

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Karen Rousseau celebrated at the State House

AIC Dean of the School of Health Sciences received 2023 Commonwealth Heroine Award

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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CHICOPEE – Karen Rousseau, Ph.D., RN, is the Dean of the School of Health Sciences at American International University in Springfield and has lived in Chicopee for 27 years.

And on June 23, at the State House in Boston, she received the 2023 Commonwealth Heroine Award, recognizing her 40-year career as practicing registered nurse and 33 years as a nurse educator at AIC.

Rousseau is one of 126 women in Massachusetts who were selected as part of the Commonwealth Heroines Class of 2023. She was nominated by State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow).

Rousseau is honored to be a recipient and is embracing the experience.

“Frankly, it’s overwhelming to me to have this kind of recognition because I’ve just been going through my career working as I do, and being recognized at this level by the state is really a humbling experience for me because I’m not used to being in the limelight,” Rousseau said.

Rousseau was drawn to being a nurse by her desire to help others. She entered



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Karen Rousseau was presented with the 2023 Commonwealth Heroine Award by State Sen. Jake Oliveira on June 23.

the clinical field and became aware that she could do more to support and uplift others.

“An opportunity came so I could move into education, and I never looked back,” she said. “I enjoy working with nursing students and I was still able to then provide patient care but through sup-

porting my nursing students, over time I grew to really enjoy seeing the students grow and evolve and be care providers to people in our community.”

Rousseau noted that she is proud of the work that is done at AIC because the school supports a diverse student body, which then helps diversify the work force,

matching patient profiles in hospitals across the country.

In her current role as the Dean of Health Sciences, Rousseau oversees all of the health science programs. She is responsible for the nursing program as well

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COMMUNITY

Chicopee native pens ‘The Unknowing’

Ken Gagne, former NBA producer, releases third book in two years

By Dalton Zbierski
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MAPLEWOOD, NJ – A New Jersey author with Chicopee roots and ties to the National Basketball Association released his third book in less than two years last month.

Ken Gagne, a Chicopee Comprehensive High School graduate, released “The Unknowing” in June, a family drama. The tale of secrets, forgiveness and redemption focuses on the deep impact of personal trauma.

“It’s a little look into loss and grief and a little bit of the afterlife. I’m always interested in big problems that families face and how they move on from them,” Gagne said, noting it is narrated from the perspective of a dead son. “A family loses a family member and they split apart. They all become estranged and have to find a way to come back together and kind of forgive each other and themselves.”

Gagne grew up in the Fairview section of Chicopee, and his father owned a successful car dealership and repair shop in Willimansett. Gagne said he uses his background and time spent in Chicopee as creative fuel.

Following a 29-year career as a producer for the NBA, Gagne began a deep dive into writing, starting with his



Submitted photo

Ken Gagne, a Chicopee native, video producer and author.

memoir “You’re Gonna Miss Me Someday”, released in the summer of 2021. The publication discusses Gagne’s upbringing in Chicopee and truths about his well-known family that many were unaware of.

When Gagne’s parents died, he realized he didn’t know them as well as he thought. Before Gagne and his sisters were born, his parents had twin sons, who appeared to be healthy and well until they were 16-months-old.

“(My parents) had to give them up to the care of the state to Monson Developmental Center up in Palmer. Then, they had me and my sisters, but my brothers that we never really knew were living in this developmental center because they had a developmental disability,” Gagne said, noting that reality sparked his memoir.

See **GAGNE** page 6

COMMUNITY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

(L to R) State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Karen Hansmann, resident and regular at Center Fresh Market, Melissa Breor, executive director of the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, Kim Prada, owner of Tribe Power Bites, and Lidya Rivera-Early, owner of Lids Live Well, are all smiles at the Center Fresh Market in Chicopee Center.

Chamber of Commerce receives grant supporting Center Fresh Market

Chamber supports local businesses

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Chamber of Commerce is thriving and supporting local businesses, including receiving a \$20,000 grant to support Center Fresh Market.

The farmer’s market runs every Thursday from 1-6 p.m. from June through Oc-

tober at Center Street Plaza in front of the old library.

Executive Director Melissa Breor explained the farmer’s market is run by the chamber, with the grant supporting operating costs for the next two years and additional space and resources for vendors while keeping it vendor-fee free.

Center Fresh Market was part of the city’s former TDI partnership in helping build community and economic revitalization.

“It made sense to build on that. We’ve

See **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** page 6



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

(L to R) Jason Reed, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club, and Sarah Goff, board chair and president of Unify Against Bullying, pose for a photo during the Unify Against Bullying Grant Award Reception ceremony. Reed explained the grant will support young leaders teaching anti-bullying to peers.



(L to R) Sarah Goff, board chair and president of Unify Against Bullying, listens as Jason Reed, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club, gives his acceptance speech after receiving the Unify Against Bullying Grant during the June 20 Unify Against Bullying Award Reception ceremony.

Chicopee Boys & Girls Club awarded Unify Against Bullying Grant

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE – The Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee was awarded a grant from Unify Against Bullying on June 20 to support young leaders teaching anti-bullying to peers.

The nonprofit organization was one of 11 recipients honored in a ceremony at The Log Cabin in Holyoke.

Founded in 2005 by Edward and Susanna Zemba, Unify Against Bullying's mission is to end bullying by celebrating true diversity, with grants supporting anti-bullying initiatives.

Jason Reed, the Boys & Girls Club's executive director, explained young leaders in the organization's program "will teach the importance of celebrating our differences, not using them as a means to exclude or to bully."

"They will lead the campaign for change with their peers as we've determined that learning from each other is so impactful, especially for young people," Reed said.

The grant also supports the organization's mission.

"This grant's going to enable us to continue to increase our mission around serving kids that truly need us, with a focus on making sure that our kids are treating each other with respect, with dignity,

with learning about the importance of self-esteem and self-confidence and ultimately, treating each other as we would be expected to be treated," Reed said.

Reed, who has been with the Boys & Girls Club since 2011, was thankful for the grant.

"Over those years, we've had the ability to serve hundreds of kids a year. Kids that truly need a safe, nurturing place to go, and again, support from organizations like Unify really allow us to constantly grow and improve our programs," Reed said.

Reed added he's been a friend of Unify Against Bullying for many years, and the Boys & Girls Club was a grant recipient previously.

"The fact that they're willing to invest in us again, I think, speaks to the fact that our mission is so closely aligned in wanting to make sure that all young people have the ability to have a safe, nurturing environment to be in," Reed said.

The kids at the Boys & Girls Club fulfill Reed's work.

"I think, for me, knowing that for a couple of hours a day our kids get to come and have a fun experience. They get to just be kids for a few hours. They get to learn. They get opportunities that they wouldn't get otherwise," Reed said. "Just being able to walk around the building in the afternoon with 100 little kids running around, it's a really great feeling."



The display table highlighting the Chicopee Boys & Girls Club during the June 20 Unify Against Bullying Award Reception ceremony at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.

He praised his staff, board of directors and program volunteers as "unsung heroes."

"During COVID we were open. We were serving kids every day. We had kids doing their remote schooling with us so their parents could work. I am so incredibly proud of our staff, of our volunteers for sticking by us, but sticking by our kids and making sure that our kids were able to have a space that in the worst of times for a young person, they were still able to thrive," Reed said.

Reed wants the community to know the Boys & Girls Club has a lot of exciting things coming up.

"We've got some big projects on the horizon that we're going to be excited to tell folks about in the very near future," Reed said. "We've been in Chicopee since 1912, and our plan is to keep growing and serving more kids."

Reed also looks forward to summer programming.

"We've got a lot of incredible activities planned. We've got educational components, we've got fun, we've got field trips, all of the things that a kid deserves for the summer," Reed said.

To learn more about the Boys & Girls Club, visit <https://bgcchicopee.org/> or their Facebook and Instagram.

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Chicopee Mayoral candidate Delmarina López submits sufficient signatures

CHICOPEE- Chicopee City Councilor Delmarina López has reached a significant milestone in her campaign for the mayoral seat in Chicopee. On July 6, López announced she has successfully submitted the required number of signatures to secure her place on the ballot for the upcoming election. López is the only candidate that has successfully submitted the required amount of signatures so far. Currently, there is not a primary election for the mayoral seat- López will appear on the Nov. 7 ballot.



Delmarina López

"I am grateful for the outpouring of support from our residents. This first step in our grassroots efforts is a testament to the unwavering belief in our campaign's vision and the collective desire for positive change for our City of Chicopee," said Delmarina López, Mayoral Candidate.

López is an educator, attorney, and small business owner. She currently represents Ward 3 on the Chicopee City Council. She earned a

Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Bay Path University, a law degree from Western New England University School of Law, and is a proud graduate of Chicopee High School.

For more information on her campaign and how to get involved, visit www.electdelmarinalopez.com or follow López along the campaign trail on Facebook and Instagram @electdelmarinalopez.

Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Bay Path University, a law degree from Western New England University School of Law, and is a proud graduate of Chicopee High School.

For more information on her campaign and how to get involved, visit www.electdelmarinalopez.com or follow López along the campaign trail on Facebook and Instagram @electdelmarinalopez.

Organization supporting Chicopee schools awarded anti-bullying grant

The grant supports anti-bullying initiatives for organizations

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE – Junior Achievement of Western Mass, an organization supporting schools in Chicopee, received a grant award on June 20 from Unify Against Bullying.

The organization was one of 11 recipients honored in a ceremony at The Log Cabin in Holyoke.

Unify Against Bullying, a nonprofit organization founded in 2005 by Edward and Susanna Zemba, focuses on a mission to end bullying by celebrating true diversity.

Their grants support organizations in anti-bullying initiatives, programming and more.

William Dziura is the development director at Junior Achievement of Western Mass and has been with the organization for two years.

Additionally, he's served in education for 15 years through programming or administration, teaching and running departments and student programs.

He expressed gratitude for the grant, explaining how it will support the organization.

"Junior Achievement of Western Mass is deeply grateful for the support of Unify Against Bullying, which has enabled us to build an anti-bullying platform into JA's Youth Leadership Academy, launching next January in the new JA Career, Lead-



(L to R) Melianis Valle, High School of Commerce Class of 2023 graduate and 18 Under 18 Honoree, Terrell Joyner of Charter Oak Financial, Tracey Alves-Lear of Baystate Financial, William Dziura, development director at Junior Achievement of Western Mass, and Sarah Goff, board chair and president of Unify Against Bullying, pose for a group photo during the Unify Against Bullying Grant Award Reception ceremony on June 20.

ership, and Innovation Center, located in Tower Square in Springfield," Dziura said. "Furthermore, this support allowed us to provide additional anti-bullying messaging in this year's 18 Under 18, where we challenge area youth to strive for leadership and achievement."

Dziura shared more about the 18 Under 18 program, which recognizes young people throughout Western Massachusetts who exemplify the values of an innovative spirit, leadership and community involvement.

The program came together during the pandemic.

"Starting in 2021, we recognized 18 young people just doing outstanding work

in their communities and in their schools. The program was sponsored and started by Ted Hebert from Teddy Bear Pools & Spas who funded us for five years," Dziura said.

Dziura explained Hebert "was really inspirational" in helping the organization design the program as it "empowered young people to see and believe in themselves and then go off to do the same things in their communities to inspire their peers and their communities."

Dziura said the organization has also worked with Chicopee Public Schools.

"We've had representatives both years from Chicopee High School and Chicopee Comprehensive High School. The students in those programs continue to do great

work in their schools and in their communities. They're athletes, they're entrepreneurs, they're doing some really great and wonderful things," Dziura said.

This year's Chicopee honorees are Joel Forson and Alexa Pajak from Chicopee High School and John Torres Pagan from Chicopee Comprehensive High School, whose bios can be found online at www.jawm.org/18-under-18/.

During his acceptance speech, Dziura reflected on the stories of the students in the program and how they found their voice.

"We were just blown away at the stories of students, whether they were removing themselves from their family situations and putting themselves into foster care because of how dangerous of a situation they were in during COVID to working with the elderly to set up Zoom calls for church groups," Dziura said. "Students from throughout Western Mass who despite COVID, despite the onslaught of everything we know it was, they had a voice."

Dziura wants the community to know their programs can be found in the high schools.

"Access to JA programs comes at no cost so if schools or youth groups are interested in bringing JA to their groups, they just have to reach out to us. They can go to www.jawm.org and they can reach out to us via our website," Dziura said.

Dziura also encouraged residents to visit the New Student Center, an innovative environment providing hands-on experience for students to prepare for the future.

"It's available for all members of the Chicopee community," Dziura said.

To learn more, visit www.jawm.org/.

Chicopee resident leads Grief Talk Circle

Virtual group discusses mental health over Zoom each week

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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CHICOPEE – Every Thursday at 8 p.m., the Grief Talk Circle meets over Zoom.

Focused on mental health, the group brings together people from all over the country and beyond. The sessions are led by Chicopee resident and Pastor Marisa Carpenter, who is certified in mindful relationships and violence prevention and awareness.

"It's a safe place. You're not going to be judged. It's hard to rip that band aid off but once you do, you'll be so glad that you did. We lift each other up and are supportive of each other," Carpenter said.

Carpenter came across the group on Facebook in October 2022 and joined. The person who previously led the group is located in Chicago and asked if Carpenter could take over in May; she obliged.

"I know a lot of people don't like Zoom, but by having Zoom, we have reached people in the Illinois area, people in Kansas, California, North Carolina, even on our Facebook group, we have people from all over. We actually even had one woman join us for a while on our Zoom group from the Philippines," Carpenter said.

All are welcome to attend, as it is a nondenominational group. Carpenter said she felt she was in a safe space as soon as she entered the group and ex-

plained why she is motivated to spread the word.

"I'm trying to find ways to get it out there because I know that the mental health community is hard because of the judgment and the stigma and the lack of education on mental health makes a lot of people afraid to open up. They feel like they have to wear a mask every day in front of everyone just to hold everything together until they're by themselves so it's a struggle," Carpenter said.

The group is also open to individuals who provide care for others who are experiencing mental health difficulties.

Carpenter is thrilled each week to work with people from across the country. She noted the group is present on Facebook and WhatsApp if someone wants to communicate without joining a session.

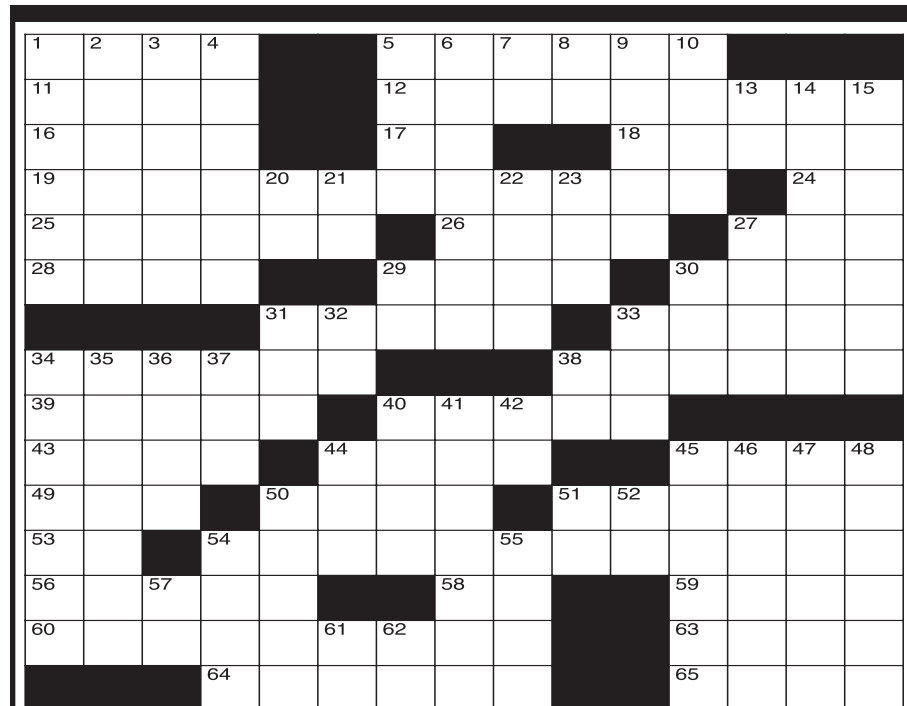
Carpenter noted that she is not a medical professional but feels as though she is in a position to help. She said grief doesn't mean death exclusively; it could mean losing a job or a relationship.

"I'm not a counselor, but I'm there to help people because I walk the journey of mental health," she said. "It's very uplifting. I'm grateful and blessed that I was able to find this group because it's been a life changer for me."

One can reach Carpenter with questions at livinghopementalhealthgroup@gmail.com or at (413) 342-1779.

The monthly meeting ID for the Zoom session is: 994 6881 6330. The passcode is 328710.

The Facebook page can be found at [Facebook.com/groups/1152301965458091](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1152301965458091).



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Database management system
- 5. Medical procedures
- 11. ___ Clapton, musician
- 12. Defender
- 16. Exert oneself
- 17. Indicates position
- 18. Prevents river overflow
- 19. Atrocities
- 24. Mister
- 25. Ends
- 26. Slope or tilt
- 27. Taxi
- 28. The very ends
- 29. Actor Sean
- 30. Japanese persimmon
- 31. Sours
- 33. Beneficiary
- 34. Baseball official
- 38. Muddy, boggy ground
- 39. Not worldly
- 40. Actress Lathan
- 43. Soil
- 44. ___ -Cola
- 45. Asleep
- 49. ___ Angeles
- 50. Give birth to a child
- 51. Beach shelter
- 53. Commercial
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Local jurisdictions
- 58. It cools your home
- 59. Dismounted from a horse
- 60. Charge with a crime
- 63. Close in
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Famed garden
- 5. Abba ___, Israeli politician
- 6. Saw
- 7. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 8. Belonging to me
- 9. Shoelace tube
- 10. Takes to court
- 13. Early multimedia
- 14. In a way, produces
- 15. Bowlers
- 20. Of I
- 21. Equally
- 22. Gets some sun
- 23. A place to stay
- 27. Town in Galilee
- 29. Aronofsky film
- 30. Klingon character, "Star Trek"
- 31. Equal to 100 square meters
- 32. Atomic #58
- 33. Arrived extinct
- 34. Loosen grip
- 35. A distinctive odor that is unpleasant
- 36. Membranes
- 37. Some is poisonous
- 38. Partner to Pa rail
- 40. Small brown gray rail
- 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 42. Sodium
- 44. Military official (abbr.)
- 45. Lighted
- 46. Took off
- 47. All
- 48. Ohio city
- 50. More abject
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Controversial tech product (abbr.)
- 54. Monetary unit
- 55. Passed with flying colors
- 57. A way to win a boxing match
- 61. The Golden State
- 62. Home of the Longhorns

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Draw a scene
- 2. Its sultan is famous
- 3. Unlucky accident
- 4. A way to ski

Answers on Page 8

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GUEST COLUMN



Great crested flycatcher

A Brimfield resident reported a great crested flycatcher using a nest box in his yard, a first for him for this species.

He said he saw them several times in his yard this year and recently saw a bird enter the box. He set up a wildlife camera and got a photo of the flycatcher at the nest box.



The great crested flycatcher is about eight inches long and has a crest as its name implies. The belly is bright yellow and the tail is reddish brown. The bird is gray overall with a darker gray throat and two white wing bars.

It raises its crest in alarm or curiosity. During aggressive displays it shows the reddish-brown feathers on its wings and tail by spreading them open. Its warning call is a loud, ascending "wheep" and a "preeet."

The female lays five to six whitish eggs with darker marks in a new lined with grass, fur, bits of paper and occasionally bits of snakeskin. It will nest in a natural cavity, old woodpecker hole or nest box. They breed in the east and middle states in the north and south and some parts of Canada.

The great crested flycatcher inhabits woods and wooded urban areas. It flies from a perch to catch insects and often feeds high in the tree tops. Occasionally, it eats berries.

Flycatcher at Lake Winnisquam

Sunday, June 25 I spent the day at my camp on Lake Winnisquam in Meredith, New Hampshire with one of my daughters and granddaughters. While standing on the dock, I noticed a great crested flycatcher flying out from tree branches along the shore. Its yellow belly was the identifying mark.

Other birds at the lake

I also saw double-crested cormorants. One swam by the dock and another landed on a rock in the lake.

I did hear the loon, but I did not see them. The call came from a cove across the lake where the Loon Preservation Committee maintains a loon sanctuary with a floating nest.

There were several boats anchored in the cove. I think one boater got too near the roped off area as the loon started making its tremolo call, an alarm call. Loon chicks usually hatch sometime around the Fourth of July week or second week in July.

The water was quite warm and great for swimming. I hoped to make the trip to the lake again on the Fourth of July, but the weather did not cooperate.

Fledglings in Brimfield

I received an email from a Brimfield resident the end of June. He reported several fledglings in his yard. He saw at least three cardinals with dark bills being fed by their parents.

Other youngsters included three fledging downy woodpeckers following their mother and begging for food, a young chipping sparrow, eastern towhee and a red-bellied woodpecker. He said the eastern towhee resembled the female, but it had a streaked breast. He saw the red-bellied at the feeder.

He also said, "House wren have nested in the yard for several years, unfortunately they stuff several nesting boxes with sticks that don't get used. On at least two occasions have evicted black-capped chickadees, who had started to use a box.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

GUEST COLUMN



Dog days equal a good balance of maintenance and reward

I am not sure if it is the heat or the calendar that causes my annual shift from planting mode to maintenance mode.

A cooler June extended the former somewhat, but with the last week or so of hot, sticky weather, I am mostly done planting anything but a few succession crops of lettuce or green beans. From here on out it's maintenance full steam ahead, and yet, enjoying the fruits (and vegetables) of our labors.

What have I been up to you ask? Well, here goes:

Deadheading is the number one priority in my flower gardens. We clip off old flowers to keep the new flowers coming.

If we let spent flowers form seed pods, the plant thinks it has fulfilled its job of reproducing itself and it will begin to decline. In addition to deadheading, I am ever mindful of plants that may need a little perking up.

If flowers are sparse and leaves look a little pale, some balanced organic fertilizer applied at the base of those plants should encourage more blooms and healthy foliage. Liquid feeding can also be effective.

Brew your own compost tea by filling a coffee filter with aged manure or good compost and securing it with a twist-tie. Let it soak in your watering can overnight and then it's ready to use.

Water the foliage and also let it sink in to the surrounding soil.

Earlier today I cut back my strawberry plants. I am not doing a full renovation this year, where I'd pull up the oldest plants and replace them with newly rooted runners.

I did that last year. This year, I simply cut the plants back.

My patch isn't huge, so it was accomplished by hand with a good pair of scissors. I basically grabbed a fist full of the plant, and chopped it back to about four inches tall.

I also weeded and thinned as I went. A

push style lawn mower set on the highest setting can be used to get the job done in bigger plantings.

After the plants were cut back, I loosened the soil, sprinkled organic fertilizer around the plants and had about an hour before it started raining. I'll reapply mulch to keep the weeds down and that should be all the patch requires until winter.

I have been harvesting kale and peas so far, and in abundance. I continue to shuck, then blanch shelled peas for ninety seconds before freezing, first loose on a cookie sheet then poured into plastic containers whereby I can take out what I need for a specific recipe.

I no longer do any pretreatment prior to freezing kale. I simply rinse, shake the excess water off, rip the tender part of the leaf away from the midrib then pack in baggies, approximately 6-7 leaves per bag.

I try to get all the air out of the bag best I can. Kale, frozen like this, is a wonderful addition to soups, stews and green drinks.

The more you pick it the more it grows!

My herbs are also growing well now that the nights have warmed up. This is especially noticeable with basil.

All the rain and some early thinning has produced some awesome dill foliage as well. Basil is not flavorful dried, but dill weed is.

I've been picking small bunches, securing them with a rubber band and hanging them in my hot attic to dry.

Basil, on the other hand, is best preserved in pesto. I make my own version less the pine nuts by filling a food processor with basil leaves (no stems or flowers), a few garlic cloves and olive oil.

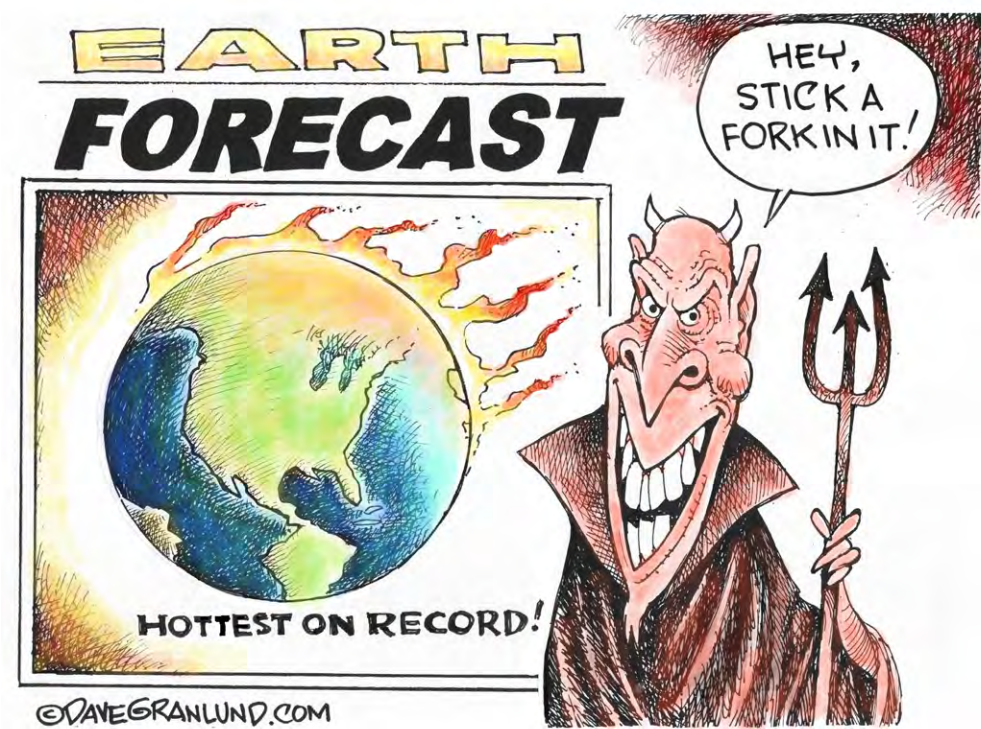
Once it reaches the desired consistency, I spoon it into ice cube trays. Once frozen, I pop out the cubes into gallon size freezer bags.

These can be added to all kinds of recipes or turned into real pesto (plus the pine nuts!) as needed. In the event that you can't harvest basil, keep that foliage coming by pinching the flower heads off, otherwise it too will think it has done it's job and it will begin to decline.

Be on the lookout for Japanese beetles on your plants- cover them if you see the foliage getting eaten up or be diligent about hand picking the insects off into a bath of soapy water.

Enjoy the dog days of summer. The maintenance outweighs the reward.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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City Council discusses voting timing for future fiscal year

The issue comes in light of the budget vote on June 27

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE – City Council discussed on July 6 how to vote on future budgets in light of the FY24 budget vote on June 27.

The motion would start a discussion with the Ordinance Committee for the city’s final budget to be voted on two weeks before the end of the fiscal year.

Ward 6 Councilor Derek Dobosz explained for future years, “it would benefit the councilors a lot if they review the budget a little bit earlier.”

“I think this will start as a discussion. Obviously, it’s not written as a law but we can have a discussion in ordinance about a potential rule or potential charter change or something like that,” Dobosz said.

Ward 3 Councilor Delmarina López explained residents “are also very con-

cerned” about the timing of voting, highlighting earlier comments presented by Lisa Bienvenue during public input.

“I want to make it clear that it is not us trying to score political points, but rather us trying to make sure that things are done in a way that’s transparent and in a way that makes sense because it does not make sense for us to be voting on a budget two days before it actually has to go into effect,” López said.

López referred to the questions left unanswered for the Human Resources Department’s budget.

“Unfortunately, we didn’t have the transparent answers that we wanted and we requested and we believe that the public also deserves. It’s their right to know where our money is going because it’s their money,” López said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello said “the budget was excellent” but the problem was “it was very late in the month for our budget hearings with each individual department.”

“I think that the HR Department was

discussed on June 26, and there was an issue and there has been an issue in regards to the health insurance. Again, I’m not blaming anybody. It’s just that there were a couple of questions. I asked a few and there wasn’t an answer given,” Costello said.

Ward 1 Councilor Joel McAuliffe said everyone got the budget books “a decent amount of time ahead” and the vote “just happened to be at the end” of the month.

He cited the state passing a 112 budget “because they didn’t have their budget and revenue numbers at the appropriate time.”

“We’re not an appropriating body. We either cut or we approve, and the reality was that we weren’t putting fear about cutting people’s health insurance. That was the reality of the situation. If we did not fund the budget, there would not have been funding for health insurance or anything else for that matter. We would have essentially, you know, shut the government down,” McAuliffe said.

López responded to McAuliffe’s comments, stressing “It’s about getting the answers that the residents deserve.”

McAuliffe pushed back with his earlier statements.

“We don’t get to decide what the mayor puts on the agenda or the way that he wants to approach his budget. That is not our process,” McAuliffe said.

He clarified “it makes a ton of sense to take a look” but added to “manage our expectations.”

Ward 2 Councilor Shane Brooks agreed with McAuliffe, expressing frustration.

“If we’re going to make public comment about how it all works and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that people have health insurance, we would had to have a special meeting and we would have gone from \$27 million to roughly \$12 million when we had built a healthy stabilization fund to help the city maintain essential services on a rainy day,” Brooks said.

The motion passed 12-0.

ROUSSEAU from page 1

as physical therapy, occupational therapy and exercise science, all of which have undergraduate and graduate degrees.

“I think it’s very fulfilling because not only am I helping the students grow and provide quality care to the people of our community at the same time (but) I’m ultimately helping patients in the long run. When I look back that will be my legacy,” Rousseau said, noting she has lost count of how many of her

students have graduated.

Rousseau said it’s hard for her to go anywhere without running into an AIC graduate at some point, which she said makes her feel at home, especially when she encounters an alumnus in a care setting with her family present.

On June 23, Rousseau met with Oliveira, who gave her a tour of the Senate chambers and different parts of the State House.

“He knew so much about the history of the building; I could have listened

to him all day,” she said.

Most importantly, Rousseau was able to spend the day in Boston with her family, which she described as a “treat.”

For those looking to enter the nursing field, Rousseau said that “people trust us and rely on us so we have to realize that’s a great responsibility we carry.”

When asked why she has stayed at AIC for more than three decades, Rousseau said she is continuously inspired by the school’s mission to help students

meet their goals, transform their lives and become valued members of the community.

“It’s the fact that we are always very student-centric. If there’s a student problem, we try to problem solve for them and support them, and if they’re having difficulties, we put plans in place to help them be successful,” she said. “It’s an always changing job, and at AIC the entire staff and campus community works like a team, and it feels like a family.”



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Oliveira, Duffy to promote cultural equity in Western Mass

CHICOPEE – As “equity” continues to be at the forefront of the conversation for change nationwide, State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and State Rep. Patricia Duffy (D-Holyoke) are teaming up with the nonprofit MASSCreative to start the conversation around cultural equity through tourism here in Massachusetts.

On Tuesday, Oliveira, Duffy and MASSCreative’s Executive Director Emily Ruddock held a joint press conference at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning in Chicopee to bring attention to legislation filed jointly by Oliveira and Duffy, H.3244/S.2194, to establish a grant program within the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism to support tourism marketing and promotional expenses and prioritize amplifying the stories of historically marginalized or underrepresented cultures to increase equity in tourism for arts and cultural organizations.

During the press conference, Ruddock from MASSCreative thanked Oliveira and Duffy and highlighted how the legislation would support the hidden artistic gems and rich historical sites that tell the stories of diverse communities.

“Many of our cultural assets can’t effectively market themselves to regional and national visitors because they don’t have the marketing or promotional resources, leaving them at a disadvantage. The Cultural Equity in Tourism bill addresses this problem by directly supporting the marketing needs of these cultural groups,” Ruddock said.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE SEN. JAKE OLIVEIRA

State legislators are teaming up with the nonprofit MASSCreative to start the conversation around cultural equity through tourism in Massachusetts.

Oliveira echoed Ruddock’s sentiments and emphasized how the bill would also have a positive economic impact across Massachusetts.

“One of six jobs is tied to the creative economy here in Western Massachusetts. Before the pandemic, tourism was the third-largest industry in Massachusetts,” he said. “Let’s make sure we prioritize regional and cultural equity as we continue to work our way back and better than ever. We now have an opportunity with this bill that’s before the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development

(which Oliveira Co-chairs) to promote regional equity and cultural and artistic experiences. By increasing local and regional tourism to more culturally diverse spaces and events, Massachusetts can support economic vitality for everyone.”

Duffy followed Oliveira and localized the importance of the legislation by highlighting the impact on cultural growth she has seen in her district already.

“Holyoke can give us an example of how statewide improving our reach into more diverse cultures can really promote economic growth and cultural growth for

everybody,” Duffy said. “We have had this fantastic St. Patrick’s Day Parade for decades and I am excited to honor the Latino culture with the Fiestas Patronales de Holyoke in August.”

Additional speakers included Chicopee Mayor John Vieau, Vice President of Development and Marketing from Springfield Museums Michelle Murphy, and the Chair of the Board at the Chicopee Center for Discovery and Learning, Joanne Gruszkos, who all gave their support for the legislation.

GAGNE from page 1

Gagne said everybody in Chicopee knew his family but few knew what was lying underneath. The outpouring of love he received after releasing “You’re Gonna Miss Me Someday” inspired him to keep writing.

Last summer, Gagne released “Wave Her Home”, a sports novel that comically draws inspiration from his softball teammates in his current hometown of Maplewood, NJ. Pivoting from his first release, the story highlights the hilarious highs and lows of men’s softball.

With “The Unknowing”, Gagne returns to a darker narrative. He discussed the theme of his latest book.

“It’s all about letting go and moving on to keep going with your lives, whether you’re living or dead,” he said. “It was really interesting and fun to write.”

One cannot write about Gagne, however, without delving into his time spent employed by the NBA, working side by side with some of the most famous athletes on the planet.

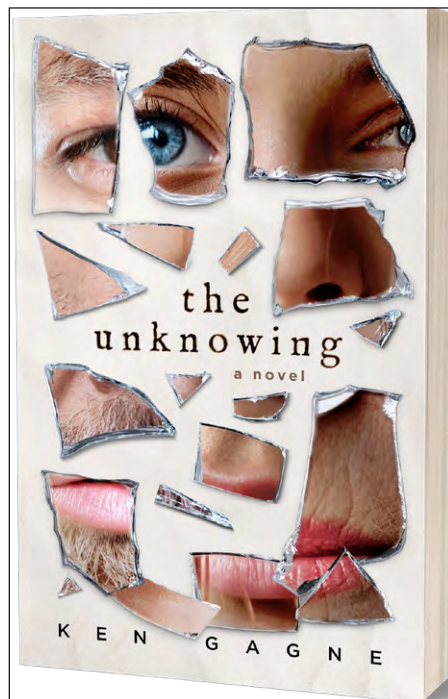
Gagne left Chicopee in 1991 and was hired by NBA Entertainment as a videotape librarian. He was a huge sports fan and “just wanted to work in the industry somehow.”

Under the tutelage of great friends and coworkers, he learned to produce and edit videos, becoming an editor and producer who went out on shoots to interview high profile players.

“It was like a dream job. It was a fantasy world. I was hanging out with these NBA players and editing highlights and hanging out with the coolest people I ever met in New Jersey but still that same innocent kid from Chicopee kind of thrown into this crazy world,” Gagne said.

For 10 years, Gagne worked on the program NBA Inside Stuff as a producer and editor. He worked with players before the draft, as they completed their pre-draft workouts.

“Top of my head, my favorite play-



Submitted photo

“The Unknowing” is the third release from author Ken Gagne, a Chicopee native.

ers were Kevin Durant and Anthony Davis and Steph Curry and Chris Paul. We did a lot of stuff with Jordan and the stars of the 2000s: the Iverson’s and Shaq’s. I did a lot of stuff with the Suns and Steve Nash,” Gagne said, noting that Curry is his favorite player he ever worked with.

In 2020, Gagne retired to focus exclusively on his writing. For those looking to become writers themselves, he offered the following advice.

“Write every day, whether it’s a journal or little stories or a project you’re working on, and then just keep trying to learn,” he said. “Dive into it, see where it takes you and never stop learning because there’s too much out there to learn, and you can never know it all, but you can try.”

For more information about “The Unknowing” and Gagne’s other literary works, one can visit kengagnebooks.com.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE from page 1

had a lot of artists and artisans over the last two operating years be interested in the market and have seen really good results from the market,” Breor said.

Breor said the chamber is “Chicopee’s business community engine.”

“We unite the business community. We connect them with each other in marketing opportunities, really kind of to help them grow and boost the Chicopee economy. We certainly want to make sure businesses can come to Chicopee and stay in business, so we’re trying to build in more supports for that,” Breor said.

Breor got involved with the chamber through Center Fresh Market.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A sign advertising Center Fresh Market, run by the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce. Center Fresh Market is located in Center Street Plaza outside the former library in Chicopee Center.

“I was interested in volunteering in the market. I was born and raised here, so I was really excited that there was a farmer’s market happening in downtown Chicopee,” Breor said.

She then connected with former Executive Director Julie Copoulos, succeeding her in August 2022.

“It’s been a lovely homecoming for me to come back to the city where I was raised and see some of the growth and changes and to be a part of that,” Breor said.

Erin Sewell is the chamber’s market

manager for Center Fresh Market and the owner of Dusty Goat Farm Living Foods.

Sewell said the Chamber “has been amazing” in their support through connecting people with organizations like the Chicopee Cultural Council.

She added Center Fresh Market “is not just a farmer’s market, it’s a huge networking event.”

“Lot of people made a lot of really good connections yesterday. A lot of the musicians say they got work out of being at the market and to me, that’s worth it,” Sewell said.

Breor added, “Some people are really surprised” the chamber runs a farmer’s market.

“We really see it as a part of our economic development activities in the city. Creating networking opportunities for small businesses to come to Chicopee to do business and make those connections,” Breor said.

Breor shared upcoming chamber events for the fall, explaining the summer usually is “fairly quiet” and Center Fresh Market serves as an event throughout the season.

“In September, we have a multi-chamber event, in October we have the Thriller 5K, in November we’re working on a breakfast with some of our nonprofit partners, and I’ve got a networking event with Young Professionals of Springfield,” Breor said.

Additionally, Breor is already making plans for 2024, including more collaborations with chambers in Hampden County, welcoming the Food Bank of Western Mass and tracking the progress of the Uniroyal bid.

Breor wants the community to know the Chamber is here to support local businesses, adding interested businesses can call the chamber to schedule an appointment to learn more or visit their website at www.chicopeechamber.org/.

“We are here to connect you with the community and keep the business community abreast of any important information that’s going to affect them. To unite their voices when things come up and to support them when they may be facing an issue. We’re happy to help small businesses come to the city, thrive in the city and stay in the city,” Breor said.

To join the Chamber of Commerce, visit www.chicopeechamber.org/member-benefits/.

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Dom Garcia attempts to play the ball of his chest.

Pacers edged by Rams

GRANBY – Prior to the holiday week, Chicopee boys summer soccer was defeated 3-2 by Granby. The Pacers entered the Fourth of July right in the mix with a 3-2 record and in the top eight of the B Division of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League. Chicopee returned to action earlier this week.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Tiago Destapado socks a free kick away.



Jason Gregoire plays the ball of his knee.



Travis Podolski tries to get through an opponent.



Griffen Wisley tries to outmaneuver a player from the opposition.

Bankers rolling to first place finish



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Dave Clark makes a good throw to first.

HOLYOKE – PeoplesBank are the elite of the Tri-County Baseball League, and are now 13-1 heading into the final stretch of the season. Last week, the Bankers scored at 14-4 win over St. Joe's, and a 12-1 win over DiFranco Realty. Those wins took place on consecutive nights and the Bankers now have a five-point lead for first place. The Chicopee Falls Tigers hold second place at 10-5-1. St. Joe's has moved into third place at 7-8. The regular season is heading for a close during the next two weeks.



Cam McDonald winds up for a long throw for an out.



James Flahive continues to rack up wins for PeoplesBank.

Pioneers score shutout to keep playoff chances going



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Gianluca Cersosimo sends a kick away.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Mamadi Jiana was one of the seven reserve players listed on the Western Mass. Pioneers starting line-up sheet for last Friday night's USL League Two match-up with Vermont Green FC.

Jiana, who was a member of the boys' varsity soccer team at Chicopee High School a couple of years ago, entered the match during the 78th minute. Two minutes later, he scored what turned out to be the game winning goal. The Pioneers kept their postseason dreams alive with an exciting 1-0 victory before the largest crowd of the reg-

ular season at Lusitano Stadium. "The tempo was very high when I came into the game late in the second half, and I was ready for the moment," Jiana said. "When I saw the scoring opportunity, I knew that I had to capitalize on it. We played very well tonight, and it just feels amazing. I'm very proud of the guys."

It was Jiana's third goal of the regular season and all of them were game winners.

"We can't win games with just eleven players," said Pioneers longtime head coach Federico Molinari. "We need contributions from all 18 players to be successful. Mamadi is a local player and we're very happy to



Tomas Duben stops the ball as he runs into the opposing defense.

have him on our team this year."

Jiana scored his first goal wearing a Pioneers uniform in a 2-1 road win against AC Connecticut on June 10. A little more than two weeks later, Jiana, who currently lives in Westfield, was a starter in another road match against Pathfinder FC. He netted the only goal of that contest.

During the past two years, Jiana scored 17 goals and had 13 assists for a total of 47 points as a member of the men's soccer team at Norwich University, which competes at the Division 3 level. He recently entered the NCAA transfer portal and is hoping to play soccer for a Di-

See **PIONEERS** page 8

Blue Sox score doubleheader sweep

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday, the Valley Blue Sox swept a doubleheader versus another North Division opponent. The team defeated the Upper Valley Nighthawks 4-1 to climb back to .500 on the season at 14-14. Valley now leads the West Division by one game over the Bristol Blues.

As in the first game, the Nighthawks got on the board first, following a sacrifice fly in the top of the second.

Blue Sox pitching was rock solid in the ballgame, only allowing one run off five hits. Dillon Ryan started the game for the team, pitching three innings allowing one run while striking out two batters.

Michael Weidinger would relieve Ryan in the top of the fourth inning, pitching two shutout innings and striking out five batters.

All of the runs for the Blue Sox came in the bottom of the fifth following a huge rally, even with the team only recording two hits in the inning. Efrain Correa Jr. was hit by a pitch, Will Gale singled, and newcomer Jack Power walked to make it bases loaded with no outs.

Jeff Pierantoni and Elliot Dix both hit RBI fielder's choices to take the lead for Valley. The team added two more insurance runs off an RBI sin-

gle from AJ Guerrero, and a throwing error from Upper Valley to allow the final run of the ballgame.

Jason Arrigo would relieve Weidinger to close the game for Valley. Arrigo's curveball was ranked third in the league in RPM. The right-hander pitched two scoreless innings to earn himself the save, and added to his strikeout totals with three more on the night.

AJ Guerrero went 2-for-3 in the game, with an RBI. Will Gale also had two hits, going 2-for-2 with a walk and a stolen base.

In Game 1, another close game throughout the seven inning contest saw the Blue Sox rallying back from a three run deficit to claim the victory.

The Nighthawks scored one run in the top of the first inning following an RBI double, then added two more in the top of the second inning off an RBI single.

Sean Scanlon was on the bump to start the game for Valley, pitching four innings while allowing three runs and striking out two batters. In the bottom of the second inning, the Blue Sox took a run back off of an RBI double from Zach Ketterman. Matt Bergevin scored on the play to make it a 3-1 game.

Valley added two more

runs to tie the game in the bottom of the third following RBI singles from AJ Guerrero and Matt Bergevin.

The Blue Sox then wasted no time taking the lead, scoring a run in the bottom of the fourth inning following the first home run hit by a Blue Sox player at home this season. Zach Ketterman hit a towering solo shot over the right field wall to make it a 4-3 ballgame. The third baseman went 2-for-3 with two RBIs in the contest.

Terry Murray relieved Scanlon in the top of the fifth inning, pitching two innings allowing one unearned run while striking out two.

The Nighthawks rallied back to tie the game 4-4 in the top of the sixth after two straight errors from the Blue Sox.

Zach Cameron pitched a scoreless frame in the top of the seventh to set the Blue Sox up to walk it off in the bottom half of the inning.

Jeff Pierantoni walked in the bottom of the seventh, then AJ Guerrero hit a double to put runners on second and third with only one out. EJ Kreutzmann hit a ground ball down the third base line allowing Jeff Pierantoni to score. The Blue Sox secured their second walk-off victory of the season 5-4.

Wall Stadium Speedway to host big race Saturday

MILFORD – Six-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Doug Coby will look to add yet another track to his winners list this Saturday night. Wall Stadium Speedway, located in New Jersey, is a high-banked, high-speed track that has tight corners and often produces exciting side-by-side racing.

When the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour rolls into town for the Jersey Shore 150, Coby will drive the Tommy Baldwin Racing, Mayhew Tools No. 7NY. With one win this season (Monadnock Speedway), Coby enters the race third, 30 points back in the championship standings on the Whelen Modified Tour circuit entering the eighth race of the season.

In his 35 career wins, Coby has been to Victory Lane at 12 different tracks. At Wall Stadium, Coby has three career Tour starts, with only one coming in the last 18 years. Coby started sixth, led

72 laps and finished 10th in 2019. He did not compete in the Whelen Modified Tour event at Wall last year, but Jimmy Blewett won in the Tommy Baldwin Racing entry Coby will be driving for this event.

"I watched the race last year and it didn't seem like it was similar to the one in 2019," Coby said. "It seemed like the groove had moved around. Wall is one of those places that can throw a lot at you – and a lot can happen quickly. Our car will be good. I've never won there and it's on my bucket list of tracks where I want to win. I got my first pole there, used to race at Little Wall as a kid, and I've always liked the facility."

Saturday's practice session will roll from 3:30-4:30 p.m., followed by Mayhew Tools qualifying and the Jersey Shore 150 at 8 p.m. The main event will be live on FloRacing.TV for those who would like to watch from home.

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We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

PIONEERS from page 7

vision 1 school in the fall. Jiana has two more years of college eligibility remaining.

The Norwich University men's soccer coach was Adam Pfeifer, who retired at the end of last season. Pfeifer is currently the Athletic Director at Kimball Union Academy and is also the Vermont Green head coach.

The first and second place finishers in the Northeast Division will qualify for the playoffs.

The Pioneers (8-1-3) and Vermont (9-3-0) are battling for one of those two spots, along with the Seacoast United Phantoms. If the Pioneers can win their final two regular season matches at Albany, which was scheduled to be played on Tuesday night, and at home against AC Connecticut on Saturday night, they should lock up a playoff berth. The last time that

the Pioneers didn't qualify for the playoffs was in 2018.

"This is a very good win for us tonight," Molinari said. "We made a couple of changes at halftime, and we played a lot better in the second half."

Alec Hughes, who entered the match at the start of the second half, had a couple of opportunities to give the home team a 1-0 advantage.

Hughes breakaway shot in the 58th minute was flicked over the endline by Vermont goalie Nathan Schmur resulting in a corner kick.

Less than ten minutes later, Hughes had another wide open shot, but his chip shot clanked off the cross bar.

The Pioneers didn't miss their third scoring chance.

The scoring play began when Connor Bagdon, who had also entered the match at halftime, intercepted a pass before

delivering a pass to Lucio Berron. After dribbling the ball over the midfield line, Berron made a short pass to Ignacio Albo, who then found Jiana open on the left side. Jiana dribbled the ball into the box before firing a rocket shot into the right corner past Schmur, who made a diving attempt to make the save.

"I was wide open, and Ignacio passed the ball to me," Jiana said. "Then I shot the ball with my right foot into the corner. As soon as I shot the ball, I knew that it was going to go into the net."

When the Pioneers made the trek north to the University of Vermont on June 17, Albo scored the only goal of the match.

A year ago, the Pioneers pulled out a thrilling 3-2 comeback-from-behind home victory over the Vermont Green.

In the first ever meeting



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Jaiden Williams plays the ball.

between the USL-League two rivals.

During the first half of last Friday's home match, Western Mass. goalie Gianluca Cerosimo

(4 saves) made a couple of outstanding saves, which allowed Jiana to score his third game winner of the season with ten minutes remaining in regulation.

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The Horace Smith Fund awards \$316,000 to area students

WEST SPRINGFIELD – On Thursday, June 15, The Horace Smith Fund held its 124th Annual Corporators’ Meeting and scholarship awards ceremony at the Carriage House at Storrowton Tavern for recipients, their parents, school counselors, and Corporators. This event was funded, in part, by a Community Cares grant from PeoplesBank.

Wayne Webster, Chair of the Board of Trustees, announced that this year there were 25 Walter S. Barr Scholarships awards, with 22 going to graduating high school seniors and three to students already attending college. The William R. Rooney Award was granted to one high school candidate who has received special education services. Additionally, five Walter S. Barr Fellowships were given to students pursuing graduate education.

The Keynote Speaker, Jordan A. Kei-Rahn, was a 2017 graduate of Longmeadow High School and Walter S. Barr Scholarship recipient, a 2021 graduate of Brown University, a current Yale University law school student and recipient of a Walter S. Barr Fellowship.

Entertainment was provided by the Wolf Pit Jazz Duo, Edward Orgill and Scott Sasanecki.

The 2023 fellowship recipient in attendance from Chicopee was: Maherah Z. Shaikh

Shaikh is a 2019 graduate of Chicopee Comprehensive High School, 2023 graduate of Western New England University and current graduate student at WNEU.

Providing that students maintain at least a B average in college, each scholarship provides a total of \$12,000 over four years and each fellowship provides \$15,000 over three years. Therefore, The Horace Smith Fund is happy to be able to grant a total award of \$316,000 to area students this year.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF LANDER

Maherah Z. Shaikh

He and Daniel Wesson were the founders of Smith & Wesson, located in Springfield. Mr. Smith’s will provided that the residual of his estate, after several bequests to relatives and institutions, was to be used for public purposes at the discretion of his executors. They decided that it should be used to help deserving students finance their education.

The Walter S. Barr Scholarships and Fellowships are named for a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950. The William R. Rooney Award is named for a past Executive Director with a desire to assist special needs students. All recipients must be residents of Hampden County.

Students were selected on a variety of criteria, including their test scores, class rank, extra-curricular activities, and a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance. Applications for next year’s awards will be available Sept. 15 on-line at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by calling (413) 739-4222.

Elms College announces Dean’s List

CHICOPEE – The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following students to the Dean’s List for the Spring 2023 semester. To qualify, a full-time student must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher, without incompletes.

Congratulations to all the Chicopee students who are named to the list: Hamza Abdul-Baki, Mya Bennis, Hannah Cameron, Joshua Carpenter, Brooke Chevillet, Gabrielle Delaney, Zachary Delaney, Jeselica Delgado-Ruiz, Veronica Dinnell, Antoanette Estevez, Yennafer Garcias, Jacklyn Gonville, Spencer Gorczyca, Nevaeh Haas, Katherine Ingram, Hudson Laflamme, Daniella Niemiec, Michael

Quinlan, Linda Ramcke, Adam Sarlan, Karly Setterstrom, Hayley Sliwa, Madison Sniezak, Jayda Thomas, Kaley Walewski, Joseph Williamson, Krysta Wondolowski, Amal Alothmin, Faten Alothmin, Emily Bartolo, Yelena Bazukina, Kelsey Bennett, Javier Cepeda, Kassandra Chuquilla, Diana Divnich, Andrew Dowland, Melissa Fields, Natanya Fungal, Victoria Guay, Courtney Joaquin, Julia Kampew, McKayla Kenneson, Anna Korman, Allison Kudrya, Benjamin Laxton, Jared Menard, Jinelsis Ortiz-Vega, Kayla Philbrick, Jasmine Pielecha, Anne Marie Robinson, Gregory Warzybok and Ceara Wright

IN THE CITY

First Congregational Church to hold BBQ Chicken Dinner Fundraiser July 15

CHICOPEE – The First Congregational Church is having a BBQ Chicken Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, July 15 from 5-7 p.m. at 306 Chicopee St.,

Chicopee. The suggested donation is \$12. Eat in and takeout are available and reservations can be made by leaving a message at (413) 592-0396.

First Congregational Church is having a Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on July 29

CHICOPEE – The First Congregational Church is having a Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser on Saturday, July 29 from 5-7 p.m. at 306 Chicopee St.,

Chicopee. The suggested donation is \$12. Eat in and takeout are available and reservations can be made by leaving a message at (413) 592-0396.

HEALTH

From sunburn to sun poisoning: precautions can prevent serious harm

SPRINGFIELD – As vacation season begins in earnest, the healthcare providers at American Family Care urge local residents to take precautions to prevent sunburns and sun poisoning this summer.

“School is out, and many people are hitting the beaches, parks and backyards looking to enjoy some summer sun,” said Dr. Andrew Koslow, associate medical director of AFC for Massachusetts. “While it’s great to get outside and enjoy the beautiful weather, it’s also important to remember the sun can cause both short- and long-term damage to your skin and overall health.”

Immediate effects of sunburn include redness, pain and tenderness, with more severe cases of sun overexposure potentially causing blisters, headache, fatigue and nausea. These signs typically appear within the first few hours and can last several days.

For some people, things can take a turn for the worse: sun poisoning.

“This sunburn complication, which is not really poisoning but rather overexposure, can include a blistering rash that burns and itches,” said Koslow. “You may also experience nausea, chills, dehydration, lightheadedness and even shortness of breath.”

Koslow recommends seeking medical attention for a severe sunburn. “Indicators of severity include blisters over a large area of your body or on your face or hands, severe swelling, blisters that

show signs of infection or a sunburn that doesn’t improve within a few days,” he said. “Seek emergency care if a sunburn is accompanied by a fever, confusion, dehydration or fainting.”

Because the cumulative effects of sunburns come with long-term damage and risks—including dark spots, roughness, dryness, wrinkles and skin cancer—prevention is important.

Sunburns can develop in about 15 minutes on unprotected, exposed skin. Koslow advises: limiting time in the sun; applying sunblock with an SPF of 30 or higher at least 20 minutes in advance of sun exposure; reapplying sunblock every two hours, more often if perspiring heavily or getting wet; and wearing a hat or otherwise providing shade to better protect the scalp, ears and face.

“Remember, you can get a sunburn on a cloudy, overcast day because the UV rays can penetrate cloud cover,” Koslow added. “Your best bet is to apply sunscreen if you plan to be outside at all. Be sure to include your ears and feet, which are common places people often forget.”

The medical providers at AFC Springfield and AFC West Springfield offer convenient, walk-in care seven days a week for patients of all ages. Services include urgent care for illnesses, sprains and strains; stitches for minor cuts and lacerations; diagnostic rapid tests and antigen tests for COVID-19; physicals and on-site x-rays.

Announce Your Wedding or Engagement Share Your Joy!



Bridal GUIDE

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Be sure to include the following with photograph:

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 Wedding Date: _____
 Wedding Location: _____

Email: JAMIE@TURLEY.COM by July 19th
BRIDAL GUIDE
 800.824.6548 | www.turley.com

Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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 21, 2023, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

1995 Ford Ranger
VIN: 1FTCR11A3STA35021
Raymond Kopyscinski
10 Old Holyoke Rd.
Westfield, MA 01085

1999 BMW 528i
VIN: WBADM633XXBY21617
Misty Marie Lajeunesse
17 Keddy Blvd.
Chicopee, MA 01020

2001 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCF86651A054428
David Bushey
12 Odessa St.
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

2001 Toyota Echo
VIN: JTDDBT123210182167
Marzlebus Rios
41 Better Way
Springfield, MA 01108

2003 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM56323A132905
Cherrelle Ford
11 Victoria Park
Chicopee, MA 01020

2003 Honda Pilot
VIN: 2HKYF18433H557815
Brandon Clark
15 George St.
West Springfield, MA 01089

2004 Chevrolet Tahoe K1500
VIN: 1GNEK13Z84R301091
Jessica Lafontaine
93 Riverpark Ave.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2004 Honda Accord
VIN: JHMCM563X4C000171
Carlos Cortes Ramos
53 Leyfred Ter., Fl 2nd
Springfield, Ma 01108

2004 Honda Pilot
VIN: 2HKYF18504H590183
Roxanne Cruz
33 Elmer Dr.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2005 Chevrolet Aveo
VIN: KL1TD52695B477982
Michelle Salgado
12 Tracey Pl.
Worcester, MA 01601

2005 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGES16535H618443
Jose Lopez
45 Bartlett St.
Springfield, MA 01107

2005 Hyundai Sonata
VIN: KMHWF35H35A195579
Jessica Levesque
19 Spencer Ave.

Agawam, MA 01001

2005 Lexus ES330
VIN: JTHBA30G955087412
Karen White
82 Morris St.
Springfield, MA 01105

2006 Audi A6 3.2
VIN: WAUDH74F56N084052
Orville Lugg
4 Mary St.
Springfield, MA 01118

2006 Infiniti G35
VIN: JNKC54E46M701531
Edivaria Da Silva
361 Miller St.
Ludlow, MA 01056

2006 Lincoln Zephyr
VIN: 3LNHM26106R624744
Dawud Lubieddin
125 Main Street, Apt. B4
Westfield, MA 01085

2007 Infiniti G35
VIN: JNKBV61EX7M713139
Jaishawn Sullivan
351 Hampden St.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2007 Pontiac Grand Prix
VIN: 2G2WP552671189124
Wright Dequan
120 Elmore Ave.
Springfield, MA 01119

2007 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BE46K47U191012
Luis E Lopez
30 Canal St.
Chicopee, MA 01020

2008 Bmw 528xi
VIN: WBANV13568CZ53047
Jahdiel Echevarria-Perez
76 Belmont Ave., Apt. 36
Springfield, MA 01109

2008 Buick Lacrosse
VIN: 2G4WC582981303276
Jodi Bastek
46 River Rd., Apt. 46
Agawam, MA 01001

2010 Mazda Mazda6i
VIN: 1YVHZ8BH9A5M21398
Meghan Robinson
43 Winter St.
Ansonia, CT 06401

2010 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB6AP9AL686432
Kaylani Cruz
104 Mill St., Apt. 31
Springfield, MA 01108

2010 Scion Xd
VIN: JTKKU4B43A1006139
Michelle L Lappie
98 Groveland St.
Springfield, MA 01108

2011 Chevrolet Cruze
VIN: 1G1PD55H-4B7260536A
Maria Deoliveira
1610 Worcester Rd.
Framingham, MA 01702

2012 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T4BF1FK6CR174255
Guida Peyton
184 Clark Point Rd.
Southwest Harbor, ME 04679

2013 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: KMHDH4AE2DU669537
Linda Livingston
55 Grattan St.
Chicopee, MA 01020

2021 Pitster KJRM125
VIN: A2BDR3136MJ022530
Omar Reyes
174 Pembroke St.
Springfield, MA 01104

8Ft Tow Behind Trailer
VIN: Unknown
UHaul
2727 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85004
07/07, 07/14, 07/21/2023

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-9 (L) (3) for the purpose of renewal of an existing special permit for a proposed multi family development with waiver of parking requirements from 88 to 75 spaces located at 0 Oak Street (Parcel ID 0147-0005H). Applicant – Culper Properties, LLC, Gregory Szyluk, 444A N. Main Street #125, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

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

*COVID-19: Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the July 26, 2023 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Anyone wishing to participate remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov by July 24, 2023. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing.

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>)

*COVID-19: Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the July 26, 2023 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Anyone wishing to participate remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov by July 24, 2023. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing.

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-30 (B) for the purpose of revising the existing dumpster location, adjusting the existing fence, and locating a conex

storage box in the dumpster area located at 7 Rivermills Drive. Applicant – David Spada, Managing Member, 1 Wildflower Lane, Weston, MA 02493.

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

*COVID-19: Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the July 26, 2023 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Anyone wishing to participate remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov by July 24, 2023. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing.

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. 07/07, 07/14/2023

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 (c4) for the purpose of an eating and drinking place with the consumption of alcohol located at 420-424 Front Street. Applicant – Navjot Singh, 565 Main Street, Indian Orchard, MA 01151.

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

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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.

07/07, 07/14/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23P1421EA

Estate of:
Eleanor Rita Babcock
Date of Death: 06/11/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **James M Sherry 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: **James M Sherry 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 08/03/2023.

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: July 06, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/14/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield MA, 01103

Docket No. HD21P2289PM

In the matter of:
John Gavron of: Chicopee, MA Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested per-

sons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **First** account(s) of **Debra Asselin** of South Hadley, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **08/07/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

Date: July 03, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/14/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23C0156CA

In the matter of:
Haven Malakai Morales CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Haven Malakai Morales** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Haven Malakai Caudle IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/10/2023.**

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

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

Date: July 10, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/14/2023

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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FOR RENT



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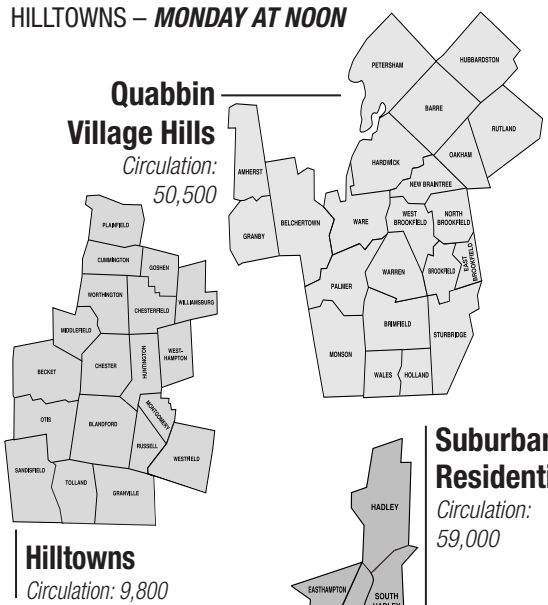
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1	2	3	4
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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
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27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Chicopee native trains to join U.S. Navy submarine force

By Megan Brown,

Navy Office of Community Outreach

GROTON, CT - A Chicopee, Mass., native is in training to be a part of a 123-year tradition of service under the sea.

Submariners play a critical role in carrying out one of the Defense Department's most important missions: strategic deterrence. As a student at Navy Submarine School, Seaman Yorky Acosta Hernandez is learning the skills needed to operate aboard submarines so they can successfully complete missions around the world. "I joined the Navy because I wanted to use the benefits to pay for my pilot's license," said Acosta Hernandez.

Growing up in Chicopee, Acosta Hernandez attended Springfield Center High School and graduated in 2022. Skills and values similar to those found in Chicopee are similar to those required to succeed in the military. "I learned in my hometown to keep calm and to push through adversity," said Hernandez. "There are a lot of trials and tribulations in the Navy, so you have to stay calm to be able to get through them."

These lessons have helped Hernandez while serving in the Navy. Known as America's "Apex Predators!," the Navy's submarine force operates a large fleet of technically-advanced vessels. These submarines are capable of conducting rapid defensive and offensive operations around the world, in furtherance of U.S. national security. There are three basic types of submarines: fast-attack submarines (SSN), ballistic-missile submarines (SSBN) and guided-missile submarines (SSGN). Fast-attack submarines are designed to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Seaman Yorky Acosta Hernandez

hunt down and destroy enemy submarines and surface ships; strike targets ashore with cruise missiles; carry and deliver Navy SEALs; conduct intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions; and engage in mine warfare.

The Virginia-class SSN is the most advanced submarine in the world today. It combines stealth and payload capability to meet Combatant Commanders' demands in this era of strategic competition. The Navy's ballistic-missile submarines, often referred to as "boomers," serve as a strategic deterrent by providing an undetectable platform for submarine-launched ballistic missiles. SSBNs are designed specifically for stealth, extended patrols and the precise delivery of missiles.

The Columbia-class SSBN will be the

largest, most capable and most advanced submarine produced by the U.S. - replacing the current Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarines to ensure continuous sea-based strategic deterrence into the 2080s. Guided-missile submarines provide the Navy with unprecedented strike and special operation mission capabilities from a stealthy, clandestine platform. Each SSGN is capable of carrying 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, plus a complement of heavyweight torpedoes to be fired through four torpedo tubes

"Our mission remains timeless - to provide our fellow citizens with nothing less than the very best Navy: fully combat ready at all times, focused on war-fighting excellence, and committed to superior leadership at every single level," said Adm. Mike Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations. "This is our calling. And I cannot imagine a calling more worthy." Serving in the Navy means Acosta Hernandez is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America's focus on strengthening alliances, modernizing capabilities, increasing capacities and maintaining military readiness in support of the National Defense Strategy." "The Navy is important to national defense because we fight threats at sea, in the air and on land," said Hernandez. With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials

continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to trained sailors and a strong Navy. Hernandez and the sailors they serve with have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

"I am most proud of graduating boot camp," said Hernandez. "I am proud of that because I did it with little to no preparation." As Hernandez and other sailors continue to train and perform missions, they take pride in serving their country in the United States Navy. "Being in the Navy means that I have a purpose in life," said Hernandez. "It also means that I am part of something bigger than myself." Hernandez is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible. "I want to thank my mom because she is the reason I joined the military," added Acosta Hernandez. "I also want to thank Mst. Sgt. (ret.) James Brown, for being a father figure to me and keeping me on the straight and narrow."

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Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 13, 2023.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**