

Chicopee Register

Boys & Girls Club hosts ART WALK



Markey, Moulton hold senate debate in Chicopee

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The race for the Senate is on, and last Wednesday, July 8, 79-year-old incumbent Sen. Ed Markey (D) took the stage in the first televised debate against challenger 47-year-old Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA-06), right here in Western Mass.

This was the first official debate between the candidates, as the state primary election fast approaches, on Sept. 1, with early voting beginning on Aug. 22.

The debate included panelists from multiple local media outlets.

Markey, the incumbent, is seeking another six-year term. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1976 and has served in the Senate since 2013. If victori-

ous, Markey shared this would be his last year running for re-election.

"I need one more term to finish the agenda, this progressive agenda," Markey said. "And then I will step down. But we need to complete the agenda. We need Medicare For All, we need a Green New Deal, we need to make sure that we are fighting for every family who is out there who justifiably feels that they have been left behind."

Moulton argued it's time for a new generation of Democratic leadership.

"A lot of people in Massachusetts feel like they don't have a voice in politics, and



Sen. Ed Markey (D)



Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA-06)

one who's going to change the playbook, invest in a new generation of the years, and start making Democrats win again."

Rallies for both candidates took place prior to the debate.

When Moulton first arrived, he explained that this is the sixth time he has been in Western Mass, reinforcing the congressman's emphasis on the region's importance throughout the Commonwealth as the race continues to

they're struggling to afford basic needs, and we need a fighter," Moulton said. "We need some-

tighten.

"Being here in Western Mass is huge, it's where my uncle [Andy] grew up, it's where my chief of staff went to school, my district director grew up here, so as you can see Western Mass has been always close to my heart," Moulton said.

He then pivoted to share how he feels that the region has been "left behind" by politicians in Washington and Boston alike.

"I'm here and have been because you deserve a senator who shows up, and I will continue to show up; that's why I'm hosting a town hall/watch party in Chicopee tonight," Moulton said.

It was later revealed that the Moulton campaign took a stake in the city as the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille, which hosted the congressman and

his supporters to field additional questions and watch and react to the debate live, which was his 50th town hall across the state.

When Markey showed up, he cited the list of local endorsements he has garnered, revealing a few such as Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia, Chicopee Mayor John Vieau, and countless others.

"I have consistently delivered for Western Massachusetts, and I'm looking forward to being able to tell that story," Markey said.

It's Showtime

The highly-contested Democratic Primary debate featured a plethora of national issues, as well as a variety of local topics, such as the recent influx of local hospitals

Please see **SENATE**, page 5

Council allocates \$219K for analysts

The money stems from the FY 2027 Tax Levy.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Mayor John Vieau and the City Council took a direct measure to enhance safety across Chicopee during the board's July 7 meeting.

The council approved a mayor's appropriation of \$219,000 to hire three analysts from the Hampden County Sheriff to assist with operations at the city's

Please see **COUNCIL**, page 5



Bingo Night supports Friends of RiverMills

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The community gathered at Raymour & Flanigan in West Springfield on July 10 for a Bingo Night to support the Friends of RiverMills Senior Center.

Besides enjoying fun rounds of bingo, attendees also participated in raffles for prizes and enjoyed food catered by American Classics Catering.

The fundraising event raised \$2,750.

Friends President Mike Wild explained the group was

excited to partner again with Raymour & Flanigan for the event.

"We have partnered with Raymour & Flanigan in the past to do fundraising events such as this bingo. They do four to five events a year for

Please see **BINGO**, page 6

Library hosts 'Native Americans and The Revolutionary War'

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The library hosted one of the founding members of Ohketeau, Jasmine Rochelle Goodspeed's presentation on Native Americans and the Revolutionary War on July 7.

This presentation was designed to show the timeline of the Revolutionary War from the perspective of Native Americans, to reveal the atrocities that were committed by the colonists of America. Goodspeed presented quotes from famous documents, such as The Declaration of Independence, that helped show context to how Native people were being treated during the revolution.

Goodspeed also touched on famous stories such as Matoaka, or Pocahontas.

"Pocahontas was a name of affection, she was a beloved member of community, and sweet child. Matoaka was a child when she was stolen away from her family, brought to England, forced to marry a white man, forced to bear his children, and forced to remain in a place she did not know as she died far too young," Goodspeed said. "For me, she is one of our first missing and murdered Indigenous women."

Throughout the presentation, Goodspeed encouraged attendees to do their own research, respectfully ask questions and attend powwows.

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 3



Jasmine Rochelle Goodspeed and CPL Assistant Director Anne Gancarz at Goodspeed's presentation, "Native Americans and The Revolutionary War."

IN THE CITY

City of Chicopee purchases Exchange Street property

CHICOPEE – On July 10, the City of Chicopee finalized the purchase of the Westfield Bank buildings located at 219 and 225–233 Exchange Street. The facility will serve as the new administrative offices for Chicopee Public Schools.

The property is move-in ready, located on a public bus route, and provides sufficient space to accommodate all School Department administrative offices. Its central location near City Hall and other municipal resources will improve accessibility and coordination among city departments.

The School Administration plans to relocate from its current leased offices at Du-long Circle to its permanent home on Exchange Street over the summer, minimizing disruption during the school year.

The approximately 1.27-acre property, situated in the heart of Chicopee Center, offers ample parking for staff and visitors, is fully accessible, and features well-maintained buildings.

Following a comprehensive space and needs assessment, the Exchange Street facility was determined to best meet the district’s administrative requirements.

The building includes private offices, conference rooms, numerous workstations, break

rooms, a large training room, storage areas, dedicated IT space, and mechanical rooms. The new location will also allow the School Department to consolidate administrative functions that were previously housed at multiple locations throughout the city.

The City purchased the property for \$2,360,000, along with the furnishings for an additional \$20,000. Thanks to the City’s strong financial planning and the support of the City Council, the purchase was made directly using available municipal funds.

“This was a total team effort, from the needs assessment and RFP process to the reviews, title examination, and funding of this purchase,” said Mayor John Vieau. “I am proud of our collective ability to provide this centrally located office, bringing greater efficiency and convenience to the parents, students, and families of Chicopee.”

The transaction was facilitated by The Colvest Group on behalf of Westfield Bank. Both organizations worked closely with the City throughout the process, accommodating numerous site visits by City officials, members of the City Council, School administrators and staff, and various inspectors. The City extends its appreciation to The Colvest

Group and Westfield Bank for their cooperation and professionalism.

Dr. Marcus Ware, Superintendent of Chicopee Public Schools, emphasized the benefits of the new location.

“This new facility will allow the School Department to work more closely with City departments, creating better coordination and more efficient operations for residents, parents, and, most importantly, our students,” said Dr. Ware. “Having departments located closer together will make it easier to serve the public and strengthen collaboration across City government.”

City to begin reviewing, considering quarterly real estate tax billing

CHICOPEE – Mayor John Vieau has recently appointed a task force team to begin reviewing and considering changing the real estate tax billing process. This process would change from bi-annual real estate tax billing to quarterly billing. This decision comes from the recent ballot non-binding question from the election in November 2025.

In November of 2025, there was a non-binding question on the ballot regarding switching the bi-annual real estate tax billing to quarterly billing. The results were 56.065% yes (2,599 votes) and 43.95% no (2,038 votes). The question was brought to the ballot after a vote from the city council. However, it has been a discussion topic for years, as many surrounding cities and towns have implemented quarterly real estate tax billing.

This task force will review requirements, resources, policies, procedures, benefits, costs, and impacts of any move from bi-annual to quarterly billing. The task force members appointed by Mayor John Vieau are:

- Frank Laflamme, City Council President
- Sandra Peret, City Collector
- Laura McCarthy, Assessor
- Marie Laflamme, Treasurer
- Tammy Shaefer, Senior System Analyst IT
- Dawn Fortin, System Analyst IT
- Ron Rivet, Director IT
- Tiana Steffenhagen, City Auditor
- Michael Pise, Mayor’s Chief of Staff

The realistic timeline for implementing the change would be about one calendar year, with a likely start date of August 1, 2027. This would fall within fiscal year 2028. The task force is seeking the most practical and effective solution for residents.

In addition, state guidelines outline specific billing procedures, due date requirements, and approval processes that municipalities must follow when implementing a quarterly tax system, adding further complexity to the transition. For more information on quarterly billing, we encourage residents to visit the Division of Local Services website at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-local-services>.

Chicopee Public Library hosts programs for kids and families

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

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

The ChicopeeFRESH Community Kitchen food truck will be in the library parking lot distributing free meals to kids 18 and under

every weekday from 1:30 to 2 p.m. June 29- Aug. 14. Grab your lunch and come inside for a place to eat and maybe some activities at Lunch Club, weekdays 1:30-2ish in the Children’s Room Activity Room.

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

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 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.

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

p.m.

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

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

We will have a **Garden Storytime at Rivers Park** on

Friday, July 31 at 11 a.m.

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

Teens

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

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.

Parade Committee announces Fall events

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

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

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



PM) Monday thru Thursday.

Attendees are welcome to bring snacks but must purchase beverages from the bar. Tickets for donated baskets will be available for purchase. Photos will be posted on the committee’s Facebook page for those interested in a preview of the prizes. For more information or to reserve a table, call or text Alivia @ 413-378-5694 and leave a full name and good contact # where you can be reached.

New this year: A Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday October 3, 2026, at the Chicopee Country Club, 1290 Burnett Rd., Chicopee. Fee is \$120 per Golfer which includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch and dinner. Cost is \$440 per foursome. Dinner

only tickets may be purchased for \$40. There are also sponsorship opportunities available from \$100 through \$1000. For more information or to register, call 413-531-5161 or e-mail ChicopeeSPCgolf@gmail.com.

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

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

HCC Foundation awards \$405K in scholarships

HOLYOKE - The Holyoke Community College Foundation has awarded \$405,000 in scholarships to students for the 2026-2027 academic year.

The HCC Foundation awarded 438 scholarships to 422 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Some students received multiple scholarship awards. Individual awards range from \$500 to \$5,000.

HCC celebrated this year’s recipients and donors at a scholarship reception on May 14.

The HCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that works to advance the college’s mission, vision, and values. Founded in 1968 as the Friends of Holyoke Community College, in response to a devastating fire that forced the college to rebuild on a new campus, the Foundation now manages assets of more than \$20 million, the largest community college foundation endowment in Massachusetts.

An alphabetical list of

scholarship recipients and their specific awards can be viewed on the HCC website at hcc.edu/scholarships-2026:

Chicopee: Mia Almodovar, Corey Blinn, Hailey Bowen, Kimberly Burke, Yesenia Cancel, Agnes Centeno, Keisha Chretien, Vincenzo Dandridge, Amanda Dugas, Estefany Duron Mejia, Nadia Folegnani, Christopher Fondakowski, Elizabeth Guerinot, Jesamei Gutierrez, Alex Hicks, Hannah Hurler, Donnellia Jackson, Danielle Johnson, Isabella Jones, Malali Kabir, Nicole Lazio, Karena Linzi, Briana Liswell, Isabel Lopez Castro, Brandon Malave, Nashabel Martinez, Angie Martinez, Hailee Mason, Xiana Medina, Khalil Melendez, Luz Mendoza, Ethan Ortiz, Hayden Platten, Rivera Rivera, Derek Rolon, Natalie Sliwa, Savannah Soja, Alexander Soto, Nathan Szukala (two awards), Sook Yew Tang, Genesis Torres, Yanitza Torres, Alexa Turgeon, Angelis Vargas.

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Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee hosts Art Walk

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee hosted a public ‘Art Walk’ showcase on June 20.

In addition, attendees were greeted with a variety of activities, including face painting, balloon art, food and ice cream trucks, along with a local author spotlight.

Reflecting on the afternoon was Abigail Arriaga, the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee Administrative Services Manager, who was on site helping facilitate sign-ups of newcomers and returning members alike.

“It was wonderful to have families at the Club and spend a beautiful Saturday getting to know them,” Arriaga said. “As part of the Art Walk, we welcomed our summer program families to the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee to pick up their summer packets, learn what their children will need for the summer program and ask questions as we prepare for the start of another exciting season.”

She then pivoted to touch upon the importance of these community events.

“Events like these strengthen the connection between families and the Club and help ensure that everyone feels informed, welcomed, and excited for the opportunities that await throughout the summer program,” Arriaga said.

Echoing similar senti-



Abigail Arriaga, the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee Administrative Services Manager, talking to a parent during summer signups.

ments was Lynn Morrisette, the Marketing & Development Director at the Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee.

“We put this Art Walk together for our club members and the community,” Morrisette said. “It was an opportunity to kick off the summer and show a glimpse of what we provide, while also giving our members the spotlight they deserve.”

As the event carried on, the Chicopee Register met local author Kelly Martins, who just finished doing a live reading of her children’s book, “How Owls Become Wise,” sharing the backstory of where inspiration arose from and how the story continues to make a difference for all ages, especially children.

“So, I always had writing a book on my bucket list; it was always something I just wanted to do, and then COVID hit, and we were all trapped indoors, and so I decided what better time to start than now, so I wrote a book around bullying,” Martins said. “I am a domestic abuse survivor, so the topic of bullying is very important to me, and the reason I chose the topic is to raise awareness around bullying, in hopes that it would prompt conversations between adults and children around the topic, so that was the goal.”

Martins said that she felt the reception from all was really good.



Local Author Kelly Martins holding her novel “How Owls Become Wise.”

“It was honestly really sweet to come here, and see my book printed out, and have kids reading it, because it shows that interest and the message is being discussed,” Martins said. “I just enjoyed seeing some kiddos come up to me and ask about writing a book, and I hope this conversation inspires someone to do the same, and maybe write their own.”

She then added that her book is available on Amazon. “Currently, the book is still listed under my maiden name, which is Kelly [Partridge], but I am in the process of making updates to that process, in case anyone gets confused,” Martins said.

The event was made possible through a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Looking ahead

Also, the non-profit is hosting its annual Celebrity Bartender event later this month, on Thursday, July 30, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille.

Currently, the team captains for the event are Katie Domingos (Bonavita Aesthetics), Danielle Arsenault

(NextHome Elite Realty), Melissa Breor (Chicopee Chamber of Commerce), Melanie Wilk (Director of Food Services at Chicopee Public Schools), and Robert Pion (Bob Pion Buick GMC).

All proceeds will benefit the Officer Angela M. Santiago Financial Aid Fund, helping local families access summer programs and before- and after-school care at the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee.

The fundraiser is sponsored by Cote Entertainment & Lighting, the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille and Peoples-Bank.

Chicopee Comp Class of 1986 40th Class Reunion

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1986 will celebrate its 40-Year Class Reunion on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at The View Street Tavern in Chicopee.

Appetizers, cash bar, music, dancing - and an opportunity to reconnect with classmates. For those interested, a round of golf will

also be held that morning/afternoon.

Classmates are encouraged to email their current contact information to chicopeecomp86@gmail.com to receive future reunion updates and to let us know if you plan to attend.

We look forward to celebrating 40 years with the Class of 1986.

Knights of Columbus host car show every Monday

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

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

chicopeeregister.turley.com

Summer Art Class to begin

CHICOPEE – A Summer Art Class for children ages 2.9 to 5 years old will be held on Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. July 23 through Aug. 27. Head Start Center, 216 Broadway Street in Chicopee. Designed for kids to explore, imagine, and truly express themselves. Art sup-

plies included. Call or e-mail to Silvia 413-505-9053 or durands@headstart.org. Sponsored by the Holyoke Chicopee Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

LIBRARY from page 1

“Experience is everything. The moment that you engage with people in community and build that kinship with them is the moment that you actually start to see people as people. It takes time to build community. It takes time to break down prejudice, bias and all those racist stereotypes that we grew up with. However, if we can have a good conversation as human beings, we open the door to understanding a wider and more inclusive reality. I think sometimes people don’t want to change,” Goodspeed said.

She added that change is hard” as well.

“Having your world view challenged is hard. Having your own pride in your ancestors challenged is hard. Identity is very important to people. What happens when your identity is centered on the good that you do for your community? The kindness you give to others, and the understanding that every human outside of yourself is a real person with real feelings, struggles, and of course love,” Goodspeed said.

Goodspeed is an actor and also enjoys history, explaining how she’s able to blend these two aspects.

“I think that my passion for history began very early on. I always loved storytelling and engaging with different stories. For me, uncovering pieces of history, and those stories they’re in feels like dancing with time. More than anything, what always humbles me is remembering that these figures were real humans who made real mistakes, fell in love and lived their extraordinary, simple, messy, wonderful lives. At any point that I imagine I am alone in what I’m feeling, I

can call upon those ancestors for lessons that they learned, and temper myself with the knowledge that they made it through,” Goodspeed said. “Theater is a part of me that feels inseparable. When I was a child, I watched my father, an amazing singer songwriter and performer. There were even times when I got to go up and sing with him. My mother always encouraged my imagination, playing make-believe games with me.”

Goodspeed explained the meaning of kinship and how that sense of community can go beyond people, including the environment as well.

“As for the concept of leaving the Earth better than we found it, I can’t imagine why anyone wouldn’t do this. I always learned, growing up, that we are always creating space for the next seven generations to prosper. We have to live in ways where those children of ours can live in prosperity, peace, community, and retain access to those wonderful and beautiful gifts we are given by this land. I want my children and their children’s children to know the songs of the birds, the hum of the bees, the taste of a fresh picked berry. I want them to know the wonder of the sun rising over the sea, of the perfect gentle breeze on a summer day,” Goodspeed said. “We cannot take these gifts for granted. These gifts need caring for. We cannot continue to extract without return. We must engage sustainably, compassionately, and with our eyes on the future.”

For more information about Ohketeau, visit the Ohketeau Cultural Center at ohketeau.org.

For more about upcoming CPL events, visit chicopeepubliclibrary.org.



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SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Should I claim spouse benefits now, or my own SS benefit?

Dear Rusty:

I am writing to get advice on the optimal time to sign up for Social Security benefits.

I am a 64-year-old female and my birthdate is August 1961. My husband is already taking his SS benefits, so I have also wondered if it be advisable to take spousal benefits or full benefits.

Signed: Wondering Spouse

Dear Wondering:

If you take your Social Security benefits at age 64, they will be permanently reduced.

And, for information, you cannot take only your spousal benefit; you must take your own SS retirement benefit whenever you claim and, if you are entitled to more as your husband's spouse, you will also get a "spousal boost" to bring your monthly payment up to what you are entitled to as a spouse.

If you claim at any time before your SS Full Retirement Age of 67, both your own SS retirement amount and your spousal boost amount will be actuarially reduced for claiming early.

All of which means that claiming before your FRA (e.g., at 64) will mean your monthly benefit will be less than 50% of your husband's monthly FRA amount.

Now, for clarity, it's important to know how spouse benefits are calculated: if your FRA entitlement is less than 50% of your husband's FRA entitlement, then you will get a "spousal boost" added to your own SS retirement amount.

Note that FRA amounts are always used to calculate spousal amounts, regardless of the age at which benefits are claimed. If your husband waited until age 70 to get a higher monthly benefit or even if he claimed before his FRA, your spousal amount would still be based on his FRA entitlement. If your FRA benefit is less than half of his FRA entitlement, you will get a spousal boost. If not, you won't.

Assuming you will be entitled to a "spousal boost," the decision you must make is whether to claim early (e.g., now at 64) or wait until you are 67 to get your maximum amount as your husband's spouse. The factors to consider are

these:

Are you still working? If so, claiming before FRA means you will be subject to an annual earnings limit until you reach FRA. The earnings limit for early filers in 2026 is \$24,480 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away benefits of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (the limit increases a bit yearly).

If you substantially exceed the earnings limit by working, you may even be temporarily ineligible for SS benefits until you either reach your FRA or stop working full time.

Do you expect your husband to predecease you? If so, then your benefit as a widow will be 100% of the larger amount he is collecting when he passes provided when that occurs you've reached your FRA and your own SS retirement is less.

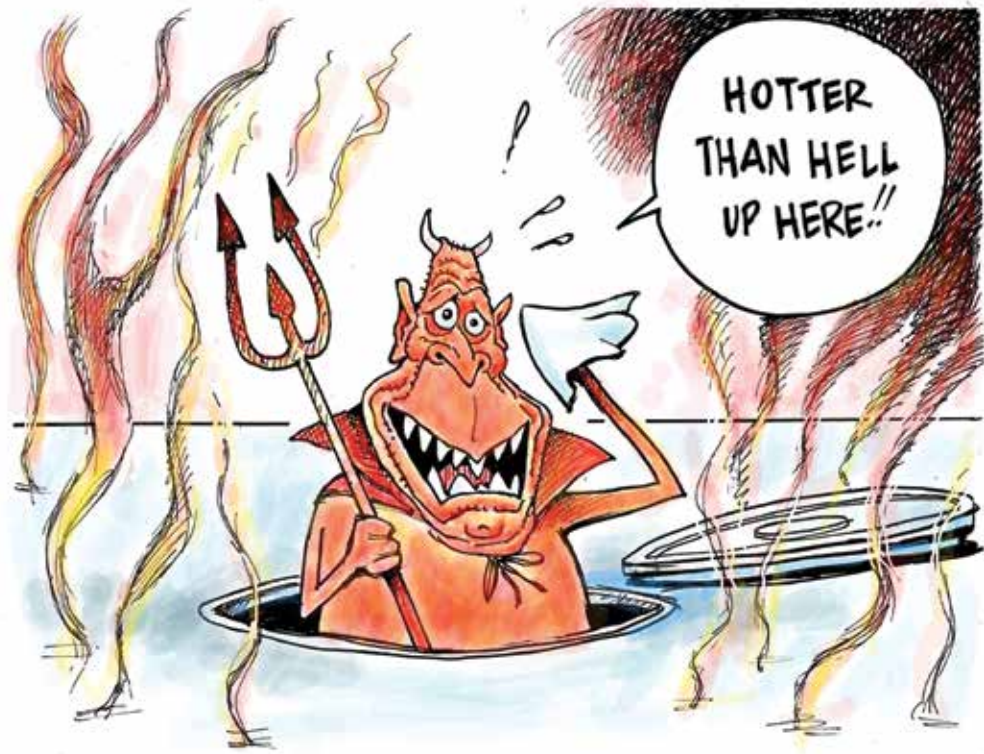
Depending on timing, that may mean that taking a reduced spouse benefit now, which will be replaced by your larger widow benefit later, is a logical choice.

What is your own life expectancy? If you have health issues or have other reasons to believe you will not achieve "average" life expectancy average is about 87 for a woman your current age, then claiming your Social Security benefits early is likely a prudent choice.

So, as you can see, you must evaluate your personal circumstances to make this decision. Although we aren't able to say exactly when you should claim your SS benefits, I hope this provides the information you need to make an informed decision.

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.

OPINION



An endless supply of flowers for the windowsill

I must admit that I feel unmotivated in the flower garden this summer. It took me forever to sow my seeds, and even longer to install the resulting plants.

The seedlings finally went into the ground a good two weeks after Memorial Day (gasp!) but they are making up for lost time despite my bad attitude! Just last week the first bouquet graced the kitchen windowsill.

In a few weeks I will have a collection of different vases filled with flowers in that very spot; it's something I look forward to doing every summer. But if I am going to have flowers to fill the vases, I have to keep up with maintenance.

It's not enough to sit back and watch them grow.

Here is some great advice worth repeating that will help to keep summer annuals looking their best.

Deadhead

Most annuals will continue to bloom abundantly if they are deadheaded on a regular basis. Deadheading is an entertaining term used to define the removal of spent flowers.

You see, a plant produces flowers for one purpose: to survive. Once a flower has been pollinated it will produce seed, seed that will grow future plants.

If a plant has produced enough flowers that have gone to seed it will consider its job to be done, flower production will cease and it will begin to decline.

By deadheading, we keep the plant in reproductive mode, in other words, in flower! When you remove dying blossoms, make sure to pinch off the entire flower, not just the petals, or it will do no good. Include the stem as well to keep the plant tidy.

Petunias, marigolds, zinnias and salvia, among others,

be made right in a watering can.



are examples of plants that require regular deadheading to look their best throughout the growing season.

Shear them back to encourage new growth

Some annuals start to get a leggy appearance about now. Others may have brown tips. These plants require more drastic measures to bring back their youthful good looks.

Give them a good haircut. Simply look within the plant and find healthy, green growth. Cut calendulas, pansies and snapdragon back to that point.

Alyssum or lobelia can often be sheared to within inches of the ground.

Don't worry; they won't look bad for long! You can jump start regrowth with a bit of liquid fertilizer.

Feed your plants

Occasionally, even plants that are well fertilized at planting time begin to have issues. If foliage is pale and flower production is nil, pull back the bark mulch and sprinkle some organic fertilizer granules at the base of each plant.

Cultivate gently and water in.

You can also use a water soluble liquid fertilizer every couple of weeks. If going natural is your cup of tea, make some!

Compost or manure tea has long been used to keep growth lush. Steep a burlap bag of either compost or aged manure in a large trash bucket filled with water and use as needed. Smaller batches can

Likewise, there are numerous blends of seaweed and fish emulsion on the market that can be watered in or used as a foliar feed.

Water, water, water

If Mother Nature fails to provide at least an inch of rain each week, then unfortunately we must make up the difference. It is so easy to forget to perform this very obvious maintenance task, especially when we are busy doing other things.

If we are negligent often enough, however, our plants will suffer.

Sometimes pale green foliage is a nitrogen deficiency from simply a lack of water. When you water the garden, remember to do so in the early morning, if possible, to avoid evaporation.

Early evening is another good option, but try to get the job done with enough time for the foliage to dry before darkness sets in.

Deep waterings twice a week are far better than numerous quick showers. The former will promote deep, penetrating roots and future drought tolerance.

Well-watered, well-fed and well-groomed annuals will reward you with beautiful bountiful blossoms for another two months or more – well worth the effort for vases of flowers on the windowsill!

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.

Chicopee Register

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The Chicopee Register is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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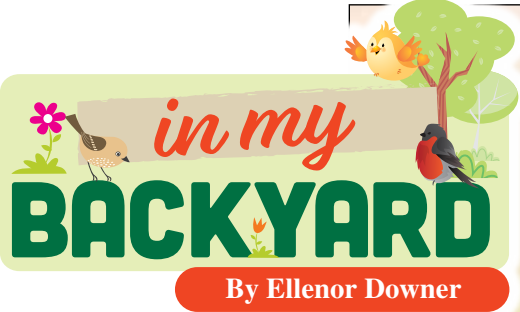
WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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 journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers. Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Chicopee Register.



By Ellenor Downer

My daughter, Paula, saw a black and white warbler and as the name implies it has black and white feathers.

The black and white warbler is easy to spot and easy to recognize. Its former name was the black and white creeper. Like the white-breasted and red-breasted nuthatches and the brown creeper, it climbs about on the trunks and major limbs of trees seeking insects in the bark crevices. It often feeds low, and nests even lower, usually on the ground.

This warbler inhabits



Black and white warbler

forests, woodlands, shrubs, Savannas, and thickets from Alaska and the north, California, eastern Canada, Flor-

ida, Great Lakes, mid Atlantic, New England, northwest, Plains, Rocky Mountains, southeast, southwest, Texas

and Western Canada.

Spring migration begins rather early and takes place mainly at night. Migration is spread over a lengthy period in both spring and fall.

The sexes are similar and are about 4.3 to 5.1 inches long. The black and white warbler feather pattern is stripes, white central crown stripe and black streaks on back and sides.

The adult male has black throat and cheeks and the female and young paler or whitish there.

Their song is a thin, high-pitched, monotonous "weezy-weezy-weezy-weezy" like a squeaky wheelbarrow. The call is a chirp or chip.

The black and white warbler breeds in mature or second-growth forests, deciduous and mixed. Males arrive on breeding grounds in late April, before the females.

During courtship, a male chases female, with much

singing and fluttering. The female lays five creamy white eggs flecked with brown in a cup shaped nest on the ground or less than two feet above under dead leaves or limbs or against a shrub or tree. They are commonly parasitized by cowbirds.

Both parents feed the young and the young leave the nest in eight to 12 days after hatching. The young are able to fly well.

Adapted to creeping along limbs and on tree trunks to feed, they forage on dormant insects from tree trunks and branches in early spring. They switch body from side to side at each hop while foraging. Sometimes, they fly out after insects in the air.

They eats primarily insects. It feeds on a wide variety of caterpillars including those of spongy moth, beetles in-

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 6

COUNCIL from page 1

Real-Time Information Center.

Less than a year old, the command center is located at the Public Safety Complex on Court Street. It is powered by artificial intelligence and uses an array of technology to best ensure the health and well-being of community members.

The operation churns through data captured by street cameras, license plate readers and other tech to provide Chicopee police with critical, real-time information that can be relayed to officers enroute to emergencies.

City residents can even participate by lending their own private surveillance to the information center through the ConnectChicopee program.

Last Tuesday’s unanimous vote by the council reaffirmed the city’s commitment to ensuring positive outcomes for both people who live in Chicopee and those who pass through its borders.

The money to bring on analysts from the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department stems from funds available in the Fiscal Year 2027 Tax Levy.

Vieau noted that although a mistake was made, it has been fixed.

“This was an oversight

in the budget. The Sheriff’s Department provides us with three analysts. They were cut from his budget,” Vieau explained on July 7.

The mayor emphasized the importance of passing the item, and the council members listened.

“In order to maintain the Real-Time Information Center and to continue protecting our community, we have come up with an MOU to keep those three employees on payroll in the Sheriff’s Department, where they’re actually passed through paid through the police budget,” Vieau said.

He clarified that the money for the analysts was mislocated within the budget.

“It was put in the wrong area, so we need, for clarity, to allocate these funds out of the levy,” Vieau said.

Police Capt. Doug Lambert made a trip to the podium in the City Hall Auditorium to provide exact information regarding how the money was made available.

“To make sure this money was allocated, we took \$33,750 from a software that we got a 50% discount on this year,” Lambert said. “We took \$135,250 from public safety technology, and \$50,000 from camera installation and maintenance from our budget to make sure we had \$219,000



Lt. Bill Anderson retires

CHICOPEE - After more than 32 years of dedicated service to the Chicopee Fire Department, Lieutenant Bill Anderson has retired. Lieutenant Anderson joined the department in 1994 and served the City of Chicopee as a firefighter, EMT, and dispatcher. In 2018, he was promoted to Lieutenant. Thank you, Lieutenant Anderson, for your commitment to our department and the community. We are grateful for your service. Please join us in congratulating Lieutenant Bill Anderson on his well-earned retirement.

PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

SENATE from page 1

struggling—including Bay-state—and funding for the West-East Rail project.

Markey kicked off the discussion by revealing that if he returns to the Senate, he would be the chairman of the subcommittee on health if the Democrats can win back the House and the Senate in the midterm elections. He then acknowledged that if that does come to term, then he would restore the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

“We’re going to restore the \$300 billion from the Affordable Care Act, which was cut, that went to people out here in Western Massachusetts to ensure that there was solvency, and then we have to go beyond that,” Markey said. “We have to double funding for community health centers. We have to double the funding for NIH research on Alzheimer’s, Diabetes, Parkinson’s, Heart Disease, and all of those other diseases that run right through every single family. That has to be the goal. And in Western Massachusetts, I have stood up, and I’ve fought for this cause; I’ve met with all the hospital leaders out here, and we are going to deliver next January.”

He then added that if funding isn’t expanded and private equity isn’t weeded out, Western Mass hospitals will be in crisis.

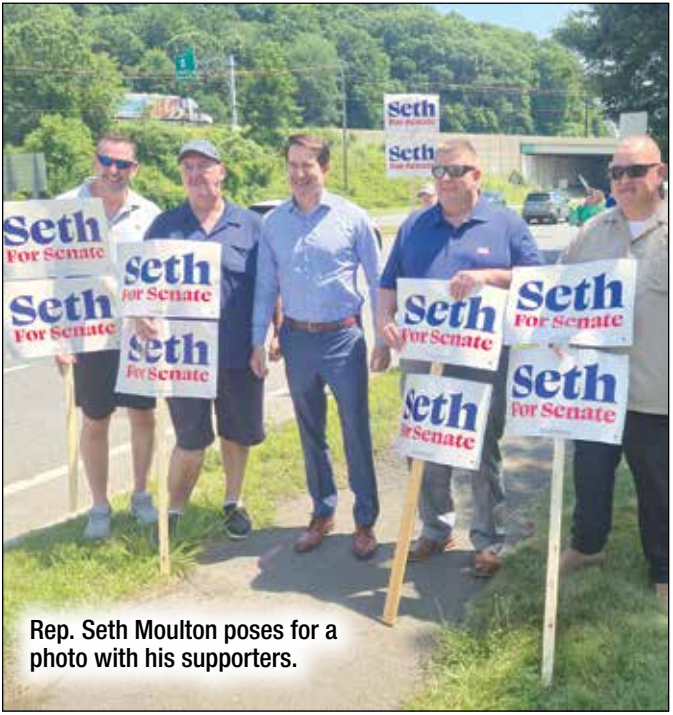
“You have to make sure on a permanent basis these hospitals in Western Massachusetts are not weighted by private equity, rooted in emergency rooms and our eyes, otherwise our communities are just shut down; that’s what happened in Easthampton,” Markey said.

Moulton shared that he isn’t against universal healthcare, but believes that people



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Incumbent Sen. Ed Markey’s supporters standing in unison holding signs as cars drive by as well.



Rep. Seth Moulton poses for a photo with his supporters.

should keep the health plan they prefer and those that unions fought for in contract negotiations.

“Look, I stand with President [Obama] and say we should have Medicare for all, but you should also be able to keep the health care plan you prefer if that’s what you want,” Moulton said.

He then shared that, as an Iraq War Veteran, he chose to use Veterans Affairs benefits for healthcare in part to ensure problems with that system are improved.

Markey responded, saying VA benefits are a single-payer system and that many people would appreciate the chance to receive those benefits.

Moulton responded by declaring that universal healthcare, housing and education should be human rights.

The conversation then pivoted to the ongoing development of the West-East Rail project, a proposed concept to

bring high-speed rail service from Boston to Pittsfield and Springfield. Markey said that he and U.S. Congressman Richard E. Neal, of Springfield, have secured \$157 million for the region to fund the long-overdue project.

“We were able to secure the funding for the project because it is absolutely essential that we connect the Western Mass economy to the rest of the Commonwealth. I understand it’s been long overdue, and that’s why I worked so hard on the infrastructure bill of 2022 to ensure we get that funding,” Markey said. “However, we also acknowledge that we needed the funding for Springfield for this asthma crisis, which had happened, and now it is absolutely indispensable that that funding be made available, and it is there, and we are working to ensure that it gets built in cooperation with Governor Healey as quickly as possible.”

Moulton argued that the amount Markey noted will

only fund up to 10 miles of rails, which isn’t up to par.

“\$152 million will be for about 10 miles of rail; that’s not enough to get to Boston, and I want to add that no one is going to ride your train because it is too slow,” Moulton said.

He then discussed the prospect of linking the state together if the project was correctly funded, as he drew a comparison to the \$2 billion he delivered to the city of Lynn for infrastructure, and the possibility of what \$2 billion could do for the project instead of the \$152 million Markey and Neal raised.

“Imagine what \$2 billion would do for so many cities out here in Western Massachusetts,” Moulton said. “Imagine what that would do for job opportunities. Imagine what that would do to knit our state together. That’s why I think we need high-speed rail transportation, because not only do I think it would be transformative for the state,

but I feel Americans in Massachusetts should be traveling the same speed as the rest of the world, and I’m going to continue fighting to get it done.”

Post-Debate Questions

After the debate, the Chicopee Register then talked to both candidates, where we had an additional chance to inquire about the recent influx of Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO) issues that stem from Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield dumping into the Connecticut River.

Markey said he’s aware of the situation and shared a quick comment on how to solve the issue.

“Well, I’m going to be senior on the Infrastructure Committee in the Senate and we need a trillion-dollar infrastructure bill beginning in January of this year coming up to make sure the funding is there for CSO making sure the funding is there for communities who absolutely can-

not pay for it by themselves. They’re going to need help. They’re going to need federal help, and I will be there to make sure that help is present,” Markey said.

Moulton opened his thoughts by sharing this.

“It’s just absolutely appalling that this has happened,” Moulton said. “And it’s also happened across the Commonwealth, in Haverhill, which has dumped into the Merrimack River, which flows through my district; it has closed a lot of beaches right over the holiday weekend, and this is why we need Democrats to win so that we can deliver infrastructure back here. And when the senator says he supports all these great ideas, the reality is that those great ideas cannot come to fruition if Trump and the MAGA Republicans are still in charge.”



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Polish Center announces scholarship

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

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

To be eligible, applicants must be enrolled full-time in an accredited university or college, be in good academic standing, maintain a GPA of 3.8 or higher and be of Polish heritage. Applications can be submitted starting June 19, 2026, with an application deadline of September 18, 2026. Scholarship application and full criteria can be found at <https://clkr.me/h5nfya>.

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

BINGO from page 1

other organizations and we’ve been partnered with them for the last few years. It’s a great partnership and we raise great money for the seniors,” Wilk said.

Wilk was ecstatic with the amount raised to support the Friends along with the turnout, with over 100 people in attendance.

“It’s awesome that we raised that much money. We had a great turnout and everybody had such an awesome time. We had many of our members show up as well as non-members who were able to learn about the Friends of RiverMills organization,” Wilk said.

Wilk is also starting his second term as president of the Friends, sharing things are going well and doing more fundraising events is one of his current goals.

“I am starting my second term as president and I will continue to try to do fundraising events and work with the community to continue to raise money for our seniors so that they can continue to enjoy all that the center has to offer,” Wilk said. “I understand that with everyone, every business, and everywhere, money is tight. But as I always say, donating towards the senior center is something that benefits everyone and someday will benefit you as well because age is something that no one can run away from.”

For him, doing events like this makes a difference to help share more about the Friends, along with bringing the community together to support a great cause.



The bingo games are on.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF RIVERMILLS SENIOR CENTER FACEBOOK PAGE

“Events like this helps spread the word about exactly what the Chicopee RiverMills Senior Center does for the community. We have members that are both Chicopee residents and non-Chicopee residents, and I think it’s great that we spread the word not only throughout the Chicopee community but throughout the Western Mass community on how awesome our center is, from the lunches to the specialized evening events,” Wilk said.

Wilk encouraged the community to continue supporting the Friends and, also, keep an eye out for upcoming events and raffles.

“We have our Lobster Dinner coming up as well as, right now, we have our August calendar raffle going as well as a Spirit of Chicopee gift basket with gift certificate donations from local Chicopee businesses, Bernat’s Deli, Teddy Bear Pools, Chicopee Country Club, Arnold’s Meats as well as a special 250th challenge coin from Mayor Vieau and a special addition 250th po-



These chairs were among the raffle items up for grabs at the event.

lice patch and challenge coin donated by the Chicopee Police Department,” Wilk said.

As a reminder, the Lobster Dinner takes place on Aug. 25 at 5 p.m. Tickets go on sale July 20 and there is a two-person ticket limit per person.

Wilk’s message was this.

“I’d like to thank everybody that came out and had such an awesome time at this event. We look forward to doing many more and

having many more people come out to enjoy a night of dinner and bingo and great prizes and raffles, and all the money goes to a great cause,” Wilk said.

To learn more about upcoming events, check out the senior center newsletter or call 413-534-3698.

Also, check out the Friends of RiverMills Senior Center Facebook page to see what they’ve been up to.

BACKYARD from page 4

cluding bark beetles, click beetles, and wood borers, ants, flies, bugs, leafhoppers, aphids and other insects, spiders and daddy longlegs.

Massachusetts Audubon sightings

Unusual bird sightings reported in late June to the Massachusetts Audubon Society included swallow-tailed kites in Mashpee, a Mississippi kite in Harwich and a Franklin’s gull and two royal terns in Provincetown.

Central Massachusetts sightings in the Ware River watershed included: a great blue heron, belted kingfisher, yellow-bellied sapsucker, two northern flickers, two eastern wood pewees, two alder flycatchers, two least flycatchers, three eastern Phoebe’s, four great crested flycatchers and two eastern kingbirds, a yellow-throated vireo, a blue-headed vireo, six warbling vireos, 110 red-eyed vireos, a common raven, two red-breasted nuthatches, two house wrens an eastern bluebird, 43 veery, a hermit thrush, a wood thrush, 34 gray catbirds and four cedar waxwings.

Also reported were a blue-winged warbler, four yellow warblers, seven chestnut sided warblers,, three black-throated warblers, three green warblers, a Blackburnian warbler, seven pine warbles, on prairie warbler, three black and white warblers; two redstarts, 56 ovenbirds, 28 yellow-throated warblers, a Canada warbler, nine scarlet tanagers, six eastern towhees, a field sparrow, three swamp sparrow, a rose-breasted grosbeak, four indigo buntings, two bobolinks and three red crossbills..

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

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

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 – Suppreeth 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

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. HD05P1079AD1 Estate of: Paul E. Gagne Date of Death: 07/28/1997 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A - Formal Determination of Heirs has been filed by **Debra Merchant of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as 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 08/07/2026. 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: July 10, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 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 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

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2014 Nissan Rogue VIN: 5N1AT2MV5EC850107 Fidel Pierre 93 Lyman St., Apt. 1R Holyoke, MA 01040 2009 Infiniti G37 VIN: JNKCV61F29M357625 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: ZACCJBBT9GPC57482 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 Yaremich 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

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Chicopee Register

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Comp falls at home to B-Town



Emma Kosoki tries to settle the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
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Bailey Neuhauser follows through on a pass.

CHICOPEE – Last Monday evening, Belchertown A girls summer soccer defeated host Chicopee Comprehensive 4-1. The Orioles improved to 4-3-1 on the summer season and are in line to make the playoffs, which are set to get underway next week. Comp fell to 0-7-1 and are in last place. The Orioles and Colts were back in action earlier this week.



Lillian Picard tries to steal the ball.



Layla Harnum heads up the field.

St. Joe's grabs win over PeoplesBank

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE— Since 1995, the PeoplesBank baseball team has built a dynasty in the Tri-County League, capturing 21 championship titles, including each of the last 13 seasons.

The St. Joseph's Saints, who are looking to win the TCL championship title for the first time in two decades, are determined to knock PeoplesBank from its perch this summer.

In a span of 48 hours last week, the Saints celebrated two victories in the rivalry series.

St. Joseph's traveled to Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke last Wednesday night and defeated PeoplesBank, 10-5, which kept them in first place in the league standings.

"We've faced Peoples in the championship series the past couple of years, and they've gotten the best of us," said St. Joe's short-stop Devin Slattery, who had a base hit and scored three runs in last Wednesday's game. "We beat them in a regular season game last year and they're a great team. We're also outstanding team this year and we're

Please see **ST. JOE'S**, page 8

Here for Beer shuts out Monson Mustangs

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Thursday evening, Here for Beer scored a big win over Monson Mustangs 5-0 in Women's summer soccer action. The two teams were in a key matchup with both teams

near the top of the Women's Division in the PVSSL. Here for Beer is now alone in second place at 6-1 while Monson is now 5-2 heading into the final weeks of the regular season.



Martine Worrall-Turgeon eyes a teammate up the field.



Gwen Duggan makes a pass toward midfield.



Left, Rachel McKenna rushes for the ball.

Right, Shean Smith socks a free kick away.



Cassie Ashwell sends a pass away.



Taryn Cariveau turns play around taking possession.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
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Santiago Blasco hustles with the ball.

Vermont Green hands Pioneers defeat

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— The members of the Western Mass. Pioneers gathered for a team photo before kicking off their regular-season finale against rival Vermont Green FC last Friday night.

Having been eliminated from the USL League 2 playoffs for the first time since 2018, the Pioneers were hoping to end Vermont Green's long unbeaten streak.

The Pioneers overcame a 2-0 halftime deficit to tie the score early in the second half, but Vermont Green stretched their unbeaten streak to 37 matches following a 4-2 victory before a large crowd at Lusitano

Stadium.

"Our main goal was to make the playoffs, which we've been able to do every year since 2018," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "We battled back in the second half, but it just wasn't enough."

Vermont Green (13-0-1), who are the defending USL League 2 champions, haven't suffered a loss since a 3-0 setback against Seacoast United in the 2024 Eastern Conference semifinals.

Alfred Baafi, who completed his first season playing for the Pioneers, was a member of the Seacoast United squad, which wound up winning the National championship title, two years ago.

"We really wanted to beat our rivals in tonight's game," said Baafi, who led the Pioneers with four assists. "It was a great feeling after my Seacoast team beat them in the playoffs two years ago. I really enjoyed playing for the Pioneers this summer. My dream is to play for a professional soccer team."

One of the Pioneers veteran players is Santiago Blasco Gomez, who was the team captain.

"This is my third season playing for the Pioneers and I love this place," Gomez said. "We've made the playoffs the past two years, which was an amazing experience."

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 8

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
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Alfred Baafi approaches the ball.

Thunderbirds unveil 2026-2027 regular season schedule

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds, the proud American Hockey League affiliate of the St. Louis Blues, released their full schedule for their 2026-27 regular season on Thursday in conjunction with the AHL. The T-Birds will be celebrating their 10th playing season as an AHL member club, as well as their sixth playing season in affiliation with the Blues. Springfield has qualified for the Calder Cup Playoffs in four of its past five seasons, coming off a run to within one win of the Eastern Conference Finals.

For the first time in seven seasons, the Thunderbirds will begin their regular season on the road, on Saturday, Oct. 3, in Wilkes-Barre against the Penguins in a rematch of the Atlantic Division Finals. The T-Birds will kick off their home ice season at the Thunderdome against the Laval Rocket on Saturday, Oct. 10 on Opening Night. Puck drop is set for 6:05 p.m.

Fans are advised that, for a second straight season, all Saturday games at the MassMutual Center will start at 6:05 p.m.

The Thunderbirds will face every Eastern Conference team at least twice during the 2026-27 regular

season, except for the Cleveland Monsters and Toronto Marlies. Once again, the AHL season will consist of all 32 clubs playing 72 games (36 home, 36 away).

Springfield will play 52 games against Atlantic Division opponents, including 26 at the MassMutual Center. Their most frequent opponents are the Providence Bruins, who will visit the Thunderdome seven times. The first meeting between the longtime foes will be on Friday, Oct. 30 at 7:05 p.m., with other home-ice meetings scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4 (7:05 p.m.), Wednesday, Dec. 16 (7:05 p.m.), Sunday, Dec. 27 (3:05 p.m.), Saturday, Jan. 2 (6:05 p.m.), Wednesday, Jan. 13 (7:05 p.m.), and Saturday, March 6 (6:05 p.m.).

The home-ice portion of the 1-91 rivalry series against the Hartford Wolf Pack begins on Sunday, Nov. 1 at 3:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome. It marks the first of six meetings in Springfield, as the familiar rivals will also meet at the MassMutual Center on Tuesday, Nov. 10 (10:35 a.m.), Wednesday, Dec. 30 (7:05 p.m.), Saturday, Jan. 16 (6:05 p.m.), Wednesday, Feb. 17 (7:05 p.m.), and Saturday, April 3 (6:05 p.m.).

With the Atlantic Division trimmed to seven teams for the 2026-27 season, the Thunderbirds will see each of their division opponents from Pennsylvania six times in the regular season, including three head-to-head matchups each at the Thunderdome. The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins visit on Sunday, Jan. 3 (3:05 p.m.), as well as Friday, Jan. 29 (7:05 p.m.) and Saturday, Jan. 30 (6:05 p.m.).

The Lehigh Valley Phantoms make their first stop in Springfield for a two-game weekend on Friday, Oct. 16 (7:05 p.m.) and Saturday, Oct. 17 (6:05 p.m.) before a return meeting on Saturday, Jan. 23 (6:05 p.m.).

The Hershey Bears make their trek from Chocolate town to the Thunderdome on Friday, Nov. 6 (7:05 p.m.), Saturday, Nov. 7 (6:05 p.m.), and Sunday, April 4 (3:05 p.m.).

The Thunderbirds will also play 18 games (9 home, 9 away) against North and Pacific Division opponents. The San Diego Gulls are the lone Western Conference team on the T-Birds’ schedule, as they visit Springfield for the first time ever on Saturday, Feb. 20 (6:05 p.m.) and Sunday, Feb. 21 (3:05 p.m.).

Blue Sox get offense going in win over Keene

KEENE, NH – The Valley Blue Sox (11-14-1) have hit an offensive stride in its past three games, and finally capitalized on it in a 7-6 win over the Keene Swampbats on July 11 at Alumni Field in Keene, NH. Throughout the three games, the same face has been the center of it all.

Blue Sox’s catcher Chris Cancel (UConn) does not normally see the letters “DH” written next to his name in the starting lineup.

According to head coach John Raiola, the decision to keep Cancel in the lineup on a usual off-day came down to his swing path.

Raiola would know. He previously served on the SwampBats coaching staff in 2011, making him closely familiar with Alumni Field’s dimensions. The right-field foul pole is 354 feet from home plate and the center field fence is 352 feet from home plate. This creates an

abnormally short right-center field gap.

“It’s the first time in the DH all year, because all he’s got to do was take his normal swing and hit a ball well to the right center, and it’s got a shot,” Raiola said.

That’s exactly what Cancel did, going three for four with four RBI. His biggest swing of the night was a

Please see **BLUE SOX**, page 9

PIONEERS from page 7

rience. It’s disappointing not making it this year. I’m hoping to play here again next year.”

Gomez, who’s from Albarrache, Spain, was a graduate student on the Bryant University men’s soccer team a year ago.

The Pioneers, who finished their season with an 8-3-3 overall record, haven’t beaten their archrivals from Burlington since a 1-0 road win on June 17, 2023.

Vermont Green, who are hosting the first two rounds of the playoffs this weekend, now holds a 4-3-2 edge in the series against the Western Mass. squad.

Vermont Green took the lead when Samson Kpardeh sent a pass from the left side into the box where Jeremy Fancou fired a shot into the right corner past Western Mass. goalie Ben Alexander during the 24th minute of the opening half.

Fancou scored his second goal seven minutes later, which was assisted by Ryan Zellefrow.

The score was 2-0 at intermission.

Nine minutes into the second half, the Pioneers sliced their deficit in half following a corner kick goal.

Ronan O’Brien booted the ball into the box from the left corner. After the ball was headed by Dylan Hunston, Riley Priddy put another header into the left corner past Vermont Green back-up goalie Seth Wilson.

During the 59th minute, Martin Echarren booted a free kick into the right corner tying the score at 2-2. It was also his team leading seventh goal of the season.

Vermont Green retook the lead following a goal by Kpardeh during the 74th minute.

Another goal by William Sawin during stoppage time sent the Vermont Green rowdy supporters into a frenzy.

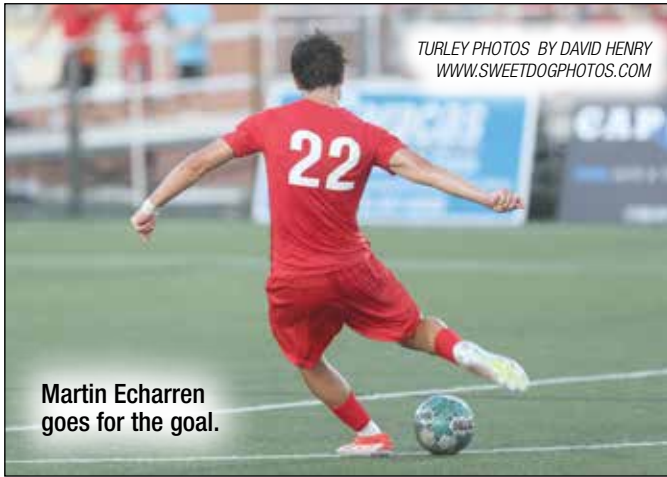
The Pioneers will be looking to qualify for the league playoffs, and they’ll also be looking to celebrate a victory against the Vermont Green during the summer of 2027.



Shun Murasawa sends a free kick away.



Ronan O'Brien heads past midfield.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM

Martin Echarren goes for the goal.

ST. JOE’S from page 7

trying to win the championship title.”

St. Joe’s entered this week’s action with a 13-3 overall record, while Peoples had an 11-3-1 mark.

“We made a couple of mental errors in tonight’s game,” said Peoples player/manager Joe Ferry. “We out hit them, but we left too many runners on base. It’s a frustrating loss.

Peoples, who fired a 6–0 shutout victory in the first meeting of the regular season between the teams, never held the lead in last Wednesday’s game.

The visitors took a 3-0 lead against lefty James Flahive in the top of the second inning.

After loading the bases with no outs, St. Joe’s second baseman Greg Vouros, who’s the Athletic Director at Westfield High School, grounded into a double play plating the game’s first run. First baseman Dillon

Slattery, who singled to center, and his older brother, Devin, (walk) both crossed the

plate on an errant throw by the catcher that bounced into left field.

“I believe baseball games are won and loss on the bases,” said Devin Slattery, who played for Peoples for one season before moving to St. Joe’s. “We put some pressure on them in the second inning, and they made a throwing error.”

Dillon Slattery, who finished the game with two base hits and scored three runs, and his older brother were teammates on the Ware varsity baseball team for a couple of years.

Peoples first baseman Cam Rivest, who’s the varsity baseball coach at Ludlow High School, led off the bottom of the second with a line-drive single into left field before scoring on a wild pitch.

With two outs in the top of the fourth inning, third baseman Joey DeMichele (3-for-4) delivered a two-run single into centerfield, which increased St. Joe’s lead to 5-1.

St. Joe’s scored five more runs in the following frame with the benefit of only one base hit.



Cam MacDonald sends a throw across the diamond.

Right fielder Brian Hayes, who was hit-by-a-pitch, and Dillon Slattery (Walk) both scored on wild pitches.

Centerfielder Jacob Hayes drove home another run with a sacrifice fly. Another sacrifice fly by leftfielder Mark Jodoin scored two more runs.

PeoplesBank battled back



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM

James Flahive delivers a pitch for PeoplesBank.

against righty relief pitcher Jack Feltovic, who wound up as the winning pitcher, during the final three innings.

Feltovic replaced lefty starter Jackson Hayes on the mound with two outs in the fourth inning. He allowed four runs on eight hits.

With two-outs in the bot-

tom of the fifth, third baseman Cam McDonald drew a bases loaded walk cutting Peoples deficit to 10-2.

After scoring another run in the sixth, Peoples catcher Pete Hogan knocked home two runs with two outs in the seventh.

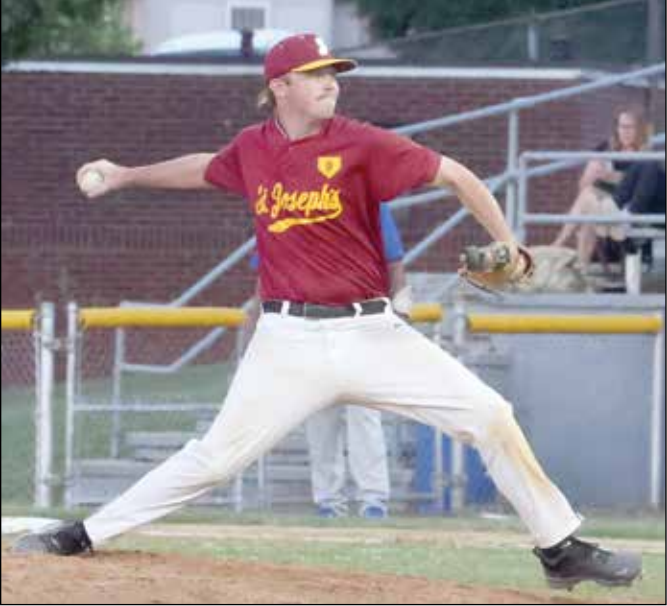
The home team couldn’t

Greg Vouros fields a grounder.

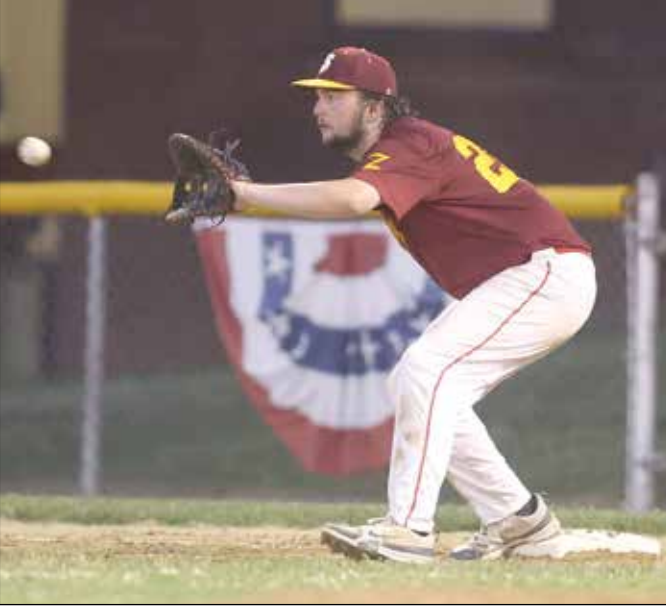
get any closer than five runs, as Feltovic ended the game with a groundball out.

Fueled by a complete game performance from Monson’s Trey Yesu, St. Joe’s posted an 8-5 home victory in last Friday’s contest against the Bankers.

Yesu, who was the ace of the Bridgewater State University pitching staff the past couple of years, allowed five runs on 12 hits with eight strikeouts and just one walk. He threw 108 pitches. The two rivals are scheduled to face each other again in a make-up game before the end of the regular season.



Jack Feltovic sends a pitch away.



Dillon Slattery makes the catch at first for an out.



Johnny Gegestkas connects on a base hit.



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