

Chicopee Register

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Congratulations to the Graduates! ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



The newest Chicopee High School alums celebrate after receiving their diplomas.

TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS



Jayden Pelullera, a member of the Chicopee High School Marching Band, shows off a big smile with his diploma.

CHS 2026 graduates celebrated at Szot Park

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE – Chicopee High School’s Class of 2026 was celebrated on graduation day at Szot Park on June 4. The ceremony included the presentation of the colors

by the Chicopee High School Air Force Junior ROTC, performances by the Chicopee High School Chamber Choir, the Graduates to Guardians presentation by Ret. Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Orifice and remarks from Mayor John Vieau, Vice Principal Kimberly Dion, Superinten-

dent Dr. Marcus Ware, 2026 Class President Bella Barker, Salutatorian Khalon Bass and Valedictorian Elaf Neamah. Vieau stressed to graduates to thank everyone “who helped you along the way.” “Tonight is especially meaningful not only because you’re graduating, but how

about this? You’re the 126th graduating class of Chicopee High School. But you’re doing that in the year 250th birthday of America, how about that? More than a century of Pacers have come before you—and I’m one of them—and tonight, you’re added to that chapter, to that proud

tradition. Class of 2026, you made it,” Vieau said. After thanking her fellow class officers and supporters, Barker reflected on the person she is—and has become—today. “Looking back at who I was four years ago as a freshman without an idea of how to

navigate the halls that made me feel small, attempting to participate in spirit weeks we had no chance of winning and completely unaware of how fast time would fly, I realize how much has changed. Now

See **CHICOPEE HIGH** page 6

Academy focuses on growth, empowerment at ceremony

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE – Chicopee Academy celebrated the Class of 2026 in a graduation ceremony at the Chicopee High School auditorium on June 3.

The ceremony included the Chicopee High School Junior ROTC presenting the colors, performances from the Chicopee High School Band, remarks from Principal Lori Vaillancourt, Mayor John Vieau and Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware and tributes from teachers Ariana Nevins, Ben Bohlke, Kelly Zwirblia, Christine Sullivan, Erica Swenor, Kenneth Mitchell, Patrick Welkley on behalf of Evan Rodriguez, Senior Clerk Cianalyn Riccardi and Vice Principal Darrell Johnson.

Vieau hoped that one thing the graduates took away “long after today” was “success is not measured by titles, accomplishments or by recognition. It’s measured by discovering what gives meaning to your life and what your purpose is.” “Many of you have already discovered your why. Your passion, your purpose and your drive. For some, that why will be serving



Emalie Figueroa holds her diploma up in triumph after graduating from Chicopee Academy.

TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

others. For others, it’ll be teaching, healing, building or creating something greater than yourselves,” Vieau said. “And for those still searching? Know this. Purpose is not a race. Life will continue to shape you and reveal new

opportunities along the way. What matters most is that you never stop searching for the thing that inspires you to

See **CHICOPEE ACADEMY** page 8



Principal Andrew Lamothe provides remarks and an introduction as Valedictorian Zahraa Karim and her parents take the stage.

TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Chicopee Comp graduates Class of 2026 at Kuzdal Field

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – A moment of celebration unfolded at Mitchell Kuzdal Field as the Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 2026 received their diplomas on June 5.

The ceremony included performances from the high

school band and choir, a solo piano performance by Jisung Chang, the Students of Distinction by NHS Advisors Shawn Kozikowski and Joaquin Bello, and Assistant Principal Christine Theroux, and remarks from Principal Andrew Lamothe, Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware, Mayor John Vieau, Class of 2026 President Gracelyn Jarry, Valedictorian

Zahraa Karim, Salutatorian Tanner Corey, along with Veterans Appreciation Club Advisor Alan Dion for the Graduates to Guardians presentation. Jarry offered an expression of reflection, citing the growth the past four years instilled in her.

See **CHICOPEE COMP** page 7

School Committee approves \$139M budget

The board voted unanimously in favor of the action.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee School Committee voted unanimously on June 1 to approve a \$139,375,036 school district budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Ahead of the rare Mon-

day evening School Committee meeting, the favorable action was recommended by the city’s Finance and Budget Subcommittee.

Following an in-depth presentation by Director of Budget and Finance John Miarecki, the School Committee voted unanimously to approve the new budget.

When breaking down the budget, one will see that \$101,370,276 stems from Chapter 70 funding, which is

Massachusetts’ primary way of distributing state education to school districts across the state.

The school district is receiving more than \$1 million more in Chapter 70 funding than it did last year. Another \$38,338,156 will be contributed by the city itself, resulting in the total budget of nearly \$140 million.

According to Miarecki, approximately three-quarters of the contract is taken

up by salaries. That’s more than \$100 million. Another \$14,651,191 has been allocated toward transportation.

“We also had discussion about the decreased enrollment Chicopee is having and how it is affecting us financially. Also, we went down from Low Income Group 11 to 10. That was about \$2 million for the decrease in

See **SCHOOL COMMITTEE** page 11

CPL Summertime Plans

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The library is kicking off their summer on June 24 with their annual Summer Kickoff Party.

Youth Services Coordinator Erin Daly shared some information about the event.

“This summer’s theme is Plant a Seed, Read. The Kickoff Party will have community partners, crafts and activities. The Chicopee

eeFresh food truck will be here, as well as the New England Dairy Council truck with their mobile experience and their smoothie bike. The Chicopee Fire Department will be there. Chicopee Public Schools Family Engagement team and CFCE aka the Chicopee Holyoke Family and Community program will be there. We will have a mul-

See **CPL SUMMER** page 11

IN THE CITY

Aurora's Pizzeria reopens in new location

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE – Aurora's Pizzeria has reopened after moving to its new location in Chicopee.

Aurora's was formerly located at 1720 Westover Rd. and is now at 1782 Westover Rd., the location of the former Chicken Queen.

Chicken Queen served the city for 50 years—with 25 of those years at the Westover Road location—until it closed in December 2025.

The pizzeria is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sundays from 4 to 9 p.m. It is closed on Mondays.

They serve grab-and-go pizza by the slice, along with various classic and specialty pies, grinders, calzones, wraps, wings, appetizers, dinners such as spaghetti or ziti for example, salads, desserts including cheese-cake and more.

Also, offer dine-in, takeout and delivery options.

Mayor John Vieau expressed his excitement for Owner Aurora McGreevy.

"They've been a staple in this neighborhood for many, many years. They have a wonderful following and I'm sure your customer base is really happy that you're open and we want to celebrate with you," Vieau said. "I wish you many years of good health, prosperity and wealth and I just hope that this continues to thrive like it does. Your



Above, Aurora McGreevy, owner of Aurora's Pizzeria, and her husband, Gene, stand outside the pizzeria with the citation from the Massachusetts State Senate. Inset, This free sample of pizza made for happy patrons during the grand reopening celebration.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

pizza speaks for itself. I know many people that it's their favorite and I have a lot of favorites when it comes to pizzas and this is one of many. It's a great pizza."

Noah Green, constituent services director for State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), also presented a citation on behalf of the Massachu-

setts State Senate to celebrate the reopening.

"Be it known that the Massachusetts Senate extends its congratulations to Aurora Pizza of Chicopee, Massachusetts, in recognition of your move to celebrate a new location, ribbon-cutting and grand opening for your customers and the community, honoring your continued business and commitment to quality," Green said. "And

let it be further known that the Massachusetts Senate extends its best wishes for continued success..."

McGreevy explained the restaurant had moved due to the building being sold.

"We just couldn't afford to buy it, so we moved down here. It was just right timing because this used to be Chicken Queen and he retired, and so it was the right timing for us to just come on



Aurora McGreevy, owner of Aurora's Pizzeria, looks on as Noah Green, constituent services director for State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), reads the citation from the Massachusetts State Senate.

down here," McGreevy said.

Since reopening, the customers have been coming in droves.

"We were off for six weeks for the move and fixing all the building and stuff and they could not wait for us to reopen. Everybody would come in. The day that we opened—I think it was the 19th of May—and all of the people coming in like, 'I'm so glad you're back. I'm so glad you're back.'" McGreevy said. "That's all I've heard for the last two weeks. I'm happy to be back."

She added that her favorite pizza topping is cheese, and that a meat pizza is a big customer favorite.

"We have vegetable pizzas, we have Hawaiian, we have buffalo chicken, barbecue chicken, we have all kinds," McGreevy said. "So, just stop by and check us out."

McGreevy said it was "amazing" to be honored by Vieau and the State Senate and looks forward to meeting old and new customers.

"It's simply amazing," McGreevy said. "I'm looking for hopefully a lot of customers see it, lot of new people see it and stop by and get a piece of pizza. We have grab-and-go pizzas. You don't have to wait for it, so I'm just hoping to see if they all come and check us out."

McGreevy added she's also looking for kitchen help at the pizzeria.

"We're looking for kitchen help specifically. People that know how to make pizza, but they don't really have to know how because we will teach them. All I want is someone that is willing and want to help us out, want to work," McGreevy said.

"They make pizza, they make grinders, salads, dinners—we have a small amount of dinners—but yeah, that's what we need right now."

Her message was this.

"We're here, check us out. Try our food," McGreevy said.

To learn more about the pizzeria and a job, visit aurorapizzeria.net. They can also be reached at 413-593-3222.

Mayor Vieau releases recommended budget for the City of Chicopee

CHICOPEE – On June 5, 2026, Mayor John L. Vieau submitted a recommended Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget for the review of the City Council. The proposed FY2027 budget totals \$283,487,465.85, representing an increase of approximately 2.6% over FY2026. Mayor Vieau stated, "This budget reflects our continued commitment to fiscal responsibility while maintaining essential services and support-

ing the operational needs of our community."

The School Department budget reflects the required net school spending amount of \$130,910,756.62, an increase of \$7,773,583.62, driven primarily by the loss of approximately \$5,000,000 in Chapter 70 funding, increased transportation costs of \$2,017,788.08, employment contractual obligations, and educational programming needs. To support

educational operations, the Stabilization Fund for Educational Purposes will provide \$8,417,279.00 in additional funding. The School Budget focused on the strategic priorities of 1) A caring and respectful place to learn, 2) Empowering and valuing students, educators, and staff, 3) Academics that inspire, 4) Family and community connections, and 5) Effective operations and equitable resources.

Public safety remains a priority in FY2027. The Fire Department budget increase of \$2,117,335.26 is primarily attributable to settled union contracts. The Police Department budget includes \$464,750.00 for the transfer of public safety technology accounts previously held under the MIS Department, reflecting a reallocation of expenditures rather than new spending.

The City also faces rising costs, including an estimated \$1,355,139.92 increase in medical insurance.

However, reductions in contingent retirement expenditures and debt-related interest costs help offset financial pressures and support long-term fiscal stability. Enterprise funds, including water and sewer operations, remain stable and continue supporting critical infrastructure and services while maintaining affordable rates. Federally directed spending from our federal delegation helped reduce the impact of mandated sewer treatment and nitrogen improvement projects.

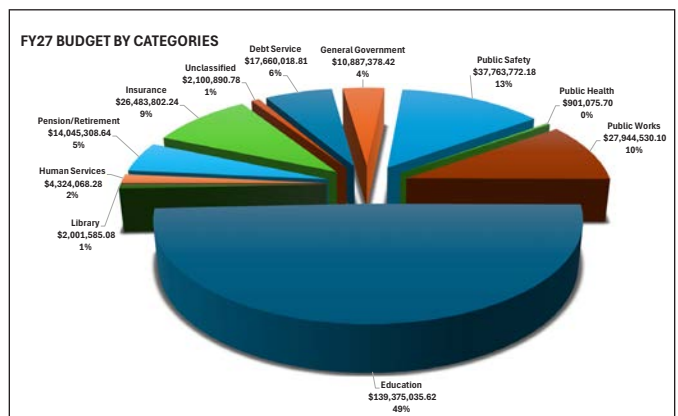
This budget reflects

thoughtful prioritization to protect core services, support our workforce, and position Chicopee for continued financial affordability. We are also planning for future bonding obligations and projects. I thank the City Council, Department Heads, School Department leadership, and City staff for their collaboration and dedication throughout this process. Mayor Vieau stated, "We all understand the need of our residents and businesses for affordability, maintaining municipal services, advancing our community together, and our combined approach to the budget reflects these values."

The Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget is dedicated to the memory of Sharyn Riley, the past City Auditor who guided the budget process in the City for over forty years. She recently retired and passed away in May 2026. This is the first municipal budget without her assistance, and her dedicated support is missed.



Final Budget – Dollar Bill Chart



Final Budget Pie Chart

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USDA INSP. SMOKED SHOULDER PORK PICNIC..... \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL \$7.77 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK 77¢ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$2.89 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL \$7.77 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN PARMESAN MINI EMPANADAS 9 OZ BAG \$3.99 ea
USDA INSP. SLICED FROM OUR DELI WUNDERBAR BOLOGNA \$2.89 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL \$7.77 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN FARM RAISED TALAPIA FILLETS \$3.99 lb
USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR STORE MUENSTER CHEESE \$5.55 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL \$7.77 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 71/90 COUNT 1 LB BAG \$4.99 ea
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN \$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG \$4.29 lb	
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES LINKS OR PATTIES ITALIAN SAUSAGE \$2.79 lb		

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IN THE CITY

Two longtime Chicopee educators saluted before retirement

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – As they end their professional careers and enter retirement, two well-respected educators were recognized during the June 1 meeting of the School Committee.

These individuals include decorated Bowie Elementary School Principal Norman Burgess, who worked more than 58 years for the city's school district, and Tom Rivet, a technology engineer instructor and longtime boys' soccer coach at Chicopee High School who contributed 32 years of service.

Norman Burgess

Emphasizing that Burgess spent 58 years and four months as a school district employee, Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware said he was going to take his time when voicing appreciation for his accomplishments and generational impact.

Ware read



Norman Burgess

aloud a letter he wrote to Burgess on behalf of the school community.

"It is truly difficult to find the words to encapsulate a career defined by 58 years of deep and steadfast dedication," Ware said. "To serve Chicopee Public Schools for nearly six decades is a historic milestone, but to do so with the profound integrity, compassion and pride that you have brought to Bowie School since 1985 is nothing short of extraordinary."

Although Ware has only worked alongside Burgess for several years, he realized quickly that the Bowie School principal is a rare leader who represents "the absolute best of what education can be."

Ware pointed out that Burgess' career in Chicopee has spanned 10 different superintendents.

He said Burgess has served as the "ultimate anchor of continuity, wisdom and reliability for this district through decades of change."

According to Ware, while many people have come and gone, Burgess has remained the "steadfast heartbeat of Bowie School."

As Mayor John Vieau, the School Committee chair, sat nearby, Ware even playfully said that he calls Burgess the "unofficial mayor of the city of Chicopee."

On a more serious note, Ware said that people from across the city approach him often reciting their own "Norm stories" and that the sheer volume of residents impacted by Burgess is incredible.

"So many of our own teachers, parents and grandparents in the community have probably stated that they've had you as a teacher or principal themselves, or that their children or grandchildren were fortunate enough to learn under your guidance. To shape multiple generations of the same family is a rare and beautiful gift," Ware said.

Ware believes Burgess has positively changed the trajectory of thousands of people's lives through his own lifetime of faithful service to Chicopee students.

"May your retirement be filled with the same joy, health and fulfillment that you have so selflessly given to our community," Ware said.

Ward 5 School Committee Representative Grace Schofield said she worked for Burgess for 18 years, which she recalls fondly.

"I can tell you that as an administrator, he's everything you want in a boss as far as being supportive. He gave you the things you needed to do your job, treated you like a professional and gave you autonomy," Schofield said. "He always had your back, and ultimately, he made the students and the climate at that school, you know, special, and he will be missed for years to come."

Tom Rivet

Over the course of more than three decades serving city students, Rivet has made a substantial impact as well.

"He was instrumental in developing and expanding the PacerInk [student-led

printshop] program that has been an integral part of the Chicopee High School Pathways," Ware said.

PacerInk is a solutions-based, student-oriented printshop that combines education and real-world experience. Participating students design, produce and deliver work that is up to professional standards by running a fully operational print and merchandise studio.

Additionally, Rivet spent many years as the boys' soccer coach at Chicopee High School. His success is well-documented, and he was inducted into the Massachusetts High School Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame in 2015.

"He has been a beloved and passionate boys soccer coach who has developed and inspired many Chicopee High School students and has led his teams to many championships and won many awards over the year," Ware said.

Chicopee



Tom Rivet

High School Vice Principal Ben Masse was a student of Rivet's and played on his soccer teams. Then, he became a colleague, and now he is an administrator at the same school.

A letter from Masse was read aloud as the School Committee praised Rivet's achievements.

"Mr. Rivet is the kind of educator and mentor who holds people to a high standard because he genuinely believes in them," Masse said. "[He paired] his intensity and passion with his deep commitment to supporting others and making sure they are seen, valued and given every opportunity to succeed."

Lastly, Vieau added to the conversation, as he expressed gratitude for what both Burgess and Rivet have offered the school community for so long.

"I also want to take a moment to wish Principal Norm Burgess and Coach Tom Rivet the best in retirement. I hope that you have a wonderful one, and we're all very grateful for your service, molding minds here in the city of Chicopee," Vieau said.

Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids and families

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

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

Little Kid Dance Party will be on Wednesdays, June 17 at 10:30 a.m. Moving and grooving for kids and their caregivers. Geared toward ages 0-5, but all are welcome! 45 minutes to one

hour of energetic activity including singing and dancing, action rhymes, and playing with props like scarves and shakers.

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

The Kids Room Sewing Club will meet on Wednesday, June 17, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Learn basic stitches and practice skills by making fun projects. Recommended for ages 6 and up. Kids who are not familiar with using a needle and thread should attend with an adult. Teens are welcome, no registration required. This month we'll be learning some embroidery stitches.

The library Homeschool Meetup will be on Thursday June 18 at 11 a.m. This

group meets once a month September - June for homeschooling families with kids of all ages to hang out, do activities and learn together. This month will be a preview of the library's summer programming.

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

Summer Storytime will be on Tuesday, June 30 at 10:30 a.m. Listen to some

read-aloud books, do some rhymes and songs and enjoy a craft or activity. This mixed-age storytime is geared towards 0-8 and should have something for everyone to enjoy.

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

Can you find the key

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

Teens

The library will be at Chicopee Pride Fest in Szot Park on Saturday, June 13 from Noon to 6 p.m. You

can learn more about our resources and Summer Reading programs, as well as borrow books from our Pop Up Pride-brary!

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

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

Join us for the Reese Fund: Day of Compassion on June 24

REGION - On June 24, we are coming together, online and in person, for a powerful 24hour fundraiser supporting the Reese Fund, created in honor of sweet Reese, a dog who endured unimaginable cruelty at the hands of a human. Today, the fund provides emergency medical and recovery care for animals who have experienced severe neglect, cruelty, or abuse.

Your generosity also helps support the Reese Pet Food Initiative, a new partnership with Lorraine's Soup Kitchen in Chicopee. This program provides pet food and supplies, both onsite and through their mobile delivery service, to families who need extra support to keep their pets healthy, safe, and at home where they belong.

A Day of Giving & Community Support: From midnight to midnight, we

will be raising funds online, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., we invite you to stop by the Thomas J O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center at 627 Cottage Street in Springfield for an inperson Pet Food Drive

We will be collecting: Dog & Cat Food (Wet and Dry), Treats - no raw hides please and bew toys.

Enjoy lunch from our friends at Wandering Waffles and check out our exclusive Reese Day tshirt, available both online and onsite at TJO for one day only!

Please consider making a gift on June 24 to the Reese Fund: Day of Compassion. We have a goal to raise \$10,000 for the Reese Fund and to collect 400lbs of pet food for Lorraine's. Together, we can give animals a second chance, keep pets fed, and strengthen the bond between people and their animals.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

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July 23rd 2:00p Planning Ahead with Confidence
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OPINION

Foxgloves take the stage in June

I came around the corner of the house and to my surprise, the purple foxglove was in flower! Yippee!

This is just the start of a wonderful sequence of blooms lasting the rest of the month and then some. Read on, straight from the archives to learn more about these unique plants.

Those of us who favor romantic, old-fashioned flowers have likely devoted some space in our gardens to the common purple foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) or one of its cultivars. This is for good reason, as there are few plants more breathtaking than a foxglove in full bloom. Imagine three to five-foot tall spires of uniquely marked bell-shaped flowers in shades of white, pink, and rose.

One well-grown plant may yield five or more stalks! Group several plants together for a show stopping display come the end of June.

Native to western Europe, the common foxglove has had a place in North American gardens since its introduction during colonial times.

There has always been a mysterious side to foxgloves, due in part to an unusual name and the potent medicine that is obtained from the plant.

Legend has it that foxglove was derived from "folk's glove," folks referring to the elves and fairies of country lore. Another legend tells that the fox needed magical gloves to steal a chicken or two.

A less fanciful explanation traces glove to gleow in Old English; a gleow was an ancient musical instrument made of bells suspended from a curved frame.

In 1785 William Withering, an English physician, published a decade's worth of studies devoted to the use of

foxglove as a heart medicine. Although far too dangerous to be used by amateur herbalists, the drug digitalis was studied at length in the early years of the 20th century and is still prescribed by doctors today for those suffering with cer-

tain types of heart disease. Foxglove are easy to grow in full sun or part shade as long as they are provided with fertile, well-drained soil rich in organic matter. Most species tend to be biennials or short-lived perennials.

In my garden all types self-sow; leave a few seed heads to ripen if you appreciate volunteers as much as I do. When purchasing foxgloves from garden centers start with a first year plant, nourish it well and enjoy blooms the following year.

Steer clear of plants already in flower, it is likely they will perish after blooming. Of the 10 or so species of foxglove grown today, the most popular are the cultivars of the common foxglove.

"Foxy" flowers a mere five months from sowing; it is often grown as an annual. Even taller and denser clumps of rose, white or yellow flowers may return in following years. "Giant Shirley" can grow to a whopping nine feet, sporting tightly packed, spotted flowers in rich hues of pink.

Other cultivars include the all white "Alba," the unusual "Apricot Beauty," and the widely available "Excelsior Hybrids" whose placement of florets horizontally around the five-foot stem makes view-

ing the unique inner markings of the flowers especially easy. There are other more subtle species of foxglove worthy of placement in your garden.

One of my favorites is the Rusty Foxglove (*Digitalis ferruginea*). Small flowers the color of liquid gold bloom up three to six-foot stems late in the summer.

Although touted as being a biennial this species has returned for several years in my part shade, moisture retentive location. The yellow foxglove is a reliable perennial, shorter than most, only 24-30 inches tall and blooming a soft yellow in early June. This species also prefers part shade and adequate moisture.

The Grecian foxglove, a true biennial, has grayish flowers, blooming in July up three-foot stems.

The straw foxglove is relatively new to my garden, blooming happily for the first time last summer. It is the most diminutive flower-wise of any mentioned thus far and it tops off about two and a half feet tall.

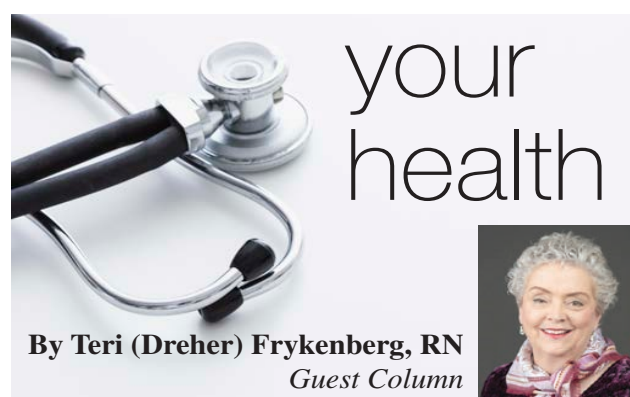
Whether you plant the common foxglove for a show stopping display or settle on one of its more subtle cousins, do give these old-fashioned beauties a place in your garden.

J.L. Hudson, Seedsman, of Star Route 2, Box 337, La Honda CA, 94020 offers an extensive collection of foxglove seed for sale. Send along \$1 for a very interesting catalog.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column



Animal bites, even from pets, can be dangerous

Summertime and the warming climate in general usually bring about an increase in the number of animal bites reported to health authorities. As you might expect, the main culprits are dogs, but while cats are responsible for fewer bites, they are responsible for more infections.

And as people spend more time outdoors, they may be more likely to encounter wildlife, such as raccoons, skunks and foxes.

All this is to say that animal bites are nothing to be ignored. In the United States, there are between 2 million and 5 million bites each year, the vast majority of reported bites being caused by dogs, with the remainder caused by cats (5 to 10 percent) and rodents (2 to 3 percent). Children are bitten more often than adults.

Of course, most animal bites aren't reported to authorities or treated in the ER or doctor's office, so there are likely many more.

Here are some things to know about animal bites.

Cat bites can be more serious than dog bites

That cute little kitten may look harmless compared to a snarling dog, but if it bites or scratches you, watch out. The likelihood of a cat bite becoming infected is double of that of a dog bite, according to the World Health Organization. Dogs' teeth may be bigger, but cats' slender, sharp fangs can penetrate a wound deeper, causing damage to tendons or ligaments. Cats don't necessarily have more bacteria in their mouths, but, as self-groomers, their mouths are anything but clean. Women are the most frequent victims of cat bites.

Unvaccinated feral cats are dangerous, though they probably won't let you come near. Among domestic cats, the most common cause for a bite is when they're being medicated. If you've ever tried to get a cat to swallow a pill, you know this to be true.

If the vet prescribes a pill for your cat, have them demonstrate how to administer it. Better yet, ask

if the medication comes in a liquid form that you can administer using a syringe.

Cat scratch disease is a thing

Cat scratch disease (CSD), also known as cat scratch fever or Bartonellosis, is a bacterial infection, most commonly transmitted through scratches or bites from cats, especially kittens, that have fleas carrying the bacteria. The bacteria can also be spread through exposure to cat saliva or flea bites.

CSD is rarely serious on its own, but those with weakened immune systems and children are more vulnerable. There are two tell-tale signs: swollen lymph nodes and bumps or cysts under the skin, usually near the wound. It usually goes away on its own, but if you develop fever or the infection seems to be spreading, get medical attention.

Rabies is nothing to laugh at

Rabies is a viral disease that is more common in wild animals (skunks, squirrels, raccoons, foxes) than domesticated ones, which are usually vaccinated. If you're taking a nature walk and encounter wildlife, even though it's cute and you want to share your granola, keep your distance. Rabies is also more common with a cat bite.

Though rabies cases in the U.S. are extremely rare, if you are bitten, you need immediate treatment.

Report animal bites

You should contact animal control or your local police if you are bitten by an animal that behaves in an odd way; an unknown pet or one that's unvaccinated; or a stray or wild animal. In Massachusetts, any non-domestic animal biting or scratching a human must be reported to Department of Public Health Epidemiology at 617-983-6800.

How to avoid animal bites

These tips seem like common sense, but they bear repeating, especially where children are concerned:

Don't scream or run near an animal.

Avoid eye contact

See **HEALTH** page 10

Chicopee Register

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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to:
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The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon.

Election letters to the editor

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

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Chicopee Register.



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty:

My wife passed away in September 2025 at age 64.

We had been married for 43 years and started collecting benefits when I turned 62 and she was 63. She did not have enough work credits to claim her own SS and thus collected on my record. SSA told me that I was not entitled to receive the lousy \$255 death benefit because my wife was collecting on my work record. Is this correct?

Signed: Grieving Widower

Dear Grieving:

We extend our sincere condolences on your wife's

passing.

But I must tell you that what the Social Security Administration told you is correct.

Although we often see assertions that the so-called "one-time lump sum death benefit" is always paid, there are specific rules for when that admittedly small SS benefit is available. And there are also specific rules regarding who is eligible to receive it.

Essentially, the lump sum death benefit is paid when the deceased person was collecting Social Security retirement benefits or at least entitled to SS retirement benefits. And

Why can't I get a lump sum death benefit from my wife?

that one-time lump sum death benefit usually goes to the deceased person's surviving spouse, more on that later.

But for the death benefit to be paid, the deceased person must have been collecting Social Security retirement benefits or was at least entitled to SS retirement benefits.

In your specific case, because your wife was not eligible for her own SS retirement benefit and was, instead, just collecting a spousal benefit from your SS record, you unfortunately are not able to collect the lump-sum death benefit as your wife's surviving spouse. So, what you were told by Social Security about

this special survivor benefit is, indeed, correct.

For information, here is a bit more on who can collect the SS death benefit: the one-time lump sum death benefit is normally paid to the eligible surviving spouse of a deceased person, who was collecting Social Security.

But if there is no surviving spouse to receive the onetime payment, the death benefit may be paid to someone else who was also a dependent of the deceased. That might be a minor surviving child or a surviving adult disabled child, who was collecting dependent benefits from the deceased person's SS re-

cord. In rare cases, a dependent parent may be paid if no other surviving dependents are eligible. FYI, ex-spouses are not eligible for a death benefit from a former spouse.

The lump-sum death benefit must be applied for by contacting Social Security and the benefit must be claimed within two years of the person's death. You will need to verify your identity and confirm your eligibility for this survivor benefit and you will need to provide other information about the deceased also including a death certificate.

See **SECURITY** page 10

IN THE CITY

Chicopee Comprehensive High held art show

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - Chicopee Comprehensive High School hosted their student art show on May 21.

Student work from throughout the academic year was shared for family, friends and community members to come support their creative ventures. The event took place at CCHS and was free to attend.

Three of the CCHS art teachers shared what they're most proud of in regard to the students' work.

"I'm most proud of how seriously the students approached presenting their work as designers. They weren't just creating pieces; they were thinking about audience, intention, and how to communicate visually with clarity and purpose. Watching them take ownership of their displays, refine their layouts, and talk confidently about their design choices showed me how much they've grown. Their professionalism and pride in their work made the show feel like a true celebration of their skills," Jacqueline Gallo said.

Gallo also noted the students' growth.

"The growth has been remarkable. Many students began the year experimenting and finding their footing, and now they're producing work with strong concepts, thoughtful composition, and



Art teachers, Daniel Delisle, Brita Riley, Regina Moran and Jacqueline Gallo.

a clear understanding of design principles. Their technical skills have strengthened, but what stands out most is their willingness to take creative risks and review with intention. They've learned to see feedback as part of the process, and that shift has elevated the quality of everything they create," Gallo said.

Daniel Delisle focused on the social emotional components that can be found in creating art.

"There is also an element of social emotional support that the students

feel as they create. Art can be therapeutic and enjoyable as well as academically satisfying. Anyone can learn the skills required to create and as the students' progress through the scaffold of lessons, they gain confidence as they develop their newfound skills," Delisle said.

For Brita Riley, it was their journey from the start of the academic year to now.

"I am most proud of the progress my students have made in just one semester. Most of them start the semester as total beginners and by the time we have the art show, some of their work is so impressive. Ceramics is a challenging medium, and they really rise to the occasion," Riley said.

When asked what it means to them to help students develop their creative skills, the teachers shared reasons why teaching art at CCHS is truly a privilege.

"I love the energy and creativity the students bring into the room every day. GDVC students are honest, curious, and willing to try new things, which makes teaching art and design incredibly rewarding. Being able to guide them as they discover their own visual voice, especially in a CTE setting where they can see real-world applications, is something I genuinely enjoy. There's a strong sense of community here, and it shows in the way students support each other's work," Gallo said. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to help build the GDVC program and to showcase the talent our students have. Their work re-



The showcase provided an opportunity for students to show off their art to the public.



Here, we have ceramics on display at CCHS Art Show.

flects not only their creativity but also their dedication and resilience. I hope the community sees how much potential these young designers have and continues to support the arts at Comp. What they're creating now is only the beginning of what they're capable of."

"The creative process teaches students to grow their problem-solving skills. Every step requires multiple decisions. This group of students worked hard and have grown in their ability to utilize the tools and methods of

the elements and principles of design," Delisle said.

"Students only have my class for one semester, and they progress from making simple, pinch pots to making large coil vases with complex decoration and sculptures in just a few months," Riley said. "The students are hardworking and creative, and we have a really well-appointed ceramics studio because of the support from admin and the Chicopee community. I also love that there are four art teachers and we all have

distinct artistic and teaching styles that make our classes unique."

Whether students want to one day pursue a creative career in mixed media, painting, sculpting, other mediums or simply want to find relaxation and a creative outlet, participating in the art community at CCHS is a wonderful idea.

The teachers care about each student's unique talents and creative processes, whilst still giving them the knowledge and resources to grow as artists.



A variety of art pieces created by students at Chicopee Comprehensive High School.

Dream Designers program at Szetela School

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

Explore, experiment and discover the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineer-

ing and Math through hands-on experiences!

Location: Szetela School, 66 Macek Drive, Chicopee

Time: 4 to 5 p.m.

Dates: Wednesdays, April 29 through June 3

Children must attend with an adult.

The programs are offered

by the Holyoke Chicopee Family and Community Program.

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

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

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The Chicopee High School Chamber Choir performs "Irish Blessing."



Three of the graduates hugged members of the school administration for the last time.



The processional of students arrives, with students waving to passersby along the way.

CHS 2026 graduates celebrated at Szot Park

CHICOPEE HIGH from page 1

I stand here as a senior—better yet, your Senior Class President—and I have almost nothing in common with who I was four years ago. Except for one thing. The same feeling of uncertainty," Barker said. "The difference is now I embrace it. I'm still slightly scared of the changes to come, but I remain hopeful for the growth of myself and those around me. Everyone's journey will begin in different ways. That being said, continue to remind yourself that comparison is the thief of joy. Get comfortable with being uncomfortable and don't assume you've reached your final destination because where you land is up to you. You were put on this earth to accomplish something, so to quit and accomplish nothing would be a waste."

Ware explained how he sat with students—including some of the seniors—on April 9 to learn about their high school experiences and how it reflected the four values of joy, belonging, growth and respect that are part of the strategic plan.

The advice they had for the incoming freshmen included "deeply-profound answers" such as challenge yourself and protect your time, take more challenging classes, stop wasting time on things that don't serve you, stop trying so hard to fit in and don't get caught up in drama and try new things and branch out to opportunities that they did not have as middle schoolers.

"Class of 2026, you're leaving Chicopee High School more resilient, more authentic, more focused than when you arrived. You survived the twists and turns of the last four years and you're standing today as survivors. As you turn your tassels from right to left today, take this advice. Seek out the challenges, do not waste your precious time on things or people that do not serve your growth. Never shrink yourself just to fit in to the room that you were meant to change. Keep branching out because the world is bigger than what it was yesterday," Ware said.

Bass emphasized maturity, which comes from teamwork and effort, skills that he learned himself during high school.

"I understand that lots of people prefer to work solo and I get that, because for years I wanted to work alone too. However, I realized that if I wanted to be truly successful I needed to work with people. So that's what I did. I worked with teachers and other students to get assignments and tasks done. Not only did this help me achieve success, but I also found that my perspective was opened when I worked with others," Bass said. "That's why they push you, that's why they stay on top of your work, that's why they may seem like a bother. But they're not doing it to annoy you, they're doing it because they are trying to ensure you do well. So, after the ceremony, go thank your teachers whether it'd be in person or by email."

Neamah reflected on family, noting her father's sacrifices and mother's strength and love. Also, their courage to travel through three different countries "just to give us a better future."

"Because of you, I'm standing here today," Neamah said. "To my brother, thank you for being with me every step of the way. You went through every challenge with me, supported me, and reminded me I was never alone. To my teachers, staff, and this school, thank you for guiding us and helping us grow. A special thank you to Miss Kinney, Miss Parzych, and Miss Muriel for your support, patience, and belief in me. And to my classmates, this journey has not been easy, but we made it. We faced challenges, moments of doubt, and times where we felt like giving up. But we didn't. We kept going, and today we celebrate that strength together."

Dion said graduation wasn't the final lap or finish, but a hand-off to the next chapter.

"43 years ago, if someone had told me that I would one day stand here as your vice principal to speak to you, the graduating Class of 2026, I probably would have laughed and never believed them. But



Valedictorian Elaf Neamah shares her reflections with the Class of 2026.

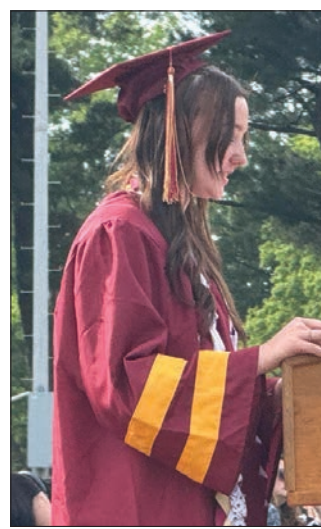
here I am, and that's the thing about life. Your story is still being written. Some chapters will be exciting, some chapters will be difficult, some chapters may not make sense while you're living them, but every chapter matters," Dion said. "As you walk across this stage tonight, I hope you remember your word, the word you chose, the word that represented who you wanted to become, because while the diploma you receive tonight is important, your perseverance, resilience, kindness, leadership, courage, and character are the things you will carry long after tonight."



William Yandel Soto shares an emotional embrace with one of the school administrators.



Salutatorian Khalon Bass addresses his classmates.



2026 Class President Bella Barker provides welcome remarks.



Alex Hicks received a shoutout during the ceremony from CTE and Pathways Director Carl Ingram for designing the Chicopee High School graduation programs for the last four years.



Mikeyla Ortega in a family photo after the graduation.



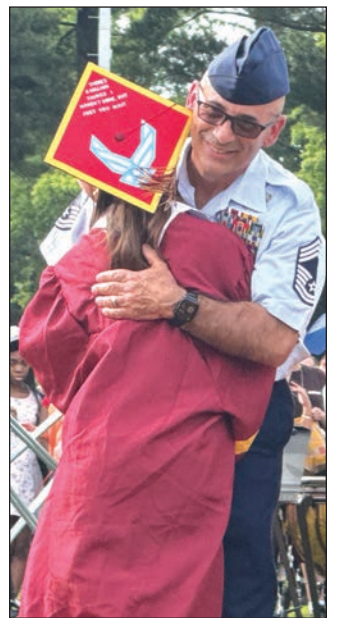
Flowers and this message for this graduation cap: "It takes guts to be gentle and kind."



Sifa Mchimbwa in a family photo holding flowers.



This graduation cap was Hello Kitty-themed and said, "On to the next chapter."



Alessandra Caplette hugs Ret. Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Orifice during the Graduates to Guardians presentation.



The Chicopee High School Air Force Junior ROTC pose for a group photo ahead of the graduation exercises.



Angelik Guerra Beltre holds up her diploma, beaming with Chicopee High School pride.

Chicopee Comp 2026 graduates celebrated at Kuzdal Field

CHICOPEE COMP from page 1

“Today is one of the biggest days of our lives,” Jarry said. “It’s a day some of you felt would never come, and for some, felt came too fast. We all made jokes, saying things like ‘just hand me my diploma’ or ‘I can’t wait to be done with high school.’ But standing here today, I wonder if we really meant those words, because senior year really did fly by, and I know I’m going to miss this. And as much as you might not want to admit it, you will too.”

Jarry encouraged her classmates to take “chances and always follow their hearts.”

“Whatever your path may look like, make sure to always follow your heart,” Jarry said. “The possibilities for us are endless. You all have come so far to get to this day, and nothing can stop you now. And as you close this chapter, remember to live in the moment and live life to the fullest.”

Vieau said, “Today is your day. It marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance.”

“It’s also a celebration of staff, family, friends, faculty, mentors, and loved ones who have supported you every step of the way,” Vieau said. “And as you celebrate today, take a moment to thank those who helped make this achievement possible.”

Vieau then shared this: be proud of yourself, family, school and city. Also, to set big goals and work hard, and to be authentic and “always believe in yourself.”

“Understand and know you truly have power to make a difference not just in your own life, but the lives of others, but remember you must be confident in yourself first, before anyone else will, because that belief in yourself, that tiny steady confidence is the starting point for every success that lies ahead; trust it,” Vieau said.

Ware acknowledged that when he looked at this class, he saw a group of innovators, ready to take on the world.

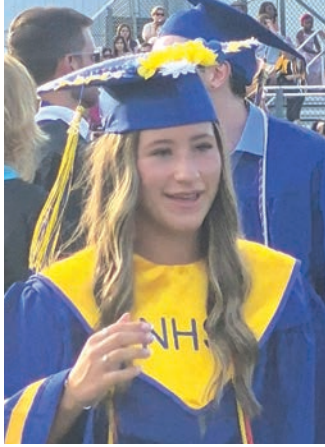
“You never waited for the future to happen; you built it to happen,” Ware said. “And now as you step out into the real world, remember the grit you learned here at Comp, because the world out there is loud, fast, and full of challenges, but it needs exactly what you have to offer. It needs your technical skills, music, and above all, it needs your commitment to lifting up others. So remember, don’t ever let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game, and thank you to the Comp Class of 2026; thank you for making this district incredibly proud.”

Corey is graduating with a 103.20 GPA and will attend Western New England this fall to major in biology. His farewell address was centered around themes of identity and staying true to yourself.

“I want everyone to reflect on the past four years, and how the experiences, relationships, and accomplishments you’ve accumulated have shaped who you are today,” Corey said. “I ask because it is clear each and every one of us has a different story to tell, each and every one of us has their own, unique



Salutarian Tanner Corey addresses his classmates.



Madison Boulanger was one of this year's graduates.

identity, and at some point in life you’re going to need to ask yourself, “Who Am I?” And to that, I ask you, my fellow graduates, “Who Are YOU?”

He then added that if you don’t know the answer yet, then continue to travel the journey of life, and to always spread kindness, no matter the occasion.

“You’ve brightened our days, you’ve taught us lessons that have nothing to do with a standard curriculum, but about life,” Corey said. “We will carry your lessons, we will carry your wisdom, and we will carry your kindness along with us for the rest of our lives. Thank you all so much for making us who we are. You are no small part of our stories, and my parting advice to my classmates: please remember the time we’ve all spent together, because these last four years have built the foundation for everything yet to come, and I can’t wait to see all the great things you’ll all accomplish.”

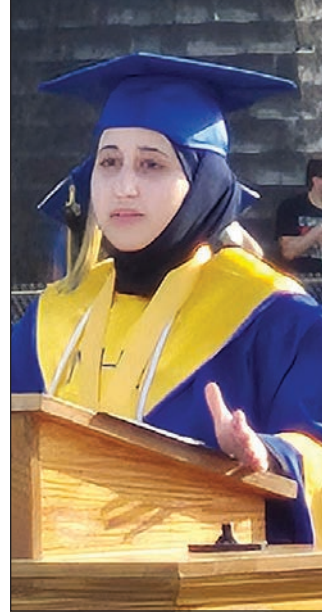
Karim is graduating with a 103.83 GPA and will be attending Connecticut College to study chemistry and environmental science. She opened her address by encouraging her classmates to pursue their dreams no matter the odds or challenges, due to the realization that tomorrow isn’t promised.

“At some point, you need to step up, confront those waves, let them wash over you just as I did,” Karim said. “But understand and know that sometimes there’s nowhere to go but forward. Meaning you may have to run into large, cold, and daunting waves, and many will fear the truth ahead, but forget to realize the water isn’t too deep for you, so please get out there and make mistakes. Fail and get rejected, and know you are allowed to be messy. You are allowed to sink, but not without swimming back up to the surface to figure it all out again, because after all, that is exactly what got us here. All of the mistakes and all of the redemption.”

Lamothe shared how this



Class President Gracelyn Jarry offers an introduction.



Valedictorian Zahraa Karim delivers remarks.



Class of 2026 Advisors Emily Lepine and Charles Laboy lead the seniors in the processional.



Comp Building Substitute Teacher Eric Perez with Jael Colon Galarza.

class embodies the school’s mission statement, which paved the way for the legacy they will forever be remembered for.

“Your legacy isn’t just defined by the trophies in the lobby or the medals around your necks,” Lamothe said. “Instead, it was found in your ability to give back to the Chicopee community through your volunteerism; it was found in your willingness to hold doors for others, to lift each other up, and to look out for one another, and by doing so you helped make Chicopee Comp a better place by how you acted each and every day. And now as you prepare to step out of these doors and into the 21st century, the adult and student learners you leave behind could not be prouder.”



Kacey Chateaufneuf (Tyler’s Sister) and Alison Chateaufneuf (Tyler’s Mom) standing beside the empty chair forever enshrined for the memory of Tyler C. Chateaufneuf, as various photos, a yearbook, class shirt, and a wooden plaque.



Mark Miodowski, Eric Perez, Comp Building Substitute Teacher Eric Perez, and Bryce Holmes posing for photos.



Graduate to Guardians representatives from left to right: Ryan Fleming (US Army Reserves), Michael Jenkins (US Air Force), David Rodriguez Falu (US Army), and lastly Logan Yucka (US Army).

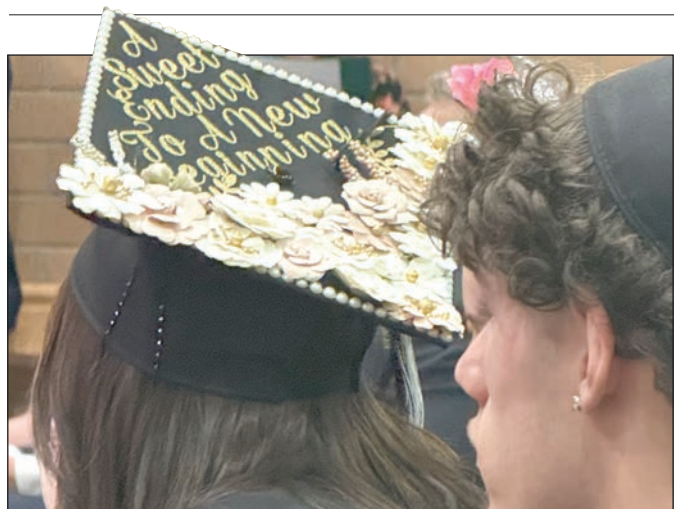


TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Joaneliz Soto Cintron with Chicopee Truancy Officer / Hampden County Sheriff's Department.



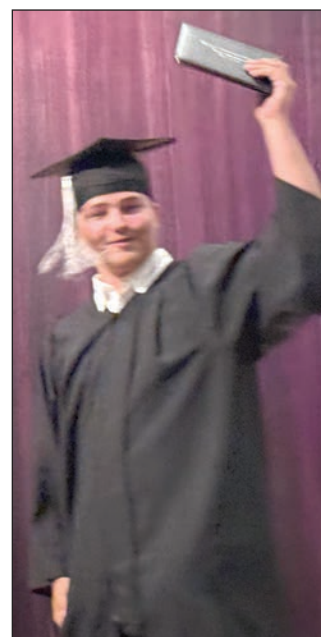
Side angle shot of the Class of 2026 standing at attention, waiting to be seated.



This graduation cap says, "A sweet ending to a new beginning."



The graduates get ready to receive their diplomas.



A triumphant moment for the newest graduates of Chicopee Academy!



The Chicopee High School Junior ROTC presents the colors.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Ben Bohlke and Charlie Pittsinger pose for a photo after the Chicopee Academy graduation.



Leilanni Cruz-Torres begins the walk to receive her diploma from Chicopee Academy.



Edwin Lozada hugs Chicopee Academy Principal Lori Vaillancourt after receiving his diploma.



One of the graduates did high fives with friends after receiving his diploma.



Emalie Figueroa in a family photo after receiving her diploma.



Diana Rivera in a family photo after the Chicopee Academy Graduation.



Chicopee Academy Principal Lori Vaillancourt talked about the power of belonging in her remarks.



Mayor John Vieau shakes hands with Nicholas Menard.

CHICOPEE ACADEMY from page 1

rise each day with determination and hope."

Ware met some of the seniors during lunch on May 15 with a group of students and they explained how they navigated Chicopee Academy.

The wisdom included being yourself and not trying to fit in, not caring about what others think and focusing on yourself and doing the work and teachers wanting them to succeed.

"They were happy that teachers gave multiple chances for them to get success. I'll going to say that again. They acknowledge teachers gave them multiple chances to give them success," Ware said. "Hearing that made me incredibly proud to lead this district. True education isn't about running an obstacle course designed to trip students up. It is about creating an environment of grace where a missed deadline isn't a dead end. But an opportunity to learn about accountability."

Vaillancourt emphasized the power of belonging and how "At Chicopee Academy, you belonged because of who you are—not despite it."

"And in that belonging, you discovered something even bigger: Your differences were never flaws. Your differences were part of what made our community stronger. You

learned that a person can carry anger and still be full of love. Carry fear and still be brave. Carry pain and still create joy for others. Carry doubt and still move forward. You found your place," Vaillancourt said. "And now, graduation means your story is ready to change. The next chapter of your life is not only about finding places where you belong. It is about becoming the kind of person who creates belonging for someone else. Because the world desperately needs more people who know how to do that."

Nevens's tribute was for Emalie Figueroa, who broke out of her shell and "completely turned around her educational career," achieving near-perfect grades in all her classes and planning to attend STCC and study nursing.

"I am honored to have you as a student, Emalie, and I miss seeing you walk into school (even though you were usually late). I cannot wait to see the impact you make on this world as you go on to your next endeavor. I know you are going to do great things," Nevins said. "As you leave today, always remember, be safe, be smart, and know I am just one quick email away. I am so proud of the woman you have become. Thank you for making my first year of teaching so special."

Bohlke reflected on Charlie Pittsinger, including a favorite memory of when he shared about getting his first job.

He shared about getting his first job.

"He came to school wearing work boots, had a change of clothes, and a look of excitement on his face for his first day of work. I asked him what his job was and where he was going. He told me without hesitation that he was working for a tree company called City Tree Service with his dad, who would be picking him up soon. This became an everyday occurrence, and when Charlie found out he could leave school early to work with his dad and still earn his credits, rain or shine, he never missed a day of work/school again," Bohlke said. "I sat down recently with Charlie to talk about his future. I found the same excited young man who was on his way to a job site, still working for City Tree Service. Our conversation immediately reminded me of two things: if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life, and you are never too old to climb trees."

Johnson noted Diana Rivera's "strength of will and strength of character."

"Today, Diana stands before us as a proud graduate, determined to make the most out of life and grab every opportunity that comes her way. We spoke recently about her future goals of becoming an entrepreneur, and if her history is any indication, whatever

she chooses to pursue, she will be a force to be reckoned with," Johnson said. "Diana, your journey reminds us that true strength is not about making the most noise. It is about having the courage to stand firm in who you are, to persevere through challenges, and to keep moving forward no matter what stands in your way."

Zwirblia said she could see Vittore "Vito" Williams' intelligence, that he was practical "and very much his own person."

"One of the things I appreciate most about Vito is that he has goals for himself. He has talked about going to college, pursuing HVAC, and eventually starting his own business one day. And honestly, that path makes a lot of sense for him. Vito is the type of person who wants things to be useful, real, and connected to his future. He does not just want to learn for the sake of learning — he wants to know how it applies, how it works, and how it can help him build the life he wants," Zwirblia said. "Vito, I want you to know that I am proud of you. I'm proud of your growth, your humor, your stubbornness, and the way you have continued moving forward. I truly believe that when you set your mind to something, you have what it takes to achieve it."



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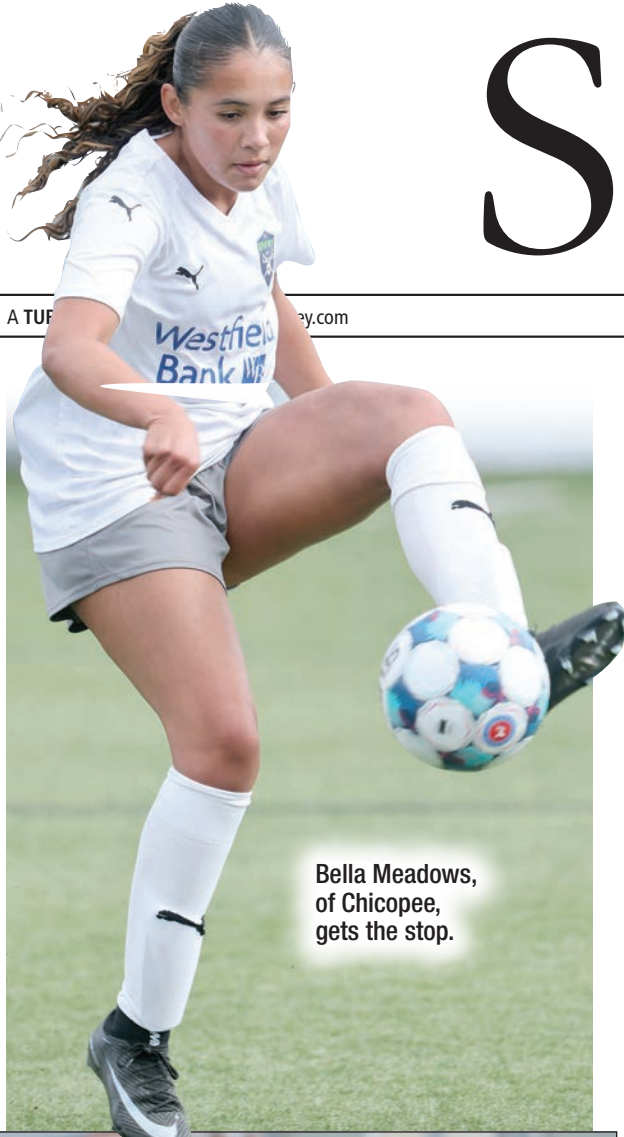
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SPORTS

A TURLEY PHOTO

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Bella Meadows, of Chicopee, gets the stop.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Caleigh Foley sends a quick pass away.

Busy schedule continues for Mutiny

LUDLOW – The New England Mutiny continues double duty, playing in both the UWS and USL-W leagues. Last week, they were in action for two games, facing both the Maine Mystics in a UWS game, then

followed that with a USL-W game against rival AC Connecticut. Neither final score was reported. The Mutiny were in action earlier this week against Hudson Valley and next face the Maine Footy on Saturday, June 13.



Kayleigh Lukasik rears back for a touch.



Rachel Marchini winds up for a free kick.



Chicopee Comprehensive High School volleyball wins, heads for the final four.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Colts head for semifinals

CHICOPEE – The third-seeded Chicopee Comprehensive High School boys volleyball team headed for the semifinals in the Division 2 State Tournament after defeating Boston Latin Academy on Sunday, June 7.

It was a 3-0 sweep for the Colts, the same score they had defeated their first two opponents in the state tournament by. Comp beat Assabet Valley in the Round of 32, then defeated Dracut in the Round of 16, all at home with the high seed in the tournament.

Thankfully, Comp drew a local opponent in the state semifinals held on Tuesday, June 9, and their trip to neutral territory was short.

The Colts traveled to nearby West Springfield High School and were scheduled to face No. 2 Westfield.



Dillon Harris tries to tip the ball past a block.



Noah Johnson sends the ball over the net.



Chace Murphy sends a spike away.



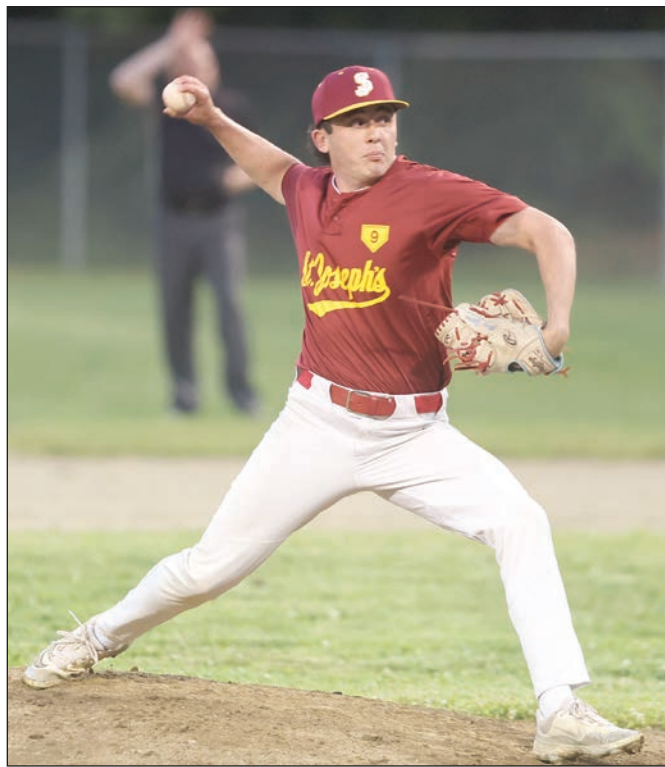
Marek Strojvus connects on a bump.



Daniel Gauthier goes for a spike.



Alex Rivera goes for a score.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Trey Yesu pitches for St. Joe's.



Matt Drobiak delivers a pitch home.

Tri-County Baseball season opens up

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE—PeoplesBank has captured the Tri-County League championship title the past twelve years.

Teddy Bear Pools and Spas and the St. Joseph's Saints are two of the TCL teams looking to end the PeoplesBank dynasty this summer.

The first meeting of the regular season between the two squads was an old fashion slugfest.

Teddy Bear Pools pounded out 17 base hits leading to a 12-6 victory over the Saints at St. Joe's Park, last Friday night.

"It's always a lot of fun whenever we play against St. Joe's, especially at this field," said Teddy Bear Pools player/coach Ryan Magni. "We had trouble scoring runs last year, but we did the job offensively, which made the difference in tonight's game."

The road win improved Teddy Bear Pools record to

2-0.

Before moving to Teddy Bear Pools, Magni played eight seasons for St. Joe's. His brother, Brandon, is listed on the Saints roster, but he didn't play in last Friday's game.

"I played eight seasons for St. Joe's," Magni said. "I'm still friends with a lot of their players."

One of those players is St. Joe's player/coach Brian Hayes.

"Ryan and I are good friends," Hayes said. "We talked on the phone for an

hour earlier today. I also have a batting cage at my house that he uses."

St. Joseph's entered the home game with a 3-0 record.

The winning pitcher was Matt Drobiak, who graduated from South Hadley High School. The righthander allowed four runs on six hits during the first four innings. He walked one and struck out one.

"In the Tri-County League, a starter only needs

See TRI COUNTY page 10

SPORTS

Western Mass. Pioneers score shutout of Conn. Rush

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Ben Alexander and Martin Echarren are two of the first-year members of the Western Mass. Pioneers.

The duo played key roles in the Pioneers 1-0 shutout victory over the Connecticut Rush before a large crowd at historic Lusitano Stadium, last Friday night.

“We really needed to win tonight’s game, especially after we lost our last game,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “We just need to keep up with the other teams that are ahead of us.”

The home win improved the Pioneers season record to 3-1-0. Their only setback came six days earlier at home against NEFC, 4-2, who’s

currently sitting in first place in the USL League Two Northeast Division table.

NEFC, who’s a second-year member of the USL League Two, had a perfect 6-0 record after their first six matches.

Vermont Green FC, who are the defending National Champions, are sitting in second place with a 4-0-0 record followed by the Pioneers in third place.

The Pioneers won’t be facing NEFC again during the regular season. Their only meeting versus the Vermont Green is slated to take place at Lusitano Stadium on July 10, which is the regular season finale.

The Conn. Rush are sitting in fourth place with a 2-2-1 mark.

The top two finishers

in the league standings will qualify for the USL-League two playoffs in July.

The Pioneers began the regular season by playing three of the first four matches in front of their faithful supporters.

Alexander, who’s the Pioneers starting goalkeeper, posted a 1-0 road shutout against the Seacoast United Phantoms on May 20. The Western Mass. squad posted a 4-2 win over the Albany Rush in the season opener.

The only goal of last Friday’s match was scored on a penalty kick by Echarren during the 39th minute of the opening half.

Referee Carlos Garcia awarded the PK after Thomas Wadas, who graduated from Ludlow High School a year ago, was fouled in the box af-

ter stealing the ball away from a Rush player.

Echarren stepped up to the spot and lined a shot into the upper right corner of the net past goalie Michael Sipples. It was his third goal of the season.

“I had a lot of confidence that I would be able to make the PK,” Echarren said. “I made a couple of penalty kicks for my college team.”

Echarren, who’s from Tandil, Argentina, was a freshman on the University of Charleston men’s soccer team last fall. He was selected as the Mountain East Conference Freshmen of the Year after scoring nine goals. He also had four assists.

The Pioneers managed to hold onto the 1-0 advantage for the rest of the match.

Alexander made a total

of nine saves in recording his second shutout.

“It felt really good to post another shutout,” said Alexander, who’s from Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada. “During the course of the game, I did a lot of talking with my defense. I just wanted to make sure we were on the same page. I’ve really enjoyed playing for the Pioneers.”

The Pioneers defensive unit is led by Jaiden Willems, Dylan Hunston, Vasco Teixeira, and Yigit Kilic.

Alexander began his collegiate soccer career at the University of South Carolina.

The Gamecocks are a member of the SEC in every sport, including the women’s soccer team, except in men’s soccer. The men’s soccer team are members of the Sunbelt Conference.

“Not a lot of the SEC schools have a men’s soccer team,” Alexander said. “That’s why the South Carolina men’s soccer team compete in the Sunbelt Conference.”

After two seasons playing at South Carolina, Alexander decided to transfer to Boston University.

“It was just time for a change,” he said. “The B.U. soccer team has been doing very well during the past couple of years.”

Alexander will be playing one more season for the Terriers before he graduates.

The Rush outshot the Pioneers, 9-8.

The Pioneers will be playing four straight road matches before returning home to face the Boston Bolts at 7:30 pm on June 19.

Blue Sox grab win over Ocean State

HOLYOKE – Through four innings on the Valley Blue Sox’s Hall of Fame Night on Saturday, the difference between the Blue Sox and the Ocean State Waves was largely on the mound. Ocean State (0-3) used a pair of walks and a hit by pitch to spark a four-run fourth inning and take a 5-1 lead. Valley (1-0-1) answered in the eighth, scoring four runs with help from an error, two hit by pitches, a walk and a wild pitch, to complete a 6-5 comeback in the ninth at Mackenzie Stadium.

The full nine innings offered an early-season snapshot of the realities of summer baseball. Pitchers and hitters alike are adjusting to new roles, players have to click with new teammates almost immediately and it is the first competitive action many have seen in weeks.

For the Blue Sox, the turning point began after starter Jackson Hinchliffe navigated five innings despite running into trouble in the middle frames. After retiring six of the first seven batters he faced, Hinchliffe allowed five runs across the third and fourth innings, accompanied by two walks and a hit by pitch.

Rather than making an early move, Valley allowed the right-hander to finish out five innings and throw a total of 75 pitches. The

decision proved significant as Gregory Bruno, Maddex LaBuda and Jake LeFrancois combined for four scoreless innings out of the bullpen, limiting Ocean State to one hit and walk while keeping the deficit at four runs.

“We kept it there,” Blue Sox head coach John Raiola said. “Bruno, LaBuda and LeFrancois came in and kept it at five runs, giving us a chance.”

That chance came for Valley in the eighth.

Ocean State reliever Max Marchetti entered after Sawyer Deering delivered four scoreless innings in relief. Marchetti pitched just 0.1 innings for Northeastern this spring and did not appear during the previous two seasons while redshirting.

Valley’s rally began without a hit. Scott Donahue reached on a throwing error by shortstop Justin Hackett before Anthony Tirado was hit by a pitch, leaving two ducks sitting on the pond with no outs.

After both runners advanced, Anthony Grabau drove in the Blue Sox’s second run of the game with an RBI groundout. Trevor Harmon followed with a single to center field that cut the deficit to 5-3.

Ocean State’s command troubles continued from there. Eddison Esquivel was hit by a pitch, and Chris Carson worked a walk to load

the bases. Brett Rogers then brought home another run with a groundout before a wild pitch allowed Trevor Harmon to score from third and Esquivel to score from second, tying the game at 5-5.

By the time the Waves’ Andrew Jacobs entered to relieve Marchetti and record the final out of the inning, Valley had sent eight batters to the plate and scored four runs on just one hit.

“When you have traffic on the bases late in the game, it just creates some pressure,” Raiola said.

The sequence continued an uneven opening week for Ocean State’s pitching staff. The Waves entered Saturday having issued 13 walks in a 20-1 loss to Danbury on Friday, and they also allowed runs to score on wild pitches in Thursday’s game against Bristol.

Raiola said both teams are still adjusting to the unique circumstances of summer baseball.

“All of our guys are in unfamiliar spaces [and] so are they,” Raiola said. “You see some guys pitching in spots or playing positions that they don’t normally play a lot at school.”

The Blue Sox completed the comeback in the ninth when Nico Soul singled, advanced on an error and scored on Tirado’s RBI single to secure the 6-5 victory.

TRI COUNTY from page 9

to go four innings to be the winning pitcher,” said Magni, who pitched the final three innings to earn the save. “Matt pitched very well in tonight’s game. I also coached him at Holyoke Community College the past two years.”

Magni, who began last Friday’s game at second base and had two base hits, took over as the baseball coach at HCC in 2022. He isn’t going to return to that position next spring.

Drobiak had a 3-0 lead to protect before throwing his first pitch in the bottom of the first inning.

Teddy Bear’s first three runs against righty Jack Feltovic scored on RBI singles by catcher Willie Landman (3-for-5), third baseman Ramon Jimenez (3-for-4), and centerfielder Xavion Maldonado, who also finished the game with three base hits.

Feltovic worked the first three innings. He was replaced on the mound by Trey Yesu, who was the ace of the Bridgewater State University pitching staff during the past couple of years. Yesu graduated from Monson High School.

The home team responded in the bottom half of the opening frame with a double by centerfielder Pat Fitzgib-

bons (2-for-4), which scored shortstop Devin Slattery, who leadoff with a single to left.

Slattery, who graduated from Ware High School, was named as the Tri-County League MVP last year. He led his team with three base hits against Teddy Bear Pools.

The visiting team put two more runs on the right field scoreboard with two outs in the second inning.

Shortstop Ray Toth, who graduated from Granby High School, doubled home the first run. He scored when Jimenez blasted a triple to right field.

Teddy Bear Pools, who are playing their home games at South Hadley High School, scored another run in the third giving them a 6-1 lead.

St. Joe’s, who had nine

base hits, answered back with an RBI single from Fitzgibbons and a sacrifice fly by first baseman Bobby Triglillo.

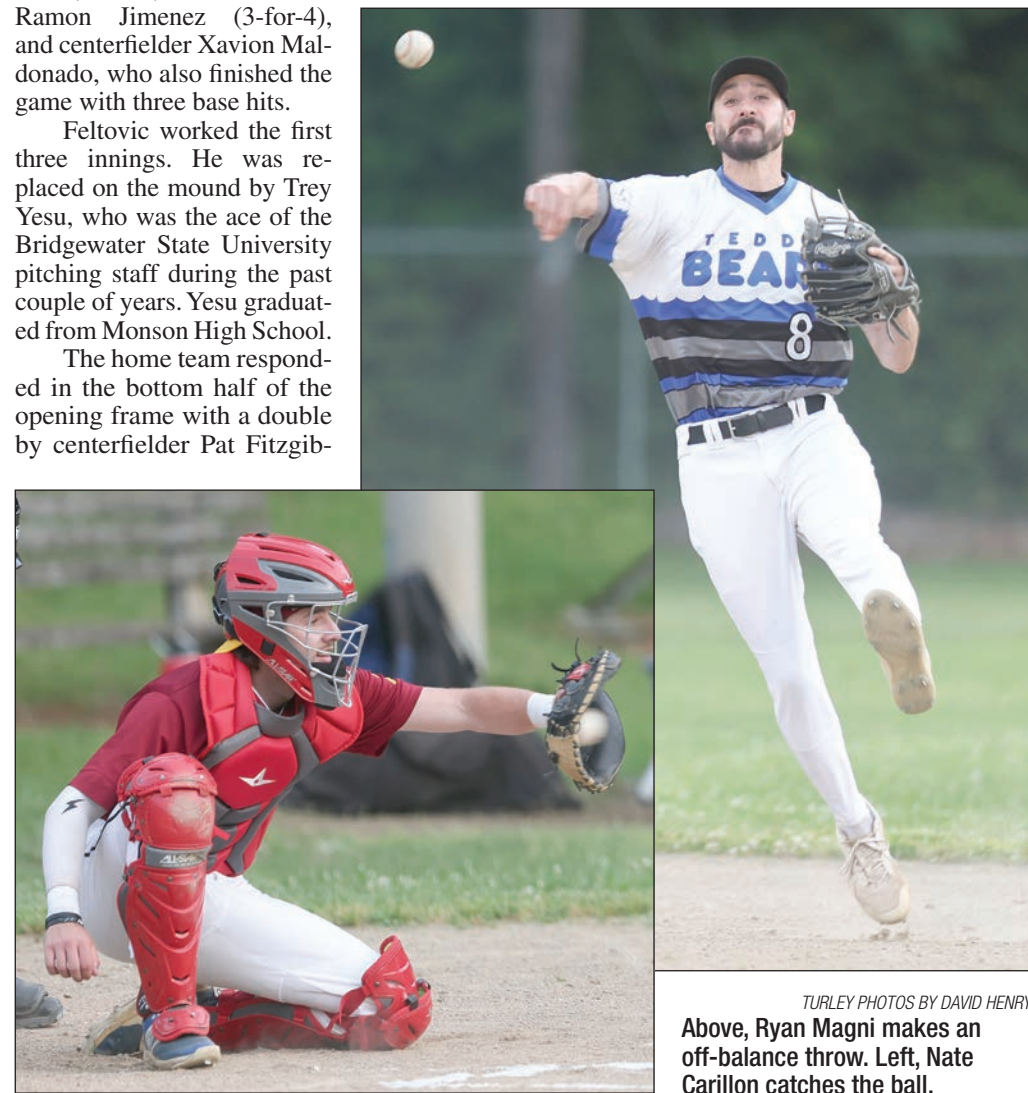
Both teams scored a run in the fourth inning.

Then Teddy Bear Pools pretty much put the game out of reach by scoring five more runs in the fifth inning.

Toth, who’s currently a member of the Wheaton College baseball team, contributed with a two-run single. After loading the bases, right fielder Bailey Griggs cleared them with a triple to right.

Trailing, 12-4, St. Joe’s could only score single runs in the fifth and sixth innings.

St. Joe’s will be looking to even the season series when they host Teddy Bear Pools for the second time on June 19.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
Above, Ryan Magni makes an off-balance throw. Left, Nate Carillon catches the ball.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
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56					57			58					
59					60					61			
62					63					64			

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Sealed with a kiss
- 5. Large sandwich
- 8. Swiss city
- 12. Japanese persimmons
- 14. When you hope to get somewhere
- 15. Wings
- 16. A name of God
- 18. Elected official (informal)
- 19. Abnormal breathing
- 20. “Seinfeld” character
- 21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 22. Something for sale
- 23. Gets rid of
- 26. One who touts
- 30. Blemished
- 31. Less than exciting
- 32. Born of
- 33. N. German town

CLUES DOWN

- 34. Notes
- 39. Move away from land
- 42. Vulcanite
- 44. More ignoble
- 46. Child actor Kirk
- 47. Written works
- 49. Sea vessel
- 50. Residue
- 51. Engraved
- 56. Having sufficient skill
- 57. One and only
- 58. Erase
- 59. Broad inlets
- 60. Nightmarish street
- 61. Play again
- 62. Formerly (archaic)
- 63. Add a color to change the color
- 64. Move swiftly and lightly
- 1. Scottish island

- 2. River in the Netherlands
- 3. Asian people
- 4. Fuzzy fruit
- 5. Ninth month (abbr.)
- 6. An idealistic social reformer
- 7. What you owe
- 8. Colorless mineral
- 9. Overjoyed
- 10. Rattling breaths
- 11. Tropical Old World tree
- 13. A citizen of Senegal
- 17. Greek mythological beauty
- 24. Wrath
- 25. Instrument to measure wind speed
- 26. Luxury carmaker
- 27. Bitterly regret
- 28. Not or
- 29. Google certification

- 35. Midway between northeast and east
- 36. Space station
- 37. Relating to the ears
- 38. Congressman
- 40. Yelled at
- 41. Rudely assertive
- 42. Defunct European money
- 43. Shared one’s soul
- 44. Onion rolls
- 45. A way to state clearly
- 47. Relating to a lobe
- 48. Underlying message
- 49. Hollywood pig
- 52. Indicates pitch
- 53. Filament of a feather
- 54. Small ornamental ladies’ bag for small articles
- 55. Diminish

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

There is an SSA form to apply for the lump sum death benefit (SSA-8), but calling your local SS office or 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply for the one-time lump-sum death benefit in person is usually all that is needed.

YOUR HEALTH from page 4

Don’t have food out when a strange animal is nearby.

- Stand very still with your hands at your sides.
- Don’t pet or catch a wild animal.
- Never bother an animal while it’s eating.
- Never tease or chase an animal or pull its ears, tail or paws.
- Once the animal loses interest, slowly back away

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the

until you no longer see it.

- Walk away if an animal is growling. Don’t run.
- If attacked, give the animal your jacket, book bag or anything you can put between you and it.
- If you fall down, curl into a ball with your hands over your ears and don’t move. Try not to scream and roll around.

We love our companion animals, but keep this in mind: They are still just that – animals that may behave unpredictably.

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

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELMS COLLEGE MARKETING



Elms celebrates grads at ceremony

CHICOPEE – Elms College awarded more than 430 degrees for graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs during our May 16, 2026, Commencement exercises in the MassMutual Center.

Congratulations to all of our grads and their families.

CPL SUMMER from page 1

tiport coloring craft where kids can assemble a little booklet that is a mushroom house with different characters from the Plant a Seed, Read theme," Daly said.

Director Laura Bovee gave more insight on how CPL will be partnering with ChicopeeFresh again this summer.

"We'll host the Curbside Cafeteria truck in our parking lot each weekday from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. from June 29 through Aug. 14. The truck provides free meals for kids 18 and under," Bovee said.

The library encourages reading yearlong, but especially aspires to support young readers during the summertime.

"The Summer Reading program encourages kids to read, even just a little bit, every day. This can help kids maintain their reading skills over the summer and helps them build a habit of reading. And our summer events are just plain fun. Events at the library are always free and offer a variety of ways to keep kids and their caregivers entertained throughout the summer. If

we manage to sneak in a few fun facts about bugs or get the kids moving around at a dance party, that's even better," Bovee said.

Daly also emphasized the importance of reading during the summer months.

"That there are opportunities for anyone to get some reading and creativity into their days and that they can engage with the library at their own pace. There are very few offerings for free educational fun for families. In the summer everyone is looking for things to do. We want to provide really fun, really interesting things for folks to do. It's great for everybody to get out in the community and do things together in person. It's great for literacy to provide free choice reading opportunities," Daly said.

CPL will host a variety of events for kids, teens and adults this summer, some include their Thursday night concert series, Bookmobile Story Walks throughout local parks, Caravan Puppets, Li Liu the Chinese Acrobat, Professor Bugman, Ed Pop, and The Zoo at Forest Park's Wildlife on Wheels.

Also, CPL will have a summer reading challenge

taking place from June 24 to Aug. 14.

"Most events will not require registration, but anything that does - the Wildlife on Wheels shows for example - will have a registration link on our website's calendar. And if anyone has questions or needs assistance, they can always call us. We'll be sending our brochures out through the schools soon, so every family with a kid in Chicopee schools should get one. We'll be posting a Monday update on Facebook each week with info on the week's programming," Daly said.

CPL is dedicated to creating a welcoming environment for families each summer to nurture reading habits by emphasizing that reading doesn't have to be a huge commitment and doesn't have to be done alone. By developing a sense of community, kids, teens and adults are supported in discovering new books, forming friendships and connections, and having a welcoming space to enjoy the summertime.

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE from page 1

enrollment overall and about \$5 million when the low income group dropped by one. In Workshop Two, we talked a lot about our budget line increases; the spots we are having impact within the budget. Some of those are transportation, our out of district tuition for our children that are going out to other schools and how that was affecting us. In Workshop Three, we received that direction and put a budget forth with that direction," Miarecki said.

When Miarecki arrived at the podium, he acknowledged that the process leading to that moment wasn't easy.

"This has been a journey," he said. "I know it's been probably more than the four workshops we have. It has been a journey since mid-November when the admin team and myself started to put together the budget you see in front of you today."

After he led the School Committee through the complicated financials, Miarecki expressed thanks for all those

who contributed to getting the job done.

"It's a team effort to do this. With the size of the budget, it can't be done by one person, and I do appreciate everybody who has been involved in the process," Miarecki said.

Ward 1 Representative Deanna Rousseau, a member of the subcommittee that recommended approving the budget, explained that a lot of the work that went into shaping what was presented on June 1 went beyond the scope of four meetings.

"These numbers continue to move each one of those meetings, and I'm sure if we didn't snap the line now, they would continue to evolve, but that's the budgeting process," Rousseau said. "We need to have a picture of what we think things will look like throughout the year, so I appreciate all of the needs-based efforts that went into going school by school, line by line to make sure we're addressing the needs of our city."

School Committee Vice Chair Jason Dout was excited to see that every elementary

school in the district will receive more resources in the new budget for guidance and social work.

"I think that's a great thing because it comes full circle, meeting our families where they are and understanding family and community engagement and the efforts that we're putting in, and then, understanding that if we're opening those doors for communication, we're hopefully starting those difficult conversations about the work that needs to be done with our students," Dout said.

Dout believes that this action could be beneficial down the road, as it could provide more students with resources for stability at a much younger age.

The Ward 3 representative was also encouraged by the detail that Miarecki and his team delved into while giving the budget report.

"This is a very organized and fantastic presentation," Dout said. "I think that has to do with some of the lack of questions today, so thank you for you and your team and all the work that went into this."



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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL LICENSE COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The License Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, June 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Application for a Home Occupation License at 36 Montvue Street for the purpose of doing cottage food bakery – no customers on premises – sold off site. Applicant: Shawntea Crudup, 36 Montvue Street, Chicopee, MA 01020.

The June 15, 2026 License Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:00 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013. You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 06/05, 06/12/2026

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM*** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under section 275-52 B 13 for the purpose of operating a dog kennel (4) total located at 54 Chester Street. Applicant – Breanna Wilson, 54 Chester Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

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

The June 24, 2026 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 06/05, 06/12/2026

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM*** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under section 275-58 C 4 for the purpose of providing entertainment with food and drinking. This establishment will provide alcohol consumption as well, located at 300 Carew Street. Applicant – Enid V. Coleman, 125 Jarvis Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040.

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

The June 24, 2026 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 06/05, 06/12/2026

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM*** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change application from Bus A & Res C to Res D for the entirety of the property located at 725 Memorial Drive, 745 Memorial Drive, & 0 Memorial Drive Parcel ID 0425-00038, 0425-00039, & 0426-00003 for the purpose of additional mobile home units at existing mobile home park. Applicant – Edison Yee, Trustee of the Maui Realty Nominee Trust/Betlai, LLC, c/o Edison Yee/Linda Yee, 55 Frank B Murray Street, Suite 301, Springfield, MA 01103.

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

The June 24, 2026 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 06/05, 06/12/2026

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM*** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change application Bus A to Res A for 11,257 SF for property located at 799 Front Street for the purpose of single-family home. Applicant – Privilne Real Estate, LLC, Sergey Kucherenko, 83 Maple St, 1 FL, Chicopee, MA 01020.

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

The June 24, 2026 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 06/05, 06/12/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD26P1152EA Estate of:

Anne Marie Fitzgerald Also Known As: Anne M. Fitzgerald Date of Death: 3/27/2026 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Brian T Fitzgerald of Boxford, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Brian T Fitzgerald of Boxford, 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. 06/12/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on June 26th,

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

2011 Dodge Grand Caravan VIN: 2D4RN3DG8BR710552 Matthew Reilly 83 South Monson Rd. Hampden, MA 01036

2007 Buick Lacross VIN: 2G4WC582871233428 Brian S Kimball 111 School St., Apt. 5 Chicopee, MA 01013

2003 Ford F250 vin: 1ftnx21173ec47707 Joseph Breton 95 Dayton St. Chicopee, MA 01013

2009 Nissan Maxima VIN: 1N4AA51E59C810427 Jadas Snipes 215 River St., Apt. 2 West Springfield, MA 01089

2009 Jeep Grand Cherokee VIN: 1J8GR48K79C537759 Zana Carter 215 Pearl St. Enfield, CT 06082

2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee VIN: 1J4GW48SXYC413882 Marishalee Perez 300 Wildermere St. Chicopee, MA 01020

2007 Acura MDX VIN: 2HNYD28257H502916 Francisco Ortiz and Gloria Morales-Diaz 22 Spring St. Chicopee, MA 01013

2011 Hyundai Sonata VIN: 5NPEB4AC5BH172272 Shelia Marie Hunt 167 Seymour St. 3SE Hartford, CT 06106

2010 Honda Pilot VIN: 5FNYP4H68AB007217 Kristy Reim 222 Gage St. Bennington, VT 05201

2004 Infiniti G35 VIN: JNKCV51FX4M713922 Karissa Booska 45 Silas St. Springfield, MA 01109

2019 Hyundai Translead VIN: 3H3V532L0LR441764 Amazon Logistics Inc. 4255 Anson Blvd. Whitestown, IN 46075 06/12, 06/19, 06/26/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on June 19th, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2005 Honda Accord VIN: 1HGCM568X5A172180 Savannah Sanchez 89 Bonner St. Chicopee, MA 01020

2007 Honda CRV VIN: JHLRE38537C006655 Maria Caal Arana 17 Crosby St., Apt. 3 Lawrence, MA 01843

2012 Nissan Altima VIN: 1N4AL2AP3CN537655 Angie Colon 90 Cochran St. #1R Chicopee, Ma 01020

1998 Suzuki

VIN: JS1GR7DAXW2104479 Jermaine Mitchell 102 Wollaston Street Springfield, MA 01108

2012 Chevrolet Equinox VIN: 2GNFLEE51C6234993 Geraldyn R Pereznavia 466 Lakeside Ave., Fl. 2 Ornage, NJ 07050

2004 Nissan Altima VIN: 1N4AL11D44C153686 Stephanie Brown 17 Saab Ct., Apt. 501 Springfield, Ma 01104

2007 Honda Pilot VIN: 2HKYF18107H521849 Patricia Jones and Brian Jones 40 Avon St. #1 Wakefield, MA 01880

2014 Jeep Cherokee VIN: 1C4PJMBS0EW156531 Douglas Berton Brown 51 Meadow Brook Rd., Apt 119 Ellington, CT 06029

2008 Honda Civic VIN: 1HGCG1654YAQ73381 Unknown Owner 06/05, 06/12, 06/19/2026

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on June 12th, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

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

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

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

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

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD25P2357GD

In the interests of **Legendary R. King, minor of Chicopee, MA** **NOTICE AND ORDER: General Probate Petition for Parenting Time NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a General Petition for Parenting Time filed on **04/13/2026** by **Jasmine Duke** of East Longmeadow, MA will be held **07/08/2026 at 10:00AM** Located: **Probate & Family Court, 50 State Street, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103**

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

File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

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

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

Date: June 5, 2026 **Rosemary A. Saccomani** Register of Probate 06/12/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD26P1246EA Estate of: Stella Orszulak Also known as: Stanislaw Orszulak Date of Death: 12/27/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

The Petitioner requests that **Richard Orszulak of Nashua, NH** 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 07/06/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 08, 2026 **Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate

06/12/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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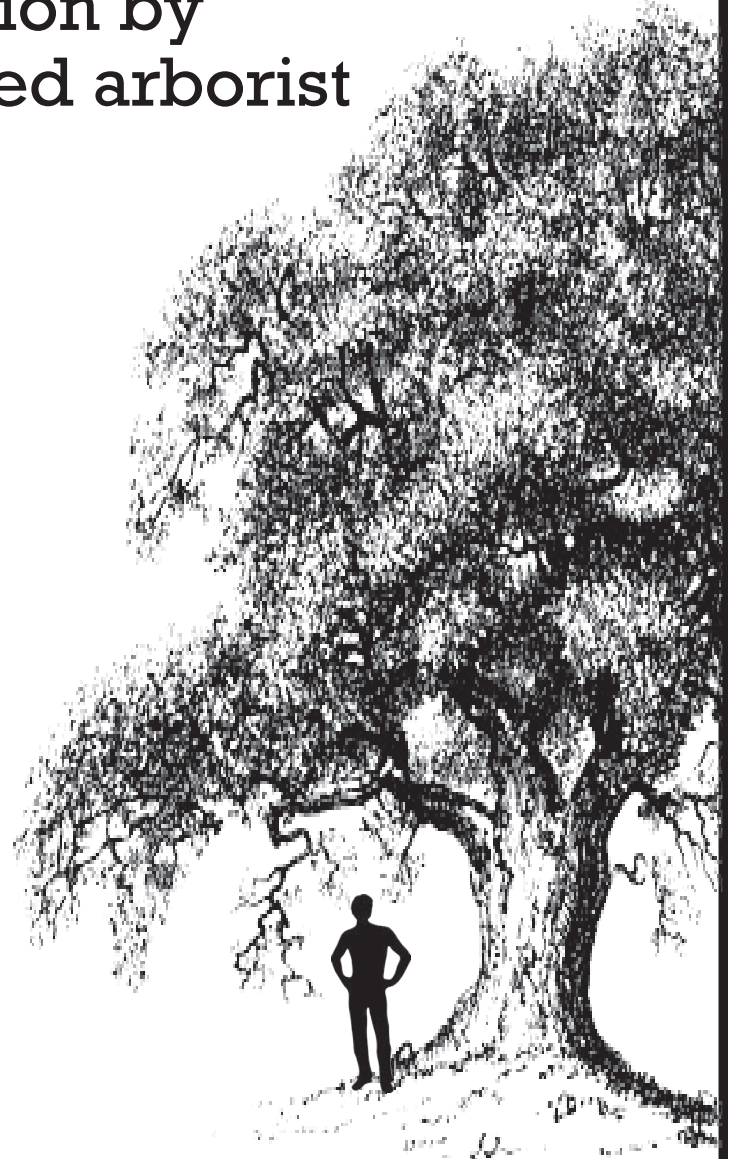


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