Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Chicopee hosts 2025 Colleen Gathering

By Kristin Rivers Editor krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The city hosted this year's Colleen Gathering at the Portuguese American Club on March 9.

The gathering featured the 2025 Colleens and their courts from Chicopee, Holyoke, Agawam, West Springfield, Springfield and Westfield along with the 2025 award recipients from the surrounding communities, a luncheon, raffles and performances from Irish Thunder of Springfield and the Black Rose Academy of Irish Dance.

The Colleens and their courts also got to show off their Irish step dance moves with the Black Rose Academy of Irish Dance to huge

Remarks were provided by Dave Haslam, a member of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Committee and chairman for this year's Colleen Gathering, Mayor John Vieau and Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee President John Beaulieu. Also, every Colleen and their courts introduced themselves to the attendees.

Every year, the president of the St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke selects a city to host the Colleen Gathering in early March, leading up to the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day

The parade will take



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A group shot of this year's Colleens and Courts. The communities represented are Chicopee, Westfield, Agawam, West Springfield, Springfield and Holyoke.

place in Holyoke on Sunday, March 23 at 11 a.m.

Beaulieu thanked the Parade Committee of Holyoke for bringing the event to Chicopee and the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for their support, also praising the Colleens.

'You guys are amazing, a bunch of beautiful, educated

and smart young women and that's all that we can ask for. I'm getting to be a dinosaur, so if I see parade committees and this parade in the hands of such youth and vibration, we're going to continue parades for 100s of 100s of years to come, so give yourself a round of applause to all our regionals," Beaulieu said.

"Because without Holyoke, regionals don't have a parade, but without regionals, Holyoke doesn't have a parade."

Vieau--who spoke on behalf of Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia--thanked everyone for "keeping the Irish-American heritage active in Western Mass" and added the Colleens "are the ambassadors of

Western Mass."

"I am really excited about the parade. I'm really excited about the next two weeks where you're really going to have some amazing experiences and, hopefully, memories that'll last a lifetime, so thank you for what you do," Vieau said.

Haslam was excited to

bring the event to Chicopee, sharing he's hosted it on three different occasions.

"So bringing this to Chicopee this year, the 2025 parade president for Holyoke, Johnny B, is from Chicopee, so he chose Chicopee to be the host location this year," Haslam said. "We're just really kicking off that we're in the high holy days and we are just two weeks away from the parade, so, it's a really great, regional event to just get together and celebrate."

Haslam got involved in the parade committee as he was born and raised in Holyoke and always attended the parade.

"My mom worked in city hall, so I always went to the reviewing stand area and just always had a fascination with it and to be able to continue this legacy, we do need vounger members to kind of partake and join in and really learn what it takes to put on this magnificent event,' Haslam said.

Sam Shumsky, who joined the Chicopee's St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee this year, was thrilled the city was hosting the event.

"It's a great event! It's great for the regional networking for our Colleens to meet other Colleens. It's great for parts of Chicopee to come

See COLLEEN GATHERING

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COMMUNITY

Library patrons learn the basics of sourdough starter

By Amanda Munson Correspondent

CHICOPEE - "There's always something new to learn in your sourdough journey!" The library introduced Brandon, best known as Sourdough Brandon, who presented the basics of sourdough bread baking that was held in the Bazan Community Room on March 5.

With plenty of space to show off his impressive sourdough creations, from sourdough cinnamon rolls to sourdough Irish bread, Brandon was pleased with the well-attended event that offered more than just a lecture.

Growing up in North Carolina, Brandon expressed how he began his cooking and baking journey, highlighting his mom and grandmother who were always cre-

ating mouth-watering dishes. 'I grew up in the South in a really small town and my family was really into cooking and baking. My mom and grandmother were always baking. It was always something really delicious like southern treats and food, kind of my whole life so I always knew I liked baking and enjoyed cooking. I even have a photo of my mom sitting with me as a baby with brownie batter all over me! I always like to have my hands in the dough in the batter," Brandon said.

Baking has always come natural for Brandon, a quality he doesn't take for granted and used to his advantage, unintentionally creating a successful and growing busi-

"When I made my first loaf of bread, I was like 'oh my gosh" like this turned out so well. I was so surprised



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOURDOUGH BRANDON A closeup of Sourdough Brandon with a sourdough loaf, who encourages everyone to start baking.

and it was so rewarding. I knew that I would be doing it in some capacity for the rest of my life. I didn't know it would turn into a whole business when I did that, but I just completely fell in love with it," Brandon said. "I am the type of person when I start a hobby or job, I just follow down deep into the rabbit hole and get obsessed with it. So that's definitely how it was with bread baking."

"I grew up in the South in a really small town and my family was really into cooking and baking."

- Sourdough Brandon

Sourdough starter, defined from Brandon's website as a "symbiotic culture of bacteria and wild yeasts," is made with only water, flour, and time. But the idea of baking a sourdough bread comes with a variety of questions with every event he does, in which Brandon responds saying his website is the best source for your sourdough

See **SOURDOUGH** page 5

COMMUNITY

RiverMills celebrates St. Patrick's Day

By Amanda Munson Correspondent

CHICOPEE - With a combination of a corned beef and cabbage dinner from Hamel's Creative Catering with traditional Irish music from Banish Misfortune, the RiverMills was hopping into spring by hosting another great event on March 6 with

the St. Patrick's Day Dinner. President of the Friends of the RiverMills Mike Wilk spoke about his involvement within the Friends, his appreciation towards the senior center staff and the center as a whole. Talking about the night, Wilk reflected on the center's themed dinner nights and the success of it all.

"It was a good night, I am so pro-dinner nights like this for the seniors because it's a chance for them to



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RIVERMILLS SENIOR CENTER AND FRIENDS OF RIVERMILLS FACEBOOKS Guests were dressed to impress with a green theme, marking the beginning of Spring weather.

come and have a good dinner with their friends. There was a great Irish band with a great name, Banish Misfortune, who played Irish music while dinner was being served. The dinner was corned beef and

cabbage which everyone said was delicious," Wilk said.

The themed dinner nights have been having a 50-50 raffle that has been a growing success, for the guests and the Friends of the RiverMills. There's always a guaranteed lucky winner of one of the guests and the oth-

> See ST. PATRICK'SDAY **DINNER**, page 6

COMMUNITY

78 West St. special permit application defeated

By Kristin Rivers Editor krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - A special permit application for the purpose of operating a tow-

A shot of 78 West St. in Chicopee.

City Council on March 4. The vote was six yes,

ing and storage business at 78

West St. was defeated by the

three no's and two abstentions, failing to reach the 9 required votes for approval.



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

The applicant was Cruise Control Transportation Inc., Joshua Roy, president.

If it had been approved, the special permit application would have had the following conditions: compliance with spatial requirements of at least 10 parking spaces for towing and storage, the applicant complies with all requirements of the fire department regarding this proposal and the permit to run with the

Recap of Zoning Committee Meeting

Councilor George Balakier explained this application "was a little bit unusual because it generally doesn't go this many goarounds."

After the first meeting

had input from department heads, the applicant and others, Balakier said the committee's second meeting was looking for additional information on specific site plans referencing spatial parking requirements.

"In particular, this is a plot that has two businesses on it. One is a towing, one is an auto body. So, we looked for more specific parking to make sure that there'll be designated parking. We also had a couple of department reports that reference that in particular to designate spatial parking so that there wouldn't be a problem here and we, also, had a requirement from

See ZONING COMMITTEE.

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Video Game Giants open for business in Chicopee

Chicopee Bullion & Coin also here

By Kristin Rivers Editor krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - Video Game Giants has cut the red ribbon to officially mark its grand opening in Chicopee on March 11.

Video Game Giants is located on Center Street and buys, sells and trades anything related to gaming from video games and consoles including Atari to PS5s, used, new and pre-owned items including trading cards, Hot Wheels, action figures and plushies and many more. They started back in 2013 at a flea market and expanded out online.

It is also home to Chicopee Bullion & Coin, overseen by David Roman, located in the back of the store. Here, we have a coin shop that buys and sells silver, gold, collectible dimes and nickels, precious metals and jewelry.

The businesses occupy the space formerly belonging to the former Video Game Castle, which closed in November 2022.

Video Game Giants is open Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and closed on Sundays.

Chicopee Bullion & Coin is open Mondays through Saturdays from Noon to 6 p.m.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

An interior shot of Chicopee Bullion & Coin, located in the back of Video Game Giants.

and closed on Sundays.

Mayor John Vieau expressed excitement for the opening and thanked Luis Lopez, his wife, Jessica Quiñones, and Roman for investing in downtown.

"I wish you many years of good health and success and know that you picked the right location. It's certainly up and coming. As you can see, there's renovations happening at the Central Library, which we're hoping that becomes a hub of activity," Vieau said. "You have some wonderful neighbors and, look, these storefronts are filling up."

Quiñones expressed her gratitude.

"I just want to say thank you to all you guys who came

here. I appreciate your support and looking forward to working with each of you," Quiñones said.

Chris Gongora, communications director for State Sen Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), also presented a citation from the Massachusetts State Senate in recognition of the opening.

"Be it known that the Massachusetts Senate hereby extends its congratulations to Video Game Giants in recognition of the joyous occasion of your opening in the city of Chicopee. Be it known that the Massachusetts State Senate extends its best wishes for continued success," Gongora

Lopez was thrilled with the ribbon-cutting.

"Very excited and we never did something like this before. We either went online or we just opened up a place somewhere. It's very exciting to have a lot of officials coming in," Lopez said.

On why he chose Chicopee, Lopez explained how they were looking around for locations and Roman notified them of an open space.

"So, we got together and we opened it up to see. It has a good reputation of video games in the past, so we took that as piggyback and see, hopefully, we can revive that a little bit," Lopez said.

He was touched by the community support.

"It's wonderful. Like I said, we've been open and the community's really nice.



Chicopee Bullion & Coin, and Luis Lopez and Jessica Quiñones, the owners of Video Game Giants.

People come back and get amazed of, 'Oh, this used to be this place. Now it's Video Game Giants and we like it. We needed something in the community like this.' So, got a lot of positive (feedback)," Lopez said.

During COVID, Lopez shared he closed down for two years and switched online, stressing the importance of continuing to support local, small businesses.

"So, when people--the community--come and support us, it puts food on our table and we can actually pass down the savings that everything is going to be a little cheaper because we can afford to do that. We're not a big company with pressure businesses and employees

and all that stuff," Lopez said. "They support us, we can support the community better."

Lopez's message to the community was this.

"All I got to say is thank you for coming by everyone. Even the past week that I did open in (a) soft opening," Lopez said. "I definitely thank the community and all the people that come in to see what's going on and actually support it somehow or another."

To learn more, visit videogamegiants.com, call 413-234-9485 or check out their Facebook page at Video Games Giants.

To learn more about Chicopee Bullion & Coin, call 413-552-8119.

Fatal fire under investigation in Chicopee

Seven residents displaced from Home

CHICOPEE- A fire in a multifamily home claimed one person's life and temporarily displaced seven others, said Chicopee Fire Chief Daniel Stamborski, Chicopee Police Chief Patrick Major, State Fire Marshal Jon Davine, and Hampden County District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni.

"Our hearts go out to the family that lost a loved one today," said Chief Stambor-

Firefighters responded to the five-unit dwelling at the corner of Artisan and Chicopee streets shortly before 4:00 this afternoon. On arrival, they learned that all but one occupant had escaped safely. Firefighters located that person, an adult, deceased during a search as they attacked the fire and fought to keep it from spreading.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause and manner of the person's death and conduct a formal identification

procedure.

The origin and cause of the fire are under investigation by the Chicopee Fire Department, Chicopee Police Department, State Police assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office, and State Police assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's office. They are assisted by the Department of Fire Services' Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit.

The Red Cross of Massachusetts is assisting the displaced residents.

Elder Fraud Prevention with Liberty Bank

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.

CORRECTION



In our March 7 story about the Chicopee Family Chili Cookoff event, the incorrect photo was used to identify the winners. The photo included here is the correct photo of Stephanie Blair and the Galas Family, the winners of the cookoff. We apologize for the error.

Abbey Memorial Drive Crash Update

CHICOPEE - On Sunday February 9, 2025 at approximately 7:19 p.m. WESTCOMM Regional Dispatch received several 911 calls for a report of a motor vehicle crash involving a pedestrian on Abbey Memorial

Responding Officers located a female victim laying in the road and began life saving measures. The female, identified as Vanessa Perez of Springfield, was treated on scene by Chicopee Fire but ultimately succumb to her injuries.

Through an extensive investigation, two motor ve-

CHICOPEE - On Sun-February 9, 2025 at pect vehicles. Both vehicles were located and the operators have been identified.

Charges have been filed on both operators for their involvement in this crash.

This event was a tragic loss and we offer our condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Perez. We strongly encourage pedestrians to use caution when crossing the road, wear reflective clothing or carry a flash light at night.

As the operator of a motor vehicle, be aware of pedestrians, don't drive distracted and slow down.

Public hearing for renewal on Charter/ Spectrum Cable Services to be held

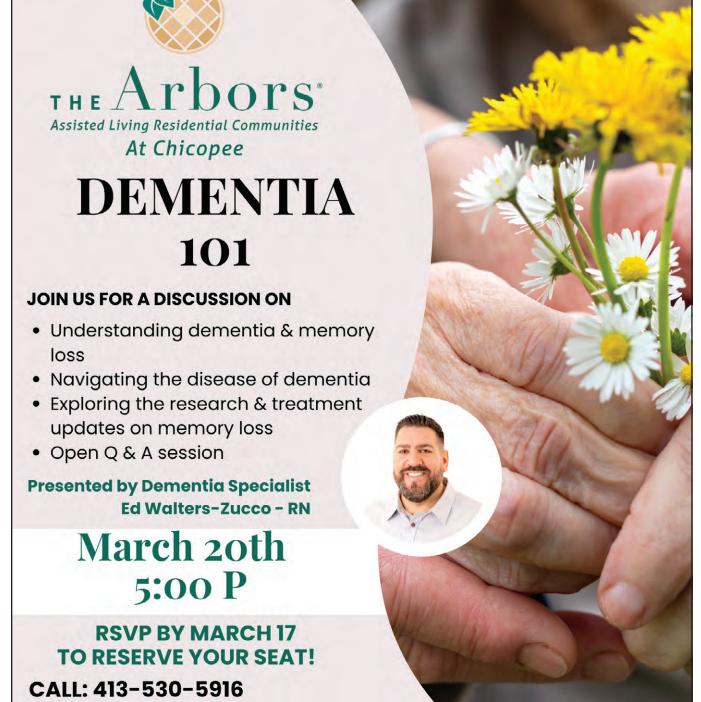
CHICOPEE - The City of Chicopee will conduct a public hearing on April 2, regarding the renewal of Charter/Spectrum Cable services. This hearing pertains solely to cable services, which will continue unchanged.

It is important to note that the city does not have the authority to regulate pricing or service costs. However, we

CHICOPEE - The City have managed to limit the increase of the public access fee to a minimal amount.

We encourage the public to attend this meeting and welcome any questions or concerns.

Date: April 2, 2025
Time: 10 a.m. – Noon
Location: City Hall Auditorium, 3rd floor, 274 Front
Street, Chicopee, MA



EMAIL: AGRAMMO@ARBORSASSISTEDLIVING.COM

Dupont Middle School eighth graders take part in mock trial, court tours

CHICOPEE - Eighth grade students at Chicopee's Sergeant Kevin A. Dupont Memorial Middle School recently participated in both a mock trial and court tour with the help of the Community Safety and Outreach Unit (CSO) of the Hampden District Attorney's Office.

Every school year, the Hampden District Attorney's Office holds their Adopt-A-Class program, opening up the justice system to students across the county to educate them about the work of the criminal justice system, as well as to present them potential career opportunities. The office selects three classes annually, with the 2024-2025 school year classes being the eighth grade at Chicopee's Dupont Middle School, Springfield International Charter School's eighth grade, and South End Middle School's eighth grade.



The program begins with an initial visit with Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni, a return visit to provide a lesson in civics, and another to participate in a trial reenactment. The program then concludes with participating classes spending a half day touring the Hampden County Hall of Justice as an invited guest of the District

Attorney. In addition to the tour, guest speakers provide insight into the different offices that make up the criminal justice system inside the courthouse, as well as showcasing career opportunities.

"By bringing civics and the legal system to life, we can foster a new generation of informed and responsible citizens who are ready to lead



and contribute positively to our society," Gulluni said.

On Friday, Feb. 28, Dupont students were joined by members of the CSO as well as two assistant district attorneys who walked them through a reading of an impaired driving case from years prior. The students chose roles they would like to play in the case - members of the



jury, witnesses, state troopers, and members of the defense and prosecution. They had the opportunity to ask questions, take the stand, and act out their parts, ultimately working toward a verdict from the

The following week, on Wednesday, March 5 and Thursday, March 6, Dupont students then took a field trip to the Roderick Ireland Courthouse in Springfield, getting a first-hand look at the facilities. Victim witness advocates, judges, court officers and other courthouse personnel engaged with students throughout their visit, offering insights into the diverse career paths that contribute to the courthouse's daily opera-

Preferred Barry School Building site presents challenges and new site under consideration

CHICOPEE - The Barry School Building Commission working with the Massachusetts School Building Authority, (MSBA), Project Manager, Colliers Project Leaders (CPL), and Designer, Caolo and Bieniek Associates, Inc. (CBA), has been conducting a feasibility study of sites for the Barry School project. The preferred location was in Garrity Grove where the current school is located. The Commission wanted to keep the school in the neighborhood and not require redistricting of the students. An assessment of the location was conducted to determine if the site would accommodate a new school.

The site assessment has found wetland soils in the proposed site which will impact the potential siting of a new school. Garrity Grove is also protected by the parkland designation under Article 97 of Massachusetts law. These challenges make use of the site difficult and questionable. As a result of the findings the Commission has asked the Project Manager and Designer to investigate other neighborhood locations. The designers evaluated four other locations as potential sites for a school.

The Building Commission recommended investigation of the Szetela School location and joining the new elementary school project in the neighborhood with the potential addition of the early childhood school. The pros and cons of the four locations were discussed and the Commission felt that the potential use of the Szetela location may avoid some of the issues with the Garrity Grove site and is nearby which would not necessitate redistricting.

The designer and project manager will work on the Szetela site assessment and coordinate with the MSBA to determine any impact of the Mayor John Vieau stat-

ed, "The feasibility study will provide us with the most cost-effective way forward, either building a separate Barry School on a usable site or the potential combination of the Barry School with the Szetela School. The determination will allow us to better prepare for the school department's future and expand our educational programs program to meet the needs of our community." The potential project, if approved, would also update the Szetela early

childhood building and provide an opportunity to address our early childhood program needs and services. School Superintendent, Dr. Ware added, "The feasibility of this potential project may provide us with the opportunity to update services, and properly plan for the education of these

We do not anticipate any substantial delay in the progress of the Barry School Building Commission or the MSBA on the project. The Building Commission will continue to work with the Project Manager and Designers to determine the best and most cost-efficient site for the

Meetings of the Barry School Building Commission are the second Thursday of every month at City Hall.

Win a trip to Rome and help **Harmony House**

CHICOPEE - Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, the home hospice patients, is sponsoring a raffle to win an all-inclusive trip for two to Rome and the Amalfi Coast from October 23, 2025 to November 2, 2025.

If you've always dreamed of a luxury vacation in Italy, now is the time to purchase a ticket and perhaps win the trip of a lifetime. Traveling with a small group and a private guide, the trip includes five nights in Maiori on the Amalfi Coast and four nights in Rome, all transportation, hotel stays, daily meals, and beverages.

This Italian sojourn is valued at over \$9,000.

The trip is sponsored by Figaro Ristorante, Italian Exclusive Vacations, and the Guiseppe Polimeni Group.

Tickets are \$100 each and can be obtained from Board members, by emailing Lisa Potito at admin@ harmonyhousewma.org, or via Venmo. The drawing will be held on June 6, 2025 and the lucky winner will be con-

It's time to brush up your Italian. Grazie Mille!

Harmony House is a local, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a loving home offering compassionate care for people who are on hospice and are in need of care. If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please complete the online volunteer application form at www.harmonyhousewma. org/volunteer-1 or email us at admin@harmonyhousewma.org.

Water Recovery Efforts

imately 12:30 a.m. on March At approximately 7 p.m. the 9, 2025, WESTCOMM Re- vehicle was removed from gional Dispatch received a the river however, it was un-911 call reporting a male party in the CT River off Walter

Responding Officers were unable to locate anyone in the river and called out our Drone Unit as well as our Under Water Response Team (URT). After searching for several hours, the search was ended.

At approximately 10:30 a.m., Officers and Detectives returned to the scene and discovered what appeared to be signs of a possible car crash at the end of Walter St. Evidence was found that led the Detectives to believe that a vehicle may have driven into the CT River.

Based on this information our URT, with the assistance of the Massachusetts State Police Dive Team, made its way to that area and

CHICOPEE - At approx- located a vehicle in the river. occupied

> The license plate on the vehicle does match that of Daniel Callahan, who was reported missing earlier in the day on March 9 in East Wind-

> At this time, we cannot confirm if Daniel was the operator of the vehicle at the time that it entered the river. With the help of the Massachusetts State Police the search for the operator will be ongoing. This is an open investigation being conducted by the Chicopee Police Crash Reconstruction Team, Hampden County District Attorney's Office, Massachusetts State Police and the East Windsor CT Police Department. As more information about this investigation becomes available, we will update our posts.

PNCU donates snacks to CPD



PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - Thank you to Polish National Credit Union for dropping off some snacks for the office. We greatly appreciate your support.

Kindergarten CHICOPEE - FREE

Ready for

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

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

Monday, Feb. 24 at Szetela Early Childhood School on 66 Macek Drive., Chicopee from 5 to 7 p.m.

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

Please register for this

Call or e-mail: Silvia at Durands@headstart.org or 413-505-9053.

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OPINION

LETTER TO EDITOR

Is Democracy Failing?

To The Editor: There is no one better to answer the question, is democracy failing? than Steve Schmidt. Mr. Schmidt is an American political and corporate strategist and co-founder of the Lincoln Project. To hear him speaking in proposition of the motion that "This House Believes America is a failing De-

"Steve Schmidt says American democracy is failing as it serves the rich and powerful not the poor." – YouTube

His lectures give us valuable insight as to where we stand and the challenges we, as a Nation, are facing in these uncertain times.

> Bill Paul, Chicopee

GUEST COLUMN

mocracy."



Did we make a mistake starting my wife's Social Security now?

Dear Rusty: I hope we haven't made a mistake.

My wife just applied for her Social Security benefit. She was born in May 1962 and the estimated amount of her benefit is \$1,280 per month. Her work income last year was \$5,616; however, mine was about \$65,000. I do not plan on taking my benefit until the age of 70 in July of 2027.

My worry now is about the penalty for earning too much. We figured that since her income was so low, we wouldn't have to worry about that penalty, so we signed her up, and then it hit me: what if they look at my income, especially since our tax return is filed as Married Filing Jointly. Do we have a problem, or are they just going to look at her income to determine if there is a penalty? I hope I haven't messed this up. Also, I think I read that any penalty you are assessed for earning too much is returned to you once you reach Full Retirement Age; is that

Signed: Uncomfortable Senior Citizen

Dear Uncomfortable Senior: First, let me ease your anxiety - you haven't "messed this up." While it's true that your income will be included when the IRS determines how much of your wife's Social Security benefits are taxable, changing your IRS filing status is usually not wise. However, considering your combined income and your "married/jointly" IRS filing status, up to 85% of the SS benefits your wife receives during the tax year will be included as part of your overall taxable income as a married couple. Your wife's monthly SS benefit is about \$1,280, so about \$13,000 annually will be included in your Adjusted Gross Income when you file your taxes. You can have income

for all of 2025. The other thing you are concerned about is

tax withheld from your

wife's SS benefit by

filing IRS Form W-4V

at your local SS office

(you can have 7%, 10%,

12% or 22% withheld).

Note your wife's tax

obligation for this year

will be less because she

will not get SS benefits

whether your income will be counted when determining if your wife will be subject to Social Security's "Annual Earnings Test" and the answer to that

is "no." At her current earnings level (about \$5,600), your wife is well below the annual earnings limit (\$23,400 for 2025) for those collecting early Social Security benefits. So, the AET will not apply and will not reduce your wife's monthly Social Security benefit. FYI, if her earnings did exceed the annual earnings limit, it is true that some of

the resulting penalty

would be recovered af-

ter she reaches her full

FRA of 67. Note the distinction between "taxation of SS benefits" and the "annual earnings test" for those collecting early benefits. Taxation of benefits is always based on your joint income when filing married/ jointly, but the Annual Earnings Test looks only at your wife's personal work earnings until she reaches her FRA.

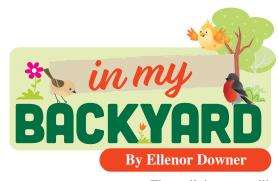
As I expect you already know, by claiming now (at age 62 plus), your wife's monthly SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced (by about 26%). Until you later claim your SS benefit, your wife will receive her reduced personal SS retirement amount. But, when you claim, her benefit amount will be reassessed to see if she is also entitled to an incremental amount as your wife. If her SS entitlement at her FRA (even though she claimed at 62+) is less than 50% of your FRA entitlement, then her benefit will increase. However, she will not get the full 50% of your FRA entitlement because she claimed her own SS retirement benefit before her FRA (more likely, she will get about 34% of your FRA entitlement).

In the end, you really did not make a mistake by filing for your wife's Social Security to start now. By the time you personally apply at age 70, your wife will have collected about \$46,000 in Social Security benefits which, I'm sure, will be helpful. And only a relatively modest amount of in-

See SOCIAL SECURITY

page 8

GUEST COLUMN



Male and female cardinal



I received an email from a Worthington resident, who reported the one male "red bird" in his yard all winter.

He said, "I feel like I know him and throw seeds to a special place he likes. His habit of showing up in the dim light of dusk and dawn almost makes him shine. He's real quiet right now, but I really look forward to hearing him as it warms up."

The red bird is also known as the northern cardinal. The male cardinal is bright red with black around the base of its red beak. The female is grayish brown above with buffy color below. Her beak is reddish and she has dark around her bill, but not as black as the male.

Both sexes have crests and are 8 1/2 inches long. Although the Worthington resident said the cardinal was quiet now, soon he will sing a series of clear repeated whistles that vary and sound like "whoit whoit whoit, cheer, cheer, cheer."

The call is a metallic "chip." Both male and female sing.

The female cardinal lays two to five buff white eggs with dark marks in a nest of twigs, bark strips, vines, leaves, rootlets and paper lined with fine grass and hair. They build their nest in dense shrubbery or among branches of small trees.

Bird watchers may witness mate feeding, a common ritual between a breeding pair. The male picks up a seed and brings it to the female. They touch beaks and his mate takes the offered seed. Mate feeding continues through egg laying and incubation.

Cardinals come to feeders. They feed either on the ground and come to platform style feeders. They prefer sunflower seeds, safflower seeds and cracked corn.

Tuesday morning I saw a female cardinal in a lilac bush. I love to see the male cardinal perched on a snow covered branch or ground especially after newly fallen snow. I have a pair of cardinals, which I usually see early in the morning or at dusk.

Red-winged black birds

resident saw a redwinged blackbird at his feeder and heard them on snow shoe recent hike by a beaver pond. He said, "They don't sound very confident and I wonder what they find down there with the pond totally frozen and the cattails denuded by the wind." He said, "The arrival of redwings is exciting for me, as I consider them our first migratory returns."

The Worthington

Bald eagle

In his email, the same resident wrote about seeing a bald eagle. He said, "Two weeks ago driving along the East Branch in Cummington, I saw an eagle lite in a dead tree, break off a small branch and fly off, hopefully to a new or repaired nest. It sure didn't feel like spring then and even today [written March3] I had zero degrees this morning." He also reports pretty good numbers of goldfinches at his feeder along with the winter regulars.

Brimfield birds

On Feb. 19, I received an email from a Brimfield resident, who sends emails on a regular basis. He said, "Hope you survived our recent bout of nasty weather. Our driveway was cleared on Sunday evening and subsequently turned into a skating rink. Fortunately I had lots of sand and rock salt and a little calcium chloride on hand. Using all of that, I was able to get our cars up and out of the driveway. Of course

beds – that contain the

heat and help them to

grow quite successful-

pepper seeds will have

been sown in moist

lightweight seed start-

ing mix and placed on

bottom neat. Seven-

ty-eight to 80 degrees

Once they sprout,

By week's end my

I had to get the frozen garage doors unstuck before I could get the cars out of the garage."

He took part in the Great Backyard Bird Count of Saturday and Sunday. He said, "I had nine species Saturday, things got a little more interesting on Sunday when there were 15 species seen including an adult sharp-shinned hawk that chased some junco into a quince bush (it missed) and a Carolina wren."

Bluebirds

He had a pair of eastern bluebirds earlier in the day on Feb. 18 and later five bluebirds showed up, two males and three females. He said, "That's the most we have ever seen in the yard. Previously we had seen a single bird a few times and a pair investigated a nesting box one year but were chased away by house wrens."

Non-bird critters

During the snow/ ice storm in February, my daughter and I saw a wet opossum digging in the snow for seeds while clearling my walk and driveway. On March 1, two of my grandchildren and I saw a porcupine in a tree while driving on our road.

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



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WEB

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Send letters to: The Chicopee Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email chicopeeregister@turley.com. 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.

Roberta McLuaid

And just like that it's spring

getting a bit ahead of myself. This coming weekend the days will feel a little longer because of Daylight Savings, when we "spring forward" an hour.

The evenings will begin to lure us outside after supper, maybe for a walk or just a look-see around the yard. For, me, one sign

Well, maybe I am of "spring" is starting my pepper seeds indoors.

They are the earliest transplants I grow at home, and I am so excited to get started!

Regular readers of the column may remember that I love growing peppers. Perhaps it is because I have the perfect spotstone edged raised

is perfect for germinating pepper seeds; at those temps I expect to see sprouting in eight

> I will place the flats within inches of my shop lights and adjust the lights as they grow. When the second set of leaves form, known as the "true leaves,"

days or so.

the pepper seedlings will find their way into six packs or their own two inch pot.

By late April or early May, they will be

more; usually a four inch pot will do. After a hardening off period, I will transplant them into the ground once it has warmed considerably- usually by June first.

given a larger pot once

A couple weeks prior to that I provide black plastic mulch on top of soil to get it pre-heated and ready for these tropic loving plants. Although

are over 20 species of pepper, just one is known to American gardeners. It goes by the Latin name Capsicum annuum. Five categories of peppers fall under this heading, but I typically grow only the sweet types.

> **See GARDEN** page 8

REALLY ?! THEY HOLD TRADE OUR MORE GOLD POTS FOR ACCORDING TO CAR POTHOLES? REPAIR SHOPS! DAVE GRANUND® www.davegranlund.com

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 report-

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

ers cover political rallies or fundraisers.



From the left, Colleen Court Members Wilmette Cumba, Meghan Oxley, Chicopee Colleen Daiana Torres and Colleen Court Members Hannah O'Neil and Emma Caproni smile for a fun photo with the kids who attended this year's Colleen Gathering in Chicopee.

ing "all the happy faces" and

COLLEENS from page 1

together," Shumsky said. "It's a great overall event for everybody."

Haslam and Shumsky were elated with the turnout, with Shumsky enjoying see-

munity coming together as

"The warm weather's coming, spring is arriving and St. Patrick's Day still has a very deep meaning in this

Haslam enjoying the com-"It was perfect, it was

daylight savings time last year, it's daylight savings time again this year. We're here to spring forward and continue on with our march." Haslam said.

part of the region," Shumsky

Haslam emphasized events like this also continue those deep-rooted traditions.

"It's great to have everyone come together. It is a great networking event as well and we're starting to see some collections of tartan, intermingling. So it's great to see all the pride and the colors, but, also, in the spirits of the girls that are representStudents from the Black Rose Academy of Irish Dance in sync during an Irish step dance routine. From the left, Dave Haslam,

a member of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Committee and chairman for this year's Colleen Gathering, Denise Noble, a member and past president of the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, and Sam Shumsky, member of the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Committee and Ward 6 City Councilor.

ing their own community," Haslam said.

Shumsky added community plays a big role as well.

'Not only is it great for the Colleens--going back to my previous comment about how it's great for them and the other Colleens--but it's great for just Chicopee as a whole. You're getting all different towns and cities, Agawam, West Side (West Springfield), Springfield, Holyoke. You have all these cities that may not come to Chicopee often or may not even know about this wonderful place," Shumsky said. "So, it's a great opportunity for them to get to experience

part of Chicopee's culture."

Haslam and Shumsky look forward to seeing the crowds and families coming together for the parade, expressing gratitude for everyone coming out for the

"Thank you for having us. This is, obviously, a great event. There's so many happy people here. We're getting ready for the Irish step dancers right now, so it's just we're able to come together

and it's really nice we're able to do so here," Haslam said.

Page 5

"It's great to have so much representation here in the city of Chicopee. It's great that we have so many partners in the other cities and towns that are coming here to celebrate the Irish heritage and it's, overall, great for local businesses and it's great for people to network with people you may not regularly see," Shumsky said.



Irish Thunder of Springfield performs festive Irish music at the Colleen Gathering, which was held at the Portuguese American Club.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ Attendees, including the Chicopee Colleen and Court, get in on the fun during the Colleen Gathering on March 9.





PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ

A group shot of the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee; Chicopee was this year's host for the Colleen Gathering.

SOURDOUGH from page 1

needs

"The fun of baking, especially with sourdough, is it's like an endless journey and you're always on a quest for improving things and making things better. So that's something that I really enjoy doing and why I started the website to kind of empower people to read at home and feel like they could use it as a source for all information about sourdough. Sourdough can be kind of mystical for a lot of people and I really want to help clarify some of that baking process. I want everyone to succeed," Brandon said. "I am a one man show, I don't have artificial intelligence writing my recipes or others working for me, I take all the photos and coordinate all of the social media. Everything that you see on the website is from my home kitchen, it's the type of connection that keeps people coming back to the website."

Brandon ended by saying, "The most important your sourdough needs.

step is just knowing how to maintain your starter, if you have a healthy starter then you're going to create an excellent bread. That's where it all comes down to and that's what the workshop focuses on."

And if you missed the presentation, attendees were given their own piece of Brandon's famous sourdough starter, a gift that keeps on growing...literally!

Learn more at sourdoughbrandon.com for all







A wide shot of attendees having a blast with Irish music, mouth-watering food, and good company.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER from page 1

er half supports the work the Friends do, whose main goal is to support the events and activities Executive Director Sherry Manyak puts together.

"The 50-50 raffle was a huge success and people had a great time, a great start and great kick-off to the St. Patrick's season! Sherry and her staff do such a good job with the decorations, it was very festive. I was in my office the other day and a lady came in and was telling me how great the dinner was, she had an awesome time and it's things like that we like to hear," Wilk decked out with green decorations, Banish Misfortune was in the front of the room for easy viewing and listening, and guests had the option to eat and dance throughout the night.

When asked why seniors should consider joining the RiverMills, Wilk kept mentioning how great of a place the RiverMills is.

"You can come and see your friends and make new friends. For those who might be older and alone, you'll have company. You'll have people who share the same interests as you do, there's so much to do. Just looking at the calendar, the weekly to

The dining room area was monthly calendar of events, you'll see there's a workout facility. There's yoga, dancing, two-dollar lunches which you can't beat, there's the gift shop for your bargain shopping needs," Wilk said. "There's a Travel Club, people who came and did people's taxes, we had the police department come and talk about scams, different banking organizations talk about protecting your money. If you like puzzles, we have puzzle areas. If you like computers, there are computer areas. If you like games, there are games!"

> Wilk encouraged residents to stop by and partake in other ways to enjoy the senior center beyond the activities.

> "Even if you don't want to do that and sit with other people, talk and watch the television, there's a cafe to do that too. Every now and again, there's pop-up events that will happen that serve different coffee and snacks from local places. Since I've been president and hanging

A shot of happy attendees celebrating Irish pride, heritage



everyone to the dinner.

Smiling for the group shot, members and guests were happy to smile and show off their green in this photo.

around here at the center, there is really a lot to do and it's awesome to see everybody socializing, meeting up and talking. Seeing everyone participate in all the fun activities, it makes me happy, that's what you want to see. It motivates me to try harder to raise more for Sherry so more of these events can happen," Wilk said.

Check out the senior center newsletter or call 413-534-3698 to learn more about upcoming events.



Mike Wilk, president of the Friends of RiverMills, welcomes

A closeup shot of the dinner seniors enjoyed at the St. Patrick's Day Dinner on March 6.



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ZONING COMMITTEE from page 1

the fire department regarding proposals as well," Balakier said.

Balakier said the applicant went back and went through a designated site plan specifically for those spatial parking requirements, with eight spots delineated or designated for the auto body area and "close to 30 designated for the proposed towing area."

"Now, the regulation regarding this particular section of zoning requires at least 10 parking spaces. So, we were careful in making sure that everything was designated so that there wouldn't be any cross-referencing." Balakier

Parking itself was also discussed, with Balakier explaining this concern was "because West Street is a busy street and there's multiple-family dwellings there as well" and the previous business there was "in business for over 40 years, so it was not necessarily a new business that was coming in."

From there, the ward chair for that particular area, along with the police department was consulted, with Balakier adding the captain for the Traffic Bureau "did not have major concerns with that particular area as well."

After the Zoning Committee members went back and forth in the discussion, all members voted in favor of approving the application.

> **Councilor Comments** Ward 2 Councilor Shane

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Chicopee Register

Brooks expressed he had "significant concerns about the parking on West Street on a good day, let alone if a business is operating out of that location.'

"I've seen towing trucks parked on West Street. I've seen disabled vehicles parked on West Street, and for that reason, I will not be supporting this tonight," Brooks said.

Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie said as this was a special permit, they can be called in when they don't follow the rules.

"So, if they don't follow the rules, we'll call in a special permit," Labrie said.

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner planned to vote in favor as he had received no phone calls or emails from residents.

"We had one person that owned a few apartment buildings in the area show up and that's the extent of the opposition that we received. I understand that there's significant parking concerns and I think that there's a time and a place for us to address all these parking concerns," Wagner said.

Wagner next noted American urban planning and how many people--especially if an adult or 16 or older-have a car, which "can lead to some pretty tight parking on streets that weren't necessarily designed to handle all of that," and thought "there's a place for us down the road to try to address that parking."

"But, I don't think it should be at the hindrance of a business that has been nothing but a benefit to the community and to whom we've received minimal opposition or complaints about in the past few days and over the course of over--including full Council meetings--about five meetings now," Wagner said. "The stuff that's coming out of the woodwork late in the game, frankly, I suspect is not entirely genuine in some of its concerns, but that's a discussion for other people to have.'

When Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne asked for insight on the opposition, Balakier cited an owner of one of the apartment buildings whose people had some concerns, which Wagner referred to earlier.

"With the exception, really, of this gentleman who owns an apartment building, there was nobody else there, Balakier said.

When Brooks pointed out how Balakier said "he had been set up there for a couple of years," Balakier clarified the owner had been in business for over 40 years.

"But then it's my understanding that he has retired and the business has slowed down there, so that given the fact that he'd been there 40 years. The people had a good understanding (of) the way, especially the way how things worked in that neighborhood," Balakier said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello said in listening to the comments, she was concerned "in regards to what the local ward councilor has to say."

"We always have that history of 'Let's listen to what the ward councilor says,' because nobody knows the ward--the traffic situation, the parking situation--as well as the ward councilor, and that's always a game changer in any debate in regards to a special permit or in regards to a zone change," Costello said. "I am thinking seriously about this. However, I have to take into consideration the comments by the local ward councilor and his concerns because this is his ward, these are his constituents, these are his concerns."

Later, Brooks spoke a third time after a move was made to suspend rules, asking his earlier question about what business was operating there and noting how some people in that area "can barely find a place to park.'

"It is not the right place or right time for this business to go there and I get the whole model of business development and generating new tax revenue. I've gotten over 25 calls saying that people do not want this on West Street and they're done with dealing with that," Brooks

From there, the question was moved and voted on, leading to the defeat.

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Joseph Guzman gets the jump shot.

Chicopee 7/8 falls in title game

BELCHERTOWN - Chicopee's 7/8 boys youth basketball team fell in the Suburban Finals against Longmeadow on Saturday, March 8. Longmeadow defeated Chicopee 70-42 in that final matchup held at Belchertown High School. Chicopee defeated Holyoke and Wilbraham to reach the



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM Yadner Rivera makes his way down the court.



Cayden Jimenez heads down the court



Jayce Johnson shoots under pressure.

Wrestlers complete tournament competition

come to an end and several area teams crowned champions at the sectional and state levels.

In the Division 2 state tournament, Max Holloway took home a state title at 215 pounds. Stella Christopher won a state title in the girls meet while Gabriella Ramos was a runner-up. Minnechaug's Kal Ly won Gormally had runner-up fin-132-pound while John Bermudez was a runner-up at heavyweight. Holyoke's Steven Santiago finished second in D2 at 120 pounds.

Ludlow's Lucas Alvan was a state champion in the Division 3 meet at 175 pounds.

In the sectionals held last month, Agawam had a big day with multiple placers. They had four champions. Ryan Sexton at 150, Max Holloway at 215, and Jordin Agosto at 126 all took home titles. Cole Ingham was a runner up at 175, as was Kaleb Progulske at 106. Keymani Rivera (157),

Wrestling season has and Tyler Gervais (190) both took third place. Agawam would finish third overall in the meet with 204 points.

> Minnechaug was the second-place finisher behind champion West Springfield with 213 points. They had two champions, Kal Ly at 132 pounds and John Bermundez at 285. Matthew Macphail and Hunter ishes. The Falcons had third place finisher and five fourth-place finishers.

Chicopee's Michael Jenkins placed second at 144 pounds.

In the Division 3 Western Mass. tournament at Mt. Greylock, Belchertown, which returned its program to varsity status this season, saw Jack Bergerson finish fourth at 175 pounds and Evan Perkins finish fifth at 150 pounds. Brogan Bottari also took fifth place at 120

Ludlow, Granby, Quabbin, and Pathfinder partic-

See WRESTLING page 8

Streets of Holyoke set for 10K Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE - The rich tradition that is the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race will make its return next Saturday, March 22. This will be the 48th running of the popular

Louis Serafini was the big winner of last year's event. He completed the very hilly, 6.2-mile course in 30:12. Serafini is from Cambridge.

The top female was a local runner from Western Massachusetts. Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, came across the finish line at 37:00.

Ryan Davis, of South Hadley, was one of the top local finishers at 34:36. He was

20th overall. This year's race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick's Day Road Race as practice for the



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

The runners are off in the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race.

marathon because of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

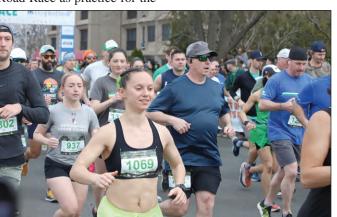
Of the more than 6,000 runners who were registered, 4,442 finished the 10K course last year. Race officials have said the participation level in the event is still rebounding from the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, race participants totaled about 7,000. The race was not held in 2020 and 2021 before it returned in 2022 with around 5,000 participants. More made their way out to the race last year, but that number was surpassed this year.

Because of that, the start of the race featured multiple

waves, though 4RUN3 ran the bibs and electronic results kept accurate results for all those involved.

A number of this year's participants were featured in the usual celebratory costumes and outfits for St. Patrick's Day, while many others

See ROAD RACE page 8



The wave of runners head down the first stretch of the 6.2-mile



The pace truck makes its way across the finish line followed by state police, which escorts the first set of runners.

Valley Wheel tryouts set for next month

Players looking to join the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League can attend the tryouts beginning Sunday April 6. The time and location of the tryout is to be determined.

The league, which plays its games in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, makes sure that everyone gets a fair share of the action. Everyone plays a minimum of 4 innings in the field, and everyone bats. The league follows MLB rules with some modified rules adapted with safety in mind.

The Valley Wheel stands apart from other leagues across the country for this reason:

Their league charter and one of their main goals, is to work toward having a Baseball.org.

league with teams of equal strength.

The league is now seeking new players to fill open roster slots. Enjoy the competition and camaraderie with a great group of guys who enjoy the game as much as you do. Stay in shape and make new friends. Be part of something that happens once a year, and with luck, win a championship that might be once in a lifetime. Grab your glove and cleats and join a team for a great adventure.

It's not too late don't miss out; opening day is just around the corner.

For more information, contact Jim Nason at 413-433-4308 or visit the website www.ValleyWheel-

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

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 preseason continues.

SPORTS

T-Birds beat Islanders, move toward playoff berth

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (30-20-2-4)blitzed the Bridgeport Islanders (12-38-4-3) for five unanswered goals in the final 40 minutes to pull away with a 5-2 win on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena.

For a third straight game, the T-Birds were slow out of the gates, forcing Vadim Zherenko to be tested early and often in the first period, as 14 of the first 18 shots in the game went to the Islanders. Marshall Warren broke the levee 12:47 into the game with a wrist shot that eluded Zherenko through traffic, giving Bridgeport a 1-0 lead.

After the T-Birds were forced to go down a man on a post-whistle roughing penalty, Liam Foudy made Springfield pay with his seventh goal of the season series at 14:45 to buoy the Isles lead

Springfield finally got pressure on Hunter Miska's net in the closing minutes, finishing the period with the final six attempts on goal, but the Bridgeport netminder remained perfect, stopping all 10 T-Birds shots in the first 20 minutes.

Zherenko was timely in the opening half of the second period as the Islanders continued to mount a push to extend the lead. The Springfield backstop shined, with a pair of odd-man stops off Jack Randl and Adam Beckman to maintain the 2-0 score.

The T-Birds finally snapped out of their offensive zone funk at 10:31 as, on his 31st birthday, MacKenzie MacEachern turned in the high slot and flipped a shot toward Miska's net that got a friendly deflection from Nikita Alexandrov before finding the twine. Alexandrov's 16th goal in just 33 games cut the Bridgeport lead in half, 2-1.

Like the Islanders did in the first, Springfield went to a power play and struck for the second time in as many minutes as Dalibor Dvorsky returned from retrieving a new stick on the bench and beat Miska under the crossbar at 12:17 for his ninth power-play goal of the season. The game-tying goal brought Dvorsky into a tie among AHL rookies in man-advantage tallies.

The tie score carried into the final period, and the power play came up with the difference-making play as Matt Luff sent a puck perfectly into the paint, where Matthew Peca guided it past Miska just 1:17 into the third to give Springfield its first lead, 3-2. Peca's 26th of the season eventually became the game-winner, giving the captain his second game-deciding goal in as many days, an 11-game point streak, and the AHL lead in game-winning

Samuel Johannesson picked up assists on both of the T-Birds' power-play goals, giving him 15 helpers on the man advantage for the season, tied for fifth most in the AHL. Corey Schueneman also had a two-assist night from the T-Birds' blue

> Springfield's special

teams were not finished, as just over five minutes after the Peca goal, Otto Stenberg retrieved a loose puck at the offensive blue line and fed a perfect blind pass to spring Hugh McGing on a shorthanded breakaway. McGing delivered the finishing strike through Miska, making it 4-2 at 6:22 of the third.

Bridgeport's power play could not make up the difference on a late chance, and Dvorsky capped the five-goal run with an empty-netter in the final minute to cap off the

Zherenko completed a magnificent bounce-back performance with 36 saves for his 10th victory of the season and fourth in his last five starts.

With their magic number down to 18 in pursuit of a Calder Cup playoff berth, the T-Birds begin a threegame weekend on Friday as they make their lone visit to Upstate Medical University Arena against the Syracuse Crunch for a 7:00 p.m. puck

IN THE CITY

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, of 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

GARDEN from page 4

Green when immature, sweet bell peppers ripen to a rainbow of colors: yellow, orange, red, purple, ivory and even chocolate brown. We eat them in the green stage more so than when fully ripe, and that's a shame. A little patience and a week or two longer in the garden will yield a sweet treat.

If I had to choose only one variety to grow it would be AAS award winner "Carmen," bred right in Maine at Johnny's Selected Seed. Numerous six inch by two and a half inch red peppers make an appearance beginning in late July and continue through the first frost.

Yes, I did say "late July!" If I'd dare to guess at the total yield of peppers per plant, one dozen would be a fair estimate. They are great fresh, frozen or fire roasted!

Renee's Garden sells a lovely little pepper by the name of "Yummy Belles." The description is accurate when they say that the plants are "highly productive" and "load up" with lots of little three to four inch bright orange peppers.

They call them snack peppers, and they are just that. Make a decadent snack by filling with veggie cream cheese, or stick to healthier eating by adding one or two to a personal salad.

Paprika peppers also fall into the sweet pepper category. Fruits are up to six inches long and three inches wide at the top and come to a blunt point.

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

Dry and grind to make your own paprika spice in a coffee grinder. Indispensable when sprinkled on deviled

Frying or pickling peppers go by the names Sweet Banana, Sweet Hungarian, or Cubanelle among others. They are good candidates for frying because of their thin walls and scant water content

Sweet Banana was noted in 1941 as an All American Selections winner and is still growing strong 60+ years later!

Pimento peppers are those used to stuff with green olives. My Italian husband just loves it when his sister Denise makes this holiday treat!

They grow a squatty three by four inches and are ripe when red or orange, depending on variety. Expect these to take a bit longer than the other types, a full 85 or more days from transplant to harvest.

If you too are a pepper lover, and want to see the earliest yields possible, get ready, get set, and get sowing those pepper seeds!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

nancial guidance. It presents

the opinions and interpreta-

Railers fall to Lions in weekend finale

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC - The Worcester Railers HC (27-24-2-4 60pts) lost to the Trois-Rivières Lions (38-12-4-2, 82pts), on Sunday afternoon by a final score of 3-1 in front of a crowd of 2,684 at the Colisée Videotron. The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center on Thursday, March 13th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

Trois-Rivières scored first Sunday afternoon as Isaac Dufort (1-0-1) gave the Lions a 1-0 lead followed by a Tyler Hylland (1-0-1) shorthanded goal. Worcester answered back with a shorthanded goal of their own, as it was Tyler Kobryn (1-0-1) who cut the Lions lead to one. Anthony Beauregard (1-0-1) finished off the scoring with an empty net goal, leading to the 3-1 Trois-Rivières

Despite Worcester outshooting Trois-Rivières 14-5 in the first period, it was the Lions who went into the second period with a 2-0 lead. It was Isaac Dufort (11th) who scored the first Lions goal 7:15 into the first period on a loose puck in the slot. Tyler Hylland (10th) then scored a shorthanded goal on the rush off of a Worcester turnover 18:47 into the first. The Railers brought in Michael Bullion in from the bench for Hugo Ollas following the second Lions goal after allowing two goals on five shots faced.

The Railers got on the board in the second period with a shorthanded score of their own. Tyler Kobryn (7th) made it a 2-1 game 15:42 into the second period. Despite power play opportunities for both sides neither team was able to net another goal in the second.

Shots favored Worcester 13-7 in the second. The Railers had two

power play opportunities to tie this one up in the third but were not able to capitalize on the man advantage. Later in the period Railers sent Michael Bullion to the bench in an attempt to tie the game up late in the third but Anthony Beauregard (23rd) was able to jump a pass and score on the empty Worcester net to give the game its 3-1 final score. Shots favored Worcester 17-11 in the third and 46-25 in the game.

WRESTLING from page 7

ipate in the Central Mass. Championship meet. Ludlow's Lucas Alvan took first place at 175 pounds while Noah Simard was second at 150. Ryan Gomes had a third-place finish at 126 oounds.

Quabbin's top finisher was Abe Brown at 126

pounds. He finished in second place. Three others, Brady Dennis at 215, Brent Benoit at 132, and Cole Wilson at 150, all took fourth

place in the meet. Pathfinder had one placer, which was Dominic Jerry at 165 pounds. Granby's Nathan Benson finished fifth at 113 pounds.

ROAD RACE from page 7

opted for cartoon and other fictional characters, such as Spider-Man. Several local running clubs also made their way to the race, as did the youth of the region. Youth participants in the young as seven-years-old.

Security was in full

force at the event with plenty of presence from the Massachusetts State Police, Holyoke Police, and Hampden County Sheriff's Department, and the event went off without any incidents.

If you're still looking to participate in this year's race, go to www.holyokestpatricksroadrace.org.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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. HD25P0463EA Estate of: **Deborah Ann Hartnett** Date of Death: 02/18/2025 CITATION ON PETITION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Joseph D Hartnett of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

FOR FORMAL

ADJUDICATION

The Petitioner requests that: Joseph D Hartnett of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised adminis-

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 04/03/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE **MASSACHUSETTS** UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 06, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 03/14/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street** Springfield MA, 01103 Docket No. HD23P2445PM In the matter of: **Ira Clemons** of Chicopee, MA Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S

ACCOUNT To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the First and Final account(s) of Alison M Bartlett-O'Donald of Holyoke, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **03/28/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which

each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

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

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 21, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 03/14/2025

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 follow-

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 Eversource Powerline Easement to make zoning consistent with Industrial Zoning designations on abutting properties. Applicant - UFPT MA, LLC, 100 Hale Street, Newburyport, MA

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council webhttps://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/Pend-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. HD25P0464EA

Estate of: Theresa A. Cavanaugh Date of Death: 04/28/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL

ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Andrew R. Cavanaugh of Ludlow, 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: Andrew R. Cavanaugh of Ludlow, 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 04/03/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION **UNDER THE** MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: March 6, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 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 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 Uzhca 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 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 WMWSU3C59BT183919 Sheik Mohammad 3 Avalon Pl., Apt. 2 Worcester, MA 01609

2013 Nissan Sentra 3N1AB7AP2DL687271 Charles Neel 3 Algonquin D., Queensbury, NY 12804 2013 GMC Acadia SLE 1GKKVNED4DJ191204 Austin Dean 97 Robinson Hill Rd. North Franklin, CT 06254

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

2006 Honda Accord Se 1HGCM55376A023068 JC Reliable Tow Service Corp 47 Fruit Ext.

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

Milford, MA 01757

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 28th 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.

2012 Subaru Impreza VIN: JF1GJAH68CH006862 Anthony Ellington-Viner 50 Campechi St, Springfield, MA 01104

2005 Nissan Armada SE/LE VIN: 5N1AA08B35N728909 Krystal Hilton 567 Putnam Pike Greenville, RI, 02828

2004 Chevrolet Silverado VIN: 1GCEK14X14Z247011 Miguel Avila 321 Eastern St Apt A802 New Haven, CT 06513 03/14, 03/21, 03/28/2025

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. HD25P0484EA

Estate of: Elaine Helen Jamison Also known as: Elaine O Jamison, **Elaine Orszak Jamison** Date of Death: 01/22/2025

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL **ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Matthew J Jamison 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: Matthew J Jamison 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 04/04/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION **UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS** UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Date: March 07, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 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. HD25P0457EA **Estate of:**

Deanna May Martin Date of Death:09/17/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Stephen R. Bode of West Springfield, 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: Stephen R. Bode of West Springfield, 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 04/09/2025. 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.

Page 9

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: March 05, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 03/14/2025

Commonwealth of

Massachusetts

The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P0356EA **Estate of:** James Matthew Robinson Also Known As: James M. Robinson Date of Death: January 8, 2025 INFORMAL PROBATE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Lisa A. Robinson of Chicopee, MA.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Lisa A. Robinson of Chicopee. MA

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court, Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 03/14/2025

> See more legals! on page 11





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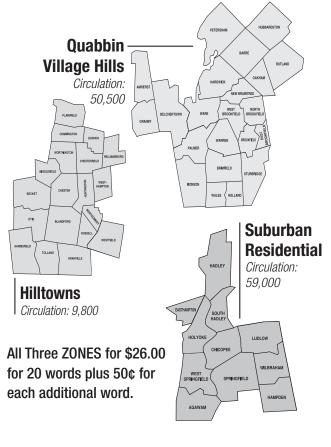
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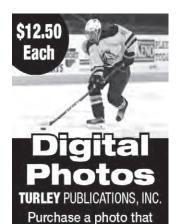
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about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



recently ran in one of

our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/

photo-request

CPL announces upcoming programming

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 Talk

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Hampden Probate and Family Court** 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD23P2495PM In the matter of: Karen Sprenkle of Chicopee, MA Protected Person/ **Disabled Person/Respondent** CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S

ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the First and Final account{s} of Nancy Godboutof Granby, MA as Conservator of

the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/11/2025. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date,

action may be taken in this mat-

ter without further notice to you,

including the allowance of the

account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you. IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Court.
Date: March 07, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccamoni Register of Probate 03/14/2025

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 distance 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 suball 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.

lication. 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 Rouisse, 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

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 Rouisse, 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

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Enhancing community engagement through free Ukulele instruction at CPL

By Isaiah Vargas Rossi Correspondent

CHICOPEE - Ukuleles can be regarded as a very welcoming instrument for all and great for beginners, offering a simple and accessible introduction to music.

On Feb. 18, the library hosted free ukulele lessons led by Julie Stephanek Murray, providing a unique opportunity for the community to explore the instrument.

The program consisted of three sessions, set for different age groups.

The first session, designed for children under seven, was a story-time experience involving the ukulele, primarily aimed at engagement and introducing the instrument to younger kids.

The second session was focused on kids aged eight to 12, and the last session welcomed teens and adults.

These hands-on lessons were aimed at beginners, ensuring those who hadn't even picked up a ukulele before felt comfortable.

equipment

provided, removing any barriers for those who are interested in learning. Participants started on the basics, starting with guidance around the ukulele and beginner knowledge, then onto chords and techniques. strumming The overall lesson was designed to establish a curiosity in ukuleles and allow students to continue practicing on their

Why the ukulele?

ukulele stands out as the best for beginners for several reasons. Unlike other instruments, the ukulele is easy for beginners to learn and has a gentle learning curve, making it easier for more to develop confidence.

Stephanek Murray explains this accessibility.

"It's so much easier. I played the guitar for a decade of serious study and I was so barely mediocre -- but the ukulele, I do believe, wants me to succeed and it is very nice about it," Stephanek Murray said.

Beyond its ease of learning, the ukulele is also an instrument that can be seen as light in dark times. Stephanek Murray reflected on past students who found comfort in playing the ukule-

"I taught kids whose parents told me later, when their kids were teens and they couldn't really get them to communicate, and they'd be locked in their room, they would hear them playing their ukulele, so they knew it was okay," Stephanek Murray said.

The instrument is very affordable—compared to other instruments-and that plays into its large appeal and pop-

Even in tough economic times, ukuleles still sell due to their low cost and appeal to, truly, all ages. Also, the mechanics can be transferred to other stringed instruments without being as difficult as other instruments, as Stephanek Murrary pointed

"I can teach a kid all these things and they can do it on a ukulele, and then in a few years they get a guitar -they're going to be like, oh,

same mechanism, much harder, not as cool, but they can still do it," Stephanek Murrary

The ukulele can just be enjoyed by all.

The Library's Commitment to **Community Engagement**

The Chicopee Public Library often hosts similar events and has a wide range of topics. In addition to hosting lessons like this, the library has ukuleles available for checkout, allowing for anyone to continue practicing at

The library encourages participation in these events all the time as they not only bring the community together but introduce new hobbies and

Interestingly, Stephanek Murray's passion for teaching started in a library setting.

She started working in the library as she believes it's truly one of the best institutions us humans have created.

A Lifelong Passion for Music For Stephanek Mur-

munities not just in Chicopee, but across several states. Stephanek Murray explains how she enjoys it. "It was fun. It's really nice to be of service -- but when you teach somebody how to make their own music,

then you are really providing

a service." Stephanek Murray

reflected.

ray, teaching is more than just a hobby, but a career

and passion. She has dedi-

cated her time to spreading

this passion of hers to com-

Fairview Cemetery announces Spring Cleanup

CHICOPEE Chicopee Parks and Recreation Department will begin cleanup of the Fairview Cemetery beginning the week of March 17. The Fairview Cemetery Commission and Parks Department asks that all families please remove grave decorations by Sunday, March 16, 2025. Once the cleanup begins all remaining decorations will be removed and discarded

Artificial grave ornaments, artificial flowers, enclosures of any kind, and new plantings in the ground are not allowed as they are hazardous to both visitors and workers. Holiday pots and boxes will only be allowed during the Memorial Day and Holiday seasons.

The Fairview Cemetery Commission and Cemetery Staff would also like to re-

mind the public and families owning lots in the cemetery that planting any shrubs or other plantings in the ground is prohibited.

For a complete list of Fairview Cemetery rules and regulations, fees and charges, and monument policies, please visit www. chicopeema.gov/384/Fairview-Cemetery or call the Parks and Recreation Office at 594-3481.



Kamp for Kids to celebrate 50 years of summer fun for all abilities with a Golf FUN-raiser on April 10

SPRINGFIELD Kamp for Kids, a summer day camp for children and young adults with and without disabilities, has planned a season of special celebrations in honor of the camp's 50th Anniversary, starting with a Golf FUN-raiser event on Thursday, April 10, 2025, from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Max's Swing Lounge, located at 1000 Columbus Av-

enue in Springfield. The Golf FUN-raiser event will bring together supporters, community mem-

for 50 years of growth, inclusion, and joy for children and young adults of all abilities. Proceeds from the Golf FUN-raiser will directly benefit Kamp for Kids, helping to ensure that the camp continues to thrive for years to

Tickets are \$100 and include access to the driving range, mini golf, appetizers, two drinks, and the chance to win exciting contests and prizes. Tickets can be purchased at kamp50.eventbrite. com. Sponsorship Opportubers, campers and friends to nities are also available for begin a season of celebration businesses and individuals.

Those interested in sponsoring this event should reach out to Kelly Brown at Kelly. Brown@BHNInc.org or 413-654-0930. Sponsorships can also be made on the event website, Kamp50. EventBrite.com.

1975 by Dick and Judy Hoyt, Kamp for Kids was created to offer an inclusive camp experience for their son, Rick, who had cerebral palsy, and his brothers without disabilities. Over the years, the Hoyts

Founded in

have championed disability inclusion, inspiring countless families worldwide. Today, Kamp for Kids continues to honor their legacy,

demonstrating that every child-regardless of ability-deserves the chance to participate in meaningful,

fun, and edu-

cational experi-

ences. Located 1n Westfield, Kamp for Kids serves children and young adults ages 5-22, both with and without disabilities,

hailing from cities and towns throughout Western Massachusetts. Each summer, the camp provides a unique environment for growth and inclusion, offering activities such as expressive arts, outdoor education, arts & crafts, non-competitive sports, and a spray park-all designed to create a sense of belonging and joy for every camper. Kamp for Kids operates during the summer months, serving about 150 campers in three sessions.

"Kamp for Kids is celebrating 50 years of creating a space where every child, re-

gardless of ability, can grow, learn, and have fun together," said Anne Benoit, Program Director of Kamp for Kids. "We're excited to celebrate this milestone and look forward to many more years of providing life-changing experiences that foster inclusion, friendship, and personal growth." BHN has been provid-

ing behavioral health services to children and families in Western Massachusetts since 1938.

The agency provides community-based services that include innovative, integrated whole-health models as well as traditional clinical and outpatient and therapeutic services, day treatment, addiction services, crisis intervention and residential supports.



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53 Ware Road, Belchertown Email: Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com



Week 2: July 7 - 11

Week 3: July 14 - 18



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Week 4: July 21 - 25 Week 1: June 30 - July 3 Week 6: August 4-8 Week 5: July 28 - August 1 Week 7: August11-15

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