

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Planning Department hosts Open House on current city projects



TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON

From the left, Assistant Planner Patrick Collins smiles alongside Associate Planner Nick Kiser who talked further about the importance of community outreach and feedback.

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - Are you curious about how the city will foster a more efficient and economically resilient place to live? The city's Planning Department hosted an open house that answered

questions about problematic intersections, the process of developing a hazard mitigation plan and addressing concerns of the Digital Equity Plan at the Portuguese American Club on Feb 27.

The Open House sought input and feedback on three current city projects, which

are the Chicopee Downtown Streetscapes Project, the MBI Digital Equity Plan and the Hazard Mitigation Plan with managers, planners and city employees who offered their knowledge in their respective departments meeting with attendees.

The Open House also

provided clarity in the city's first-ever city-wide comprehensive plan—called the Envision Our Chicopee 2040 Comprehensive Plan—with the ability to offer input about current city projects with developing designs.

The Projects

The Chicopee Downtown Streetscapes Project is part of this comprehensive plan, which focuses on revising streetscapes in Chicopee Center to help enhance multimodal transportation for people of all ages and abilities. Also, convert an outdated, one way circulation of major thoroughfares to two-way circulation, while providing equitable access for all users of the public right-of-way.

The MBI Digital Equity Plan, meanwhile, is in collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to help create and guide on municipal decision-making and investments related to

See **OPEN HOUSE** page 5

COMMUNITY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

With Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds, from the left we have members of the Nominating Committee for Shining Stars: Marie Laflamme, Jeff Sattler, Mike Siddall, Carol Campbell and Ted Hebert; seated Ernest Laflamme Jr.

Shining Star Awards Gala celebrates community

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The community gathered at the Castle of Knights on Feb. 28 to celebrate this year's honorees at the 40th Annual Shining Stars Awards Galas.

The honorees are AJ Crane for the newly renamed Ernest Laflamme Jr. Citizen of the Year, Ashley Battle for Volunteer of the Year, the Springfield Thunderbirds as Business of the Year and Health New England as Non-profit of the Year.

The theme was 'Once Upon a Time in Chicopee,' with Debra Boronski and Tony Cignoli serving as emcees.

Melissa Breor, executive director for the Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, and Marie Laflamme, city treasurer and chairperson of the Event Committee, provided welcoming remarks.

Shawn Thamert, chief growth officer, and Judith Danek, director of Government Relations, accepted the award on behalf of Health New England.

"My commitment to Health New England is no secret and my love for Chicopee is certainly no secret. So, to have the tremendous privilege

to combine the two at this particular moment is an extraordinary honor," Danek said. "And every once in a while, it's true. You get a little emotional at the microphone. This is that moment."

Thamert, who joined HNE more than two years ago, knew "very early on that this was a different place" and "this was a special place."

"I've had different roles, similar support roles in different parts of the country. However, it was very clear to me that this organization, Health New England, was somehow very different and, tonight, I know exactly why," Thamert said.

Nate Costa, president of the Springfield Thunderbirds, accepted the award on behalf of the hockey organization, explaining it "is incredibly meaningful because it represents something bigger than hockey."

"This award would not be possible without the vision and commitment—as Tony had so eloquently mentioned—of our ownership group. A diverse and passionate collection of local business owners who believed in the potential of the Thunderbirds from day one. Their dedication to keep-

See **SHINING STARS** page 6

COMMUNITY

Families, students serve up chili at Chicopee Family Chili Cookoff

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The smell of chili was in the air at Chicopee Comprehensive High School during the Chicopee Family Chili Cookoff event on Feb. 27.

The event was presented by the Chicopee Public Schools Family & Community Engagement Team in collaboration with ChicopeeFRESH.

Five families and a class participated in the cookoff, with Mayor John Vieau, Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware and Melanie Wilk, director of Food Services at ChicopeeFRESH, serving as celebrity judges. The six chili entries were scored based on aroma, texture and flavor.

The event also featured an Art Walk displaying unique photos of scenes made with food.

The winner was Stephanie Blair and the Galas Family, who received a gift basket filled with chili-themed oven mitts, cooking spoons, chili medals and a special Chili Cook-Off apron. The winning recipe will also be featured on the Chicopee Public Schools Lunch Menu.

The other participants also went home with a gift bag as a token of appreciation.

Kristen Coelho, Family and Community Engagement Facilitator for the school district, said the competition was close but one chili reci-

See **CHILI COOKOFF** page 6



Members of Stephanie Blair and the Galas Family team show off their prizes after winning the Chicopee Family Chili Cookoff on Feb. 27.

Dance students make top 12 at IDO Dance Olympics

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Four local dance students, including a senior at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, made the top 12 in the world at the IDO Dance Olympics in Kielce, Poland.

Comp student Paige Bordeau, Madisyn Vasquez, who attends Minnechaug Regional High School, Thea Cosgrove of Suffield, Connecticut and Karielys Rivera who attends Longmeadow High School competed as part of Team USA. All four are dance students at Dazzle School of Dance in Agawam and have danced for many years.

Bordeau competed on the Lyrical, Jazz, Acro and Contemporary teams, Vasquez competed on the Lyrical, Jazz and Acro teams, Cosgrove competed on the Lyrical team and Rivera competed on the Lyrical, Contemporary and Jazz teams.

Bordeau also competed



SUBMITTED PHOTOS CHRISTINA BORDEAU

Paige Bordeau holds up the American flag as she shows off her bronze medal and trophy she received at the IDO Dance Olympics in November 2024 in Poland.

in and won Miss Acro United States.

Rivera said it was "an amazing experience" and she met so many people not just from her team, but from other countries.

"We did pretty good and our group danced well," Rive-

ra said. Vasquez was touched by the support from other countries throughout the journey.

"So, I think it was an amazing experience," Vasquez said.

For Bordeau, she made new friends—including some-



Proud members of Team USA on full display as Madisyn Vasquez, Paige Bordeau, Karielys Rivera and Thea Cosgrove hold up the American Flag in this group photo.

one from Italy--and also placed third in the Acro Solo Division.

"So, I took home a bronze medal and most of our groups placed in the top 12," Bordeau said.

Cosgrove shared, "It was so cool to go outside the country with the USA Team"

for the opportunity.

"That team itself was such a great honor to be there and I was just so amazed by all the talented girls I was surrounded by," Cosgrove said. "Just so grateful that I could compete for our country and get to experience all the dif-

ferent countries that were there and all the different types of people. It was amazing to meet everybody."

The girls were humbled to have ranked so high along with making their country proud.

"It was really cool because we got to see a billion other dances from other countries and they were multiple from one country. So, you got to see the difference of styles and technique and the dancing that they had in those countries," Rivera said. "So, it was nice to see that and place among them."

"It was really cool. All the group dances were super innovative and they had, like, a really good theme to them. So, when we were dancing too, it was really cool to place among such talented dancers," Vasquez said.

"There was definitely a lot of talent there and it was definitely just incredible to

See **IDO DANCE OLYMPICS** page 8

IN THE CITY

Cliff McCarthy visits CPL to present his own journey through genealogy

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - Have you ever wondered where you came from? With the presentation, "Legacy: A Genealogical Journey Through Time, Race, and Family Secrets" by Cliff McCarthy, this genealogical presentation encourages everyone to ask questions about your past and to continue to be curious. For the first time, Cliff McCarthy spoke publicly about his mixed-race family, his grandfather's "passing" over the color line, noting his accomplished family members and describing his family's incredible story on Feb 26.

Sharing over a fifty-year genealogical journey, with moments of discovery, heartache, joy and dumb luck, McCarthy explained what made him ask the fateful question, "Where did I come from?"

Based in Belchertown, McCarthy is the archivist at the Stone House Museum and on the board of the Pioneer Valley History Network, recently retiring from being the archivist at the Wood Museum of Springfield.

When asked why he started his journey in genealogy, McCarthy shared this.

"It's the kind of project that I've been waiting to do. It began with my grandfather,

known as Papa Mac, who died when I was a freshman in college and I went to his apartment to clean it out. We were just picking up some things—the mementos and things to remember him by—and in the closet there was a shirt box," McCarthy said. "Inside that box we found scores, around 100 scores of snapshots and photographs of stuff you'd find in your family photo album, all with the faces of people cut out of them. We assumed those photos were used in charm bracelets or photo montage, but it didn't make sense and we wound up throwing the box out."

Years later, McCarthy

realized they discarded a part of his history by throwing that box out.

"It was only later when I started doing some genealogy research and I had previously asked him about his family and he didn't say anything," McCarthy said. "Other than names and dates, it was only later that I discovered that the people he was telling me about were Black and he had grown up in Georgia. He joined the Navy and passed as a white man."

McCarthy later described the struggles of his grandfather and the secret life he led.

"My father didn't know any of this and it was only

when I started poking around and showing them the records that my father started to really think about it. My grandfather led a secret life and never let on, it must have been so hard to do," McCarthy said. "That is the majority of what I will cover in the presentation tonight, along with how I got there and the things I learned along the way and the adventures I've had uncovering the story. It's fun!"

McCarthy emphasized the importance of his presentation.

"The times have changed and it's not such a big deal. I wouldn't be doing a public presentation about this,

I have totally embraced the Black people in my family, they're amazing people and I am proud of them," McCarthy said. "I think my grandfather would be very pleased. I've been seriously working on this project for over 50 years, starting when I was in college. This is my second time presenting this project."

Held in the Bazan Community Room of the library, McCarthy saw familiar faces and was happy to share his family history with the city of Chicopee.

To learn more about upcoming events at the library, visit chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

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 March 2025.

Saturday Playgroup will be held at 1 p.m., on Saturdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29. 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, March 18 at 10:30 a.m. This program includes a short storytime and a rotating selection of crafts and activities. No registration is re-

quired. This program is just for two year olds and their caregivers.

Afterschool Thursdays is a new program series for school age children that the library is introducing in March and plans to run through the spring. Each Thursday afternoon will be a different opportunity for older kids to explore a fun, creative activity. Recommended for ages 6 and up, teens and tweens welcome. On the first Thursday of each month, the longstanding Build with LEGO program will continue. Freeform building time with a big pile of LEGO will be on Thursday, March 6 at 4 p.m. On the other Thursdays different activities including art, games and science experiments will be offered

at 4pm. No registration required.

Stop by for a Kids Room Craft on Tuesday, March 11 at 4 p.m. This month's craft is a paper shooting star. For all ages.

Storytime will be held in the children's program room on Wednesdays March 12 and 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 March 14 and 28 at 11 a.m. Babies crawling to 24 months and their caregivers are invited to join us for free play fol-

lowed by circle time exploring songs, fingerplays and movement!

On Wednesday March 19 at 10:30 a.m. in the community room, the library will have a Little Kid Dance Party geared for kids five and under and their caregivers. Older kids are welcome, as well, especially during school vacation week. There will be songs, dancing and big movement! Please note: there will be no Dance Party on March 5 this month.

The library will host a Meet-up for Homeschooling Families on Thursday, March 20 at 11 a.m. Homeschooling families can meet each other and hang out. Chicopee's point person for AHEM (Advocates for Home Education in MA) will be there. We do different activities each month.

Teen Programs
Teen Wayback Wednesday, the program sometimes known as Throwback Thursday, will be on Wednesday, March 12 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of "kid" programming just for teens. Play with toys, do a craft, and enjoy activities with the giant parachute! Teen programs are open to middle and high school students.

Teen Anime Club will meet on Wednesday, March 19 from 3 to 4:30 p.m.. This month's activity will be "Anime Wheel of Fortune". Teen programs are open to middle and high school students.

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

CPL announces upcoming programs

CHICOPEE - Here are some of our upcoming library programs.

The Chicopee Library will be doing a 15 hour beginner computer class "Tech Goes Home" on Wednesdays and Fridays in March from 1 to 3 p.m. At the conclusion of 15 hours of class, participants will receive a computer and one year of internet. Registration is required.

Wednesday, March 26 at 6 p.m. - Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

Join us on Wednesday, March 26 at 6pm for a presentation on "Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia." Learn about the difference between Alzheimer's disease and dementia, the early warning signs of dementia, risk factors, the importance of early detection, new treatment options, and local resources. This program is presented by the Alzheimer's Association. Register through the calendar or call the Reference Desk at 413-594-1800x3.

Thursday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m. - Sun on the Muddy

Local authors Jim Armenti and Dave Madeloni present Sun on the Muddy:

poems, music and photos at the Chicopee Library on Thursday, February 27 at 6:30pm. Author and musician Jim Armenti and photographer Dave Madeloni present poems, songs and photographs from their new book "Sun on the Muddy". Armenti, who is a singer/songwriter for the Lonesome Brothers shares his reflections on the people and things that make a life while Madeloni finds beauty in often ignored places. This program is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

For people wishing to work on genealogy, the computer lab is available to work on genealogy on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to Noon and 6 to 8 p.m. We are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library and have helpful databases such as Ancestry, American Ancestors and HeritageQuest to help you in your search.

If you need technology help, we offer one-on-one computer help on Mondays at 2pm or by appointment. For more information, email or call the Reference Desk at cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org and 594-1800 x3.

Chicopee Historical Society presents Derek Strahan

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Historical Society presents a talk by Derek Strahan on local sites "then and now" through present-day and historical images.

The event is Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at the Chicopee Public Library Bazan Community Room, 449 Front Street, Chicopee, Mass., at 6:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Derek Strahan is the managing editor and primary author of the website "Lost New England," which features then-and-now images of locations

across the region. In addition, he is the author of two books: "Lost Springfield, Massachusetts and New England Then and Now," and he is the host of the "Western Mass History" podcast.

Mr. Strahan is a Westfield State University graduate with degrees in English and Regional Planning, and he currently works as a land use and environment planner. He serves on the board of directors of the Longmeadow Historical Society and is a past president of the Springfield Preservation Trust.

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IN THE CITY

Republic Services donates \$7,500 to support city events



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CHICOPEE - A Huge Thank You to Republic Services and John Williams! We are incredibly grateful to General Manager John Williams and Republic Services for their continued support and Platinum Sponsorship of all 2025 Signature City events! Thanks to partnerships like these, we can continue offering free, community-driven events for our residents. On March 3, John stopped by the Mayor's Office to personally deliver the sponsorship check, solidifying Republic Services' commitment to enriching our city! Thank you, Republic Services, for being a valued partner in making our city's events bigger and better every year!

CFD receives American Flag from Firefighter Vaccaro



PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - Firefighter Vaccaro recently presented the American Flag to the Chicopee Fire Department in gratitude for the support he received during a recent military deployment. We are grateful for this beautiful symbol and for Firefighter Vaccaro's dedication to the City of Chicopee and to our Country.

CPD remembers Ret. Sgt. James Pollard

CHICOPEE - We are saddened to announce the passing of Retired Sergeant James Pollard. Sergeant Pollard was 82 years old at the time of his passing. Sergeant Pollard joined the Chicopee Police Department in 1971 and was assigned to the patrol division.

In June of 1992 he was promoted to Sergeant and remained assigned to the patrol division. After 29 years of service to the city, Sergeant

Pollard retired in February of 2000.

Along with being a member of the police department, Sergeant Pollard was also a Navy Veteran as well as a member of the Air Force Reserve.

On behalf of Chief Patrick J. Major, Chicopee Police Department and the City of Chicopee we offer our condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Pollard.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Resident charged with in Chicopee house fire

No injuries reported, but three people displaced

CHICOPEE- A Chicopee woman was charged with burning a dwelling in connection with a residential fire on Edgewood Avenue this weekend, said Chicopee Police Chief Patrick Major, Chicopee Fire Chief Daniel Stamborski, and State Fire Marshal Jon Davine.

The fire at 143 Edgewood Ave. was reported shortly after 10 a.m. on Sunday morning and quickly went to two alarms before being extinguished by the Chicopee Fire Department. No injuries were reported but three occupants

have been displaced.

Based on an examination of the scene, witness interviews, and other evidence, investigators determined that the fire had been intentionally set and identified Lorie Ann Kowal, 60, as the suspect. She was taken into custody and held pending arraignment.

The origin and cause of the fire were investigated by the Chicopee Fire Department, Chicopee Police Department and State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office with the assistance of the Hampden County District Attorney's office and State Police Crime Scene Services Section.

Elder Fraud Prevention with Liberty Bank at RiverMills

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer an Elder Fraud Presentation on Thursday, March 20 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Join Dawn Creighton, Community Outreach Officer with Liberty Bank for a workshop on scam and fraud prevention. You will also play a fun game of Fraud BINGO. You must register in advance.

English as a Second Language Class

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Senior Center will offer "English as a Second Language" Mondays at 1:30 p.m. beginning March 24 through May 19 at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

If English is a new language for you, or if you want to work on your English skills, this class is for you. Mary Gallagher will be leading this class where you will focus on communications along with writing and reading skills.

This 8-week series will be an interactive class where you will apply your language skills in every day situations. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center

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NAMI Western Massachusetts 14th Annual Art and Poetry Show

Reception in Chicopee for Art & Poetry Show

HOLYOKE - NAMI-WM (The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts) will hold an opening reception for its 14th Annual Art and Poetry Show featuring the work of artists and poets living with mental health conditions.

Taking place on Wednesday, April 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front St. The re-

ception, and parking adjacent to the library, are free.

The show will feature art and poetry works, some for sale to the public, with all proceeds going to the artists. Complimentary refreshments will be served and all are welcome to attend this very special event.

The exhibit runs the entire month of April. This is a wonderful venue for artists and poets with lived experience to have a showcase for their work.

It provides an important opportunity to educate the public about the lives,

abilities, and creativity of individuals in the Western Mass. community with mental health conditions. NAMI Western Massachusetts is dedicated to building better lives for individuals and families affected by mental health conditions. According to statistics, 1 in 5 Americans will face mental health problems every year.

With your help, NAMI-WM can continue to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy, and support programs for people in our community.

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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OPINION

LETTER TO EDITOR

Beyond recognition

To The Editor:

Once was, seems to be no longer when the direction and path our leaders have chosen have done a 180 in our now-present equivocal support of our European allies. Our current president—the deal-maker—knows that to curry favor to Putin means we can obtain Russia's oil and extract Ukraine's minerals after Russia defeats their sovereign neighbor.

When I look at the American Flag, I have always envisioned honor, pride and the ability to help those in need around the world.

My dad served in the 101st Airborne Division during World War II. He stated that that war was one of the most justified conflicts at that time. If he were alive today and witness the position we have chosen on the world stage today, he and others like himself would convey they cannot fully understand and pay homage to a country they no longer recognize!

Bill Paul, Chicopee

GUEST COLUMN



Should I wait until age 70 to claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am a married woman, at my full retirement age and the primary earner in my marriage.

How do I know if I should take my Social Security now or wait till 70? I will lose quite a bit if I take it now. How will it affect my taxes if I take it now while still working a full-time job?

Signed: Undecided

Dear Undecided:

As you apparently already know, waiting until you are 70 to claim Social Security will result in you getting your maximum possible monthly SS retirement benefit. After your full retirement age, you get about 8% more each year you delay claiming up to age 70. But deciding exactly when to claim should consider both your financial needs and, importantly, your life expectancy.

If you don't urgently need the money now and your life expectancy is at least "average," then waiting until age 70 to claim is usually the right choice. But if you urgently need the money or your life expectancy is less than average (mid-80s for a woman your current age), then claiming before age 70 is usually prudent.

Regarding taxation, Social Security benefits may be taxable if your combined income from all sources exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status. If you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income including your work income exceeds \$32,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income.

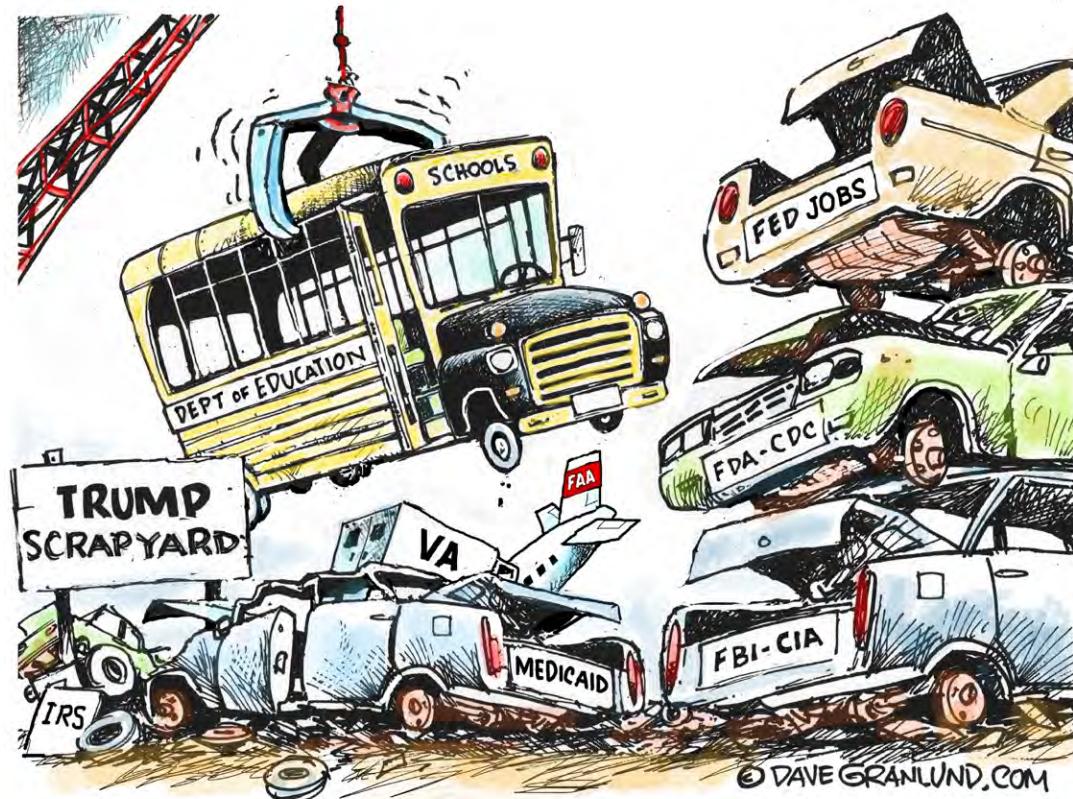
But if your combined income is over \$44,000, then up to 85% of your SS benefits becomes taxable income

(the thresholds are lower for those who file as a single). So, your full-time work income will likely affect how much of your Social Security benefits are subject to income tax by the IRS.

In the end, only you can decide when you should claim Social Security. Taxation of benefits may be a factor to consider since you are still working full time (thus more of your SS benefits will be taxable). But waiting longer to claim results in a higher benefit for the rest of your life (your SS retirement benefit will be .667% more for each month you delay, up to age 70). If the "rest of your life" is a long time and you don't urgently need the money, waiting is often the right choice. If not, claiming earlier may be wiser.

If you want to get a more personalized estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest you use the tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/.

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



GUEST COLUMN

Gender doesn't define a woman's role in construction

By Brandice J. O'Brien
Marketing and Communications
Manager, Greater Springfield Habitat
for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - The creation of "Rosie the Riveter" in the 1940s inspired women to leave their traditional domestic roles and join the male-dominated workforce in support of World War II. Today, "Rosie" reaches beyond the defense department and continues to inspire strength, sisterhood, and feminism. The number of women in male-dominated career fields continues to rise.

At Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH), gender plays no role in what women can and cannot do. Just ask Violeta Melendez, a member of the construction crew.

"I would definitely recommend other women venture into construction because, for me, it's a form of art that just anyone, not only men, can do," she said. "Plus, since we are building homes, I find it to be a great achievement when you can see the final product, look back and say, 'I did that' or 'I helped build that.'"

Violeta came to Greater Springfield Habitat in January 2022 through a cooperative program with Springfield's Putnam Vocational Technical Academy. During the second semester of her senior year, she rotated between a week at a build site and a week at school. Upon graduation, she accepted a position with GSHFH and works full time.

Violeta said she really enjoys construction because she can work with her hands and is not sitting at a desk job. Plus, at Habitat, she meets new people and is learning new things every day. But there are some challenges, including her height and Massachusetts' weather.



Violeta in window cutout

"Some of the challenges of working in construction is the weather. The cold, in particular, is hard for me since I was born and raised in Puerto Rico," Violeta said. "Also, I'm short. I can lift most things, but there's other things where I just need help from my peers."

Amy Calandrella, a past Habitat volunteer, has made her career in construction. Following a four-year apprenticeship program through the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 98, she is licensed and experienced in various pieces of heavy equipment, including a skid steer, excavator, fork lift, and paving apparatus. These days, she's a full-time instructor for her union's apprenticeship and continuing education programs.

She said she chose the trades because she was looking for a job that paid a living wage and offered skills she could build upon. Amy had previous experience with farm equipment.

"In my nine years in the field, I worked on college campuses, on rural road excavation projects, on highway and suburban milling and paving tasks, on

parking garages and train tunnel repair, on rail upgrades, and river cleanup. Every job was a new adventure and new opportunity to learn a different application of my trade," Amy said.

Like Rosie, Amy said she believes women belong in the trades.

"Remember, you are capable and have the ability to learn. There is nothing they can't teach you," she said. "Success in construction requires physical strength and dexterity as well as emotional and special intelligence, good planning, and communication skills. I think it's good for women to see ourselves as able to use and build these skills."

To commemorate International Women's Day, Women's History Month, and Habitat for Humanity's Women Build Week, Greater Springfield Habitat will host a "Women Build" kickoff on Wednesday, March 12, at White Lion Brewing's Community Boom Room. White Lion is at 1500 Main St. in Springfield. The event kicks off at 6pm, and is free to attend. No registration is required.

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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

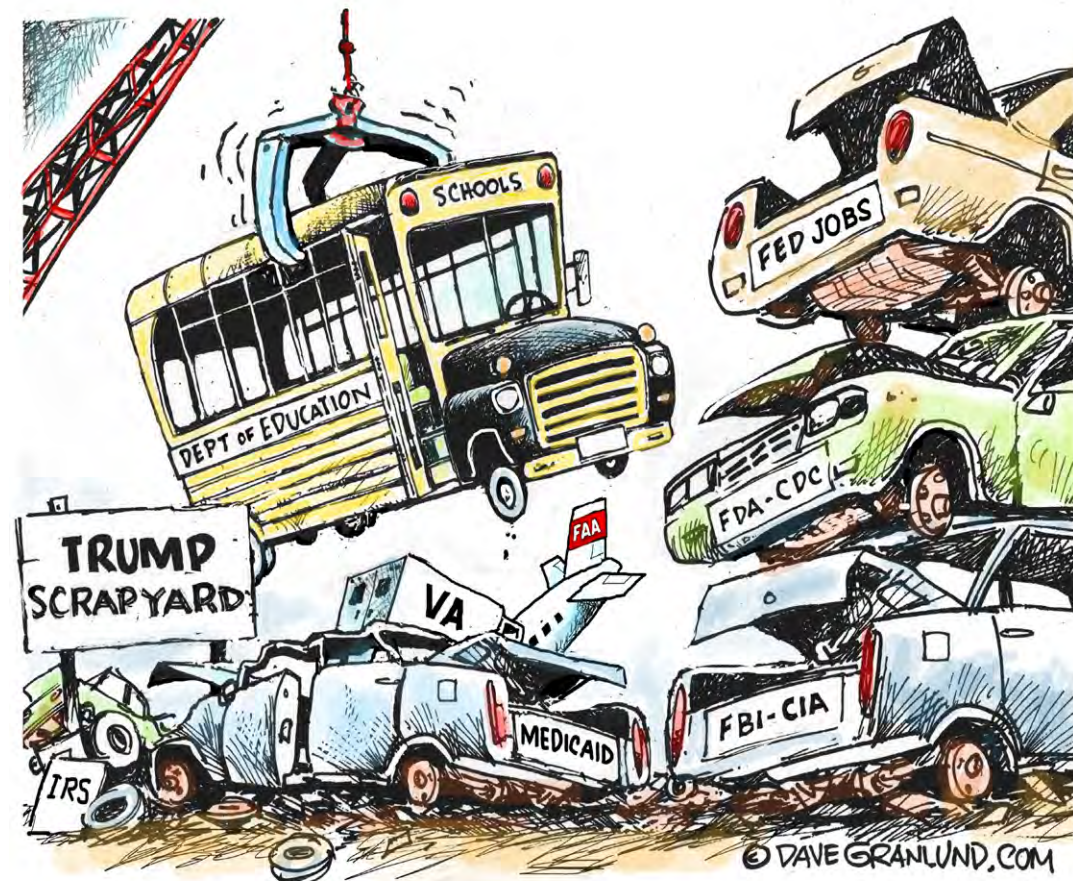
The Chicopee Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Chicopee Register 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.



PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

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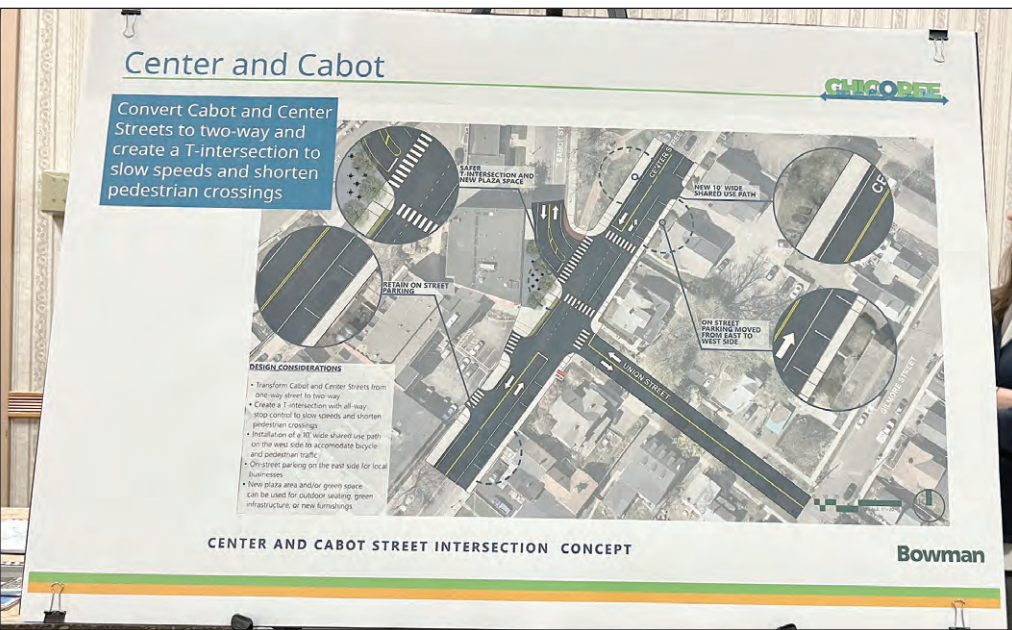
IN THE CITY

CPD visits Bowie School on Dr. Seuss Day



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE – On Feb. 28, the police department had the privilege of reading to the 3rd and 4th grade students at Bowie Elementary School. Today they were celebrating Dr. Seuss Day reading stories and making slime.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY AMANDA MUNSON

A closeup of the Center and Cabot Street Intersection concept.



City employees are pictured here, explaining the details of each design and how the city plans to move forward.

OPEN HOUSE from page 1

increasing Internet access and usage for socially vulnerable groups including seniors, low-income populations and households where English is not the first language.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan focuses on environmental resilience with aims to bolster the city's infrastructure, emergency service networks and natural resource protection. This would modernize the city's plan to manage natural hazards and assess risk and vulnerabilities, which can help minimize and manage natural hazard risks.

The plan also requires updates for the city to remain eligible for hazard mitigation funds through MEMA and FEMA.

The Open House

Focusing on the Department of Planning and Development of the city of Chicopee, Planning Director Lee Pouliot, Associate Planner Nick Kiser and Assistant Planner Patrick Collins were in attendance and collectively discussed the goal of the open house, the significance of the Planning Department and the need for public input.

"I've been with the city for 15 years, I started in the community development office and then moved to planning almost 10 years ago. My years have been great, I really enjoy working on these complicated, large-scale projects that often take many years to implement from a conceptual idea to shovels in the ground. These projects here tonight represent that. It's great when you get to the point where you are writing a grant proposal and you've got all the pieces together knowing you're going to compete really well and getting that award to move some of this work forward," Pouliot said. "I have great colleagues, both in my department and our other departments throughout the city, that really like to collaborate. They give us the planning leeway to think things through, come up with these ideas and then kind of marry them into those sort of real-life infrastructural needs that have to happen. For example, storm water and sewers, all that infrastructure that we rely on every day isn't glamorous, but really important. We like to see everything

get married together and then see the outcome like these illustrations."

In reference were illustrations that showed potential redesigns of intersections titled, "Downtown Core: Re-aligning Front Street and Springfield Street," "Center and Hampden: Roundabout Concept of Hampden/West and Center Streets," and "Center and Cabot: Two-way concept to slow speeds."

These designs, Pouliot explained, are the beginning stages of what may be the final re-designs and construction of those respective intersections.

"My team and I can dream up all these beautiful things, but they have to be grounded in reality. The reality is infrastructure, the networks of transportation, and the business community and residents. All these different entities and stakeholders are impacted somehow whenever we do a big construction project," Pouliot said.

For Collins, his duties are this.

"As an Assistant City Planner, I assist the director in providing advice and reviews to the City Council, boards, and commissions

regarding planning-related issue. Assist in the execution of planning projects. Lead community outreach opportunities. Research, write and submit grant proposals to secure funding for city projects," Collins said.

Pouliot went on to speak about the layering of each project and being mindful of how it will impact the area, trying to minimize the impact on the neighborhood and business community, like redoing the underground work before redoing the surface on the streets. Listed below is the website that offers a way for people to provide feedback of the finalized project and get updates.

"All these phases and all of these projects are still years out from any sort of construction. Throughout the development of the final design and engineering plans, there will be many public outreach efforts along the way to keep people updated and get feedback to fine tune these designs into construction documents," Pouliot said. "Our goal is we want to keep people informed and we always want to gather additional feedback. What we see today isn't exactly what we



A closeup of the Front and Center Street Intersection concept.

get when we get to construction, but we are in the process now. We want to keep the community informed and get feedback continuously as these evolve, so when we do get to construction, everyone knows what to expect."

Collins' message was this.

"Participation from residents is key. Many of our Planning Department staff members and project consultants are not originally from

Chicopee so we rely on residents' input to inform our plans. We may be experts in planning, but you are experts of Chicopee," Collins said.

If interested in, also, joining the Implementation Committee for the Envision Our Chicopee 2040 Comprehensive Plan, please contact Pouliot.

Learn more, also, at the Envision Our Chicopee: 2040 website, envisionourchicopee2040.com.



A closeup of the Roundabout Concept of the Hampden/West and Center street concept.

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IN THE CITY

GALA from page 1

ing professional hockey here in Springfield and thriving in Western Mass goes beyond the business," Costa said. "It's about creating a lasting legacy for our region and I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of them, but also--as Tony so eloquently mentioned--Ted Hebert. He's the one here tonight, but he comes to many of our games. He's been a constant supporter, he was one of the first guys that stepped up and said,

"We need to keep hockey in Springfield," so I want to recognize Ted and his support and his wife, Barbara." Battle, tapping into the gala's theme, said receiving Volunteer of the Year "was like a fairytale" and thanked the community for welcoming her when she brought her business, Beauty Battles Lounge, to Chicopee in 2019 along with supporting her work on the Thriller 5K, the Hero Project to support and thank frontline workers and sponsoring youth through DCF with gifts during the holiday season.

"Just like in every fairytale, sometimes all it takes is a little magic--or, in this case--kindness," Battle said.

Battle also announced throughout March, that a new drive called Empower Her Confidence will support high school girls who lack access to basic hygiene products, stressing volunteering "is more than just giving time," but giving heart, energy, hope and showing up because you want to.

"Tonight, I stand here honored, but more than that,



From the left, Debra Boronski Judith Danek, director of Government Affairs at Health New England, Shawn Thamert, chief growth officer at Health New England, and Tony Cignoli. Health New England was this year's Nonprofit of the Year.

I stand here grateful. Grateful to be in a position where I can serve, grateful to have a family that supports my passion, grateful to be part of a community that believes in the power of working together," Battle said. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart for this incredible recognition. I look forward to continuing to serve, to give and to help make Chicopee a place where everyone feels supported, valued and empowered."

Ahead of Crane's speech, Cignoli honored Ernest "Ernie" Laflamme Jr., the very first Citizen of the Year recipient, and announced the renaming of the award in his name, forever cementing Laflamme in Chicopee history.

"Ernest Laflamme Jr.-Ernie--is not just another name in Chicopee's story.

He's a cornerstone of its success. A steadfast champion whose impact will be felt for generations and generations," Cignoli said. "And though he has never sought the spotlight, tonight we inscribe his name into history here in Chicopee. Ensuring that his impact will shine for generations to come. It is with immense pride and deep gratitude that we announce the renaming of our Citizen of the Year recognition to the Ernest Laflamme Jr. Citizen of the Year. An honor befitting the man whose story has forever shaped our own in this community. Ernie, thank you!"

Cignoli finished the announcement with this message.

"Ernie, your legacy will continue. Not just in the stories we tell, but in all of the

lives that you've touched and the future chapters that you made possible," Cignoli said.

Crane, Laflamme's grandson and owner of A. Crane Construction, reflected on family and looked up previous Shining Stars recipients, focusing on the definition of citizen.

The definitions he found were "an inhabitant of a particular town or city" and "a participatory member of a particular political community."

"I thought a little bit more about that and with all due respect to Websters, I think they had probably one too many words in that definition. To me, it doesn't have to be a political community. I think you can be a good citizen of just about any type of community. I'm proud to call myself a



Debra Boronski, Nate Costa, president of the Springfield Thunderbirds, and Tony Cignoli in this shot; the Springfield Thunderbirds were named this year's Business of the Year.



Debra Boronski, Ashley Battle, owner of Beauty Battles Lounge, and Tony Cignoli in this shot here. Battle was recognized as this year's Volunteer of the Year.

citizen of many communities. Certainly Chicopee, but also my Chamber of Commerce community, my WestMass community, my work community and my family community. All of these are very important to me. I'm sure you all have your own individual commitments that you can be

a great citizen of," Crane said. After encouraging the audience to be good citizens not just in the city, but for their families and humanity, Crane ended his remarks with this. "In closing, thank you for this award. Be good people, do good things, we'll all be better for it," Crane said.

CHILI COOKOFF from page 1

pe stood out as it received top scores from all three judges.

"It was a fantastic event, and we can't wait to do it again! We had students participate with their families from five different schools in our district, making this event even more special as it brought together so many members of our school community," Coelho said. "Some of the recipes were family traditions passed down through generations, while others were fresh, new creations from families eager to have fun and connect with their community."

For Coelho and her team, family engagement is key to these events.

"Family engagement is at the heart of what the FACE team does--it's about creating opportunities for families to connect, collaborate and support one another," Coelho said.

Sally Delgado joined her son, Jayden Lowe, for the cookoff, with their entry called Jayden's Chico Chili, a regular chili with a little sweet and little salty combination. It also had a couple of different beans and a "secret" ingredient of dark chocolate.

Delgado first heard about the event through Facebook and the Parent Square App.

"I initially wasn't interested and didn't think to take



A group shot of the members of the Chicopee Public Schools Family & Community Engagement Team and ChicopeeFRESH, who collaborated on the event.

part in it but then I saw it was posted again a few days later asking for more entries and decided to do so. Additionally, my son is in the Culinary CTE program at Chicopee Comp, so I thought it was fitting," Delgado said.

Delgado enjoys taking part in community events, adding future cookoffs she'd love to see would be a lasagna, macaroni and cheese or dessert cookoff.

"We try to take part in them often. I feel it builds good team morale amongst the community members, encourages team building/collaboration amongst diverse popu-

lations--different ages, races, genders, abilities/disabilities, languages, etc.--it may allow for other areas of professional or self-development, developing relationships with others, etc.," Delgado said.

Erik Dahl, a transition specialist at Fairview Veterans Memorial Elementary School, shared he and his students researched many recipes online for their entry. After narrowing it down to four options and two videos, the group took a little from each option and made their very own creation.

"We enjoyed every aspect, the planning, budgeting,

shopping, preparing, cooking, working together and finally competing/sharing our creation," Dahl said.

Dahl said the secret ingredient for a great chili recipe is love. He and his students suggested doing the Chili Cookoff again and, also, trying a crepe cookoff as they "make a pretty delicious crepe."

"Love, lots of people--each person measures a little different and sometimes tablespoons were used instead of teaspoons, which creates a unique flavor which was evident in the final product--and of course a little Slap Ya Mama seasoning," Dahl said.



Mayor John Vieau, Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware and Melanie Wilk, director of Food Services at ChicopeeFRESH, make their tallies for the cookoff entries.

Blair shared she signed her family up immediately, without talking to her husband first.

"He will always make delicious chili for family events and everyone raves about it so I said, 'Why not?' I told him when I got home and he was totally for it," Blair said. "It was so much fun, everyone got along and was so friendly. We all tried each other's chili and had some laughs. It was a very warm friendly family event."

She expressed her thanks to the Family & Community Engagement Team and ChicopeeFRESH for the event and looks forward to more in the future.

"We had such a great time

and it was so welcoming and look forward to more events, and we thank you for doing this for the Chicopee community!!!" Blair said.

Coelho wants the community to know there is more to come and to check out future events.

"Looking ahead, we're excited to plan an International Night, where we can explore food from the many cultures represented in our district. We encourage all families to come out and participate in these events," Coelho said. "Together, we can make them even more special, strengthen connections and continue to build lasting relationships within our school community."

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SPORTS

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Taryn Carriveau makes her way down the court

Comp's season concludes in state preliminary round



Mariah Diaz sends a pass away during recent action.

TEWKSBURY – Last Tuesday evening, Chicopee Comprehensive girls basketball lost in the opening round of the State Division 2 Tournament to host Tewksbury High School 55-48. No box score with scorers was reported. The Colts season ends at 10-11.



Kaitlyn Gilhooly eyes an open teammate as she crosses midcourt.



Sheyenne Santiago flies for the shot.



Ariana Chagnon looks to shoot a trey.

COLLEGE Parker nets 13 off the bench for Owls

WESTFIELD – Senior forward Eric Johnson (Houston, Texas) delivered a double-double with an 18-point, 10-rebound performance to lead the top-seeded Westfield State Owls to the 2025 MASCAC Conference Championship title with a convincing 93-63 victory over the second-seeded Salem State Vikings on Saturday afternoon from the Woodward Center in Westfield, Mass.

The championship victory secures Westfield State (21-6) the MASCAC's automatic qualifying bid into the NCAA Division III Tournament, which begins next week. Westfield also earned their third MASCAC title in the last five seasons and fourth championship under head coach Rich Sutter. It will be the Owls sixth NCAA tournament appearance.

The Owls enter the national tournament on a two-game winning streak and will await their seeding and opponent during Monday's selection show. Salem State (12-15), making their first championship game appearance since 2019, ends their season after a strong run into the title game.

The championship game, played before a capacity crowd at the Woodward Center, saw Westfield State overcome an early 5-3 deficit to build a commanding 59-37 halftime lead while shooting a blistering 69.7 percent from the floor (23-33 FG), including six of nine from beyond the arc. The Owls then cruised to a 30-point victory after outscoring the Vikings by eight in the second half. The Owls shot an impressive 50.7% from the field while holding Salem State to just 41.0% shooting, demonstrating their superiority on both ends of the court.

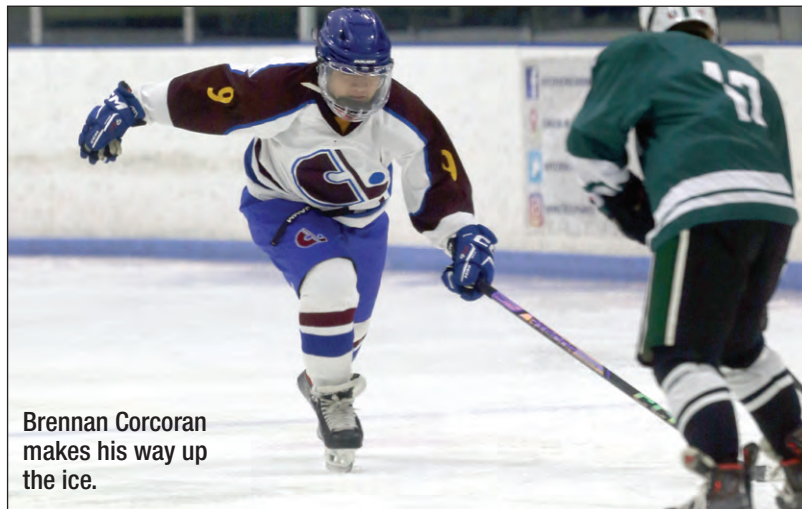
Salem State opened the

scoring with Omri Merryman's (Lynn, Mass.) jumper two minutes into the contest, and the Vikings built a small 5-3 lead after LJ Hicks (Gardner, Mass.) connected on a three-pointer with 17:34 remaining in the first half. However, Westfield State quickly seized control when Xavier Lewis (Long Island, N.Y.) knocked down three first-half triples, including one at the 18:57 mark that gave the Owls their first lead at 3-2. From there, Westfield State's offense found its rhythm, moving the ball crisply and finding open shooters consistently.

Timmy Jacobus (Willemstad, Curacao) provided a scoring punch with consecutive three-pointers early through the first half, pushing the lead to double digits and energizing the home crowd. Salem State attempted to stem the tide as Jarnel Snow-Guzman (Lynn, Mass.) connected on a three-pointer to cut the deficit to 17-13 with 14:29 remaining, but the Vikings couldn't maintain the momentum. The Owls closed the first half with authority behind Lid Moreland's (Bridgeport, Conn.) aggressive drive to the basket, drawing contact and completing the three-point play to cap a 16-4 run that built the halftime advantage to 22 points.

Any hopes of a Salem State comeback were quickly extinguished as Westfield State opened the second half with a decisive 8-0 run, pushing their lead to 67-37. Johnson dominated the paint during this stretch, grabbing offensive rebounds and converting second-chance opportunities while altering numerous Salem State shot attempts on the defensive end. The Vikings continued to battle

See OWLS page 8



Brennan Corcoran makes his way up the ice.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Season concludes for improved Pacers co-op

CHICOPEE – In the first year of a five-school co-op ice hockey team, Chicopee only managed one win all season long. But this year, the Pacers found themselves just one game out of reaching the state tournament. The Pacers did struggle to get wins early in the season, but came back to record four straight wins

to conclude the season with an 8-10-2 record. One additional win would have squeezed the Pacers in with a .500 record. The Pacers season ended with 5-3 and 7-1 wins over Assabet Tech and McCann Tech, respectively. The co-op includes Chicopee Comprehensive, South Hadley, Granby, and PVCIC.



Julian Lee-Choi reaches out to try and steal the puck.



Abiel Aponte goes after the loose puck.



Tyler Denison take a shot on goal.



Jake Fournier tries to break away from the wall.

SPORTS

T-Birds take the win in a shootout over Providence

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (27-19-2-4) dispatched 2-0 and 3-2 deficits en route to a 4-3 shootout win over the Providence Bruins (30-17-4-2) on Saturday night at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

The game's scoring began with a flurry in the final three minutes of a first period that had been quiet until that point. Vadim Zherenko had a tremendous highlight-reel moment past the period's midpoint as he stretched out the right leg to make a breakaway save on a Vinni Lettieri backhand bid.

Providence, though, got back to work and took advantage of a 5-on-3 situation when Oliver Wahlstrom beat Zherenko as the first penalty expired to give the Bruins

a 1-0 lead at 17:04. Wahlstrom's goal marked his first in the AHL in nearly five years, as he was playing his first game in the league since March 11, 2020.

The Bruins lead grew to 2-0 just two minutes later as Riley Tufté crashed the net to tip a Patrick Brown centering attempt by the skate of Zherenko. In the process, however, Tufté was penalized for interference on Zherenko after the puck crossed the line.

While Tufté's goal stood, the T-Birds' power play got a pivotal answer with just 12 seconds left in the first as Dalibor Dvorsky snapped a five-game goal drought with a sizzling wrist from the right circle off a cross-seam pass from Nikita

Alexandrov.

The Springfield power play continued its potent night just 2:07 into the second period, as Matthew Peca deflected a Matt Luff snapper past Michael DiPietro to tie the game, 2-2. Peca's goal tied his career-high in a single season (23) and tied Adam Gaudette for the longest goal-scoring streak in team history, as the captain has tallied a goal in six straight contests.

The Bruins generated most of the chances the remainder of the middle frame, but Zherenko stood firm in his crease, turning aside all 17 Providence attempts to carry the 2-2 game into the final period.

Tufté made things difficult on the T-Birds again when he broke in and beat

Zherenko on a forehand chip shot 22 seconds into the final period, restoring the Providence lead to 3-2.

From that point onward, though, Zherenko made sure the home team would not get any insurance, keeping the deficit at a single goal. After getting a clutch penalty kill with less than 3:30 remaining in regulation, Corey Andonovski picked a fantastic time to net his first goal as a T-Bird. The newly acquired winger stopped at the bottom of the left circle and proved to be in the perfect spot as a MacKenzie MacEachern rebound off DiPietro's pads found his stick. Andonovski snapped it

by DiPietro, setting the stage for Springfield's third straight overtime game.

The visitors carried the play in the extra session with five of the six shots on net, but DiPietro fended off each bid, including a breakaway effort by Luff. For a third straight contest, the game advanced to a shootout. After neither team converted on the netminders in the first two rounds, Tanner Dickinson finally elevated a backhand under the crossbar to give Springfield the edge. Needing a goal from John Farinacci to ex-

tend the shootout, the Bruins got just that, as the centerman faked beautifully to the backhand side and forced a fourth round.

Alexandrov had his chance at redemption after coming up short on a game-winning attempt on Friday, and the T-Birds' jack-of-all-trades made a magnificent backhand-to-forehand maneuver to beat DiPietro. Tufté was unsuccessful in his bid to solve Zherenko in the bottom of the round, and the T-Birds completed their comeback and victory. Zherenko finished the night with 42 saves in regulation and overtime, followed by three saves on four shootout attempts. In defeat, DiPietro stopped 31 attempts in 65 minutes before the shootout.



Railers outlast Bloomington

WORCESTER — Officially, baseball is the only sport with doubleheaders, but it felt like the Railers-Wrenches played one Saturday night.

Worcester tied the first game, 4-4. It won the second one, 2-0. That added up to a 6-4 victory over the Bloomington Bison and two more points in the North Division playoff race.

The home team got big offensive performances from Griffin Loughran, Matthew Kopperud (again), Lincoln Hatten and Matt DeMelis. Loughran and Kopperud were 1-1-2. DeMelis scored two goals. Hatten had the first three-point game of his career going 1-2-3.

Worcester winger Ryan Mahshie did not record a point. He did, however, record a hit that changed the nature of the night. At 14:26 of the second period, Mahshie delivered a clean, hard body check that led to a fight. He knocked down Bloomington's Josh Boyer with a couple of hard punches early and got the building energized.

"That hit by Mahshie was the turning point of the

game," coach Nick Tuzzolino said.

The first 27 1/2 minutes of the match were wild. There are next-goal-wins games, but this was like next-shot-wins. The teams traded eight goals in that span and Worcester chased Bison goalie Yaniv Perets after Kopperud made it 4-3 at 2:43 of the second period.



Bloomington tied it at 7:30 on a goal by Jake Murray, who had a great night at 1-3-4. Kasimir Kaskisuo replaced Perets, but Tuzzolino stuck with Hugo Ollas.

Ollas played shutout hockey the rest of the way. Kaskisuo played well, also. The Railers finally regained the lead on DeMelis' goal at 7:24 of the third period then Anthony Callin hit an empty net at 18:21.

How did Worcester re-

group and play shutdown hockey after the early barrage?

"I yelled loudly," Tuzzolino said.

"We talk about it all the time. Our biggest flaw as a team is goals against. If you look at the numbers, we have the worst goals-against stat in our division for the spot we're in. If we fix that, we're gonna win games, plain and simple.

"We have to understand that if we don't sell the farm and play systematically, we're gonna beat most teams."

The victory allowed Worcester to be able to control its fate. If it wins the rest of its games, it makes the playoffs no matter what anybody else does. That is the math, anyway. The reality is different, particularly since the home team faces a tough schedule.

Worcester plays three at first place Trois-Rivieres next week, then three against third place Norfolk here from the 13th through the 15th. Both teams can score. Tuzzolino is hoping he won't need a megaphone.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2025 season.

Registration for the 2025 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2025 season,

which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 27. The league plays most Sunday from late April through mid-August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to

pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2025.

The next league board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 23 at 11:45 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. The league has also scheduled two open practices on Sunday, March 30, and Sunday, April 6. Both practices are scheduled to be held at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley and are weather-permitting. The league website and social media accounts will have updates as the pre-season continues.

OWLS from page 1

despite the growing deficit but struggled to find consistent offense against Westfield State's swarming defense.

The Owls' balanced attack proved relentless throughout the second half. Kenneth Rogers Jr. (Springfield, Mass.) had his fingerprints all over this game with a strong stat line of 13 points, seven rebounds, and five assists.

Senior guard Lid Moreland (Bridgeport, Conn.) matched Johnson with a game-high 18 points while adding seven rebounds, six assists, three steals, and two blocks in a complete performance. Senior guard Kobe Parker (Chicopee, Mass.) provided crucial bench production with 13 points on an efficient 6-of-9 shooting per-

formance, delivering timely baskets whenever Salem State threatened to build momentum.

Freshman guard A.Z. Allah (Springfield, Mass.) contributed 12 points along with five rebounds and six assists, showcasing his versatility by attacking the rim and creating for others.

For Salem State, Omri Merryman (Lynn, Mass.) led the Vikings with 11 points but struggled against Westfield State's focused defensive attention, shooting just 5-for-17 from the field. Despite facing constant pressure, the sophomore guard continued to attack throughout the game, trying to spark a comeback that never materialized. Grad forward Liam Byrne (Melrose, Mass.) battled valiantly in the paint against the Owls interior de-

fense, recording nine points and a team-high 11 rebounds while providing numerous hustle plays for the Vikings.

Junior guard Tyrese Rho (Boston, Mass.) added nine points and three assists. Jarnel Snow-Guzman (Lynn, Mass.) contributed eight points, including a key three-pointer in the first half.

The Owls dominated nearly every statistical category, including a 23-13 advantage in assists reflecting their superior ball movement and a strong 13-10 edge in offensive rebounds that led to numerous second-chance opportunities. Their relentless defensive pressure forced 20 Salem State turnovers, which they efficiently converted into 25 points on the other end.

IDO DANCE OLYMPICS from page 1

see how they train and all their routines and stuff," Bordeau said.

"It was such an honor to be even in that category with all of those other countries. So, to have done just so well and to do good for our country was really important for all of us. For myself, it was such an honor to be there and just so great to dance on that stage," Cosgrove said.

Among the lessons, they included a deeper appreciation for dance and seeing other perspectives of the sport and arts, being supportive of one another even if countries and beliefs differ, being there for your teammates and, also, learning how to say thank you in Polish.

After this, the girls will focus on their next competitions and auditions for Team USA, sharing this advice for future and aspiring dancers.

"I would say just keep your mind on your goal and to focus on achieving it," Rivera said. "And to, also, enjoy it. Don't make yourself too stressed about it or be too

hard on yourself and always enjoy the ride to what you want to do."

"Just definitely enjoy it and just keep training 100% because once you start to give up, then you're not going to get to your goal at all. So, just keep giving it 100% and just enjoy it while it's here because you won't have forever," Vasquez said.

"I'd say make sure you have the right support group around you because that is a very big factor. If you don't have the right people to support you, it can get tough," Bordeau said.

"I would just say to believe in themselves. It takes time. Your progress is going to go over many years. You're not going to get things as quick as you want, but that's okay. That's the part of learning and growing and that's the fun part. Just really soak up every second of it because it's not going to last forever and I truly loved every single part in my dance journey and my USA journey. It's been amazing," Cosgrove said.

This was their message to everyone who has supported

them throughout their journey, from family and friends to their dance school to community and beyond.

"I would say thank you so much from the bottom of my heart for supporting us and for letting me be able to experience this amazing opportunity," Rivera said.

"Obviously, thank you because it wouldn't have been possible without all the support from my community," Vasquez said.

"A big appreciation for everybody, including our dance teachers, our parents, friends, family—for them—the support, because it wouldn't have been possible without them," Bordeau said.

"It was truly amazing getting to travel outside the country and if you believe in something, you can make it happen. Just like how us four girls did. We believe in ourselves and with our community, we got ourselves on that stage which was really special," Cosgrove said. "I would just tell them to never give up because they didn't give up on us and that's how we got to be the dancers we are."

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67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

- Cut a little bit off
- State with confidence
- River in NE Scotland
- Not narrow
- Lacking social polish
- Amount of time
- Frame
- Automobile
- Toadstools
- High school dances
- Utilize
- Challenged
- One-sided
- Showing extreme greed
- Potted plants
- Everyone has one
- Lake in Botswana
- E.T. rode in one
- Juniors' parents
- Small amount

- Mother of Perseus
- Ornamental box
- Gov't investigators
- Uncertain
- A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- The vast grassy plains in S. America
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- Noted consumer advocate
- Spanish sports club
- Body part
- Tractability
- Woman (French)
- Ready and willing to be taught

CLUES DOWN

- Brushed aside
- Water sprite
- Ones to look up to
- Monetary units

- A number everyone has
- Marine invertebrate
- One who takes you to court
- Indicates outer
- Parallelograms
- Strains
- Cross
- A way to remove
- Some pages are dog-
- Ukraine city
- A citizen of Denmark
- Summer month (abbr.)
- Hindu queens
- Jewelry brand
- Fictional rider of Rohan
- Wet dirt
- Russian city
- Observed

- Furious
- Drivers' licenses
- Musical composition
- Auction
- They
- Women
- Inspire with love
- Japanese ankle sock
- Appears
- Old World lizard
- The leading performer
- Type of protein
- Pennsylvania town
- Art: around 1920
- Blyton, children's author
- Abnormal breathing
- A place to sleep
- Muslim ruler title
- Depressed
- Gradually gave way
- Clear-thinking

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD01P0451GR1
In the interests of
Bryan Smith
Of Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/
Protected Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
RESIGNATION OF A
GUARDIAN OF AN
INCAPACITATED
PERSON**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Alfreda V Tiernan of Monson, MA** and **Charles H Tiernan of Monson, MA**

in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Accept the Resignation of the Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **03/31/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court

Date: March 03, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/07/2025

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Statutory Power of Sale referenced in a certain mortgage given by Willimansett Center East RE LLC to Love Funding Corporation dated August 1, 2012 and recorded August 8, 2012 with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 19385, Page 88, the undersigned being the present holder by assignment of said mortgage (assignments recorded in Book 24344, Page 53, Book 25058, Page 158 and Book 25748, Page 88), for breach of the conditions contained in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 am on the 3rd day of April, 2025**, upon the mortgage premises known as 11 Saint Anthony Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

That certain parcel of land situate in Chicopee, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pipe found marking the southeasterly line of Chicopee Street and at the northeast corner of land N/F Eugene J. & Joyce M. Stefanik; said iron pipe marks the southwest corner of the subject property;

Thence running N56-17-30E along the southeasterly line of Chicopee Street for a distance of 153.51 feet to a concrete bound found on the southwesterly line of Saint Anthony Street;

Thence running S49-49-30E along the southwesterly line of Saint Anthony Street for a dis-

tance of 215.51 feet to a concrete bound found at land N/F Shirley A. Orwat & Joanna V. Frost;

Thence running S40-10-30W along land N/F Shirley A. Orwat & Joanna V. Frost for a distance of 139.56 feet to an iron pipe found at land N/F William C. & Catherine A. Courchesne;

Thence running N51-34-52W along land N/F William C. & Catherine A. Courchesne, Rich A. Chapin III, William J. & Rosalie M. Connelly, Steven & Tammy Jo M. Champagne and Eugene J. & Joyce M. Stefanik for a distance of 258.24 feet to the iron pipe at the place of beginning.

Said Parcel is shown on ALTA/ACSM Land Title Survey, Chicopee, Massachusetts prepared for The Northeast Health Group, Inc., prepared by D.L. Bean, Inc., Surveyors & Engineers, dated April 26, 2011, updated June 19, 2012 and recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 364, Page 25.

Said Premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior, liens or other enforceable encumbrances or instruments of record entitled to precedence over said mortgage, and subject to, and with the benefit of, all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record having precedence over the Mortgage and subject to all leases, tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession, including rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the subject premises and the right of redemption, if any, to the Internal Revenue Service. Said premises to be sold at the sale "AS IS WHERE IS." It shall be the bidder's sole responsibility to ascertain all items described in this paragraph and no representations are made concerning compliance with applicable zoning, building, sanitary or other state and/or municipal laws, ordinances or regulations.

TERMS OF SALE: FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND and 00/100 (\$400,000) DOLLARS in cash, certified or bank check to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The successful bidder shall be required to increase the deposit to a full ten (10%) of the purchase price within five (5) business days of the public auction and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank check and the foreclosure deed shall be delivered and accepted within thirty (30) days after the public auction at the offices of Halloran & Sage LLP, 225 Asylum Street Hartford, CT 06103.

The successful bidder of the Premises will be responsible for all closing costs, recording fees, deed stamps and shall be required to sign an Auctioneer's Memorandum of Sale containing the terms of sale at the time and place of the public auction. The successful bidder of the Premises shall be subject to a 1% buyer's premium.

This mortgagee's sale of real estate may be postponed or adjourned from time to time, if necessary, by the attorney or auctioneer for the mortgagee at the scheduled time and place of sale. The description for the premises contained in said Mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale fails to purchase the described Premises according to the terms of this notice of sale or as provided for in the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of foreclosure, the mortgagee reserves the right to sell the Premises by foreclosure deed to the next highest bidder provided that the next highest bidder shall deposit with the mortgagee's attorney, said Halloran & Sage LLP, the amount of the required deposit and execute an agreement similar to said Memorandum of Sale, within three (3) business days after written notice of default of the previous highest bidder. Title shall be conveyed to the next highest bidder within twenty (20) days of said written notice.

OTHER TERMS, IF ANY, TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF SALE.

Willimansett Holdings LLC Present Holder of Said Mortgage By Scott Rousse, Manager Attorneys for Willimansett Holdings LLC

Oscar L. Suarez, Esq.

Halloran & Sage LLP
225 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103
03/07, 03/14, 03/21/2025

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Statutory Power of Sale referenced in a certain mortgage given by Willimansett Center West RE LLC to Love Funding Corporation dated August 1, 2012 and recorded August 8, 2012 with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 19385, Page 141, the undersigned being the present holder by assignment of said mortgage (assignments recorded in Book 24344, Page 55, Book 25057, Page 157 and Book 25748, Page 225), for breach of the conditions contained in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **12:00 pm on the 3rd day of April, 2025**, upon the mortgage premises known as 546 Chicopee Street and a parcel on East Side Chicopee Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts, being all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Certain pieces or parcels of land situated in the Town of Chicopee, Hampden County, Massachusetts, more particularly described as follows:

Parcel 1: 546 Chicopee Street, Chicopee, MA (Parcel 5 and Parcel 6)

Beginning at a re-rod set marking the northwesterly line of Chicopee Street with the Southwesterly line of Warregan Street; said re-rod marks the southeasterly corner of the subject property;

Thence running S56-17-30W along the northwesterly line of Chicopee Street for a distance of 200.88 feet to a stone bound found on the northwesterly line of Artisan Street;

Thence running N50-37-30W along the northwesterly line of Artisan Street for a distance of 167.72 feet to a re-rod set at land N/F Meg Realty, LLC;

Thence running N39-22-30E along land N/F Meg Realty, LLC. For a distance of 137.01 feet to a re-rod set at land N/F James Long;

Thence running N56-17-30E along land N/F James Long for a distance of 118.60 feet to an iron pipe found on the southeasterly line of Warregan Street;

Thence running S33-42-30E along the southeasterly side of Warregan Street for a distance of 200.33 feet to the re-rod set at the place of beginning.

Parcel 2: Unnumbered parcel on East Side Chicopee Street, Chicopee, MA (Parcel 4)

Beginning at a granite bound found marking the intersection of the southeasterly line of Chicopee Street and the northeasterly line of Saint Anthony Street; said granite bound being the northwest corner of the subject property;

Thence running N56-17-30E along the southerly sideline of Chicopee Street for a distance of 119.70 feet to a re-rod set at land N/F Louis M. Bouchard;

Thence running S49-49-30E along land N/F Louis Bouchard for a distance of 112.84 feet to a re-rod set at land N/F Mirta I. Diamond;

Thence running S40-10-30W along land N/F Mirta I. Diamond for a distance of 115.00 feet to a magnetic nail set on the northeasterly line of Saint Anthony Street;

Thence running N49-49-30W along the northeastly line of Saint Anthony Street for a distance of 146.07 feet to the granite bound found at the place of beginning.

Said Parcels are shown on ALTA/ACSM Land Title Survey, Chicopee, Massachusetts prepared for The Northeast Health Group, Inc., prepared by D.L. Bean, Inc., Surveyors & Engineers, dated April 26, 2011, updated June 19, 2012 and recorded with Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 364, Page 26.

Said Premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior, liens or other enforceable encumbrances or instruments of record entitled to precedence over said mortgage, and subject to, and with the benefit of,

all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record having precedence over the Mortgage and subject to all leases, tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession, including rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the subject premises and the right of redemption, if any, to the Internal Revenue Service. Said premises to be sold at the sale "AS IS WHERE IS." It shall be the bidder's sole responsibility to ascertain all items described in this paragraph and no representations are made concerning compliance with applicable zoning, building, sanitary or other state and/or municipal laws, ordinances or regulations.

TERMS OF SALE: FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND and 00/100 (\$500,000) DOLLARS in cash, certified or bank check to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The successful bidder shall be required to increase the deposit to a full ten (10%) of the purchase price within five (5) business days of the public auction and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank check and the foreclosure deed shall be delivered and accepted within thirty (30) days after the public auction at the offices of Halloran & Sage LLP, 225 Asylum Street Hartford, CT 06103.

The successful bidder of the Premises will be responsible for all closing costs, recording fees, deed stamps and shall be required to sign an Auctioneer's Memorandum of Sale containing the terms of sale at the time and place of the public auction. The successful bidder of the Premises shall be subject to a 1% buyer's premium.

This mortgagee's sale of real estate may be postponed or adjourned from time to time, if necessary, by the attorney or auctioneer for the mortgagee at the scheduled time and place of sale. The description for the premises contained in said Mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale fails to purchase the described Premises according to the terms of this notice of sale or as provided for in the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of foreclosure, the mortgagee reserves the right to sell the Premises by foreclosure deed to the next highest bidder provided that the next highest bidder shall deposit with the mortgagee's attorney, said Halloran & Sage LLP, the amount of the required deposit and execute an agreement similar to said Memorandum of Sale, within three (3) business days after written notice of default of the previous highest bidder. Title shall be conveyed to the next highest bidder within twenty (20) days of said written notice.

OTHER TERMS, IF ANY, TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE TIME AND PLACE OF SALE.

Willimansett Holdings LLC Present Holder of Said Mortgage By Scott Rousse, Manager Attorneys for Willimansett Holdings LLC

Oscar L. Suarez, Esq. Halloran & Sage LLP
225 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103
03/07, 03/14, 03/21/2025

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 6:30 PM*** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change from Residential A to Industrial for 7.5 AC/326,700 SF of property located at 0 Burnett Rd (Parcel ID 0238-00003) for the purpose of removing remnant Residential A zoning within existing Ever-source Powerline Easement to make zoning consistent with Industrial Zoning designations on abutting properties. Applicant - UFPT MA, LLC, 100 Hale Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

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

The March 26, 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.
03/07, 03/14/2025

**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. HD25C0050CA
In the matter of:
Brandon Tyler Ledoux
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Brandon Tyler Ledoux** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Shelbee Taylor Ledoux
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 03/28/2025.**

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 28, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/07/2025

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL LICENSE COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The License Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Application for a Home Occupation License for the purpose of cottage kitchen baking permit-no storefront. Make to order baked goods and for sale at Farmers Markets/retail residential kitchen permit located at 34 Pajak St. Applicant - Patricia Cataldo, 34 Pajak St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

The March 12, 2025 License 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, Chicopee, MA 01013. You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
02/28, 03/07/2025

INVITATION FOR BID CHICOPEE ELECTRIC LIGHT 725 FRONT STREET, CHICOPEE, MA 01020 BID NO. C.E.L. 25-0519 ISSUE DATE: MARCH 3, 2025

Sealed proposals are being accepted for: "**POLEMOUNT TRANSFORMERS (ANNUAL BID)**"
BID OPENING DATE, TIME AND LOCATION: MARCH 27, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. at Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

BIDS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN DUPLICATE. PLEASE READ AND COMPLY WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS ENTITLED 1.0 PREPARATION OF BIDS.

Bid documents are available at the business office located at 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020-1778.

The Vendor/Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Executive Order No. 11246, as amended by Executive Order No. 11375, entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" and of Chapter 164 Sec. 56D as amended, of the Massachusetts General Laws, both of which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal that in the opinion of the Municipal Light Board, is in the best interest of the Municipal Lighting Plant.

Is your firm a: **MBE WBE** (please circle) MBE/WBE firms must be currently certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Please submit Bids in **duplicate** clearly marked with the Bid Number and Title:

BID NUMBER: C.E.L. 25-0519

TITLE: "POLEMOUNT TRANSFORMERS (ANNUAL BID)"

Natalie Colberg
Purchasing
03/07/2025

**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. HD25P0027EA**

Estate of:

Carolyn M Desmarais

Also known as:

Carolyn Desmarais

Date of Death: 10/09/2023

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for S/A - **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **James C Desmarais 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: **James C Desmarais 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 xx/xx/xxxx. 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 24, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate

03/07/2025

See more legals on page 11

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Executive Director for Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard
Resume and references to **survivalcenterio@gmail.com**
Need experience in Management, Public Outreach, and Social Media
Four-day work week; 5 weeks vacation; 5 days sick/personal time; holidays \$60,000 salary

LOCAL TREE SERVICE looking for climber and ground person.
Must have driver's license in good standing.
Call **413-507-1949.**

HELP WANTED

Worthington Police Department Full-time Police Officer

The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for **Full-time Police Officer.** Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license. They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.

This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined, possess a community policing philosophy and live in or near Worthington. This position has the potential to be elevated to Police Chief.

Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to:
Worthington Police Department P.O. Box 247 Worthington, MA 01098
Or via email to: **sboard@worthington-ma.us**
Subject line: Employment

Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.
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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL LICENSE COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The License Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing Wednesday, **March 12, 2025 at 6:30 PM** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Application for a Home Occupation License for the purpose of steering knuckle machining located at 41 Cobb Ave. Applicant – Leo J. Berrouard, 41 Cobb Ave., Chicopee, MA 01013.

The March 12, 2025 License 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, Chicopee, MA 01013. You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 02/28, 03/07/2025

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 March 14, 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.

2003 Chevrolet S10
VIN: 1GCDT19X738146674
Julio Castillo-Mejia
13 Cherry Ave., #A320
Waterbury, CT 06702

2006 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BE32K06U665990
Francis Foster
3 Lawndale Rd.
Stoneham, MA 02180

2005 Lexus Rx330
VIN: 2T2HA31UX5C063408
Thanh Trinh
109 Park St., Apt. 3,
Boston, MA 02122

2013 Hyundai Elantra Gt
VIN: KMHD35LE5DU054644
Elvin Padilla
92 Wilber St.
Springfield, MA 01104

2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo
VIN: 1J4GX48S82C132796
Kaylin Macniel
226 Beech St., Apt. B
Holyoke, Ma 01040

2018 Honda Hrv
VIN: 3CZRU6H39JG709191
Reynaldo Nieves
460 Silver St.
Agawam, MA 01001

2015 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BF1FK3FU047445
Kim Roncalli
11 Old Farm Rd.
Westfield, MA 01085

2017 Audi S3
VIN: WAUB1GFF9H1024407
Tuckahoe Autoland Corp
365 Tuckahoe Rd.
Yonkers NY 10710

2007 Nissan Pathfinder
VIN: 5N1AR18W67C630294
Hector Rosario-Plaud
324 Hampden St., Apt. 11
Holyoke, MA 01040

2011 Chevrolet Traverse
VIN: 1GNKVGED9BJ235774
Alexander Rivera
71 Greene St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2012 Cadillac Srx
VIN: 3GYFNDE31CS595292
Francisco Sayago Uzha
47 Congress St., Apt 1
Milford, MA 01757

2006 Ford Econoline E350
VIN: 1FBNE31L66HA03095
Cars Of Wayne
440 Route 46
Wayne, NJ 07470

2010 Volkswagen Tiguan
VIN: WVGBV7AX7AW532256
Aleksandr Popa
58 Stony Hill Rd., Apt. B
Wilbraham, MA 01095
02/28, 03/07, 03/14/2025

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 March 7, 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 Mercedes GLE 350
VIN: 4JGDA5HB5JB106835
Krista Purvis
99 Pike St., PO Box 58
Carbondale, PA 18407

2013 Nissan Rogue
VIN: JN8AS5MV9DW659218
Nelson Joel Cruz Jr.
24 Outlook St.
East Hartford, CT 06108

2014 Ford Fiesta SE
VIN: 3FADP4BJ3EM210919
Jazmin Rene Ann Rutheford
1735 Newmark Ave., Apt D
Coos Bay, OR 97420
02/21, 02/28, 03/07/2025

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 March 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.

2011 Mini Cooper
VIN: WMWSU3C59BT183919
Sheik Mohammad
3 Avalon Pl., Apt. 2
Worcester, MA 01609

2013 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB7AP2DL687271
Charles Neel
3 Algonquin D.,
Queensbury, NY 12804

2013 GMC Acadia SLE
VIN: 1GKKVNE4DJ191204
Austin Dean
97 Robinson Hill Rd.
North Franklin, CT 06254

2010 Chevrolet Aveo
VIN: KL1TD5DE4AB046688
Lawrence Tetreault
79 Lyman St.
North Attleboro, MA 02760

2006 Honda Accord Se
VIN: 1HGCM55376A023068
JC Reliable Tow Service Corp
47 Fruit Ext.
Milford, MA 01757

2001 Buick Lesabre
VIN: 1G4HP54K314250247
Edward Therrien
4790 Lake Superior Drive
Cocoa, FL 32926
03/07, 03/14, 03/21/2025

**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. HD24PD029EA
Estate of:
Stephen M Joseph
Date of Death: 11/19/2023
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: **Frank Kenney of 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 03/31/2025.

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 26, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
03/07/2025

IN THE CLASSROOM

COLLEGE NEWS

Elms College announces Fall 2024 Dean's List

CHICOPEE - The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following students to the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester. Congratulations to all the students who are named to the list:

- Jasmine Pielecha
- Cesar Puyen-Roche
- Sky Beaudry
- Ceara Wright
- Hudson Laflamme
- Natalie Figueroa
- Allison Kudrya
- Brooke Chevillet
- Hayley Sliwa
- Briana Gomez
- Jayda Thomas
- Michael Quinlan
- Linda Ramcke
- Madison Sniezak
- Justice Delaney
- Jeselica Delgado-Ruiz
- Spencer Gorczyca
- Emily Bartolo
- Mya Bennis
- Emmie Jones
- Zachary Delaney
- Antoannet Estevez
- Kaley Walewski
- Hamza Abdul-Baki
- Adam Sarlan
- Kate Ogilla
- Kayla Inacio
- Daniel Tereso
- Rylee Kaplan
- Nathaniel Alvarez
- Kailany Cordero
- Chase Davis
- Alexa Pajak
- Joshua Barron
- Destiny Shumway
- Timothy Congo
- Rachel Dort
- Emmarly Larocca
- Matthew Hood
- Alejandra Marin
- Naomi Briganti
- Catrina Neves
- Krista Hajdamowicz
- Coumba Niang
- Anastasia Fitzgerald
- Jazmin Rivera
- Grace Dolbow
- Ariana Goding
- Angelina Francis
- Asia Mary Green
- Kaitlyn Jenco
- Kailyn Poniatowski
- Amanda Debettencourt
- Makayla Burelle
- Andrew Pont
- Alexandria Sullivan
- Kujtesa Bajrami
- Lance Rice
- Allyssa Kemp
- Kaltrina Bajrami
- Aidan Coulombe
- Ciara Sheltra
- Myranda Brault

Devin Riley named to Champlain College President's List

BURLINGTON, VT - Devin Riley of Chicopee, MA, was named to the Champlain College President's List for the Fall 2024 semester.

Students on the President's List have achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher during the semester. Riley is majoring in Game Business and Publishing.

Making the President's List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate them on this great accomplishment and honor.

Emmanuel College's Fall 2024 Dean's List

BOSTON -In recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, Emmanuel College has named more than 1,000 students to the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

The following local students from Chicopee were named to the Dean's List:

Kathleen Brooks. Brooks is a Marketing major.

Gwyneth Gagnon. Gagnon is a Chemistry - Forensic Science ACS major.

Dafne Burgos. Burgos is a Communication and Media Studies major.

Victoria Lopez. Lopez is a Double Major; English; Writing, Editing and Publishing major.

Jacob Proulx of Chicopee. Proulx is a Mathematics - Mathematical Modeling major.

Jessica Provencal named to Troy University Chancellor's List

TROY, AL - Jessica Provencal of Chicopee has been named to the Chancellor's List at Troy University for the Fall Semester/Term 2 of the 2024-2025 academic year.

The Chancellor's List honors full-time undergraduate students who are regis-

tered for at least 12 semester hours and who earn a grade point average of 4.0.

Robert Trigilio named to Le Moyne College Fall 2024 Dean's List

SYRACUSE, NY - Robert Trigilio, Sophomore Political Science major from Chicopee, MA, has been named to the Le Moyne College Fall 2024 Dean's List.

To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

Chicopee students receive Academic Honors from Mercy College of Health Sciences

DES MOINES, IA - The following students from Chicopee have received academic honors for the Fall 2024 quarter and semester terms at Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must attain a grade point average (GPA) between 3.50 and 3.749 for a minimum of six semester credit hours or four quarter credit hours in their most recent academic term.

To qualify for the President's List, Mercy College students must attain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.75 for a minimum of six semester credit hours or four quarter credit hours in their most recent term.

From Chicopee: Aimee Kai, President's List and Christopher Kelleher, President's List

University of Hartford Fall 2024 Dean's and President's Lists

WEST HARTFORD, CT - The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 2,291 students have been named to the Dean's List and President's List for the fall 2024 semester.

The Dean's List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C.

The President's List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest

level of academic standing. To be placed on the President's List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

Please join us in congratulating: Paige Hamelin of Chicopee - Dean's List; Gabbie Hogan of Chicopee - Dean's List; Caroline View of Chicopee - Dean's List

University of Rhode Island Fall 2024 Dean's List

KINGSTON, RI - The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several Chicopee students have been named to its Fall 2024 Dean's List. Among them are:

- Romeo Brooks
- Nathan Conde-Haney
- Madi Hartling
- Ava Lapa
- Marley Makowski
- Max Morgado
- Makayla Van Buren

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Kai Graduates from Mercy College of Health Sciences

DES MOINES, IA – Aimee Kai of Chicopee, Massachusetts, was conferred a certificate of Medical Assisting degree by Mercy College of Health Sciences, 928 6th Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, on December 12, 2024.

Goodwin University's Fall 2024 Dean's List

EAST HARTFORD, CT - Goodwin University announces 503 students achieved Dean's List status for the fall 2024 session. From Chicopee: Savannah Tardy and Shiloh Dombek.

Goodwin University Fall 2024 President's List

EAST HARTFORD, CT - Goodwin University's President's List for the fall 2024 session includes 266 students, all of who scored a perfect 4.0 GPA. From Chicopee: Evelyn Gonzalez of and Mildred Solivan.

\$310,000 available in Scholarship and Fellowship Awards

Application Deadline March 15

WESTFIELD - The Horace Smith Fund, celebrating its 125th anniversary, will be awarding \$310,000 in scholarships and fellowships to residents of Hampden County, who have also graduated from an eligible high school or private school. This year 20 scholarships, three fellowships and one William R. Rooney Award for students with special needs will be presented to recipients at the June 19 Awards Night ceremony at Storowton Carriage House in West Springfield.

Scholarships are offered not only to graduating high school seniors but also to students already in college or those wishing to return to college. Scholarships of \$12,000 are distributed as \$3,000 annually and renewable each year until graduation. Fellowship awards of \$15,000 are distributed as \$7,500 annually and renewable for one additional year to students pursuing a full-time graduate degree. Students must maintain at least a B average to renew.

Recipients are selected

on a variety of criteria, including academic records, merit and financial need. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance. Applicants must submit their transcripts and, if applicable, college entrance exam scores or graduate degree specific tests, and three letters of recommendation.

Completed applications

must be received either electronically or be mailed to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15, 2025.

Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, and online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

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IN THE CITY

CPD celebrates Valentine's Day with Sunshine Village



CHICOPEE – On Feb. 14, some of our officers took part in a Valentine's Day event at Sunshine Village. Each participant at Sunshine Village received a Valentine from their friends at CPD. Once again, we would like to thank Sunshine Village for inviting us to take part in all of their great events.

PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT



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.

Japanese For Beginners Zoom class offered

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.

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives. Summer camp benefits children in a myriad ways.

Campers continue to socialize throughout summer. Socializing isn't just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That

can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they're used to.

Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many tend to feature children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds.

Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much

of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.

Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time.

There's no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.

Camp by the numbers

Each year, campers of all ages head off to nearby recreation centers or travel to rural areas to claim their cabins and bunks. Here's a deep look at some of the statistics surrounding summer camps.

1,467: The number of day camps in the United States run by the YMCA. - YMCA

\$3.91 billion: The peak market size of the summer camp sector in the United States in 2019, before stay-at-home-restrictions affected statistics in subsequent years. - Statista

14 million: The average number of American summer camp registrants each year. - American Camp Association

1 week: The most popular session length for summer camp, although the majority of independent camp operators offer four-, six- and eight-week sessions. - American Camp Association

50: The percentage of respondents whose camps charge \$1,000 or more per session, with most programs costing between \$1,000 and \$1,500. - CampMinder

58 to 63: The percentage of female staff members at overnight and day camps, respectively. - American Camp Association

200 to 300: The average number of campers served each session. - CampMinder

7 in 10: The number of camps that run 10 or more different programs. - CampMinder

79: The percentage of camps that maintain a screen-free environment. - CampMinder

The Hartsbrook School SUMMER CAMPS

FARM CAMP	WILDERNESS CAMP	CREATIVITY CAMP
CODING CAMP	COUNSELOR IN TRAINING (CIT)	JUNE 23 TO AUGUST 1

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
Fun all summer long for ages 4-14!
hartsbrook.org/summer-programs

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Learning Center

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DAY & OVERNIGHT

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Camp MacDuffie offers seven weeks of exciting camp experiences:

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