

Council debates new seating arrangements

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The city council again discussed their seating arrangements for the first thirty minutes of their meeting.

At the first meeting of the year, City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti had moved the seats of the councilors in the hopes that it would increase unity of the council.

Several other councilors disagreed that she had authority to do this. A point of order was filed to challenge her ability to make this decision.

Murphy-Romboletti recognized this point of order and then denied it. Councilor Linda Vacon then made a motion to challenge the ruling of the chair.

“I make a motion to... cause the council to come into compliance with rule 1D so that councilors would be sitting in their assigned chair upon their election, unless

they request to be changed and [the council president] approves it,” Vacon said.

Councilor Kevin Jourdain agreed with Vacon that Murphy-Romboletti’s ruling went against the rules of the council.

Both felt that Murphy-Romboletti only had the authority to change a councilor’s seat if the councilor had requested it.

“That does not mean that the president can move you out of your seat,” Jourdain said. “That means if you want to move you need permission from the president... That’s always been the tradition. That’s exactly how this rule has been interpreted.”

Councilor Israel Rivera disagreed. He felt that though it may be tradition to not move the seats, that did not mean that was the only interpretation of the rule.

“Tradition is not law,” he said. “Tradition is not poli-

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Bookworm reads the book *We’re Sailing Down the Nile to Fly Guy*, where they get to learn interesting facts about Egypt.
Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

Sobel presents puppet show

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Puppeteer Anna Sobel brought the show Bookworm and the Barefoot Books to Holyoke Public Library for children and their families to enjoy.

Throughout this show, the main character Bookworm takes his friend Fly Guy on a series of adventures by reading four different Barefoot Books: *We’re Sailing Down the Nile*, *The Animal Boogie*, *Kite Princess* and *Port Side Pirates*.

Sobel used to work at a bookstore in Concord that sold

Barefoot Books. She would often do puppet shows there and one day decided to write a play based around those books.

“I was looking at the books and I said ‘would you mind if I adopted some of the books for a puppet show?’” Sobel described.

So, she created a story around these four books and allowed Bookworm and Fly Guy to navigate through them.

“It’s the four tales but I’m weaving them into this larger narrative,” Sobel said.

Throughout the show, Bookworm’s goal is to convince

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Before starting her puppet show, Puppeteer Anna Sobel sang a “silly song” based on the *Rattlin’ Bog*.

Pastor Stein to take helm at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Pastor Deborah Stein will be officially installed at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4.

Stein has been preaching at St. Peter’s for a few months now and she is excited to have the formal installment ceremony.

This ceremony is the way to have her spiritual welcome to the church. While she has already gone through the legal process of securing the position, this ceremony will “bless” the union between her and the church.

“It’s kind of like a marriage, almost, promising to love, honor, protect—all those things,” Stein said.

All members of the community are welcome to join this ceremony.

Already Stein has felt greatly welcomed by the community of St. Peter’s.

“I’ve been told that I was

just what they needed, and I really feel like they are just what I needed,” Stein said.

Stein finds St. Peter’s to be one of the “warmest, friendliest” places that she has been. When they have coffee hour after worship, she said that she is often one of the last people to leave.

“The people are just wonderfully welcoming and friendly,” Stein said. “They embrace folks right away like family.”

Stein moved to the Holyoke area from Syracuse, where she had been a pastor for about 12 years. She has fallen in love with Holyoke and is glad that she made the move.

“It seems that we have finally found our home, our forever home,” Stein said. “One thing you will always find at the doors of this church is somebody with a smile.”



Pastor Deborah Stein

In the four months that Stein has been at St. Peter’s she has already gotten involved in different church and community events, including Halloween fun and gingerbread fairs.

“I love getting involved and getting to know the people,” she said.

Stein strongly believes that anyone should be welcome at St. Peter’s. One of the practices of Lutheran Church is an open communion, where anyone is welcome to take part in the ceremony of communion.

This open communion exemplifies Stein’s belief that all are welcome within the church. According to her, Jesus had two main ideas that he passed on: to love God with all of yourself and to love your neighbor as yourself.

“Everything else he said

See STEIN, page 11



Pastor Deborah Stein is the new leader of St. Peter’s Lutheran Church.

Submitted photos

In The News

HCC seeking Junior College alumni for reunion

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is putting out a call to all alumni who graduated from Holyoke Junior College between 1947 and 1964 to attend a special reunion celebration later this spring at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute.

The first-ever reunion event for graduates of Holyoke Junior College, the predecessor of HCC, will be held Wednesday, June 5, from 3-6 p.m., at the culinary arts institute on Race Street.

Founded in 1946, Holyoke Graduate School changed its name to Holyoke Junior College in April 1947. After HJC joined the state's community college system in 1964, the name was changed yet again to Holyoke Community College, which was then located downtown on Sergeant Street and Pine Street in the former Holyoke High School building, which



Alumni are needed for an upcoming HCC reunion. Submitted photo

burned down in 1968.

"This is a time for our oldest alumni to meet our new leader, President George Timmons, catch up with classmates, and reminisce about the good old days," said Julie Phillips, HCC director of development.

Reunion guests will be able to tour the culinary arts facility and also enjoy a dinner prepared by HCC culinary arts students and faculty.

"I'm getting older, and there are people I miss because they live far away," said Angela Wright, a graduate of Holyoke Junior College from the Class of 1954 and a member of the reunion planning committee. "You don't often have a chance to catch up with classmates from your school. I don't know how many of us are left. I'd be thrilled to see them and just chat."

Also on the reunion planning com-

mittee are alumni Maurice Ferriter '52, Frances Kane '56, Carl Iger '56, Pat Bresnahan '57, Peg Wendlandt '58, Jim Izatt '59, and Richie Sobon '64.

"Holyoke Junior College was very good to me," Kane said recently at a reunion planning meeting. "I was young. Coming out of high school, I didn't know where I was going to go. I went to Holyoke Junior College, which set me on my pace. I came back to the college in the early '70s to serve on the Board of Trustees under President David Bartley, and later on the HCC Foundation board of directors. It's been wonderful to me. I've made a lot of friends, and I'd like to see who's left from my class."

For more information about the event or to secure your spot for the reunion, please contact John Sieracki at jsieracki@hcc.edu / 413-687-0322.

COLLEGE NOTES

AIC announces fall 2023 Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – American International College announces these following students from Holyoke were named to the fall 2023 Dean's List.

Leslie Brazeau is majoring in Communication and Public Relations; Joshua Frometa is majoring in Management; Willie Lopez Morales is majoring in Human Biology;

Elyse Manzi is majoring in General Business; Keila Oquendo of Holyoke, MA, majoring in Nursing; Sheylanie Ramos is majoring in Nursing; Mariana Raphael is majoring in General Business; Dialis Santiago is majoring in Nursing; Javier Simms is majoring in Exercise Science; and Elizabeth Winberg is majoring in Health Science.

University of Iowa 2023 Dean's List

IOWA CITY, IA – Elizabeth Hurley of Holyoke MA was among the more than 7,900 undergraduate students at the University of Iowa named to the Dean's List for the 2023 fall

semester. Hurley is an undergraduate - fourth year student in Iowa's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and is majoring in Psychology.

St. Jerome's hosting 'Irish Night'

HOLYOKE – Our Lady of Guadalupe Community Center will host "Irish Night" fundraiser for St. Jerome parish on Saturday, March 9. The event will go from 7 to 9 p.m. with doors opening at 6 p.m. and will feature refreshments, a cash bar, and other beverages. Tickets can be purchased at

the end of all weekend masses beginning Feb. 10 and 11. Tables of 8 may be reserved in advance by contacting Jennie McGiverin at 413-250-2093 or John Kelley at 413-650-0493. Black Rose Academy of Irish Dance will perform at 6:30 p.m. Deirdre Reilly will be the headline performer following th

Holyoke Community College welcomes new manager of alumni relations

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College recently welcomed Elizabeth Ollson of Easthampton as its manager of alumni relations and annual giving.

Ollson is a 2018 graduate of HCC and also holds a bachelor's degree in women, gender, and sexuality studies from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She joined HCC's division of Institutional Advancement in November 2023.

Ollson comes to HCC from Boston



Elizabeth Ollson

College, where she was the senior associate director of annual giving programs. Prior to that, she worked at Amherst College as the Amherst Fund coordinator.

"We are thrilled to welcome Beth back to campus," said Julie Phillips, HCC director of development. "She brings over a decade of experience working on professional higher education advancement teams and possesses a deep understanding of the importance of alumni engagement and its impact on advancing college initiatives."



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Chartered in Holyoke in 1890

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Hibernian Irish Cultural Awards for 2024

L to R: LAOH President Paula Paoli; Woman of the Year - Patricia A. Clayton; Center - Polish National Credit Union CEO, James P. Kelly, 2024 Christian Charity Award Winner; Man of the Year - John M. Gaughan; AOH President Joe O'Connor

www.aoh-holyoke.com

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Holyoke Sun

School Committee discusses Panorama survey results

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Receiver Anthony Soto presented the results of the Panorama Survey at the school committee meeting on Jan. 22.

The Panorama Survey was sent to all students, teachers, staff and families in the district in order to gain a better understanding of how the district is doing in a variety of areas, including resource availability, connections with staff and families, and school environment.

“The whole goal of this is to take action,” Soto said. “It’s not just to get a report and see it. We want to be able to get useful information from how people are feeling out there and we want to do something with it.”

This survey was sent out in November in order to give schools time to try to implement new strategies this year based on the survey results.

They plan to do an additional mini-survey in May in order to track their progress.

The initial survey was overall well responded to. 71% of students responded and 76% of teachers and staff. Additionally, 835 families in the community responded.

The survey showed some progress in

areas for students, teachers and staff, and families.

Throughout the schools, 84% of students in grades three to five said it was either extremely important or quite important to them to do well in classes. For kids in grades six through twelve, 79% responded favorably to this question

“This warms my heart,” Soto said. “You can make a lot of assumptions about how kids feel or how much they care about this work, but this is really telling. Kids really do care about whether or not they do well in their classes or on their work.”

They also saw improvement in how the students rated the fairness of rules at their school.

In the teacher survey, 87% responded favorably (saying it was extremely easy or quite easy) to interact with students at their school who are from a different cultural background than their own.

Additionally, 83% responded favorably to the question “How comfortable are you incorporating new material about people from different backgrounds into your curriculum?”

For staff in the schools, 77% felt their supervisor had been supportive of their professional growth and 76% felt their supervisor had been responsive to feedback.

Unfortunately there were some consistent negative trends across the board.

Every section of the survey responded negatively to the question of whether or not Holyoke Public Schools was succeeding at building an anti-racist, inclusive and culturally responsive community.

Either the majority of the responders disagreed or there was a decrease in agreement from previous years.

For the student portion of the survey, of those in grades six through twelve only 41% responded favorably to this question, a decrease of 7% from last year. Of the teachers, only 48% responded favorably.

For the staff, 55% responded favorably and of families 66%. This was a 6% and a 5% decrease respectively from last year.

The district has an equity team that they hope will help to bring forward new ideas to address this issue in the upcoming year, with some that ideally be implemented right away.

Dean High School Student Representative Evan Kennedy suggested working with the ethnic studies staff and students in the schools and having members of the school committee have in-person conversations with staff and students.

“Every member of the school com-

mittee needs to know how to improve the lives of the students and staff in their buildings,” Kennedy said. “I think the survey is a good idea and a valuable resource, but also an in-person conversation... would be beneficial.”

The committee also hopes to focus on improving staff retention. Already there is a team working on this issue, and the committee expects there to be a report sometime in March.

Based on survey results, each school will also individually focus on their specific assets and problems. The hope is they will be able to focus on specific difficulties to try to make headway for the next mini survey in May.

“Every school is looking at their data, every school leader is looking at their data and responding, ‘what is this data telling me, what am I going to do in the next quarter to make sure that we make some improvements?’” Soto said. “Principals are in the process of doing that right now.”

There will be quarterly school improvement plan reviews in the next few weeks and this topic will be part of the conversation.

If interested in learning more about the survey results and plans to act on them, go to <https://www.hps.holyoke.ma.us/page/culture-and-climate-surveys>.

Holyoke’s 150th commemorative book available for purchase

HOLYOKE – Holyoke’s Sesquicentennial celebrations lasted all 2023 and ended with an amazing 150th Masquerade Gala, the closing of the Holyoke Time Capsule, the return of the Rotary Club’s Eat, Drink & Be Holyoke event, as well as the annual Christmas Tree lighting and first night Jr celebrations at Heritage State Park.

Relive the events of 2023, read about our shared history, recognize the pride we all share in the Holyoke 150th Commemorative book.

With nearly 200 pages, written by the organizers, business owners, community leaders and members of Holyoke who are passionate about our city, you see the spirit of Holyoke come alive on the page. 100’s of photos

and interesting facts about the city, the Holyoke 150th Commemorative book will be a keepsake for generations to come.

Only 1500 copies will be printed. Pre-orders are available at a temporary reduced cost of \$40. Regular orders placed on or after January 29th, 2024, will be priced at \$50.

The book will be available in mid-February for pickup of the book at the Greater Holyoke Chamber and Artery or you can have the book mailed for an additional charge.

Visit [ExploreHolyoke.com/150th](https://www.exploreholyokey.com/150th) page to preorder your book at <https://www.exploreholyokey.com/guide/preorder-the-holyoke-150th-commemorative-book/>.

The Big Broadcast will be held March 9

SOUTH HADLEY – The Big Broadcast will be held Saturday, March 9 in Chapin Auditorium on the campus of Mount Holyoke College. There will be two performances at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The Big Broadcast is a unique recreation of a 1940s-style radio show, complete with news, commercials, popular songs, and a radio play in the detective serial style. Mount Holyoke has designated the yearly concert as a signature event.

The sponsors are Mount Holyoke College, 22News, Loomis Communities, NEPM, PRIME magazine, NEPM 88.5, and The Republican.

22News meteorologist Brian Lapis returns to The Big Broadcast in his role as the show’s emcee “Fred Kelley.” Mark Gionfriddo, director of the Jazz Ensembles of MHC, is the show’s creative director.

Gionfriddo noted that this year marks the 25th anniversary season of the jazz program at Mount Holyoke. The Big Broadcast is a production of the college’s Big Band, Jazz Vocal, and

Chamber Jazz ensembles.

“There’s really nothing else like it,” Gionfriddo said about The Big Broadcast. Part concert, part theater, the show is produced by students with Gionfriddo playing the role of “Matt Morgan,” who conducts the fictional WJAZ Big Band and is Fred Kelley’s musical sidekick.

This year’s selections include “The American Patrol” from the Glenn Miller Orchestra; Rodgers & Hart’s “This Can’t Be Love”; “Romberg & Hammerstein’s “Lover, Come Back to Me”; the iconic Gene Krupa drum feature “Sing Sing Sing;” and Cole Porter’s “Don’t Fence Me In” as popularized by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters.

Tickets are available locally at the Odyssey Bookshop in South Hadley and online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-big-broadcast-2024-2pm-show-tickets-800425964607>. More information is available on the Facebook page of the Jazz Ensembles of Mount Holyoke College and on their web page at www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/music/big-broadcast.

Section of mall set to be ‘renewed’

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Mall, Western Massachusetts’ largest shopping destination, announced today more than 10% of the center’s square footage is set to be remodeled or renewed in the first quarter of 2024.

Over 56,000 sq. ft. of the shopping center is planned to undergo construction ranging from store refreshes to new openings.

“Our local and national partners’ reinvestments in our center, and in our community, indicate the strength and longevity of retail and their commit-

ment to our shoppers,” stated Holyoke Mall General Manager, Lynn Gray.

Brands extending their leases represent more than 106,000 sq. ft. and showcase Holyoke Mall’s impact within the region with their multi-year investments.

The 1.6 million sq. ft. shopping center opened their fourth full-service restaurant, Monsoon Bistro, in January and is set to open two additional food concepts, Terra Nossa Brazilian Grill and Milkshake Lovers, later this spring.



Frozen Polish Food Sale to be held on Feb. 10

INDIAN ORCHARD – A Frozen Polish Food Sale, featuring Pierogi, Golabki and Kapusta, will be held at Immaculate Conception Church Hall at 25 Parker St. in Indian Orchard on Saturday, Feb. 10 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All are welcome to come and purchase.

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Council has embarrassed itself

Editor's Note: The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and are not the views of The Holyoke Sun.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibell@turley.com

For the second time in a month, the Holyoke City Council spent “the people’s time” arguing over whether or not the new council president, Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, had the right to change the seating arrangements of the city council floor.

The argument occurred following the swearing-in of the new council and was raised once again at the Jan. 22 meeting.

Both times, there was at least 30 minutes of debate about seating. Seating? Really?

Even if those that argued that Murphy-Romboletti should not have done it by matter of rule, or “disrespected” veteran councilors by doing it is a valid one, the fact that more than 30 minutes of time was spent on this issue is just a microcosm of why the Holyoke City Council should be embarrassed as a body.

For the last two years, members of the previous city council have spent more time sniping at one another than doing their jobs, which is the business of the City and the business of the people of Holyoke.

When the new city council was installed on Jan. 2, there was a great deal of hope that the legislative body of the city would take steps to improve its conduct and raise the level of respect on the floor.

But so far, it’s been more of the same.

Now, I’m not defending or condemning the decision Murphy-Romboletti made to change the seating arrangements. But if councilors didn’t like the change, then they could have had a conversation with Murphy-Romboletti after the meeting, or exchanged some emails, done something besides waste the people’s time.

These meetings are broadcast on television or can be streamed live online and people tune in to find out what is going in the city, how their taxes are being spent, and how the council responds to issues like finances, education, and housing.

There are serious problems happening all over Holyoke. There is housing that makes substandard look decent and the city needs to clamp down on landlords so they stop gouging tenants and keep up their properties. The city always needs more funding to address many areas, such as the sewer budget, and public safety, and education. And the Holyoke Public Schools are still in receivership and the city is looking for a way to end it.

But instead, members of the council think it’s a better use of its time to complain about where they are sitting, like they are in high school algebra and they don’t get to sit with their friends.

And in addition, instead of talking respectfully to one another, there are still councilors sniping, taking those little cheap shots. And the 7-6 votes on the seating arrangement as well as Murphy-Romboletti’s appointment as council president show the city council show the group is more divided than ever.

It also shows that the councilors who were re-elected did not listen to the residents that came and spoke to them in December and asked the council to do a better job speaking to one another with respect.

It’s not a great start for the 2024-2025 Holyoke City Council. An hour of debate just on where you sit. A split council on who should be president, and meetings that continue to run 3-4 hours with very little work actually being done.

And I would challenge any councilor to write a letter to the editor to explain to our readers, not why Murphy-Romboletti did or did not have the right to move seats, but why it was worth people’s time to listen to you debate it on the council floor.

Do better, Holyoke City Council. These people elected you do the real work for the residents, not waste time on childish problems like seats.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Guest Column

Re-blooming paper whites



I purchased some paper white bulbs early in December, figuring I’d need some flower power come January.

Four bulbs were planted in potting soil in an old tureen bowl that I found at the local recycling center swap shed. I covered the soil in moss I saved from my yard and honest to goodness when those bulbs burst into bloom about a month after planting, I felt pretty proud of myself for creating such a chic display.

Now what to do with it? Usually, when paper whites are forced in pebbles, or just plain water, they are a once and done kind of experiment. But because I planted them in decent potting soil, there may be hope for re-bloom.

Read on to see how it’s done.

First, it’s important to think about how bulbs work. They are a self-contained unit that has everything in that unit to bloom the first time no matter what, as long as basic environmental needs are met.

Pretty impressive.

For bulbs to bloom again, we have to make sure that unit gets re-charged. I read once to think of the bulb as a solar battery – that’s not far off!

For typical daffodil bulbs that are planted in the ground that means removing spent flowers, keeping the foliage intact until it yellows, and giving the plant a little fertilizer or a compost top dressing if the soil isn’t fertile. Now that we understand, we can use this information to re charge our hyacinth bulbs.

The flowers are still on my chic display, but they are definitely gone by. I will snip off the spent blooms.

Next, I will put the tureen in a sunny window. To be honest, I had placed it in my pantry when it was in bloom.

My husband found the fragrance a little too overpowering and not to his liking. Over the years I have found that people either love it or hate it and sadly he leans toward the latter of the two.

But, because it was placed in the window of a cool room, it grew upright without falling over, and the flowers lasted close to three weeks! Now that I have the pot of foliage in a sunny window, I will sprinkle a little bulb fertilizer on the soil surface and water it in.

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Will withdrawing from 401(k) affect my Social Security?



Dear Rusty
My full retirement age (FRA) is 66 and 8 months, which I’ll reach in September 2024. I’m still working three days a week. I want to cash in my 401K and want to know if I have to wait until my FRA for IRS purposes or can cash it in anytime in 2024. I don’t want to affect my Social Security or end up paying taxes on my benefits.
Signed: Seeking to Avoid Taxes

Dear Seeking
We’re not experts on IRS matters here at the AMAC Foundation so I can’t address 401(k) questions, but we can provide information on your Social Security circumstances and how 401(k) withdrawals may affect your SS. I assume from your question that you are now receiving early Social Security and wish to avoid any tax consequences thereto by cashing in your 401(k), as well as from working. Here’s what you

need to know:
Since you will reach your Full Retirement Age in 2024, your 2024 work earnings limit will be \$59,520 up to the month you reach FRA. If you were born in January 1958, you’ll attain FRA in September 2024. After you have reached your FRA there is no longer a Social Security limit to how much you can earn from working, so your work earnings thereafter will not affect your monthly Social Security benefit regardless of how much you earn. If your part time work between January and August 2024 won’t put you over the \$59,520 limit, your work earnings will not negatively affect your gross monthly Social Security benefit.

Assuming you are on Medicare, the premium for which is deducted from your Social Security payment, withdrawals from your 401(k) might affect your net monthly Social Security payment in two years hence. Medicare premiums are based upon your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year. If your 401(k) withdrawal(s) put you over an income threshold for your tax filing status, you may be required to pay an Income Related Monthly

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to *The Sun*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

in my BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer



Fox sparrow

I received an email from a birder in Brimfield, who sends bird updates on a regular basis. He reported an acquaintance in Hardwick have five fox sparrows visiting their yard this winter. He said, "Lucky them, I only see one or two fox sparrows in the yard during migration and didn't see any this year."

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow about 7 inches in length. It has rufous streaking and a gray head and back. The tail and rump are reddish brown and the underparts whitish with brown streaking. There is a central, irregular shaped dot on the breast

Like many sparrows, it feeds on the ground eating seeds, fruits and insects. It jumps forward and back pulling up ground debris to uncover food beneath. It may come to feeders where seed is scattered on the ground.

Fox sparrows inhabit deciduous or coniferous woods, brushy areas and wood edges. Their song is a short series of clear, melodious whistles.

The female lays four to six light blue green eggs in a cup like nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with hair fur and rootlets. The nest is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield

resident. He said, "[I] wanted to pass on some of my backyard action this winter. I was surprised to see five or six cowbirds along with a solitary red wing blackbird last week." He has a lot more juncos around with the white throated sparrows. He said chickadees and nuthatches and the titmice population is down a bit He had a few starlings that stop by now and then along with cedar waxwings. He has not seen as many wild turkeys this year.

Golden crowned kinglet

A Brookfield resident emailed two photos of a golden crowned kinglet he took on Saturday, Jan. 27. He said, "Walking into my home, I spotted this tiny bird at the door." Tiny is an apt description of this bird as it is only 3 1/2 inches long.

More Brimfield birds

A frequent emailer said he read about the sighting of bluebirds and grackles in this column. He wrote, "Coincidentally we had a lone grackle in the yard last week. It showed up for a couple of days. I thought it was unusual to see just one grackle, they are most



Bluebird

often seen in a group especially this time of year."

The Brimfield resident said, "When I mentioned to a friend from Belchertown that I had seen a grackle at the feeders he mentioned that he had a group of about 30 grackles visit his feeder briefly one day last week."

He said three days ago "I noticed a male bluebird at the feeders. It has visited daily since first being seen. The bird is feeding on suet cakes and a 'log' that is made of seeds, fruit and meal worms."

He counted over 70 juncos and four white-throated sparrows in the yard. He recently had three starlings, who seemed to like a feeder containing suet pellets. He said he rarely sees starlings at his feeders. He removed the feeder to deter the voracious eating starlings.

Bluebirds

This seems to be the year for flocks of bluebirds showing up at feeders. On Friday, Jan. 26 six or eight male and female bluebirds were at my suet cake, which contained fruits. I removed the ice from a small dish like feeder, I use for



Bluebird

mealworms, grape jelly or orange halves. The bluebirds ate all the mealworms and I filled it again. They have been hanging around daily and I put out mealworms twice a day.

Tuesday, I looked out the window and saw several bluebirds perched on my car. One occupied a side mirror, another was on the roof and two on the hood by the windshield wipers. I think they may have been drinking the water from the melting snow on the car.

Later, when I looked to see if they were still there, a mourning dove was perched by the wiper blade.

Large flock of robins

A North Brookfield resident, who lives on Lake Lashaway, emailed on Friday, Jan. 17 she had a flock of 30 or more robins zoom in to the neighborhood.

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.

SECURITY, from page 4

Adjustment Amount on top of the standard Medicare premium. That IRMAA supplement would be deducted from your Social Security, which would affect the net amount of your Social Security payment. Your Medicare premium for each coming year is determined by your combined income from two years prior, so if you "cash in" your 401(K) in 2024, it would affect your net Social Security payments in 2026.

Whether you will pay income tax on your Social Security benefits is determined by your combined income from everywhere, which the IRS calls your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income." MAGI is your income from all sources except ROTH IRA withdrawals and includes half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year.

If you file your taxes as a single, and your MAGI is over \$25,000 or if you file your taxes as "married-jointly" and your MAGI is over \$32,000 then 50% of the Social Security benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS (at your normal IRS tax rate). But if your MAGI as a single filer is more than \$34,000 – or as a married/jointly filer over \$44,000 – then up to 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS.

So, to recap: Your part time work earnings in 2024 won't affect your monthly Social Security benefit, unless your 2024 work earnings prior to September 2024 exceed \$59,520.

Depending on the amount of your 401(k) withdrawals, your 2026 net Social Security payments may be impacted by Medicare's IRMAA provision. But your 401(k) withdrawals will not affect your gross Social Security payments.

Depending on the amount of your 401(k) withdrawals, some of the Social Security benefits received during the 2024 tax year will likely be subject to income tax. That is, if your annual total income, including your 401(k) withdrawals, exceeds the MAGI thresholds described above.

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

GARDEN, from page 4

Choose one that has both nitrogen for the leaves and phosphorus for the bulb. The numbers on the fertilizer indicate NPK: Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium.

We want to encourage those leaves to photosynthesize and make energy to build up the reserves in the bulb. Fertilization will happen monthly as long as the leaves are green.

The leaves will grow for longer than you might think, maybe even into late spring and summer. I'll put the pot outside in the sunshine once the weather warms up enough.

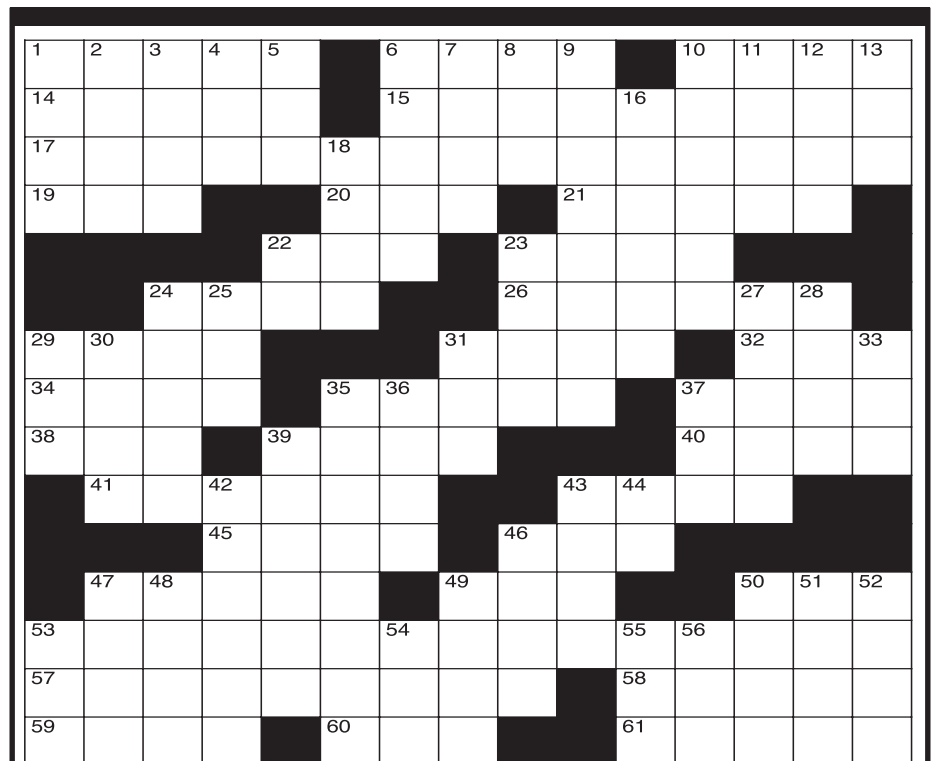
Eventually, though, the leaves will yellow and brown. Once they do it's time to cut them back and let the soil dry out completely, after which the bulbs can be

removed. Give them a couple of days in the sun to dry out further. The outer skin of the bulbs will get papery.

Now it is time to store them in a brown paper bag until planting. Old panty hose or onion bags would also work.

I will replant my paper white bulbs during Advent, and with any luck, all of my work will pay off with blooms when I need it the most – this time next year! And maybe every year thereafter!

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Become less intense
- 6. Variety of pear
- 10. Religion native to China
- 14. Type of tooth
- 15. Fitted out
- 17. Make every effort
- 19. Autonomic nervous system
- 20. Complete
- 21. Alternate name
- 22. River in France and Belgium
- 23. Miami's mascot is one
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Most cognizant of reality
- 29. Broad volcanic crater
- 31. Canadian surname
- 32. Satisfaction
- 34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- 35. Collide
- 37. Immune response
- 38. Feline
- 39. High opinion of one's own appearance
- 40. Thin strip to align parts
- 41. Containers
- 43. Convicted American spy
- 45. Breathe noisily
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. I.M. __, architect
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Dutch and German surname
- 59. Square measures
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Degrade someone
- 7. Gemstone
- 8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
- 9. Evergreen tropical tree
- 10. Reality TV star Richards
- 11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 12. Stakes
- 13. Antidiuretic hormone
- 16. Make warm again
- 18. Light beams
- 22. Lethal dose
- 23. Terrorist group
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Naturally occurring solid
- 27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
- 28. Popular cuisine
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Type of horse
- 31. __ Diego
- 33. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 35. Most shrewd
- 36. It may be for shopping
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. A stock of foods
- 42. The bindings of books
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. Sammy __, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth __, American writer
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Popular type of bread
- 51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
- 52. Association of engineering professionals
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. City
- 55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9

In The News



The Bookworm, one of the stars of the show, made his first appearance.



Bookworm and the monkey from The Animal Boogie "swayed" through the trees.



Puppeteer Anna Sobel taught the children some dance moves to do along with the next story The Animal Boogie.



Bookworm and the elephant from The Animal Boogie "stomped" through the forest.



Fly Guy interrupts Bookworm's reading and wonders how reading can be as fun as going on an adventure.



The first animal of The Animal Boogie was a hippopotamus.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

PUPPET, from page 1

Fly Guy that reading can be just as fun as doing other activities, that reading can open doors to new adventures and places people otherwise may not get a chance to see.

Sobel was inspired to write this play to try to get kids more interested in reading.

"It's all about getting excited about reading," Sobel said. "When someone else feels like there's something else they'd rather do...why should you open a book, what's in there, what does that do for you? I'm a firm believer that it expands your imagination in a way that nothing else can."

Many of Sobel's shows do have an inherent lesson behind them, as she tries to both educate and entertain.

"I use it for educational purposes," she said. "I have something I want to say, so I say it through the puppets."

Throughout the show at the library, Sobel worked to engage the children in the story.

Before the show even started, she had them help her create a "silly song", based on the Rattlin' Bog. Children got to pick different fun words to add into the song while they sang along.

Following this children were free to join in on saying "we're sailing down the Nile" as the story began and Bookworm and Fly Guy took a trip to Egypt through the book We're Sailing Down the Nile.

Children were also able to join in on dancing and singing to different animal motions during the story The Animal Boogie.

It was an entertaining and fun activity for the children, and many adults even joined in on the fun.

Sobel has been a puppeteer since she finished college. She enjoys the ability to engage in storytelling, visual art and acting all at once.

"I really loved all these different art forms and I couldn't decide what I wanted to be," Sobel said. "And then I went to see Bread and Puppet in Vermont and they really showed me a way of using puppetry as a tool for communication."

She has continued in the field since then, participating in library shows, birthday parties and even teaching languages through puppetry.

Sobel also puts on Jewish puppet shows, as she is Jewish herself and wants to share Jewish stories to any interested.

If interested in booking Sobel for a puppet show or learning more about her work, go to http://www.talkinghandstheatre.com/puppet_shows.php.

[atre.com/puppet_shows.php](http://www.talkinghandstheatre.com/puppet_shows.php).

Sobel's performance was sponsored by Holyoke Cultural Council.

If interested in future events like this at the library, go to <https://www.holyoke-library.org/>.



Children and their families gathered in the community room at Holyoke Public Library to watch a puppet show put on by Puppeteer Anna Sobel.



A variety of Barefoot Books were put on display by Puppeteer Anna Sobel for children to browse before and after her puppet show.

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Swim teams sweep Hampden Charter

HOLYOKE – On Tuesday afternoon, both swim teams scored win over Hampden Charter School of Science.

Holyoke boys swimming was a winner 53-36. Julian Vann scored the win in the 200 freestyle, Jared Lapite took the 50 freestyle, and Brady Pjar got the win in the 100 fly stroke.

The girls took their meet 99-8 for their seventh win of the season.

Adaline Woods scored wins in the 200 individual medley and 500 freestyle.

Trinity Roy had wins in the 100 breast stroke and 100 back stroke.

Read The Holyoke Sun online at www.sun.turley.com



Kiara Perez tries to shoot over a pair of blocks.



Cauley Evangeline cause for a layup.

Win over West Side stops losing streak

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Last Thursday night, Holyoke girls basketball picked up a 38-29 win over West Springfield.

The Knights improved to

3-10 this season and stopped a four-game losing streak with the win.

Kiara Perez and Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes each scored 17 points in the win.



Genesis Rivera looks for an opening to drive to the hoop.



Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes seeks a layup.



Victoria D'Amico gets the easy bank shot under the hoop.

Knights nearing playoff berth

HOLYOKE – Last week, Holyoke was able to score a win over Putnam Vocational 76-64.

The win was Holyoke's eighth of the season, and one more win will put the Knights in the state tournament. Four Knights scored

in double digits, led Jamil Rodriguez with 19 points. Davian Diaz had 18 points, Shawn Rivera turned in 16 points, and Jordan King-Perilli scored 14 points. The Knights were excellent from beyond the arc with 13 three-pointers.



Dylan Rohan looks to drive into paint.



Jamil Rodriguez gets ready to shoot a free throw.



Chauncey Ruiz shoots near the free throw line.



Davian Diaz lets a shot go.

Thunderbirds offense scores big over Charlotte Checkers

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (20-17-3-2) dominated for much of the night in a 6-1 win over the Charlotte Checkers (20-17-4-0) on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 at the MassMutual Center.

The T-Birds jumped to a first-period lead for a second straight evening, this time just 3:37 into game action. Mathias Laferriere spun away from a defender to gain entry on the right-wing side. Mikhail Abramov raced up the middle of the ice, catching a perfect pass from Laferriere and lifting a shot into the top shelf behind Charlotte netminder Ludovic Waeber, making it 1-0 on his eighth goal of the season.

After not facing much action in the opening half of the period, Springfield goaltender Malcolm Subban got infinitely busier in the closing minutes, as the T-Birds killed off two Charlotte power plays, includ-

ing 28 seconds' worth of 5-on-3 time. Subban shined, with point-blank saves off Gerry Mayhew and Rasmus Asplund sticking out in a 10-save opening frame.

After the goal by Abramov, Waeber also settled in, and the Checkers' third-ranked penalty kill also denied Springfield on two power plays as the two clubs' man-advantage units continued to scuffle.

For a second consecutive evening, Charlotte got an equalizer in the early stages of period two. Patrick Khodorenko approached the net and bashed home a rebound through Subban's legs after Patrick Giles had his initial try denied by the goaltender. The goal came just 44 seconds into the period to tie the score, 1-1.

However, like Friday night, the tie score would be short-lived. A Matt Kiersted penalty sent Springfield's

power play back to work, and just 32 seconds after the Khodorenko tally, Hugh McGing got his first goal since Nov. 24, ramming home a wide shot from Laferriere that skipped off the end boards right in front of the goal on the left side.

With the lead back in their possession, the T-Birds would not relinquish it. Subban made a crucial 2-on-1 save on Checkers captain Zac Dalpe, and moments after another Springfield penalty kill, at 10:22 of the period, Hunter Skinner stepped into a one-time drop pass from Zach Bolduc and saw it ricochet off a Charlotte stick and behind Waeber to make it 3-1. It was Skinner's first goal as a Thunderbird.

Laferriere's night was far from over, as he stepped over the left-wing side and roofed a heavy snap shot through Waeber at 14:00, and in less than four minutes, the lead grew to 4-1.

Things would not get any better for the Checkers in the third. Ryan Suzuki pounced on a loose puck in the slot after a Jakob Vrana pass to Bolduc caromed off Waeber's pad right into the slot area. Suzuki also found the top corner, advancing the lead to 5-1 on his third goal of the season.

Will Bitten would round out the scoring with his second point of the night, cashing in on a 2-on-1 after an initial shot from Bolduc bounced off Waeber's left pad and right onto Bitten's tape. Subban got himself back into the win column, making 29 saves in securing his ninth win of the year.

Including the postseason, Springfield is now 10-1-0-0 in its last 11 games against Charlotte inside the Thunderdome, and with the two-game sweep, the T-Birds leaped ahead of Charlotte in the Atlantic Division standings.

Loss puts Railers in fifth place

WORCESTER – The Railers fell 4-2 to the Trois-Rivieres Lions to wrap up a home three-in-three weekend.

The Railers found themselves in an early hole. They were behind, 1-0, less than four minutes after the opening faceoff and never led.

Lions goaltender Zachary Emond, facing Worcester for the first time in his career, was excellent in net with 34 stops. Several were very timely, too. But, the Railers just did not finish well.

"It was a combination of both," is how coach Jordan Smotherman described his team's lack of goals. "He made some good saves but often times we don't find those pucks laying around the net. There were a lot of rebounds and the drive has not been there this year to put those in the back of the net."

The two pucks that did find the back of the net were shot by Jack Quinlivan and Blade Jenkins. The Lions got goals from Nolan Yaremko, Nicolas Guay, Jakov Novak — his 19th of the season — and Cedric Montminy into an empty net.

Ken Appleby stopped 31 of 34

shots on the night for Worcester.

Yaremko scored at 3:43 of the first period. Quinlivan tied it at 7:12 of the second on a rebound of a play he set up with hard work down the left wing. It was his first goal of the season, third as a pro and first at the DCU Center.

Guay converted a 4 on 3 power play at 1:33 of the third then Jenkins tied it again with a wraparound at 4:53. Novak scored a scramble goal for what proved to be the winner at 11:10.

The opposition seems to be getting more scramble goals than Worcester these days.

"Those are earned over time," Smotherman said, "when you dissect them you realize they're self-inflicted."

The game was a lively one that featured 51 minutes worth of penalties including a fighting major to Artyom Kulakov and a game misconduct for abuse of officials to Zach White.

The loss dropped Worcester into fifth place in the North Division, at least in terms of points. The Railers are fourth in winning percentage but can't see to find the traction to get themselves a little breathing room.

Western Mass. Baseball Hall of Fame announces new class

HOLYOKE – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame has announced the 11th annual class to be inducted on March 7, 2024 at Twin Hills Country Club:

Jeff Reardon: Reardon is a 16-year MLB relief pitcher, four-time All-Star, and 1987 World Series champion (Twins). He notched 367 saves over the course of his career, ranking 12th on the MLB all-time saves list. He pitched for five different teams during his big league career (Mets, Expos, Twins, Red Sox, and Yankees). Reardon grew up in Western Massachusetts, graduating from Wahconah High School in Dalton.

Mark Simeone: Entering his 28th season as Head Coach of Springfield College's baseball team, Simeone has compiled 484 victories during his tenure. He grew up in Northampton, graduating from Northampton High School in 1982. In addition to coaching at Springfield College, Simeone played outfield from 1982-87 under Charles Roys (Class of 2022 Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame inductee).

Bob Taylor: A current and longtime resident of Springfield, Taylor played 16 professional baseball seasons. He reached the major leagues in 1970, where he appeared in 63 games for the San Francisco Giants alongside Willie Mays and Willie McCovey. Taylor played for San Francisco's Double-A affiliate, the Springfield Giants, in 1965.

Don Strange: Strange, a Springfield native, played college baseball at UMass

Amherst from 1987-89. He then enjoyed an eight-year professional baseball career, reaching Triple-A while with the Atlanta Braves system. Don joins his brother, Pat (Class of 2021) in the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame.

Earl Lorden: Lorden served as Head Coach at Turners Falls before taking the helm as Head Coach at UMass Amherst from 1948-1966. He won 189 games during this span, ranking third on UMass's all-time wins list. Lorden was a continuous supporter of UMass baseball until his passing in 1984 at the age of 87.

1942 Turners Falls State Championship Team: A true underdog team of 15 players that won the 1942 Massachusetts State Championship well before population-based divisions were instituted. Their undefeated regular season was shortened by gas rationing during World War II before defeating Arlington in the championship game at Fenway Park by a score of 5-4. The team induction coincides with the individual induction of their head coach, Earl Lorden.

Ron Chimelis (Garry Brown Sports Media Award): A long time columnist and sports reporter for the Springfield Republican, Chimelis served as Red Sox beat reporter during their 2004, 2007, and 2013 World Series championship seasons. He will be the second recipient of the Garry Brown Award, the first of which was posthumously awarded to Garry Brown in 2023.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of

your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD24P0165GD In the interests of Tarlo Arden-Atwood Zerbach of Holyoke, MA Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 01/24/2024 by Amanda Fortier-Gagnon of Holyoke, MA will be held 02/23/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor

Hearing. Located: 50 State St., Springfield, MA 01103 Hampden Probate and Family Court 4th Floor

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you

have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: January 24, 2024

Rosemary Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 02/02/2024

CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN *67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size for Gulf Branding, 820 High Street, (Parcel 009-02-009), submitted by Kara Kennedy.

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 9-4 p.m.

Applicant: Kara Kennedy
 Planning Board:
 Mimi Panitch
 01/26, 02/02/2024

CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN *67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size for Olivers Auto Body, 1509 & 1519 Dwight Street, (Parcel 105-00-082), submitted by Churchill OpCo Holdings, LLC.

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 9-4 p.m.

Applicant: Scott Leffler
 Planning Board:
 Mimi Panitch
 01/26, 02/02/2024

See PUBLIC NOTICES, page 9

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.

CITY OF HOLYOKE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR QUOTES WISTARIAHURST MUSEUM, PINE ST. CHIMNEY REPAIR QUOTES ARE DUE BY 12:00 PM ON 2/16/2024

The City of Holyoke is requesting quotes for the repair of the chimney facing Cabot St, left of the main entrance at Wistariahurst Museum, 238 Cabot St., Holyoke, MA 01040 including all materials and labor necessary to complete the work.

Documents will be available from the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 beginning at 12:00PM on Tuesday January 30, 2024. Bid documents may be requested via email to sweeneye@holyoke.org or in person at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office. The deadline to submit quotes is **February 16, 2024, by 12:00PM**. Quotes shall be submitted via email to sweeneye@holyoke.org. **THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL OFFERS** 02/02/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD24P0135GD

In the interests of Mason Alexander Chouinard of Holyoke, MA Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **01/22/2024** by

Gail M Chouinard of Holyoke, MA
Mackenzie J Chouinard of Holyoke, MA
will be held **02/26/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **Hampden Probate & Family Court, 50 State St., 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01102.**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Min-

or: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: January 22, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/02/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD23D1225DR

Juanita G Colon vs. Jonathan F Colon Hansen
DIVORCE SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION AND MAILING

To the Defendant:
The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Divorce requesting that the Court grant a divorce for Irretrievable Breakdown.

The Complaint is on file at the Court.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. **SEE Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411.**

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon:
Juanita G Colon
28 Myrtle Street, Apt. D21
Springfield, MA 01105

your answer, if any, on or before **03/19/2024**. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer, if any, in the office of the Register of this Court

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 29, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/02/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23C0364CA
In the matter of: Isaac Jael Reyes
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Isaac Jael Reyes of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Isaac Jael Izquierdo Lopez
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 02/22/2024.**

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: January 25, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/02/2024

City of Holyoke Purchasing Department 536 Dwight Street, Room 3 Holyoke, MA 01040 RFQ 2024-34SD OPM For School Improvement Project

The Holyoke Public Schools ("HPS" or "City") hereby request qualifications from firms for owner's project manager services for the design and construction of HVAC and other facility improvement projects in school buildings in Holyoke, MA. The successful OPM will manage this process under the direction of the Superintendent/Receiver. Total project cost is estimated to be \$5,000,000 (Five Million Dollars).

The HPS have allocated \$5,000,000.00 (Five Million Dollars) in **ESSER Funds and other grant funds** to several HVAC improvement/replacement projects and other facility improvement projects. All funds awarded under this RFQ must be expended by September 30, 2024. All projects managed by the selected OPM must be completed by September 30, 2024 unless otherwise specified.

This project is funded with Federal funds. Respondents will be verified for eligibility to receive Federal funds and must comply with all Federal regulations including Part 200. Documents can be received in person from the office of purchasing or elec-

tronically by requesting from morrowj@holyoke.org or sweeneye@holyoke.org

Documents will be available on 1/29/2024 at 12PM. Submission deadline is **2/22/2024 at 2PM.**

No electronic submissions will be allowed. The city reserves the right to reject any and all submissions. 02/02/2024

CITY OF HOLYOKE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR QUOTES 2024-36W

WISTARIAHURST MUSEUM, PINE ST. PORCH TRELLIS QUOTES ARE DUE BY 12:30 PM ON 2/16/2024.

The City of Holyoke is requesting quotes for the provision and installation of a custom fabricated steel tube trellis on the Pine Street Porch at Wistariahurst Museum, 238 Cabot St., Holyoke, MA 01040 including all materials and labor necessary to complete the work.

Documents will be available from the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 beginning at 12:00PM on Tuesday January 30, 2024. Bid documents may be requested via email to sweeneye@holyoke.org or in person at the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office. The deadline to submit quotes is **February 16, 2024, by 12:30PM**. Quotes shall be submitted via email to sweeneye@holyoke.org. **THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL OFFERS** 02/02/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD24P0140GD

In the matter of: Marta Rosa Santiago 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 **Holyoke Medical Center of Holyoke, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Marta Rosa Santiago** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Dorris Rivera of Holyoke, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to

serve **Without Surety** 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 **02/20/2024**. 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: January 23, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/02/2024

CITY OF HOLYOKE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.com** ID: 836 3939 8493; CALL IN *67 646 558 8656 to hear, pursuant to the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance Section 6.4.6.4, a Special Permit for an Increase in Sign Size for Savings Haven, 1594 Dwight Street, (Parcel 106-00-004), submitted by Dionys Cabriotti

The complete application may be viewed through the Holyoke Planning Dept M-F, 9-4 p.m.

Applicant:
Dionys Cabriotti

Planning Board:
Mimi Panitch
01/26, 02/02/2024

City of Holyoke Notice of Public Hearing

The Holyoke License Board will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 5:15 pm**. You can join via [Zoom.com](https://zoom.com); ID 87246400976; CALL IN: *67 646 558 8656 or in person at City Hall Annex 20 Korean Veterans Plaza Room 403, regarding the application for a Transfer of License of a All Alcohol Liquor License (Off-Premises) from LPS Inc. DBA Dillion's Package Store 589 High Street transferring to Gleam Global Holdings LLC DBA Dillion's Package Store 589 High Street., pursuant to M.G.L. Ch.138.

Applicant:
Gleam Global Holdings, LLC
License Board:
Anthony Luciano,
Chairman
01/26, 02/02/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23C0365CA
In the matter of: Isaias Jesuel Reyes Izquierdo
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Isaias Jesuel Reyes Izquierdo of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Isaias Jesuel Izquierdo Lopez
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 02/22/2024.**

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: January 25, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/02/2024

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

The Holyoke Sun
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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.

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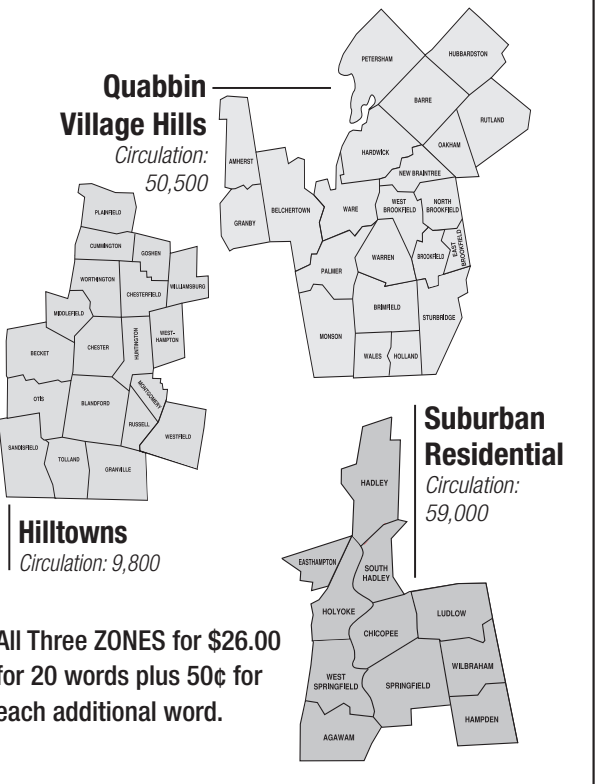
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VOC starts 2024 tax assistance program

CHICOPEE – Valley Opportunity Council, which manages the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program providing free tax preparation to those of low and moderate-income, has begun its 2024 tax preparations on Monday, Jan. 29.

VITA in-person tax preparation appointments are available from Jan 29 through May 15 at 35 Mt. Carmel Ave., Chicopee; 300 High Street, Holyoke; and new this year, 20 Lathrop Street in West Springfield.

To schedule an appointment,

call (413) 612-0206. Those eligible for the VITA program must live in Massachusetts with an income of up to \$60,000. Appointments are available on weekdays, evenings and Sundays.

Certified volunteer tax professionals help qualified individuals prepare and file basic state and federal tax returns and prior year returns. VOC also offers free electronic filing (e-filing) of tax returns, allowing for individuals to receive their refunds much quicker than paper filings.

The core mission and goal of VITA is to assist low- to moderate-income taxpayers in satisfying their tax responsibilities and minimize financial hardships, in turn saving taxpayers thousands of dollars in filing fees.

In 2023, VOC helped 743 individuals file their state and federal tax returns through the VITA program. VOC has been providing the VITA program for 25 years in the communities of Chicopee, Holyoke, and more recently, Westfield.

The Valley Opportunity Council is

the largest and most diverse Community Action Agency in Western Massachusetts with an annual budget of \$45 million. With this Federal designation, the VOC has established a powerful network of support and collaborative services intended to encourage community members to actively achieve self-sufficiency for themselves and their families. VOC employs over 250 staff members and has 150 local vendors, providing a significant economic investment in the community.

New artist at Wistariahurst in Feb.

HOLYOKE – Erika Slocumb's newest exhibit, Abstract Revelry will be on display at Wistariahurst on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. from Feb. 6 to Feb. 27. Admission to Abstract Revelry is free and open to the public so that all can view this amazing exhibit experience.

This art exhibit is the first of its kind to be presented in the gallery, with each artwork being accompanied by pieces of music that inspired each piece. Borne from a discussion about the need for interactive exhibits that can engage multiple senses, while also making sure to program this exhibit in a way that people with disabilities can also enjoy the full experience. Slocumb's artwork is intricate and multidimensional, making it a unique per-

spective on how art comes in many forms. Visitors will hear artists such as Rihanna and Public Enemy, with QR Codes available to link you to a playlist that you can listen to while viewing the exhibit. Abstract Revelry: A Visual and Audio Experience hopes to inspire visitors to think differently about art and how it can be experienced.

"When I see the paintings, they usually invoke a playlist in my mind based on what I was listening to when I created them. Some of my paintings were influenced by music and I created them based on the sounds I was hearing," Slocumb said. "I love this experience and I want to share it with everyone."

To learn more and plan your visit, please follow this link: <https://new.wistariahurst.org/events/month/2024-02/>.

SEATING, from page 1

cy. Tradition is just tradition...tradition evolves and it changes over time."

Jourdain feared that if they let this rule slip, it could lead to leeway with other rules as well.

"It's this rule, what's the next rule?" he said. "We just make this stuff up as we go along? No. We have a rule, and if you don't like the rule, change the rules."

Jourdain also added that he spoke with former Council President Todd McGee on this issue and, according to Jourdain, McGee agreed that Jourdain's interpretation of the rule was correct.

Jourdain and Councilor Howard Greaney also felt that this was a matter of respect for other councilors. Jourdain mentioned that he had suggested a solution to the matter to Murphy-Romboletti, but she turned it down.

"It speaks to seniority, it speaks to respect, it speaks to consultation," Jourdain said. "I know there's been a lot of discussion about decorum and people being respectful of each other. Doing things like taking people's seats away without consulting them and assigning them all here and yonder; it's disrespectful."

Councilor Jenny Rivera disagreed. She felt that Murphy-Romboletti had the authority as the president to make this decision and she did not think that respect came into play.

"I don't understand why we're still on this topic. Respect? Is there such a word in this council?" she asked. "Really respect does not work here. Presidents have been disrespected... Women have been disrespected. The city attorney was told to drown. A mother with kids. So, respect? Not such a word here in council."

Jenny and Israel Rivera and Councilors Patty Devine and Juan Andeson Burgos all stated that they would stay in the new seats assigned to them by Murphy-Romboletti.

"This is where you want me to sit?" Jenny Rivera said. "This is where I am going to sit and I am not moving. Simple as that."

Councilor Kocayne Givner also agreed that the president had the authority to assign seats.

"Sounds like the president assigning seats is by permission of the president," Givner said. "I don't find this to be very important... I don't see a problem, I don't think we need a solution. It's a new term, there's new seats. I don't think it's that big of a deal."

Givner and several others felt that the time spent arguing over Murphy-Romboletti's choice of seating arrangement was a waste.

"I think we're spending too much time talking about where we get to sit," Givner said.

"I think we're wasting a lot of time over something that is not that important," Israel Rivera said.

"Here the most important thing for us to do is to deal with the agenda that we have and move forward."

In the end, the council voted 7-6 to keep Murphy-Romboletti's seating arrangement. Councilors Anderson-Burgos, Divine, Givner, Magrath-Smith, Murphy-Romboletti, Israel Rivera and Jenny Rivera voted to keep her seats.

Jourdain made a comment following the vote, to "bring closure" to the issue.

"All I would ask the president is just consider that a 7-6 vote just took place, just take that into consideration as you're going to think about this topic, is that where we want to go for the next two years," Jourdain said. "Just consider that."

youth to get a good sense of community and service.

Stein also wants to work towards social justice. She has had clergy meetings with Mayor Joshua Garcia to look at different ways that St. Peter's and Holyoke can work to meet the needs of the community.

She emphasized that this social justice and community outreach was open to everyone, not just those who are part of St. Peter's.

"If we're doing some outreach or something, it's not 'well, if you want to have this you have to go to worship', that's not the way it works," she said. "We extend an invitation always."

One of Stein's philosophies is that she and the church are doing ministries and other work together. She wants to hear from and work with the community.

"For me, whether it's worship, or outreach or service it's something that we all do together as the body of Christ," Stein said. "I'm here for guidance and leadership, but we all work together so as many people as I can get involved in worship... I like to get everybody involved."

STEIN, from page 1

falls under those two things: love," Stein said. "Anything that comes between us and that isn't love. He didn't say love only your white, European neighbor. He didn't say to love only the neighbors who look like you, or live like you or love like you. He said to love everybody and that's what we do."

Part of the way Stein hopes to exemplify this belief further is through her future actions in St. Peter's. She hopes to make worship more accessible and more open to youth.

"One of the things we want to do, of course, is invite more people to worship," Stein said.

Already she and others at St. Peter's have implemented an online worship, available on Facebook live, so that those who may have difficulty getting to St. Peter's to worship can still partake.

Additionally, she hopes to partner with some other churches in the community, Lutheran or no, in order to increase the amount of youth who are involved in the church. She hopes this will allow

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HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT TOWN ACCOUNTANT

The Town of Palmer is seeking applicants for the full-time position of Assistant Town Accountant.

The applicant should have a working knowledge of accounting theory and accrual concepts along with strong organizational, interpersonal, and analytical skills as well as experience with Microsoft Office. Previous experience using MUNIS accounting software is a plus. Complete job description can be found at <https://townofpalmer.com/jobs>. Please e-mail a cover letter and resume to gpotter@townofpalmer.com or via mail to the Town Accountant's Office at 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. This position will remain open until filled. The Town of Palmer is an EOE/AA employer.

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation in Wales is looking for a part-time (16 hours/week) **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** to assist with operations and office management duties. For a full job description, please visit www.norcrosswildlife.org or email dgugliotti@norcrosswildlife.org.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

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



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.

FOR RENT

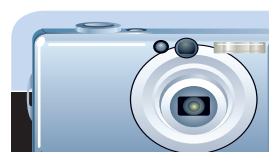


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Pioneer Valley Conference for Women to be held May 9

SPRINGFIELD – The third annual Pioneer Valley Conference for Women will be held May 9 at the Marriott Springfield Downtown from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The conference will be held in person and virtually. This year's theme is Unleashed. Sponsors include M&T Bank and USI.

Dr. Christina Royal will serve as emcee for the conference. The former president of Holyoke Community College, Royal is now president and CEO of Infinite Unlearning, LLC, a woman, BIPOC, and queer-owned executive coaching and consultancy service supporting mid to senior leaders and

their organizations. Her goal is to educate leaders on a new paradigm of the future of work and help them shed their limiting beliefs and lead from a place of potential.

Keynote speakers are Meghan Rothschild, president, and owner of the marketing and public relations firm Chikmedia, and Jessika Rozki, founder of Rozki Rides, a transportation service focusing on children and seniors.

Rothschild is an award-winning business owner, public speaker, and social influencer. As a speaker, she is known for engaging audiences on topics such as social media, marketing strate-

gy, public relations, women in business, melanoma survivorship, and living with endometriosis.

Rozki's career in transportation began 15 years ago as a school bus driver in Chicopee. In 2019, with the resolve to balance her professional aspirations and family life, Rozki launched Rozki Rides. Based in Greater Springfield, the company started as a professional transportation service catering primarily to families.

In addition, there will be 10 different panels that women can choose to attend in the morning and afternoon. Panelists, all local women, will be announced in the coming months.

For more information, visit <https://sheslocal.org/pioneer-valley-conference-for-women/>.



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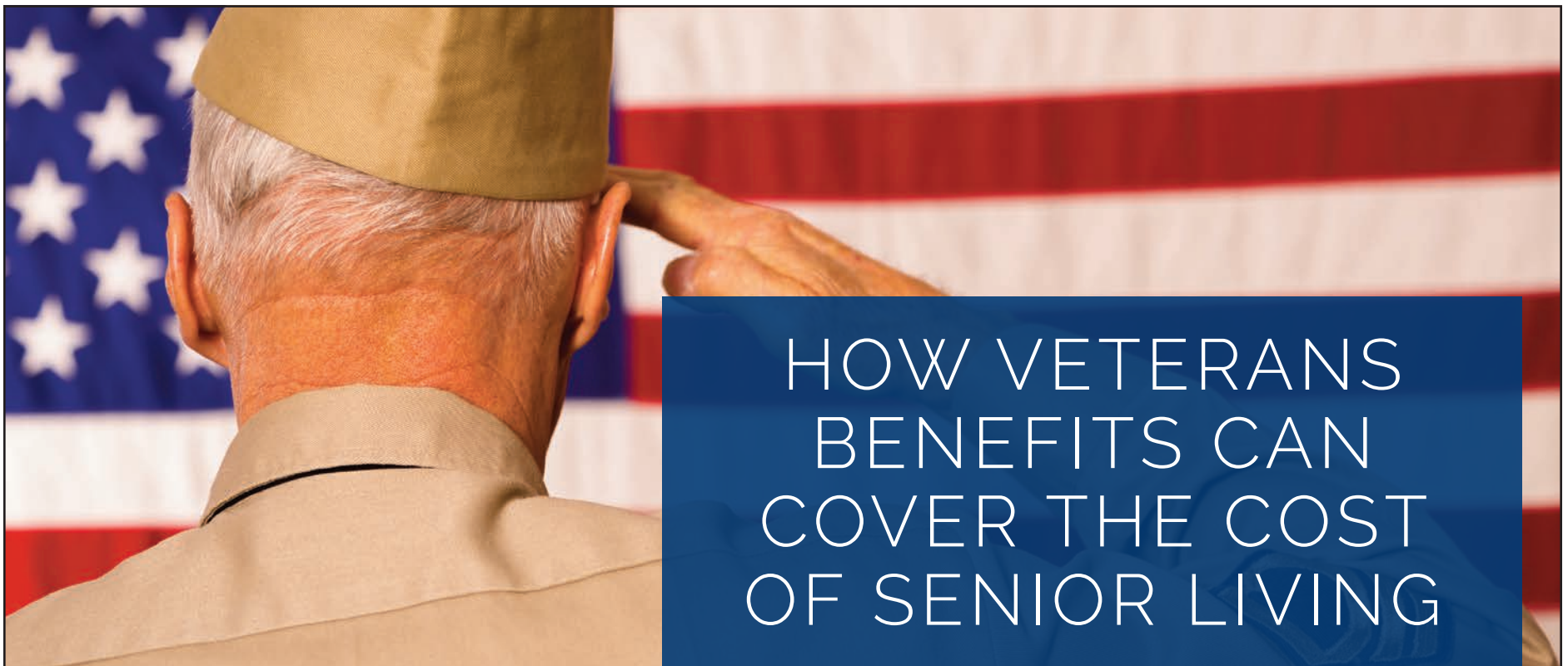
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Scholarship and fellowships available

WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund has scholarship and fellowship money available for graduates of Hampden County public and private high schools. Graduating high school seniors and students already in college may apply for Scholarships of \$12,000. Those in their final year of college and previous college graduates pursuing advanced degrees may apply for Fellowships of \$15,000. Applicants must maintain at least a B average in college and be enrolled as full-time students. Awards are made based on both academic achievement and financial need. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance and their goals in pursuing higher education.

Last year, \$316,000 was awarded to 30 individuals. Scholarships were given to 22 graduating seniors from nine Hampden County high schools. Three scholarships were also awarded to current college stu-

dents to assist them in completing their undergraduate degrees. Five fellowships were given to college graduates pursuing advanced degrees, who had graduated from Hampden County high schools. The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, established in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950. Completed applications must be received either electronically or by mail to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15. Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.



HOW VETERANS BENEFITS CAN COVER THE COST OF SENIOR LIVING

Wednesday, February 14th • 9:30 – 11:30 AM

PRESENTED BY:

Patty Servaes, Elder Resource Benefits Consulting

Discover benefits up to \$2,727 per month available to Veterans, spouses and surviving spouses. We will be de-mystifying VA Pension with Aid and Attendance for those:

- who wish to live in independent OR assistance in living
- who never served overseas
- who still own their own home
- who were not wounded in service

Lavish refreshments will be served, and tours will be offered following the presentation.

ERBC is not affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs



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