

Chicopee Register

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The Earls perform their military tribute song.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

City Council selects new city auditor

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The City Council unanimously appointed Tiana Steffenhagen as the new city auditor in a special meeting on May 14.

The appointment comes after Steffenhagen was interviewed by the councilors. She was the only internal applicant to apply for the role.

The position opened after City Auditor Sharyn Riley retired in February after serving the city for over four decades. She recently passed away on May 11 at the age of 63.

The Process

On the process, the following information was provided to the Chicopee Register by Administrative Assistant Agnes Czarniecki on behalf of President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme, who explained how he met with the Law Department and Human Resources "to develop a hiring

process."

From there, the HR director drafted the job description and filed an order for the City Council to approve the process for the city auditor, which was then referred to the Committee of the Whole.

"Committee of the Whole meeting was held on March 12 to approve the process. At the meeting, the HR Director stated that the process is to post internally for 10 days. If there's a qualified candidate, interviews are held. If there is not a qualified candidate internally, that's when the position is posted externally," Czarniecki said.

Then, the Committee of the Whole approved the following hiring process:

City Council to Approve Auditor job description.

Department of Human Resources posts the position internally and collects resumes.

See **AUDITOR** page 5

Chicopee remembers heroes on **MEMORIAL DAY**

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The community gathered at the American Legion Post 452 on May 25 to remember the city's heroes on Memorial Day.

Due to the weather, this year's ceremony was moved

indoors and included an invocation by Deacon Michael Pray of St. Stanislaus Church, performances by Sydney Benoit, the Chicopee High and Chicopee Comprehensive High School bands and The Earls, remarks from Mayor John Vieau, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Chief Master Sgt. Kristen

Maloney and Caitlin Menard, LICSW, director of social work at the Veterans Home in Holyoke, and a recognition for Gold Star Families.

Also, members of the CHS Air Force Junior ROTC escorted veterans for the wreath-laying. The veterans were Al Kendall for the Civil War, Al Picard for World

War I, Joe Loisselle for World War II, Ronald LaPlante for the Korean War, Dave Chapdelaine for the Vietnam War and Christopher Dupont for the War on Terror.

The ceremony would later conclude with a salute and

See **MEMORIAL DAY** page 3

Fallen heroes remembered in candlelight ceremony

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The community gathered at the Knights of Columbus on Granby Road to offer prayers and partake in a candlelight ceremony to usher in the Memorial Day holiday on May 24.

The ceremony was a moment of tribute and remembrance honoring the 15 gold star soldiers from Chicopee who never returned home from the Vietnam War. Normally, the annual ceremony is held at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park, but it was moved indoors this year due to the inclement weather.

Those in attendance included Mayor John Vieau, members of the City Council, School Committee, State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), who is a veteran, and State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) who just came back from a six-month deployment where he worked on issues of drones and discipline along the southern border, who is also a major in the Massachusetts National Guard.

During the ceremony, the Chicopee High School Air Force Junior ROTC, led by Cadet Commander Skye Plouffe, presented the colors, Frank Kolek read the invocation, Larry White performed the National Anthem, and

read the poem "The Fall of Saigon", Andrea Patruno read "Hello David," and Vieau helped lay the memorial wreath with Stephanie Shaw, director of Veterans Services, to commemorate and begin the service.

State and Local Officials reflect

Vieau highlighted that Chicopee is a "veteran proud" city, citing that 4,000 resi-

dents in Chicopee are veterans.

"It is proof of the love and respect that the community has for our veterans for those currently serving and the families who have carried both pride and loss through the years. Today, we honor that brave soldier who never

See **VIGIL** page 5



Mayor John Vieau and Stephanie Shaw, director of Veterans Services, placing the memorial wreath during the May 24 Memorial Day eve ceremony.



TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Chicopee Historical Society members, Nancy Kobierski, Anton Zamachas, Jacqueline T. Lynch, Chester Kobierski, Joseph Pasternak, and CPL Director Laura Bovee at the Inshaw Rifle unveiling.

CPL, Chicopee Historical Society unveil Inshaw Rifle display

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The library welcomed the Chicopee Historical Society and community for the unveiling of the Inshaw rifle on May 20.

The rifle is to be permanently displayed in the historical room at CPL.

President Chester Kobierski and Vice President Jacqueline T. Lynch talked about what it was like collaborating with the library and the American Society of Arms Collectors Foundation.

"They've been very helpful. It's a pleasure to

work with them on this project," Lynch said.

"This has been a project that's been going on for eight years. The Society has had the rifle for 20, and it's been sitting in storage, hidden away somewhere," Kobierski said. "And finally, when we took over, we decided we were going to try to find a home for it. We tried a few museums that handle this type of material, none of them were interested. So, we reached out to the library. But it also involved a lot of work on a lot of people in those eight years to get this done."

Lynch elaborated on the

process.

"It was a long process, but it wasn't that difficult. We had to fill out a lot of grant forms, and they kept us in touch, and we went back and forth, and finally, they just told us, you got it. We just had to wait for the money," Lynch said.

She was also thrilled about the community getting to see the rifle and the library's historical Room.

"Something of this historic nature doesn't do anybody any good in storage. We want the community to see it and also see this room.

See **RIFLE** page 7

Audit support resolution heading to state legislature, Mass. State Auditor

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The City Council approved a 10-3 vote to send a resolution supporting the Massachusetts State Auditor's efforts to audit the legislature, which was sent to the Office of the State Auditor, the Chicopee state legislative delegation, the Governor of Massachusetts, and the leadership of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and

Senate, on May 19.

This resolution, being approved, was the latest development in the ongoing saga that State Auditor Diana DiZoglio has been working on to get access to financial records to conduct a state audit after 72% of voters voted in support of auditing the state legislature in 2024.

It was first co-presented by Vice President/Ward 6 Councilor Sam Shumsky, President/Councilor-at-Large

Frank Laflamme, and Ward 5 Councilor Joe Pasternak III, citing transparency and accountability across all forms of government within the Commonwealth.

Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff emphasized the importance of transparency that all elected officials need to maintain when put into office, citing above all else, being the "voice of the people."

"When all of us are elected, we are elected to be the

voice of the people, and it's a known fact that currently about 70% in Chicopee, and 72% in the state supported this audit. We have to remember we were elected, and so were the state reps, or anybody else, and we have to ensure that we remain the voice of the people, and that's what we need to do, be their voice, and they have spoken," Goff said.

Councilor-at-Large Joel McAuliffe provided a sum-

mary and timeline of events so far.

"I know at the last meeting we tabled this to allow further discussion, and ultimately the Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the attorney general needed to allow this to move forward, which it is because the attorney general has appointed a special prosecutor at the request of the auditor to pursue the litigation further, but ultimately the larger question here: there's

starting to be a consensus on the fact that the people of Chicopee and the Commonwealth have voted in favor of auditing the legislature, and this is a big step in that direction," McAuliffe said.

McAuliffe added that the audit was a ballot vote that passed by more than 70% in Chicopee, showing a high level of interest among residents in the city, and reaffirmed his

See **AUDIT** page 7

IN THE CITY



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVBY KRISTIN RIVERS

Four new recruits were welcomed to the Chicopee Fire Department on May 19, the next generation coming aboard to serve the community.

Dream Designers

CHICOPEE – Join us for exciting and interactive STEM activities designed to ignite curiosity, creativity and critical thinking in children 2.9 to five years old and their families.

Explore, experiment and discover the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through hands-on experiences!

Location: Szetela School, 66 Macek Drive, Chicopee

Time: 4 to 5 p.m.

Dates: Wednesdays, April 29 through June 3

Children must attend with an adult.

The programs are offered by the Holyoke Chicopee Family and Community Program.

Funded by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

To register, contact Shane at 413-310-1632.

Chicopee's 250th Celebration

CHICOPEE – Join us for an unforgettable celebration of our nation!

Featuring food trucks, live music, craft vendors and a family movie, it promises to be an extraordinary evening.

June 26, 2026

Rain Date July 2, 2026

Sponsored by the Mass Cultural Council, Chicopee Electric Light, Holyoke Medical Center, ChicopeeTV, Westover Air Force 439 Fighter Wing, Chicopee Emergency Management, Chicopee Police Department, Chicopee Fire Department, Chicopee Cultural Council, City of Chicopee Facilities Department, Chicopee Public Library, Chicopee Parks & Recreation Department, Family & Community Engagement Team at Chicopee Public Schools, Ondrick Natural Earth, Zasco Productions LLC and Chicopee Department of Veterans Services.

Swing into Spring

CHICOPEE – Groovy Baby Music and Music and Movement! Bring your little one to enjoy a class of music, movement, story time and play time.

Fridays for six weeks, 10 to 11 a.m. on May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 18 and 26.

It is never too early to begin your child's music education. Ages three months to 18 months

Siblings are welcome. No cost to families

Where: OHANA Clubhouse, 43 Sheridan St., Chicopee.

Information with Mrs. Silvia Cell: 413-505-9053 or e-mail: DurandS@headstart.org.

Funded by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

CFD welcomes four new recruits

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE – The fire department welcomed four new recruits to their ranks in a ceremony in City Hall Auditorium on May 19.

The new recruits are Alexander Efstratios, Alexander Mitchell, Tyler Barker and Nathaniel Loughman.

Mayor John Vieau expressed excitement as he welcomed the new recruits.

“ELS is something that’s really important and one thing about the city of Chicopee is when someone calls, we want someone to show up and I believe that communities that don’t focus on public safety, like we do, shame on them,” Vieau said. “I’m excited to give you those tools to protect yourself and this community as you embark on this career and job, so welcome to Chicopee Fire Department. I know you’re jumping right on the back of an ambulance very soon and we’re grateful for that.”

Vieau told the recruits to also “enjoy the moment” and emphasized family support.

“It’s them—that true family—that is the backbone of what you do every day and



City Clerk Keith Rattell swears in the new firefighter recruits. They are Alexander Efstratios, Tyler Barker, Nathaniel Loughman and Alexander Mitchell.

the reason we do things, so congratulate them as well on your accomplishment and their support through this journey,” Vieau said.

Fire Chief Daniel Stamborski thanked Vieau and the City Council for their continued support of the fire department, shared how he hoped for a fully-funded budget again this year “so that we continue to hire young men

such as yourselves and keep our staffing up.”

“As the mayor said, they’re going to begin the Fire Academy Aug. 27 and intend to serve on the ambulances. Our ambulance service is extremely busy. Last year, we tapped out 10,000 medical calls between the two ambulances and the two reserve ambulances,” Stamborski said. “We look forward

to having you guys as backup also.”

Stamborski also emphasized family support to guide the new recruits as they prepare and study at the Fire Academy and throughout their careers.

“I also wanted to acknowledge today we have a second-generation firefighter coming on the job, Nathaniel Loughman. His dad’s been on

the job for 25 years and proud to see his great-uncle in the back row there. He retired as our training captain several years ago. Glad to see you all here,” Stamborski said.

Afterward, City Clerk Keith Rattell swore in the four new recruits to applause from family and friends, a new generation beginning their journey with the fire department.

St. Joan of Arc Open House

CHICOPEE – The Pre-K, Three and Four and Kindergarten St. Joan of Arc School Open House will take place on Wednesday, June 10, by appointment only.

The times are 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 5 p.m.

St. Joan of Arc School is located at 587 Grattan Street, Chicopee, MA. To learn more, call 413-533-1475 or visit sjchicopee.org.

RiverMills Senior Center announces upcoming events

Basic Sign Language

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will offer a 4-part Basic American Sign Language Series at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join staff from the Willie Rose School for the Deaf for this 4-part series

to learn basic American Sign Language. You will learn the alphabet, practice fingerspelling and will also build everyday vocabulary. Through games, activities, and lots of practice, you will learn how to introduce yourself ask simple questions and respond in basic conversation. T

his is a class designed to be beginner friendly, so no experience is needed! The classes will take place May 11, May 18, June 1

and June 8 from 4 to 5 p.m. The cost of the series is \$5 and you must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills or calling 534-3698.

Ladies Night Out Mother’s Day Celebration

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will be

hosting a “Ladies Night Out” on Thursday, June 11 from 5 to 7 p.m.. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Join your friends at RiverMills for Ladies Night Out. Enjoy craft stations, vendor tables appetizers and a cash bar (beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages). Tickets are on sale now for \$10 at RiverMills Center. You must register in advance.

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HCC honors students for 2025-2026 achievements

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College is proud to celebrate the students who earned honors and awards for their outstanding achievements during the 2025-2026 academic year.

Awardees were honored Wednesday, May 20, during a ceremony in the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation.

Below is a list of HCC honorees and award recipients for the 2025-2026 academic year. Some students received

multiple awards. A full list of students along with their specific honors and awards can be found at hcc.edu/awards-2026

HCC Honors & Awards for 2025-2026

Chicopee: Ana Artin, Wiley Coll, Estefany Duron Mejia (three awards), Mandy Emery, Lidumyla Kiriukhina, Andres Lopez Pozo, Adriana Mejia, Morgan Pierog, Renee Pierre, Rebecca Romero, Alexa Turgeon.

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IN THE CITY

School Committee approves eight more improvement plans

Improvement plans for eight schools were approved on May 20

By Dalton Zbiersk
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Improvement plans were officially approved for eight more Chicopee schools during the May 20 meeting of the School Committee.

These improvement plans will be implemented at their respective schools entering the 2026-2027 school year.

The board previously approved improvement plans at numerous city schools, as was discussed during its May 6 meeting.

Last Wednesday, a “second batch” of schools had their improvement plans ap-

proved by the School Committee.

These buildings include Bellamy Middle School, Bowe School, Chicopee Comprehensive High School, Chicopee High School, Fairview School, Lambert-La-voie School, Streiber School and Szetela Early Childhood School.

For the second consecutive meeting, Dr. Rebecca Mazur, of the Collaborative for Educational Services in Northampton, presented before the committee.

CES worked closely with the district as the improvement plans were established.

Earlier this month, Mazur focused on the “first batch,” while last Wednesday, she spoke on the “second batch.”

“You’ve seen the slides. You know that these plans

look a little bit different; that they include robust theories of action for everything,” Mazur said. “They take seriously throughout every action questions of equity and feasibility and questions of implementation. They’re all focused. They’re all looking at both implementation measures and outcomes with equity built in throughout.”

Mazur said she collaborated with the district’s principals, vice principals and instructional leaderships when tailoring the improvement plans for each school.

“All of these actions are built into these school improvement plans because of the dedication and talent and skill of the Chicopee principals and vice principals. It’s really an honor to watch this work come to life,” Mazur said.

Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware praised Mazur and all those who contributed to crafting the school improvement plans.

“I just want to give the principals, the vice principals, the ILTs and other members of the teaching community,” Ware said. “I know it was a heavy lift this year to do something different, but you got it done. We appreciate it and look forward to it coming to fruition.”

Several committee members voiced similar praise for the team that accomplished the task. Ronald Benard, the representative from Ward 9, spoke from the heart.

“We owe them the utmost gratitude for what they do for our children and families here in the city of Chicopee. A lot of people don’t understand the amount of work and effort

and time they put into it. They put their lives into it. It’s not a job for them; it’s their life,” Benard said.

While the vote to approve the school improvement plans was ultimately unanimous, not everyone was initially onboard with signing off on the item.

Ward 2 School Committee Rep. David Barsalou was not happy to see more responsibilities assigned to the district’s teachers.

“It just seems like another layer of stuff that we can add onto the teachers’ already busy schedules and busy lives,” Barsalou said. “It just adds another layer of pressure. Like teachers don’t have enough responsibilities without adding another layer of stuff? It just boggles my mind.”

According to Barsalou,

it can all look great on paper, but success comes down to the people in the classrooms teaching the material.

“Teachers don’t need it,” Barsalou said. “You wonder why teachers are leaving? We should be putting less pressure on our educators rather than more.”

Barsalou said he started teaching in 1976 and that things have changed. He apologized for expressing his sentiment but emphasized that this was how he felt.

“It bothers me because adding more stuff to a teacher’s schedule or their lives, it just upsets me. It just never seems to end. All these things look great, but the people proposing these things are not the ones doing the heavy lifting. It will be the people in the classroom,” Barsalou said.



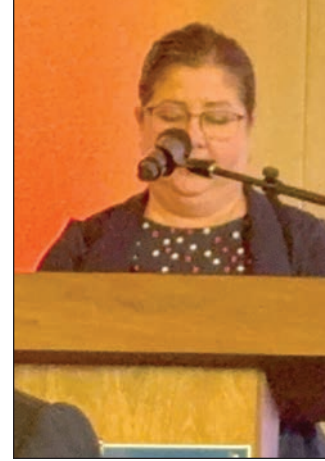
TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS
Mayor John Vieau provides reflections on the fallen heroes of Chicopee.



State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) talks about how the community of Chicopee remembers and honors its heroes and veterans.



Chief Master Sgt. Kristen Maloney discussed the relationship between the city of Chicopee and Westover Air Reserve Base.



Caitlin Menard, LICSW, director of social work at the Veterans Home in Holyoke, was this year’s guest speaker.



Al Picard and a member of the CHS Air Force Junior ROTC laid a wreath to honor those lost during World War I.

MEMORIAL DAY from page 1

performance of “Taps” by the American Legion Post 275.

Louis Brault from American Legion Post 275 served as emcee, opening the ceremony with this.

“Today, we gather as a community and as a nation to honor the brave men and women from our armed services and made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom. For more than 250 years, generations of Americans have answered the call to serve, beginning here in Massachusetts, where the foundation of this great nation was first forged, encouraged sacrifice and unwavering commitment to liberty,” Brault said. “On this Memorial Day, we pause not only to remember those we have lost, but also reflect upon the enduring legacy that they have left behind. Their devotion to duty, love of country and selfless service continues to inspire each of us and remind us of the treacherous cost of the freedoms we enjoy today.”

Vieau noted how there are 37,369 flags on Boston Common right now representing “all of those who fought in all of the wars for this amazing country that we all love who never made it home.”

Of those 37,369 flags, 386 were from Chicopee, representing the 72 who had died in the Civil War, 53 from World War I, 213 from World War II, 26 from the Korean War, 15 from the Vietnam War and seven from the War on Terror.



Christopher Dupont and a member of the CHS Air Force Junior ROTC lay the wreath for those who were lost during the War on Terror.

“I’ve been to the funeral for John Maloney. John Maloney and I went to high school together. He died in the War on Terror...and never made it back and I can say that I have never seen so many people at a funeral. I’ve never seen so many at a wake and that dedication to that field at Chicopee High will forever memorialize him,” Vieau said. “Kevin Dupont, services at Dupont Middle School. I have never seen a line so long. It just shows the respect that this community has, if not all of Western Mass, if not all Americans who came to celebrate, to honor, to show respect for those who just don’t return, and I know that the people in this room, the Gold Star Families, are living with it every day and I think that’s the true meaning of Memorial Day, especially for me.”

Arriaga reflected on her family friend, Army Master

Sgt. Luis DeLeon-Figueroa, who died in 2019 while serving in Afghanistan and friends she and others grew up with and served alongside, “that are not with us today, who left behind their children or families.”

“I’m just simply humble to be here with you all because it’s not easy. Having those memories and those feelings come up—for the most part, I keep them bottled up—, but it’s important to remember the memory and the sacrifice. So, I thank you all for just taking the time to be here and understanding that today is to remember those who are no longer with us,” Arriaga said.

Maloney said the bond between Westover and Chicopee “is unmistakable” and the community “welcomes us and makes us feel we belong to the city, makes us stronger and more united.”

“Real people answer our



Dave Chapdelaine is joined by a member of the CHS Air Force Junior ROTC and members of Gold Star Families to lay a wreath to remember those who died during the Vietnam War.

nation’s call. They raise their right hand to serve this great nation and then they gave the ultimate sacrifice, not only for those brothers and sisters in arms standing next to them, but for each one of you here and all citizens of America. They were our grandparents, our parents, our siblings, children. Our aunts, uncles, childhood friends, college roommates. They came from all walks of life. From being farmers, teachers, dentists, nurses, correctional officers, high school students, college students. Every day American citizens that we interact with daily,” Maloney said. “So we must honor and reflect on the significance of

what today is. I need you all to be the ambassadors. Help ensure the understanding of today and the cost that was given for our freedom, and I can tell you already this community gets it.”

Menard reflected on her work and how last week the American Legion hosted a motorcycle run with many local legion post members.

“I looked around and saw a sea of Veterans and families and community members standing together, saluting and hands over their hearts, united in respect and pride. It was a powerful reminder that the spirit of service and remembrance is alive and strong in our community,”

Menard said. “It was more than just an event. It was a meaningful connection between generations of service members and the celebration of the bond that continues to unite them.”

Also, reflections on remembrance and connection.

“Honoring their sacrifice means more than remembrance. It means continuing to support them and their families with dignity, compassion and respect, not just today, but every day,” Menard said. “We owe a debt that can never truly be repaid, but we can honor it through remembrance, through service and through the way we live our lives.”

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in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



The fragrant five

I have fond memories of the patterned herb garden I created at my old house. Gone are the days of having an entire garden devoted to "useful plants."

Now I tuck them in here and there among the veggies in my raised beds. While I harvest some herbs for culinary purposes, most are grown for the olfactory experience.

Here are my favorite fragrant five.

Lemon Balm is a member of the mint family (Labiatae). Look closely at the plant and you will see the characteristic four-sided stems.

Although many mints possess the bad reputation of running rampant in the garden, lemon balm does not; it increases in girth but manages to stay where planted. It is easy to grow, and like most herbs, it will thrive in a well-drained sunny spot.

Many gardeners think lemon balm looks weedy and unkempt by midseason. I tend to agree, but this negative feature can easily be remedied with a hair cut, nearly to the ground, after flowering. Not long afterwards it will rebound and once again look respectable in the border.

Speaking of flowering, bees love the white, tubular flowers that appear in early summer. Botanists of old must have recognized this centuries ago, since its genus name "Melissa" actually means bee!

Lemon balm's claim to fame is not its appearance, or its flowers, but its scent—best described as lemony with a hint of mint. Crush a leaf between your fingertips to get full effect.

Another favorite fragrant herb is Anise Hyssop, again a well-behaved member of the mint family. This plant can grow quite tall, upwards of three-four feet, and has lilac-purple flowers from midsummer on.

The individual flowers are borne in whorls that can grow as long as six inches if left to mature on the plant. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds all love them!

For years I carefully picked the young flower heads and dried them for use in everlasting wreaths and arrangements, now I simply enjoy rubbing the foliage between my fingers for an amazing rush of licorice scent.

If you have ever grown Anise Hyssop you will likely

agree that this herb is showy enough for the flower garden. It self-sows a bit, but never becomes a pest. Simply pull up unwanted seedlings.

What would an article on fragrant herbs be without mentioning Lavender? Its early summer flowers are a claim to fame, but honestly, the foliage smells great too.

Probably the biggest drawback to this plant is how it looks (dead!) after the winter has run its course. Don't expect the gray foliage to show signs of new growth until mid-May or even later, and you may have to cut deep within the plant to find it.

An application of fertilizer and lime as well as some extra water for a time will result in spry plants once more. And in the event you are wondering, Lavender is also technically a mint, but it differs from the others in that it is more shrub-like and generally does not die completely to the ground over the winter.

The last two herbs I will mention are annuals. The first is Sweet Marjoram.

I have a hard time explaining what this low growing, small leaved plant smells like. A fine cologne? A pizza topping? A nice smelling bug spray?

As the Latin name of *Origanum Majorana*, suggests, oregano is a close relative, so pizza topping may be a good guess, but it also has undertones of balsam and spice...Hmmm.

To keep the plant producing its wonderfully scented leaves, pinch off the flowers as they form. It is a great candidate for growing in mixed herb planters or individually in small pots.

Last but not least is my all-time favorite fragrant herb: Cinnamon Basil. Like its pesto-producing cousin, this variety can be used in cooking, mainly where its cinnamon scent would complement the cuisine, such as fruit salads or vinegars.

I have honestly never grown it for culinary use, but when some herbal renewal is needed it sure serves a purpose. One sniff will give me a burst of energy, enough to tackle that last garden chore. See for yourself!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

OPINION

Bingo, brews and big queen energy are back!

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

WEST SPRINGFIELD - By the time the first bingo number is called, the room at Fort Hill Brewery is already buzzing.

Friends clutch colorful bingo cards while balancing pints of craft beer. Someone in the corner is debating lucky numbers. Laughter cuts across the crowd as drag queen Tytannia Lockhart works the room in towering heels and a sparkling outfit. She roasts guests one minute and hugs supporters the next.

For Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH), "Bingo and Brews with the Queens" has become much more than a fundraiser. It's a celebration of the kind of community Habitat works to build every day — one where people feel welcomed, connected, and valued.

Back by popular demand, the event returns Sunday, June 14, from 12 to 3 p.m. at Fort Hill Brewery in Easthampton in partnership with House of Hors, a Western Massachusetts entertainment group known for creating accessible events that spotlight queer performers and local community causes. This year, Fanny Midnight Lockhart joins Tytannia.

What started as a creative collaboration quickly became one of Habitat's most talked-about events.

"It's just pure joy," said GSHFH Executive Director Aimee Giroux. "People come for the bingo and the queens, but they leave feeling connected — not only to each other, but to Habitat's mission."



That mission has guided Greater Springfield Habitat since 1987. Over the past 39 years, GSHFH has built or repaired 135 homes throughout Hampden County, helping families achieve stability through affordable homeownership and home preservation programs.

But Habitat leaders say community-building happens long before walls go up or keys are handed over.

Events like Bingo and Brews create space for people from different backgrounds to come together in a way that feels relaxed, welcoming, and genuinely fun. It's part fundraiser, part social gathering, and part reminder that affordable housing work touches everyone.

For House of Hors co-founder Hors D'oeuvres, the partnership felt natural from the beginning.

"Drag has always existed in community spaces," Hors said. "There's joy in it, but there's also advocacy and visibility. Partnering with Habitat allows us to bring people together while supporting something that truly impacts families locally."

Guests can expect multiple rounds of bingo, prizes, craft beer from Fort Hill Brewery, and plenty of audience interaction from the emcees — whose quick wit and playful banter often become as memorable as the games themselves.

And while nobody takes



Tytannia performs at last year's "Bingo and Brews with the Queens" event at Fort Hill Brewery in Easthampton.

the bingo too seriously, competition can get fierce.

"There are definitely people who come ready to win," said Olga Calligos, GSHFH Homeowner Services manager. "You'll hear cheering one minute and dramatic groans the next."

Organizers say the event's popularity reflects a growing appetite for community-centered experiences that feel authentic and inclusive rather than formal or transactional.

"It doesn't feel like a typical fundraiser," Olga said. "People are laughing, meeting new friends, and having a genuinely great afternoon — and at the same time, they're helping local families build brighter futures."

Tickets for Bingo and Brews with the Queens are \$30 and are expected to sell quickly. To purchase tickets, visit: bit.ly/40NiUId.

Help, SSA says I'm not eligible for benefits

Dear Rusty:

Help, the Social Security Administration says I didn't pay enough into my Social Security account, despite being a business owner and paying taxes.

What can I do?

Signed: Self-employed American

Dear Self-employed:

For all potential SS beneficiaries, it is very important to know how Social Security determines if you are eligible for retirement benefits: Everyone including the self-employed must have earned at least 40 "quarter credits" contributing to the SS program, which is usually about 10 years' worth of earnings.

You can earn up to four "quarter credits" per year, depending on your earnings including your net earnings from self-employment. For example, this year (2026) you will get one "quarter credit" for each \$1,890 of earnings, up to four credits maximum for the year.

As a self-employed busi-



By Russell Gloor

ness owner, only your net earnings are counted, e.g., after all your reported business deductions are taken. The SSA gets your earnings information from the IRS, so SSA goes by whatever information you submitted in the self-employment income tax returns you submitted to the IRS over the years.

If you don't have at least 40 "quarter credits" over your lifetime, you won't be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits.

The best way to further investigate this is to create your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. When you have done that, you will be able to see how many quarter credits you currently have (apparently less than 40) and determine how much more you must earn to be eligible for SS retirement benefits.

For example, if you have 36 or more credits now, you could likely work just another year or part of a year, to be eligible for SS benefits next year. Knowing how many "credits" you now have will tell you how much more in annual net earnings from self-employment you must have to become eligible for SS benefits.

When you create you

online SS account, you will also be able to see your entire lifetime record of your earnings reported to Social Security and you should review that record to make sure that your lifetime earnings have been correctly reported to Social Security.

If there are any discrepancies in your lifetime earnings record, they can be corrected by using form SSA-7008. You can find additional guidance on this at the following SSA web link: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10081.pdf.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

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

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

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Chicopee Register

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR

Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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WEB
chicopeeregister.turley.com



PHONE
(413) 283-8393



ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

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The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon.

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Election letters to the editor

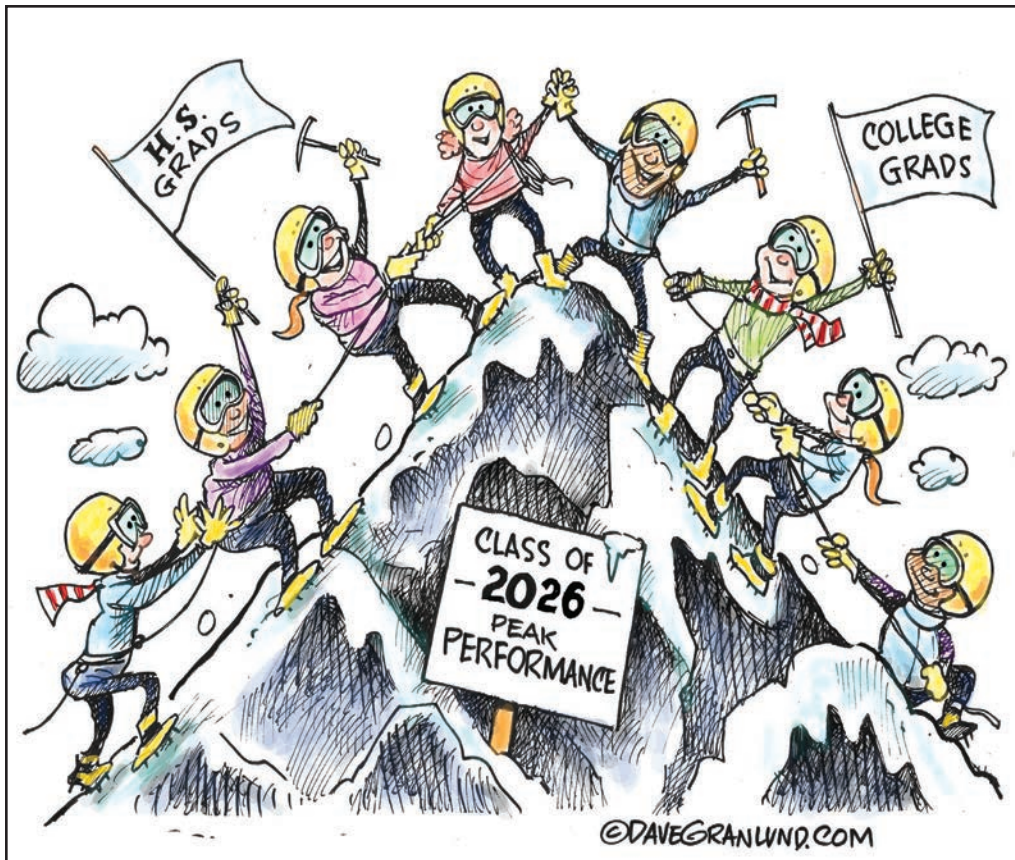
The Chicopee Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Chicopee Register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



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IN THE CITY

VIGIL from page 1

came home," Vieau said.

Arriaga echoed similar sentiments.

"I just want to say thank you all for taking the time out of your day to be here, because it is truly important to take the time to remember and pay the respect that's truly owed to our veterans, especially those who are no longer with us, and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, who have allowed us to continue to be safe while having the opportunity to celebrate all the freedoms and blessings that we do have in this country," Arriaga said.

Oliveria praised the city for their support of veterans and the fallen.

"Some of those names we know well, some of us went to school in buildings with their names on them, like Stefanik or Litwin, but there are also others that are here today that we don't get to recognize very often, names that we want to keep alive, to make sure that ceremonies like this here in the city of Chicopee," Oliveria said. "And I also want to call attention to what the mayor said out of all the towns and cities that I represent, Chicopee continues to be leading the way for veteran services, and that has a lot to do with your mayor, your City Councils, and your School Committee and elected officials who continue to show and stand up for veterans, and stand up for Gold Star Families, so thank you for your continued remembrance and dedication put forth."

Oliveira also reflected on his friend, Sgt. Joshua D. Desforges, a Ludlow native and U.S. Marine, who was

killed in Marjah, Afghanistan, in 2010, and now has an annual scholarship & 5K in his memory. He shared that he will forever be 23, even though his 40th birthday just passed last week.

Velis kicked off his thoughts by providing an update on the work being conducted during his six-month stint.

"You should be incredibly proud ... the men and women of the Massachusetts National Guard are a huge element down there (and) are doing really, really important things on a daily basis," Velis said.

Velis then reflected on the difference in perception and the element of Vietnam Veterans returning home who were spat upon and called baby killers when they arrived back on U.S. soil, compared to those who served in current or recent wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and the global war on terrorism, have been greeted with graciousness, something he has witnessed in his 11 days of being home.

"I have gotten nothing at all but welcome home, how was it? Thank you for your service. You're awesome, the list goes on and on, and to this day I still think about the battles our brothers and sisters in Vietnam endured, only compared to the commentary and rhetoric expressed back then, which was disgusting and unacceptable," Velis said. "I pray that this country, with its system of checks and balances, and the work we continue to do, will ensure that no generation of veterans will ever have to endure that level of atrocities ever again, as the history of our nation carries on."

As the evening went



Members of the Chicopee High School Air Force Junior ROTC standing at attention, getting ready to present the colors.

on, the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 111 members led a candlelight service in memory of those missing in action and assisted Gold Star Families in lighting a candle at a center table with the pictures and mementos of all 15 service members from Chicopee who never made it home, while others counted out the number of soldiers across each state who never returned to U.S. soil.

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 111 also led a rifle salute with Commander Josh Morin at the helm, with a performance of "Taps" from Robert Zukanskas.

Delfo Barabani Jr. from the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 111 served as master of ceremonies.

Gone But Never Forgotten

Mary Rider, whose brother, Army Pfc. Robert Dowds was killed on May 5, 1970, shared that she has been coming to the ceremony on a yearly basis, and has carried the torch even after her mother's passing, and this year her brother came from Minnesota to pay his respects.

"I just feel this is a very well-run service, and I just think it really touches you, and I'm just happy I've been able to do this for this long," Rider said. "I admit I never really got over the feeling of losing him, and I will always remember him being a great guy, and I miss him dearly."

The 15 are: Sgt. Carl L. Glasscock, Dowds, Army Specialist Michael P. Bouch-

ard, Army Lt. Mark H. Rivest, Army Cpl. Edward P. Stefanik, Army Pfc. Roger J. Dumont, Marine Sgt. Harold J. Gilbert, Army Sgt. Robert R. Litwin, Army Lt. Robert O. Gagne, Army Pfc. Zygmunt

P. Jablonski Jr., Navy Chief Petty Officer Donald E. Kulacz, Marine Cpl. Robert R. Tolpa, Army Spc. John J. Laszkowski, Army Spc. Thomas J. Wilk and Marine Pfc. Edward J. Downey Jr.



Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 111 light candles in memory of the service members missing in action during the May 24 Memorial Day Eve ceremony.



Members of the Chicopee High School Air Force Junior ROTC standing around the memorial table inside the Knights of Columbus on Granby Road.

AUDITOR from page 1

All resumes sent to City Council Administrative Assistant to circulate to members of City Council.

City Councilors recommend candidates for interviews to City Council Administrative Assistant.

First round of interviews in Executive Session of Committee of the Whole to narrow number of candidates to three. If the number of candidates is three or less, this step is not required and interviews are to be held in open session in a Special City Council Meeting.

If a Second Round of interviews is required, the interviews will occur in open session in a Special City Council meeting with the three candidates named on the agenda.

Interview and vote on candidate at the City Council Special Meeting.

The hiring process, she added, was approved during the March 17 meeting of the City Council and, on May 14, the City Council held a special meeting to interview Steffenhagen and vote on the appointment of the city auditor.

There, Steffenhagen was approved and, now, the mayor "will negotiate the employment contract for the City Auditor that was approved by the City Council."

The Interview

City Treasurer Marie Laflamme paid tribute to Riley and voiced support for Steffenhagen.

"We're going to miss Sharyn. She was a total asset to this city for many years... she's my partner here at City Hall and I'm going to truly miss her," Laflamme said. "I just wanted to mention my full support of Tiana, if that's your choosing. I've worked with her for more than 13 years now and her professionalism, her work ethic, I can stay here for a while to tell you the great things she's done. She's stood by Sharyn and has done the work. Sharyn is doing the work now. Just want to tell you, for someone that's working side by side with her, she's a great candidate."

On Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks's question on what improvements, if any, she sees outside of GAAP—which stands for Generally Accepted Accounting Practices—that she could bring to the office to help streamline and improve the department, Steffenhagen said this.

"For improvement, I really would like to start utilizing more of the technology that's available to us. A lot of processes have been done manually all the years, and they have worked. They're tried and true, but they're

very time-consuming. So, if we were able to explore our EERP, which is our accounting system more and what it could offer us, I think it would help streamline calculations of different things, retros, projections of salaries. Definitely, it would be to utilize more technology and less of a manual process," Steffenhagen said.

Steffenhagen later shared that what made her want to become the next city auditor was having lived in Chicopee her whole life, attending the schools and working for the city for almost 19 years, with 15 of those years as assistant city auditor. She wanted the position because she's "devoted to Chicopee."

"I live here. I've worked here for so long. My children go to the schools. I want to help and see it thrive and I think within this position, I'd be able to do that," Steffenhagen said.

On Vice President/Ward 6 Councilor Sam Shumsky's question about AI and technology, she explained how the mayor provided an opportunity to take AI courses through the governor, which she has not explored as of yet.

"I definitely would want to look into them as far as using them for budgeting and projecting. But I have also learned that AI isn't always the end-all. It definitely still requires research on an actual

person's part," Steffenhagen said.

As for modernization goals she'd like to see by this time next year, Steffenhagen would focus on the budget books.

"I definitely want to start doing more projections so we're not getting to the beginning of the new year we're trying to figure out if our budget is going to make it, and the budget book itself, I want to start making it more transparent and easily readable for the general person. At this time, it's more of a report that's printed from our system and a lot of people don't understand that. So, I do want to strive towards making it more easily to read," Steffenhagen said.

Steffenhagen also noted Riley's work when Councilor-at-Large Joel McAuliffe asked how she would handle a situation where she had a clear disagreement, but did it in a respectful and professional way.

"I always try to go into every situation as informed as I possibly can. I never want to answer any question without being fully knowledgeable. So as long as I'm abreast to the topic ahead of time, I do my research, and I'm not going to tell you what you want to hear. I'm going to tell you how it is, just like Sharyn did," Steffenhagen said. "I definitely respected her in

that circumstance where she wasn't afraid to stick up for herself and knew it was her reputation on the line, which is definitely how my mindset's going to be. In a situation where I have to give difficult news, I'm going to give you as transparent an outcome as I can."

For the budgetary times ahead, Steffenhagen explained she saw how "the communities around us are struggling."

"And it's not to say Chicopee is without those struggles. It's just we were better prepared for it. We are going to have our own struggles. As far as trying to weather the storm, that's why I want to start projecting now as far as what our fiscal years ahead of us are going to be. A lot of it is basically you have to have a crystal ball. But the known things that we have, as far as contracts and how we have to meet those contracts, those can be within our projections. But, definitely, it's starting to project ahead of time and see where we can save money, how can we change things," Steffenhagen said. "The fallback that usually happens is that it's always been this way. This is how we've always done it. Well, we have to start changing things because everything around us is changing and we need to better situate ourselves to meet those changes."

As the meeting wrapped up, President Laflamme shared how Riley prepped Steffenhagen to succeed her one day.

"Going to see her probably every other week, she was telling me how much she's been prepping you for this position for many years, knowing that she was going to retire...she was preparing you and she 100% backs you as the auditor for the city of Chicopee, and some of the things that was brought up about your management style I can tell you, again, as president of the board, I've been going in the office probably once a week to see how things are going in there on behalf of the City Council, see if you needed anything in the interim, and everybody's always polite, nice and hard-working. So, I give that credit to you to continue this on until you get this position," Laflamme said.

Also, how Riley had Steffenhagen go to budget meetings.

"You did a great job asking questions there regarding the budget. So, the knowledge you already have in the 18 years you have, plus the 40 years that Sharyn had brought forward to train you, is worth having you as our auditor," Laflamme said. "We need to keep the city moving forward and you have that experience."

SPORTS

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Pacers defeat Ludlow in quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Chicopee sophomore second baseman Jordyn Kazeroid only had a couple of base hits during the final weeks of the regular season.

Kazeroid broke out of her slump by going 2-for-3 with 3 RBIs, which helped the fifth-seeded Lady Pacers beat the fourth-seeded Lady Lions, 6-4, in a Western Mass. Class B quarterfinal game held at the Paul R. Baird Middle School Softball Field in Ludlow, last Monday afternoon (May 18).

“Winning a postseason game for the first time just feels great,” said Kazeroid, who joined the varsity softball team as a freshman. “We have a very good pitcher this year, which has made a huge difference for us.”

Kazeroid was one of the three Chicopee players who finished the quarterfinal victory with two hits.

“Jordyn has been struggling at the plate lately,” said Chicopee head coach Mel Sasser. “She had a couple of big hits in today’s game, which was nice to see.”

While it was the first meeting on the softball diamond between the two teams this spring, they were both members of the Suburban East Division a year ago. Ludlow won the two regular season games, but Chicopee pulled out a 17-11 win in a



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Adeline Olbrych makes a catch.

non-playoff game played at the Baird Middle School field.

The Lady Pacers, who finished the 2026 regular season with a perfect 18-0 record, won a postseason game for the first time since defeating Longmeadow, 16-3, in the 2021 Western Mass. Division 1 quarterfinals.

“Anytime you can win a game, it always feels very good,” Sasser said. “This win means that we’ll have an opportunity to play another game in the Western Mass. tournament.”

The Lady Pacers lost to top-seeded Hampshire Regional, 2-1 in the semifinals last Thursday afternoon.

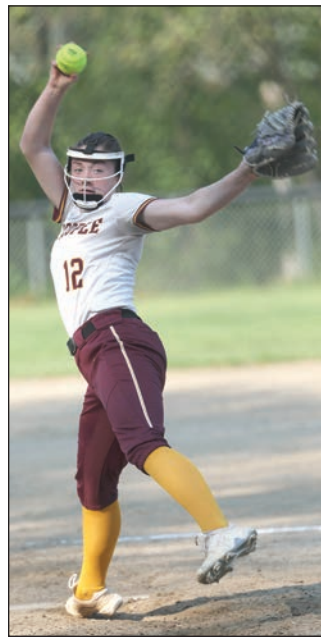
They’ve qualified for the Division 3 state tournament, which starts this week.

The Lady Lions (13-4) played in the Western Mass. tournament for the first time in two years. They made a couple of costly mistakes in the quarterfinal game.

“You can’t afford to make errors, especially against a very good team,” said Ludlow head coach Missy Rocker. “We also need the bottom part of our batting order to start producing.”

The top five hitters in the Lady Lions order went 4-for-15 with four runs scored and four RBIs.

The last four hitters went



Raelyn Loud delivers to the plate.

0-for-11 with five strikeouts.

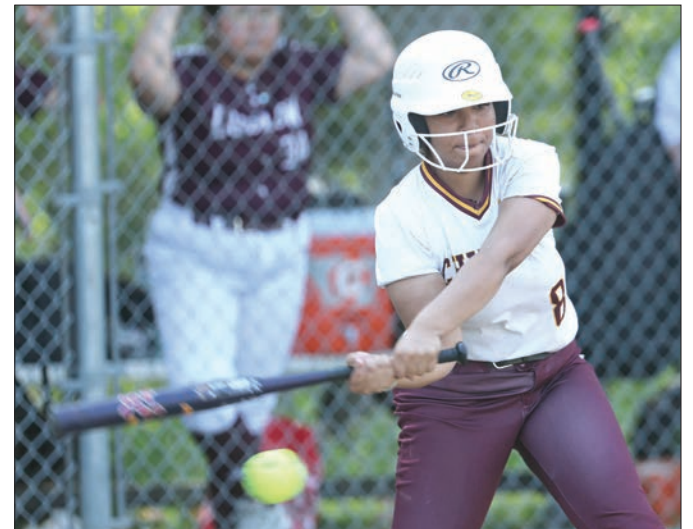
The Lady Lions, who also qualified for the Division 3 state tournament, lost to Belchertown, 4-1 in a non-playoff game on their home field two days later.

Ludlow jumped out to an early 1-0 lead in the quarterfinal game by scoring an unearned run against Chicopee eighth grade righthander Raelyn Loud, who allowed four runs (one earned) on four hits. She recorded eight strikeouts.

“Rae is young, but she’s an experienced pitcher,” Sasser said. “She has pitched a lot of games with her summer team. She knows how to



Lorraine Olbrych tries to make some contact.



Aaliyah Acevedo takes a swing.

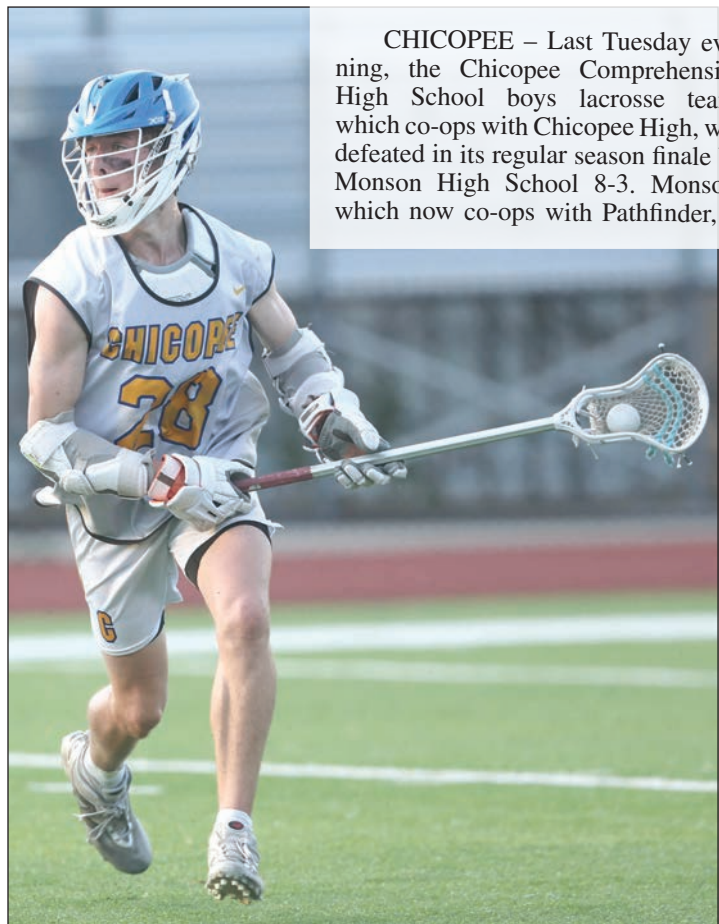
handle the close games. She stepped up today.”

With two outs in the bottom of the first inning, sophomore Olivia Slatton, who was

Ludlow’s starting pitcher, hit a groundball to the third baseman and wound up standing

See **SOFTBALL** page 7

Comp lacrosse falls to Monson



Jake Fournier gets ready to shoot low.

CHICOPEE – Last Tuesday evening, the Chicopee Comprehensive High School boys lacrosse team, which co-ops with Chicopee High, was defeated in its regular season finale by Monson High School 8-3. Monson, which now co-ops with Pathfinder, is

set to enter the state tournament this year. The Mustangs went 10-6 and are well above .500 for the season. Monson, which was set to learn its fate in the state tournament earlier this week, had a nonplayoff rematch scheduled against Comp on Memorial Day.



Tyler Chartier starts a run for the goal.



Griffin Stefanik looks for an opening to head for the goal.

Comp falls short of tournament berth

SPRINGFIELD – Last Friday afternoon, following a loss in the Class A quarterfinals, Chicopee Comprehensive High School softball was literally fighting for a spot in the state tournament, and battled it out with Central High School on the turf in Springfield.

Both teams went back and forth all game, but it was Central that outlasted Comp 20-16. Comp made a run at the end with three runs in the top of the seventh, but fell short. Jayna Jones had three hits for the Colts, including a double and two walks and three runs scored.

Ashlyn Warwick had three RBI. The Colts finished the season with a record of 9-11 and fell short of the top 32 to make it into this year’s state tournament.



Wylan Beaulieu winds up and shoots in traffic.



Goalie Noah Messer send a pass out of the circle.



Blake Stetson makes a run into the offensive end.

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We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones.

We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

IN THE CITY

Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids and families

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

Chicopee, Did You Read Today? The annual Summer Reading Challenge is back! Read every day from June 24 - August 14. Read anything and everything, track your reading progress with Beanstack or on paper or both, and come to the library for creative activities and exciting performances!

Little Kid Dance Party will be on Wednesdays, June 3 and 17 at 10:30 a.m. Moving and grooving for kids and their caregivers. Geared toward ages 0-5, but all are welcome! 45 minutes to one hour of energetic activity including singing and dancing, action rhymes, and playing with props like scarves and shakers.

Build with LEGO on Thursdays, June 4 at

4 p.m. We bring the LEGOs, you bring the ideas! Unstructured building time for kids ages 6 and up, no registration required.

Sing With Your Baby with Julie on Friday, June 5 at 11 a.m. Sing and rhyme with your little ones! For kids 0-2, no registration required.

Sensory Play Saturday will be held on Saturday, June 6 at 9:30 a.m. Come let your babies socialize and explore sensory play! We will have our play area set up with some sensory activities and other play opportunities. For babies 0-24 months and their caregivers, no registration required.

Saturday Playgroup will be held on Saturdays at 1 p.m. in June. We'll put out some extra toys in the play-space. It's a great time for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play, no registration required.

Terrific Twos will be held on Tuesday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m. Terrific Twos is for two-year-olds and their caregivers. This program features about 25 minutes of

structured circle time, followed by about half an hour of semi-structured playtime. During circle time, we will sing songs, do rhymes, do some big movements, and read 1 book. The book choice rotates between either a read aloud picture book or a group read of a board book. Playtime involves a choice of craft, activity, or play. No registration required.

The library will have **Bingo for Books** on Wednesday, June 10 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.

Storytime will be held on Thursday, June 11 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 **Kids Room Sewing Club** will meet on Wednesday, June 17, 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. This month we'll be learning some embroidery stitches.

The library **Homeschool Meetup** will be on Thursday June 18 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 will be a preview of the library's summer programming.

Summer Reading Kick-off Party will be on Wednesday, June 24 from 3 to 5 p.m. Join us in the library's backyard to sign up for summer reading, meet community partners, and do fun activities. ChicopeeFRESH and friends will be there with the food truck!

Summer Storytime will

be on Tuesday, June 30 at 10:30 a.m. Listen to some read-aloud books, do some rhymes and songs and enjoy a craft or activity. This mixed-age storytime is geared towards 0-8 and should have something for everyone to enjoy.

The **ChicopeeFRESH Community Kitchen** food truck will be in the library parking lot distributing free meals to kids 18 and under every weekday from 1:30-2:00 June 29- August 14. Grab your lunch and come inside for a place to eat and maybe some activities at Lunch Club, weekdays 1:30-2ish in the Children's Room Activity Room.

Can you find the key to the library's hidden treasure? Celebrate 250 years of US history with our **National Treasure Scavenger Hunt** happening Thursday, June 25 and Friday, June 26. Learn about the library, Chicopee, and the country's history to find the answers you need! This event is designed for kids ages 8+, teens, and their adults. Please visit our website or contact the Chil-

dren's Room to sign up for a time to participate.

Teens

Join us for **Anime Club** on Wednesday, June 10 at 3:30 p.m. This will be the final one before the library's Summer Reading programs begin, so be sure to stop by for an extra fun finale!

The library will be at **Chicopee Pride Fest** in Sotz Park on Saturday, June 13 from Noon to 6 p.m. You can learn more about our resources and Summer Reading programs, as well as borrow books from our Pop Up Pride-brary!

Teen's can stop by for an evening of art at our **Scribble & Sip** event with Crayon Marie on Monday, June 29 at 6:30 p.m.! Learn to create your own version of O'Keefe's Lake George while enjoying some mocktails. Space is limited and not guaranteed. Doors will close 15min after the start time.

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

SOFTBALL from page 6

on second base following a throwing error. Slatton scored on a ground ball single into left field by sophomore catcher Madelyn Gonçalves-Korny.

The Lady Pacers took the lead two innings later.

Freshman catcher Adeline Olbrych drew a walk leading off the top of the third inning. Senior shortstop Lorraine Olbrych followed with an infield hit. The tying run crossed the plate when sophomore first baseman Aviah Blankenship (2-for-4) tripled to the gap in right center. Lorraine Olbrych also scored on the play following a throwing error.

Chicopee increased their advantage to 3-1 when Loud hit a ground ball to the second baseman, allowing Blankenship to score from third base.

With the bases cleared, Kazeroid hit a fly ball that bounced past the left fielder. Kazeroid sprinted around the bases for an inside-the-park home run.

"I've never hit a home run in a varsity game before," Kazeroid said. "It just felt great when I touched the plate."

At that point, Slatton, who allowed four runs on three hits, was replaced by freshman righty Madison Gonçalves, who began the game at third base.

"Our game plan was to change pitchers quickly if Olivia got into trouble," Rocker said. "I actually should've made the change a couple of batters sooner."

Chicopee's rally continued with an infield single by freshman third baseman Izzabella Harper (2-for-4) before Gonçalves struck out the next two batters. She finished the game with seven strikeouts.

Trailing 4-1, the Lady Lions tied the score in the bottom of the third inning.

Slatton and Gonçalves had RBI singles. Their other run scored when a flyball hit by Gonçalves-Korny was dropped by the centerfielder.

The Lady Pacers retook the lead in their next at-bats when Kazeroid poked a single into right field, scoring two runs.

It turned out to be the game-winning base hit, as Loud retired twelve of the final batters that she faced.

RIFLE from page 1

A lot of people are not familiar with this room, that has so much Chicopee history in it. We hope that in coming to see the rifle, they'll come to see these other resources here," Lynch said.

Lynch and Kobierski then explained the history behind the rifle and how it ended up here after so many years.

"It was manufactured in the mid-1830s by two brothers," Kobierski said.

"The two brothers were originally from England. They came over in the 1830s, first to New York. Joseph and Richard Inshaw. They came from a long line, long family, of gunsmiths. You'll see on the rifle; there's very exquisite engraving; that was Richard's particular specialty. Nathan P. Ames, who ran the Ames Manufacturing Company here, which was a world-renowned arms manufacturer, particularly in swords, recruited him to come from New York. He came here and in the mid-1830s, brought his family. The book goes on about how they settled into Chicopee



TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

The Inshaw Rifle on display in the historical room at CPL.

life and how their immigrant experience reflected a lot of immigrant experience here in town," Lynch said.

Lynch explained that the rifle has never been fired and the gun was made as a type of resume for the brothers to show their skills.

"We had an expert give his opinion of it several years ago. He said it was the best he'd ever seen of that particular kind. It was left to the historical society 20 years ago by the great grandson of Richard Inshaw," Lynch said.

Chicopee Public Library Director Laura Bovee expressed the meaning this

event holds with the library and community as a whole.

"The library's participation in this project has been going on for about three years. That's when I was first approached with the idea that they would like to have it here. We're incredibly pleased and honored to have it here. I think all of us here, that work at the library, get into this because we love community in general and our community specifically. So, it's really nice to be able to take part in it in such a meaningful way and have something that has so much historical value here," Bovee said.

Kobierski, Lynch, and Bovee also spoke at the lecture portion of the evening, with many community members showing up in support of CPL and Chicopee Historical Society. This amazing piece of Chicopee's history is now on display for the community to enjoy, for free. By visiting the historical room, not only can attendees learn more about the Inshaw rifle, but also about the history of Chicopee as a whole.

For more information about upcoming events at CPL visit chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

AUDIT from page 1

stance on the matter.

"We support the question that was voted on and passed by the people. I'm glad to see it, and I look forward to voting in favor of it tonight," McAuliffe said.

Ward 8 Councilor Doug Girouard provided his stance, noting that this matter will play itself out in the courts, and "there's nothing more to it", but did acknowledge the will of the voters.

Echoing similar sentiments was Ward 7 Councilor Bill Courchesne, who offered support to the resolution when he said, "We are supporting the auditor and our voters."

"This isn't an attack on our delegation. We are here to represent the voters, and that's what we are doing; this is not against them, it's not personal, it's simply a vote of confidence in our auditor," Courchesne said.

Voting no on the resolution was Ward 1 Councilor Abby Arriaga, who explained her reasoning was due to the ethics of the unfolding situation, citing whether the state legislation had a chance to respond yet, and if so, she invited the conversation to be had, before calling for apparent transparency, and acknowledged the city and state should be audited, but it needs to occur in the manner of due

process.

"I want to start by noting that I feel the state should be audited, but we have to understand and let the process proceed, because they are working on it," Arriaga said. "I'm not saying that the vote is wrong or that the residents shouldn't get what they want; it's happening, but above all I've been watching and following it, and I can confirm that our state delegation is also in support of this, as well, but I also feel it isn't fair to have this conversation without involving them, because if you've actually had a conversation with any of the state delegates, then I feel all material would be presented, and they can answer questions in depth, and I can confirm none of them have gotten phone calls from most of this board, and I've done a lot of research, and it shows nobody is hiding anything."

Shumsky reiterated that this isn't "an attack on anyone," citing "we just want transparency." He also refuted the claim proposed by Arriaga that a majority of the council never contacted the state delegation, revealing that he extended the invitation and currently awaits a response.

"I've had conversations with the legislation, and if they have had concerns, then I will say they could have called us too, but I'm not go-

ing to point fingers, because that's not what I'm here to do," Shumsky said. "I will say, however, that I think the will and idea of this is that voters asked us to support something, due to the understanding that everyone elected into office works for the people. So, meaning when a significant majority of my ward voted in support of this, I'm going to do it, because that's how democracy works."

Arriaga then pivoted to the equality of transparency not being implemented as she drew ire to the lack of urgency felt at the city level, citing that the Chicopee Country Club still hasn't responded to her request for the acquisition of its financial records, which was submitted two months ago.

"I have yet to see that meeting, so I feel that shows let things happen on our level as well, and again, I want to reiterate that no one is hiding anything anywhere. I just feel that the main conclusion is that there has to be transparency across the board," Arriaga said.

She then presented an inquiry in relation to how Courchesne once attempted to propose this resolution, months prior, but was told to "back down," and now Shumsky has garnered support while pushing forward.

"I'm not saying either

way was wrong, but I just wanted to point out how I don't think it's fair that one gets told to back down, and the other gets support, and it's clear everybody can support what they want, that's the point of what we're here for," Arriaga said. "But I can confirm that none of my residents have contacted me about this matter. I'm not saying that they're not concerned. I'm not saying they don't want, I'm just stating that nobody called me about it."

Responding to Arriaga's concerns over the city audit was Laflamme, who confirmed he is working on the current city audit with Courchesne.

"I apologize for taking two months for the report to get to the finance office, but I want to assure you I am being very transparent in getting it done for you," Laflamme told Arriaga. "It will be called shortly, but I want to make sure that before that meeting is held, they are prepared and have all materials ready to answer all questions."

Adding to the overall thread of that matter, the Chicopee Register reached out to the Golf Course and spoke with director Mike O'Neill, who said he is still awaiting a call from Councilor Arriaga, and he was only informed that earlier this winter, that he and his staff were notified

that they would be called to a meeting with the Finance Committee, but haven't heard since.

O'Neil added that every year a fiscal report is shared annually from the office of the city auditor, and those reports are accessible as public information.

Leading closing arguments in the discussion was Councilor-at-Large Jessica Avery, who motioned for a point of caution, when proceeding further, citing "legal ramifications" that arose from Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello questioning the "constitutionality" of this case.

Avery drew a comparison to the redistricting efforts

recently proposed in Virginia and Louisiana, that was heard at the state level, and even though voted by the people, not via the ballot, but the state, were halted at the state's respective supreme courts, conveying that this case—the audit—could start to feel a bit "redundant", if not handled properly through all channels of communication.

"I understand that 70% voted for this, but as I noted before, we need to think about representative democracy, meaning I want to make sure that we're also thinking about the checks and balances of the Constitution, not just locally but also on the federal and state level, just as well," Avery said.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CEL BID #26-0528

Chicopee Electric Light invites bids from qualified bidders for Flat Roof Replacement as described in CEL BID #26-5028.

Specifications may be obtained at the Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA, beginning May 22, 2026.

All questions or requests for clarification regarding this IFB should be made in writing to the attention of Natalie Colberg with the BID #26-0528 in the subject line.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check payable to the order of Chicopee Electric Light for a sum not less than 5% of the bid price. In lieu of a check, a bid bond may be submitted in an amount not less than 5% of the bid price. Checks, if submitted, will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders after the award of the order.

A payment bond in an amount equal to 50 percent of the total amount of the bid with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be required for the payment under the contract for labor and materials.

All bids for this project are subject to applicable bidding laws of Massachusetts, including M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 44A-H and M.G.L. c. 30, § 39M.

Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Department of Labor Standards under the provisions of M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 26-27D.

A mandatory pre-bid walk-through will be held at 725 Front Street, June 18, 2026 at 10:00 am. All prospective bidders are required to attend.

All proposals must be sealed and marked on the outside "CEL BID #26-0528" and be received at the office of Chicopee Electric Light, 725 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01020, no later than **10:00 a.m. on July 9, 2026**, at which time and place they will be publicly opened.

MLP reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities and minor irregularities in bids received, if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the MLP to do so.

Natalie A. Colberg
Business Manager
05/29/2026

**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.
HD26P1088EA
Estate of:
Edwin Guzman, Jr.
Date of Death: 10/04/2025
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 Yaritza Davila 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 Yaritza Davila of Chicopee,

MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/16/2026. 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: May 19, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/29/2026

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 May 29th, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2014 Kia Sorento
VIN: 5XYKWD7XEG537261
Ana Carmo
42 Stadden St. 2
Providence, RI, 02907

2016 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB7AP8GY270793
Ihor Burlaka
49 Katherine St., Apt. L
Westfield, MA 01085

2013 Ram 2500
VIN: 3C6UR5HL0DG546194
Robert Porazzo
50 Atwood Ave.
Middleboro, MA 02346

2008 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCP26818A088856
Richard Boss
255 Pearl St.
Attleboro, MA 02703

2010 Subaru Legacy
VIN: 4S3BMB65A3234174
Edwin Aganyoh
394 Chicopee St.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2017 Subaru Legacy
vin: 4s3bnac66h3020795
Marcus Shelton
23 Cleveland St.
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

2015 Land Rover Range Rover
VIN: SALWR2VF6FA605211
Alvin Carmona
40 Childs St., Apt. 1
Lynn, Ma 01905

1994 International 4000
VIN: 1HTSDPPN7RH564754
Agape Trucking
46 Berrios Hill Rd.
Windsor, CT 06095

2001 Gmc Sierra 2500
VIN: 1GTHK29U61E294894
Pionner Valley Handyman And Fence Inc.
17 Stearns Ter.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2008 Dodge Caliber
vin: 1b3hb28b68d646597
Unknown Owner.

2011 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 5FNRL5H67BB077358
Edgar Medina-Rodriguez
47 North Canal St.
Holyoke, MA 01040

2000 Gmc Sierra 1500
VIN: 1GTEK14T7YZ107810
Robert Ruiz
245 Fairview Ave.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2007 Chrysler Pacifica
VIN: 2A8GF68X47R286123
Aluisha Flores Arroyo
1528 Morgan Rd.
West Springfield, MA 01089
05/15, 05/22, 05/29/2026

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 June 5, 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.

2017 Porsche Cayenne
VIN: WPIAB2A25HLA53067
Sarpong, Patrick Ankrah
31 Kevin Dr.
Vernon Rockville, CT 06066

2009 Pontiac G6
VIN: 1G2ZJ57B494243684
Kathleen Rogers
32 1/2 Oak St., Apt. 8
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

2009 Nissan Rogue
VIN: JN8AS58V49W177709
Carmen Sylvia Sanchez
25 Emerald St., Fl 2nd
Chicopee, MA 01013

1989 Harley XLH 883
VIN: 1HD4CAM14KY116211
Tracy Prince
100 Heritage Green Dr., Apt. 311
Fiskdale, MA 01518

2001 Chevrolet Prizm
VIN: 1Y1SK52841Z404897
Brenda Heap
174 Patricia Circle
Springfield, MA 01119

2019 Subaru Crosstrek
VIN: JF2GTAAC9KH205620
Tatyana Frid
55 Emerson St.
Wakefield, MA 01880

2005 Chrysler Sebring
VIN: 1C3EL65R95N568186
Joan Reyes Rivera
42 Waltham Ave., Bldg 415
Springfield, MA 01109

2006 Nissan Murano
VIN: JN8AZ08W86W539365
Ashley Wilson
153 Lamplighter Ln.
Springfield, MA 01119

2008 Volkswagen Jetta
VIN: 3VWRJ71K18M135815
Colby Maynard
3404 Davie Rd., Apt. 403

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314

2005 Chevrolet Impala
VIN: 2G1WF52E559217032
Justin Foley
54 Garden St.
West Springfield, MA 01089

2006 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFG11816H565346
Howard Johnson
29 E Chester St.
Kingston, Ny 12401

2011 Chevrolet Malibu
VIN: 1G1ZC5E18BF385300
Arielle Miner
110 Lakeshore Dr.
Winchendon, MA 01475

2019 Hyundai Translead
VIN: 3H3V532L0LR441764
Amazon Logistics Inc.
4255 Anson Blvd.
Whitestown, IN 46075

2003 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BR32E13C103270
Sarah Cruz Estrada
25 High Street, Apt. 211
Springfield, MA 01109
05/22, 05/29, 06/05/2026

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 June 12th, 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.

1999 Plymouth Voyager
VIN: 2P4GP25R6XR157329
Meghan Perrick
241 Hayward St.
Manchester, NH 03103

2009 Toyota Sienna
VIN: 5TDZK22CX9S281657
Marino Velasquez Morales
PO Box 741
Putney, VT 05346

2009 Subaru Outback
VIN: 4S4BP61C197333792
Gerardo Rios Paneto
256 Pleasant St., Apt. 307
Northampton, MA 01060

2024 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 5YFS4MCE9RP210756
Harihara Reddy Anam
7999 Leighlinbridge Way G
Dublin, OH,43016

2002 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCG66812A019843
Bryan Colon
153 Westminster St., Fl. 2
Springfield, MA 01109
05/29, 06/05, 06/12/2026

**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.
HD25P0205EA
Estate of:
Marlene M Pouliot
Date of Death: 09/21/2024
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Probate of Will has been filed by Laurie Cole of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/30/2026. 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: May 27, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/29/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P2562GD
In the interests of
Desirae Rivera
of Chicopee, MA
Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **12/10/2025** by Norma Rivera of Chicopee, MA will be held **08/11/2026 08:30 AM Review Hearing.** 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. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. 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: May 20, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/29/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD26P1082GD
In the interests of
Yandeliz Rosario
of Chicopee, MA
Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER:**

**Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **05/18/2026** by Norma Torres of Chicopee, MA will be held **06/17/2026 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing.** Located: **Judge Stark - In Person: 50 State St., Springfield, MA 01103, 4th Floor.**

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. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. 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: May 18, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/29/2026

**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.
HD26A0037AD
In the matter of:
Ja'zel Nylaisha Scott
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6**

TO:
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Francis J Kempton of Chicopee, MA

Kaya Lucille Estelle Jubrey-Kempton of Chicopee, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Ja'zel Nylaisha Kempton
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 06/16/2026.**

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 11, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/29/2026

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

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 All hardwood.
 Tree length available
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 Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**
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 JUNE 5-7TH, 9AM-4PM.
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 Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

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WANTED

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 Fully insured.
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 Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
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FOR RENT



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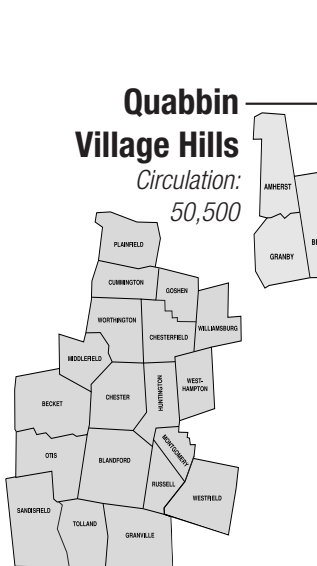
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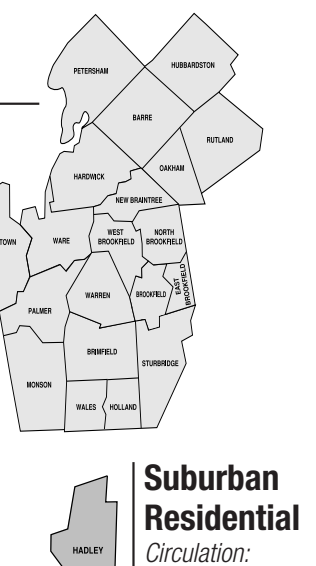
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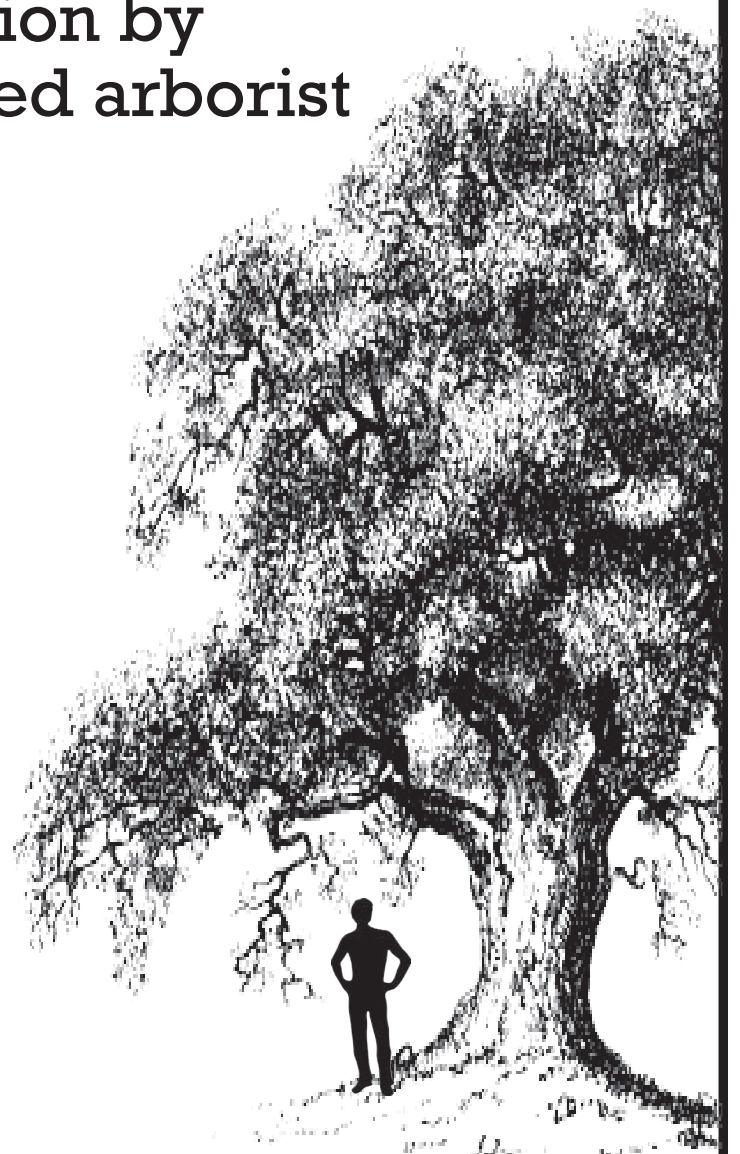


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