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# HOLYOKE the Sun

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## Merry Market lights up holiday season

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Fame Lounge and Eatery held a holiday market, called the Merry Market.

The event went from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14 and anyone from the community was welcome to come in and do some shopping.

The market had 28 vendors selling a variety of items, including clothing, sculptures, bags, candles and more.

Lead Bartender at Fame and Event Organizer Alex Torres hoped that this would be a good way for people to connect during the holidays.

“We’re connecting people and I think it is pretty amazing,” Torres said. “People can get together and be in community. These are all people who have small businesses in the area, so it is really good to support them.”

Throughout the day there was live music and coffee served so people could relax as they walked around and looked at all the different vendor options.

Torres began planning out this market a few months ago. He sent out initial emails in September to try to invite back past vendors and then worked to find some new ones for this year too.



Steven McQuade, owner of Patchrabbitt, sold his various creations at the Merry Market.



Owner of Blossom by Zuly Zuly Torres enjoyed selling her goods.

*Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*



Owner of Riverview Sewing Studio Rhinnon Rhodes sold her handmade bags.



Kit Pedraza, owner of Kitopher Designs, enjoyed the Merry Market and got to sell some of his items.

“I try to mix and match different products, I try not to have a lot of the same,” Torres said.

As the day continued on people were also welcome to leave the market space and go to Fame in order to get some more food and beverages.

Many all joined together as the market came to an end to get some food at Fame, which has become a tradition of sorts.”

“It’s a good time,” Torres said.

Torres was grateful that Fame allowed him to organize and host this event. He was also grateful to the owner of the space for allowing him to use it for the market.

“Scott is the owner of the property and he allows me to have it and doesn’t charge me anything, which is amazing,”

Torres said.

This is the third time Fame has held this market. Torres was the one who came up with the idea for the original market.

“I wanted to do something for the winter time and I just figured why not invite local vendors to use up the space to sell their products,” Torres said.

Torres has enjoyed watching it grow each time the market

has run.

“Last year was really, really busy for the winter market,” Torres said.

He has apparently had many repeat vendors and customers over the years.

“The vendors love it, we have a lot of repeat vendors and some new ones too,” Torres

See MARKET, page 6

## School committee discusses new graduation requirements

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The school committee discussed how they may alter the graduation requirements for high school given that MCAS is no longer required.

Superintendent/Receiver Anthony Soto reassured the committee that they are not alone in looking into this topic. Many districts across the state are looking into their graduation requirements.

The Education Commissioner has released a basic question and answer key for districts to use, however many are waiting for further guidance.

“All the school districts in the state of Massachusetts are waiting to hear what this guidance is going to look like,” Soto said.

With this in mind, Soto still suggested that the committee begin considering how they may want to alter the district’s

*“All the school districts in the state of Massachusetts are waiting to hear what this guidance is going to look like.”*

**- Superintendent/Receiver Anthony Soto**

graduation requirements.

Currently, a high schooler needs 120 credits to graduate. They must also take four math courses, three English courses, three science courses and three social studies courses.

Soto feels that overall, the requirements for graduation suit the students well.

While the counselors in the school encourage students to go for the Massachusetts core requirements as well as the high school requirements, Soto feels the current requirements allow students the right amount of

flexibility in their schooling.

“One of our pathways at Holyoke High is performing and media arts, so those students they want extra art classes...they might not necessarily take a Spanish class for mass core, so I think that our graduation policy reflects student interest,” Soto said.

Soto’s one potential change to the requirements would be that the district increase the number of credits students need to graduate from 120.

His reasoning was that the district has now altered the high schools to a block schedule, which means that each student takes 8 courses a year.

As a result of this, they are reaching the 120 credit requirement faster than previous years.

“If we maintained 120 credits being the baseline my fear is that we would be discouraging the kids from senior year really keeping on going,” Soto said. “They could hit 120

See GRADUATION page 8

## Peck School name approved

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The school committee has decided, with community input, to officially have the new middle school be named William R. Peck School.

This decision comes after a lot of consultation with the community about potential names for the new middle school building.

“The name of the school felt really important...so we wanted to go through a process to involve community voice, student voice, teacher voice and family voice to see how they felt and what they thought the name of the new school should be,” Chief of Strategy and Turnaround Erin Linville said.

The school committee began discussing the naming process for the new middle school early this year. From there, they created a working group to discuss this process.

The working group was made of: School Committee Members Yadilette Rivera Colon, Mildred Lefebvre (School Committee), School Building Committee Member

Jackie Glasheen, City Councilor Kevin Jourdain, teachers Aaron DiPilla, Norm Pacheco and Sabrina Bolden, Holyoke schools staff member Sam Garcia, parents Everyln Pabon, and Jay Nelson, two students, and Linville.

This committee began to solicit community opinions on the new school name in August.

According to Linville, they sent out an initial survey to the community asking for different name proposals for the new school.

This survey had a surprising turnout, with over 200 people proposing name ideas.

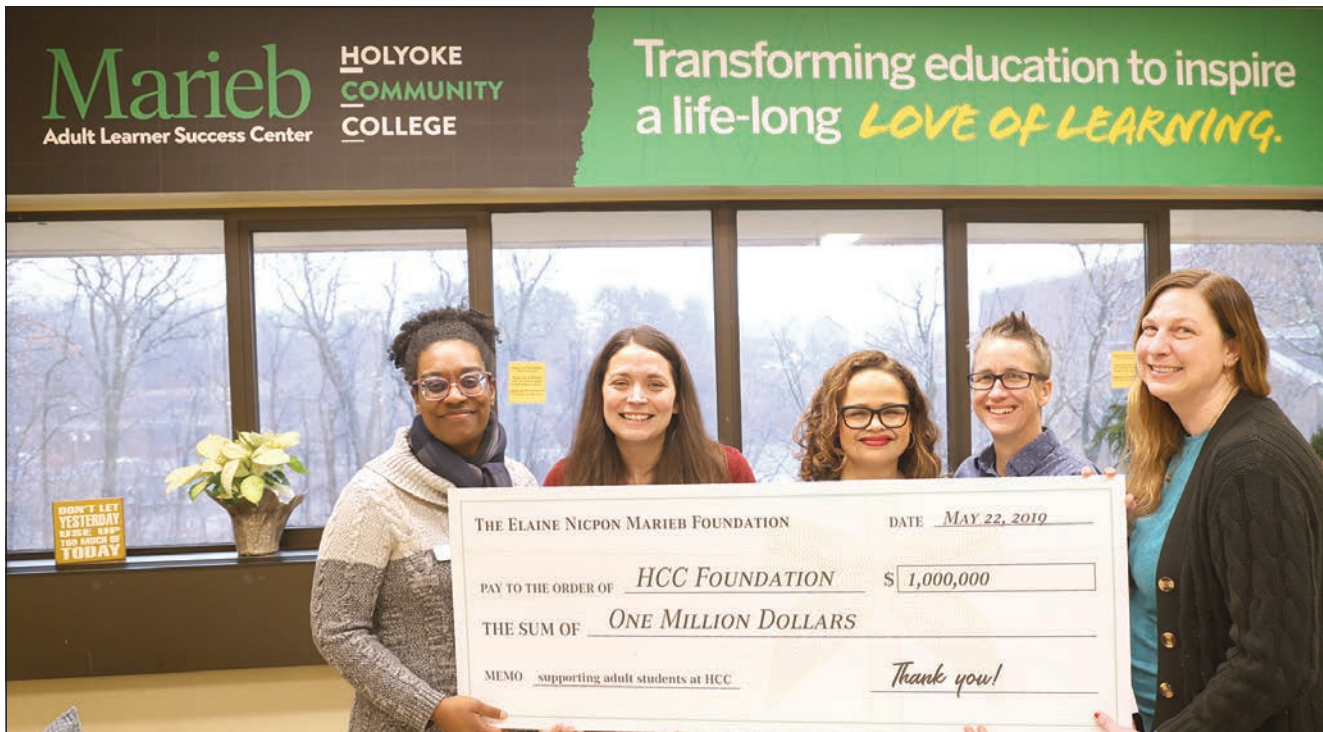
Following the results of that survey, Linville compiled the information to select the top four names.

These names were: William R. Peck School, Holyoke Middle, Felipe Pantoja and Carlos Vega.

With this information, the working group sent out another survey to the community with those names as options. That survey had over 1,800 responses.

See PECK, page 8

**NEW LEARNER SUCCESS CENTER OPENS**



Marieb Adult Learner Success Center staffers, from left, Momina Sims (career planning and placement coordinator); Amy Woody (program coordinator); Anne Morales Medina (associate director of recruitment and enrollment); Danielle Clough (academic counselor); and HCC alum Elizabeth Busker '21, in the Marieb Adult Learner Success Center, holding a ceremonial check from HCC benefactor Elaine Marieb.

*Submitted Photo*

**City Hall to host Hanukkah**

HOLYOKE – A Hanukkah observance organized by Congregation Sons of Zion in collaboration with Congregation Rodphey Sholom will be held at Holyoke City Hall, 536 Dwight St., on Thursday, Dec. 26, at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited.

This ninth annual celebration at City Hall will include the lighting of the Menorah, speakers, songs, and refreshments. There will be dreidels, gelt, and a reading corner for children.

For 2024, Hanukkah begins at sundown on Dec. 25 and lasts for eight nights. The holiday ends at sundown on January 2, 2025. The first day of Hanukkah takes place each year on the 25th of the month of Kislev in the Hebrew calendar, which corresponds to November-December in the Gregorian calendar. The Hebrew calendar is based on the lunar cycle, which means the dates of the holiday change yearly.

Information: office@sonsofzion-holyoke.org, 413-534-3369 or Holyoke Mayor's Office, 413-561-1600.

**City to hold Kwanzaa celebration**

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke will host an observance of Kwanzaa on Saturday, Dec. 28, at 10 a.m. at City Hall.

Kwanzaa, which is observed annually the last week of December, celebrates African heritage and Kwanzaa's seven principles: Umoja (Unity) To strive for unity in the family, community, nation, and race; Kujichagulia (Self-Determination) To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves; Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility) To build and maintain our community together and solve problems together; Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together; Nia (Purpose) To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community; Kuumba (Creativity) To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and ben-

eficial than when we inherited it; Imani (Faith) To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Holyoke's observance, a partnership with Kwanzaa Collective in the Valley with Ayanna Crawford and Theresa Cooper-Gordon of Holyoke, will include a candle-lighting ceremony, recognition of two community leaders, remarks by Professor H. Zahar Caldwell, an educator and cultural historian at Westfield State University who teaches in the fields of History, Black Studies, and Women's Studies, and the reading of a proclamation by Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia designating December 26 through January 1 Kwanzaa Week in Holyoke.

The Kwanzaa observance is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

For more information please call Holyoke Mayor's Office, 413-561-1600 or Theresa Cooper-Gordon, 413-218-6842.

**Decluttering program fundraiser offered**

HOLYOKE – NAMI-WM will be holding a Responsible Decluttering Program fundraiser at our office; 1221 Main Street, Suite 100, in the Catherine Horan Medical Building. Volunteers will be collecting housewares, gently used clothing, towels, small household appliances, books, sporting goods and much more. All clothing should be in

kitchen or 30 gal. size trash bags, durable goods should be in manageable size boxes. Anything wet or soiled, in non-working condition, and any baby safety items will not be accepted.

Call the office to arrange a time to drop off items or to have them picked up. Visit the website to find a list of items that will be accepted.

**New Asian store now open at mall**

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Mall is excited to welcome its newest store, the trendy Asian household goods retailer Ximi-V, to the center. Ximi-V will be celebrating with a grand opening party all day on Saturday, Dec. 21.

The celebration will kick off at mall opening with an in-store DJ spinning tunes for a fun atmosphere while shoppers explore their curated selection of must-haves. They will also be offering

an exclusive deal for the day: customers who make a \$50 purchase will receive a free mystery gift box. Ximi-V believes shopping should be fun, inspiring, and filled with joy.

They feature something for everyone, from home essentials to creative gifts, including beauty products, household goods, plush toys, jewelry, stationery supplies, and more, bringing style and charm to your every day life.

**Florence Bank hires Meghan Parnell as Vice President/Credit Manager**

FLORENCE – Florence Bank has hired Meghan Parnell of Holyoke to serve as vice president/credit manager in the Commercial Lending department.

She will lead her team in the analysis of existing and proposed commercial loans and commercial loan portfolio management and assist the senior management team with loan policy, budgeting, strategic planning and external support systems.

Skilled in commercial credit and lending, financial analysis, team leadership, process improvement and digital strategy, Parnell has served as a chief lending officer, senior financial product manager, business lending manager and commercial credit officer.

She holds an associate degree in mathematics from Holyoke Community College and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University



Meghan Parnell

of Massachusetts, Amherst.

In the community, Parnell has served Family Outreach of Amherst, the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce, Paulo Freire Social Justice Charter School and Holyoke Community College Foundation, as treasurer. She was named a BusinessWest 40 Under 40 in 2014.

"With her 24 years of experience in the industry and a broad range of skills and experience, we are confident that Meghan will work well with our commercial lending team in nurturing commercial relationships," said President and CEO Matt Garrity.

Florence Bank is a mutual savings bank chartered in 1873. Currently, the bank serves the Pioneer Valley through 12 full-service branch locations in Florence, Northampton, Easthampton, Williamsburg, Amherst, Hadley, Belchertown, Granby, Chicopee, West Springfield, and Springfield.

**Christmas services scheduled at UCCH**

HOLYOKE – The Christmas season is a beautiful time of the year to attend church. In fact, Christmas Eve is one of the biggest church-going holidays on the calendar. To commemorate the Christmas holiday, the United Congregational Church of Holyoke will be holding its two annual services.

The first service will be Poinsettia Sunday and Nine Lessons and Carols, which will be on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 10 a.m. Skinner Chapel will be decorated with poinsettias to enhance the Christmas spirit.

UCCH's annual Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. This is a very special service complete with candlelight and Christmas music to mark the holiday.

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 on Facebook or Instagram, or call the office at 413-532-1483 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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## Itsy Bitsy franchise continues to expand

HOLYOKE – The Itsy Bitsy franchise continues to expand at Holyoke Community College. For the second year in a row, students in Professor Sheryl Civjan’s Psychology of Women class have taken up the college’s “Itsy Bitsy” theme for a campus-based community service project. Last fall, Civjan’s students created the Itsy Bitsy Closet, transforming a storage room next to the college’s Itsy Bitsy Child Watch Center into a family-friendly resource room full of donated books, clothes, and other children’s items, all free to HCC student-parents.

This semester, they put together five Itsy Bitsy Stations, containers of children’s books, games, small toys, art supplies, and other items, that student-parents can access to occupy their kids when visiting certain campus offices, in particular: Financial Aid, Admissions, Advising, English as a Second Language, and the HCC Library.

“Some college offices can be difficult to go to for appointments when you have kids,” said Civjan. “These boxes will give kids something to do while they’re parents are waiting.”

Civjan said the idea came from staff at the Itsy Bitsy Child Watch.

“Students have shared that they are sometimes self-conscious when they are bringing their kids into campus offices,” said Emily Webber, director of the itsy Bitsy Child Watch, a free drop-in service for HCC student-parents. “This is an effort to make the campus feel more inclusive to student-parents and families. Having little play stations helps people feel more welcome. I talked to Sheryl about that, and her students took the idea and ran with it.”

The idea for using “Itsy Bitsy” as the title for early childhood programs at HCC started in 2020 when, during the pandemic, HCC educators created a series of video interviews for early education students and professionals (the Itsy Bitsy Zoomcast). The theme grew into a title for a new suite of early education classrooms modeled after pre-school and kindergarten facilities (the Itsy Bitsy Learning Lab). The Itsy Bitsy Child Watch opened in 2022, followed last year by the Itsy Bitsy Closet, and this year by the Itsy Bitsy Stations.

Civjan’s students put together three containers for the HCC Library, each targeting different age groups.

“We found that students who have children don’t always have a safe, comfortable place where they can sit and feel like they’re not intruding on another person’s space,” said Rebecca Hardy, administrative assistant for the HCC Library. “So, we wanted to make sure that the students who do have children feel welcome and that their children have things to do to keep them quietly engaged.”

Student Olivia Jolley of South Hadley, whose team prepared boxes for the Admissions Office, said the project ties in directly to the themes of the class, and although she does not have children herself, Jolley said some of her classmates do. “One had a baby a couple of weeks ago,” she said, “and she’s a single parent.”

Webber said she appreciates the hard work Civjan’s students put into their projects.

“I think it’s an ongoing partnership,” Webber said. “I don’t know what will come next, but they do amazing things. The Itsy Bitsy Closet has been a great success. Students come by every day. Hopefully this will have a similar impact.”

## Rebekah’s Closet book, toy drive seek donations

HOLYOKE – Looking for a way to give back this holiday season? Donating a new board book or toy to Rebekah’s Closet Christmas Book and Toy Drive may just be the way to do it.

Rebekah’s Closet is an Outreach Mission of the United Congregational Church of Holyoke which supports young families with clothing and supplies for their infants and toddlers. Now through Dec. 23, Rebekah’s Closet is seeking donations of new children’s board books or toys for children from ages birth through age 5. Donations may be dropped off at the Church Office weekdays from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.; pickups may be arranged by calling 413-532-1483 to schedule a pickup time.

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](http://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.



**Taylor Milledge**

September 6, 2024

Parents: Rashad & Katherine (Jackowski) Milledge, Holyoke  
Grandparents: Trudy Taylor, Holyoke



**Callan Cameron**

October 1, 2024

Parents: Matthew & Kieran Cameron, Belchertown  
Grandparents: David Hart & Kally Walsh, Holyoke  
Robert & Patricia Cameron, Belchertown

Hope Your Holiday Season Is **Extra-Extra Happy!**



Thanks to all of our readers and advertisers for supporting our publication and the future of local community journalism. We value our role in this community, and we’re committed to keeping you current in 2025 and beyond with a focus on the local news and events that matter most to you.

**We wish you an informed and fabulous new year!**

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Guest Column

# in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

## Coriander makes a great cookie

Today was the designated day to begin to bake like crazy. Personally, I wish we could cull the number, and honestly the sheer volume of Christmas cookies we make, but if the kids or my husband hear of that I will be banished to Grinch status.

It's a tradition to go through the recipes ahead of time and decide what cookies we'll bake.

One of my all-time favorites, and one I would never consider culling, is the coriander cookie. My family tried a sample at Old Sturbridge Village's Christmas by Candlelight some years back and enjoyed it so much we added the recipe to our repertoire. Yummy indeed!

You may be surprised to learn that Coriander sativum is the Latin name for two herbs. Confused? Most folks are when they learn that the seeds of this plant are called coriander, while the leaves are known as cilantro.

Both have been used for culinary purposes since the beginning of time! All portions of the plant are edible but some argue that the green portion is barely that.

Read on.

I liken cilantro to be the "marigold" of the herb world. Either you love it or you hate it. I, for one, immensely dislike it and if given the chance to pick it out of my salsa I will certainly do it! Even in a restaurant.

I found it interesting to learn that some people possess a genetically predisposed aversion to it, according to studies by Charles J. Wysocki of the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia.

See GARDEN, page 5

## Election letters to the editor welcome

The Holyoke Sun welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Holyoke Sun, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [thesun@turley.com](mailto:thesun@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call 413-283-8393.

### Campaign news

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

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

## Early Christmas shoppers...



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Guest Column

# in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Snowy owl

Snowy owls have already been spotted in Massachusetts this year. They come from the tundra area of Canada into the United States during the winter. Usually, the snowy owls that head to this area are immature. This irruptive behavior may or may not be coordinated with the lemming cycle, one of their primary foods especially during their breeding cycle.

The snowy owl is about 24 inches long and primarily white, yellow eyes and variable amounts of black spots and barring. Immatures are darker than adults and females darker than males.

Snowy owls frequently hunt during the day. Their diet is mainly rodents, Arctic and snowshoe hares, fish, birds including waterfowl and carrion.

They nest on the tundra in a shallow depression on a mound on top or on a gravel mound. They line the nest with feathers and bits of moss. The female lays three to ten white eggs. When prey is abundant the clutch size is larger. They make barking noises during breeding, but are quiet in winter.

They inhabit the open tundra and when they move south, they inhabit airports, beaches, marshes and open fields.

Many years ago, a snowy owl appeared in Oakham during the winter. I was lucky to see it perched on a fence post near an open field in the daytime. People came from all over to see this rare visitor. Logan Airport is a popular winter stop over.

### Bald eagle sighting

On Dec. 2 I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "I've been checking the local ponds but not a lot happening. However, I have seen a bald eagle or two at the pond on New Reed Street four time in the last two weeks and another birder I met there reported seeing eagles there that

See BACKYARD, page 5

## A wintry hike on Mt. Monadnock

By Julie Midura  
Guest Columnist



"I don't think we're on the trail anymore." Tom and I drove to Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire last week following a recent snowstorm. After parking our car at the trailhead, we made quick work of the road walk to the old Halfway House site, where we had a choice to make. We could continue straight ahead onto the well packed out and very popular White Arrow Trail, or hang a sharp right onto the lesser used and more difficult to follow Hello Rock Trail.

We paused when we reached the junction. One look in the direction of Hello Rock Trail told us that we would have our work cut out for us if we chose that route. Not only was the snow much deeper than we expected, but there were no other boot prints in sight. We would be breaking trail.

After not hiking anything strenuous in weeks and feeling less than confident in our ability to tackle some moderate trail breaking, I hesitated for a fraction of a second. I took a deep breath, exhaled slowly, then turned right towards Hello Rock Trail. No

time like the present to see just how out of shape we were!

As we broke through the calf-deep, thick blanket of white that covered the tread-way, the path was fairly obvious- four feet wide and slightly lower than the earth on either side. But We continued forward, undaunted by the fact that we were fairly certain we were no longer on the actual trail. After all, if we couldn't locate the path, we'd just follow our footprints in the snow back to where the trail was more obvious, and then attempt to find the spot where we had made a wrong turn. In the meantime, we enjoyed moving through the Narnia-like forest of white.

I was in the lead when I stopped suddenly at the base of a very steep rock outcropping. The thought of going up the hill made my heart rate soar. However, the hope that we might be able to catch sight of the trail from the top and reconnect with the path we were supposed to be on helped assuage my fear. I ignored my rapidly beating heart, slammed my trekking poles into the snow-covered rock, kicked my spike-clad

See HIKING, page 5

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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](mailto:thesun@turley.com). Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

**HIKING**, from page 4

boots into the snow, and hauled myself up.

Only to realize that “You can’t get there from here.”

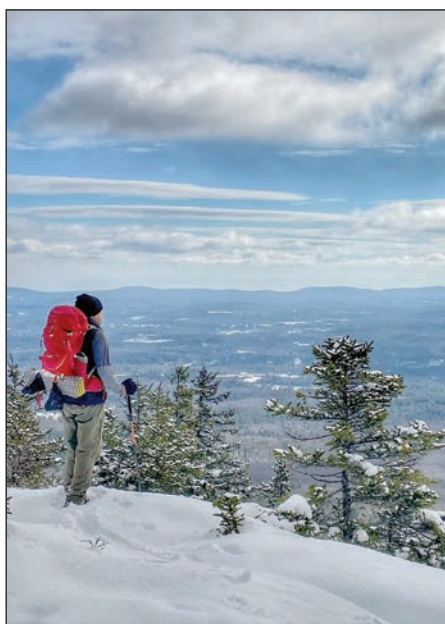
Upon reaching the top of the snow covered ledge, we discovered that we were mere feet from a sheer vertical drop-off. At this point, we had three options. Well, in reality, just two, since plunging off the ledge onto the jagged rocks below was never really a viable option to begin with.

1. Continue bushwhacking upwards in an attempt to see where we would end up. The hope being that we’d eventually find Cliff Walk Trail. (Tom’s idea)

2. Turn back and try to find where we zigged when we should have zagged, and get back on the actual trail. (My idea)

One of the great things about hiking with a partner is that when one of you has a harebrained, cockamamie, dare I say utterly ridiculous idea, the more rational one can help you dial back the crazy, so to speak

Now I’m not saying that I’m always



Tom takes in the beautiful snow covered view.

the logical part of the equation. Quite the contrary. I’m usually the one who likes to push the envelope when we hike together. You know- find out just how much we



Julie smiles brightly at the top of Mt. Monadnock.

Submitted Photo

are capable of.

In those instances, Tom graciously offers his unsolicited advice, both for the betterment of our marriage, as well as

to ensure that we aren’t put into a perilous situation by my occasionally wacky ideas.

On Saturday, however, it was my turn to be the sensible half of our partnership. With temperatures in the teens, I had no desire to continue bushwhacking in an area where a magnitude of snow had effectively erased the crevices and deep holes surrounding the enormous boulders which were lying in wait to swallow a leg or twist an ankle. And after only mild persuasion on my part, Tom agreed. Needless to say, ‘self preservation’ won out over ‘adrenaline rush’ and we turned back, eventually finding the sharp right turn we had missed earlier.

And at the end of the day, the summit was reached, views were had, pizza was consumed, hot cider was enjoyed, joy was found. And we lived to hike another day.

Honestly, what more could we possibly ask for?

See you in the wintry wild places, my friends!

Follow Julie and Tom on Instagram @morethanthemountain for more of their hiking adventures.

**GARDEN**, from page 4

To me it has a bitter taste that I have a hard time describing beyond that. Dirty? Soil-like?

Most people that do dislike it have a similar lack of descriptive ability; they just can’t put their finger on it, but they don’t like the taste...or the smell of it.

As I mentioned, cilantro is often used in salsa and other Mexican, Asian and Italian dishes including curries, sauces, salads and soups. If you prefer to grow the plant more for its greens and less for its seeds, manage it as you would spinach.

Sow seeds in the ground in the cool of the season and in succession every two weeks. It dislikes being transplanted but doesn’t mind pot culture. Harvest greens rather aggressively – about one-third of the plant at a time.

Just like spinach, there are slow-to-bolt varieties to choose from such as aptly named “Slow Bolt” and “Longstanding.”

Coriander seeds, on the other hand, have a pleasant (at least to me!) fragrance once dried. The scent is easier to pin-point too; nutty and spicy (ever so slightly) come to mind.

Coriander seed is also well known in various ethnic cuisines and is a favorite in spice blends, curry being the most popular. It is also used in the making of a number of distilled spirits and herbal liqueurs, and cookies.

It’s funny that I can like one part of the plant and not the other. Coriander seed can be eaten whole, crushed or powdered.

The Herb Society noted that during World War II the seeds were coated in white or pink sugar and thrown from carnival wagons, earning the name “confections” or “confetti!” When the seeds were replaced by balls of colored paper the name confetti stuck. Take this one to your next game of Cruise Ship Trivia!

It is easy to harvest the seeds. Simply let the heads dry to brown right on the plant. Clip them and place inside a paper bag; as they dry further they will open and the seeds will pop out.

Even if you are only interested in harvesting the seeds, multiple plantings (or a big garden patch) are necessary to get a decent-sized harvest.

No matter how you like your Coriander sativum, sow the seeds in a sunny, well-drained spot in place for the best success. If you let a few drop their

seed each year, chances are you will be blessed with volunteers.

Enough writing, I have four batches of cookies to get in the freezer! Merry Christmas to all of my gardening friends out there!

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.

**BACKYARD**, from page 4

I missed. On one visit two adult bald eagles were sitting in the same dead tree about fifteen feet apart.”

**Christmas Bird Count**

He plans to participate in the Allen’s Bird Count Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 14. National Audubon Society 125th Christmas Bird Counts take place Saturday, Dec. 14 through Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025. This is one of the most popular birding events of the year. It is rarely held on the actual designated holiday itself, counts are scheduled to take place on various days surrounding Dec. 25 within the official count period noted above. Counting takes place anytime during the 24 hours, midnight-to-midnight.

The goal is to find, identify and count all birds within a 15-mile diameter “count circle.” All are welcome. Compilers do their best to make sure that beginners join a group with at least one experienced birder. Locations in late December include: Quabbin on Saturday, Dec. 28 compiler Scott Sumner at ssumner@aol.com and Westminster on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025 compiler Charles Caron at 978-874-5649 or caron-ev@aol.com.

People may visit <https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count> to read about CBC history, science and data.

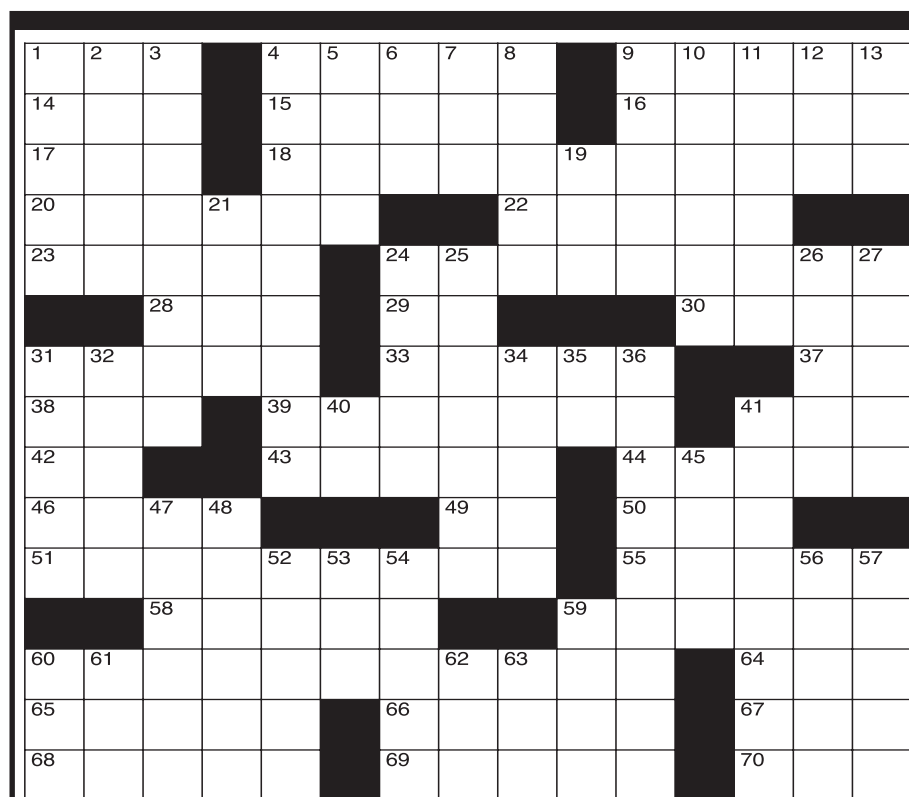
**Juncos and snow**

The Brimfield resident noted a large flock of juncos about 40 the day before the Dec. 5 snow storm. He said, “Storms a commin’ I looked out near where the feeding stations are located and where I spread mixed seed on the ground and a quick count resulted in 40 junco. And chickadees and titmice were constantly back and forth to the black oil sunflower seed feeder.” I also saw a large flock of juncos on my daughter’s lawn in Barre on that Wednesday.

**Pond visits**

The Brimfield resident makes frequent trips to ponds in his area. He found most of them frozen over on Dec. 4. He did count 12 hooded mergansers at Holland Pond, a large group of mallards over 200 and three black ducks at Sherman Pond.

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.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Miller beer variety
- 4. Member of people inhabiting Bering Sea islands
- 9. Stomach
- 14. Investment vehicle
- 15. Fictional soccer coach Ted
- 16. Irregular in botanical parlance
- 17. Cease standing
- 18. “American Horror Story” actress
- 20. Grow milk teeth
- 22. Plant parts
- 23. Snow house
- 24. Most contemptuous
- 28. Note to repay
- 29. Old English
- 30. Wings
- 31. Financial institutions
- 33. Parks and Lopez are two
- 37. Mr. T’s “The A-Team” character
- 38. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 39. Give off
- 41. Semitic alphabet letter
- 42. Farm state
- 43. Actress Sarandon
- 44. Back parts
- 46. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 49. Touchdown
- 50. One point north of due east
- 51. Refurbishes
- 55. Silver and Dogg are two
- 58. Former Tigers catcher Alex
- 59. Type of envelope
- 60. Seriously considered
- 64. Unhappy
- 65. Past (archaic)
- 66. Asian wild dog
- 67. Old English letter
- 68. Young domestic sheep
- 69. Football players need to gain them

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Dormant Peruvian volcano
- 2. Norwegian composer
- 3. Indicates location
- 4. Pubs
- 5. Unable to walk easily
- 6. Electronic warfare-support measures
- 7. World leader
- 8. Midsection
- 9. Jewish calendar month
- 10. Urological condition
- 11. A small quantity of anything
- 12. Mountain Time
- 13. Affirmative
- 19. Word element meaning ear
- 21. Carried away
- 24. Short-billed rails
- 25. Newborn child
- 26. Sword
- 27. Groups of people
- 31. Prickly, scrambling shrubs
- 32. Become less intense
- 34. Polishes
- 35. Indicates position
- 36. Songs sung to one’s beloved
- 40. The 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 41. Insects
- 45. Israeli politician
- 47. Pre-digital
- 48. Roaming
- 52. Ambience
- 53. Brew
- 54. Late
- 56. Make ecstatically happy
- 57. Semitic alphabet letter
- 59. Blend
- 60. Dash
- 61. Self
- 62. Exclamation of satisfaction
- 63. Hill or rocky peak

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 11

# In The News



Tianna Fraga from Adelpa Boutique represented her business at the Merry Market.



Karie Neal sold her artwork at the Merry Market.



Erika Vlaun from Organic SXM sold various organic products at the Merry Market.



Astrid deSoete, owner of Momma Astrid's Cozy Creations, came to the Merry Market to sell her knitted crafts.

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Owner of Laura's Craft Corner Laura Matta sold her pottery at the Merry Market.

*Turley photos by Quinn Suomala*

## MARKET, from page 1

said. "We try to change it around a little bit, but we have some who have been here all three times too."

Torres always makes sure to prioritize inviting local small businesses to be vendors for this market.

"I hope they get their names out there," Torres said.

So far this has been successful. Torres has found some people who come to the market each time it is up in the hopes of going to vendors again.

"There are a few customers that ask me about the same vendors," Torres said.

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# SPORTS

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## Knights best Pacers in season opener

HOLYOKE – While neither team got a lot of offensive momentum going, Holyoke got just enough in the second half as they defeat Chicopee in girls basketball action last Thursday night 41-32. It was the season opener for both teams. Gensis Rivera shined in her first varsity game for Holyoke 15 points. Kiara Perez, who has already surpassed 1,000 career points, had 10 points in the win. Chicopee was led by Kiyah Price with 13 points.

### COLLEGE NEWS

## Pond leads the way for WSU

WESTFIELD – Westfield State ran out to a 26-6 first quarter lead and never looked back as the Owls posted a 79-61 non-conference women's basketball win over Lasell University at the Woodward Center on Saturday afternoon.

The Owls had four players score in double figures, led by 19 from Maddie Pond (Holyoke, Mass./ Hampshire Reg.). Jordan Grant (Gray, Maine/ Gray-New Gloucester) added 14 points, Caroline Galvani (Framingham, Mass.) 12 and Olivia Hadla (Westfield, Mass.) 10.

Westfield improves to 7-3 on the season while Lasell is now 4-5. The win is the 350th of Owls coach Andrea Bertini's collegiate coaching career. Bertini passed 300 wins at Westfield State earlier this season.

The Lasers were led by 18 points and six rebounds from Kiara Cerutti (Canton, Mass.), with Shirle Major (Worcester, Mass.) adding 10 points and seven rebounds. Laura Johnson (Groton, Conn.) snared a game-high 11 boards for Lasell.

Westfield's pressure defense keyed the win, forcing 30 turnovers that the Owls turned into 37 points. Westfield led by as many as 39 points early in the second half

Pond shot 6-10 in the

See POND, page 8



Aliana Almodovar goes for the free throw.  
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Evangeline Cauley makes her way down the court.



Kylie Blaha heads into the paint.



Kiara Perez tries to keep control.



Genesis Rivera goes around an opponent for a basket.



Johann Lopez escapes from a hold.  
Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Felix Marrero tries to avoid a takedown in the heavyweight division.

## Holyoke wrestling hosts Knight-Hawk Classic

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday, Holyoke High School was buzzing with 19 different wrestling teams vying for the crown at the annual Knight-Hawk Classic.

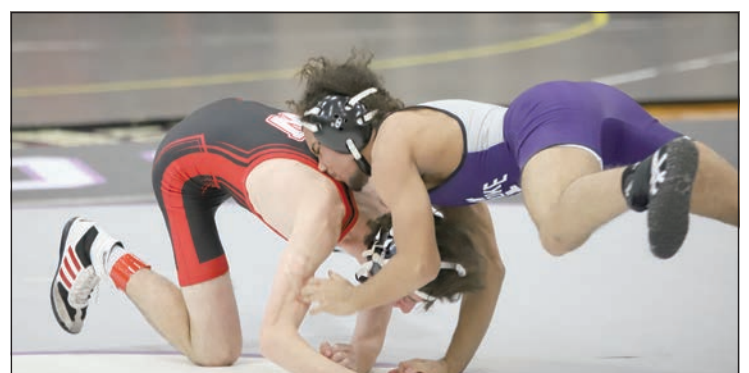
Host Holyoke placed 12th

overall with 67.5 points.

The Knights did have one individual champion, Steven Santiago. He took the crown at 120 pounds. Holyoke also faced Westfield in dual meet action earlier this week.



Ezequiel Vazquez locks up in a match.



Steven Santiago goes for a takedown in a 120-pound match.

# Springfield Thunderbirds grab point in Wilkes-Barre

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-9-2-0) dispatched a 4-1 second intermission deficit to earn a standings point before ultimately falling in overtime, 5-4, to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (14-7-1-0) on Saturday night at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza.

Upstart rookie Rutger McGroarty quickly got the Penguins on the board on their Teddy Bear Toss night as he took a delicate saucer pass from Joona Koppanen and deked to the forehand to tuck it behind Vadim Zherenko just 1:53 into the opening period.

The T-Birds were able to draw two power play opportunities while trailing 1-0, but the Penguins' penalty kill dispatched both of the Springfield man-up situations. Special teams continued to trend in the home team's direction as the Penguins cashed in on their first power play on a goal by Emil Bemstrom at

16:06 of the frame to give Wilkes-Barre/Scranton a 2-0 lead into the intermission.

Filip Larsson was not heavily taxed in Penguins crease in the first, but he came up with the nine saves asked of him to start the night.

Thanks to their top offensive unit, the T-Birds quelled some of the Penguins' momentum at 5:17 of the second. Aleksanteri Kaskimaki took a drop feed from Leo Loof and whipped it in the low slot to Dalibor Dvorsky. While Larsson slid across to deny the T-Birds' star rookie, the rebound trickled behind the netminder, allowing Marcus Sylvegard to backhand it into the yawning net to cut the deficit to 2-1.

Special teams, though, proved to be Springfield's undoing once again just 3:16 later as Valtteri Puustinen slipped behind the defense on a power play and chipped a backhander past Zherenko to make it a

3-1 Penguins lead.

Late in the period, the Thunderbirds thought they had solved Larsson on a power play scramble in the crease, but after a review, the goal was washed out, and Bemstrom took advantage with just 18 seconds left in the frame, snapping a wrist shot under the crossbar, extending the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton lead to 4-1 after 40 minutes.

The T-Birds' leaders rapidly turned the game around as the final period began. Captain Matthew Peca flung a wrister over Larsson's glove just 17 seconds into the period to make it a 4-2 contest. Less than four minutes later, crashing in for a rebound in the slot area, former Penguin Scott Harrington notched his first as a Thunderbird at 4:08 to cut the margin to 4-3.

Larsson and the Penguins tightened to hold the fort into the game's final two

minutes, but a penalty with 2:09 on the clock handed Springfield another power play and a chance to get an equalizer. With Zherenko at the bench for an extra skater, the T-Birds seized the moment as Matt Luff found Kaskimaki in the slot, and the rookie's snapper eluded Larsson to tie the game with 1:56 left.

The Thunderbirds had another power play chance to close out regulation, but the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton penalty kill shut it down to get the game into the extra period.

Unfortunately, the T-Birds' magic ran out in the extra session as a penalty gave the Penguins a 4-on-3 power play, and Bemstrom completed his hat trick with a spinning jam shot at 4:27 of the overtime to snap the T-Birds winning streak. Despite coming short of victory, Springfield earned standings points for the 11th time in its last 13 games.

## Railers get point, fall in shootout

WORCESTER – It has been one of those weekends that seem like a month for the Railers. They have battled one of the ECHL's best teams in the Trois-Rivieres Lions and changed a coach all at the same time.

Worcester lost its final game under Bob Deraney, 5-3, Friday night. They lost their first game under Nick Tuzzolino, 3-2, Saturday night but it was one of those half-a-loaf deals. The Railers earned a point with a shootout loss.

It says something about the Lions that Worcester played one of its best games in recent weeks and still could not get two points. Trois-Rivieres is loaded with offensive opportunists and flawless goaltending.

The Railers out shot the visitors, 41-26, but still could not outscore them.

It was, however, an encouraging start to Tuzzolino's head coaching career and in general he liked what he saw.

"I don't want to say that I was excited about how we played," he said, "because the result wasn't there, but we made a few minor adjustments in clogging up the neutral zone and our forecheck, and I thought they were really good."

The goal scorers were Justin Kaplan and Matthew Kopperud for Worcester while the Lions got two goals from Cormier. The first was from Xavier Cormier, the second from Tommy Cormier. Alex Beaucage had the only shootout goal.

It was a good goaltending night both ways. Zachary Emond made 39

saves for the Lions. Michael Bullion, who had been in a slump, stopped 23 and made the save of the night early in the third period.

He stopped Logan Nijhoff on a penalty shot at 2:31. The period was Bullion's best as he also made some big saves late to keep the score at 2-2.

Xavier Cormier put Trois-Rivieres ahead at 4:29 of the first period. It was a tap-in goal with the Lions on a power play. Kaplan tied it at 8:45, also on a power play. He beat Emond with a rebound backhander.

Kopperud scored from the right circle at 14:26 to give Worcester a 2-1 lead, then Tommy Cormier converted a long breakaway at 18:01.

"If we can carbon-copy what we did tonight," Tuzzolino said, "I don't see us losing more than a couple games here and there. It's one of those things where that type of system can plug in play some players and drive some teams wild up front."

"I guess my overall goal is to work on the consistency of that this week because we'll have a good stretch and really have all things firing for Maine. It's a very big weekend for us."

## High school coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

- The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

- The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS [www.nfhslearn.com](http://www.nfhslearn.com). Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

- Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

- All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email [dharrington@miaa.net](mailto:dharrington@miaa.net).

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed.

### POND, from page 7

game, including 5-8 from behind the three-point arc. Morgan Berthiaume (Webster, Mass./Douglas) and Tavi Williams (Springfield, Mass./Minnechaug) led the Owls with four assists each, and Jess Gardner

(Webster, Mass./Hoy Name) grabbed nine rebounds and three steals.

Hadla moves into 10th on the Owls all-time scoring list with 1,240 points, passing AJ Labelle '02 (1,231). Grant sits 13th with 1,218 points, just one behind Forbasaw Nkamebo on the Owls career list.

### PECK, from page 1

Linville and the other members of the school naming working group collected the data from the survey and found that the name Peck was favored by community members, which was the largest responding group to this second survey.

237 community members or 43% of community members, voted for the name of Peck school. Peck was also the overall top name, at 590 people or 32% of respondents. The next closest name was Holyoke Middle with 490 people, or 27% of respondents, voting for it.

With this in mind, the school committee and district leaders voted to have the name be William R. Peck.

On top of this decision, the committee also decided that the school will have a mascot of a phoenix and the school colors of black and red.

During the first survey that went out about the school name, Linville also included a question about potential mascots.

From that data, the working group decided on the top four mascot options and then sent out another survey,

As the results from that survey came in, phoenix was revealed to be the top choice for a mascot by students.

Linville and others in the working group felt that student opinions were most important for this part of the decision.

"Phoenix was the most popular choice for students," Linville said. "Adults might be the final decision makers here, but let us listen to the children who are going to be the most impacted and who the school is really built for."

She believes that phoenix was so popular as people could really connect with its symbolism.

"People resonated with the idea that the Phoenix symbolizes renewal, hope and transformation and they felt it was a good representation of the student experience," Linville said. "Also it works with the symbolism of this new building, from the ashes we will rise."

The new building is built in the

same location from the old middle school building, so many feel it is rising from the ashes of the old building to bring Holyoke's education into a brighter future.

The working group also sent out a survey concerning the potential new school colors.

The survey results revealed that about half of students wanted red and black to be the school colors.

Linville felt this suited the middle school as those are the colors of the STEM beats music group, which is one of the signature activities of the middle school.

Overall, Linville, the others in the working group and the school committee are content with these final choices for school name, mascot and colors.

More than anything Linville hopes that the students in the schools can take some pride from knowing that they contributed to this process.

"I'm really hoping they feel a sense of ownership and pride and realize the importance and feel like adults are listening to them," Linville said.

### GRADUATION, from page 1

credits a lot quicker than when we weren't in the block schedule and we had seven classes."

School Committee Member Devin Sheehan understood where Soto was coming from in this concept, but he felt that there could be other ways of encouraging students to stay in school.

"I understand the notion of increasing the amount of credits," Sheehan said. "Instead of just saying, 'hey, you're taking more classes so we're going to make the bar farther away' should we be looking at different opportunities throughout their time in high school? Could we be offering more school to career opportunities?"

Soto understood that point, but he felt that this wasn't really a matter of moving the "goalpost" farther away but rather adapting to keep it at the same level.

"I wouldn't say it is moving the goalpost, we're trying to stay on par with around that 85 to 87% of your total," Soto said. "If you pass every single class all four years, the credit requirement to graduate is right around 85 to 87%, which is consistent with what other high schools are doing in the region."

With all of this in mind, the committee intends to come back to this discussion in the future with some high school guidance counselors also present in the room.

"I would love to be able to engage in a much richer discussion in subcommittee," Soto said.



# One-day region-wide digital fundraiser benefits youth sports programs

**McDonald's owner/operators across New England raise more than \$40K for local sports**

NEW ENGLAND – Local McDonald's owner/operators across New England have come together for their first-ever digital fundraiser to support youth athletic programs across six states in the region. The one-day event in October generated more than \$40,000 in donations to local school and community sports teams. In its inaugural year, the digital fundraiser is providing a

meaningful financial boost to local sports programs, benefiting thousands of student-athletes throughout the region.

On Oct. 10, local McDonald's restaurants in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont donated 20% of their app sales during a six-hour window to support a wide range of youth athletic programs. The funds will help cover essential needs for sports teams in the communities they serve.

"The outpouring of support from our local communities was remarkable," said JJ Lietz, New England McDonald's

Owner/Operator and Massachusetts' top fundraiser. "This initiative perfectly reflects our commitment to caring for people, whether they're inside our restaurants or throughout our neighborhoods. As a local owner-operator, it's been incredibly rewarding to see Massachusetts restaurants unite our community in supporting youth sports programs - making a lasting impact both across New England and right here at home where we live and serve."

Spearheaded by local operators, this initiative is a natural extension of McDonald's' long-standing and

deep-rooted commitment to providing meaningful support to its people and communities. New England operators consistently contribute to numerous give-back programs, including Round-Up for Ronald McDonald House Charities1 and Archways to Opportunity2 for employee tuition assistance, contributing more than \$1,000,000 to RMHC and more than \$800,000 in tuition dollars for employees respectively year-to-date.

For more information about McDonald's community efforts in New England, please contact your local McDonald's restaurant.

## WOC holds successful food drive

AGAWAM – On Nov. 14 Work Opportunity Center, Inc. held their 13th annual food drive in front of Geissler's Supermarket in Agawam to collect items for donation to the Springfield Open Pantry. WOC, Inc. would like to thank Agawam residents for their overwhelming generosity. Together we raised \$144.32 in monetary donations and were able to bring 456 non-perishable items to The Springfield Open Pantry via the Rock 102 Mayflower Marathon. Many local families will benefit this holiday season from these donations.

WOC, Inc. is a nonprofit agency in Western MA which services adults with developmental disabilities. This organization runs a Community

Based Day Services program as well as two work programs.

Within their CBDS program, they have a location in West Springfield that services individuals that reside in Agawam and West Springfield.

CBDS is designed to enable individuals to enrich their life and enjoy a full range of activities by providing opportunities in social, educational and community activities.

The primary goal of the program is to have its participants become fully integrated and have access to their community. It was the CBDS program that organized and carried out the food drive to benefit The Open Pantry.

## WSU launches paramedic program

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University is excited to announce the launch of its new Paramedic Program, beginning January 2025. Developed in collaboration with key healthcare providers and emergency management organizations-including Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Holyoke Medical Center, Mercy Medical Center; Fire Departments from East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Southwick, and Westfield; and EMS providers from Chapin Ambulance, Northern Berkshire EMS, and Cataldo Ambulance - this program addresses the critical regional demand for highly skilled emergency medical professionals.

The program is designed to support workforce development by establishing a direct career pathway for Emergency Medical Technicians to advance to Paramedics. Through strong partnerships with employers in the field, Westfield State ensures the curriculum reflects

industry standards, equipping students with the skills and expertise needed for immediate employment in emergency medical services.

Students will benefit from a comprehensive curriculum, expert faculty, and state-of-the-art training facilities. The program includes one year of classroom instruction followed by clinical, field, and capstone internships, and can be completed in two years or through an accelerated 12-18-month track. To meet the diverse needs of working students, the program offers hybrid live lectures enabling remote participation with the in-person classes. Hands on skills labs are held in-person.

Applications are now open for the inaugural class starting Jan. 7, 2025. Prospective students can visit [www.westfield.ma.edu/paramedic](http://www.westfield.ma.edu/paramedic) for detailed admission requirements and program specifics.

## Notch Visitor Center open for winter

AMHERST – Winter at the Mount Holyoke Range is a magical experience, and a visit to the Notch Visitor Center, 1500 West St., Route 116, is the perfect way to enjoy it.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Mount Holyoke Range State Park is ideal for hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. The Notch Visitor Center enhances your park experience with engaging exhibits that highlight the unique features of the Mount Holyoke Range.

Special public programs provide a broader perspective of the park, and staff are on hand to offer trail information and hiking suggestions. There's something for everyone, from beginners to seasoned adventurers.

Free admission and parking. The center is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information and upcoming programs, call 413-253-2883 or visit <https://www.mass.gov/locations/mount-holyoke-range-state-park>.

## Japanese for beginners Zoom class

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging will offer Japanese for Beginners Zoom classes beginning Tuesday, Jan. 14 thru Tuesday, April 1 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Join Charlie Duquette, USMC/Retired, for this 12-week series on learning basic Japanese. You will need a valid email address and access to Zoom for

this class as it will be virtual and in the comfort of your own home.

Class will meet at 4:30 every Tuesday beginning Jan.14 thru April 1 via Zoom. A study group will be held at Chicopee Senior Center every Friday at 2 p.m. from Jan. 17 thru April 4. You must provide a valid email address at the time of registration.

## STCC hosts veterans HERO Act Roadshow event

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College welcomed veterans to the HERO Act Roadshow, a statewide initiative aimed at educating those who served about the most comprehensive veterans legislation in Massachusetts history.

The event, which took place in the auditorium of Scibelli Hall on Dec. 11, drew veterans from the community including STCC students and alumni who served.

The goal of the special town hall was to provide veterans and their families with important information on how the new legislation impacts healthcare, education, housing and employment services.

Veterans in the audience heard an overview of the HERO Act and its goals including expanded healthcare and mental health resources for veterans, updates to education and job training opportunities and housing assistance programs.

Ronnie Williams, who is studying social work, served in the Marines. "I'm hoping to get some insight on what the state is doing for us," Williams said from his seat in the auditorium. "And I want to be able to network with other veterans."

He was going to share information gleaned from the event with Springfield Disabled American Veterans Chapter 68.

Williams and other students and alumni who attended the event praised the veteran-friendly atmosphere at STCC. They highlighted STCC's Office of Veteran and Military Services and Veterans Academic Counselor Dr. Kimberly Reese.

"Dr. Reese got me into the program, got me set up,"

Williams said. "She always gets back to me if I have any questions. She's always reaching out to us in emails with information."

Bruce McLean, a veteran who graduated in spring 2024 with a degree in Business Administration, said he came to the event for information to "know what's going on."

McClean also had praise for STCC as an institution that pays attention to veterans' needs. "I tell every vet I see that if you want to go to school, go to STCC. They really treat veterans right," he said.

STCC student Mario Cote, a veteran who is studying business administration, said he wanted "real information about what's going on with the HERO Act."

He added the college offers support for veterans. He also takes advantage of other programs.

Cote said he joined the MILE program at STCC, which provides inclusive academic support, mentoring and community engagement opportunities to male students.

"It's amazing here," he said. "I think veterans should be coming here more often."

Dr. Reese emphasized the importance of creating a supportive environment for veterans at STCC. "Our goal is to help veterans transition successfully from military life to college and beyond," Reese said. "We are here to guide them, advocate for them and ensure they have access to the resources they need to thrive academically and personally."

The event drew members of the Springfield legislative delegation, Sen. Adam Gomez and Rep. Carlos González and featured remarks from Secretary Jon Santiago of the Executive Office of Veterans Services.

*"It's amazing here. I think veterans should be coming here more often."*

**- STCC student/veteran Mario Cote**

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### 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](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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**TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**  
The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills. Please visit our website **TownOfBlandford.com** or email **Administrator@TownofBlandford.com** for more information.

**TOWN OF WILBRAHAM ASST. ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIAN - P/T HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR I PUBLIC WORKS SKILLED WORKER**

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application, and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov.** Application deadlines vary. EOE

**TOWN OF WORTHINGTON Highway Position Opening**

The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill a part-time (six hours a week) **Administrative Assistant** position in the Town Highway Department. Duties include providing customer service, handling department's incoming and outgoing correspondence, processing payroll and maintaining records. The pay rate range for this position is \$18.16/hour to \$26.26/hour. A more in-depth job description can be found on the Town's website: **www.worthington-ma.us** Questions will be answered by Highway Superintendent Devon Wolf - telephone number 413-685-5949. Please send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: **worthingtonhighway@gmail.com** 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.*

### 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.

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City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing

The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing to hear a special permit application of Marcel Gavel to operate a vehicle exhaust repair and welding business at 54 Commercial Street (018-01-15). Hearing will take place on Monday, January 13, at 6:30 pm at Holyoke City Hall 536 Dwight St., and can be accessed remotely via www.zoom.us Meeting ID 859 3140 9907 Meeting Passcode 924730 or by call in at 1-646-558-8656 with same Meeting ID and Passcode. For a copy of the application or to provide comments, please contact City Council Admin Asst Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at Anderson-BurgosJ@holyoke.org or by phone 413-322-5525.

DGR Chair Kocayne Givner 12/20, 12/27/2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage Deed, Security Agreement and Assignment of Leases and Rents, given by Alycar Investments, LLC, to Bluedog Capital Partners, LLC, dated May 31, 2024, and recorded on June 3, 2024 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 25440 Page 541 (the "Mortgage") of which Mortgage Bluedog Capital Partners, LLC is the present holder, for breach of conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 a.m. on January 9, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 1412 Dwight Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, a portion of the premises described in the Mortgage.

TO WIT: 1412 DWIGHT STREET, HOLYOKE, MA

The land in said Holyoke, with the buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at the westerly corner of the intersection of St. Jerome Avenue with the southerly side of Dwight Street; thence running WESTERLY along the southerly side of Dwight Street, fifty (50) feet to a point; thence SOUTHERLY one hundred twenty (120) feet to a point; thence EASTERLY thirty-seven (37) feet to a point on the westerly side of St. Jerome Avenue; and thence in a NORTHERLY direction along the westerly side of said St. Jerome Avenue to the place of beginning.

Subject to restrictions of record.

For reference, see deed recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds herewith.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of recorded entitled to precedence over the Mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The high bidder will be required to sign a Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Saulino & Silvia, P.C., 550 Locust Street, Fall River, Massachusetts 02720, or by mail to 550 Locust Street, Fall River, Massachusetts 02720, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said Mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

BLUEDOG CAPITAL PARTNERS, LLC, Present holder of said Mortgage Deed, Security Agreement and Assignment of Leases and Rents,

By its Attorneys, SAULINO & SILVIA, P.C. PETER A. SAULINO, ESQUIRE Saulino & Silvia, P.C. 550 Locust Street Fall River, MA 02720 PH: (508) 675 -7770 12/13, 12/20, 12/27/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield MA, 01103 Docket No. HD24P2579PM

In the matter of: Edward W Shepard Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT (Person to be Protected/Minor) CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405 To the named Respond-

ent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Corey E Redfern of Chicopee, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Edward W Shepard is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Corey E Redfern of Chicopee, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this 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 01/08/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 12, 2024 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 12/20/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD24P2574GD In the matter of: Edward W Shepard Of: Holyoke, MA RESPONDENT Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR

INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Corey E Redfern of Chicopee, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Edward W Shepard is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Corey E Redfern of Chicopee, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 01/09/2025.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: December 12, 2024 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 12/20/2024

City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE The Holyoke Stormwater Authority will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. to hear,

pursuant to Section 38.0 of the Holyoke Ordinance, an application for a Stormwater Permit requested by Holyoke Community College for driveway, parking lot, and pedestrian improvements at the Holyoke Community College Campus, known as parcel 155-00-004.

The hearing will be held in person and remotely via video conference. Meeting location and zoom link will be posted on the City's meeting website in advance of the meeting at: https://www.holyoke.org/departments/public-meetings/

A copy of the application and site plan may be obtained electronically by sending an email to the Holyoke City Engineer at houlev@holyoke.org or by appointment requested through this same email address.

STORMWATER AUTHORITY: Mary Monahan, Chairman December 16, 2024 12/20/2024

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF HOLYOKE GAS & ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT PURCHASE OF Gas Meter Testing Equipment

Sealed bids for furnishing the above material will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept until 2:00 p.m., January 7, 2025, at the Office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St, Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.

Additional information may be obtained from:

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

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

Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed "Bid for Purchase Gas Meter Testing Equipment" to:

James M. Lavelle, Manager Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept 99 Suffolk St Holyoke, MA 01040 12/20/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street

Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD24P2575EA Estate of: Carol Ann O'Donnell Date of Death: 02/04/2022 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Patricia A O'Donnell 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 A O'Donnell of Holyoke MA 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 date of 01/08/2025. 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: December 12, 2024 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 12/20/2024

NOTICE

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EARLY DEADLINE In observance of NEW YEAR'S PUBLIC NOTICES WILL HAVE AN EARLY AD DEADLINE Place your public notice no later than Fri., Dec. 27 Noon A TURLEY PUBLICATION 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 • 413-283-8393 • www.turley.com

**In The News**

# Grand Colleen pageant application still open

*Time is running out! Deadline for applications is Dec. 29.*

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

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

Each year the Grand Colleen Pageant decides the five finalists who then go on to the Coronation Ball to have their Grand Colleen crowned. The Grand Colleen reigns with her Colleen Court on a majestic float over the two-mile parade route. Not only does the honor of being a Colleen represent women who are proud of their Irish heritage and community, but the journey helps them build connections, gain self-confidence, and develop skills that will help in their present and future career paths.

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

for the better and I hope it can do the same for you.”

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

*“It (the colleen contest) has changed my life for the better and I hope it can do the same for you.”*

**- 2024 Grand Colleen Elizabeth Gourde**



Elizabeth Gourde  
2024 Grand Colleen



Elizabeth Gourde the 2024 Grand Colleen sits with her Court Amelia George, Taryn Ryan, Hunter Edwards and Natalie Morris. *Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com*

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