

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Mayor Vieau announces reelection bid

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Mayor John Vieau is officially running for reelection, having taken out papers last Monday.



Mayor John Vieau

Vieau is currently serving his third term, having been reelected in 2023 after defeating his challenger, former Ward 3 City Councilor Delmarina López. He was first elected as mayor back in 2019 and was later reelected to a second term in 2021.

This reelection run would be to secure a fourth term. Currently, no one else has taken out papers for mayor.

Sitting down with the Chicopee Register at the Mayor's Office on Feb. 10, Vieau explained how "there's a lot more to do" as his biggest reason for running again.

"I have said it many times. When I lose my passion, I won't run and, right now, I'm passionate about Chicopee and our future and I think we have a lot of potential," Vieau said. "We've made some progress and there's much more to come."

On his accomplishments so far this term, Vieau listed numerous items including beginning phase two of city hall renovations, starting renovations for the former Central Library, public safety through FUSUS and the Real Time Information Center for the police department, entering the feasibility stage for building a new Barry Elementary School, park renovations for Abbey Brook at Szot Park and now for Sarah Jane Sherman Park, the Envision Our Chicopee 2040 Comprehensive Plan and more.

Current goals include hiring an economic development director, hiring an HR Director, revitalizing downtown including a prospective buyer for Cabotville Mills, finishing cleanup at the former Uniroyal property along with future development and breaking ground on the Baskin property to build residential units.

"There's just some great things happening," Vieau said.

One thing Vieau also emphasized was collaboration, whether it'd be partnerships with Elms College, Westover Air Force Reserve Base or stakeholders.

"I really do think that's the key and I've been really focused on new ideas," Vieau said.

Pedestrian safety is also top of mind, with Vieau noting the current PSAs from the police department and the Safe Streets for All Grant.

"The goal is to really focus on some areas in Chicopee where we can enhance that pedestrian safety and the police force is out there doing it as well," Vieau said. "They're enforcing an operation showing people are just not complying with the law when it comes to crossing a street safely when you're in a crosswalk. So, doing PSAs and getting information out and doing things out of my comfort zone of the past are things my team's really excited about."

For Vieau, stepping out of his comfort zone is, also, an opportunity to get more information out to the community.

"I have made an offer to a new communications/special projects director who will be starting in March and my goal is to work a little bit more out of my comfort zone with doing more informational pieces," Vieau said. "The goal is to try and enhance that a little more. I think our Facebook page is incredible and we want to continue to make sure people

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COMMUNITY

Estelle Geoffroy celebrates 100th birthday

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Estelle Geoffroy, a lifelong resident of Chicopee, recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

This past week, Geoffroy was joined by her children and their spouses for a celebratory birthday lunch at The Yarde Tavern in South Hadley, adorned with balloons, presents and more to celebrate the milestone. She also received a proclamation from the city in celebration of turning 100.

Geoffroy was born on February 5, 1925, creating a unique numeric date of 2.5.25, which was reached again when she turned 100 on February 5, 2025.

An only child with a quick wit, boisterous humor and a humble smile, Geoffroy has six children, 16 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

While craving a celebratory Manhattan and smiling from ear to ear when thinking about her grandchildren, Geoffroy shared she was in disbelief to reach 100 years old.

"I cannot believe it. Everybody's here, it's so nice. Wow! Wonderful," Geoffroy said. "They're all here."

Geoffroy also fondly thought of her late husband, hoping he sees how much she misses him.

"I wish my husband was here, that's for sure," Geoffroy said. "He was 25 and I was 16 when we got married."

She was also grateful to be surrounded by her family for her big day.

"I'm happy that all my family is with me," Geoffroy said. "So, it's



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

With large golden 100 birthday balloons behind her, Estelle Geoffroy smiles with her six children and their spouses in this festive family photo celebrating her 100th birthday.

really nice."

Other family members are, also, missed on this special day, including her parents and her grandparents.

"Love them all," Geoffroy said.

On the secret to living a long life--after her family joked it was a glass of wine or enjoying a Manhattan--Geoffroy emphasized family and love.

"Having the family around you. They're all really nice and good to me. Very, very nice," Geoffroy said. "And the grandchildren and all of them, wonderful. So, what else can I say?"

Reflecting on her children,

"Having the family around you. They're all really nice and good to me. Very, very nice."

Estelle Geoffroy

grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Geoffroy most enjoys spending time with them.

"Healthy and that I can see them. So, it's nice, lovely and they're all good. All my kids," Geoffroy said.

Outside of her children, Geof-

froy is an avid card player.

"I love playing cards with my friends, my family," Geoffroy said.

After she noted poker, her daughter, Maria Mitchell, shared what other card games her mother plays now.

"Scat and Rummy, Cribbage," Mitchell said.

"All those," Geoffroy added.

"She beats us, which is not fair," Mitchell joked. "We don't let her either, she just beats us."

"Oh, because I know how. They don't," Geoffroy joked.

On having her family gathered

See **100TH BIRTHDAY** page 5

Community Meetings unite C3 Units and residents



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Ofc. Flordemaris Delarosa, Sgt. Thomas Gazda, Ofc. Elly Rodriguez, Al Kendall, Ofc. Johnny Jusino and Ofc. Keith Hevey in a group photo after the Willimansett C3 Unit Community Meeting on Feb. 12. Kendall also received a citation from the Massachusetts State House of Representatives.

Also, join the *Situation Table*

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - It was a busy Wednesday morning in Chicopee as residents and community members met with the Chicopee Center and Willimansett C3 Units for their weekly Community Meetings.

Both meetings occur every Wednesday, with the first held at the Chicopee Center C3 Unit Headquarters on 35 Center St. at 10 a.m. and the second at the Meeting Hall by the Boys & Girls Club on 68 Eastern Dr. at 11 a.m.

The meetings provide opportunities for city departments, city agencies, community members and residents to meet with the C3 Units to share their concerns, ideas, network and connect and collaborate.

As a special bonus on Feb. 12, Al Kendall was also honored with a citation from the Massachusetts State House of Repre-

sentatives for Veterans Day.

Sgt. Thomas Gazda, who heads the Chicopee Center C3 Unit with Ofcs. Elly Rodriguez and Keith Hevey, appreciated that many in the community are attending the meetings.

"I think it's very important. It builds a sense of trust between a community and the police department. It lets them see what we deal with on a day-to-day basis down there in Chicopee Center and it lets them really see the truth of what's happening in Chicopee Center is," Gazda said. "Not what people post on Facebook, not what they see in a picture 10 years ago. It really gives people a true understanding of what takes place in Chicopee Center and how the police can help and try to resolve different issues that are happening."

Gazda explained the Chicopee Center meetings have been going on for four years and is part of the police department's training, with the C3 model itself originating from Massachusetts State Po-

See **COMMUNITY MEETINGS** page 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ

The 2025 Chicopee Colleen Contestants, from the left, Daiana Torres, Kaitlyn Gilhooly, Meghan Oxley, Shannon Caloon, Hannah O'Neil, Emma Caproni, Jadalyn Flores, Megan Kelly and Natalie Dulong. Missing from this photo are Wilmette Cumba and Ainsley Trueman.

2025 Colleen Contestants' Irish Tea welcomes contestants and community

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - "We welcome anyone who wants to celebrate with us!" The 2025 Colleen Contestants' Irish Tea event served up good company and delicious traditions to the eleven contestants vying for the title of 2025 Chicopee Colleen.

Being able to meet each other in a relaxed setting, the traditional "Irish tea" offered the ability to discuss the upcoming competition process, spring events, with an Irish historic overview from the Director of the Honors Program and Professor of History at Elms College Laura McNeil, Ph.D on Feb 9.

At the Portuguese American Club, members of the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, reigning 2024 Colleens, Mayor John Vieau and more were there to offer support and meet the 2025 contestants. From the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee was Public Information Chairperson, Mary O'Brien Rodowicz, who spoke about the importance of continuing Irish tradition and upcoming events that the city can get excited for.

"We have this to really educate them on Irish tradition, it's a really nice event. We have little place cards on the table that have questions like, what is a Claddagh and what is an Irish tea. It's to expose them because some of the girls are very familiar with Irish traditions and the parade and everything, but others are not," Rodowicz said. "So, it really is a nice opportunity for them to learn about Irish culture. There's a demonstration on how to hold a teacup, how the Irish traditionally drink tea which is usually with milk. You don't have to drink it, but it at least shows them what a traditional tea looks like."

Along with the decorations, the tablescapes were full of beautiful teacups that were donated to the parade committee several years ago.

Rodowicz elaborated on the teacups.

"We pull the teacups every year to pour the tea into, then we have Irish soda bread and finger sandwiches. It's a light lunch event and some years we've had scones. The guest speaker spoke about the history of Saint Patrick and his affluent

See **COLLEENS** page 6

IN THE CITY

Poet Kate Shaffar visits CPL for Poetry & the Spoken Word

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - "Poetry expands your reach" After the rush hour from school and work, the library offered Poetry & the Spoken Word that provides a chance for anyone to read their own poetry work and listen to a published poet.

The featured poet, writer, and blogger of Southampton, MA was Kate Shaffar who is currently working on her memoir and shared her poetry with the city of Chicopee on Feb 11.

This program is supported by the Chicopee Cultural Council.

Catching up with Senior Reference Librarian Carol Lynne Bagley, she spoke about the importance of getting together with like-minded groups and offering her thoughts on what books she takes out of the library. Beginning with how the program started, Bagley

mentioned Mary Jennings who established the poetry and spoken word program.

"The poetry started with Mary Jennings a couple of years ago with her asking if she could start a poetry night. She's a local poet here in Chicopee and she did it for a few years and then passed the torch down to Don Fisher, another published poet and writer. We do the program three times a year and each time they have it, a guest poet and people who are in attendance can share their own poetry," Bagley said. "If people like to read their own works, they can or if they have a favorite poem or something they want to read, they can share that with the other people who are there."

Held in the Bazan Community Room, over fifteen guests were in attendance listening and sharing their writing work together.

Bagley encouraged residents to check it out.

"I think if you really like to share your

work with others, this is an opportunity that's not too big and it feels quite cozy, it's not giant. You can get to know the people who come since most of the people here come to all of them. You get to know the people who are coming and it makes it a little bit more inviting because you get to know the people," Bagley said. "For the featured poet tonight, Don Fisher likes to reach out to people that he thinks people would enjoy their work. I love that the Chicopee Cultural Council sponsors these programs that we wouldn't be able to have otherwise supported by them. It's a well attended event."

When asked about what groups she likes to attend, Bagley pointed out one of her favorite parts of the book clubs she attends.

"We have a regular book club that has a mix of fiction and nonfiction books and then we also have a Nonfiction Book Club, both of which are this month. I have also realized that some people have similar reading styles to me,

and so I know if they liked something, I might be more inclined to like it then somebody else's reviews. I may not agree with them as much," Bagley said. "Attending these clubs made me read things that I wouldn't have normally picked up. It expands your reach and even if you don't like something, sometimes it means I've read an author and that means that if somebody asked me about them, I know who they are talking about."

When asked about her favorite genres to read, Bagley mentioned that she reads multiple books at once, with a variety of nonfiction, fiction, and cookbooks added to the assortment each week!

Coming up next: Ukulele StoryTime, Lesson for Kids, and Lesson for Teens and Adults will be happening on Feb 18 starting at Noon, with Stepanek Murray.

For upcoming activities during February School Vacation Week, visit chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

Fatal Chicopee Fire Started with Smoking Materials

Two older adults perished in early morning blaze

CHICOPEE-The early-morning house fire that claimed two residents' lives this weekend started with smoking materials, said Chicopee Fire Chief Daniel Stamborski, Chicopee Police Chief Patrick Major, State Fire Marshal Jon Davine, and Hampden County District Attorney Anthony Gulluni.

"On behalf of the Chicopee Fire Department, I again want to offer our heartfelt condolences to the victims' family and loved ones," said Chief Stamborski. "I also want to remind all our residents that smoking materials are the leading cause of fatal fires in Massachusetts and the nation, especially among older adults. If you must smoke, please don't do it in bed or when you're drowsy or impaired - and no one should smoke in a home where medical oxygen is in use."

The Chicopee Fire Department responded to 15 Hudson Ave following a neighbor's 9-1-1 call at about 2:15 Saturday morning. On arrival, firefighters found the two-story, single-family home well involved with heavy fire shooting through windows on three sides of the structure. The fire quickly went to two alarms. Firefighters immediately began attacking it and protecting nearby homes. It took more than an hour to bring the fire under control.

Firefighters located two people deceased

inside. Both were in their late 60s and the sole occupants of the home. Their names are not being released at this time. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause and manner of their deaths.

The origin and cause of the fire are being investigated by the Chicopee Fire Department, Chicopee Police Department, State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office, and State Police assigned to the Hampden DA's office. Based on an examination of the scene and interviews with first responders, investigators believe that the fire started accidentally with smoking materials in the first-floor living room near the front left of the building.

Investigators are being assisted by the Department of Fire Services' Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit. Compliance officers found no working smoke alarms in the home, and the first arriving firefighters did not hear alarms sounding.

"Tragically, working smoke alarms were found at less than half of last year's fatal fire scenes," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "One- and two-family homes were the least likely to be protected by these vital safety tools. Please take a few minutes today to test your alarms to be sure they're working properly. And if you need help testing, installing, or replacing your alarms, contact your local fire department. Many communities have programs that can provide them free of charge."

CFD takes part in BFit Challenge at TD Garden



PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - On Feb. 2, 14 of our members traveled to the TD Garden in Boston to participate in the BFit Challenge. This is a fundraising event to support First Responder and Military charities and it focuses on raising awareness around health and wellness. We are grateful to our members who participated in the event and to those who donated and supported the fundraising efforts.

FTLOG Designer Purse & Power Tool Bingo Fundraiser set for March 2

CHICOPEE - The For The Love of Good Foundation will be hosting a Purse & Power Tool Bingo Fundraiser on March 2 at the Chicopee Moose Center on Fuller Road.

Bingo starts at 2 p.m. and the doors open at Noon.

Join us for a FUN afternoon of bingo and raffles to support our work at For the Love of Good Foundation. Play Bingo with friends to win a beautiful designer purse or a wonderful power tool.

\$35 will get you 10 bingo games and a free Dauber.

Payments accepted: Venmo, PayPal,

Cash App, Checks and Cash.

Table of Eight SPECIAL DISCOUNT: Buy seven tickets, Get one FREE.

Get your tickets TODAY!! Call Debbie 413-315-9072.

Cash Bar, BYO Snacks, Raffle & Door Prizes & Light Refreshments, 21 & Older ONLY.

We continue to do this good work in the loving memory of Kevin Joslyn, our beloved friend and cherished founder.

For more info about our work, visit our Facebook Business Page or our incredible website, forthe loveofgoodfoundation.org. Thank you for your continued support!!

VOC Offering Free Tax Preparation for eligible residents through VITA Program

CHICOPEE - Valley Opportunity Council (VOC), which manages the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that provides free tax preparation to those of low- and moderate-income, began offering tax preparation and filing appointments on Tuesday, January 21.

VITA tax preparation appointments are available through April 30 at three VOC locations: 20 Lathrop Street, West Springfield, 516 Chicopee Street, Chicopee; and 300 High Street, Holyoke.

To schedule an appointment, call (413) 612-0206. Those eligible for the VITA program must live in Massachusetts or Connecticut with an income of up to \$67,000. Appointments are available on weekdays, evenings and weekends.

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 and save up to hundreds of dollars in filing fees.

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. The VITA program is sponsored by VOC and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

In 2024, VOC helped 861 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 as of last year, 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.

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IN THE CITY

Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

Do you ever ponder what brings people to the professions they've chosen? I do. Was it something that was convenient and so they just took a job or was there something that inspired them for their future occupation. Well for Kaitlin Pelletier, she discovered as a seventeen-year old high school student exactly where she wanted her career path to take her. She'd always been drawn to the healthcare field but her choice was cemented when they had a Health Fair at her school and a Radiation Therapist spoke about this opportunity and how rewarding it was.

Radiation Therapy is not something thought of that often since it's very specialized plus only used as a cancer treatment, so unless you're personally or know someone going through this, it most likely wouldn't be on your radar. Kaitlin is passionate about her vocation and finds her job at the D'Amour Center for Cancer Care very gratifying knowing she is helping someone to get through the very grueling time of enduring treatments. She did admit it can be challenging at times as well, such as seeing a patient at the beginning of their treatments be vibrant and then temporarily decline by the end of them. She also mentioned that it's hard not having the opportunity to see them after recovering from treatments and returning to their energetic selves. Kaitlin reflected how it's especially difficult to care for the person she knows radiation won't cure but instead only offer them a little more time. At her young age she is very empathetic and just such a compassionate soul, she's definitely in the right profession!

Kaitlin met her husband Kevin when they worked for the same wholesale business and each supported the other as they took turns getting their degrees. Kevin is a Physician Assistant at Pioneer Valley Urology and is also passionate about his career choice. He loves knowing he is helping people and also loves that unlike Kaitlin, he's able to see his patients in six months to rejoice in their progress. Something I wasn't aware of is that once you are a certified PA, you can work in any part of the medical field whether generalized medicine or a specialized area such as Kevin has done.

This year Kevin started teaching a course at Westfield High School about health care and asked Kaitlin to be a guest speaker for his class. They are hoping to inspire young people to become as passionate as they are regarding healthcare. I've not met Kevin,

but Kaitlin says he's brilliant and well, after meeting Kaitlin I know she would only pick one of the best to be her life's partner.

Kaitlin and Kevin have been together for ten years and enjoy being the parents of a two-year old who is giving them a run for their money with potty-training. Sure wish them luck with that as they are expecting an addition, a son in two months! Congratulations!

I asked Kaitlin about some Random Acts of Kindness in her own life and she quickly told me how when on a plane her daughter was having a cranky period. Kaitlin remembered how kind the flight attendant had been and telling her to sit in the back where it was quieter for her daughter and take as much time as she needed. She said that was a major stress reliever in that situation.

She went onto to share about their eighty-four-year-old neighbor; every week he brings in their trash barrels for them while they're at work. She also described how he just loves their daughter and on her birthday brought her a special birthday card with a monetary gift inside. Kaitlin beamed as she reiterated those Random Acts of Kindness from him.

We discussed how kindnesses are really all around us, we just need to be more aware of the niceties that people do. We parted ways and very soon after while Kaitlin continued doing errands I received a text from her reading, "Now that I'm on the lookout for these Random Acts of Kindness, a nice man walking by just pointed out a parking spot for me." Just one person being nice to another.

To me that text was so rewarding because she may not have even recognized that as a Random Act of Kindness, yet was now more conscience of these gestures. This just confirms what a small kind action can do in making the world a better place. Make it part of your everyday life to do just one kindness a day as it will improve your day as well. No matter how insignificant it may feel, if it's something positive you're making a difference, spreading positivity and making the world more enjoyable for everyone.

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, you did or maybe received something nice being done for you.

See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness! ~ Barb

Chicopee Public Library hosts events for kids and families

CHICOPEE - Each month the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children, teens and families. The Youth Services Department seeks to provide opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that promote literacy and explore creativity. Here is the slate of events for February 2025, including lots of fun programming during February School Vacation Week.

Saturday Playgroup will be held at 1 p.m., on Saturdays, Feb. 15, 22. Come play at the library! The playspace will be open for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play.

Terrific Twos will be on Tuesdays, Feb. 18 at 10:30 a.m. This program includes a short storytime and a rotating selection of crafts and activities. No registration is required. This program is just for two-year-olds and their caregivers.

On Wednesdays Feb. 19 at 10:30am in the community room, the library will have a Little Kid Dance Party geared for kids 5 and under and their caregivers. Older kids are welcome, as well, especially during school vacation week. There will be songs, dancing and big movement! This is a new day for this program, which was previously held on Tuesdays.

Storytime will be held in the children's program room on Wednesdays Feb. 26 at 10:30 a.m. Storytime is based loosely around the early childhood literacy skills: sing, talk, read, write and play. We read books, sing and move, and do a craft or activity. Recommended for preschool aged kids.

Little Movers will be held in the children's program room on Fridays Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. Babies crawling to 24 months and their caregivers are invited to join us for free play followed by circle time exploring songs, fingerplays and movement!

Teen Programs

Teen Anime Club will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 26 from 3 to 4:30. This month's theme is Pokémon arts and crafts. Teen programs are open to middle and high school students.

February School Vacation Week Programming

The library will host three ukulele programs with music teacher Julie Stepanek Murray on Tuesday, Feb. 18. Ukulele Sto-

rytime for kids ages seven and younger will be at Noon. Kids will learn about the ukulele and hear some songs and stories. Kids ages eight to 12 will learn some ukulele basics at a Kids Ukulele Lesson at 1:30 p.m. Registration is required. Julie brings several ukuleles with her to the program. Kids can also bring their own. There will be a Ukulele Lesson for Teens and Adults at 3:30. Folks who have never played ukulele before are welcome! Registration is required. Ask about ukulele availability when signing up. This program is supported by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Make a Torn Paper Collage on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 2 p.m. Rip up some paper and make a collage! All ages welcome, no registration required.

Learn Some Games! on Thursday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. Did you know the Kids Room has board games and card games you can play at the library? We want to teach you how to play some of them! Choose between learning SET or Disney Codenames. Geared towards school aged kids and their families.

SET, "The Family Game of Visual Perception®" challenges players to race to find as many SETs as they can! A SET is three cards where each individual feature (color, shape, number and shading) is either all the same OR all different!

In Disney Codenames two cluemasters give one-word clues to help their teammates identify the Disney characters, locations, and items from a grid of cards. The cluemaster might say princess, and team members would choose pictures of Moana, Elsa, and Ariel.

Work together in small groups to solve building challenges with different materials at a Buildwave Workshop on Friday, Feb. 21 at Noon. Buildwave's immersive hands-on enrichment programs expand creativity and resilience! If you like building with LEGO, you'll love Buildwave. Learn more about Buildwave at <https://www.buildwave.com/> Geared towards school age kids in grades K-6. Registration is required. Contact the Kids Room to sign up!

For more information about the library and all of the upcoming events, visit www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org

Ready for Kindergarten

CHICOPEE - FREE workshop with at-home activities and tools parents can use to help young children develop strong brain connections for success in school.

Childcare provided and program is for families of three to five year olds

Monday, Feb. 24 at Szetela Early Childhood School on 66 Macek Drive., Chicopee

from 5 to 7 p.m.

Join us for pizza at 5p.m. FREE KIT WITH LEARNING MATERIALS also provided.

Please register for this program. Call or e-mail: Silvia at Durands@headstart.org or 413-505-9053.

Retired airman publishes book on Westover's Cold War era

CHICOPEE - "Westover's Heyday: The Strategic Air Command Years, 1955-1974" is available for purchase through Amazon.

Author Andrew Biscoe explained that the book specifically covers the base's busiest operational era.

"My intent during my research was to tell the story of the tremendous activity at the base during the Cold War," he said. "I want readers to know about the efforts of thousands of service members, their families, and the civilians who were part of the huge Strategic Air Command operation."

Biscoe was assigned to Westover Air Reserve Base from 2001 until early 2019. His roles included base spokesman, historian, and superintendent and acting chief of the 439th Airlift Wing public affairs office.

"Our uniformed men and women were part of the Cold War, an uncharted era of tremendous personal sacrifice which symbolized a collective determination to keep America secure," Biscoe noted."

The book chronicles Westover's impressive distinction and its contributions to the Cold War deterrence mission.

Readers will learn about their fellow Americans' remarkable devotion to duty through countless missions, aircrews pulling seven days straight of 24-hour alerts, weapons convoys, minimum interval takeoffs of armadas of B-52 bombers and KC-135 tankers, and airmen standing guard in sub-zero New England winter temperatures.

Operation of USAF's Strategic Air Command bases, missiles, and aircraft -- east of



Westover's Heyday:

The Strategic Air Command Years: 1955-1974

Andrew S. Biscoe

SUBMITTED PHOTO

the Mississippi River -- was directed from Eighth Air Force headquarters at Westover until 1970.

Biscoe, who now lives in Georgia, retired from the Air Force Reserve Command in April 2023 at Robins Air Force Base.

The book is available in e-book format through Amazon for \$8.99. The longer paperback version is \$15.

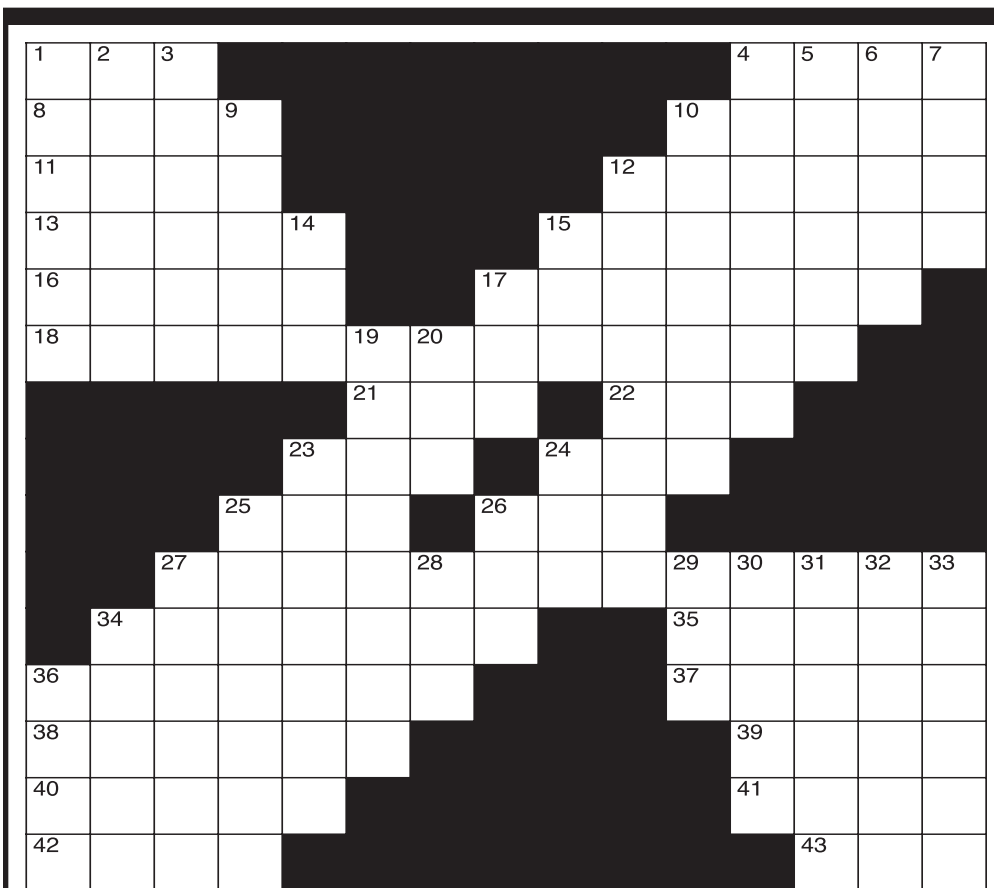
"Who Goes There?" at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer the program "Who Goes There" on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 1:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Join Bob Goff, Founder, Director and Lead Investigator of Agawam Paranormal, as he discusses paranormal investigations that took place at the Tap Room in Wilbraham,

Storowtown Tavern and the Knights of Columbus formerly in West Springfield. Each location will be shown beginning with an introduction as to the historic value and events that happened there.

Then, you will dive into the investigations that happened there and will take a look at the potential evidence that was captured on site. You must register in advance.



CLUES ACROSS

- Racquet sport group (abbr.)
- Polynesian island country
- Norse god of thunder
- Russian industrial city
- What's good for the ___
- Round-ish shape
- Baltimore MLBer
- French modernist painter
- Burned with water
- Intestinal issue
- Take the lead
- Prove oneself worthy
- None
- Tax collector
- Swiss river
- Gymnast Raisman
- Baby's dining accessory
- Canadian beer distributor
- Iconic American tourist destination
- More expansive
- Alert
- Popular boots
- Doc ___
- Showings
- Conclusion
- Share a common boundary
- Shooting sport
- Popular side dish
- Global energy firm
- Chronicles (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- Type of bomb
- Polynesian island country
- Heavenly body
- Hard workers
- Covered
- Johns Hopkins Hospital founder
- Plant of the grass family
- Island person of the Bering Sea
- Storehouse
- Scarlet-flowered desert shrub
- A pituitary hormone
- Female sibling
- Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- Empowering
- Space station
- Disorder
- State of fuss
- Footwear for babies
- Nuclear reactor (abbr.)
- Droves
- Affirmative
- Male parent
- Utter obscenities
- Type of verse
- Unpleasant person
- One who settles down
- Founder of source-based history
- A way to snarl

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IN THE CITY

GUEST COLUMN



Bald eagle

I received an email from a Hampden resident on Dec. 6. She reported a bald eagle perched in tree in her backyard. She said, "The adult bald eagle sat in the tree for a while, then swooped over my house to the north. This was the first time I had a sighting of a bald eagle in my yard."

I saw an adult bald eagle perched in a tree by a field along Route 67 in New Braintree on Jan. 17. It is always a thrill to see an eagle.

The bald eagle is a large 31 inch long dark bird with a white head and white tail. Immature eagles have dark feathers with white mottling on the wings and tail and variable amounts of white on the belly. They keep their immature plumage for four years.

Eagles eat mostly fish and birds. They also will eat carrion and some mammals like rabbits. The female lays one to three bluish white eggs in a massive platform nest of sticks and vegetation lined with moss and grasses. These nests are placed on cliff ledge or in the fork of a tree.

Eagles congregate at feeding areas in late winter and early spring. They inhabit coasts, lakes and large rivers. The eagle has a repeated piercing scream given between a pair and a rapid series of chirps given at the nest. Eagle populations are recovering from series declines due to the use of DDT, which caused thinning of their egg shells.

Bluebirds

A North Brookfield resident had half a dozen bluebirds at his feeder on Jan. 9. Another Hampden resident reported the bluebirds were back in a Jan. 17 email. He said, "He puts out a container of warm water every morning and puts a scoop of critter food on the ground every morning."

Great blue heron

The same Hampden resident with the bluebirds said in Dec. 5 email a great blue heron "has been visiting my fish pond early mornings and late afternoons for the past couple of weeks. It has consumed over 20 goldfish in the three foot deep pond."

Pine warbler

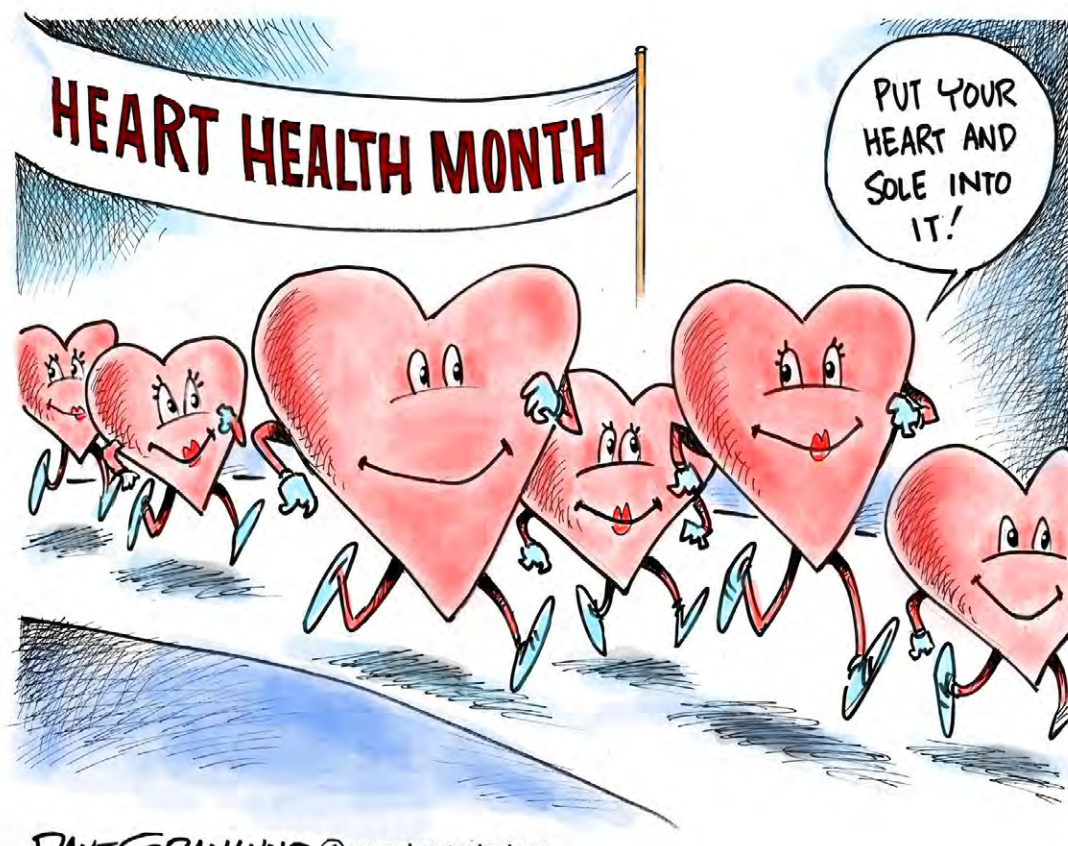
A reader some time ago had a bird with a lot of yellow. She identified it as a pine warbler. She said she never had a pine warbler come to her nudget feeder before and she has lived there for 40 years. She also included a photo of a mocking bird sipping sap from a maple tree after the yellow bellied sapsucker made multiple holes in the bark.

Rescue of iced in loons

The Loon Preservation Committee reported, "On Dec. 14, [they] responded to a report from Weare Reservoir (aka Horace Lake) in Weare, New Hampshire. As the reservoir froze, a juvenile loon became trapped in a small (15 foot diameter) hole of open water. Fortunately, the opening was not far from shore and LPC Senior Biologist, John Cooly, was able to make his way out across the newly-formed ice to capture it. LPC staff then evaluated the loon, taking blood and x-rays. No problems were detected, and the loon was released onto the ocean that afternoon." The loon received two bands per leg in a unique color combination that will enable us to identify it if it returns to a New Hampshire lake in the future.

The LPC also reported, "That same night [Dec. 14], we received a call from volunteers on Franklin Pierce Lake. There, too, a juvenile loon was icing-in and with cold temperatures predicted overnight, its situation was not likely to improve. On Dec. 15, LPC staff headed to the lake. The loon was much further from shore than the loon on Weare Reservoir had been, but the ice was solid and we were able to capture the loon. The loon was given a physical examination on site and no obvious problems were detected. Because it was late in the day and we wanted to make sure the loon had plenty of daylight to explore and get acquainted with its new surroundings, we opted to have the loon stay overnight with wildlife rehabilitator Maria Colby of Wings Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. We banded it and released it onto the ocean at Odiorne Point the following morning."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing my-backyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



GUEST COLUMN



Roses or carnations, you chose!

With St. Valentine's Day coming up, my thoughts turn to flowers.

I am not a "rose girl" so to speak. It is probably because I am frugal and roses cost an arm and a leg this time of year.

Get me a carnation and I am happy. They don't bend at the neck or pick you with thorns. They even smell nice, to me the fragrance is that of cloves.

So this will be a combo column. First, it will give our rose lovers out there the best chance of keeping their admirer's big investment healthy for the longest possible time. Then, I will do the same for the humble carnation.

Perhaps you will be the lucky recipient of roses on Friday. I have a couple tricks up my sleeve to help you increase their vase-life. First, remove the roses from their box and give each one a fresh cut on a forty-five degree angle.

If you can do this under water, all the better to prevent what I call "bent head" or "limp neck" syndrome- an air bubble clogging the stem.

You should also remove any foliage that will be underwater - it will rot and make the water stinky and full of bacteria. Leaves on the top third of the stem can remain as long as they look pretty; unbeknownst to me, these will continue to photosynthesize, making food to help the rose color up to its full potential.

We all have had a few "bent heads" or "limp necks" in our day - a shame, considering how expensive roses are, especially when purchased on a holiday. If you catch this situation early there is a way to remedy it: recut the stem of the rose or roses in question and soak them horizontally, under water for a half-hour or so.

This technique is contrary to what one might think is good for a many-petaled flower. I would argue that water trapped within the petals would breed fungi and shorten vase-life, but I guess if the rose is doomed to the fate of a bent head, it's worth a shot. Regular folks have tried it in the bathtub and have been successful.

How about those carnations? They aren't as

fussy as their more expensive counterparts, but here are a few helpful hints. Recut their stems to just above a node (the bump where leaves come from) and place in floral preservative.

If you don't have floral preservative, you can make your own. Here is a recipe that, just like the professional blends, contain the three necessary components for fresh flower health and longevity: carbohydrates, a biocide and pH adjuster.

1t sugar
1t bleach
2t lemon or lime juice (strained)
1 quart water

Alternate version:

1-12 ounce can decaf lemon/lime soda
3 cans water
1T bleach
Mix and stir to flatten

Each of these preservatives should be stored in the refrigerator with contents labeled.

Sometimes, carnations come very tightly budded. If you want them to open quickly, without waiting days, you can up the sugar content in the preservative to force bloom.

Do expect that you won't get to enjoy them as long in the vase if you do this, though, since their energy will be spent.

Cut flowers are sensitive to ethylene gas, and carnations are especially sensitive. Rotting foliage, ripening fruit, cigarette smoke and exhaust all release ethylene gas, which acts like a hormone that triggers maturation and death. For that reason we avoid storing flowers in the household fridge.

I had my own firsthand experience. I had arrangements to make at work, but had jury duty the day they were needed. I made them a day early and cleared out one of the coolers. Wouldn't you know it that someone put an apple inside without my knowing. Sure enough everything was ruined.

Whether you are a rose lover or a carnation lover, or enjoy any flower in between, I hope that you either treat yourself, or are treated by someone else, either on St. Valentine's Day or sometime soon!

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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Bucket List

To the Editor:

This administration, as any other administration, has a "to-do" list of things they would like to achieve during their reign. Regardless of how the agenda is received by the populace, it all comes down to forming an opinion and judgment on whether it serves the greater good of the Nation.

Here are some of the goals of the current administration.

The new AG going after Jan. 6 prosecutors
USAID stoppage
Firing FBI employees
Releasing names of CIA
Occupying Gaza

Elon Musk grasp over the Treasury
National Birth Rights Abandonment
Eliminate Department of Education
Do away with DEI (national diversity)
Mass Deportation
The pardoning of Jan. 6 rioters
Tariffs
Replacing judges and military personnel

which fail to show allegiance to the president

It is up to us to decide whether this list is beneficial or not to the American way of life! If you feel it doesn't serve our interest you can call the U.S. Capital Switch Board: 1-202-224-3121.

A sincere patriot and former Army Medic,
Bill Paul, Chicopee

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Send letters to:
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The deadline for
submissions is Tuesday at noon.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

The Chicopee Register welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Election letters to the editor

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

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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

The Republic of Dance at RiverMills

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host The Republic of Dance on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Take a tour around the globe by experiencing dances and music from America, Africa, the Celtic Nations, Greece, India, Spain and the Middle East. Each performance is different. This program is performed by The Small Planet Dancers in Westfield, MA.

This program is sponsored by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Registration is required.

CPD shares reminder about parking at Walmart

CHICOPEE - The police department have received numerous complaints about the increase of vehicles parking in the fire lanes in the Walmart parking lot.

All of the store fronts have marked fire lanes. These lanes are reserved for fire apparatus in the case of an emergency.

They are not meant for loading and unloading groceries, dropping off or picking up passengers or parking for food delivery drivers while they run in to retrieve orders. Officers will be monitoring these areas and issuing citations to violators.

VIEAU from page 1

are informed."

Later reflecting on the phase two renovations for city hall, Vieau focused on the importance of not only modernization and innovation, but serving the public.

"We serve people and I think we do a pretty good job. Is there room for growth with that? Absolutely. My goal is to continue to earn the public's trust," Vieau said. "I try every day to work on the reputation of this community, the city of Chicopee--a place I'm passionate about and a place I love--and I want people to understand that they should never lose their Chicopee pride and help me promote it."

On other goals, Vieau cited upgrades for the wastewater treatment plant, hiring new department heads, working on long-standing projects "that we need to come to fruition, but at a pace that the taxpayers can afford" and looking at and promoting new growth opportunities along with getting more innovative, hiring a grant writer and meeting with city councilors and School Committee members about their needs.

"So, I'm really focused on doing those things in the next year," Vieau said.

His biggest goal this current term, however, is working on himself.

"I'm trying to be my best me and it's really about mind, body and spirit and those connections are, I think, are really important. I want to be my best me so that I can serve the community to the best of my ability," Vieau said. "I'm really focused on that whether it'd be learning something new every day and keeping an open mind. I just think that there's always room for growth in anything you do. I have a vision of myself and I'm trying to reach that goal and I think that's a really important part of self-awareness too, but that's something I'm really focused on. I think health comes first. You cannot be there for your community if you don't take care of yourself."

Vieau is most proud of not only his team but, also, the community events from National Night Out to Spooktacular.

"It's just been amazing and we want to continue to grow those. We take a lot of pride in that too," Vieau said.

Also, recognizing the community's diversity through flag-raising throughout the year.

"Just things that we focus on here that I think are very special. Recognizing every nationality that really is the melting pot of Chicopee and foundation of what this country's built on," Vieau said. "There are so many wonderful things happening and we want to continue to oversee that progress."

In his message to voters, Vieau said he's been honored to serve as mayor and hopes to continue to serve the city.

"I think we do a lot of things really well and there's always room for improvement. I'm still passionate about what I do and I'm hopeful the people of Chicopee recognize my commitment to not just those who support me now, but earning the trust of those who haven't in the past," Vieau said. "I believe in working together and I believe in Chicopee. I always have and that's why I'm running for reelection."

CFD takes part in Hometown Heroes Night



CHICOPEE - On Jan. 25, prior to the annual Springfield Thunderbirds Hometown Heroes Hockey Game, the Chicopee Fire Department Hockey Team played the Springfield Police Department Team. Although in the end, Springfield won the game, the members played well and did a wonderful job representing the City of Chicopee! A great time was clearly had by all.



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Events & announcements schedule

Dream Designers

CHICOPEE - Join us for exciting and interactive STEM activities designed to ignite curiosity, creativity and critical thinking in children 2.9 to five years old and their families.

Explore, experiment and discover the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through hands-on experiences!

Location: Tuesdays at H.B. Lawrence Elementary School, 156 Cabot St., Holyoke

Thursdays at Szetela Early Childhood School, 66 Macek Dr., Chicopee

Time: 4 to 5 p.m.

Dates: Tuesdays: Jan. 28 through March 11

Thursdays: Jan. 30 through March 13

Children must attend with an adult.

To learn more, call Shane at 413-310-1632.

Japanese For Beginners Zoom Class

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

Join Charlie Duquette, USMC/Retired, for this 12-week series on learning basic Japanese. You will need a valid email address and access to Zoom for this class as it will be virtual and in the comfort of your own home. Class will meet at 4:30 every Tuesday beginning Jan.14 thru April 1 via Zoom. A study group will be held at Chicopee Senior Center every Friday at 2 p.m. from Jan. 17 thru April 4. You must provide a valid email address at

the time of registration.

Chicopee Senior Center Volunteer Dishwasher needed

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging at RiverMills Center is looking for a volunteer Dishwasher for our congregate meal site. This volunteer position would be Monday thru Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This position would be assisting with dishwashing for the congregate meal site after lunch service. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact RiverMills Center's Volunteer Coordinator Brandon Dumas at 413-534-3698 ext. 130 for additional information or stop by the reception desk to pick up an application.

Harmony House Needs Volunteers

CHICOPEE - The doors have opened at Harmony House of Western Massachusetts and potential volunteers are invited to explore the opportunity to help others in our communities.

Harmony House of Western Massachusetts is a social model home for hospice care located in Chicopee. After closing our original home in 2019 and purchasing a house in the Aldenville section of Chicopee for renovation, the organization is actively serving our residents with the help of volunteers and staff members.

Harmony House is currently in need of caregivers and people who would enjoy the opportunity to support our residents. Whether it's a few hours a week or a few hours a month, Harmony House is a welcoming place for peo-

ple looking to help people.

Harmony House is a local, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a loving home offering compassionate care for people who are on hospice and are in need of care.

If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please complete the online volunteer application form at www.harmony-housewma.org/volunteer-1 or email us at harmonyhousewma@gmail.com.

Holyoke Chicopee Head Start holding Raising A Reader Family Shared Reading Program

HOLYOKE - The Holyoke Chicopee Family & Community Program is currently hosting a "Raising A Reader" Family Shared reading program.

The program is for families with children from infant to five years old.

Let's get together for fun activities that develop reading readiness and social emotional skills! Take home a red bag each week with books to borrow.

The program takes place on Wednesdays, 4 to 5 p.m. at HCS Head Start the first and third Wednesday of the month at 41 Commercial St., Holyoke.

Please call or email Shane at ShaneW@headstart.org or 413-310-1632.

This program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to HCS Head Start by the Department of Early Education and Care.

CPD takes part in Hometown Heroes Night



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - Thank you to the Springfield Thunderbirds for hosting Hometown Heroes Night once again. We were thrilled to be part of such a great event.

100TH BIRTHDAY from page 1

around her for fun, great food, laughs and joy, Geoffrey could not stop expressing her gratitude, enjoying the numerous laughs throughout our conversation.

"Everything. It's wonderful. I'm not good at expressing myself that much, but very, very happy and thrilled," Geoffrey said. "It's nice, oh wow, real nice."

When asked what her top three tips for living a long life are, Geoffrey again emphasized family--especially family support--and added laughter and patience.

"You need that, that's for sure," Geoffrey said.

Mitchell also included love and forgiveness on that list.

"That's a big one. You got to forgive the little things. You got to forgive," Mitchell said.

"That's for sure," Geoffrey added.

On what she wants the community to know on this big day, Geoffrey said this.

"I was born and brought up in Chicopee, so I'm not going to say anything wrong about

it, that's for sure," Geoffrey said. "I went to school in Chicopee and I'm not sorry. Very nice."

Mitchell then shared this special message to her mom, which led to a flurry of applause.

"So glad you made it, Mom. That's a sonnet," Mitchell said.

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An exterior shot of the Meeting Hall on Eastern Drive where the Williamsett C3 Unit currently holds their 11 a.m. Community Meetings.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS from page 1

lice Trooper Mike Catone, who served in the Army's Special Forces.

Catone had started a C3 model in Springfield many years earlier that is still around today.

"He trained us and as part of his program, he recommended that we have weekly Community Meetings based on what he learned in his military experience," Gazda said.

Gazda said residents can come to the meetings any time and he enjoys meeting with attendees, including during the week over coffee.



Tevin Colon, aide to State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), presents the citation from the Massachusetts State House of Representatives.

"You can come once a year, you can come every week, you can come once every two months. It doesn't matter because we have them every week," Gazda said.

Gazda added the community meetings provide information on community resources, equipping residents with connections and agencies that can help others who need assistance.

"Before working in C3, I wasn't aware of what resources we have in the community for vulnerable populations. We started in Chicopee Center, one of our biggest complaints was we had a homeless issue. We had a homeless encampment, which doesn't exist now. Most of those people have either gotten jobs, moved away, got some kind of help with housing or got help with substance abuse," Gazda said.

Join the Situation Table

Gazda also expressed excitement about the Situation Table, a program helping identify and provide assistance to individuals at risk in the community from substance abuse to mental health issues to other difficulties.

A two-day training for the Situation Table will happen on Feb. 19 and 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the police department. Registration is required and anyone interested can contact the police department or the Mayor's Office to sign

up. The breakfast and lunches will be sponsored by Wingstop Store #2632, 99 Restaurant 30108 and Dunkin' at 820 Memorial Dr.

Cordata will be implementing the program. "This was brought to my attention from Ward 7 City Councilor Bill Courchesne. Other communities, Springfield and Holyoke, they call it a Hub Meeting, where every week they have Zoom meetings and different resources attend the meeting. They get referral forms from people in the community that might be vulnerable, experiencing some kind of crisis," Gazda said.

"They have meetings, they figure out who can help them and send them out to try to make contact with families or persons." Gazda was thrilled with the interest, sharing that 28 people have signed up so far and after the training next week, the first Hub Meeting will start.

"As a table, we will discuss the information that's received. Once we figure out who from the table can help them, they get like a separate table. They work on how they're going to coach the family, how they're going to make contact, what resources they can get out to them," Gazda said.

As an example, this could be if someone sees a person who is experiencing a drug overdose, what help and resources--such as DART--can be provided through the Situation Table to help them overcome addiction and recover.

Gazda also emphasized compassion and not rushing to judgment are crucial values the Situation Table can provide along with encouraging people to step out and help.

"I do see that quite a bit, especially on Facebook and other social platforms nowadays. They see one image of something and they judge it without knowing the background information or other context that might have to do with that. There's a lot to it," Gazda said.

Gazda's Message

Gazda encourages the community to sign up for the Situation Table training and, also, continue attending the Community Meetings.

"There's a QR code to scan to register. If you're not able to, you can just show up and we will sign you in," Gazda said. "Anybody's welcome to attend as long as you provide some kind of service that helps people in our city. This is geared towards residents, but if you work for an agency and you want to take part in this, you think you can help the people we come into contact with, we'd be more than happy to have you."



Al Kendall looks at his citation from the Massachusetts State House of Representatives as community members applaud.



The reigning 2024 Chicopee Colleens pose for a group photo

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ

COLLEENS from page 1

family. We usually have a speaker who is either from Ireland or is familiar with some part of Irish history and gives a brief summary. We are always trying to highlight the traditions and culture of Ireland as part of this whole process," Rodowicz said.

When asked why it's important to continue traditions, Rodowicz talked about her personal experience living in the surrounding area as an adult and learning to love the traditions around her.

"I am half-Irish and I'm not from the area, I didn't grow up here but my whole adult life has been out here. I've been going to the parade for many years, I brought my children and they've always enjoyed it. My daughter was in the court in 2008 so that changed a lot, I became kind of a part of the committee by just going to the events with our daughter," Rodowicz said. "It was a really wonderful experience and it was after that I decided to join the committee. I've been a member ever since then and been very active. Because the parade celebrates Irish culture, I think it's important for people to understand what that is. I have traced my family tree and their life in Ireland and it just gives an appreciation of what they went through to give their family a better life here in the United States."

Coming up next for parade season, The Coronation Ball will be held on Feb. 22 at the Portuguese American Club beginning at 4:30 p.m., Irish Family Night on March 7 at 6 p.m. at the Portuguese American Club and, then, the 72nd Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade will be held on March 23 in Holyoke, where



2025 Committee President Kathy Siwa welcomes the contestants.



The special guest speaker this year was Laura McNeil, Ph.D, director of the Honors Program and professor of History at Elms College.

Chicopee will march in the parade along with the Colleen and her court.

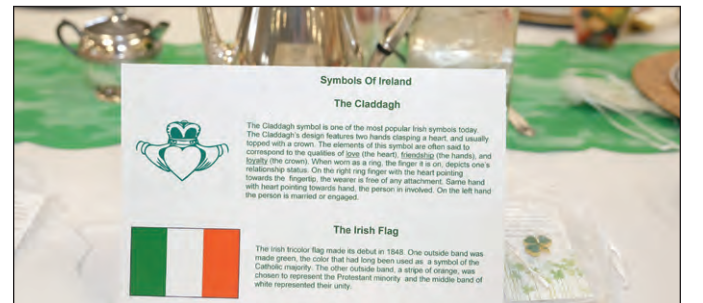
To learn more, visit chicopeespc.com or check out their Facebook page.



A crowd shot of this year's Colleen contestants, the 2024 Colleen Court and other special guests during the Irish Tea event on Feb. 9.



A shot of the place setting that greeted the 2025 Chicopee Colleen contestants and guests during this year's Irish Tea.



A photo explaining the symbols of Ireland and the Irish tradition during the Irish Tea event.

Advertisement for 90 Meat Outlet featuring various meat products and prices. Includes 'LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!', 'INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS', and 'PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!'. Lists items like Pork Butt Strips, Beef Top Round, Chicken Drumsticks, etc. with prices. Contact info: 90 Avocado St. Springfield, 413-737-1288.

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Colts get major upset over Knights

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE—The Chicopee Comp Colts held a slim two point lead late in the third quarter against the Holyoke Purple Knights.

Following an impressive 17-2 run, the Colts entered the final eight minutes of the boys' basketball game holding a 17 point advantage and they wound up celebrating a 73-53 victory before a large crowd at Holyoke's John 'Jinx' O'Connor Gymnasium, last Friday night.

"To be able to win a game in this gym against a very good Holyoke team is a huge accomplishment for us," said Comp head coach Gavin Miller. "We're playing very well right now and we're just trying to keep improving entering the post-season tournaments."

The non-league road win improved the Colts overall record to 13-4.

It was the Purple Knights (12-3) first home loss of the regular season.

The Colts' only two double digit scorers were junior Brody Fay, who scored 12 of his team-leading 18 points in the third quarter, sophomore Elijah Kleps, who netted 12 of his 17 points in the first half. Seven other Comp players scored in the road game.

"We were really looking forward to playing tonight's game," Elijah Kleps said. "This is a huge win for us."

Another Comp scorer against the Purple Knights was Elijah's twin brother, Xavier, who contributed with seven points off the bench. He broke his right wrist in the season opener against Pittsfield and returned to action last week.

"I was heartbroken when my brother was injured in the season opener," Elijah Kleps said. "It's very nice having him back on the court again. He's also one of our key defensive players."

Xavier Kleps returned to action by scoring 12 points in a blowout against High School of Commerce on February 4.

"We're a whole different team when we have Xavier on the court,"



Xavier Kleps heads for the layup.



Elijah Kleps gets the off-balance jumper.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Garret Gauthier has plenty of air on the layup attempt.

Miller said. "He's ready to go and we're just trying to get him back into game shape."

The Colts, who scored the first seven points of the contest, took a 17-12 lead with 1:20 left in the opening quarter when junior Modesto Galindrez (7 points) buried a 3-pointer.

The Purple Knights responded with a pair of field goals from junior Aden Cabera, who finished with a game-high 21 points, and a 3-pointer from junior Jordan King-Perilli (9 points).

It gave the home team a 19-17 lead entering the second stanza, which wound up being their only lead of the entire game.

Comp quickly retook the lead at 22-19 with less than a minute into the second quarter when Xavier Kleps hit a 3-pointer from the right corner.

A Fay foul-line jumper gave the Colts a 28-21 lead with 2:30 remaining in the first half.

Then a lay-up and a jumper by Cabera closed the gap to three points.

Following a lay-up in the final seconds of the first half from junior Francis Jordan (3 points), Comp held a 33-29 halftime lead.

It would remain a close game until Comp sophomore Jaco-

See PACERS page 8



Modesto Galindrez sizes up an easy jump shot



Francis Jordan drives to the hoop.

Owls stop three-game slide, beat Wesleyan

WESTFIELD, Mass. — Westfield State seniors Olivia Hadla (Westfield, Mass.) and Jordan Grant (Gray, Maine) combined for 47 points as the Owls outscored Wesleyan University by 18 points in the second half to pull away in a 96-82 non-conference triumph on Thursday night from the Woodward Center in Westfield, Mass.

The Owls halt their three-game slide, improving to 12-8 on the season while the Cardinals fall to 8-13 overall.

Westfield trailed by as many as ten points on multiple occasions in the second quarter before beginning to chip into the deficit. With the Cardinals leading 49-40 with 1:49 to play in the half, Tavi Williams (Springfield, Mass.) converted a layup, then Kayley Downie (Easthampton, Mass.) came away with a steal with the ball finding her later in the possession for a wing triple, trimming the Owls deficit to four points entering the break.

In the third quarter, the Owls ramped up the pressure forcing 15 Wesleyan turnovers after generating 12 Cardinals turnovers in the first two quarters combined. Williams opened the third period with a layup after the Owls generated a Wesleyan turnover on the first possession. Hadla put Westfield in front with a three-pointer with 8:03 left in the quarter, giving the Owls their first lead since the 7:53 mark of the first quarter.

The Cardinals regained a 55-52 edge before Westfield's defense caused havoc in the backcourt, forcing four consecutive turnovers on four straight Cardinals possessions, leading to an 8-0 scoring run capped

by a Maddie Pond (Holyoke, Mass.) triple to ascend the Owls to a 60-55 advantage with 5:16 left in the third.

Westfield closed the third quarter strong, tallying nine of the final 12 points in the frame with a transition layup from Pond on an outlet from Sophia DeAngelis (Braintree, Mass.) bolstering the Owls lead to seven points after three quarters of action.

The Owls held Wesleyan scoreless for the opening 2:46 of the final frame, allowing Westfield to increase their lead into double digits thanks to a layup from Hadla with 8:20 left to make it a 75-65 Owls lead.

Wesleyan responded with an 8-0 run over the next two and a half minutes to cut the Owls lead to two points after a layup from Aviva Schnitzer (Phoenix, Ariz.) and two made free throws from Meghan Kirck (Orange, Conn.) made it a 75-73 contest with 5:08 remaining.

Grant grabbed an offensive rebound and finished in the paint to stem the Cardinals run, then a steal from Pond led to a runout from Hadla on the break, who laid home the bucket to push the lead back to six points with 4:17 to go.

Later in the quarter with Westfield still leading by six, Hannah Sheldon (Taunton, Mass.) pulled down a crucial offensive rebound, kicking a pass out to DeAngelis who buried a shot from beyond the arc to up the lead to nine points with 2:34 remaining.

Wesleyan would get no closer than seven points for the remainder of the contest as a pair of layups

See OWLS page 8

Hurricanes edge out Pacers for win

HOLYOKE — Last Wednesday evening, Amherst ice hockey, which co-ops with Pathfinder, defeated the Chicopee five-team co-op 3-2 at Fitzpatrick Rink. Nate Desbien, Alex Marlin, and Pathfinder's Ethan Mooney all scored

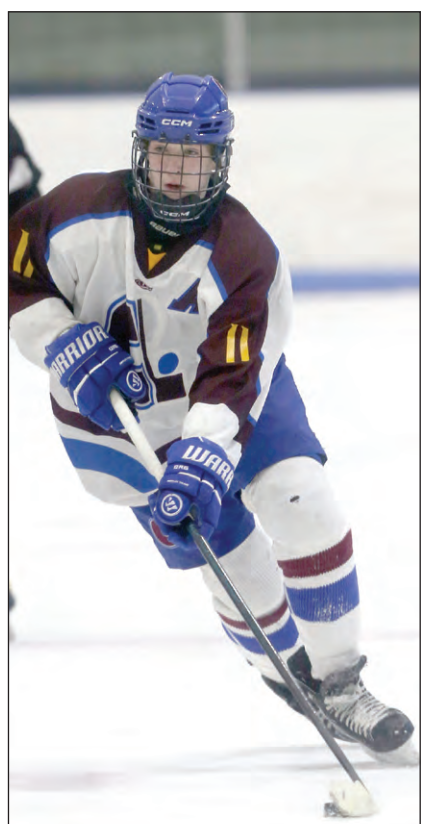
the goals for the Hurricanes. Chicopee got goals from Nate Robitaille and Tyler Denison. Spencer McDonald made 21 saves in goal. Amherst 9-4-1 and is headed for tournament, while Chicopee is 3-8-2.



Mason Peters circles around and heads up the ice.



Braydon LaDuke, of Granby, hustles into the offensive zone.



Jake Fournier readies a wrist shot.



Nate Robitaille grabs the loose puck.



Chris Walczak nears the opposing goal.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

T-Birds get huge weekend sweep

DES MOINES, IA — The Springfield Thunderbirds (21-17-2-2) got points from 14 of their 18 skaters in a 7-2 drubbing of the Iowa Wild (14-26-2-1) on Saturday night inside Wells Fargo Arena.

The T-Birds wasted little time jumping in front for a second straight night, as Simon Robertsson and Hugh McGing capped a 2-on-0 with McGing cashing in on a one-timer past Jesper Wallstedt just 1:22 into action. Otto Stenberg also picked up an assist as all three players on the line broke point droughts of three or four games.

Sam Bitten, playing in the building his brother Will called home for three seasons, joined the fun at 5:47 with a perfect bar-down wrister from the right circle to push the lead to 2-0 off setups from Samuel Johannesson and Leo Loof. Johannesson has now registered a point in five of his last six games.

Vadim Zherenko drew the starting assignment in net and held his own with 16 stops in the opening period. Johannesson provided a helping hand after Zherenko made a mini-breakaway save on Hunter Haight, and the young blueliner successfully kept Mikey Milne from cashing in on a rebound to keep the score deadlocked.

Iowa finally would break through on its 16th shot of the period as Travis Boyd crashed the far post to tap home a 2-on-1 pass from Matthew Sop to get the Wild deficit down to 2-1 heading into the first intermission.

There were more parallels from Friday's game early in the second period, as McGing

unleashed a perfect shot under the crossbar at 2:23, beating Wallstedt for his second of the evening and restoring the two-goal lead, 3-1.

Iowa put together their best push of the night over the next five minutes, culminating in a tally by Luke Toporowski to cut the margin back to a single goal, 3-2, at 7:26.

Just as it appeared the Wild would change the tide of the game, the T-Birds had other plans as Nikita Alexandrov drove the net front from the right circle and beat Wallstedt to the near post to make it 4-2 just 17 seconds after the Toporowski goal.

The Springfield attack poured it on from there. Michael Buchinger announced his presence at 8:49, jumping into a play as a trailer before snapping a wrister past Wallstedt to make it 5-2 off a cross-ice setup from Matthew Peca.

Another potential momentum shift came at 13:39 of the second when Dylan Peterson barreled in on net, taking a shot on Wallstedt before colliding with the Iowa netminder. Peterson was given a five-minute charging major, setting the stage for the Wild power play to try to climb back into the game. Wallstedt was forced to leave the game as Samuel Hlavaj came on in relief.

Instead of the moment sparking the home team, the T-Birds only further added to their lead when Peca intercepted a pass in the neutral zone, skated into the zone on the

right wing, and snapped another perfect shot upstairs past Hlavaj for his team-leading 16th goal, making it a 6-2 game heading into the third.

The Wild had no answers for Zherenko in the third, despite Iowa throwing 16 pucks on the T-Birds net and 50 total by the night's conclusion. The third-year goalie finished with a season-high 48 stops to earn the win, and Alek Kaskimaki capped off the offensive onslaught with his second

goal in two nights at 17:12 of the third to round out the scoring.

Dalibor Dvorsky will be in action on Sunday and Monday at the AHL All-Star Classic presented by Spotlight 29 Casino in Palm Springs, California. The rookie star will first participate in the AHL All-Star Skills Competition presented by Silvercrest on Sunday, Feb. 2 (9:00 p.m. ET). Then, on Monday, Feb. 3, Dvorsky and the Atlantic Division will look to take home the 3-on-3 crown in the 2025 AHL All-Star Challenge presented by Spotlight 29 Casino at 9:00 p.m. ET. Both events can be seen on NHL Network and AHLTV powered by Flo-Hockey.

Springfield next takes to the ice on Friday, Feb. 7 to begin a home-and-home set against the Providence Bruins at Amica Mutual Pavilion.



Open Swim

CHICOPEE – Open Swim will be hosted at Chicopee High School from Noon to 2 p.m., having kicked off on Jan. 12 and will be running through March 2.

The cost is \$3 for residents and \$5 for non-residents.

To learn more, contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 413-594-3481.

Polish Junior League of Massachusetts awarding scholarships

REGION – The Polish Junior League of Massachusetts has announced that it will be awarding scholarships again this year for college students of Polish Heritage.

Scholarships will be awarded to undergraduate students, and one scholarship will be granted to a graduate or returning student. Application information and forms may be obtained at www.polishjuniorleaguema.org/applications.

Deadline for receipt of application materials is May 1, 2025.

Selection is based upon financial need and academic achievement.

Applications are available online at www.polishjuniorleaguema.org/applications.

Top Talent Tuesdays Return to MiraVista!

HOLYOKE – MiraVista Behavioral Health Center is excited to announce the return of Top Talent Tuesdays, a dedicated weekly event to recruit and celebrate exceptional nursing professionals. Every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., nurses are invited to visit MiraVista, meet with its leadership team, and explore the dynamic opportunities that exist at the Holyoke-based inpatient mental health and outpatient substance use treatment facility.

As the demand for high-quality mental health care continues to rise, MiraVista remains at the forefront of providing critical treatment for both adults and adolescents. Since its inception, MiraVista has been committed to offering compassionate and innovative care that meets the unique needs of individuals in our community and across the Commonwealth.

"This is an exciting time for nursing at MiraVista," said Coreen Lord, Director of Talent Acquisition. "Top Talent Tuesdays allow us to meet face-to-face with compassionate, driven nurses who are eager to make a difference. It's more than a hiring event, it's an opportunity to build relationships and welcome incredible talent, top talent, to our team."

Lord added that sign-on bonuses from up to \$10,000 to \$15,000 are available, as well as on-the-spot hiring decisions for the right candidates.

The event provides attendees with the chance to engage directly with MiraVista's leadership, tour the facility, and learn more about MiraVista's mission to deliver the highest standard of mental health and substance use treatment.

Evangelina Murray, the organization's Associate Chief Nursing Officer, emphasized the importance of expanding the nursing team to meet this growing need: "We are so excited to meet the dedicated nurses who will shape the future of patient care at MiraVista. Every nurse brings a unique perspective and skill set, and we look forward to welcoming new team members who share our passion for transforming lives. Our ability to provide critical care to both adults and adolescents depends on the strength of nursing and we are looking forward to starting a conversation with those who are interested in learning more about our work in the field of mental health care."

Hall of Fame unveils schedule for 2025 enshrinement

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has unveiled its Enshrinement Weekend schedule for the Class of 2025. The celebratory weekend will culminate with the Enshrinement Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield—the Birthplace of Basketball. Finalists, as well as select award winners, will be announced on Friday, Feb. 14, during NBA All-Star Weekend in San Francisco, and the Class of 2025 will be revealed on Saturday, April 5, at the Final Four in San Antonio.

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at Mohegan Sun on Friday, Sept. 5, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala. The Class of 2025 and returning Hall of Famers will then travel to Springfield, Mass., where they will participate in the weekend's traditional events taking place at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and Springfield's Symphony Hall.

First-time candidates for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2025 include Carmelo Anthony, Sue Bird, Maya Moore, Dwight Howard, Doc Rivers, Billy Donovan, Sylvia Fowles, Chamique Holdscaw, Mark Few, Lisa Bluder, Marc Gasol, and Micky Arison.

A limited number of VIP Packages for the 2025 Enshrinement Ceremony will go on sale on Friday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at hoopball.

com on the Hall of Fame's Enshrinement Ticket page or by calling the Basketball Hall of Fame at (413) 231-5513.

Individual tickets for the events will go on sale tentatively on Saturday, April 5, at 12 noon.

Details of the current schedule of events for Enshrinement 2025 are as follows:

Friday, September 5, at Mohegan Sun (Uncasville, Conn.)

Enshrinement 2025 Autograph Session

An opportunity to meet the Class of 2025 at their first public Enshrinement Weekend event. A ticket to this event will give fans the opportunity to receive one autograph per class member.

Enshrinement 2025 Press Conference

The official media availability for the Hall of Fame Class of 2025. This availability is only open to credentialed members of the media, along with VIP Package ticket holders, and will be held at Mohegan Sun. The media credential application will open on Monday, July 21, at hoopball.com/media.

Enshrinement Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala

The Class of 2025, along with the Hall's prestigious annual award winners, will be celebrated at this televised Enshrinement event at Mohegan Sun. During the event, the Class of 2025 will receive their Hall of Fame rings,

courtesy of Baron Championship Rings, and their official Hall of Fame jackets, provided by Reveal Suits. The program will additionally highlight the presentation of the Hall's annual John Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award and the Curt Gowdy Media Awards.

Saturday, Sept. 6, in Springfield, Mass. Enshrinement Ceremony VIP Reception at Springfield Marriott

Toast the incoming Hall of Fame Class of 2025 at the official VIP Reception prior to the sport's ultimate recognition. The party is limited to select ticket holders for the Enshrinement Ceremony. Shuttle service between the host location and Symphony Hall will be provided if needed. This exclusive party will set the stage for a memorable night on the Red Carpet and at the Ceremony.

Enshrinement Ceremony Red Carpet Show at Symphony Hall

The Class of 2025, legendary Hall of Famers, and some of basketball's biggest icons take center stage on the red carpet in a live TV broadcast outside Symphony Hall.

Enshrinement Ceremony at Symphony Hall

One of the most elite nights on the basketball calendar each year, the Hall of Fame Class of 2025 will be formally enshrined into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in a nationally televised ceremony.

Railers drop finale to Atlanta Gladiators

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers HC (20-20-2-4 46pts) lost to the Atlanta Gladiators (20-22-4-2, 46pts), on Saturday night by the final score of 4-2 in front of a crowd of 7,094 at the DCU Center. The Railers are back on the ice next at the Credit Union of Texas Event Center taking on the Allen Americans on Friday, February 14th at 8:10 p.m. EST.

It was Atlanta who scored first tonight as Cody Sylvester (2-0-2) put the Gladiators up 1-0 19:26 into the first period. Just 31 seconds later Andrew Jarvis extended the Atlanta lead to 2-0 heading into the second period. Worcester got their first on the night off the stick of Matias Rajaniemi (1-0-1) 2:34 into the third period. Atlanta scored back-to-back empty-net goals in the

third period from Cody Sylvester and Ryan Cranford (1-0-1). The Railers then made it 4-2 with a goal from Matt Ustaski (1-0-1) 18:41 into the third to finish off the night's scoring.

It took nearly the entire first period for either team to score until Atlanta took the 1-0 lead. It was Cody Sylvester (17th) who put the Gladiators up 1-0. With just three seconds remaining in the first period Andrew Jarvis (4th) extended the Atlanta lead to 2-0 with a low slap shot to beat Bullion down low. Shots favored Worcester 12-10 in the first period.

Despite power play chances for both sides neither team was able to net one in the second period. The Railers went to the power play twice in the period, first at the 10:02

mark into the second followed by another chance at the 13:38 mark. Atlanta got their power play opportunity 16:17 into second frame, but the Worcester penalty kill held strong keeping Atlanta from jumping out to a three-goal lead. Shots favored Worcester 14-7 in the second.

Worcester made it a 2-1 game early in the third following a goal from Matias Rajaniemi (3rd) 2:34 into the third period. The Railers went to the empty net in an effort to tie the game late, but Atlanta scored twice on the empty net, the first was Cody Sylvester (18th) followed by Ryan Cranford (9th). The Railers then got one back scored by Matt Ustaski (3rd) leading to a 4-2 final. Shots favored Worcester 15-5 in the third and 41-22 in the game.

PACERS from page 7

by Haney (6 points) buried back-to-back 3-pointers. It helped the Colts build a 47-39 lead with 2:30 left in the third quarter. Another 3-pointer by Fay from the top of the key pushed the lead into double digits (50-39) for the first time.

"Everyone plays a key role on this team," Miller said. "I thought we won the game with the run in the third quarter."

A lay-up by senior Calvin Godbolt (10

OWLS from page 7

from Grant drove the Owls lead into double digits to secure the win.

Hadla led Westfield with 24 points while Grant totaled 23 points and six rebounds. Pond added 15 points, seven assists, and a game-high seven steals for an Owls unit that generated 24 of the Cardinals 36 turnovers in the second half. Overall, the Owls outscored Wesleyan 51-33 in the second half coupled

points) briefly halted Comp's run.

The Colts third quarter run continued with a Fay one-hand jumper in the lane and 3-pointer. Xavier Kleps also made a 3-pointer which gave the visiting team a 58-41 advantage, entering the final eight minutes.

Comp didn't allow the Purple Knights to make a fourth quarter comeback against them.

The two squads could face each other again in the upcoming Western Mass. Class. A Tournament and in the Division 2 state tournament.

by their relentless press and their 50% second half shooting numbers (22-44 FG).

Tori DeCosta (Bronx, N.Y.) and Schnitzer both logged double-double efforts for Wesleyan with DeCosta compiling 21 points and ten rebounds with Schnitzer logging 12 points and 11 rebounds. Olivia Quinn (Franklin, Mass.) added 17 points while Felicia Fongemie (Ashford, Mass.) registered 12 points to put all five Cardinals starters in double figures for the night.



Team Mass Boys & Girls AAU Basketball Tryouts

Cost: \$30 Covers both tryouts (players get t-shirt)
AAU card \$25 (purchase on our website, we'll pull them)

Tryout # 1: **February 22, 2025**

Location: **Tantasqua Jr High School** (320 Brookfield Road, Fiskdale, MA)

- **Boys Grades 4th-6th** 8:30 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.
- **Boys Grades 7th & 8th** 9:45 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.
- **Boys Grades 9th-12th** 11 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.
- **Girls Grades 4th-6th** 12:15 p.m. - 1:25 p.m.
- **Girls Grades 7th-8th** 1:30 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.
- **Girls Grades 9th-12th** 2:45 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Tryout # 2: **March 1, 2025**

Location: **Oxford High School** (100 Caruncle Drive, Oxford, MA)

- **Boys Grades & Girls Grades 4th-6th** (9 a.m. - 10:25 a.m.)
- **Boys & Girls Grades 7th & 8th** (10:30 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.)
- **Boys and Girls Grades 9th-12th** (12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.)

Pre Register/pay on website: teammassbasketball.com

Questions Email: teammassbasketball@gmail.com or call 413-539-1548

AAU affiliated club for over 25 years!



Elms College nursing students reflect on life-changing medical mission trip to Jamaica

CHICOPEE - This January, 12 individuals from Elms College embarked on a life-changing medical mission trip to Jamaica, led by Professor Andrea Bertheaud, MSN, RN-BC, and joined by Dean of Nursing Dr. Julie A. Beck, her husband Joel Kevin Beck, and nine exceptional nursing students.

The trip was a learning experience for the students and a testament to the values of compassion, service, and cultural exchange that Elms College instills in its community. The group departed and made their way to Our Lady of Dunsinane, a mission house nestled in the mountains of Mandeville, Jamaica. The mission's purpose was clear: to provide healthcare, companionship, and support to communities while allowing students to grow as compassionate healthcare providers.

Julie Beck, Dean of the School of Nursing stated, "Our Elms College Nursing students agreed that this Mission Trip was a transformative experience. I was incredibly proud of our students for their compassion, critical thinking, clinical judgment, and leadership skills that they shared with the patients at the clinical sites. I am truly grateful to have had this opportunity to experience Jamaica through a service learning lens where each client interaction brought joy and thanksgiving."

A Week of Service

Day 1: The team's first visit was to the Mary Help of Christians Home for the Elderly in Balaclava. The facility serves elderly residents with nowhere else to turn. Nursing students quickly immersed themselves in their work, providing blood pressure checks, manicures, and heartfelt conversations.



"These students are going to be incredible nurses," said Joel Beck. "Their professionalism, empathy, and willingness to engage were inspiring."

Day 2: The team ventured into the Morgan Forest communities, visiting shut-ins alongside Father Simon Peter. This intimate day of walking through the mountain village allowed the students to perform health screenings and educate residents about healthy living. The group also experienced the community's generosity firsthand, enjoying fresh



coconuts and oranges offered by their hosts.

Days 3-5: Sunday began with joyful Mass celebrations at St. Croix Catholic Church in Santa Cruz and a nearby mission. The group continued with home visits, connecting with residents on a personal level. Over the next two days, they split into two teams to work at clinics in St. Croix and Maggotty. At St. Croix, students conducted assessments and worked alongside Sister Helen, who will celebrate 40 years of service. At the Maggotty clinic, students embraced roles in patient



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

care, pharmacy assistance, and offering kindness to those in need.

Day 6: The visit to Gift of Hope, a Mustard Seed Community for children with disabilities, was profoundly moving. The stigma surrounding disabilities in Jamaica has made facilities like these essential sanctuaries. Students helped children with their physical therapy activities and spent time playing games.

Reflection and Growth

Throughout the mission, the students proved themselves as skilled future nurses and compassionate human beings. This mission trip wasn't just about healthcare—it was about embodying the spirit of Elms College, where service, education, and compassion come together to inspire meaningful change.

February vacation fun across local communities

The Belchertown Family Center compiled a list of fun activities for you to do with you family and friends over February Vacation Week at surrounding organizations.

The following contains their list of fun activities, and their Facebook post about them contains links for you to find more information about their locations, pricing, and more.

All Week:

Children's Museum at Holyoke: Open Tuesday-Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 10am-4pm
Eric Carle Museum: Open Wednesday-Friday 10am-4pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12pm-5pm

Nutshell Playhouse Presents: SpyLinks! (ages 3-10) Thursday, February 20th 11:00-11:45am

Springfield Museums: Open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-5pm.

Critter Crossing School Vacation Exhibits (included with regular admission)

Mill District General Store and Local Art Gallery Wonderful Winterfest Activities - February 16-22.

Monday, February 17

Kids Candle Workshop (ages 4+), Vanished Valley Brewing Company (12:00pm)

Tuesday, February 18th:

Winter Book Buddy Story Time, Palmer Public Library (10:30am)

Toddler Dance Party, South Hadley Public Library (10:30am)

No-Sew Sock Bunnies (ages 5+), Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow (1:30pm)

Rock Paper Scissors Tournament, South Hadley Public Library (3:00pm)

Nintendo Switch Night for YAs (middle and highschoolers), Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow (6:00pm)

Ukelele Club with Strummertime Uke Players, Palmer Public Library (6:30pm)

Wednesday, February 19

Drop in Craft, Palmer Public Library (all day)

Vacation Week Movie & Craft: "Puffin Rock and the New Friends" (all ages), Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow (10:00am)

Story Time (ages 0-5), South Hadley Public Library (10:30am)

Brick Build "Glasses" Activity, Granby Public Library (11am)

Lego Build Challenge, Hubbard Memorial

Library, Ludlow (12:00-5:00pm)

Food Explorers: Pizza Stuffed Naan (ages 10+), Palmer Public Library (1:00pm)

Kids Art Class - Skateboard Painting (ages 8+), Hardwick Winery (2:00pm)

Lego and Board Games (ages 4-12), South Hadley Public Library (3:00pm)

Xbox1 - Teens (ages 11 - HS), South Hadley Public Library (3:30pm)

Pokemon Club, Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow (3:30pm)

Thursday, February 20

New Tech Toy Petting Zoo, Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow (all day)

Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup (ages 0-2), Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow (9:45am)

Story Time and Play (ages 0-5), Jones Library, Amherst (10:30am)

Visit with a Fairytale Character (Snow Queen), Wilbraham Public Library (10:30am)

Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup (ages 2-5), Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow (10:45am)

Art Workshop for Kids (grades 3-5), South Hadley Public Library (1:00pm)

Make-It-Mini Create Lab (ages 2-10), Jones Library, Amherst (3:00pm)

Lego Club (ages 12 and under), South Hadley Gaylord Memorial Library (3:00pm)

Third Thursday Sewing Club for teens & teens (ages 9+), Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow (5:00pm)

Teen Copper Bookmark Workshop (grades 6-12), Wilbraham Public Library (5:00pm)

Wildlife on Wheels, Palmer Public Library (5:00pm)

Tween Anime Club (ages 10-14), Palmer Public Library (6:00pm)

Friday, February 21

Buildwave (Kindergarten - grade 6), South Hadley Public Library (10:00am)

Sing With Your Baby (ages 0-5), North Amherst Library, (10:30am)

Storytime with Local Author Dorka Fernandez, South Hadley Gaylord Memorial Library (10:30am)

Upcycled Book Hedgehogs (upper elementary +), Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow (12:00pm)

Friday Online Club (ages 8-15), Hubbard Memorial Library, Ludlow (5:00pm)

Colleges announce Dean's lists

AIC Dean's List Fall 2024

SPRINGFIELD - American International College (AIC) in Springfield, MA, is proud to announce that 473 students have earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester. These full-time students have attained GPAs ranging from 3.3 to 4.0. AIC applauds the dedication and achievements of these enterprising students.

The following students from Chicopee made the Dean's List:

Olivia Allaire majoring in Occupational Science

Jennifer Diaz majoring in Nursing

Susan Galarza majoring in Nursing

Mariana Gonzalez majoring in Sociology

Abigail Lapierre majoring in Nursing

Kayla Melendez majoring in Nursing

Talyah Merced majoring in Nursing

Kevin Mrozinski majoring in Nursing

Drew Orzechowski majoring in Occupational Science

Shayliez Rosario majoring in Sociology

Hunter Terlik majoring in Health Science

Christina Valentino majoring in Nursing

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher and must have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered.

Lasell University Fall 2024 Dean's List

NEWTON - The following students from Chicopee were named to Lasell University's Fall 2024 Dean's List:

Callahan Bullens, Kayla Comiskey, Chloe Galipeau, Mason Whitehead, Grace DuBois and Blaize Mack.

To be named to the Dean's List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Fairfield University Fall 2024 Dean's List

FAIRFIELD, Conn. - The following Fairfield University student(s) received Dean's List Honors for the Fall 2024 semester.

In order to be placed on the Dean's List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

From Chicopee, Michael Wolanski.

SNHU Announces Fall 2024 Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH - It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students from Chicopee on being named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Nicholas Silvestri
Odunamen Uwagboe
Emily Przystas
Michael Mitchell
Konrad Syrek

Endicott College Fall Dean's List

BEVERLY - Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Fall 2024 Dean's List students. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below "C," have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

From Chicopee:

Rhea Gagnon, Nursing, Kelly Sahd and Jason Gagnon

Charlotte Santos, English, Katherine Trombley and Jeffrey Santos

Izabela Tabor, Accounting, Melissa Roco and Pawel Tabor

Sydney Dion named to Stonehill Dean's List

EASTON - Sydney Dion, a member of the Class of 2027 from Chicopee, MA, has been named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at Stonehill College.

General Nutrition with the Foodbank of Western Mass

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host a General Nutrition Workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts will be at RiverMills Center for a general nutrition program and healthy food demonstration. Registration is required.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, March 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM*** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 (C 7) for the purpose of operating a towing and storage business located at 78 West St. Applicant – Cruise Control Transportation, Inc., Joshua Roy, President, 210 Charlton Rd., Sturbridge, MA 01566.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

The March 3, 2025 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov 02/14, 02/21/2025

Public Auction Sale February 22, 2025 at 11:30 am

680 Meadow St., Chicopee
All Sales Cash
Immediate Removal
-Day of Sale
Tools, Riding Mowers
Appliances, TVs, Toys
Furniture and more

Lot	Name	Pallets
14465	J.Hancock	[2]
15885	L.Cortes	[3]
15157	K.Barkcom	[3]
15199	M.Labasco	[7]
15317	M.Santos	[4]
15338	S.Quinones	[1]
15348	R.Vazquez	[1]
15389	S.Gonzalez	[2]
14162	A.Wolf	[2]
15538	E.Pellitier	[1]
15587	R.Diaz -Lozada	[1]
15746	R. Maceo	[1]
15761	D.Cruz	[1]
15833	J.Wilson	[3]
15851	C.Sim	[1]
15956	P.Evans	[2]
16065	J.Henry	[3]
15761	J.Pelkey	[4]
16061	A.Mcneil	[1]
16103	K.Whelihan	[3]
15957	N.William	[2]
16046	S.Holewka	[1]
16176	S.Jacob	[1]
16163	J.Jackson	[6]
16177	C.Pacheco	[2]
16257	M.Martinez	[12]
16236	A.Ayers	[2]
16299	B.Corriveau	[1]
16301	J.Healy	[3]
16320	R.Gould	[2]
16321	R.Gould	[2]
16314	J.Perez	[4]

16332 R.Webster [1]
16333 M.Tower [8]
16334 A.Balcom [2]
16334 A.Balcom [2]
02/07, 02/14/2025

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on February 14th 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2023 HONDA CRF450R
JH2PE073XPK600854
UNKNOWN OWNER

2014 INFINITI Q50
JN1BV7AR7EM680675
TAYNA ANN GARAFALO
902 FRONT ST APT 1
CHICOPEE, MA 01013

2006 ACURA TSX
JH4CL96806C026920
WILLIAM RANGEL-VALENTIN
45 RICKWAY AVE
STRATFORD, CT 06615

2007 HONDA FIT
JHMGD38497S020398
WILLIAM MICHAEL OCONNOR
126 UNION ST BLDG 11
APT 4
WESTFIELD, MA 01085

2007 PONTIAC VIBE
5Y2SL65877Z413007
TRISTAN M SOYBEL
571 HIGH RD,
KENSINGTON, CT 06037

01/31, 02/07, 02/14/2025

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on February 21, 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2004 HONDA ACCORD EX
VIN:1HGCM56874A120827
Anthony Rivera
42 Carver St.,
Springfield, MA 01108

2012 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5I PREMIUM
VIN:4S3BMB69C3016449
Ronald Kreth
103 Park Ave.,
Rutland, VT 05701

1993 TOYOTA COROLLA
VIN:JT2AE04E8P0022374
Alyze Nieves Cuciano
191 Boston Post Rd,
Waterford, CT 06385

2001 HONDA ACCORD EX
VIN:1HGCG16581A082641
D Salazarcastillo
357 E 195th St., 2G
Bronx, NY 10458

2003 HONDA CRV EX
VIN:SHSRD78863U147131
Luis Fernando Muralles Veliz
538 Park Ave., Apt. 2
Worcester, MA 01603

2005 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS/GT
VIN:KMHDN56D35U134314
Jason Leo Kelley
31 Palomba Dr., #426
Enfield, CT 06082
02/07, 02/14, 02/21/2025

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. HD24P1627EA

Estate of: Thomas W Adasiewicz Also known as: Tom W Adasiewicz Date of Death: 03/09/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons: A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Paul Adasiewicz of West Springfield, MA** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/14/2025.**

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

Witness, **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 06, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
02/14/2025

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. HD25P0267EA

Estate of: Sharon Candon Also known as: Sharon Lee Candon Date of Death: 12/11/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kathleen Gadoury of Guilford, CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Kathleen Gadoury of Guilford, CT** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/10/2025.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 10, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
02/14/2025

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. HD25P0238EA

Estate of: Kristina D Closser Also known as: Kristina Diane Closser Date of Death: 11/13/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy**

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. HD25C0039CA

In the matter of: Donald Eugene Runions AKA Donald Eugene Chamberlain CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Donald Eugene Runions AKA Donald Eugene Chamberlain of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Joseph Andrew Runions
IMPORTANT NOTICE

and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Fiorentina Closser of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Fiorentina Closser of Chicopee, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/05/2025.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 05, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
02/14/2025

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. HD25C0039CA

In the matter of: Donald Eugene Runions AKA Donald Eugene Chamberlain CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Donald Eugene Runions AKA Donald Eugene Chamberlain of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Joseph Andrew Runions
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 03/07/2025.**

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: February 07, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
02/14/2025

Sale Of Motor Vehicles Under G.L. C.255 Sec. 39a
Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, on February 28, 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc., the following motor vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2018 Kia Optima
VIN: 5XXGT4L33JG182683
Ronny Tejada Ruiz
9 Osworld St., Fl 1
Worcester, MA 01607

2011 Hyundai Sonata GLS
VIN: 5NPEB4ACXBH192744
Amina Ownes
123 Orchard St.,
Springfield, MA 01107

2013 Kia Optima EX
VIN: 5XXGN4A71DG243355
Koroma Mustapha
31 College Dr.,
Concord, NH 03301

2016 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BURHE4GC549038
Leandro Machado
44 Dwight St., Apt. 2
Chicopee, MA 01013

2011 Ford Escape Limited
VIN: 1FMCU9EG5BKB77111
Rocio De La Cruz Montero
21 1/2 High Acres Rd.
Ansonia, CT 06401

2006 Honda Odyssey Exl
VIN: 5FNRL38606B431070
Plymouth Rock Assurance Corp
PO Box 32
North Billerica, MA 01862

2006 Honda Accord Ex
VIN: 1HGCM56796A012591
Angel Rosa Ferrer
36 Jennes St.
Springfield, MA 01104

Moped
VIN: RFSBDSA0NX004500
Flynn John
66 Pleasant St.
Enfield, CT 06082

2013 Chevrolet Cruze
VIN: 1G1PC55B1D7225793
Nelson Ramirez Ramirez
2095 Northampton St.,
Holyoke, MA 01040

2008 Honda Civic Lx
VIN: 2HGFA16508H521051
V O Alorvaldivia
57 Oak St, Apt. 1
Islip, NY 11751
02/14, 02/21, 02/28/2025

Strengthening Our Care: Springfield Anesthesia Service physicians, nurses join Baystate Health Team

SPRINGFIELD - Following a longstanding partnership, Baystate Health and Springfield Anesthesia Services (SAS) are pleased to announce that as of January 1, 2025, anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) who worked for SAS are now members of the Department of Anesthesia of Baystate Medical Practices.

Both organizations aligned on this path forward, determining it the

best opportunity to serve the needs of the community.

"This transition reinforces Baystate Health's commitment to delivering high-quality care and enhances the strength of our diverse clinical departments that rely on expert anesthesia services every day," said Dr. Andrew Arternstein, Chief Physician Executive and Chief Academic Officer for Baystate Health; President of Baystate Medical Practices;

and Regional Executive Dean and Professor of Medicine, for UMass Chan Medical School-Baystate.

All SAS team members were extended employment opportunities with Baystate Health and 93% of the former SAS providers accepted that offer.

"Baystate Health community is thrilled to integrate these talented professionals into our clinically driven, physician-led system,"

said Dr. Peter Vieira, Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology. "We have worked alongside them for many years and so the transition has been met with enthusiasm from members of both the Baystate and SAS teams."

SAS, a trusted institution for 58 years who have been integral to Baystate Health since 1976, was comprised of Cardiac, Pediatric, and Pain Management fellowship-trained and General Anesthesiologists, as well as a team of highly qualified Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists who will be making their transition to BMP.

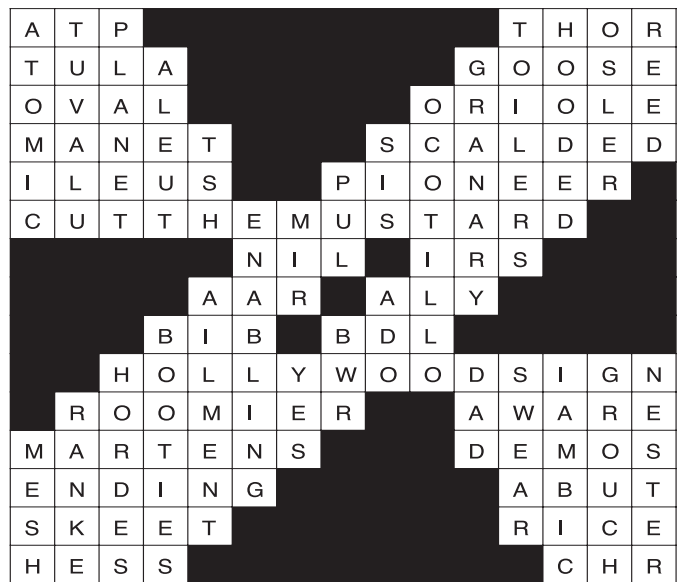
Baystate Health welcomes these new physicians and CRNAs into the Baystate Health.

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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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CPD support Bob "The Bike Guy" Charland at giveaway for families



CHICOPEE - Thank you once again to Bob "the bike guy" Charland for involving us in his backpack and coat giveaway this past weekend. As temperatures drop the need for cold weather gear continues to grow. These items will be handed out to those in need in the Chicopee community. We greatly appreciate your support Bob.

PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT



CHS Athletes selected for Division 5 All- State Team



SUBMITTED PHOTOS ALEX EFSTRATIOS

CHICOPEE - Two Chicopee High School Football players have been selected for the Division 5 All-State Team.

Jacob Lozado, a senior, serves as captain and wide receiver, and Braeden Siano, a sophomore, serves as quarterback.

Here are some stats on the players:

Lozado is First Team ALL League and First Team All Western Mass and selected for the Division 5 All-Star Team. His school records are 1,368 yards receiving and 21 touchdown catches and a Single Game School Record against Palmer High School of 409 yards receiving with six touchdowns. Siano is Second Team All

League and First Team All Western Mass with an Honorable Mention to the Division 5 All State Team. His school records are 2,235 yards passing with 25 touchdown passes and a Single Game School Record against Palmer High School of 443 yards passing with 5 touchdown passes. Congratulations to these athletes on this accomplishment!

Chicopee Students Receive Collaboration Recognition Award

NEWTON - Recipients of the Collaboration Recognition Award are selected by their peers for exemplifying superior skills in collaboration by sharing ideas and useful information, communicating in a professional manner, and cooperating in a way to ensure success. Collaboration is a main objective of the Lasell University mission statement. A key feature of this program is a peer-nomination process at the end of the semester. This intentional experience in collaboration builds on the Core Curriculum learning outcome of Teamwork, which is recognized by the Nation-

al Association of Colleges & Employers (NACE) as one of eight key competencies of career readiness and research shows that 81% of employers hiring college graduates are looking for evidence of an Ability to Work in a Team.

The following Chicopee students were recognized by Lasell University in the Fall of 2024 for the Collaboration Recognition Award:

- Alyson Boucher majoring in Early Childhood Education
- Chloe Galipeau majoring in Graphic Design

AIC Dean's List Fall 2024

SPRINGFIELD - American International College (AIC) in Springfield, MA, is proud to announce that 473 students have earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester. These full-time students have attained GPAs ranging from 3.3 to 4.0. AIC applauds the dedication and achievements of these enterprising students.

The following students from Chicopee made the Dean's List:

- Olivia Allaire majoring in Occupational Science
- Jennifer Diaz majoring in Nursing
- Susan Galarza majoring in Nursing

- Mariana Gonzalez majoring in Sociology
- Abigail Lapierre majoring in Nursing
- Kayla Melendez majoring in Nursing
- Talyah Merced majoring in Nursing
- Kevin Mrozinski majoring in Nursing
- Drew Orzechowski majoring in Occupational Science
- Shayliez Rosario majoring in Sociology
- Hunter Terlik majoring in Health Science
- Christina Valentino majoring in Nursing



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