

Chicopee Register



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COMMUNITY

Chicopee Farmers' Market reopens off Chicopee Street

Market is active every Wednesday from 10 – 2 through Sept. 20

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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CHICOPEE – The Valley Opportunity Council's Chicopee Farmers' Market reopened for the season on July 12 and is active every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in a parking lot near the VOC headquarters off of Chicopee Street. Each summer, the market attracts a variety of vendors, and this year is no different. Beyond fruits and vegetables, patrons can purchase anything from jewelry to candles, learn about local nonprofits or discover where to take dance lessons.

"I think the variety and diversity is a really good selling point. You get to build community and raise awareness or connect," Malijah Ayers said. "I think it's really nice to have everything come together, where you can get whatever you want and be surprised."

Ayers, owner of the small business Nailspirations, participated in the farmers' market for the first time on July 19. What started as a hobby when nail salons closed during the pandemic turned into a passion for Ayers, who creates and sells press on nails.

Her debut was a success, and she understands why the



The team at the Valley Opportunity Council runs the Chicopee Farmers' Market every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

market has been successful itself over the years.

"People are really friendly and very helpful and it's very engaging. It's a comfortable environment," she said. "And if you have a small business, I might be able to support yours. People helping people is really important today as well."

Sunshine Village, a nonprofit organization with a budget that exceeds \$16 million, develops an innovating and inspiring curriculum to help young adults on the autism spectrum express themselves and engage in the

community.

On Wednesday, Alec, Christopher and Tim represented Sunshine Village alongside Sunshine Village employee Emily Linzi, who explained why participating in the market is a valuable experience.

"It helps with socialization. It definitely helps them learn about money management and how to interact with that, selling stuff to people and explaining what they've done," she said.

The individuals from Sunshine Village arrived to showcase and sell the crafts they

made during the winter season.

"We have pencil holders, windchimes that they made out of recycled wine bottles, they've made posters with tile and napkins and (we're showing) various arts and crafts they've made throughout our whole agency," Linzi said.

Aaron Lakota and Lily Mateus came from Summit Farm in Belchertown to sell tomatoes, onions, squash, zucchini, peppers and eggplants. To future

See **FARMERS' MARKET** page 6

COMMUNITY

Mayor John Vieau announces his run for re-election



SUBMITTED PHOTO

John Vieau announced he will run for his third term as mayor.

Multi-term mayor looks to continue in City Hall

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE – Mayor John Vieau, a lifelong resident of Chicopee, announced he will be seeking a third term as mayor.

"As Mayor of Chicopee for the last three-and-a-half years, it is with great pride that I am officially announcing and asking for your support for re-election, as we continue to move Chicopee forward. There is still much more to do," Vieau said last week, noting that the city is better today than it was yesterday.

Vieau was first elected to the office in 2019. In January 2020, he was sworn in and he was re-elected in 2021. This November, he will face off against a new challenger, Ward 3 City Councilor Delmarina López.

Vieau brings a wealth of municipal experience to his current position. He spent 16 years as the city's Ward 3 Councilor, including four as City Council President. Vieau also spent five years on the Planning Board.

After earning his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from UMass-Amherst, Vieau eventually became a Real Estate Review Appraiser for the state's Department of Transportation, where he spent 18 years.

Pointing out his successes during his first two terms, Vieau said the city's stabilization account is \$27 million and that Chicopee has one of the highest bond ratings in Western Massachusetts. He said the financial security will allow the city to pursue Phase II of the revitalization of City Hall, the restoration of the old library and the construction of a new Barry Elementary School without burdening the taxpayers.

Vieau also noted that first responders have the tools and training necessary to keep the community safe. He said the goal is to have well-trained first responders answer every emergency call.

"Keeping our community safe

See **VIEAU** page 6

COMMUNITY

Renowned Portugal artist Vhils created the mural

Chicopee unveils new mural in ribbon-cutting ceremony

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE – The community gathered at Exchange Street on July 14 for the unveiling of a mural created by renowned Portugal artist Vhils.

Mayor John Vieau was joined by his staff, Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello, State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow), members of Beyond Walls and more for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Vieau said when he looks at the mural, "It's the epitome of what blue-collar Chicopee's all about."

"It's about that mill worker, the factory worker that really built this city... It could be your great-grandfather, it could be his cousin, his brother, but that's what I see when I look at



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

David Monteiro, Ricardo Pinheiro and Alexandre Farto, also known as Vhils, pose for a photo after the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new mural unveiled on Exchange Street in Chicopee. Other members of the group (not pictured) are Ricardo Tocha and João Rocha.

this mural," Vieau said.

Vieau said the mural was possible due to Communications & Special Projects Manager Chloe Soto bringing Beyond Walls, a nonprofit agency

bringing art to Massachusetts' Gateway Cities, to the city.

"Without Chloe reaching out to Beyond Walls, we wouldn't be here today," Vieau said.

Oliveira thanked Vieau, Soto and Beyond Walls for the murals bringing and celebrating the arts.

"As a proud Portuguese-American, when I heard that a Portuguese artist would be here over the last couple of weeks and painting these beautiful murals that we have here in downtown Chicopee, it truly is what Chicopee represents best: the patchwork of cultures," Oliveira said.

Vieau presented the proclamation to Al Wilson, founder and CEO of Beyond Walls.

Soto "was incredibly humbled" to bring Vhils and Beyond Walls to Chicopee, crediting the organization, the Amelia Peabody Foundation Grant and community members for their support.

"We're so happy that people have come together and have helped to make this happen, and Beyond Walls has just been so incredibly gracious and

See **MURAL** page 6

City Council approves report on Dairy Queen concerns

The concerns also tie in with the enforcement of ordinances

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE – City Council approved a Public Safety Committee report on July 6 calling for a public hearing with representatives of Dairy Queen on Memorial Drive.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello explained how Dairy Queen “has been an issue on Keddy Boulevard for many, many years” and added to the traffic and congestion in the area, along with trash and snow removal issues.

She added Police Chief Patrick Major, City Engineer Douglas Ellis, Building Inspector Frank Boron and Board of Health Director Lisa Sanders were present at the meeting to hear concerns from residents.

“They indicated that they were aware of certain issues with Dairy Queen on Memorial Drive and that they were going to look into it to make sure the ordinances are complied with and that the public feels satisfied that they’re in a neighborhood where issues are addressed,” Costello said.

Ward 6 Councilor Derek Dobosz said the issue “is a major problem,” adding the concerns are “a perfect example of why I believe that drive-throughs should require



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

City Council recently discussed the drive-through at the Dairy Queen on Memorial Drive.

a special permit from the City Council or a zone change.”

Dobosz added “Drive-throughs don’t fit in every business zone location” and hopes the City Council reconsiders revisiting changes to zoning laws.

“Drive-throughs were done really well at Chick-fil-A, for example, on Memorial Drive. I think they did a really good job, but in this location, it’s caused a lot of dangerous incidents, so hopefully, we can look at it as a city and I hope in the future, the City Council looks at changing the zoning laws for drive-throughs in general,” Dobosz said.

Costello appreciated Dobosz’s thoughts, explaining “If there’s a drive-through that’s not in a neighborhood, that

makes it a lot easier for the residents and quality-of-life.”

“It’s when the drive-throughs are close to the residences that it becomes an issue, and it becomes whether or not there’s a violation of the ordinances, whether or not there should be penalties. I am concerned about neighborhoods and drive-throughs and I agree with Councilor Dobosz,” Costello said.

She cited Dunkin’ Donuts on Memorial Drive as an example of a drive-through not close to residences.

“When you go in there, you’re in a line, but you’re not abutting any neighborhood. When you’re abutting a neighborhood and there’s a drive-through, that can be a real serious problem and that’s

what many of these individuals brought up that came to the meeting from Keddy Boulevard the other night,” Costello said.

The motion passed 12-0.

When the next motion discussed the enforcement of ordinances in the city, Costello also referred to the concerns around Dairy Queen as residents’ concerns included the enforcement of ordinances for dumpster pickups.

Costello clarified the motion “isn’t challenging anybody’s intent to get the enforcement of an officer.”

“I think adding an enforcement officer is a great idea and I support that. This was the intent to discuss with the public, especially those people on Keddy Boulevard, whether or not the enforcement of the ordinances in their area is actually being enforced,” Costello said.

She added, “we wanted to make sure that the Building Department and the Board of Health do enforce the ordinances.”

“Again, these particular individuals on Keddy Boulevard were concerned about their quality of life and to make sure that there wasn’t any trash, any litter. What can be done with the traffic or the noise in regards to having a restaurant like Dairy Queen or an ice cream place like Dairy Queen literally right next door to them, and that was the intent in regards to discussing the enforcement of ordinances,” Costello said.

This motion also passed 12-0.

Faith-Based Zoom Mental Health Group - Corrected information

CHICOPEE – The following corrected information pertains to the Faith-Based Mental Group that was called the Grief Talk Circle in last week’s paper.

Meetings are every Thursday of the month at 8 p.m.

The mission of the group is coming together as Living Hope to conquer the battle of the stigma and judgement of mental health through faith.

The last Thursday of the month will be a grief support session led by Cynthia Collins.

All are welcome to attend, it is a nondomination group. The group is open to those who are on the journey of mental health or have a loved one with mental health.

Monthly Meeting ID: 994 6881 6330

Passcode: 328710

Led by Pastor Marisa Carpenter, Certified in Mindful relationships and Violence Prevention and Awareness.

If you should have any questions, in need of information or just need to talk, please contact Carpenter at livinghope-mentalhealthgroup@gmail.com or 413-342-1779.

Find the group on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1152301965458091/>.

Find the group on WhatsApp at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FQJs8qlrHS-bCW2agMsJeyu> or by searching Living Hope Mental Health Support Group.

IN THE CLASSROOM



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In last official act, retiring HCC president raises Pride flag once more

HOLYOKE - Two years ago, in June 2021, Holyoke Community College President Christina Royal raised the Pride flag over the HCC campus for the first time. On Friday, July 14, a large crowd of students, faculty, and staff braved the rain to watch her do it again for the third and final time, as she conducted her last official act as president of HCC.

“From the first day that Christina walked onto the HCC campus until today, which is her last day with us, she’s really set forward a path of visibility and awareness for LGBTQ folks here at HCC,” said Renee Tastad, assistant vice president of Student Affairs and dean of Enrollment Management. “And at a time when so many rights are being taken away from our community, Christina has been loud and proud that this won’t happen at HCC, not now and not ever.”

This year, Royal’s fiancé, Karen MacGeorge, joined her at the flagpole.

“In so many ways, raising the flag is a symbolic gesture,” said Royal, HCC’s

fourth president, the first woman, first bi-racial, and first queer person to hold that position. “That alone isn’t the action that creates a welcoming and inclusive environment, but symbolism is important along with action. We need all of it to create a safe environment where people can speak up and share their experiences so that we all have a comfortable place to live and coexist together.”

After the flag-raising, Royal lingered for goodbyes. As of 11:59 p.m., she would be officially retired.

“I can’t wait to see all the ways that HCC continues to grow,” said Royal, who lives in Northampton. “And so I will always be excited to support the college, now as a community member and former president. I have so much love for this institution, and that love is because of all the work we’ve done together.”

Royal was succeeded by George Timmons, HCC’s fifth president, who was on hand Friday to witness the flag-raising. He started his new job on Monday, July 14.

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Chicopee provides updates on paid insurance premium reports



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Marc Criscitelli, vice president of HUB International, listens as Mayor John Vieau addresses the media during the city's July 17 press conference announcing the new Human Resources Director and updates on the health and dental insurance premiums reconciliation process.

New Human Resources Director also announced

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE – Mayor John Vieau held a press conference on July 17 providing updates on the ongoing paid insurance premiums report.

Additionally, he announced Stephen Zajchowski as the new director of the Human Resources Department.

Vieau explained there was “a tremendous turnover” in the HR and Treasurer Departments in the last five or six years, leaving “both departments stretched very thin.”

About nine months ago, the city auditor discovered “a small portion of the benefits data was not reconciled,” resulting in the city “continuing to pay” those premiums.

After discovering the issue, the city’s financial team and HR Department got to work, connecting with HUB International and retaining the Employers Association of the Northeast “to assist the city in the reconciliation of benefits data.”

“Upon further research, we found out that the reconciliation by our insur-

ance broker was stalled by the former Chief Human Resources Officer (Paul Winspeare),” Vieau said. “That happened I believe in February, and we were told by HUB that he was interested in bringing in another third party to look into this reconciliation process, and that never came into fruition until June when EANE was introduced into the picture.”

Vieau also criticized certain City Councilors for politicizing the issue, including allegations of corruption and voting to cut health benefits during the budget vote on June 27.

“Sadly, the commentary only served to disparage and discourage hard-working city employees who not only discovered the situation but are working hard to correct it every day. Not once did any of those certain City Councilors reach out to me or our financial team for information on the status of this reconciliation process,” Vieau said.

Vieau said the “data review is a time-consuming process.”

“The medical premium reconciliation process involves comparing the BlueCross BlueShield and Health New England active and retiree enrollments to the city payroll deductions, direct bill accounts, the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System and pension withhold-



Karen Gay, benefits specialist for the City of Chicopee, Stephen Zajchowski, chief human resources officer for the City of Chicopee, and Marc Criscitelli, vice president of HUB International during the city's July 17 press conference announcing the new Human Resources Director and updates on the health and dental insurance premiums reconciliation process. Zajchowski shared his experience during the press conference and discussed what he will do for the Human Resources Department in his new role.

ings,” Vieau said.

Zajchowski, a Chicopee native, has worked in HR management and leadership roles for the past 26 years, including Fortune 500, mid-size and small startup companies, and owned an HR consulting business to help nonprofit and not-for-profit organizations build their HR programs.

Zajchowski shared that his plans for the HR Department include mandating all city department heads to report monthly to the HR Department any staffing issues with terminations and resignations, evaluating with HUB International several digital electronic benefits platforms and an enrollment verification process with all departments and employees.

Additionally, Zajchowski will be requesting a benefits coordinator role.

“Their job is going to be to reconcile our insurance bills as they come in every month, so the department can ensure that premiums are charged correctly and the billing accurately reflects our current benefits enrollment situation. It’s going to help address any discrepancies there may be going to be there and help correct those immediately,” Zajchowski said.

Kathy Breton, vice president, employee benefits, for HUB International,

explained how far they’re looking back.

“It’s not necessarily a number of years, so we’re looking at who’s on the plan now and who’s paying for the plan. I mean it could go back as far as five or six years, but most of the errors have been in the last two years; 2020, 2021 and 2022 is where most of the errors have been found,” Breton said.

Criscitelli added the total amount “is still being reconciled” upon receiving the report from EANE.

“Right now, the number as far as percentage wise over the healthcare budget is definitely far less than 1% of the overall healthcare expenditures,” Criscitelli said. After receiving the report, everything will be compared and contrasted.

Breton said the dental reconciliation “has been completed,” finding 54 people.

“So again, small, small errors. It happens, been corrected, those people have been taken off the plan,” Breton said.

Vieau said he is “proud of the people who work here.”

“I believe in the City and I always did and (believe) in the people who work here. Using words like corruption just are not fair. They’re unfounded. There’s no one investigating this because there’s nothing to investigate,” Vieau said.

Upcoming summer events at the Chicopee Public Library

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

Summer Reading

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

Chicopee library is FamilySearch Affiliate

The Chicopee library is a FamilySearch Affiliate which means that we are a great resource for those working on Ge-

nealogy. The Computer Lab on the lower level is set aside for those working on genealogy on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Stop by and check out our resources.

Low Vision Computer Lab

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

Tuesday evening events

July 25 • 6 p.m. Zentangle with Laura Marks

Aug. 1 • 6:30 p.m. Dealing with Anxiety with Personal Life Coach Chris Rich

Aug. 8 • 6:30 p.m. Catholic Cemeteries in Chicopee with historian Robert Comeau

Aug. 15 • 7 p.m. (Signup begins at 6:30p.m.) Poetry and the Spoken Word

Thursday Night Concerts

Thursday night concerts are outside behind the library, weather permitting. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets for seating. In the case of bad weather, we’ll move inside. ChicopeeTV will be record-

ing concerts this summer. We also appreciate the support of the Chicopee Cultural Council in making these concerts possible. All concerts begin at 6:30 p.m.

July 27 – New Inca Son – Andean Music ensemble

Aug. 3 – Acousticca with Paul Sticca – rock, country, and original music

Aug. 10 – Jumpin’ Juba – blues-based rock, folk and classic rock

Aug. 17 – May Garnarcz – jazz, country and pop vocals

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

Events and Announcements

First Congregational Church Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser 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.

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GUEST COLUMN



Rainy weather equals slug paradise

I was so excited to be growing my cabbage, kale and cauliflower plants under bug netting this year in an attempt to keep them free from cabbage worms and loopers.



Formerly I had used a row cover with moderate success. It kept in the heat and seemed to encourage tall spindly growth on the broccoli.

So, I did some research and ended up with some netting that so far was working out great, until I saw the holes on my outer cabbage leaves. Slugs.

And of course, bug netting would not have an effect on slugs. Not at all.

Has the recent bout of rainy weather made your garden slug paradise? If so, here is a recap from a previous article so that you too can wage your own private war on the slug.

Your first strategy should be to alter your surroundings to make them less slug friendly. Slugs feed during the night and hide during the day, for that reason we should rid the garden of popular daytime hiding spots, or at least conduct a search and destroy mission on these spots regularly.

I use old boards as garden paths, separating plots of greens. First mistake; boards, bricks, and rocks make great cover for slugs from the midday sun.

From now on I'll turn these boards over once a day and play "salt a slug" or better yet, "squirt a slug." A couple shakes of the salt shaker will dehydrate slugs, and a mixture of half-water, half-vinegar in a spray bottle will take care of business as well.

You can also bring a container of vinegar water or salt water to the garden and simply drop them in, using gloves, of course, less be stained by soap resistant goo.

Mass trapping also works. Probably the most famous trap around is made from stale beer.

To be effective it must be set up correctly, otherwise slugs will be lured but not trapped. Bury a container level with the soil surface and fill it with beer to one inch from the top.

Ideally, slugs stretch out their bodies to reach the liquid, fall in and drown. Dump the container often, especially after it rains, since water will dilute the beer as well as raise the level of the liquid.

Commercial slug "motels" come with a yeasty powder you mix with water - these work on the same principle as our homemade version.

Some folks also have good luck trapping slugs in watermelon or cantaloupe rinds placed about the garden. Dispose of the slug filled fruit into the trash each morning without an ounce of slime on your fingers!

Barrier methods are also used to keep slugs off of your plants.

The most common is diatomaceous earth, a sharp substance formed from the skeletons of microscopic organisms called diatoms. Slugs avoid it, less they be cut to shreds.

My mom had reasonable success using lime, and I have heard the same regarding wood ashes. The most common recommendation is a two inch strip around the plants you want to be spared.

GUEST COLUMN



My state pension eliminated my Social Security survivor benefit

Dear Rusty Gloor,

Dear Rusty: My husband of 21 years died in January 2022 at the age of 70. We were both retired at the time of his death and they immediately stopped his Social Security payments. After many calls to Social Security asking why I was not receiving his benefits, I was finally told since I have my own pension from the State of Ohio that I would receive none of my husband's Social Security.

I cannot see why my Ohio retirement has anything to do with my husband's Social Security. I do get a small payment from SS based on my past earnings before I worked for the State of Ohio. Is there any chance of fighting this since we were married when they took money from his earnings for SS? If I wanted to write to an elected official to see if these rules could be changed, who would I write to or call?

Signed: Upset Widow

Dear Upset Widow: Unfortunately, your entitlement to a Social Security survivor benefit from your husband is affected by a provision known as the Government Pension Offset, which affects any surviving spouse with a federal, state or local government pension earned without contributing to the Social Security program. Ohio is one of 26 states, which have opted not to participate in Social Security, thus exempting state employees from paying Social Security taxes on their earnings. The Ohio state pension, which resulted from your state employment, means that any Social Security benefits earned outside of your state employment are reduced. The GPO reduction to your survivor benefit is severe, a reduction by 2/3 of the amount of your Ohio state pension, which can and often does completely eliminate any SS survivor benefit you might otherwise be entitled to.

For clarity, the monthly SS payment your husband was receiving at his death stops automatically. At that point, your eligibility for additional SS benefits from your husband was assessed and because of the GPO, Social

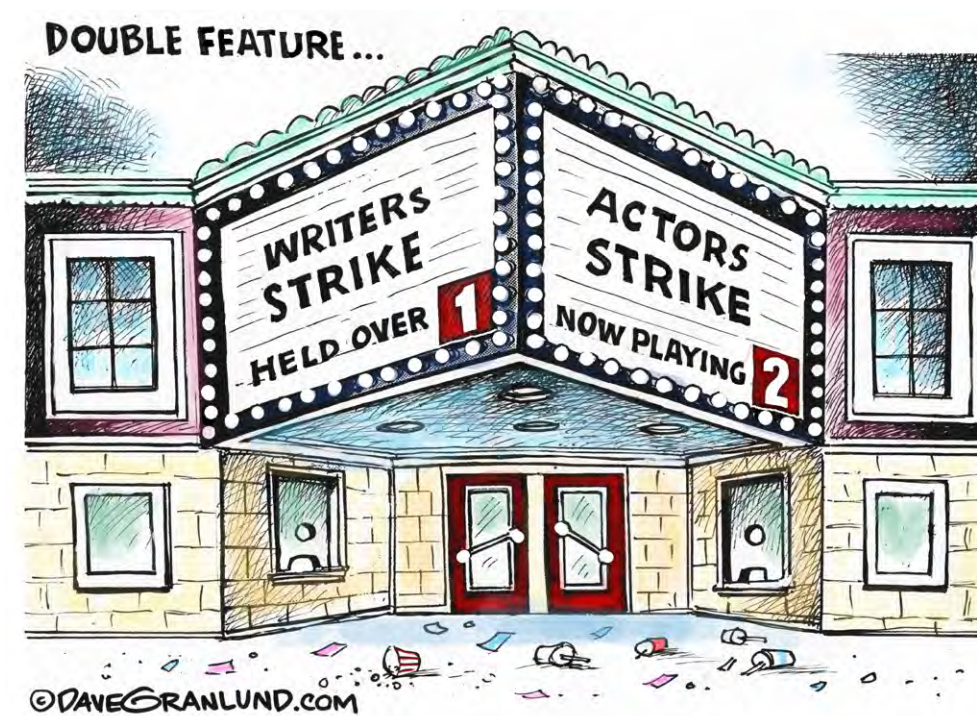
Security offset your potential survivor benefit from your husband by 2/3 of your Ohio state pension, which apparently eliminated your survivor benefit. As unfair as this may seem to you, note that the same thing happens to any surviving spouse, who also has their own earned SS retirement benefit, their personal SS retirement benefit offsets their SS survivor benefit, so a spouse with a regular SS retirement benefit higher than their deceased spouse's benefit gets no surviving spouse benefit.

FYI, the State of Ohio has an obligation to make clear that by not paying into Social Security your future SS spousal/survivor benefits are affected. Without knowing how that was presented to you during your Ohio state employment, here's a quote from Ohio's Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) website: "If you are eligible for Social Security benefits and are receiving a retirement benefit from OPERS, your Social Security benefits may be affected by the Government Pension Offset or the Windfall Elimination Provision. The Government Pension Offset may also affect you if you are eligible for Social Security benefits through your spouse. The Windfall Elimination Provision may affect you if you qualify for Social Security benefits due to your own work history."

In any case, you are certainly not alone in your feelings about how your Social Security benefits have been affected by the GPO. This provision was enacted in 1983 and has been challenged in just about every Congressional session since that time, without success. In fact, there is a legislative bill active in the current Congress - H.R. 82 - The Social Security Fairness Act - which was introduced on the House floor in January and "referred to committee" for consideration. Like all preceding WEP/GPO reform bills, this one sits idle in Committee. If you wish to add your voice to those who oppose the GPO, you should contact your Congressional Representative to solicit action on H.R. 82.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Slugs also reportedly hate crossing over copper. Line the perimeter of your garden with copper strips, or just target specific plants that slugs seem to go for.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the Uni-

versity 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.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

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Community Day highlighted State Police's specialty units

NEW BRAINTREE – The State Police Academy hosted what is hoped to become an annual event last Wednesday, with the first ever Community Day.

On July 12, people had the opportunity to get an up close and personal look at the State Police's specialty units and the equipment they use, as well as meet with various Troopers as well as recruits attending the Academy.

Farmer Matt along with the Academy's commissary, Eurest, provided free food to the hundreds of people who attended Community Day.

The Mounted Unit was there with horses, as well as the K-9 unit with a variety of dogs to demonstrate their skills.

Remy, an almost 7-year-old black Labrador Retriever, is an accelerant detecting K-9 with the Fire and Explosive Investigation Unit, assigned to the State Fire Marshal, along with her handler, Trooper Dan Riopel.

Riopel said Remy has a high work drive, and is food driven.

Remy has been in training since she was eight weeks old, raised by an inmate through the "Puppies Behind Bars" program.

She attended about six or seven fire scenes last month, searching for the use of an accelerant, which is about average, Riopel said. He added that the



TURLEY PHOTOS BY PAULA QUIMETTE

K-9 Knox demonstrates how to apprehend a suspect.

pair travels all around the country as Remy is a federal K-9.

Remy is one of 10 accelerant-detecting K-9s in the state.

"She's a regular dog at home," Riopel said.

K-9 Scout was also raised through the "Puppies Behind Bars" program and is trained in explosives detection, assigned to the Bomb Squad.

Scout, a yellow Labrador Retriever celebrated his 5th birthday in December and lives with Trooper John Ragosa and his other dogs.

While Scout is skilled in his ability to detect explosives, he's also a hide and seek pro, as demonstrated at Community Day, when he quickly hid behind Ragosa when the Trooper covered his eyes.

Other K-9s can be trained to detect cadavers, find lost people or apprehend suspects.

K-9 Knox has received over 580 hours of training and originates from the Czech Republic, while K-9 Barry has received close to 1,000 hours and comes from Holland.

Central and western Europe are the breeding grounds of some of the top U.S. K-9 breeds, including the Belgian Malinois; a breed that trails closely behind the German Shepherd in K-9 use.

Trooper Nick D'Angelo said for K-9s like Barry and Knox, all of their "fun" is had on the job, and their home life is very calm, maybe even boring at times.

Community Day also of-



K-9 Knox prepares to take down the suspect.



Members of the State Police's Mounted Unit were at the State Police Academy.

ferred people the chance to meet with their local law enforcement, as well as first responders, including the Hard-

wick-New Braintree Police Department, Hardwick Fire Department and West Brookfield Rescue Squad.



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IN THE CITY



(L to R) Emily Linzi, Alec, Christopher and Tim represented Sunshine Village at the Chicopee Farmers' Market on Wednesday.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Dance Dynamics traveled down Chicopee Street to the Chicopee Farmers' Market on July 19.

FARMER'S MARKET from page 1

sessions, they will bring cucumbers, blueberries and raspberries.

Mateus said it is beneficial for a patron to buy food at a farmers' market.

"It's better than supermarket stuff. It's locally grown; the majority of the people here," she said. "Our stuff especially is vine; it's not greenhouse or anything. It's a nice place. There's a lot of other things to see and do; it's not just food and stuff."

Sabrina Dawicki and Cindy Laplante arrived from Westfield's Pignatara's Farm with baked goods, fruit, vegetables, greens and flower bouquets. Dawicki noted that

she was impressed with the amount of goods available at the market.

"It's really great how much of a range there is," she said. "There are a few new vendors I'm seeing here this year who weren't here last year. A lot of crafts, which are great because it's obviously showing that people are proud of stuff they're working on. I think it's a great place to stop by. There's a little bit of everything instead of just one thing or another."

For more information about the farmers' market, visit <https://www.valleyopp.com/food-nutrition/chicopee-farmers-market>.

MURAL from page 1

amazing in the work that they're doing," Soto said.

Soto hopes the mural encourages residents to visit downtown.

"I think what's important is that it sparks conversation and that people come and stop and take a picture and then go to one of our businesses. That's what's going to help us grow economically," Soto said.

After the ceremony, Vhils, real name Alexandre Farto, put the finishing touches on the mural, explaining the work is a team effort.

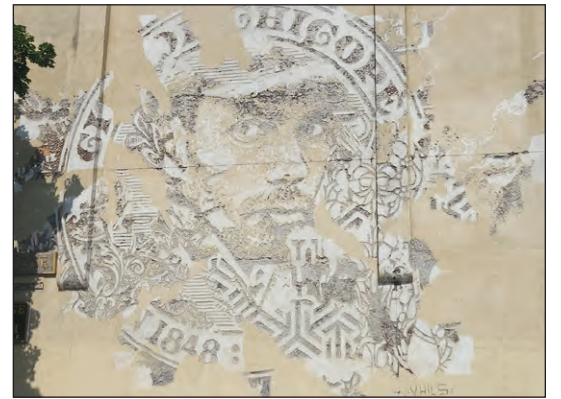
He researched the city and its history, finding a portrait of a worker at the beginning of the century and the foundation of the city.

"I really wanted to pay homage to the history of the city, the town and to all its heritage and story that it has," Vhils said.

Vhils started 20 years ago when he was 13-years-old, originally doing graffiti art before painting murals.

"I would go into a wall, extracting and painting what was underneath, and underneath all the walls you have history. You have the soul of the city in a way that usually has layers that accumulate on top," Vhils said. "So, in a way, when I carve into the visual side of the city

and the buildings that constitute the city, I'm actually revealing the insides of the city but also the history of the city. So, it's kind of a portal to a time we were not here."



The new mural created by renowned Portugal artist Vhils depicting a factory or mill worker that was unveiled during the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Exchange Street in Chicopee.

Vhils wants the community to support the arts and appreciate "the impact of doing something on the public space."

"It really drives a sense of belonging and a sense of purpose, so I hope people, you know, have an impact and feel relatable to the work as well. He's an unknown hero from the time that we were not alive, but also affects the strength and the resilience of the city as well of all the history that it has and the way it came through," Vhils said.



A group photo including Mayor John Vieau, State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Melissa Breor, executive director of Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, Communications & Special Projects Manager Chloe Soto, Al Wilson, founder and CEO of Beyond Walls, Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello and more celebrate as the ribbon is cut during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new mural unveiled on Exchange Street in Chicopee.

VIEAU from page 1

means investing by enhancing our police and fire complements, expanding community policing and implementing additional impact shifts for the ambulance services," he said. "From the success of the C3 Policing unit in Chicopee Center, we have expanded to Willimansett. The increased police presence, community engagement and walking and bike

patrols have proven effective."

Vieau recalled that the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in full force two months into his first term as mayor. He said the city worked together to save its vulnerable populations during "arguably the most trying time in history."

Vieau thanked the city's department heads, employees, business owners, nonprofits and residents for maintaining a col-

laborative spirit during difficult circumstances. Today, he said the city continues to address the social and emotional impact the pandemic has had, all the while old and new businesses invest and further expand in the city.

Vieau was proud to state that the Uniroyal site is accepting Requests for Proposals after years of reclamation and Brownfield remediation. He added that the city is on the verge of adopting its first

Comprehensive Plan aimed at coordinating smart development and growth.

"The plan has been drafted, based on data gathered from community input," he said. "We are reviewing the draft and working with the Planning Department to finalize it. The plan includes ideas aimed at improving the city's infrastructure, complete streets, pedestrian safety, housing and education."

Additionally, the city's police department, Department of Public Works and City Engineer are working to implement safer streets by investigating creative solutions to problem areas.

Vieau said infrastructure projects such as the Bemis Pond Dam safety project and wastewater treatment plant upgrades are on target for 2023.

He also spoke on the Chicopee Clean City Initiative, which aims to reduce litter, increase recycling and beautify the community. The initiative encourages residents to report illegal dumping and participate in recycling programs and cleanup events.

Vieau said he pledged in 2020 to continue to do what's best in the interest of Chicopee's taxpayers. He hopes he is able to continue the progress of creating a cleaner, safer and more affordable Chicopee.

"Let's continue to spread that Chicopee Pride," Vieau said. "Overall, Chicopee is making progress through thoughtful, comprehensive planning and financing of projects and services, addressing challenges and developing solutions to make it a great place to live, work and raise a family."

Only Vieau and López have taken out signatures to run for mayor. Aug. 1 is the deadline to submit completed nomination papers.

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Sports

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Colts defeat Tigers

CHICOPEE – Last Wednesday night, Chicopee Comp girls summer soccer defeated South Hadley 2-1 in action at the Comp turf field. The teams had two wait out a short rain delay before getting the game in. Comp is 3-2-1 on the summer while South Hadley is 3-4 in A Division action. Both teams are in contention for playoff spots.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Madison Riffenburg makes her way through the middle of the field.

Kaitlyn Gilhooly works near the center line.

Abby Ibrahimi starts to make her way up the field.



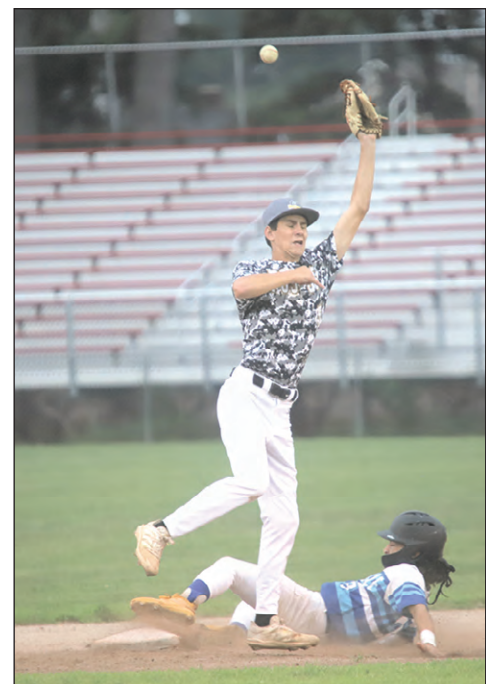
Aldenville defeats Pittsfield

CHICOPEE – Last Wednesday night under some rainy and stormy conditions, Aldenville’s offense had no trouble getting the win, finishing off Pittsfield 11-1. Aldenville, which has players from Chicopee, Holyoke, and South Hadley would win their final three games of the regular season and went on to face West Springfield in the opening round of the Legion District tournament. Results and photos from that game will be in next week’s edition.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Race Drobiak pitches for Aldenville Post 337.

Nathan Carillon takes his lead off first base.



Luis DeJesus slides into second with a stolen base.



Braeden Lamirande swings and connects.



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Laura Gauvin gets past an opponent.

Mutiny makes playoffs following tie with Rush

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The New England Mutiny managed to qualify for the United Women’s Soccer (UWS) playoffs for the second consecutive year.

The Mutiny officially clinched a berth in this year’s East Conference playoffs following a 2-2 draw against the Connecticut Rush at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow on July 8.

However, it wasn’t the result that the Mutiny players or coaches were really looking for in the regular season home finale.

“You don’t always get the result that you’re looking for in the game of soccer,” said Mutiny assistant coach Jill Kochanek. “We tried a slightly different formation with the

personal that we had for tonight’s match.”

First-year Mutiny head coach Maurico ‘Toto’ Coimbra was unavailable for comment following the home match.

The Mutiny, who finished the regular season with a 4-2-2 overall record, entered the playoffs as the sixth seed. They were scheduled to make to Lancaster for a quarterfinal match on Wednesday July 12.

“We come into every season expecting to make the playoffs. That’s our number one goal,” said Meghan Cunningham, who has been playing for the Mutiny for more than ten years. “It’s disappointing that we’re not a higher seed this year.”

The conference semifinals

See **MUTINY** page 9

Bonsignore wins photo finish at New Hampshire

LOUDON, N.H. — Justin Bonsignore scored his second win of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season on Saturday evening at New Hampshire Motor Speedway — and did it in a photo finish coming to the line. The driver of the No. 51 for Ken Massa Motorsports machine was out front when rain hit the track with just under 35 laps to go and the field pulled down pit road.

It looked as though it might be over — but the rain stopped — NASCAR and track officials dried the track — and the Mohegan Sun 100 went back under the green flag. Bonsignore pitted during the caution and had to restart outside the top-10. He charged through the field and was in position to race for the lead in the final few laps in the Phoenix Communications ride.

Bonsignore passed Doug Coby to take the lead when the field crossed at the white flag. Off turn two on the final lap, Coby went to the outside of Bonsignore for the lead with Ron Silk looking three-wide to the bottom. Bonsignore led through the middle of turn three

before Coby crossed to the bottom and got inside coming off turn four to the finish line.

Bonsignore and Coby drag-raced to the line and made a little bit of contact, with Bonsignore coming out on top by a small margin. It was the 37th career win for the Holtsville, New York, native and his second points-paying win at New Hampshire.

“It was just crazy,” Bonsignore said. “The way we were able to drag-race back to the line and beat Doug, it was amazing. This is our Super Bowl, our Daytona 500. There’s nothing like racing a Modified here. I’m glad we got the race back going and the fans stuck it out. Coby, Silk and I have a good rivalry but there’s a ton of respect involved. I knew where I wanted to be on the last lap.”

Bonsignore will be back on the track at Claremont Motorsports Park for the next NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour event on Saturday, July 29. For more information on the three-time series champion, visit JustinBonsignore.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Justin Bonsignore was a winner at New Hampshire Motor Speedway last weekend.

Bankers in great shape heading for playoffs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE — PeoplesBank has been one of the best baseball teams in the Tri-County League during the past few decades.

PeoplesBank has won the last nine TCL championship titles and a total of 18 since 1995. They entered the final week of the 2023 regular season with a 15-1 record.

“We were the second seed in last year’s playoffs, which I believe was only the second time that we weren’t the top seeded team during the past nine years,” said Joe Ferry, who has been the PeoplesBank player/ manager since 2019. “We finished the regular season with the same record as Easthampton Savings Bank, but they won the tie-breaker against us.”

PeoplesBank wound up defeating Easthampton Savings Bank in last year’s finals.

Because Easthampton Savings Bank is no longer a member of the TCL, the Chicopee Falls Tigers will probably be PeoplesBank biggest challenge in this year’s playoffs.

“We’re looking forward to playing any team in the playoffs,” Ferry said. “All of the teams are gunning for us. We do have a big target on our backs, but we know how to deal with the pressure.”

St. Joe’s celebrated a 3-1 home win over PeoplesBank on June 6.

“We haven’t lost a game since St. Joe’s beat us in the second game of the season,” Ferry said. “We won the next three games against them by the final scores of 14-1, 14-0, and 14-4.”

The only other PeoplesBank managers during the past 30 years have been Jim Long, who passed away on July 12, 2017, and Fred Perry.

“I have a tremendous amount of respect for Jim Long,” Ferry said. “He meant a lot to this baseball team and we’re trying our best to carry on the winning tradition here. We just want to have fun and win another championship title.”

Most of the PeoplesBank players have been playing together for many years.

“We do have a very good team chemistry,” Ferry added. “We also have a lot of other guys who can fill in. We’re always looking to add new players every year.”

PeoplesBank will enter this year’s TCL playoffs as the top seed. They clinched first place following a 10-0 home victory against 413 ATC on July 11. Jimmy Flahive hurled a sixth inning no-hitter in that contest.

The other members of the PeoplesBank pitching staff are Johnny Gegets-kas, Matt Gardner, Zach Handzal, and Danny Gaines, who’s from Holyoke.

“We do have a solid pitching staff,” Ferry said. “We play a couple of games each week and the starting pitchers know which day they’re going to pitch.”

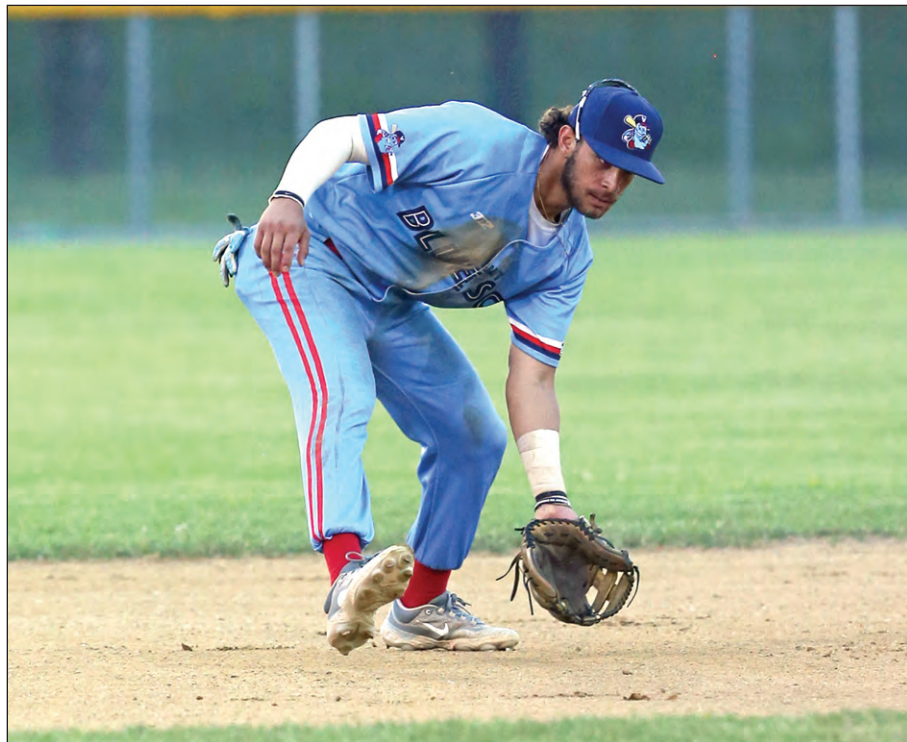
Ferry was the j.v. baseball coach at Palmer High School when Handzal was a member of the team.

“I just love playing on the same baseball team with Zach. He’s a bulldog on the mound,” Ferry said. “He always gives 110% effort in every game.”

Several other players listed on the PeoplesBank roster are Dave Clark, Pete Hogan, Kyle Platner, Seth Allen, Sam Allen, Rey Rivera, and Aiden Considine.

The Tri-County League playoffs are scheduled to begin on July 24. Each of the playoff series will be a best of three series.

Blue Sox doubled up by Westerners 10-5



Matthew Garcia fields a grounder.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

HOLYOKE — The Valley Blue Sox were defeated by the Danbury Westerners by a score of 10-5 last Saturday. The team fell to 16-15-1 on the season.

Sean Scanlon started the game for the Blue Sox, pitching five shutout innings with four strikeouts.

Valley led the game for the first five innings. Eliot Dix leadoff the game with a solo home run, followed by an RBI groundout by Efrain Correa Jr. in the top of the second. Michael Zarrillo added a solo home run in the

top of the sixth inning to make it 3-0. Zarrillo batted 2-for-3 on the night with a walk.

The trouble began in the bottom of the sixth inning, when the Blue Sox gave up seven runs off of back-to-back-to-back home runs followed by a fielding error and a sacrifice fly to allow the Westerners to take the lead 7-3.

AJ Guerrero hit a solo home run in the top of the seventh to cut the Danbury lead to three runs. The left fielder



Jeff Pierantoni winds up for a long throw.

went 3-for-5 on the night.

Danbury added three more runs off in the bottom of the seventh following a two run home run and an RBI double, allowing the Westerners to increase their lead 10-4.

Valley would take one more run back following a solo home run from CJ Willis, making the final score 10-5.

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Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones.

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.

NFPA offers safety tips to help families protect themselves against risks of electric shock drowning

With summer upon us, the National Fire Protection Association® is reminding people about potential electrical hazards that exist in swimming pools and hot tubs, onboard boats, on docks and piers, and in waters surrounding boats, marinas, and launch ramps.

While most people are unaware of electrical dangers posed in water environments such as electric shock drowning, each year people are injured or killed from these hazards. ESD can occur when improperly installed or maintained electrical systems within marinas or boat electrical systems result in electrical current in the water, which can then pass through a person's body, causing a level of paralysis that can ultimately cause serious injury or drowning.

"Because ESD is not well known, NFPA continues to raise awareness about the presence of electrical hazards in water to help prevent deaths and injuries from happening in pools and waterways," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA vice president of Outreach & Advocacy. "Never swim near a marina, dock, or boatyard, and have a qualified electrician inspect your boat, swimming pool equipment, hot tub, and spa before en-

gaging in any water activities to ensure all life-saving measures and protection systems are functioning properly."

Following are tips for swimmers, and boat and pool owners:

Swimmers

Never swim near a marina, dock, or boatyard.

While in a pool or hot tub look out for underwater lights that are not working properly, flicker, or work intermittently.

If you feel a tingling sensation while in a pool, immediately stop swimming in the direction you are heading. Try and swim in a direction where you had not felt the tingling. Exit the water as quickly as possible; avoid using metal ladders or rails. Touching metal may increase the risk of shock.

Boat owners

Avoid entering the water when launching or loading a boat. These areas can contain stray electrical currents in the water, possibly leading to electric shock drowning or injury from shock, including death.

Each year, have the boat's electrical system inspected by a qualified marine electrician to be sure it meets the

required codes of your area, including those set by the American Boat & Yacht Council. Make the necessary repairs, if recommended. Follow the same steps after any major storm that affects the boat.

Check with the marina owner about the marina's electrical system and whether it has recently been inspected to meet the required codes of your area, including the National Electrical Code® (NEC®).

Have ground fault circuit protection (GFCI and GFPE) installed on circuits supplying the boat; use only portable GFCIs or shore power cords (including "Y" adapters) that bear the proper listing mark for marine applications when using electricity near water. Test GFCIs monthly.

NEVER modify the electrical system on a boat or shore power to make something work. The code-required safety mechanisms in place are intended to alert people if something is wrong with the boat and with shore power. Find a licensed, qualified professional to help determine the cause of the problem.

Pool owners

If you are putting in a new pool or

hot tub, be sure the wiring is performed by an electrician experienced in the special safety requirements for these types of installations and that the completed work is inspected by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).

Have a qualified electrician periodically inspect and - where necessary - replace or upgrade the electrical devices or equipment that keep your pool or hot tub electrically safe. Have the electrician show you how to turn off all power in case of an emergency.

If there are overhead electrical lines, make sure they have proper clearance over the pool and other structures, such as a diving board. If you have any doubts, contact a qualified electrician or your local utility company to make sure power lines are a safe distance away.

NFPA has resources for swimmers, boat and pool owners, including videos, tip sheets, and checklists, that can be downloaded and shared. Please visit www.nfpa.org/watersafety.

For this release and other announcements about NFPA initiatives, research, and resources, please visit the NFPA press room.

MUTINY from page 7

nals and finals are scheduled to be held at a site to be announced this weekend.

Following a 3-0 road win against the Scorpions SC on June 12, the Mutiny had a 3-0-1 record.

Their leading goal scorer at that point of the regular season was Catherine Berry, who headed back to University of South Carolina to prepare for the upcoming fall soccer season.

Had Berry been able to play in every regular season match, the Mutiny, who posted a 1-2-1 mark during the second half of the regular season, would've probably been hosting a playoff match for the second consecutive year.

A year ago, the Mutiny lost to FC Buffalo, 2-1, in the East Conference semifinals at Lusitano Stadium.

"Having to play a midweek playoff game on the road is always a very difficult thing to do," Cunningham said. "Hopefully, we can get a good group of players for our playoff game. It has been a lot of fun being a member of this soccer team and I'm hoping to come back again next year."

The start of last Saturday's match was delayed for an hour due to lightning.

Once the weather did clear up, the Mutiny took a 1-0 lead during the second minute of the opening half.

Jenna Kalwa, who's the head coach of the University of Saint Joseph women's soccer team, began the scoring play by sending a pass to Catherine Bean in the middle of the box. Bean finished off the play by blasting a shot into the upper left corner past Rush goalie Alessandra Augur.

Bean, who's from Westfield, will be a junior on the Bryant University women's soccer team in the fall.

She gave the Mutiny a 2-0 advantage by converting a rebound goal during the 23rd minute.

The Mutiny other local players, who saw action in the regular season finale, were Hope Santaniello (Agawam), Laura Gouvin (Monson), Ela Kopec (Ludlow), Brooke Samborski (Chicopee), and Alexis Legowski (South Hadley). Julia Robak (Chicopee) was the back-up goalkeeper.

The Rush (1-6-1) cut the deficit in half a couple of minutes later following

Ellery Winkler's first goal of the contest.

A little more than five minutes into the second half, the Mutiny had another scoring chance on a header in the box by Rachel Marchini following a corner kick, but it just sailed wide.

The Mutiny managed to hold onto

the one goal lead until the 74th minute when Winkler fired a low shot into the right corner of the net past Kopac tying the score at 2-2.

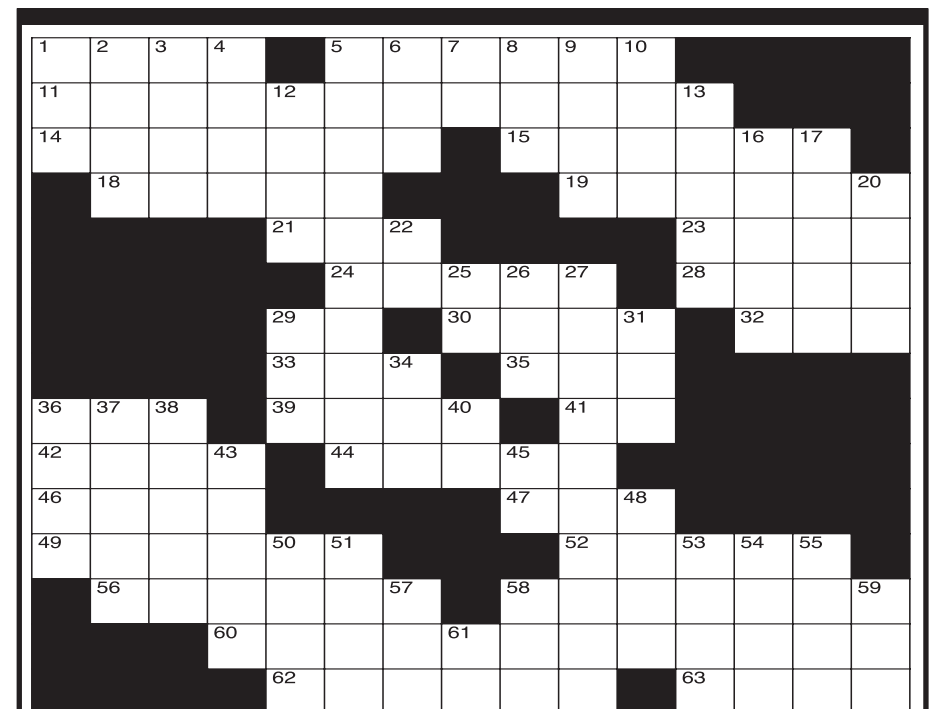
Marchini missed another header and the Mutiny had to settle for the draw.



Laci Lewis gets ready to clear the ball.



Hope Santaniello maneuvers through the middle of the field.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Commoner
 - 5. Tea leaf
 - 11. They save you a table
 - 14. Submissions
 - 15. Secretly revealed
 - 18. Personification of the sea (Norse)
 - 19. Unreal
 - 21. No seats available
 - 23. Bangladeshi currency
 - 24. Leaders
 - 28. Famed garden
 - 29. Denotes past
 - 30. Not living
 - 32. Midway between south and southeast
 - 33. Small island (British)
 - 35. Woman (French)
 - 36. Wife
 - 39. Two-toed sloth
 - 41. Blood group
 - 42. Soaks
 - 44. Biu-Mandara language of Cameroon
 - 46. Japanese prefecture
 - 47. Place to be during a rock concert
 - 49. Fully grown humans
 - 52. Emaciation
 - 56. Sparkling
 - 58. Fruits you peel
 - 60. Derived from a noun
 - 62. Popular items to grill
 - 63. Port in Yemen
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Before
 - 2. Actress Dunham
 - 3. This (Spanish)
 - 4. Director Peter
 - 5. Dominant
 - 6. English artists' society (abbr.)
 - 7. NY Giants legend
 - 8. It's in the ground
 - 9. No No No
 - 10. Pesky insect
 - 12. Danish-American muckraking journalist
 - 13. Kids love to do it
 - 16. Good Gosh!
 - 17. Fakes
 - 20. A citizen of Denmark
 - 22. Mystic syllable
 - 25. Commercial
 - 26. Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
 - 27. Helpers
 - 29. Water (French)
 - 31. Young woman
 - 34. Red-brown sea bream
 - 36. Messenger
 - 37. Comprehends
 - 38. Walk with confidence
 - 40. Home of the Flyers
 - 43. Appetizer
 - 45. News organization
 - 48. Source of the Nile
 - 50. A way to march
 - 51. Soluble ribonucleic acid
 - 53. Egyptian bull-god
 - 54. Children's author Blyton
 - 55. Baseball pitching stat
 - 57. Rude young person
 - 58. Table napkin
 - 59. Monetary unit in Asia
 - 61. One-time AL MVP Vaughn

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P1440EA
Estate of:
Donald B Caplette
Also known as:
Donald Barry Caplette
Date of Death: 03/25/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Alesia Zorn of Portland, OR requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Alesia Zorn of Portland, OR** 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 08/04/2023.

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 07, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani

Register of Probate
07/21/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P1467EA
Estate of:
Michael T Baker
Also known as:
Michael Baker
Date of Death: 06/06/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Kevin M Baker of West Springfield, MA and Sarah E Baker 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: **Kevin M Baker of West Springfield, MA** and **Sarah E Baker 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 08/10/2023.

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.

es of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 13, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/21/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P1484EA
Estate of:
Edwin L Gottsman
Date of Death: 09/30/2016
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Beverly A Gottsman of Leesburg, FL requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Beverly A Gottsman of Leesburg, FL** 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 08/11/2023.

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 14, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/21/2023

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A
Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on July 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
Cherelle 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: JNKCV54E46M701531
Edivaria Da Silva
361 Miller St.
Ludlow, MA 01056

2006 Lincoln Zephyr
VIN: 3LNHM26106R624744
Dawud Lubbeddin
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 Elmwood Ave.
Springfield, MA 01119

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

2008 Bmw 528xi
VIN: WBANV13568CZ53047
Jahdiel Echevaria-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: 1G1PD55SH-

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

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 August 4, 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.

2003 Acura 3.2 TL
VIN: 19UUA56863A076315
Roberto Pereria
11 Harlow St.
Vernon, CT 06066

2004 Chevrolet Avalanche
VIN: 3GNEK12T84G136639
Louis Sutor
55 Fuller St.
Chicopee, MA 01020

2006 Acura TSX
VIN: 3H4CL96876C036148
Glenn Ramos
8 Turtle Creek Lane
East Hartford, CT 06108

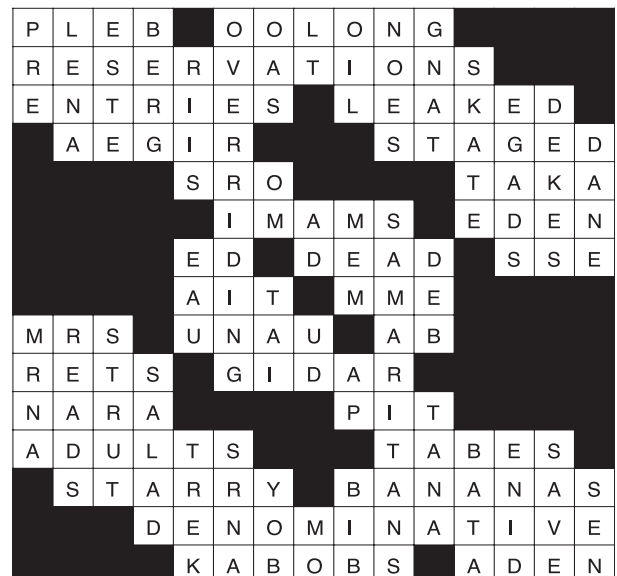
2008 Ford Fusion
VIN: 3FAHP02188R165414
Julian Dela Cruz
158 Narragansett Blvd.
Chicopee, MA 01020

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

2011 Chevrolet Cruze
VIN: 1G1PD55H4B7260536
Carlos Perez Ramirez
52 Hardy St.
Springfield, MA 01108

2011 Honda Accord
VIN: 5KBCP3F86BB004051
Steven Arroyo
80 Kenyon Dr.
Springfield, MA 01108

07/21, 07/28, 08/04/2023




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

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



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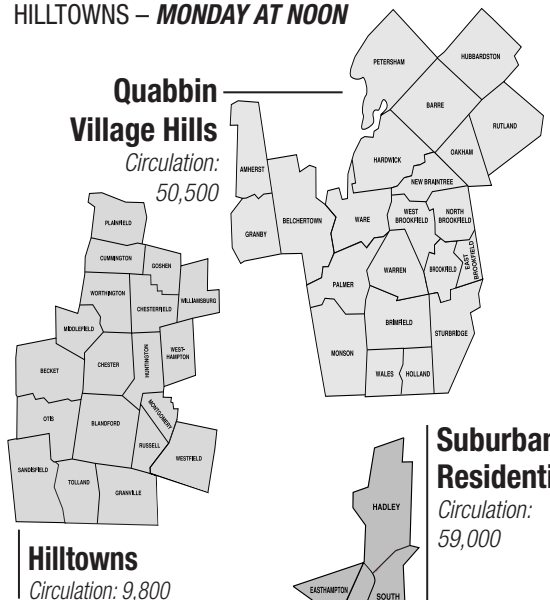
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HILLTOWNS - MONDAY AT NOON

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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
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Upcoming programming at the RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE – The following programs are set to occur at the RiverMills Center, Chicopee’s senior center, located at 5 West Main St.

Ageless Grace Series at RiverMills Center

The Council on Aging will host the four-part series “Ageless Grace” every Friday in July at 10 a.m. at the RiverMills Center.

Join Mary-Anne Schelb of JGS Lifecare as she walk you through this highly effective brain fitness program that keeps participants moving and thinking through the power of play. This takes place every Friday in July, you must register in advance at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

Project Lifesaver Info Session at RiverMills Center.

The COA will host the Hampden County Sheriff’s Dept for their presentation “ Project LiveSaver” Monday, July 24 at 10 a.m. at the RiverMills Center.

Join the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department as they talk about Project Livesaver, the premier search and rescue program operated internationally by public safety agencies. It is strategically designed for “at risk” individ-

uals who are prone to life threatening behavior and wandering. The primary mission of this program is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children. You must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills center or by calling 534-3698.

Summer Concert Series at RiverMills Center

The FRIENDS of RiverMills Center will be hosting a Summer Concert Series every Wednesday through Wednesday, Aug. 23. at 4:30 p.m. at the RiverMills Center.

Come enjoy RiverMills Center’s Summer Concert series. The cost of each concert is \$3. There will also be light refreshments provided and beer and wine for purchase. There are still tickets left for the concerts below. concerts are as follows. Though there are tickets left for the concerts below, we suggest calling before stopping by to see if there are tickets available as they do sell quickly. You can call 413-534-3698. You must register at RiverMills Center.

- Wednesday, Aug. 2: Noah Lis
- Wednesday, Aug. 9: Jimmy Mazz
- Wednesday, Aug. 16: Premier Swings Dixieland Stomp

Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

I truly don’t think I’ve ever met a more inspiring person than Nancy Bazanchuk! She has such an amazing way of looking at life, beginning with her birth parents giving her up for adoption. She believes that was the first of many Random Acts of Kindness shown to her.

Nancy was born with birth defects; her right leg had neither a hip nor bones, only cartilage while her left leg’s knee socket was where her hip should be, and her foot was backwards along with misplaced bones in her arms. The doctors told her parents if she survived the night, she wouldn’t live past three and would be paralyzed and unable to speak. Her parents didn’t feel they were capable of taking care of her and relinquished their parental rights. After many attempts her foster parents were able to adopt her when she was three.

Unfortunately, I’ll only be able to scratch the surface of Nancy’s life as I try to capture her spirit. When she was two-years-old she had both legs amputated, but that never stopped her. When asking what the proper usage was, handicapped, physically impaired, disabled, she said she refers to herself as, “A person with a disability.” She explained first and foremost, “She is a PERSON who happens to have a disability.” And make no mistake, she’s not, “Wheelchair bound, she is a wheelchair user.”

She considers the town of Agawam and their school system a huge bundle of Random Acts of Kindness beginning in kindergarten when her teacher hung a banner, ‘Put on a Handicap with Nancy’ and let Nancy explain about her disabilities. She told her classmates, “Some of you were born with brown eyes, well; this is how I was born.” When adults tell children not to stare, she approaches them and feels she’s doing a Random Act of Kindness by educating them about disabilities.

Though Nancy lived near the school, she was required to take the ‘special bus’ and hated it, she wanted to walk to school like the other kids. By the first grade she had leg prosthesis so her first-grade teacher, Phyllis Lewis, met her one day and walked with her just so she would have the experience. Another teacher, Andy Bower, was also one of her heroes. He would take her and other kids on outings sometimes to places without accessibility which wasn’t mandated then.

Nancy was able to attend Kamp for Kids, a camp for kids with disabilities because of someone’s generosity that paid for her. She then went to Camp Rainbow where she had her first paying

job as a Junior Counselor.

Nancy often thought she was stupid until in high school she met Carla Lemnah-Warner, a Special Education Learning Specialist who helped her understand her learning disability. With this new confidence, though Nancy couldn’t play field hockey or softball, she became the scorekeeper. She explained there was a particular spot to enter the field where her wheelchair would fall over. One day there was a ramp that someone had anonymously constructed. Yet another Random Act of Kindness!

In high school Nancy was encouraged to join the swim team, and when her parents weren’t able to bring her to her meets, other parents took her under their wings and would help with transportation. When she went to Bridgewater State University, she continued swimming by joining their swim league.

Nancy met Denise Roy in college, also a wheelchair user, who introduced her to the American Disability Act. With this new knowledge Nancy referred to herself as a, ‘Psycho Chaser’, chasing anyone with disabilities to tell them about programs available.” Denise challenged her to play wheelchair basketball which she fell in love with and because of her, Nancy has experienced skiing, playing tennis and soccer.

For 20 years, Nancy worked as a Program Director for Adaptive Sports & Recreation at CHD and then went onto become a Disability Learning Specialist at HCC until last year when for medical reasons had to resign. To my surprise she told me in her 20’s she’d also worked in security for a college where no one got past her without the proper ID.

She drives, lives independently in a Chicopee complex for people without disabilities and again points out Random Acts of Kindness. If she receives a package, her neighbors bring it to her and in the winter when cars need to be moved for plowing, someone always clears her vehicle and shovels around it.

Feel sorry for herself? She doesn’t have time; she’s too busy being thankful and living life!

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

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BUSINESS

Ocean State Job Lot announces return of “Buy-Give-Get” Backpack Program for students

Region’s premier closeout retailer announces incentives to help benefit students for the upcoming school year

North Kingstown, RI – Ocean State Job Lot, a leading discount closeout retailer headquartered in Rhode Island with stores throughout New England, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, is pleased to announce the return of its “Buy-Give-Get” backpack program to help students prepare for the upcoming school year.



“Students of all ages in underserved communities return to school each year without the resources needed to have a successful academic experience,” said David Sarlitto, Executive Director, Ocean State Job Lot Charitable Foundation. “We are thrilled to support those students and

provide them with the tools and supplies they need for the 2023-2024 school year.”

Through the promotion, any customer who buys a select backpack at OSJL for \$15 and gives it back to the store as a donation to children in need, will get a \$15 “Crazy Deal” Gift Card to be used for a future purchase. 34,000 backpacks are available to purchase as part of the program and will be distributed to students in need across the region in partnership with the USA Veterans and Military Support Foundation as well as various support agencies and state police across the region.

Since its inception six years ago, the Buy-Give-Get Backpack program has supplied over 250,000 backpacks to students in need, including children of military families.