

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Chicopee raises French-Canadian Flag for St. Jean-Baptiste Day



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

(L to R) Denis Picard, Alan Berrouard, Joanne Beliveau Picard, Vincent Menard, Giselle Remillard Maloney, Doris Remillard Beaugreard-Schecrellah and Marie Lamontagne pose for a group photo after the St. Jean-Baptiste Day Flag-Raising ceremony outside City Hall. The group has been friends for over 60 years, does lunch once a month and appreciated the city supporting the French-Canadian community.

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE – Residents came together outside City Hall on June 23 to raise the French-Canadian flag in celebration of St. Jean-Baptiste Day.

Mayor John Vieau presided over the ceremony alongside Father William Tourigny from St. Rose de Lima Church, members of the French Heritage Center and more.

Tourigny reflected on how the Franco-American communi-

ty “has always had a very strong bond towards St. John the Baptist,” adding he was “the herald of the good news” through announcing and proclaiming, “not just by what he said, but also by what he did.”

“And so now we pray the intercession of St. John the Baptist in our gathering today as we raise this flag in memory of him and the great faith of the Quebec community. Such a strong, vibrant Catholic faith in its history,” Tourigny said.

Tourigny led the prayer in French.

Vieau explained how Chicopee honors “the values of St. John the Baptist Day as it represents community, inclusivity and diversity.”

“We understand that this celebration has evolved and at times carries political undertones reflecting the aspiration ideals of our people. It is our responsibility to acknowledge the historical challenges and controversies and learn from them as we strive for a more harmonious and inclusive society,” Vieau said.

Jeanne Proux-Hebert re-

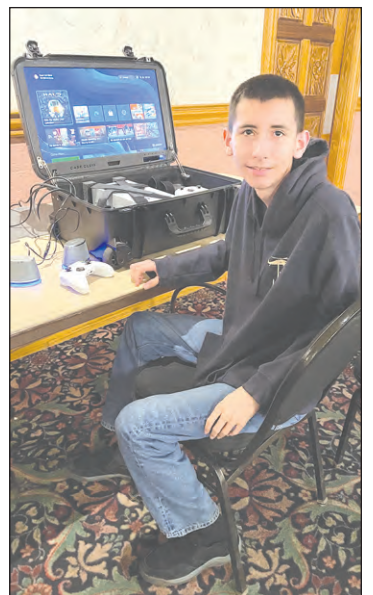
ceived the proclamation on behalf of the French Heritage Center, explaining “the French Canadians have a very rich history in Chicopee.”

“Today, we raise the Quebec flag to pay tribute to all Franco-Americans for their accomplishments, contributions and most especially, for their indomitable joie de vivre spirit, which lives on in all of us who are proud to say, ‘I am French-Canadian,’” Hebert said.

See **ST. JEAN-BAPTISTE DAY** page 5

COMMUNITY

A Castle of Games



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Logan Scott plays a video game at Game Night.

Game Night for military families held at the Knights of Columbus

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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CHICOPEE – From wall to wall there were games being played at the Castle of Knights on Wednesday evening during an event tailored for the military community.

Veterans Game Night had it all, from chess to Xbox to cornhole to Dungeons & Dragons and more. Approximately 200 veterans, service members and their families attended the second edition of the initiative on June 28.

“We’ve got everyone from kids in strollers, a year old or less, and to Vietnam veterans sharing four hours of food and games and comradery so what more could you ask for,” Chicopee Director of Veteran Services Stephanie Shaw said.

More than a dozen community veteran organizations, agencies and vendors attended the event to spread awareness regarding the resources that are available to military members and veterans. There was one rule for those presenting: no soliciting membership, donations or fundraising.

Inspired by Veteran Outreach Program Specialist Bryan Doe of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the first game night was held in March.

When first organizing game night, it was expected that around 50 people would show up, but the first edition surpassed expectations. The June 27 initiative picked up where the first event left off.

It was so successful that

See **GAME NIGHT** page 6

COMMUNITY

Library kicks off summer reading with ChicopeeFRESH

The summer meals program also begins

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE – Families visited the library from 3 to 6 p.m. on June 27 for the Summer Reading Kickoff Party.

Throughout the event, families signed up for summer reading and enjoyed activities including face painting with the Boys & Girls Club, yoga, rock painting and bracelet making with Chicopee Public Schools counseling services, puppets from CactusHead Puppets and more.

The summer meals program also kicked off with ChicopeeFRESH’s curbside cafeteria food truck.

Additionally, Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds and Pat the Patriot from The New England Patriots stopped by. Brent Tenerowicz, the li-

brary’s youth services librarian, was ecstatic about the turnout.

“It’s incredible. Previous to the pandemic, we would always have big events like this and see tons and tons of folks throughout the summer for all of our summer reading events,” Tenerowicz said. “It’s slowly been getting back up to that and it’s just been so nice to be able to do these larger-scale events. We’re really, really looking forward to getting a ton of folks signed up this year.”

Tenerowicz said this year’s reading goal is 8,000 hours.

“There’s no age minimum, so toddlers and babies are absolutely more than welcome to be signed up because it’s time folks spend reading on their own or being read to,” Tenerowicz said.

Sam Icklan, director of Community Nutrition Services at Project Bread, a nonprofit organization providing food assistance to families throughout the state, served meals alongside ChicopeeFRESH, Project



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

(L to R) Lennox Couture has fun with spinner art with Sarah Taylor and Bri Jackson, farm to school program coordinator for Chicopee Public Schools, at the Summer Reading Kickoff Party at Chicopee Public Library.

Bread staff and Donna Miner, Chicopee High School’s kitchen manager.

He stressed the importance of children meeting nutritional needs during the summer.

“So students who are receiving free or reduced price

meals, we know that they can receive up to half if not more of their daily calories from their school meals. So when school ends, the calorie needs and nutritional needs of those families

See **SUMMER READING** page 6

Benefits report follow-up: Acting Human Resources Director resigns

A recap of everything we know so far

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE – Acting Human Resources Director Samantha Wilson resigned on June 20 from the city’s Human Resources Department.

Her resignation is the latest in the report on paid insurance benefit premiums to employees after they died or resigned.

In her letter to Mayor John Vieau and the City Council, Wilson explains she did not make this decision lightly and the HR Department “has not had a role in auditing the insurance bills.”

“Although the budgetary lines do reside within the department’s budget, we do not and have not had the fiduciary responsibility or authority of benefits and their respective insurances. We are not the department where this responsibility has been housed, as the entirety of the benefits function has never been cleanly given over to HR, but rather held under

the regulation of the Treasurer and Auditor for medical and dental insurance, respectively,” Wilson said.

To recap: on June 5, Ward 3 Councilor Delmarina López shared the report in a press release and during that evening’s City Council meeting, calling for an independent audit and investigation.

Vieau responded, explaining the issue was discovered in November/December 2022 and is being corrected, adding he was unsure of the facts and how much money was lost.

Additionally, Employers of the Northeast were brought in on June 9 to help correct, update and look over the city’s process.

Vieau expressed openness to an independent audit, including any recommendations from López.

The HR Department responded with a statement on June 16 explaining “the processes involved with managing all the aspects of the many insurances that the City of Chicopee offers are very complicated.”

“Because of these complexities, and antiquated procedures, there are multiple opportunities for human error to affect

the intended result,” the HR Department said.

Wilson said the issue goes back further, with reports confirmed in dental trust meeting minutes as far back as 2021.

“Legitimate scrutiny would have certainly identified over a decade’s worth of erroneous charges for resigned and deceased individuals alike—and a plan for swift and appropriate action could have been taken at that time. In addition to regular reconciliations and audits, many more errors could have been prevented altogether with effective utilization of technology which has existed since at least the mid-2000s,” Wilson said.

Wilson defended the HR Department from remarks made during recent media coverage.

“It is insulting and absurd to publicly shame a fellow department in this manner despite having full knowledge that the process and access to these elements of the benefits function is housed elsewhere,” Wilson said.

She added the city “should be able to stand united in the face of challenge and adversity, to collaborate and resolve

issues. Not to point fingers and cast blame.”

“This is particularly unfortunate given the falsehood in the remarks and the overall lack of accountability in what action could have prevented this from happening in the first place,” Wilson said.

Wilson also addressed the ongoing issue of department turnover.

“When the volume of turnover in a department is this significant over the last two decades, it is time to look internally and consider what action(s) and/or inaction(s) are causing this. This is not the norm for the Human Resources field. The City needs to assess its role and what is causing this level of turnover in the HR Department and what action(s) can help resolve this and move the department, and ultimately the City, forward,” Wilson said.

Wilson’s resignation ended with this.

“I wish the City and the future Chief HR Officer all the best going forward,” Wilson said.

More next week as the June 26 FY24 budget meeting included public hearings with the HR Department and Treasurer’s Office.

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Upcoming summer events at the Chicopee Public Library

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

Summer Reading

Summer Reading (for all ages) starts June 26 and runs through Aug. 18, 2023. Check the library website at www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org for more details (including information on programs for youth and families) or stop by the library for a flyer.

Chicopee library is FamilySearch Affiliate

The Chicopee library is a FamilySearch Affiliate which means that we are a great resource for those working on genealogy. The Computer Lab on the lower level is set aside for those working on genealogy on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Stop by and check out our resources.

Low Vision Computer Lab

If you or someone you know is blind, or has low vision, join us in the computer lab for our Assistive Technology class. Our computers have Fusion (JAWS & Zoom Text) software or you can learn how to use accessibility features on your personal devices. This class is taught by Chicopee resident Robert Baran, M.Ed. Classes are Tuesday, July 11 and Aug. 1 from 3-5 p.m.

Tuesday evening events

- July 11 • 6 p.m. Beginner Tarot with Winnifred Tanetta
- July 18 • 7 p.m. (Signup begins at 6:30p.m.) Poetry and the Spoken Word (this night is Teen Focused)
- July 25 • 6 p.m. Zentangle with Laura Marks
- Aug. 1 • 6:30 p.m. Dealing with Anxiety with Personal Life Coach Chris Rich
- Aug. 8 • 6:30 p.m. Catholic Cemeteries in Chicopee with historian Robert Comeau
- Aug. 15 • 7 p.m. (Signup begins at

6:30p.m.) Poetry and the Spoken Word.

Thursday Night Concerts

Thursday night concerts are outside behind the library, weather permitting. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets for seating. In the case of bad weather, we’ll move inside. ChicopeeTV will be recording concerts this summer. We also appreciate the support of the Chicopee Cultural Council in making these concerts possible. All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m.

- July 13 – Hungrytown – folk duo
- July 20 – The Nields – folk-rock band
- July 27 – New Inca Son – Andean Music ensemble
- Aug. 3 – Acousticca with Paul Sticca – rock, country, and original music
- Aug. 10 – Jumpin’ Juba – blues-based rock, folk and classic rock
- Aug. 17 – May Garnarz – jazz, country and pop vocals

Concerts are supported by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council which is supported by the MASS Cultural Council.

Chicopee Country Club will host American Junior Golf Association Tournament

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Country Club will host the American Junior Golf Association Tournament from July 3-7. The Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the overall growth and development of young men and women who aspire to earn college golf scholarships through competitive junior golf. Youths ages 12 to 18 will compete in the week long competition at Chicopee Country Club.

Some of the current top professional golfers such as Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas, Scottie Scheffler, Annika Sorenstam and many others got their first introduction to golf through the A.J.G.A. The event is free and open to the public. Come see golf’s next generation of talent on display at Chicopee Country Club.

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Ryan Whelihan's unyielding determination propels him to success

By Efrain "Frankie" Cabrera-Cavette

CHICOPEE – Ryan Whelihan, a resilient young man with an unwavering spirit, has defied all odds and emerged as a shining example of determination and perseverance. From overcoming personal setbacks to excelling academically, Whelihan's journey is a testament to his indomitable will to make something remarkable out of his life.

Born on Sept. 9, 2004, Whelihan's early years were marked by constant relocation, as his family shifted between South Hadley, Westfield, West Springfield, Belchertown, Granby and finally settling in Chicopee. The frequent changes in surroundings might have been disruptive for some, but Whelihan tackled each transition with resilience and adaptability.

Throughout his academic journey, Whelihan faced his fair share of challenges. However, it was in Chicopee where his fortunes began to turn. Determined to succeed, Whelihan's grades saw a remarkable turnaround. His hard work and commitment earned him a coveted spot in the National Honor Society during his sophomore year of high school.

Undeterred by his past struggles, Whelihan graduated from high school with an impressive 4.0 GPA. Such an accomplishment speaks volumes about his dedication to his studies and his determination to achieve excellence. With his eyes firmly set on a future in the business world, Whelihan is set to attend Westfield State University to pursue a degree in Business.

However, Whelihan's path to success was not without its obstacles. In the

seventh-grade, tragedy struck as he lost his beloved father. This devastating loss, compounded by subsequent challenges arising from the lack of male role models, left a lasting impact on Whelihan's mental well-being. Nonetheless, he managed to find strength within himself to rise above these difficulties and transform them into sources of growth and maturity. Ryan also became a great athlete playing Baseball, Basketball, Indoor Track and Field, and Flag Football during his time at Chicopee High School.

Whelihan's resilience and determination have been instrumental in his personal development. While many might have allowed these hardships to define them, he used them as catalysts for self-improvement and personal growth. His unwavering resolve to overcome adversity and pursue his dreams sets him apart as a role

model for others facing similar challenges.

As Whelihan steps into the next chapter of his life at Westfield State University, he carries with him a powerful message of determination, resilience, and the belief that no obstacle is insurmountable. His story serves as an inspiration to all, reminding us that the strength of the human spirit knows no bounds.

In a world that often presents obstacles and setbacks, Ryan Whelihan's unwavering determination serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration. His journey of personal growth and academic success showcases the power of perseverance in achieving one's goals. With his sights set high, Whelihan's future undoubtedly holds great promise, and we eagerly await the remarkable things he will accomplish in the years to come.

Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

Let me start with sharing a few personal things about Elizabeth (Beth) Murdock who is the Bellamy Middle School ~ Grade 6 ~ Interim Vice-Principal. Beth is a lifelong resident of Chicopee with a blended family that includes her husband and four children. She knows very well about giving back and personally has done this in various ways such as donating to Relay for Life. She expressed another joy of hers which is sending cards for no reason other than to brighten someone's day. There's nothing quite as special as receiving a card that includes a handwritten note!

Beth reached out to me after reading one of my Random Acts of Kindness articles and as we were setting up our meeting, we'd agreed March 13 would work. While exchanging emails I told her I'd always thought 13 was a lucky number and she agreed revealing March 13 was her nine-year anniversary as a breast cancer survivor! Certainly is a lucky number! She went onto explain that the doctor scheduled surgery for March 12 but she asked for the 13 instead telling him that March 12 was her birthday. Commonalities and coincidences while writing these Random Acts of Kindness stories are always surprising me! What are these odds, my birthday is also March 12th!

Beth has taught in the Chicopee schools for 27 years and though teaching English to grades six through eight, 10 years was primarily teaching the sixth-grade. Just this year her role changed to the six-grade Interim Vice-Principal, which has approximately 268 sixth-graders. She's making quite a hit with both students and staff by introducing the 'Kindness Award'. This began as a way of recognizing students who have done kind things not realizing someone has noticed.

Every Monday morning the students and staff meet for an assembly called 'Monday Morning with Murdock' when the honorees are announced. Each of these students receive a certificate describing their kind act, a coupon for one hour at Altitude (donated by a 'kind' parent) and then the certificate is displayed in the hallway for all to see. She said they've enjoyed this so much the awards have now expanded to include all staff who also receive certificates for doing a kind act. Beth expressed, "The students love cheering for their teachers."

Students have been inspired by math teacher Jackie Berube because of her creation and donation. The capitalized bright white words; I am kind, I am thankful, I am loved, I am enough are inscribed on light moss green bracelets and worn by many.

I asked Beth if any other staff would

like to share comments about the 'Kindness Award', here are some of the responses.

Teachers Andrea Rizzo and Jodi Fortuna said, "We have found that students who receive kindness awards have an increase of positivity, work harder, have greater attention spans, are willing to learn more and report a more positive school climate. The kindness award also has made our students happier and feel less stressed."

Head custodian Fran Hastings told how the children nominated the night custodian Paul Giguere.

"Although Paul received some ribbing from his fellow custodians, I could tell he was very proud of this award. It is always nice to have your actions and work ethic recognized. The awards brought lightness to the children's day which can be overwhelming and daunting," he said.

Beverly Wright noticed, "Students get excited when they see their peers being acknowledged for doing good deeds. They congratulate each other for a job well-done, inspiring others to do the same."

Tori Mascaro shared, "I have noticed that when we recognize our students, especially when they don't think we are paying attention, they want to continue to be the best version of themselves, and it helps improve classroom performance as well. I love seeing the look on their face, their reaction when their name is called."

Programs like the 'Kindness Awards' don't just happen without behind the scenes work and Beth is certainly up for the task. Each week, she gives the staff challenges to do as an act of kindness and shared a couple examples with me. Tell each class three things you like about them, leave a sticky note complimenting a co-worker or student and turn off devices and really listen.

I'm ending with another thought from Mrs. Mascaro, "I always hope that with this, they will continue to project kindness because kindness matters."

Many thanks to all of you for encouraging positivity and kindness with our youth while leading by such great examples!

If you would like to tell me a story about a Random Act of Kindness please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-788-7514. You don't need one, but if you'd like to have a predesigned flyer to include with your next gesture, let me know. It's a way to keep the memory alive long after the gesture is done. Who knows, you might see your story in this column. 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, did or received something nice being done. See you next month with another Random Act of Kindness!

Tykes Tuesdays back this summer at Holyoke Mall

HOLYOKE- Tykes Tuesday is back for its fourth year of summertime fun at Holyoke Mall Tuesday mornings from July 11 through Aug. 22.

Tykes Tuesday, sponsored by Rock 102, features seven weeks of free family activities and exclusive discounts on Tuesdays starting at 11 a.m. on the lower level in Macy's

Court.

The summer series includes STEM activities, a petting zoo, free admission to Altitude Trampoline Park, and more. The kids' program is free, open to the public, and is best suited for children ages 12 and under.

To pre-register go to Holyokemall.com.

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GUEST COLUMN



Working widow seeks to maximize Social Security benefits

Dear Rusty: I was widowed years ago and, when I approached age 60, I looked into Social Security survivor benefits based on my late husband's record. He started receiving Social Security shortly before he died at \$1,200 per month. My income at age 60 was \$42,000 and, since Social Security would keep \$1 for every \$2 above the limit (around \$15,000 at that time), I did not apply.

Next year I will reach my full retirement age of 66½, but I plan to work until I am 70. Will I be able to receive full survivor benefits next year if I continue to work? I plan to switch to my own Social Security benefit at age 70, which will be higher than my husband received.

Since I am waiting to apply for survivor benefits, will there be an increase in the amount I receive? I am a municipal employee and when I retire, I will collect from the state retirement system. I paid into the state retirement system and also paid Social Security taxes, so will my state pension have any impact on my Social Security?

Signed: Still Working

Dear Still Working: Congratulations on having an excellent strategy for maximizing your survivor benefit as well as your personal SS retirement benefit. Once you reach your Full Retirement Age next year, you are no longer subject to Social Security's "earnings test" and can collect Social Security benefits without those benefits being affected by your work earnings.

Your surviving spouse benefit will be more because you are waiting until your full retirement age to claim it. At your FRA you can claim your full survivor benefit from your deceased husband without reduction and collect only that while still allowing your personal SS retirement benefit to grow to maximum when you are 70. Then, at age 70, you can switch from your smaller survivor benefit to your maximum SS retirement benefit and collect that higher amount for the rest of your life. Essentially, your survivor benefit reaches maximum at your FRA and your personal SS retirement benefit reaches maximum at age 70.

Note that you should apply for your benefits a couple of months before you wish them to start. For example, if you reach your FRA in May of next year you can apply for your survivor benefit in February or March, specifying that you wish your survivor benefit to begin in May 2024 at your full retirement age. Just be sure to emphasize that you are applying only for your survivor benefit and wish your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow by earning Delayed Retirement Credits until you are 70.

You cannot apply for your survivor benefit online, so you will need to call Social Security, at either the national number (1.800.772.1213) or your local Social Security office, to make an appointment to apply for your benefit as your husband's widow.

And to answer your last question, your state pension won't affect your monthly Social Security payments because you paid Social Security FICA payroll taxes from your municipal earnings.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

GUEST COLUMN



Gotta love astilbes

I love to walk around my yard admiring the blooming plants.

Within the last few days my beautiful frosty pink astilbe has burst on to the scene in my shade garden, stealing the show from what is left of the mountain laurel flowers.



I love astilbe, and when they are happy, they certainly perform. They work well with other shade lovers - hostas and ferns come to mind first off.

The astilbe has two things going for it: nice flowers and handsome leaves; traits desirable in the vase as well as the garden! Nothing is worse in my opinion than perennials that bloom for a relatively short amount of time but leave you with drab or high maintenance foliage for the rest of the season.

Not the case with astilbes, that is, as long as they are grown correctly. Most appreciate light to full shade and moist, humus-rich soil.

They may do okay in the sun as long as the soil is right. Take my word that they will struggle in dry ground, and will be far less attractive than their sunny counterparts.

For years I tried to grow a division of one of Mom's plants on the north side of my old house. Sure, I had great shade, but no matter how much I watered it, the soil drained too readily, and it struggled until I finally gave up and gave it away.

To make the first astilbe happier I should have amended the soil with lots of compost prior to planting. This can be accomplished easily by loosening a space in the garden twice the width of your astilbe and a foot or

more deep.

Once it is friable, add a four inch layer of compost on top and mix it into the soil. Now you are ready to plant.

Dig a hole and position the astilbe at the same depth it was growing in the container, with the crown of the plant an inch or two below the soil surface. Back fill and gently firm down the area.

Water well until your new plant is established, as well as during periods of drought. Mulch is very beneficial to astilbes; it helps conserve vital moisture and reduce competition from weeds.

If flowers become sparse or the plant encroaches on its neighbors, division may be necessary. Wait until spring, and at the first sign of new growth lift and separate the clump.

The freshest parts of the plant will be towards the edge, so be sure to replant those sections. No doubt you will have many gardening friends ready and able to take any divisions you have left.

Where you place your astilbe in the border depends on the variety you are growing. They can range in height from less than one foot to over three!

There are also numerous variations in flower and foliage coloration. Flowers can be brick red, salmon, mauve, lavender pink, white and many shades in between.

Leaves can have a red or bronze tint, or be deep or even "electric" green. Some astilbe plumes are upright, while others are arching.

They may be light and airy or rather dense. Certainly, with this many options to choose from there is an astilbe for each and every taste!

Do try growing them along with hostas and ferns - a classic and hard to beat combination. Another plus: this plant is rarely bothered by deer or rabbits; I have both!

But beware, it may be harvested regularly for your next floral creation. It will last a good long time in the vase, especially if picked at the first sign of bloom.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.



Letters to the Editor

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: *The Chicopee Register*, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email chicopeeregister@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

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Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts awarded \$165,000

HOLYOKE/WORCESTER — Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is thrilled to announce it has received a three-year, \$165,000 grant from the Women's Foundation of Boston. The grant will fund the expansion of the "It's a Girls World" community based program that encompass STEM, Financial Literacy, Healthy Living, and Mental Health Wellness programs.

GSCWM is one of 10 nonprofits that

exclusively serves women and girls awarded in WFBoston's 2023 grant cycle and one of 3 grantees who serve women and/or girls in Massachusetts Gateway Cities.

"Historically as a society, we have not done enough to build women and girls' confidence in their academic, athletic, leadership, and financial abilities, all of which are priorities for the organizations we support and help scale," said Christina Gordon, Co-Founder and CEO of the

Women's Foundation of Boston. "It is crucial that we continue to invest in nonprofits, especially those operating in our Gateway Cities, giving them the ability to serve thousands of women and girls in need of our support."

According to Jamie Mahon, GSCWM Fund Development and Marketing Manager, "this generous grant enables us to expand what we've been doing in Worcester County and allows us to serve more girls,

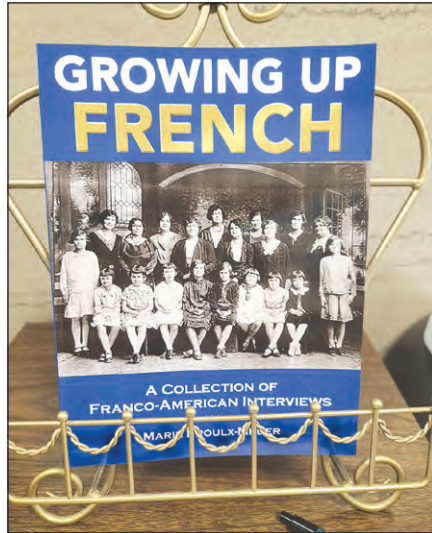
meeting them where they are, in communities that may experience gaps in access to resources and programming."

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts plans to bring It's a Girls World to Chicopee, Holyoke, Pittsfield, Springfield and Westfield.

To inquire about It's a Girls World, or to join, volunteer, donate or reconnect, contact GSCWM at info@gscwm.org or visit www.gscwm.org.



(L to R) Jeanne Proux-Hebert and Marie Proux-Meder pose for a photo with the mayor's proclamation after the St. Jean-Baptiste Day Flag-Raising ceremony outside City Hall.



A copy of Marie Proux-Meder's book "Growing Up French" was on display after the St. Jean-Baptiste Day Flag-Raising ceremony outside City Hall. The book is a collection of interviews about the lives of Franco-Americans who were French Canadian immigrants.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Mayor John Vieau joins Jeanne Proux-Hebert to raise the French-Canada flag as attendees take photos and applaud during the St. Jean-Baptiste Day Flag-Raising ceremony outside City Hall. Proux-Hebert received the proclamation from Vieau during the ceremony on behalf of the French Heritage Center.

St. JOHN-BAPTISTE DAY from page 1

Attendees then joined together to sing the Canadian and National Anthems.

Vieau also addressed complaints about the flag-raising.

"Chicopee is a very diverse community. I tell people to be proud of where they come from, their heritage whether it'd be your school, have pride in whatever it may be you do, your family, your friends, but of course be proud of this amazing city we all call home and that's Chicopee," Vieau said. "I let everyone know and reassure them that Old Glory

flies proudly, highest in our center stage at City Hall Plaza, no matter what flag is risen over here at City Hall, and that will always be the case."

Hebert was humbled to receive the proclamation.

"It means everything. There's such a rich history and a rich part of the city contributed so much to the development of the city. We're just so happy and proud that we can recognize all the French Canadians for their contributions to the city," Hebert said.

Hebert's sister, Marie Proux-Meder, published a book called "Growing

Up French" in January 2023, comprised of interviews with French-Canadian immigrants and enjoyed the ceremony.

"It's fantastic to see the turnout and that people take such pride in their French heritage," Meder said.

Giselle Remillard Maloney attended the ceremony with friends. They've all known each other for over 60 years and grew up in the same neighborhood.

Maloney said the flag-raising means a lot to the French-Canadian community.

"We came here today because we felt we were kind of a lost nationality.

We're kind of never spoken about and we did have a big impact with the cities, with Chicopee, Holyoke and Springfield," Maloney said.

Alan Berrouard also appreciated the ceremony.

"It's about time French get some recognition. It's good because all the other nationalities are getting it, and you don't hear too much about that Canadian side anymore, you know, and it was a big part of this city," Berrouard said.

The ceremony concluded with Hebert raising the flag.

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IN THE CITY

SUMMER READING from page 1

and those students don't just disappear," Icklan said. "So when school ends, those students still need a source of reliable foods and that's one thing that school meals and summer eats really provides."

Melanie Wilk, food service director for Chicopee Public Schools, said the summer meals program will have numerous sites throughout Chicopee, including the high schools, library, Lincoln Grove, Ray Ash Park and many more.

Wilk appreciates the community's support.

"It's awesome. Chicopee is just the most supportive community. They just really always come out big for these sort of things so we just love to do it for them," Wilk said.

Wilk added when people come out for summer meals, it also supports their programs.

"So definitely come out and have a meal! You can come out any of the times that are listed on our website or visit the truck at one of the parks and just come out and get a meal and have some fun," Wilk said.

Bianca Thomas signed her children up for summer reading to make sure they stay on track, adding they are reading early reading books.

"They love anything about animals, about sea creatures and stuff that the big brother can read to the little sister," Thomas said.

Thomas loves the library staff.

"The staff is so friendly here. It definitely keeps us coming back. They always have different activities every week like LEGO activities, different superhero stuff and being a resident of Chicopee, you



Brent Tenerowicz, youth services librarian at Chicopee Public Library, helps a family sign up for summer reading programs during the Summer Reading Kickoff Party at Chicopee Public Library

know, it's nice to have that. It's an open space, a safe space," Thomas said.

Thomas wants residents to know the library has many free activities and events and to keep reading.

"Keep 'em reading. Keep 'em active, keep them reading a book," Thomas said. "There's always something for every age group."

For the summer meals schedule, visit <https://www.chicopeeps.org/food-services-lunch-menus-9a435aad>.

(L to R) Jahniya Reed, onboarding & training coordinator at the Chicopee Boys & Girls Club, Isaiah Guzman, Jaimie Waterman, nutrition coordinator at the Chicopee Boys & Girls Club, and Xavian Guzman get ready for face painting fun during the Summer Reading Kickoff Party at Chicopee Public Library.



Carolyn Dion leads residents in yoga during the Summer Reading Kickoff Party at Chicopee Public Library.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS



A group of military members and their families play a game in the Castle of the Knights on Wednesday.



Jackson and Ruth play chess during Game Night.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

GAME NIGHT from page 1

organizers, including the Springfield Vet Center, local veterans' service officers and several veterans' organizations, have decided to make it a quarterly event. The next one will occur in October.

Shaw was impressed by the number of children who were in attendance on Wednesday.

"I think what the kids bring is those parents who need connectivity," she said. "It's great to provide an opportunity for parents to get out with their kids and play new games or make new friends, and we all walk in the door knowing everyone else in this room is a veteran or a military family, so we know we have stuff in common, so the conversations pick up easily."

Craig Hall came from the Hartford Vet Center to speak to veterans in Chicopee at game night. He credited organizers for being extremely creative and noted that the family-friendly environment made it more likely for veterans to arrive with their children.

Hall noted that events like game night are "off the beaten trail" and that you don't hear about veterans getting together to play games often.

"It's just a different way to get the people who are isolating out and do something. A lot of people who isolate play games so something like this is a way to get those vets to come out, be more social

and find out about the resources that are in the community," Hall said.

Leigh Paz, a transition patient advocate for the VA, agreed that it was important for the kids to have a good time because they "help bring the veterans out of the house."

Paz was present to share information about healthcare resources the VA offers that veterans might now know about. He was thrilled to see so many others arrive with a similar goal.

"Everyone here has the same mission: take care of veterans," he said.



Leigh Paz represented the VA at Game Night.

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Aldenville's offense falls short against Monson

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

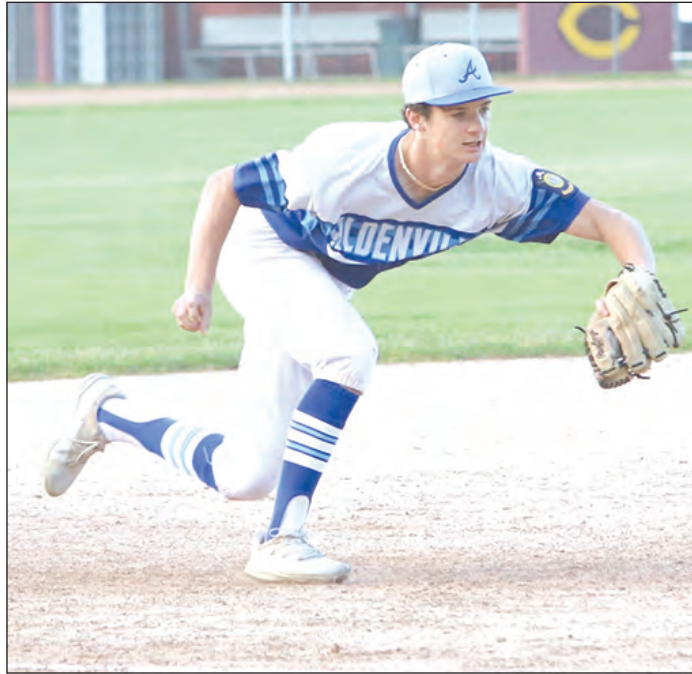
CHICOPEE—Despite having runners on base in six of the seven innings that they batted, Aldenville Post 337 only scored one run in last Wednesday night's Senior Legion baseball game against Monson Post 241.

Monson, who scored all their runs in the fifth inning, remained undefeated with a 3-1 win at Szot Park in Chicopee.

"This was a low scoring game against a very good Aldenville team," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "We only had runners in scoring position in a couple of innings, but we were able to capitalize on them. It was a fun game tonight."

The road win improved Monson's record to 3-0, while Aldenville, which draws players from Chicopee, Chicopee Comp, Holyoke, and South Hadley high schools, had a 2-2 record.

"I thought it was a great pitcher's duel tonight," said Aldenville manager Mason Scott. "We just had one bad inning defensively, which wound up



Christopher Reardon fields the bouncer to third.



Brady Burnett starts for Aldenville.



NOAH STONE SENDS A THROW BACK TO THE INFIELD.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

hurting us."

Monson righthander John Mumper won his second game of the Legion season. He went the distance allowing one run on six hits with eight strikeouts. He only issued one walk and threw a total of 82 pitches.

"Johnny was lights out again tonight," Tripp said. "He just pounds the strike zone and changes speed well. He just pitched a great game. I couldn't say enough good things about his performance on the mound."

The home team had a golden

opportunity to take a 1-0 against Mumper, who was the ace of the Ware High School pitching staff, in the bottom of the first inning.

Second baseman Luis Dejesus hit a grounder to the Monson third baseman leading off the bottom of the first inning. He

wound up at third base following a throwing error.

After Mumper struck out the next batter, shortstop Nathan

See **LEGION** page 8

Tigers holding own in Tri-County

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Falls Tigers started out the Tri-County Baseball League season with a bang, but have had some difficulty recently, falling to 8-5 on the season. But their eight wins are still good for second place and 16 points in the league, two points behind PeoplesBank. The Bankers have played three less games and stand at 9-1 for the year. The Tigers, who draw many of their players from throughout the region, last defeated 413ATC 5-4. The Tigers are next in action on July 6.



LJ Denette stretches to hit this shot towards third.

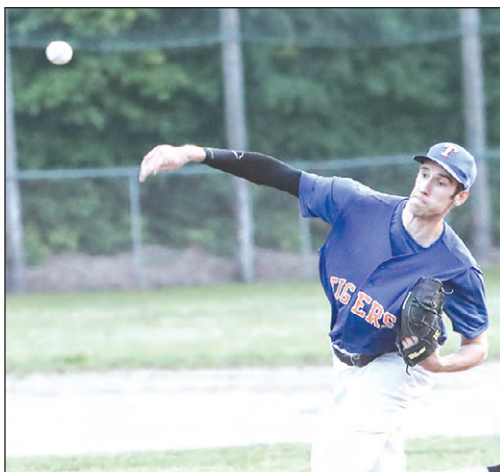
TURLEY PHOTOS BY JACK CASCIO NEAP.SMUGMUG.COM



Harley Kagan cracks this shot to deep right center.



Chip Chipman scrambles to grab this errant foul off third.



Brendan Fournier delivers during the first.

Pioneers suffer first loss this season



Connor Bagdon follows through on a pass forward.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— Since the start of the 2019 regular season, the Seacoast United Phantoms are the only USL-League two team who have been able to beat the Western Mass. Pioneers at Lusitano Stadium.

The Phantoms knocked the Pioneers out of the 2022 playoffs with a 1-0 extra time victory in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

With the score tied 1-1



LUCIO BERRON PASSES UP THE FIELD.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY

WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

in last Friday night's match-up between the archrivals, Seacoast retook the lead during the 62nd minute and they were able to celebrate a 2-1 road victory at Lusitano Stadium. "This result really hurts a lot because we clearly performed better than they did in tonight's match," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "You win soccer games by scoring goals. We just didn't score more goals than they did."

See **PIONEERS** page 9

Williams gets another big win in Open Modified Series

THOMPSON, CT — Ronnie Williams used a late caution to win the Icebreaker 125 for the Outlaw Open Modified Series at Thompson Speedway back in April. Wednesday night, Williams didn't need a late caution - he did it in dominating fashion. Williams took the lead early and rolled to the win after holding off Chris Pasteryak and on a flurry of late restarts. The victory came in the first of the summer Dash For Cash 50-lap, \$5,000 to win races for the Outlaw Open Modifieds at the Connecticut oval in 2023.

Williams had a tough challenge on the final restart with Pasteryak closing in on the back bumper. Pasteryak was close on the final lap when the field took the white flag, but got loose off turn two and had to settle for second. Joey Mucciacciaro posted a strong third-place finish with Kurt Vigeant and Swanson finishing the top-five.

Former Thompson champion Nick Johnson rolled to victory in the 25-lap Late Model race, taking the lead using the bottom lane. Johnson passed Matthew Lowinski-Loh for the second spot on the bottom, then passed Devin Deshaies for the lead just before halfway. Although Lowinski-Loh was closing in during the final laps, Johnson was able to seal the win. Lowinski-Loh finished in second, with Andrew Moelleur wrapping the race in third. Oddly enough, even though Johnson won the championship in the Late Models in 2019, it was his first career track Late Model win, he said in Victory Lane.

The New England Supermodifieds



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ronnie Williams captured a win in the Outlaw Open Modifieds.

rolled into Thompson to supply pure speed and power and it was a dominant performance by Ben Seitz. The driver of the No. 11 jumped out to the lead passing Anthony Nocella for the top spot and never looked back en route to picking up the dominating victory. Danny Bowes was second and Rob Summers third at the end of their 30-lap feature.

Tyler Chapman collected the extra-distance prize in the SK Light Modifieds at the end of their 30-lap feature, worth \$750 to win. Much of the middle portion of the race saw Chapman chasing Danny Cates for the lead, with Alexander Pearl not far behind in third. Chapman would pass Cates for the lead with just

under 10 laps remaining and go unchallenged the remainder of the laps to win. Cates would lose second to Pearl in the final laps, but the two did complete the podium. The division not only had extra laps and extra prize money, but also in-field pitting during the race for the first time during their Thompson tenure.

Corey Fanning made it two-for-two on the 2023 season in the Limited Sportsman, outlasting a stout group of contenders during a wild green-white-checkered finish to take the win in the 30-lap Eden-Raffety Clash For Cash. The \$750 to win race looked to be in the control of Ryan Waterman as the field took the white flag, but a caution for a spinning car in turn

four slowed the race and set up the dash to the finish with a green-white-checkered. Waterman and Chicolas brought the field down for the green with Waterman jumping away with the lead into turn one. When the field hit turn one after taking the white flag a lap later, contact between Waterman and Chicolas sent Waterman drifting up the track sideways. Chicolas took advantage to grab the lead, but Fanning snagged the bottom lane and drag-raced him for the lead down the backstretch and Waterman rallied to chase them both in third. Off turn four to the checkered, Fanning jumped out to control and crossed for the win. Chicolas was second and Waterman third.

It was a dominant type of night for Kyle Wing in the Mini Stocks. Wing won his qualifying heat in dominant fashion, then followed it up by leading all 15 laps to win the Mini Stock feature race. It was his first career win in racing, he said in Victory Lane. Kevin Moore crossed the stripe second and Glynn Roy in third.

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park's oval track is promoted by the American-Canadian Tour and Pro All Star Series again in 2023. The track will return to racing action on Wednesday, July 26, with the Twisted Tea Open Modified Dash For Cash round two, set for 50 laps and \$5,000 to win. The SK Light Modifieds will run double features, while the Late Models, Limited Sportsman and Mini Stocks will also be in action. Racing begins at 6PM and a full schedule of events will be released one week prior to race day.

Blue Sox hit tough skid, lose four straight

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox were defeated by the Danbury Westerners on Sunday by a score of 9-5. The team fell to 8-8 on the season.

It was a tale of two halves of this game for the Blue Sox. Danbury jumped out to an early 3-0 lead after an early two-run homer. Valley was able to fight back in the bottom of the fifth inning, scoring two runs making it a 3-2 game.

Danbury quickly increased their lead, scoring six combined runs in the sixth and seventh innings. The Westerners hit three home runs in this game after none had been hit in MacKenzie Stadium in the first nine games at home this season.

Terry Murray started for the Blue Sox and struck out four batters in four innings, allowing three runs.

Harrison Durow and James Vaughn both pitched two innings out of the bullpen, allowing three runs each.

Zach Cameron pitched a clean top of the ninth, with one strikeout.

Right Fielder EJ Kreuzmann broke out of a slump today, batting 2-for-4 with a double and two RBIs.

The utilityman Michael Zarrillo also went 2-for-4 with an RBI double.

Last Saturday evening, the Blue Sox were defeated by the North Shore Navigators by a score of 4-0.

Valley was limited to just four hits thanks to solid pitching from start to finish from the Navigators. North Shore starter Nate Espelin pitched six shutout innings. Espelin had no strikeouts on the night, but was able to force soft contact and limit traffic on the bases, stifling Valley's offense.

Kurt Thomas started the game for the Blue Sox, and pitched four innings, allowing three runs and four walks, with no strikeouts.

The ball was turned over to Thomas Ballard who pitched two innings, allowing one run off of two hits while striking out four batters.

The back end of the bullpen continued to shine for the Blue Sox, with Michael Weidinger and Jason Arrigo both tossing shutout innings. Both pitchers struck out two batters in their inning of work.

Eliot Dix went 2-for-2 on the night, reaching base in all three of his at-bats.

Matt Bergevin went 1-for-2 with two walks, continuing to see the ball well at the plate as he has all season.

LEGION from page 7

Carillon hit a flyball that was caught by Monson right fielder Ty Miller. His throw to the plate bounced away from catcher Dylan Sutkaitis. The ball was picked up by Mumper. He tossed it back to Sutkaitis, who put the tag on DeJesus for the final out of the frame.

"That was a huge play in the bottom of the first inning," Tripp said. "If they scored a run there, they would've been all fired up. The key thing was Johnny backing up the play."

Aldenville left two more runners on base in the second inning.

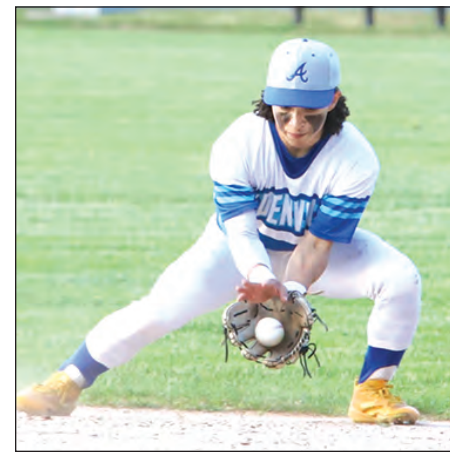
"We just need to capitalize on our scoring chances," Scott said. "That's been one of our problems so far this season."

Meanwhile, Aldenville lefthander Brady Burnett, who graduated from Chicopee High School on June 2, retired the first nine Monson batters that he faced.

"Brady's performance was stellar tonight," Scott said. "He's a very good lefty pitcher for us."

Monson shortstop Hunter Griswold broke-up Burnett's perfect game bid by lining a single into left field leading off the top of the fourth inning. After stealing second base, Griswold was thrown out trying to steal third by Aldenville catcher Nikolas Misiaszek.

With two outs in the frame Sutkaitis drew a walk and designated hitter Don Allen reached on an infield hit before Burnett escaped the jam with a flyball out.



Luis DeJesus gets the ground ball to his glove.

Burnett wasn't as fortunate in the following inning.

After Monson loaded the bases with two outs with the help of a fielding error, Miller knocked home two runs with a single into right field.

"Ty fouled off a couple of pitches before getting the base hit in the fifth inning," Tripp said. "That was the biggest hit of the game."

Brayden Mega, who was hit by a pitch, also scored on the play following a throwing error.

Burnett, who allowed three unearned runs on four hits, was replaced on the mound by righthander Race Drobiak in the sixth inning.

Aldenville ended Mumper's shutout bid in their final at bats.

Centerfielder Devan Santos led off the bottom of the seventh inning with a double down the right field line. He scored when right fielder Nathan Serrano grounded into a fielder's choice play.

The home team couldn't score any more runs against Mumper.

Monson lost 6-5 to Belchertown Post 239 in their home opener, last Friday night.

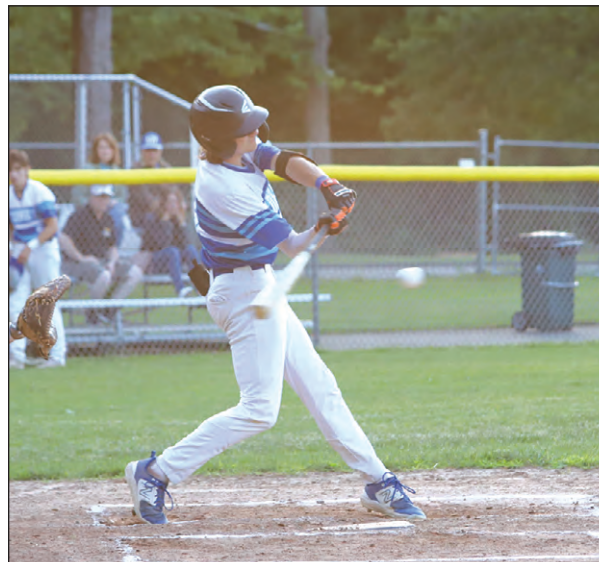
Nathan Carillon swings and fouls off a pitch.

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Colleges announce 2023 Spring Dean's Lists and Graduates

Chicopee students make WNEU 2023 Spring 2023 Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD – Western New England University recently named over 570 students to the Spring Semester 2023 Dean's List. The following are from Chicopee:

Benjamin Shirely is majoring in Creative Writing.

Emily Fountain is majoring in Elementary Education/Math Science Teacher Prep.

Breanna Lowery is majoring in Political Science.

Dominic Folta is majoring in Political Science.

Cory Waring is majoring in Psychology.

Julie Mason is majoring in Psychology.

Vincent Mason is majoring in Actuarial Science.

Isabella Dyurteyev is majoring in Biology.

Kali Kowal is majoring in Biology.

Bailey Prendergast is majoring in Biology.

Brandon FormyDuval is majoring in Construction Management.

Owen Hurler is majoring in Criminal Justice.

Karissa Lambert is majoring in Criminal Justice.

Michael Bozetka is majoring in Criminal Justice.

Nicholas Messer is majoring in Health Sciences.

Anthony Mezzetti is majoring in Information Technology.

Lukasz Soja is majoring in Finance.

Colby Liswell is majoring in Marketing.

Brian Wiener is majoring in Sport Management.

Jonathan Garcia is majoring in Civil Engineering.

HCC announces Spring 2023 Dean's List

HOLYOKE – Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below are from Chicopee and have earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2023 semester.

From Chicopee: Mia Annayah Almodovar, Jada Marie Andino, Anastasia Antipieva, Zachary Ryan Barabani, Kennedy Ann Baxter, Alicia Rose Beaton, Sophia Ann Bolston, Shalene B. Bracetty, Sarah Jamie Buckley, Natasha Marie Candanedo, Jousset Emanuel Caraballo, Jacky Chan, Kostiantyn Chernytskyi, Cher L. Condino, Melody Nicoll Cryderman, Paulette Nancy Cryderman, Caleb Raymond Dion, Michelle Dostie, Nathaniel Isaac Dumas, Christopher Fondakowski, Zoe Marie Fydenkevez I, Sarah Geffin, Theodore Joseph Gordon, Lynn Ann Gregoire, Aidan Michael Guertin, Victoria Margarite Guilmette, Jenna Nicole Hajdamowicz, Ashley Hebert, Chonvee Heng, Alexander Ryan Hines, Mackenzie Marie Jen-

kins, Matthew Ian Lagares, Elisabeth Loisel, Edward Anthony Mercure Jr., Amanda N. Moralez, Tanner William Parrow, Tracy Deih Parsons, Hanna May Patrick, David Christopher Perez, Elysia Marie Pete, Steven Michael Placzek, Michael Polanco, Alexis Vega Prescott, Hailey Shea Prive, Nitasha Marie Quinones, Arling Marina Reyes, Lance Louie Rice, Jazmin J. Rivera, Loretta Marie Rix, Nathan S. Roberts, Jessica M. Robinczak, Breana Rynn, Amelia Wiktorina Sadowski, Heidi Schmalenberg, Priscilla Soler, Renee Marie Soucy, Hailey P. Stepno, Annmarie Theresa Swaby, Isabel Cristina Teixeira, Caleb Arthur-Onil Wales-Petit, Sydney Rose Wietecha, Kiana Autumn Wilson and Allison Judith Woods.

American International College awards degrees

SPRINGFIELD – American International College in Springfield has awarded degrees to 364 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students in 2023. Congratulations to these recent graduates.

The following local students from Chicopee have been awarded degrees from AIC:

Onaysia Martinez, Doctor of Physical Therapy

Amanda Chen, Master of Science in Nursing

Savana Hennessey, Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study

Alan Josefiak, Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study

Christine Murphy, Master of Science

in Nursing

Judy Nham, Master of Science in Nursing

Andrew Boyer, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

Iris Correa Berly, Bachelor of Science

Darius Diaz, Bachelor of Science

Brianna Fontaine, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Jessica Heredia, Associate of Arts

Meghan Kalbaugh, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Ariana Martel, Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Karen Roy, Bachelor of Science

Isabella Spear, Bachelor of Science

Brayden Stallman graduates from Muhlenberg College

ALLENTOWN, PA – Celebrating Muhlenberg College's Class of 2023, a resident of Chicopee, Brayden Stallman, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. - Bachelor of Arts Degree in the Theatre Major and Media and Communication Major.

Nathaniel Whitehead graduates from Lasell University

NEWTON – Nathaniel Whitehead of Chicopee graduated from Lasell University with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science.

PIONEERS from page 7

Last Friday's setback was the Pioneers first regular season home loss since June 22, 2018, when they lost to Black Rock FC.

The Pioneers also lost a home match to Flower City Union, who are from Rochester New York, in the 2022 Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup.

The Pioneers (5-1-3) have posted a 1-1-2 home record this season. Their only victory at Lusitano Stadium was a 3-0 shutout win versus the Boston Bolts in the home opener, which was played on a rainy night in the middle of May. The Pioneers do have a 4-0-1 road record. The road tie came in the first meeting of the regular season with Seacoast, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

"Our home matches have been disappointing this year," Molinari said. "The ball has been going into the net in our away games, but for some unknown reason it hasn't been going into the net at home."

The Pioneers and the Phantoms also faced each other in the 2021 Eastern Conference semifinals at Lusitano Stadium. The Pioneers advanced into the finals that season by outshooting the Phantoms, 5-4, in a penalty shootout.

"This isn't a very easy place to win a soccer match," said Seacoast head coach Alex Ryan following last Friday night's match. "We had a very good game plan and my players played very hard in tonight's match."

Seacoast United, who took over sole possession of first place in the Northeast Division table, played their second match in a span of 48 hours. The Phantoms posted a 3-1 home win versus Boston City FC last Wednesday night. Their trip to Ludlow took a little longer than they expected because of traffic.

"It did take us a little while to get down here this afternoon because the traffic was really bad," Ryan said. "We also played a match two nights ago. We played very well in tonight's match."

Seacoast grabbed a 1-0 lead during the 18th minute of the opening half when Taig Healy split a pair of defenders be-



Rodrigo Saraiva de Castro makes a quick pass.

fore firing a low breakaway shot into the back of the net past Western Mass. goalie Gianluca Cersosimo (4 saves) for an unassisted goal.

A couple of minutes later, Western Mass. forward Alec Hughes blasted a shot that deflected off the face of Seacoast goalie Jackson Lee (4 saves), who laid on the ground for several minutes before coming out of the game.

"Jackson has a slight concussion and we're going to have him checked out by a doctor," Ryan said. "Our back-up goal-

ie (James Lowell) came in and did a very good job for us. We do have a couple of very good keepers."

Late in the first half, another shot attempt by Hughes was deflected over the endline by Lowell, who was credited with five saves, resulting in a corner kick.

Jared Smith also had a free kick for Western Mass before the first half ended.

Three minutes into the second half, Augustine Boadi gave the home fans something to cheer about. After gain-

ing possession of the ball at midfield, Boadi dribbled down the middle of the field before firing a low shot into the left corner tying the score at 1-1.

"We were down at half-time and we really wanted to tie the score early in the second half," said Boadi, who faced a couple of his Boston College teammates.

"I just the ball coming towards me. Then I had a lot of open space and Alec drew the defender away for me. Then I fired a shot into the net, and it felt very good scoring the tying goal. It got us back into the game."

The contest remained tied until Ted Cargill scored the go-ahead goal, which was assisted by Austin Brummett, during the 62nd minute.

The home team had several scoring chances during the final 25 minutes of regulation, but they couldn't tie the score again.

"It's always tough

whenever you lose, especially at home," said Pioneers captain Nicholas Obberauch. "We had several opportunities, but we couldn't put any of them away. We just need to keep working hard during the rest of the season."

After playing a road match against Pathfinder FC on Tuesday night, the Pioneers will be looking to start another home winning streak when they host the Albany Rush at 7 p.m. on Friday night.

JOB OPENING

STAFF WRITER

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

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



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P1319EA
Estate of:
Anna Mary Midura
Date of Death: 09/21/1993
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Lauralyn J Carlson of Hampden, 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: Lauralyn J Carlson of Hampden, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 07/21/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding.

ceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 23, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/30/2023

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P1312EA
Estate of:
Joseph J Midura

Date of Death: 07/04/1973
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Lauralyn J Carlson of Hampden 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: Lauralyn J Carlson of Hampden 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 07/20/2023.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 22, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/30/2023

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street

Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P1017GD
In the interests of
Javion Rivera
of Chicopee, MA
Minor

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

1. **Hearing Date/Time:**
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 05/15/2023 by Jorge O Rivera of Union, NJ will be held 08/02/2023 02:40 PM Review Hearing. Located: Judge Hyland Virtual: Go to Zoomgov.com or call 646-828-7666, ID 1615070715

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

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

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

5. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:**
A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: June 14 2023

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/30/2023

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P1313PM
In the matter of:
Anita Gondek
Of: Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/
Minor)
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR

OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Odette A Greenberg of Summerville, SC in the above captioned matter alleging that Anita Gondek in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Odette A Greenberg of Summerville, SC (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve Without Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding.
If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 07/20/2023. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 22, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/30/2023

Sale Of Motor Vehicles Under G.L. C.255 Sec. 39a

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on July 29, 2023, at Interstate Towing, Inc. the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

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Belleville, NJ 07109

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125
VIN: 3AKJGLDR1ESFK1048
Settlemyer Freight Solutions/2
Soldiers Trucking
839 Royal Oak Way
Elgin, SC 29045

2018 Vanr Trailer
VIN: 5V8VC5324JT808372
Settlemyer Freight Solutions/2
Soldiers Trucking
839 Royal Oak Way
Elgin, SC 29045

2016 Freightliner Cascadia

VIN: 3AKG-GLD58GSGE4609
Gm Express Logistics Llc
151 Western Parkway
Irvington, NJ 07111

2017 Utility Trailer Mfg Base
VIN: 1UYV52536HG801308
Gm Express Logistics Llc
151 Western Parkway
Irvington, NJ 07111

2010 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB6AP5AL658112
Casandra Mary Carlow
10 Pine St
Framingham, MA 01702

2009 Kia Sportage
VIN: KNDJF723497563107
Michael Augello
3 Colliers Ct
Jackson, NJ 08527

2000 Lexus Rx300
VIN: Jt6hf10u8y0133487
Christopher Walsh
259 Ichabod Road
Southbury, CT 06488

2006 Toyota Rav4
VIN: JTMBD33V966009369
Ninoshika Santiago
135 Temby St
Springfield, MA 01119

2003 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM56623A069587
Valeria Pellicier Acevedo
183 Chestnut St Apt 2
Holyoke, MA 01040

2009 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCP36899A021364
Jennifer Meek
11 Irma Ave # 1
Watertown, MA 02472

2011 Honda Insight
VIN: JHMZE2H73BS000828
Roman Catholic Bishop Of
Springfield
Bx 1730
Springfield, MA 01102

2002 Honda Cr-V
VIN: JHLRD78822C039546
Yesenia Rosario
23 Rochelle St Apt 1
Springfield, MA 01109

2020 Tesla Model 3
VIN: 5YJ3E1EB7LF790546
Jacob Waitze
115 Sullivan Farm Rd
New Milford, CT 06776

2004 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM72624A009005
Angel Zaragoza
7 Winchendon St
Springfield, MA 01109

2003 Cadillac Deville
VIN: 1G6KD5Y936229903
Lamonte Price
19 Kenneth St, Apt B4
Hartford, CT 06114

2005 Toyota Prius
VIN: JTDKB20U557004898
Chloe Grubbs-Saleem
58 Stanley St
Amherst, MA 01002

2008 Ford F150
VIN: 1FTRF12288KE13536
Emily Brunelle
17 Park Ave, Apt 3
Whitman, MA 02382

2019 Dodge Grand Caravan
VIN: 2C4RDGEG9KR529613
Joseph Rodriguez
2600 Loop 410 Apt 905
San Antonio, TX 78217

2012 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL2AP2CC174907
Jose Pantoja
77 Elm St Fl 2r
Holyoke, MA 01040

2004 Volvo Xc90
VIN: YV1CZ91H141037984
Roger Avery
999 Read St Apt 407
Attleboro, MA 02703

06/23, 06/30, 07/07/2023



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Qualifications should include:

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

Please send resume and writing examples to:

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

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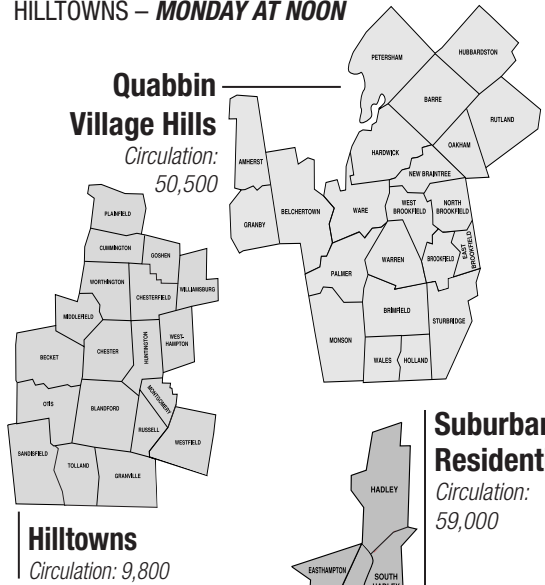
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Leave fireworks to the professionals, say public safety leaders

Fires, damage caused by illegal fireworks rebounded in 2022

STOW— After a record-setting number of fireworks-related fires in 2020 and a sharp decline in 2021, fireworks incidents in Massachusetts rebounded last year. Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Peter J. Ostroskey and State Police Colonel John E. Mawn, Jr. are reminding residents to leave fireworks to the professionals this summer.

Fireworks-related fires and explosions in Massachusetts skyrocketed at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, jumping from 57 in 2019 to 189 in 2020. These numbers declined significantly in 2021, when 80 incidents were reported statewide.

In 2022, however, Massachusetts fire departments reported 106 fires and explosions attributed to fireworks, an increase of nearly a third over the prior year. More than half of these incidents took place in the week of July 4, 2022. All told, the fireworks-related incidents last year caused 38 injuries and \$414,279 in damages – more than double the property loss caused by fireworks in 2020.

“Every single year in Massachusetts, people are hurt and property is destroyed by illegal fireworks,” State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said. “As we count down to the weeks when most of these incidents occur, we’re reminding everyone that



fireworks are illegal because they are dangerous. There will be plenty of permitted fireworks displays this summer, so stay safe and leave fireworks to the professionals.”

Last year, joint enforcement efforts by the Massachusetts State Police and Department of Fire Services led to about 40 criminal summonses for violating the state’s fireworks laws. They also took off the streets nearly 3,000 packages of aerial shells, cakes, fountains, bottle rockets, large rockets, Roman candles, sparklers, and other dangerous, illegal devices worth upward of \$46,000. Those enforcement efforts will resume this year.

“The unlicensed possession, use, and

sale of fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts,” said Colonel Mawn. “Massachusetts law requires the confiscation of any illegal fireworks we encounter, even if legally purchased elsewhere. Massachusetts State Police will seize any illegal fireworks that we discover during routine traffic stops and other activity. And with our local and state partners, State Police will be conducting targeted enforcement efforts to intercept illegal fireworks coming in from out of state.”

Officials emphasized that fireworks, including sparklers, are especially unsafe around children. Sparklers burn at temperatures of over 1,800° Fahrenheit – hotter than the melting point of glass and

aluminum. According to a 2021 report from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, “there were an estimated 1,600 emergency department-treated injuries associated with firecrackers and 900 with sparklers” in 2020. This accounted for almost 10% of all fireworks-related injuries that year. Of those 900 injuries from sparklers, 44% were to children under the age of 5. Sparklers burn at such high temperatures that they can easily ignite combustible materials even after they are extinguished: in Dracut last summer, nine people were displaced after careless disposal of sparklers started a three-alarm fire in their home.

Unfortunately, fires, explosions, and injuries caused by fireworks are not a new phenomenon. Massachusetts fire departments reported nearly 1,000 fires related to illegal fireworks between 2013 and 2022, officials said. In addition to the 42 fire service injuries, five civilian injuries, and \$2.5 million in damages attributed to these fires, Massachusetts medical facilities reported about 30 severe burn injuries extending to 5% or more of the victims’ bodies that were caused by illegal fireworks.

The Department of Fire Services posts a list of permitted municipal fireworks displays and updates it each week through the summer. To view the list – and to learn more about the dangers of illegal fireworks – visit the DFS website.

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The New England Mosaic July 6 at Crestview Country Club



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ceil Rossi, Agawam Community Artists and Artisans President proudly unveiled the 2022 New England Mosaic in Aug. of 2022 at the Crestview Country Club.

AGAWAM- The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans invite the community to the unveiling of the New England Mosaic on July 6, from 5-7 p.m. at Crestview Country Club, 281 Shoemaker Lane.

The New England Mosaic is a 24-foot fine art wall made up of 240 individual canvas tiles that captures the beauty and diversity of New England life. The tiles range from fine art paintings to fabric art to metal art to multimedia expressions of the artist’s love of New England.

Free canvases were supplied to community members by ACAA and Scantic River Artisans through a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Local libraries in Agawam, Southwick, West Springfield, Springfield, and Westfield distributed them to the community to create original art.

Returned canvas tiles now comprise the New England Mosaic wall of art. To-

gether community artists have created this diverse and unique piece of composite art every bit as beautiful as New England.

Following the Crestview event, the mosaic will be on display at the West Springfield Public Library featuring a reception for artists on July 19 at 6 p.m. The mosaic will also be displayed at the Agawam Public Library on July 24.

The mosaic will finish being displayed at the Pioneer Valley Art Festival, ACAA’s fourth annual arts and fine crafts festival, Aug. 26 - 27, at the Polish American Club in Agawam.

Individual canvas tiles will be sold at the unveiling and at the Pioneer Valley Art Festival with net proceeds going to fund local art scholarships. Community members throughout the Pioneer Valley, both professional artists and amateurs, have donated their time and talent to create this art wall.

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