creativity, and talent for hands-on projects, she made an incredible impact on me, my sister, our friends, and many other girls. When she died, probably 15 to 20 years after being a troop leader, former Girls Scouts from childhood reached out to me. Of course, I now volunteer and work in suicide prevention and support in my mom’s honor.”

For more information on programs at MiraVista visit <https://www.miravistabhc.care/>.

Community toy drive begins

HOLYOKE – The city’s High Street Merchants have launched a community toy drive to benefit area children. Participating businesses are collecting new, unwrapped toys that will be distributed to families on Dec. 22 during a street party featuring a visit from Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, photos with Santa, music, snacks, hot chocolate, and activities for children.

“The goal of this toy drive is simple yet powerful: to bring smiles to the faces of children who may otherwise go without gifts during the holiday season,” said event cochair Jazmin Acevedo. “We believe every child deserves the joy of unwrapping a present. With the help of our generous customers and community members, we aim to make this a reality.”

Individuals are invited to donate new, unwrapped toys suitable for children of all ages. Popular items include Legos, dolls, action figures, educational games, and art supplies.

Deja Vu Nightspot, Old San Juan Bakery, Cuba Supermarket, and City

Pizza will have clearly marked donation bins where contributions can be dropped off.

Monetary contributions, which would be tax-deductible, are also welcome. Funds raised will go toward purchasing additional toys and ensuring every child who attends the event receives a gift.

To volunteer as Santa, or to be part of the supporting staff for the street party, email christmasonhighstreet@gmail.com.

“We are incredibly excited to host Christmas on High Street and give back to the families of Holyoke,” Acevedo said. “As a local business owner, I believe it’s our responsibility to support the community that has supported us over the years. This toy drive is not just about collecting gifts; it’s about bringing hope, joy, and a sense of togetherness to the children who need it most. We’re calling on our neighbors, friends, and customers to join us in making this holiday season a little brighter for every child in our city.”

City receives state, federal grants

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke has been awarded state and federal grants totaling \$247,850 to fund the preparation of a comprehensive speed-management plan to bring about safer streets.

“This is extremely good news and great timing,” said Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia. “With this funding, we can work up a comprehensive, strategic approach to speed- and traffic-management throughout the City to better respond to growing concerns about speeding in neighborhoods.”

The larger of the two grants came from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s “Safe Streets 4 All” program, which is part of President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Funds have been allocated to local, regional, and tribal communities to improve roadway safety and prevent deaths and serious injuries on rural and urban roads, including some of the most dangerous in the country.

A separate \$50,000 grant recently was awarded by the commonwealth of Massachusetts’ Community Compact “Best Practices” program. Garcia applied for the grant to bring about a plan or policy that, he said, “fosters safer vehicle speeds on neighborhood streets frequented by pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users.”

“We sought these grants,” Garcia said, “in response to ongoing concerns

raised by the public regarding speeding in neighborhoods. My intent is to put together a stakeholder task force that will work with a consultant over a period of months to develop a speed-management plan that supports safe, comfortable, convenient travel for everyone, whether in a car, on a bicycle, on foot, in a stroller, taking public transit, or using an assistive-mobility device.”

Holyoke Ward 4 City Councilor Kocayne S. Givner, who has made pedestrian safety and responsible driving priority issues, will chair the Task Force.

“We have a speeding issue in this city,” Givner said. “I have distributed speed-calming lawn signs and even worked with others on a traffic pledge. Stop signs and speed humps have been added throughout Holyoke, but none of this is enough. What we really need is a comprehensive action plan from community members. The Garcia Administration has secured funding to allow us to finally tackle these issues. I look forward to the formation of our Traffic Task Force which will collaborate with residents, the Holyoke Police Department, and other city departments to come up with traffic-calming initiatives including pedestrian, bike, and motor vehicle safety.”

Holyoke citizens interested in participating in the Task Force can apply by contacting the Mayor’s Office: 413-561-1600 or fays@holyoke.org.

Open seats on local commission

HOLYOKE – The Local Historic District Commission aids in the preservation and protection of the distinctive characteristics and architecture of the buildings and places significant to the history of the City of Holyoke, to maintain and improve their settings as approved in the City Ordinance and to encourage new building designs compatible with the existing architectures, enlargement or reduction of boundaries, and filings of maps.

The Local Historic District holds public meetings once a month and public hearings as needed. The District Commission reviews any changes to the exterior of the properties on Fairfield Avenue; reviews/amends the guidelines for the local historic district, upholds the ordinance as amended and approved by the Holyoke City Council, and works in cooperation with other

municipal agencies to ensure the goals of historic preservation are considered in the planning for future preservation. The Commission also coordinates with other local groups whose interests involve history or historic preservation.

The District Commission also serves as a liaison between these groups on matters pertaining to historic preservation programs and is mandated to be the local district commission for state and federal preservation agencies alerting them to local preservation issues that pertain to the Local Historic District. The existing Local Historic District Commission may be asked to survey and research any new historic districts in the city.

Interested candidates, can submit their information here:

<https://www.holyoke.org/board-and-commission-interest-form/>

Annual benefit food drive to be held

HOLYOKE – The Wealth Transition Collective will be hosting our fifth annual weeklong food drive, Nov. 11 to 15, to benefit Margaret’s Pantry at our office in Holyoke in honor of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Weather permitting, we will have a table in front of our office for drop-offs. Thanks to the help of our clients, friends and community, we have raised over 4,000 pounds of food and monetary donations of over \$7,500 since the start of this event.


Some of the most-needed items at the pantry during this time of year are:

- Canned Foods: poultry, tuna, soups, stews, chili, gravy, sauces, fruits, vegetables, and beans

- Dried Goods: soup, stuffing, pancake and other baking mixes, tea bags, powdered milk, rice, and pasta

- Other items to consider: potato chips, granulated sugar, peanut butter, frosting, syrup, honey, bottled water, salad dressing, condiments, Jello, and kids snack items

Margaret’s Pantry, a division of Providence Ministries for the Needy, is a full-service food pantry that has provided food to residents of Greater Holyoke for more than 30 years. Presently, the pantry provides food to more than 180 families each month, and approximately 72,000 meals a year are distributed to the needy in the community.



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Guest Column



Septuagenarian asks about disability benefits

Dear Rusty:

I retired at my full retirement age, am now 79 and will be 80 in December.

I have been working consistently since. I get a meager Social Security benefit, only about \$800 due to my federal retirement offset. Most jobs I have held since filing and collecting SS have involved very labor-intensive work, to include my current position. This has taken a toll.

My question is there any provision in Social Security that permits re-evaluation of Social Security benefits for disability after one has collected and paid into the system for some 15 years? I suspect not but thought I would ask, since at my not so tender age, I am faced with having to cease employment that generates needed income.

Signed: Working Still at 79

Dear Still Working:

I'm afraid that Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits are no longer available once you reach your SS "full retirement age" or "FRA," which for you was age 66. Indeed, anyone collecting SSDI at full retirement age is automatically converted to their regular SS retirement benefits at the same amount they were previously receiving on SSDI. That's because SSDI benefits are intended to sustain workers up to their SS full retirement age, but SSDI goes away once FRA is attained.

Thus, the provision to apply for SS disability allows only those who have not yet reached their full retirement age to seek disability benefits. Once FRA is reached, SSDI benefits are no longer available. Simply for your awareness, there would be no financial advantage for you

See SECURITY, page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

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.



Guest Column

Surprise squash or is it a pumpkin?



Compost the lazy person's way – no thermometers, frequent turning or aerating is done at my house.

I simply pile my vegetable refuse, leaves, coffee grinds and plant parts in a pile with copious amounts of chicken bedding. Once in a blue moon I'll mix it all up with a pitchfork, but that is all I do.

I'm not saying it's the right way, but it's my preferred way. After a certain point in the fall, I start a new pile and let the old one sit until spring when I use the compost in the garden.

Often, I end up with some surprise plants growing in the pile from the previous year after I've taken what I need. I call them volunteers.

For the last two years I've grown my best tomatoes in the compost pile. No accolades need to come my way, I did nothing to earn the luxury of garden fresh tomatoes in November.

Well, maybe covering the plants with layers of cloth on the few cold nights has helped some, I guess, otherwise they would be frosted

like the rest of the tender plants.

But alas, once again I digress. I am not here to talk about the tomatoes that grew in the compost pile, but the squash that did. I may have mentioned these white pumpkin lookalikes in an earlier column, but as I sit here devouring a squash muffin, they deserve another mention.

While my hills of butternut were not very prolific, the white pumpkin lookalike squash were unbelievably so. Honestly, I am not sure how many plants sprouted. Maybe three at the most, and I easily ended up with maybe two dozen, so the average is seven or eight fruit per plant!

I bought the original at a local farm and as it turned to an imploded pile of mush, it got chucked into the compost pile last fall. After sprouting it took no time flat for the vines to cover the pile and adjoining fence and lawn, much to my husband's dismay.

After a quick internet search, the white pumpkin lookalike squash still doesn't have a name. It could be part acorn squash, or a variant of a white pumpkin.

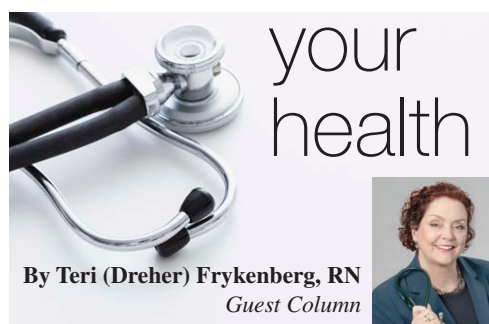
All I know is that they made excellent fall decor!

Just for the fun of it I cooked one up, in the same manner I do butternuts, by slicing in half, removing the seeds and roasting cut side down in a 400 degree oven for about an hour.

The pale yellow flesh caramelized a lit-

See GARDEN page 5

Boost your mental well-being



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

I recently learned about an organization called Wheel the World, which makes vacationing – adventures, really – accessible to people who use wheelchairs. If they can do it, so can you!

If you haven't had a vacation lately, you're not alone. A 2023 Pew Research Center study found that more than 40 percent of people who receive paid time off from their employers don't use up all of their vacation in a given year. Based on data from 2018, a statistical analysis revealed that Americans wasted some 768 million vacation days.

Admittedly, it's hard for some folks to get time off. If a gig worker or rideshare driver isn't putting in the hours, they aren't getting paid. Many people have jobs that don't provide paid time off.

Still, the Bureau of Labor Statistics tells us that 79 percent of people employed in the private sector get paid vacation. And a growing number of companies are offering the benefit of unlimited paid time off, in part to stay

competitive in a tight hiring market.

"We can't overlook the importance of recreation," says Mary Anne Ehler, president of Protected Tomorrows, which helps special needs families plan for their financial future. "We sometimes focus on everyday issues and lose sight of the need to have fun." Even those who are handicapped are able to enjoy a vacation. Nowadays, most cruises are wheelchair accessible even if people want to travel alone.

With May being Mental Health Awareness Month (and with Memorial Day and summer being right around the corner), it's a good time to talk about the mental health benefits of travel.

First, though, a note of caution: For all of its benefits, travel is not a substitute for therapy. If you are feeling anxious or depressed, talk to a mental health professional. Online services such as BetterHelp.com are readily available, or you can call or text 988 to reach a listening ear at the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Now, why take a vacation? Let me count the whys.

1. Traveling can lift your mood. Feeling like one day is just like the one before, and the one before that? That monotony is not helpful to mental well-being. Travel breaks up the routine, lets you see new places, meet new people and experience new things. Just anticipating a vacation can help you feel lighter and happier.

2. Traveling refills your emotional and mental reservoir. Sometimes you're just

See HEALTH, page 5

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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.

Guest Column



A Brimfield resident, who emails quite often noticed three turkey vultures on Sunday, Oct. 20

He said, "I went outside and I saw seven turkey vultures flying by along the ridge east of the house. The birds drifted off to the southeast. A few minutes later a group of ten vultures drifted slowly south about a half a mile west of the first group. These birds flew around for awhile, circling and gaining altitude until they were quite high. The ten birds then drifted out of sight."

The turkey vulture is 26 inches tall and has black feathers. The trailing end of the wings are silver and the head has no feathers and is red. Immature turkey

vultures have gray heads. They are often seen soaring with wings held in a V. They rock side to side, but rarely flap their wings.

Turkey vultures feed by scavenging on carrion, fresh or decayed. They find their food by both sight and smell. Sometimes, they are seen in roads feeding on road kill. They are often seen coming or going to nightly roosts. They use thermals of warm air and updrafts to stay in the air. When the thermals and updrafts end and they have to flap, they usually stop flying and land.

When perched, they will spread their wings. I saw one several years doing this against a high tension pole in Oakham.

The female lays one to three dull white eggs, occasionally with dark marks in a nest scraped on bare ground, in a hollow stump, cave, cliff edge or old building. Grunts and hisses are heard at the nest site often during competition over food.

Pond tour

The Brimfield resident sent an emailing and reported he and his wife did a tour of some of the ponds in Brimfield, Holland and Warren on Sunday, Nov. 3. He said, "In Brimfield (Sherman Pond) and Holland (Holland Pond) we saw a few pairs of hooded mergansers and a belted kingfisher at the pond in Warren on South Street. Other ponds had lots of Canada geese and mallards."

He also said, "In the yard recently the most exciting sighting was a Carolina wren that showed up briefly a couple of times. Then yesterday we had an immature accipiter was seen sitting on top of one of our feeding stations." He wrote, "The bird was either a female sharp-shinned hawk or a male Coopers hawk based on size, it was a little bigger than a mourning dove, the bird's size was in the area where the sizes of the two species overlap. The tail shape is suppose to help differentiate the species but I'm not con-

fident about the tail shape, I'm not sure which species we saw?"

Later in the day he saw a fox sparrow doing the sparrow feeding behavior, jumping back and forth to stir up ground looking for seeds. He said, "That was the first fox sparrow seen this fall. One or two are usually seen during fall migration."

Moose

Although not bird related – no feathers on this critter – I saw a moose cross New Braintree Road in Oakham one evening. It was dark, but I did get a good view of its rear portion as it went over a stone wall and into the woods.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

HEALTH, from page 4

running on empty. A vacation – whether it involves a relaxing cruise or a strenuous hike (I'll take the former!) – can send you back to work feeling like you're up to every challenge.

3. Traveling can lower the risk of depression. Mental health experts say there's research to support the link between travel and happiness. One study found that women who vacation at least twice a year are less likely to suffer from depression and chronic stress than women who vacation less than once every two years.

4. Traveling lets your brain reset. What do you do when your computer goes all wonky on you? You reboot! The same goes for your brain, which is just a really sophisticated computing device. If you have chronic stress, your memory and goal-setting abilities are negatively impacted. Taking time to go somewhere and get away from work can help you feel more productive and focused when you get back.

5. Traveling might let you sleep better. One-third of us don't get enough sleep, which is linked to heart disease, type 2 diabetes and depression. Getting away from your routine at home, even for a weekend, can help reset your sleep pattern by disrupting any habits that negatively affect sleep quality, like bring your

phone to bed with you.

6. Traveling with family improves feelings of belonging. Isolation is another factor that isn't helpful to mental well-being. Traveling with loved ones and sharing experiences with them enhances connections with them and helps meet the need for love and belonging.

To be beneficial, travel doesn't have to be extensive or all that expensive. Even a short getaway to Wisconsin or a weekend downtown might be enough to recharge your batteries. For ideas on local and regional outings, see www.visitMA.com.

Can travel be stressful itself? You bet. But there are also things you can do to minimize travel stress: Plan ahead for whatever life throws at you, bring all of your medications, pack healthy snacks, stay hydrated and practice mindfulness so you can be "in the moment." Those memories are the best souvenirs.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

SECURITY, from page 4

to receive SS disability benefits anyway, because the most you can get on SSDI is your full retirement age amount. Thus, since you retired and claimed SS at your full retirement age, no additional disability amount would be available anyway.

FYI, I admire, at your "tender age," that you are still actively working, but I'm afraid you cannot claim more now on Social Security disability because you've already reached your FRA. However, from what you've written, your SS retirement benefit has been affected by the so-called Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) which affects those with a separate pension earned without contributing to Social Security.

If you've been separately working and contributing to Social Security since you left government service and you now have more than 20 years contributing to SS from other non-government "substantial earnings," it's possible that you can request a reevaluation of your WEP penalty.

WEP provides relief for those, who have more than 20 years contributing to Social Security. So, if you have more than that over your lifetime, you could ask that your WEP reduction be reevaluated to consider your additional years contributing to Social Security. If that is the case, your monthly amount would be increased to consider those additional years contrib-

uting to SS since you first claimed.

I suggest, if you now have more than 20 years of contributions to Social Security from your non-government work over your lifetime, that you call Social Security to request reevaluation of your WEP retirement amount. FYI, you can see exactly how many years of SS-covered work you have by requesting an "Earnings Statement" from Social Security. You can get this Statement by calling 1-800-772-1213 or you can also get it at your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Social Security will also be able to tell you this directly when you call. In any case, I wish you good fortune, and hope that reevaluating the WEP reduction to your SS benefit may offer some small financial relief as you go forward.

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.

GARDEN, from page 4

tle. Perhaps I should have finished the cooking cut side up to attain more of that caramelization.

While not incredibly sweet, it didn't taste bad or bitter, so I whipped it up with the immersion blender and decided I'd try it in my favorite squash muffin recipe. Not bad, not bad at all.

My husband asked if I was going to raid the porch of it's decorations to process more of them, but I don't think I'll go that far. If November is mild, I'll certainly have a windfall once we switch over to a Christmas theme.

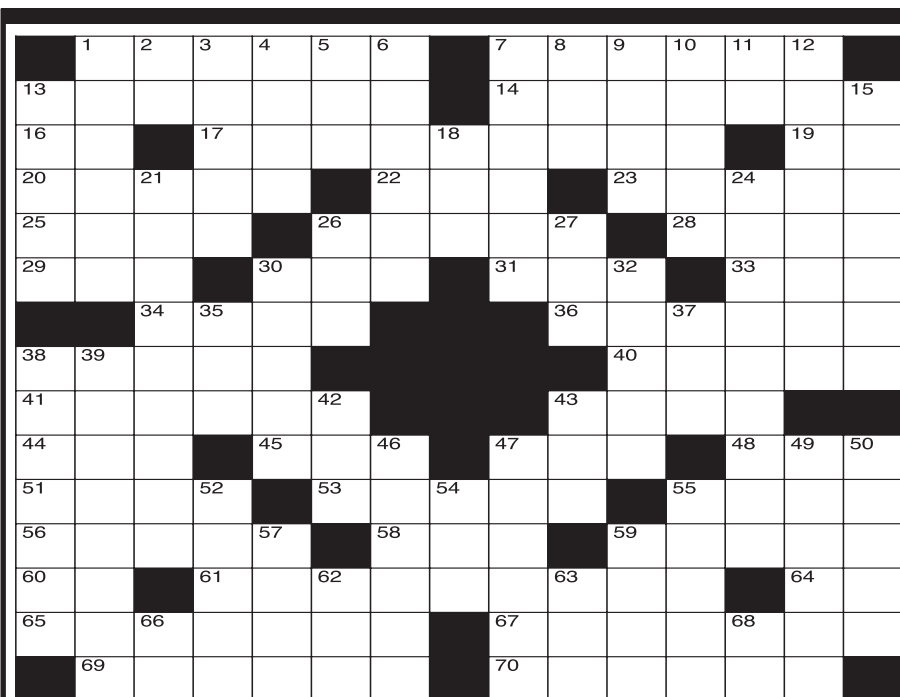
What do I learn from the compost pile? Although the garden is right next to the compost pile, the white squash pumpkins had virtually no damage from

the squash vine borer.

The plants were so much healthier than those I planted in the garden. The leaves were large and deep green.

I've said it before and I'll say it again times three: Nitrogen, nitrogen, nitrogen. That's one thing my compost pile has that the garden needs. I will definitely not skimp on that nutrient come springtime so that maybe, just maybe, I can grow my beloved butternut squashes on purpose and healthily!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Schoolhouse tool
- 7. Martens
- 13. Slags
- 14. One who scrapes
- 16. Centiliter
- 17. White wine
- 19. Of I
- 20. Former Syracuse great Warrick
- 22. Relating to the ear
- 23. Sandwich shops
- 25. Victories
- 26. White (French)
- 28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 29. Genus of parrots
- 30. Unhappy
- 31. Talk incessantly
- 33. Type of Squad
- 34. Unit of perceived loudness
- 36. Violent seizure of property
- 38. Agave
- 40. Sound units

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cream puff
- 2. Road open
- 3. Stressed syllable
- 4. Thailand's former name
- 5. Cologne
- 6. Recounted
- 7. Garment of cloth
- 8. Airborne (abbr.)
- 9. Reproduced
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 12. Smallest interval in Western music
- 13. Unstressed central vowel
- 15. Lives in
- 18. When you expect to get somewhere
- 21. Storage bags
- 24. One who covers with plastic
- 26. Cast out

- 27. Automobile
- 30. Repaired shoe
- 32. Belonging to the bottom layer
- 35. Possesses
- 37. Soda
- 38. Programs
- 39. In an unexpected way
- 42. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
- 43. For each
- 46. Unbelief
- 47. Seized or impaled
- 49. Arrive on the scene
- 50. Especially happy
- 52. Classic western film
- 54. Split pulses
- 55. Frida __: Painter
- 57. Start again
- 59. Employee stock ownership plan
- 62. Young women's association
- 63. Frozen water
- 66. "The First State"
- 68. Computers need one

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11

In The News

Residents invited to listening session on plan update

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke invites residents to the third and final community listening session on the ongoing update to Holyoke’s Comprehensive Plan. This session will take place Thursday, November 21, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Holyoke YMCA.

This session is the last in a series designed to engage residents in shaping the future of Holyoke. The Comprehensive Plan will serve as a blueprint for the city’s growth and development, focusing on key areas such as housing, transportation, economic development, and sustainability. The City

encourages residents of all backgrounds to participate in this final opportunity to provide their insights, which are crucial for crafting a plan that reflects the community’s needs and aspirations.

Holyoke is charting a path for the next chapter in its history. For the first time since 1999, it is updating its Comprehensive Plan, a Commonwealth-mandated document under MGL Ch 41 Sec. 81D that requires Massachusetts cities and towns to maintain a plan for their long-term physical development. Through comprehensive plans, cities and towns envision aspirational futures for

themselves and identify implementation pathways for achieving those aspirations. These plans span all aspects of physical development, from the types of housing available in the community, to how people get around, to the community’s resilience to climate change, and more.

This fall, the City has hosted a series of Community Listening Sessions, featuring free food from local restaurants, interactive displays, and activities for people of all ages and abilities. Sessions are held English and Spanish, with live Spanish interpretation available and materials provided in both languages.

Holyoke’s Office of Planning and Economic Development is leading the Comprehensive Plan update in collaboration with the Holyoke Planning Board. To support them, a team of consultant urban planners has been retained, led by Cambridge-based Agency Landscape + Planning with support from Northampton-based Cambridge Econometrics, Boston-based Nitsch Engineering, and NYC-based Hive Public Space. Several of the consulting planners are native Spanish speakers and several live in the Pioneer Valley.

The City aims to complete the project in the Summer of 2025.



Santa returns to Holyoke Mall on Nov. 21.

Submitted Photo

Santa Claus returns to mall

HOLYOKE – Santa’s making his grand return to Holyoke Mall this holiday season beginning Nov. 21, offering the enchanting Santa Magic photo experience provided by Cherry Hill Programs. As North America’s premier provider of experiential photography, CHP brings holiday magic to hundreds of venues, enchanting families and individuals alike.

Santa’s Village at Holyoke Mall is open from Nov. 21 to Dec. 24 on the lower level, Honor Court near Mrs. Fields. Reservations are encouraged and can be made at whereissanta.com. Walk-up visits are scheduled according to availability.

Capture the holiday magic all sea-

son long at one of the center’s Santa events:

Santa’s Arrival:

Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Pet Night with Santa:

Nov. 25 – 26 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Dec. 2 – 3 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Santa Cares:

Dec. 8 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

All events will take place on the lower level, Honor Court near Mrs. Fields.

For more information and a full schedule please visit at Holyokemall.com. Follow and share your stories at the center on Facebook and Instagram.

Call for Hampden County presence on appeals court

WESTFIELD – Earlier this month, Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) authored and sent a letter to Gov. Maura Healey urging the appointment of a Hampden County resident to the Massachusetts Appeals Court. The letter, which was signed onto by 10 other legislators representing Hampden County in addition to Velis, noted that there has been no representation from Hampden County on the state’s appeals court since 2022 and urged Governor Healey to reverse that trend.

“...Different regions of the Commonwealth represent different perspectives of our society, with differing and rich cultures, values, and points of view. Justices bring their personal experiences to the job, and the region in which they grew up most certainly influences their thought process,” reads the letter from Legislators. “It would be unthinkable to not have an elected lawmaker from the most populous county in Western Massachusetts, and we believe that principle holds true for the Justices of the Appeals Court.”

Since the Massachusetts Appeals Court was created in 1972, Hampden County has had a tradition of representation on the Court. This includes Chief Justice Armstrong who was one of the original six justices and the longest serving original member. Justice Armstrong was followed by Justice Greaney, Justice

Smith, Justice McDonough, and Justice Kinder, all from Hampden County. But since 2022, there has been no representation from the most populous county in the region on the state’s Appeals Court.

The letter from legislators to Healey also emphasizes the qualifications of the Hampden County legal community, noting that Hampden County District Court is the busiest in the state and that the County is home to some of the busiest Superior, Probate and Family, Juvenile and Housing Courts as well.

“At the end of the day, it’s critically important that our judiciary has voices and viewpoints on our courts that represent the entire commonwealth,” said Velis, who is a lawyer himself and serves on the Legislature’s Judiciary Committee. “Our State Appeals Court needs that perspective, and the experiences that come from working in the Hampden County justice system, in order to best serve the individuals who are impacted by the decisions the Court makes.”

Velis noted that he hopes that consideration will be given to a Hampden County resident as vacancies and appointments to the State Appeals Court come up. At the end of October, the Governor’s Council approved Judge Amy Blake as the next Chief Justice of the Appeals Court following her nomination by Governor Healey in September.

READY TO COOK!

THANKSGIVING DINNER

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DINNER FEEDS 10 PEOPLE

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USDA INSP. FROZEN 1/2 SPIRAL HAM **\$1²⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH KAYEM BUDABALL WHOLE SMOKED PIT HAM..... **\$3⁶⁶** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH SKINLESS & SHANKLESS HATFIELD OLDTIME WHOLE HAM **\$2⁸⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH LEG LAMB..... **\$5⁹⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN **\$9⁹⁹** lb CUT FREE

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST **\$5⁹⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS WHOLE EYE ROUND **\$3⁹⁹** lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF **\$4⁹⁹** lb 5 LB BAG

USDA INSP. FROZEN TURKEY BREAST **\$1⁶⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG **\$1⁸⁸** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH CHICOPEE PROVISIONS BLUE SEAL KIELBASA **\$4⁹⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN SWEET POTATO PIE **\$2⁹⁹** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN BACON WRAPPED SHRIMP 15 COUNT **\$8⁹⁹** ea

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 31/40 COUNT 2 LB BAG **\$14⁹⁹** ea

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Knights

edge out Putnam for win

HOLYOKE – In nonplay-off action last Friday night, Holyoke High School football got the win 22-20 over Putnam Vocational. Extra points made the difference for the teams as Holyoke was able to get a couple of two-point conversions as they were able to keep the game away from the Beavers. Holyoke improved to 3-6 on the season and have been matched up with East Longmeadow for Week 10 on Nov. 14. The Knights then face South Hadley on Thanksgiving morning at 10 a.m.

Devin Valez winds up and makes a throw.



Jesus Morales runs the ball for Holyoke.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Jesus Morales and Jaziel Castellano look for a tackle.



Avantaey Rivera blocks for Jesus Morales.

Fernandez scores TD for WSU

WESTFIELD – Westfield State's Dylan Disabella (Granby, Conn.) ran for a game-high 152 yards and a touchdown, but the Owls were swamped by #18 UMass Dartmouth, 56-14 in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference game at Alumni Field on Saturday afternoon.

Westfield dips to 3-6 overall and 3-5 in the MASCAC, while UMass Dartmouth is 9-0 and 8-0 in the league. Dartmouth was ranked 18th in the NCAA's NPI power rankings this week. The Corsairs scored touchdowns on 5 of their first six drives, the first on a 45-yard Dante Avilles-Santos pass to Jael Cabrera at the 11:01 mark of the first quarter.

On the next Dartmouth possession, Westfield got an inter-

ception off a tipped ball and a 59-year return from Eric Lovell (Barnstable, Mass.) that set up the Owls offense first-and goal from the three-yard line, and two plays later Westfield State senior QB Gabe Fernandez (Holyoke, Mass.) punched it in from a yard out to tie the game 7-7.

From there, UMD was ruthlessly efficient on offense for the rest of the half, getting two more TD tosses from Avilles-Santos, and a pair of TD runs from Kevin Brown and Jayln Aponte to grab a 35-7 lead at the half.

Westfield got a 15-yard TD run from Disabella, who appeared to be stopped around the 10-yard line, before erupting from a pack of defenders to run the ball in with 54 seconds left in the game.

The Corsairs finished with

475 yards of offense and gained 30 first downs.

Avilles Santos throw for 202 yards and four TD's on 16-21 passing before sitting out most of the second half. Cabrera finished with six grabs for 110 yards.

Disabella finished with 152 yards on 26 carries. Aidan Patterson (East Lyme, Conn.) gave the Owls some spark late with five runs for 53 yards. Jacob Swinehart (Holyoke, Mass.) had two catches for 19 yards.

Andrew Lovell (Barnstable, Mass.) led the Owls defense with 10 tackles, while Mike Henricksen made nine stops to lead the Corsairs.

Westfield will close out the 2024 season next Saturday, hosting Fitchburg State, which will be the Owls senior day.

Knights squeezed out of tournament

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School girls soccer team had a much-improved season in 2024. In recent seasons, the Knights were not able to come close to a potential playoff spot, but were hovering above .500 for most of the season until running into a tough stretch at the end of the year.

Holyoke would lose 5 of

6 games heading into the final games of the season, need a win or ties to get into the state tournament with a .500 or better record. Unfortunately, the Knights would lose to Chicopee 4-2 for its ninth loss of the season. Despite an 8-3 win over Athol to close out the season, Holyoke would finish the season at 8-9-1 overall.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

WSU Owls field hockey wins conference title

WESTFIELD – Westfield State junior forward Kaleigh Murphy (Pembroke, Mass.) scored the game winning goal with 4:20 left in regulation to lift the Owls to the 2024 Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference title with a 2-1 win over Bridgewater State on Saturday afternoon at Alumni Field.

With the win, the Owls improve to 13-8 and set a school record for wins, and earn the MASCAC's automatic bid to the 2024 NCAA Division III Tournament.

Tied 1-1 throughout the second half, Murphy had several golden-opportunity chances in front of the net before eventually tallying the game winner.

Murphy found the back of the net, stepping in to ball from Sadie Stauffer (Suffield, Conn.) about three yards in front of the goal as the ball was batted around the critical scoring area.

"We've been a team that's been resilient and been able to change the narrative of a game throughout the season," said

Westfield State second-year head coach Carden Brown. "Going into the third and fourth quarter we were really focused on staying tough and knowing we'd get another goal if we just kept shooting."

Second-seeded Westfield survived one final flurry from the fifth-seeded Bears, as Bridgewater mustered a pair of penalty corners in the final four minutes, and Owls goalkeeper Emma Gnaidek (Worcester, Mass.) came up with the save on Kallie Rose's (Dartmouth, Mass.) shot with 1:52 left that represented the Bears best chance to equalize.

Westfield finished the game with a 25-7 advantage in total shots and a 13-3 margin in shots on goal, but the game was tightly played throughout as the Bears made the most of their opportunities and penalty corners were even at 8 each.

Westfield State jumped out to a 1-0 lead 2:20 into the contest, with Erin Lane (Canton, Mass.) pushing a shot through traffic about 10 yards out, from the left

side to the back post. The goal came off of a penalty corner, as Lane's initial foray was parried by a Bridgewater defender. Murphy gathered the loose ball and fed it back out to Lane, and her shot worked its way through several players and past BSU goalkeeper Brianna Gagnon (Tewksbury, Mass.) for the 1-0 lead.

"It was really even, I thought Bridgewater played really well," said Brown. "We knew they were going to be a tough opponent. We wanted to have a fast start and sustain it throughout the game."

Bridgewater tied the game late in the first half, capitalizing on a penalty corner, with give and go passing at the top of the circle before Abbie Zuber's (Westport, Mass./Dartmouth) shot from the top of the circle was tipped in at the right post by Lexi James (Ipswich, Mass.).

Westfield State midfielder Abby Clark (Uxbridge, Mass.) was named the Tournament MVP.

"She's been a key player for us, she

gets things done, and above all else elevates the energy level of the team, said Brown of Clark's performance. "When she's out there she's our biggest hustler, she works really hard. It was a very fitting award for her."

Gagnon finished with 11 saves for the Bears, while Gnaidek made two saves for the Owls.

Bridgewater finishes its season at 10-9. Westfield will make its first NCAA Tournament appearance since the Owls hosted the inaugural NCAA Division III Tournament final four in 1981. The Owls will learn their destination and opponent on Sunday night at 9:30 p.m. on a livestream shot on NCAA.com.

"We want to be a team that's not only just strong in the MASCAC but strong in the region," said Brown. "And I think in order to do that you have to compete in the NCAA tournament and keep improving each and every season. I'm really excited and excited to see how we'll do."

Thunderbirds pick up point in OT defeat

HERSHEY, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (4-8-1-0) incredibly erased a two-goal deficit in the final minute of the third, but the Hershey Bears (9-3-1-0) survived to pick up a 3-2 overtime win at the Giant Center on Sunday.

Like the opening 20 minutes on Saturday, the homestanding Bears were ferocious in getting shots at the Springfield net, this time on Colten Ellis. However, like the night before, the T-Birds got a sensational first period from their goaltender, as Ellis had a response to all 20 shots the Hershey attack unleashed, including chances that came from two power plays. The 20 stops were the most in a single period this season by a Springfield netminder.

At the other end, Clay Stevenson was starting his first start in nearly a month after missing six games with an upper-body injury, and the Hershey goaltender had a distinctly quieter workload, turning aside seven Springfield offerings and helping the

Bears' penalty kill fend off one T-Birds power play.

Shots on goal did not come as easily for Hershey in the middle period. Still, the fourth line did get the Bears on the board first at the 10:14 mark when Matt Strome retrieved a loose puck below the goal line and fired a pass into the blue paint to a crashing Riley Sutter, who chipped it over Ellis on the glove side to make it 1-0.

The Bears' defense proved to be an impenetrable force in the second, as Springfield managed just four shots on goal in the entire period, and the Hershey penalty kill dispatched two more Thunderbirds man-advantage opportunities.

Stevenson and the Hershey defense corps showed no signs of relenting anything to the T-Birds, and when Spencer Smallman tucked a puck into an empty net with 2:06 remaining, the Bears' 2-0 lead seemed secure.

However, the never-say-die T-Birds refused to go down. Samuel

Johannesson scored his first AHL goal with 40.5 seconds remaining, squeezing a wrist shot between Stevenson's legs to end the shutout bid.

Just 27 seconds later, with Ellis at the bench for an extra skater, Nikita Alexandrov beared in on the right wing side and backhanded the puck into the paint. With Matthew Peca crashing the net, the shot attempt slipped under Stevenson's legs, and the game was tied 2-2 heading into overtime.

With momentum on their side, the T-Birds could not quite complete the miraculous comeback attempt. Ellis denied his 40th shot of the night to stop Pierrick Dube in the opening minute of overtime. Unfortunately for the T-Birds netminder, the loose rebound went right on the stick of Mike Vecchione, who pushed it across the line to give Hershey the 3-2 victory.

The T-Birds return to home ice for five of the next six games, beginning on Friday, Nov. 15 when they host the Lehigh Valley Phantoms.

Hall of Fame Series heads for Vegas

PHOENIX – Position Sports, in partnership with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority (LVCVA), announced that the 2027 Hall of Fame Series Las Vegas will take place at the iconic Allegiant Stadium on November 12, 2027, marking the first-ever basketball game at the renowned stadium.

The historic event will feature two marquee matchups between elite men's basketball programs: Arizona vs. Duke and Indiana vs. Kansas. Both games will once again be showcased on TNT Sports' networks and platforms, with additional programming information to be announced at a later date.

These four teams represent some of the most storied traditions in college basketball, with a combined 15 national championships, over 35 Hall of Famers, and a legion of passionate fans. The rivalry between Duke and Arizona, which will be on display in Tucson, Ariz., on November 22, as well as the timeless Kansas vs. Indiana matchup, is set to provide fans an unforgettable experience and signal a significant milestone in Las Vegas' sports history.

Allegiant Stadium, home of the NFL's Las Vegas Raiders and Super Bowl LVIII, will be hosting its first college basketball games, showcasing the versatility of the venue. The stadium will also serve as the site for the 2028 NCAA Men's Final Four, further solidifying its position as a premier destination for top-tier sporting events.

The Hall of Fame Series, owned and operated by Position Sports, is a collection of multi-game, singular events that showcase several of the top collegiate basketball teams in exciting non-conference matchups played both domestically and abroad. The inaugural Hall of Fame Series took place in 2023 in Las Vegas, Charlotte, San Antonio, Toronto, and Phoenix, and the series continues its successful run in 2024 with upcoming stops in Las Vegas (November 4), Phoenix (November 14), Baltimore (November 15), and New York (December 14).

Worcester Railers score big overtime win

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers HC (5-3-0-0 10pts) beat the Norfolk Admirals (6-2-3-0, 15pts), on Sunday by a final score of 4-3 in front of a crowd of 2,539 at the DCU Center.

It was Norfolk who scored first tonight when Carson Musser (1-2-3) scored just under three minutes into the game. The Railers then scored back-to-back goals, coming from Ryan Verrier (1-0-1) and Griffin Loughran (1-0-1). Norfolk finished the first period scoring when Connor Fedorek (1-0-1) tied the game at 2-2. Norfolk retook the lead in the second with a goal from Josh McDougall (1-1-2). The Railers tied it back up less than a minute later when Anthony Repaci (2-0-2) cashed in. The third period was scoreless ending regulation tied up at 3-3. It was Repaci who scored the game winner 38 seconds into overtime sealing the

4-3 win for Worcester.

Norfolk jumped out to an early 1-0 lead tonight. Carson Musser (3rd) squared up and ripped one by the glove of Worcester's John Muse just 2:43 into the first. Later in the first Ryan Verrier (1st) found the back of the net to tie the game 1-1 7:30 into the first. Griffin Loughran (2nd) later made it 2-1 Worcester when he scored just after their power play expired. Norfolk tied it up at 2-2 with just under three minutes left in the first with a goal from Connor Fedorek (2nd). Worcester outshot Norfolk 15-12.

Norfolk took back the lead to start the scoring in the second period. They made the score 3-2 in the second when Josh McDougall (2nd) scored on the powerplay 8:09 into the period. Not even a minute later Anthony Repaci

(6th) got free on a

breakaway and cashed in to tie the game back up at 3-3. Shots favored Worcester 11-8.

The Admirals had a chance to regain the lead midway through the third when they had a 5-on-3 powerplay, but the Railers penalty kill held strong. The Railers killed 35 seconds of 5-on-3, and then successfully killed the remaining 1:25 of Norfolk power play time. Neither team would find the back of the net before the end of regulation. Worcester outshot Norfolk 10-7.

It took less than a minute for Anthony Repaci (7th) to seal this one in overtime. As he skated in on the net and buried the overtime winner just 38 seconds into overtime. Shots were even 1-1 in overtime and favored Worcester 37-28 overall.



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Massachusetts' Disabled Veterans benefit from HERO Act

BOSTON – Ahead of Veterans Day 2024, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles and Executive Office of Veterans Services are reminding veterans they are eligible to receive fee waivers for various transactions at the RMV due to the most comprehensive piece of veterans' legislation in Massachusetts history, which was signed into law by Governor Healey in August 2024.

The HERO Act, An Act Honoring, Empowering, and Recognizing our Servicemembers and Veterans, includes over 30 provisions positively impacting veterans, including specific transactions veterans may conduct at the RMV.

"The expansion of the HERO Act enables us to show additional gratitude toward veterans who served and sacrificed for our country," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt. "While these benefits are just a small token, we hope all

qualifying individuals will make full use of them in their dealings with the Registry. On behalf of all our MassDOT employees, we say 'thank you' to veterans for your service."

"It is an honor for all of us at the Registry of Motor Vehicles to facilitate the expansion of the HERO Act on behalf of Massachusetts veterans," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. "With our service documentation requirements now even more seamless, I encourage disabled veterans and their family members to familiarize themselves with the available benefits and to reach out to us with their questions."

"We're incredibly thankful for our partners at MassDOT for supporting the HERO Act's provisions that bring real relief to our disabled veterans," said Secretary Jon Santiago of the Executive Office of Veterans Services. "Waiving these fees is a concrete step toward eas-

ing the daily burdens veterans face, and from excise tax exemptions to waived license fees, we're working to show that Massachusetts stands firmly committed to them."

Every motor vehicle registered in Massachusetts is subject to the annual excise tax, unless exempted. Under the HERO Act expansion, all Massachusetts residents who qualify as a disabled veteran are now eligible to receive the excise tax exemption. To qualify, they must present a letter from the U.S. Veterans Affairs Office to the city or town where their vehicle is garaged.

In addition, disabled veterans are no longer required to pay a vehicle registration fee for any vehicle registered in their name. Previously, this benefit could only be applied to one vehicle registered in their name. Also, all of these veterans are no longer required to pay a transaction fee for a passenger driver's license or for

a passenger driver's license renewal.

A disabled veteran is determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to either have a combined service-connected disability rating of 100 percent or be individually unemployable due to their service-connected disability.

The legislation signed into law by Governor Healey in August 2024 increases benefits, modernizes services and promotes inclusivity for veterans in Massachusetts. In addition to provisions impacting veterans who drive, the legislation expands access to behavioral health treatment, supports businesses that hire veterans, updates the definition of a veteran, expands the Veterans Equality Review Board's scope, and codifies medical and dental benefits.

RMV information for military service members veterans, and their families can be found by visiting mass.gov/military-and-veteran-rmv-information.

Better Business Bureau gives advice on cold weather tasks

The air is getting more relaxed, and the leaves and cornfields are turning yellow. Fall is here. With the change in weather comes a list of home maintenance that all homeowners should tackle before the icy stuff sets in.

BBB offers these tips when preparing your home for the colder weather:

- Inspect your roof and gutters. Inspect your roof for loose or damaged shingles and make any necessary repairs. Damaged or loose shingles can let in water and ice during the winter, creating interior damage. Clean out gutters to prevent ice dams and water buildup. Visit [BBB.org](https://bbb.org) to get a listing of roofing contractors near you.

- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Making sure these essential safety tools are in proper working condition is manageable and vital to ensuring the safety of those in your home. The National Fire Protection Association offers excellent information on installing and maintaining smoke alarms.

- Check your window and doors for air leakage. Adding caulk and weather stripping helps prevent cold air leakage

into your home and prevents spiders and insects from entering. Also, check where pipes and wires enter your home.

- Organize your garage. You will undoubtedly use your garage a lot more in the colder months. Get rid of trash and clutter, and make sure your snow shovel and other winter-use items are easily accessible. Fill/repair any cracks or holes you see to prevent bugs and rodents from entering that will be seeking refuge from the cold. Find garage organizers near you.

- Inspect your driveway. The frequent freezing and thawing conditions in many areas, along with tree roots and ground shifting, can cause driveways to develop areas of needed repair. Fall is a great time to fill cracks and seal coats to prevent wintertime water/ice damage. Find driveway repair contractors near you.

- Schedule HVAC maintenance. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, preventive care can help save you up to 25% in energy costs. Heating contractors near you can help you professionally service your heating unit. Having your heating system serviced and filters replaced will ensure your system works

efficiently.

- Tend to the outside water supply. Cover up your outdoor water fixture (s). Spigot covers are reasonably priced at your local hardware store and help keep the exterior pipes from freezing. Empty hoses of any water and move them indoors.

- Protect pipes. Insulate pipes in unheated areas, like attics, basements, and crawl spaces. Running a slow drip of water from faucets during extremely cold weather can also help prevent pipes from freezing.

- Prepare the garden and yard. Trim trees and bushes away from your home to prevent heavy snow or ice damage. Clean up leaves and debris to prevent pests from finding shelter. Find BBB Accredited pest control if needed.

- Store patio furniture and other outdoor items. Put away or cover outdoor furniture, grills, and other summer items to protect them from winter weather.

- Stock up on winter supplies. Have salt or ice melt, shovels, and other winter supplies for snow and ice removal. Find BBB Accredited snow removal companies near you. Learn more about

weatherizing your winter life.

- Sweep your chimney. If you have a fireplace, clean and inspect the chimney before using it. Ensure the damper works properly to prevent drafts when the fireplace is not used. Having the soot and possible blockages or creosote build-up helps reduce the risk of a chimney fire and can improve the efficiency of your fireplace. [BBB.org](https://bbb.org) is a great place to find a chimney sweep near you.

- Reverse ceiling fans. In the colder months, you want your fan to move the warm air down, which means having your blades turn clockwise.

- Test backup generators. If you have a backup generator, test it to ensure it's in working condition in case of power outages.

- Review your emergency plan. Review your family's emergency plan, including how to stay warm, communication, and evacuation procedures.

- Check for BBB Accreditation for any professionals you may hire. Go to [BBB.org](https://bbb.org) to check the trustworthiness of a business. Do a general online search on a company to see what reviews and other information may be available.

WRITERS, from page 1

interested in just getting started.

"If you're nervous, that's okay," Chambers said. "We all want the same thing, which is to write."

Chambers has found this group to be very helpful to him in his process as a writer.

"I wouldn't have done this otherwise," Chambers said. "You really find that when you are in an atmosphere where you feel supported you thrive, and that is what we provide."

MCAS, from page 1

"Kids learn they didn't pass the MCAS and they're going to have to take it again over the summer and the emotional impact that has, learning you'll get a certificate of attainment but you won't get a diploma, it adds a level of stress and frustration," Garcia said.

The removal of MCAS as a graduation requirement does not mean that students will no longer be taking the MCAS, it just means they do not need to pass it in order to graduate.

As a result of this, Holyoke Public Schools will still be teaching to the test and will keep the strategies they have been working on for the district

"The MCAS standardized testing is still there, we still have to do it," Garcia said. "So the benchmarks, the initiatives and the strategies we're implementing are all going to continue."

The MCAS is beneficial for Holyoke

He has been a part of this group since 2019 and plans to stay for a while in the future.

The group meets all across Western Massachusetts at a variety of libraries in order to try to provide as many people a space to write as possible. This includes Northampton, Holyoke and Belchertown.

If you are interested in joining this guild, go to their website at <https://wmawriters.wordpress.com/>.

To keep updated on future events happening at the library, go to their website at <https://www.holyokelibrary.org/>.

as it is a convenient way for them to see how well students are learning and performing on exams, especially in comparison to other school districts in the state.

"It's our way of measuring where we are and it's good to know if what we're doing is working," Garcia said. "We need to know where our children are but the good news here is the result won't be a requirement to get a diploma."

However, Garcia and other members of HPS staff are hopeful that this will allow for a little more flexibility in teaching in the future.

Garcia expects that there will be some shifts in the future as Holyoke works to continue to grow and improve as a school district.

"We'll come up with new ideas and propose them to the public to vote on them and while we do that kids just know... you don't have to deal with the stressors of MCAS preventing you from getting your diploma," Garcia said.

CPA, from page 1

This reduction will greatly impact the CPA annual budget.

"The original 1.5% surcharge was already modest, and decreasing it to 1% will significantly reduce the fund's ability to support meaningful projects," Magrath-Smith said.

This reduction, according to Magrath-Smith, makes Holyoke the first city in Massachusetts to vote on a CPA surcharge reduction.

CPA Chair Jason Ferreira was saddened but also understanding of the results.

"People want to pay less taxes," Ferreira. "I'm a homeowner. I can understand that. The CPA needs to work to promote our projects and make sure Holyoke residents understand how much value the CPA gives them."

The CPA finds this reduction to have a significant impact on their ability to complete projects in the city.

"While I understand that financial pressures are real, this change will ultimately save most residents just \$11 to \$25 next year," Magrath-Smith said. "That small savings comes at a cost: the new park they hoped for may not be built, and the next vacant building may remain untouched."

Over the next year the CPA will have to reduce their budget by a third as a result of this surcharge reduction.

The CPA will continue pushing forward with their work as best as they are able to with this reduced budget.

"We're currently in the middle of our FY25 application cycle," Ferreira said. "It's a lot of work and that's been our focus. We have an all-volunteer committee and they do a great job reviewing projects and seeing them to completion."

"I thank the volunteers on the CPA Committee for their dedication and the impactful work they have accomplished, and will continue to accomplish despite this reduction," Magrath-Smith said.

Magrath-Smith encourages people to go to the CPA website (<https://holyokecpa.org/>) to learn about the work they have done for the city.

"A visit to the CPA website will show you project after project of Holyoke fighting to preserve its historical heritage, building parks and playgrounds that would otherwise be impossible to repair or replace, and bringing empty buildings back to good use," Magrath-Smith said.

Magrath-Smith and Ferreira are hopeful that in the future the city will be willing to increase the funding for the CPA once more, but they do not have any concrete plans at the moment to push for such an increase.

"I think as the CPA continues to support projects that bring value to the city, there could be an appetite for an increase in the future," Ferreira said. "Our projects have been popular and the average Holyoke homeowner will save \$20 with this reduction. There's a strong case to be made."

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The Town of Huntington is seeking a **PART-TIME ASSISTANT TREASURER.** Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us.** Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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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. HD24P2346EA
Estate of:
Ronald Joseph Bey
Also known as:
Ronald J Bey
Date of Death: 06/12/2019
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Rosemary T Bey of Jericho, VT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Rosemary T Bey of Jericho, VT** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

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 12/05/2024. 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.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A **Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 07, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
11/15/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P2343GD
In the interests of
Gabriel Miguel Gonzalez of Holyoke, 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 **11/07/2024** by **Maria M Bermudez of Holyoke, MA** will be held **12/06/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **Hampden Probate & Family Court - 50 State St., 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 07, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/15 /2024

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. HD22P2775EA

Estate of:
Richard J Johnson
Date of Death: 11/26/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Brian Battles, Sr. of Chester, MA and Daniel Bresnahan of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account 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 11/26/2024.

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

Date: October 22, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/15/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P2344GD
In the interests of
Miguel Gabriel Gonzalez of Holyoke, 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 **11/07/2024** by **Maria M Bermudez of Holyoke, MA** will be held **12/06/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **Hampden Probate & Family Court, 50 State St., 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 07, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/15 /2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Swinging Bridges Auction Company, Lic #2755 will hold a Public Auction on November 23, 2024. Unclaimed items to be sold at 9 a.m. at Pawn Depot Inc., 448 Appleton St., Holyoke, MA 01040.

20% buyers fee, 6.25% MA sales tax.
11/08, 11/15/2024

Corvette Club of Western Mass announces significant donations to local veterans charities

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Corvette Club of Western Mass proudly announces the success of its recent charity car show held on Oct. 5.

This event raised significant funds to benefit the One Call Away Foundation.

David Virella, President of the Club, stated, “We had a very successful car show, and with the support of our extremely generous sponsors this season, we are thrilled to be able to make two substantial donations.”

The official donation presentation took place at Central Chevrolet, located at 675 Memorial Avenue on Nov. 12 at 5 PM. During this event, the Corvette Club will present a check for \$6,000 to the One Call Away Foundation, in addition to the \$500 already donated at the car show. The Club will also be donating \$2,000 to the Ludlow Office of Veterans Services.

President Virella expressed gratitude for the collective efforts that made this possible, stating, “We couldn’t have accomplished these significant donations without the assistance of the Club’s officers and members. The linchpin of our efforts has to be our sponsors and supporters in the business community.”

The Club would like to acknowledge and extend heartfelt thanks to the following businesses for their support: Central Chevrolet, Dale A Frank Financial Services, DJ Carpentry and Construction, Alliance Dental, Witch Enterprise, Agawam Tire and Auto, ATA Performance, Aldenville Rug Cleaning, Kamatics Engineered Products, Monson Savings Bank, John Sweeney Insurance Company, KLM Auto Repair, PC Richards and Son, VF Auto Repair, LPVEC Transportation Company, Spartan Automotive Repair, Teddy Bear Pools and Spas.

We invite the community to join us in celebrating these contributions and the spirit of giving that drives our Club’s mission. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of those in need.

EARLY DEADLINES FOR PUBLIC NOTICES


Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all public notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 25-29, 2024.

Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 2 PM for November 27 issue
• Agawam Advertiser News • Sentinel • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Thursday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue
• Barre Gazette • Country Journal
• The Journal Register • Quaboag Current • Ware River News

Friday, November 22 at 2 PM for November 29 Issue
• Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

A **TURLEY PUBLICATION**
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
413-283-8393 • www.turley.com



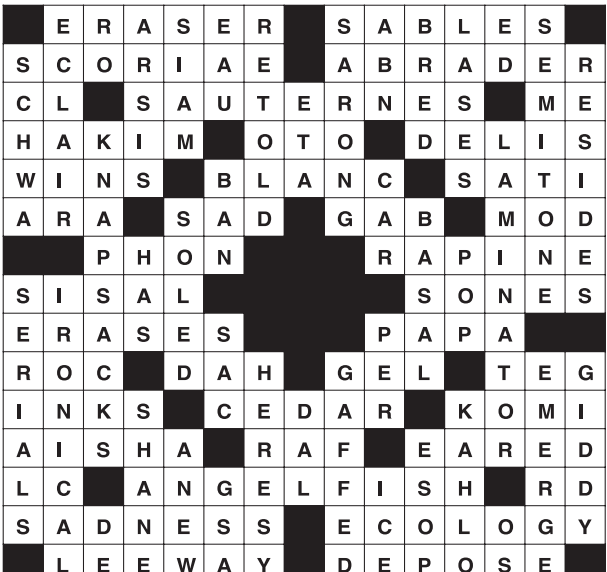
The Holyoke Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, 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.



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 Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Veterans Day

Salute to Service



The tradition is now five years running.



Submitted photos



State Sen. John Velis distributes the letters among veterans in the area.

Local students handcrafted letters for area veterans.

VETERANS from page 1

tion at the Home was extremely limited, has now become an annual tradition that the Home's residents, and local teachers and students throughout our community, look forward to each year," shared Senator John C. Velis, who is a Veteran himself. "One of my favorite things about this project, apart from the smiles that it brings to the residents, is the opportunity that it provides for our local students to learn

and reflect on the sacrifices that these men and women have each made to protect our nation and the freedoms we hold dear."

Velis shared that student of all ages, from pre-school all through high school, helped create over 1,000 letters, cards, and even a large American flag sign for the residents of the Home this year. Additional letters from students will be shared by Senator Velis with the American Red Cross to be included in care packages sent to troops overseas.

Turley Publications, Inc.

Scarlett Legasey
January 25, 2023
Parents: Thomas & Jessica Legasey, Rutland
Grandparents: Donald & MaryAnn Dunbar, Ware
Thomas & Sharon Legasey, Spencer

Baby's Name: _____
 Birthdate: _____
 Parents' Names: _____

 Parents' Town of Residence: _____
 Grandparents' Names & Town of Residence: _____

 Telephone #: (not to be printed - for office use only) _____

Please check the newspaper you would like your announcement to appear.

<input type="checkbox"/> Agawam Advertiser News	<input type="checkbox"/> Quaboag Current
<input type="checkbox"/> Barre Gazette	<input type="checkbox"/> The Register
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicopee Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Sentinel
<input type="checkbox"/> Country Journal	<input type="checkbox"/> Town Reminder
<input type="checkbox"/> The Holyoke Sun	<input type="checkbox"/> Ware River News
<input type="checkbox"/> Journal Register	<input type="checkbox"/> The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Deadline for photos and forms is Monday, December 16, 2024

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

Mail to:
 Turley Publications
 24 Water Street
 Palmer, MA 01069
 Attn: Jamie Joslyn
 Include a self addressed/stamped envelope if you would like the picture returned or email photo to: jamie@turley.com with subject line: **BABY'S FIRST.**
 This offer is available to all babies born in 2024. Pictures will be published the week of December 23-27, 2024.

New affordable living in Ludlow

- Affordable rents • 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments
- Includes heat, AC + hot water • On-site laundry + parking

Or visit www.wayfinders.org/greenstead

Scan for more info:

Donovan's Irish Pub

Western Massachusetts #1 Irish Pub!

Live Music, Great Food & A Pint To Raise Your Spirits!

<p>Friday, November 15 Blaney Brothers</p>	<p>Saturday, November 16 The Healys</p>
<p>Friday, November 22 Sean Griffin</p>	<p>Saturday, November 23 Melissa Brinton</p>

80 Jarvis Avenue, Holyoke
413-543-0791 • donovanspub.com
 Sun. 12pm - 8pm; Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-9:30pm; Fri. & Sat. 11:30am - 11:30pm