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GRADUATION 2023

Sixteen Trailblazers graduate from the Academy

Principal Leonard,
VP Skiba set to retire

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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CHICOPEE – Principal John Leonard fought back tears as he took to the podium during Chicopee Academy’s graduation ceremony on June 1, where 16 Trailblazers received their diplomas.

Leonard and Vice Principal Martha Skiba are set to retire in the coming weeks. For both longtime Academy staff members, last Thursday’s graduation in the school’s gymnasium was one to remember.

“The Class of 2023 is by far the largest class we have ever had at Chicopee Academy,” Skiba said. “This is an incredible turnout. I can’t believe how many people are here and what a beautiful day we have to celebrate. We’re here to pay tribute and to honor the 16 graduating seniors today. This was not an easy journey, and today, you seniors have reached an important milestone: high school graduation.”

Leonard worked with Skiba at the school for 18 years, having spent the past



STAFF PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Interim Superintendent Alvin Morton poses with the Chicopee Academy Class of 2023.

14 as principal, and credited her for her tremendous professionalism and support.

He emphasized that the Class of 2023 is the largest in the school’s history and praised the graduates for overcoming adversity many times on their journey to

graduation.

“The students have encountered many bumps and turbulence during their high school careers, whether they were here at the Academy or (Chicopee High or Comp). They’ve learned the value of

patience, relationship building, working together, communicating, and they have found new ways to cope and conquer many obstacles,” he said.

See **CHICOPEE ACADEMY** page 6

Chicopee High School awards diplomas to 191 graduates



STAFF PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Alyssa DeJesus waves to her family after receiving her diploma during the Chicopee High School graduation at Szot Park on June 1.

The ceremony took place
at Szot Park

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE - Families gathered at Szot Park on June 1 for the Chicopee High School graduation ceremony.

Principal Carol Kruser was emcee and joined by School Committee members, Stephanie Shaw, director of Veterans Services, Interim Superintendent Alvin Morton, Assistant Superintendent Matthew Francis and more as distinguished guests.

In her remarks, Kruser hopes the

graduates are excited, highlighting their kindness, grit and resilience.

“You’re probably a little nervous too, and that’s okay. But you are all sitting here today because you accepted challenges, faced adversity, made plans, changed plans and had a little bit of faith that it would all work out,” Kruser said.

Morton reflected on legacy, explaining everyone “has the power to create a lasting legacy” and it begins now.

“Your legacy is not solely measured by the academic achievements you have accomplished, but also of your friendships you have fostered, the lives you have touched and the hearts you have uplifted, the kindness you have shown and

See **CHICOPEE HIGH** page 7

Chicopee Comp awards diplomas to 252 graduates



STAFF PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

(L to R) Drew Orzechowski, Stefan Banar, Kyle Girard, Luke Theroux and Ava Lapa take a group photo with their diplomas after graduating from Chicopee Comprehensive High School on June 2.

The ceremony was held in the
high school’s gymnasium

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE - Families gathered in the gymnasium on June 2 for the Chicopee Comprehensive High School graduation ceremony.

Principal Andrew Lamothe was joined by distinguished guests including City Councilors and School Committee members, Interim Superintendent Alvin Morton, Assistant Superintendent Matthew Francis, retired principal Alfred Pinciak and more.

Class President Damen Serefino said the class is “one of the most historical,” graduating during a time of many challenges in the world.

He reflected on perseverance. “We made it this far, so why stop now? There is a whole world of adventure out there and, personally, I’ve been dreaming of graduating so I could go and explore it and leave my personal stamp on it. With a heavy heart full of every single emotion, I say goodbye. Go, seek out the truth,” Serefino said.

Mayor John Vieau said the graduates are stepping into uncharted territory, reminding them to stay humble and

See **CHICOPEE COMP** page 8

City Council discusses opt-out option for mail-in voting

A public hearing will be held for further discussion

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The City Council discussed the opt-out option for mail-in voting on June 6 by proposing the Finance Committee hold a public hearing.

The opt-out, if approved, would happen ahead of the upcoming 2023 primary and general election.

Ward 6 Councilor Derek Dobosz is not in favor of opting out and appreciates the future committee discussion.

"I just think it's a bad time to change. I think it's going to throw off a lot of voters, some elderly voters. There's quite a few challengers this year, and I think it's going to throw off some campaigns. I just think it's in bad taste for us to do this this close to the election," Dobosz said.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier said "elections are not the same as they used to be" and mail-in voting was "an excellent tool" for voters.

He presented the idea of turning to the state to help offset costs.

"The state has a surplus of billions. The City of Chicopee does not. I would like to see us reach out to our state representatives to see if they could help us with this in order to help offset the costs," Balakier said.

Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne said "we have to invest in our voters and give them every opportunity to vote."

"It may cost a lot of money for a little return, but every extra vote, every other person that we give the opportunity to vote is worth any penny that we spend," Courchesne said.

Ward 1 Councilor Joel McAuliffe favors the opt-out, stressing the concern is on the cities and towns incurring the costs themselves and the state not stepping up.

"It's irresponsible. It's financial mis-

management, in my opinion, for us to accept this without the state stepping up to the plate to do its part," McAuliffe said.

Ward 3 Councilor Delmarina López agreed with Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello's point on "voting is priceless."

"Democracy doesn't have a price tag. We can't just say because it costs x amount of dollars that we should not be providing another opportunity for people to exercise their right to vote," López said. "We would be hypocrites to take away people's right to vote in this manner simply because the price is higher than it has been in the past."

President/Councilor-At-Large Frank Laflamme explained a decision was not made and was brought to his attention by City Clerk Keith Rattell.

"It was just to get his letter out and that's why I put it forward to let people know how we all feel and that's what we're doing tonight," Laflamme said.

He added the importance of transparency to the taxpayers, then had Rattell read

the letter in full.

Rattell said the opt-out "does not take away anyone's right to vote."

"I am the cheerleader for voting. I want 100% participation for people to vote in this city. Whatever this council and whatever the Board of Registrars decides to do, we will do," Rattell said. "President Laflamme put it on the agenda so we could talk about it."

López appreciated Rattell sharing the letter, adding "there are opportunities" to speak with the state delegation.

"I'm sure if we spoke to our state delegation, they would be more than happy to try to at least find some way to subsidize this because, yes, it may be a large sum of money, but I think they would also agree that democracy has no price tag," López said.

After further discussion, an amended motion to bring the issue to the Finance Committee for a public hearing and send a letter to the state delegation requesting reimbursement passed 13-0.



Delmarina López

Delmarina López announces run for Chicopee mayor

Ward 3 City Councilor to challenge Mayor John Vieau

CHICOPEE - On June 1, Delmarina López formally announced her run for mayor of Chicopee. López currently represents Ward 3 on the City Council.

López is an educator, attorney and small business owner. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Bay Path University, a law degree from West-

ern New England University School of Law and is a proud graduate of Chicopee High.

"I'm running for mayor because we need a leader who will put our city back on track," said López. "All residents deserve a voice in our city government and to know how our tax dollars are being spent. Transparency has not been a priority for the current administration. Mayor Vieau has allowed crime to rise,

housing costs to skyrocket and defunded the schools, putting our future in jeopardy."

Drawing upon her experience as a small business owner and advocate, she emphasized, "Every day, I help entrepreneurs start and grow their small businesses," said López. "I know how to manage operations, balance budgets, create jobs, and advocate for our residents."

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VP, Marketing

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Police department debuts new ice cream truck



PHOTOS COURTESY OF OFFICER TRAVIS ODIORNE

The Chicopee Police Department will be more present in the community this summer thanks to its new ice cream truck.

Police department debuts new ice cream truck

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE – In an effort to increase its community presence, the police department has debuted its new ice cream truck.

“The truck is finally up and running,” Officer Travis Odiorne said. “On a nice day, if the kids are out, we can put some ice cream in the truck, drive around to

the parks or the pools and hand out ice cream.”

The truck has already made appearances at Sunshine Village and at events such as last month’s Bike Rodeo. On Aug. 7, it will be present at National Night Out and it is sure to be spotted in the community many times before then.

“It’s a way to have the kids be more involved with the police in the area,” Odiorne said.

Although the truck hasn’t made many stops yet, Odiorne said feedback has been great, and the four or five officers who use the truck have really enjoyed it.

It also provides the children with an

opportunity to interact with the police in non-emergency situations.

“It’s a great idea for us to be out there just giving away (ice cream) to the kids, having conversations with the kids when they come up to us, letting them see we’re there for other reasons than having a bad situation,” Odiorne said.

The truck is supplied through All Star Dairy Foods, Inc. in South Hadley on New Ludlow Road. The newly-founded Chicopee Police Association pays for the ice cream, although PTOs are asked to fund the purchases for school events.

Odiorne said the department won’t

announce the truck’s schedule on Facebook and that it will be somewhat random when and where it makes its appearances.

“We’ll be driving through the neighborhoods and if we see a group of kids out we’ll just stop with the truck and have some positive interactions with the youths this summer,” he said.

Odiorne credits the City of Chicopee with thinking outside of the box in its support for the ice cream truck.

“We’re always trying to come up with ways with the city of Chicopee to get out and be more interactive with our community, and I think this is a great way to do it,” he said.

López, Chicopee mayoral candidate, calls for an independent audit

Potentially hundreds of thousands in taxpayer dollars wasted, including paying insurance for deceased persons

CHICOPEE- (Courtesy of Ward 3 City Councilor Delmarina López) Reports have emerged that the city has wrongfully paid hundreds of thousands in health care premiums, some even on behalf of deceased persons. Ward 3 City Councilor and candidate for mayor, Delmarina López, is calling for an audit and investigation.

“Taxpayers need to know that their elected leaders are responsible for their hard earned dollars. They deserve to

know where their money is going and that their local government can effectively manage its operations,” she said. “I am calling for an independent audit and investigation into this matter. At best this is mismanagement and a devastating oversight, at worst this is criminal corruption and completely failed City leadership. I’m calling for an audit with an auditor that the city has never had dealings with in the past.”

Councilor López has called for protecting the current employees who have come forward with this information as well as all past, present, and future city employees who choose to bravely come forward to protect Chicopee taxpayers. Councilor López raised this issue on the City Council on June 6.

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GUEST COLUMN



The dialogue of democracy needs tending

There are so many things I worry about these days. Are we going to default on our debts? Can we adapt to the accumulating impact of climate change? How are we going to handle the dangers posed by China and Russia?

But bigger than all of those is this: Can we as a nation confront those challenges by arriving, together, at reasonable solutions? Or to put it another way, do we even know any more how to carry on a public dialogue about the issues we face and how to resolve them?

Because I worry – a lot – that we’re losing our ability to engage in the reasoned dialogue that democracy demands of us. The evidence surrounds us: the hot-tempered dogmatism that’s rampant on social media, the take-no-prisoners rhetoric of cable commentators, the shallow political debate carried on by everyone from pundits trying to gin up an audience to politicians who should know better, the widespread impatience with others’ viewpoints, the shrill and even offensive language that permeates public debate – you know the problem as well as I do.

And it is a problem.

If Americans lose faith that our democracy is up to the task of addressing our challenges because we’re incapable of holding a discussion that isn’t distorted by spin, misleading studies, grassroots manipulation, untrustworthy media and political leaders who wouldn’t publicly recognize a fact if it smacked them in the forehead, then the travails of the last few years will seem like a cakewalk.

So, I have some suggestions. Because in the end, if we want the quality of public dialogue to improve, then it’s up to us to improve it – and then let our political leaders know that we expect more than political posturing that produces inadequate solutions to difficult problems.

Living in a democracy takes work, and that applies to all of us, from voters who cast their ballot every few years to neighbors who roll up their sleeves and try to improve their communities to elected officials whose job it is to decide the course of their town or state or country.

Here are basic principles we need to keep in mind:

Don’t fear differences or dissent. They’re inevitable, and they are vital to looking at challenges from all sides.

Advocacy and even conflict have their place in a democracy, but in the end, we resolve differences and break gridlock through discussion and deliberation.

Which means that the goal is not to highlight or inflame our political differences, but to resolve and reconcile them. The highest good should be to search for compromise, where everyone is at least a partial winner.

Remember that political differences may be stark, but that doesn’t mean they’re irreconcilable.

Focus on facts. They’re the starting point for level headed debate and effective policy. As citizens, it’s our job to find trustworthy sources of information, question our own biases, and discern when we’re being misled; as politicians, to strive always to seek the truth about the facts.

View one another as neighbors, fellow community members or colleagues who all want the same thing: what’s best for our country and for where we live. Find common ground and build trust from there.

It is always worth the time to understand others’ viewpoints – and to talk. You may not just find common ground, but ways to im-

GUEST COLUMN



I’m approaching 65 should I claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty: I am fast approaching 65 (in August) and plan to continue working full time. I would like to know the implications of that, and about drawing Social Security. Same question for my husband who is past his full retirement age (he will be 67 this year) and he continues to work full time. Signed: Still Working

Dear Still Working: Married couples should always coordinate their retirement strategy and you’re very smart to do so. Born in 1958, your Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 8 months. Your FRA is the point at which your earnings from work no longer affect your Social Security benefits, but if you claim at age 65 and continue to work full time, you will be limited to how much you can earn before they take away some or perhaps all of your benefits. Here’s what will happen if you claim Social Security to start in August when you are 65.

Your SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced by 11% (you’ll get 89% of your FRA entitlement). Your monthly amount will only change thereafter due to Cost of Living Adjustments.

If you start your benefits in August you will be subject to an earnings limit, either a monthly limit of \$1,770 for the remaining months of the year or the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If the monthly limit is exceeded you aren’t entitled to benefits for that month, or if the annual limit is exceeded they will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the annual limit. Social Security will use whichever method yields the smallest penalty.

Beginning in 2024, you will be subject only to Social Security’s annual earnings limit, which will be something more than the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If you exceed the 2024 (or 2025) annual limit, Social Security

will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). The annual limit will be in effect until you reach your full retirement age of 66 years and 8 months in April 2026.

Since your husband has already reached his FRA, working full time will not negatively affect his monthly Social Security benefits if he chooses to claim his SS benefits now. However, if he hasn’t yet claimed your husband is already earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which will increase his benefit when he later claims. DRCs are earned monthly (.667% per month; 8% per year) and can be earned up to age 70 when maximum SS benefit is attained. For your husband, his age 70 benefit would be 29% more than he was entitled to at his FRA. Whether it is wise to wait longer to claim depends on life expectancy, but break even age is about 83 for those who wait until 70 to claim vs. claiming at FRA. FYI, average life expectancy for a man your husband’s current age is about 84; for you about 87.

Since you are both still working full time, be aware that depending on your combined income from all sources your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income. As a married couple both working full time, your combined income will likely be over the \$44,000 threshold after which income tax will be levied on up to 85% of your Social Security benefits received during the tax year using your normal IRS tax rate. I suggest you consider the income tax implications of claiming Social Security while you are still working full time.

You did not ask about Medicare, but if you and your husband now have “creditable” healthcare coverage from your employer (“creditable” is a group plan with at least 20 participants) you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your employer healthcare coverage ends, thus avoiding the Medicare Part B premium while you are working.

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Last day of school quiz...(match the faces)

- a. Teacher
- b. Principal
- c. Janitor
- d. Student
- e. Mom
- f. Bus driver



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prove your own ideas. And when you do search for commonalities, talk about common concerns first and differences second.

Focus on the common good.

Do not speculate on rivals’ motivations or demonize them. Focus on their ideas – and see them as just as human as you are.

Sometimes drama can be effective, but always maintain civility and convey respect for people who think differently from you.

Finally, always keep in mind that you may be

wrong. The world is complicated and solutions to its challenges are never perfect or straightforward.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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

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IN THE CITY

CEL visits Litwin School



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF LITWIN SCHOOL

CHICOPEE – Sgt. Robert R. Litwin School would like to thank Mr. Gouley and Chicopee Electric Light for their informative electric safety presentation earlier this week. The students enjoy this event every year.



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GRADUATION 2023

Chicopee Academy



Jade Charette receives the Principal's Award from Principal John Leonard.



Vice Principal Martha Skiba hugs class speaker Inelise Diaz during Chicopee Academy's graduation ceremony.



Sixteen students graduated from Chicopee Academy on June 1.

CHICOPEE ACADEMY from page 1

Leonard noted that the class is an "interesting group," explaining that it began the school year with about 17 students. Several were unable to complete the school year for various reasons, but several underclassmen defied expectations and graduated early.

Leonard said the beginning of the school year was difficult and that the group was far from ready to graduate and move on to their next steps in life. He said the students were hitting tough stretches and not handling them the right way.

However, when the class returned from winter vacation, it flipped a switch. Leonard said the students became the leaders of the school that they needed to be but he was unsure of the

magic formula.

"To be honest with you, if I knew what it was, I would bottle it and sell it and be a millionaire, but I don't know what it was. They worked together. They worked with the teachers, the staff and everybody, and it was just very, very rewarding the second half of the school year," he said.

Leonard reflected on the group, which first met during the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the students were quite behind. Some of the graduates were missing 25 credits when they entered the Academy.

Now, the entire class graduated with over 110 credits, having passed three MCAT tests. Leonard complimented their resiliency.

"These 16 graduates have matured, grown, finished what they started," he said. "These individuals have held true to their

word, prioritized their education, did not worry about some distractions they had in their lives, and many of the students had many distractions, but they found a way to put them aside or grow because of their mistakes."

Half of the class has been accepted to HCC or STCC. Others have already found employment. Leonard believes that all of the graduates have a bright future.

"I really believe you all are ready to be successful. Take advantage of new opportunities that lie ahead of you. Be confident because we are confident in your abilities," he said.

Student speaker Inelise Diaz graduated early. She entered the Academy after struggling with attendance at her former school, but she found momentum and support in the new building.

"My mom was really disappointed in me so I had to make it up to her. Two years later in 2023, after all the hard work, I'm standing here in front of you about to graduate on time. A big part of the reason I'm here is because of the people graduat-

ing with me. I love y'all," Diaz said.

Diaz thanked the faculty, staff and administration for its belief in the class. She is confident that the obstacles the class overcame will serve as fuel for future accomplishments.

"Today marks the end of one chapter but the beginning of a new one," she said. "We all stand here having overcome a number of challenges already. Undoubtedly, we'll face more, but earning our high school diplomas is something we'll always be able to look back at as a victory and accomplishment; something that will help us prepare for whatever comes ahead."

The Academy Class of 2023 includes Jamil Carrasquillo, Jade Charette, Destiny Cruz, Inelise Diaz, Ryan Gallagher, Sebastian Johnson, Kylie Lussier, William Mercado, Adam Monteiro, Caleb O'Brien, Quincy Ononiua, Jamar Privette, Allen Rosario, Daniel Vasilevich, Brian Velazquez and Kyleigh White.

Charette was awarded with the Principal's Award.



Interim Superintendent Alvin Morton speaks during Chicopee Academy's graduation ceremony last Thursday.



Principal John Leonard waves to the crowd on June 1.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI



The Class of 2023 claps for their parents and guardians on June 1.

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GRADUATION 2023

Chicopee High School



Principal Carol Kruser gives remarks during the Chicopee High School graduation at Szot Park on June 1.

STAFF PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS



Keiara Hawes, president of the class of 2023, addresses her fellow classmates during the Chicopee High School graduation at Szot Park on June 1.



Salutatorian Catriona Moreno stands on stage as her mother presents her with the salutatorian medal during the Chicopee High School graduation at Szot Park on June 1. Moreno then read her salutatorian address to the graduating class.



Valedictorian Ella Florence hugs her mother on stage after receiving the valedictorian medal during the Chicopee High School graduation at Szot Park on June 1. Florence then read her valedictorian address to the graduating class.

CHICOPEE HIGH from page 1

the positive changes you have sparked," Morton said.

Class President Keiara Hawes said the graduates have been through so much but are still together.

"We are all here today, together, celebrating what is just the beginning. Together: that is one word that always comes out the lips of someone when they mention our class. How we do things together, we party together, we hang out together, we lose together, we celebrate together, and that is one thing I pride myself so much about my own class," Hawes said.

Salutatorian Catriona Moreno reminded graduates to be kind, crediting family and friends for this lesson.

She will be attending Dartmouth College.

"So whether you have every stepping stone in your future planned out or if you look to tomorrow with an unforeseeable gaze and a heart full of worry, just know that somewhere, someplace, someone feels the same way you do and it's okay to have worries or doubts about what life after today will be like," Moreno said.

Valedictorian Ella Florence will decide between Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland or the University of Vermont, reflecting on living life with fulfillment, knowledge, feeling emotion and accepting failure.

"Remember, you control your own story. You write your own too," Florence said. "You may write your own novel,

but there's tons of editors and co-authors along the way that contribute to your story."

Her mother put the Valedictorian medal on her during the ceremony.

"Me and my mother are very close, so we both started crying a little bit. It was a very meaningful moment," Florence said.

Blaize Pierce will attend Lasell University to major in Criminal Justice and play basketball. She was on the basketball team and the only one of her siblings to graduate from Chicopee High, as her four siblings graduated from Chicopee Comprehensive High School.

She will miss her friends and team.

"I really loved the environment that was provided for all sorts of sports that were here," Pierce said.

Zachary Breton, meanwhile, will be joining the Army National Guard and was part of the Junior ROTC.

In addition to friends, he will also miss the Junior ROTC and his favorite teacher, Major Kyle Bates.

"It's a very good class. I had a lot of fun with them and getting to know them through the years," Breton said.

Riana Austin will attend Westfield State University to study Health Science and is interested in the medical field.

She's excited about the next chapter and will miss everyone she's grown up with.

"It's a very loving class. It's a very supportive class. I'm very, very happy to be part of it. I'm very glad I was a part of it," Austin said.



Riana Austin holds her diploma and gifts including graduation balloons, a teddy bear dressed as a doctor and flowers after graduating from Chicopee High School on June 1.



Genesis Torres shows off her creative graduation cap about believing in herself after the Chicopee High School graduation at Szot Park on June 1.



Zachary Breton, a member of the Chicopee High School Air Force Junior ROTC, holds his diploma after graduating from Chicopee High School.



A "Finding Nemo" themed graduation cap was another of numerous graduation caps designed by the graduating class of 2023.



Blaize Pierce poses for a photo with her father after graduating from Chicopee High School on June 1.



Chicopee High School graduates begin to toss their caps in celebration after graduating from Chicopee High School on June 1

GRADUATION 2023

Chicopee Comprehensive



A handful of patterns, colors and themes designed by students adorn graduation caps during the Chicopee Comprehensive High School graduation ceremony on June 2.

STAFF PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

(L to R) Zachary Lafond, Kaiden LaCrosse, Brandon Labrecque, Nathaniel Lecca and Brandon Lebeau hold their hands over their hearts during the National Anthem at the Chicopee Comprehensive High School graduation ceremony.

CHICOPEE COMP from page 1

be bold.

“Remember that saying goodbye to Chicopee Comp doesn’t mean leaving behind the experiences or knowledges that you’ve gained here. Rather, you carry them with you as invaluable tools that will help you shape the future with what you want and deserve,” Vieau said.

Salutatorian Kyler Viafara is graduating with a 102.57 cumulative average and will attend Holyoke Community College, reflecting on the value of heroes and recognizing them in his speech.

“I would like to ask that all of you do me a favor. Find as many people that you can that have led you to this moment and please thank them for all they’ve done

for you. Whether it be a parent, guardian, teacher, friend, family member, loved one, bus driver, whoever you can find to thank. Thank them,” Viafara said.

Valedictorian Jovante Gonzalez is graduating with a 103.5 cumulative average and will attend Amherst College to major in Biochemistry with a future in medical.

He reflected on working closely with his classmates throughout high school.

“I can truly say that I’ve been able to work with the most smartest, skillful and supportive individuals. I truly believe that I am standing here today giving this speech because of the people that I’ve been able to work with on a daily basis. They have pushed me not only to be better academically, but also as a human overall,” Gonzalez said.

Lamothe told graduates to not limit themselves and remember “the importance of continuous learning and personal growth.”

“Give each day your best effort. Embrace the opportunities before you, stay true to your values and use your unique talents to make a difference in the world,” Lamothe said.

Destiny Shumway will major in Biology at Elms College and later plans to do the pre-veterinary program at UMass Amherst.

Elijah Ramirez, meanwhile, will attend trade school to become an electrician.

Shumway and Ramirez will miss their teachers.

“I will miss Mr. Dwyer, my math teacher, because he connected with the

students in a way where we really understood each other and he made it fun. I’m not a math person and I did really well in that class,” Shumway said.

“I would say Mr. Desormier. He’s a great electrical teacher, taught me everything I know,” Ramirez said.

Emmie Jones is also going to Elms College and will major in graphic design and studio arts.

Eric Martins will look for a job in the automotive industry when he turns 18.

Jones and Martins want the community to know the Class of 2023 made an impact and will in the future.

“I would say that we made a huge impact and that our impact on the school will help the community grow,” Jones said.

“If we can do it, anyone can,” Martins said.



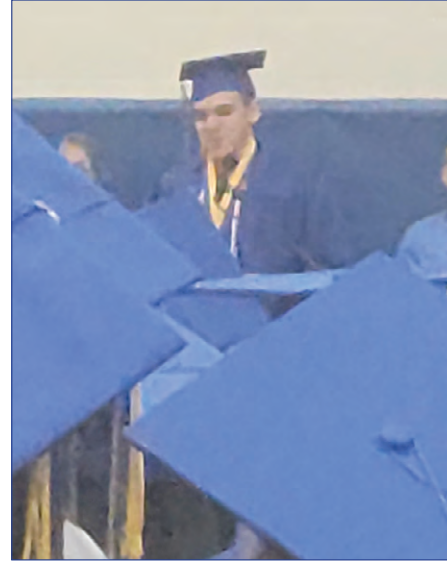
Principal Andrew Lamothe addresses the graduating class during the Chicopee Comprehensive High School graduation ceremony on June 2.



Damien Serafino, class president, welcomes everyone, including the 2023 graduates, at the Chicopee Comprehensive High School graduation.



Salutatorian Kyler Viafara addresses his classmates during his salutatorian speech at the Chicopee Comprehensive High School graduation ceremony.



Valedictorian Jovante Gonzalez reflects on his time at Chicopee Comprehensive High School in his address to graduates.

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS



John Henry Vieau!

We are so proud of you and look forward to your next chapter. Best of luck at Westfield State University!

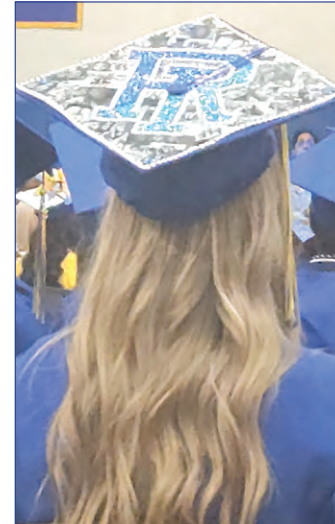
Love,
Mom & Meme



(L to R) Emmie Jones and Eric Martins celebrate graduation after graduating from Chicopee Comprehensive High School on June 2.



(L to R) Destiny Shumway and Elijah Ramirez hold up their diplomas for their photo after graduating from Chicopee Comprehensive High School on June 2.



A close-up of a creatively designed “R” on a graduation cap.



Sports

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Softball season ends with pair of wins



Arliz Rolon gets ready to fire first.



Janeida Torres slaps a tag on the runner.

CHICOPEE – After not qualifying for tournament with just three wins in 2023, the Chicopee High School softball team ended their season a couple of weeks ago with a pair

of non-playoff games. One of them was against Pathfinder Regional.

The Pacers offense came alive and Chicopee captured a 21-8 victory in six innings over

the Pioneers. Four Pacers had three hits each, and Kali Riley and Janeida Torres had four RBI each. Chicopee would also beat Athol in that final week to finish 5-13 overall.



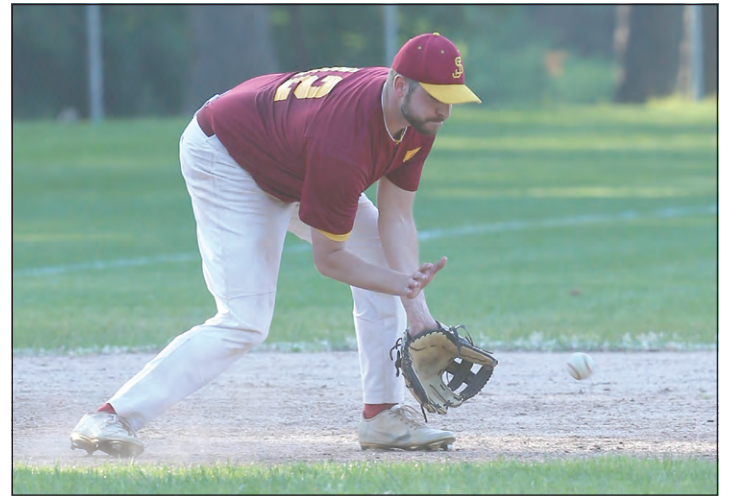
PHOTOS BY JACKCASCIO NEAP:SMUGMUG.COM

Caroline Vieu makes solid contact with this pitch.



Jai-Lin Garven-Martin fires it in from the mound.

Tri-County Baseball back in action



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

St. Joe's Brandon Magni fields a grounder.

CHICOPEE – Last week, Tri-County Baseball was back in action with a number of games on the slate, though only four actually played due to rainouts. The Tri-County has gone through some turnover and some teams not making their way back to the league in recent years. This year, there are only six teams in the league, with Easthamp-

ton Savings Bank, a prominent member of the league for many years, not on the schedule this year. Regulars featuring players from all over the region including PeoplesBank, the Chicopee Falls Tigers, St. Joseph's, and DiFranco Realty are back this year. The Tri-County League, which features adult baseball, runs through the end of July.



Jason Byers pitches for the Tigers



Brandon Clark makes the out at first.

Western Mass. battles to draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW - Joao Bernardo has been the public address announcer at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow for many years.

While Bernardo announced his normal messages to the crowd during last Saturday night's USL League Two match-up between the Black Rock FC and the Western Mass. Pioneers, he didn't make his famous goal call. The contest, which was played on a fall like evening, ended in a scoreless draw.

"We had 22 shots on goal in tonight's match, but we couldn't put any of them into the net," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "We always want to win every game that we play, especially at home."

It has been more than seven

years since the Pioneers (3-0-2) played a 0-0 match at Lusitano Stadium. They have played three scoreless road draws since 2018. The last one was two years ago against Black Rock FC, who currently play their home matches at Colby-Sawyer College in New London, New Hampshire.

During the past several years, Black Rock has played home matches at MCLA in North Adams and at Applejack Stadium in Manchester Center, Vermont.

The Pioneers outscored their first four opponents, 17-2. They scored ten of those goals in a 10-1 road victory against Boston City FC on May 30.

"We weren't really tested in our last game," said Pioneers starting defender Conor Hicks, who's from Monson. "We hit the post or crossbar at least four or five times in tonight's game. The ball just

didn't bounce our way and it's a very tough result. We still haven't lost a match yet so far this season.

Hicks, who's one of the Pioneers veteran players, missed the season opening road match against the Boston Bolts, which was a 3-0 win, with an injury. He played the final 45 minutes in the home opener versus Pathfinder FC, which was also a 3-0 victory, before starting the past three matches.

Western Mass. first-year goalie Gianluca Cersosimo only had to make two saves against Black Rock to record his third shutout of the season.

The last time that Black Rock (1-1-2) celebrated a victory at Lusitano Stadium was during the 2018 regular season.

"We just wanted to con-

See **PIONEERS** page 10



Rodrigo Saraiva de Castro socks the ball away.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Augustine Boadi tries to balance the ball.

Kimball wins inaugural Winchester Open 100

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Saturday night's inaugural Winchester Open 100 might have been a new experience for fans and racers alike, but it ended with a familiar face in victory lane.

Monadnock Speedway graduate Matthew Kimball put his home-track expertise to work, besting a 24-car field to win the first-ever JDV Open Modified feature at the Winchester, N.H. bullring.

Kimball held off Carl Medeiros Jr. and Ryan Doucette to score one of the biggest wins of his Modified career thus far.

Inclement weather delayed the start of Saturday's main event, but did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of Kimball, who raced Mini Stocks at "Mad Dog" before making a career shift to Tour-type Modifieds. The Bennington, N.H. racer started from the pole, yielding to Monadnock veteran Todd Patnode on lap eight of the 100-circuit feature. Chris Pasteryak settled into third with Kirk Alexander fourth when a turn-three spin brought out the night's first caution.

Patnode immediately ducked down pit road, handing the lead back to Kimball. Alexander and Sam Rameau charged into third on the restart, while Pasteryak's hopes for a solid finish turned bleak when contact left the Connecticut racer sideways in turn two with 60 laps to go.

Rameau, who started 22nd, pounced on Kimball two restarts later to take the lead. Rameau set a fast pace, but Kimball was able to keep up, turning up the heat as slower traffic came into play. Early contender Alexander went for a backstretch spin with 17 laps left, though, eliminating the lapped-traffic wildcard and pitting Rameau against Kimball for the restart.

On the green flag, Rameau cleared Kimball for the lead, but Kimball loomed large in his mirror, tracing the curbs and keeping Rameau from building an advantage. With 11 laps left, Kimball dove inside on the backstretch, getting alongside Rameau in the turns and taking the lead back. Ryan Doucette threw his car to Rameau's inside to steal second, upsetting Rameau and letting Kimball escape. Another bobble from Rameau slowed the field, with



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Matthew Kimball took the win last Saturday at Monadnock Speedway.

Medeiros charging from the high line to take second as the top five shuffled.

Kimball was hardly home free, as another spin with six laps left forced a late-race restart. But the youngster got the jump on Medeiros coming to the green, and as Doucette made a bid for second, Kimball was able to get away once again, coasting home to one of his biggest Modified wins yet and pocketing \$5,000 for the evening.

Medeiros held on for a strong second-place finish, with Doucette third at the line. Richard Savary drove back from a late pit stop to finish fourth, while Pasteryak salvaged a fifth-place finish.

Leading into the Winchester Open 100, Tom Harwood won his second straight New England Dwarf Car Series feature only a week after capturing the checkers at Lee USA Speedway. Adrian Smith won the Young Guns feature, while Robert Hagar topped the NHSTRA Late Models feature and Chris Davis came away with a win in the Pure Stocks main event.

JDV Productions' next scheduled event is the second annual Clash at Claremont on Saturday, July 29, featuring the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour in their fourth-ever appearance at Claremont Motorsports Park in New Hampshire's Upper Valley. Further information on this special event will be released in the coming weeks.

For more information on JDV Produc-

tions, visit JDVProductions.com and follow on social media for the latest updates throughout the season, including updates from the track on race day with feature winner posts.

Results: Winchester Open Modified 100 Monadnock Speedway June 3

1. (43) Matthew Kimball
2. (50) Carl Medeiros, Jr.
3. (55) Ryan Doucette
4. (99) Richard Savary
5. (5CT) Chris Pasteryak
6. (02) Geoff Rollins
7. (1) Nathan Wenzel
8. (76) Kirk Alexander
9. (11X) Tyler Leary
10. (24) Todd Patnode
11. (04) Joey Jarvis
12. (17) Donnie Lashua
13. (95) Cory Plummer
14. (23) Bradley Zahensky
15. (13) Cameron Sontag
16. (06) Sam Rameau
17. (27) Derek Robbie
18. (02MA) Paul LaPlante
19. (99X) Kimberly Rivet
20. (7) Kurt Vigeant
21. (47) Jacob Perry
22. (51) Adam LaPoint
23. (24X) Cornelius Flynn
24. (30CT) Gary Byington

PIONEERS from page 9

tain their high power offense in tonight's match," said Black Rock head coach Jon Moody. "They have the top goal scorer in the league, and we were looking to keep the game close. We did have a couple of scoring chances late in the second half. We do have a lot of respect for them."

Alec Hughes, who's a member of the UMass men's soccer team, leads the Pioneers with seven goals.

Hughes had four shots on goal during the first 45 minutes against Black Rock.

During the 24th minute, Hughes, who's a first year Western Mass. player,

blasted a shot that was saved by Black Rock goalie Pablo Costa (22 saves), who's from Brazil.

"Their goalie played fantastic," Molinari said. "He kept his team in the game."

About five minutes later, Pioneers captain Nicholas Oberrauch, who celebrated his 24th birthday on Monday, fired a laser shot, which Costa deflected over the endline resulting in a corner kick.

With a little more than ten minutes remaining in the opening half, Black Rock's Jaland Laramond had a wide open shot attempt, but the ball was cleared away by Connor Bagdon before crossing the line.

The trio of Khalid Rose, Laurie God-

dard, and Augustine Boadi had shots on goals for the Pioneers in the first half.

During a ceremony held at halftime, the Lusitano Alumni and Fans (LAF) committee presented scholarships to Cassie Pendleton, who graduated from Ware High School, and Kyle Girouard, who graduated from Chicopee Comp.

The Pioneers had several more scoring opportunities during the second half, but they couldn't put the ball into the net past Costa.

There was seven minutes of stoppage time, but the contest was still scoreless when referee Fabio Cardoso blew his whistle for the final time.

Opening weekend for Blue Sox

HOLYOKE - The Valley Blue Sox return to MacKenzie Stadium next week, with their first home game on Thursday, June 8 at 6:35 p.m. The team will then have three more home games June 9, 10, and 11. There will be a special promotion for all fans who attend all 4 home games this coming weekend.

The team announced that any fans who attend all four games June 8-11 will receive their choice of either four flex tickets to any of the remaining home games this season, or early access to a new Blue Sox T-shirt before they go on sale. Fans will receive a punch card on Opening Night that will be filled in with different colored stickers at each game until all four are collected after the weekend.

On Opening Night the team will be facing the Bristol Blues and giving away magnet schedules. The following night, Friday June 9 at 6:35 p.m. vs. the Ocean State Wolves, the team will be hosting Isenberg Night, and giving away T-shirts sponsored by Isenberg School of Management.

The first 100 UMass students to show their UCard upon entry will receive a voucher for one free meal and drink. Saturday June 10 at 6:35 p.m. vs. the North Shore Navigators, Boston Beer Co. will be sponsoring a Dogfish Tasting night, and fans will be able to enter a Red Sox/Sam Adams bench raffle. Finally on Sunday June 11 at 3 p.m. vs. the Martha's Vineyard Sharks, the City of Holyoke will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary with the team. Fans are encouraged to come show their support for the start of the new season, and the Blue Sox look forward to seeing fans back at MacKenzie Stadium next Thursday.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." 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.

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Events and announcements

Chicopee Pride Fest 2023

A celebration of identity, love and acceptance

CHICOPEE – The 2023 Chicopee Pride Fest will take place in Chicopee, rain or shine, on June 9 and June 10. On Friday, June 9 from 2:30-4:30 p.m., we will have the Pride Flag Raising, followed by an educational panel with a socially themed discussion at the Chicopee Public Library. The Pride Fest Celebration will take place on Saturday, June 10 from 3-9 p.m. at Szołt Park.

Our Pride Flag raising, the educational panel and our annual Pride celebration will provide the community with the opportunity to learn about the experiences of living as a member of the LGBTQ+ community, to learn about how to get involved in the civic actions in defense of the LGBTQ+ community and to celebrate Pride. During the Chicopee Pride Fest, guests will be able to browse various vendors, food trucks, games, informational tables, and enjoy our programmed entertainment.

The first Chicopee Pride Fest originated three years ago by Johnny Miranda, under the sponsorship of the Chicopee Cultural Council and served as a beacon of hope. Each year brings new ideas, a renewed sense of acceptance and joy to the community. Currently the event is a collaborated effort incorporating a mesh of ideas, values and standards. The Chicopee Pride Fest planning Committee is an extension of the Chicopee Cultural Council. Members of such committee have worked tirelessly this year to ensure a safe and memorable experience, under the valued leadership of Emarie Leatherwood during the 2023 planning process. The event is funded by the Chicopee Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and sponsored the City of Chicopee, and organizations like Baby Safe Haven, the Chicopee Public Library and Chicopee Police Department among others.

Police department to hold Youth Police Academy this summer

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Police Department will be holding its Youth Police Academy again this summer and applications are now available. This is a great experience for kids aged 14-17 to come together and learn about law enforcement, team building and problem solving. If you would like more information or have questions about the program please contact Officer Mark Hammon at Mhammon@chicopeepolice.com.

Chicopee to offer CPR/AED & first aid training class

CHICOPEE – The Parks Department is offering a certification class in First Aid/cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator on Saturday, June 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Chicopee Parks & Recreation Dept. 687 Front St. This class is open to people ages 11 and up.

The cost for the full class is \$80 for residents and \$85 for non-residents. These are basic certifications and do not apply for daycare providers, lifeguards and nurses. Participants are invited to bring a snack. Class space is limited! To register go to www.chicopeerec.com Deadline to sign up is Thursday June 20.

CHICOPEE – SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, Sept. 23 under the Pavilion at Moose Lodge 1849, 244 Fuller Road, Chicopee. All you can eat BBQ Menu. 4-10 p.m. Please keep watch on our Facebook Page: “Chicopee Comprehensive - Class of 1983” as all details will be posted there. Please pass on this information to all Classmates so all can attend.

Upcoming June events at the Chicopee Public Library

CHICOPEE – The following events will occur at the Chicopee Public Library at 449 Front St.

Wednesday, June 14, 21, 28 at 6 p.m. Evening Yoga

Yoga classes with Carolyn Ruzala will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm. Class will be held outside behind the library if weather permits and in the Community Room if needed. Please have the following props available for class: yoga mat or a blanket and strap or scarf. For more information, email or call the Reference Desk at cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org and 594-1800 x3.

This program is sponsored in part by the Friends of the Chicopee Public Library.

Thursday, June 15, 22, 29 at 6-6:45 p.m. ASL Class

The Library is offering a beginning, four-week ASL Class for adults. The Class will be taught by SIGNING Basics from Springfield. Registration is required.

Call the library at 413-594-1800x3 or email us at cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org to register or for more information.

Wednesday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia

Join us at the Chicopee Public Li-

brary for a FREE presentation about the differences between Alzheimer's disease and dementia presented by the Alzheimer's Association. This talk will cover the early warning signs of dementia, risk factors, the importance of early detection, and local resources. All are welcome!

Tuesday, June 20 at 6:30 p.m. Poetry and the Spoken Word

Do you write poetry? Do you love the spoken word? The Chicopee Public Library is starting up a new program on the third Tuesday of every month, “Poetry and the Spoken Word” with local poet, Mary Jennings. Our next meeting is June 20. Sign-ups will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 7 p.m. Come join us to share your favorite poems, do a dramatic reading, share a favorite monologue or just listen.

Teens (16+) and adults are welcome. This program is supported by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the MA Cultural Council, a state agency.

Summer Reading is coming up! Summer reading will run from June 26 – Aug. 18 and is available to all ages. Check out www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org to learn more.

Veterans Services Department donates LEGOs



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Police Department thanks the Department of Veterans Services for their donation of Legos. The city's officers will hand them out to the kids while on patrol.

Westcomm executive director awarded State 9-1-1- Leader of the Year

CHICOPEE – WESTCOMM Regional Dispatch's Board of Directors is proud to announce Executive Director Erin Hastings has been awarded “Leader of the Year” by the Massachusetts State 9-1-1 Department and Massachusetts Communications Supervisors Association.

Hastings was presented the award during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week by FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel. NPSTW is celebrated annually during second full week of April to express thanks and appreciation for 9-1-1 public safety telecommunicators around the country.

The “Leader of the Year” award

was presented to Hastings at the State House in Boston recognizing her leadership contributions to WESTCOMM as the first Executive Director and Massachusetts Communications Supervisors Association as the current President. It celebrates Hastings citing her expansive knowledge of 9-1-1, her passion for public safety, her drive to set and achieve goals, and her strong advocacy for training and continuing education for 9-1-1 telecommunicators across the Commonwealth.

WESTCOMM Regional Dispatch is a regional 9-1-1 emergency communications center serving Chicopee, Longmeadow, Monson, East Longmeadow and Ware.

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Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

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COLLEGE NEWS

Devin Hammon named to Regis College's Spring 2023 Dean's List

WESTON – Devin Hammon of Chicopee was named to Regis College's spring 2023 Dean's List. Hammon was among those students who earned exemplary grades in their classes.

To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Regis sophomores, juniors, seniors, and professional studies students must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher; first-year students must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher.

Chicopee resident named to Bridgewater Dean's List

BRIDGEWATER – The following Chicopee resident was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester at Bridgewater State University: Amelia Mahabir.

Goodwin University names Chicopee residents to President's List

EAST HARTFORD, CT – Goodwin University's President's List for the Spring 2023 Session includes 270 students, all of whom scored a perfect 4.0 GPA. The following are from Chicopee: Isabelle Antonious, Shiloh Dombek and Sarah Johnson.

Bryer-Charette earns degree from Clark University

WORCESTER – Macy Bryer-Charette of Chicopee received a degree from Clark University during the University's 119th Commencement exercises on Sunday, May 21. Bryer-Charette graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Environmental Studies.

Chicopee residents named to Goodwin University's Dean's List

EAST HARTFORD, CT – Goodwin University announces 652 students achieved Dean's List status for the Spring 2023 session. The following are from Chicopee: Isabelle Antonious, Shiloh Dombek, Sarah Johnson and Savannah Tardy.

Kayla Comiske named to Lasell University Dean's List

NEWTON – Kayla Comiskey, a Lasell University student from Chicopee, was named to the Dean's List for their academic performance in the spring 2023 semester. The spring 2023 dean's list includes students who have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student in that semester and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Jennifer Rodriguez named to SNHU Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH – Jennifer Rodriguez of Chicopee has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Winter 2023 Dean's List. The winter terms run from January to May.

Matthew Ramcke honored at the College of Arts and Sciences Senior Awards Ceremony

SPRINGFIELD – Matthew Ramcke of Chicopee has received the Honor Graduate in Economics Award for his studies at Western New England University, awarded to the graduating senior with academic excellence in the study of Economics. The award was presented by Ranga Murthy, Professor of Economics.

Ramcke is working toward a BA in Economics.

Chicopee students named to Spring 2023 Dean's List at AIC

SPRINGFIELD – American International College in Springfield is pleased to announce that 495 students have been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2023 semester. Dean's List students attend full-time and have achieved a 3.3 to 4.0 GPA. AIC commends the efforts and accomplishments of these diligent and hard-working students. The following Dean's List students are from Chicopee:

Olivia Allaire, Giovanni Barbosa, Iris Correa Berly, Thalia Felix, Brianna Fontaine, Meghan Kalbaugh, Michael Mendez, Kevin Mrozinski, Giovanni Paz, Samara Robles, Shayliez Rosario, Isabella Spear, Da'Saun Stewart and Hunter Terlik

How your college student can study abroad safely

By Zev Faintuch

WASHINGTON, DC – With a new academic year now underway, hundreds of thousands of college students have left or are planning to leave home for semesters abroad.

Studying abroad is often a life-changing experience, and an opportunity to create lasting relationships and gain an appreciation for new cultures. Yet, it is not without its risks. Taking some time to assess various problematic scenarios and how to handle them can place your student in a much better, and much safer, position while they are traveling.

Health

Have a frank discussion with your child about their overall health. If they suffer from any chronic conditions, have a plan for treatment while they are away. Find out where they can receive quality specialist care, and how to get immediate help in a medical emergency.

On that note, it would also be wise to investigate your insurance programs and get a clear picture of what is and is not covered. Then, have a look at where your student is going to see if the local hospitals and clinics will accept your insurance or if you will need to up their credit card limit to cover any medical expenses out-of-pocket.

Be aware that public health management can vary from country to country. Some less developed nations struggle with illnesses that Americans typically don't even have to consider. COVID-19 still presents a significant health threat in many parts of the world, and the World Health Organization recently declared the spread of the Monkeypox virus to be a global health emergency. The Center for Disease Control's travel database can help keep you and your student up to date on the level of health risk involved in traveling throughout the world.

Finally, reinforce the importance of good hygiene and basic cleanliness to reduce the risks of infectious diseases, particularly if transmission rates are notably high in the area where your student is traveling. Regular hand washing, not sharing towels or bed-sheets, and disinfecting shared surfaces like desks or gym equipment are all sensible practices to help reduce the spread of illness.

Geopolitics

While we live in a world of bountiful possibility and excitement for young people looking to travel and learn, it's also unfortunately one with areas of increasing unrest and political instability. Violent clashes between governments and military forces threaten the safety of anyone that gets near them, regardless of the reason. The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine is a prime example - students should avoid all regions within 50 miles of the Ukrainian border and should not travel to Belarus or Transnistria, as doing so now risks arbitrary detainment.

The economic ramifications of this conflict are reverberating throughout Europe. Inflation, recession and energy shortage concerns are exactly the types of conditions that destabilize societies, mobilize citizens and trigger mass unrest. Anyone traveling to Europe should be aware of the economic and political landscape and avoid getting caught up in potentially volatile events like public protests.

When looking to study abroad, it is important that both you and your student have a clear understanding not just of a country's culture and customs, but their socio-political climate, as well.

Personal Safety

Communicate to your child the importance of knowing their surroundings. Situational awareness is paramount to mitigating risk-and avoiding a potentially dangerous predicament. As a rule, it is always best to blend in when possible. Sticking out - by being loud or wearing very different or expensive-looking clothing - can make someone into a target for theft or worse.

Tell your student to be mindful of where they go, and who they go with. They can visit the Department of State Travel Advisory site for the countries they plan on traveling to and get information on any cities or neighborhoods with particularly high crime rates or other threats. Also, encourage them to talk to locals to find out what areas to avoid.

It's easy to forget that what is legal and illegal in America may be different elsewhere in the world, so have your student get familiar with the laws of the country they will be visiting. Some countries, for example, forbid photographing critical infrastructure and police, military, and government buildings. The last thing anyone wants is to experience legal troubles abroad - as evidenced by Brittney Griner's recent drug conviction while visiting Russia - so it is critical to identify these novel laws ahead of time.

Timing can also be crucial in having a safe experience abroad. For example, students may want to avoid visiting some countries, particularly those with a history of political violence, during an election season. Seasonal weather should also be taken into account. Some countries experience extreme weather patterns, with extensive periods of massive rain or snowfall that could make air or land travel dangerous, particularly in less developed areas.

With some diligent research ahead of time, and by having a conversation with your student about situational awareness, you will be setting them up for a safe and fulfilling semester abroad.

Zev Faintuch is an Intelligence Analyst at international security firm Global Guardian. For more information, visit www.globalguardian.com.

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BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

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NFPA offers grilling safety tips to help reduce fires and injuries

Often considered the unofficial kickoff to summer, Memorial Day weekend is synonymous with outdoor celebrations and cookouts. With the holiday having just passed, and the warmer months upon us, the National Fire Protection Association® is working to ensure that people understand where potential grilling risks exist and ways to minimize them.

“Because outdoor grilling involves the use of a fuel source to generate an open flame, it inherently presents potential fire risks that needs to be taken seriously,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA.

NFPA data shows that between 2017 and 2021, U.S. fire departments responded to an annual average of 11,421 home fires involving grills, hibachis, or barbecues, including 5,763 structure fires and 5,659 outside or unclassified fires. These fires caused an annual average of two civilian deaths, 176 reported civilian injuries, and \$172 million in direct property damage. July was the leading month for grilling fires (16%), followed by June (14%), May (12%) and August (11%); grilling fires in November through February accounted for 4% or less each year.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, for the same fire-year period, an annual average of 22,155 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills. Nearly half (47%) of the injuries were thermal burns, including both burns from fire and from contact with hot objects. These burns typically occurred when someone, often a child, bumped into, touched or fell

on the grill, grill part or hot coals. In fact, children under five accounted for an average of 2,820 of the contact-type burns (46%) per year.

“These numbers reinforce that grilling fires can and do happen. However, there’s no need to avoid grilling during the months ahead,” said Carli. “Instead, by following simple safety precautions, people can greatly reduce the risk of experiencing a grilling fire.”

NFPA offers a wealth of tips, recommendations, and resources for grilling safely, including these key messages:

For propane grills, check the gas tank for leaks before use in the months ahead.

Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.

Place the grill well away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grilling area.

If you use starter fluid when charcoal grilling, only use charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. When you have or are finished grilling, let the coals cool completely before disposing in a metal container.

Never leave your grill unattended when in use.

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research and more, please visit the NFPA press room.

Vein specialist discusses common causes of leg, ankle and foot swelling and pain

Dr. K. Francis Lee offers insight and advice about when to seek treatment

SPRINGFIELD –Pain and swelling in legs, ankles and feet can happen anytime, but the incidence increases for several reasons as temperatures rise. K. Francis Lee, MD, FACS, RVT, RPVI, founder and medical director of Advanced Vein Care Center in Springfield, part of Center for Vein Restoration, discusses the most common causes of pain and swelling of the lower extremities during the spring and summer, and offers recommendations about when to seek medical care.

“People tend to become more active during the warmer months, which often leads to injuries including bruises, fractures, sprains and strains,” said Lee. “If you sustain an injury, you can expect some pain and swelling. Ice, rest, and over-the-counter pain medications can treat minor injuries. However, if the pain worsens over time or you can’t bear weight on the affected limb, seek urgent medical care.”

Venous insufficiency, a condition with which Lee, a board-certified general surgeon and vein surgery specialist, has decades of experience, can also cause pain and swelling in the lower extremi-

ties. Those affected may also experience heaviness and cramps or the appearance of spider or varicose veins.

“With venous insufficiency, the valves inside your veins aren’t functioning properly, which allows the blood to back up and pool in the lower veins,” explained Lee. “Pain, swelling and nighttime cramping are often the first symptoms. During warmer weather, the veins expand and hold more blood, intensifying pain and pressure. Untreated, venous insufficiency can lead to varicose veins, venous stasis and venous ulcers, as well as other serious consequences, so it’s important to see a vein specialist for evaluation and treatment.”

The sudden onset of significant pain and swelling, particularly if it affects only one leg, may indicate a blood clot or deep vein thrombosis, which can be deadly and requires immediate medical care, according to Lee.

“Blood clots can happen to anyone at any age, but several factors can put you at higher risk. Risks include being inactive for an extended period, such as when you are on a plane for a long trip,” Lee said. “Seek urgent medical care if you experience severe, sudden leg pain, swelling and fever as well as redness, warmth, itching and burning around the site of the pain.”

State Fire Marshal names new Fire Safety Division Director

Brian J. Ingram previously managed Bentley University Fire & Life Safety Operations

STOW – State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey recently welcomed Brian J. Ingram as director of the Fire Safety Division of the Department of Fire Services. Ingram has more than 30 years of fire and life safety experience, including 15 years in managing fire safety at institutions of higher learning and more than 20 years as a firefighter.

“The Fire Safety Division intersects with the fire service, the public, and regulated industries on a daily basis to protect the Commonwealth’s communities,” said Ostroskey. “Brian’s extensive background in fire safety, prevention, and protection make him uniquely suited to lead the Division, and it’s a great pleasure to welcome him to our team.”

The Fire Safety Division is one of four divisions within the Department of Fire Services. Its staff conduct and coordinate code compliance and enforcement, fire data collection and reporting, public education, licensing and certification, and other vital functions.

“Every individual, family, and com-

munity benefits from statewide fire safety resources,” Ingram said. “I’m excited to join the dedicated staff who deliver those resources every day, and I look forward to building on the tradition of excellence that the Fire Safety Division is known for.”

Ingram comes to the Department of Fire Services from Bentley University, where he served as fire safety officer before being named manager of fire and life safety operations. In this role, he was responsible for campus-wide fire and life safety planning, management, supervision, compliance oversight, and system operability, as well as managing the school’s fire response and prevention in partnership with the Waltham Fire Department. Prior to that, he was the fire safety officer and fire marshal for Becker College, where he created and administered the first fire safety program in the college’s history.

Ingram has also served as a firefighter and fire educator in Berlin and West Boylston and in Farmington, CT, where he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and named Firefighter of the Year in 1995. He is a graduate of Becker College, a credentialed fire prevention officer, and a certified fire investigator. He is a resident of Marlborough.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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 19, 2023, 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.

2005 Dodge Caravan
VIN: 1D4GP45R95B387042
Alexandra Jones
11 Kristen Ave.
Agawam, MA 01001

2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J4GR48K95C553070
Isaias Lozada
1750 Dwight St. Apt. 7
Springfield, MA 01107

2005 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BE32K25U090290
Breno Ferreira
8 Lakeview Gdns Apt. 518
Natick, MA 01760

2006 Chevy Cobalt
VIN: 1G1AL55FX67741321
Boyan Hanlon
5 Bofat Hill Rd.
Williamsburg, MA 01096

2007 Audi Q7
VIN: WA1BY74L17D103973
Teah Wright
1819 Barnes Ave. A1B
Bronx, NY 10462

2009 Ford Flex
VIN: 2FMDK51CX9BA28185
Carlos Rivera
582 White St.
Springfield, MA 01108

2012 Toyota Corolla

VIN: 2T1BU4EE8CC778176
Nevens Conte
12112 Town Walk Drive
Hamden, CT 06518

2016 Subaru Impreza
VIN: JF1GPAB60G8259994
Chelsey Aguiar
29 Wellington St.
Fall River, MA 02720

6/02, 06/09, 06/16/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P1163EA
Estate of:
Donald V Belanger
Also known as:
Donald Vincent Belanger
Date of Death: 04/18/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

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

The Petitioner requests that: **Rene D Belanger of Alexandria, VA** 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 06/30/2023.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 02, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/09/2023

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 25, 2023 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2013 GMC Acadia
VIN: 1GKKVRKD2DJ227094
Wellington Santos
75 Fruit St. Ext.
Milford, MA 01757

TOW BEHIND TRAILER
VIN: UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN
UNKNOWN

2021 HONDA CIVIC
VIN: 2HGFC2F6XMH502526
Johnny Rodriguez
2 Western Dr.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2009 ACURA TL
VIN: 19UUA86529A005578
Shemar Murray
3 Standish St.
Boston, MA 02124

2000 VW JETTA
VIN: 3VWSD29M9YM113109
Omar Sanchez Bareet

117 Rosewood Ave. Apt. 1
Waterbury, CT 06706

2008 BMW 328Xi
VIN: WBAWC33588PD09633
Tatiana Maldonado
834 Worthington St. #2
Springfield, MA 01105

2009 SATURN AURA
VIN: 1G8ZS57BX9F140471
Omar Wal
12 Oak St.
New Britain, CT 06051

2013 CHEVY SILVERADO
VIN: 1GCRKSE79DZ229457
Lugene Przeszelski
91 Summit St.
Brookville, PA 15825

1997 HONDA CIVIC
VIN: 2HGEG620VH533730
Shana Burgess
659 Prospect St. Apt. E2
Chicopee, MA 01020

2010 HONDA ACCORD
VIN: 1HGCS1B37AA008937
Ruiz Santos
227 Savoy Ave.
Springfield, MA 01104

2012 DODGE CHARGER
VIN: 2C3CDXHG6CH295377
Jennifer Deal
22 Cross St.
Chicopee, MA 01020

2005 NISSAN MURANO
VIN: JN8AZ08W95W435465
Alexander Feliz Medina
104 Newland St.
Springfield, MA 01107

2018 PITSTER KJRM125
VIN: A2BDR3136MJ022530
Omar Reyes
174 Pembroke St.
Springfield, MA 01104

2012 KENWORTH
CONTRUCT T700
VIN: 1XKFD49X3CJ300771
RUDY'S Transportation
108 Delong Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13208

2005 SUBARU LEGACY
OUTBACK
VIN: 4S4BP61C056322685
Allen Busuulwa
194 Cohasset St.
Worcester, MA 01604

2011 FORD FUSION SE
VIN: 3FAHP0HA0BR336932
Metson Corriellant
40 South Ave
Burlington, MA 01803

2007 JEEP GRAND
CHEROKEE
VIN: 1J8GR48K87C577149
Seneida Torres
Po Box 127
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

2011 FORD CROWN
VICTORIA
VIN: 2FABP7BV4BX182883
Javier Figueroa
1146 Page Blvd.
Springfield, MA 01108

2015 HONDA ACCORD
VIN: 1HGCR2F37FA217775
Christopher Vasquez Roman
78 Callender St.
Boston, MA 02124

2009 PONTIAC G6 GT
VIN: 1G2ZH57N594140408
Holly Laporte
66 Stonina Dr.
Chicopee, MA 01013

MOTORCYCLE
VIN: LWGYCUL188A00100
Jacob Hartley
300 West Rd
Westfield, MA 01085

2011 GMC TERRAIN
VIN: 2CTFLREC8B6244728
Tania Garcia
61 Stonina Dr.
Chicopee, MA 01013
05/26, 06/02 06/09/2023

**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. HD23A0074AD
In the matter of:
Aryana Rachele Nunez
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6**

TO:
**Wendi Rachele Young
Edwin Javier Nunez**
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:

**Glorimar Rodriguez of Springfield, MA
Rafael Rodriguez-Ortega of Springfield, MA**

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

Aryana Rachele Rodriguez
If you object to the 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: **06/30/2023.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 25, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/09, 06/16, 06/23/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD23P1121EA
Estate of:
Catherine Ellen Slys
Date of Death: 05/01/2023
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner

William Slys of Hatfield, MA; David Slys of Hatfield, MA

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

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
06/09/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD23P1103EA
Estate of:
Joseph E. Kazalski
Date of Death:
February 8, 2023**

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jeffery R. Beaulieu of Granby, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Jeffery R. Beaulieu of Granby, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
06/09/2023

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community journalism.

This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
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- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
ekennedy@turley.com

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TAG SALE

DANA WOODS ANNUAL tag sale: Belchertown: George Hannum Rd off Rt 9 (turn at Stop & Shop) Children's clothes, toys, furniture, housewares, tools and more! **Saturday, June 10th, 9:00am-3:00pm**

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer-cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy (860)874-8396

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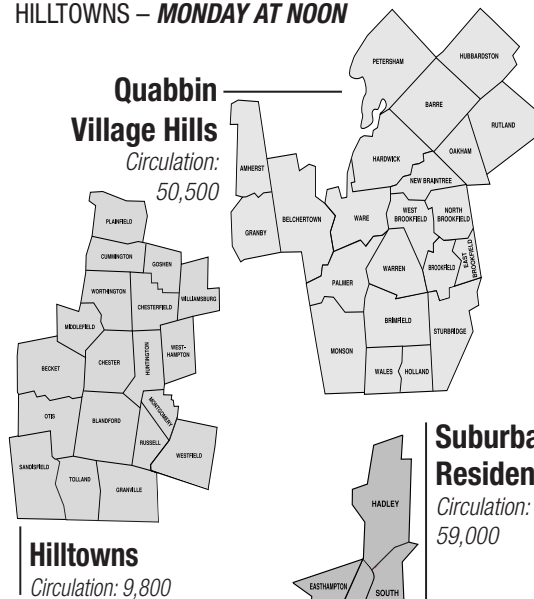
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RiverMills Center announces June programming

CHICOPEE – The RiverMills Center, Chicopee’s senior center at 5 W Main St., has announced the following programs for the month of June through the Council on Aging.

Classic Country with Roger Tincknell

The COA will host singer and storyteller Roger Tincknell for the concert “Classic Country” Monday, June 12 at 1:30 p.m. at the RiverMills Center.

Join Roget Tincknell as he plays some songs by Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Willie Nelson, just to name a few! Light refreshments will be served. The cost is \$1. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center.

Father’s Day Breakfast

The COA will be having a Father’s Day Breakfast on Tuesday, June 13 at 9 a.m. at the RiverMills Center.

To all the special men out there! Enjoy a breakfast right here at RiverMills to celebrate Father’s Day. The cost is \$5. You must register in person at RiverMills Center.

Summer Carnival at RiverMills

The COA will have a Summer Carnival on Thursday, June 15 from 3-6 p.m. with a Rain Date of Wednesday, June 28 at the RiverMills Center.

Join us for our Second Annual Summer Carnival. Come try your hand at some games, eat some carnival treats and

sit back, relax and enjoy a summer night with your friends at RiverMills Center. Tickets are \$6 and include a hamburger, hot dog, chips, drink and ice cream. All other concessions and game tickets will be available to purchase at the time of the event. There will be no formal time for dinner, but ticket sales are limited. There will be music by DJ Luis D! This is a senior center event and it open to anyone 55 and older. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center.

Drum Away the Blue

The COA will host the workshop “Drum Away the Blues” on Thursday, June 22 at 10 a.m. at the RiverMills Center.

Join Craig Harris, master percussionist, educator, historian, author and photographer for this workshop that combines songs, stories and a multitude of rhythms. This workshop is funded by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. You must register in advance.

Rainbow Coffee Hour

The COA will host a Rainbow Coffee Hour on Wednesday, June 28 at 10 a.m. at the RiverMills Center.

Come join others for an LGBTQ+ coffee hour here at RiverMills Center. Jay Weingarten, LGBTQ+ Outreach Coordinator with WestMass Elder Care, will be on hand to chat about Rainbow Social Clubs in the area and other resources that are available to the LGBTQ+ community. Registration is not required.

Massive community band concert June 17 at Mount Holyoke College

SOUTH HADLEY – As many as 150 musicians from throughout Western Massachusetts and beyond will come together for an outdoor performance in one giant concert band on Saturday June 17 at 3 p.m. at the Mount Holyoke College Amphitheater in South Hadley. The concert is free and open to the public to attend. In the event of inclement weather, the rain date is Sunday, June 18.

Titled Pioneer Valley Community Band Festival, the concert is being hosted by the Amherst, Florence and South Hadley Community Bands and will bring together amateur and professional musicians of all ages and abilities from throughout the region to celebrate and perform live instrumental music.

According to Festival Coordinator Ira Brezinsky, “We have a goal of 150 musicians performing together. We’ll see if we get there! With the inspiration of our guest conductor and guest soloist, band members will have the opportunity to share their musical skills, learn from their fellow musicians, and bring the joy of live music making to our audience.”

As of May 30, approximately 120 musicians are already registered to participate. Additional musicians of all abilities who would like to participate can email pioneervalleycommunitybandfest@gmail.com.

Thomas Bergeron, Director of Music at Deerfield Academy, will lead the festival band in a day of joyous music-making. Before coming to Deerfield,

Mr. Bergeron held teaching positions at Williams College, Tufts University, Bennington College, Yale, Amherst College, and the Brimmer and May School. He is currently a member of the Atlantic Brass Quintet and the Principal Trumpet of the Springfield Symphony. Mr. Bergeron has performed with The American Symphony, The Temptations, T-Pain, Vampire Weekend, Idina Menzel, The Four Tops, Judy Collins, Arlo Guthrie, and numerous Broadway shows. His television appearances include Saturday Night Live, Jimmy Kimmel Live, and CBS This Morning. He spent two years in residence at Carnegie Hall with Juilliard’s Ensemble Connect and holds two advanced degrees from Yale, where he won the Woolsey Hall Concerto Competition and received the John Swallow Award for excellence in brass playing.

Bergeron commented, “It’s really exciting to have so many people of all ages gathering to experience the joy of making music together. We’ve programmed a wide variety of music, from Sousa to Duke Ellington, Billie Eilish and Ray Charles. Personal highlights for me include music from Captain Marvel by the Emmy-nominated Turkish-American composer Pinar Toprak, and an original piece for concert band “Across A Golden Sky” by American composer Quinn Mason, who was recently featured on the Springfield Symphony Orchestra concert in February.”

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Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

Polanie Club to hold meeting June 12

LUDLOW – The POLANIE CLUB will hold a regular meeting on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Polish American Citizen’s Club, 355 East St. Ludlow. Members, Please Attend.

First-Ever Car Show to be held June 17

WEST SPRINGFIELD - On Saturday, June 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. a First-Ever Car Show will be held at West Springfield American Legion Post 207, 83 Park Avenue.

All Makes, All Models are welcome! Come celebrate Veterans and Father’s Day! There will be Food, Beverages, Entertainment, Raffles, Prizes, and Kid’s Activities. Only \$10 per car.



Vendors are invited and should contact ItsWestSpringfield@gmail.com or call 413-279-4567.

The fundraiser is a collaboration with Post 207 and It’s West Springfield to support future events of West Springfield American Legion Post 207 and It’s West Springfield, Inc. a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Come and enjoy the festivities! Rain date Sunday June 18th. For information contact 413-279-4567 or 413-736-9550 Or e-mail: ItsWestSpringfield@gmail.com

Father’s Day Picnic to occur June 18

INDIAN ORCHARD – St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church will hold its annual Father’s Day Picnic on Sunday, June 18 from noon to 5 p.m. on the church grounds at 135 Goodwin St., Indian Orchard. Visitors are invited to enjoy many favorite Armenian dinners including shish kebab and rice pilaf. Baked goods will also be available for purchase. The picnic will also feature a raffle, Armenian music and dancing, and outdoor activities.

Admission and parking are free. For more information, please call the Church office at 543-4763.

ACAA accepting applications for art festival

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans are accepting applications for the Pioneer Valley Art Festival that is being held at the Agawam Polish American Club, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills. The Art Festival is Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Set up is Friday, Aug. 25 beginning at 8 a.m.

For General Information and the Registration form please contact Ceil Rossi, President ACAA, at email tocarefree2@hotmail.com or call 413 207-1247. Deadline is Saturday, July 1

Send your stories and photos to dzbiarski@turley.com