

Chicopee Register



Juneteenth was celebrated in the city of Chicopee with a flag-raising on June 17.

TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Chicopee marks Juneteenth in flag-raising

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE – Residents, community members, local elected officials and more gathered outside city hall on June 17 to mark Juneteenth in a flag-raising ceremony.

Mayor John Vieau noted that “we recognize Juneteenth

not only as a historical milestone, but also as a reminder that freedom, equality, must continually be protected and strengthened in every generation.”

Juneteenth, Vieau added, “tells a unique American story of perseverance, hope and of determination of people who never stopped believing in their own dignity and hu-

manity.”

“Juneteenth is also about education. It’s about learning about our shared history. We become better equipped to build and understand empathy and unity within our community when we do that. So while we celebrate progress, we also recognize the work of creating opportunity and fairness for all people as it con-

tinues,” Vieau said.

Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware noted that about 50% of students are students of color.

“We have to recognize the history that has come before us and one of the things that I represent as your su-

See **JUNETEENTH**, page 5

Dismissal of CHS principal sparks community outrage

Gina Fasoli
Figueroa’s
termination has not
been well-received

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – An administrator’s dismissal by Chicopee Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware last month has sparked outrage across the teaching community.

Chicopee High School Principal Gina Fasoli Figueroa’s employment with the school district will be terminated on June 30, according to documents submitted to the Chicopee Register.

However, Fasoli Figueroa has since left the district. Sean Mackin, the school’s athletic director, became interim principal after her departure. The exact date of that transition was not made public.

A replacement has yet to be named and the school

district has not outlined a process or timeline.

Figueroa was informed by Ware in early May that she would be let go after two years in the role due to her alleged ineffective leadership.

Ware told Figueroa that she didn’t facilitate a positive environment and instead created a toxic atmosphere at the high school.

She was also accused of practicing favoritism and communicating poorly.

The superintendent further noted that he addressed these issues with Figueroa several times.

Ware said Figueroa consistently avoided tough conversations and lacked adequate leadership. He does not believe she improved in these areas over the past two years.

Ware also criticized Figueroa’s management of school operations and divulged that she had been placed on administrative leave in late 2024 after im-

See **PRINCIPAL**, page 6

Cross sworn in as new CFD Chief

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE – Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Cross was sworn in as the new fire chief on June 16.

He will succeed former Fire Chief Daniel Stamborski, who retired on June 16 after 29 years of service.

Cross is a lifelong Chicopee resident and joined the fire department in 1996, dedicating more than three decades to serving the community.

Mayor John Vieau expressed excitement for Cross.

“I’m excited for the direction that the fire department’s headed in. I’m committed and I think that former Chief Stamborski has been the biggest advocate that I’ve ever seen in making sure our firefighters, our first responders—whether it’d be ELS—have the tools they need to protect themselves and protect this community,” Vieau said. “As a strong advocate, I know that the next chief who’s standing to my right will be that. An advo-



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Fire Chief Matthew Cross shakes hands with City Council Vice President/Ward 6 Councilor Sam Shumsky.

cate for the people who are in this room. It is a true brotherhood. I’ve witnessed it over the past seven years. There’s something really special to be a part of. It’s more than a job. It’s a career, it’s a lifestyle and it’s prominent here

in Chicopee that it’s about camaraderie and you need a leader that’s going to continue that, who’s going to serve, who’s also going to take the initiative to continue to en-

See **CROSS**, page 9



Michael McCann and his family enjoying breakfast.

TURLEY PHOTO BY BENNY PADILLA

RiverMills holds Father’s Day Breakfast

By Benny Padilla
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The senior center hosted a Father’s Day Breakfast to commemorate all dads and their families coming together on June 18.

The cafeteria of the center also sported red, white, and blue decorations in preparation for July 4, the 250th anni-

versary of America’s independence, and what the center’s program coordinator, Casey Conroy, calls, “The History of America Summer.”

Each of the tables had beautiful patriotic mason jars with ribbons, faux flowers, and sparkling stars. The cafeteria also had American flag and presidential garlands lining the walls with star-striped

bunting flags hanging from the ceiling.

For breakfast, all the dads and their families were served unlimited coffee and orange juice, and were brought plates of eggs, toast, bacon and more. The staff looked more than eager to serve the residents.

See **FATHER’S DAY**, page 6

City Council shoots down request for another meeting on battery storage facility

New battery storage facility on Meadow Street will start operating in July

By Dalton Zbierski

CHICOPEE – When Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello proposed holding a public meeting to discuss battery storage facilities in Chicopee during last Tuesday’s City Council meeting, her request was met with thorough opposition.

Even Costello voted against the item after it was made clear that the board did not support it.

Next month, a battery storage facility will begin operating on Meadow Street. Recently, a public meeting

was held to discuss the project.

During the June 16 City Council meeting, Costello introduced the conversation by noting its relevance.

“There has been discussion in regard to the battery storage facilities, and it has been recommended by several people that maybe we can have a public hearing in a subcommittee to discuss the application process and any changes that would be coming down in regard to the laws pertaining to the battery storage application process,” Costello said.

Costello noted that it would be great to have members of the city’s fire department and health department in attendance if a future subcommittee meeting could be scheduled. She also wanted

to hear from the vendor operating the battery storage facility.

The proposal was met almost immediately with resistance. Ward 7 Councilor Bill Courchesne led the charge.

“We can’t compel anybody by state law to come to a hearing. We need an ordinance that says they have to come to a hearing,” Courchesne said.

Courchesne emphasized that state law has made it very difficult for the city to manage the battery storage facility. He also doesn’t feel as though it’s worth major attention.

“This is a 20-megawatt little thing in the corner of an industrial park well over 1,000 feet from anybody, so people are just crying wolf and not really knowing what

they’re talking about unfortunately... It’s very safe where it is. It couldn’t be in a better place,” Courchesne said.

He also added that the city’s safety personnel are getting familiar with how to fight potential fires at the battery storage facility.

“The fire department seemed pretty comfortable with it [at the previous public meeting]. They are paying the fire department to be trained on how to handle these things,” Courchesne said.

Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks jumped in as well. He said he was among several board members who attended the vendor’s presentation to the public.

If another meeting were to be had, Brooks explained who he would like to see there.

“If we are going to have a public hearing, I think our best bet would be to look at having a subject expert come in,” Brooks said. “That would likely, in my opinion, be from the State Fire Marshal’s Office because they are charged with managing statewide battery storage facilities and they have regulations in place.”

However, Brooks acknowledged that it would be extremely arduous to bring in a representative from the battery storage facility for another public meeting because City Council doesn’t have the grounds to summon anyone.

“There are very few restrictions we can place upon this because it is a use by right, and that’s been well established. We can do some zoning, some set back requirements, but our hands are

fairly tied,” Brooks said. “And in this instance, from what we heard from the vendor at the soup kitchen, there is no residential impact. There is really no risk of fire. There were representatives from the fire department there.”

Councilor-at-Large Jessica Avery weighed in too. She noted that it would send a bad message to hold the meeting.

“If we, as a council, don’t have the authority to directly vote on those licenses and directly decide on those projects, I think it’s setting us up for a precedent of having meetings where it appears we have some authority over the matter,” Avery said. “I do believe that it’s important to

See **BATTERY STORAGE**, page 6

IN THE CITY



Group photo of the volunteers and Scouts in attendance.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Scout Troop 1849 hosts bottle and can drive

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Scout Troop 1849 out of the city held its semi-annual bottle-and-can drive fundraiser on May 30.

The event consisted of a collaboration among parents, scouts and even some community members who started at the Moose Family Center, which served as the base of operations, and waited for people to stop and offer their loose bottles and cans, which were then redeemed by local scouts under parent supervision.

Offering insight into the importance of the fundraiser was Troop 1849 Scout Master Rafe Demers.

“It’s a very effective fundraiser for our troop; we do this about every six months or so, and despite the weather today, we felt this was overall a success,” Demers said. “It’s been cold, rainy, and windy, but it was

great to see that a lot of parents were gracious to bring theirs, and then we have had close to 10 people who stopped by and dropped off carloads of cans as well.”

Demers then shared that, with the total exceeding more than anticipated, he and the volunteers made the decision to allow three parents to take some scouts along for a ride to travel to various redemption centers, emphasizing that fundraisers like this one are vital to the program.

“We are solely funded through donations and fundraising, and those funds help offset the dues that the scouts pay over time,” Demers said.

Demers said that Scout Troop 1849 is now under the guidance and chartered by the Rotary Club of Chicopee after years of being tied to the Moose Lodge, but he echoed that the lodge and its members continue to be a great partner.

“Currently we are chartered by the Rotary Club of Chicopee, but I want to make clear that the Moose Lodge continues to be a tremendous supporter of ours,” Demers said. “They let us use their facilities, along with helping advertise our other fundraisers, and we continue to help out where we can as well; we’ve done some cleanup, some painting, some mulching, and I think it just shows we have built a terrific network to be part of.”

Echoing similar sentiments was Senior Patrolman Kyle Gomes, who has been with Troop 1849 since middle school.

“These fundraising efforts go a long way, as they help us stay running as a troop, and it allows us to continue all sorts of activities such as hikes, camping trips, among other aspects of being in this organization,” Gomes said. “We coordinate car washes, we sell popcorn,

meat sticks, this bottle drive, help out in the community, essentially all sorts of things, which I feel everything we do helps us to learn and grow over time.”

Demers also brought attention to recently promoted Eagle Scout, Aiden Lindenfeld, who completed his Eagle Project at the lodge by creating a flag retirement box, which currently resides in the lodge’s social quarter. The consensus gathered was that the box is a beacon of stability and ingenuity from the Scouts, and will remain going forward.

Adult volunteers from the event included Melanie Trexler, Loris Bjorkman Joslyn, Nate Joslyn, Kevin Vermette, Gloria Reyes, and Shannon Gomes. Scouts that assisted included William Demers, Kyle Gomes, Tyler Gomes, Sean Dixon, Jude Joslyn, Ethan Provost, Josh Trexler and Andre Louis.

The fundraiser ran from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Chicopee Parade Committee announces autumn events

CHICOPEE – The St. Patrick’s Parade Committee of Chicopee is planning two events in the fall to support its participation in the 2027 Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade Committee.

The third annual Designer Purse Bingo will be held on September 12, 2026, at the Portuguese American Club, 149 Exchange St., Chicopee. All guests must be 18 years of age or older. Doors will be open at 4pm. Games will start promptly at 5 p.m. Prizes for the lucky winners will be designer handbags.

Admission is \$35, which includes 10 bingo card games and a door prize entry ticket. Dabbers will be available for purchase. Additional bingo card games can be purchased during the event. Tables of eight can be reserved for \$240.00 and must be paid in full no later than Sept. 2. Checks should be made out to Chicopee Parade Committee and mailed to P.O. Box 495 Chicopee, MA 01021, or brought to 1 Central Ave., Chicopee during regular business hours (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM) Monday thru Thursday.

Attendees are welcome to bring snacks but must purchase beverages from the bar. Tickets for donated baskets will be available for purchase. Photos will be posted on the committee’s Facebook page for those interested in a preview of the prizes. For more information or to re-

serve a table, call or text Alivia @ 413-378-5694 and leave a full name and good contact # where you can be reached.

New this year: A Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday October 3, 2026, at the Chicopee Country Club, 1290 Burnett Rd., Chicopee. Fee is \$120 per Golfer which includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch and dinner. Cost is \$440 per foursome. Dinner only tickets may be purchased for \$40. There are also sponsorship opportunities available from \$100 through \$1000. For more information or to register, call 413-531-5161 or e-mail ChicopeeSPCgolf@gmail.com.

Links to register for both of these events will be set up through zeffy and posted on the committee’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/chicopeespc/>. More information will be posted as it becomes available. Proceeds will support the Chicopee contingent’s participation in the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

The St. Patrick’s Parade Committee of Chicopee strives to promote Irish pride and culture through its many events. For over 70 years, the committee has organized the annual Colleen Contest and Coronation Ball, constructed the Colleen’s award-winning float, and awarded scholarships to young women who plan to further their education at a college or university.

City of Chicopee – Notice of Smokestack Demolition on Uniroyal Property

CHICOPEE – The City of Chicopee would like to notify residents that smokestack removal work is anticipated to begin on June 30 at the Uniroyal complex located at 154 Grove Street. As part of ongoing efforts to improve site safety and support future redevelopment opportunities, the city has removed several compromised structures in recent years and will continue those efforts with the forthcoming smokestack demolition.

The work is expected to remain within the site and is not expected to affect traffic operations. Out of an abundance of caution, the levee along the rear of the property should be avoided while demolition activities are underway. Residents in the vicinity may experience temporary increases in noise during work hours. Contractors will implement appropriate safety measures, including dust-control practices, to minimize impacts on the surrounding area.

For any questions or concerns, residents are urged to call the Planning department at 413-594-1515.

Polish Center of Discovery and Learning Scholarship

CHICOPEE – The Polish Center of Discovery & Learning is opening applications for the third year of its academic scholarship program for students of Polish heritage. The scholarship is provided through a generous donation from Donald Tenerowicz and is named the Theodore P. Tenerowicz and Mary E. Bigos

Endowed Scholarship Program to honor his parents.

Kenneth Lemanski, Board member of the Polish Center and Chairman of the Education Committee, comments “As the cost of higher education continues to increase, we are grateful to scholarship donors to the PCDL so that together we may make it a little easier

for students and their parents to afford a quality education.”

To be eligible, applicants must be enrolled full-time in an accredited university or college, be in good academic standing, maintain a GPA of 3.8 or higher and be of Polish heritage. Applications can be submitted starting June 19,

2026, with an application deadline of September 18, 2026. Scholarship application and full criteria can be found at <https://clkr.me/h5nfya>.

For more information about the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, please visit <http://www.polishcenter.net> or call 413-592-0001.

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Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

You never know when someone is going to cross your path or how. I met Cassidy Petersen (*soon to be McGinnis*) through her mom as Cassidy was preparing for her Jack & Jill. I make raffles where I work and was asked if I would make a couple for Cassidy, of which I agreed. When Cassidy and her mom came to pick them up, that's when I met Cassidy for the first time. Some people you just instinctively know are kind and I knew right away she was someone who would have a great story to share.

Cassidy worked as a Veterinarian Assistant for 2 years and then decided to go back to school to become a Medical Assistant. This program was offered through Baystate Medical Center where she did her internship at their cancer center. This internship was in exchange for an agreed two-year contract to continue to work for Baystate. She now works at Baystate's South Hadley's Adult Primary Care facility. Though she has fulfilled her two-year commitment, she plans on staying there as she loves working directly with patients and loves being able to take a little extra time with them when needed. She said some times, people just need a listening ear and it feels good when she's able to offer that. Out of sixty applicants, she was one of twenty chosen for this program.

Cassidy's grandmother, Bernice Peterson, was an anesthesiology nurse at Mercy Hospital where she always carried miraculous medals and gave them to patients before surgery to help them stay calm. Cassidy was impressed with the difference her grandmother made and wanted to follow in her footsteps. Cassidy has had patients compliment her on her calmness and how it helped them through difficult things. Sounds like she learned well from Grandma.

Cassidy credits her mom, who is a caregiver as well, for her empathy and making sure she had opportunities at a young age to help kindle her own. When she was young, she used to volunteer at the Forest Park Zoo helping to feed all the animals. When she was just 8 years old, she went to Zoo Camp where she not only played with various animals but learned how to care for them. Her Dad was an animal control officer from whom she developed a love of snakes and other reptiles. During high school, she ran her own successful wild life rehab that her mom helped her with.

When she was a teenager her cat gifted her with a tiny mouse, that was so

young it didn't even have its eyes opened. She nurtured that little creature, feeding it every couple of hours as it nibbled on bits of soft food. She explained that luckily, she was on school vacation so that doing that was a possible endeavor. She was devastated when he only lived about three months after she'd taken such vigilant care of him, but knew at that point in her life she wanted to help animals and people.

Cassidy and her fiancé have been together for six years and engaged for two. She said she wanted to enjoy just being engaged and not rush into planning a wedding, but they've now set a June date this year. Together she and Morgan have two dogs and two cats and explained why she fell in love with him almost immediately. When they were at dinner, he saw a man wearing a Veteran's hat eating alone at the next table and anonymously paid for his meal. He told the waitress not to tell him who'd done that, but just to thank him for his services. She knew right then they had the same values and he was definitely a 'keeper.' Her grandfather had been in the Navy so seeing him do this meant a lot to her. Morgan's grandfather was a firefighter as well as Morgan's twin sister, so they've both come from families who know the significance of helping others.

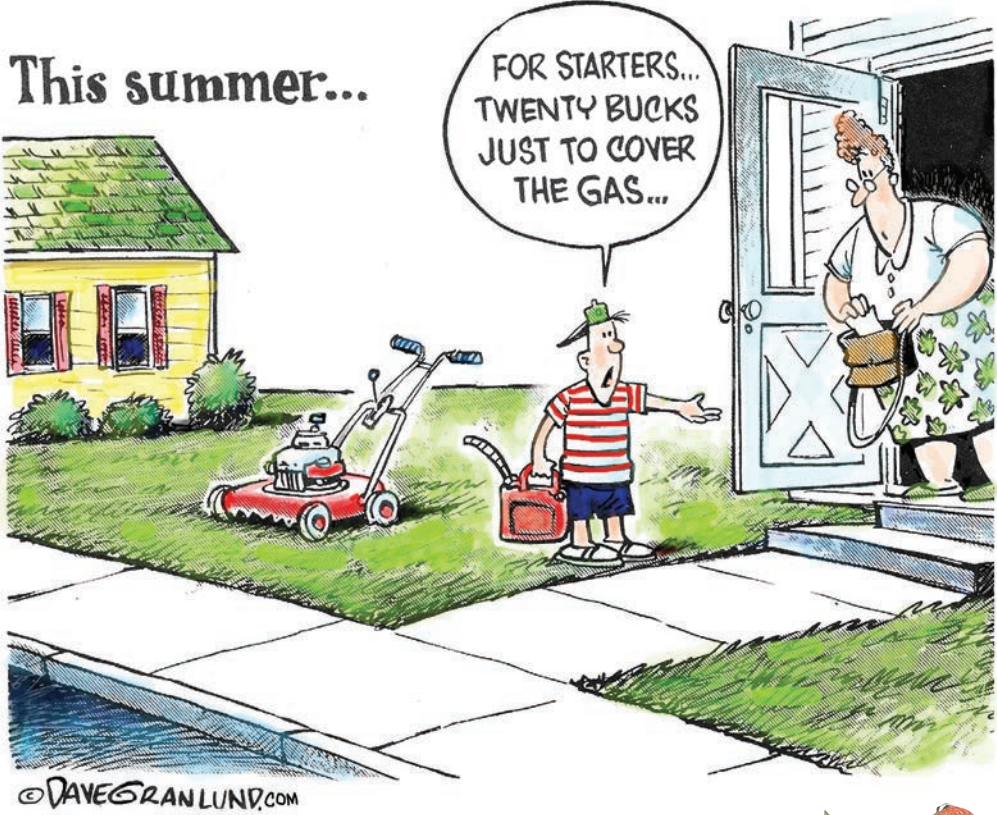
Personally, as many, she's paid for that cup of coffee for the person behind her. She's also bought items to donate such as toothpaste, soap and other personal items for the homeless.

She said she tries to make a difference every day in someone's life. It could be with a compliment to a complete stranger or someone she knows. She said a simple genuine smile can make such a difference in someone's day. She explained the feeling of doing Random Acts of Kindness outweighs the needed recognition of doing them. It creates an inner elation and happiness for you as well.

It was sheer pleasure meeting such an inspiring young woman! It's always such a joy to share the goodness of people, we just need to take a moment to notice them.

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story, 'Just Cause' you witnessed, you did or maybe received something nice being done for you. See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness!

OPINION



Strawberry culture 101

Melissa, who gardens in Belchertown asked this question of the Garden Lady.

"It's always so hard to install strawberry plants and pinch off the flowers the first year. Do you really have to? It would be so wonderful to enjoy some fruit."

I completely understand where you are coming from! Last year I was in the same boat. This year, the fruit is coming in and boy, am I enjoying it!

Removing the flowers redirects the plant's energy away from reproducing to forming strong roots and more shoots, so yes, it recommended practice.

I thought you might find this column, one of my very first, helpful. It contains lots of good tips for strawberry culture.

I have fond memories of strawberry picking. One of the first days of summer vacation was always spent at a local pick-your-own farm with my mom, filling boxes with luscious red berries.

Like any kid I did my share of sampling out there in the rows, and my taste buds never forgot the intense sweetness found only in fresh picked fruit. Now that I have my own space to garden I am able to go strawberry picking in my backyard.

With a lot of patience and a little labor, so can you!

My bareroot strawberry plants arrived by mail in early spring. I had prepared the sunny space intended for them ahead of time, by eradicating all weeds and tilling in two-inches of finished compost and some slow release organic fertilizer.

Lime wasn't necessary, as strawberries prefer a slightly acidic soil.

The plants looked a bit limp from their trip so the roots were soaked in water for an hour to rehydrate them prior to planting. I set the crown of the plant right at soil level with the roots spread over a small mound of soil in the hole.

Keeping in mind that

strawberries send out runners (daughter plants), I set my plants in a single row roughly two-feet apart with three feet between the rows. This wide spacing allowed for four daughters to be positioned four-five inches apart from mom and each other.

Some gardeners prefer to pinch away all runners, and nourish only the original mother plant. Initial yields may be higher, but without replacement plants the patch will expire sooner.



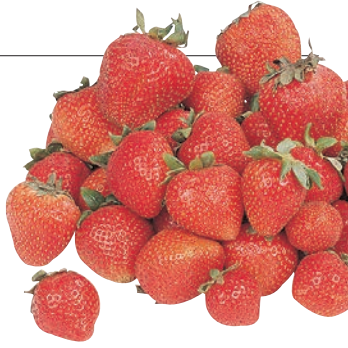
All blossoms, although it is tempting to leave them, must be removed the first season so that energy will be spent on building strong roots.

I set up a soaker hose among the plants to be sure that they would continue to grow with gusto during droughty spells. If you choose to do the same, be sure to position runners *under* the hose, otherwise removing it for winter storage may be a difficult and tangled task.

A mulch of chopped leaves conserves soil moisture and prevents weeds from sprouting. Evergreen boughs laid over the row after the ground has frozen lessens temperature extremes, preventing the plants from being heaved out of the ground during winter freeze/thaw cycles.

Anticipation begins to build in the spring of the second season. It is only a matter of time before the plants will be loaded with ripe berries.

As new growth emerges remove the protective boughs. Pull stray weeds and reaply mulch. If frost threatens during blossoming cover the plants with spun poly floating row covers or old bed sheets.



Keep up with watering. Lightweight netting works well to deter birds, while slugs can be captured in shallow containers filled with beer and buried at ground level. Remove dead slugs and top off the beer nightly.

June-bearing strawberries bear fruit for two-three weeks. Harvest when the berries are bright red; if fruit is picked unripe it may turn red, but flavor will be sacrificed.

The season can be extended a bit by growing early, mid and late season varieties, or by growing day-neutral types which bear smaller amounts of fruit over a longer period, from June-October.

Nourse Farms (noursefarms.com) of South Deerfield is an excellent local source for strawberry plants.

After fruiting is complete mow down the plants with a push mower. I had to cross reference a few advice books before I had the courage to do this, but it surely did wonders to renovate the bed.

Rake away the mowed leaves, thin runners that are too close, and remove the oldest plants. Top-dress with compost and a sprinkling of fertilizer before remulching.

Although labor intensive, strawberries are worth the work. Managing a strawberry patch in this manner will likely keep it productive for five years. Imagine, your own flavorful memories!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Chicopee Register

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The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon.

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

Election letters to the editor

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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Why don't they just create individual Social Security accounts?

Dear Rusty:

Regarding Social Security's financial issues, three people contributing to Social Security for every one beneficiary sounds to me like a surplus.

If they had given workers their own accounts, similar to a 401k, where they could manage their own money, it would have worked out more favorably for retirees. President George W Bush suggested these changes, but it was shot down by Congress.

The average worker now pays a 6.2% Social Security tax. If the government had bumped it up to say 7%, I



don't believe that me or anyone else would have cried too hard.

There are ways of correcting this before the SS reserves are depleted and, hopefully, Congress will address Social Security's financing soon.

Signed: Skeptical Senior

Dear Skeptical:
Believe it or not, putting

SS contributions from payroll taxes into separate individual accounts is not really a good idea.

For information, most people get back all payroll taxes they contributed to Social Security within about five years of receiving SS bene-

See **SOCIAL SECURITY** page 10

IN THE CITY



Mayor John Vieau, Timothy Woolridge, Taki Allah, Chicopee Cultural Council Member Wilhemina Humphries, Marvin Carr, CEO of The Kidney Advocate, and Ayanna Crawford, founder and president of The Kwanzaa Collective, in a group photo.

JUNETEENTH from page 1

perintendent is that I believe in teaching history so that we can be aware of our history so we do not fall victim to repeat history and so, when I stand here today and say that I'm a proud superintendent of the city of Chicopee, I mean it and it's one of those things where I have to recognize the times that we're in in the world but I still remain very optimistic about who we are, how we accept each other's culture and how we don't need to tolerate but accept each other's people," Ware said.

Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Arriaga shared that when having a Friday or Monday off, she would say, "It's not just a day off."

"Remember why we get the day off, remember our history and why some people get the day off and some people have to work. Thank people while they're working too," Arriaga said. "Remember the history behind why we're here. Let's not repeat history. Let's be kind to each other, no matter what walk of life we're from. Make today better, make tomorrow better. We're all here, we're all going through something."

Ward 2 City Councilor Shane Brooks noted what is unique to Chicopee is its diversity and being a Gateway City.

"A Gateway City brings so much promise to our future growth and the development of the young people, as Dr. Ware alluded to, who hopefully will choose to stay here. Raise their families in Chicopee, contribute to the vitality of our society and really bring awareness to our differences and culture, ideologies, but yet come together under one strong front to represent Chicopee as proud Chicopeeans, as the mayor would say, because we're all here for one another, and in order to move the city forward, we have to work in one united front regardless of the cause," Brooks said.

Ayanna Crawford,

founder and president of The Kwanzaa Collective, brought in Marvin Carr, CEO of The Kidney Advocate, and Chicopee Cultural Council Member Wilhemina Humphries to recognize two community members for their impacts on the city.

The first honoree was Taki Allah for his commitment to family, service and community through his time at the Connecticut House of Corrections, the Springfield Fire Department and an EMT in West Springfield. Also, for saving the life of a six-year-old girl who was choking, volunteering with the American Red Cross teaching CPR and First Aid and serving as an original member of the Men of Color Health Awareness. Allah was a resident for 30 years, with 20 of those years in Chicopee Center.

The second honoree was Timothy Woolridge, who served six years in the U.S. Navy and attained the rank of E4 and worked with the Springfield Water Department, the Department of Public Works and the U.S. Postal Service. He retired in 2005 after serving the residents of Springfield and now resides in Chicopee. He was recognized for his military service, professional achievement and many years of dedicated public service.

Crawford also hopes to grow the Juneteenth Committee and celebration.

"So the goal is for next year in the city of Chicopee, we have a wonderful event that the community will be able to attend and participate in and we are collaborating with the Cultural Council and they will be leading that charge for next year," Crawford said.

Vieau then read the mayor's proclamation, presenting it to Lelia Jiggetts. Then, several community members gathered to raise the Juneteenth flag.

Jiggetts was excited to receive the proclamation.

"I'm just honored and blessed and glad that they're able to recognize Juneteenth,



Ayanna Crawford, founder and president of The Kwanzaa Collective, provides opening remarks.

especially here in Chicopee. I actually was a resident of Chicopee as well. I grew up here until at least I was about eight. My dad, also, was in the Air Force—Westover Air Force Base as well—so knowing that they're acknowledging Juneteenth in Chicopee, I love to see that it's including everyone," Jiggetts said.

Jiggetts said the community should come out for celebrations like this.

"This is a very, very important time because a lot of people forget. We laid a lot of foundation, we built the country as well and we need to be recognized for that," Jiggetts said.

She also stressed preserving history.

"It's very important that we all come out and we all support one another as a community and also like Miss Ayanna said. It doesn't matter what race you are, from Italians to Greeks to Mexicans, we all should come together and celebrate—like I said before—humanity that we all are as one," Jiggetts said.

Her message was this.

"Come on out, come and support and even if you can't, do your research," Jiggetts said. "Now, technology is at the tip of our fingers. Google it, go to the library, go somewhere that you feel comfortable to research on what African-Americans did and are still doing."



The Juneteenth flag outside city hall.



Leila Jiggetts with the mayor's proclamation she received from Mayor John Vieau



Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware offers his perspective.



Ward 2 City Councilor Shane Brooks reflected on diversity.



Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Arriaga stressed remembering history.



Mayor John Vieau speaks about the importance of Juneteenth.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS



Community members gather together to crank the lever to raise the Juneteenth flag.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10				
11					12						13	14	15	
16					17				18					
19				20	21			22	23				24	
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53			54					55						
56		57				58					59			
60					61	62					63			
			64								65			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Excitedness
16. Armed Forces branch
17. Actor Harris
18. Middle Eastern capital
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Popular computers
27. Reduce light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Absence of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Whittles
34. Impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people

43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. ___ Clapton, musician
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. Singer Hansard
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Former AL MVP Vaughn
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
64. Relating to passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless fluid
2. Of a main artery
3. Photographer's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But

5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. ___ Lang (country singer)
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Wildebeests
13. Equal to one quintillion bytes
14. Japanese three-stringed lute
15. Type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. Measurement unit
30. Body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Snack food

35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Pitching statistic
38. ___, myself and I
40. City in Utah
41. They play in the trenches
42. "Can't Touch This" rapper ___ Hammer
44. Type of tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Needles
51. University of Dayton
52. Atomic #11
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not any
57. ___ and behold
61. Popular sports highlight show (abbr.)
62. "The Great Lakes State"

IN THE CITY

Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids and families

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

It's Summer Reading Season! Did You Read Today? The annual Summer Reading Challenge is on. Read every day from June 24 – Aug. 14. Read anything and everything, sign up to track your reading progress with Beanstack or on paper or both, and come to the library for creative activities and exciting performances!

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 to 2 p.m. June 29- Aug. 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.

Join us on Thursday Afternoons from 2 to 3 p.m. for a creative activity. Activities will rotate depending on weather and availability. Updates on what we will be doing will be posted every Monday. Check for updates on our social media and in the Kids Room.

Caravan Puppets will perform a show for the summer reading theme, Plant a Seed, Read at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 1. Puppet tales of planting seeds and tales that plant seeds! For all ages. This program is supported by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Summer Dance Party will be on Tuesdays, July 7 and 21 at 10:30 a.m. Moving and grooving for kids and their caregivers. Geared toward ages 0-8, 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.

On Wednesday, July 8 at 2 p.m., Professor Bugman will bring his Arthropod Petting Zoo to introduce you to some bugs and share fun facts about how they live. For ages 3-11. Please contact the Children's Room or sign up online.

Come to a Bubble Show with Mr. Vinny of Toe Jam Puppet Band Fame on Friday, July 10 at 10 a.m. Big bubbles, big fun for all ages.

Summer Storytime will be held on Tuesdays July 14 and 28 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. July 14 will be Beach Storytime, with a paper sandcastle craft. July 28 will be about Dandelions.

Come to a magic show with Ed Pop on Wednesday, July 15 at 2 p.m. This fun and funny show is great for all ages.

Join us for a Summer Playgroup on Friday, July 17 at 10:30 a.m. A great time to meet up and play with friends. We'll bring some extra toys and sidewalk chalk, outside if the weather is nice.

Chinese Acrobat, Li Liu will amaze and astound with her feats of strength and grace while telling stories of her childhood in China and her long career as an acrobat. Wednesday, July 22 at 2 p.m.

Learn to make Balloon Flowers with Ed the Wizard on Friday, July 24 at 10:30 a.m. Using professional Q260 Latex Twisty Balloons, patrons will learn the art of Balloon Twisting. Individual help is provided as needed, child or adult! Best for ages 7 and up. Younger siblings are welcome, but they will need an adult to help them.

Wildlife on Wheels will be here on Wednesday, July 29. Meet animal ambassadors from Springfield Zoo in Forest Park. Learn about the animals, including their special adaptations, habitats, behaviors, diets and status in the wild. Space is limited, registration is required, please sign up for session 1 at 1 p.m. or session 2 at 2:15.

We will have a Garden Storytime at Rivers Park on Friday, July 31 at 11 a.m.

This will be a storytime collaboration with our friends from Chicopee Fresh happening at 41 Meadow Street in Chicopee.

Teens

All teen events are for ages 11-18. Space is limited and not guaranteed. Doors will close 15 min after the start time.

Our Sew a Dino event for teens will be on Monday, July 13 at 6:30 p.m.! Using simple sewing techniques, teens will get to create their own dinosaur plushie. No prior sewing knowledge is necessary! All skill levels are welcome.

Join ChicopeeFRESH at the library on Monday, July 27th at 6:30 p.m. for a tasty evening of Yogurt Bowls! Learn about some yummy, and healthy, additions you can mix into yogurt to make a filling snack, then get to try it by creating your own yogurt bowl!

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

FATHER'S DAY from page 1

Bonnie Gebbie, whose own parents were once RiverMills residents, volunteers one to two times a week.

"I like to pay back to the community...the staff are wonderful and the meals are great," Gebbie said when asked what made her volunteer.

Gebbie also recollected on her time volunteering for the busy Easter breakfast brunch back in April and how much she enjoyed being a part of it.

Michael McCann, shared "It feels very good and appreciated to be celebrated," further saying he looks forward to hearing from his children.

Adalberto Colon said this.

"The staff is good, the food is great, [the staff] always acknowledges us as one big happy family," Colon said.

He went on to talk about his own experiences having done elder care earlier in his days and how he enjoys being at the senior center, having come from Connecticut to be there.

As the breakfast was wrapping up, the staff went around to give the dads a gift: a back scratcher with the writing "We've got your back dad," on them.

Conroy also came out from the kitchen to ask how everyone was enjoying breakfast which was followed with applause from each table.

Conroy later addressed the attendees.

"Sending wishes to you all and your family and a happy Father's Day this Sunday," Conroy said.

The full house cheered with gratitude to the staff members on their way out of the cafeteria.

After the event, Conroy talked about the importance of hosting Father's Day breakfast at the senior center, "wanting to include the men more ...[and] trying to celebrate dads and say thank you."

The center has more events coming up similar to this event, such as their 250th Anniversary barbecue they just hosted on June 25.

On July 1 at 1:30 p.m., they will have an Independence Day Tea Party in Abigail's Garden for \$5 with topics surrounding plant life and how America's history is tied to it.

Conroy also mentioned reenactments that will take place on both July 28 and Aug. 18 to honor Paul Revere and John Hancock. Concerts,



Residents gathered and enjoying a celebratory breakfast with visiting family in the senior center's cafeteria.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BENNY PADILLA

Patriotic mason jar center pieces with checkered and sparkling blue and white stars, faux budding red flowers and blue roses, colorful and shiny pinwheels, and tweed ribboning tied with a blue bow.

PRINCIPAL from page 1

properly handling an employee misconduct investigation.

Upon receiving the communication from Ware last month, Figueroa was given 15 days to appeal his decision to terminate her.

It is unclear if Figueroa appealed the decision, and a Chicopee Public Schools spokesperson for Ware declined to comment on this development on Wednesday.

Regardless, Ware's choice to let Figueroa go has come under heavy fire, primarily from staff members who worked alongside her at Chicopee High School.

During the public speaking portion of the June 17 School Committee meeting, numerous employees voiced concerns.

Michelle Lafond, a physical education and health teacher at Chicopee High School, respectfully asked the School Committee to investigate the circumstances under which Figueroa was dismissed.

She said Ware spoke to the staff at the high school after making the decision, but his visit only left those who work in the building more confused.

Lafond pointed out that since Figueroa entered the position in 2024, the high school's culture has blossomed, as more students have attended class, and less students have gotten in trouble.

Now, Lafond says things are going downhill.

"Since she has left, things are quickly falling apart. Many rules are no longer followed because we feel like, you know, we're not sure what exactly the rules are anymore," Lafond said.

She added that Figueroa created a "culture and climate that was so welcoming and stable."

Under Figueroa's watch, Lafond observed that students felt more secure and weren't left wondering what would happen on a day-to-day basis.

"They know what their rules are, they know what their expectations are, and if we don't meet them, there are very clear rules and regulations as to what was supposed to happen," Lafond said.

"This was the easiest year I've ever had teaching. All I had to do was my job."

Lafond said she will miss Figueroa's clear and consistent communication as well as her upbeat approach to educating.

"I personally am devastated by her removal and know that many, many staff feel the same," Lafond said. "I would respectfully ask that we look into the real reasoning for her termination, and then also what is the plan going forward as far as, you know, her job hasn't been posted. We're a little bit uneasy as a staff as far as what's going to happen next year."

Thomas Kerner, a paraprofessional at Chicopee High School, said that he and his colleagues already greatly miss the "administrative and supervisory expertise" that Figueroa brought to the building.

He admitted he was ready to leave the district after the 2023-2024 school year, but that all changed when Figueroa was put in charge.

"One week into the '24-'25 school year, I was happy that I returned to Chicopee High. Behavioral expectations were clear and enforced," Kerner said. "Hallways were quiet during instruction times, and there were no interruptions by students from other classes entering classrooms uninvited to chat with their friends, as had prevailed the prior year. Also, cellphone use by students during class time dropped precipitately."

Kerner emphasized that Figueroa always had time to listen to her staff members, whether it was in a private meeting or a public setting. He also said she made administrative efforts to support a healthy work environment for staff.

If Kerner gets another opportunity to work with Figueroa, he won't hesitate to take it.

"If Miss Fasoli accepts an administrative position in our area, I will be the first to apply for employment at her school," Kerner said.

Benjamin Eisen, president of the Chicopee Education Association, issued a public statement last month shortly after Figueroa learned she would be terminated.

He described Figueroa as an "enthusiastic and passionate administrator" who addressed various issues at the high school, including low staff morale, chronic disruptions in the hallways and poor academic achievement.

"We needed a specific sort of leader to help turn the school around, and she was up for that challenge," Eisen said. "Gina's greatest achievement in her tenure at Chicopee High School was revitalizing the culture of the school."

Eisen stressed that Figueroa built a "culture of support" in the high school.

"Through shoutouts, team building activities, highlighting wins and more, she was able to help cultivate a sense of belonging for many staff members," Eisen said. "She often provided staff members with a sense of support, whether through personal conversations with individual members or through her words and actions at faculty meetings."

Eisen complimented Figueroa's ability to uplift students and staff members, helping them excel in their daily tasks.

"She was always able to put a positive spin on events toward the goal of improving the culture of the school," he said.

Eisen acknowledged that Figueroa is not an expert at all aspects of running a school but said that she was showing growth after putting in countless hours of work to improve.

Even when Eisen did not see eye to eye with Figueroa, he said they still had a strong working relationship and were always able to put students first. He is certainly disappointed to see her let go.

"Gina Fasoli Figueroa would [still] make a fantastic administrator in your institution," Eisen concluded. "From her innate ability to rally staff towards a common goal to her willingness to grow and learn systems that are already in practice, she is a strong leader, and I have faith that she will excel in almost any situation."

BATTERY STORAGE from page 1

have these open discussions but generalizing conversation and having it more as a briefing rather than a hearing might be beneficial to the community."

Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga agreed with her fellow board members. She said it's not worth the time to hold the public meeting.

"I don't find it beneficial to pull our department heads and ask them 'what if' questions and pull them away from very important things right now to say, 'Well, maybe this, maybe that.' Especially when there isn't a question to go with this, it's a very broad meeting I guess we would have," Arriaga said.

After feeling the temperature of the room, Costello agreed that the meeting would be the city's best option now. She voted against her own proposal in an act of solidarity with her colleagues.

"I appreciate all the input from my colleagues. This is a very controversial subject, the battery storage facilities, especially in other communities," Costello said. "We don't have the authority. That's the bottom line, and through this discussion, the public is going to know that we don't have the authority now. Whether or not that changes in the future, we don't know."

SPORTS

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Aldenville Legion falls to East Springfield

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—Since opening the Legion baseball season with a victory at Westfield Post 124, and a road tie versus Sheffield Post 340, Aldenville (Chicopee) Post 337 hasn't experienced very much success on the diamond.

Aldenville was trailing undefeated East Springfield Post 420, 2-1, entering the third inning of last Wednesday's game at historic Szot Park. Post 337 (1-3-1) wound up losing their third game in a row, as East Springfield (4-0) pulled away with the help of three unearned runs in the fourth inning, and four more runs in the sixth leading to a 9-2 victory.

"We were right with them early in the game," said Aldenville manager Nate Carillon. "I thought Alex (Savlick) pitched very well in his first Legion start of the season, but we didn't help him out defensively. We just need to start playing a little bit better."

Savlick, who graduated from Minnechaug Regional on June 11, allowed five runs (two earned) on eight base hits. The righthander also recorded four strikeouts and issued only one walk.



Michael Letellier fields a throw to first.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Righty Matt Butler gave up four runs on three hits in the sixth inning, as East Springfield batted around.

Savlick managed to retire the side in order during the top of the first inning.

East Springfield began the second inning with back-to-back singles from third

baseman Eduardo Villafane and shortstop Noah Sierra. Second baseman Javier Pena drove home the game's first run with a groundball to Aldenville first baseman Michael Letellier.

East Springfield took a 2-0 lead when left fielder Seth Tyrrell blasted a triple to deep

left field with two outs.

The home team loaded the bases in the bottom half of the frame.

Right fielder Noah Carillon drew a leadoff walk against East Springfield

See **ALDENVILLE** page 8



Ryan Netkovick sends a throw away.



Aiden Robinson sends a throw across the diamond.



Santiago Blasco fights to keep the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Pioneers battle to draw with Boston Bolts

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—After 21 days away from historic Lusitano Stadium, the Western Mass. Pioneers returned home last Friday night for an intra-state showdown with the Boston Bolts.

The Pioneers faithful supporters had plenty to celebrate early in the match, as

the home side stormed out to a 2-0 advantage in the 24th minute.

The Bolts responded with a goal late in the first half. They struck again 15 minutes into the second half and the USL League Two matchup ended in a 2-2 draw in front of a large crowd.

"We held a 2-1 halftime lead," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari.

"We didn't play very well in the second half. This is a very disappointing result for us."

Both teams entered the match with a total of 14 goals.

The Pioneers (5-1-2), who have allowed 10 goals, are currently sitting in third place in the Northeast Division table behind NEC and Vermont Green FC.

The top two finishers in the division will automatically qualify for the league playoffs.

The Pioneers, who went 2-0-1 in their previous three matches on the road, have qualified for the league playoffs each year since joining USL League Two in 2019.

The Western Mass. squad will most likely need to win their remaining five regular season matches and get a little bit of help along the way to keep the playoff streak alive.

"It's very disappointing letting a two goal lead slip away, especially in front of our fans," said Felipe De Andrade, who scored the Pioneers second goal. "We're going to continue to improve and keep fighting the rest of the season."

De Andrade, who's from Westborough, played for the Bolts, which only won three



Alfred Baafi dribbles up the field.

See **PIONEERS** page 8

Mutiny suffers loss to Crusaders

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Following three straight 2-1 road losses, the New England Mutiny were looking to celebrate a home victory versus the Hudson Valley Crusaders.

The Mutiny managed to take a 1-0 lead before the Crusaders responded with four unanswered goals lead-

ing to a 4-2 victory in a USL W League match held at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"This is a very challenging league," said Avery Klingensmith, who was an outstanding soccer player at Belchertown High School. "We've had several games this season where we had taken an early lead and wound up losing, which is a

little bit frustrating. Protecting a lead is something that we need to work on. We really wanted to win tonight's game."

The Mutiny (1-5-2) are first-year members of the USL W League. Their only victory came at home against AC Connecticut, 5-0, on May 30. They lost two

See **MUTINY** page 8



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, sends a long kick away.



Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, tries to get control of the loose ball.



Monson's Tennessee Murphy advances up the field.

SPORTS

Gomarlo wins first modified race of career

WINCHESTER, NH – Eddie Gomarlo won his first career Modified victory on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway Saturday.

Other winners on the first round of Monadnock’s 2026 Triple Crown Series included Limited Late Model ace JD Stockwell, who won for the fourth time this season, Craig Smith, a first time winner in the Mini Stocks, and Michael Yeaton, who won a three-across thriller to stay perfect at three-for-three in the Pure Stocks.

Matt Robinson became the Pro V8 Sportsman’s third different winner this summer, and Young Gun dynamo Dylan Stati scored his track-high sixth 2026 feature win.

Cole Littlewood and Kimmy Rivet sat on row one as the 50-lap Allstates Materials Group 604 Modified main event went green. Littlewood wasted no time in seizing the lead, with previous winner Andrew Brousseau charging up to second as Rivet got hung outside in the top groove.

Brousseau took charge on lap ten, opening some breathing room as Ty Leclerc and Gomarlo battled for second behind him. Gomarlo claimed the deuce spot for good on lap 23 and immediately set his sights on Brousseau.

Gomarlo rocketed to the front from the top groove on lap 26, holding strong the rest of the way to earn his first Monadnock Modified feature by three lengths, as a wild finish behind him saw Leclerc explode out of the final turn to edge Modified points leader Tyler Leary for second. Brousseau was fourth under the checkers, with Ben Byrne fifth. Colton Martin, who’d won his Monadnock first a week earlier, was sixth.

JD Stockwell, dominated the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Models again Saturday, winning for the second week in a row and fourth time this season.

Michael Lashua and Wesley Stedt sat up front as the 40-lap LLM feature went green.Stedt, bringing previous winner Hillary Renaud with him, would lead the first 15 laps, as Stockwell, charging from row three, closed in.

Stockwell rocketed into the lead on lap 16, with Renaud still good for second, and Robert Hagar closing in. While Stockwell would blast off into another universe to win with ease, the best battle in this one was waged for second by Renaud and Hagar.

Hagar had taken the spot but Renaud, low along the backstretch, took it back on lap 36 and held strong to score the runner-up finish. With Hagar third, Lashua and Stedt completed the top five.

In one of a handful of wild finishes Saturday on the high banks, Michael Yeaton won by a foot in a three-wide charge to the checkers in a Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock thriller.

Rookies Linsey Wenzel and Josh Brigham started up front, with Wenzel setting a fast pace as Yeaton rocketed forward from row five. Yeaton took charge on lap nine, but Kyle Boniface was red hot too.

Boniface got up for second on lap 17, bringing Jimmy Zellman with him, and the stage was set for excitement. A stout whack in the side moved Yeaton up-track on lap 24, and Boniface to the front. Yeaton, though, would have none of it.

Going to work at the top of the track, sometimes finding it more than narrow up there, Yeaton refused to lose. He, Boniface, and Zellman hit the finish line three across, with Yeaton making it three wins in a row, Boniface second by less than a foot, and Zellman riding beside him to come home third and stay atop the points parade, Brigham and Dylan Zullo were fourth and fifth.

A pair of track champions, Jon Fultz the current and Louie Maher the former Keene Towing and Recovery Mini Stock speedway king, went head-to-head in their Triple Crown 30-lapper Saturday, but Craig Smith, in his maiden voyage aboard the Aiken Motorsports entry, had big plans of his own.

Smith made a furious last-lap charge to steal the show Saturday. Fultz was second in the blast to the checkers, with Maher in his shadow for third. A pair of Tims, Paquette and O’Shea, completed the top five.

Matt Robinson led all the way to score his first Beck’s Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman victory Saturday on the high banks. Aaron Thompson, gunning for his second score of the summer, was less lucky.

Bouncing off the Stephen LaPlante ride on lap 19, Thompson went heavily into the turn four wall. Ron Burgess Jr., aboard his Bad Bumble Bee ride, was second on the night, and Stephen Dubois third.

Dylan Stati continued his mastery of the Doug’s Auto Body Young Guns Saturday, soaring to his track-high sixth win of the season. Maeve Barry was second in the youth division 15-lapper.

ALLDENVILLE from page 7

rightly Edwar Fernandez. Then Salvick was safe at first base following a fielding error by the third baseman. Aiden Robinson followed by hitting a groundball a single into left field. After the next hitter struck out, Letellier drew a walk forcing home a run which sliced Aldenville’s deficit in half.

“After they took the lead, it was nice to see us score a run in the bottom half of the inning,” Nate Carillon said. “We were able to put a little bit of pressure on them.”

Fernandez escaped the bases loaded jam with a strikeout and flyball out.

With two outs in the following inning, Noah Carillon (2-for-3) and Salvick (3-for-3) had back-to-back singles to left field. The home



team couldn’t tie the score or take the lead as the next batter grounded out ending the threat.

Savlick didn’t get very much support from his defense in the fourth inning as East Springfield built a 5-1 lead with the help of two throwing errors.

Savlick hit a flyball single into centerfield which scored second baseman Ryan Netkovick (single) with two outs in the fifth inning.

Any hopes Aldenville might have had of making a comeback ended in the sixth inning when East Springfield scored four more runs on four base hits.

Aldenville will be looking to even the season series against East Springfield on July 6 at Springfield Central.

Justin Rivera makes a catch in center.

PIONEERS from page 7

matches a year ago.

“Western Mass has always been a very strong team,” he said. “I just wanted a new challenge this year. The atmosphere here is amazing and it’s a privilege to be a member of this squad. I wouldn’t change anything.”

De Andrade, who was a member of the New England Revolution Academy soccer team in high school, began his collegiate career at UMass Boston. He’ll be joining the men’s soccer team at Bryant University, which competes at the Division 1 level, this fall.

The Pioneers had a couple of scoring chances during the first ten minutes of the contest.

Bolts goalie William Synnestvedt made his first save on a header from Martin Echarren six minutes into the first half. A minute later, Echarren, who plays soccer at the University of Charleston, lined a shot towards the goal, but Synnestvedt (2 saves) made the diving save knocking the ball over the end line resulting in a corner kick.

The Pioneers broke the ice during the 21st minute.

The scoring play began with Alfred Baafi delivering a crossing pass in the box to Echarren, who put a header into the right corner of the net.

Three minutes later, De



Thomas Wadas clears the ball away.

Andrade fired a shot into the back of the net after receiving a pass from Echarren.

The Bolts (3-4-2) cut their deficit in half when Connor Gibson scored on a header in the 37th minute.

Nikolaj Bertelsen was the Pioneers starting goalie for the first time this season. He replaced Ben Alexander, who suffered an injury in a 1-0 win over the Conn. Rush two nights earlier.

“Ben suffered a head injury the other night and he had to get stitches,” Molinari said. “He’ll probably be out a couple of games.”

During the 60th minute, Xavier Tanyi lined a shot from about 25 yards out into the net tying the score at 2-2.

The Pioneers had a cou-

ple of chances to retake the lead during the last 30 minutes, but the score didn’t change on the scoreboard.

Western Mass. defender Riley Priddy was given a straight red card from referee Luis Reis after pulling down a Bolts player just outside the top of the box in stoppage time. The free kick taken from Rainer Osselmann-Chai deflected off a Western Mass. defender and the home team salvaged a tie.

A tie is better than a loss, but it wasn’t what the Pioneers fans were hoping for.

The Pioneers are scheduled to face the Bolts for the second time this season at Brandeis University on June 30.

MUTINY from page 7

close road matches against Hudson Valley, 2-0, and 2-1.

The Crusaders (5-2-2), along with Hartford Athletic and Vermont Green FC, are trying to finish the regular season in first place in the Northeast Division. Only the first place team earns a berth in the league playoffs.

Klingensmith, who wrapped up her collegiate soccer career at American University in Washington D.C. last fall, is planning to join a professional soccer team in Greece at the end of the summer.

“I’m really looking forward to starting my professional soccer career in a different country,” Klingensmith said. “Its going to be a different type of experience for me.”

Hope Santiniello, who’s from Agawam, has been a member of the Mutiny since 2019. She played in her first home match of the 2026 season against the Crusaders.

“The atmosphere at this stadium is always amazing,” said Santiniello, who was a starting defender for the first time in last Saturday’s match. “It’s always been a pleasure playing for this team.”

Just like Klingensmith, Santiniello is seeking an opportunity to play soccer at the professional level. She’s hoping to join a women’s team in Florida.

Murphy is scheduled to leave for Pennsylvania on July 27.

The Mutiny took a 1-0 lead less than ten minutes into the opening half.

Hudson Valley goalie Brianne McDonald attempted to clear the ball, but it went directly to Mila Dillard, who put a shot into the open net for an unassisted goal.

Dillard, who lives in Chicopee, is going to be a senior on the Pope Francis girls’ varsity soccer team, which is coached by her father, Brent. She has verbally committed to playing soccer at the University of Kentucky a year from now.

The Crusaders tied the score during the 18th minute of the opening half with Joy Okonye putting a header into the left corner of the net past Mutiny goalie Chloe Laizer.

About six minutes later, a goal from Emmanuella Frimpomaa gave the visiting team the lead for first time.

The Crusaders were

then given a penalty kick following a foul in the box.

Okonye took the shot, which deflected off the right post.

With five minutes remaining in the first half, Laizer made an outstanding save on a breakaway shot from Frimpomaa, which kept the score at 2-1 a little bit longer.

The Crusaders did take a 3-1 lead when Marta Carrasco Mesa headed the ball into the net following a corner kick.

Frimpomaa scored her second goal of the match 30 seconds into the second half, which pretty much sealed the Crusaders victory.

At the end of regulation, Trinity Clark scored a goal for the home team.

The Mutiny were scheduled to play a road match against AC Connecticut on Tuesday night before wrapping up the season against Vermont Green at Lusitano Stadium at 6pm on Saturday night.



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Kayleigh Lukasik heads up the field for the Mutiny.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, there will be an **EARLY AD, PUBLIC NOTICES & CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE**

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IN THE CITY

RiverMills Senior Center programs

Ask An Attorney

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on host “Ask An Attorney” on Tuesday, July 7 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Hyman Darling of Bacon Wilson will be here to chat about estates, wills and trusts. You must register in advance.

The Power of Nature

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer the program “The Power of Nature” on Thursday, July 16 at 10 a.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

This program, presented by Tina Ferri, owner of Ferri Senior Care Consulting, will explore the physical and emotional benefits of nature and simple ways older adults can stay connected to the outdoors. You must register in advance.

Knights of Columbus Car Show

CHICOPEE - Knights of Columbus, 460 Granby Road, Chicopee holds a car show every Monday evening from 4 to 8 p.m., rain or shine.

All makes, models and projects. Food trucks on site. Free entry. \$10 per participant.

Dementia Friends

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer a Dementia Friends program on Thursday, July 9 at 9 a.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

This program, presented by staff from Trinity Health, aims to give people a better understanding of dementia and the small things they can do to make a difference. From helping someone with a task, to spreading the word about dementia on social media-every action counts. You must register in advance.

Tick and Mosquito Safety

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer a program on Tick and Mosquito Safety on, Monday, July 6 at 10 a.m. at RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

The City of Chicopee receives Community Compact IT Grant

CHICOPEE – Chicopee was awarded a Community Compact Grant from the state for improvements to its fiber network. The Healy-Driscoll Administration announced the \$226,480 grant award to Chicopee. These funds will allow for the establishment of a fully redundant, geographically diverse fiber path originating from a separate network direction, ensuring continuity of operations for mission-critical public safety and municipal services. These systems include computer-aided dispatch, records management, real-time intelligence platforms, camera systems, and interagency communication tools that support both internal operations and direct service to the public.

These systems are essential to the operation, response and communication between first responders in life threatening situations. The redundant line will protect communications and ensure services. It will provide system reliability and strengthen system protections. Mayor Vieau stated, “This grant allows us to ensure services while using outside funding to make these critical infrastructure improvements.”

The Chicopee Police Department applied for the grant with the support of Chicopee Electric Light. Acting Police Chief Watson said, “Working together we are able to continue the improvements in our network and provide enhanced service to the community.”

Local student completes Emmanuel Honors Program

BOSTON -Jacob Proulx, of Chicopee {01013} was recently recognized for completing the Emmanuel College honors program.

The Honors Program invites ambitious and talented students to push their boundaries by participating in a rigorous and co-curricular academic experience. Students immerse themselves in an engaged learning community in which they openly discuss big ideas, differing perspectives and complex, timely questions.

To graduate within the Honors Program, students must complete four Honors courses, a Distinction paper and one Honors experience, which may include studying abroad, working as a peer mentor in a class for first-year students or serving as a research assistant with a faculty member.



City Treasurer Marie Laflamme, Ward 5 City Councilor Joe Pasternak, Councilor-at-Large Jerry Roy, City Council Vice President/Ward 6 Councilor Sam Shumsky, City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme, Fire Chief Matthew Cross, Mayor John Vieau, Ward 2 City Councilor Shane Brooks, Ward 4 City Councilor George Balakier and City Clerk Keith Rattell in a group photo.



TURLEY PHOTO SBY KRISTIN RIVERS

Fire Chief Matthew Cross speaks after being sworn in.

CROSS from page 1

sure that the fire department keeps moving in the right direction.”

City Clerk Keith Rattell then had Cross take the oath, officially swearing him in as the new fire chief. Cross was then joined by his wife and daughters for the pinning.

In his remarks, Cross shared that when he joined the CFD as a recruit firefighter, “I never imagined that one day I would be standing before you as the fire chief,” calling it “a tremendous honor.”

“Chicopee is my home and I’m deeply humbled by the trust placed in me. First, I want to thank my family. Mom, thank you for always supporting me and being there. To my wife, Diane and my daughters Angelina and Laura, this career has required long nights, missed holidays and countless hours of study. None of this would have been possible without your love, patience and unwavering support,” Cross said.

He next thanked Vieau “for placing his trust in me and for his continued commitment to public safety,” the City Council’s “ongoing support of the fire department” and “everyone else who has placed their confidence in me.”

“I do not take this responsibility lightly,” Cross said.

Cross also thanked Stamborski for his service, including his seven years as fire chief.

“Dan, you have left this department stronger and you have been a mentor and a friend,” Cross said. “I wish you a long, happy and healthy retirement.”

For the current and former members of the fire department, he said this.

“Everything I know



Fire Chief Matthew Cross hugs his family members after being pinned.

about leadership, service and teamwork, I learned working alongside you. Thank you for that,” Cross said. “I’ve also had the privilege of serving for 17 years as the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services Hazardous Materials Team and as instructor at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. Those experiences, along with the outstanding colleagues I work with, reinforce the importance of professionalism, preparation and clear thinking under pressure.”

After recognizing the administrative personnel and D Group, Cross said “at the heart of everything we do are the residents of Chicopee who trust us during the most difficult moments of their lives.”

“This trust is something we will continue to earn every day. As we move forward, we will never lose sight of the traditions and values that have made this department what it is today. As we look ahead, we must also acknowledge that the fire service is changing. We face new challenges every day, increasing



Fire Chief Matthew Cross with City Treasurer Marie Laflamme.

call volumes, staffing shortages and recruitment hurdles,” Cross said. “But there is nobody I would rather face these challenges with than the dedicated individuals in this room today. As fire chief, I

believe our success will depend upon taking care of our people, embracing innovation and remaining focused on our mission.”

His priorities will be placing the safety and



City Clerk Keith Rattell leads Fire Chief Matthew Cross in the oath.

well-being of the firefighters and community “at the center of every decision,” modernizing training and recruitment efforts “so we can attract, develop and retain the best talent,” continuing to build strong partnerships with city departments, state agencies and communities “to reduce risk and enhance our emergency response” and leading the department with “fairness, consistency, transparency and respect.”

“Every day, the members of this department answer the call to protect lives, property and the safety of our community. That mission will continue to guide every decision we make and I am ready to work hard every single day, lead with integrity and serve this department to the very best of my ability,” Cross said. “It is the honor of a lifetime to serve as the fire chief in the Chicopee Fire Department. I am proud to serve this great department, great city and to stand beside all of you.”

Cross later shared he was very excited about his

new role and overwhelmed by the community support for him and the fire department. He credited everybody he’s worked with—former and current—for where he is today and looks forward to leading the men and women in red.

“Us on the fire department, we are very close, we’re a tight-knit unit and just showing that today by having all the people show up on a beautiful day outside. Everybody’s busy, everybody has jobs, everybody has a lot going on and for these members of our department and former fire chiefs, former police chiefs to show up taking times out of their busy lives, it just means everything to me,” Cross said.

He added that what makes the CFD special is “we are true professionals,” sharing this message.

“Let the residents know, our fire department, they are in good hands. We will come when they call and we will do whatever we can to help them in any way they need,” Cross said.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD26P1346EA
Estate of:
Sharlene Mae Benson
Also known as:
Sharlene M Benson,
Sharlene Mae Major
Date of Death: 03/08/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Daniel Joseph Major of Port Charlotte, FL** and **Dennis R Benson of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Dennis R Benson of Chicopee, MA** and **Daniel Joseph Major of Port Charlotte, FL** 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 07/22/2026. 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 23, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
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 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: 1ftmx21173ec47707
Joseph Breton
95 Dayton St.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2009 Nissan Maxima
VIN: 1N4AA51E59C810427
Jadas Snipes
27 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

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: JNKKCV51FX4M713922
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 July 3rd, 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.

2008 Chevrolet Malibu
VIN: 1G1ZH57B584243417
Elias Lopez
47 Cambridge Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45241

2006 Mercedes CLS 500
VIN: WDDDJ75X66A038905
Priscilla Amparo Perez Nunez
179 Longhill St., Apt. 31
Springfield, MA 01108

2006 Honda Odyssey
vin: 5fnrl38496b102513
Jose Vicente-Figueroa
8 Forest St., Apt. 3
Chicopee, MA 01013

2012 Chevrolet Impala
VIN: 2G1WC5E32C1222221
Cameron Murphy
6 Apple Hill Rd.
Sturbridge, MA 01566

2006 Honda Pilot
VIN: 2HKYF18576H502829
Tiffany Adon
257 Jasper St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2003 Toyota Camry

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 July 10, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2015 Ram 1500
VIN: 1C6RR7FT9FS648772
Dakota Brown
4 Hillside Dr.
Sturbridge, MA 01566

2002 Toyota Camry
VIN: JTDDBE32K520030964
Miranda Rosa
25 Whittier St., Apt. 2
Springfield, MA 01108

1999 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BG22K5XU391515
Moises Mendez
43 Olivine Street
Chicopee, MA 01020

2016 Great Dane Trailer
VIN: 1GRAA0625GK260439
Sibley And Sons Construction
PO Box 338
Lincoln, ME 04457

06/26, 07/03, 07/10/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD26P1314EA
Estate of:
Chester Michael Karcz
Date of Death: November 25, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Edison Yee of Springfield, MA**.

Edison Yee of Springfield, 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.
06/26/2026

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. HD26P1310EA
Estate of:
Chester Paul Strzepa
Also known as:
Chester P Strzepa
Date of Death: 05/23/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

The Petitioner requests that **Michael C Strzepa of Shrewsbury, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/14/2026. 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 16, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
06/26/2026

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

fits. Even with decent public market returns, some individual separate accounts would eventually run out of money, causing some to lose Social Security benefits before they

die, meaning they would likely live in poverty.

People are now collecting benefits on average for decades and the current SS format means that even those who contribute only a small amount will collect benefits no matter how long they live. Remember,

the primary purpose of the SS program is to reduce poverty in America.

FYI, President Bush's plan had opposition in the 2005 Congress largely because of the cost to transition to that plan and the fear that investments in the public markets subjected

individual retirement savings to unacceptable risk.

In any case, few have since advocated investing Social Security funds in the public financial markets because of the risks and the political backlash. And adding a small amount to the FICA/SECA payroll tax rate

only somewhat mitigates the problem; it doesn't completely solve it. I'm afraid that Social Security's financial issues are more complex than that and can't be fully solved by a small increase in SS payroll taxes.

You are right Congress can and, we are confident, will address this and hopefully soon. For its part, the Association of Mature American Citizens and the AMAC Foundation have been evaluating this issue for years and have developed a Social Security reform plan for Congress to consider.

And we are actively promoting our reform plan in Washington, D.C. Please know that we share your concerns about the future of Social Security and will continue to work

hard to ensure the program is here for many generations.

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



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Chicopee Register

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

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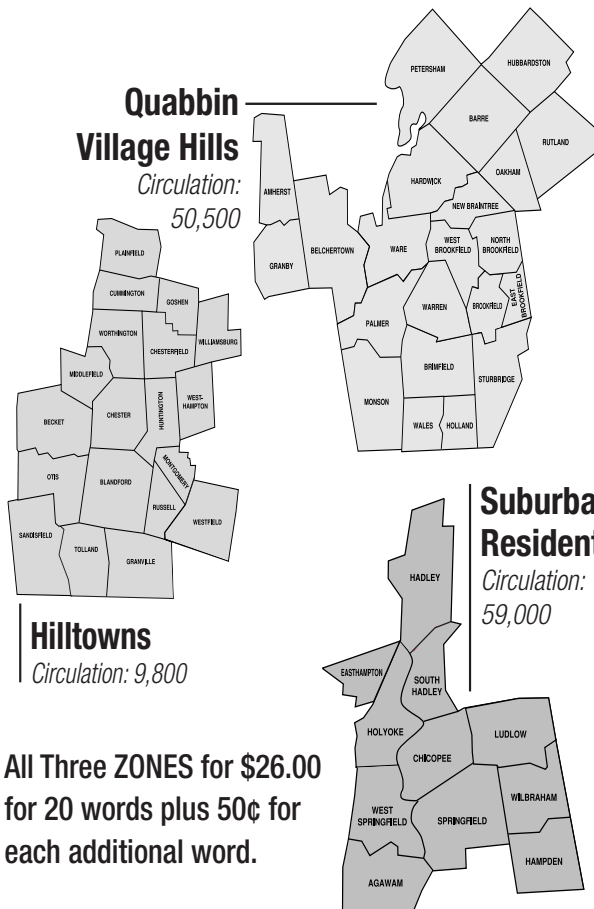
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