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Two suspects in custody for recent fire

HOLYOKE – According to the state Department of Fire Services, two men were arrested and charged with multiple crimes stemming from an investigation into a recent fire. The department issued the following statement on Tuesday, Nov. 18:

“The investigation into this month’s intentionally set fire on Pine Street has led to two arrests for the incident and additional charges for contraband recovered during the execution of a warrant, said Holyoke Police Chief Brian Keenan, Holyoke Fire Chief John Kadlewicz, and State Fire Marshal Jon Davine.

Holyoke and State Police yesterday charged Anthony Ortiz Correia, 40, and Naysha Merced Gonzalez, 42, with burning a dwelling, attempted murder, and causing injury to a firefighter in the line of duty for allegedly setting the November 4 fire at 268 Pine Street. Both were additionally charged with unlawful possession of a firearm, trafficking in a Class B substance, and

related offenses for a handgun and cocaine recovered in the course of their arrest.

The investigation by Holyoke Police, the Holyoke Fire Department, and State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal’s office determined that the early morning fire had been intentionally set. High winds contributed to rapid fire spread through all three floors of the structure. Six residents were displaced and one firefighter suffered injuries that were not life-threatening.

The continued investigation led to the identification of both suspects and supported a warrant for their arrests, which was executed yesterday in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies. They are likely to be arraigned in Holyoke District Court today.”

The state fire marshal issued a statement after the fire seeking the public’s help during the investigation process. The statement Tuesday did not say if investigators received any tips from the public.



During an arson arrest, officers also recovered an illegal weapon and drugs.

Submitted photo

Mayor files budget request

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Last week, Mayor Joshua Garcia filed his supplemental budget request for the FY2026 budget.

“If approved, we can expect an overall reduction of \$299,656 from the originally approved FY26 budget,” Garcia stated.

Garcia’s request states a number of reductions in this fiscal year’s budget. It includes multiple items.

He listed that there were multiple salary adjustments that were under or overstated. The school department will see an overall reduction of \$416,837 due to updated state numbers for the formula of Chapter 70 school fund-

See BUDGET, page 8

Veterans Day ceremony honors HHS Principal

HOLYOKE – Holyoke High School North Principal Lori McKenna was celebrated as “Citizen of the Year” during Tuesday’s Veterans Day ceremony at the Holyoke War Memorial.



HHS Principal Lori McKenna

Ms. McKenna has been principal at HHS North for five years and has been an employee of the school district for 21 years.

“She has been an outstanding collaborator between Holyoke students and our local veterans,” said Laddy Rua, who serves as director of the Veteran Services Department and chairwoman of the War Memorial Commission. “We appreciate her so

much, and she very much deserves this recognition.”

The program featured three other recognitions, including:

- Veteran of the Year award to Michael Washut, a Veteran Services graves restoration volunteer
- Safety of the Year award to Holyoke Police Officer Jay Parnell
- Business of the Year to Pic’s Pub and Pizzeria

The Veterans Services Department sponsored a writing and drawing contest this year for students in grades 6-8, with the theme “Saluting a Hero.” Two winners were selected from among the submitted entries.

Flag raising for Puerto Rican Heritage Month

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Earlier this week, on Wednesday, November 19th, Residents, community members, and local dignitaries gathered outside on the lawn of the Holyoke City Hall campus to unveil and raise the Puerto Rican flag to commemorate Puerto Rican Heritage Month. The social gathering started with the US and Puerto Rican national anthems being played before Jazmin Acevedo, Assistant Registrar of Voters for Holyoke, took the mic to deliver remarks and offer a point of reflection and pride, citing the resilience of the Puerto Rican culture not only in the Paper City, but worldwide as well.

“Today as our flag waves, let us remember and above all, I congratulate you for being boricua,” Acevedo said.” The crowd then chanted “WEPA!” as a standing ovation and round of applause transpired just moments before Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia took the podium to reveal and read from a proclamation he draft-

ed declaring the Discovery of Puerto Rico Day on this date of November 19th, in the city of Holyoke.

“Were going to talk about the history of this day, which to some was the worst day for the island of Puerto Rico in 1493, but just like world history, and any other community, country, nation, and right here in Holyoke there is challenge, opportunity, and it’s this same story of resilience, hope, and pride that brings people together to overcome the obstacles put in front of us,” said Garcia. After noting the other elected officials in attendance, he then added, “It’s always great to have councilors not just today but every time you have a flag raising ceremony coming up, it shows solidarity and support for our very diverse community,” he said.

After that was addressed, Garcia started the proclamation, which read: “Whereas, Discovery of Puerto Rico Day, observed each November 19th, commemorates the day Christopher Columbus first landed in Puerto Rico in 1493. The



Mayor Joshua A. Garcia and company look on as the Puerto Rican Flag is being raised.

Turley Photo by Brendan Rooney

See FLAG, page 9

City Councilor Vacon files Open Meeting Law complaint following mayor’s veto

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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HOLYOKE – In response to a veto by Mayor Joshua Garcia to seek further legal opinions about what is being described as an illegal vote, a city councilor has filed an open meeting law violation complaint with the state.

Ward 5 Councilor Linda Vacon believed a transfer vote of \$137,000 should be invalidated because it the meeting was adjourned by a city council rule, thus making the vote invalid.

According to the narrative filed by Vacon: “On Oct. 7, a city council meet-

ing was held. After the meeting had been adjourned at 10:20 p.m. pursuant to a city council rule, the city council continued to deliberate and take purported action on the approval of an order for a \$137,000 transfer on the agenda. This was a violation of the open meeting law because deliberation and votes took place after the meeting was adjourned. On Oct. 9, I raised the issue in writing that the financial transfer of \$137,000 had not been passed. I did not receive a reply from our law department. The mayor replaced on Oct. 10 that he signed the order and solicitor’s

office had already ruled on the order. The city council approved my order copied below on Oct. 18 as I was attempting to clarify and resolve the voting issue. The mayor vetoed this order so no written legal opinion was provided as required in our ordinances. The city council approved an override of the mayor’s veto on Nov. 6, but the transfer has occurred and the money has

already been spent.”

Vacon’s complaint also attached her order seeking a legal opinion on the validity of the transfer vote.

Vacon’s complaint says she is seeking the transfer be revoked in full.

“The improper transfer of \$137,000 should be revoked as it was not properly passed and the debate and vote to reconsider took place after the meeting was adjourned according

to city council rules as no motion or vote to extend the meeting beyond 10:20 p.m. occurred. The transfer order was properly voted earlier in the meeting to be sent back to the Finance Committee on Oct. 7. It should be considered there and then sent to the city council for a vote.”

On Nov. 6, the city council was in receipt of Garcia’s veto. The meeting, which took place a couple of days after the municipal election, saw the council discuss the veto and override the decision made by Garcia.

With the funds already spent, it is not clear how

the transfer can be revoked. Garcia has not issued a statement on the open meeting complaint filed by Vacon on Nov. 7. The complaint was introduced to the city council at its Tuesday, Nov. 18 meeting. It was filed with the state attorney general’s office. No decision or opinion has been issued in response to the violation.

Garcia argued in his veto of Vacon’s order that the legal department had already ruled that the vote was valid and the transfer could take place. He considered that legal opinion valid and wanted to move forward from the issue.





HCC President George Timmons, far left, celebrates with a 2024 graduate and her family. Submitted photo

HCC to host fall graduate reception

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will honor its fall semester graduates with a special recognition event on Monday, Dec. 1.

The Fall Graduate Reception will run from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the HCC main campus, 303 Homestead Ave., beginning in the Leslie Phillips Theater for the official ceremony and continuing with a reception in the Campus Center.

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

According to the HCC

Registrar's Office, 190 HCC students will be fall 2025 semester graduates. Many of them will transfer to four-year schools for the spring 2026 semester. Although fall graduates are always invited to attend HCC's formal Commencement ceremony in the spring, in the past, many did not attend.

The goal of the family-friendly event is to celebrate fall graduates and strengthen their connection to HCC in the hopes that they will remain engaged and attend the college's 79th Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 30, 2026.

During the first part of

the event in the Leslie Phillips Theater, Registrar Allison Wrobel and President George Timmons will offer introductory remarks, followed by two student speakers: psychology major Sachelys Perez of Ware, and liberal arts major Jamal Cumberbatch of Springfield. HCC alum Trudy Monson '97, also of Holyoke, president of the HCC Alumni Council, will welcome the fall graduates as new members of HCC's Alumni Association.

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

Resident gets role in theater production

HOLYOKE – This week, 12-year-old Holyoke native, Odin Vega, and 13-year-old South Hadley resident, Lyla Randall were chosen from a large pool of auditionees to play leading roles in the upcoming musical production of Fun Home at the prestigious Huntington Theatre in Boston.

These young actors are no strangers to the stage, they both have been dancing, singing and acting from a very young age, but to secure a role in the Boston theater scene is a very big step for them both. The Huntington Theatre produces highly crafted productions at the highest level of professionalism. They are known as Boston's Broadway! Both actors say having a role in this production is a "dream

come true!"

Fun Home will mark Odin's 2nd show with The Huntington Theatre, as he appeared in the ensemble of their production of The Light in the Piazza this past spring, and Fun Home marks Lyla's Huntington Theatre debut.

Both actors have several professional credits, even at their young age.

Here's a little more about Odin Vega:

Regional: The Little Mermaid Jr, Curious George: The Golden Meatball, Little Lord Fautleroy, Pollyanna, The Aristocats KIDS, The Secret Garden (Majestic Children's Theater); Aladdin Jr, Willy Wonka Jr (St. Michael's Players); Amahl and the Night Visitors (Unitarian Universalist Church of

Springfield); School of Rock, Kinky Boots (Opera House Players). Odin is represented locally by Tina Kiniry Management (Manager/Mother Agent) and Stewart Talent (NYC). He trains in Tap, Jazz, Musical Theater, Voice Lessons, and Acting Classes at Broadway Brings Joy (BBJ) Musical Theater Academy of Holyoke, MA. @odinmvega

And here's a little more about Lyla Randall:

Regional: The Bedwetter (Arena Stage, Washington, DC). Film: Mr. Crocket (Hulu). Television: Sesame Street (Netflix). Voiceover: Drone Cats (YouTube), The Legend of Mount Majestic (tonies@). lylarandall.com @lyla-noelani

HMC earns 'A' grade for hospital safety

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety. Leapfrog assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D" or "F" grade to general hospitals across the country using evidence-based measures of patient safety focused exclusively on errors, accidents, injuries and infections.

"Holyoke Medical Center is proud to achieve an 'A' grade, providing our community with the safe, high-quality care

they deserve," said Spiros Hatiras, President and Chief Executive Officer of Holyoke Medical Center and Valley Health Systems. "This honor recognizes the dedication of our physicians, nurses, and all staff for prioritizing patient safety."

"Earning an 'A' Grade means Holyoke Medical Center made a true commitment to put patient safety first," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade stands as the only hospital ratings program focused solely on

preventable medical errors, infections and injuries that kill more than 500 patients a day in the United States. This program is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

To explore Holyoke Medical Center's full grade details and to find valuable tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org. Connect with The Leapfrog Group on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram and stay informed through The Leapfrog Group newsletter.

Hibernian holding clothing and food drive

HOLYOKE – The Ancient Order of Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties along with the Polish National Credit Union Announce the Annual Clothing and Food Drive for Providence Ministries from September to Dec. 1.

Please drop off gently used clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, and/or non-perishable food items to the Polish National Credit Union 270 Westfield Rd. Holyoke. Make a donation and be entered to win a raffle basket.

Please help those who are experiencing food insecurity and assist Providence Ministries as they continue to transform lives through their life-changing programs. Stop by the PNCU-your efforts will be greatly appreciated.

Amelia Park Children's Museum announces return of 'Penguin Plunge' for Jan. 24

WESTFIELD – Amelia Park Children's Museum announces the return of the Penguin Plunge to be held on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Hampton Ponds State Park, Westfield MA. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. Proceeds from the Penguin Plunge will benefit the museum.

"The Penguin Plunge is a long-standing tradition in Westfield. We are very excit-

ed that we're able to host the Penguin Plunge in 2026," said Diane Chambers, Executive Director of the museum. "We want to make this event a Plunge for the record books!" A member of the founding board, Chambers, explains that interest in the museum is at an all-time high. "We are seeing a tremendous increase in the number of visitors we serve. Please join

us as we work to enhance our facility and programs to continue serving our community's growing needs." Through the years participants and sponsors of the Plunge have helped to raise over \$370,000 to support Amelia Park Children's Museum.

Plunge participants may join as an individual or as a team. Each participant pledges to raise a minimum

of \$75 from friends and family and is encouraged to collect as many sponsors as possible. Those under the age of 18 will receive a registration discount of \$25.

There are monetary prizes of "cold hard cash" for the top three individuals or teams that raise the most money; first place - \$300, second place - \$200, third place - \$100.

A costume contest is

part of the fun, and participants are encouraged to come dressed creatively. There will be prizes for Best Individual Costume and Best Team Costume.

Register in advance online or at the Plunge on the day of the event from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants will receive a free 2026 Penguin Plunge T-shirt (while supplies last).

Sponsorship opportuni-

ties, registration and pledge forms are available via the museum website <https://www.ameliaparkmuseum.org/penguin-plunge> or can be picked up at the museum.

Don't want to jump in the water? No worries! Be a spectator and cheer on the brave participants. Hot chocolate, coffee, s'mores and other refreshments will be available to keep everyone warm.

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Thanksgiving Service

HOLYOKE – Thanksgiving Service to be held on Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 6:30 p.m. located at St. Peter's Lutheran Church located at 34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke..

All are welcome to join for a special time of thanksgiving to God before you celebrate on Thanksgiving Day.

Holiday Fair

HOLYOKE – St. Peter's Annual Gingerbread House Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open for holiday shopping. Homemade crafts, decorations, food, gifts, and more, including lunch to purchase will be available. You can build your own gingerbread house. St. Peter's is located at 34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke.

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Santa heads for Holyoke Mall

HOLYOKE – Santa Claus is set to make his return from the North Pole to Holyoke Mall on Friday, Nov. 21, with a special arrival event this Saturday, Nov. 22. The magic begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday with a fire truck arrival, at the mall entrance next to Pickleball Kingdom, near JCPenney.

Guests are encouraged to arrive before 11 a.m. to gather for Santa's arrival to make sure they don't miss his grand entrance with the Holyoke Fire Department. Santa Claus will be escorted to his village in Café Square by the Colby Academy of Dance, followed by a special holiday performance from

the group.

The holiday festivities continue with free face painting and balloon twisting by Dazzle Day Face Painters.

Photos with Santa are available in Café Square immediately following his arrival until Christmas Eve. Babies, children, families, and even pets are invited and more details are available here. Reservations are strongly encouraged and can be made by visiting whereis-santa.com.

Along with Santa comes the start of the holiday shopping season, and Holyoke Mall is announcing special hours to ensure that guests

can shop in-store at their convenience. The center will be closed on Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 27, and re-open on Black Friday, Nov. 28 at 7 a.m. and will close at 9 a.m. Click here for a complete calendar of Holyoke Mall's holiday shopping hours scheduled for the 2025 season.



Wistariahurst to hold open house

HOLYOKE – There's snow place like Wistariahurst during the holiday season! Wistariahurst's upcoming Holiday Open House and Festive market is perfect for those pine-ing for some holiday cheer, gifts from local businesses and artists, and family fun. The museum will be open Dec. 6 and 7 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for this joyous event. The halls will be decked with the splendor of the holiday season, complete with our massive Wisty Railroad train set running throughout Wistariahurst's gallery. Visitors will be able to explore the first floor of the museum, listen to holiday-themed music, and dis-

cover one-of-a-kind goodies from local vendors and artists. The festive market will feature 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.

But that's not all. Guests can enjoy family friendly activities like a holiday story-time, family photos in our historic carriage, and get a holiday balloon animal. There's something for everyone to enjoy- snow-one will be left out of the fun.

Wistariahurst Museum's 5th Annual Holiday Open

House and Festival 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. Don't forget to join us at this event on Dec. 6 and 7 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Wistariahurst Museum! It's the most wonderful time of the year.

This event is sponsored in part by the Adams Foundation of South Hadley, Bank ESB, Duryea Electric, and Holyoke Gas and Electric.

City to hold annual tree lighting, 'Parade of Lights'

HOLYOKE – Join Mayor Joshua Garcia and the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department as the City hosts its Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade of Lights celebration on Saturday, Dec. 6. From 3 to 5 p.m. at the Holyoke Merry Go Round, enjoy unlimited free rides, take pictures with holiday characters and visit with Dazzleday Balloon Artists. From 5 to 6 p.m. at City Hall, warm up with hot chocolate and

cookies while enjoying a performance by the Holyoke High School Bell Choir and Madrigal Choir. Watch the Parade of Lights depart from the Holyoke High School parking lot at 5:45 p.m., traveling to Hampshire Street over to High Street arriving at City Hall. Mayor Garcia will light the Christmas Tree at 6 p.m. For more information, please contact the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department at 413-322-5620 or visit www.holyoke.org.

Plow contractors wanted

HOLYOKE – With winter nearing, the Department of Public Works is seeking individuals to assist city plow operators in the 2025-2026

winter season. Qualified individuals with the proper equipment are encouraged to apply in person at: DPW, 63 Canal Street, Holyoke.

LIBRARY TO HOLD BRASS ENSEMBLE SING-ALONG



There will be a Christmas sing-along free and open to the public by the Fanfare Brass Ensemble on Thursday, Dec. 11 at the Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St, Holyoke. The 10-part group's program: O Come All Ye Faithful, Three Ships, Three Kings, Westminster Carol, Jingle Bell Rock, Twelve Days of Christmas, Away in the Manger, A Christmas Cannon, Jingle Bells, White Christmas, Sleigh Ride, Oh Holy Night, Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, Angels from the Realms of Glory, All I want for Christmas, O little town of Bethlehem, We Need a Little Christmas, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Stars and Stripes for Christmas and more. *Submitted photo*

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Guest Column



Did the Obama-era Social Security tax cuts hurt the program?

Dear Rusty:

I will be retiring early next year, but my question to you is: During the Obama administration, payroll taxes that employees pay were cut in half from 6.2% to 3.1%, while the employer's part stayed the same at 6.2%. This continued for around a year I think. This was an attempt at giving people a tax cut, which I think was a bad idea or maybe the wrong way to have done it. How much damage do you think this may have caused to Social Security?

Signed: Soon to Retire

Dear Soon to Retire:

FYI, the Obama-era cut in the employee portion of FICA payroll taxes and SECA (self-employment tax) was a temporary measure, which has long since expired. However, the legislation which enabled that cut in employee FICA/SECA taxes also included a provision to replenish the Social Security Trust Funds from the General U.S. Treasury in an amount equal to the estimated loss of tax revenue to the Trust Funds. So, in effect, there was little or no impact on the Social Security Trust Funds.

FYI, the Trustees of Social Security have been projecting for many years that the Social Security reserves would be fully depleted in the mid-2030s, unless Congress takes action to reform the SS program. Unfortunately, Congress has not yet taken any meaningful action to accomplish that reform and the current projection from the Trustees is that all Social Security reserves will be depleted in about 2033, necessitating an across the board cut of about 21% in everyone's benefit. Time is running

short and we see signs that Congress is finally starting to seriously discuss Social Security reform.

At AMAC, we have developed and submitted to various Congressional Representatives a reform plan, which would restore Social Security to full solvency. People can see AMAC's suggested plan by visiting www.amac.us/social-security-guarantee. And AMAC is working every day in Washington, D.C. to promote Social Security reform to avoid future cuts in benefits. We believe and hope that Congress will eventually reform the Social Security program to avoid future benefit cuts but, unfortunately, not until they can muster sufficient bipartisanship to make the hard choices needed. To this end, contacting your Congressional Representative to demand Social Security reform now would be a good thing to do. The longer Congress delays reform, the harder the choices will be.

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



Guest Column

In October, Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a black-billed cuckoo at Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary and another was seen at a different location in Wellfleet.

The black-billed cuckoo is often heard more than seen. They spend a lot of time in densely wooded eastern forests and thickets. It is slender, brown bird with white belly, long tail and as its name implies a black bill. It has a red ring around the eyes and white tips on the



By Ellenor Downer

underside of its tail. They also have a hunch backed look. It is about the size of a mourning dove 11 to 12 inch-

es without the plump body. Cuckoos eat lots of spiny caterpillars and can make quick work of tent caterpillars and webworms. The spines of the caterpillars stick to the lining of their stomachs. To rid themselves of the spines they periodically shed the stomach lining and coughing it up in one giant pellet, similar to an owl.

They sing especially at night in midsummer. Their song is a staccato with less of a knocking sound than the yellow-billed cuckoo. They also perch motionless for long periods of time so they can be tricky to find. A good location to look for them are areas with tent caterpillars or



Black-billed cuckoo

See BIRDS, page 5

Thanksgiving questions for the Garden Lady

Eva, who has a big vegetable garden in Ware, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "We are supposed to have a low of 27 degrees one night this week. With that said, are my Brussels sprouts going to be OK? I was hoping to harvest them just in time for Thanksgiving." It has been a few years since I have grown Brussels sprouts, but I do remember that they do thrive well into late fall and early winter. A few frosty mornings won't hurt them!

For readers not familiar

with Brussel sprout culture, I will elaborate. Brussels sprout seeds are started indoors, around the same time you would start their cousins, broccoli, cabbage or kale.

For me, seeds are sown off heat the first week of April through tax day. They are grown cool but under supplemental light to prevent stretching, and are transplanted once the first set of "true leaves" unfold.

I transplant mine into the cells of a six pack, although individual two or three inch pots are also a good

option. Brussels sprouts can be moved into the garden a couple of weeks prior to Memorial Day, where fertile soil and eight-10 hours of direct sun are preferred.

They need to be given a lot more room than their cousins, about nine square feet of growing space per plant! It will pay off!

Placing transplants under floating row covers is smart, and will protect young plants from flea beetles and swede midge, then from various "cabbage" worms. The

See GARDEN, page 5

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There's a lot of medical misinformation out there, much of it promulgated by non-medical individuals based on nothing more than assumptions and unwarranted conclusions.

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One of the speakers at the recent New England Patient Advocacy Conference I hosted at Assumption University in Worcester was

your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Erika Warren, a partner in a new venture called Inciteful Med (IncitefulMed.com), just launched earlier this year. I wanted to share it with you because, as I like to say, knowledge is power. Inciteful Med lets you research a medical question and come to doctors' appointments ready to have a meaningful discussion.

This is a beneficial use of artificial intelligence and machine learning. Inciteful Med is updated weekly with peer-reviewed research that appears in such online sources

as PubMed, a service of the National Institutes of Health.

"We provide patients and doctors with the latest literature in an easy-to-understand format, helping doctors and patients make informed choices," Erika says.

Like my patient advocacy practice, Inciteful Med grew out of a personal experience. Erika's partner, Mike Weishuhn, had a family member with a potentially serious health issue. Rather

See HEALTH, page 5

The Holyoke Sun welcomes election letters to the editor

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

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

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

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

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

the HOLYOKE Sun
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Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon. Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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HEALTH, from page 4

than taking the wait-and-see approach the doctor had advised, he used his skills as a data engineer to find a paper published in the U.K. that gave them new information and a reason to seek a second opinion.

"It showed us two things," Erika says. "First, the importance of advocacy and, second, the difficulty of finding reliable, personalized information. That experience changed everything for their family and sparked our mission to make medical research accessible, so more patients and families can shape their care and change their lives."

And so Inciteful Med was born.

Anyone can use the website anonymously to research

up to five questions a day. Creating an account lets you ask an unlimited number of questions.

Users can also upload their medical records to have them analyzed and receive personalized results from the latest research. For their users' peace of mind, the company will soon be HIPAA-compliant.

The website is free to use for now. Wishing it to remain independent, they don't want advertising dollars from pharmaceutical companies. It may one day become donor-supported like Wikipedia or offer subscriptions.

Neither Erika nor Mike has a medical background, and they stress that patients should use the information on Inciteful Med in collaboration with their health-care providers.

"Mike's and my back-

ground is in education technology, providing tools for teachers trying to help students learn and feel confident. In many ways, Inciteful Med is similar to that work, but for patients and doctors," she says. "Inciteful Med inspires confidence. People want to be heard and supported and know their questions aren't dumb."

Inciteful Med can also be consulted by providers, who can't possibly be familiar with all of the latest research and clinical trials. Information can take years to move from the researchers' labs to your bedside.

"Our health-care system makes it hard for even dedicated doctors to keep up," Erika says. "Different priorities, red tape and slow adoption of new technology mean important medical advances take too long to reach

patients."

Here are some ways to make Inciteful Med work for you:

- Given a new diagnosis? Ask Inciteful Med about the symptoms associated with your diagnosis and if the symptoms could be associated with a different condition.
- Prescribed a new medication? Ask Inciteful Med if the drug has been shown to be an effective treatment for your condition.
- Concerned about the safety of a vaccine? Ask it to show you the latest studies.
- Experiencing a side effect after a medical procedure or medication? Ask whether what you're experiencing is a known side effect and what the risks are.
- Interested in finding out if there are new treatments for your condition? Ask Inciteful Med to tell you

about any recent advances or clinical trials.

In addition to answering your initial questions, the website returns a number of related questions you may want to ask, letting you delve further into the research.

I often talk about making the most of the time you have with your doctor – coming prepared with written questions and specific concerns. Taking a few minutes to do research on IncitefulMed.com could give you a place to start the conversation with your providers.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson,

MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.



BIRDS, from page 4

fall webworms, a favorite food of these birds.

Audubon bird sightings

On Nov. 9, Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the following sightings at Wachusett Reservoir.

Sightings included: nine common loon, two horned grebe, one double-crested cormorant, two great blue heron, 135 Canada geese, four mute swan, one immature gadwall, two black ducks, 63 mallard, five ring-necked duck, 95 greater scaup, eight lesser scaup, 41 bufflehead, 11 hooded merganser, seven common merganser, one ruddy duck, one red-tailed hawk, three wild turkey, 11 ring-billed gull, one belted kingfisher, one northern flicker and one pileated woodpecker. Other birds included on common raven, one winter wren, one Carolina wren, 46 eastern bluebird, five cedar waxwings, 90 dark-eyed junco and 30 red-winged blackbird.

Black vulture

I received an email

from a Palmer resident on Nov. 4. She said, "When I came home, I noticed two birds across from the house. I thought they might be vultures because of their face, but were not turkey vultures." She googled vultures and said, "It was easy to recognize them because of their face white feet and legs. Plus the head appeared to be gray and like a helmet. They were definitely black vultures. They stayed in that one spot for quite awhile. They didn't appear to be scared of anything. Cars going by did not phase them." Since then she has not seen them again. She said, "They are really a beautiful bird."

Helping birds

Bird feeders and feeding platforms are also hotspots for disease. Many wildlife diseases, like mange and avian pox, are spread by physical contact between healthy and sick animals. It is important to clean bird feeders frequently and remove any molding seeds and debris from them especially during the rainy weather. Moving the location of feeders to different locations also helps prevent

the spread of disease.

Flocking birds

Birds are migrating. Last week I saw a large flock of blackbirds flying overhead. I also have seen flocks of about a dozen Canada geese flying overhead. Last week, my granddaughter, Lizzie and I saw a flock of geese flying low over her house. We could hear their wings beating. The robins that head south have also been flocking in my field and along the roads. Some robins over winter living in the swamps.

Winter berries

Every year a flock of robins come and make short order of the winterberries on a bush in my yard. I've spotted the bright red winterberries in several spots during my travels. I will keep an eye out for birds at those bushes.

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.

GARDEN, from page 4

plants will grow tall over the course of their long growing season and will form buds along the stem.

It is the buds that we harvest, known as the "sprouts" we so enjoy. Experts recommend "topping" the plants in September, or cutting off the first couple of inches of top growth, so that the plant puts all of its energy into the sprouts it already has, making them bigger.

When I grew Brussels sprouts many years ago, aphid were a big problem. There are a number of varieties that have a spaced branching habit that seem to reduce the population of these pests. "Divino," "Speedia," and "Nautic" are all good choices.

Harvest the half-dollar

sized sprouts after the first few frosts and you will be in for a great, sweet treat. Like carrots who endure a little cold, starches turn to sugars and yum!

Personally, I like to roast them for heightened crunch and a little more caramelization. I hope they will be a wonderful part of your family meal, Eva!

Melissa, who gardens in Palmer, just moved to a house that has a few "highbush cranberries" on her property.

"I was curious if this shrub is a tall version of the Thanksgiving cranberry and if so, if it is edible? The word 'highbush' reminds me of blueberries, so I thought maybe it worked out the same," she asked.

The American cranberry is not to be confused with Viburnum trilobum, an eight-12 foot multistemmed shrub

sometimes called highbush cranberry, crampbark, or even cranberry viburnum.

The berries of this native shrub hang in clusters and are orange-red in color. Although they are edible, birds generally find them a whole lot more appealing than we do, and will typically "gobble" them up before winter hits.

The shrub typically has great fall interest, too, with foliage that varies in hues of orange, red and purplish red.

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

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- Popular broadcast network
 - Train line
 - Go quickly
 - Straightforward
 - Canadian province
 - Swiss river
 - It can be straight or curved
 - Edit
 - Utter repeatedly
 - Gotten up
 - Sea vessel
 - Agents of one's demise
 - Not out
 - Something to scratch
 - A round water pot
 - Slang for cylindrical green fruit
 - Promotions
 - Masses of matter
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - Nightstand item
 - The content of cognition
 - Arab ruler
 - Northern U.S. state
 - Chewed in small bites
 - Hawaiian island
 - More thin
 - Of one
 - Rigid bracelet or anklet
 - Barbary sheep
 - Not even
 - Atomic #106
 - Haggle
 - Boxing's GOAT
 - Division of a group into opposing factions
 - Vietnamese offensive
 - Horse-drawn carriage
 - Peacefully
 - University athletic official
 - Soldiers
 - Large mollusk
 - Take out again
 - Sour or bitter in taste
 - Songwriter Tunstall
 - Flexible covering in some birds
 - Energy
 - Night monkey genus
 - Small nails
 - Colorless volatile liquid
 - In a way, changes integrity
 - Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal
 - Remember it
 - "Good Will Hunting" lead man
 - Pleasant facial expression
 - Sea vessel
 - Lacking poetic beauty
 - Tall, swift and slender dog
 - Sports personality Michelle
 - Robber
 - Liquefied natural gas
 - Snakelike fish
 - Sediment at bottom of a liquid
 - Crimean seaport
 - Bad grades
 - Popular S. Korean rapper

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Community Church

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

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

Our Lady of the Cross Catholic Parish
 Pastor: Fr. Albert Scherer, OFM Conv.
 Email: pastor@ourladyofthecross.com
 Holy Cross Ave., Holyoke
 Parish Offices are located at: 15 Maple Street, Holyoke (413) 532-5661
 parish@ourladyofthecross.com
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 WEEKEND MASSES:
 Saturday 4 p.m.
 Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. (Polish), and 10:30 a.m.
 DAILY MASS:
 Monday - Saturday 8:30 a.m.
 Legal Holidays Mass 9 a.m.
 Reconciliation (Confession) Monday - Saturday 8 a.m.
 Saturday 3:15pm
 Anytime by Appointment
 DEVOTIONS
 Monday - Saturday
 Divine Mercy Chaplet - 7:50 a.m.
 ROSARY 8:05 a.m.
 www.ourladyofthecross.com

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
 Rev. Debora Stein
 34 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke
 Office: (413) 536-3369
 Office: stpetersholyoke@gmail.com
 Pastor: revdebma@gmail.com
 Website: www.stpetersholyoke.org
 Social media:
 facebook.com/stpetersholyoke
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Monday - Wednesday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Thursday 2 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Call first)
 WORSHIP:
 Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (also on Facebook Live) & Thursdays at 7 p.m.
 Other: Prayers with Pastor - Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - on Facebook Live.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 The Rev. Canon Joel Martinez
 485 Appleton St., Holyoke
 413-532-5060
 Office@StPaulsholyoke.org
 StPaulsholyoke.org
 Instagram:
 stpaulsepiscopalchurch_holyoke
 OFFICE HOURS:
 Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Days and Hours of Services:
 Sunday: 8 a.m.
 Sunday: 10 a.m.
 Sunday: 5 p.m. (Spanish)

HCC college magazine named best at regional conference

HOLYOKE – The Connection, the official magazine of Holyoke Community College, received a first-place gold Medallion Award at the Fall 2025 District 1 conference of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.

The Spring 2025 edition of The Connection took the top spot in the category of Large-Scale Magazine, for publications of more than 16 pages.

“The design looks polished and professional,” the NCMPR judges said in their comments. “It’s an engaging issue that highlights student

and alumni success while showing how the college continues to grow and support its people.”

In addition to its usual campus news, alumni briefs and class notes, the Spring 2025 issue includes a cover story about the opening of HCC’s Marieb Adult Learner Success Center and Parent Learning Center (“A Family Affair”); a profile of late alum JoAnne Wrobel, who launched a free food cart for students that grew into the Thrive Center and Food Pantry, which now feeds hundreds of HCC students every year (“A Silent Hero”); and

a feature story about HCC alum Brandon Towle, of Westfield, who founded the first sleepaway camp in New England for stuttering youth (“Freedom to Speak”).

“Freedom to Speak,” written by the magazine’s editor-in-chief, Chris Yurko, received a second-place silver Medallion Award in the category of Long-Form Writing (stories of more than 800 words).

The magazine is designed by John Devanski, owner of Guy With Glasses Design in Ware.

The Connection is a 36-page magazine published

two times a year by the HCC office of Marketing and Communications and distributed free to alumni, students, and friends of the college.

“I’m incredibly proud of our marketing and strategic communications team for earning this recognition,” said Amanda Sbriscia, vice president of the Institutional Advancement division, which includes marketing and communications, development, and alumni relations. “Their collaboration, creativity, and exceptional writing are what set The Connection apart. But credit also belongs to the HCC

community – our students, alumni, faculty, and staff provide endless inspiration through their stories. Our team has the great honor of amplifying those voices, and it’s that authentic storytelling that makes our work meaningful.”

A digital version of the Spring 2025 issue can be viewed at hcc.edu/connection-SP25.

NCMPR represents marketing and public relations professionals at community and technical colleges in the United States and beyond. The NCMPR Medallion Awards recognize outstand-

ing achievement in design and communication in each of NCMPR’s seven districts.

HCC resides in District 1, the largest, which includes Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec, and the United Kingdom.

The NCMPR District 1 Conference was held Nov. 3-5 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Holyoke Community College opens registration for classes

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

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

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

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

Most Wintersession classes are offered entirely online.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Students who were

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

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

Class schedules for both

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

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

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

Wreaths Across America holding event at Veterans Cemetery

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

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

Parking and Shuttle Information:

Parking will be available at Six Flags New England, with shuttles running to the cemetery beginning at 8 a.m. Please plan to arrive early to allow for shuttle transport and seating before the ceremony begins.

The Friends of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to honoring those who have

served, comforting their families, and enhancing the beauty and dignity of this eternal resting place.

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

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

Book discussion on ‘Love War Stories’

HOLYOKE – Join fellow readers for the next book discussion group at Wistariahurst. Readers will dive into “Love War Stories” by Ivelisse Rodriguez. Dedicated “to Holyoke girls”, this collection of poems and short stories examines the complexities of relationships and the grief and betrayal that can affect them. Love War Stories also delves into the experiences of generational challenges as a Puerto Rican girl growing up. About her work Rodriguez says “This collection documents how

‘love wars’ break out across generations as individuals find themselves caught in the crosshairs of romance, expectations, and community.”

This book discussion group will meet over the course of three weeks on Nov. 25, and Dec. 2 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Wistariahurst Museum. The required readings for each meeting are as follows:

- Tuesday, Nov. 25 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. - having read pages 49 - 114
- Tuesday, Dec. 2 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. - having read

pages 115 – 158
Visit the Holyoke Public Library or your local branch to get a copy of “Love War Stories”.

If the book isn’t available at your local library, ask about an inter library loan.

This book is also available for free as an ebook on Hoopla. Participation in this book discussion group is free and open to the public. We look forward to meeting with readers to discuss this gripping collection of stories by a local Holyoke author.

Mall announces Salvation Army fundraising campaign

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

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

To complement the

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

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

UCCH holding homemade Thanksgiving pie fundraiser

HOLYOKE – Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and Thanksgiving is not the same without at least one pie for des-

sert. They’re so delicious but can be so cumbersome to make. If you’re looking for tasty desserts on a time crunch, the United Congregational Church of

Holyoke has got the solution for you: treat your table and your heart with a homemade pie that gives back during the Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser.

Now through Friday, Nov. 21, you can order handmade pies for \$15 each by calling the church office at 413-532-1483 or emailing office.uccholyoke@gmail.com. Choose between Apple Crumb, Double Crust Apple, or Pumpkin. Pies can be picked up Monday Nov. 24, Tuesday Nov. 25 or Wednesday Nov. 26 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the United Congregational Church of Holyoke, 300 Appleton Street, Holyoke.

All proceeds will go to the PB&J Lunch Bag

Program at Kate’s Kitchen, helping feed neighbors in need right here in our community.

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

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We welcome all individuals, regardless of where they are on their journey. If you’d like to learn more about UCCH, please visit our website at www.uccholyoke.org, find us on Facebook or Instagram, or call our office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



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Scholarship and Fellowship funds available

WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund, located in Westfield, Massachusetts has scholarship and fellowship money available for residents of Hampden County, MA.

Graduating high school seniors and students already in college may apply for Scholarships of up to \$12,000. Those in their final year of college and previous college graduates pursuing advanced degrees may apply for Fellowships of \$15,000. Applicants must maintain at least a B average in college and be enrolled as full-time students.

Awards are made based on both academic achievement and merit. Of great importance is a personal writ-

ten account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance and their goals in pursuing higher education.

Last year, \$297,000 was awarded to 24 individuals. Scholarships were given to 18 graduating seniors from 11 Hampden County high schools. Three scholarships were also awarded to current college students to assist them in completing their undergraduate degrees, and three fellowships were given to college graduates pursuing advanced degrees, who had graduated from Hampden County high schools.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace

Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, established in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950.

Completed applications must be received either electronically or by mail to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15, 2026. Applications will also be available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

SPORTS

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Knights, Tigers getting ready for Turkey Day tilt

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – This year, it won't be the first time that Holyoke High School and South Hadley High School football will matchup on the field.

This year, Holyoke and South Hadley landed in the same conference and South Hadley already possesses one win this season over Holyoke.

South Hadley also has the major advantage over Holyoke since the two neighbors started meeting on Thanksgiving morning. Holyoke has just one win in seven games on Thanksgiving with South Hadley, a rivalry that began after Holyoke and Chicopee's 100-year rivalry ended.

This year, South Hadley, despite just a 4-4 regular season record, made the state tournament. The Tigers faced Amesbury in the first round of the Division 7 State Tournament, losing 43-8. South Hadley enters the holiday with a 4-5 record.

In conference action, the Tigers would go 2-3, and suffered a pair of shutouts in Weeks 7 and 8 against Lee and Easthampton. Despite that tough end to the regular season, South Hadley was still able to make the tournament.

The Tigers did have a couple of impressive wins in Weeks 1 and 2, beating larger schools in Northampton and Agawam.

South Hadley's two conference wins this year were against Taconic and Holyoke.

The Knights have had a very tough season in 2025. Holyoke had a disappointing conference mark, going 1-4 with their only win over Taconic.

Holyoke also suffered losses against Chicopee Comprehensive and Agawam in independent action.

During the nonplayoff phase, Holyoke did renew its old rivalry with Chicopee in Week 9 and picked up a good win 35-12. In Week 10, however, West Springfield handily defeated the Knights 49-27.

The teams will be hoping for better weather for this year's game.

On a rainy Thanksgiving morning last year, South Hadley High School football scored a victory over Holyoke 16-14, relying on a pair of two-point conversions to make the difference in the game. Each team scored a pair of touchdowns in the matchup, but South Hadley made conversions while Holyoke kicked point-after. South Hadley scored both their touchdowns in the first half, and Holyoke threatened to take the lead late in the game, but the Tigers held them off late to get the win in the "Battle of the Bridge."

This year's game will take place at Holyoke High School with kickoff beginning at 10 a.m.



Matthew Domoulin heads off on a run.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Devin Velez heads to the left side.



Lyshad Wilson leads the tacklers on a play.



Jayden Cauley-Guzman and Jacob Colon go for a tackle in last year's matchup with South Hadley.



Avantaey Rivera makes a tackle.

Past Results

HOLYOKE VS. SOUTH HADLEY

South Hadley leads series 6-1
2024: South Hadley 16-14
2023: South Hadley 20-6
2022: South Hadley 60-36
2021: Holyoke 36-30
2020: No game - COVID
2019: South Hadley 50-26
2018: South Hadley 28-20
2017: South Hadley 34-21



2025 Schedule

HOLYOKE FOOTBALL (3-7)

Friday, Sept. 12 – Chicopee Comprehensive 43, Holyoke 8
Thursday, Sept. 18 – Holyoke 32, Northampton 12
Friday, Sept. 26 – Agawam 28, Holyoke 15
Friday, Oct. 3 – Lee 36, Holyoke 7
Thursday, Oct. 9 – Easthampton 24, Holyoke 22
Friday, Oct. 17 – South Hadley 48, Holyoke 7
Friday, Oct. 24 – Holyoke 40, Taconic 22
Saturday, Nov. 1 – Hoosac Valley 35, Holyoke 6
Thursday, Nov. 6 – Holyoke 35, Chicopee 12
Friday, Nov. 14 – West Springfield 49, Holyoke 27
Thanksgiving Game: Thursday, Nov. 27 – vs. South Hadley 10 a.m.

SOUTH HADLEY FOOTBALL (4-5)

Friday, Sept. 12 – South Hadley 46, Northampton 0
Friday, Sept. 19 – South Hadley 16, Agawam 6
Friday, Sept. 26 – Chicopee Comprehensive 38, South Hadley 14
Saturday, Oct. 4 – Hoosac Valley 33, South Hadley 6
Friday, Oct. 10 – South Hadley 28, Taconic 14
Friday, Oct. 17 – South Hadley 48, Holyoke 7
Friday, Oct. 24 – Lee 28, South Hadley 0
Thursday, Oct. 30 – Easthampton 22, South Hadley 0
Friday, Nov. 7 – Div. 7, 1st Round – Amesbury 43, South Hadley 8
Thanksgiving Game: Thursday, Nov. 27 – at Holyoke 10 a.m.

HCC Women's Hoop cruises to road victory

BROCKTON – Women's basketball remains red hot to start the season, handily defeating regional opponent Massasoit CC 76-23 on Thursday evening. The regional win is the third straight for the Lady Cougars and second in a row on the road.

Vivian Timmons (West Springfield, MA / Guilderland HS) led the charge offensively for Holyoke for the second straight game, tallying 21 points in the victory. Timmons shot 3 for 5 from three-point range and her 21 points is the most scored by a Lady Cougar this season. Annastacia Dixon (Keene, NH / Keene HS) dominated the boards, grabbing 24 rebounds, the most in that category by a Cougar this year. Dixon scored 16 points, giving her

a double-double in the contest. Emily McGrail (Ware, MA / Ware HS) put up 14 points, shooting 7 for 8 from the floor. McGrail snagged eight rebounds and had five blocks, the five blocks being another high mark for a Lady Cougar this season. Tatiyana Zuniga (Westfield, MA / Westfield HS) led Holyoke in assists with seven and dropped 12 points which included a pair of three-pointers.

Women's hoop has a perfect 3-0 record against regional opponents and against fellow NJCAA teams. They are 3-1 overall. Their scheduled home game for this Saturday, Nov. 15 was unfortunately cancelled. Holyoke will travel for their next two contests before back-to-back 5:30 p.m. regional home games on Dec. 2 and 4

Local players named to all-star teams

HOLYOKE – The International Volleyball Hall of Fame has made a tradition of hosting a showcase for both high school boys and girls players. The girls all-star showcase was held this week at Holyoke Community College in the Bartley Center featuring players from all over the region.

The IVHF is very proud to have its home in Western Massachusetts and we are very excited to again recognize the top players in our area," said IVHF Executive Director George Mulry.

Selected players are chosen by nomination and vote of the Western Massachusetts girls high school coaches. There were two games scheduled to be played.

One featuring the second team all-stars followed by a game between the first team all-stars. Both games were scheduled to be three-set exhibitions.

For more information on the Hall of Fame Girls All-Star Volleyball Showcase, contact events@volleyhall.org.

Players named to the first team included: Minnechaug's Anna O'Toole, Cora Pace, Maliha Daubon, and Nehir Elcin,

Player named to the second included: Agawam's Sophia Laprise, and Hannah Jock, Minnechaug's Haley Powers, Belchertown's Layla Liminski, South Hadley's Grace Matyszewski, Chicopee Comprehensive's Olivia Warren and Lori Vazquez.



International Volleyball Hall of Fame

Participate in the 2025 Wilbraham Turkey Trot Nov. 27

WILBRAHAM – Please join us on Thanksgiving morning, Nov. 27 for the Wilbraham Turkey Trot - a five-mile road race up Monson Road now in its 46th year. The annual tradition, started in 1980, has grown in recent years selling out at 500 runners the past several years. This year, the maximum has been increased

to 550 participants. There is no vaccination requirement this year. The course starts in Woodland Dell Cemetery just up from race headquarters at the Wilbraham United Church. Runners then make a left onto Main St. and head up Monson Road. Once summited, runners turn left and enjoy scenic views of the

valley from atop Ridge Road and enjoy the downhill along Mountain Road before turning back on Main Street to the church. The race starts at 8:30 a.m. with bib pick-up beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the church. The race focuses on providing a classic New England Turkey Trot with chip timing, race swag, and one big hill.

Awards will be given for the first male and female runners to the top of Monson Road. Registration is only \$25 and available online at www.RunReg.com/13116. Residents are asked not to park on Woodland Dell or Main Street on Thanksgiving morning and to avoid driving on the route until after the race has concluded at 10 a.m.

Any traffic will be detoured downhill from Monson Road to Main along Ridge and Mountain Roads. Expected road closures are as follows: Main Street: From Monson to Woodland Dell: 8:30-8:35 a.m. Monson Road: Closed to downhill traffic from Ridge Road to Main Street: 8:30-

8:50 a.m. (Traffic detoured down ridge road) Ridge Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Mountain to Monson: 8:35-9:10 a.m. (Traffic detoured down Mountain Road) Mountain Road: Closed to uphill traffic from Main to Ridge: 8:40-9:25 a.m. (Traffic can travel uphill via Monson Road)

Railers score sweep of Lions

WORCESTER – The Railers spent the first few weeks of this season playing games where it was hard to find something they did right. Saturday night they played one where it was hard to find something they did wrong. Behind sensational goaltending by Henrik Tikkanen and equally sensational penalty killing, Worcester shut out the reigning ECHL Kelly Cup champion Trois-Rivieres Lions by a 2-0 score. Tikkanen made 32 saves. The Railers killed five penalties, three in the third period. Counting the penalties and the four minutes or so Trois-Rivieres played with its goalie on the bench, Worcester spent about half the period skating 5 on 6. Goaltending was the difference in the final 20 minutes as Tikkanen made 13 saves. So, which aspect of the game was key, goaltending or penalty killing, coach Nick Tuzzolino was asked. "I know he has had sort of an up and down stat career

he said. "I think the lanes that our penalty kill created allowed (Tikkanen) to be as effective as he was." Worcester got a goal from Lincoln Hatten in the second period and Anthony Callin, just back from a suspension, in the third. The shutout was the first by a Railers goaltender since Tikkanen beat Wichita, 1-0, out there last Nov. 27. It was the first at the DCU Center since March 2, 2024. John Muse blanked Trois-Rivieres, 4-0. It was the fifth of Tikkanen's career here. He is one behind Mitch Gillam, the franchise's all-time leader, and tied with IceCat Brent Johnson for sixth on the Worcester all-pro list. Curtis Sanford of the IceCats leads in that category with 10. Tikkanen's career in the Islanders' organization has had its highs and lows. It is highs like Saturday night that have kept him around. "I know he has had sort of an up and down stat career

in Bridgeport," Tuzzolino said, "but every time I've been behind the bench and he's been in net I can count maybe one game that he'd like back. "I have no issue with Teeks." Tuzzolino did have an issue with the way his team played in the first two periods and let them know about it. Even so, the Railers had the lead going into the third thanks to Hatten's goal at 12:31 of the second period. He snapped the dual shutout with his second goal of the weekend at 12:31. Cole Donhauser tried a wrap-around that Lions' goalie Benjamin Gaudreau denied but the puck bounced out to Hatten just above the crease and he popped it home to give Worcester the lead. Callin made it 2-0 at 8:12 of the third. Calle Odellius set things up with a nice rush through center ice. He found Callin on the right side and he beat Gaudreau with a high wrist shot to the far corner.

T-Birds offensive struggles continue

WILKES-BARRE, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (2-10-1-1) could not overcome an early deficit, falling 3-1 to the Penguins (12-3-1-0) on Saturday night inside Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza. After scoring five goals in a third period comeback win on Friday night, the Penguins picked up where they left off just 2:20 into the game on Saturday, as Raivis Ansons funneled a wrist through heavy traffic and past Georgii Romanov to make it a 1-0 game. The T-Birds had a tough time getting much cooking in the offensive end, and the Penguins' relentless pressure pushed the lead to a pair at 12:51. After already picking up a fighting major in a scrap with Springfield's

Kale Kessy earlier in the period, Boko Imama positioned himself in the slot and deflected a Zach Gallant shot through Romanov's legs to make it a 2-0 game and bringing Imama two-thirds of the way to a Gordie Howe hat trick in the opening period. The Penguins wasted little time adding to their margin early in the second, as Rutger McGroarty - making his season debut - cashed in with a backhand tuck between the legs of Romanov just 1:06 into period two. After continuous even-strength action for the first 28 minutes, special teams were finally put to work in the middle frame, and the T-Birds had a perfect showing, killing off two Penguins' man advantages and adding a power play goal at 11:52. After creating his own predicament on a turnover, Romanov reacted

alertly to deflect a centering pass toward the neutral zone, where Chris Wagner and Hugh McGing sped up on the rush and converted a 2-on-1 past Joel Blomqvist to make it a 3-1 game, as McGing picked up his third of the season while Wagner picked up a point for a second straight night. Romanov settled in very well after the McGroarty tally and turned aside the final 11 shots he faced to keep it at a two-goal margin heading into the third. Blomqvist, though, answered in kind with a busy and strong final period, as the Penguin backstop turned away all 12 attempts that came his way in the third, while the Penguins' PK also survived one more Springfield power play threat. The T-Birds continued their busy road schedule Tuesday morning when they square off in Hartford against the Wolf Pack at PeoplesBank Arena.



In The News

BUDGET, from page 1

ing. It is the largest reduction in the supplemental budget. Garcia will seek \$2,154 for a city council-approved raise for the city clerk. The auditor's department needs an additional \$10,000 for MUNIS training and other upgrades. The procurement and purchase department seeks

similar funding for upgrades and \$7,000 for the copier line item. The Solicitor's Office seeks \$10,000 for professional services and \$5,000 in arbitration services. The assessors office seeks to increase their professional services by \$13,000. In the police department budget, \$25,000 is needed in capital outlay for defensive

tactics and personal protection equipment. In the Board of Health, a demo supervisor position is being reduced by \$57,461, but small increases for overtime and small adjustments. The DPW Engineer Division seeks \$6,000 for a traffic data recorder while the highway and bridges department needs \$33,900 for an additional position that was

cut coming into the fiscal year. Planning and Economic Development added \$42,000 in the contracted services line item. Garcia's letter says the amount was already added in the budget book, but was not reflected in the summary. The city council will likely refer the request to the finance committee. This, along with the tax rate, will

be major topics of discussion for the city council in December. Supplemental budget requests have been a regular part of December business for the city council due to adjustments that need to be made after the city budget is passed once more information is obtained by the city. Many parts of the city's budget is based off certain

assumptions of state funding or other revenues as well as anticipated needs of the city. Sometimes those needs don't materialize and in the case of funding, some funding fluctuates, much like the Chapter 70 school funding the case of the \$416,837. The annual operating budget is approved in June each year with the new fiscal year beginning on July 1.



Turley Publications, Inc.



Logan Distler
September 22, 2024
Parents: Daniel & Lisa Distler, Brimfield
Grandparents: Christopher & Michele Mues, Warren
Carole & the late Bruce Distler, Long Island, NY

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 Parents' Names: _____

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

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<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 Friday, December 12, 2025

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

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 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.**
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EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

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

Friday, November 21 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue

- Sentinel • Quaboag Current

Monday, November 24 at 2 PM for November 27 Issue

- The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Tuesday, November 25 at 2 PM for November 28 Issue

- Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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Lois Esther (Gillette) Coggeshall



Lois Esther (Gillette) Coggeshall of Charlton passed away peacefully with family on the morning of Nov. 8, 2025, at UMass Memorial in Sturbridge. She was 83 years old. Lois was born to the late Charles M. and Esther (Geissler) Gillette in Holyoke on Jan. 14, 1942.

Lois was a beloved and cherished individual known for her compassionate, devoted and generous nature with a loving smile. She was gentle, hardworking, honest and kind hearted. She was a Rainbow Girl and spent over 60 years in the Order of the Eastern Star. Lois grew up in Holyoke where she graduated from Holyoke High School in 1960. She graduated from Green Mountain College in Poultny, Vermont in 1962. She spent time trapping and banding ducks in Maine in 1962 and geese in Delaware in 1965 with her husband, Dale T. Coggeshall. She spent many years working with computers in the Tax Collectors office in Duxbury and was in the Church Choir. She raised both her son and daughter and grandson, Brandon S. Coggeshall.

Lois is survived by her loving husband, Dale T. Coggeshall, with whom she shared 63 loving years, her son, Brian S. Coggeshall, and her daughter, Lori A. (Coggeshall). Buckley

Funeral services will be held at The Overlook, 88 Masonic Home Rd., Charlton on Nov. 22, 2025 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of the Independent Living Building and also at the Bourne Methodist Church, 37 Sandwich Rd., Bourne on Friday Nov. 28, 11 a.m., all are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers please donate in Lois' name to: Shriners for children, <https://donate.shrinerschildrens.org>.

For directions and online condolences please visit: www.nickersonbournefuneralhome.com.

DEATH NOTICE

Coggeshall
Lois Esther (Gillette)
 Died Nov. 8, 2025
 Services Nov. 22, 2025
 The Overlook Health and Rehabilitation Center
 Services Nov. 28, 2025
 Bourne Methodist Church

OBITUARY POLICY: Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief Death Notice listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a Paid Obituary, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com. Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Committee opens Colleen applications

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke is proud to announce that applications are now open for the 70th Annual Holyoke Grand Colleen Pageant on Jan. 3.

For seven decades, the Grand Colleen Pageant has been a signature event of Holyoke's St. Patrick's celebrations, honoring the heritage, pride, and accomplishments of young women of Irish descent. Serving as the kickoff to Parade season, the pageant is more than a competition - it is an opportunity to represent one's community, celebrate Irish culture, and join a legacy of ambassadors who have played a special role in the city's most cherished tradition.

This year, the committee is excited to announce an expanded eligibility that opens the door for even more young women to participate. In addition to residents of Holyoke and South Hadley, contestants from Holyoke's bordering communities of Easthampton and Southhampton are now eligible to enter the competition.

"Being chosen as the Grand Colleen is about so much more than wearing the crown," said Kate Caligaris, Colleen Committee Chair.

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

What's new this year?

- Expanded eligibility: Young women from Holyoke, South Hadley, Easthampton and Southhampton are now invited to apply.
- Broader community representation: The Committee hopes this expansion will foster regional pride and strengthen bonds across neighboring towns.

Contestant Eligibility

- Applicants must:
- Be 17-22 years of age as of March 17, 2026
 - Resident of Holyoke, South Hadley, Easthampton or Southhampton
 - Be single (never married, not a parent)
 - Claim Irish ancestry
 - Complete a resume and application Awards & Opportunities
- The Grand Colleen will receive:
- \$3,000 to be used as a scholarship or trip to Ireland

- Professional portrait
 - Tiara
- The Grand Colleen and Court will receive:
- Gifts from local businesses and Colleen Patrons
 - A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to serve as community ambassadors during Parade season

Important Dates

- Oct. 1: Applications open
 - Dec. 27: Deadline to submit application to enter the Grand Colleen Pageant
 - Dec. 28: Colleen Orientation at Mrs. Mitchell's Public House, Holyoke, 2 p.m.
 - Jan. 2: Grand Colleen Pageant Rehearsal, at Holyoke High School, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 - Jan. 3: Grand Colleen Pageant at Holyoke High School Auditorium, 6:00-9:30 p.m.
 - Jan. 4: Colleen Tea at Donovans, Holyoke, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
 - Feb. 14: Grand Coronation Ball at The Log Cabin, Holyoke
- Apply now! www.holyokestpatrickspatrol.com/apply. For any questions, please contact Kate Caligaris, Colleen Committee Chair at (413) 627-8716 or holyoke-colleens@gmail.com.

Polish National Alliance Lodge to host annual meeting, party

CHICOPEE - Lodge 711 Polish National Alliance of Chicopee will hold its annual meeting and election of officers on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 11:30 a.m. followed by the Lodge Christmas party with dinner served promptly at 1 p.m. at the Chicopee Falls Polish Home, 27 Grove Street, Chicopee, MA.

The Christmas party will feature the singing of Polish and English Christmas carols. Refreshments will be available and gifts for members, ages 0-12 will be distributed by Santa. Assisting the President and Chairman, Joanne Cebula, are Jeannie Zapala and members of Wilbraham PNA Lodge 3276, dinner and refreshments, Teresa Sherman, pub-

licity, and Cindy Kirejczyk, toys, decorations and entertainment. There will be arts and crafts, games, and a hot cocoa station.

We are very fortunate to have volunteers from the National Honor Society at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, MA to assist the committee in preparing and conducting this fun-filled event.

There is no admission fee. Donations for the raffle are welcome to help defray party costs. Please RSVP by Dec. 1.

PNA Lodge 711 is a non-profit organization dedicated to assure an active role in area social, cultural, civic and charitable events. For more information call Teresa Sherman at 413-596-9578.

Wreath bazaar set for Nov. 22

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

Before you head out, treat yourself to lunch at our hot lunch café. We look forward to welcoming you on Nov. 22.

FROSTED TIPS



Jack Frost paid a visit Wednesday morning.

Submitted photo

FLAG, from page 1

day is a public holiday on the island, and many buildings are adorned with the flag of Puerto Rico to honor the island's sovereignty and its indigenous roots," Garcia noted. "And whereas, long before Columbus, the indigenous Taínos had developed advanced agricultural, artistic, and seafaring practices. Tragically, the arrival of Columbus led to a catastrophic decline in the Taíno population due to new European diseases, such as smallpox and measles, and the violence of the Spanish conquest, which brought about slavery and forced labor. They have forged their own history, heritage, and national identity rooted in the centuries from the first civilizations to modern day," Garcia stated. He then acknowledged how the flag raising is instrumental in preserving the island roots and authenticity of the modern-day Puerto Rican Community.

"And whereas, Part of Puerto Rico's heritage is its flag, first raised in 1895, honored throughout history as a symbol of rebellion, resistance, and cultural pride; and whereas, Puerto Ricans continue to be a major presence in Holyoke, contributing to the community as parents, teachers, doctors, business owners and City officials, daily strengthening our social, moral and economic fabric; and whereas, today is an opportunity to recog-

nize the contributions of our fellow citizens of Puerto Rican descent, and promote appreciation for the people, language and culture in our city," Garcia said. "Now, therefore, be it resolved, that I, Mayor Joshua A. Garcia, do hereby honor the members of the Puerto Rican community and designate today as Discovery of Puerto Rico Day in the City of Holyoke."

Once the proclamation was declared, Garcia took a moment to offer additional thoughts, centered around the present-day identity of the Paper City, and the future fast approaching.

"So again I get the honor and privilege of joining many of our brothers and sisters, in our community to recognize their important days of significance, and I'm just so humbled and proud to be here with each and every one of you; past and present, in a way to continue to uphold the very values, that we hold very near and dear to our hearts as a compassionate city of immigrants and migrants, a city where people come to build hope and discover opportunity first," Garcia said. "We continue to honor and respect all of our brothers and sisters and do what we can to be an inclusive community on that front, but today we are standing in solidarity with the island of Puerto Rico to remember this day, and even though they celebrate it as a holiday, we are standing side by side with them here in Holyoke."



Members of the community stand in front of the raised Puerto Rican flag.

Turley Photos by Brendan Rooney



Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia stands watching Jazmin Acevedo, Assistant Registrar of Voters, speak on the flag raising



The Puerto Rico flag waves proudly above City Hall.

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1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call 413-284-0005.

HELP WANTED

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In charge of daily repairs & maintenance on trucks as well as keeping equipment records/ordering parts. Health insurance/vacation. Mon-Fri. Come & meet with us!
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Town of Worthington Highway Position Opening

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time Equipment Operator/General Laborer positions in the Town Highway Department.

Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

• salary rate range: \$26.49 - \$38.59 per hour

Further information can be found on the Town's website:

www.worthington-ma.us

Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830 or send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: highway@worthington-ma.us or to **Worthington Highway Department, PO Box 643, Worthington, MA, 01098.** This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF WORTHINGTON INVITATION TO BID SNOW PLOWING SERVICES

The Town of Worthington Highway Department is soliciting bids for seasonal plowing services for the 2025-2026 winter season. Work will include plowing backroads and selected blacktop sections throughout the Town of Worthington.

Minimum equipment requirements:

• ¾-ton truck or larger
• 8-foot plow (minimum)

Please contact the Worthington Highway Department for bid specifications and route details:

Worthington Highway Department
64 Huntington Road
Worthington, MA 01098
Phone: 413-238-5830

Email: highway@worthington-ma.us

The Town of Worthington reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

QUAINT WEST BROOKFIELD BROOKHAVEN LAKE by babbling brook, I-shaped 2bdm. ranch, 2/full baths, finished basement, walkout slider, enclosed front porch. Enjoy nature trails, very quiet private area. \$2850/monthly rental fee. Bernice Stone 774-262-6667.

FOR RENT



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

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

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!** Call 413-283-8393



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23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
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29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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Public Notices

City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

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

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

City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

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

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

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.
HD25P2386EA

Estate of:
Martha J Fellin
Also known as: Martha Fellin
Date of Death: 11/28/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy** has been filed by **Patricia Derickson of Mascoutah, IL** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Patricia Derickson of Mascoutah, IL** 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 12/15/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this**

proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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 14, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
11/21/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P1945EA

Estate of:
William E. Gross, III
Also Known As:
William Gross
Date of Death:
August 2, 2025

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Andrea French of Holyoke, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate. **Andrea French of Holyoke, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
11/21/2025

Invitation to Bid
Pre-qualification of
Prime General Contractors
RFQ 2026-19SD
CITY OF HOLYOKE
BUILDING UPDATES
PROJECT TO
THE KELLY ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

The City of Holyoke (Awarding Authority) will prequalify prime general contractors for the Building Updates to the Kelly Elementary School located on 216 West St, Holyoke, MA 01040 Holyoke, MA. The estimated construction cost for this Project is \$6,650,000. **Bidders shall be DCAMM Certified in General Building Construction.**

Starting on 11/17/2025 Prime General Contractors can request Electronic copies (PDF) of the RFQ and Bid Forms may be requested from the City's OPM via email to Mike Ulichney, PCA360 mulichney@pca360.com using the subject line 'Kelly ES RFQ Request'.

The deadline for questions is November 26, 2025 at 2:00PM.

The deadline for submitting qualifications is **December 5, 2025 at 2:00PM.**

Only prequalified General Contractors will be invited to bid on the project. Filed Sub-Bids to be advertised separately. The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions if in the city's best interest. This procurement is being conducted following M.G.L. Ch.149 and all applicable sections.
11/21/2025

City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

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

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD94P1112GR

In the interests of Hector Perez Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dept of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Terminate the Guardianship of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

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

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

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

Date: November 17, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/21/2025

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

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

TO:
Raul Geraldo Rosario
any unnamed or unknown

parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Zeila Dyann Vazquez of Springfield, MA

Johnathan Alexis Vazquez of Springfield, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

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

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 12/08/2025.**

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

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

City of Holyoke

Notice of Public Hearing

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

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

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.
HD25P2406EA

Estate of: Richard V. Sznicer
Date of Death: 09/10/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Patricia J. Descarage of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Patricia J. Descarage of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Sur** 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 12/16/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

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 18, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
11/21/2025

Invitation to Bid
IFB 2026-04DPW
Tree Removal

Sealed bids for **FY26 Tree Removal, Holyoke, MA** will be received on **December 18, 2025** at the City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer until 2 PM prevailing time, at which said Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All bids shall be submitted within a sealed envelope addressed to the "City of Holyoke Office of Procurement, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Attn: Jaime Morrow, Chief Procurement Officer" and titled "**FY26 Tree Removal, Bid #2026-04DPW**". The work under this contract, including all bid alternates, shall include the removal of approximately 136 trees, pruning, and stump removal of City-owned trees within the right-of-way. Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30, Section 39 M as amended. This project may be funded in whole or part with federal funds. And respondents will be verified for their eligibility to receive funds. All work shall be completed by May 15, 2026. The estimated total contract value of this project is \$347,700.00

The bidder Contractor shall also be MassDOT, Highways Division, Prequalified in the class of work "TREE TRIMMING, MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL". An award will not be made to a Contractor who is not pre-qualified with the MassDOT Highway Division prior to the opening of proposals. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids. No electronic submissions will be allowed.
11/21/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P2295GD

In the interests of Cody R Gagnon 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 **11/03/2025** by **Susan Sorabella** of Holyoke, MA will be held **12/04/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **50 State St, 4th Floor, 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 3, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/21/2025

Our advertisers make this publication possible.
Let them know you saw their ad in the
Holyoke Sun

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

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Celebrate
the season
with joy
ANNUAL
HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, December 3rd • 1:00 - 3:00 PM

298 Jarvis Avenue • Holyoke, MA 01040
(Please use the "Sheldon" entrance.)

Enjoy lavish hors d'oeuvres and festive entertainment by Gary & Natalie Jones.
Tours will be offered following the event.

Kindly RSVP by Tuesday, November 25th to 413-561-7958.

It's time to put your Life Plan in place.

Day Brook Village Senior Living is a locally owned, not-for-profit continuing care retirement community (CCRC) offering all levels of care. Residents have priority access to each level should their needs change, and couples remain together on campus even if their care needs differ.

Don't miss your chance to enjoy exceptional savings when you sign a lease at Day Brook Village before December 31st, 2025.*

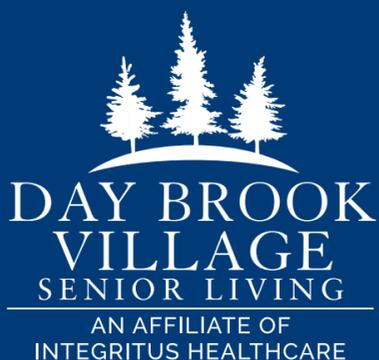
SIGN BY NOV. 30 & ENJOY:

- ✓ Two months rent-free
- ✓ Complimentary two-month meal plan, including breakfast AND lunch

SIGN BY DEC. 31 & ENJOY:

- ✓ One month rent-free
- ✓ Complimentary one-month meal plan, including breakfast AND lunch

*Dinner is included in the Monthly Service Fee. Limited availability. Offer applies to new Independent Living depositors after October 1st, 2025. Monthly Service Fees range from \$2,682 - \$4,935.



298 Jarvis Avenue
Holyoke, MA 01040
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