

Chicopee Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

April 10, 2026 Vol 30 No. 45 | FREE

www.chicopeeregister.turley.com



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS
Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware provides information on the plan to prepare for the fiscal cliff coming to the school district.

City Council approves \$8.1 million

Appropriation approved for education

By Kristin Rivers
 Editor
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CHICOPEE - The City Council approved an \$8,130,026.12 appropriation for education during their April 7 meeting.

The appropriation will go into the Stabilization for Education Purposes from avail-

able funds in the Stabilization Fund in the following named accounts: \$5,945,605.54 for School Prior Year Salaries and \$2,184,420.58 for School Prior Year Expenses.

Mayor John Vieau explained this money was a roll over over multiple years "that is going to be used to balance the budget moving forward."

"I just want to share the city of Chicopee's school district has actually been from a low-income classification standpoint that has been reclassified and that has impacted our funding from the state for

Chapter 70. So, we should be okay, and I think I can say this with confidence with Dr. Ware here, for the up and coming budget season, we're really concerned about going for the 2028 year," Vieau said. "It's going to be a real challenge moving forward. But this would be using and expending all of our roll over accounts to balance this up and coming budget."

Vice President/Ward 6 Councilor Sam Shumsky's questions focused on sustainability and future fiscal years. "Is this going to continue

to be sustainable?" Shumsky said.

"I can't predict the future. This is going to balance the budget for next year," Vieau said.

"Okay. So, do we have a plan for what's going to happen in the future?" Shumsky said.

Vieau said how Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware "has been tasked to work on plans for the future."

"That's what we're really focused on. Getting through the next budget cycle and focusing on sustainability in the

future," Vieau said.

Ware explained how the plan is "always communicating with the School Committee."

"So, as you may recall, that, each year, we go through the budget cycle and we actually present options to the School Committee that they vote upon. So what the mayor is speaking about this evening is the \$8 million that's been rolled over from the previous year and, in the past, that

Please see **EDUCATION**, page 3

Chicopee launches 'Bus Patrol' program

School district hires 10 people

By Dalton Zbierski
 Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The School Committee's meeting on April 1 lasted only a half-hour, but several significant developments were discussed.

First and foremost, the city has launched its "Bus Patrol" program, which will use cameras mounted on school buses to identify vehicles that illegally pass buses that are stopped, with their red lights flashing and arm extended.

The program went into effect on Wednesday, and a \$250 fine will be mailed to the registered address of any vehicle that is filmed illegally passing a school bus.

Chicopee officials announced the establishment of the initiative several weeks ago. The technology has been in place since late February.

Those who have been caught violating the law over the past month have received warnings, but that changed this week.

During last Wednesday's meeting, Ward 3 School Committee Representative/Vice Chair Jason Dout offered a status report on the operation.

"On Feb. 25, we did

have a press conference at Chicopee Comprehensive High School introducing this new technology. In the time since then - in just over a month - 52 incidents were recorded and reviewed by Bus Patrol," Dout said.

Dout acknowledged that 17 of the incidents were found not to be violations, but he is still alarmed at how many people recklessly passed school buses.

"That means that in just over a month, we had 35 people who illegally drove past our school buses when their stop signs were out, putting our children at risk," Dout said, as he promised the viewing audience that "warnings won't be happening anymore."

Dout noted that he will continue monitoring the statistics because he believes these offenses are far too common. He is optimistic, however, that the new program will raise awareness.

"The truth is it's not about charging people money, it's about making sure our students our safe," Dout said. "And if in a couple months from now, we're able to see that number drop down from 35 - we'd love to see it at zero - but if that number can drop down to 10 or if that number can drop lower, then we're heading in the right direction."

Please see **BUS PATROL**, page 2



The Easter Bunny with Oksana Kagan and City Council Vice President/Ward 6 City Councilor Sam Shumsky.

Community enjoys Breakfast with Easter Bunny

TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

By Brendan Rooney
 Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The senior center, in partnership with the Chicopee Parks and Recreation Department, hosted its first ever Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on April 3.

Families and kids of all ages were greeted to pancakes and a variety of activities just in time for the Easter holiday.

Among those in attendance were a plethora of city dignitaries, such as City Council Vice President/Ward

6 Councilor Sam Shumsky and Ward 5 Councilor Joe Pasternak, along with the 2026 Chicopee Colleen Charlotte Rae Fields, and her court, which consisted of Shannon Caloon, Mila Dillard, and Gracelyn Jarry, all of whom passed out candy, and offered time to some of the kids across the event.

Leading the gathering was RiverMills Program Coordinator Casey Conroy, who shared that a line formed at 8:30 A.M. to the surprise of many, before providing some insight into how the event

came together, and how it differs from daily activities.

"When they (Parks and Rec's) asked to collaborate with us, we decided to do the Easter Bunny Breakfast; they brought some games, we brought some, and it's just a nice intergenerational event that made an atmosphere for all, and we all felt it was a great way to get the entire community together, and it's great to see everyone who registered are all here, and the

Please see **BREAKFAST**, page 6

Sunshine Village welcomes president, CEO

Michelle Theroux succeeds Gina Kos

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Sunshine Village recently welcomed Michelle Theroux as its new president and CEO, beginning her new role on March 30,

She succeeds Gina Kos, who will be retiring from the organization after 35 years on April 29.

Theroux most recently served as the Chief Executive Officer of Berkshire Hills Music Academy in South Hadley and has had many years of executive leadership and working in human service. She also had senior management positions at The Center for Human Development and Child and Family Services of Pioneer Valley.

She also currently serves as chair of Mercy Medical Center, a regional board member for Trinity Health of New England and sits on boards for the ERC5 Chamber of Commerce and MicroTek. She also serves as chair of the South Hadley Redevelopment Authority.

Theroux shared she was drawn to the position through being a fan of Sunshine Village and the work they do.

"They have a really stellar reputation in the community regarding how they work with their individuals, how they treat their staff and so, it is certainly an honor for me to step into the role and certainly carry on the legacy that Gina Kos has done for so many years prior to my arrival," Kos said.

Theroux explained she's "always been attracted to helping people" and has worked in human service in Western Massa-

Please see **WELCOMES**, page 9

MassDOT hosts hearing on Streiber School

By Brendan Rooney
 Correspondent

CHICOPEE - MassDOT hosted a design public hearing at the Hugh Scott Streiber Elementary School on March 31 to discuss a proposed project near the school that will improve and expand the sidewalk infrastructure.

The proposed project looks to consist of installing new sidewalks, replacing existing sidewalks and improving crosswalks that will expand connectivity to Streiber, building uniformity along the routes of Telegraph Avenue, Streiber Drive, Irene Court, Debra Drive, and connecting paths in the pursuit of being ADA-compliant, with an estimated completion date to be Fall 2028, barring any potential setbacks.

In addition, it was revealed that the official project is approximately \$2.6 million, which will come from federal aid funding, with the



An exterior shot of Streiber Elementary School on Streiber Drive in Chicopee.

Federal Highway Administration funding 80% of the total construction cost, with the remaining 20% being funded by MassDOT.

In attendance and leading the panel was MassDOT Project Manager Jon Freeman, who was joined by MassDOT Right of Way Agent Shirley

Shiver, MassDOT member Daryl Amaral, and Howard Stein Hudson Civil Engineer Jason Roose to give a presentation about the proposed project.

Freeman kicked off the presentation by telling the room and citing a necessity on the project.

"There is a need to construct or reconstruct sidewalks that are either non-existent or in poor condition along Streiber Drive, Telegraph Avenue, Irene Court, and Debra Drive, to facilitate safe walking to and from school," Freeman said.

Shiver then discussed

the process and role of secure right-of-way, which is necessary for this project. She explained that the city is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands.

Shiver then expressed that Chicopee has accepted certain responsibilities, such as acquiring the necessary rights in private and public lands for the design, construction, and public use of this project. The choice became official after the Massachusetts Department of Transportation High Division indicated that it would accept this project for funding.

It was also shared that during this stage of the design, the Right-of-Way process has not been finalized. However, the preliminary Right-of-Way plan will be made available on the city's website or the Department

Please see **STREIBER**, page 9

IN THE CITY

NAMI hosts reception for Art & Poetry Show

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts held an opening reception for the 15th Annual Art & Poetry Show at the library's Bazan Community Room on April 1.

The pieces will be on display through April 30, featuring 94 pieces of art and poetry created by artists living with mental health conditions. The art and poems create an opportunity for the community to see the humanity behind mental health and mental illness, fostering conversations and tackling—and breaking—the stigmas around them.

Bonnie Pueschel, the president of NAMI Western Mass's board of directors, emphasized the talent of the artists.

"You can see the diversity around the room. It's just like each of us, how different we are from each other, and so I want to thank the artists that contributed to this event this evening, because you are the stars," Pueschel said. "You are why you're here and made this our 15th Annual."

After sharing the organization's history and thanking Executive Director Cathy Rogers, Communications Director Mark Garney, the staff and volunteers for their work and support, Pueschel encouraged the community to join NAMI, adding that members will receive a quarterly newsletter and membership fees range from \$5 to \$40.

"I want to say that we have a Walk-a-Thon coming,

which is going to be happening on Sunday, May 17 and that's our 26th walk and that is our big fundraiser," Pueschel said. "It's a short walk, but we ask for sponsors, and so you'll be seeing Walk-a-Thon sign-up letters to sign on for sponsors or just come for the event."

The Walk-a-Thon is at Stanley Park in Westfield at the Beverage Pavilion Annex from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with registration at 10 a.m.



Giovanni Rivera (pictured in the middle), points to his art piece of a Soul Collage as his family joins him for a photo.



Beth Carrona created this stained glass art piece called "Ocean Sun."

Rogers said the artists enjoy the opening reception for the chance to see the artwork, meet their fellow artists and connect.

"They're not all in the same service agency, so they

like to see them and all come together and talk. Talk about what they created and just the process of it, sometimes, is very cathartic for them. It's relaxing," Rogers said. "One year, we had someone who all he did was drip wax cray-

ons and it slowed him down, it helped him to really relax. We have other people, they do diamond dots and they do that. Other people, I was just talking to a gentleman earlier and he said, 'It came to me. The picture just came to me, so I sketched it all out and I colored it all in with color pencil.' So, it's just something that helps them to deal with everyday life, and there's just so much struggle and chaos right now. A lot of people unsure about a lot of things, and this kind of helps them and grounds them to say, 'Oh, I can do this. I can do that. It makes me feel better.'"

Rogers was thrilled with the turnout, adding that any art for sale and purchased goes back to the artists.

"It means a lot to me because so many people will come up to me, they don't even know who I am, but they know I'm NAMI Western Mass and they say, 'Thank you for doing this,'" Rogers said. "And you see that. It makes them feel so much better about themselves. Some of the artists, the work that they do, it's absolutely moving. It just really touches you."

Felicia Harvey was one of the artists, explaining she had pieces featured last year and was also in the newsletter with one of her poems.

"I'm excited because I get to showcase my work and have people see the other artistic side of me," Harvey said. "The poems that I have are written from my childhood inside my heart. I was young and I was growing up fast and my mom raised me and I love her for that, so I wrote a poem on her and about young girls and social media and the guys. I think I can touch a lot of people there."

Her art pieces are soul collages, which take her to many places and worlds in her mind and imagination, which also fuel her creativity.

"I have so many of them. When I do them, I do over 12 at a time," Harvey said. "I love art and the Soul Collage. I fell in love with Soul Collage the first time I did it. I fell in love with it. Everything that it's about, the reason behind it, what it means."

For Harvey, she wants people to see that she can relate to them.

"We can still do art and struggle mentally because it brings us places, to new places. It heals us in differ-



Sarah Brown shows off her spring and Easter-themed wreaths.



An acrylic painting called "Kitten & Cowboy Boots" created by Ron Gauthier.

ent ways and I want people to see that there's more than one side of me," Harvey said.

She also stressed education and raising awareness.

"To show people what else we're capable of. The struggle, we put it to the test. We put it to work, we allow it to heal us and make us whole. When we're finished with a piece of artwork, what we see is the end product. A beautiful

thing," Harvey said.

Rogers' message was this.

"I just want to thank everybody for coming and just to enjoy all the art that's here and I look forward to seeing everybody and new artists next year," Rogers said. "Please come out and enjoy it."

BUS PATROL from page 1

Before moving on, Douth urged drivers to be aware of their surroundings and make sure students stay safe.

Later during last Wednesday's meeting, Deborah Green, Chicopee Public Schools' director of human resources, offered an update on personnel.

She said that during the final two weeks of March, there were 10 new hires, three resignations and one retirement in the district.

The school system hired one educational support pro-

fessional, seven substitute teachers and two cafeteria workers.

"Today, we began preparing for our new hiring season and pulling down any remaining postings from the 2025-26 school year, keeping up those long-term sub postings for the remainder of this year, covering leaves of absences through the rest of this year," Green said. "So, there aren't very many postings up; probably about 20 or so, including those long-term subs and those postings that are always up for our crossing guards, noon attendants, etc."

Before the meeting ended, the committee unanimously passed an exciting item pertaining to Chicopee Comprehensive High School.

The board gave the school's bowling team its approval to attend the U.S. High School Bowling National Championships in Columbus, Ohio from June 20-22.

"This is an overnight trip, so it needs to be approved with your blessings, as well as this is a continuation of the season the bowling team had earlier where they actually won locally," Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware said.

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IN THE CITY

Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids, 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 April 2026.

Storytime will be held on Thursdays, April 16 and 30 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 2-3 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. No registration required.

The Holyoke Chicopee CFCE will facilitate a **School Readiness Playgroup** on Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m., April 2 - May 7. Children ages 3-5 are invited to meet new friends and practice school readiness skills with a kit from the Boston Children's Museum.

Saturday Playgroup will be held on Saturdays at 1 p.m. in April. We'll put out some extra toys in the playspace. It's a great time for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play, no registration required. No playgroup on April 25. Come to a Mini Circus Show instead!

Monday Crafts will be held on April 13 and 27 at 4 p.m. Different projects each week. April 27 will be a rock painting project, outside weather permitting.

Terrific Twos will be

held on Tuesdays, April 14 and 28 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 one 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. No registration required.

The Kids Room Sewing Club will meet on Wednesday, April 15, 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, no registration required.

The library **Homeschool Meetup** will be on Friday, April 17 at 11 a.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 we're celebrating Poetry Month. Bring a poem in your pocket to share with the group.

April School Vacation Week

The library will be celebrating 30 years of Pokémon with a **Pokémon Party** on Tuesday, April 21 at 3 p.m.! There will be exciting, Pokémon-themed activities for all ages, and everyone is welcome to stop by at any point during the event. Can't

make it to the party, or just want even more Pokémon? There will be a special scavenger hunt around the Children's Room all week long!

The library will host a **Big Kid Dance Party** on Wednesday, April 22 at 10:30 a.m. A bit like our regularly scheduled Little Kid Dance Party, but geared specifically towards elementary age kids. We'll sing and dance and get out the rhythm sticks. Caregivers and younger kids are welcome, no registration required.

The library will host a **Mess-tival** on Wednesday, April 22 at 2:30 p.m. Join us outside for a messy party! We will be exploring lots of different ways to get messy, from water to sensory tables and more! Dress to get messy!! For all ages, no registration required.

The library will have **Bingo for Books** on Wednesday, April 22 at 6 p.m. Play a few rounds of bingo and win the best prize: books! For kids and families of all ages, no registration required.

On Thursday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to Noon, **Fermata Arts Foundation** will host a Global Art Exchange between Kharkiv, Ukraine and Chicopee, MA geared towards students in grades 4 & 5. Let's Build a Roof Over the World: What happens when the animals move north? An art exchange between Kharkiv, Ukraine and Chicopee, MA. For 4th and 5th graders. Students will participate in a Zoom meeting with a virtual tour by the students in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Students will create an art piece inspired by the

drawings they like most that Fermata Arts Foundation will send to Kharkiv, Ukraine. Hosted by Fermata Arts Foundation.

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

Get your little groove on at a **Baby Rave** on Friday, April 24 at 11 a.m. Join us for a baby dance party with lights, glowsticks, scarves, shakers and, of course, music! Recommended for kids ages 0-2, no registration required.

Help create a Community Craft: Cardboard Kingdom on Friday, April 24 at 12:30 p.m. Stop by the Activity Room anytime after 12:30pm to create a cardboard creation for display! For kids and families of all ages, no registration required.

The library will host a **Mini Circus Show** for all ages by Small But Mighty on Saturday, April 25 at 1 p.m. The show includes aerial silks, hula hoop acrobatics, aerial hoop, and a fun interactive segment to teach the audience hula hoop tricks and other ground skills. The show will be outside, weather permitting. No registration required.

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

Celebrate Poetry Month on Wednesday, April 29 at 4 p.m., Read Poetry to a Dog! Pediatric therapy dog Lena will be all ears while

kids practice reading poems aloud. Bring a poem, or pick one when you arrive. No registration required.

Programs for Teens 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!

Join us for Anime Club on Wednesday, April 29 at 3 p.m. to celebrate the premier of the highly anticipated anime adaptation of Witch Hat Atelier! Whether you're already a fan of the series, or have yet to check it out, we'll be showing off what makes this fantasy series unique and even getting to practice some of the magic showcased in the series!

Girls Who Code Workshop Series every other Saturday, beginning April 11.

April 11 and 25, May 9 and 23, June 6 and 20, 1 to 3 p.m. in the Computer Lab.

Girls Who Code is dedicated to increasing gender equality in the tech field. In this workshop series taught by local cybersecurity analyst Alexandria Rosado, girls in grades 9-12 will learn about AI, Coding and Cybersecurity in a fun environment with peers.

Sign up by going to clubs-hq.girlswhocode.com/login and sign up for an account on the Girls Who Code website and then join our club with this code: MA67606

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

MassDOT upcoming Construction Projects in Chicopee

CHICOPEE - The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is set to initiate two construction projects in Chicopee, detailed below. If you have any questions about these projects, please contact MassDOT, District 2.

East Main Street (Route 141)

This project focuses on resurfacing East Main Street from Belcher Street to Baltimore Avenue.

The anticipated schedule is as follows:

04/23/2026 - Adjustments and rebuilding of structures within the roadway

04/29/2026 - Start of pavement milling

05/04/2026 - Initiation of paving operations

Memorial Drive (Route 33)

This project involves resurfacing Memorial Drive from Sheridan Street to the southern area past Hollywood Street in South Hadley. Construction is expected to begin in early April 2026 at the intersection of Sheridan Street and Memorial Drive.

Please consider using alternate routes to avoid these areas, if possible.

EDUCATION from page 1

monies would be advised through the School Committee to say, expend all, expend a certain amount," Ware said. "What the mayor's declaring is due to our designation change in our low-income status, we are expecting that the cliff that we were expecting a year from now to be a year moved up. So, what we are planning for is to present a budget that will be advised through the School Committee with certain drivers, including how much stabilization they use and then, from there, we're going to have to have conversations."

Ware said people may recall how conversations like this were held before "as many communities have been, what we call, entering the cliff or either making adjustments earlier on and ours has just been delayed."

"So, I cannot give you specifics beyond the 26-27 school year, but I can tell you that there will be conversations with the School Committee to make the necessary adjustments. So, at this time, I can't give you any more details," Ware said.

Councilor-at-Large Joel McAuliffe thanked Vieau and Ware "for bringing this forward."

"I want to thank you both for what has been a

forward-thinking and really sound financial strategy when it comes to school budgeting. We're able to do this in a lot of ways because of how the district handled ESSER Funds, how it prioritized the one-time monies from the state and federal government during the COVID era. That put us in a position to absorb the shock of this fiscal cliff that we're entering," McAuliffe said.

One thing McAuliffe asked—and already presented to his School Committee representative—is communication.

"Too often, the School Committee and the City Council talk in silos. The School Committee goes, they vote on something, they never talk to us about it and then they're surprised when we have a lot of questions about it, and then we disagree," McAuliffe said. "This is a really important time. We're not the only district going through this fiscal cliff. We need to be lockstep in how we address this. As you mentioned, Mayor, the change in designation results in a hit in terms of funds coming into the district. It doesn't result in a decrease of net school spending for the district and our responsibilities as a community to fund education at the bare minimum level that we have been for years.

Which means, the taxpayer has to find a way to either absorb that cost so that we meet our net school spending requirement—which isn't going to change—and then the School Committee, Dr. Ware and the Mayor have to find a way to make cost savings possible so that way our costs are as contained as they can."

He added how health-care, collective bargaining agreement responsibilities and fuel costs are going up.

"This is a major issue here in the city, so you're dealing with it on the city and school side. We just got to make sure that we're talking and I think that's a really important thing that we just stay committed to. We're not the only ones going through this. It's going to be bad for everybody. It's going to be bad for every community. We're not immune from that, but how we address it, example a one of how you handled it before and how we prepared it, really really good and I hope that we continue to collaborate," McAuliffe said.

Vieau added he's been in contact with the delegation, DESE, the Department of Education, and the governor's office to make them "all fully aware of the cliff that Chicopee's facing when it comes to funding the next fiscal year."

"Years in the future is what our real, major concern

is going forward. We will be able to, hopefully, get through this year's budget season. We're comfortable with that, but there's some real challenges ahead that Dr. Ware and I have been talking about and I know the School Committee has some real challenges ahead," Vieau said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello thanked McAuliffe for his remarks, also

emphasizing communication when this type of money is involved. She also hopes the Senior Citizens and Education Subcommittee—which she chairs—can call a meeting to discuss the upcoming finances.

"Budget-tightening, belt-tightening is going to be in fashion. So, we're going to have to think of the students, the teachers and the taxpay-

ers," Costello said.


Costello said she already notified Ware about planning a meeting in the future, "because this is important, now more than ever."

"So, thank you, Councilor McAuliffe, for talking about let's get together, not work in silos, work together, so we can better service students in Chicopee," Costello said.

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IN THE CITY

The ins and outs of forsythia

Each year as forsythia burst into bloom, I am reminded of my dad.

You see, this spring harbinger always blooms right around his birthday. This year would've been a monumental one, as he would have celebrated 100 years!

some-times reduced to mush the morning after a hard freeze.

Forsythia flowers are borne on the previous year's wood. With that in mind, prune as soon as possible after flowering.

Simply cut the oldest stems all the way down to the ground. You can safely remove up to one-

third of the bush in a single pruning session. New growth will emerge over the summer and provide blossoms for next season.

While some books recommend cutting overgrown forsythias down to the ground completely, in my experience, this advice is drastic. The plant will need a couple of years to recover from that approach. Sometimes you see forsythia pruned into balls or stiff hedges. While some homeowners consider this look appealing, I like to see the bush a little less tame. It's also hard to guarantee flowers throughout such a manicured shape; sometimes part will bloom and the rest will be just foliage. Kind of a weird look.

Propagating forsythias is easy! Do you want more of a good thing? Try layering your forsythias. Take a long, pliable branch and bend it to the ground a foot or so from the main plant. Cover the bend with soil and secure it with a brick or heavy stone. In a few months' time it will root, and by the following spring the new plant can easily be separated from its mother.

Forsythia is easily grown. Perhaps this is why we see so many forsythias in the landscape.

While it will undoubtedly bloom best in full sun, once established, it can tolerate all but the driest of soils and adapts to a range in pH. Also, it is bothered by few pests or diseases.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 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 the Garden
by Roberta McQuaid

Although most landscape professionals aren't all that fond of forsythia, it holds a special place in my heart. When it is in full bloom our eyes are lifted away from the still drab lawn and the bare borders to bask at its branches of yellow flowers.

If you are lucky enough to have forsythia growing in your yard, perhaps you will find the following facts interesting, straight from the archives.

Forsythia can be forced into bloom indoors. While it is a little late in the season to fully appreciate this technique, it can easily be achieved now.

As long as temperatures are above freezing, you can harvest the branches. Simply prepare them as you would any other cut flower by removing side shoots that would be under water in the vase. Fill the vase with hot water and just prior to insertion recut the end of the stem on a 45 degree angle to expose as much surface area as possible.

We use hot water because it will move through the plant's vascular system quickly, hydrating it fully.

Place the vase in indirect, bright light, and change the water a couple of times a week. Expect blooms in a matter of days this time of year; if you harvest stems in early March it will take a bit longer to enjoy the flowers.

Forsythia buds are tender. While the shrub itself is hardy to Zone 4, the buds are reliably hardy to only Zone 5.

After an especially cold winter you may see forsythia in half-bloom! The tops of the shrub may be devoid of blossoms, but the bottom chock-full. This generally happens because the lower portion of the shrub was insulated under a snow bank or leaf mound.

Likewise, the blossoms are also tender -

HOW ASTRONAUTS WILL TRAIN FOR RETURN TO MOON...



Eastern Phoebe

I saw an Eastern Phoebe on March 28, my first sighting of 2026.

The Eastern Phoebe is a plump songbird with a medium-length tail. It appears large-headed for a bird of its size. The head often appears flat on top, but phoebes sometimes raise the feathers up into a peak. Like most small flycatchers, they have short, thin bills used for catching insects. The Eastern Phoebe slightly larger than a tufted titmouse.

The Eastern Phoebe is brownish-gray above and off-white below, with a dusky wash to the sides of the breast. The head is typically the darkest part of the upper parts. Birds in fresh fall plumage show faint yellow on the belly and whitish edging on the folded wing feathers.

The Eastern Phoebe generally perches low in trees or on fence lines. Phoebes are very active, making short flights to capture insects and very often returning to the same perch. They make sharp "peep" calls in addition to their familiar "Phoebe" vocalizations. When perched, Eastern Phoebes wag their tails down and up frequently.

These birds favor open woods such as yards, parks, woodlands and woodland edges. Phoebes usually breed around buildings or bridges on which they construct their nests under the protection of an eave or ledge.

Bring in bird feeders

The Allen Bird Club of Springfield reminds area residents that early spring means hungry bears. If people enjoy feeding birds during the winter, it's now time to bring feeders in at night or to put them away entirely until next December. Black bears have an excellent memory and will return to feeders where they find easy meals.

When that happens, bears can become a nuisance. FYI, over 50 million Americans purchase more than one billion pounds of bird seed and suet annually.

An excellent way to feed birds year-round is by planting native fruit and seed bearing plants that provide food for wildlife. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's new citizen science initiative, Garden for Birds, offers regionally-tailored tips on the best plants to choose to help struggling wildlife to thrive. This program is free and participation can be cancelled at any time. Information on how to turn a yard into a bird-supporting habitat can be found by visiting gardenforbirds.org.

Common mergansers

My husband and I saw the male and female Common Merganser diving in cedar Lake Sturbridge in between the ice on Thursday, March 19. They were beautiful.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "In my last email I had reported a broad-winged hawk seen in the yard. I later was looking at some photographs I had taken of the bird and discovered I was wrong, the bird was a red-shouldered hawk. Also it would have been very early for a broad-wing."

He saw crows, blue jays and a red-shouldered hawk on his trail camera as well as raccoons and an opossum.

He also has eight goldfinch visiting regularly. He said, "For most of the winter

we have only seen one or two at the feeders. One was starting to show some yellow plumage."

He puts out a coffee can of whole peanuts every day in a tray. He said, "Blue jays, titmice and an occasional red-bellied woodpecker take the peanuts that are usually gone within a couple of hours. Lately the peanuts have been lasting two or three days and I haven't seen any blue jays." He also noted it is "A sign of spring, the chipmunks are out and about and the daffodil leaves have started to emerge, hooray."

Goldfinches

I received an email from a Worthington resident. He said, "Around mid-February each year my bird feeders are inundated by a flock or maybe flocks of goldfinches in their drab winter colorations. It's amazing how many flit in and out of my feeders. And, when the goldfinches come, they are joined by an equally large flock of pine siskins. They must travel together and they look somewhat similar since the goldfinches aren't yet sporting their bright yellow colors. They usually hang around for a month or so and then move on further North." He said, "I enjoy watching them at the feeders, the few who decide to spend the summer in Western Massachusetts."

Bluebirds

I received an email from a Hampden resident, who shared Please see **BACKYARD**, page 5

Chicopee Register

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The Chicopee Register is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



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The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

Election letters to the editor

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

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

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

I'll be 70 on New Year's Day. When should I apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I was born on Jan. 1, 1958, so I believe Social Security considers me to be 70 as of December 2027. I'm planning on filing when I turn 70 to maximize the payment. I'm not sure if I should start in December, with the first payment in January 2028. Or should I start in January with the first payment in February 2028? I know I can start any-

time, however I don't want to file before the maximum payment, even by one month.

Signed: Wanting Maximum Benefit

Dear Wanting:

You are correct that if your birth date is Jan. 1, 1958, you are entitled to your full age 70 benefit in December 2027. So, if you claim your SS benefit to start in Decem-

ber 2027 you will get your maximum benefit amount and you will receive that payment in January 2028 (on the second Wednesday). Basically, anyone born on the first of any month is considered to have been born in the previous month for SS benefit purposes.

You can apply for your benefits up to four months prior to your birthday month and SS usually suggests applying about three months in advance to give them time to process your application. When you complete the application, you will specify the month you wish your benefits to start, so applying early does not present a problem. You can either call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply over the

phone or you can apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply.

The one thing you might want to do is put the following in the "Remarks" section of your application for SS benefits: "I do not wish to receive any retroactive Social Security benefits. I want my benefits to become effective with the first month of my age 70 eligibility (December 2027 because I was born on the first of January)."

Including that remark will ensure that your benefit will be the full maximum amount you are entitled to at 70 years of age, without any reduction. And I congratulate you on choosing a strategy which maximizes your monthly benefit and will likely provide you with the most in cumulative lifetime Social

Security benefits.

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

IN THE CITY

Chicopee Historical Society to present 'Dragoon, Musketeer, Prisoner'

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Historical Society will present "Dragoon, Musketeer, Prisoner: The Hessians of the Revolutionary War in Western Massachusetts?"

Folklore holds that the Hessians soldiers of the Revolutionary War period were bloodthirsty mercenaries purchased by King George

the Third to fight in the rebellious colonies. Even though there were no battles during the American Revolution in western Massachusetts, there were, in fact, Hessians here. Hear how these men got to our area, why they were here, who they really were, and in the end, why some stayed. Presented by

local historian and museum professional Dennis Picard.

The event is free and open to the public, 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15 in the Bazan Community Room of the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee.

Author Talk at The Arbors

CHICOPEE - Join us for an inspiring talk at the Arbors of Chicopee on April 28 at 6 p.m. with Sean Terwilliger.

This event is free and open to the public. Sean Terwilliger, a former technology leader and teacher, will share his own inspiring story about how being diagnosed with Alzheimer's led to writing, advocacy and a sense of purpose.

Learn about how his ex-

periences with clinical trials, newly approved medications and lifestyle change led to his belief that he could outpace the progression of the disease, and how he is now an advocate through foundations like the Walk to End Alzheimer's.

This event is free and open to the public, but space is limited. Please RSVP by calling or texting 413-530-5916 to reserve your spot.

Drug Takeback Day is April 15

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host a Drug Takeback Event on Wednesday, April 15 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

The Hampden County Sheriff's Department will be at RiverMills Center from 9 to 11 a.m. for a drug takeback program. Programs like this provide safe ways to get rid of unused medication, which helps combat misuse as well as reducing pollution. This event is open to senior center members only. No registration is required.



BACKYARD from page 4

video from a blink camera she installed inside her bluebird house in 2025. She placed the camera in the birdhouse to keep track of activity and this resulted in two broods of bluebirds successfully hatching and fledging a total of eight young. She said, "The camera helped to keep the sparrows from establishing a nest and gave us close ups of the bluebird families." She also said, "Once September rolled around, it was time to clean and sanitize the birdhouse. However, a downy woodpecker found it was a fine place to spend the night. He has continued arriving at sundown

and leaving at sunrise the next day. The bluebirds sometimes stop by during the day possibly checking it out for their future nest." She said, "Our hope is the bluebirds return this spring and don't have issues with the woodpecker as well as the sparrows."

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.

Hydrant Flushing

CHICOPEE - On behalf of the Chicopee Water Department, spring/summer hydrant flushing will begin April 12.

The Chicopee Water Department will be conducting their Spring/Summer hydrant flushing program. Flushing will occur between 7:30 and 11:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. The start date is Sunday, April 12. This program is intended to ensure customers continue to receive the highest quality water. Hydrant flushing is scheduled to continue through September 2026 and is starting in the Ferry Lane area, then navigating throughout the remainder of the water distribution system.

During this time, customers may notice periods of decreased water pressure

or discoloration of their water. This discoloration results from temporary disturbances of the normal flow of water within our system. These short-term changes in flow can stir up naturally occurring minerals and sediment that settle within the water mains. The objective of water main/hydrant flushing is to remove these accumulated sediments from the pipes by flushing the water out of the fire hydrants.

If you experience discolored water after your street has been flushed, you are encouraged to run your cold water through a faucet (bathtubs being the best choice) for 5-10 minutes or until the water clears up. Do not use hot water, as dirty water can enter your hot water heater and damage it. Do not run your laundry machine when you



have dirty water, as this can discolor your clothing.

If your water does not clear up after several minutes, please call the Chicopee Water Department during regular business hours at 413-594-3420.

Harmony House hosts All-You-Can-Eat Fundraiser

CHICOPEE - Local nonprofit Harmony House of Western Massachusetts invites the community to its upcoming Pizza for a Purpose fundraiser on Thursday, April 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. at View Street Tavern, 92 View Street in Chicopee.

This family-friendly event will directly support Harmony House's mission of providing a home with compassionate end-of-life care and companionship to hospice patients in need. Guests can enjoy all-you-can-eat pizza, along with raffles, a cash bar with local celebrity bartenders, and a

50/50 drawing.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3-17, and free for children 2 and under. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online in advance. View Street Tavern is generously donating the pizza and space for this event, ensuring that funds raised directly support Harmony House and its residents. Harmony House is seeking additional sponsors to help meet its fundraising goal. Visit HarmonyHouse-WMA.org/PizzaNight to purchase tickets, become a sponsor, or learn more about the event and the nonprofit.

Scholarships for Class of 2026

CHICOPEE - St. Stanislaus School has two scholarships available for High School Seniors that will be attending college. One scholarship is for students that graduated from and attended, St. Stanislaus School for at least six years. The other scholarship is for students that belonged to the Junior Youth Ministry for a minimum of one year. Applications are available at the School Office (Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) and at the Parish Office (Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Applications can also be emailed out by contacting: cconklin@saintstansschool.org.

Rick Recor, 1952-2026

Founder • Leader • Mentor • Friend

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our founder and owner, Rick Recor. Rick devoted over 50 years of his life to Rick's Auto Body. It was his longtime wish that his company remain family-owned and operated. We are honoring his wishes by continuing

to serve our customers with a tradition of quality craftsmanship and outstanding customer service.

Thank you very much for your ongoing support.

The Team at Rick's Auto Body



Steve Nanton photo courtesy of The Republican

Breakfast with Easter Bunny



The Easter Bunny posing with some kids.

BREAKFAST

from page 1

reception has been extremely positive, so we couldn't be happier," Conroy said. "It was a bit of a change because, normally, we are conducting specialty dinners, or allowing a bit of creativity with the various activities we host here, but throughout the year we do host these intergenerational events, with some being during the summer, and others during school breaks, which are great because it offers a point of reunion between kids and their grandparents, which always is a special moment, to witness."

In addition to the photo op with the Easter Bunny, there was also a Jelly Bean Counting Contest, various coloring stations, and a grand raffle prize provided by the Parks and Rec Department, which was presented to one lucky guest at the end, which culminated in a special day within the senior center.

And as the breakfast drew to a close, Fields explained why this event was a great way to bring families together.

"The highlight was just connecting with the little kids, and I felt it was a rewarding experience, and overall today was a great way to bring the community together, and get everyone in the holiday spirit," Fields said.

Lastly, reflecting on the overall atmosphere of the room was Sherry Manyak, the executive director of the senior center, who told us she hopes this becomes a perennial event.

"This was our first year doing this event with the Parks and Rec Department, which I felt brought a new aspect to things, because usually we see the grandparents here at the Senior Center,



From Left to Right: Court Members Gracelyn Jarry and Mila Dillard, 2026 Chicopee Colleen Charlotte Rae Fields, and Court Member Shannon Caloon.



All smiles present.



All happy faces and smiles at this table.



Pancake breakfast is served.



Another happy family hanging out.



Two Lovebirds having some fun.

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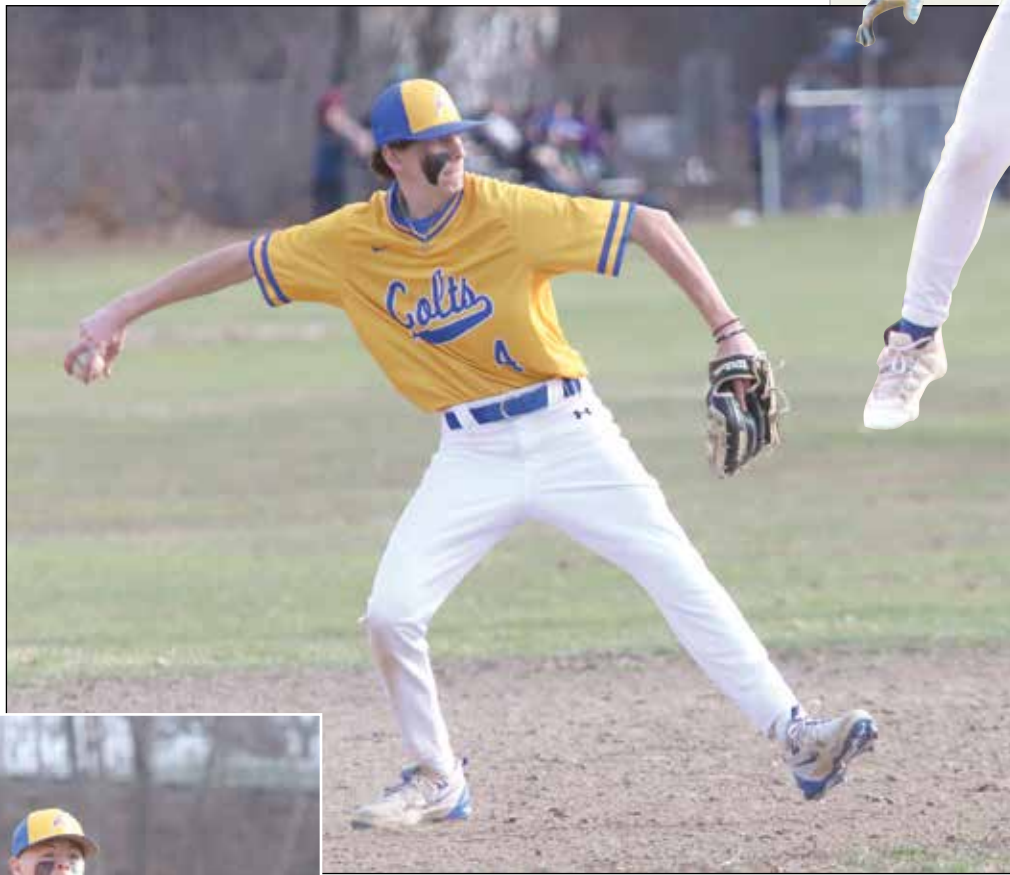
Comp edged by Orioles in season opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE— The baseball field at Rivers Park in Chicopee will be rededicated on the last day of April in honor of Dan Dulchinos, who won 639 games during the fifty years that he was the varsity baseball coach at Chicopee Comp.

Evan Berneche and Justin Franczek, who are former members of the Comp baseball team, have followed in Dulchinos's footsteps as varsity coaches.

Using a little bit of small ball, which was the style that Dulchinos also used, Berneche guided the Belchertown Orioles to a 3-1 road win over the Chicopee Comp.



Matt Sutton sends a throw to first.

Colts, who are coached by Franczek, last Monday afternoon (March 30). Dulchinos watched the Valley East match-up from behind the backstop.

"We don't have a bunch of guys who are going to crush the ball. We're going to be playing a lot of small ball this year. We bunted six or seven times in today's game," said Berneche, who was inducted into the Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019. "I learned a lot about baseball from coach Dulchinos and he also played a lot of small ball.

I didn't get the opportunity to speak with coach before today's game, but I'm hoping that he's proud of the way my team played."

Prior to becoming the varsity baseball coach at Belchertown High School, Berneche was an assistant coach at his alma mater under Franczek, who entered the 2026 regular season with 97 career victories.

"Evan was a very good baseball and football player in high school," said Franczek, who likes to play small ball. "We're good friends and our



Jaylen Gonzalez shuffles off first base.

families are close. It's like playing a chess match whenever we face against each other."

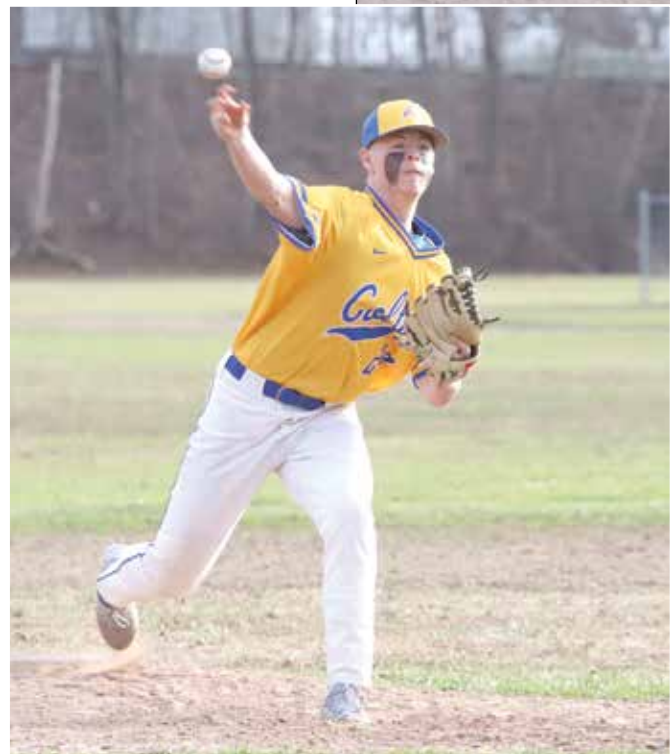
Franczek replaced Dulchinos as the Comp varsity baseball coach in 2013.

"Coach Dulchinos comes to a lot of our home games, and we love having him

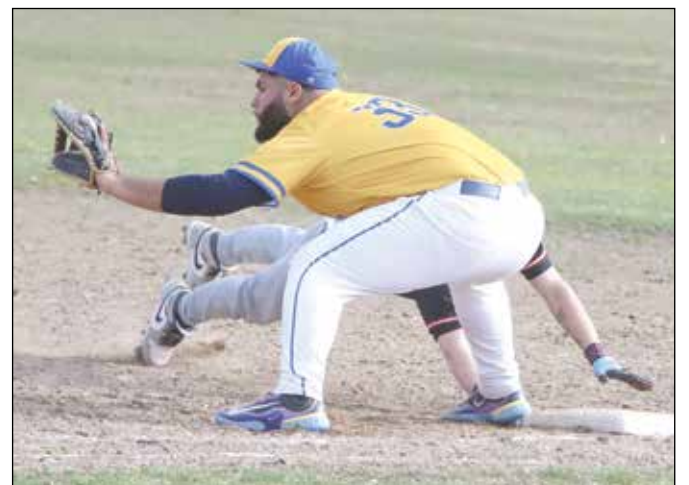
Please see **COMP**, page 8

Pacers grab big win over Pathfinder

PALMER – For the second time this season, the Chicopee High School softball team's offense performed big, scoring a 13-0 win in five innings against Pathfinder Tech. In the victory, Jordyn Kazzeroid went 3-for-4 with three runs scored and three RBI. Aviah Blankenship also had three hits, driving in two runs and scoring one. Chicopee's Raelyn Loud had a five-inning shutout, not allowing any hits, walking two and striking out 12 hitters. The Pacers defeated Ware 15-3 in their season opener and are back in action on Friday, Apr. 10 hosting Granby at 4 p.m.



Jacoby Haney sends a pitch home.



Justin LaFontaine takes a pick off throw at first.

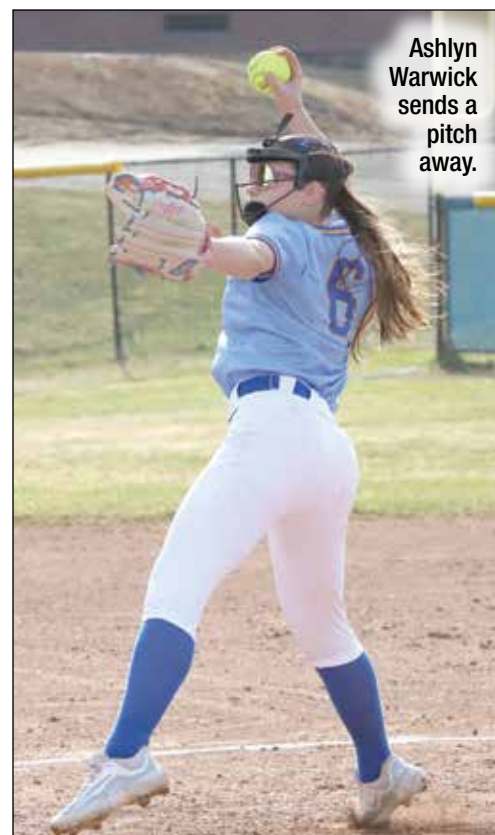
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Colts improve to 2-1 with win



Brielle Bennett bunts the ball foul.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Ashlyn Warwick sends a pitch away.

T-Birds close in on playoff spot with win

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (29-29-6-2) withstood multiple comeback bids from the Syracuse Crunch (39-21-3-4) en route to a 4-3 shootout win on Saturday night inside the MassMutual Center.

The T-Birds forced veteran goaltender Brandon Halverson into early work as Springfield generated two power play chances in the first period, along with 12 total shots on the target. While the Crunch held the fort shorthanded, they could not keep Springfield off the board, as Alek Kaskimaki whistled a high-rising wrist shot over Halverson's glove at 10:34 to give the T-Birds a 1-0 lead. Akil Thomas picked up a point for a third straight game on the lone assist.

At the other end, the T-Birds made life easy for their starter, Will Cranley, who needed to make just five saves in 20 minutes to begin his evening.

Syracuse had difficulty generating a high quantity of shots through the course of the evening, but they were opportunistic as Ethan Samson slipped down the slot, received a pass from Ethan Gauthier, and wristed it past Cranley at 8:07 of the second to tie the score.

Less than two minutes later, the T-Birds' special teams rose to the occasion again, killing off 1:15 of 5-on-3 Crunch power play time en route to a perfect 4-for-4 penalty killing effort in the period.

As the period entered its closing minutes, Springfield earned its own two-man advantage opportunity, and Thomas Bordeaux took full advantage, ripping a shot past Halverson's blocker at 18:20 to send the game to the third with the T-Birds holding the 2-1 lead.

The T-Birds' power play began the third period seeking an insurance goal, but instead relented a shorthanded tally to AHL points leader Jakob Pelletier just 1:55 into the frame, which tied the score, 2-2.

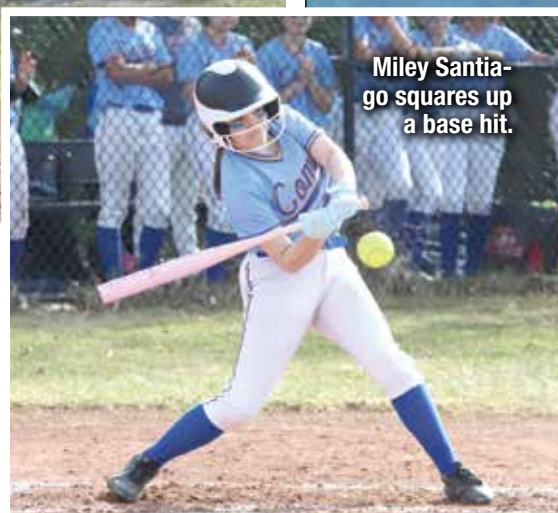
However, Syracuse committed a high-sticking infraction less than half a

Please see **T-BIRDS**, page 8



Alexis Wojcik gets ready to make contact.

CHICOPEE – On Monday, the Chicopee Comprehensive High School softball team defeated SICS 18-5 in a five-inning mercy-rule shortened game. Audrey Mosko had four hits and three RBI while Aleysha Ramos and Brielle Bennett had two hits each. Ashlyn Warwick pitched five innings, allowing just four hits. The Colts are 2-1 on the season.



Miley Santiago squares up a base hit.



Jayna Jones sends a throw home.

SPORTS

Worcester Railers fall to Reading

WORCESTER — The Worcester Railers HC (29-30-5-2, 65 pts) fell to the Reading Royals (35-23-7-2, 79pts) on Sunday, April 5th, with a final score of 3-2 at the DCU Center, in front of a crowd of 2,788. The Railers will take on the Greensboro Gargoyles at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10th at First Horizon Coliseum in Greensboro, NC.

Reading's Hunter Johannes (1-0-1) scored 58 seconds into the first for Reading to give them an early lead. Ben Meehan (1-0-1) doubled the Royals lead with a four-on-three power-play goal ten minutes later. Worcester's Case McCarthy (1-0-1) and Reading's Yvan Mongo (1-0-1) traded goals in the second to keep it a two-goal lead for Reading entering the third.

The Royals took a quick 1-0 lead into the pivotal Sunday game. Hunter Johannes (12th) finished a two-on-one rush down the ice off a feed from Mikael Robideaux. He placed a shot perfectly over the glove of Parker Gahagen in net for Worcester for the early lead. The Royals

wound up on a four-on-three man-advantage later in the period and capitalized to open their lead to 2-0. Ben Meehan (12th) received a perfect feed from Carson Golder and blew a one-timer past Gahagen for the power-play goal. Shots in the first were tied at six apiece.

Worcester cut into Reading's lead early in the second. Case McCarthy (4th) scored his fourth goal of the weekend on a shot from the right circle to beat Carson Bjarnason in net for the Royals. Reading retaliated and regained their two-goal lead on a bid from Yvan Mongo (4th) that made it a 3-1 lead for Reading. The Railers kept the Royals to just four shots in the second period while taking 12 themselves.

Worcester notched the only goal of the third period when Anthony Repaci scored with 8.9 seconds remaining to cut the deficit to 3-2. The ensuing faceoff was won into the Worcester zone and Worcester was unable to return the puck down-ice to score in time as they lost 3-2 in regulation to Reading.

COMP from page 7

around," Franczek added. "My father (Dan) also played baseball for him. Other than my dad, coach Dulchinos has made the greatest impact in my life. He's an incredible person and I've learned so many life lessons from him. We'll be rededicating the field to him before our game against Minnechaug on April 30."

The baseball field was originally dedicated to Dulchinos in 1994.

The road victory evened the Orioles early season record at 1-1. They began the regular season with a 2-1 home loss to East Longmeadow on March 26. Senior Ryan Gould pitched well enough to win that game, but he didn't receive very much support offensively.

Comp (0-1) took a 1-0 lead in the first meeting of this spring against the Orioles without the benefit of a base hit.

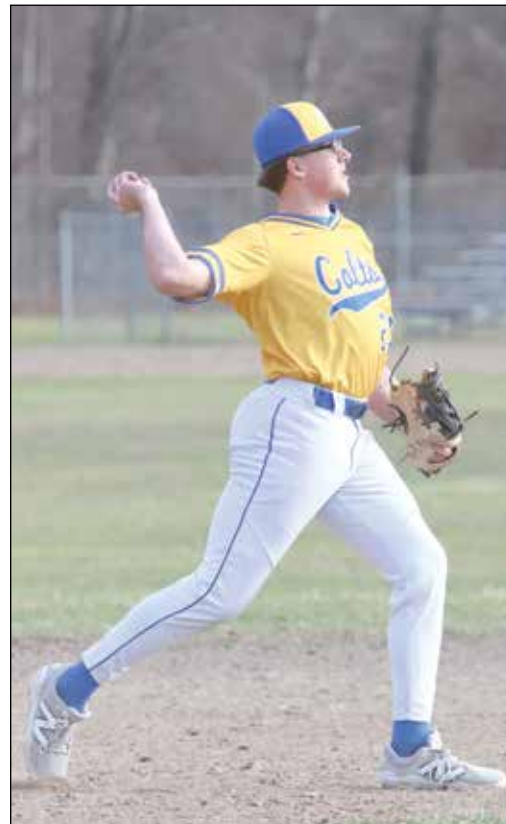
Comp junior righthander Jacoby Haney set down the side in order in the top of the first inning.

Senior centerfielder Jaylen Gonzales led off the bottom half of the opening frame with a walk before stealing second base. Belchertown senior righty Canyon Charron struck out the next two batters before senior first baseman Justin Lafontaine reached first base following a fielding error by the shortstop putting runners at the corners. Then senior third baseman Tanner Martell was hit-by-a-pitch loading the bases. Gonzales scored on a wild pitch, but the home team left the bases loaded.

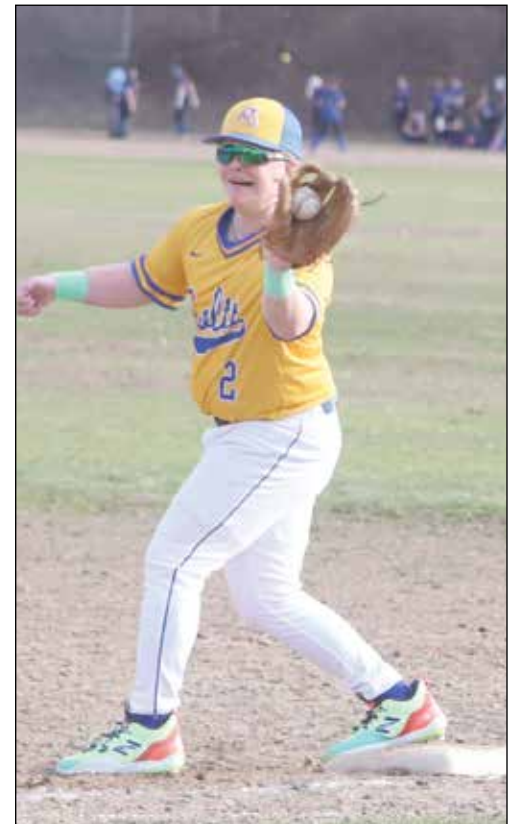
It was the only run allowed by Charron during the five innings that he was on the mound. He gave up just three hits with three walks and ten strikeouts.

The Colts didn't keep the 1-0 lead for very long.

Senior Brennan Real, who began the game in left field, drew a walk leading off the top of second inning. He advanced to second base on a passed ball and a wild pitch moved him to third base. Real



Tanner Martell sends a throw to second.



Zach Bajgier covers first on a bunt play.

scored the tying run when sophomore third baseman Alex Ryczek hit a sacrifice fly to left with one out.

Just like in the second inning, Belchertown senior catcher Joey Minnon began the third inning with a walk. He scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch with two outs.

The Orioles also had the leadoff hitter on base in the final four innings but could only score one more run.

Charron singled leading off the top of the fourth, which was the only base hit allowed by Haney.

Meanwhile, the Colts, who haven't defeated the Orioles since the second meeting of the 2024 regular season, stranded a total of eight runners in scoring position.

"We just didn't do a very good job of putting the ball in play with less than two outs," Franczek said. "We left too many runners in scoring position."

The Orioles took a 3-0 lead in the fifth inning following a safety squeeze bunt by senior DH Austin Raymer which plated junior right fielder Jonathan Perron, who was hit-by-a-pitch.

Real, who's a righty, re-



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SOIBELLI

Julian LaFlamme grabs a loose ball behind the plate.

placed Charron in the sixth and struck out the side.

Comp put a little bit of pressure on Real in their final at-bats.

Senior second baseman Zach Bajgier drew a leadoff walk. After Real retired the next two batters on a pop-

up and a flyball, an infield hit by Martell kept the Colts comeback hopes alive. He advanced to second base on a throwing error. Real then ended the game with a strikeout.

T-BIRDS from page 7

minute later, and 10 seconds onto the ensuing power play, Dillon Dube crashed the blue paint to jam a rebound past Halverson to restore the lead, 3-2, at 2:34. Kaskimaki picked up his second assist and third point on Dube's 14th goal of the season.

The visitors still refused to go away quietly, and Nick Abruzzese again tied matters at 8:38 when he cleaned up a bouncing puck off Cranley's pad to equalize the game, 3-3.

Neither team could solve the other through the closing minutes, setting the stage for 3-on-3 overtime. Cranley and Halverson both stood tall on four combined shots in the extra frame, and the shootout's first three rounds also produced no of-

fensive successes.

Finally, in the top of round four, Akil Thomas calmly slipped a forehand shot through Halverson's legs, and when Dylan Duke missed the net on his attempt, Springfield secured its fourth consecutive win.

By virtue of Springfield's win and Lehigh Valley's regulation loss, the T-Birds' magic number to clinch a Calder Cup Playoff spot now sits at 6. That number decreases with every point the T-Birds earn in the standings, as well as every point the Phantoms fail to earn.

The T-Birds continue their four-game homestand on Friday, April 10 when they host the Rochester Americans inside the Thunderdome for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop.

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Roster spots remain open in the QVBL

SOUTH HADLEY — While the new player draft has come and gone in the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, there are still several open roster spots for players age 28-and-up. The regular season is set to get underway in a little more than a week and the six teams in the are still looking to add more players.

Players can go to the league website and fill out the registration form so they can get placed on a team immediately in front of the season opener.

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 week-night 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 interleague matchups with another league in the region.

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.quabbinvalleybaseball.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 week-night 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.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee to hold Designer Bingo Event

CHICOPEE - The Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee will hold their Designer Bingo event, presented by Peoples-Bank, on Saturday, May 9 at the Chicopee Elks Lodge #1849 431 Granby Rd, Chicopee, MA 01013.

Doors will open at Noon and games begin at 1:30 p.m. Admission is a donation of \$30 pp or \$25 pp if you have a table of eight and includes 10 games for a chance to win a designer bag.

Attendees can enjoy lunch for a fee from Noon to 1:30 p.m., cash bar, raffle prizes and a special raffle featuring



a Louis Vuitton, which you must be present at the event to win. For more information and to join in the fun, check out www.bgccchicopee.org.

About the Boys & Girls

Club of Chicopee

Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Michelle Theroux, the new president and CEO of Sunshine Village, with the welcome sign and balloons created by clients and staff to welcome her.

WELCOMES from page 1

achusetts throughout her entire career, from children and families on the mental health and behavioral health side to young adults and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"So, I sort of have had a hand in a lot of different arenas and organizations and they all sort of build on each other in terms of helping vulnerable populations," Theroux said.

Theroux expressed appreciation to the staff and clients for their warm welcome.

"It really does speak to the culture here in terms of being very caring and being very supportive of each other. Wanting to look to the future and what's to come for everybody," Theroux said.

Her goals for her first month would be getting to know everyone at the organization, working with the board, establishing herself in her new role, visiting the programs and "really start to formulate a plan with the board on what the first year of my tenure looks like."

Also, getting out into the community.

"What the priorities are from those who we receive funding from, where we want to sort of start crafting our plan for the next year.

We do have some licensing CARF surveyors, which is the accreditation body coming in next month, so we're prepping for that," Theroux said.

Theroux said getting to know, meet and work with "truly, dedicated staff" fulfills her most, along with the dedication of staff putting those who are served first as the central focus.

"Any decision-making that happens is really what is the best interest of those we serve, the organization and to have that as your moral compass or your guiding star is really (important). It's a different approach to how we do things," Theroux said.

She added human services in Western Mass works "super collaboratively together."

"There is a tremendous amount of shared learning that happens. There is also mountains of shared support amongst organizations, which speaks to not only a desire for everyone to have their own agency do well, but everyone else also to do well along with us," Theroux said.

Organizations like Sunshine Village, she added, provide a lot of support from those the organization employs to working with the individuals to find employment in the community.

"The value of work for those individuals and what that means. For families who, by sending their loved one here, it allows fami-

lies—parents—to work and for our individuals to have relationships with peers, for them to learn various skills, be it job-based or vocational-based skills, social skills of how to interact with their friends, with this skill-building about learning to cook, money management, various vocational skills that we do pre-training before they get to an internship or an actual job setting," Theroux said.

Theroux said she and Kos have been friends and colleagues for a while, which is why "it's truly an honor to step into her shoes," expressing excitement at the future to see what new programs, innovations and growth can happen.

Also, the use of technology for programs to not only support clients, but also the staff.

"I'm fortunate to be stepping into an organization and a position where it's financially strong, the staff are well-trained, it has a solid reputation," Theroux said.

Her message was this.

"Certainly grateful to be here in this really renowned institution and organization. I'm looking forward to making more relationships certainly in my prior role and carry this forward into this. There are several things on the horizon for Sunshine Village. Our Golf Tournament is in August and then we'll be celebrating our 60th anniversary in the upcoming year, so that will also have some announcements and celebrations to look forward to," Theroux said.

STREIBER from page 1

of Public Works office, and property owners affected by this project will be contacted by the city of Chicopee.

Once that was established, Roose stated that there are only two crosswalks in the project area, and neither meets the current standard, noting that speeding vehicles pose a threat to sensitive groups such as students and pedestrians alike.

"The primary goal is to improve safety for students who walk to school. We also want to add we're looking to improve the pedestrian circulation around the school, and surrounding streets, and surrounding streets, while improving accessibility, roadway crossings, and to slow vehicular traffic," Roose said.

Roose's presentation also showed that the project is looking to reconstruct and rebuild the existing sidewalks, along with implementing 30 new pedes-



TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

The public offers thoughts.

trian curb ramps and 30 reconstructed driveways, with some being fitted with improved stormwater management and traffic control in certain areas, among the property.

Roose also shared that the project is looking to perform work over at the existing brook that currently separates Telegraph Ave and Streiber Drive, which will see the MassDOT submit a notice of intent through the Wetlands Protection Act, in coordination with the Chicopee Conservation Commission.

Lastly, Roose revealed that, as previously noted, the project is currently in the design phase, which is set to be completed this Fall, with a final design package being

submitted in Spring 2027, with a project advertisement being developed and shared in the Fall of 2027.

Those in attendance were invited to participate in a survey to share their feedback.

The project is slated to be completed in the Fall of 2028, just in time for students to arrive back at school to open the new year.

Residents can also email comments to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us and include Project File Number 612079 in the subject line.

For project information and updates, the MassDOT Highway Division has information at mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events.

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. HD26P0735EA Estate of: Walter Bernard Rohan Also known as: Walter B Rohan Date of Death: 01/28/2026 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 Marcie Rohan of Enfield, CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Marcie Rohan of Enfield, CT be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/04/2026.

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 CODE (MUPC)

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

istration. WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 06, 2026 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 04/10/2026

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. HD26P0692EA Estate of: Carol E Seigny Date of Death: 12/01/2025 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 Christie E Hendrickson of Simsbury, CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Christie E Hendrickson of Simsbury, CT be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/29/2026.

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 CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled

to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 01, 2026 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 04/10/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD25P2526GD In the interests of Rowan Antonio Rodriguez Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: General Probate Petition for Child Support and Establish Parenting Schedules NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a General Petition for Child Support and Establish Parenting Schedules filed on 03/04/2026 by Deborah LaBonte of Chicopee, MA will be held May 01, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. Judge Parsenios - In Person. Located: 50 State St. 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103.

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and

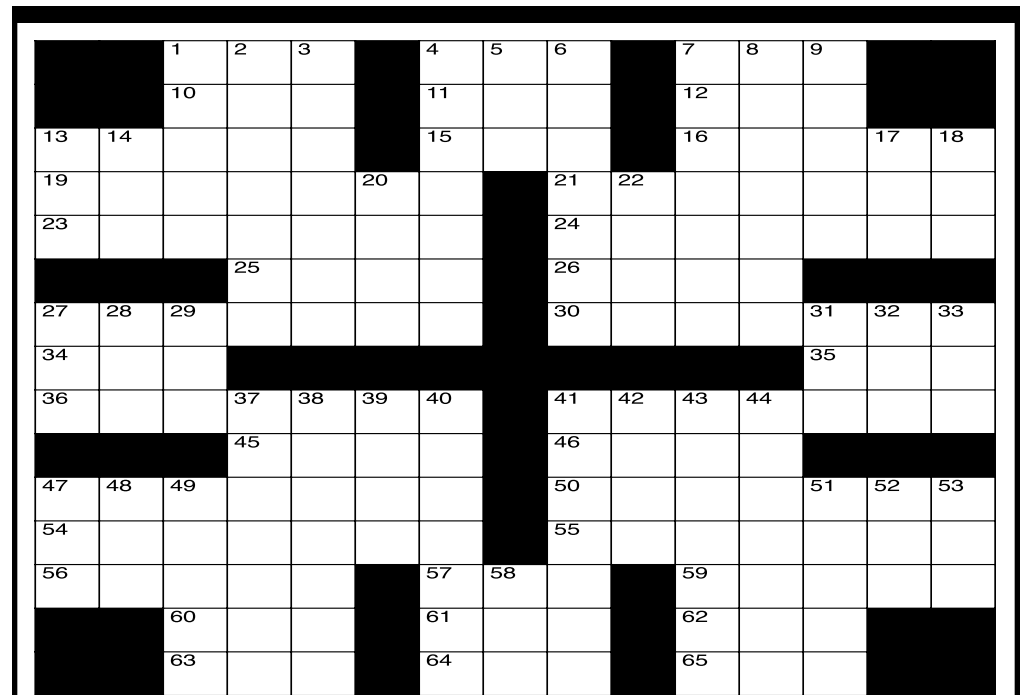
Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: April 2, 2026 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 04/10/2026

SEE MORE PUBLIC NOTICES ON PAGE 11



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Health care pros
4. A person inhabiting Benin
7. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
10. Split pulses
11. Frozen water
12. Small constellation
13. Perennial mountain rice
15. Pick up
16. Japanese historical period
19. Suggesting the horror of death and decay
21. Unattached
23. Fishing port in SE France
24. Products for dogs
25. One point south of southeast
26. Having the skill or resources to do something
27. Involve oneself deeply

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A legally binding command
2. General feeling of discomfort
3. Dribble
4. Soft touch
5. South American plant
6. Clouds of gas and dust in space
7. Warm-blooded vertebrates
8. Lines created by folding
9. Strong belief
13. Senior officer
14. Adult
17. Joint entrance examination in India
18. Passports and drivers' licenses are two
20. Those who go against an accepted authority
22. One point east of northeast
27. Journalist Tarbell
28. One's mother (British)

CLUES DOWN

- 29. Nowhere to be found
31. A way to save for old age
32. Fall behind
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. The work of a sailor
38. Mark with striae
39. Energy, style and enthusiasm
40. Sticky situation
41. Monetary units of Spain
42. Three-banded armadillo
43. Chooses
44. More disreputable
47. Defensive nuclear weapon
48. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
49. Livestock owners assn. in Spain
51. Duplicating machine (abbr.)
52. OJ trial judge
53. Politician
58. Airborne (abbr.)

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The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535**; or by email to selectmen@northbrookfield.net.

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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. HD25P2309EA Estate of: Ray Vaughn Date of Death: 08/26/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for SIA - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Amy S Moore of Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Amy S Moore of Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/01/2026. 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 CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court. Date: April 03, 2026 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 04/10/2026

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 6:30 PM* in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under section 275-62 for the purpose of conversion of existing garage bays into public storage rental units located at 649 Meadow St. Applicant - Jeffrey J. Campbell, Inc., Jeffrey J. Campbell, 649 Meadow St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

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

The April 29, 2026 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM - 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 04/10, 04/17/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD25P2528GD In the interests of Avah Lee Rodriguez Minor of Chicopee, MA NOTICE AND ORDER: General Probate Petition for Child Support NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a General Probate Petition for Child Support filed on 03/04/2026 by Deborah LaBonte of Chicopee, MA will be held IN-PERSON on 05/01/2026 at 8:30 a.m. Located at Hampden Probate & Family Court, 50 State St., 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103.

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: April 2, 2026 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 04/10/2026

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 April 17th, 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.

2006 Cadillac DTS VIN: 1G6KD57Y46U197717 Scott Litz 282 Rowley St. Agawam, MA 01001

1981 Chevrolet Camaro VIN: 1G1AP87L1BL114808 Darren Montgomery 219 East Main St. Chicopee, MA 01020

2015 Subaru Forester VIN: JF2SJARCXFH807310 Alexis Olinyk 3515 Henry Hudson 9B Bronx, NY 10463

1997 Ford Ranger VIN: 1FTCR10A2VUC48431 Unknown Owner

2016 Nissan Versa VIN: 3N1CN7AP5GL882091 Brian Daniel Wheeler 37 Northridge Rd. Westfield, MA 01085

2017 Chevrolet Equinox VIN: 2GNFLFEK0H6270290 Grace Dugas 12 Bromley Rd. Huntington, MA 01050 04/03, 04/10, 04/17/2026

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 April 24th,

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.

2004 Honda Accord VIN: 1HGCM56824A091253 Marcos Alvarado 99 High St., Fl. 2 Holyoke, MA 01040

2005 Ford F150 VIN: 1FTPW145X5KE61131 Jack Fernandes 133 Worcester St. New Bedford, MA 02745

2009 Nissan Maxima VIN: 1N4AA51E19C843053 Neshby Nieves 263 Elm St., Apt. 4R Holyoke, MA 01040

2002 Toyota Camry VIN: 4T1BF32K02U522478 Kathleen Bertolasio 77 Bell St. Chicopee, MA 01013

2001 Toyota Tundra VIN: 5TBBT44161S179176 Angelo Wolfe 197 Farrington Ave. Waterbury, CT 06706

2006 Volkswagen Jetta VIN: 3VWR71K16M698796 Dunia Vasquez 4697 Southwood Pkwy, Apt. F Richmond, VA 23224

2009 Audi A4 VIN: Wausf78k19n028117 Eric J Benson 4 Ericsson St., Apt. 2 Worcester, MA 01606

2010 Toyota Corolla VIN: 2T1BU4EE2AC497892 Chenelle Way 645 Main St. Coventry, RI 02816

2009 Nissan Altima VIN: 1N4AL21E59N456843 Ira Caple 48 Vail St. Springfield, MA 01118

2015 Chevrolet Equinox VIN: 2GNFLFEK3F6254663 Zuleyka Hernandez 435 Doric Ave. Cranston, RI 02910

2008 Nissan Altima VIN: 1N4AL21E18N423935 Angel Matos 9 Litchfield Street Springfield, MA 01108

2006 Acura TL VIN: 19UUA66216A018215 William Cintron Melendez 92 School St., Apt. 913 Springfield, MA 01105

2017 Subaru Outback VIN: 4S4BSANCOH3266913 Paula Dembinske 1 Hadley Village Rd. South Hadley, MA 01075

1999 Jeep Wrangler VIN: 1J4FY29P9XP456315 Michaela Bonfiglio 267 South St., Apt. 5 Pittsfield, MA 01201

2005 Hyundai Elantra VIN: KMHDN46DX5U150729 Lori Schlichting 36 Sabrina Brook Lane Westfield, MA 01085 04/10, 04/17, 04/24/2026

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 April 10th, 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.

2015 Jeep Patriot VIN: 1C4NJPBA6FD358304 William Banfill 434 Church St., Apt. 18 Whitinsville, MA 01588

2004 Wildcat 5th Wheel Camper VIN: 4X4FWCD244V009048 William Sanches 108 Colton St. Springfield, MA 01109

2019 Nissan Rogue VIN: JN1BJCR8K8KW630017 Dorreth Thomas Campbell 949 Liberty St., Apt. 2 Springfield, MA 01104

2008 Hyundai Accent VIN: KMHC36C58U055760 Yzian Advier Sanchez-Crespo 254 Oak St., Fl. #1 New Britain, CT 06051

2016 Subaru Impreza VIN: JF1GPAB6XG8209362 Gina Lavallee 78 Kennedy Rd. West Brookfield, MA 01585

2010 Acura TSX VIN: JH4CU2F62AC011542 Leroy Goldsbary 136 Pine St. West Springfield, MA 01089

2004 Chevrolet Impala VIN: 2G1WP521449460047 Gabrielle Demers 35 Worthen St. West Springfield, MA 01089

2005 Dodge Durango VIN: 1D4HB38N45F600266 Daniel Griffin 202 Bradford St. Pittsfield, MA 01201

2006 Chrysler 300 VIN: 2C3KA43R96H212587 Nehemiah Harper 13 Hawthorn St. Springfield, MA 01105

2014 Cadillac Ats VIN: 1G6AJ5SX0E0174587 Scott Joubert 1517 Memorial Dr. Chicopee, MA 01020 03/27, 04/03, 04/10/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD26P0705GD

In the matter of: Wayne Johnson 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 Dept of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Wayne Johnson is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Edward Wojtowicz of South Deerfield, 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 04/30/2026. 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 ap-

pearance, 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: April 01, 2026 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 04/10/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD26P0666EA

Estate of: Patricia Claire Reilly Also known as: Patricia C Reilly Date of Death: 11/14/2025 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 Megan K Reilly of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/27/2026. 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 CODE

Worcester Housing Authority Request for Sealed Bids/Proposals

The WHA invites qualified vendors to submit sealed bids/proposals for the following projects listed. Solicitation packages may be downloaded at: www.worcesterha.org/currentbids.html or by request via email to purchasing@worcesterha.org upon release. Sealed bids/proposals shall be received at the Purchasing Office, 660 Lincoln Street, Worcester, MA 01605. WHA or its affiliate reserves the right to reject any or all responses, in whole or in part, deemed to be in their best interest. Award of all contracts is subject to the approval of the WHA Chief Executive Officer or Board of Commissioners.

BID NO./TYPE PROJECT TITLE RELEASE DATE BID DUE DATE 26-12 IFB VUTF PAINTING 4/8/2026 4/24/2026 2:00 PM

BID NO./TYPE PROJECT TITLE RELEASE DATE BID DUE DATE 26-15 IFB VUTF FLOORING INSTALLATION/REPAIR 4/8/2026 4/24/2026 2:00 PM

04/10/2026

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court. Date: March 30, 2026 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 04/10/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD25P2527GD

In the interests of Ricardo Rodriguez, Jr., Minor of Chicopee, MA NOTICE AND ORDER: General Probate Petition for Child Support and Parenting Times NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a General Petition for Parenting Times filed on 03/04/2026 by Deborah LaBonte of Chicopee, MA will be held May 01, 2026 at 8:30 am Hampden Probate and Family Court. Located: 50 State St. 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103.

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

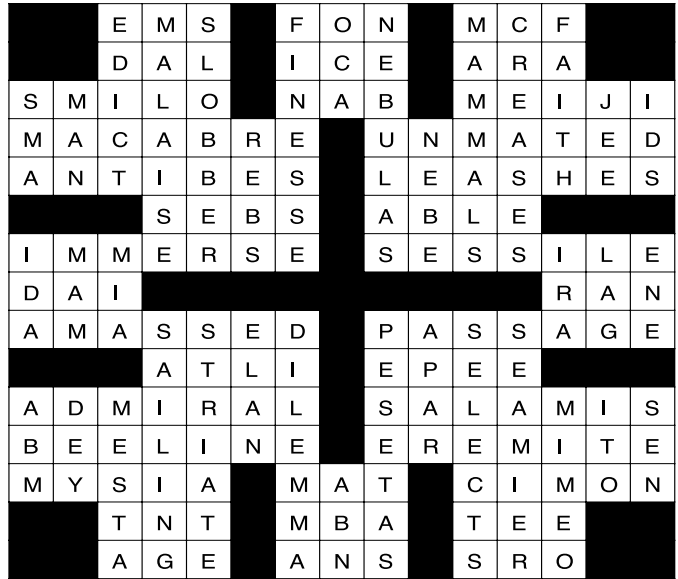
Date: April 2, 2026 Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 04/10/2026

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