

Chicopee Register

Cote and Shaw honored for their service

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Ret. Police Capt. Holly Cote and Veterans Services Director Stephanie Shaw were recognized for their military and community service as recent nominees of the Deborah Sampson Award. On June 26, a ceremony took place in the library's Bazan Community Room with remarks from State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) and State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) and both women presented with citations from the Massachusetts House of Representatives and State Senate.

Cote and Shaw were among 13 statewide nominees for the award.

The Deborah Sampson

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TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A group photo with Retired Police Capt. Holly Cote and Veterans Services Director Stephanie Shaw among family, friends and community members.



Mayor John Vieau with students and staff from the Crossroads Transition Program and Transition Specialist Erik Dahl during a recent School Committee meeting.

CROSSROADS

offers young adults with disabilities
a chance to shine

The school district's 18-22-year-old transitional program is flourishing

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – In the process of preparing young adults with disabilities for the real world, Chicopee Public

Schools' Crossroads Community Based Program equips its participants with the confidence and skills necessary to thrive on their own.

The program is designed for non-diploma students with disabilities ages 18-22 who have completed their high school requirements.

The goal is to assist participants and their families in a variety of ways, and program coordinator Eric Dahl, a transi-

tion specialist in his fifth year in the role, says it is critical to meet each participant at their own unique level.

"Every participant will bring something to the table," Dahl said. "The first couple weeks of our program are to get to know our new participants. Then, together, we design our schedule based upon their needs, wants and how we can

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Fasoli Figueroa speaks out on CHS dismissal

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Former Chicopee High School Principal Gina Fasoli Figueroa is speaking out about her dismissal by Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware.

As previously reported, Fasoli Figueroa's employment with the school district was to be terminated on June 30, according to documents submitted to the Chicopee Register. However, she departed the district before that date and Sean Mackin, the high school's athletic director, has served as interim principal.

The exact date of that transition was not made public and a replacement has yet to be named and the school district has not outlined a process or timeline.

A spokesperson for Ware declined to comment on the development on June 24 and July 8 and Mayor John Vieau, who also serves as chair of the School Committee, also declined to comment on June 26.

Fasoli Figueroa explained Ware told her she was being removed due to three areas: having created a

negative work environment, ineffective school operations and poor instructional leadership. All of this was communicated to her on May 8.

Before this, she had four meetings with him from February of this year to May 8.

"A turning point was mid-March. Him and Deputy Bellville asked me to create an action plan around instruction, how to improve instruction," Fasoli Figueroa said. "He made me create an action plan around instruction from March until June and he said if it doesn't improve, we'll be having a very different conversation and I said okay. Prefaced it with everything that I have inherited and I said, 'Okay, well here's my action plan.' Gave him my action plan. Maybe a week and a half later, he told me he ran it through ChatGPT—legit, my own action plan—and he ran it through ChatGPT and now it's my improvement plan, and that's just a checkbox. So, he ran it through ChatGPT, it wasn't a district plan, it wasn't his

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National Eucharistic Pilgrimage visits Chicopee

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage made a pitstop in Western Mass on June 19 as they continued their journey up the East Coast to mark the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The pilgrimage began in St. Augustine, Fla., near the site where the first Catholic Mass was celebrated in what would later become the United States.

The theme for this year's pilgrimage was "One Nation Under God," symbolizing not only the pilgrimage itself but also the nation's journey toward becoming a more perfect union.

The first stop was at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church before they traveled and ended up in Chicopee for two stops; one was at the Basilica of St.

Stanislaus, where the group was greeted by Fr. Brad Milunski and the entire congregation for the service, and a feast and tour of the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning that followed.

During the feast, we caught up with Milunski, who offered insight into how everything came together.

"It was significant for the Basilica of St. Stanislaus and our parish family that St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, patroness of immigrants, was chosen to be the patron saint of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage," Milunski said. "The pilgrimage route in the Diocese of Springfield had a distinctly ethnic theme to highlight the contributions of various ethnic groups and nationalities in building up the Catholic faith in the United States."

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Library kicks off summer reading

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The library kicked off summer reading on June 24 during their Summer Reading Kick-off event.

The festivities included local community partners such as the school district's Family and Community Engagement Team doing rock painting, the fire department, the Chicopee and Holyoke Community Family Program, ChicopeeFRESH providing free hot dogs for attendees, Families First, the Smoothie Bike from New England Dairy, a seed plant-



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Asher and Brady paint rocks.

ing activity, a mobile craft to create a mushroom house, a Story Walk for a book called "Goodnight Veggies" and summer reading signups.

This year's theme is "Plant a Seed, Read." Summer Reading runs through Aug. 14.

Youth Services Coordi-

nator Erin Daly shared her favorite books to read during the summer are all kinds.

"The main things that I personally read are science fiction fantasy for adults and middle grade comic books about being in school and being awkward," Daly said. "But I'll read anything and

there's so many good new picture books or if you like to read realistic fiction. I recommend the Massachusetts Children's Book Award if you're a little older elementary student or if you're go-

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IN THE CITY

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 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.

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, habits, 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.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) stands with State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) as they present a state earmark to help offset rising sport costs, with multiple Chicopee youth sports organizations present

\$50K earmark supports youth sports

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) and State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) were joined by multiple Chicopee youth sports organizations at Rivers Park on June 25 to celebrate an earmark of \$50,000 that will help alleviate the rising costs of youth sports, such as waivers, registration fees and equipment costs.

Arriaga kicked off the presentation.

"I want to start by thanking everyone for taking the time to be here and understanding that our cause and vision of investing in our children continues to take priority in the state, and so this is a small token on behalf of the House of Representatives, along with the Senate, essentially the state, to ensure that the kids here in Chicopee have the opportunity to play," Arriaga said.

She then revealed that the funding will be split evenly among various youth organizations in the city, including Castle of Knights, the Chicopee Galaxy Youth Athletic Association, the Tigers A.C. Club, and AJAC, all of whom were present.

"We have multiple organizations here in the city that do a great job in trying to keep the rates down and encourage kids to participate all year round. However, we do understand that there are fees associated with that, whether it's new equipment or field upkeep, or uniforms, or registration fees, and even all of those things tend to balance out in the end, it's still not enough

because at the end of the day, they still have to charge our kids to play, and at the end of the day, us, the parents," Arriaga said.

Arriaga said that she and her fellow constituents continue to advocate for The PLAY Act at the State House in Boston, which is built upon the basis of creating a permanent state trust fund that provides free, no-cost access to team sports and athletics for K-8 public school children across the Commonwealth.

"However, until that becomes state law, we are focusing on Chicopee and Springfield to ensure that our kids have the right and opportunity to play without having to have that additional financial burden," Arriaga said.

Gomez then reestablished his stance by highlighting the importance of this achievement.

"Securing an earmark of this magnitude is very, very difficult during these trying times," Gomez said. "I just want to say thank you to Shirley, because the truth is it wasn't for partners like Shirley Arriaga, a lot of this important funding wouldn't come to the city, and I'm happy to stand with her, and happy to help partner with her when it comes to the Senate budget to make sure that we're delivering for Chicopee."

Reflecting on what this achievement means to the Castle of Knights was Assistant Youth Director Adam Morse.

"Today is a huge moment for all of us here, and we are just really grateful for the work achieved by Rep. Arriaga and Sen. Gomez, who



State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) talks to representatives from the youth sports organizations in the city, along with parents, after presenting the earmark.

have helped secure this level of funding that is going to help all of our organizations as a whole," Morse said. "The funds here today will be put towards new equipment, but most importantly, they will be utilized in assisting the kids who need the extra help and can't come up with the funds to purchase uniforms, and we feel that every little bit will be used to give back."

Morse also offered a message of support to all the volunteers, who continue to go above and beyond.

"We thank every single one of them who continue to step up, in any way possible, to ensure that we are helping these kids out, by giving them an outlet like no other," Morse said.

Echoing similar thoughts were Rich Maciolek, the youth director for the Tiger A.C. Club, and Chicopee Galaxy Youth Athletic Association President James Gutierrez.

"I can assure you this money is going to help a lot, especially in helping keep the cost of registration down," Maciolek said.

Gutierrez highlighted the importance that sports have on a child, adding that each organization in the city affected by this earmark is all connected and helps each other out.

"Our primary focus across each organization is to help create the fundamentals of establishing focus on kids before they all go off to high school," Gutierrez said. "We all want kids active and to get off the streets, but we also understand and note that some kids are suited for other sports, so, for example, even though we don't do soccer, I can direct them to someone else who does, and vice versa; it happens all the time, we're all a big family, because we understand it doesn't matter where they want to play, we want to ensure and continue to advocate and offer a chance play."

Venue Change Announcement: 2026 Chicopee National Night Out

CHICOPEE – The police department shared the following Facebook post on July 8 on this year's National Night Out: "Due to unforeseen delays in the ongoing construction, we are unable to host this year's National Night Out at Sarah Jane Park.

However, the community fun is still happening! We are moving the event to a new location for this year: Szot Park.

We can't wait to return to Sarah Jane Park next year in 2027 to celebrate in the beautifully upgraded space!

Until then, join us for a fantastic evening at our temporary 2026 home.

Event Details

New Location: Szot Park (97 Sergeant Tracy Drive)

Date: Aug. 10, 2026

Rain Date: Aug. 13, 2026

Time: 5 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Please share this post with your friends, family, and neighbors to help us spread the word about the venue change. We look forward to seeing you there!

— Team Chicopee"

The Power of Nature at RiverMills

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

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

You must register in advance.

Knights of Columbus Car Show

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

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Council votes down multi-home complex proposal on Chicopee Street

The applicant's numerous waiver requests rubbed several councilors the wrong way

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – An applicant’s proposal to build several dozen small homes on Chicopee Street sparked a lengthy conversation during Tuesday’s City Council meeting.

The applicant – Jones Ferry Development – sought to build a multi-home complex on an 8.3-acre parcel at 326 Chicopee St.

The property would feature 34 interior lots meant for single-family homes and another five outer lots that would serve as duplexes.

The discussion was fueled by the applicant’s numerous waiver requests that came along with its special permit request.

To the chagrin of several councilors, Jones Ferry Development hoped to establish

yards with less frontage and square footage than the city’s legal minimum.

Specifically, the applicant proposed that each yard sit on 5,000 square feet and have just 50 feet of frontage.

Ultimately, most of the council voted in favor of the special permit and waiver requests, but passing each item required a minimum of 9 votes of approval.

The proposal failed altogether because each item received seven “yes” votes and four “no” votes. One councilor was not present, but his vote would not have changed the result.

The most vocal critic of the applicant’s proposal has been Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff, who represents the constituents who live on Chicopee Street.

Goff explained that the debate did not center around whether Chicopee needs housing. She said that whatever is eventually built on the lot will be housing.

Goff pointed out that the applicant already was successful in rezoning the property to

Residential C last fall, which already lowered the minimum size requirement of each yard. She felt that offering them more relief from the city’s zoning requirements would be the wrong move.

“This proposal would substantially increase the density of the development beyond what is contemplated by the Residence C zoning district and beyond the relief already granted,” Goff said. “We believe that the applicant can create an attractive, successful residential development under the current Residence C regulations. The existing zoning already provides substantial flexibility through reduced lot sizes.”

After reading what appeared to be a prepared statement, Goff went off-script, as she called out how small these yards would be. She didn’t sound like she would want to live there.

“You have no prospect of increasing the value of that house because the lot sizes are so small that you can’t put a shed on there, you can’t put a pool in there, and I don’t even

know if you could put a fence around your property because that’s how small the property is,” Goff said.

The Ward 3 representative also pointed out that Chicopee Street is the “deadliest street in Chicopee” based on fatal car crashes in recent years.

“It’s putting way too much on the city and way too much traffic on an already dangerous road, and the fire department does not approve. Neither does engineering,” Goff said.

Councilor-at-Large Joel McAuliffe saw the situation differently. He passionately advocated for the council to approve the applicant’s special permit and waiver requests, pointing out that there are similarly sized yards in the city’s Willimansett neighborhood.

“This is a really positive development, and I look forward to supporting it,” McAuliffe said.

It wasn’t until his second time speaking that McAuliffe really drove home his point. He said that this is an example of a “not in my backyard” situation, which he accused

the board of struggling with tremendously.

“We’re too afraid to take hard votes and vote for things that make sense for the city overall,” McAuliffe said. “We’ve got to stop being a City Council that finds a way to say ‘no’ instead of finding a way to say ‘yes.’ There is a deep and serious need for housing in this region, and we can provide more housing instead of less housing for people who need it.”

Clarification was made that each home would cost around \$400,000 and that they would target young people. Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks couldn’t quite calculate how that made sense.

“Doing the math in my head, you’re looking at a \$400,000 home, and I bet you the ballpark mortgage as a first-time homebuyer is somewhere between \$2,500 and \$2,900 a month,” Brooks said. “So, give me two kids out of college making a combined \$120,000 and show me how they’re going to afford all that house. And it’s funny I say that because they’re

smaller houses.”

Councilor-At-Large Jessica Avery added to the conversation by identifying what the issue stood for on a larger scale.

“As I sit here in Month 7, these conversations continuously come back to the same thing. What is our culture in Chicopee? What is our capacity in Chicopee?” Avery said. “I think there’s a little bit of a ‘If you build it, they will come,’ metaphor, but ultimately we need to not only think about this from building more housing, but we have to think about this as what is the culture that we want for Chicopee.”

After a back-and-forth amongst the board that lasted nearly an hour, the applicant’s special permit request and three waiver requests did not receive the 9 votes necessary to pass.

This means that Jones Ferry Development cannot apply for the same special permit again for two years unless substantial changes are made to its proposal.

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Award honors Massachusetts female veterans for their service, dedication and leadership to community and fellow veterans and is presented annually by the Massachusetts Women Veterans Network.

It is named after Revolutionary War Hero Deborah Sampson, who disguised herself as a man named Robert Shurtliff and fought for her country. After 17 months serving in the Continental Army as part of the 4th Massachusetts Regiment, catching a fever revealed her identity as a woman.

From there, she was honorably discharged and shared her experiences to inspire other women to serve.

Arriaga said one classification of the award is having served in the military, which is why Cote and Shaw were nominated.

“They served in it so well and so proudly and when they put up those boots, they picked up a different set of shoes. Capt. Cote decides to serve for 29 years here at the Chicopee Police Department and her record speaks for itself. All the great things she’s done, all the instrumental things she achieved and persuaded people to do in our community with love, perseverance and respect. She continues to do that through our community and we’re very grateful to have her,” Arriaga said. “And then we have Stephanie Shaw who helps our veterans every single day and we are very fortunate to be in the city of Chicopee where our veteran officer is well-recognized and respected...so we’re very very fortunate to have her here serving our veterans.”

Gomez called Cote and Shaw “two amazing women of service.”

“Just want to just reiterate how important it is to make sure that we not only celebrate, but commemorate the life of Deborah Sampson and the doors that she’s opened and, obviously, the doors that you two continually open,” Gomez said. “Especially being a VSO, it’s not an easy task and working for our city and spending so much time keeping us safe when it comes to our quality of life.”

Shaw shared “it was very humbling” to receive the citations from the legislators. She enjoys the opportunity to facilitate the city’s observations and services for Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

“It’s an honor. It does feel good to know that people see the effort that goes into the work that we do and I know Holly feels the same way. It was a surprise, but a pleasant



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Retired Police Capt. Holly Cote, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) and Veterans Services Director Stephanie Shaw in a group shot.

one,” Shaw said.

Shaw added she enjoys being able to help the veterans, whether getting access to things, claims for survivor’s benefits or disability go through or even educating them on why something did not go through.

She joined the military in September 2000 and was in basic training when 9/11 happened, later deploying to Afghanistan in 2003 and exiting the military in 2006. After service, she stayed connected to a unit her spouse was in and became a volunteer with the Family Readiness Group.

“So I stayed and supported the families through a deployment in 2009. I rolled into a Massachusetts National Guard Family Program contract doing deployment cycle support for Western Mass, Worcester County in Mass for seven years and then that ended in February of ‘17 and then I was officially appointed into this position in July of ‘17,” Shaw said. “It’s been a very natural progression. A very rewarding work and I get to work with the friends. I still work with the people that I served with. So, I tell people I got out of the military but didn’t go very far.”

Cote noted her time in both the military and the police department was a team effort.

“I’m just full of gratitude. I was in charge of the police department award ceremony for the last probably decade. So, I’ve given out lots of awards, but being recognized by my peers and my people that I’ve been in the military with or alongside, it’s just very humbling,” Cote said.

Originally wanting to go into nursing like her mother, Cote changed directions and pursued becoming a military police officer after taking the ASVAB test, the military’s version of the SATs. She learned from the test she could either be a military

police officer or a helicopter medic.

“They say if you find a job that you love, you don’t work a day in your life and ultimately, my career was something that I was passionate about, cared about and so my military service catapulted me into my service to the community,” Cote said. “I’m a lifelong resident of Chicopee and being able to kind of represent our city and also go out into the community and try to recruit other women and people of diversity. I really think that our city is well-represented in our public service and our police department should look like our community.”

She was also honored to be among the 13 nominees for the award.

“Having 13 women recognized means a lot and being nominated by Representative Arriaga is huge. She is a woman veteran herself and she’s out in our community and she’s raising her daughter. I think she’s a rock star. Being nominated by her is pretty cool,” Arriaga said.

Shaw’s message focused on recognizing those who work behind the scenes and make an impact.

“It does kind of feel good that people will see the effort and they recognize that and to have a moment of ‘I am doing my job well.’ It is worth the late nights and the weekends. It’s validating that what I think I’m doing, what I am accomplishing, people are seeing it too,” Shaw said.

Cote’s message was about her love for the community, also encouraging women to join the military.

“I love the city of Chicopee. I’m very proud to have served in the city of Chicopee as a police officer and as a military veteran,” Cote said. “I guess my message to the community is always support your veterans and a life of service is well-served.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIK DAHL

A photo from the Last Stop Ceremony held at the Chicopee Public Library on May 27.

CROSSROADS from page 1

benefit each person individually and [the group] collectively.”

For instance, one student might want to learn to cook for themselves, so the program leaders will implement a breakfast club that gives the individual an opportunity to lead the group in making breakfast every day.

“With that it’s not just making the breakfast; it’s budgeting, it’s creating a shopping list based upon what they want and things like that,” Dahl said.

Other participants might want to learn how to organize a movie outing with their friends. For the students in the program, it’s more complicated than merely phoning a buddy and asking if they want to see a movie.

“So, what we do is they come up with an outing idea,” Dahl said. “Like what movie, what time, who else, how much, how are we going to get there? And they have to problem solve and research and figure out how to do that, so that when they leave us, they are able to do these fun leisurely activities that they would like to do.”

Paraprofessional Leanna Picard brings a nutritional background to the table and has been instrumental

in helping Dahl lead the program.

She emphasized that the role is centered on facilitating growth amongst the participants and instilling in them the belief that they can succeed independently.

“It’s really a hands-on, application of real-life skills for everything we do,” Picard said. “The [students] really feel that they have that support and recognition of everything that they need, and they want in the program. It’s just so rewarding to see them happy and successful and independent. It’s the best thing in the world.”

One opportunity that the program participants receive to show off their development publicly occurs when the School Committee calls on the Crossroads team to present at its meeting.

This tradition began recently, when Dahl was asked to highlight the program for the board. He felt who better to do that than the participants themselves.

“We implemented that last year, and the kids love the opportunity to share their experiences at Crossroads. Then, as a teacher, seeing them able to do that was amazing and so empowering,” Dahl said.

He voiced appreciation for the School Committee members talking time to

speak with the participants, meet with them individually and shake their hands after each presentation.

“Having them see and hear what we do from the students is huge,” Dahl said. “It’s a great thing to have, and I hope to continue doing in the future.”

Speaking of the future, Dahl is optimistic that the program will continue experiencing success.

He isn’t shy about expressing his goal of transforming the Crossroads program into a regional powerhouse.

“In the next five years, we hope to make Crossroads the shining star of the transitional world for Massachusetts. That’s our goal. We have some great competition. There’s some wonderful programs out here,” Dahl said.

One way this can be accomplished is through the establishment of new community collaborations.

“I’m looking to get more partnerships with local businesses to get my students some opportunities for internships in this local area that could possibly turn into paid employment,” Dahl said.

For more information on the Crossroads program, one can view its webpage at crossroads1822.org.



Transition Specialist Erik Dahl with students from the Crossroads Transition Program at a community event.



your health



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

Measles are a serious business

All it takes is one kid with measles to infect up to 18 others in their classroom. With school beginning soon, public health and education officials around the country are concerned about new outbreaks.

In the not too distant past, measles was considered “eliminated” in the U.S. because cases were almost unknown and 95 percent or more of Americans were vaccinated against it or had it in childhood. That herd immunity is slowly eroding, and our children are at greater risk of illness because of it.

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases out there, even more so than COVID and flu virus. It spreads through tiny droplets when people cough or sneeze, and can live in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours (think school desks, cafeteria tables, lab stations).

And while today’s measles is no more dangerous than before, it can still result in pneumonia, encephalitis (brain swelling) or even death in very young children or those with immunocompromised systems. We’ve seen three deaths in Texas attributed to measles.

In addition, measles can leave someone with a weakened immune system, making them more susceptible to other infections.

Illinois generally has experienced herd immunity, with vaccination rates at or above 95 percent. The state has seen 10 cases of measles this year, some in Cook County and others in the southern part of the state. There’s evidence, however, that vaccination rates are dropping in some Chicago schools and among kindergartners.

Massachusetts hasn’t seen a single case – yet – because its citizens maintain a vaccination rate of about 98%. There’s evidence, however, that the vaccination rate is not as strong among incoming kindergartners.

We all play a role in keeping our communities safe and healthy. The best way to keep the measles away from your child is to make sure they’ve had two doses of the MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine, which has been proven safe and is 97% effective at prevention. Even if they do catch the virus, the illness is likely to be mild and short-lived.

That said, it’s possible there will be children in your child’s class who are unvaccinated and could well bring measles to school along with their homework and lunchbox. It will be easy for them to infect other unvaccinated children, causing an outbreak.

To help stop measles in its tracks

If you’re unsure of your immune status and believe you were exposed to the measles, consult your healthcare provider right away. An MMR immunity blood test can show whether you have measles antibodies. (If you were born before 1957, you likely had measles and enjoy “presumptive immunity.”)

Consider getting an MMR booster shot, especially if you were immunized between 1963 and 1967. The vaccine used during those years was less effective because it was made from a killed rather than live virus. A booster is a harmless precaution, as long as your doctor says you are eligible to receive a live virus vaccine.

Regularly disinfect surfaces and common touchpoints, like door handles and light switches.

Keep your unvaccinated child home if any of these symptoms show up. It could be a cold or the flu, but it could also be measles. Symptoms usually appear seven to 14 days after exposure.

High fever

Cough

Runny nose

Red, watery eyes

White spots inside the mouth (Koplik spots)

A red, blotchy rash that starts on the face and spreads downward

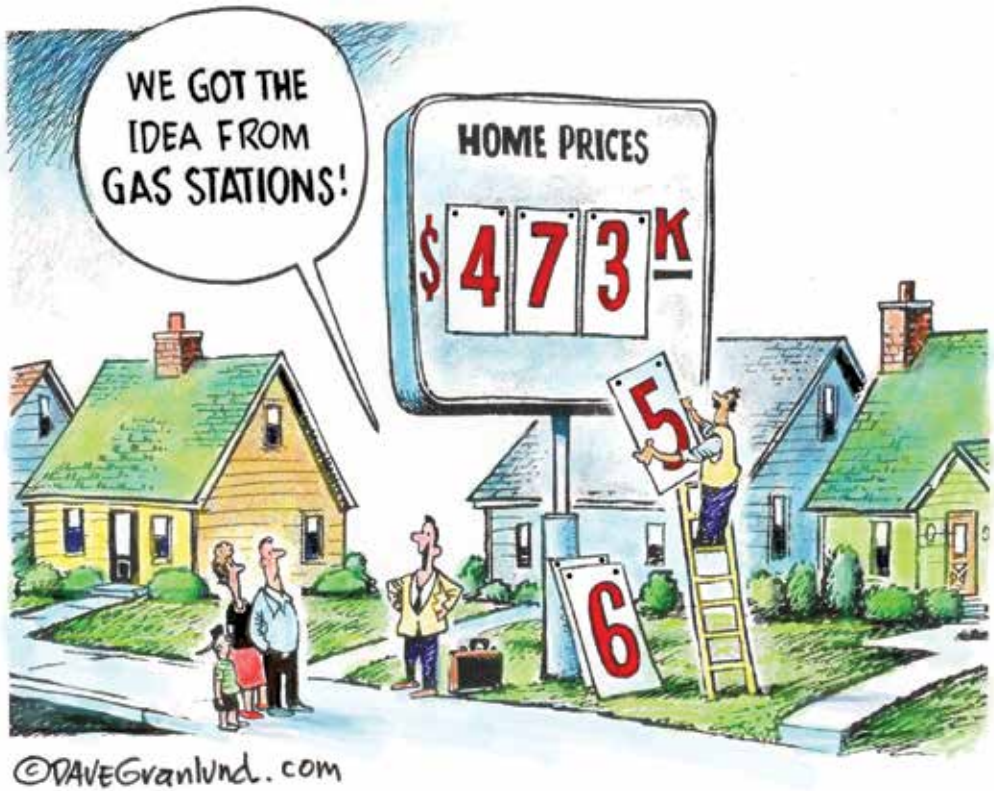
Wait four days before going to a hospital to reduce the chance that the disease will be transmitted to others.

As a registered nurse and someone who’s worked in the medical field for most of my life, I advocate for science, not social media or crackpot theories about cod liver oil. (Cod liver oil, by the way, contains a lot of Vitamin A, which can be toxic in large doses, particularly with children.) Measles, once someone has it, is incurable – it has to run its course. It is a virus, not a bacteria, so it can’t be treated with antibiotics.

Fall is approaching, and with it will come flu season and RSV season. Cases of COVID are already on the rise around the country. We are so lucky to live in an era in which vaccines can keep us and our children safe from some of the most common human diseases. Please take advantage of it.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com

OPINION



Bad news and good news in this week’s garden

My annual flower gardens were just starting to come into their own when I noticed some damage on the leaves.

They looked chomped on from the outer edge going in. Some leaves also had a watery brown residue on them.

Going by date, I knew the culprit already, even before digging around the base of the plant. The Asiatic Garden beetle is hard at work wrecking my plants.

Read on to learn more about this pest.

I’ve also got some good news. Blueberries and peas are ready for harvest. Yippee!

The Asiatic Garden beetle is a bit smaller than the Japanese beetle and is chestnut brown in color. It feeds during the night, so look for chewed foliage in gardens or planter boxes under lampposts, street lights or other outside lights.

Cultivate directly underneath the affected plant during the day and you will likely see the culprits scurry back into the soil. Usually they snuggle up very close to the stems an inch or so below the soil surface.

Sometimes watering at the base of the plant will bring them to the top of the soil where they can be easily collected or squished. This is one pest you don’t want to have around – send them swimming in a soapy bath or you may not have any plants left!

In my experience, two plants they particularly love are coleus and calibrachoa. This year they are decimating my blue salvia.

It’s pretty amazing that

I’ve found dozens a day in an 18-inch planter. If digging around in the soil isn’t your style, go out near dusk with a headlamp or flashlight and pick them right off the plant.

Hand picking can significantly cut down on the damage.



One note of good news is that my blueberries are bearing great this year, really it’s the first year that I’ve had a significant harvest since the bushes were given to me over a decade ago. I am pretty certain I owe it all to Organic Grower Supply through Fedco Seeds, (fedcoseeds.com), where I purchased “Blueberry Booster.”

I ordered the fertilizer last year and applied 3 pounds per bush in the springtime. Lo and behold it worked.

I have enough to do it again this fall since I missed the opportunity this past spring. A blend of Granite Meal, sulfur, Tennessee brown rock phosphate, compost, and Azomite, the mix reduces the soil pH and provides the nutrients necessary for healthy blueberry plants and good fruit.

Fourth of July weekends over the last several years have been spent picking, shucking and freezing peas, and this year is no exception. It’s technically a tradition around my house.

Now you may be think-

ing that I really know how to have fun, but to me, this is what summer is made of! I plant my peas the end of April, so typically they ripen almost on cue each year!

I plant three seeds deep a couple of inches apart up against the interior of my garden fence where they naturally climb up with their tendrils attaching to one another and the fence. I loosen up the soil prior to planting, but I never add any fertilizer – maybe just a sprinkling of compost if I am feeling generous.

Since peas are legumes, they “fix” their own nitrogen from the air.

I do soak the seeds in an inoculant prior to planting them, however, to make the fixation happen easily and to reportedly increase yield.

If you are going to try your hand at freezing your “shell” peas, as opposed to sugar snap or snow peas, be sure to pick, shuck and freeze in the same sitting, since peas begin to lose their sweetness within hours of being off the plant.

Like anything else, we take the good with the bad. As long as there is enough good, we won’t throw in the trowel just yet.

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.



Why doesn’t my Social Security record show all my military earnings?

Dear Rusty:

When I look at my earnings on my Social Security account, I see that in 1955 and 1956 have no earnings. I was in the U.S. Navy as a first officer and have my DD-214 paperwork, which shows my military service from Oct. 1954-Oct. 1958.

My Social Security earnings record shows that I had earnings in 1954, 1957 and 1958 but doesn’t show that I was paid in 1955 or 1956. Shouldn’t I have received Social Security credit for all my service years?

Signed: An Older Veteran

Dear Older Veteran:

First, I want to thank you for your military service.

Whether your earnings while in the military would provide you with any addi-

tional Social Security benefit depends on your career earnings after leaving military service. Here’s why:

Your monthly Social Security benefit is based upon the highest earning 35 years over your lifetime with earlier years adjusted for inflation.

From those highest earning 35 years, SS develops your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings, your lifetime “AIME,” which is the basis of the SS benefit you get if you claim for benefits to start at your Full Retirement Age So, if - after you completed your military service - you had at least 35 years of other employment where you earned more money than you did while serving, then your military pay won’t affect your Social Security benefit.

FYI, Social Security payroll tax has been with-

held from military pay since 1957, which is why your SS earnings record shows your military pay only for 1957 and 1958. Your SS record wouldn’t show military pay prior to 1957 because you didn’t contribute to SS from your military pay during those years.

The earnings you see in your SS earnings record for 1954 are likely from non-military employment prior to starting active duty in October 1954.

SS does provide older veterans with “special extra credits for military service,” but those credits are only a supplemental earnings amount added to your military pay record during the years you served.

It is not a bonus amount added to your monthly Social Security payment; rather it is only an amount added to your military pay record used when calculating your Social Security benefit. For those who served prior to 1957, Social Security would have no record of your military earnings during those early service years.

See **SOCIAL SECURITY** from page 8

Chicopee Register

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Send letters to:

The Chicopee Register,
24 Water Street,
Palmer, MA 01069
or email
chicopeeregister@turley.com.

The deadline for submissions is Tuesday 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.

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 journalsregister@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.



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Post 241 walks off against Aldenville

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE — Had Monson Post 241 shortstop Matt Santos come up with the game-winning hit against Aldenville (Chicopee) Post 337 at historic Legion Field, it probably wouldn't have meant as much to him as doing it a couple miles away at St. Joe's Ballpark in Thorndike.

The second meeting of the regular season between the two Senior Legion teams was still scoreless, entering the bottom of the seventh. With two outs and the bases loaded, Santos turned on a fastball and ripped it past the third baseman into left field, giving Monson a thrilling 1-0 walk-off victory last Wednesday night.



Brian Hungerford tries to keep a throw from getting to the outfield.

day night. "The pitcher threw me a fastball. I knew I needed to get a base hit and win the game," Santos said. "It's just a great feeling. This is also the first time that I've ever won a game on this field."

Santos, who recently received his high school diploma, was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Palmer High School. He was the 2026 recipient of the Karl Oliveira Memorial Tri-County Baseball Scholarship Award.

Oliveira, who passed away in 2021, spent many summers playing baseball at St. Joe's Ballpark for the St. Joseph's Saints in the prestigious Tri-County Baseball League.

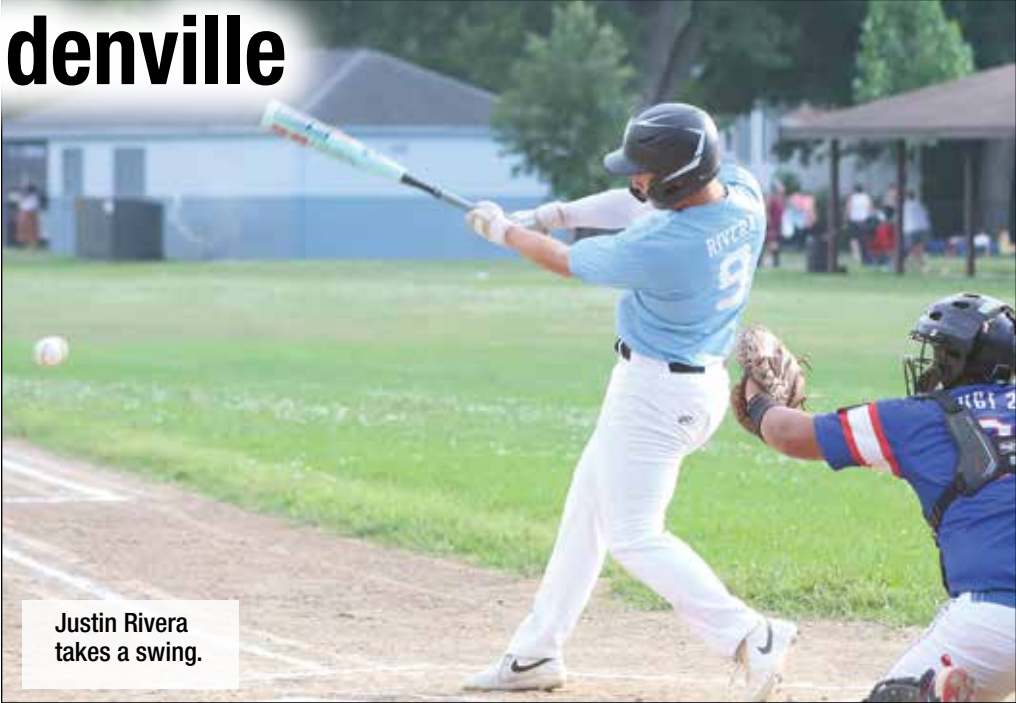
"Matt is a great kid and he's the perfect candidate to receive this year's scholarship

award," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "Karl and I were teammates on the varsity baseball team at Palmer High School. This field was his shrine. Karl probably played 1,000 games here and this is a very memorable night."

The Monson Legion baseball team normally plays their home games at Legion Field, but they were forced to move last Wednesday game to St. Joe's Park due to a scheduling conflict.

The walk-off victory snapped Monson's five game losing streak. Four of those losses were by one run. They entered this week's action with a 3-7 overall record.

"We've been in almost every game that we've played so far this season," Tripp said. "We played very well in tonight's game."



Justin Rivera takes a swing.

A week earlier, Aldenville (2-8-1) squeaked out a 1-0 victory against Post 241 at Legion Field.

"I think if we faced Monson 100 times, we probably

would win 50 games and they would win 50 games," said Aldenville manager Nate Carillon. "We match up very well against each other. We had several scoring chances, but timely hitting wasn't on our side tonight."

The timely hit was delivered by Santos.

Liam McGrath, who was Monson's starting pitcher before taking over at first base in the seventh inning. He lined a line-drive single into center field against Aldenville righthander Matt Butler leading off the bottom half of the seventh. McGrath was replaced at first base by pinch runner Hunter Sherman. A sacrifice bunt by Josiel Ortiz, who was a defensive replacement at second base, moved Sherman into scoring position. After the next batter grounded out to the second baseman, the Aldenville man-

ager decided to intentionally walk both DH Sebastian Mayberry and Kyle Kaczuka, who started the game at second base, which loaded the bases with two outs.

"I decided to walk those two batters to get a forceout at any base and make it a little bit easier on the defense," Carillon said. "Their hitter just hit the ball very hard into left field for the game winning hit."

Not only did Santos collect the game-winning base hit, but he was also the winning pitcher. He replaced McGrath on the mound before the start of the seventh inning. Santos did hit a batter with one-out before recording back-to-back strikeouts.

McGrath, who was a

See **ALDENVILLE** page 8

Pioneers, Black Rock battle to 1-1 draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Just when it appeared that the Western Mass. Pioneers were set to close out a 1-0 shutout victory against Black Rock FC, a late lapse gave the visitors from Nashua, New Hampshire an opportunity to score the tying goal.

Black Rock FC converted a corner kick goal during the seventh minute of stoppage time and last Friday night's USL League 2 match-up held at Lusitano Stadium ended in a 1-1 draw.

The result all but ended the Pioneers' postseason hopes, eliminating them from the USL League Two playoffs for the first time since joining the league in 2019.

"I really don't know what happened at the end of tonight's game," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Almost everything has gone wrong for us this season."

It was the third consecutive tie between the two teams, who played a scoreless tie in the first meeting of the season on June 3. The two squads also played a 1-1 draw at Lusitano Stadium a year ago.

The Pioneers entered the final week of the 2026 regular season sitting in third place in the Northeast Division table with a 7-2-3 (24 points) overall record.

The Western Mass. squad were scheduled to play at AC Connecticut on Tuesday night before hosting the first place and undefeated Vermont Green FC, who have already clinched a playoff berth, in the regular season finale on Friday night.

NEFC (10-2-0), who joined the league a year ago, is sitting in second place with 30 points. They only need a



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM

Santiago Blasco Gomez tries to keep the ball from going out.

tie against either last place Boston City FC or the Albany Rush to officially lock up a playoff spot for the first time. NEFC defeated the Pioneers, 4-2, at Lusitano Stadium on May 23.

Black Rock FC (5-3-3, 18 points) has the chance to tie for third place if they can win their final three matches and the Pioneers lose a match.

Each soccer team earns three points for a victory and one point for a draw.

Just like in their first meeting of the regular season meeting a month earlier, neither Black Rock FC nor the Pioneers scored a goal during the first 45 minutes of last Friday's contest.

Geronnimo Gomes had two of the shot attempts for the home side during the opening half.

At the beginning of the contest, Jackson Gould lined a shot from outside the top of the box that sailed wide of the net.

The Pioneers, who had four corner kicks in the first half, best scoring chance came during the 36th minute. That's when a shot taken by Vasco Teixeira clanged off the post keeping the match scoreless a little bit longer.

Down at the other end of the field, Western Mass. goalie Ben Alexander didn't have to make any saves during the first half.

The Pioneers finally ended the scoreless drought with a free kick goal in the 65th minute.

The duo of Ronan O'Brien and Shun Murasawa, who stepped onto the pitch together during the 60th minute, produced the Pioneers goal.

O'Brien sent the ball into the box from the right side where Murasawa headed into the right corner for his first goal of the season.

"I just focused on the

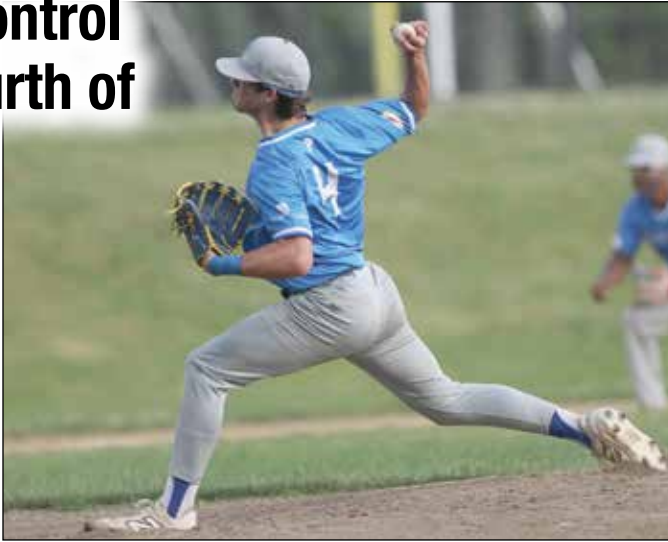
See **PIONEERS** page 8

Bankers in control following Fourth of July holiday

HOLYOKE — PeoplesBank is in control of the Tri-County Baseball League once again, as the longtime playoff champions and multi-time regular season champions stand at an impressive 11-1-1 so far this season.

The Bankers have 23 points for the league lead with their main rivals, St. Joseph's, tugging behind with 22 points. Teddy Bear Pools holds third place at 17 points, while Turners Falls, the Spartans, and BankESB round out the standings, all with less than 10 points. Last Monday, PeoplesBank played to their only tie of the season as they battled to a 2-2 draw with the Spartans. The game was called due to darkness at South Hadley High School.

Action resumed earlier this week with games scheduled on Wednesday, July 8.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM

Jackson LaValley winds and fires for PeoplesBank.



Cam Rivest, of Agawam, swings and connects.



Pete Hogan fires down to second to try and catch a base stealer.



Sam Allen fields a grounder behind second base.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL
ZONING COMMITTEE
LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at 6:30 PM*** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 C 5 for the purpose of constructing a mixed use business and residential building that is currently zoned Business A. Refiling due to previous approval expiring. Waiver requested – Reducing parking requirement from 6 spaces to 3 spaces located at 520 Chicopee St. Applicant – Campagnari Construction, Matt Campagnari, 128 Federal St., Springfield, MA 01105.

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

The July 29, 2026 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:00 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.. 07/10, 07/17/2026

**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.
HD26P0280EA
Estate of:
Celine Therese Bator
Date of Death: 08/18/2023
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR SALE OF REAL
ESTATE BY A PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Arthur J. Broadhurst of Methuen, MA** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

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 08/10/2026.

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, **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 02, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/10/2026

**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.
HD26P1403EA
Estate of:
Theodore James Beauregard
Date of Death: 03/20/2026
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 **Allan T Beauregard of Belchertown, 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 **Allan T Beauregard of Belchertown, 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 07/27/2026. 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 29, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/10/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD26P1438GD
In the matter of:
Davian Delacruz
Of: Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT
OF GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Betzaida Velez Mendez of Chicopee, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Davian Delacruz** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Betzaida Velez Mendez of Chicopee, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

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 07/30/2026.** 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 01, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/10/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD26P1363EA
Estate of:
Robert Bernhard Forster
Also Known As:
Robert Forster
Date of Death: May 27, 2026
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **John E Forster of Manchester, CT**.

John E Forster of Manchester, CT 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.
07/10/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD26P1439GD
In the matter of:
David Delacruz
Of: Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT
OF GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Betzaida Velez Mendez of Chicopee, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **David Delacruz** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Betzaida Velez Mendez of Chicopee, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

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 07/30/2026.** 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 01, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/10/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD26P1462GD
In the matter of:
Anthony Colon
Of: Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dept of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Anthony Colon** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Thomas Winans of Conway, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

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 08/07/2026.** 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 03, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/10/2026

**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.
HD26P1414EA
Estate of:
Sheila A Hamel
Date of Death: 04/27/2024
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 07/31/2026. 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 30, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/10/2026

**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 24th, 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 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL21E18N447703
Stephany Ortega
40 Everett St., #1
Springfield, MA 01104

2010 Ford Explorer
VIN: 1FMEU7DE5AU73380
Rebecca Johnson
281 Rock Valley Rd.
Holyoke, MA 01040

2019 Honda HRV
VIN: 3CZR06H59KM720907
Boston Road Auto
712 Boston Rd.
Springfield, MA 01119

2014 Nissan Rogue
VIN: 5N1AT2MV5EC850107
Fidel Pierre
93 Lyman St., Apt. 1R
Holyoke, MA 01040

2009 Infiniti G37
VIN: JNKC61F29M357625

Wilson Diaz
52 Massasoit St.
Springfield, MA 01107

2023 Dodge Durango
VIN: 1C4SDJH9XPC695277
Motors Insurance Corporation
500 Woodward Ave., 14th Floor
Detroit, MI 48226

2007 Jeep Compass
VIN: 1J8FT47W67D181362
Marcia Brown-Balde
19 Rutledge Ave., Apt. 1Flr
Springfield, MA 01105

2016 Jeep Renegade
VIN: ZACCJB8T9GPC57482
Nelson, Gwenth May
51 Lawrence St.
Vernon Rockville, CT 06066

2012 Volkswagen Passat
VIN: 1VWBP7A34CC104836
Donald Dugas
12 Brownly Rd.
Huntington, MA 01050

2007 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 5FNRL38787B040081
Robert Abreu
45 Carver St., Apt. 45
Springfield, MA 01108

2003 Honda Accord
VIN: JHMCM56393C062367
Delani Rodriguez
120 Federal St., Apt. 3
Springfield, MA 01105

2017 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: 5NPD84LF9HH186847
Frederick Tucker
95b Yaremhic Dr.
Bridgeport, CT 06606

2016 Kia Forte
VIN: KNAFK4A67G5619798
Maria Hogan Moore
661 Clinton Ave.
Albany, NY 12206
07/10, 07/17, 07/24/2026

**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: 1C6RR7FT9F5648772
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

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSE COMMITTEE
LEGAL NOTICE

The License Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Application for a Home Occupation License at 1150 Granby Rd for the purpose of billing for dental office. Applicant – Supreeth Veeranna, 150 Granby Rd., Chicopee, MA 01013.

The July 23, 2026 License Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:00 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013. You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 07/10, 07/17/2026

See more legals on page 8



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. HD26P1333GD
In the interests of Jordan West Negron 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 **06/18/2026** by **Joel A O’Quinn** of Chicopee, MA will be held **07/21/2026 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **Hampden Probate and Family Court, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01102-0559.**
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 18, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/10/2026

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. HD20P1717EA
Estate of: John S Palys
Date of Death: 12/13/2019
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **John J Ferriter** of **Holyoke, MA** 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**

08/10/2026.
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: July 02, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/10/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD09P2069GD
In the interests of Anthony Colon Of Chicopee, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dept of Developmental Services of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:
Terminate the Guardianship of the Respondent.
The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the 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 **08/07/2026**. 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court
Date: July 03, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/10/2026



A look at the feast from inside the Polish Center in the city.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

PILGRIMAGE from page 1

Milunski said his initial reaction to the reveal of the pilgrimage was announced was this.
“When we heard about the focus and the importance of strengthening faith in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, we felt we had to be a part of it,” Milunski said.
Milunski added that this year is quite special as well.
“Pope Leo XIV has granted to all churches served by Franciscans or under the patronage of St. Francis of Assisi, a special plenary indulgence—remission of the temporal punishment due to sin—for visiting the church and fulfilling the conditions for prayers for the Holy Father, sacramental confession, and receiving holy communion,” Milunski said.
“This indulgence was given in recognition of the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis in October

2026, but the indulgence was actually granted until January 2027. We are grateful for this opportunity of grace in an anniversary year special to the Franciscan family and all those who are attracted by St. Francis’ closeness to Christ.”
As the pilgrims were partaking in the center’s tour,

Kristen Miodonka-Debian, President of the Basilica of St. Stanislaus Rosary Society, revealed that the Diocese of Springfield asked her to help with the Pilgrimage.
“I remember getting the news and feeling extremely excited to hear that the pilgrimage would be coming to Western Mass, and they would be taking the St. Francis Cabrini route, which is the original 13 states in the U.S, and here we are, and everything has been incredible to say the least; we couldn’t be happier to help,” Miodonka-Debian said.
Among the pilgrims was John Paul Flynn, the media missionary on the team who reflected on the journey.
“We’ve been in Massachusetts for a couple of days now, just moving through cities, and here in Chicopee

we feel it’s just been beautiful getting to see the community come together and really unite around the Eucharist; it’s just been really cool to see,” Paul Flynn said. “And to close, I just feel this has been an amazing experience for all, as we got to see the country, witness the union of everyone around the Eucharist, and just to partake in these recessions has had a huge impact on my life, and it’s a truly profound experience.”
Echoing similar sentiments was perpetual pilgrim Eddie Gutierrez, who is part of the Saracen, who is tasked with ensuring all liturgical items are accounted for.
“It’s been incredible to be here in Chicopee. I thought the basilica was beautiful. I really enjoyed the meshing of the culture with the beauty of the Mass, and even in the procession, the music, the accordions came out, all the dresses, and I just felt the culture was really vibrant,” Gutierrez said. “I just feel it’s been a beautiful time with the team, and just happy to be here.”
After the pilgrimage departed Chicopee, they traveled up north to New Hampshire and Maine and then reached a turning point before they concluded their journey down in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the Fourth of July holiday.

ALDENVILLE from page 7

junior on the Quaboag Regional High School varsity baseball team this past spring, pitched very well during the first six innings. The righthander didn’t allow any runs on just four base hits, which were all singles. He struck out 12 and issued four walks.
Two of Aldeville’s base hits were by third baseman Cam Carpenter.
McGrath escaped a jam in the top of the first inning.
Centerfielder Justin Rivera hit a leadoff single into rightfield before stealing second base. Then shortstop Charlie Maxwell drew a walk. Both runners moved into scoring position with two outs following a double steal. McGrath ended the threat with a strikeout.
Maxwell singled to cen-

ter leading off the third inning before stealing second base. McGrath retired the next three batters on a pop-up and two strikeouts.
Aldenville stranded five runners in scoring position during the first four innings.
Monson had a golden opportunity to take the lead in the bottom of the fourth inning.
With one-out, Santos walked. After the next batter hit a long flyball caught by Rivera, right fielder Emerson Boronski hit a flair single to left and first baseman Dayne Shanley followed with a walk loading the bases. Butler struck out the next hitter keeping the contest scoreless for a little bit longer.
Butler, who went the distance, also pitched very well. He allowed one run on seven hits with four K’s.

PIONEERS from page 7

ball, and I managed to score my first goal as a member of this team,” Murasawa said. It was a great feeling, but we lost our focus on the last play.
Murasawa was born in Kawasaki, Japan before moving to Franklin, Tennessee with his family as a sophomore in high school. He’ll be a sophomore member of the UMass Amherst men’s soccer team in the fall. He was recruited by UMass volunteer assistant coach Takehiko Nakamura.
Murasawa’s roommate at UMass as a freshman was Thomas Wadas, who’s also a member of the UMass soccer team. Wadas also plays for the Pioneers and was an outstanding soccer player at

Ludlow High School.
“Thomas was my college roommate and teammate last year,” Murasawa said. “He told me about the Pioneers, and I wound up playing here. It’s been a lot of fun and it’s a great atmosphere here.”
The score remained 1-0 until stoppage time.
With ten Black Rock players standing inside the box on a corner kick, Juan O’Neill booted the ball from the right corner and goalie Christian Herluf Braae-Anderson put a shot into the net, which spoiled the Pioneers night.
The Pioneers supporters are hoping to celebrate a victory in the regular season finale on Friday night against the undefeated Vermont Green FC.

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

But when you claimed Social Security later in life, they would have asked if you served in the military and given you “special extra credit” in the form of presumed earnings for your service years. They likely asked for a copy of your DD-214 and would have added \$160 to your military earnings record for each active-duty month from October 1954 through December 1956 and additional earnings credits for 1957 and 1958.
But that doesn’t mean you get a special Social Security bonus for your military service. If you have at least 35 years of civilian employment after serving in the Navy, your service years would only affect your SS benefit if those military service years were

among the highest paying 35 years over your entire lifetime. And, again, please accept our appreciation for your service to our country.
The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



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