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COMMUNITY



A volunteer smiles as she fills a car during the 'Feeding Minds and Bodies' Campaign event at the Chicopee Boys & Girls Club.

'Feeding Minds and Bodies' Campaign returns to Chicopee

The event took place at the Boys & Girls Club

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The "Feeding Mind and Bodies" Campaign through Price Rite Marketplace, in partnership with Feed the Children, the Boys & Girls Club and Pepsi, returned to Chicopee on May 16.

This marks the campaign stop's second year at the Chicopee Boys & Girls Club to help feed and support 400 families, who received a 25-pound box of food, a 15-pound box of personal care items, a backpack filled with school supplies, a collection of children's books, a case of water and a Price Rite gift card.

The event included remarks from Kevin McDonnell, president of Price Rite Marketplace, Joe Allegro, senior director of Corporate Partnerships at Feed the Children, Chloe Soto, communications and special projects manager for the City of Chicopee on behalf of Mayor John Vieau, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Jason Reed and State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield).

Afterward, volunteers worked together to fill lines of cars with boxes of food and essentials.

Arriaga stressed addressing food insecurity and how the event will impact the community, including the children.

"Too many times we talk about the issues that are facing our communities, but that's all we do. We just

simply talk. So, when you see great organizations such as Price Rite Marketplace, Boys & Girls Club and our community stakeholders coming together to do something about that, it just talks about the strength that lies in our community and our people and the goodness that lies in our hearts," Arriaga said.

Gomez shared he and his family shop at Price Rite and "a lot of our community members look at Price Rite as a place where you can get your food and not pay so much for it."

"I want to thank all of you that traveled in the rain to be here to feed our children. We know how impactful it is when it comes to food insecurity and that's something that myself and the state delegation here

Please see **FEEDING**, page 3



A photo of the Abbey Brook Revitalization Project ongoing at Szot Park in Chicopee, one of several projects with funding approved by the City Council on May 21.

Council accepts funds for sanitation vehicles repairs, Abbey Brook Revitalization Project

Also, funds for ambulance billing

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - City Council accepted funding for sanitation vehicles repairs, the Abbey Brook Revitalization Project and ambulance billing on May 21.

Chief of Staff Michael Pise read the mayor's orders on behalf of Mayor John Vieau this week.

For the new sanitation vehicles, \$60,000 would be appropriated to the Central Maintenance Special Account for repairs to vehicles from available funds in the Undesignated Fund Balance "Free Cash" account.

Pise explained the order concerns the repair of central maintenance sanitation trucks.

"Our trucks are getting old. They're in need of repair. We've ordered new trucks but they haven't been come in yet," Pise said. "So, the DPW's trying to keep these vehicles on the road."

Assistant DPW Superintendent John Beaulieu said there are side loaders on order, which have not arrived yet, and took on the delivery of one being worked on at Central Maintenance currently.

"So, this is just the trucks are getting older. They're eating up all the repairs that we had in there and this will

Please see **COUNCIL**, page 6

Residents speak out on safety, discipline issues in district: a follow-up

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - An English teacher at Chicopee Comprehensive High School believes more vice principals are needed to help curb violence and uphold discipline in the city's schools.

Last week, several public comments were shared during the May 15 School Committee meeting regarding safety and discipline concerns.

Comp English teacher Gina Potorski Dahl believes hiring more vice principals is needed. She thinks the additional hirings at the high school "provide crucial disciplinary support that teachers need."

Potorski Dahl noted the schools "are under enormous pressure to avoid traditional disciplinary consequences such as suspension" and alternative discipline "is even more time-consuming."

"If we are serious about maintaining a learning environment that doesn't devolve into chaos, then positions that provide support to teachers must be made permanent," Potorski Dahl said. "The VP job during the school day is almost exclusive disciplinary. We can't claim to be taking teachers' concerns about safety and their dignity seriously while removing crucial supports such as a VP at each high school."

Potorski Dahl added how vice principals also handle other

matters including student complaints, parent concerns or issues about instruction, curriculum expectations and/or assessments in grades when content specialists are not available.

"If the committee wants to wait for more data before deciding whether to make positions permanent, can we specify how we measure the collective stress and anxiety experience building-wide in the current educational environment? And have we factored in teachers who have left Chicopee and who are going to leave?" Potorski Dahl said. "The teacher shortage crisis is certainly going to worsen."

She said, "The choice is clear."

"Invest now or pay more

when the system is even more broken," Potorski Dahl said.

Mark Bell, special education interventionist at Bellamy Middle School, was at the meeting to represent one of his students, Noah, along with future eighth-grade students including his son.

Bell highlighted how Noah wanted to go into the CTE program at Chicopee Comp and "did the right things" in having good grades, good conduct and good attendance.

"And I say all this to say, I don't know what to tell him. I don't know what to tell him because Noah wasn't accepted into the program, and I don't know what to tell him because there's no transparency in how the ranking system works, how

it is weighed," Bell said. "Sure, I know you need to have good grades. Sure, I know you need to have good attendance and good conduct and you have to answer the questions on the career inventory just right, but I really don't know anything else, because I don't know how they weigh it. Because those in charge of the CTE program will not share that information."

After stressing the importance of transparency, Bell shared how another student reacted to finding out Noah was not accepted into the program.

"Blank made it and Noah didn't? Just to let you know, that blank student was just suspended for five days because, for one of

Please see **FOLLOW-UP**, page 6

City Council approves favorable Ordinance Committee reports

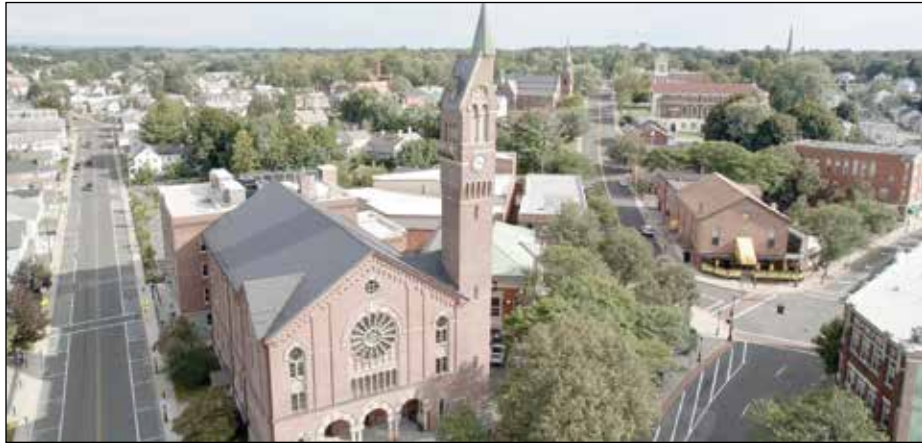


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AND THE PANDA DRONE

Reports concern city auditor, single-use plastic bags

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - City Council approved two favorable Ordinance Committee reports concerning the city auditor and single-use plastic bags on May 21.

For the city auditor, the report concerns this body furnishing the City Council with a monthly budget report of expenditures and revenues prior to its first regular meeting of any month and acting as the clerk of the committee on finance and committee on claims and accounts.

Ward 5 Councilor Frederick Krampits explained how the order was submitted to the committee for review and he spoke with City Auditor Sharyn Riley, who was also at the meeting.

"There were some things that she felt were out of date in the ordinance and that, also, the report part was something that, if any councilor wanted to do it, it could be done," Krampits said. "So, it was decided that particularly since it needed to be gender neutral and there were a few other things, that we would place it on file and then the maker of the proposed ordinance could work with the Law Department and the city auditor and come back with something after it's been run through the Law Department and we could review it and then go from there."

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner, who filed the order, thanked the Ordinance Committee and added he plans to refile after more discussions take place.

"I believe that under state law, it's in the City Council's best interest to have these reports and, in fact, it's state law that we have at least some of these reports that I'm asking for in the ordinance change," Wagner said. "It's important for our financial health for us to receive these reports. Generally

speaking, it's part of a series of changes I want to see happen, but I think some of our financial practices need to be looked at as well and I regret that some of these concerns that were aired during the meeting were not relayed to me in the lengthy discussions for which I had with interested parties at an earlier time."

Wagner plans to submit any changes he needs to and then refile from there.

"I hope to do that by the next meeting," Wagner said.

The report was received and placed on file 12-0.

The next favorable report centered on the elimination of the use of single-use plastic bags in the city.

The motion was for the report to be received and postponed to the call of the chair.

Krampits said Health Director Lisa Sanders had made suggestions on changing the date.

"It was decided at the committee since there might be two different paths for this depending on the size of the business to basically get a little more feedback before we just simply change the date," Krampits said. "So, that's why this is being postponed to the call of the chair just to get a little bit more information and then we can take it up at the next or future Ordinance Committee meetings."

Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky thanked the Ordinance Committee for discussing the topic.

"I know this is a very important issue for Chicopee. I feel it's a great addition to help clean up our city," Shumsky said. "I also wanted to thank Lisa Sanders. Her and I have been working together on this ordinance and there's only, I think, two or three things that we need to change in this before the next meeting and she is working diligently and very hard to get a comprehensive list, also, of all businesses that would be impacted by this."

The motion to receive the favorable report and postpone to the call of the chair passed 12-0.

Finance and Budget Subcommittee holds FY25 preliminary budget meeting

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The School Committee's Finance and Budget Subcommittee held a fiscal year 2025 preliminary budget meeting on May 20.

John Miarecki, director of finance for Chicopee Public Schools, provided the budget breakdown, now in its four iteration.

One highlight Miarecki began with was ESSER spending.

"What we're focusing on are the salaries that we used in the last couple years of 2022 through 2024. In 2022, we had sixteen positions on that budget that were covered through ESSER totaling \$848,292. In the next year in '23, there was an increase in the amount of positions. We used 30 different positions totaling \$1.395 million. As you see also here in '24, there were no positions," Miarecki said.

The 2022 positions, Miarecki said, include positions such as a director of counseling, four Sped teachers, two Sped paras, a science teacher, a nurse, an ELL para, while 2023 comprised of positions including a vice principal, director of instructional technology, four preschool teachers, five regular ED paras, nine Sped paras and three ELL paras.

On special education spending, Miarecki highlighted \$22,031,238 for 2018, \$21,510,914 for 2019, \$23,121,042 for 2020, \$21,579,341 for 2021, \$22,248,387 for 2022 and \$25,255,129 for 2023.

2024 numbers are still being tracked.

"You see '21 where it goes down \$21,500,000. That's when COVID came in. So, the expenses dropped for us. DESE was aware of that, they worked with us to go through things to get that maintenance of effort approved with Andrea Stolar, our director of special education, to move on from there," Miarecki said.

As Miarecki broke down the maintenance of effort, School Committee Representative At-Large Susan Szetela-Lopes asked about non-public school tuitions being under Expenditures to School Committee.

The numbers for FY22 were \$20,794,111 versus FY23 at \$23,896,910, comprising expenses, expenditures and non-public school tuition.

"Because that seems like a lot of money, salaries and expenses. Why non-public school tuitions?" Szetela-Lopes said.

Miarecki said this.

"When I say School Committee funds, I mean general fund expendi-

tures. So, all those things that are not carried by a grant. That means not school spending in most cases. So, it's all that encompassed into one," Miarecki said. "So, what the end-of-year report does for us is takes all those line items when we're entering in those final numbers at the end of the year and brings it into more manageable and explainable numbers and that's what you're seeing here."

Miarecki explained for out-of-district spending, the rates are set by the state's Operational Services Division.

This spending will, also, increase by \$2 million in 2025.

"If you go back to '23, we had about 31 students. This year, we're up to 40. We're predicting 55 students for next year, so you can definitely see why we're hard-pressed to make sure that number, we moved that up to a number that was comfortable to sustain that movement of students to the out-of-district," Miarecki said.

Ward 7 School Committee Representative and Vice Chair Donald Lamothe asked this.

"When we project 55, or we send 40, whichever number you want to use, at some point do we get audited from the state on this? To make sure that it's appropriate," Lamothe said.

Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware affirmed yes.

"When we use monies out of there, it's closely monitored, so the number that John is speaking to, the \$500,000, is our portion from the IDA grant that we're using for all the district placements," Ware said. "So, they do check to see what our district numbers are looking like, so we do have to report that."

Finally, for the budget summary, the total for FY25 comes out to \$128,775,035, an increase of \$6,631,705 from the FY24 budget of \$122,143,330.

Miarecki highlighted the Chapter 70 city contribution stayed the same, city costs increasing by \$2.2 million from \$20,487,419 to \$22,666,091, transportation increasing from \$10,825,296 to \$12,072,674 with additional school buses and contractual increases and circuit breakers from \$730,000 to \$1,283,762 due to money needing to be spend this year and the rest being allocated for next year.

"Just know that when we go to City Council to get approved or when it's put in front of you in the beginning of June, that number that you're going to see is that \$118,711,773. We'll also have to ask for that \$7.7 million of a stabilization fund. What the rest is other incomes so that is not put in what we're requesting from City Council because that money's already in our coffers," Miarecki said.



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FEEDING from page 1

in Chicopee, continuously fight for is food insecurity because we know now with the inflation crisis, everything under the sun, that food is something that is a decision maker between rent and putting food on the table," Gomez said. "So, what we're doing here today is an amazing thing."

Soto said, according to the latest estimates, "as many as 13 million children in the United States live in homes plagued by food insecurity" and marginalized communities and working families also struggle to put food on the table.

"By supporting and participating in events like this, we not only shed light on this pressing issue, but we also take active steps towards alleviating it. With continued hard work and dedication, we can ensure that no family goes to bed hungry," Soto said.

McDonnell explained Price Rite runs about ten of these events during the year and they also occur in other states where Price Rite stores are located, stressing the impact of Boys & Girls Clubs on families and children.

"Food stores are all about feeding families, so we service the community by having good, healthy, affordable foods and that connects to the children who need help through the Boys & Girls Club and Feed the Children," McDonnell said. "So, it's a wonderful circle to get all of these parties involved, again, to help the community and help the children."

McDonnell expressed gratitude to the Price Rite employees coming out to volunteer.

"For our team to come out here and want to help the community, really, on their own time and volunteer. Stand out here in the pouring rain and they're happy to do it. They understand the connection," McDonnell said.

Allegro shared 11.2% of households in Chicopee struggle with food insecurity and the event "is a big opportunity to take care of these families."

For him, events like this are important for connecting with families who need help and support.

"The Boys & Girls Clubs are a very important partner for Price Rite because they're baked into the community and Price Rite's very community-oriented. At Feed the Children, we have to work with the local agencies because they help us figure out which families need the help the most," Allegro said. "And they know the community best."

Reed was humbled to have the campaign return to the Boys & Girls Club and partner with them again, sharing that food insecurity "is a very real problem in the City of Chicopee."

"We know that we can't solve all of those problems, but if we can do our little bit to help and then have other organizations and other businesses get involved--like Price Rite, like Feed the Children are partnering with us--then hopefully we can make it less of an issue," Reed said. "And if we can help a couple of families and a couple of kids not go to bed hungry tonight, then we've definitely done our job."

Reed also provided an update on the new teen center, Haven, sharing everything



Kevin McDonnell, president of Price Rite Marketplace, provides remarks during the 'Feeding Minds and Bodies' Campaign event at the Chicopee Boys & Girls Club.



State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) speaks about food insecurity during the 'Feeding Minds and Bodies' Campaign event at the Chicopee Boys & Girls Club.



Joe Allegro, senior director of Corporate Partnerships at Feed the Children, shares his thoughts.

is running ahead of schedule.

"We anticipate being able to move in, hopefully, mid-October. It's going to more than double our capacity to be able to serve more teens in the city. It is going to be a space designed specifically for teens and we're going to focus on workforce readiness. We're going to focus on life skills, we're going to focus on academic support," Reed said. "It's really exciting. We hope it's a space that the teens in the city are going to enjoy coming to, a place that they are going to feel safe, feel like they can be themselves. So, we're excited to get the building online."

Reed, for him, wants the community to understand "that it takes everybody to be involved" and to do their part.

"It's easy for folks to cast doubt or cast judgment, but if everybody just did their part to try and be helpful, everybody stay positive, I think we could continue Chicopee on a great path and be able to serve all the families and all the kids that need it, whatever those needs are," Reed said.

Allegro's message was this.

"Just keep your head up. The tough times can happen now, but there's always a rainbow after the end of the storm," Allegro said.

Events & announcements schedule

Tactile Art Exhibit coming to Chicopee Public Library

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Public Library is hosting a tactile art exhibit called Seven Art Movements, which is accessible to patrons who are blind or low-vision in the Henry J. Bazan Community Room from May 11 - May 25 during library hours.

Visit the library to experience various works of art in touchable 3D including: Mona Lisa by da Vinci, Girl with a Pearl Earring by Vermeer, the Scream by Munch and others from various periods in art.

Laura Bovee, director of the Chicopee Public Library, said, "I'm so thrilled that the library can bring this exhibit to Chicopee. This is a uniquely accessible and museum-quality exhibit, and I hope that everyone - whether blind, low-vision, or fully sighted - will come see it. I think it will be a great opportunity to explore the different ways people take in information or a way to begin a conversation about differences with kids, grandkids, and students."

The artwork is created by Tactile Images from Chatham, NY. The company is committed to providing tactile experiences for the blind and disabled. Images designed for touch provide the opportunity to acquire visual information independently, without relying on recorded descriptions or the interpretation of a sighted companion.

If you have any questions or would like to plan a group visit please email Anne Gancarz at agancarz@cwmmars.org or call Anne at 594-1800 Ext. 106.

Baby Kneads Sign Language Series

CHICOPEE - The Holyoke-Chicopee Family Community Program is offering a Baby Kneads Sign Language Series.

The four-week series, facilitated by Sheryl White, founder and owner of Baby Kneads, will support families in learning sign language with their child.

Baby sign language gives children the ability to communicate their needs and wishes, pre-verbal, without frustration, tears or tantrums. Babies and toddlers can learn signs important to their lifestyle such as "more", "sleep", "eat", and so on.

This class is appropriate for parents/caregivers and their child over two months and pre-verbal.

The classes take place on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. at the Chicopee Public Library on May 29, June 5 and June 12.

Please register by calling (413) 348-4355 or email zaskeyc@headstart.org.

City of Chicopee's Memorial Day Activities

CHICOPEE - "As Memorial Day approaches, it is time to pause and consider the true meaning of this holiday. Memorial Day represents one day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. While we should honor these heroes every day for the profound contribution, they have made to secure our Nation's freedom, we should honor them especially on Memorial Day."

The Chicopee Veterans' Memorial and Patriotic Committee and the Chicopee Department of Veterans' Services ask that all Americans come together to recognize how fortunate we are to live in freedom and to observe a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Stephanie Shaw, Director of Veterans' Services says, "The last Monday in May has held the traditions for Memorial Day for nearly 51 years now. From putting up flags, attending family picnics, and making speeches. People have been coming together in community spirit and national unity for all generations of loved ones lost in service to be remembered on this very special day since 1868 and is no different in 2024, 156 years later. I am proud to be a part of the planning and organization of this year's events and look forward to sharing with all of you who will be joining us to celebrate here in Chicopee."

Prior to May 27, 2024 we have successfully flagged all of our cemeteries with the help of many gracious volunteers.

Friday, May 24, 2024 beginning at 8:30, local veteran organizations will be visiting Chicopee grammar and middle schools, with a Memorial Service, a brief history of Memorial Day and placing of a wreath at school flag poles, followed by the pledge of allegiance and National Anthem.

On Sunday, May 26th at the Vietnam Veterans' Plaza on Chicopee Street there will be a Candle-light Ceremony at 7:00 pm hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of Western Massachusetts Chapter one-eleven.

On Monday May 27, 2024 at 11:00 am, we will host our Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at our Veterans Memorial Plaza located at 650 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

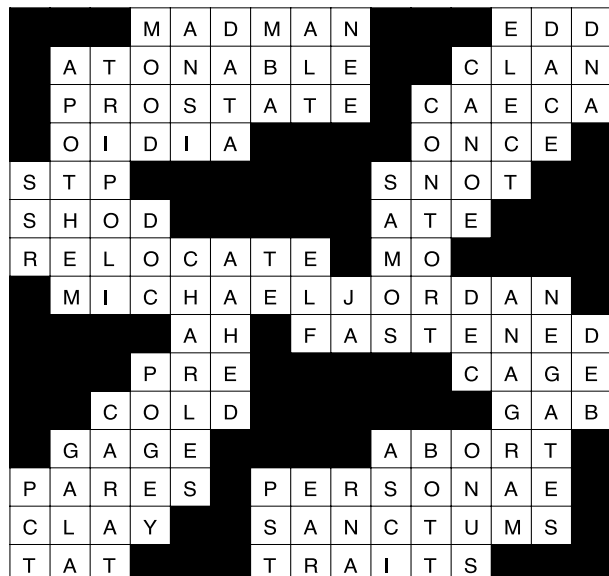
The public is invited to the 2024 Memorial Day activities with the exception to school visits.

Harmony House Schedules Wine Tasting Fundraiser

CHICOPEE - Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, the home for the terminally ill which is scheduled to reopen later this month, is hosting a Wine Tasting and Paired Appetizers fundraiser on June 10, 2024 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the 350 Grill Steakhouse located at 350 Worthington St. in Springfield. The Springfield Wine Exchange is co-hosting the event. Cost is \$50 per person and may be purchased on the Harmony House website at www.harmonyhousewma.org. Click on the "Events" tab to purchase your tickets. In addition to tasting exceptional wines and hors d'oeuvres, you can participate in a Silent Auction and Raffle.

The home is planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony for May 31 and will soon accept their first residents.

Harmony House is totally privately funded through the generosity of individuals, businesses, and foundations. Contributions are gratefully accepted at all times. "Someday you may need us; right now, we need you." Please visit the website at www.harmonyhousewma.org or send your checks to Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, 66 View Street, Chicopee, MA. Harmony House is a 501(c)(3) corporation. If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please contact Harmony House at 413-315-9784 or by email at harmonyhousewma@gmail.com.



GUEST COLUMN



When should my wife claim her Social Security benefit?

Dear Rusty

I just saw an article which said that certain spousal options were going away, but there are still good options for when a spouse can claim. I am filing for my Social Security to start in October when I turn 70. My wife's Full Retirement Age is in December, and she now plans to file then for half of what my FRA benefit would have been (our original plan was for both to file in August). My wife's main reason for delaying until her FRA is to lock her into my maximum benefit if she has to someday change to Survivor's Benefit. Will this be gone for us? Neither of us was born before Jan. 1, 1954. Please advise.

Signed: Planning for Both

Dear Planning

I expect that the article you refer to was speaking of the option to claim only a spousal benefit first and allow one's personal SS retirement benefit to grow. That option was available only to those who were born before 1954 and had reached full retirement age. As you now know that option is not available to you.

Assuming your wife's highest benefit entitlement will be as your spouse, your current strategy – you claim your maximum benefit to start in October at age 70 and your wife starts her benefit in December at her FRA – is a good one which will yield the maximum possible monthly benefit for both of you. But for clarity, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow has nothing to do with when she claims her spouse benefits now.

The only thing which will affect your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse is her age when she claims the survivor benefit. If she has already reached her FRA of 66 years and 8 months when you pass, she will get 100% of the amount you were receiving when you died, instead of the smaller spousal amount she was receiving while you were living. Her survivor benefit would only be less than 100% of yours if she claimed it before reaching her full retirement age (which, of course, we hope would not be the case).

Just so you have the complete picture, your wife could, if desired, claim her Social Security to start at the same time as you in October but, since that would be earlier than her FRA, the amount she would get would be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. Her spouse benefit would be reduced by 0.694% for each month earlier than her FRA it starts.

For example, if your wife starts her spousal benefit in October when your benefit starts, she will get about 98.6% of the amount she would get if she waited until December to start her benefits. That's a permanent reduction, so if your wife's life expectancy is at least average about 87, it's likely still wisest for her to wait until her FRA to start benefits. But in any case, when your wife claims her spousal benefit now will have no effect on the survivor benefit she will get as your future widow.

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GUEST COLUMN

Three of the eight areas of incompleteness

There is a lot going on in my yard. That is a true statement.

Every fall I say I am going to be smarter about what I take on and then spring hits and I am obsessed with gardening. It is all I think about, and it has been this way since I was a teenager.

I guess I could get myself into worse trouble.

Presently I am adding to the front border, redefining a perennial garden, making a permanent spot for dahlias, and waking up the raised beds and vegetable garden. Read on for a taste of what I've been up to.

I'd been on the hunt for a Pink Flowering Dogwood; and this year, because I wanted one, I seemingly saw them everywhere. What a year for the dogwoods!

My husband determined that said tree would be my Mother's Day gift if only we could find one. I made the acquisition early last week and had it planted in the front border within hours.

Cornus 'Rutger's Stellar' is a hardy, disease and borer resistant hybrid, with gorgeous pink bracts.

To plant the tree, I dug a hole bigger than the rootball and amended with nearby soil mixed with moist peat moss. I planted it at the same depth it was in its pot and I'll be careful not to let mulch build up around the trunk.

Now, what can I add to the part sun understory? Astilbe? Japanese painted fern? Hostas? Hmm. Much to think about in terms of texture and color.

I have lots of perennial gardens here and there. There is a big one in my front yard, left from the original blueprint of the previous owner.

For some reason it was made deep, very deep. Half of this bed is backed by a stone retaining wall, the other half by a white picket fence. I'd like to narrow it up a bit, only keeping a couple of specimen plants and some edgers on the side with the picket fence.

I have one gorgeous Peony plant seems incredibly happy there. It is staked in an extra large tomato cage and for the most part it's doing the trick to hold up what appears to be dozens of potential heavy blossoms.

To use the cage I had to put it in place when the plant was emerging from the soil – to do so now would be disastrous!

If you need to stake your peony and haven't yet, try this method. Insert bamboo or wooden stakes into the ground on the outer edge of the plant to three-quarters of its height.

Run two rows of twine or jute at one third and two thirds up the stakes, respectively.

Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening as you go. If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don't tighten so much that it looks unnatural.

The search goes on for exactly what plants will finish up that half of the bed.

Dahlias will make their home in the other half. My collection is still fairly small – I think I have seven varieties, but I can feel the fever building.

They are just such an amazing group of plants in so many gorgeous color variations and sizes. From teenie pom-poms to "dinner plate" and every size in between, I am in awe. It's exciting to finally have an area devoted entirely to my collection and I can't wait to get them in the ground.

Plant dahlias in full sun, in fertile soil amended sparingly with compost and organic fertilizers. Most tubers are planted about 3 inches deep and 1 to 3 feet away from one another, depending on plant size.

Providing enough air circulation between plants will help keep diseases at bay.

Most gardeners install a stake at planting time and attach the dahlia to it as it grows, beginning when it is a foot tall. Subsequent ties are made every 18 inches or so depending on variety.

Without the use of stakes, large flowers will likely topple in the wind and rain, sometimes taking a good portion of the plant with it.

Pinching dahlias is another good practice. When the plant has three sets of leaves gently remove its growth tip. This will encourage more branching and inevitably more flowers.

Once blooming starts it is important to cut away spent blooms on a regular basis; tubers will grow stronger because of it. Dahlias thrive on sufficient moisture, especially since they are shallow rooted.

Furnish them with one inch per week during active growth.

Well, there is more incomplete, but you get the gist of my adventures. Chances are you have your own as well. Enjoy now; they'll be time to sit later.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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.

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Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

You know those items we all have that are still good but we don't want or need anymore, what should we do with them? Well Patrick Clay and Wendy Zeitler knew what to do with them when Wendy inherited her aunt's home. And that was to "re-home" the items.

Patrick and Wendy, both Chicopee residents for the majority of their lives, have known each other since high school yet each took a different direction in life. Patrick moved to Charleston and enjoyed being a semi-pro beach volley ball player as well as earning money as a bouncer and also doing carpentry, whereas Wendy wound up staying local and marrying at a young age. Unfortunately, Wendy was left a young widow in her twenties. Patrick decided to relocate back to Chicopee where they eventually reunited and as the saying goes, "the rest is history."

Patrick and Wendy have now been together over 20 years and have a very talented son Derek Clay (*inheriting his dad's musical talents*) who has learned very well from his parents about the art of giving back. Derek is a musician who not only writes his own songs, he performs them and is a talented guitarist. He volunteered his talents to the festivities for the charity of the Soar 5K in Belchertown last year which is a charity for Addiction & Recovery Awareness and this year will be taking place on Sept. 17.

Wendy grew up living with her mother, aunt and grandmother who was the matriarch of their family. When both Wendy's mother and grandmother passed, the aunt remained in the house. Then when the aunt passed, Wendy inherited the house and all its belongings.

Now Patrick and Wendy could have taken many routes to dispose of the items from having tags sales and earning money, to throwing the items in a dumpster to finding new homes for them. They chose the latter. Her aunt being an avid crafter had numerous bins of new, beautiful

and untouched yarn that they donated. Just an example of where it was distributed; to an Independent/ Assisted Living facility where they create crocheted blankets for new residents and also make lap blankets for the memory unit patients. One of the male residents also crochets hats and scarfs that he donates each year to the homeless shelter. Other scans were donated to a woman whose church makes prayer blankets, some were donated to a knitting group, while some were donated to a woman whose grandchildren wanted to learn to crochet. Other scans went to a woman who does vendor fairs with her crocheted items but always has a Random Act of Kindness basket where the Independent/Assisted living facility benefit from the proceeds then goes out and does Random Acts of Kindness within the communities they visit. And that was only the yarn part of their donations.

There were furniture items plus other numerous household items that they made many trips to Savers in West Springfield with. Savers sells items and with proceeds of sales support the Big Brothers Big Sisters Organization.

Patrick worked with his father for 20 years and now has a very successful business as a pool installer. Though his territory is mainly in the Berkshires he does do many local installations as well. Patrick is a two-time survivor of cancer, now celebrating his 2nd year anniversary in remission from this bout and feels very blessed which is part of his reason for giving back.

He coached basketball and baseball at St. Stanislaus in Chicopee as well as coaching the Ludlow hockey team and still is an avid sports enthusiast. Wendy's involvement with St. Stanislaus was teaching CCD. She was also a

jazz, ballet and tap dancer in her earlier years. They had a thirty-year reunion for her dance teacher and from there many previous students stayed and continued doing dance. Out of the numerous group, four remain and actually do recitals as well which she says she loves doing.

Other places Patrick and Wendy have chosen to support are St. Anthony's in Chicopee by donating clothing to the church that partners with an organization that gives the church money by the pound for those donations. They have also donated many blankets and towels to Dakin Humane Society to help with the rescued animals from our area. Wendy, being a recipient of the services offered at Mossy Apothecary in Southampton, noticed they had many antiques adorning their facility and donated some from her aunt's estate as well.

As you can see from Patrick, Wendy and Derek, there are all kinds of ways to do Random Acts of Kindness. You too can be part of spreading positivity by simply being generous with your kindness. Such a beautiful example this whole family exemplifies about giving!

If you would like to tell me a story about a Random Act of Kindness please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-788-7514. Who knows, you might see your story in this column, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, did or received something nice being done. See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness! ~ Barb

RiverMills Center Transportation Services available to seniors

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging's Transportation Department provides rides to the senior center, doctor's offices, supermarkets, pharmacies, etc. for Chicopee older adults.

Transportation service is available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Reservations must be made at least five business days in advance by calling 413-536-5733.

A \$7,875.00 grant from WestMass Eldercare has allowed the senior center to expand its transportation offerings. Shopping Trips are funded in part by a Title III/Older Americans Act grant from WestMass Eldercare, with support from the Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Federal Administration for Community Living. There is no charge for this service, but participants are welcome to make a voluntary, confidential donation for a shopping ride.

To learn more, contact Nicholas Wosko at 413-536-5733 or NWosko@Chicopeema.gov.

Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 plans 50th Reunion

CHICOPEE - It's the time to renew friendships and share memories with high school classmates. The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1974 will be holding its 50th reunion on Sept. 13 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 460 Granby Rd. in Chicopee. The reunion party will begin at 5:00 p.m. with cocktails and dinner. Committee members are planning details for the festivities and also working hard to track down classmates and reach out to as many as possible. If you think you have contact information for long-lost friends, please send it to Linda Parlengas at lparlengas@hotmail.com; Mona Marciel Friberg at tinker245@aol.com, or Lynn Provost Larrabee at penrose43@comcast.net. We will be sending out details soon and would like to include everyone. Information can also be shared on Facebook at Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 Reunion Page or at Classmates.com.

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BUTT STRIPS.....	\$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN STEAKHOUSE TIPS.....	\$10.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN ALL BEEF HOT DOGS 5 LB.....	\$14.99 ea
GREAT ON THE GRILL		USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN STEAKHOUSE TIPS.....	\$10.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN HILLSHIRE FARMS POLSKA KIELBASA 13-14 OZ.....	\$3.99 ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN BABY BACK PORK RIBS.....	\$3.33 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STORE MADE BBQ MARINATED BEEF BLADESTEAK.....	\$7.77 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BAKED 8" CHERRY PIE.....	\$4.99 ea
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Hammon concludes spring season at Regis

WESTON - Devin Hammon of Chicopee, a sophomore student-athlete studying Biology competed on the Regis men's lacrosse team during the spring 2024 season.

In voting by the 12 conference coaches, the Regis men's lacrosse team received the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Team Sportsmanship Award for the third straight year for demonstrating a commitment to compete fairly and be respectful of opponents and officials. The Pride completed the 2024 season with a 7-7 overall record, the most victories in a single season for the program since 2017.

HCC celebrates students for 2023-2024 achievements

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the students who earned honors and awards for their outstanding achievements during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Awardees were honored Wednesday, May 15, during a ceremony in the Leslie Phillips Theater.

Below is a list of HCC honorees and award recipients for the 2023-2024 academic year. Some students received multiple awards.

A full list of students along with their specific honors and awards can be found at hcc.edu/awards2024.

HCC Honors & Awards for 2023-2024 for students from Chicopee were Dina Artin, Alicia Beaton, Yalexia Bonilla, Briana Bowers, Zoe Fydenkevez, Johnny Garcia, Jelli Jones, Kyle Kokosa, McKallum Malanowski, Lance Rice, DeAndra Roy and Isabel Teixeira.

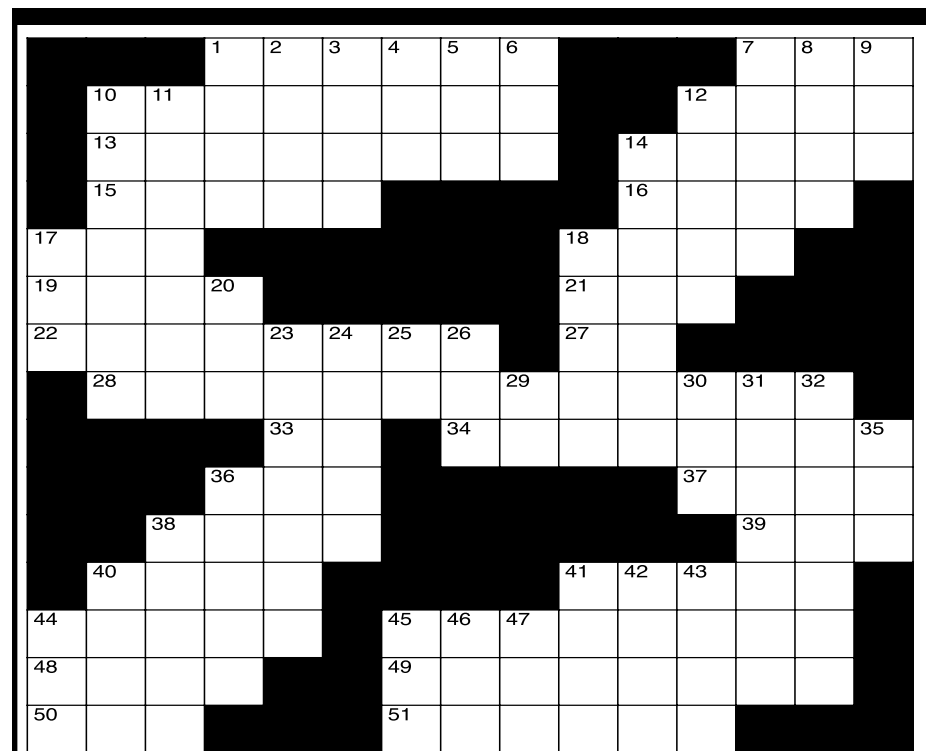
SNHU Announces Winter 2024 Dean's List

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

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point

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

The students are Monica Plummer, Sara Kidd, Alyssa Czupryna and Simran Jagasia.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Lunatic
- 7. Doctor of Education
- 10. Able to make amends
- 12. Tight-knit group
- 13. Gland
- 14. Intestinal pouches
- 15. Fungal spores
- 16. Erstwhile
- 17. Engine additive
- 18. Nasal mucus
- 19. Fit a horse with footwear
- 21. Consumed
- 22. Settle
- 27. Larry and Curly's pal
- 28. Basketball's GOAT
- 33. Exclamation of surprise

- 34. Made tight
- 36. Before
- 37. Actor Nicolas
- 38. Not hot
- 39. Talk
- 40. Pledge
- 41. Abandon a mission
- 44. Trims by cutting
- 45. Aspects of one's character
- 48. Boxing GOAT's former surname
- 49. Holy places
- 50. Body art (slang)
- 51. Attributes

CLUES DOWN

- 1. How one feels
- 2. American Nat'l Standards Institute
- 3. Information
- 4. Licensed for

- Wall Street
- 5. Keyboard key
- 6. Born of
- 7. Choose to represent
- 8. Small European freshwater fish
- 9. Everyone has their own
- 10. Line from the center of a polygon
- 11. Lebanese city
- 12. Type of watercraft
- 14. A way to twist
- 17. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 18. Greek island
- 20. Medical practitioner
- 23. ___ DeGaulle, French President
- 24. Partner to "oohed"
- 25. Atomic #52
- 26. Santa's helper
- 29. Rapper ___ Rule
- 30. Month
- 31. Word formed by rearranging letters
- 32. Nullifies
- 35. Young woman ready to enter society
- 36. Unemployment
- 38. Weight unit
- 40. Formal party
- 41. Computer language
- 42. Residue formula in math
- 43. Duty or responsibility
- 44. Part of (abbr.)
- 45. Time zone
- 46. Body part
- 47. Nucleic acid

COUNCIL from page 1

carry us through the rest of the year for repairs to vehicles," Beaulieu said.

Next, the appropriation of \$5,000 to the Fire Special Account for Ambulance Billing from available funds in the Fire Salary Account for firefighter first year.

Pise shared how a lot of the private ambulance companies "are having staffing issues."

"It's been very, very demanded in terms of use. So, it's been going out a lot which leads to increased billing and increased accounting," Pise said.

Fire Chief Daniel Stamborski said, "This is something we try and predict moving forward each year as to how many responses we're going to have."

"ComStar is our third-party ambulance billing company and they charge a percentage of each ambulance bill that's recovered," Stamborski said. "This year, we fell a little bit short. We feel that \$5,000 will get us to the end of the year and any used monies will be returned."

Councilor-at-Large Gerry Roy sought clarification on how this all works.

"You were talking in a considerable amount of money from the ambulance service. Now, why are we putting forth another \$5,000 again?" Roy said.

Stamborski explained, "As we collect like any insurance bill for any doctor's office and so forth, we collect the monies."

"This third-party billing company collects a percentage of it, but out of that money, it never comes back to the fire department. It goes to the General Fund," Stamborski said. "So, it circles back to us and we put money back in each year. So, the money is coming back to us through ambulance billing and this was a prediction made last year of how many calls we were going to have for this year."

Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie asked about the addition of the third ambulance.

"That makes it even more profitable. That was a profitable move for us by putting that on?" Labrie said.

Stamborski replied yes. "Along with the ambulance billing, it's reflective of how many responses we're going on and, like most things, we don't collect 100% of all the bills that

are paid out," Stamborski said. "But yes, our calls increased over 10,000 last year. They're up between the third and fourth ambulance we put on."

Finally, an additional grant award of \$50,000 from the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration's Department of Fish and Game for the Abbey Brook Revitalization Project to support phase one of construction activities.

The additional grant award brings the new total award up to \$2,240,000.

Pise explained how the project has been "a complicated, complex and somewhat costly project."

"Luckily, our Planning Department have been able to secure a number of grants to help us reduce the cost to the taxpayer and get this project going," Pise said.

Planning Director Lee Pouliot explained how DER has been a partner on the project from day one.

"Under our current grant contract with DER, they have made, now, a third award towards construction which is this additional \$50,000," Pouliot said. "They started this current contract with (a) \$100,000 award. We were then awarded \$2 million towards construction and an additional \$100,000 and now this additional funding through DER."

Pouliot said the program "was exceptionally flexible" with the only requirement being to expend the funds and request reimbursement by July 30 for work completed through June 30 of this year.

"We reviewed with our engineer and with our contractor on site and confirm that we will be able to meet that deadline. So, this just further defrays the city's share of the cost in this first phase of construction work for the project," Pouliot said.

Labrie then asked Pouliot if they "would be able to fish in this stream."

"Is there going to be trout running and herring coming up from the river?" Labrie said.

Pouliot said, surprisingly, the contractor noticed fish a couple of weeks ago.

"I would not confirm it's going to be fishable, but somehow there are some fish that made their way up," Pouliot said.

All three of these mayor's order appropriations were later approved 12-0.

FOLLOW-UP from page 1

the reasons, he pushed a teacher," Bell said.

Bell then highlighted an email he sent to the School Committee of two report cards comparing Noah's grades and that of another student who was accepted into the program, followed by research he did from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website.

He added how the School Committee has a say.

"Off the DESE website, again, the regulations require the Board of Trustees or School Committee of the CVET School Slash program to approve any selective criteria annually," Bell said. "I've done my research. I'm still trying to figure out where and when you guys approved the criteria."

The student Bell represented, Noah Powell, said this.

"I would like to know why I didn't get into the CTE program because I work hard, I get A's and B's, I do my work, I turn it in on time unless I need help, then I turn it in a little bit late," Powell said. "And that's my question."

School District Response

After this meeting, the Chicopee Register reached out to Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware for a response, receiving the following on May 20:

"As far as addressing any disciplinary or safety issues within the district is concerned, we are closely adhering to the following Massachusetts State Laws and Regulations:

MGL c. 71, § 37H Policies relative to conduct of teachers or students; student handbooks

Schools must have policies about student discipline, and students must get a handbook that explains the rules. A student who brings a weapon or drugs to school, or assaults a staff member may be expelled.

MGL c. 71, § 37H-1/2 Felony complaint or conviction of student; suspension; expulsion; right to appeal

If a student is charged with a felony, they may be suspended. If they are convicted of a felony, they may be expelled. The student can appeal the decision.

MGL c. 71, § 37H-3/4 Rules for schools to follow if they suspend or expel a student for any other reason, and use of alternative remedies other than suspension or expulsion and 603 CMR 53 which limits the use of long-term suspension as a consequence for student misconduct until other consequences have been considered and tried as appropriate," Ware said.

Next week, the Chicopee Register will sit down with the Chicopee Education Association to learn more about their concerns on safety and discipline.

Sports

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Pacers leads early, but fall to B-Town

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—During the 2003-04 school year, the athletic program at Belchertown High School won six league titles in girls' soccer, football, golf, ice hockey, softball, and baseball.

The Belchertown varsity baseball team didn't win another league title for the next 20 years.

The long drought for the Orioles finally came to an end following a 5-3 come-from-behind victory over Chicopee High School at historic Szot Park, last Monday night (May 13).

The Orioles finished the regular season as co-champions of the Valley Central Division league title with Chicopee Comp.

"I told the guys in the postgame huddle that whenever they come back to Belchertown High School in the future, they can show their family and friends the baseball banner hanging on the gym wall. They can tell them that they were a member of a team that won a league title," said Belchertown varsity baseball coach Evan Berneche. "It's a very special accomplishment for them."

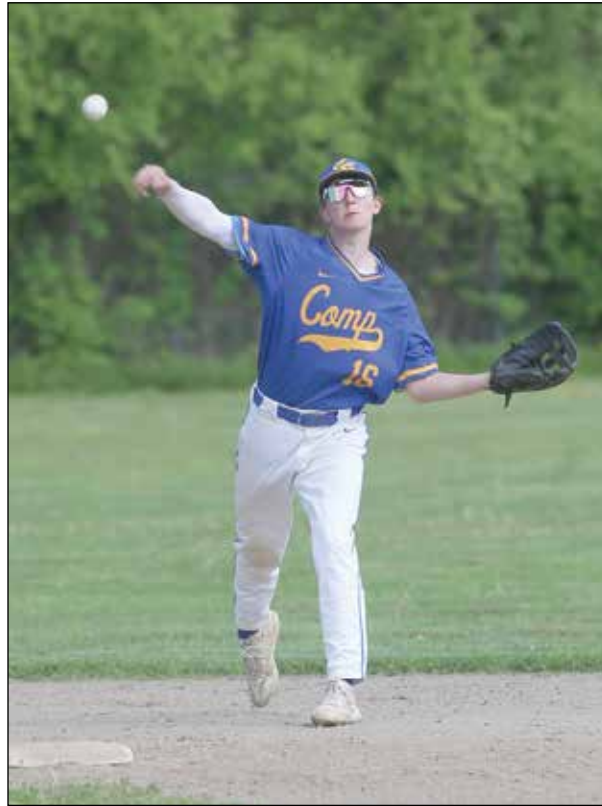
Belchertown finished the regular season with an 8-8 overall record. They also posted a 6-2 mark in their first season competing in Valley Central Division. Agawam and Holyoke are the other two teams in the Valley Central Division.

The Orioles, who squeaked out a 2-1 home win over the Pacers at the end of April, didn't qualify for the Western Mass. Class B tournament. They'll need to win at least one of their two non-playoffs games to clinch a berth in the MIAA Division 3 state tournament for the third consecutive year.

Chicopee High (4-14, 2-6) celebrated their annual senior night in the second meeting of the regular season between the two squads.

The Pacers seniors are Mason Tryba, Adam Brunelle, Henry Ryczek, Noah Stone, Caleb Morrisette, Daniel Lonczak, Xavion Maldonado, Ian Asselin, Nicholas Kendra, and Zach Oldenburg, who

Please see **PACERS**, page 8

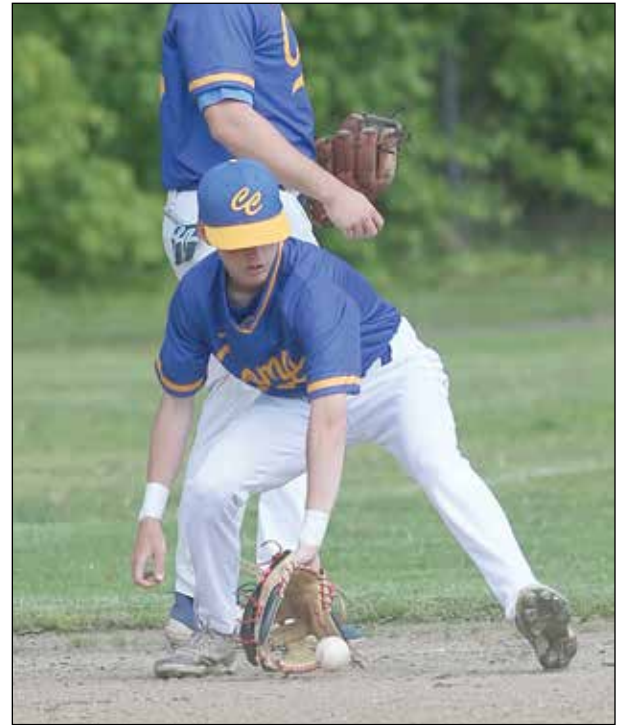


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Caleb Germain makes a long throw from behind second base to first.



Daniel Sciarretta throws a pitch for the Colts.



Brenden Ringman makes a strong throw to first for the out.

Colts get up to nine wins

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Comprehensive High School baseball team picked up a 12-2 win over Holyoke High School last Wednesday afternoon. The Colts took advantage of eight walks in the game and Daniel Sciarretta had three hits and two RBI in the game. The Colts finished the regular season 9-11 and hope their power ranking is enough to qualify for the state tournament, though they were ranked well below the top 32 going into this week.

Three straight wins for Comp

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Edrien Roman gets a set over the net. More on page 8.



Noah Johnson goes straight up to set up a possible spike.



Daniel Gauthier puts the ball back inbounds.



Chace Murphy goes low for a bump.

Three straight wins for Comp

CHICOPEE — Last week, Chicopee Comprehensive boys volleyball had three straight wins, including a 3-2 win over East Longmeadow. The Colts had a lot of action in that match before winning the fifth set 15-12. Alexander Rivera had an impressive 30 kills and 24 digs in the long match. Noah Johnson amassed 56 assists. Comp is 7-12.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
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Dominic Wurst winds up for a big spike.



Alexander Rivera gets the hit to the other side.

Mutiny have solid opening win over Maine

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Hope Santaniello was an All-American during her outstanding varsity soccer career at Agawam High School. She has been a key member of the New England Mutiny, who play their home matches at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, since 2019.

The Mutiny lost to the Lancaster Inferno FC, 2-1, in the UWS East Conference finals in Santaniello's first season. They've also qualified for the playoffs in each of the past two seasons, but they still haven't reached the top of the mountain.

With several key returning players and a couple of talented newcomers, the Mutiny are hoping to win a national championship title for the first time since 2000.

The Mutiny kicked off the 2024 campaign with an impressive 3-1 home win versus the Maine Footy, last Saturday afternoon.

"I feel like everyone is on the same page coming into this season," said Santaniello, who scored a second half goal. "We've only had a couple of practices, but all the players have been so encouraging and so positive. We played very well in today's game. I love playing for this team and I also love the atmosphere here. I'm hoping to win a championship title with this team, so we still have some unfinished business."

Federico Molinari celebrated his first victory as the Mutiny head coach. He took over the coaching reins from Mauricio "Toto" Coimbra.

"It feels very good to win my first game as the women's soccer coach," said Molinari, who also coaches the Western Mass. Pioneers. "I thought we played very well in today's game."

A year ago, the Mutiny finished the regular season in sixth place in the East Division standings with a 4-2-2 mark. They lost to the Lancaster Inferno FC, 4-3, again in the first round of the playoffs.

Santaniello, who's a forward, began her collegiate soccer career at the University of Rhode Island before transferring to UMass Lowell a year ago.

"I have one more year remaining at UMass- Lowell. Then I'm hoping to play for a professional soccer team," Santaniello said. "Playing at UMass-Lowell was an adjustment for me at first, but I really like playing there now. It's a great group of girls and coaches. I really love it there."

It took the Mutiny less than five minutes to score their first goal of the season.

The goal was scored by midfielder Avery Klingensmith, who graduated from Belchertown High School.

After receiving a pass in the third minute, Klingensmith fired a shot from the top of the box into the right corner of the net past Maine Footy goalie Sally Rainey for an unassisted goal.

"I've been practicing that shot and it felt very good," Klingensmith said. "We do have a bunch of talented players up top, and I never expected to score the first goal of the season. We're hoping to go all the way this year."

Klingensmith is beginning her third season playing for the Mutiny. She'll also be a junior on the women's soccer team at American University in Washington D.C., in the fall.

The other Mutiny players, who are from the communities served by the Turley Publications newspapers, are Alexis Legowski (McDuffie School/South Hadley), Aida Name (Belchertown High School/ Chicopee), Maddie Theriault (Palmer), and Kendall Bodak (Monson).

"I grew up playing soccer with a couple of the local players on the FC stars," Santaniello said. "I'm hoping a few of the current talented high school soccer players from Western Mass. join the Mutiny in the future."

Laura Gouvin, who's from Monson, was one of the Mutiny key players during the past couple

of years. Gouvin won't be returning this year because she has transferred from Boston College to the University of Colorado.

The Mutiny had several other very good scoring chances during the first 45 minutes of the opening half, but they still had a 1-0 lead at the break.

During the 57th minute, Santaniello received a pass from Chioma Okafor, who's one of the newcomers, before putting a shot into the back of the net making the score 2-0.

Okafor, who's a forward from Blantyre, Malawi, led the UConn women's soccer team with six goals and she also had three assists as a sophomore last season.

"I met her for the first time a couple of days ago, but we already have a good connection," Santaniello said. "She's a very good player and it was a lot of fun playing with her for the first time in today's game. She isn't a selfish soccer player. She's always looking for the open player. She made a great pass to me before I scored my goal."

The visitors from Portland Maine ended the shutout hopes of Mutiny goalie Katrina Chorzepe three minutes later following a corner kick goal.

Megan Scholten booted the ball from the left corner, and it sailed into the far corner of the net cutting the Footy deficit in half.

"We dominated the game from start to finish," Santaniello added. "I thought their corner kick goal was lucky. The score doesn't really show how well we played in today's game."

The Mutiny's third and final goal was scored by forward Cat Berry, who plays college soccer at the University of South Carolina Gamecocks with five minutes remaining in regulation.

The Mutiny, who'll be playing five of their eight regular season matches at the friendly confines of Lusitano Stadium, are scheduled to host Sporting CT at 7pm on Friday night.

PACERS from page 7

was the starting pitcher against the Orioles.

"This is our largest senior class in the five years that I've been coaching the varsity baseball team," said Chicopee head coach Dan Asselin. "They're a very good group of kids and we're really going to miss them a lot. They've contributed to our baseball program during the past couple of years."

The two Belchertown senior starters are catcher Derek Gould and right fielder C.J. Rivers. Their other senior is Luke Giguere, who's a reserve player.

"We're a fairly young team this year," Berneche said. "We're still trying to figure out how to play together as a team. This was the first time all season that we've come-from-behind to win a game."

The Orioles, who made their first visit to Szot Park since posting a 13-2 non-league victory in the 2022 season opener, stranded five runners in scoring position against Oldenburg, who's a righthander, in the first five innings.

The Pacers only had one base runner during the first three at-bats against Belchertown junior righty Jake Waller before taking the lead.

"I was a little bit nervous when we fell behind," Waller said. "My teammates helped me out in the sixth inning."

Waller, who was also the winning pitcher against Agawam at the end of April, allowed three runs (one earned) on four hits and a career-high 15 strikeouts in the comeback victory against the Pacers.

Waller retired eight consecutive Pacers batter's before the home team took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the fourth inning.

With one-out in the frame, Oldenburg hit a comebacker that glanced off the pitcher's glove. The ball deflected to freshman second baseman Carsten Matthews, whose throw to junior first baseman Evan Ferguson was a tad late resulting in an infield base hit. Then Maldonado, who's Oldenburg's batterymate, blasted a double to center field putting runners on second and third. The next batter flied out to shallow center, but Morrissette, who's the starting first baseman, kept the rally alive with a two-run single up the middle.

"That was a huge two-out hit by Caleb," Asselin said. "The guy before him didn't get the job done with less than two outs, but Caleb picked him up."

The Orioles committed back-to-back fielding errors with two-outs in the following frame. Oldenburg helped himself by hitting an RBI single to left field which gave the Pacers a 3-0 lead.

The home team watched the lead slip away from them when Belchertown scored five runs in the top of the sixth inning.

The Orioles scored two runs on back-to-back RBI singles by Matthews and junior centerfielder Daniel Hulmes (2-for-4). Then junior designated hitter Joe Jordan was safe at first base following a fielding error, which loaded the bases. Oldenburg struck out the next batter before junior shortstop Ian McDonald was hit-by-a-pitch forcing home the tying run. The Orioles took the lead for the first time when sophomore third baseman Ryan Gould smacked a two-run double to right field. "Ryan had been in a slump and that was a big hit by him," Berneche said. "Then Jake finished the job for us."

Waller struck out the side in order in the bottom half of the sixth.

Ryan Gould made an outstanding defensive play robbing Chicopee junior third baseman Charles Cyair of a base hit leading off the bottom of the seventh. Waller struck out the next two batters which ended the ballgame and the Orioles 20-year league title drought.

CPL announces upcoming programming

CHICOPEE - Here is a list of some of our upcoming library programs.

Tuesday, May 28 at 6:30/7:00 p.m. Join us for Poetry and the Spoken Word at 7pm in our Community Room. The featured guest reader for May will be V.Jane Schneeloch. V.Jane Schneeloch has been writing or encouraging others to write for most of her life. She's led workshops for youths, senior citizens, and incarcerated women. Her poetry has appeared in numerous journals and two collections: *Turning Over Leaves* (Antrim House Books, 2015) and *Climbing to the Moon* (Finishing Line Press, 2009). Her plays, *In Hiding* and *The Test*, were produced at the Drama Studio in Springfield, MA. You can find her blog at *Musing Over My Oatmeal*. Registration to share your own poetry or readings starts at 6:30 p.m. The program begins at 7 p.m. Teens and adults are welcome.

This program is hosted by local poet Don Fisher. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. The program starts at 7 p.m.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Monday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m. Are you nearing retirement? Do you want to learn the best strategies for maximizing the lifetime Social Security benefits you receive? Join us for an educational seminar "Making the Most of Social Security" with Susan Allen of Susan Allen Financial.

Some of the topics covered will include:

- Changes to Social Security filing strategies
- How married couples can help enhance their combined monthly and lifetime benefits
- How the "do over" and "start, stop, restart" strategies work
- How to claim retroactive benefits as a lump sum
- The effect of remarriage on survivor benefits for widowed and divorced spouses
- Five factors that could reduce the actual payments you receive

To register for this seminar, stop by the Reference Desk, call us at 413-594-1800x3 or email us at cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

Thursday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a book talk with local author Katherine Anderson. Her latest book "Murder at the Alma Mater" takes place at Elms College. Set against the backdrop of Elms College, *Murder at the Alma Mater* promises an unforgettable journey into the heart of aca-

demia, cozy mystery and suspense. Explore the hidden corners and untold stories of the campus that inspired the setting and get a glimpse into the author's creative process, revealing the inspirations and influences that shaped her writing journey from her earliest sparks of imagination to the meticulous research that breathed life into her characters and plot. This talk is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Monday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for an informational talk "Current Financial Fraud Scams and How to Protect Yourself and Your Money." Learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones from fraud with Lisa Pandolfi from Freedom Credit Union will share hot to protect yourself and loved ones from some of the most popular scams including

- Imposter/Grandparent scams
- Mail theft/Check washing
- Online Romance/Friend Scams
- Online Shopping
- Phone Scams
- Computer Scams

This program is free and open to the public. Please register for this informational session at the Reference Desk, 413-594-1800x3 or cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00 p.m. Decoupage Oyster Shells Learn how to paint, decoupage and shellac large oyster shells that can be used as jewelry dishes and ornaments. All supplies will be provided. You will go home with a beautifully decorated oyster shell designed by you!

Registration is required for this art class for adults. Register at the Reference Desk (413-594-1800x3, cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org).

This program is supported in part by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

For those interested in exploring their Family History, the Chicopee Library computer lab is available to work on genealogy 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. We have also recently added Newspapers.com to our genealogy resources available in the library.

If you need technology help, we offer one-on-one computer help on Mondays and Fridays at 2 p.m. or by appointment.

For more information, email or call the Reference Desk at cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org and 594-1800 x3.

Chicopee Public Library Hosts Programs for Kids and Families

CHICOPEE - Each month the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children and families. The Youth Services Department seeks to provide opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that explore literacy and promote creativity.

Here is the slate of events for June 2024.

The Library's All Ages Playgroup will be held in the children's room on Saturdays, June 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 1 to 2 p.m. While the children's room playspace is always available to kids and families visiting the library, during playgroup there are extra toys to explore. It is a great time for families to meet up and play.

Little Movers will be held in the children's program room on Fridays, June 7 and 21 at 11 a.m. Babies crawling to 24 months and their caregivers are invited to join us for free play followed by circle time exploring songs, fingerplays and movement.

Sensory Play Saturday will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 8. Come let your babies socialize and explore sensory play! We will have our play area set up with some sensory activities and other play opportunities. For babies 0-24 months and their caregivers. Kids ages six to nine are invited to come to the Maker Zone for projects, crafts, and experiments focused on Science Technology Engineering and Math.

Maker Zone will be held on Thursday, June 13 at 4 p.m. in the children's program room. This month's project is cloud dough.

The library will host two programs just for middle and high school students in June.

The Teen Anime Club (season finale) will be held on Thursday, June 6, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.. This will be the last regular Anime Club meeting of the school year. Be sure to stop by for some end-of-school-almost-summer celebrations!

Teen Throwback Tuesday will be held on Tuesday, June 11 from 2:30 4 p.m. Childhood nostalgia is on offer with fun games, coloring and the giant parachute.

The Chicopee Library's Summer Reading Program begins on

June 24. This year, the question is "Chicopee, Did you read today?" Kids, teens, adults and everybody of every age is invited to read every day from June 24 to August 16 and enjoy fun programs at the library!

Stop by the Kids Room from 3 to 5 p.m. on Monday June 24 for a Summer Reading Kickoff. There will be fun and games around the room, including a sensory walk, a scavenger hunt, and a giant sticker poster. Kids Room staff will be available to help get you registered for Summer Reading and then you can stock up on library books so you can read every day.

Summer Dance Parties will be held every other Tuesday morning. The first one will be on Tuesday, June 25 at 10:30 a.m. Join in to move and groove. Geared for kids five and under, but older kids are welcome!

The library will host a Learn to Draw Watch Party, where an online event and drawing lesson will be streamed on the big screen in the Community Room at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25. All ages welcome. Join illustrator Jason Chin, illustrator for iREAD 2024 and illustrator of *Life After Whale: the Amazing Ecosystem of a Whale Fall*, coming in June, as well as Tara Audibert of *JoJo Makoons Fancy Pants* and graphic novelist Rachel Dinunzio, author of *Forsythia: Rise of the Cupcakes*. Drawing supplies will be provided. This event is brought to you by Baker & Taylor.

On Wednesday, June 26 at 2 p.m., the library will host Taiko Thunder, a high energy Japanese drumming performance by Odaiko New England. Fans of anime and manga, and fans of big drums should not miss this one! Registration is Required. Contact the Kids Room to sign up. This program is supported by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Visit the Chicopee Public Library all summer long for storytime, art projects, performances, concerts and more!

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

CFD visits Hampden School of Science



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE- The fire department continued their school visits with a stop at the Hampden Charter School of Science on May 22.

Freedom Credit Union announces free Community Shred Days June 8

SPRINGFIELD - Freedom Credit Union is pleased once again to offer the opportunity for western Massachusetts residents to securely purge unwanted paperwork. In cooperation with PROSHRED® Springfield, Freedom is offering its free Community Shred Days at four of its branches this spring.

Saturday, June 8
9-10:30 a.m.
1976 Main Street
Springfield
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
296 Cooley Street
Springfield

The public is invited to bring old bills, bank statements, tax returns and other sensitive documents for free, quick and secure on-site shredding.

Members and non-members alike may bring up to five file boxes or paper bags (per vehicle). There is no charge for this service.

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TAG SALE

44 HILLTOP TERRACE, LUDLOW. May 24-25-26, 9am-3pm. Lots of good stuff, fishing gear, RC cars, art, electronics, Copper Chef, grill, cabachon stones, DVD's, furniture, clothes, tools, and top box.

ESTATE SALE, SUNDAY, MAY 26 AND MONDAY, MAY 27, 9am-2pm. Household items, garage items, tools. **37 Dale Street, South Hadley.**

MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE - Moody Street, Ludlow: 9am-3pm, 5/25 and 5/26. Clothing, furniture, household items, small appliances, sporting goods.

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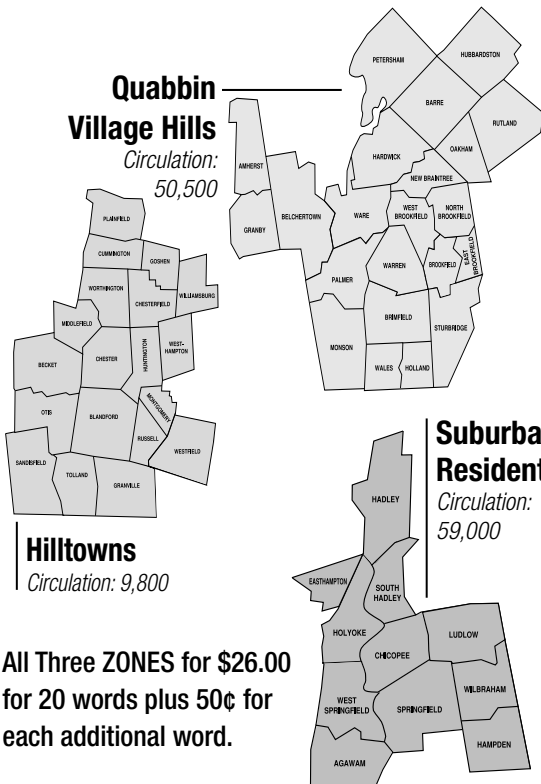
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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. HD24P1084EA

Estate of:
Helen Elizabeth Duprey
Also known as:
Helen E Duprey
Date of Death: 04/07/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Paula M. Cortis 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: Paula M. Cortis 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 06/13/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return 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: May 16, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/24/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P0918EA

Estate of:
Mitchell Nowak
Also Known As:
Mieczyslaw Nowak
Date of Death:
December 18, 2023

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Dorothy M. Pinkas of Belmont, MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Dorothy M. Pinkas of Belmont, 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 inter-

ested 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.
05/24/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0166CA
In the matter of:

Renee Jane Rivard
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Renee Jane Rivard of Chicopee, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Renee Jane Couture
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/18/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: May 21, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/24/2024

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MA LICENSED ELECTRICIAN. Full or part-time position available at established local electrical service company. Competitive pay & benefits. Call 978-852-8562.

Oakham Highway Dept. is hiring a **full-time Equipment Operator / Mechanic / Laborer.**

Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License Class B (CDL) with DOT Medical Examination Certification and a Hoisting Engineer License Class 4A, 2G with DOT Medical Examination Certification. Hourly rate of \$24.72. For a full job description visit www.oakham-ma.gov. Interested applicants should submit their resume and an employment application to **Town of Oakham Attn: Maribel LaRange 2 Coldbrook Road, Oakham Ma. 01068** or email it to admin@oakham-ma.gov

P.T. CUSTODIAN POSITION AVAILABLE cleaning with our team. Experience preferred but will train. Call Pride Cleaning Contractors, 413-283-7087.



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HELP WANTED

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ASSISTANT CHIEF OPERATOR

The Town of Hardwick, MA is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Assistant Chief Operator. This Assistant Chief Operator will participate in the operation of all plant treatment processes. Responsibilities include operating and repairing pumps, motors, blowers, chemical feed systems, oversee preventative and corrective maintenance. Besides performing laboratory analysis, sample collection and process control for an extended aeration and SBR facility, the Assistant Chief Operator will assist the Superintendent of Water Pollution Control in preparing and submitting the necessary reporting to state and federal agencies. The Assistant Chief Operator works under the general direction of the Superintendent of Water Pollution Control. Requirements: High school diploma or equivalent, a valid MA driver's license, a valid MA grade 5C Wastewater Operators license or higher. Applicant must be certified in Confined Space Entry. Ability to follow written and verbal instructions; read operations manuals and good verbal skills. Experience with the operation and maintenance of extended aeration and SBR treatment processes a plus. Position is 40 hours/week with rotational weekend, holiday and on call coverage required. For consideration, please send cover letter and resume to **Town Administrator, P.O. Box 575, 307 Main Street, Gilbertville, MA 01031** or by email admin@townofhardwick.com. The Town of Hardwick is an equal opportunity employer.

REAL ESTATE

LAND FOR SALE

LOT 100A FOR SALE. Holland Reservoir, small surveyed ROW waterfront lot with dock and boat ramp. **508-868-6157.**

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Classified Advertising DEADLINE MONDAY AT NOON

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



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

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

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IN THE CITY



Bowie Elementary School visits CFD

CHICOPEE – First graders from Bowie Elementary School recently visited the fire department's Station 8 to tour their station and try out the fire hose with the firefighters.

The students also received their own miniature firefighter hats.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT



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