

Chicopee Register

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ
Charlotte Fields reacts to being named the 2026 Chicopee Colleen as Mila Dillard, Shannon Caloon, Jahzara Bradley and Gracelyn Jarry applaud.

Charlotte Fields crowned as 2026 Chicopee Colleen

Also, reflections on Ball Night

By Kristin Rivers and Brendan Rooney

CHICOPEE - Chicopee Comprehensive High School Senior Charlotte Fields was crowned the 2026 Chicopee Colleen at this year's Coronation Ball.

Her court members are Mila Dillard, a junior at Pope Francis Preparatory High School, Shannon Caloon, a senior at Hampden Charter School of Science, Jahzara Bradley—see sidebar—a

freshman at American International College, and Gracelyn Jarry, also a senior at Chicopee Comprehensive High School.

The ball, taking place at the newly-renovated Portuguese American Club on Feb. 21, was an extravagant gathering with 12 contestants narrowed down to five finalists, who were scored on accomplishments, personality, poise and appearance.

This year's judges were Bret Casella, Judith Danek and Nathan Andary, with Michelle Charette as tabulator.

Joe Irwin and Alivia

Mendes served as cohorts.

As for the scholarship recipients, they are Charlotte Fields, Shannon Caloon and Gracelyn Jarry.

Before the winner was chosen, the finalists answered one question and afterward, the Chicopee Colleen was selected after the judges' deliberation.

Chicopee Colleen, Court Celebrate

Dillard, Jarry, Fields, Bradley and Caloon expressed excitement and were honored to be selected.

"A lot, but it's so exciting.

I've thought about doing this since I was little, so having this kind of full circle moment is really cool," Dillard said.

"Honestly, it's unbelievable. I was so stressed and so nervous for no reason and I have these girls with me for an entire year and, hopefully, the rest of my life," Jarry said.

"Me too. I was very nervous, but I'm obviously so overwhelmed right now, like, I can't even believe it. So, this is crazy," Fields said.

"I'm just very excited to be here and I'm so happy for

Please see **COLLEENS**, page 5

Bradley withdraws as Court Member

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - On Tuesday, Feb. 24, the Chicopee Register was informed by the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee that Jahzara Bradley has withdrawn as a court member.

Bradley decided to withdraw for personal reasons. The Parade Committee

said they wish her well and respect her decision to step down.

The committee also confirmed to the Chicopee Register that there will be no replacement for Bradley and, moving forward, this year's contingent will consist of 2026 Chicopee Colleen Charlotte Fields and Court Members Mila Dillard, Shannon Caloon and Gracelyn Jarry.

City Council divided by request from Golf Commission

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The City Council had one of its longest, most intricate discussions in recent memory last week, so buckle up.

While the municipal golf course was the initial focus of the conversation, it evolved into a broader dialogue about transparency and prioritization.

Background

During the Feb. 17 meeting, Mayor John Vieau requested that \$69,250 be taken from an account designated to fund the replacement of the clubhouse roof at the golf course and use it to instead install a cooler in a new location behind the building.

Previously, the City

Council approved approximately \$97,500 to be placed in the account to fund the roof's replacement.

Facilities Maintenance Director Dave Rice explained that the city later chose to make smaller repairs to the roof, costing only \$28,250.

The clubhouse has long been in poor condition, and the structure may need to be replaced down the line, so city officials chose against replacing the entire clubhouse roof.

Rice noted that it makes more sense to spend the account's remaining money on installing the freezer outdoors.

"After talking to the Golf Commission, the may-

Please see **GOLF COURSE**, page 6



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A group photo with Chief of Staff Mike Pise, Mayor John Vieau, Michael Gorman, senior director of Government Relations for BusPatrol, Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware and the team at Five Star Bus.

Chicopee becomes first city with school bus cameras

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The city of Chicopee is the first in the state to install cameras on school buses as part of the Bus Stop Arm Safety Program.

The announcement was shared in a press conference outside Chicopee Comprehensive High School on Feb. 25, which included remarks from Mayor John Vieau, Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware, Nathan Lecrenski, vice president of Operations at Five Star Bus, and Michael Gorman, senior director of Government Relations for BusPatrol, and a live demonstration of the bus stop arm and cameras, which are found

on the side, top and front and back of the bus.

The contract agreement with BusPatrol was signed the same day.

Under Massachusetts state law, the fine for drivers illegally passing a stopped school bus is a minimum of \$250 for the first offense.

In 2025, Gov. Maura Healey signed a bill into law allowing video monitoring for school bus safety enforcement for towns and cities, and pilot programs were also conducted in other communities, such as Peabody and Salem.

A "warning" period to familiarize the community with the new technology begins March 3, with enforcement following suit starting April 1.

10 school buses, so far,

have these cameras and all 74 will have them installed by summer.

It was also clarified that this and the technology at the Real Time Information Center are two separate AI entities.

Vieau explained how statistically, in Massachusetts, "school buses are illegally passed, on average, three times per day," which "equals thousands of violations a year."

"That's scary. Each illegal passing represents a moment where a child's life is needlessly put at risk, and we can't ignore that here," Vieau said. "The stop arm cameras will identify vehicles that illegally

Please see **BUS CAMERAS**, page 6

An exclusive look inside the Real Time Information Center

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The police department, in partnership with the Hampden County Sheriff's Office, officially unveiled the Real Time Information Center on Feb. 18, a new digital age to address public security and safety.

Mayor John Vieau explained why this is the next step in solidifying and ensuring public safety as the #1 priority in the city.

"What we've learned about crime is that it doesn't have boundaries. Here in the city of Chicopee, we want to make sure that when you put your head down on your pillow at night, you feel safe, and I believe that's what we're doing," Vieau said. "I want all the bad guys to know that if you come to Chicopee, you're not getting away with a crime. That's really the message that I hope everyone hears."

Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi praised Vieau and the CPD for launching this initiative.

"Today represents what modern, responsible public safety looks like," Cocchi said. "Partnership, technology used the right way, and a shared commitment to protecting our communities is the path forward."

The official framework of the system, which first debuted last year in 2025, has been a project in the works for a few years, but



TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Mayor John Vieau delivers remarks as Acting Chief Eric Watson watches on.

it's clear hard work has paid off, and this new addition to the realm of public safety has officially built from the ground up, taking place from a centralized hub that consists of a small squad of crime analysts, three of whom are embedded at the center thanks to the joint partnership with the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, overseen by RTIC Director Bill Schwartz, who helped build a similar department in Springfield years prior.

Before the doors were open, a presentation was shown by Acting Police Chief Eric Watson, who offered insight into what this department and resource are

built on, which is the use of camera systems, digital evidence tools, investigative databases and public safety matters scaling from major to minor, operating on an incident-driven model.

The system utilizes some form of AI (Artificial Intelligence) implementation to help the analysts assist and work alongside officers out in the field, when attempting to identify a person or vehicle report in a crime. Also, analysts can also step in to help communicate with other officers during a pursuit, such as being able to tap into their body cam feed, acting as

Please see **RTIC**, page 8

IN THE CITY

Portuguese American Club reopens after renovations

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The Portuguese American Club, a landmark venue in the city, hosted a ribbon-cutting to commemorate a grand re-opening renovation on Feb. 13, which drew more than 100 people to witness the historic moment.

Among those in attendance were local dignitaries such as Mayor John Vieau, numerous City Councilors and a multitude of family and friends.

Offering insight into how this remodel came together was Club President Brian Mendes, who explained it was a three-week process that took place at the end of January, but also one that was more than 25 years in the making.

"The last renovations we did were back in 2001, so it's been some time, and we felt it was the right decision to make," Mendes said.

The company behind the remodel was Allied Flooring out of Agawam, and the project was led by company owner Jorge Morgado and Flooring and Design Sales Representative Lissa Rivera.



Mayor John Vieau and Chicopee Portuguese American Club President Brian Mendes are celebrating the big moment.

The Chicopee Portuguese American Club Board of Directors, with Club President Brian Mendes in the middle.

Mendes shared that the process was efficient, and he "couldn't be happier" with the final result.

"We felt it needed a bit of a renovation. I mean, this isn't just an open space, it's our future," Mendes said. "The club has always brought a sense of harmony to the city, and throughout the years, we have utilized this space for a plethora of events, from weddings, jack & jills, birthday parties, to community gath-

erings, and it's truly been an honor to lead this prestigious achievement, and we're looking towards the future, and we couldn't be more happier."

He then closed his thoughts with this.

"Let this renovated hall stand as a symbol of unity, resilience, and pride, acting as a reminder of what we can accomplish together as not only a city, but a community," Mendes said.

In addition to Mendes

taking the podium to deliver opening remarks, he added that his family being in attendance, which also included his wife Nicole, and his two daughters, Alivia and Emalie, was truly special.

"My wife(Nicole) has been my backbone for a long time, and I have been part of this club for a long time; throughout this process, I was appointed president close to 9 years ago, and every year it continues to get bigger and

bigger, but we always make it work," Mendes said.

Reflecting on the accomplishment was Vieau, who had the privilege of cutting the ribbon and ushering in the next dynasty of the historic venue.

"It's exciting to see reinvestment. That's what's happening here, and it's great to see the (Portuguese American Club) put in all this renovation, because it shows they take pride in this space, and

it's just special, and I'm excited for them to make many more life-changing memories and moments," Vieau said. "I want to add that this is a very special moment for not only the city of Chicopee but also the Portuguese American community, and it's nice to see them reinvesting and modernizing, to stay up to date with the times."

As of this moment, the venue has hosted countless events since the grand re-opening, with the most recent playing host to the Chicopee Colleen Coronation Ball on Feb. 21.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICOLE SIMARD-MENDES



COURTESY OF LINDA LACROIX

This tree was covered in snow.



COURTESY OF KATHERINE LAMONTAGNE PATRY

The snow coming down overnight by Teddy Bear Pools & Spas.

Another snowstorm blankets Chicopee



COURTESY OF ROGERSON TAMAREY

That is quite a pile of snow.

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Earlier this week, another storm blanketed the city of Chicopee, bringing school closures, and more than 200 cars were towed by the DPW due to the parking ban, which was once again in effect.

As always offering praise towards the efforts put forth by the city was City Council Vice President/Ward 6 City Councilor Sam Shumsky, who posted a comment this past Monday, which was centered around offering a sense of gratitude to the swift response put forth by all first responders and all departments:

"As another winter storm moved through Chicopee, I

wanted to take a moment to thank the dedicated men and women of the Chicopee Department of Public Works,



COURTESY OF JESS PANETTI

It was another snow day for the kids on Feb. 23.



COURTESY OF KARLEE HAMELIN

Dior playing in the snow

Chicopee Fire Department, Chicopee Police Department, our EMS teams, and Chicopee Electric Light for their tireless work keeping our roads clear, our neighborhoods safe, and the power on," Shumsky said. "These crews work around the

clock in difficult conditions to serve our community, and we are grateful for their commitment and professionalism."

Shumsky added, "Chicopee always steps up when it matters most. Let's continue to look out for one another."

And as in recent editions, many of you have shared your snow photos with the Chicopee Register after the recent snowstorm that blanketed the region, which was quickly dispatched by the city's efforts. So once again, we have some more to share.

Enjoy this photospread of snowstorm pics, and again, thank you to everyone who sent in their photos, like always.



COURTESY OF KELLI MONSKA LEMELIN

"Sooo over winter."

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 15833(J. Wilson)(3); 15901(Z. Rodriguez-Delgado)(1);
 15935(E. Santana)(1); 16118(N. Reyes)(1); 16119(J. Pelkey)(3);
 16127(J. Rivera)(2); 16153(A. Taylor)(1); 16163(J. Jackson)(6);
 16172(C. Acevedo)(1); 16177(C. Pacheco)(1); 16182(J. Pizaro)(2);
 16221(J. Cartagena)(6); 16229(L. Girard)(3); 16243(K. Greenleaf)
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 (1); 16279(L. St Marie)(1); 16297(A. Musiak)(4); 16301(J. Healy)
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 (1); 16332(R. Webster)(1); 16339(M. Rivera)(2); 16370(A. Perez)
 (2); 16371(J. Doe)(1); 16372(R. Tolisano)(1); 16381(S. Howe)(8);
 16390(M. Corbin)(1); 16392(S. Bostock)(1); 16394(E. Pike)(2);
 16395(T. Brunelle)(8); 16427(L. Kielson)(2); 16430(I. Marin)(3);
 16465(S. Cibelli)(7); 16480(L. Jones)(4); 16487(R. Timmons)(2);
 16490(J. Torres)(1); 16495(W. Turner)(9); 16503(C. Kelllett)(3);
 16504(E. Emerling)(2); 16506(C. Porter)(3); 16535(T. Paradise)(2);
 16542(J. Moon)(1); 16545(I. Robinson)(6); 16547(C. Bourelle)(3);
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 16566(B. Madewell)(1); 16569(L. Stamatiou)(2);
 16575(G. Germaine)(2); 16577(J. Peltier)(3); 16581(K. Lane)(6);
 16585(A. Eggleston)(1); 16598(S. Tyson)(6); 16601(V. Provost)(1);
 16608(C. Tenerowicz)(1); 16609(M. Rodriguez)(1);
 16613(C. Doucette)(3); 16615(D. Beths at Grafton Street)(1);
 16623(M. Torres)(1); 16627(B. Merchant)(3)

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IN THE CITY

RiverMills Senior Center Events

Women's History Month
CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host a Massachusetts Women's History Month program on Wednesday, March 25 at 12:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Join History Professor Maura Henry of Holyoke Community College for this program in honor of Women's History Month. During this presentation, you will learn about Massachusetts women Abigail Adams, Deborah Sampson, Elizabeth Freeman, and the birth of America. Although this is a free event, you must register in advance at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner
CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will have a St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Thursday, March 12th at 5 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a delicious Corned Beef dinner catered by Hamel's, while listening to traditional Irish songs by local Western Mass band Banish Misfortune. Beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$20 and there is a limit of 2 tickets per person. Registration is now open for this dinner. Please call RiverMills Center at 534-3698 to inquire about ticket availability. You must register in person.

Drum Circle
CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer a Drum Circle on Wednesday, March 11 at 1:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Join Carol LaLiberte, professor at CT State Community College, as she leads you through a drum circle. Drum circles improve mood, boost cardio health, increase energy, memory and provide a sense of community and belonging. No musical experience needed! You must register in advance at RiverMills or by calling

413-534-3698.
Nutrition Workshop

CHICOPEE - Council on Aging will offer a general nutrition workshop on Monday, March 16 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St. Join representatives from Ascentria Care Alliance's SNAP-Ed program to talk about the solutions and barriers for a lifestyle of healthy nutrition, physical activity and wellness. You will also play some Nutrition Jeopardy and will be able to grab a sample of a healthy soup and recipe to make at home. Although this is a free program, please register at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

Poison Prevention
CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging host a poison prevention program on Wednesday, March 18 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Every year, Poison Prevention Week is recognized during the third week of March. Join Regional Public Health Nurse Fiona Cioch for a presentation on poison prevention in your home so you can keep yourself and your family safe. Though this is a free event, you must register at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

Parkinson's Foundation
CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host a Parkinson's Foundation Information Session on Thursday, March 19 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Join the Parkinson's Foundation for an information session about what the Parkinson's Foundation is all about, as well as a discussion on the 10 early signs of the disease. This program will provide an overview of the foundations mission and work and highlight the wide range of resources, educational programs, and genetic testing opportunities available through the foundation. Although this is a free event, you must register in advance at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

ABC's of Genealogy
CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will host the program "ABCs of Genealogy" on Monday, March 23 at 1:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join David Robinson of Old Bones Genealogy, as he goes through the ABCs of family research, where you will learn how to start digging deep into your family history. You might be surprised as to what you find. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

SNAP Pop-Up Food Pantry
CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will host a pop-up food pantry on Thursday, March 26 at 9 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

RiverMills recognizes the need for additional nutritional assistance during these challenging economic times. As a SNAP outreach partner, RiverMills will host a pop-up food pantry. To be eligible, you must be a Chicopee resident age 55+ with a valid EBT card. You must show proof of residency and your EBT card at the event to receive your bag of groceries. You must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

Red Cross Ready
CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer the program "Red Cross Ready" on Friday, March 27 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Representatives from the American Red Cross of Massachusetts will be at RiverMills Center to present the Red Cross Ready program. This program is a national standardized free preparedness education curriculum for adults taught by certified presenters. This program is designed to help people understand, prepare for, and respond appropriately to disasters. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids and families

CHICOPEE - Each month the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children, teens, and families. The Youth Services Department provides opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that promote literacy and explore creativity. Here is the slate of events for March 2026.

Crafts! - Mondays in March 4 to 5 p.m. Stop by the Kids Room for arts and/or crafts! For kids and families of all ages.

Terrific Twos will be held on Tuesdays, March 3, 17 and 31 at 10:30 a.m. Terrific Twos is for two-year-olds and their caregivers. This program features about 25 minutes of structured circle time, followed by about half an hour of semi-structured playtime. During circle time, we will sing songs, do rhymes, do some big movements, and read 1 book. The book choice rotates between either a read aloud picture book or a group read of a board book. Playtime involves a choice of craft, activity, or play.

Sing to Your Baby with Julie on Friday March 6 at 11 a.m. Sing and rhyme with your little ones. For ages 0-2 and their caregivers.

Storytime will be held on Thursdays, March 5 and 19 at 10:30 a.m. Storytime is for children ages 3-5. This program features about 30 minutes of structured circle time, followed by 15-30 minutes of a craft or activity. Circle time will include two to three read aloud books, rhymes, songs, and

felt boards. Children will be encouraged to ask and answer simple questions and recognize things like shapes, colors, letters, and numbers. There will be a puppet show in lieu of storytime on February 19, see below.

Build with LEGO on Thursday, March 5 at 4 p.m. Unstructured building time for kids ages 6 and up.

Sensory Play Saturday will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 9:30 a.m. 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 to 24 months and their caregivers.

Saturday Playgroup will be held on Saturdays at 1 p.m. in March. We'll put out some extra toys in the play-space. It's a great time for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play.

Little Kid Dance Party will be on Wednesdays, March 11 and 25 at 10:30 a.m. Moving and grooving for kids and their caregivers. Geared toward ages 0 to 5, but all are welcome! 45 minutes to one hour of energetic activity including singing and dancing, action rhymes, and playing with props like scarves and shakers.

The library will have **Bingo for Books** on Wednesday, March 11 at 6 p.m. Play a few rounds of bingo and win the best prize: books! For kids and families of all ages.

The Kids Room Sewing Club will meet on Wednes-

day, March 18, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Learn basic stitches and practice skills by making fun projects. Recommended for ages 6 and up. Kids who are not familiar with using a needle and thread should attend with an adult. Teens are welcome.

The library Homeschool Meetup will be on Thursday, March 26 at 12 p.m. This group meets once a month September - June for homeschooling families with kids of all ages to hang out, do activities and learn together. This month each family will share spring traditions or activities and we'll make a Cherry Blossom craft.

Teens
Visit the library after school and enjoy the Teen Space with friends! We've got board games, puzzles, the library's Switch, and coloring to enjoy.

Is your life lacking some cool, anime themed swag? Then stop by our Anime Club on Wednesday, March 25 at 3 p.m. and maybe walk away with some fun posters, knickknacks, or other goodies!

Friday Teen Hang
Join us every Friday after school in the Teen Space for some games and crafts! We'll have the Nintendo Switch available to play, coloring pages and paper to doodle, and more!

Teens are invited to join us at LEGO, Sewing Club, and Monday Crafts.

Visit the library website www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org for more info about all of the library's events

St. Stanislaus School hosting Annual Auction

CHICOPEE - The St. Stanislaus School is hosting its Annual Auction in March 2026 as an online virtual event. The Auction begins on March 7 and ends on March 14.

The Auction is to raise funds for a new stage and Performing Arts Fund. During these challenging times in our world, it is more important than ever to have current and relevant curriculum available in all areas of learning. Our goal is to raise \$15,000 to \$20,000 for our school.

The cost of providing a quality, safe and health environment is higher than ever at this time. Your contribution will help us to continue to provide for the 300 students in our school each day.

In order to reach this goal, we need donations from businesses, parents and individual benefactors. Please consider supporting our event by donating a gift certificate, monetary donation, merchandise or services. Your company will be listed in the bidding brochure, and your donation will be displayed in the online

catalogue for bidding. We hope you will donate an item or make a contribution to help support St. Stanislaus School where we believe that we should "Strive to be Servant Leaders for Today and Tomorrow."

Please contact Katherine Rorrio at 413-592-5135 or email ststanis@saintstansschool.org if you are able to donate. We will gladly have someone pick up your contribution. Any donations will be tax deductible and will be given a receipt worth the value of the donation.

Designer Purse Bingo to support Lorraine's Soup Kitchen

CHICOPEE - A Designer Purse Bingo event to benefit Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry will be taking place on April 17 at the Knights of Columbus Council 69 on 460 Granby Rd.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and the games start at 6:30 p.m.

Ten games = 20 chances to win.

Tickets include entry for 10 games, dauber, door prize ticket and light refreshments.

Cash bar, outside food welcome.

Raffles and door prizes. Bring non-perishable

food items to be entered into a special raffle. \$35 pre-sale only.

For tickets, contact Donna at 413-557-9280, Kim at 413-474-2991 or the kitchen at 413-592-9528.

Winter Gym Time offered at Szetela School

CHICOPEE - Winter Gym Time will be taking place at Szetela School.

Drop-in playtime with friends in the gym.

Children build strength, coordination and confidence through playful movement. Using games, obstacle cours-

es, music and imagination, children jump, balance, stretch and move in a safe environment!

They take place on Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. on Jan. 21, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 25 and March 4.

For information, call

Shane at 413-310-1632.

The programs are offered by the Holyoke Chicopee Family and Community Program. Funded by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

City of Chicopee Data Collection Program begins

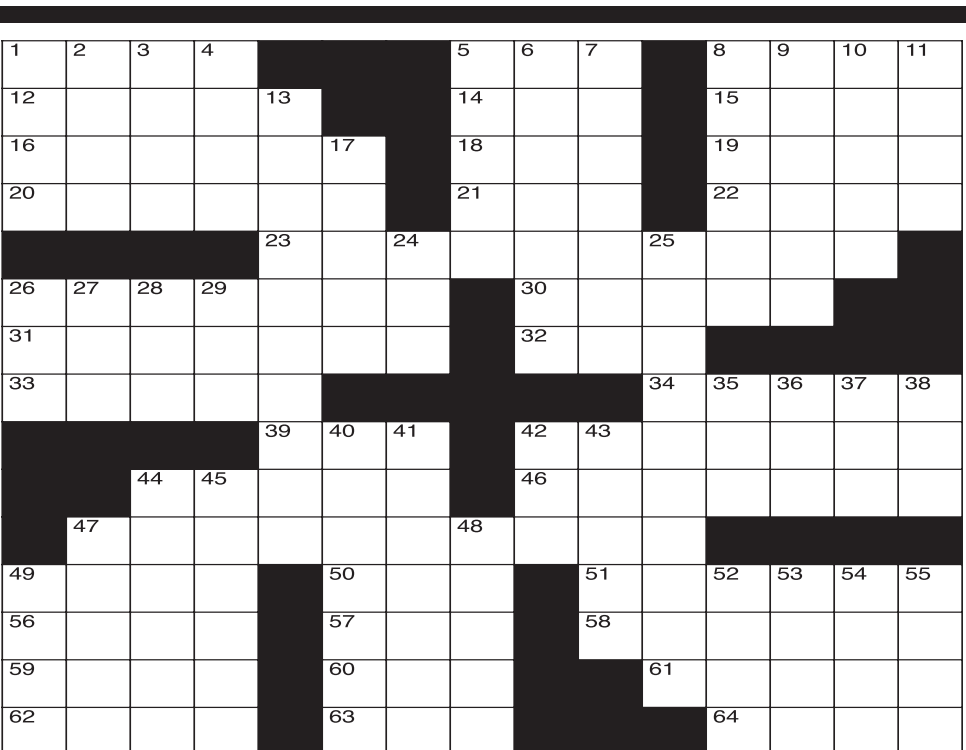
CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Board of Assessors is notifying businesses that data collectors from the assessors' office will be visiting all businesses starting January 27, 2026 to collect personal property information. Each data collector will carry an official photo

identification card issued by Real Estate Research Consultants, Inc. and a letter from the Chicopee Board of Assessors.

The Department of Revenue requires the Assessors to visit businesses every five years to re-list the taxable personal property

that is used by the business. The data collectors will also confirm the legal owner, business name and mailing address for each location.

Data collectors will have identification and any questions can be directed to the Assessors' office at 594-1430.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. What travelers must do
- 5. Calendar month
- 8. Hopefully quickly
- 12. Once more
- 14. Bravo! Bravo!
- 15. "Cheers" actress
- 16. Astronomy unit
- 18. Savings vehicle
- 19. Get your ducks in this
- 20. Right away
- 21. Popular sports league
- 22. Containers
- 23. Entireties
- 26. One who wassails
- 30. Turned-up position
- 31. Extreme modesty
- 32. Writing utensil
- 33. Rewards (archaic)

- 34. Ancient capital
- 39. S. American wood sorrel
- 42. General discomfort
- 44. Philippine island
- 46. A witty saying
- 47. One who summarizes
- 49. Covered in
- 50. Mimic
- 51. Henry was a notable one
- 56. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
- 57. Retired NFLer
- 58. Playground equipment
- 59. Concept
- 60. Satisfaction
- 61. Fishing net
- 62. Hammer end
- 63. A father's male child

- 64. Japanese drink
- 1. Off-Broadway figure
- 2. Gelatinous substance
- 3. Concern
- 4. "Lick It Up" rockers
- 5. Serbian river
- 6. Part of a hat
- 7. Bowl-shaped drinking vessel
- 8. Semitic language
- 9. Utter a shrill cry
- 10. Long times
- 11. Animal parts
- 13. Causing annoyance
- 17. Amorous talker
- 24. Attempt
- 25. Harmonic effects
- 26. Cost per mile
- 27. They ___
- 28. Bitterly regret
- 29. Not even
- 35. A way to drop

- 36. Title of respect
- 37. World leader
- 38. Georgia rockers
- 40. National capital
- 41. Great Plains people
- 42. Duck-sized dinosaur genus
- 43. Architectural recesses
- 44. Member of U.S. Navy
- 45. Mountainous
- 47. Kite bird
- 48. Sweetheart (archaic)
- 49. Popular snack made of potato
- 52. 70s songsters The Bee ___
- 53. SE China port ___ - men
- 54. Something to fill up
- 55. League of Legends character

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IN THE CITY

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

Snow flowers for an impending storm

As I write, we are expecting a blizzard. More snow in a winter that has already provided plenty, at least in my humble opinion.

Instead of focusing on all of that depressing news, why don't we "think spring" by focusing on bulbs that appear just as the snow is melting.



Perhaps the earliest and best known of the spring harbingers is the Snowdrop (Galanthus nivalis). Toughened points on the leaf tips make it possible for the snowdrop to push through the crusty soil of late winter. Two or three strappy leaves grow from each bulb; most often there is just one flower.

You'll notice three white outer petals first and upon closer inspection you'll see green tipped inner petals. The flowers are held on the stem in a nodding fashion and in my experience they stay in bloom for upwards of three weeks.

Reportedly they are well adapted for bees, at least those that are brave enough to venture out of the hive in search of pollen during the warmest days of late winter!

Snowdrops will naturalize if happy, increasing in numbers both above and below the ground! Although we "deadhead" most bulbs, keeping spent flower heads of this genus in place will allow seeds to ripen and new plants to form. It is interesting to observe the process of a snowdrop self-sowing.

Once the flower has gone by a large seed will form; because of its weight, the stem will bend toward the ground dropping its ripe seed at a perfect distance from the mother plant. Under no circumstances should the foliage of a bulb be removed until it is brown and dry.

It may not be the most beautiful to look at, but all the while that it is green it is making and storing food for next year's flowers.

Glory of the Snow (Chionodoxa luciliae) is also one of the first spring bulbs to appear, sometimes right through the melting snow. Most common in periwinkle blue with a white center, these six inch tall, six petaled flowers also appear in pink and white.

They thrive in full to

part sun situations, whether it be the rock garden, at the base of shrubs or deciduous trees or even when planted in the lawn! They naturalize easily, forming large colonies by bulb offsets and self-sowing. They are deer resistant.

Glory of the Snow stay in bloom upwards of two weeks, maybe longer if temperatures don't spike. Like other spring bloomers, the bulbs go dormant after the foliage ripens. It does not stick around long enough to be much of an eyesore in the garden.

One word of caution for those looking for the blue flowered lawn effect: don't mow until the foliage has yellowed or mow high to miss the foliage.

Another one of my favorite harbingers is the Snow Crocus (Crocus tommasinianus). Not to be confused with the large Dutch crocus, Snow Crocus is typically lilac in color and has white stems.

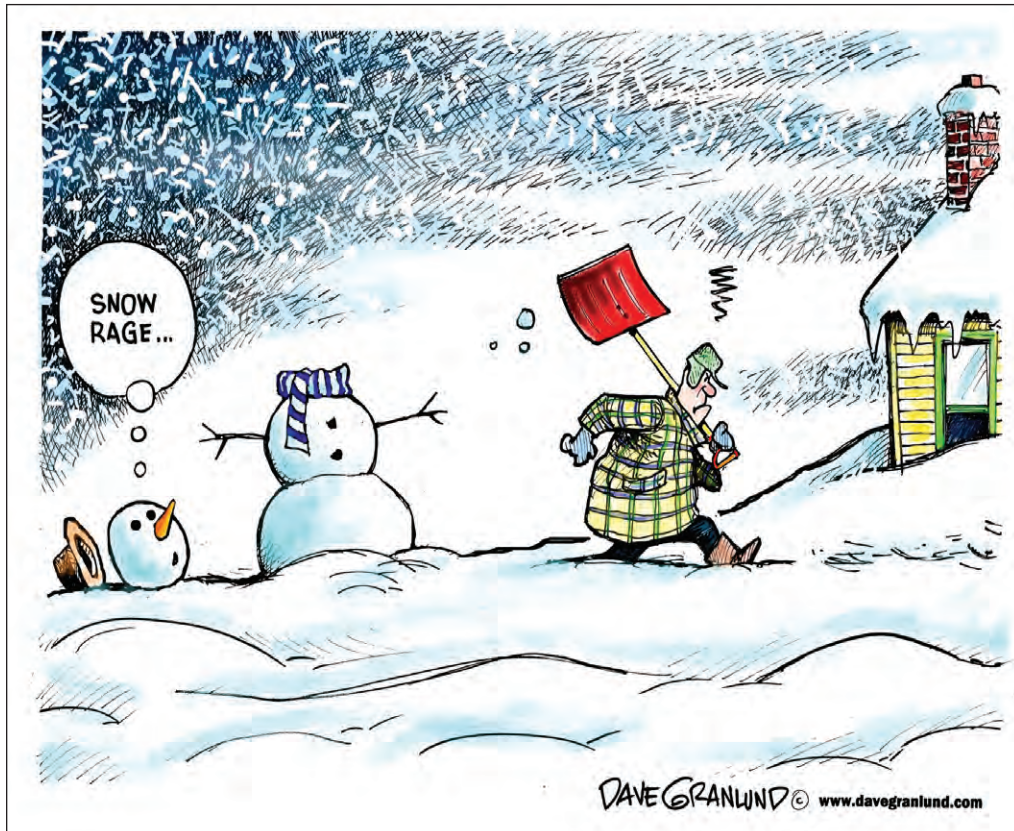


They grow about three inches tall and naturalize well with daughter corms forming around the mother corm. They are both squirrel and deer resistant.

Native to Hungary, Snow Crocus are sometimes called "Tommies" thanks to their species name, which was a tribute to Muzio G. Spirito de Tommasini, a Hungarian botanist. Years ago we had these beauties in a sequence of spring bloomers that started with Snow Drops, moved on to the Snow Crocus, then on to a Daffodil and then finally the Spanish bluebell. The combination spanned March through May.

Just the thought of that versus what we are expecting in terms of weather has lightened my mood some; I hope it has done the same for you.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.



in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

On President's Day I saw a northern flicker fly up into a tree as I traveled in Barre.

The white rump patch was clearly visible. A Brimfield resident said he has a friend in Belchertown, who occasionally has a flicker come to his suet feeder. Four or five bluebirds also frequent his suet feeder.

Northern flickers are a fairly, large woodpecker about 11 to 12 inches long. They are larger than a hairy woodpecker and smaller than a pileated woodpecker.

They appear brownish overall with a white rump patch that's is conspicuous in flight and often visible when they perch. The undersides of the wing and tail feathers are bright yellow for eastern birds or red for western birds. The brown plumage has black spots, barring and a black "bib." The sexes are similar, but the male has a black mustache.

Flickers spend a lot of time on the ground and like many woodpeckers fly in an undulating up and down path with flapping and gliding. They make a repeated flicker or "wicka-wicka-wicka" call and a loud "kleer."

They inhabit open forests, woodlots, groves and semi-open country. The female lays five to eight eggs sometimes more. Both sexes incubate the eggs with the male incubating at night and part of the day. Both parents feed the young by regurgitation. The young leave the nest in about four weeks after hatching, but parents feed them for while. Later, they follow them to good foraging sites. They mainly eat ants and other insects. They also eat fruits and berries in fall and winter.

Bird bath visitors

A Brimfield resident sent an email recently. He said, "I have a heated bird bath so I modified it by placing rocks



Northern flicker

in the center so that the only water available is near the edge and birds can't immerse themselves in water to take a bath. The birds sit on the edge of the bird bath to drink."

He also said, "I have a trail camera aimed at the bird bath. I was looking at pictures taken during December (40,000) and saw that blue jays, house finches and juncos are the most frequent birds taking a drink. Birds that show up less often are cardinals, titmice and morning doves. Curiously chickadees drink infrequently even though they are often seen in the yard. We seldom see goldfinches drinking, but they are not seen in the yard often. I was surprised to see a downy woodpecker show up twice to get a drink. I can't recall ever seen a woodpecker drink at the bird bath before, summer or winter."

Helping birds

The Brimfield resident said creating brush piles provides shelter for birds. The piles also provide shelter for small animals as well. He said this time of year is a good time to trim trees and shrubs, a source of materials for a brush pile.

He said someone sent him a link about the possible dangers to birds of their feathers freezing if they take a bath in cold weather. For more information, people may visit the link at <https://blog.nature.org/2022/01/31/should-you-provide-birds-water-in-winter/>.

Project Feederwatch

The Brimfield resident also said, "I recently visited the Project Feederwatch 2025 results (https://cdn.feederwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Winter-Bird-Highlights-2025_12.22.2025.pdf). The chart shows the top 25 birds seen in the Northeast during last year. The top 11 species can be seen most days in our yard."

Here is the list: 1. chickadee, 2. dark-eyed junco, 3. northern cardinal, 4. downy woodpecker, 5. blue jay, 6. mourning dove, 7. white-breasted nuthatch, 8. American goldfinch, 9. house finch, 10. red-bellied woodpecker, 11. tufted titmouse, 12. American robin, 13. European starling, 14. house sparrow, 15. hairy woodpecker, 16. Carolina wren, 17. white-throated sparrow, 18. song sparrow, 19. red-winged blackbird, 20. common grackle, 21. American crow, 22. brown-headed cowbird, 23. chipping sparrow, 24. northern flicker and 25 purple finch.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

My friend is 65; shouldn't she be exempt from Medicare payroll taxes?

Dear Rusty:
My girlfriend is 65 and she just enrolled in Medicare. She is still working full time as a nurse, but they are still deducting Medicare taxes from her paycheck. I thought as soon as you started Medicare, that they would no longer take any Medicare taxes from her paychecks. Is that not correct?
Signed: Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned Friend:
Your understanding about Medicare payroll tax is, indeed, not correct. Medicare taxes are levied on everyone,

who works and earns, regardless of whether or not they are currently enrolled in the Medicare program. That is how Medicare has worked since it was first enacted in the mid-1960s and how it still works today.

For Your Information, everyone who works for an employer must pay Federal Insurance Contributions Act payroll tax of 7.65%. Most (6.2%) of that payroll tax goes to support Social Security, but 1.45% goes to support Medi-

care Part A. Self-employed individuals must also pay this tax under the Self-Employed Contributions Act, which is equivalent to FICA, except the self-employed individual must also pay the employer portion of the payroll tax. The Social Security portion of the FICA/SECA tax has an earnings cap (\$184,500 in 2026), but there is no cap on earnings for the

and the Medicare portion of the payroll tax is paid on all earnings. There is no cap on earnings from which the Medicare payroll tax is withheld. To ensure understanding, Medicare Part A provides healthcare coverage for inpatient hospitalization services and Medicare Part B provides coverage for outpatient med-

icare portion of the FICA/SECA payroll tax. FYI, employers pay an equivalent amount of Social Security and Medicare taxes

ical services (doctors, medical tests, etc.). That 1.45% of the FICA and SECA tax for the self-employed is paid by those who work to help fund the Medicare Part A program, which is premium-free for most Americans after age 65. For Medicare Part B, there is a separate premium which helps pay for Medicare outpatient healthcare services. The standard Medicare Part B premium for 2026 is \$202.90 per month, compared to Medicare Part A which is free to all who are

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 6

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

Election letters to the editor

The Chicopee Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Chicopee Register care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers. Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Chicopee Register.

2026 CHICOPEE COLLEEN



From the left, Court Members Mila Dillard and Jahzara Bradley, 2026 Chicopee Colleen Charlotte Fields and Court Members Gracelyn Jarry and Shannon Caloon.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ

Chicopee Colleen Charlotte Fields is crowned by Contestant Coordinator Denise Noble.

COLLEENS from page 1

myself and the rest of the girls that we made it," Bradley said.

"I have to agree with everything everyone's saying. It's a dream come true to be here and I'm just so honored and happy," Caloon said.

The girls said they couldn't wait to represent Chicopee at the upcoming Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade.

"I'm very excited. It means a lot to me. I'm extremely proud of where I come and to be, so this is really exciting," Dillard said.

"I'm just so happy because I get to represent Chicopee the way it's meant to be represented, because some people may not like it, but we are the best," Jarry said.

"I'm very excited to represent Chicopee. I also love Chicopee, so just to be the face of it is really exciting for me," Fields said.

"I'm just really excited to represent my city," Bradley said.

"I was born and raised here and just being here means everything to me. Being able



2025 Court Members Emma Caproni, Hannah O'Neil, 2025 Chicopee Colleen Daiana Torres and 2025 Court Member Wilmette Cumba bid farewell. The Mickey Mouse ears were to honor 2025 Court Member Meghan Oxley, who is currently in the Disney College program.

to represent Chicopee is to be able to represent something I'm really proud to be from," Caloon said.

Their messages were this. "Just be proud of where you're from and rep Chicopee with pride!" Dillard said.

"They're definitely in good hands with Charlotte—who's the sweetest—and I

just can't wait to see what we do this year," Jarry said.

"I just think we're all really excited to represent Chicopee. We all love Chicopee so much and we're excited for all the new events that are to come," Fields said.

"I would like to say we all tried our hardest and we're really excited to be here to

represent Chicopee," Bradley said.

"I think that we're all here, we made it," Caloon said.

Ball Night Reflections

Discussing the importance of her reign coming to an end, and offering moral support for the newly crowned

Chicopee Colleen was 2025 Colleen Daiana Torres, who bestowed the crown and sash to her successor, Fields.

The exchange was one filled with laughter, tears of joy, providing a sense of clarity for Torres.

"It's quite bittersweet, a sad feeling, but I'm glad to pass my experiences down. I also want to wish Charlotte (Fields) and her court good luck, and I want her to know it's a fun year ahead, it's a year full of experiences, and in the end, everything will be worth it," Torres said.

She also offered praise towards the rest of the 2026 contestants, congratulating them on their success.

"I want to say congratulations to all the girls who competed tonight, because win or lose, they all won because they brought themselves to a point they didn't think they could rise to," Torres said.

Reflecting on the overall success of the event and discussing the importance of the Parade Committee continuing the efforts of Irish-American Heritage in Chicopee was Mayor John Vieau.

"It's incredible to see five new ambassadors for the city of Chicopee, and get

to do what I do daily, which is represent the city of Chicopee with pride, showcase their talents, and lead us in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. And it's exciting for the Irish-American to keep their heritage active in the city," Vieau said.

"I also want to add that the city of Chicopee is a melting pot of all heritages, and it's a wonderful community to be a part of. And it's truly exciting to be a part of this tradition, and I said it many times: without the committee, we wouldn't be here today, and I always tell people, no matter where you come from, be proud of it, and the Irish-American definitely exude that and take pride in their culture."

Echoing similar comments was 2026 Chicopee Parade President Aly Sliwa.

"The night was incredible. The girls all did a great job, everyone looked beautiful, and we were just excited to be part of this event here," Sliwa said. "The hall looks great, and we're just so overwhelmed, and I want to add we have a lot of events coming up in the next four weeks, so the parade will be here sooner than we realize, and we can't wait."



Gracelyn Jarry, 2026 Parade Committee President Aly Sliwa, Charlotte Fields, 2025 Woods Award Recipient George Balakier, 2017 Parade Marshal Kathy Balakier, Parade Committee Member Linda Couture, Shannon Caloon and Mary Rodowicz in a group photo. Jarry, Fields and Caloon were this year's scholarship award recipients Shannon Caloon, 2026 Parade Committee President Aly Sliwa, Charlotte Fields, 2025 Woods Award Recipient George Balakier, 2017 Parade Marshal Kathy Balakier, Parade Committee Member Linda Couture, Gracelyn Jarry and Mary Rodowicz in a group photo. Caloon, Fields and Jarry were this year's scholarship award recipients.



From the left, Mila Dillard, Charlotte Fields, Shannon Caloon, Jahzara Bradley and Gracelyn Jarry after being selected as the five finalists.



From the left, a group photo of Judge Judith Danek, McKenzie Araujo, Zoey Piedra, Gracie Houldson, Jaydda Reyes, Judge Nathan Andary, Beatrice Brown, Judge Nate Casella, Tabulator Michelle Charrette, Isabel Carpenter and Mackenzie Bergstrom. These seven received a special shoutout after the five finalists were selected.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Volunteers participated in one of many river cleanups in the Chicopee River Watershed.

A watershed is full of action

By Keith Davies

Coordinator, Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council
Guest Contributor

Editor's Note: This is the second part in a multi-part series about the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council.

By 2014, the original Chicopee River Watershed Council (1970s) had ceased to exist, it had not been able to engage new people.

A small group of people saw a need to change that and began to renew an idea: the Chicopee Watershed and its tributaries are a special place and should be better known and appreciated by its local residents. Why and how to do that?

Rivers have long been the lifeblood of communities across the region. They helped build New England and they were worked hard and taken for granted.

By the 1970s, people began to realize we needed to clean up our rivers, they benefited us and wildlife in ways we had overlooked. Watershed Councils sprang up and helped start a process to turn things around and in the big picture, things improved, our rivers were cleaned up a great deal.

Yet the job is not done, and some practices still impact healthy rivers in undesirable

ways. Today we enjoy rivers recreationally and realize they serve wildlife and people in many important and healthy ways.

The new effort started with going community to community sharing the idea and inviting people to get involved. We held many local meetings at town halls, libraries, and community centers and it stirred interest and awareness.

We hosted river paddles and clean ups. Some joined the effort!

To give this effort focus and connect people in meaningful ways to the rivers, C4R inaugurated two programs: Water quality monitoring and Paddling trail development.

We would monitor the basic bacterial health of the river for recreational use and enjoyment. This would invite people to see these special places and

learn if they were a healthy place to enjoy.

We started with six sites on two rivers in 2015 and are now at 20 sites on all four rivers. We have created four Blue Trails, routes on and maps of the rivers that highlight both historical and natural places that people can explore to see how special our four local rivers are.

Knowing their special character and health benefits reveals their value.

Good progress, yet just a start. The initial excitement of renewing the idea has worn off a bit.

But once something of value is recognized, it needs to be maintained, cared for, what a handful of people had started needs more hands to keep things going. Could you help?

Next week we share our vision going forward...



A paddler is shown enjoying a day on the river.

GOLF COURSE from page 1

or and the building commissioner, this was the best plan of attack – for this walk-in freezer to be put outside,” Rice said. “That way, down the road, if you decide to do some major repairs to the building, you don’t have to remove the freezer again.”

Vieau said that if the money left over in the account was not spent by the end of the fiscal year, it would be closed out of the general fund. He described the cooler as an integral part of the operation at the golf course.

“It’s seasonally used, and that cooler will be fully functional from opening day, April 1, and running, I believe, into November when the frost comes and the course is no longer playable,” Vieau said.

Opposition

Several council members were hesitant to support the item.

This group was led by Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff, who questioned the limited material the board was given to review regarding the request.

“I don’t feel that we were given enough information tonight,” Goff said. “We were not given quotes of what needed to be done. The only thing we have is one piece of paper asking for the money, not why.”

Goff motioned for the discussion to be sent to the Finance Committee for further review, which opened the back-and-forth.

According to Goff, the lack of communication was alarming.

“Whenever a department comes before us to purchase equipment, we are always given background information of why the equipment needs to be replaced,” Goff said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello echoed Goff’s hesitation and supported the motion. She said she has nothing against the golf course and that it’s a bigger issue.

“Let’s review the money,” Costello said. “This is the opening of a Pandora’s box to look at and follow and track money and how it’s being spent and how it’s being transferred.”

Councilor-at-Large Jessica Avery agreed that the conversation wasn’t just about the golf course. Rather, she said it addressed a lack of transparency regarding what the city does with the taxpayers’ money.

Avery noted that the golf course is not used by as many residents as facilities like the library or resources such as trash pickup. She also questioned the lack of communication from the team at the golf course.

“We as a council and as a city, it sounds like, need to have a deeper understanding of what really the plan is and have that be more transparent. I think accountability and transparency are really where this conversation needs to be decided from,” Avery said.

Avery urged the board not to rush its decision, but other councilors stressed that time is of the essence.

The supporting side

Those in favor of approving the mayoral appropriation were led by Ward 8 Councilor Doug Girouard, who spent 15 seasons as the concessionaire at the city’s golf course.

BUS CAMERAS from page 1

pass school buses and that evidence will be reviewed by the Chicopee Police Department to ensure accuracy, fairness and due process.”

Vieau said the program is “a fully violator-funded program, meaning that it comes at no cost to taxpayers nor a cost to the school and school district.”

Ware thanked the Transportation Department, his central office staff, the police department, School Committee, City Council and elected officials for their efforts.

“One of the deepest fears any superintendent carries is the thought of a child being harmed while simply getting on or off of a school bus. This technology is not about punishment. It’s about prevention, it’s about accountability and it’s, more importantly, about protection,” Ware said.

Leccrenski shared a statement on behalf of Five Star Bus’s driving team.

“As school bus drivers in Chicopee, we carry the precious lives of the community members and the community families every single day. So when a car ignores our red lights, it’s not just a traffic violation. It’s a child’s life at risk. Not every officer can be behind every vehicle, on every school bus, all throughout their entire route,” Leccrenski read. “So, these BusPatrol cameras will help protect these students and hold those offenders accountable. Every child deserves to feel safe getting on and off the bus. So, if the BusPatrol cameras can help prevent even one child from being injured, then that’s a benefit for everybody

and the whole community and makes sure everybody gets to and from school safely every single day.”

Gorman praised the city leadership, later adding how the technology is activated by a sensor when the stop arm opens and the car and license plate are exposed to the camera, not the driver.

“They acknowledge the need. We responded with our abilities, with our technologies and we’re ready to get working in Chicopee to be the first community in Massachusetts that actually has this technology operating on buses,” Gorman said.

Reflecting on the RTIC and school bus cameras, Vieau expressed excitement about the city setting a precedent in Western Mass with these firsts.

“It’s exciting to have the ability to embrace technology, and that’s really what’s happening in Chicopee. I want people to feel safe. I do believe that public safety is paramount to the success of our community, so that’s why we continue to invest in technology, using AI and other forms of innovation to make Chicopee a safer community, and this is just another example of that,” Vieau said. “Making sure that our student population is in good hands the moment that they leave their home and enter the bus and we get them back and forth to school safely. So, it’s about that for me and I feel like implementing this technology and being first is something very special, and hopefully, it’ll be as a leader in Massachusetts with doing it first, other communities will jump on board and pro-

tect their communities and their students as well.”

Ware emphasized “the protection and prevention of children.”

“I hope that people do not think it’s all about punishment. I really hope that they understand that this technology is so that families can rest assured that when they hear about these incidences that have happened not only in our city, but throughout our country, where people have run the stop sign or where people have gotten injured that the likelihood of that will be significantly reduced. I don’t want students or their families to have to worry about that,” Ware said. “So, I’m excited that this technology is being implemented and we can actually see how it benefits us here in the community.”

His message was this.

“Stop, slow down, you will still get to your destination, pay attention,” Ware said. “I get it. Our devices, our stimuli in the world are all around us, but we need to take a concerted effort to slow down and I think once we do that, we will see the benefits of it and this will help.”

Vieau’s message was this.

“We are taking this very seriously,” Vieau said. “Drivers need to have complete control of their vehicles at all times. If a bus stops and drops its arm out and tells you to stop, you’re going to stop or you’re going to get a ticket and a fine. The goal is to protect this community and we’re committed to doing that. The police have been tasked with it, and now using technology like this, Chicopee’s a little safer today.”

SOCIAL SECURITY

from page 4

eligible for Social Security benefits. But the 1.45% payroll tax which is being withheld from your girlfriend’s paycheck is paid by everyone who has work earnings, even if they are enrolled in Medi-

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pretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Girouard acknowledged that the facility on Burnett Road has been neglected for many years, but that hasn’t stopped it from making money.

“The golf course generated in profit over \$250,000 last year from rounds of golf and cart rentals. So, with making money, money has to be put back in to preserve the golf course,” Girouard said.

Girouard believes that the ultimate solution is to build a new, state-of-the art clubhouse, but until that can be done, the city must make it by with what it has.

According to Girouard, the golf course must pass health inspections to serve food and alcohol, and poor conditions there make that harder each season.

“Other towns have received grants for improvements to their buildings. We haven’t received grants. We don’t get donations up at the golf course like we do at the library; \$50,000 here and \$40,000 there,” Girouard said.

Beyond making “plenty of money,” he added that the golf course offers a place for exercise and allowed people to recreate outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks voiced concerns about putting the golf course behind by sending it to the Finance Committee.

With the new season set to open in a month, there is no time to waste.

“What I’m most concerned about is it’s going to put us at a competitive disadvantage with the amount of local golf courses in the area,” Brooks said. “If there’s no availability of food and beverage, we’re not going to attract golfers, and then we’re having a conversation in July and August about why the golf course lost money its first two months.”

City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank La-

flamme seconded Brooks’ sentiment. He said that the Golf Commission is a volunteer body that does the best it can.

“I don’t want to shut this project down. I want to move as fast as possible so that we have time for them to open and start making money again. Let’s deal with some of the other stuff after,” Laflamme said.

Outcome

When it came time to vote on Goff’s motion, eight councilors voted against it, while four voted in favor. Those who voted in favor included Goff, Costello, Avery and Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga.

This canceled Goff’s motion, but the original item still had to be determined.

When put to a vote, eight councilors voted in favor and four voted against. The four board members that voted against it were the same four who voted to support Goff’s motion.

This is where matters got a bit complicated.

Financial items must be approved by nine councilors to pass. Councilor-at-Large Joel McAuliffe was absent from last Tuesday’s meeting, and only eight members of the board voted in favor.

When given a chance to keep the conversation alive and advocate for a 9 favorable vote, the same eight councilors voted in favor, and the same four voted against it.

The motion passed, and the discussion resumed.

Avery emphasized that the city put itself at a fiscal disadvantage by not providing the council with the proper information. She was slow to sympathize with the pleas of councilors like Girouard, Brooks and Laflamme.

“Unfortunately, haste is not a policy decision. Acting in a place of haste and asking questions is inherently our job – asking questions of each other and asking questions of the city and doing our research

and homework,” Avery said.

The stalemate was broken when Arriaga ceded ground.

“I would be willing to change my vote only under the exception that I will be calling for a full financial [review] in front of the Finance Committee literally next meeting,” Arriaga said. “I will have that on the agenda. No questions. I’m not holding off. I’m willing to change my vote because I don’t want this to die.”

Slowly, those in opposition came around to the idea of passing the item and then having it reviewed by the Finance Committee next month. No one wanted to hinder the golf course from being fully operational on April 1.

That said, Goff hopes that lessons are learned and that information becomes more readily available going forward, especially about the golf course.

“I agree the golf course needs this freezer and needs it to be approved tonight, and I’m willing to change that, but I’m glad this conversation happened because now we know what needs to be done in the future. This stuff can’t just be slid through,” Goff said.

When the final vote was tallied, all 12 board members participating voted in favor of approving the mayor’s appropriation.

The golf course can now install a cooler outdoors.

Nevertheless, in the future, City Council Vice President/Ward 6 Councilor Sam Shumsky would like to see more respect given to the golf course and its management.

He pointed out that it is the only city department that brings in revenue and that it has historically made the city millions of dollars.

“I think that if we’re going to start questioning everything for the golf course that comes before us, we should be doing that for every other department to treat it more fairly,” Shumsky said.

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SPORTS

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Colts fall in Western Mass. finals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WESTFIELD—Prior to the start of the 2025-26 regular season, Chicopee Comp squeaked out a 51-48 victory over Pope Francis in the championship game of the annual Renato “Buck” Grumoli Basketball Tournament, which was hosted by the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Holyoke.

Both boys’ varsity squads are members of the Valley League.

Despite losing to Pope Francis twice during the regular season, Comp was hoping to celebrate another championship victory against them in the Western Mass. Class A finals.

The third-seeded Colts, who were trailing by 18 points at halftime, tried to make a second half comeback, but the top-seeded Cardinals captured the Class A title for the fourth consecutive year with a 63-42 victory before a capacity crowd at Westfield High School, last Wednesday night.

“You always need to play a perfect game to win a championship, especially against the top-seeded team,” said Comp head coach Gavin Miller. “Pope Francis is a very good basketball team this year. They’re also an extremely disciplined team. We struggled defensively against them in tonight’s game.”

Chicopee Comp has now played in the Western Mass. finals five times since 1965. Their last appearance in the championship game was in 1988. Their other two appearances in the Western Mass. finals were in 1974 and 1986.



Francis Jordan and Colby Paul accept the runner-up

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

“Playing in the Western Mass. finals was something that we talked about with the seniors when they were younger,” Miller said. “It’s an accomplishment, but we’re going to focus on the state tournament now.”

Comp advanced into the Class A finals after defeating sixth-seeded Minnechaug, 50-30, in the quarterfinals and second-seeded Springfield Central, 65-64 in the semifinals. The Golden Eagles were the only other team to beat the Colts during the regular season.

The Colts entered the Division 2 state tournament as the eighth seed with a 17-4 record. They were scheduled to host 25th-seeded Melrose (12-8) in the round of 32 on Thursday night.

Please see **COLTS**, page 8



Brody Fay comes up with a one-hand shot.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
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Dominic Garcia tries to get around an opponent.

Season comes to an end for Chicopee boys basketball

CHICOPEE – The season came to an end for Chicopee High School boys basketball as the Pacers unfortunately missed the state tournament by one game. That game was a loss on Feb. 12 against Springfield International Charter 76-63. That brought Chicopee’s record to 9-11, and the Pacers finished out of the top 32 in Division 3, thus not qualifying this season. Chicopee lost three of its final four games this year to miss the playoffs.



Kiyah Price gets a shot off.



Cassidy Pytel takes a free throw.



Alex Manguel takes a running jump shot.



Francis Jordan tries to grab a rebound.



Modesto Galindrez goes for a shot.



Xavier Kleps gets a shot off.

Registration for 2026 Pioneer Valley Baseball season opens



SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, has just opened up its registration for the 2026 season.

The adult league will be administered by the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, and a registration link is on the home page of the league’s website www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Thought it will be under the Quabbin umbrella, there

will be no major changes in how the league is operated.

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular season schedule followed by a double-elimination playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to utilize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this season.

There are several spots open for that sixth team, so players interested in joining the league should get signed up

as soon as possible to claim a spot.

The league is a wood-bat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball rules though all players do bat. The league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule. Games are played on Saturday mornings with 10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m. range. The league will start play in late April and running through the end of August.

There are slots open for both full-time players and part-time players. The fee for full-time players will be \$260 with part-time players getting up to 11 games for \$130. Fees paid go toward the operation of the league, paying for insurance, umpires, fields, and baseballs and no one profits in any way.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limited open roster spots on the other teams in the league, so get your registration in as soon as possi-

ble to participate in this season.

Games are played at ballfields throughout the region from as far south as Southwick’s Whalley Field, through South Hadley’s Beachgrounds and up north at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information. The league hopes interested players will come out and join the fun this spring and summer.

SPORTS

T-Birds come up with win in shootout with Isles

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (19-25-4-2) rode a turbulent night to an eventual 5-4 shootout win over the Bridgeport Islanders (21-21-3-4) on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center.



Unlike their last contest on Wednesday, the T-Birds and their opposition had a much slower start to the night offensively, with a scoreless struggle carrying late into the first. Thomas Bordeleau finally broke the ice at 14:54, winning a draw and darting to the right wing circle and rifling home a feed from Calle Rosen to give Springfield a 1-0 advantage.

Just 1:16 later, and less

than half a minute into their first power play of the night, the T-Birds built a cushion as Chris Wagner jammed a loose puck through the legs of Marcus Hogberg from the blue paint to make it 2-0.

Bridgeport's power play provided a response at 19:05 when Julien Gauthier intercepted a loose puck deep in the offensive zone before sifting a forehand over Vadim Zherenko to make it a 2-1 game into the first intermission.

Zherenko proved to be pivotal in the second, especially when he made a lurching post-to-post skate save on Matt Maggio to keep his team in front. Later in the

same sequence of play, Matt Luff hit Alek Kaskimaki on a 2-on-1 pass, and Kaskimaki picked the glove-side corner on Hogberg, making it 3-1 for Springfield at 6:53 of the second.

Down 3-1 heading into the third, the Islanders turned the game upside-down in the span of just over six minutes. After Springfield killed two straight Islander power plays, Hunter Drew finally got Bridgeport's second goal of the night at 5:02, moments after Hogberg kept Springfield from goals on two straight odd-man rushes.

Liam Foudy followed Drew's lead with a sneaky wrist shot from the left side at 8:42, tying the score at 3 before Pierrick Dube got a fortuitous bounce in the slot and whistled a shot over Zherenko's blocker at 11:31 to get

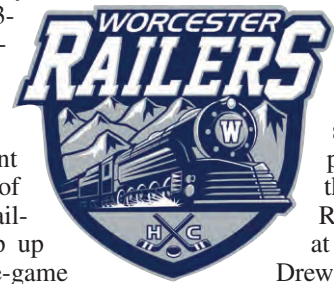
Bridgeport its first lead of the night, 4-3.

In desperate need of a momentum shifter, Hugh McGing delivered just that for Springfield, crashing the low slot area and firing a forehand over a fallen Hogberg at 14:28 off a centering pass from Juraj Pekarcik.

For a fourth time in 10 meetings, overtime was needed between the clubs, and for a third time, it reached the shootout. Bordeleau put his stamp on the night with a gorgeous backhand deke to beat Hogberg in the opening round. Zherenko then stood his ground and made three successive saves on Adam Beckman, Gauthier, and Dube to secure Springfield's first shootout triumph of the season.

Railers score win in overtime

RAPID CITY, SD — The Worcester Railers HC (23-19-5-1 pts) grabbed a 5-4 overtime victory over the Rapid City Rush (21-23-4-0) on Friday, February 20th at The Monument in front of a crowd of 3,409. The Railers will wrap up their three-game road series against the Rush on Saturday, February 21st, with puck drop at 7:05 p.m. MST.



Rapid City struck first with back-to-back goals from Briley Wood (2-0-2) in the opening half of the first period. Matt DeMelis (1-1-2) got Worcester on the board with a one-timer at 9:35 in the second. Drew Callin (3-0-3) kept it rolling for Worcester with two goals for the Railers, the latter of which was on the power play to put the team ahead 3-2 heading into the final period of play. Rapid City's Ryan Chyzowski (1-1-2) tied the game for the Rush once more at three apiece early in the third. Linemate Blake Bennett (1-0-1) put Rapid City ahead for the second time of the evening with a power play shot atop the right circle to make the new score 4-3 at 10:31. Callin scored his first hat-trick as a Railer and pushed the night into overtime with a quick shot off from the left faceoff circle over the shoulder of Nathan Torchia (4-4). Anthony Repaci (1-1-2) lit the lamp for a final time for the Railers just fifty-nine seconds into OT and picked up the 5-4 victory off a pass from DeMelis.

Rapid City established an early two-goal lead for themselves with back-to-back unanswered goals at 7:05 and 9:43 in the first, both from Briley Wood. Wood (7th) deked out goaltender Tristan Lennox and created an opening along the right side of the Railers' net to score the Rush's first tally. Wood (8th) followed up the play with a second unanswered goal for the team three-and-a-half minutes later, a shot that snuck its way in between the pads of Lennox (0-2). Worcester was unable to respond to the new lead before the horn sounded. No penalties were called in the period. Worcester led in shots on goal with 13 to Rapid City's 6.

The second period was Worcester's turn to chase down the Rush's lead and take the game for themselves. In the span of six

minutes and twenty-four seconds, Worcester went from trailing by two to a three-goal lead. Matt DeMelis (14th) got the scoring streak going with a quick one-timer assisted on by a pass through the crease from Riley Ginnell at 9:35 (1-2). Drew Callin (16th) capitalized on a center ice breakaway as Rush goaltender Nathan Torchia was unable to block the push (2-2). Khristian Acosta was then sent down to the ice on the next play as he collided with the Rush's net. The act put the Railers on their first extra-man advantage of the night as Mitchell Smith headed into the box for roughing. The two minutes with the man-advantage proved fruitful as Callin (17th) nabbed a second tally, his fourth in two games. Amidst heavy traffic, Callin finished off a rebound and put the puck into a wide-open Rush net, which gave Worcester their 3-2 lead as the second frame of play came to a close. Shots on goal once again favored Worcester 15-9. Smith's penalty was the only one called for the period.

Rapid City quickly retied the game for the second time early in the third. The goal was tucked into the Railers net by Ryan Chyzowski (21st) at 4:18. Rapid City then reclaimed the game lead at 10:31 with a top-shelf shot atop the right circle from Blake Bennett (18th) (4-3). The play came from an man-advantage delivered by a tripping penalty called on Railers' defenseman Adam Samuelsson at 9:35. Drew Callin (18th) kept a victory in the Railers sights with a late-game hat-trick as netminder Lennox was called to the bench to give Worcester the extra body. Callin drove the puck from the left faceoff dot over the shoulder of Torchia, and both teams skated into overtime, nodded up at four apiece. As the overtime clock began to count down, it was Anthony Repaci (15th) who claimed the game winner just fifty-nine seconds into play. Repaci tipped a backhanded pass from DeMelis into in front to claim the Railers' second victory in South Dakota with a 5-4 final score. Worcester put up 53 shots on goal to Rapid City's 20. Worcester and Rapid City each collected one penalty in the third.

Registration underway for QVBL

SOUTH HADLEY – Registration has opened for the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a weeknight game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determine as the league's board explores possibilities for inter-league matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration is live at www.quabbinvalley-baseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.



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COLTS from page 7

The four seniors listed on the Comp varsity basketball roster are Modesto Galindrez (2 points), Colby Paul, Francis Jordan (8 points), and Brody Fay (9 points).

Junior Xavier Kleps, who came off the bench, led the way offensively for the Colts with 13 points.

His twin brother, Elijah, chipped in with eight points.

No other Comp player reached double figures in the finals.

The Cardinals (18-3) were led offensively by senior Sam Brigham with 25 points. He made a total of five 3-pointers.

Brigham also made a little bit of history with a lay-up at the end of third quarter, which was his 2,000 career point. The other two Western Mass high school boys' basketball players to reach that elite milestone are Adam Harrington, who scored 2,347 career points at Pioneer Valley Regional from 1994-98 and Steve Zieja, who finished his high school basketball career (1995-99) at Hopkins Academy with 2,033 career points.

"Sam Brigham is a very good scorer," Miller said. "We tried a lot of different things to try to slow him down, but they didn't work very well tonight."

With 2:20 left in the first quarter, Fay, who became a member of the 1,000 point club during the regular season, made a one-handed jumper in the lane, which cut the Colts deficit to 10-9. They wouldn't get any closer than that during the final three quarters of the contest.

During the final seconds of the opening quarter, Brigham made a jumper and a 3-pointer, which increased the Cardinals lead into double digits (21-11). He also began the second quarter by hitting



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Elijah Kleps goes for a layup.

a 3-pointer.

Trailing, 40-22, at half-time, the Colts reeled off eleven unanswered points at the start of the second half.

Fay scored the first field goal of the second half before the Kleps combined to score Comp's next nine points.

A put-back hoop from Elijah Kleps closed the gap to 40-31 with 1:37 left in the third quarter.

RTIC from page 1

an "angel on your shoulder," Schwartz explained.

"Imagine being on a car stop by yourself, and you get that hinky feeling ... or you're on a building search, and you're by yourself, and you want another set of eyes on it. We get alerts in here... we can launch the body-worn camera and... there it is, live," Schwartz said.

Watson also stressed the importance of utilizing video as beneficial in helping solve crime.

"The data is clear. Video is the single most powerful predictor of whether a crime will be solved," Watson said.

He further explained that locating any video associated with a case increases the odds of a resolution by over 400%. If that video captures the incident itself, those odds jump to over 600%.

Even context like a "fleeing vehicle" makes the

department 300% more likely to solve the case."

Watson added that the RTIC has been instrumental across the board in all areas, most particularly assisting in locating missing people.

"The team recently resolved the missing person case in 10 minutes. The individual had been wandering around Chicopee for 36 hours, and our analysts were able to locate him before the officer could even enter the report," Watson said.

As the presentation carried on, Watson discussed 'ConnectChicopee', which is essentially the city's next-generation neighborhood watch, that allows businesses and/or residents to share their cameras with the RTIC, adding it is 100% voluntary with two ways to participate.

Watson explained that residents can register their camera to let the system know that it exists and where it is located, which, when

registered, creates a way for the RTIC or investigators to request that the owner review or voluntarily provide footage if a serious incident occurs nearby.

Option two is that residents can also integrate the camera by purchasing one of the Axon FUSUSCORE, which means live access can be enabled for a specific public safety purpose.

Watson added that access is limited to public-facing areas and only to specific cameras that the owner agrees to make available, and registered cameras do not provide live access, and integrated cameras are not monitored on a routine basis. So, each route comes with its own pros and cons.

Lastly, Watson responded to the detractors who propose this will invoke invasion of privacy claims.

"We're not here to monitor the cameras and surveil anybody," Watson said. "We're responding to public

safety emergencies. It's not something that [the analysts] are staring at, looking at. We're not looking at any private areas. Everywhere those cameras look is somewhere where we could be out on the street and watching."

Watson said that the department has already set forth the path to implement the system within the public school network, with the immediate focus on public safety emergencies.

And speaking of the new 'ConnectChicopee' system, and the RTIC, in relation to how it will help businesses grow and feel secure in this ever-changing landscape, Melissa Breor, the executive director of the Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, shared the chamber was encouraged by the city's investment in the RTIC and "the potential it represents for strengthening public safety across our community, including for our business."

"Public safety is a foundational component of a healthy local economy. When business owners, employees, and customers feel safe, it supports economic activity, investment, and vibrancy in our commercial areas," Breor said.

She also shared the business community's reception so far.

"From the Chamber's perspective, the general reception has been positive and curious — business owners are interested in learning more about how the technology works, how privacy is protected and what participation might look like for them," Breor said. "We look forward to continuing to partner with the Chicopee Police Department to help introduce this initiative to the business community, similar to this media demonstration, and to explore how it can support both safety and economic vitality in Chicopee."

SUMMER CAMP

Check Out These Great Camps!

Registration open for HCC Summer Youth Programs

It's still winter, but it's not too early to start thinking about summer.

Registration is now open for 2026 Summer Youth Programs at Holyoke Community College.

Starting July 7 and running through August 8, HCC will offer 16 week-long, in-person summer programs for youth aged 8 to 16.

For more than 40 years, HCC has offered fun, challenging summer education activities for youth, providing early opportunities for students to experience a college environment guided and encouraged by experienced professionals.

HCC's 2026 on-campus

summer youth programs run Monday through Friday, some for a full day and others for a half day.

All in-person programs will be held on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave., except for cooking classes, which are held at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St., Holyoke:

July 6-10:

Cooking without Borders with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16): In this lively hands-on camp, young chefs will team up to chop, stir, and create tasty dishes from around the world. Each day brings a new theme and a chance to dis-



cover fresh ingredients, cool cooking techniques, and the joy of working together in the kitchen. By week's end,

they'll walk away with new cooking skills, delicious recipes to show off at home, and plenty of tasty memories. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

Fun Bites with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16): Join us for an exciting week of hands-on culinary fun, where young chefs will discover the joy of cooking delicious, easy-to-prepare meals to share with family and friends. Participants will work together to chop, season, cook, and taste a variety of recipes – all made from scratch. Each day introduces new menu themes, ingredients, and techniques designed to build confidence in the kitchen. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

July 13-17: Cooking without Borders with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

Fun Bites with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10; 11-14): Discover the Lua coding language while designing experiences in ROBLOX, an online universe where you can create anything you dream of. New developers will learn to use ROBLOX's Studio software to reimagine the popular game genres with their own custom code. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. to noon for ages 8-10; 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

July 20-24: Around the World with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16): Cuisine around the world serves as a universal language that unites people across cultures through shared flavors, traditions, and stories. Learn to prepare full-course meals from Asia, Puerto Rico, Greece, Italy,

and New Orleans. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10; 11-14): Go beyond the limitations of traditional 2D game design classes and create an immersive 3D world. Students will learn the physics behind 3D games, explore beginner event scripting, level design, controlling the flow of gameplay, and storytelling. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

Passport to Flavors with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16): This hands-on cooking camp takes kids on a delicious journey across global cuisines, exploring flavors, techniques, and ingredients that make each culture unique. Dive into fun daily themes like diner classics, Mexican favorites, Mediterranean feasts, Filipino street bites, and southern comfort food, all while building confidence one tasty dish at a time. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

July 27-31: Around the World with

Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

Minecraft Designers (ages 8-10; 11-14): Learn how to create a custom map, design structures to share between worlds, build with Redstone and Command blocks, and create custom textures for you to import at home or share with friends. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199).

Passport to Flavors with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

August 3-7: Python Programmers (ages 8-10; 11-14): Learn the world's fastest-growing programming language favored by Google, NASA, YouTube, and the CIA. Learn how to code with Python to create engaging apps and games. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199).

For more details or to register for Summer Youth Program classes, please go to: hcc.edu/summer-youth.

summer@HCC

Holyoke Community College Summer Youth Programs for Ages 8-16

Save your spot and register today for summer fun!

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August 3-7, Python Programmers (ages 8-10, 11-14)
July 20-24, Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10, 11-14)
July 13-17, ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10, 11-14)
July 6-10 and 13-17, Fun Bites with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
July 20-24 and 27-31, Around the world with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
July 6-10 and 13-17, Cooking without Borders with Chef Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)
July 20-24 and 27-31, Passport to Flavors with Chef Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)

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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.
HD26P0328EA
Estate of:
Keith S Anderson
Also known as:
Keith Scott Anderson
Date of Death: 09/29/2025
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 **Hannah M Salvietti of East Longmeadow, 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 **Hannah M Salvietti of East Longmeadow, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/18/2026**. 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

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. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 18, 2026
Rosemary A Saccamoni,
Register of Probate
02/27/2026

**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.
HD26P0330EA
Estate of:
Lois Ann Gagne
Date of Death: 02/06/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **xxxx David D Gagne of Florence, 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 **David D Gagne of Florence, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/18/2026**. 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

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. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 18, 2026
Rosemary A Saccamoni,
Register of Probate
02/27/2026

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 13th, 2026 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.

2007 Hyundai Tucson VIN: KM8JM12B57U638384
Migdalis Miranda Colon
62 Lionel Benoit Rd., Apt. A
Springfield, MA 01109
2006 Nissan Altima VIN: 1N4AL11D96N380301
Walter King
26 Hunt St.
Springfield, MA 01108

2006 Honda Civic VIN: 2HGFA1559H338327
Curtis Berry
10 Bess Rd.
Enfield, Ct 06082

2013 Hyundai Santa Fe VIN: 5XYZU3LA5DG051625
Pedro Disla
99 Massachusetts Ave.
Springfield, MA 01109

2014 Nissan Maxima VIN: 1N4AA5AP7EC910721
Julie Vazquez
150 Eddy St.
Springfield, MA 01104

2007 Ford Edge VIN: 2FMDK46C77BB61373
Abelardo Claudio Mendez
011037 Stilton Dr
Chester, VA 23831

2005 Audi A4 VIN: WAUDF68E25A429903
Samuel Rosario

53 8th St.
Newington, CT 06111

2018 Freightliner Cascadia 126 VIN: 3AKJHDDR4JSKB9685
Nurmukhammad Khaydarov
3471 Village Dr., Apt. L
Franklin, OH 45005

2005 Honda CRV VIN: SHSRD78525U331720
Saira Murayes Navichoque
95 Park St., Apt. 1
Lawrence, MA 01841

2003 Honda Odyssey VIN: 5FNRL18653B060830
Peddle
3800 N Lamar Blvd., Suite 230
Austin, TX 78756
02/27, 03/06, 03/13/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on February 27th, 2026 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.

2013 Jeep Grand Cherokee VIN: 1C4RJFCT2DC615229
Deylih Teruel
164 Rosseter St., Apt. 5
Boston, MA 02121

2009 Chevrolet Tahoe VIN: 1GNFK33029R100442
Cardenas-Godinez, Alejandro
13 Coleman St., Apt. D
West Haven, CT 06516

2007 Subaru Outback VIN: 4S4BP62C177320374
David Wilkerson
204 N Maple St
Enfield, Ct 06082

2007 Audi Q7 VIN: WA1BY74LX7D035446
Anibal Perez
151 Allen St., Apt. F
Springfield, MA 01108

1992 Subaru SVX LS-L VIN: JF1CX3532NH105487
Pablo Rivera
PO Box 351
Chicopee, MA 01014

2001 Toyota Camry VIN: 4T1BG22K61U100608
Balbino Navarro
168 3rd Ave.
Woonsocket, RI 02895

2013 Chevrolet Malibu VIN: 1G11C5SA4DF199998
Jennifer Allsop
38 Continental St.
Springfield, MA 01108

2001 Honda Accord VIN: JHMCG66591C025637
Isaac Acevedo
60 Chruh St., Apt. 1
Amsterdam, NY 12010

2010 Chevrolet Cobalt VIN: 1G1AB1F51A7164088
Brenda Cunningham
21 Branch St.
Rochester, NY 14621
02/13, 02/20, 02/27/2026

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 6th, 2026 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.

2014 Kia Optima VIN: 5XXGM4A78EG310568
Guilherme De Campos Gravena LLC
119 Margaret Turner Rd.
Charlotte, NC 28216

2009 Honda Odyssey VIN: 5FNRL38699B412974

Erwin L Vallejoparra
76 Norton St.
Patchogue, NY 11772

2001 Honda Civic vin: 2hges26781h538573
Zuleika Cartagena Ocasio
59 Mosher St., Apt. 3r
Holyoke, MA 01040

2012 Honda Civic VIN: 2HGFB2F53CH566898
Luis Reyna De La Cruz
26 Cambridge St., Apt. 26
Springfield, MA 01109

2016 International 4000 VIN: 1HTMMMML1GH001318
Gigi's Towing
657 Broadway
Revere, MA 02151
02/20, 02/27, 03/06/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD26P0337EA
Estate of:**

**Robert Michael Murphy Also Known As:
Robert M. Murphy
Date of Death: 9/30/2025
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Christopher M Murphy of Chicopee, MA**,

Christopher M Murphy 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.
02/27/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P1930PM
In the matter of:
Rose Pavia
Of: Chicopee, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Baystate Medical Center of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Favian Rivera** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Lymari Arzola** of Chicopee, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **03/16/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a dead-

line 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. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 09, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccamoni
Register of Probate
02/27/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD26P0356GD
In the matter of:
Favian Rivera
Of: Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT**

Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Baystate Medical Center of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Favian Rivera** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Lymari Arzola** of Chicopee, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **03/23/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days

after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 20, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccamoni
Register of Probate
02/27/2026

**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.
HD26P0342EA
Estate of:
Donna Marie Woods
Date of Death: 01/17/2026
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 **William Michael Woods of Portland, ME** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **William Michael Woods of Portland, ME** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/19/2026**. 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

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. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: February 20, 2026
Rosemary A Saccamoni,
Register of Probate
02/27/2026

P	A	C	K		D	E	C		A	S	A	P				
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Chicopee Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

DL&G TREE

Tree Removal



Structural Pruning



Crane Service



Storm Damage



Stump Grinding



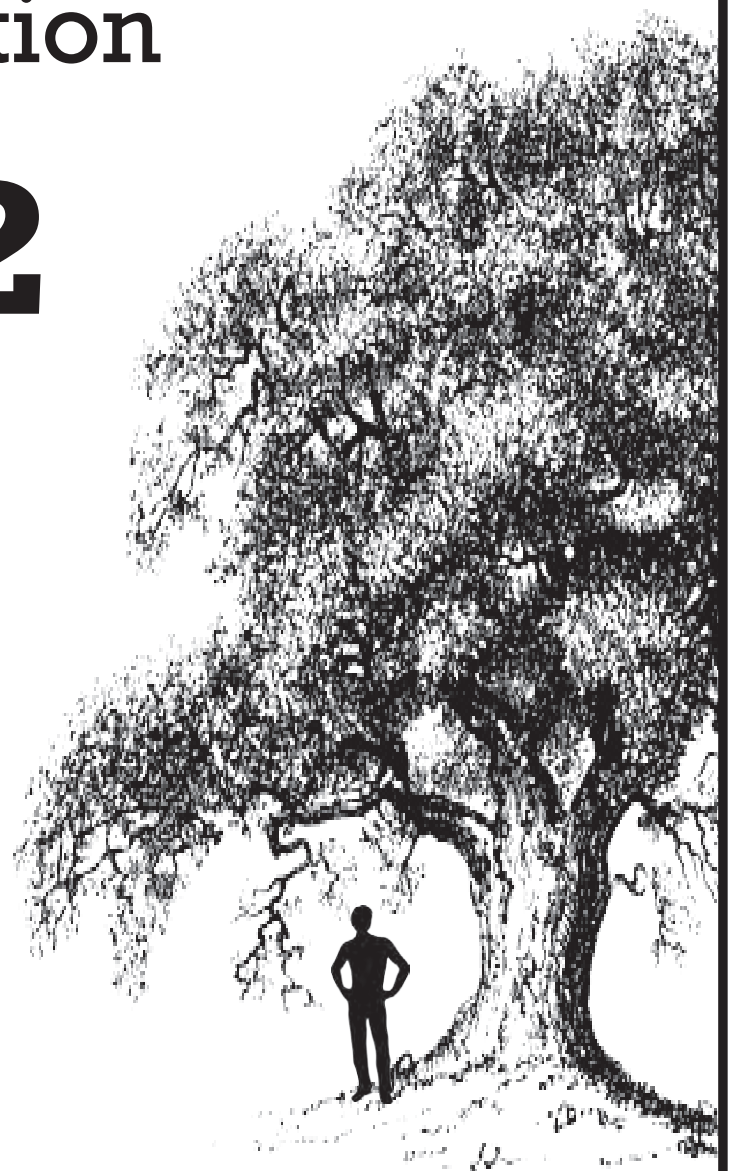
Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation

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DL&G TREE



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