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TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Chicopee hosts FIREWORKS

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE – The city hosted their annual fireworks display to celebrate the Fourth of July at Szot Park on June 27. This year’s celebration was also festive as the United

States of America celebrates its 250th birthday this year. Ahead of the fireworks, attendees also enjoyed music by The Nice Shirt Band and food from Poppies, Eggroll Evolution, Grilled Cheese Fanta, YJ Catering and Sweet Memories. As for the fireworks, which were put on by the

Parks & Recreation Department, the corporate sponsors were Teddy Bear Pools & Spas, Zasco Productions, Corcoran Plumbing & Heating Inc., Polish National Credit Union, Crossroads Fiber, Holyoke Medical Center, the Chicopee Cultural Council and the Mass Cultural Council.

The celebration also comes the day after the city hosted their own 250th Celebration at Szot Park, which readers can read about in this week’s edition. Enjoy a photospread of some of this year’s fireworks and have a safe and happy Fourth of July. See page 5 for more photos.

Chicopee marks America’s birthday with 250th celebration

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The city of Chicopee hosted the Semi quincennial 250th celebration of the United States on June 26, and it was an overall success that exemplified the growth and stability of the city ahead of the July 4 holiday. The celebration was the culmination of countless sponsors, including the coordination of Mayor John Vieau, the City Council and other municipalities and departments throughout Chicopee and Western Mass. Those in attendance were also treated to live music by ensemble Hometown Rhythm, along with countless other activities, such as Westover Air Reserve Base, which did

live demonstrations of various displays and vehicles, and tons of food trucks and local craft vendors, which made for a fun evening with family and friends of all ages. Attendees also received a commemorative Chicopee 250th coin when they dropped off a jar of peanut butter or jelly as part of a Peanut Butter and Jelly Drive, with all donations supporting local food pantries. The event ran from 4 to 9 p.m. In addition, attendees were treated to a special screening of the animated feature film “Sgt. Stubby: An American Hero” that took place later that evening. Among those who

See 250TH CELEBRATION page 6



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

This family, relatives of Rachel Beaudoin, communications and special projects liaison for the City of Chicopee, is having a great time.

Security to be increased at Chicopee schools

City Council approved budgeting changes to bring in more SROs

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – A short discussion around school safety emerged during the City Council’s special budget meeting on Thursday, June 25. As the council listened to a variety of budget-related requests, many focused on the school district and its different needs. Available to answer questions from the council regarding their line-item requests were Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware and Mayor/School Committee Chair John Vieau. The conversation about the safety of Chicopee’s students began when Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier inquired about an item on page 101 of the budget. “With school security, it looks like you’re creating some new positions at

See SCHOOL SECURITY page 6



This group of friends is enjoying the outside patio.

TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

RiverMills hosts 250th BBQ

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The senior center, in light of the Semi quincennial 250th celebration of the United States, which is set to coincide with the July 4th holiday this weekend, hosted a BBQ event that drew more than 160 people on June 25. It was a party all around as those in attendance were

treated to a cash bar and backyard staples such as burgers, hot dogs, fresh watermelon, coleslaw and baked beans, along with a live musical performance by DJ Luis. Attendees were also encouraged to sport their red, white and blue to get in the Patriotic spirit. Offering a bit of insight into how the party came together was Casey Conroy,

the program coordinator at the senior center. Conroy explained that, with the major milestone happening this year, it seems plans are being put forth to make it one to remember. “We are going to have some American history trivia later in the summer. We’re going to have some other patriotic craft-themed activities, along with a few reenactments of John Hancock

and Paul Revere, and on top of all, we’re also going to Old Sturbridge Village,” Conroy said. “So, as you can see, we’re leaning into themes of patriotism, and it’s going to continue to run all year long, meaning we’re already planning some additional things in the fall.” And as the evening car-

See RIVERMILLS page 9

Council approves \$142M FY27 budget for School Dept.

The unanimous vote occurred at a special meeting on June 25

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – It was a rare Thursday evening meeting for the City Council when the group met on June 25 to discuss and approve Chicopee’s Fiscal Year 2027 budget. Ultimately, the board passed a budget of around \$283.5 million, representing a 2.6% increase over the previous year. A large portion of the meeting pertained to Chicopee Public Schools, which requested and will receive a total budget of \$142,475,036. “This year, our budget roughly grew by about 6%, moving from \$133 million to \$142 million for next year,” Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware said. Previously, the School Committee approved a budget of approximately \$139.4 million.

See SCHOOL BUDGET page 9

IN THE CITY

Chicopee marks Pride Month with flag-raising, tea dance

By Kristin Rivers and Brendan Rooney

CHICOPEE — The community gathered outside city hall to raise the Pride Flag in recognition of Pride Month on June 12.

Ward 2 City Councilor Shane Brooks explained he looked up the definition of ally.

“An ally can be utilized in an operational definition to fight for something worth fighting for, to join with a group of marginalized individuals who aren’t oftentimes recognized. So, that’s my role. Nothing more, nothing less. I’m an ally to the movement, ally to the cause, a friend to all. It’s going to be my honor and pleasure tomorrow to march in the parade,” Brooks said. “Thank you all for coming. It’s such a viable and valuable cause to our community and hopefully 20 years from now, this will be a celebration more than a fight. I wish you all the best and we stand with you.”

Mayor John Vieau reflected on how Pride Month is an opportunity for the city to “recognize an important part of our community and the broad history that has shaped civil rights and public life in the United States.”

“In Chicopee, this recognition is part of a continued effort to ensure all residents feel welcome and included in community life and in local government. This month also serves as a reminder of the civic progress that is often as a result of ongoing dialogue, education and participation from many voices over time. Residents are encouraged to take part in community events and opportunities that foster understanding and simply bring people together like we’re doing here today,”



The Pride flag blowing in the breeze. TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Vieau said.

After reading the mayor’s proclamation, he presented it to Caitlin Riley, a resident and member of the Chicopee Queer Consortium.

This year’s keynote speakers were Brett Cohen-Sherry and his husband Shawn, the owners of Paw Street Barkery, who both later cranked the lever to raise the flag.

Brett Cohen-Sherry recalled his town’s postmaster general, Bruce, who was “one of the nicest people in the world” and volunteered at elementary schools to teach students about zip codes and how to write and mail letters.

“Everyone loved Bruce until one day when I was 9-ish or 10-ish, someone discovered that his roommate was his boyfriend and all of a sudden, Bruce was out of a job and basically shunned by everyone, unwelcome by everyone and every space,” Cohen-Sherry said.

He noted that times have since changed and LGBTQIA+ folks can be seen everywhere from politics to

comedians and more.

“So, it’s with a great deal of hope that I try to be what I so badly needed as a child. I try to make my memory of Bruce proud. I wear my rainbows all the time to show people that I’m here too, I’m a safe place, a person they can talk to, a person they have common ground with. I see your struggle. I went through it too and it wasn’t easy. Still isn’t if I’m being honest,” Cohen-Sherry said. “But if my mere existence can make one person feel safe, if talking to me or asking me questions can make one person a little bit more comfortable, then it is all worth it.”

Shawn Cohen-Sherry discussed defining moments throughout his life including together during senior prom in the 1990s and were accepted when other couples danced around them, marriage equality being legalized in the state in 2004 and coming out to his family a year later and, later, marrying his husband in 2015 when marriage equality was legal nationwide.



Mayor John Vieau with Caitlin Riley, who received the mayor’s proclamation.



Jeffrey Hoess-Brooks was announced as the parade marshal for the Chicopee Queer Consortium’s First Annual Pride Parade.



One of the drag queens with a friend taking in the atmosphere.



Ward 2 City Councilor Shane Brooks explains what an ally is.

Also, the critics over the decades, noting the recent attacks on the trans community.

“I think back to my childhood again and the cartoons of the ‘80s and ‘90s, with two in particular, the ‘Care Bears’ and ‘Rainbow Brite.’ Each and every episode, the dark villains were defeated by the rainbow. In the Care Bears, it took each and every color coming together to fight the darkness. When you shine pure light through a prism, you see all the colors of the rainbow. It’s now time for us to take that prism and, just like the Care Bears to shine our color of the Pride Flag towards that prism. When combined, we all create that pure beam of light and leave nowhere for that darkness to grow,” he said.

After CQC Director Ray Hoess-Brooks unveiled his husband, Jeffrey, as the parade marshal for the 1st Annual Pride Parade, State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) shared his and the state’s support for the LGBTQIA+ community and how the State Senate closed its session the night before in memory of

Barney Frank, a former state representative who passed away on May 19.

Frank was considered the most prominent gay member of Congress.

Gomez also presented a citation on behalf of State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) to Jeffrey Hoess-Brooks.

Tea Time

Following the festivities, Hoess-Brooks led the way and walked everyone over to a packed Munich Haus Bier Garten for the 2nd Annual Tea Dance, which ran from 5 to 9 p.m.

Those in attendance were treated to live music from DJ PB, along with appetizers and signature drinks. According to the general reception gathered, everyone felt it was an overall great time.

Shedding some light on the importance of the ‘Tea Dance’ was Ray Hoess-Brooks.

“The tea dance is traditional,” Hoess-Brooks said. “So back in the day, everything was coded, and so the term ‘tea dance’ was a way that the LGBTQ+ community knew this was a safe place to mingle and meet up, and we feel that hosting them is a way of honoring our history.”

In addition, Jeffrey Hoess-Brooks also touched upon the element of ‘Gay Pride’ within the city of Chicopee being extremely supportive and a haven for all.

Ray Hoess-Brooks, director of the Chicopee Queer Consortium, was the emcee for the ceremony.

“It’s just truly an amazing feeling of where the city is, and how they stand behind everyone, especially with everything going on in this day and age,” Hoess-Brooks said. “But to be here and take in the atmosphere, and see the elation of joy and happiness, amongst everyone, knowing this is a safe space, just again shows that Chicopee carries pride for all, and that includes gay pride just as well, which is always being represented and offered support of the highest degree, and we couldn’t ask more.”

And festivities didn’t stop there, as the first ever Pride Parade hosted by the CQC and the Sixth Annual Pride Fest took place the next day.



Members of the Chicopee Queer Consortium (CQC) posing around the Pride flag. TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

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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.

Correction

In our June 26 edition of the Chicopee Register, it was brought to our attention about multiple errors in the “CCHS Bowling reaches national tournament” story. The Varsity I Team group

photo was actually taken during a practice session, before the trip transpired, and the names of the players were out of order and incorrect. And the Varsity II photo was incorrect as well, because that photo was actually of the Varsity I roster, which was taken by parent Mark Wilkes, who accompanied the team to the national tournament in Columbus, Ohio, and that was taken outside of the team’s hotel before they headed off to competition. We apologize for the mistake.

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IN THE CITY

Portuguese heritage celebrated in flag-raising

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE – The community gathered outside city hall on June 10 to raise the Portugal flag in celebration of Portuguese heritage and Portugal Day.

Portugal Day is celebrated on June 10 to commemorate the death of Portugal's revered national poet, Luís de Camões, in 1580, and honor the culture, language and global Portuguese diaspora.

Mayor John Vieau explained how the late poet "defined the spirit and identity of Portugal" and that Portugal Day "is also about the people."

"Generations of families who carry their heritage that crossed oceans and built strong communities wherever they settled, like right here in Chicopee," Vieau said. "Here, the Portuguese-American community has helped shape the character of our city for generations. Portuguese immigrants and their families came here seeking opportunity and through hard work, determination, faith and family, they helped build neighborhoods, businesses, civic organizations and institutions that continue to strengthen Chicopee today."

Vieau noted the local businesses who have left a mark in the city including Bernardino's Bakery, Dino's European Hair Salon as "examples of the hard work and dedication that have long defined the Portuguese-American experience."

"They're more than just businesses. They're gathering places, they're community anchors and reminders of the pride that comes from serving others. We see pride reflected in the organizations that keep Portuguese traditions alive," Vieau said. "The Portuguese American Club with its deep



Kids and teens gather for a group photo after the ceremony, showing off their Portuguese pride.

roots here in the west end of Chicopee Center, has been a cornerstone of this community, bringing people together to celebrate culture, heritage, friendship and service. We see it in the traditions like The Red Fez and the many cultural celebrations that connect generations to their roots."

He added how traditions are also remembered "around the family table."

"Countless Chicopee residents have fond memories of sharing Portuguese meals with friends and neighbors. I know many people, like me, grew up enjoying Portuguese food at The Cavalier, where good food, good company and strong sense of a community came together in a way that felt uniquely Chicopee. Now, that fine Portuguese experience has been recreated at The View Street Tavern up the hill," Vieau said. "So today, we raise the Portuguese flag. We celebrate not only a nation and its history but also the people who have enriched our city through their hard work, their generosity and

their commitment to community. We recognize you, the Portuguese-Americans, and your contributions that make Chicopee the strong, vibrant, welcoming place that it is today."

After thanking everyone who came to the flag raising and wishing everyone a Happy Portugal Day, Vieau called up Tiago Destapado and Emalie Mendes to crank the lever to raise the flag. As the flag was raised, attendees then sang the Portuguese National Anthem.

Vieau then had Alivia Mendes read the mayor's proclamation. After this, the mayor's proclamation was presented to one of the attendees.

Attendees then headed over to the Portuguese American Club to enjoy a festive Portuguese lunch.

Destapado and Mendes were honored to raise the Portuguese flag at the ceremony.

"It was a great experience raising the flag of my country," Destapado said.

"It's a good experience



Alivia Mendes reads the mayor's proclamation.

in your city and culture," Mendes said.

The teens were also excited about the turnout, noting a crowd gathers every year for this celebration.

"It was great to see the Chicopee and Portuguese pride here in the city," Destapado said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONICA TORRES

The Portuguese flag blowing in the breeze.



Mayor John Vieau shakes hands with the attendee, also a veteran, who received the mayor's proclamation.

"I love to see it around here and around the Portuguese Club," Mendes said.

Destapado and Mendes added they're most proud of the culture, the food and, of course, the soccer team. They also hope people remember their heritage.

"To never forget where they came from and just to

continue showing their Portuguese culture," Destapado said.

"Continue showing your Portuguese and Chicopee pride," Mendes said.

Their message was this. "Show your pride in your country," Mendes said.

"Don't forget where you came from," Destapado said.

CPL 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.

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 27 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.

RiverMills Senior Center upcoming events

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.

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.

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.

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.

Join RiverMills RN Angela Kramer and regional public health nurse Fiona Cioch for a presentation about tick and mosquito safety. You will learn the important ways to prevent tick and mosquito bites, whether you are an avid outdoorsman or just like to garden or sit outside in the yard. You will also gain an understanding of tick-borne illnesses and what to do in case bitten. You must register in advance.

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OPINION

Scam Awareness: Old cons targeting Habitat community resurface

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

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) continues to battle recycled scams that refuse to disappear. False claims using our name – including a “free roof” con that targeted homeowners over 50 first circulated in March 2025 – are still misleading people more than a year later.

The scam promised free roof replacements for older homeowners, often through social media posts and word-of-mouth advertisements that appeared legitimate at first glance. But the program has no connection to Habitat for Humanity. Other scams have offered free bathroom remodels and window replacements.

“These scams are especially troubling because they prey on people who genuinely need help,” said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. “Families trust Habitat because of the work we’ve done in the community for decades. Scammers know that, and they exploit it.”

Unfortunately, housing-related scams are becoming more common nationwide. Fraudsters frequently target older adults, veterans, and low-income homeowners by offering phony grants, free repairs, or urgent financial assistance.

These scams often reappear with slightly different wording, graphics, or social media posts, making them seem new and legitimate even when they are not. In many cases, scammers use the Hab-



itat name, trusted branding, or misleading promises to gain attention and personal information.

Greater Springfield Habitat does have home preservation programs. Legitimate opportunities are announced directly through official Habitat channels, including verified websites, social media pages, and straight from staff.

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity encourages residents to:

- Verify any program through official Habitat channels

- Be cautious of unsolicited phone calls or social media messages

- Never provide personal or financial information without confirmation

- When in doubt, contact our office directly before sharing information or responding to offers online.

- “Scammers count on urgency and trust,” said Olga Callirgos, GSHFH Homeowner Programs manager. “We want our community to know they can always call us directly to verify information.”

Even though scammers may misuse the Habitat name, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity remains committed to what has always defined its work: building trust, stability, and safe housing in our community. To learn more about GSHFH programs, visit habitatspringfield.org

How to Spot a Scam

Scammers often use trusted names and urgent promises to trick people into sharing personal information or money. Here are a few warning signs to watch for:

Red Flags

Promises of “free” home repairs or grants with no application process

- Requests for payment upfront

- Pressure to act immediately

- Requests for Social Security numbers, banking information, or insurance details over the phone or online

- Social media posts that cannot be verified through an official organization website

Protect Yourself

- Contact organizations directly using official phone numbers or websites

- Verify programs before sharing information

- Be cautious of unsolicited calls, texts, or messages

- Ask questions and request written information

- Remember Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity will always share official program information through our website, verified social media account, direct communication from Habitat staff.

If you are unsure whether a program is legitimate, call GSHFH directly at (413) 739-5503.

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid

Kohlrabi - first question of summer

A reader of ‘In the Garden’ wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: “Can you tell me why my kohlrabi did not make a bulb? I have grown them all my life and enjoyed them shredded like coleslaw or cooked with a white sauce. I also know I can use the leaves in stir fry. Thanks for any advice you might have.”

While I am not highly experienced when it comes to kohlrabi culture, I applied a few basic gardening principles to come up with some ideas as to why you are having issues with bulb development, some within your control and others left up to Mother Nature.

Kohlrabi is a member of the cabbage family, a cruciferous vegetable. Think cabbage, broccoli, kale, Brussels’s sprouts, etc.

The swollen stem is considered the “bulb” but it does not grow below ground. Picture the heart of cabbage or the stem of broccoli swollen to look like a flying saucer of sorts.

As our reader mentioned, they are great in coleslaw and they keep a long time. Like other members of this family, they are considered highly nutritious.

Let’s start with fertility. For the biggest, bulbous stem, think less nitrogen and more potassium and phosphorus.

I’m curious if you fertilized with high nitrogen sources, such as composted manure, blood meal or fish emulsion? Or perhaps used a chemical fertilizer with a ratio such as 10-5-5?

The first number would indicate a higher amount of nitrogen than the other two numbers for phosphorus and potassium, respectively.

Another thought would be that kohlrabi can sometimes resist proper bulb formation if it is spaced too close together. Planting a minimum of eight inches apart gives the plant enough space to do it’s thing.

Since you’ve had luck with kohlrabi in the past, I’m thinking either of these scenarios are likely not the case, unless you are gardening in a new locale



with new materials or more limited space.

The other two considerations are Mother Nature related.

As I recall, we had a burst of hotter than normal weather in late May. Since Kohlrabi is a cool weather crop, thriving at temperatures less than 75 degrees, the heat stress could have signaled the crop to bolt without ever forming a bulb.

Are your plants tall and spindly, or are they otherwise well developed? If you installed transplants, perhaps the trouble started even before the plants even made their way into your garden. Just another thought!

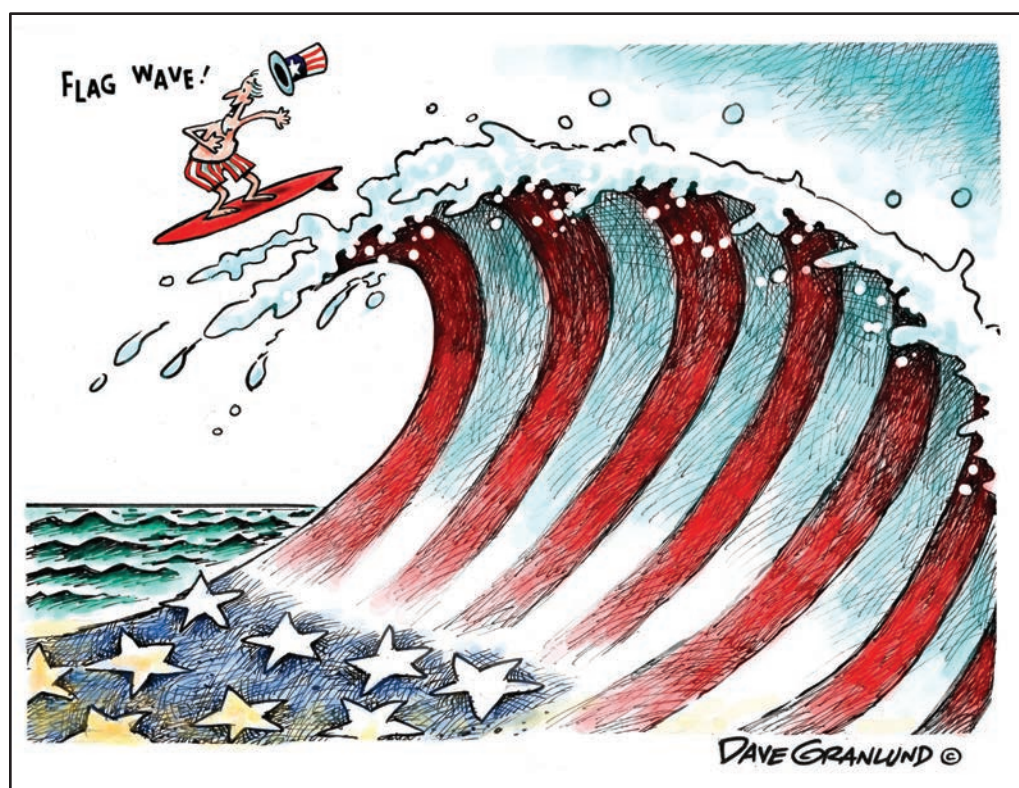
The second weather related issue is moisture. Mother Nature has not been generous in the rain department. Sometimes when droughty conditions are followed by bouts of deep soaking, the would-be bulbous stems can crack or get fibrous before actually bulbing up.

Since we have had less rain that what would be ideal, providing consistent moisture is key.

Although I am not 100% certain why you are having issues this year, I hope that you do give kohlrabi another try. Maybe it was just an off year.

Typically we gardeners are an optimistic lot and our motto is “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.” That, I know we will.

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



I’m always appreciative for the people that trust me to share their stories. I’m also inspired by their humbleness, their life experiences, yet continue to show such compassion and generosity to others.

Kyle and Trish Peters who met in 2003, haven’t had the easiest lives beginning in childhood, yet together have shown courage and resilience through their almost twenty-year marriage. Once they stayed in a trailer with 2-bedrooms and yet offered a homeless man struggling in the cold a safe haven, though it meant nine people living there. They’ve also lived in the garage of a friend, determined to start over to create a better life for themselves. They even lived in a shelter for a short time, but as they matured, they’ve dedicated themselves to improving their lives as well as the lives of their children.

Two young people with troubled pasts involving alcohol and drugs went down that path for a while. When they became young parents



By Barb Turcotte

unfortunately, that didn’t end their self-destruction right away. After their 2nd child, it was discovered Trish has Anti E, a medical condition and both are RH negative, which explained why Trish suffered five miscarriages. Today they have three children in their teens. Their oldest, a son, graduated this month and their oldest daughter is a member of the National Honor Society. What great examples they are for their younger sister!

Together they’ve learned what unconditional love from a parent is all about and about the love of a child for their parent. They continue helping their parents when needed and others as well with strength and determination.

Kyle as an adult, was diagnosed with bi-polar and anxiety that meds are life altering for him. While Trish suffers from hip dysplasia. both are hardworking individuals and valuable assets to their employers where they both work. Trish who has been a CNA for twelve years and Kyle is part of the Maintenance Department. Her dream is to further her education in nursing or social work.

They were separated for about a year and a half, both dating other individuals and on the verge of divorce. Trish said she remembers well the night Kyle came to her and her partner’s house on a particularly hard day and said she looked like she needed a hug. She admitted she did, he reciprocated and right then both realized they loved each other and belonged together. That part of this love story is as they say, ‘the rest is history’.

Kyle at one time wrote

songs and was a well-known performer. He explained he’d been in a dark place with his lyrics portraying that. As he looks at those writings now, he realizes just how somber they were and doesn’t enjoy even reading them anymore.

One of Kyle’s co-workers was always encouraging him while often reciting various scriptures. Kyle though being an atheist, was open to hearing another way of looking at life. His co-worker admitted that he’d also dealt with some tough things and how finding the Bible and religion helped him with those battles. Kyle said he never preached to him but rather shared with him out of concern.

Kyle explained when they were looking for a new place to live, he posted on Facebook to his family and friends that he could use a little extra financial help to obtain a new apartment. A friend from high school that he hadn’t even talked to in fifteen years, came forward and offered to help him. He told Kyle it was a gift not a loan, but Kyle made sure to pay him back as he was so appreciative of the help when he needed it the most. They were amazed by the kindness and generosity of those who helped them. They now enjoy a beautiful apartment with each teen having their own space. The kids love it!

Kyle and Trish are filled with gratitude for how their lives have transformed and all the good things they are experiencing. They feel their new beliefs have helped them with this new life and were even baptized on Easter Sunday. Kyle again credits his co-worker for introducing him to this new way of living.

My vision is that he and his co-worker, who had also been a musician, write songs

See **ACT OF KINDNESS** page 10

Chicopee Register

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Election letters to the editor

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

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

Campaign news

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

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



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Chicopee hosts fireworks



IN THE CITY



The Westover Air Reserve Base fire doing a demonstration of one of their firetrucks.



Above, a group of city employees from different departments pose for a group photo. Right, Close-up of the limited edition 250th celebration coaster.



250TH from page 1

stopped by from the city were Vieau and various City Councilors, such as City Council Vice President/Ward 6 City Councilor Sam Shumsky and Ward 5 City Councilor Joe Pasternak III, and even Chicopee Colleen Charlotte Fields and her Court.

Reflecting on the achievement was Vieau, as he walked the park grounds in amazement.

"We are in the midst of a special historical moment as this year is the 250th anniversary and birthday of our nation, and it's truly a special day, and so my team and I wanted to get a little bit creative this year, and figure out a way to celebrate, and here we are," Vieau said. "We kicked off festivities earlier this week, and last night, over at The Hub, we had a great presentation hosted by Dr. Dan Breen, who gave a presentation about how Western Mass contributed to the Revolutionary War, and without the support of Western Mass, we might not be here today; we probably would have still been part of England."

Vieau then pivoted his thoughts on bestowing an ode



City Council Vice President/Ward 6 City Councilor Sam Shumsky posing for a photo with two city hall workers.

of gratitude to his staff and the countless list of sponsors who helped make the event a success, and touched upon the essence of Chicopee Pride in the city.

"I just want to say that the

collaboration and work of the committee, especially my two out of my office, [Monica] and [Rachel], who have gone above and beyond to ensure tonight was special for everybody, and I want it known

that they put a lot of time and effort into shaping this event," Vieau said. "My hope is it brings our community together, while allowing everyone to celebrate America, and I want everyone to remember that I

want you to be proud to live in Chicopee, and remember to also be proud to be an American. So, I think that's what today's message is about: celebrating America and knowing here in Chicopee we're starting our celebration a week early, and lastly on the 4th of July. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday."

Echoing the mayor was Shumsky, who explained this celebration isn't just for the city, but also for the nation.

"I truly believe this is the greatest country in the world, and here we are celebrating 250 years of independence, which features all of the great things our country has done and will continue to, so here's to 250 years more, God Bless the U.S.A.," Shumsky said.

Pasternak shared that he appreciates the moments when the community can come together.

"It's always great to see and host these functions because it allows us to bring people together, and it also adds to the value of being a diverse community, and moments like this truly exemplify what Chicopee truly is," Pasternak said.

Also to note, one of the

highlights from the evening was a recent Chicopee Comp Class of 2026 graduate, Shanti Caldas, who touched the hearts of all with a heavenly rendition of the National Anthem, which acted as the opening festivities to the community event.

Sponsors that helped make the event possible were the: Mass Cultural Council, Chicopee Cultural Council, Chicopee Electric Light, Holyoke Medical Center, Zasco Productions LLC, Ondrick Natural Earth, Chicopee Department of Veterans Services, Chicopee Parks and Recreation Department, Chicopee Police Department, Chicopee Fire Department, Westover Air Reserve Base, Chicopee Public Library, ChicopeeTV, City of Chicopee-Facilities Department, Chicopee Public Schools - Family and Community, and the Chicopee Emergency Response Team.



Members of the Chicopee Colleen and Court with Mayor John Vieau.



Live balloon animals being made at the Victory Chapel tent.

SCHOOL SECURITY from page 1

schools," Balakier said. "So, I'm kind of curious as to what that is, whether it's outside security or police costs. Can you shed some light on that please?"

When Ware and Vieau responded, they did not divulge any financial information but offered more clarity about why the district will spend more on security next year.

"Those are school resource officers. We've in-

creased the number at our high schools, specifically Chicopee Comp and High," Ware said. "It is not Chicopee Police Department. It is not any other organization. It's our own internal security structure."

Ware also addressed a

"narrative" that has formed surrounding the current SROs and their perceived lack of effectiveness. The superintendent said that this misperception couldn't be any further from the truth.

According to Ware, when the district talks about costs and looks toward the future, "the cost effectiveness between both is drastically different."

Ware doubled down, stressing that the current group of SROs has performed well.

"More specifically, were they effective? Yes. They are community members, and they work in many capacities in our community," Ware said. "So, it's not because they aren't of value. It's more so because part of the strategic plan work and our long-term vision is to increase our family community engagement depart-

ment."

Ware added that, at risk of sounding like a "nerd," he prepared research to cite.

"Research has been very, very clear that family and community engagement offices throughout the country have been stocked and increased because they see the bang for the buck. That's what Chicopee is doing," Ware said.

Vieau also commented on the public's misunderstanding that the district is requesting more SROs because of the current group's performance.

He made it very clear that there will be plenty of security in the city's schools when the next academic year begins.

"I just want to dispel a rumor," Vieau said. "There's a rumor going around that the school district might be a little less safe. It's just not

true. The intent is to have school resource officers like we had in the year that just ended moving forward into the next year."

Vieau did clarify that there will no longer be truancy officers from the Hampden County Sheriff's Department present in Chicopee's schools. He said that a family liaison team has found more success keeping students in school.

"The goal is for students who don't come [to school] every day to find the reason why, and the family liaison team intimately works with families directly to get those students back into the classroom," Vieau said.

And in an update to last week's story regarding the dismissal of former Chicopee High School Principal Gina Fasoli Figueroa, Vieau also declined to comment on this matter this past Friday.



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Aldenville Legion scores shutout over Monson

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER-- The final American Legion baseball game of the regular season at historic Legion Field in Palmer was a vintage pitcher's duel.

Aldenville (Chicopee) Post 337, who only had nine players available for the road game, snapped its four-game losing streak by edging Monson Post 241, 1-0, last Wednesday night.

"We battled the entire game," said Matt Sutton, who was the winning pitcher for Aldenville. "I focused on staying calm on the mound, pitch to pitch, and this is a huge win for us."

Aldenville had a 2-4-1 record following the shutout victory, while Monson fell to 2-4.

The two squads were scheduled to face each other for the second time this summer at St. Joe's Park in Thorn-dike on Wednesday night.

Monson is also scheduled to face Longmeadow Post 175 in another home game at St. Joe's Park on Thursday night, and West Springfield Post 207 at Veteran's Field in Monson on Monday night.

Last Wednesday's contest marked Sutton's first career victory as a member of the Aldenville Post 337 baseball team.

Sutton, who was a junior member of the Chicopee Comp's varsity baseball team this past spring, gave up only



Ryan Netkovick fields a grounder. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

three base hits while striking out eight in his performance against Monson. The righthander issued four walks and hit a pair of batters in six innings. He threw a total of 102 pitches.

"I thought Matt pitched a great game," said Aldenville manager Nate Carillon. "We've been mostly using him as a relief pitcher so far this season. He stepped up in tonight's game."

Sutton, who earned a save in Aldenville's season opening road victory against Westfield Post 124, made his second start of the Legion season. His first start came against Northampton Post 28, which was a home loss a couple of weeks ago.

Memphis Huertas, who's normally Aldenville's start-

ing catcher, didn't attend last Wednesday's game at Legion Field. Noah Carillon, who's Nate's younger brother, strapped on the catcher's gear for just the second time during his Legion career.

"Noah used to be a catcher in little league. He also caught a Legion game at North Adams last year," Nate Carillon said. "He played very well back there."

Noah Carillon made a diving catch on a foul pop-up in the first inning and threw out a runner trying to steal third base in the third inning.

"It was Noah's first time as a starting catcher and he did a great job behind the plate," Sutton said. "I'm very proud of him."

Monson righthander Brayden Mega, graduated



Matt Sutton delivers a pitch.

from Pathfinder Tech in 2025 and is currently a member of the Monroe University baseball team, also pitched very well. He went the distance in his start against Aldenville, allowing a run on two hits with four walks and nine strikeouts.

"It was another outstanding performance by Brayden," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "He only had two hits and a couple of walks. We've just been struggling offensively. We had guys on base in every inning and couldn't score a run."

Aldenville centerfielder Justin Rivera led off the top of the first inning with a line-drive single to the gap in right center. Rivera advanced to second base following a fielding error. After the next two

struck out and grounded out, Noah Carillon drew a walk extending the inning.

Mega escaped the jam with a pop-up caught by shortstop Matt Santos, who recently received the Karl Oliveira Memorial Scholarship Award.

Then Mega retired the next ten Post 337 batters.

Meanwhile, Monson left six runners on base, including five in scoring position, during the first five innings.

With two outs in the bottom of the second, Monson second baseman Grayson Griswold, who singled to left leading off the frame, was tagged out by Carillon trying to steal home.

Two innings later, Monson first baseman Liam McGrath hit a leadoff single and

left fielder Josiel Ortiz was safe at first base with two outs following a throwing error. Ortiz stole second before Sutton ended the threat with a strikeout.

Aldenville leftfielder Adam Ozga lined a single into left field before being thrown out trying to steal second base by Monson catcher Kyle Kaczuwka.

The visitors would then break the scoreless deadlock with a run in the following frame without the benefit of a base hit.

Rivera drew a one-out walk before stealing both second and third. Shortstop Charlie Maxwell also walked, putting runners at the corners. Then Ryan Netkovick, who was Aldenville's starting second baseman, hit a ground ball to Santos. His throw to the plate was dropped and Rivera scored what turned out to be the only run of the ballgame.

Then Carillon was walked intentionally, which loaded the bases.

Mega managed to get out of the jam with a strikeout and a ground ball out.

Monson had an opportunity to tie the score in the bottom half of the frame, but they had a runner tagged out by Sutton trying to score on a passed ball.

Maxwell relieved Sutton before the start of the seventh inning. The righty issued an one-out walk to Dayne Shanley before retiring the next two batters to earn the save.



Brigid Moore winds up for a free kick. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Mutiny shut out by Vermont Green FC

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW - Even though the New England Mutiny had already been eliminated from the USL W playoffs, they still had a

chance to influence the race for first place in the Northeast Division entering the regular-season finale.

Had the Mutiny pulled off an upset victory against Vermont Green FC, the Hudson Valley Crusaders would

have finished at the top of the Northeast Division table.

However, it was Vermont Green FC players and their rowdy supporters doing all the celebrating following a 3-0 shutout win over the Mutiny at Lusitano Stadium last Saturday night.

"We wanted to play the spoiler role in today's match," said New England Mutiny midfielder Avery Klingensmith, who's from Belchertown. "We were hoping to make the playoffs in our first season playing in this league, but it's always a lot of fun trying to impact another team's season."

Vermont Green FC captured the inaugural USL W League Northeast title with a 6-0-4 overall record.

They're scheduled to host the Eastern Conference playoffs this weekend

One of the Vermont Green's ties came at Lusitano Stadium against the Mutiny (1-1) on May 26.

Vermont Green



Sadie Mathis brings in a pass while on the run.

See **MUTINY** page 8

Playoffs hopes still alive after Pioneers shutout

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW - Had the Western Mass. Pioneers failed to secure a victory in last Friday night's match against AC Connecticut, their playoff hopes would have vanished for the first time since they entered USL League Two in 2019.

The Pioneers kept their postseason dreams alive a little bit longer thanks to a hard-earned 1-0 shutout win at Lusitano Stadium.

"We didn't get the result that we wanted in our last match on Tuesday night, and we had a tie here last week," said Pioneers assistant coach Tomas Duben. "It was very important for us to get the three points and the win in tonight's game. We're still battling for a postseason berth."

Duben took over the head coaching duties from long-time Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari, who spent last weekend coaching a Western

United Pioneers U-16 girls' team at a tournament in Virginia.

Since 2024, Duben has a 3-0-1 record as the Pioneers interim head coach.

"My playing career ended a couple of years ago because of a knee injury," he said. "I really enjoyed playing for this soccer team. I'm very grateful that Federico gave me this coaching opportunity and I'm still learning."

The Pioneers improved to 6-2-2 (20 points) following the home shutout victory, solidifying their hold on third place in the Northeast Division. They trail first place Vermont Green FC (10-0-1, 31 points) and second place NEC (10-1-1, 30 points). Only the top two teams in the Northeast Division qualify for the league playoffs.

Western Mass. finished at the top of the Northeast table in both 2019 and 2021. They made it all the way to the National Semifinals in 2021. They've finished in second



Riley Priddy makes a quick pass.

place during the past four seasons.

Between 2010 and 2018, the Pioneers only qualified for the USL PDL playoffs once.

AC Connecticut (1-10-0)

See **PIONEERS** page 8



William Fauth watches his pass move away

IN THE CITY

World Cup fever sweeps Chicopee

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – World Cup fever has taken Chicopee by storm just like the rest of the country, and it's only going to get bigger from here on out.

One local establishment that continues to be the talk of the town and the place to be on game day is the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille, which is owned and operated by local entrepreneur Billy Stetson, who is also a proud member of the Western Mass Chapter for the American Outlaws, and it's evident the party hasn't stopped once.

The Chicopee Register had a chance to visit during game day last month, when Team USA was in the group stage, with Stetson expressing his excitement while he was getting everything set up.

"We are the biggest watch party bar in the Northeast, outside of Boston, and it's truly exciting to see the volume of people here and the sense of pride for our nation," Stetson said.

He also shared that he appreciates the element of the family atmosphere in effect, and cited that sales have increased, and with each matchup the U.S. partakes in, the bar will be coordinating giveaways.

Stetson added the establishment is doing watch parties for all teams, not just the U.S.

"I couldn't be happier with the general love of



The Western Mass Chapter American Outlaws Banner outside the bar's fenced patio.

country and love of sports in each other," Stetson said.

Stetson also recently received a proclamation from Mayor John Vieau on June 12 marking that Friday as Official American Outlaws of Western Mass Day.

In addition, echoing similar sentiments was Jeff Darren, a fellow member of the American Outlaws, who shed some light on the nationwide organization.

"So, part of the Rumbleseat is that this is the official Western Mass chapter and home base for the American Outlaws for the U.S. World Cup, so we gather for all of the games. We gather for all of the World Cup events, and so part of this is a giveaway for fans that we want people to stop by, come on in and support the U.S. National Team, so everyone gets a cup, we've got shirts for sale, and we've got mugs for sale,"

Darren said. "And I just feel the city of Chicopee, and especially the Rumbleseat, is a great organization, and it's truly surreal to see the amount of excitement and joy present in the room, not only from people who love soccer, but the entire community as well, and our message is always to just come in, and have a great time cheering for a common cause, and let's go Team USA!"

With the massive influx of business and some games taking place at night, it was revealed on June 23 that the Rumbleseat has temporarily expanded its hours due to a temporary state pilot program signed by Gov. Maura Healey that allows communities across the Commonwealth to extend alcohol service hours.

However, it will conclude at the end of this month on July 31. The decision

came as the Chicopee License Commission voted to allow the bar to serve drinks until 2:30 a.m., but cited that "all beverages must be cleared by 2:45 a.m., and patrons must be out by 3 a.m."

The initiative aims to give fans a chance to watch World Cup matches with late finishes.

On top of the community rallying behind the U.S., Stetson and his staff have also opened their doors to fans of all nations, as this past Tuesday, a late-night watch party for the Mexico and Ecuador match-up took place as well.

However, currently, the U.S. has emerged from Group D and recently took on Bosnia and Herzegovina this past Wednesday night during the Round of 32 and won 2-0. Team U.S.A. now advances to the Round of 16 to take on Belgium on Monday, July 6.



Two fans taking in the atmosphere, awaiting one of the matchups.



Match time is at 8 p.m. Giveaways in full effect to add to the excitement.



Billy Stetson and the American Outlaws ready for game time.



Group of friends, having a great time, taking in the fun and festivities.

MUTINY from page 7

squeaked out a 2-1 home win in the second meeting between the two squads at the beginning of June.

The Mutiny finished their season with a 2-6-2 overall record.

"We lost a couple of close games this season," Klingensmith said. "We also had a lot of new players, and it was a rebuilding year for us. We always tried to do our best in every game."

Kate Howarth and Megan Cunningham made their first starts of the season in last Saturday's match.

"I played with both of them in the past and it was a lot of fun having them back on the field again today," Klingensmith said. "They're a big part of this organization."

Howarth, who also played for the Orlando Pride of the National Women's Soccer League, is the Mutiny's all-time leading goalscorer and point-scorer.

Klingensmith is also one of the Mutiny's veteran players. She joined the squad after graduating from Belchertown High School in 2022.

"It has been a great journey playing for this team," said Klingensmith, who graduated from American University in May. "I only live about 15 minutes away and this place is very special to me.



Goalie Chloe Lazier sends a free kick away.

I'm hoping to play for this soccer team again next year."

Klingensmith is planning to play for a professional soccer team in Greece beginning in August.

The other players from Western Mass. listed on the Mutiny roster are Mila Dillard (Chicopee), Hope Santiniello (Agawam), and Tennessee Murphy (Monson).



Addyson Earl tries to outrun an opponent.

None of those players played in the final match of the regular season.

During the opening half of last Saturday's match, the Mutiny had two free kicks, but both attempts were saved by Vermont Green goalie Olivia Shippee.

The visitors from Burlington took a 1-0 lead during

the 28th minute following a goal from Georgina Clark.

Emily Mara, who assisted on Clark's goal, booted the ball into the net three minutes later.

The score remained 2-0 until the 73rd minute when Lauren DeGroot netted another goal for Vermont Green.

PIONEERS from page 7

had several scoring chances during the first twenty five minutes of the opening half, but Pioneers goalie Ben Alexander made the saves which kept the match scoreless.

"Ben played very well in tonight's match," Duben said. "The defense also gave him a lot of support back there."

Alexander returned to action after missing a couple of games due to an injury.

It was the Pioneers' fourth 1-0 win of the regular season. They also played a scoreless draw in a road match against Black Rock FC at the beginning of June.

The Pioneers, who have a 3-1-1 home record, took advantage of a mistake made by AC Connecticut goalie Asger Hemmer-Hansen to take a 1-0 late in the first half.

Alfred Baafi put a shot into the back of the net giving the Pioneers a 1-0 lead at the end of the first half.

"The goalie attempted to clear the ball, but I stole it away from him," said Baafi, who scored his third goal of the season. "Then I put a shot into the wide open net, which felt really good. We're still hoping to make the playoffs"

Baafi, who's from Te-

chiman, Ghana, is a first-year member of the Pioneers.

"The atmosphere at this stadium is always outstanding," he said. "We get plenty of support at our home games."

Baafi is also a member of the men's soccer team at High Point University in High Point, North Carolina.

Two years ago, Baafi was a member of the Seacoast United Phantoms, which captured the USL-League Two National Championship title.

"It was an amazing feeling after my team won the championship game two years ago," said Baafi, who's going to be a senior in the fall. "I just needed a change and decided to play for the Pioneers this year. I'm also hoping to be drafted by a MLS team."

The Pioneers had an opportunity to score another goal at the start of the second half.

Martin Echarren sent a pass into the box to Juan Galindrez, whose shot attempt skipped wide of the goal.

The Western Mass. squad also had several more chances to score, but the score remained 1-0.

The Pioneers are scheduled to host Black Rock FC at 7:30pm on Friday night.

IN THE CITY



A perfect photo op for this husband and wife duo.

TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY



Uncle Sam poses for a photo with a friend.

RIVERMILLS from page 1

ried on, the guest of honor, Uncle Sam, stopped by, took some pictures with happy faces, and shared it's truly special to see everyone in the Patriotic spirit and that being 250 is quite the achievement.

"This is truly an honor to be here, and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else," he said.

In addition, Conroy also provided an update on the highly-anticipated Lobster Dinner, which will return later this summer on Aug. 25, and announced that tickets will officially go on sale later this month on July 20.

There is also a two-ticket limit per person.

"We wanted to break the news early because we have a feeling we're going to sell out extremely quickly, and nonetheless we are looking forward to it, because it's always a big event, and marks the end of the summer, and I can confirm we're selling 250 tickets in total. So be on the lookout; they are going to go fast," Conroy said.



Uncle Sam has arrived and strikes his signature pose "I want you."



The kitchen staff assembling plates that are almost ready to be served.



Program Coordinator Casey Conroy with her staff and volunteers before the festivities kicked off.



Two love birds take the dance floor.

SCHOOL BUDGET from page 1

tion for FY27, but other needs caused the cost to rise by several million dollars more.

More than \$101 million allotted to the school district for the next fiscal year comes from Chapter 70 aid.

Salaries and staffing are responsible for more than three quarters of the budget, as \$106 million will lead to 40 new positions being filled. Five positions will be cut.

Transportation also is increasing from \$12.6 million in FY26 to \$14.6 million in FY27.

"A good bulk of that number is in special ed costs. More specifically, many buses and specialized transportation that kids come with on their IEP into our district that we have the obligation of meeting," Ware said.

The school district will experience a cost savings when it moves out of its tem-

porary headquarters at Dulong Circle. The superintendent explained further.

"In the past, we have asked for the Dulong Circle rent from the City Council," Ware said. "However, as you have heard, we are moving to Exchange Street. That means we are spending our last two months in Dulong, so that's the number you see of \$47,000 for the two months of rent."

CPS Director of Budget and Finance John Miarecki also had a microphone and was able to speak during last Thursday's meeting. He talked the councilors through the intricate process that resulted in the budget's completion.

"We've gone through a long process starting back in November, or probably even a little bit earlier than that, of putting together a shell of this budget and then also creating meetings with our directors and our principals throughout

the district. That went through November into almost February, with all those meetings," Miarecki said.

Then, the group met multiple times with each director. Miarecki said that as the budget evolved, needs changed, but once they received the

Chapter 70 funding information in January, the picture became clearer.

"From there, we still continued to meet with our directors and principals as needed. We had four subcommittee meetings that we televised," Miarecki said.

He added that the budget was then approved by a subcommittee before passing through the School Committee.

"I think it's been a lot of hard work, a lot of give and take, a lot of good conversation with people across our

district and all our stakeholders to present the budget that we have here in front of you," Miarecki said.

Ultimately, on June 25, the City Council unanimously approved the school district's FY27 budget.

HELP WANTED

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD18P2445GD
In the interests of
Anthony C Baez
of Chicopee, MA
Minor

**NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Resignation
or Petition for Removal of
Guardianship of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by Debra Goodwin on 06/16/2026 will be held 07/17/2026 10:00 AM Guardianship of Minor hearing. Located Judge Stark - In Person: 50 State St., Springfield, MA 01103 4th Floor.

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

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

4. 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 16, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/03/2026

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.
HD26P1362EA
Estate of:
Geraldine Alice Boron
Date of Death: 01/16/2013
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Public Administration has been filed by John J Ferriter of Holyoke, 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 John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Corporate 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 07/29/2026. 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 24, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/03/2026

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.
HD16P0203EA
Estate of:
Claire Doris Fontaine
Date of Death: 11/28/2015
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Ronald J Fontaine of Murrells Inlet, SC requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/20/2026.

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 appear-

ance 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.

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 22, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/03/2026

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.
HD18P2175EA
Estate of:

**Bernard L. Fontaine
Date of Death: 06/24/2018
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Ronald J Fontaine of Murrells Inlet, SC requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/20/2026.

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.

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 18, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/03/2026

**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 17th, 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.

2009 Acura MDX
VIN: 2HNYD28289H507935
Keith Paquette
49 Stafford Rd.
Holland, MA 01521

2010 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BF3EK2AU558893
Jessica Salvas
870 Wilbraham Rd.
Springfield, MA 01109

2008 Toyota Highlander
VIN: JTEEW41AX82017628
Jay Lafond
678 Britton St.
Chicopee, MA 01020

2013 Infiniti G37
VIN: JN1CV6AR0DM751986
Jarell Smith and
Jacinda Sanchez
15 Pickett Pl.
Springfield, MA 01109

2010 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB6AP0AL722671
Qwadesha Lopez-Shabazz
47 Stonina Dr.
Chicopee, MA 01013
07/03, 07/10, 07/17/2026

**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: 5fml38496b102513
Jose Vicente-Figueroa
8 Forest St., Apt. 3
Chicopee, MA 01013

2012 Chevrolet Impala
VIN: 2G1WC5E32C122221
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
VIN: 4T1BE32K43U127840
Vinod G Vazirani
3249 Jordan St.
Flushing, NY 11358

2016 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BD1FK8GU192911
David Causby
108 Old Mill Rd., Unit 2
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

2003 Chevrolet Suburban
VIN: 1GNFK16T13J225044
Keith Compher
3 Central St., Apt. 2
North Brookfield, MA 01535

2007 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J8GR48K67C597304
Buckets Used Cars Inc.
19 Riverboat Village Rd.
South Hadley, MA 01075

2010 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFA1F80AH504508
Jessica Ashton
211 College Ln.

Norwich, NY 13815

2020 Toyota Sienna
VIN: 5TDXZ3DC1LS043032
Wenrui Wu
12 Woodland Rd.
Westfield, MA 01085
06/19, 06/26, 07/03/2026

**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 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.
HD26P1320EA
Estate of:
Sharyn Anne Riley
Date of Death: May 11, 2026
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Mary Ellen DeMaio of Chicopee, MA.

Mary Ellen DeMaio of Chicopee, 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.
07/03/2026

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.
HD26P1340EA
Estate of:

**Fletcher Douglas Ramsey
Also known as:
Fletcher D Ramsey
Date of Death: 04/28/2026
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 Belinda A Smith-Ramsey 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 Belinda A Smith-Ramsey of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/21/2026. 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 22, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/03/2026



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Email: jamie@turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc.

ACT OF KINDNESS
from page 4

and perform them in their church. When I suggested that, Kyle's eyes lit up saying maybe in the future but he wasn't ready for that just yet.

Their story is truly inspirational about the human

spirit and a love that refused to give up on each other. The day of this interview Kyle proudly stated he was 520 days completely sober. They'll definitely both be an inspiration to others! Thank you for sharing this very personal story.

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness sto-

ry 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!
~ Barb

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NOTICE

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

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HELP WANTED

Town Administrator Town of Russell, MA

The Town of Russell seeks a **Town Administrator** with strong communication and collaborative skills to oversee and manage day-to-day operations for our Town. Russell is a small rural community (pop. 1643) in the Southern Hilltown's of the Pioneer Valley region in Hampden County, led by a three-member Select Board, and Open Town Meeting form of government, the Town relies on the Town Administrator to be responsible for the oversight and management of daily operations of the Town. Responsibilities include scheduling, developing and implementing town projects, assisting with the preparation of budgets, coordinating with various town boards and committees, supervising and coordinating overall operations of Town government and managing day-to-day affairs under the general direction of the Select Board. The Town Administrator will support the Select Board, ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, interface with government agencies and the public and manage municipal operations for the Town. Attendance at certain evening meetings is required. Candidates should have knowledge and competence in municipal finance and budgeting, project management, human resource/personnel administration, Massachusetts municipal law, and intergovernmental and community relations. The successful candidate should possess five (5) years of municipal management and leadership experience, or similar responsibilities in a public or government agency. A degree in public administration or a related field is preferred. An equivalent combination of education, training and experience which demonstrates possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities may also be considered. This is a full-time position with benefits. Starting salary range of \$70,000 - \$85,000 commensurate with qualifications and experience. Submit resume and cover letter as a pdf attachment to **nboersig@townofrussell.us**. Applications must be received by July 16, 2026. *The Town of Russell is an equal opportunity employer.*

REAL ESTATE

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826 EAST STREET, LUDLOW. 2 BR., 1-1/2 bath, kitchen, dinette, LR. Applications required. For more information, please call **413-583-3097**.

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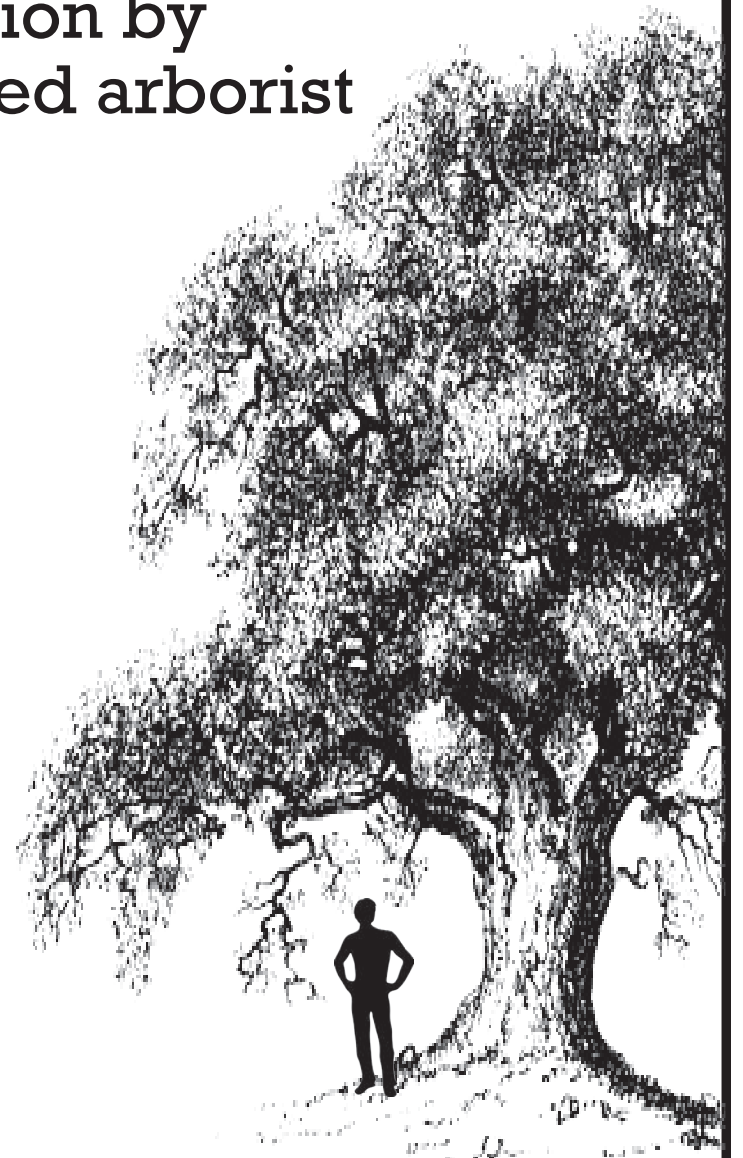


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