

Library hosts Trans Day of Remembrance and Resilience

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library hosted a Trans Day of Remembrance and Resilience event on Monday, Nov. 20.

Trans Day of Remembrance and Resilience is a day held around the world to honor the lives of trans people lost to anti-trans violence.

At this event, the gathered community members read 49 names of trans people who had passed in the past year and lit 49 candles in their honor.

There were over 365 deaths of trans individuals throughout 2023 and over 506 pieces of Anti-LGBTQ+ legislation proposed around the U.S. as of Nov. 20.

Trans Day of Remembrance and Resilience gives members and allies of the community a chance to remember these individuals and the work still left to do to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ people around the world, while also allowing them to celebrate in their community.

“While it’s a day where we want to remember and commemorate community members across the country and across the world who lost their lives to anti-trans violence and hate, it’s also a day to come together and share in joy and power,” Shultis said. “We can come together and feel supported and held by each other.”

Shultis is a Co-Director of Translate Gender Inc., one of the organizations involved in organizing this event. Also involved were GLSEN, Enlace de Familias, House of Colors, Out Now and Beit Ahavah.

All of these organizations are in or nearby Holyoke and were happy to be providing a space for trans and gender expansive individuals to come together on this day.

The organizers chose HPL in particular to host the event due to accessibility of the area.

“We wanted to try to make the event as accessible as possible, so having it be on a bus line and in a space where folks were used to going already was an important piece for us,” Shultis said. “Especially to make sure it was more accessible for folks that live in and around Holyoke.”

Throughout the event there were refreshments offered and art from trans and gender expansive individuals projected onto a screen. Shultis wanted people to

See TRANS, page 9

Holiday season begins with tree lighting 🎄

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke hosted their annual tree lighting ceremony outside City Hall on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Throughout the day, families had the opportunity to enjoy the Merry Go Round, the Children’s Museum and some arts and crafts before heading to City Hall for choral performances and the tree lighting ceremony.

Both The Ambassador’s Choir from First Lutheran Church and Holyoke High School’s Madrigal Choir entertained the crowd with an array of holiday music, including “Joy to the World” and “Jingle Bells”.

While attending these events, community members were able to enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, popcorn and candy canes provided at City Hall.



Above, Mayor Joshua Garcia lit the tree outside City Hall for the annual tree lighting ceremony. Left, children and their families gathered for a chance to take a photo with Santa Claus.



Following this, Mayor Joshua Garcia lit the tree, to the applause of the crowd, and the parade of lights began.

Santa Claus was brought in on a fire truck, and children and their families got a chance to speak with him and take photos. Also present were Olaf and the Grinch.

Bomba de Aqui rounded off the night, performing to a delighted, dancing crowd as everyone enjoyed the parade of lights.



The Ambassador’s Choir from First Lutheran Church performed at the tree lighting ceremony. See more photos on page 12.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

Lyman Terrace busing problems discussed

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Joint Committee of the City Council and the School Committee discussed the Lyman Terrace busing issue at their meeting on Nov. 27.

The Lyman Terrace neighborhood had received busing to Marcella R. Kelly School for the past 20 years. However, due to the recent rezoning and completion of construction in the area, the neighborhood no longer receives busing.

Many in the neighborhood have raised concerns over their children walking to school through this neighborhood.

Some fear the weather conditions as the temperature drops in the winter months, others fear for the safety of the children due to busy streets and potential violence.

Therefore, many in the community put in requests for the bus to be put back in place. However, the issue of funding this project could be a challenge.

As pointed out by Mayor Joshua Garcia through a letter he submitted to the committee, the amount of buses available in the district has not changed, but transportation costs have increased greatly in the past few years.

“Transportation costs have increased significantly by about \$728,000 for FY24,” Garcia wrote.

Therefore, with transportation costs already increasing, this creates further concerns about the increased costs that would come from adding in a bus at Lyman Terrace.

Adding in another bus for the Lyman Terrace neighborhood would cost \$73,000 for the year.

This bus would not assist many other students who have to walk even further than those in Lyman Terrace to get to Kelly School.

Lyman Terrace is only 0.7mi from Kelly School, which is part of the reason the area does not qualify for transportation. The district policy is that only those who are a mile or further from the school qualify for transportation.

There are other commu-

See LYMAN, page 9

In The News

Holiday pop-up at Merry-Go-Round

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick’s Committee will host it’s Tartan Holiday Pop-Up event on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at Holyoke Merry-Go-Round, 221 Appleton St.

This festive shopping experience will feature the perfect holiday gifts and decor, a unique selection of Holyoke Tartan items and a magical

photo opportunity with Santa.

The 71st Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade will be held on Sunday, March 17, 2024 and the 47th St. Patrick’s Road Race will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024.

For more information, please visit our website at www.holyokestpatricksparade.com.

Girl Scouts gather for cookie ‘Own Your Magic’ kickoff

HOLYOKE – Three hundred plus Girl Scouts and their families will gather at the Mass Mutual Center on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 3:30 to 5:30pm to kick off “Own Your Magic”, which reflects the Girl Scout Cookie Program theme for the 2023/2024 season.

Stations that are planned by scouts will be set up throughout the Mass Mutual concourse as well as community partner-planned stations including: Miss America, Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts, Girls on the Run, Forest Park Zoo, meet and greet with the Thunderbirds team.

The activity stations reflect the cookie season theme and are designed to build business savvy skills to help girls run and manage their Girl Scout Cookie businesses online and in person. The cookie rally begins at 3:30 p.m. and then at 6 p.m. Girl Scouts and their families join Boomer and the Springfield Thunderbirds for an action-packed hockey game.

During Girl Scout Cookie season, each girl sets out to sell delicious cookies while also building entrepreneurial and business skills that are imperative for leadership and future success.

Girl Scout Cookie order taking begins Dec.13. Community booth sales begin Jan. 19 and continue through March 17.

DONOVAN’S CUTS RIBBON ON NEW LOCATION



Donovan’s Irish Pub Owners Justine and Frank Garaughty cut the ribbon commemorating their official grand re-opening. After many months of waiting, Donovan’s Irish Pub has officially reopened for business at 80 Jarvis Ave, Holyoke. The Garaughtys were beyond thrilled to finally reopen for the public. They held a grand reopening ceremony on Friday, Dec. 1, which was well-attended by many members of the community. Mayor Joshua Garcia as well as several members of the Holyoke City Council came by to take part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony and to offer their congratulations to the Garaughtys.

Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

Community dinner on Dec. 9

HOLYOKE – OneHolyoke CDC will host its 8th annual Holyoke Community Dinner Celebration, this year on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Kelly School, 216 West St. All Holyoke residents are invited to celebrate the season with a winter wonderland-themed free dinner that will also feature live performances and fun activities. The organization plans to serve 500 meals to community residents.

OneHolyoke has been hosting its free Community Dinner for the past seven years that brings together hundreds of Holyoke residents. Residents also have the option to take meals to go. The evening will feature live performances and fun activities, including arts and crafts and a holiday tree contest with trees sponsored by local businesses and organizations. Sponsored trees are decorated by grades or teams at Kelly School, including staff and students in grades Pre-K through 5th grade, custodial staff, office staff, and more, totaling 15 trees. Those in attendance will be given a ticket to vote for their favorite tree, and the winning tree grade or team will get a pizza party.

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Deadline for photos and forms is Friday, December 8, 2023

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We're planning to claim at 62; what do we need to know?



Dear Rusty

My wife (born May 1962) and I (born April 1963) are retired and will soon be looking to start collecting our Social Security as we each hit 62. As this is new to us, I'm wondering what things we may need to be aware of or consider as we get closer to her 62 birthday in May. Any advice or information will be appreciated.

Signed Planning Ahead

Dear Planning

If you and your wife are both retired from working and have decided to start your (reduced) Social Security as soon as you are eligible at age 62, then there is nothing you need to do in advance of applying. The Social Security retirement benefit amount for each of you will be determined by your individual lifetime earnings record and your age when you claim. If either of you will be eligible for a spousal boost from the other, that will be automatically applied when both of you are collecting.

If your wife plans to claim her Social Security as soon as she is eligible, she should apply for her benefits about three months in advance and choose the option on the application which states "I want benefits beginning with the earliest possible month and will accept an age-related reduction."

For information, an applicant must be 62 for an entire month to get benefits, so your wife's first month of eligibility will be June 2024. Social Security deals only in whole months and pays benefits in the month following the month earned; so if your wife's birthday is between the 11th and 20th of the month her first Social Security payment will be received in her bank account on the third Wednesday of July. All subsequent payments will be on that same schedule.

Then, when it's time for you to claim, you should follow the same process as your wife and, if either of you is entitled to a higher amount as a spouse, it will be automatically applied when your benefits later start.

Applying for benefits is a relatively simple process if done online at www.ssa.gov/apply. Note that to apply online your wife will need to first create her personal "my Social Security" account, which is easy to do at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

To prepare for applying later, you can also create your personal online account now (it's required to apply online), at which you will see what your estimated benefit will be at different ages. Of course, your wife first (and later you) can also call Social Security at 1-800-7721213 to request an appointment to apply for SS retirement benefits in person. Applications which are not done online are usually taken over the phone vs. requiring a visit to your local Social Security office, but applying online is, by far, the most efficient method; you can link to the application process from your online account.

One important thing to be aware of: By

claiming at age 62, the monthly payment for each of you will be 70% of what it would be at your Full Retirement Age and that is a permanent reduction.

If you expect at least average longevity about 84 for you and 87 for your wife and if it is financially feasible, then waiting longer to claim would yield a higher monthly amount as well as the most in cumulative lifetime benefits. For those with an FRA of 67, SS retirement benefits claimed at FRA are 30% higher than at 62 and, if claimed at 70 are 75% more than at 62. And, although the decision on when to claim is always personal, a married couple should also evaluate their joint needs when deciding.

One final word of caution: although you and your wife are now retired from working, be aware that if you claim SS benefits before your FRA and return to work, Social Security has an earnings test which limits how much you can earn before some benefits are taken away. The earnings test lasts until you reach your full retirement age.

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Seventy-five years and going strong



I was opening the curtains in my bedroom this morning to find that my Babci's Christmas cactus had burst into bloom!

How exciting for an indoor plant to live for seven plus decades, never mind that the last two have been under my care. It's no secret that I am not an indoor plant aficionado, but I do have my favorites, and this is one of them.

Read on to learn about this beloved plant, straight from the archives.

One horticulture related Christmas mem-

ories involves my mother's Christmas cactus. I remember the arching, woody stemmed plant on an iron stand in her bedroom; before that it lived in my Babci's house.

Every year, just in time for the holiday, it would flower, putting on quite a show, beautiful and exotic in hot fuchsia-pink.

Today, only five original branches remain. But if you look closely within the base of the plant, you'll see lots of new growth.

Perhaps if I follow the advice, I have outlined below this heirloom will be blooming in the home of my future grandchildren!

The Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera bridgesii*) is an epiphyte, native to South America where it happily grows hanging from trees in the jungle. Inside, it prefers a location with indirect light. Positioning it in front of a north or east facing window is best.

During the summer months many people prefer to move the plant outdoors. I have had good luck placing it under the shade of a tree;

too much sun will burn its leaves.

When night temperatures begin to dip into the forties it is time to bring the Christmas cactus indoors. Gradually acclimate the plant to its winter home by increasing the number of hours spent inside each day.

It is very important that the Christmas cactus be planted in a well-drained growing medium. For this reason, either coarse sand or perlite should be added to any homemade potting soil.

A recipe that combines equal parts of either of these along with garden loam and leaf mold or compost should work out just fine. Christmas cactus like to be somewhat pot bound, but if the plant has been growing in the same pot for several years its soil is likely exhausted of nutrients.

Repot by gently teasing away some of the soil from the plant's roots. Replace it with the new soil mixture. Choose a pot that is a single size bigger than the existing root ball, or reuse the old pot.

Many people hear "cactus" and think that the plant is drought tolerant. With the Christmas cactus this is only partly true.

Although its leaves are succulent and can retain a fair amount of water, it is not a true cactus. As a general rule you should water Christmas cactus when the potting soil is dry to the touch.

Adequate moisture is especially necessary during the spring when it begins its growth and once buds are set. A diluted amount of liquid fertilizer can be added then as well, especially if the soil hasn't been refreshed in many years.

When the plant is done flowering, it will go into a period of rest; almost no water is necessary for nearly two months. Just prior to bud set it will rest again but this time the soil shouldn't dry out completely.

Two environmental factors are responsible for coaxing a plant into bloom. The first is temperature and the second is light.

If temperatures at night range between 55 and 60 degrees for a six week period, the plant will set buds regardless of day length. If temperatures run higher than that, thirteen hours of uninterrupted darkness will bring

See GARDEN, page 5



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A Quote

OF NOTE

"Isn't nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?"

L.M. Montgomery

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.

in my BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer

I received an email last month from a Brimfield resident who reported an acquaintance from Hardwick had a fox sparrow and pine siskin in his yard recently.



Fox sparrow

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow, seven inches. It has rufous streaking on a gray head and back, whitish underparts and boldly streaked with brown or rufous. It has an irregular central dot on its breast and a reddish brown rump and tail.

These sparrows feed on the ground with seeds, fruits and insects making up its diet. They often jump forward and back to remove debris from the ground to uncover food. They come to feeders eating the seeds scattered on the ground by other birds.

The female lays four to six light blue, green eggs with darker marks in a cupcake nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with grasses, fur and rootlets. It is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub. Their song is a series of clear melodious whistles and is more melodic than most sparrows.

Loon life span

In the Loon Preservation Committee newsletter, they discussed the loon life span.

"How long do loons live?" is one of the most common questions that LPC biologists are asked.

The two oldest known loons in the world breed in Michigan, at the Seney Wildlife Refuge. They used to be a pair, however, in recent years they have gone their separate ways. The male's exact age is known because he was banded the year that he hatched. The

female's exact age is unknown because she was banded as an adult, however, we know her minimum age. This summer, the female was at least 37 years old, while the male turned 36 years old.

New Hampshire has a male loon who was banded as an adult in 2000, making him at least 26 years old. In addition to his advanced age, he has another claim to fame: he is the only loon, so far, in New Hampshire that has produced chicks after surviving lead poisoning.

The oldest known loon in New Hampshire is a female, who occupies a territory on Lake Umbagog. She was originally banded as an adult in 1993. Because she was banded as an adult, we don't know her exact age. We only know for sure that she was at least three years old in 1993. However, loons don't hatch chicks, on average, until they are 6 years old, and this loon hatched chicks the year she was banded. That means she was likely 6 years old or older in 1993. She is at minimum 33 years old, but more likely 36 or older.

Decrease in bird activity

I received an email from a man who said this year he has a very noticeable decrease in bird population.

He reports he has a male and female bobcat and squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks have disappeared. He said "maybe that's part of it."



Golden-crowned kinglets

Bird club

A Brimfield resident emailed, "On Nov. 30 I took part in a project for the bird club and afterwards we went to Forest Park in Springfield and saw a black duck, a chilly looking great blue heron, a hermit thrush and several golden-crowned kinglets.

He said he started to leave one feeder out overnight testing to see if there are still bears about. Here's hoping they have all gone into hibernation.

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

about buds.

Simply put the plant to bed each night from 6 p.m.-8a.m. until buds form. My luck has been temperature related; because I leave the plants outside until early fall its temperature requirements are met and I am delighted with blooms come Christmas time.

If your plant sets buds and then drops them prior to full bloom it is likely

due to overwatering or exposure. For this reason, keep it away from drafty windows, doorways or radiators.

If you don't already own Christmas cactus, consider purchasing one this holiday. Better yet, start a plant.

Simply get a leaf - no longer than two or three segments, from a friend. They are easy to root in regular potting soil.

Two or three of these per four inch pot is perfect. By year two you should

be delighted with some beautiful flowers and maybe the start of your own family tradition.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31

years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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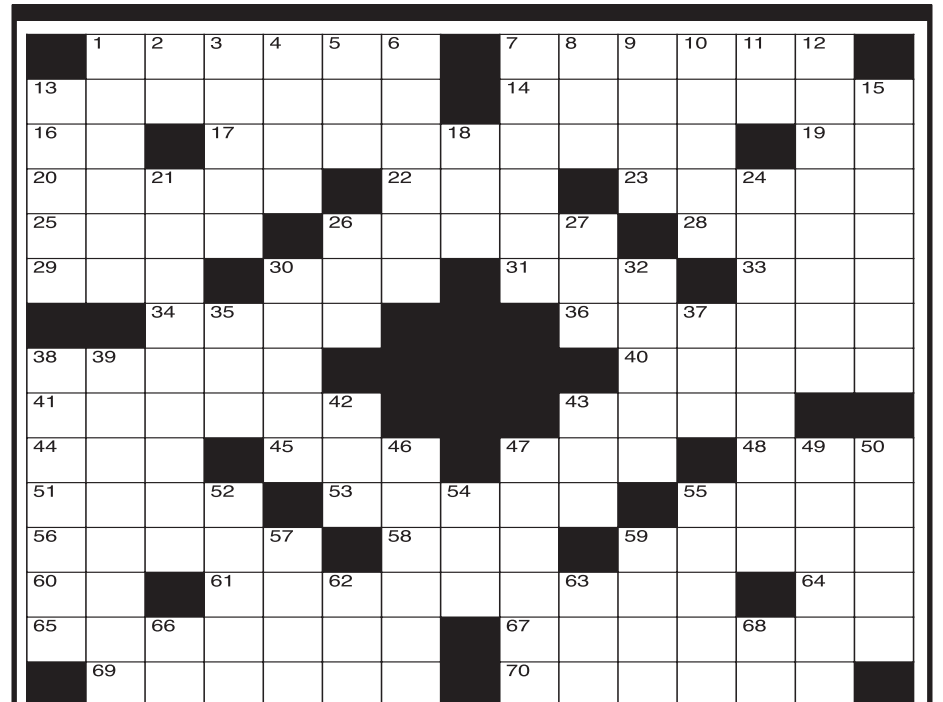
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- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. Salt
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. It begins with them
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Governmentt lawyer
- 20. Back parts
- 22. 8th month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- 25. ___ ex machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Quebec river
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular pickup truck
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic

- 44. A "place" to avoid
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Canadian politician Josephine
- 48. French ballet/ acting dynasty
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom
- 55. Sound
- 56. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. More wise
- 60. Flash memory card
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Craft supply
- 4. Storage units
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. Colorado Heisman winner
- 7. In a way, sank
- 8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. The opposite of yes
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Showing since conviction
- 18. Not safe
- 21. The number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Yard invader
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start anew
- 32. While white or

- yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Graphical user interface
- 38. Up-to-date on the news
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch softly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Phony person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. Man
- 68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page ????????

St. Jerome Parish reproduce historic Holyoke window

HOLYOKE – To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Holyoke, St. Jerome Parish is offering a limited-edition reproduction of a unique stained-glass window located behind the altar at the Immaculate Conception Chapel, 54 North Summer St. The artwork was commissioned in 1955 for the Golden Jubilee of the then Immaculate Conception Parish, presently merged with St. Jerome's Parish in 2021.

Within the seven sections of the window are an artist's representation of Holyoke. Many iconic elements of the City's history and heritage are embedded into the art. The lower right corner is marked "Rev ABB 1955" recognizing pastor, Rev. Arthur A. Brodeur, the LaSalette priest who commissioned the work to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Immaculate Conception Parish. Details within the window are available on the St. Jerome Parish Website, <http://stjeromeholyokey.org/icstainedglass/>.

Proceeds will be donated to Saint Jerome's Parish and its many ministries.

The reproduction of the stained-glass window is a custom holographic origination by Holyoke's Hazen Paper.



An image of the postcard and poster artwork, a reproduction by Hazen Paper of the stained-glass window at the Immaculate Conception Chapel. *Submitted Photo*

Famous for employing a similar process for the NFL's Super Bowl Programs, Hazen Paper partnered with St Jerome's

Parish members to produce the artwork and enable the community to contribute something unique to the celebration of

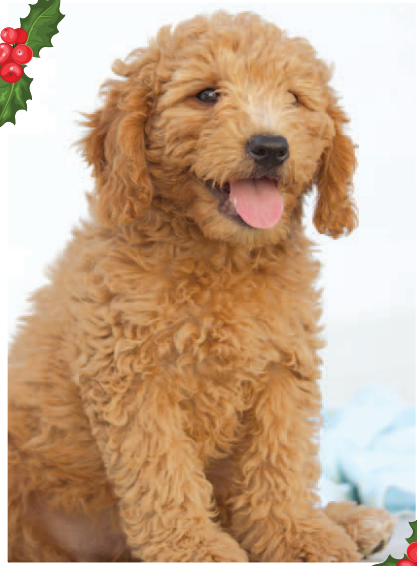
Holyoke's 150th year. The recreation of the 14' tall by 21' wide window is printed on posters and Christmas Cards now available for purchase at the ARTery, 289 High St. and at Holyoke Sporting Goods, 1584 Dwight St. The products will also be offered at Holiday pop-up shops and parish Masses while available.

Polish food for food sale

HOLYOKE – On Saturday Dec. 9 and Dec. 16, Our Lady of the Cross Parish in Holyoke will be selling frozen pierogi, golumbki and kapusta. The food sale will take place in the vestibule of the church from 2 to 4 p.m. Cabbage, apple and potato/cheese pierogi will be on sale for \$10.00 a dozen. Quarts of kapusta will be available for \$5.00 and golumbki will be sold for \$3.50 each. Please call the parish office at 413-532-5661 for more information.

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Scholarship applications being accepted

HOLYOKE – The Polish Junior League of Massachusetts welcomes area college students of Polish heritage to apply for one of the annual academic scholarships.

Students must have a permanent address in one of the four Western

Massachusetts counties: Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin or Berkshire.

Application forms with related information are available at www.polishjuniorleaguema.org/applications.

The deadline for all applications and related materials is May 1, 2024.

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Aden Cabrera flies for a layup.



Cameron Tejeda tries to overcome a defender and shoot.



Devin Velez shoots ahead of pressure.



Shawn Rivera practices his free throws.
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

PVSOA presents year-end awards

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association (PVSOA), which was formed in 1946, held its annual banquet at the Polish American Citizens Club in Ludlow on Dec. 1.

One of the highlights of the evening was the buffet catered by Tony & Penny's Restaurant.

There was also an awards ceremony.

Ludlow junior Thomas Wadas is the 2023 George E. Russell Award (Boys Large

School MCP award) winner.

"Thomas falls in line with all our former Ludlow players who have won the George Russell Award," said longtime Ludlow boys soccer coach Greg Kolodziej, who won his 200th career game this fall. "He's a very talented player who has worked extremely hard to get what he has achieved."

Wadas is the 24th Ludlow boys' soccer player to receive the Russell award, which is named in memory of the former Ludlow High School principal,

See AWARDS, page 9



Holyoke boys basketball practices on Tuesday afternoon.

Knights look for state tourney berth

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School boys basketball team has been working out all week as it prepares for the regular season.

The Knights are hoping to make it back to the state tournament this season with a fairly new lineup.

The Knights have a special matchup to open the season, taking on Central Mass.' Tantasqua Regional on the road at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8.

Holyoke girls look for deeper playoff run

HOLYOKE – Last year, Holyoke girls basketball made into the state tournament.

This year, they are hoping to go deep into the tournament and are getting set to open the regular season at the end of this week.

Holyoke will be hosting Tantasqua Regional at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8 for their season opener.



Jaylyana Lozado keeps her dribble away from her opponent.



Kiara Perez gets ready to shoot.
Turley photos by David Henry



Nayshalee Torres eyes the hoop as she enters the paint.



Xenedy Jacobs shoots on the run.

Holyoke 2023-2024 winter varsity schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 8	Away	Tantasqua	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 11	Home	Amherst	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15	Home	Construction Trades	7:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18	Away	Pope Francis	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 20	Home	SICS	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Away	Chicopee	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 29	Home	Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Home	Putnam	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8	Away	Central	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 11	Home	Sci-Tech	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Away	Northampton	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Away	Putnam	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Home	Central	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 30	Away	Sci-Tech	7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 2	Home	Northampton	7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 8	Home	West Springfield	7 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 11	Home	Marblehead	1 p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Friday, Dec. 8	Home	Tantasqua	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 12	Away	Chicopee	7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15	Home	Minnechaug	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Home	Pittsfield	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Away	Granby, Conn.	7 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28	Home	Amherst	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 9	Home	West Springfield	7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Home	Northampton	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Central	7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 18	Away	Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Away	SICS	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 25	Away	West Springfield	7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 29	Away	Northampton	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 1	Away	Central	7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 5	Home	Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 11	Home	Marblehead	11 a.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 13	Home	SICS	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 14	Away	Southwick	7 p.m.

SWIMMING

(co-op with South Hadley)

Friday, Dec. 15	Away	Turners Falls	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Away	Minnechaug	4 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 21	Home	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 2	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 5	Home	Monson	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 12	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 16	Home	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23	Home	Turners Falls	4 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 26	Away	Renaissance	4 p.m.

WRESTLING

Saturday, Dec. 9	Away	Granby	9 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16	Home	Knight-Hawk	9 a.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 19	Away	Westfield	6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 22	Away	West Springfield	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 27	Home	Longmeadow	6 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 28	Away	Phil Tomkiel Tournament	9 a.m.
Saturday, Dec. 30	Away	Bristol-Plymouth	9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 3	Away	East Longmeadow	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6	Away	Tewksbury	10 a.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 10	Home	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 17	Home	Agawam	7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 27	Away	Rocky Hill	9 a.m.

T-Birds grab OT win over Penguins

WILKES-BARRE, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (11-8-2-0) got the last laugh in a wild, back-and-forth game, 4-3, over the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (10-8-3-0) in overtime on Saturday night inside Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza.

As was the case in each of the first two games in the season series, the first period came and went with goaltenders remaining perfect. On this night, Vadim Zherenko and Joel Blomqvist turned in all the stops, with Zherenko the busier of the two with nine first-period stops, while Blomqvist stopped six. Zherenko had the two best saves of the frame in two minutes, denying both Sam Houde and Jagger Joshua with the leg pad on in-tight scoring chances.

Each team also had two power plays in the first period, but the man-advantage units could not generate much offense, and the 0-0 deadlock remained into the intermission.

After quiet opening periods, the power plays came to life in the second, and it took the Penguins just 1:14 to get on the board first. Sam Houde got his stick on a loose puck in the slot and bounced a fluttering shot toward Zherenko's cage, getting a helpful tip from Peter Abbandonato for the game's opening goal, which doubled as Abbandonato's first as a Penguin.

Despite the deficit, the T-Birds rallied on a chance of their own after two penalties in a 1:16 span were called against Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. With the 5-on-3 advantage, rookie Zach Bolduc took advantage, rifling home a one-time slapper through Blomqvist, tying the game at 7:49. Calle Rosen and Hugh McGing earned the helpers on Bolduc's fourth goal of the season.

After the equalizer, both teams had more power play chances to take leads, but the penalty killing strengthened, along with continued good work from Zherenko and Blomqvist.

The game took on a truly chaotic feel in the third period. After the T-Birds failed to convert on two separate power play chances, it was the fourth line that got Springfield its first lead. Mathias Laferrriere deked around a fallen defender and took a shot from the left circle that plopped down behind Blomqvist. Drew Callin was in the right place to tap it across the line for his third of the season, giving the T-Birds the

2-1 lead at 4:31.

Unfortunately for the T-Birds, it was just the beginning of a see-saw 20-minute period, as the Penguins equalized during a delayed penalty just 1:05 later, as Valtteri Puustinen rammed home a loose puck after Zherenko and the defense made two sprawling saves earlier in the sequence.

With the game back even, 2-2, the T-Birds faced their toughest challenge of the night when Hunter Skinner was ejected and given a match penalty for a hit to the head of Penguins' forward Sam Houde. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton had three minutes of uninterrupted power play time, but could not solve the PK nor Zherenko.

After surviving the major, the T-Birds then got their power play chances as the Penguins took a too-many-men minor, as well as a tripping call to Jack St. Ivany. With time waning on the club's 8th power play of the evening, the T-Birds finally broke through as Matthew Peca snapped a wrist shot through Blomqvist at 16:38 to make it a 3-2 game.

Once again, though, the Penguins had a rebuttal, as Abbandonato scooted into the slot, took a pass from Will Butcher, and slipped it through Zherenko's legs to tie the game, 3-3, with just 1:39 to go in regulation, setting the stage for the second overtime in as many nights between the division foes.

Overtime was a riveting, back-and-forth affair with both goaltenders answering the bell on multiple occasions. Adam Gaudette had a breakthrough with the game on his stick, only to see Blomqvist turn him away, while Ty Smith had perhaps the Penguins' best chance with the T-Birds' defense out of sorts, but Zherenko had the denial.

At last, with less than a half minute left separating the teams from a shootout, Laferrriere circled the offensive zone to the right side before slipping a puck near the crease. Matt Kessel had moved up on the play and put himself in the perfect position to get a piece of it and beat Blomqvist, giving Springfield the 4-3 overtime triumph. It was just Kessel's second goal of the season, and it gave the T-Birds their first home win since Oct. 29.

The T-Birds get some time to rest before a rare single-game weekend next Saturday as they welcome the Bridgeport Islanders to the MassMutual Center for the annual Teddy Bear Toss.



UMass hosting Pioneer Valley Tip-Off

AMHERST – The Pioneer Valley Tip-Off is a student-run high school basketball showcase featuring some of the best talent in Central and Western Massachusetts. The PVTO was started in 2011 by Scott Moses and Pat Salle, both students at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and it continues to be entirely student-run by the McCormack Student Leaders Club today. The PVTO is held each December

on the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, where we strive to create a professional environment for fans and players alike.

This year's event will be held on Dec. 9 and 10 and will feature teams from throughout the region. A schedule is online at www.pioneervalleytip-off.com. All games will be held at the Mullins Center on the UMass-Amherst campus.

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Worcester Railers fall in physical battle to Norfolk Admirals

WORCESTER – The Railers played a spirited game here Friday night but it had a dispiriting result, another loss on home ice.

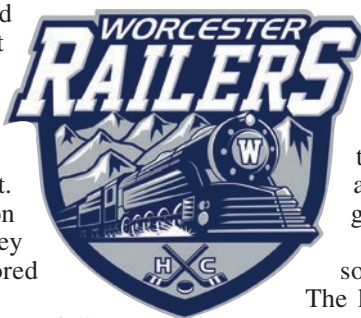
Worcester was beaten by the Norfolk Admirals, 5-2, with the last opposing goal coming into an empty net. The Railers had a 40-29 edge in shots on goal and had leads of 1-0 and 2-1 they could not protect as the Admirals scored four goals in the third period.

The difference was special teams. Norfolk converted three of nine power plays while Worcester was 0 for 6.

Referee Austin O'Rourke was unusually busy, calling 21 minor penalties. Some of them were double minors for roughing that, a few years ago, would have been fighting majors.

Nowadays, if a player has a pulse after engaging in a bout, the penalty is roughing, not fighting.

There was plenty of roughing. Seven of those penalties were called and Railers' rookies Artyom Kulakov and Riley Piercey were both involved in



some serious jousting.

To no avail, as it turned out.

Worcester got goals from Ashton Calder and Keegan Howdeshell. Norfolk was paced by Carson Golder's two goals. Simon Kubicek, Danny Katic and Mathieu Roy had the other Admirals goals.

Calder's goal was his 10th of the season. It came in Worcester's 19th game.

The last Railer to score 10 goals in the first 20 games of the season was Jordan Smotherman, who did it at the beginning of the 2021-22 campaign.

The Railers were constantly thwarted by Norfolk goaltender Thomas Milic, who had 38 saves. A lot of them were good ones. Worcester had reams of good chances that wound up with shots on net, but only two shots in net.

Calder put Worcester ahead at 11:44 of the first period by beating Milic with a quick wrist shot from between the circles. The Railers were still ahead, 1-0, with the game more than half over but the Admirals changed that with their first power play goal.

Kubicek got it at 15:06 of the second period. He drilled a low slap shot through traffic and past goalie Tristan Lennox for his third of the season.

Worcester responded well, though, and retook the lead before the period was over. Howdeshell got his second of the year at 17:38 via a snap shot from about 20 feet out. He was set up by a fine pass from the right wing by Joey Cipollone.

Norfolk regained the momentum early in the third period, however, with two goals just 52 seconds apart, both by Golder, both on the power play. The first one was a rebound at 3:54, the second a tap in from just outside the crease at 4:42.

The first power play came with Jake Pivonka in the penalty box for high sticking. The second happened when Worcester was called for two roughings, Norfolk one, on the same altercation.

Piercey was involved at the beginning then Connor Welsh wound up getting a minor as well.

The Railers had power play chances after that and eventually pulled Lennox but could not beat Milic. In those final 20 minutes, Worcester had 14 shots on net and no goals. Norfolk had eight shots and four goals.

LYMAN, from page 1

nities that attend Kelly School that lie between 0.71 and 0.99mi from the school that also do not receive busing. Garcia feels it would be inequitable to provide the Lyman Terrace area busing while not offering other, further communities the same privilege.

“There are 60 other students that live even further away from Kelly, that are between 0.71 and 0.99mi from the school,” Garcia wrote in his letter.

Therefore, Garcia did propose a potential option of adding two buses to transport all the students in the area. However, this would cost \$146,000 just for the full year.

Garcia also proposed solely adding a bus during the winter months, just for Lyman Terrace.

“Many families expressed the winter months being a challenge... this amount would be about \$57,500,” Garcia wrote.

Both Garcia and Receiver Anthony Soto mentioned that it would also be inequitable to offer the students in these areas busing while keeping it unavailable for other students.

“I am not interested in supporting

a practice outside of the policy just for one neighborhood,” Garcia wrote. “If we were to make a change, we would make it fair across the city.”

Soto specifically pointed out the students who live in Lawrence, who often have to walk by scenes of homelessness and violence on their way to school, even worse, according to Soto, than what is seen in Lyman Terrace.

“87% of our students walk to Lawrence and when you talk about homelessness and the things that some of our students have to see... there’s no school in Holyoke that has to see what Lawrence students have to see,” Soto said.

Therefore, Garcia looked into funding options for adding buses for all communities that have to walk between 0.7 and 0.99mi to school. This would be a total of six additional buses for the district.

The committee came to no decision on the matter at the meeting, as the order was to address the topic.

Chair of the Committee Erin Brunelle did mention that the city council has the ability to provide funding for this issue and suggested they discuss the topic at an upcoming meeting.

TRANS, from page 1

be able to get to know other members of the community through this event.

“I think just being able to be in a space where folks were sitting around tables and getting to share some food and have conversation and ask questions and be people together,” Shultis said.

Individuals were also able to engage in activities such as arts and crafts and a letter writing table for people to write to other trans individuals. Additionally, there were resource tables from House of Colors and other local organizations.

“The team wanted to make sure there were different ways for people to

engage and be present that evening,” Shultis said. “So being able to create art is one way to do that, and also to give back.”

Event attendees were also invited to sign up for an open mic after the 49 names had been read. Attendees were welcome to share something that they had written, their experiences as a trans or gender expansive person or an ally, or a call to action.

“My favorite part was hearing people’s stories,” Shultis said. “A lot of young people shared poetry and stories and calls to action, and I think that always is the most powerful for me to witness. It’s good to remember that there are so many different perspectives, resources, support and similar experiences that folks have.”

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

AWARDS, from page 7

since 1965. The first Ludlow boys’ soccer player to win the prestigious award was Bob Duarte.

Wadas, who’s a three-year varsity starter, didn’t attend this year’s PVSOA banquet because the Ludlow High School soccer banquet was held on the same night.

In his first three seasons as a member of the varsity soccer team, Wadas, who’s a midfielder, scored 15 goals and 15 assists. He also helped the Lions (18-2-2) capture the Western Mass. Class A title for the third consecutive year. The Lions also competed in the Division 1 state tournament.

Pathfinder Tech senior Riley Sanderson received the Henry O. Holly/Dave Grieve (Boys Small School MVP award).

“I received an email from my soccer coach (David Wilson) telling me that I had been selected for the MVP award for small schools,” said Sanderson, who led his team with 11 assists this past fall. “We weren’t able to win any banners this year, but this is a nice way to cap off my high school soccer career.”

Sanderson, who missed his junior season due to an injury, also scored 11 goals as a senior.

“Riley has an outstanding right foot, and he could’ve taken a lot more shots on goal for us, but he would always pass the ball to one of his teammates,” Wilson said. “He always plays the game very hard and I’m very proud of him.”

Junior Evan Costa led the Pioneers with 34 goals.

The Pioneers, who qualified for the vocational, Western Mass. Class C. and Division 5 state tournaments, finished the 2023 campaign with a 15-5 overall record.

The only other boys’ soccer player from Pathfinder Tech to receive the MVP award was Josh Sikorski in 2010.

Minnechaug senior Kylie Ray received the John Kalloch Award (Girls Large School MVP award).

“This is a very special award, especially from the referee’s association,” said Ray, who’ll be playing college soccer at Seton Hall University next year. “I was teammates with Reighan Demers, who received this award last year. It’s nice to join her and the other previous MVP award winners from Minnechaug.”

Ray is the seventh Minnechaug girls’ soccer player coached by Nundi Goncalves to be selected for the MVP award since 2005.

“I’ve been fortunate to coach many talented soccer players at Minnechaug,” Goncalves said. “Kylie is one of them.”

The Lady Falcons, who qualified for the Western Mass. and state tournaments, finished their season with a 13-5-2 overall record.

Pope Francis senior Isabella Meadows, who didn’t attend the banquet, received the Robert C. Smith/ Stan Berntowicz Award (Girls Small School MVP award).

Minnechaug Regional also received the Bob McIntyre Sportsmanship Award (Girls Large School).

Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees chair steps down

HOLYOKE – Robert Gilbert Jr. has banged his last gavel as chair of the Holyoke Community College Board of Trustees.

After serving as a trustee for 12 years, including the last eight as chair, the West Springfield resident and retired chairman of Dowd Insurance Agencies of Holyoke, retired after presiding over his last board meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

“This is a bittersweet moment for me,” Gilbert said. “Serving on this board has been an incredible journey, one filled with challenges, triumphs, and, above all, a shared commitment to the betterment of this institution. I’m filled with gratitude for the privilege of working alongside such dedicated individuals, the collective passion for education and unwavering commitment to the success of our students, which has been the driving force behind every decision we’ve made.”

Gilbert was first appointed to the board in April 2011 by Gov. Deval Patrick, serving in various capacities, including chair of the Audit Committee and member of the Finance Committee. In October 2015, Gov. Charlie Baker named him as board chair, succeeding Helen Caulton-Harris, commissioner of the Springfield department of Health and Human Services.

In his eight years as chair, Gilbert served alongside three HCC presidents: William Messner, who retired in 2016, Christina Royal, who retired in July, and George Timmons, HCC’s fifth and current president.

“The relationship between the chair and the president is vital to the success of any institution,” Timmons said, “and so I have considered myself fortunate to have spent so many of my hours with you, Bob. HCC is an exceptional place because of your leadership and commitment to the college. I want to thank you personally for your support of me in this transition, your wisdom and, most importantly, your passion for Holyoke Community College.”

Making a surprise appearance



Retired President Christina Royal, left, and current President George Timmons, right, bid farewell to Robert Gilbert after his last meeting as an HCC trustee. Submitted Photo

at Gilbert’s last meeting was former President Royal, who praised him for his stewardship of the college.

“I don’t think, in my entire time knowing you, that you have not had your HCC pin on,” she said. “You have been such an advocate. I think everybody knows you as someone who has dedicated your whole career to supporting and lifting up this community. I am deeply grateful for your leadership and presence in the board chair role, and, beyond this, I look forward to just calling you ‘friend.’”

As a token of gratitude, Timmons presented the retiring board chair with a real chair emblazoned with the Holyoke Community College seal.

“While my time as trustee may be coming to an end,” Gilbert said, “my commitment to the mission and vision of the college remains unwavering. I am confident the Board of Trustees, in collaboration with the outstanding leadership of our very capable president, George Timmons, will continue to guide the institution to new heights.”

Until Gov. Maura Healey names a successor, HCC trustee Vanessa Smith will serve as interim chair.

The Board of Trustee next meets in January 2024.

Sports

doing it all over again next year.”

The Lady Panthers (12-8-1) defeated Granby, 3-1, in the Western Mass. Class D finals.

The Pathfinder boys’ squad, which co-ops with Palmer, received the Carl Erickson Sportsmanship Award (Boys Small School).

The Bruno Rumpal Sportsmanship Award (Boys Large School) was given to Westfield High School.

The MISOA PVSOA inductee is Alex Goncalves, who’s from Ludlow.

The Paul Bogan Service Award was given to Peter Manolakis, who’s from Wilbraham.

The Jimmie Downie Award recipient is Tomasz Ludkiewicz, who lives in Granby.

The Larry E. Briggs Award winner is John Voight, who currently lives in East Longmeadow, but grew up in Hampden. He graduated from Minnechaug Regional.

Former Ludlow girls’ varsity soccer coach Jose Anselmo, along with Chris and Diane Kolodziej, who do an outstanding job of running the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, received Letters of Commendations.

The association is always looking for new referees.

The Lady Falcons have only received two yellow cards during the past two seasons.

“It always feels good when your teams gets recognized for doing something well,” said Minnechaug sophomore Ava Kearney. “Coach Goncalves never wants us to get a yellow card during the game.”

Palmer High School received the John Kurty/Benny Santos Sportsmanship Award (Girls Small School)

“It feels very nice to receive the sportsmanship award from the referees,” said Palmer senior Grace Burke. “We’re always very respectful to the referees and to our opponents.”

Burke attended the banquet with teammates Nyela Dupre, Vaness Baer, and Jordan Bigda, who are also members of the senior class.

It was the first time that the Palmer girls’ soccer team has received the sportsmanship award.

“I was very surprised when I was informed that my soccer team has been selected for the sportsmanship award,” said Palmer head coach Celso Sandoval. “We only had a couple of yellow cards this season and I’m very happy that the soccer officials recognized us. We had a great season and I’m looking forward to

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. RE-MODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

HOME REPAIR & REMODELING for all your interior & exterior needs. Carpentry, woodworking, porches, patios, windows, doors, painting, drywall, siding, landscaping, clean-outs. Competitive pricing. References. Please call Brendan (413)687-5552

LANDSCAPING

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789 (413)538-7954.

SERVICES

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PAINTING

FORBES & SONS PAINTING & STAINING Interior, residential, commercial and new construction, wallpaper removal, sheetrock and plaster repairs. Quality products. Since 1985. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Brad Forbes at 413-887-1987.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

SERVICES

SNOWPLOWING

RESIDENTIAL Snowplowing Service. Wilbraham residential only Call or Text now. Limited space available. 413-519-5439

TREE WORK

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

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SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

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DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON

SERVICES



SAW STUMP GRINDING
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
413-213-5470

HELP WANTED

ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN/ FIELD INSPECTOR EMERGENCY DISPATCHERS

The Town of Wilbraham is now hiring! For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. EOE. Open until filled.

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS
CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



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.

LUDLOW: \$925, quiet 1 bedroom, 2nd floor, open kitchen/living room. Parking, on-site laundry. Utilities not included. No smoking, no pets. 413-543-3062.

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.

Post your job openings in our classifieds. WE GET RESULTS!

\$12.50 Each Digital Photos
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.50
23	Base Price \$28.50	24	Base Price \$29.50
25	Base Price \$30.50	26	Base Price \$31.50
27	Base Price \$32.50	28	Base Price \$33.50
29	Base Price \$34.50	30	Base Price \$35.50
31	Base Price \$36.50	32	Base Price \$37.50
33	Base Price \$38.50	34	Base Price \$39.50
35	Base Price \$40.50	36	Base Price \$41.50
37	Base Price \$42.50	38	Base Price \$43.50
39	Base Price \$44.50	40	Base Price \$45.50

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – FRIDAY AT NOON
HILLTOWNS – MONDAY AT NOON

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

Buy the Quabbin Village Hills or the Suburban Residential ZONE for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word. Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in ALL THREE ZONES.

First ZONE base price _____ Includes additional words
Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**
Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**
Subtotal _____
x Number of Weeks _____
TOTAL Enclosed _____

Run my ad in the following ZONE(S):
 Quabbin
 Suburban
 Hilltowns

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

**City of Holyoke
Notice of Public Hearing**

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m.** to hear a special permit application of James Kay per 7.2.1 to operate a gasoline station and convenience store at 820 High Street (009-02-009) Meeting will take place at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 863 3911 0441 Meeting Passcode 232763 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For an electronic copy of this application or to provide comments for the public hearing, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair
Tessa Murphy-Romboletti
12/01, 12/08/2023

**City of Holyoke
PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE**

The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Friday, December 15, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID 878 9564 1765; Call In *67 646 558 8656 to appeal the classification determination letter dated September 21, 2023 from Section 2.0 Definitions and Section 7.2.2 Bulk Fuel, oil, gas, coal storage or distribution operation, submitted by Bear Properties, LLC for the property located at 115 Whiting Farms Road (115-00-002).

A complete copy of the application may be seen in the Office of Planning & Economic Development, 20 Korean Veterans Plaza, Rm 401, 8:30-4:30, M-F.

Petition #970
Board of Appeals:
Josh Knox, Chair
12/01, 12/08/2023

**LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
2024 ELECTRIC
DISTRIBUTION
TRANSFORMERS**

Sealed bids for the above-named contract will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:00 p.m. January 9, 2024**, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time proposals will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:
Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
cwong@hged.com
(413) 536-9308

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

Please mark sealed envelopes **"Bid for 2024 Electric Distribution Transformers"** and address them to:
James M. Lavelle, Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
12/08/2023

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Probate & Family Court
Dept. HD23E0057PP**

To *Richard F Kmon of Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, and to all other persons interested.*

A petition has been presented to said Court by Elizabeth M. Kmon, of Yarmouth Port, in the County of Barnstable, representing that they hold as joint tenants in an undivided part or share of land lying in Holyoke, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at a private sale or public auction for not less than Two Hundred Ninety Thousand (\$290,000.00) Dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney, should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the morning on the **twenty-second day of January 2024**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, BARBARA M. HYLAND, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 20th day of November 2023.

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register
12/01, 12/08, 12/15/2023

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
HAMPDEN, ss.
SUPERIOR COURT
DEPARTMENT OF
THE TRIAL COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO.
2279CV00631**

HEATHER LEMRISE
Plaintiff
v.

JILL G. DONOVAN,
PAMELA M. HUNTER,
PAULA M. McDONOUGH
and the heirs or legal representatives of
JOSEPH S. TENCZAR,
PAUL A.
McDONOUGH and
DONALD J. TENCZAR and
persons claiming under
Joseph S. Tenczar, Paul A.
McDonough and
Donald J. Tenczar who may
claim an interest in certain
land in Holyoke, Hampden
County, Massachusetts by
purchase, descent or otherwise

**Defendants
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO: the Defendants, the heirs or legal representatives of Joseph S. Tenczar, Paul A. McDonough and Donald J. Tenczar and persons claiming under Joseph S. Tenczar, Paul A. McDonough and Donald J. Tenczar who may claim an interest in 78 Belvidere Avenue, Holyoke, Hampden County, Massachusetts (the "Premises") by purchase, descent or otherwise.

HEATHER LEMRISE
claiming to have an interest in the Premises by virtue of that certain Warranty Deed dated June 30, 2022 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 24622, page 438 has filed with this Court a Complaint and First Amended Complaint to Quiet Title pursuant to M.G.L. C. 240, §§ 6 to 10 due to the fact that Defendants have an adverse claim clouding the Plaintiffs' record title to said Premises arising out of and related to that certain deed with warranty covenants dated October 28, 1999 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 10980, page 91, which deed had an improper granting clause, the Attorney in Fact did not execute it correctly and the notary acknowledgement of the signature of the Attorney in Fact was not made correctly.

If you object to the Plaintiffs' Complaint, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer or other responsive pleading with this court at 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103 on or before December 31, 2023 (the "Return Date"), or you may be forever barred from objecting to the Plaintiffs' claims.

Witness: (Callan, J.)
Justice of the Superior Court.
Attest: Laura S. Gentile,
Clerk, Hampden County
Superior Court.
12/08, 12/15, 12/22/2023

**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. HD23A0050AD
In the matter of:
Keiralyz Liabet Ortiz
Martinez
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6**

TO:
Daniel Ortiz
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:
**Kiara Maris Martinez
Melendez of Holyoke, MA
Jose Fernando Rebollar
Maldonado of Holyoke, MA**
requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Keiralyz Rebollar Martinez
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: ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 12/22/2023.

WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 14, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
11/24, 12/01, 12/08/2023

**City of Holyoke
Office of Purchasing
536 Dwight Street,
Room 3
Holyoke, MA 01040
Invitation to Bid 2024-35
Filed Sub bids
Peck Middle School
**PRE QUALIFIED SUB
BIDDERS ONLY**
DCAMM GENERAL
BUILDING
CONSTRUCTION**

The City of Holyoke is accepting bids in accordance with MGL CH.149 for pre-qualified trade contractors only for the GC & FSB prequalifications from 2024-16 for the New Peck Middle

School. Only Pre Qualified Bidders may submit bids. A Pre Bid Conference will be held at the Peck Middle School located at 1916 Northampton Street, Holyoke, MA 01040; Date and Time to be determined and will be issued via Addendum. This project is being managed by our OPM Anser Advisory all documents are available through biddocs.com Documents will be available on 11/30/2023. The bidding deadline is on 12/28/2023 at 4PM where results will be available on biddocs.com. Estimated cost for construction is \$61,200,000.00. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
12/01, 12/08, 12/15/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD17P1171EA
Estate of:
Omaira D Torres
Date of Death: 04/05/2017
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Helen J Cruz** of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, the allowance of a proposed distribution and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/28/2023.

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

WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 24, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/08/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and**

**Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23C0350CA
In the matter of:
Doris Vezina
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Doris Vezina of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Doris Latulippe
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/25/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 27, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/08/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23C0347CA**

**In the matter of:
Matthew Joseph O'Brien
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Matthew Joseph O'Brien of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Bleu St. Laurent
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/20/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, **Hon. Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 22, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/08/2023

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

The Holyoke Sun
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



Early Deadlines
for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29

Happy New Year!
All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5

Happy Holidays!



The parade of lights took up both sides of the street, allowing people to walk around and enjoy all the different decorations.



Hundreds of people gathered outside of City Hall for the annual tree lighting ceremony. *Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*



The city's tree shines brightly below the clock tower displaying Christmas colors.



Holyoke High School's Madrigal Choir captured the crowd's attention with their holiday music.



Mayor Joshua Garcia welcomed the gathered crowd to the tree lighting ceremony.



Bomba de Aqui performed a variety of music numbers for the gathered crowd.



The Salvation Army rang their holiday bell and passed out candy canes to the crowd.



The Grinch himself made an appearance at the annual tree lighting ceremony.



A fire truck decorated with a blow-up dog and Santa's sleigh was one of the first vehicles in the parade to arrive.

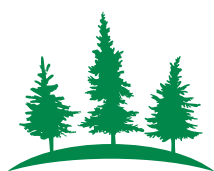


Enjoy a Warm Winter

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITHOUT WORRY

Leave your concerns out in the cold and spend time doing the things you enjoy. No more shoveling or managing heating costs. Day Brook Village Senior Living offers a continuum of care all on one campus. Whether you are looking for a vibrant social community or peace of mind as your health needs change, rest assured Day Brook Village offers it all in one place.

CALL 413-561-7958 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SCAN THE CODE TO THE RIGHT TO SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!



DAY BROOK VILLAGE
SENIOR LIVING
AN AFFILIATE OF
INTEGRITUS HEALTHCARE

298 Jarvis Avenue
Holyoke, MA 01040
www.daybrookvillage.org



INDEPENDENT LIVING • ASSISTANCE IN LIVING • SKILLED NURSING