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INSIDE



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E.N. White PTO seek schedule changes

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Three representatives from E.N. White Elementary School's PTO, Meagan Magrath-Smith, Maria and Kyle Chambers, came to the school committee meeting on Feb. 26 to ask for changes in their school.

They raised concerns about the amount of time students are getting for lunch and recess as well as the amount of time they are spending on screens every day.

"The CDC recommends that all students have 20 minutes after they are seated in which to eat their lunch," Maria said. "Holyoke Public Schools currently offer a total of 15 minutes for students to get their lunch, eat and clean up."

Additionally, Maria pointed out that snack breaks seem to be made at teacher discretion and are inconsistent throughout the school buildings.

They worried that with limited time to eat, students would not get the nutrients they need to be healthy and be able to focus on learning.

"They're not getting the nutrition that they need and right now a lot of the kids are going hungry throughout the day," Kyle said.

"The CDC research shows that the students that are allowed adequate time to eat consume more key nutrients for proper cognitive function," Maria said.

Many parents of the E.N. White PTO have reported students coming home with full lunch boxes, explaining to their parents that they simply did not have enough time to eat during their lunch period.

"By the time they shuttle all of these kids into the cafeteria, get them organized, they might have a couple of minutes," Kyle said. "They're not used to that regiment, this isn't the military, this is kindergarten."

On top of their concerns over adequate time to eat, they were also worried about whether or not students had enough time for recess.

According to the Chambers and Magrath-Smith, students at E.N White were only getting 15 minutes for recess, including transition times.

"They're actually getting less than 15 minutes of recess

See CHANGES, page 12



Photographer Dave Madeloni welcomed everyone in attendance of his and Author and Songwriter Jim Armenti's showing of their work Sun on the Muddy.
Turley photos by Quinn Suomala

Holyoke Public Library hosts 'Sun on the Muddy' creators

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The library hosted Author and Songwriter Jim Armenti and Photographer Dave Madeloni of Sun on the Muddy for a chance to talk about, display and perform their work.

Both Armenti and Madeloni were excited for this opportunity. They have toured several libraries in the past year, each one a unique experience.

"They have all been well received, it's not like anything they've seen before," Madeloni said. "It's particularly fun for me because I get to rediscover these poems."

Armenti performs different songs and reads different poems at each one, and

Madeloni shows different photos.

"All the photos I show today are local, taken within a 12 mile radius," Madeloni said.

This entire event is also a unique experience for those who attend.

"It's different from what you might call a poetry reading," Madeloni explained.

Throughout the event, Madeloni displayed two collections of his photographs in a slideshow format while songs by Armenti played in the background.

Armenti also read some of his poems from the book Sun on the Muddy and performed a couple of his library-related songs, all from his album The Great Pumpkin Roll.

See LIBRARY, page 12



Author and Songwriter Jim Armenti finished off the event by performing some of his library-themed songs from his album The Great Pumpkin Roll.



Photographer Dave Madeloni and Author and Songwriter Jim Armenti were both excited to show their work to the gathered audience.

Pair of city councilors file 'decorum' rule order

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – City Councilors Linda Vacon and Kevin Jourdain filed an order at the council meeting on Feb. 20 to prevent councilors from making references to or about other members but in respectful terms both in council chambers, in public and on social media.

"My main thought is that we are City Councilors in or out of the Council Chambers and we should be respectful in general, including social media," Vacon said.

Jourdain stated that since his return to the council two years ago, he has been "appalled" by the comments of some of his fellow councilors.

When asked for a statement as to why he filed this order with Vacon, he said:

"Councilors should act respectfully towards their colleagues even if they disagree on issues. Strong principled disagreement is completely fair, nasty personal attacks are not okay. Councilors should focus on the issues and much less on the personalities. Since returning to the Council two years ago, I have been appalled by the comments and naked hypocrisy of some Councilors who claim they want civility and decorum then make a parade of vicious personal attacks against other Councilors, particularly on social media. Instead of showing leadership and raising the tenor of the debate, some seem to relish in these on-line attacks. It's sad we have to make a rule on common sense and common decency, but what I have come to learn is these traits are not as common as I would have liked."

Both Jourdain and Vacon are hopeful that this order will go through the council.

"It appears there is general agreement that we should be respectful in our communication, so it is anticipated that this will not be controversial," Vacon said. "In my experience respectful communication does not need to be limited to a location (council chambers)."

"I would hope that we could all get on the same page to support the effort here," Jourdain said. "I am cautiously optimistic a strong majority will support these changes."

See ORDER, page 12

HCC gallery to host reception for Northampton artist

HOLYOKE – The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College will host a reception Thursday, March 7, for Northampton artist Raishad J. Glover, whose show is on display until March 20.

The reception, celebrating Glover’s work and his recent addition to the HCC faculty, will be held in the gallery from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Taber is located off the main lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the Donahue Building.

Cubes, hexagons, the environment, as well as other shapes and themes, come together in Glover’s exhibit, “Geo-Spec: Cultural Introspection Wealth.”

“The cube acts as a form of building

block,” said Glover. “Building blocks for family. Building blocks for community. Building blocks for ecosystems.”

A hexagon, he notes, is essentially the outline of a cube, and a form prevalent in nature, such as in the honeycombs found in beehives.

Glover studied studio art at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University in Boston and holds a master’s degree in fine art in painting and printmaking from the Yale School of Art in New Haven.

He joined HCC in the fall after nine years teaching art at Claflin University and South Carolina State University in Orangeburg. At HCC, he teaches

2-dimensional design and painting.

“I have a lot of history up here, a lot of family, and a lot of friends, and a gallery in Boston that is used to exhibiting my work,” said Glover, who lives in Northampton and maintains a studio there. “I wanted to get back to other areas that I’m familiar with and build connections.”

The “Geo-Spec” exhibit explores concepts such as culture, mind growth, wealth, and ecological design. “Geo” refers to geometry, “spec” to spectrum. Glover experiments with multiple mediums, such as lenticular printing, graphite powder, beeswax, dura-trans/backlit film, analog and digital photography, and LED

Lights.

He is an advocate of sustainable design and chooses materials that are more environmentally friendly. Geo-Spec includes pieces constructed from granite, paper, glass, bamboo, and wool, among others.

One of the pieces is a refurbished portable television from the 1940s, retrofitted to play videos from an Amazon Fire TV Stick.

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.

HCC to host health careers open house

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will host an open house at its Center for Health Education & Simulation on Wednesday, March 20, for anyone interested in exploring educational programs and careers in healthcare, animal care, human services, or culinary arts.

Visitors to the Health Careers Open House are welcome to tour HCC’s state-of-the-art health education facility from 4 to 6 p.m. and talk to representatives from the college’s programs in nursing, radiologic technology, veterinary and animal science, medical assisting, community health worker, direct care, emergency medical technician, Foundations of Health, certified nursing assistant, medical billing and coding, human services, and culinary arts.

The event is free and open to the

public. The building, located at 404 Jarvis Ave., just off the main HCC campus, is home to the college’s nursing and radiologic technology programs, and medical simulation labs.

There will also be representatives attending from the offices of financial aid, admissions, advising, and workforce development to talk to prospective students about their educational options and career pathways.

“This is an excellent opportunity to explore all of our health majors at one time, see our state-of-the-art simulation labs, meet our faculty and staff, and learn all about our outstanding student support services,” said nursing resource coordinator Dee Westcott.

If individuals can’t make it in person, please contact Dee Westcott at dwestcott@hcc.edu for more information.

Horace Smith Fund scholarship and fellowships still 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 award-

ed to current college students 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.

Tickets available for Hibernian breakfast

HOLYOKE – In concert with the festivities surrounding the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade the Ancient Order of Hibernians, James A. Curran, Division One of Hampden Hampshire Counties invites the public to attend the annual Communion breakfast on Sunday March 10, at 8:00 a.m. A Memorial Mass at St. Jerome Church, followed by a breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at the Wyckoff Country Club, 233 Easthampton Road, Holyoke.

The Hibernians will honor James P. Kelly, CEO of the Polish National Credit Union with the 2024 Hibernian Christian Charity Award.

The Guest speaker will be Erin Duffy Lacy, Irish National Dance Champion and Research Fellow at Harvard Medical School.

For reservations by March 8, call Atty. John J. Driscoll at 413-537-1573. Tickets are \$25.00 per person (Tables of 10).

Girls Inc. host annual fundraiser

HOLYOKE – Girls Inc. of the Valley’s annual major fundraiser is back at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, 1000 Hall of Fame Ave, on March 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. Spirit of Girls: Rewind // Fast Forward features co-lead sponsors PeoplesBank and the Women’s Foundation of Boston.

Guests and attendees will hear the impactful stories of Girls Inc. youth, families, alumni and more. The evening will include heavy appetizers, along with a cash bar.

Girls Inc. of the Valley is actively seeking sponsors and volunteers to support the event.

“The need for investments in programs that work towards gender equity and providing safe spaces for girls, and

youth who would benefit from pro-girl environments, is greater than ever” said Suzanne Parker executive director of Girls Inc. of the Valley. “We will raise \$110,000 at Spirit of Girls to provide that safe space, especially during the summer months.”

Thank you to our sponsors: PeoplesBank; Women’s Foundation of Boston; Hazen Paper Company; bank-ESB; BonaVita Aesthetics; The Collins Companies; Monson Savings Bank; SourcePass; UMass Amherst; Parker’s Portables; Kuhn Riddle Architects; and Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts.

If interested, or have questions regarding this event, please contact Meghan Rothschild at (413) 218-4994 or meghan@chikmedia.us.

2024 Cornelius J. Moriarty, Jr. Scholarship for Cadet Engineers

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 164, Sections 69B to 69F, applications for a cadet engineer scholarship will be received at the:

Office of the Manager
Holyoke Gas & Electric Department
99 Suffolk Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

Deadline: March 29, 2024

(Applications will only be considered if received on or before the deadline).

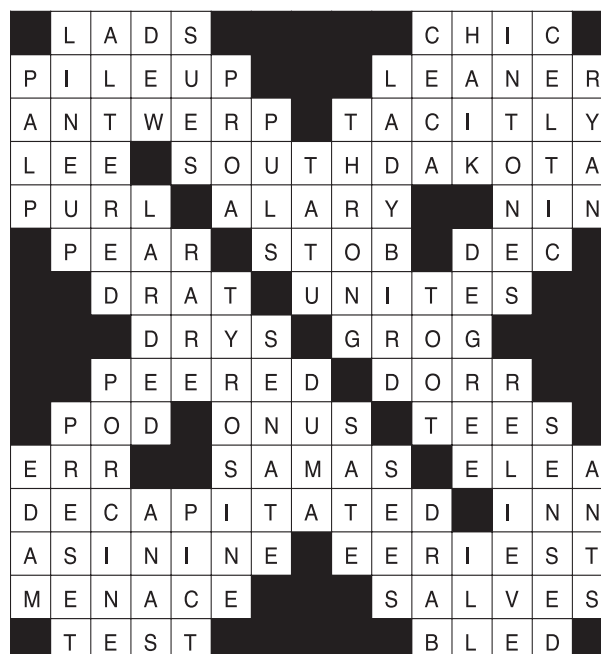
Application forms may be obtained from our website: www.hged.com or from high school guidance counselors. For further information, please contact the Office of the Manager, at (413) 536-9313.

Applicants for the scholarship must be:

- 1) Residents of the City of Holyoke.
- 2) Graduates of a duly accredited senior secondary school (year 2024 or before).
- 3) Not less than seventeen (17) years old on their last birthday, nor more than twenty-five (25) years old.
- 4) Accepted for admission to, or already enrolled in, an accredited community college, college, or university having a course of study leading to a degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering.



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St. Jerome's to host '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 advanced 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 that.

Wistariahurst Museum hosts dramatic reading

HOLYOKE – Drop into Wistariahurst Museum this spring to enjoy Yours, Isabella, the dramatic reading of a new play about museum founder Isabella Stewart Gardner written by Ulrika Brand. To be performed by professional actors and UMass Amherst theater students.

Yours, Isabella focuses on the life of Isabella Stewart Gardner from 1887 to 1903, beginning when she commissioned her portrait by John Singer Sargent and made her first major art purchases. The play also explores Gardner's relationship with art advisor Bernard Berenson, showcasing their friendship and Berenson's self-invention. In an era when women were

expected to focus on domestic roles, Gardner defied norms by turning her home into a salon for artists and musicians, and building a museum in Boston that remains a magnificent cultural attraction.

“Ms. Brand’s play is a fascinating examination of the interplay between the passion for collecting and gender restrictions on women in the Gilded Age,” comments Monika Schmitter, professor of Italian Renaissance and Baroque Art at the UMASS Amherst. “Based on historical letters by Isabella Stewart Gardner and her art advisors, it vividly portrays the sometimes unsavory dealings that led to the establishment of one of the country’s most

famous and unique house museums.”

Stephanie Carlson leads the cast as Isabella Stewart Gardner, accompanied by Frank Aronson, Carolyn Cooper, Rebecca Hicks, Michael Jay, Kimberly Salditt Poulin, Kitty Ryan, and Cole Seitz. This event is free and open to the public, supported by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

On Thursday, April 4 at 3 p.m. an Open Rehearsal welcomes seniors. While seating is limited, registration is appreciated and drop-ins are welcome.

For the Saturday, April 6, at 7 p.m. Dramatic Reading seating is limited, registration is required.

Democrats to hold caucus March 9

HOLYOKE – Registered Democrats in Holyoke will hold a caucus on Saturday, March 9, at 1 p.m. at the Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St.

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in Anytown 16 years old by Thursday Feb.15, may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus. Youth (age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, veterans, members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting massdems.org/massdems-convention.

The 2024 Convention will be in person at the DCU Center in Worcester on June 1.

Those interested in getting involved with the Holyoke Democratic City Committee can check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Holyokedems/.

Wistariahurst celebrates Women's History month with art exhibit

HOLYOKE – Celebrate Women's History month by viewing the Nature/Nurture Art Exhibit at Wistariahurst Museum in March. Artists identifying as female or non-binary were asked how they viewed the theme of nature versus nurture. This debate centers around our genes and surroundings, with both factors playing a role in mental and physical well-being while shaping personalities.

This exhibition showcases a variety of viewpoints on the complex interplay between nature and nurture. Some artworks delve into the powerful impact of genetics, examining how inherited traits and biological tendencies can shape a person's path. Others highlight the nurturing side, underscoring the importance of upbringing, life experiences, and surroundings in defining one's sense of self.

The jury selected five artists to showcase for the Nature/Nurture art exhibit: Anne Bradford Spencer, Deborah Yaffe,

Shelsy Rodriguez, Camille Roos, and River Nation. The museum had so many wonderful submissions that more artists will be included as honorable mentions. These talented individuals delve into various mediums from photography to sculptures, showcasing their distinctive artwork in our gallery for everyone to appreciate, gather, and explore this year's theme.

This new exhibit will be on display throughout March. There will be an artist talk/opening reception on March 12, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. with an artist panel at 5:30 p.m. Gallery open hours will be Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Admission to the artist talk and gallery open hours are free and available to everyone, ensuring everyone can enjoy this year's theme for the Women's History Month art show.

To plan a visit, please go to: <https://wistariahurst.org/events/>

Senior center gets new car

HOLYOKE – The Friends' purchased a car on behalf of the Holyoke Council on Aging and it is a Hyundai Santa Fe, the latest model, purchased from Gary Rome Hyundai for a cost of \$41,000.

The city council and the mayor gave the Friends' the okay to give the Senior Center a check for the amount of the car as a gift to the COA who in turn purchased the car. The senior center was down to one transport car that had been purchased for them over 5 years ago.

The Friends are the fundraising arm of the COA and help with any expenditures not covered by the City budget.



Annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on March 17

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke is excited to announce the 71st annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade will be held on Sunday, March 17. The Parade will air live at noon on WWLP-22News and be live-streamed on WWLP.com.

“The St. Patrick's Committee is thrilled to host the 71st Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade on St. Patrick's Day this

year” said 2024 Parade President, Hayley Dunn. “The Committee has been working hard all year to secure phenomenal talent and entertainment for all to enjoy on Parade Day. We can't wait to see you along the Parade Route!”

In order to arrive at Holyoke High School in time for the noon broadcast, the Parade will step-off at approximately 11:10 a.m. from the former Kmart Plaza.

The parade's website, www.holyokest-patricksparade.com, will provide all of the details regarding the parade route and parking information for spectators.

22News Anchors Rich Tettermer and Taylor Knight, along with Sheila Moreau from the Parade Committee, will serve as Parade hosts.

The St. Patrick's Road Race will be held on Saturday, March 16.



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Hadley Public Schools – serving grades PK-12 is currently accepting School Choice Applications.

Applications can be found on our website at www.hadleyschools.org or call (413) 586-0822. The cut-off date for applications is April 17th.

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PUBLIC NOTICE TO FORMER HOLYOKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

Please be advised that student's Special Education (Chapter 766) records, with a withdrawal date within the year 2015/2016 will be destroyed on March 22, 2024. If you wish to obtain a copy of your records, please contact the:

Holyoke Public Schools, Special Education Department
57 Suffolk Street, Holyoke, MA 01040
Tel: 413-534-2000 Ext. 1209

This does not pertain to current Special Education Student's records. This notice does not pertain to student's transcripts Which are dealt under 603 CMR 23.06

Guest Column

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Brown creeper

A brown creeper regularly visits an oak tree in my yard. The other day I watched the creeper fly to the bottom of the tree and make his way up the tree. A few minutes later a white-breasted nuthatch made its way down the same tree. I think the creeper also grabs some mealworms, which I have out for the bluebirds and any other birds that wants them.

The brown creeper is a small brown bird about 5 1/2 inches long. It has brown streaking above and white underneath and a long, downward, curved bill. Noticeable behavior is creeping up a tree trunk, then dropping down to the base of the same tree or another tree to start the process all over again. It probs bark for insects and larvae. Sometimes it visits feeders for chopped nuts or suet.

The brown creeper blends in with the tree bark. When alarmed it will flatten itself against the tree and remain motionless. Its song is a series of high pitched whistles, "see wee see to wee." The call is a high "tsee."

The female lays five to six white eggs with dark spots in a hammock style crescent shaped nest of bark, twigs, mosses and lined with feathers. It constructs the nest behind a loose piece of bark on a dead tree or in a natural cavity about five to 15 feet above the ground.

Brimfield resident

I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who keeps me up to date on his bird sightings.

He said in a recent email, "I did a walk yesterday at Quabbin gate 43. A small group walked to the area where people can rent or launch boats. No much about." He said some folks heard pine siskins and saw a few white-throated sparrows. On the water, there were a few hooded mergansers and black ducks and in the distance some gulls flying about. On the way home he stopped by the ponds in Warren and the water was not open, so no birds.

He also took part in the Great Backyard Bird Count on Feb. 16 and 17. Here are his results: one red-tailed hawk, four mourning doves, two red-bellied woodpeckers, two downy woodpeckers, one hairy woodpecker, three blue jays, two black-capped chickadees, three tufted titmice, two European starlings, two American robins, three house finches, 97 dark-eyed juncos, four white-throated sparrows, one common grackle and three northern cardinals.

He reported his first sighting on Feb. 16 at 1:40 p.m. and watched for 25 minutes and his second sighting on Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m. was for one hour. On Feb. 17 his sightings were 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., both for 45 minutes at a time. Missed species, ones he has seen before, included pileated woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, American crow and American goldfinch.

See BACKYARD, page 5

Local fishing holes...



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Guest Column

Blueberry pruning 101

in the Garden by Roberta McQuaid

My blueberry bushes came to me as full grown plants uprooted from an acquaintance's yard.

He needed the space for something else, so I happily agreed to take the eight bushes off of his hands. They struggled a lot the first few years of being in their new home, I think because the move was a stressful one.

Over the last couple of seasons we've seen more fruit production, thankfully, but I know there should be more. I think I may need to improve my pruning practices.

We are nearing the end of the dormant season, but if I get right to it, the job can still be accomplished this year.

There are many good reasons to prune in the dormant season. Because there are no leaves on the bushes, you can really take a good look at what you have to work with. You can notice off-colors, bent branches and the like when there is no leaf cover.

Late February into early March is perfect timing because theoretically the coldest

part of the winter has passed. Sometimes pruning reduces cold hardiness, but like I mentioned, we should be OK since we are nearing winter's end.

Some rules transfer from pruning one type of plant to another; in other words, you'd make these same type of considerations for pruning roses or other woody plants. Let's call these the obvious cuts.

First concentrate on dead wood. Prune away any entirely dead branches all the way to the ground.

If parts of branches are dead, make a cut to the next living part of the branch. If you see anything that looks diseased or a little "off," cut that section or branch away too.

Sometimes branches get damaged from animals or ice storms. Likewise, cut damaged branches back to a section that shows no signs of damage.

Now it gets a little more tricky, but it still should be straightforward and it applies to mature blueberry plants, not new plantings or super old neglected bushes.

Look at the base of your plant. Is it wider than 18 inches in any direction from the center? If so, cut away these stems at ground level or try to dig them up, roots and all in the coming weeks, then move them to a new spot, preferably a nursery bed where they can grow up a bit. I'm into a whole new topic, so let's get back to the task at hand.

See GARDEN, page 5

Why must I pay into Social Security when I'm collecting benefits?

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty

I am collecting full Social Security benefits at age 72 and also working full time.

Why is the Federal Government still taking money from my paycheck? I have written to Social Security experts on this issue and they tell me "It's the law." That is not a good answer for me. Approximately \$4,400 was taken from my pay in 2023 for Social Security and, yes, I get a pittance of a Cost Of Living Allowance increase, but not equal to what I pay. No one has been able to fully explain the Federal Government's thought process on taxing me for Social Security when I am getting full Social Security benefits. Can you?

Signed: Working Senior

Dear Working Senior

Far be it from me to try to explain the federal government's thought process on anything, but I can explain why those

already collecting Social Security benefits must continue to pay Social Security payroll taxes while working.

It actually goes back to 1935 and the panel commissioned by President Roosevelt to create America's Social Security program. Said panel determined how the program would be financed, Congress approved it and FDR signed it.

That methodology was essentially this: Workers who earn and their employers must contribute to Social Security via payroll taxes to fund the program (we now know this as FICA for employees and SECA for the self-employed). When the program first started, certain employees and their employers were required to each contribute 1% of the employee's first \$3,000 of earnings. Obviously, those amounts have risen over the decades. And, for clarity, only certain workers originally participated in Social Security, which has also changed over the decades so that now nearly everyone, who works must pay Social Security payroll taxes.

Starting in 1937 and still today, SS payroll taxes paid by those now working are used by the federal government to pay bene-

See SECURITY, page 5

the Sun TEAM



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The Holyoke Sun is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



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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 the-sun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Caregivers needed for Harmony House opening

CHICOPEE – Harmony House of Western Massachusetts is in the final planning stages for a springtime reopening. After closing the original home to purchase and renovate a much larger home in the Aldenville section of Chicopee, the Harmony House Board and volunteers are excited about this reopening so they can resume caring for terminally ill people in need of loving care and a comfortable, safe home. To care for these neighbors in need, many more volunteer caregivers are needed by

this spring.

If individuals are interested in this mission, please stop by at any time during an upcoming caregiver recruitment event to learn about the caregiver opportunities offered at Harmony House and to take a tour the new home. Harmony House is located at 66 View St. Many of the current volunteers and members of the Board of Directors will be available to answer any questions.

March Caregiver Recruitment Events: Wednesday, March 13 from 5 to

7 p.m.; Wednesday, March 20 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Harmony House becomes a new home with 24/7 support for hospice patients who can no longer remain safely in their own home. Therefore, caregivers should have a healthcare background and ideally be able to commit to at least 4 hours per week. Whether it's a few hours a week or a few hours a month, Harmony House is a welcoming place for people looking to help people.

Harmony House is a local,

non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a loving home providing compassionate care for the terminally ill who have limited or no resources for special care in the final stage of life. Harmony House is primarily staffed by trained volunteers including nurses, CNAs/HHAs, caregivers, companions, and others.

If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please contact Harmony House at 413-315-9784 or harmonyhousewma@gmail.com.

Spring Flower Show begins March 2

SOUTH HADLEY – The Botanic Garden at Mount Holyoke College is holding its annual Spring Flower Show starting Saturday, March 2, and ending Sunday, March 17. The Spring Flower Show is held in the Talcott Greenhouse on campus and is free and open to the public.

This year's show is the fifty-second annual event. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the vibrant

colors and fragrances of this floral spectacle. Visitors will also be able to stroll through other parts of the Talcott Greenhouse complex including the surrounding three acres of gardens.

"The show will feature thousands of vibrant tulips, cheery daffodils, fragrant hyacinths as well as other spring bloomers all set amidst and in combination with plants from the permanent living collection," said Tom Clark,

the director and curator of the Botanic Garden. "The Flower Show is always a welcome burst of spring-like exuberance in the waning days of winter! We encourage visitors to explore the entire Talcott Greenhouse as it has a rich and diverse collection of plants from around the world.

During the show, the Talcott Greenhouse will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.



BACKYARD, from page 4

Bluebirds

The bluebirds continue to come to my feeder for the mealworms. I am purchasing more mealworms or the bluebirds than when I had chickens. I used to purchase the mealworms as a daily treat to my small flock. One hen would jump

up and eat them out of my hand before I could put them in their feeder.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

GARDEN, from page 4

Once the plant has been cut back to within its limits, look for growth coming from the base that is on an angle or crossing over other branches. Cut that away too, so that we encourage upright growth instead.

Okay, with that behind us, let's dive into more difficult territory. Here is when you begin to rejuvenate the plant (listen carefully, self).

Old canes will be gray in appearance and thick. You probably don't want to cut away every one, but perhaps removing one-third of these stems would be a good plan.

Cut them back to ground level. Your next cuts will be what I can "fine tuning," or making cuts that thin out older twiggy growth in the upper part of the plant by cutting back stems to a younger, upright branch.

Go by color here. Younger growth is reddish in appearance. Hand pruners are your desired tool of choice, while bypass loppers or a hand saw is essential for the bigger cuts I mentioned first.

You'll be surprised by how great your blueberry bushes will look and just how productive they will be with this type of maintenance pruning accomplished annually. I think there is just enough daylight for me to get to my own pruning.

I can almost taste the blueberry pie come July. Yum.

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.

SECURITY, from page 4

fits to those who are currently receiving. Said another way, Social Security is a "pay as you go" program where income from those working and their employer is used to pay benefits to those receiving.

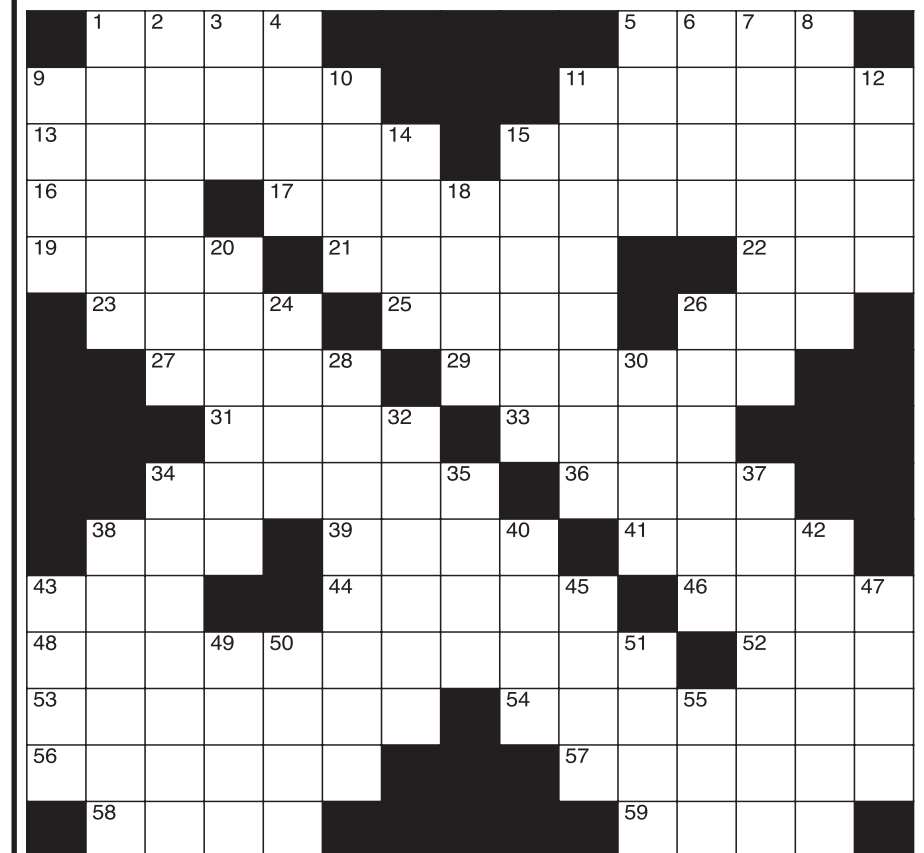
Payroll taxes collected aren't put into a personal account for the worker; rather they are used to meet current SS payment obligations. Any excess money collected is invested in special issue government bonds as reserves for future use, although current annual SS income is less than annual program costs – an entirely different topic.

So, the financing method enacted in 1935 and started in 1937 still applies – those who work and earn and their employers must pay into the system to fund benefit payments to those, who are now receiving and that includes those workers who are already collecting their Social Security. FYI, there was a time when, if someone worked after starting their SS benefits, they lost all of their benefits. Fortunately, that rule no longer exists, so those, who are collecting SS benefits can now continue to get benefits if they work, but they must also still pay

into the program from their work earnings to help pay benefits to SS recipients.

I hope this provides some insight for why you must continue to contribute to Social Security even after you have started collecting your benefits. It is a result of how the program is financed predominantly by workers through payroll taxes on their earnings and to a lesser extent from interest on Trust Fund reserves and income tax on Social Security benefits. With very few exceptions, everyone who works helps pay benefits to those now receiving.

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.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Chaps
5. Currently fashionable
9. Collision
11. More slim
13. European city
15. Implicitly
16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
17. The Mount Rushmore State
19. Gold or silver wire cord
21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
22. Trent Reznor's band
23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
25. Broken branch
26. Indicates ten
27. Expression of annoyance
29. Brings together
31. Ancient city in Thrace
33. Sailors' spirit
34. Looked into
36. Muckraking woman
38. A type of cast
39. One's responsibility
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
48. Beheaded
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most supernatural
56. "Dennis" is a famous one

CLUES DOWN

1. Baseball managers assemble it
2. Revised
3. Mountain is a popular kind
4. Takes to civil court
5. Pouches
6. A type of veil
7. Chants
8. Boston hoopster
9. Elongated appendage
10. Sailboat
11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
12. Actor Gosling
14. Monetary units
15. Assembly
18. Russian pop duo
20. Embellished with expressions
24. Infrequent
26. Temperature unit
28. Hydrophilic amino acid
30. Honk
32. Legislative body
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Take over for
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Dutch cheese
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient people of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Sick

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 2

Sensory-friendly egg hunt at Wistariahurst

HOLYOKE – Join Wistariahurst Museum and hop in for a sensory-friendly egg hunt that focuses on gentle exploration and enjoyment. Designed for families with sensory sensitivities, this egg-ceptional event is tailored so every bunny feels comfortable and welcome. Weather permitting, the egg-stravaganza will take place in the gardens but will be relocated indoors in the event of inclement weather. Each child will be able to gather six eggs and choose from a selection of prizes ranging from candy to fidget toys. This event is the first of its kind at Wistariahurst, and staff members are

ready to crack open the fun. “We saw an opportunity for the museum to offer this city tradition to kids who may not thrive at the large-scale egg hunt downtown. We wanted to be a space that could offer some more inclusion for this fun event,” Megan Seiller, museum director, enthuses. “And we are thankful for the support from Holyoke’s Parks and Recreation Department on this event.”

Families can sign up for ten minute time slots between 10 and 11:30 a.m., and will be limited to two at a time. The egg hunt will continue until noon to allow children to explore at their

own pace and enjoy a stress free experience. Stay and search as long as the child wants, time slots are only meant to ensure a calm and seamless check-in process. If families would like to explore the museum and/or gardens ahead of the event, open hours are on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and the gardens are open every day from dawn until dusk.

Please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sensory-friendly-egg-hunt-at-wistariahurst-museum-tickets-840159588947?aff=ebdsoporgprofile> to learn more about this event.

Pierogi Sale in March

HOLYOKE – On Saturdays, March 9 and March 23, Our Lady of the Cross Parish will be selling frozen pierogi. The food sale will take place in the vestibule of the church from 2 to 4 p.m. Cabbage, apple, blueberry and potato/cheese pierogi will be on sale for \$10.00 a dozen. The church is located on Holy Cross Ave. Please use the front doors. For more information, call the parish office at 413-532-5661.

Easter egg hunt set for March 23

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Parks and Recreation cordially invites the community to Holyoke’s annual Spring Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt. This community event will take place on Saturday, March 23, from 10 am to noon at Holyoke Heritage State Park.

Enjoy unlimited free rides at the Holyoke Merry Go Round and take pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Music, spring crafts, pony rides and balloons will also be available.

Easter Egg Hunt Times: 10 a.m. - Toddlers; 10:30 a.m. - 4-6-year-olds; 11 a.m. - 7-9-year-olds and 11:30 a.m. - 10 - 12-year-olds.

This event is free of charge and will occur rain or shine. In the event of rain, all activities will be moved inside the Holyoke Merry Go Round.

The Holyoke Children’s Museum

will also be open. Children are encouraged to bring their own baskets for egg collecting.

For more information visit our web site at www.holyoke.org or call the Parks & Recreation Department at (413) 322-5620.



Easter Bunny hops to Holyoke Mall

HOLYOKE – Western Massachusetts is hopping over to Holyoke Mall on March 1 to welcome the Easter Bunny back for the spring season.

Mr. Cottontail returns to his holiday home March 1 through March 30 on the lower level in JCPenney Court to bring in the new season with holiday photos and themed events.

This March, hundreds of families will celebrate their favorite Easter tradition at Holyoke Mall. Reservations are recommended and can be made by visiting whereisbunny.com. Guests who pre-book will receive a complimentary gift valued at \$20.

Easter Bunny Photo Hours:

Monday to Friday: 2 to 7 p.m., extends to 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on March 18

Saturday: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., extends to 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on March 23

Sunday: noon to 6 p.m., extends to 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on March 18

Capture the magic all season long at one of the center’s Easter Bunny events:



Hoppin’ Into Spring: March 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sensory-Friendly Event: March 10 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Pet Nights: March 18 and 19 from 5 to 7 p.m.

All events will take place on the lower level outside of JCPenney.

D

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<p>Saturday, March 9th</p> <p>Blaney Brothers</p>	<p>Saturday, March 16th</p> <p>The Healys</p>
<p>Sunday, March 17th</p> <p>Jimmy McArdle & Jerry Murphy 12-3pm</p>	<p>The Healys w/ Barney McElhone 5pm-?</p>

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Knights score win to open states

HOLYOKE – Holyoke High School boys basketball opened up the state tournament with a huge offensive effort in the Round of 32. The Knights defeated Duxbury with one of their highest point-outputs of the season, winning 93-72 last Friday night. With the win, Holyoke moved into the Round of 16 held earlier this week. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition.



Shawn Rivera shoots.



Aden Cabrera goes for a creative shot.



Chauncey Ruiz locks in.



Luis Figueroa takes a free throw.



Jamil Rodriguez avoids the defense for a layup attempt.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Lawsuit changes brackets in basketball tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

FRANKLIN – Over the years, there have been issues with ineligible player use or other rule-breaking that has led to high school teams being left out of sectional or state tournaments.

This year, however, a school took action and it ended up halting the state tournament and changed opponents for several teams involved.

Oliver Ames High School, which competes in Division 2 in many sports, appealed it being left out of the State Division 2 Boys Basketball tournament due to a paperwork.

According to a representative from the MIAA, schools are required to submit certain paperwork for entrance into the tournament, and Oliver Ames failed to meet the requirement. They were thusly removed from

the tournament and did not have a spot when seeds were released on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Some preliminary games in the tournament, of which Oliver Ames would have been a part of due to their projected lower seed, were scheduled to start on Monday, Feb. 26, but the tournament had to be halted due to an injunction being filed by Oliver Ames in a court. The injunction went through and the MIAA was ordered by a judge to include the ousted school in this year's tournament.

"One team from Eastern Mass. was headed for Amherst and had to be turned around because of this," Eric Castonguay, athletic director at South Hadley High School said. "It stopped the whole thing."

While it only affected a handful of teams in Western Mass. Division 2, Amherst and Agawam were among the teams that were locally affected.

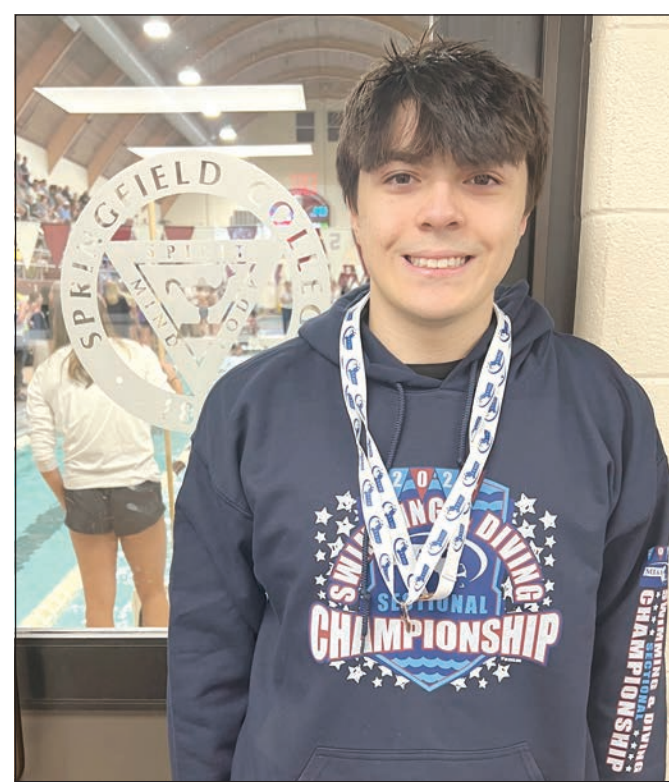
Karen Gomez, athletic director at Agawam High School, had to wait until a new opponent was announced in order to schedule her game.

She was originally scheduled to play Tuesday, Feb. 27 and host Bay Path Vocational Technical. That opponent changed when Oliver Ames was inserted into the tournament. Masaconomet ended up visiting Agawam, and luckily, at short notice, agreed to come to Agawam and played at the same time the Bay Path-Agawam game was scheduled for.

Amherst was forced to postpone its game from Monday. One team unaffected was Chicopee Comprehensive, which did not see an opponent change and traveled to Scituate in the Round of 32.

The rest of the tournament went on as scheduled and was in the quarterfinals as of press time.

PIJAR BREAKS SCHOOL RECORDS



Brady Pijar competed in the Western Massachusetts's Diving and Swimming Championship on Feb. 11 at Springfield College. He broke two records for Holyoke High School, the 50-yard freestyle from 1965 and 100-yard freestyle set in 1960. Record times were 22.54 seconds and 50.30 seconds, respectively.

Submitted photo

Baldwin gets modified win as he prepares for NE return

FLORENCE, S.C. – Tommy Baldwin Racing drivers Jack Baldwin and Luke Baldwin both had success Saturday night at Florence Motor Speedway.

Jack sealed the night by capturing the victory in the opener of the Carolina Crate Modified Series, driving the No. 7NY in a final lap dash battle to the finish. Luke made his Tour-Type Modified debut in the SMART Modified Tour Peanut Patch 99 with Sadler-Stanley Racing and scored a top-five finish.

Jack qualified on the pole earlier in the day, inverting to fourth and running inside the top-five for the whole 62-lap Crate Modified race, before making the move for the win in the final corner.

Luke posted the fastest lap time in his first official Tour Modified practice in the PSR No. 7VA for the Sadler-Stanley Racing group. The team, owned by former NASCAR driver Hermie Sadler and Attorney and Virginia State Senator Bill Stanley, is Luke's official home for the full SMART Modified Tour season in 2024. He also qualified the car in third spot in time trials and started second after the redraw.

"Excited to win another Crate Modified race, especially being able to get to Victory Lane at Florence," Jack Baldwin said. "Slate (Myers) had a fast car tonight. I hate that it came down to him spinning, but I was as low as I could possibly go without hitting the inside wall. Florence is a fun track. We

were able to ride a bit early then close a large gap over the final 30 laps to be in position to win. I can't thank everyone on the TBR team and PSR enough."

Both Baldwin brothers attended Florence events with the help of their respective team members and PSR Chassis members, with Tommy Baldwin Jr. at Las Vegas Motor Speedway with Rick Ware Racing.

"Super proud of everybody involved with this team for what we accomplished at Florence," Luke Baldwin said. "We showed race winning speed all the way through the day, and if a few things went my way, we may have had a shot at winning it. We had a solid second-place run going until a late race restart where I made some

mistakes and fell to fifth. Nothing to hang our heads about. Huge thanks to all the guys at Sadler-Stanley Racing, Bill Stanley, Hermie Sadler and PSR Products. The car was a rocket ship and they made my job easy. Also, thanks to Pace-O-Matic, The Stanley Law Group, and Mohawk Northeast for making it happen. Congrats to Carson Loftin on his first career win."

Next up for the Tommy Baldwin Racing team will be for Luke driving the No. 7VA for Sadler-Stanley Racing in the second SMART Modified Tour race of the season next Sunday, March 10 at Caraway Speedway. Jack Baldwin is currently slated to return to the seat during the summer in the SK Modifieds at Stafford Motor Speedway.

Worcester Railers lead early, but fall to Lions

WORCESTER – With 21st Century technology being what it is there are letters, numbers and abbreviations for almost everything that happens in hockey.

Almost everything, anyway. There is nothing on the stat sheets for an M.O. That is what the Railers would have registered here Sunday afternoon, a Missed Opportunity.

Worcester led the Trois-Rivieres Lions, 2-0, after the first period then gave up five straight goals over the final 40 minutes and was beaten, 5-2.

The Railers remain in fourth place in the North Division, both in terms of points and winning percentage. They have no cushion, though, and will play at Maine Tuesday morning with a one-point lead on Reading and a two-point edge on the Mariners.

Trois-Rivieres is four points out, not eight, thanks to its victory Sunday.

Worcester got goals from Zach White and Reece Newkirk. It also got 41 saves from John Muse, third most for a Railers goaltender this season.



Nolan Yaremko led the Lions with a hat trick, the second of the season against Worcester. He scored two goals 1:24 apart in the second period then converted a 5 on 3 power play chance at 19:01 of the third period. Jakov Novak and Nicolas Lariviere had the other goals for the visitors.

Joe Vrbetic made 25 saves for Trois-Rivieres in posting his first win in four starts against the Railers this season.

The four Trois-Rivieres goals in the second were scored by, in order:

Novak at 3:18, Lariviere at 4:17, and Yaremko at 11:26 and 12:50. Yaremko's first goal was on a power play.

The Lions had the better of play

in the game's early going as the Railers were careless in their own zone. With the first period nine minutes old, Trois-Rivieres had an 11-3 edge in shots on goal.

Muse kept it scoreless.

Worcester finally broke through at 17:35 with White scoring his seventh goal of the season. He had been flying throughout the period and outbattled a Lions defenseman in the left corner, then skated into the circle and beat Vrbetic along the ice.

It was White's first point after an eight-game scoreless drought.

With 1:47 to go in the period, the Lions' Anthony Beauregard was called for interference by referee Hunter Mottinger. Teammate Brycen Martin was apparently uncivil in his remarks to Mottinger and wound up with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Newkirk made it 2-0 with 21 seconds left in the period, 34 seconds left on the 5-on-3. It was just the Railers' second 5-on-3 goal of the season.

Worcester was held to nine shots the rest of the way and wound up with a game, and opportunity, lost.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on Feb. 18 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 11:40 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining.

Thunderbirds suffer loss to Bridgeport Islanders

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (25-24-3-2) could not overcome a 3-0 hole in the opening period as the Bridgeport Islanders (18-29-6-1) skated off as 4-1 winners at the MassMutual Center on Sunday before a seventh straight sellout crowd of 6,793.

Not even a minute into the festivities, both Sam Bitten & Will Bitten got the Thunderdome engaged in the game with a pair of fighting majors in bouts against Seth Helgeson and Eetu Liukas respectively. However, the Islanders held a sizable edge in offensive zone time, and that translated into an early lead for the visitors.

At the 9:10 mark, Ruslan Iskhakov artfully slipped the puck to Matt Maggio in the left-wing circle, where the rookie swiftly moved the puck from backhand to forehand and uncorked a perfect wrist shot under the crossbar past Colten Ellis to make it 1-0 for Bridgeport.

The penalty parade continued as two separate Springfield players

were whistled for penalties just 45 seconds apart, opening the door for Bridgeport's power play. On the ensuing two-man advantage, Ellis made a save on an initial try by William Dufour, but Carsen Twarynski was positioned perfectly to slide the rebound home to make it a 2-0 score at 11:18.

In the final minute of the period, Brian Pinho further bolstered the Islander lead when he sidestepped a hit attempt before beating Ellis between the legs with a snapper at 19:23.

After being outshot 18-5 in the first, the T-Birds responded with some pushback in the second, but rookie Bridgeport goalie Henrik Tikkanen was steady in the crease. Mikhail Abramov finally dented the young goaltender at 12:11 when he deposited a loose puck in the blue paint after a Jakub Vrana slapper squeaked through

Tikkanen's equipment. Abramov's second goal in as many days cut the margin to 3-1.



The T-Birds' best chance to get closer came in the middle portions of the third period, when back-to-back Bridgeport penalties handed Springfield a 5-on-3 advantage. However, Tikkanen and the gutsy Isles' PK unit stood up to the challenge, and a Springfield penalty would then nullify the advantage.

Karson Kuhlman put the game away at 16:48 with an empty-net goal to seal the visitors' seventh win in 11 tries this season against the T-Birds.

The T-Birds and Islanders complete their season series on Friday night for one final installment between the rivals inside the MassMutual Center. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

Pioneers 2024 schedule released

LUDLOW – Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19. The Pioneers have won an Open Cup match in the past. Later, the Pioneers have their "friendly" exhibition game scheduled for May 10.

They will face 3rd Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule. Their opener for the regular season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York. The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.

How to contact The Holyoke Sun 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.



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SESSION 4: JULY 15-19
SESSION 5: JULY 22-26
SESSION 6: JULY 29-AUG 2
SESSION 7: AUG 5-9

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Week 5: July 29 - Aug. 2		

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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

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TOWN OF WILBRAHAM HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 1

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill two Heavy Equipment Operator 1 positions. For application and more information please visit www.wilbraham-ma.gov. Open until filled. EOE

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



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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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FOR RENT



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

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



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Public Notices

CITY OF HOLYOKE Office of Purchasing REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2024-44 OPED CANNABIS CONSULTANT SERVICES

The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed proposals for a consultant to assist the City in navigating CCC regulations. This would include but not be limited to Host Community Agreements (HCA), Special Permits, Business Analysis of current license holders, and completion of equity provisions in compliance with CMR regulations. The city is looking for a 1year Agreement to start on or before 3/31/2024. There will be an option to renew for up to 2 years based on Vendor performance and satisfaction of the city. All renewals are dependent upon appropriation.

Documents are available starting 3/4/2024 at 10AM from the Purchasing Office or you can request electronically from Sweeneye@holyoke.org or morrowj@holyoke.org.

Sealed Responses ARE DUE BY 2:00 PM ON 3/19/24 EST, where they will be publicly opened.

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED,

THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT AND ALL SUBMISSION 03/08, 03/15/2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Department
HAMPDEN, Division
Docket No. HD23P1258PM

To all persons interested in the estate of David Bryan Provencal, II, of Holyoke, in said County,

A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell at private sale - public auction certain real

estate of said David Bryan Provencal, II for his maintenance.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at 50 State Street, Springfield, MA before 10:00 in the forenoon on the 20th day of March 2024, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 26th day of February 2024.

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register
03/08/2024

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. HD22P2364EA
In the matter of:
Eleanor J. Dubour
Date of Death: 07/19/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **Nicholas F. Natorio of Richmond, TX** requesting allowance of the first account(s) as Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 04/02/2024.

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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 27, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/08/2024

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. HD24A0008AD
In the matter of:
Giovanni Emmanuel Martinez
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6

TO:
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Jamillete Ramos of Holyoke, MA
Steven Ramos of Holyoke, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to **Giovanni Emmanuel Ramos**

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

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits,

Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 03/22/2024.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 27, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/08/2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Department

HAMPDEN, Division
Docket No. HD23P1259PM

To all persons interested in the estate of Maxwell Logan Jayne Provencal, of Holyoke, in said County,

A petition has been presented to said Court for license to sell at private sale - public auction certain real estate of said Maxwell Logan Jayne Provencal for his maintenance.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at 50 State Street, Springfield, MA before 10:00 in the forenoon on the 20th day of March 2024, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this 26th day of February 2024.

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register
03/08/2024

City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 878 0431 1703; Call In *67 646 558 8656 to hear the petition of Nilsa Laboy, who is requesting a variance from Section 4.4.6 (2) for a principal structure for the property located at 475 Northampton Street, Holyoke, MA. (223-00-012).

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

Applicant: Nilsa Laboy
Board of Appeals:
Josh Knox
03/08, 03/15/2024

CITY OF HOLYOKE
PURCHASING
DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
2024-41DPW
PLUMBING REPAIR
SERVICES
SEALED BIDS ARE DUE
BY 2:00 PM ON 4/4/2024.
EMAIL SUBMISSIONS
WILL NOT BE
ACCEPTED

The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed bids for the provision of plumbing repair services as needs at twelve municipal buildings.

Documents will be available from the City of Holyoke's Purchasing Office, 536 Dwight Street, Room 3, Holyoke, MA 01040 beginning at 10:00AM on Wednesday, March 6, 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 bid proposals is April 4, 2024, by 2:00PM at which time all bids received will be public-

ly opened in compliance with Chapter 30B and the City of Holyoke's Ordinances. No electronic Submissions will be accepted.

THE CITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS 03/08, 03/15/2024

City of Holyoke PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Holyoke Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.com**; ID: 878 0431 1703 CALL IN *67 646 558 8656 to hear the petition of Volta Charging, LLC who is requesting a variance from Section 6.4.3.6 (Electric Signs) and Section 6.4.6.8 (a) (Off-Premises Signs) for the property located at 28 Lincoln Street, Holyoke, MA (073-00-034).

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

APPLICANT:
Volta Charging, LLC
BOARD OF APPEALS:
Josh Knox, Chair
03/08, 03/15/2024

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.

Lifeguard classes

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department is offering a lifeguard Red Cross certification training course at the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club, 70 Nick Cosmos Way. Session 1 will take place April 20 and 21 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Session 2 will take place May 4 and 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants only need to attend one weekend session. Applicants must be 16 years of age. Participants must pass a pre-skills test at the start of class. \$175 for Holyoke residents and \$275 for non-residents.

Lifeguard Re-Certification Classes will also be offered on April 21 and May 5. Participants only need to attend one class. Classes will run from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club. \$125 for Holyoke residents and \$225 for non-residents.

Register at the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department or call 413-322-5620. Participants must register and be paid in full before attending the class. Limited space available.

Hausmann: A true Head Start hero

HOLYOKE – Eileen Hausmann, a Program Nurse at HCS Head Start, was a remarkable individual who dedicated almost forty years of her life to promoting the health and well-being of children. She believed that health was everyone's business and how central it is to children's overall growth and development. Eileen's passion for her job was evident in the way she ensured that every child had access to proper pediatric and dental care. She was instrumental in creating the foundation for services in health and ensured that staff and families she worked with felt supported and encouraged.

Her love for Head Start and the City of Holyoke was unmatched, and she played an integral role in getting Head Start into the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. She headed the Health Services Advisory Council for the organization and over the years, she served on several community initiatives such as Safe Kids, Pioneer Valley Asthma Coalition,

Maternal Health Commission, and Holyoke Community College Nursing Advisory Board. Eileen understood and valued the connections between health, behavioral health, and learning and worked collaboratively with Head Start teachers, families and local health providers. Eileen was known for her kindness, her great sense of humor, and her commitment to her work with HCS Head Start.

Everyone who knew Eileen was aware that her favorite color was purple. Purple represents sensitivity, compassion, understanding, and support and thinking of others before yourself. All of which are characteristics that represent the work Eileen engaged in daily. As we mourn her loss, HCS will also celebrate Eileen's life and the legacy she left behind. She was an incredible human being, and her contributions to HCS Head Start will always be remembered with fondness and gratitude. Eileen, you will be missed dearly.



Eileen Hausmann was born and raised in Holyoke and worked for Head Start for 40 years. Submitted Photo

Holyoke Community College scholarship deadline extended

HOLYOKE – The deadline to apply for scholarships from the Holyoke Community College Foundation for the 2024-2025 academic year has been extended until midnight on Friday, March 8.

Each year, the HCC Foundation awards hundreds of scholarships worth more than \$300,000 to incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Many students receive multiple scholarship awards.

Students must be currently enrolled at HCC or have been accepted for the upcoming academic year to be eligible for scholarships, which are awarded through the HCC Foundation, HCC's nonprofit fundraising corporation.

Applicants only need to fill out a single online form to be automatically matched with the scholarships they are most qualified to receive. There are scholarships for new students, current students and students transferring to

other institutions, scholarships based on financial need, scholarships for students in specific majors, scholarships for residents of certain communities, and scholarships that recognize academic achievement.

To make the process of applying easier, HCC opened a Scholarship Resource Center in January on the first floor of the Donahue Building (Room 158). The center is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Those in need of assistance can drop in any time during office hours to ask questions or to use one of the center's three computer workstations. They can also schedule appointments to meet with center staffers.

To view scholarship opportunities and begin the application process, please go to: www.hcc.edu/scholarships. Questions should be directed to Laura Freeman at 413-552-2613 or lfreeman@hcc.edu.

LIBRARY, from page 1

"My favorite part of the show is when Jim sings his songs," Madeloni said.

The album was inspired when Armenti's town, Westhampton, was raising funds for a library. He wanted his songs to support the fundraiser, and so focused an album all around libraries.

Madeloni loves each of these songs.

"Jim takes one small thing about a library and makes it philosophical," Madeloni explained. "He took this library thing and made it something amazing."

The book, Sun on the Muddy, was mainly created during the COVID pandemic, according to them. Armenti wrote a poem every day, inspired by art work that his friend sent him.

"Every morning she would send a photograph of a painting and I would write a poem every day," Armenti said.

By the end of it all, he had written over 700 poems. Eventually he spoke with Editor Dan Lombardo who helped to select some and put them into a book.

Armenti then reached out to Madeloni and asked if he would be will-

ing to have some of his photographs, all centering around the theme of reflections in water, displayed in the book.

"While he was writing poems, I was taking photos like never before," Madeloni said.

Madeloni eagerly agreed to the idea.

"I was a fan of Jim's for 25 years," Madeloni said. "It was an honor to be involved in anything with him."

Armenti explained that he was drawn to Madeloni's photos as they reminded him of the illustrations at the beginning of fairy tales he would read growing up.

"The fairy tales were old and mysterious and before each one there would be an ink sketch that would have nothing to do with the story...I liked it and I had seen Dave's photographs all the time and they made me wonder about what I was seeing," Armenti said.

From there, their partnership was born, and since then the two of them have worked on this book together and have toured several different libraries.

They each greatly enjoyed their time at HPL and they look forward to other library tours they will do in the future.

CHANGES, from page 1

time because it's also part of the transition to get back into the building," Magrath-Smith said.

Magrath-Smith and the others emphasized the importance of recess as a time for the students to develop their social skills, especially given the isolation they experienced during COVID.

Additionally, recess is the way for students to burn off their energy so they can focus when needed during their lessons.

"The expectation of having kindergartners sitting for three hours straight before they go to a lunch break...that impacts how they're going to perform academically and that also increases behavioral issues," Committee Member Mildred Lefebvre said.

Finally, the PTO members raised concerns over the amount of time students were spending on screens throughout the school day.

According to them, children are often told to complete certain activities on apps while their teacher gives a mini-lesson to another part of the class. Then, the groups switch.

They were concerned that this was too much screen time for the students, and that it was not allowing them to truly learn.

"A lot of that academic time is

on apps," Magrath-Smith said. "So an instructional model has happened, whether or not you've ever approved it, and I don't think you did, where most teachers now are instructing as if their instructional model is they're teaching half of the class with their mini-lesson and the rest of the students are on an app and they're not directly supervised."

They would like this instructional model to change, potentially going back to the center-based learning model that HPS used to have.

The school committee agreed that something needed to change. They are working on standardizing recess time across the district, so the same grade level at different schools will be allotted the same amount of recess time.

They hope to take other action in the future, though they will have to work around limitations such as staffing, time and budgeting.

At the meeting they made a motion to get a detailed report on screen time for all grade levels, as well as lunch and recess times and snack times for all of the schools by grade level.

With this report, the committee hopes to plan out potential solutions to the issue, which Receiver Anthony Soto would then decide what to move forward with.

"I will be taking all of your recommendations and working with my team to see what we can do," Soto said.

ORDER, from page 1

Additionally Vacon is hopeful that by setting this limit as councilors, they can set an example to the community.

"We have seen increased examples of disrespect and bullying on social media, perhaps because it is not face to face, so maybe this order for the city council as community leaders, could also help to improve things on social media in general," she said.

When asked if they worried if other councilors would raise concerns over this order violating first amendment rights, neither Vacon or Jourdain anticipated pushback in that line of reasoning.

"A body can make rules about the conduct of members without violating first amendment rights," Vacon said.

"The first amendment argument is not very persuasive because by that logic any member could literally say anything about any other member and use that argument whether in the chambers or not," Jourdain said. "We are seeking to elevate the debate to stay focused on the merits of the issues at hand as opposed to personal attacks directed at other members... Attacking other members personally online or outside the chambers should be treated in a similar manner as we do as a body when that occurs in the

chambers. I would hope a majority of the Council would agree that makes sense. If not, then we are deeper into the abyss than originally thought."

This order was filed shortly after there has been a rise in complaints from Holyoke residents concerning council decorum.

When City Council President Tessa Murphy-Romboletti was sworn-in to the position, she swore that one of her main focuses in her term would be on improving the council environment.

One of the steps she had tried to take toward this was changing the seating arrangement of the council. Unfortunately, that was met with disagreement from many councilors, who felt she did not have the power to move their seats.

In the end, after a half hour of debating in two separate meetings, the council decided to let Murphy-Romboletti's seating arrangement stay.

Now the council will have to discuss Jourdain and Vacon's order.

This order will first go to the Charter and Rules committee, where it will be discussed and then either referred positively back to the council or not.

The next Charter and Rules Committee meeting is scheduled for Mar. 25.