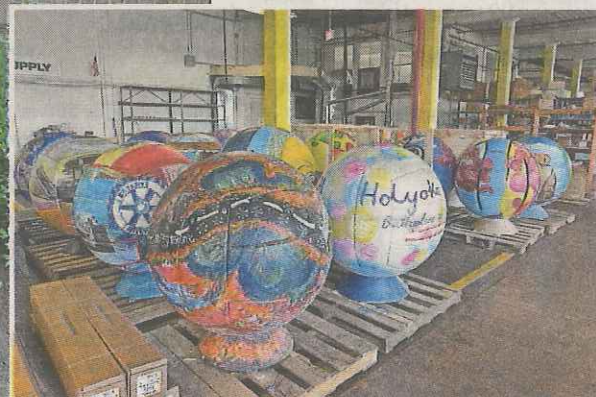


volleyball hall

HOLYOKE

Decorated volleyballs

Twenty giant decorative volleyballs will be placed around the city, with the first unveiled at a press conference yesterday at the Volleyball Hall of Fame. Pictured, from left, are Ruth Hastings, Jordan Hart, Arvard Lingham and George Mulry, executive director of the Volleyball Hall of Fame. Story and photos on **Page A10**. (DON TREEGER / THE REPUBLICAN)



The first of 20 giant decorative volleyballs to be placed around Holyoke was unveiled at a press conference yesterday at the Volleyball Hall of Fame. Sponsored by Holyoke businesses and painted by local artists, the project was born out of the 2015-2016 Leadership Holyoke class. At the podium is executive director of the Volleyball Hall of Fame, George Mulry.

(DON TREEGER / THE REPUBLICAN)

'Have a Ball in Holyoke'

Giant volleyballs to be installed throughout city

BY DON TREEGER
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Sitting in the Holyoke School Department's central supply warehouse are 19 volleyballs. It's not surprising, considering the schools' physical education classes and varsity teams.

What makes them unusual in this city where volleyball was invented is that they are made of fiberglass, weigh about 70 pounds each, are decorated by local artists and stand 4 feet tall on a small stand.

The first of the 20 volleyballs in the "Have a Ball in Holyoke" project was unveiled at the International Volleyball Hall of Fame during a press conference yesterday morning.

The volleyballs were the brainchild of four graduates of the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Holyoke class at Holyoke Community College.

The idea of the class is to take business professionals and train them in leadership and business skills to enable them to serve on volunteer boards in the Holyoke community, according to Kathleen Anderson, president of the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce.

"The point of Leadership Holyoke is to come up with a



The volleyballs, shown above and below, are currently sitting in the Holyoke School Department's Central Supply building waiting to be installed around the city. (DON TREEGER / THE REPUBLICAN)



The volleyballs were the brainchild of four graduates of the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Holyoke class at Holyoke Community College.

community-based project," said Jordan Hart, a graduate of the class. "We thought it would be great to bring fiberglass structures to the city, very similar to what our neighboring communities have done."

Throughout Springfield, for example, where basketball was invented, there are decorated giant fiberglass sneakers.

In keeping with the Holyoke-first theme of the morning, George Mulry, executive director of the Volleyball Hall of Fame, announced that the museum will offer free admission all summer long to residents of Holyoke.

The volleyballs won't be in the warehouse for long. Set to be installed at city entry points and other locations around Holyoke by the beginning of summer, the only thing missing will be giant volleyball nets to go with them.