

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Drummers from the Chicopee Comprehensive High School band marching in the Big E parade on Sept. 26.

A Salute to Chicopee at the Big E

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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WEST SPRINGFIELD -- A yearly tradition continued at the Eastern States Exposition on Tuesday, as fairgoers celebrated "A Salute to Chicopee".

Elected officials, businesspeople and residents from Chicopee marched in the Big E's daily parade alongside the marching bands from Chicopee High School and Chicopee Comprehensive High School, as well as CHS's Air Force Junior ROTC cadets.

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) participated in the parade for the first time since being elected to office last year, but it wasn't her first time marching. Arriaga, an Air Force veteran, marched in the parade more than 15 years ago as a member of CHS's Air Force Junior ROTC.

For Arriaga, Chicopee Day at the Big E on Sept. 26 was a full circle experience.

"It means a lot for us to be here," she said. "I was looking at the students, especially the marching band and ROTC kids, and I remember that however many years ago I was one of those cadets marching in formation, and you can see them; they're swelling with pride, and it's just awesome really."

Arriaga expressed that the city is fortunate because not every town and city has an official day at the Big E. She mostly enjoyed seeing the smiles on the faces of the parade's participants and described how it felt to participate in the parade.

"It's surreal. Just the other day I was marching, taking orders, and now here I am representing our great city. It really means everything; it's a great

See **CHICOPEE DAY** page 9

COMMUNITY

Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware hits ground running



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Chicopee Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware smiles while standing at his desk at the Chicopee Administrative Offices in Chicopee.

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE -- Chicopee Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware has hit the ground running since entering the office on July 1.

Ware previously worked as executive director of Strategic Initiatives at Windham Public Schools in Willimantic, CT, as assistant principal and principal at Windham Middle School and as head of school at the Springfield Commonwealth Academy.

Ware, originally from Springfield, experienced Chicopee in his youth through family who grew up in the area and time spent at the former Fairfield Mall.

He shared that when pursu-

ing the role, he was "looking for a community that was similar to what I grew up in," paying attention to the demographics and the feel of the city and district while visiting all 15 schools.

"I see myself here. I see the way I feel at home when I'm in Chicopee. I don't feel like I'm an outsider. I've been welcomed in," Ware said. "I thought it was the perfect fit for being a superintendent to lead the school to the next level of student achievement, which superintendents are charged to do."

Ware's goals

During the Sept. 20 School Committee meeting, Ware presented his 180-day entry plan, emphasizing listening and learning about the district.

He began this work connecting with the schools back

on June 7.

The entry plan includes capital improvement projects for Barry Elementary School, addressing staff vacancies and what's changed since the COVID-19 pandemic, the how, where and why of spending and overseeing a balanced budget and more.

The plan also zeroes in on five specific goals: infrastructure, teaching and learning, spending and budgets, partnering and meeting with local organizations and departments and fostering community engagement.

"So, over those five goals, I'm going to actually structure out meetings, go into the community, have invites here or I'm

See **SUPERINTENDENT** page 6

COMMUNITY

Families enjoy fantasy fun at Dungeons & Dragons Mixer

The event took place at the library

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE -- Families stopped by the library on Sept. 25 for a Dungeons & Dragons Mixer to learn about the tabletop role-playing game and meet fellow enthusiasts.

The event took place in the Bazan Community Room.

During the event, attendees enjoyed craft activities, including making miniature treasure chests, working on coloring pages of characters, checking out the player's handbook and monster manual for game information and more.

Chris Comtois and his son, Joachin, are newer fans of Dungeons & Dragons and had fun creating treasure chests during the mixer, having gotten their first resources for the game from the library.

"I'm trying to make a Mimic, which is a creature in Dungeons & Dragons," Chris Comtois said.

"I'm trying to make a treasure chest that's more related to our story," Joachin Comtois said. "It's called the Glitcher and since it's a glitcher, I'm trying to make this chest look, like, crazy and whacky like a glitch would look."

Comtois said he used to play Dungeons & Dragons when he was a kid and being a Dungeon Master, or DM for short, is a new experience for him. He and his son are, also, writing their own stories.

Playing the game also provides an opportunity to bond and make new friends, as Joachin Comtois is homeschooled.

"We like to try, you know, whenever you can, take a minute and spend it in our hobbies," Comtois said.

Joachin, who loves playing a wizard and shooting magic, shared what he enjoys about Dungeons & Dragons.

"I really like the freedom about it," Joachin Comtois. "In books, there's the story, it would probably go a certain way like in a horror fiction thing. They'll almost always split up and there'll probably be some turmoil over that. Dungeons & Dragons there's a horror thing. What if we

See **DUNGEONS & DRAGONS** page 9



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

(L to R) Joachin and Chris Comtois show off their miniature treasure chests they designed during the Dungeons & Dragons Mixer at Chicopee Public Library.

Director of Maintenance addresses School Committee

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE -- Director of Maintenance Scott Chapdelaine presented before the School Committee for more than 20 minutes during its Sept. 20 meeting.

Chapdelaine updated the committee on several of the 85 projects that were completed across the school district this summer or are set to be complete in the coming weeks. He began by thanking the committee for inviting him and pointing out that his department is always active.

"I love coming to talk about all the great things we did over the summer. One thing I always laugh about is we do a big thing about the summer projects, but our crew does work, and we have a lot of projects that are all year long. In the summer a lot more gets done, but all year long we're doing major projects," Chapdelaine said.

Over the summer, Chicopee Comprehensive High School had its gym floor totally refurbished. Chicopee High School did not receive the upgrade due to summer school and the amount of summer athletic programs that were ongoing but will in the future.

"That's a full sand of the floor; sanding it down to bare wood, adding new lines and then recoding it. Comp came out great. We're hoping Chicopee High will come out the same," Chapdelaine said.

Regarding the CHS turf lights proj-

ect, the city ended its contract with the electrical contractor, which did not complete the project. The city is working with an engineer on a bid package after removing electrical work and material that was purchased.

"My department didn't feel we were getting the best buck for what they were trying to do," Chapdelaine said. "They proposed a very high extra. We didn't think it was fair of what was done, and we dropped the contract and we're starting off fresh again removing all the work that was done and going out to rebid."

Chapdelaine acknowledged there has been a big delay on the project, as the city must work around the weather and the high school sports seasons.

The library at Stefanik Elementary School received several major upgrades, including a new rug, as the old one was in poor shape. Florescent lights were also replaced.

"The building was built in 1970. I'd say the carpet was actually from the '80s so we stripped the whole place, brought it back down to (the bare floor), had a rug installation company come in, we put in a new rug (and) new LED lighting throughout the entire facility," Chapdelaine said.

At Fairview Elementary School, Computer Lab #1 was refurbished. The room, created in 1995, wasn't functional anymore; Principal Michelle Pete plans to convert the space into a STEAM lab.

At CHS, a cosmetology lab was in-

stalled on the fourth floor in what used to be a science lab. Chapdelaine said his department had to install the space in a science classroom to avoid adding new piping to the building.

"We couldn't build it anywhere. We had to take over a science lab," he said.

Bowie Memorial School received renovations to its hallways, and designs are being created to repave the school's parking lot, as it wasn't installed correctly, and water washes out into the playground.

"We can't have it that way. There was really no water detention that was put in so that's another thing we'll have to hire an engineer, do a SPRAC review on it and figure out where the water's going to go and then repave it," Chapdelaine said.

There are also plans to pave and extend the parking lot at Bowe Elementary School. The design is complete, and the project will go out to bid.

The city put trap rock into the lot, which helped, but new pavement and drainage is required. The extension will create 76 new parking spaces.

"The DPW's engineering department of the city was excellent. It took them a little while because they're shorthanded, but they prepared all the bid documents so we're ready to go out to bid for that. We just need to figure out where the money is coming for that project," Chapdelaine said.

At Barry Elementary School, porta-

ble air conditioners are being installed. Chapdelaine said that when a new school is built, the portable air conditioners will be used throughout the district where needed.

Air conditioning univent replacements are occurring at both Bellamy Middle School and Litwin Elementary School.

When asked by Ward 6 School Committee representative Samuel Shumsky about the bee problem at Litwin, Chapdelaine said the following, noting his team has responded to the school multiple times this school year.

"It's right before winter, and we have this problem every year. Bees are trying to find a warm place. It's cold at night, and they're trying to find a warm place. When we get the call that there's bees in a building, of course we're not going to come during school and try to attack the bees while the kids are in school," Chapdelaine said, noting the issue is addressed after school.

Before he stepped down, Chapdelaine thanked his craftsmen and office staff. He also thanked his summer workers and the district's custodians.

"We had 36 kids (summer workers) this year. They all did a great job," he said. "They enjoy working for the custodians, and I wouldn't be who I am without the custodians I have. My custodians are the best in any district; I wouldn't have anyone else but them."

Parade Committee plans Comedy Night

CHICOPEE -- The Chicopee Parade Committee has announced that tickets are now available for their second annual Comedy Night, "Marty Caproni and Friends", to be held Friday, Oct. 13, at the Portuguese American Club, Exchange Street, Chicopee. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m.

The team will bring their hilarious brand of comedy to the area for a great night of laughs to benefit the Chicopee Parade Committee. Caproni has toured extensively, performing in Comedy clubs throughout the U.S. and Canada. He has opened for acts like Vic DiBitetto, Michael Rappaport, Jessimae Peluso and many others. He also helps manage The Loft Comedy Club in Chicopee

and can often be heard as a guest host on Rock 102's Bax & Nagle morning show.

Proceeds from this event help to fund scholarship opportunities that are awarded every year, as well as support events the Committee hosts during parade season, such as the Colleen Coronation Ball.

Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased online through EventBrite. Advanced purchase is greatly appreciated and will help the committee better prepare the seating arrangement for the show. Tickets can also be purchased at the door the night of the event.

The ticket covers admission to the show. The bar will be open, and a limited menu will be available for purchase. Outside bever-

ages are not permitted, but patrons may bring in snacks. Parties who purchase eight or more tickets will be able to reserve a table.

This is one of several events planned by the Chicopee Parade Committee for its 70th anniversary year. The Committee was formed in 1954 to organize the Chicopee contingent in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade and strives to promote Irish pride and culture through its many events.

The Committee meets throughout the year, and new members are always welcome. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Anyone interested may contact the Committee through its Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/chicopeespc/>, or website at www.chicopeespc.com.

Upcoming events and announcements

Rotary Club of Chicopee presents Dinner and a Show!

CHICOPEE -- On Thursday, Oct. 5, the Rotary Club of Chicopee will present Dinner and a Show! at Munich Haus Banquet Hall, located at 13 Center St.

The event will feature cocktails and a buffet dinner from 5:30-7 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m.

The show features Emcee Ashley Kohl, Robert Black as Elvis and Nicole Fuller as Lady Gaga and Rick Larrimore as Rod Stewart.

Tickets cost \$50 and include buffet and live entertainment.

Corporate sponsorship costs \$250 and includes four tickets with appropriate advertising recognition.

To buy tickets for the event, go to Chicopeerotary.org.

St. Rose de Lima Designer Purse Bingo Fundraiser to occur Oct. 13

CHICOPEE -- St. Rose de Lima Designer Purse Bingo Fundraiser will be held on Friday, Oct. 13 in the church hall, 594 Grattan St. in Chicopee. Doors open at 5 p.m., and games start at 6:30 p.m. A \$35 donation includes 10 games (Kate Spade, Michael Kors, Coach, Dooney & Bourke purses) a bingo marker, door prizes and light refreshments. Hot food will be available for purchase. Many raffle baskets, including a lottery tree and a Blackstone grill! Tickets/Questions contact Chris at 785-477-9536 or the Parish Office at 536-4558. All proceeds benefit St. Joan of Arc School.

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Public Works Committee approves updated traffic study plans

Also, confusion around Chicopee Street having two different speed limits

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- The Public Works Committee approved on Sept. 18 an updated traffic study on Keddy Boulevard to give city engineers more time to conduct it.

Chief Engineer Doug Ellis explained his department tried performing the traffic study when the water main project on James Street was taking place.

"When we realized that they had one end of the road shut down, we knew that those counts would be no good. So now that schools are back in, we'll go back out and do counts. At the moment, there's two of us in engineering, so we have to wait until we get some people back," Ellis said.

Debbie Panagotopulos shared the area's traffic issues, including from the

Dairy Queen that closed this summer, and her concerns on reports around a proposed Dunkin' Donuts moving into the Castle of Knights parking lot.

Panagotopulos feels "it's not the right place" due to the curb coming from James Street.

"The traffic coming from the base is horrendous. You have the fire station, you have three schools, you have manufacturing, and you have several condos down there that are all filtering onto James Street, onto the state rotary, onto a state highway," Panagotopulos said.

Panagotopulos added the rotary is a concern due to several accidents, showing pictures of where the proposed Dunkin' Donuts would be, a packed parking lot at the Castle of Knights and of the ramp going onto James Street.

"It's very hard getting out of Keddy Boulevard onto James Street, and I guess they want to filter the Dunkin' Donuts onto Memorial Drive, which is crazy," Panagotopulos said. "I just want you to be aware that I don't think that's the right place and there's a lot of traffic going."

Jared Parker agreed "the traffic study is a good idea," suggesting signage posting no through traffic to limit people, including semis and large trucks, cutting through Keddy Boulevard to get onto James Street.

Parker also echoed similar concerns about the rotary.

"If that rotary is packed full, people will use our street as a, you know, a handle effectively to get to James Street without having to go through the rotary," Parker said.

DPW Superintendent Elizabeth Batista noted several general traffic concerns presented during public input but said a traffic study would be done.

"It's probably going to be a little less considering there is no Dairy Queen, but I think that'll enable us to determine what would be the best way to proceed to help mitigate if there is an excessive amount of traffic cutting through there," Batista said.

The postponement was approved 4-0.

Another highlight was confusion around a two-mile stretch of Chicopee Street with two different speed limits of 35 and 25 mph, a difference of 10 mph.

Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne and Ellis engaged in nearly 10 minutes of back and forth in figuring out where the two different speed limits were and where they started to change.

Batista cleared up the confusion when she said they should be removing the 25 mph speed limit signs. She explained when Chicopee Street was redone by the Department of Transportation, 25 mph was posted in the plans, which were construction documents, not legal documents.

Additionally, there is no ordinance for a speed limit on Chicopee Street.

"But to simplify this: I think we should remove the speed limit signs that say 25 because it's actually not enforceable. If anybody is exceeding the 25 mph, but reality of it is they could actually be going as far as 30 to 35 in certain areas. That's really what we should be posting," Batista said.

Batista added the DPW would modify it, but noted that in the future they would need to appeal to the state for any requested changes for speed limit signs.

The item was placed on file 4-0.

Polanie Club to hold 'Spotlight on Beautiful Fashions' fashion show Oct. 1

LUDLOW -- The Polanie Club will hold a Fashion Show "Spotlight on Beautiful Fashions" to honor the memory of the late Loretta T. Goyette, Club President for 32 years, Fashions presented by Zanna of Amherst on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 at Ludlow Country Club, 1 Tony Lema Drive, Ludlow.

Doors open at 11 a.m. followed by lunch at noon with Entree choices of Chicken Francaise, Roast Pork Loin or Grilled Salmon.

Entertainment provided by Richie Mitnick and Peter Annone. Reserved Seating at \$48 available by sending check payable to POLANIE CLUB and mailing to: Ms. Denise Meyers, 14 Glen Albyn Street Springfield, MA, 01104 specify Meal Choice Information please call: Denise 413 563-7464, Stacy 413-593-1172, Diane 413-214-3822, Jeanne 413-589-0366 or Sophie 413-540-9877.

Ward 1 Candidates Night planned for Oct. 16

CHICOPEE -- The Willimansett Heights Improvement League will host a Candidates Night on Monday Oct. 16, 2023, at 6 p.m. in the hall at 118 Mount Vernon Road. Candidates for elected office who will be appearing on the Ward 1 ballot in November have been invited to attend.

Those running for contested offices will each be asked to

make a five-minute presentation at the beginning of the program. Following this, voters will be able to pose questions to any candidate present. At the conclusion of the formal program, candidates will have the opportunity to mingle and speak with voters individually.

This year, Ward 1 will elect a new City Councilor and a new

School Committee Representative. Candidates for City Clerk and two Assessors are running unopposed. There are two candidates for the office of Mayor.

Information on this event will be posted on the organization's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Willimansettheightshall> or by calling 413-206-9574.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE AIRFIELD IMPROVEMENTS WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE, MASSACHUSETTS

Description: Interested parties are hereby notified that a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared for the Proposed Action described below.

Authority: This notice is being issued to all interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 United States Code 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and the Air Force Environmental Impact Analysis Process (32 CFR Part 989).

Proposed Action: The United States (U.S.) Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) proposes to construct airfield improvements at Westover Air Reserve Base (ARB) to better accommodate training capabilities and airfield operations in support of the 439th Airlift Wing's existing C-5M aircraft. The improvements include two primary activities: 1) construction of a paved training apron, and 2) extension of the existing Taxiway Golf (G). The paved training apron and associated stormwater feature would be constructed within the Dog Patch Training Area. Construction of the paved training apron would create approximately 1.2 acres of impervious surface, and a 0.3-acre stormwater feature (bioretention basin) would be constructed to the north of the paved training apron to collect runoff. The Taxiway G extension would involve constructing a new concrete taxiway surface between the existing Taxiway G and Pad 5 within the Westover ARB airfield. This extension would create approximately 16.1 acres of impervious surface. Stormwater management options are anticipated to include installation of new drain lines and surface grading in areas adjacent to the runway extension, while existing underground utilities at the site would be relocated or abandoned in place. The ARFC is considering two alternatives: the Preferred Alternative, which would implement the Proposed Action; and the No Action Alternative, which would not implement the Proposed Action but provides a comparative baseline for potential impacts as required under CEQ regulations.

The Draft EA evaluates the potential impacts on the environment from implementing the Proposed Action. The evaluation concludes there would be no significant impact, either individually or cumulatively, as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would include compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, including consultation and permitting and routine best management practices.

Public Review: The Draft EA and Draft FONSI will be available between September 28, 2023, and October 28, 2023, for a 30-day public comment period. The Draft EA and Draft FONSI were published digitally on the Westover ARB 439th Airlift Wing website at <https://www.westover.afrc.af.mil/About-Us/Resources/Environmental-and-Noise/>. Printed copies of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI are also available at Chicopee Fairview Branch Library, 402 Britton Street, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020 for public review.

Comments: The public may obtain information and submit comments on the Draft EA and Draft FONSI during the review period via U.S. mail to John Moriarty, P.E., Environmental Flight Chief, 439th Airlift Wing, 250 Patriot Avenue, Box 35, Westover ARB, MA 01022, or via email to john.moriarty.1@us.af.mil. Comments must be received by October 28, 2023.

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GUEST COLUMN



By Ellenor Downer

Northern harrier



I received an email about the sighting of a Northern harrier in Warren from a man who reports bird sighting for this column on a regular basis.

The Northern harrier is the only harrier in North America. Harriers are very distinctive hawks, with long wings and long tails. They are about 18 inches long. The male is gray above and white underneath and the female is larger than the male and brown above and streaked brown underneath.

They are usually seen flying low over the ground in open country. At close range, the face of Northern harrier resembles an owl. Unlike most hawks it may rely on its hearing like an owl to help it locate prey as it courses

low over the fields.

Males tend to fly lower and faster than females. The female lays four to six pale bluish-white eggs in a platform nest of sticks and grasses placed on the ground. The female remains with young most of time at first and the male brings food and delivers it to female, who feeds it to young. After the young are about two weeks old, the female does much of the hunting for them.

They feed mostly on small mammals and birds. They also eat large insects especially grasshoppers as well as snakes, lizards, toads and frogs. May feed on carrion, especially in winter.

Ruby throated hummingbirds

Ruby throated hummingbirds still being seen. Pittsfield and Williamstown, Gill, Longmeadow, Amherst, Princeton, Petersham reported sightings to Massachusetts Audubon Society on Sept. 25 and Sept. 26.

Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee provides loon facts in a newsletter. Loons usually sleep on the water unless they are incubating a nest and loon cams captured nesting loons sleeping while incubating. To sleep, a loon will turn its head and rest it on its back, tucking its bill into its scapular feathers.

The newsletter said, "If you see a loon sleeping during the daytime, don't worry. Loons sleep in short bursts that may happen at any time, day or night." Daytime sleeping bouts tend to be a little shorter, averaging 14 minutes than nighttime one, averaging 24 minutes. Loons spend more time sleeping at night than they do during the day. When sleeping, loons tend to prefer open water, further from the shoreline.

Sightings Warren and Brimfield

Besides seeing a Northern harrier, a birder reported in an email two great egrets at a

no-named pond on New Reed Street. He said, "On South Street at the pond with an osprey nest one juvenile, who fledged a few weeks ago, was still visiting the nest and perching in the tree with the nest. A second osprey had fledged from the nest and had left the area around the pond over two weeks ago."

He also said, "I did see two osprey flying high over the pond on New Reed Street. The birds were quite high, well above tree top level with one bird following a couple of hundred yards behind the first. They were too far away to tell if it was an adult being followed by a juvenile."

In another email, he said, "There was a flock of hen turkeys with some young. We have not see many turkeys near out property for a couple of years, probably because this are was had hit by sponge moths (used to be called gypsy moths) and we haven't had a decent acorn crop in several years." He said there were about 20 birds in all with two different age groups based on the size of the young birds.

He said, "As I was watching a young gray fox appeared and that got the turkeys even more excited. I could see the fox moving around and the turkey were running back and forth, however it didn't seems as though the fox was stalking the turkeys. After several minutes a dozen of the turkeys flew away into the woods. I didn't see where the rest of the turkeys of the fox went."

The birder sent an email in mid-September and commented about how I like juncos. He said, "Juncos are harbingers of the coming change in seasons and my wife has the exact opposite reaction to their arrival that you do, 'oh no the juncos are back'"

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Photo submitted by Jack Ryan

Three generations of our family gathered at the North Haven (CT) Fire Department for the promotion of son-in-law Jeffrey Haag to Captain after 20 years of service.

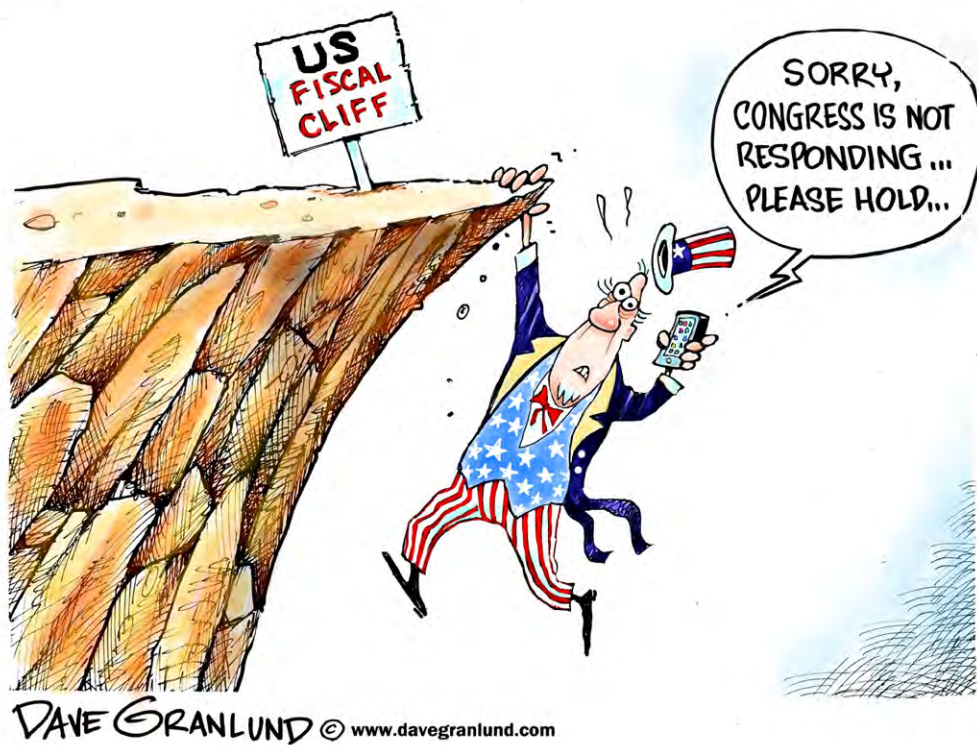
Proud father-in-law Jack Ryan, a 34-year veteran of the Chicopee Fire Department, served as a Lieutenant and was on duty for the first day of the start of Chicopee's ambulance service and served five full years on Rescue One before being promoted to Lieutenant.

Eleven-year-old grandson Alexander wants to follow into the fire service.

The first day of Chicopee Rescue 1 was March 15, 1975, and it was the only ambulance in the city of Chicopee. Today, the city has three. Then, backups came in from West Springfield, Ludlow and even Agawam. Private companies also served non-emergency calls.

Today, with the extreme number of calls, ambulances can be seen speeding around the city at all hours. Ryan also served as the city's first Ambulance Commission Chairman.

Sincerely,
JACK
John F Ryan
Arcade Street, Chicopee



Letters to the Editor

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CR Corner Deli & Market opens its doors in Chicopee

The business is located at 766B Memorial Drive

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE -- Residents, community members and elected officials came to Memorial Drive on Sept. 20 for the grand opening of CR Corner Deli & Market's new location.

The deli was originally in Granby before moving to Chicopee.

CR Corner Deli & Market offers sandwiches, homemade salads and soups, breakfast and more made with ingredients from local businesses, including Boar's Head, Bernardino's, Berkshire Barred Owl and Omar Coffee.

They are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and closed on Sundays.

During the ribbon-cutting, owners Gerry Majeran and Cora LeMay received certificates of recognition from Mayor John Vieau and the Massachusetts State Legislature, with their daughter, Brittany Marshall, cutting the ribbon.

Vieau shared he's known LeMay for many years and is "really excited for this day."

"Small businesses are the backbone of the city, and I'm here today to say that we support you," Vieau said.

State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) congratulated the couple on their grand opening while presenting the certificate of recognition from the state.

"Like Mayor Vieau and (Ward 2) Councilor (Shane) Brooks, we're all excited that a new business is coming to the City of Chicopee," Oliveira said.

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) thanked Majeran and LeMay for investing in Chicopee, adding the State Legislature is available to them if they have questions or need support.

"Welcome to Chicopee. Thank you for investing your business here. You could have gone anywhere; you were somewhere else, and you invested here. We're delighted to have you here," Arriaga said.

Brooks echoed Vieau's thoughts on how "small business is the backbone of a good, strong community."

"If we go to more of these things, we see the investment that you've taken the leap of faith with because it's a big trust on your part," Brooks said. "But we're going to come and answer the call when you need us most. So, I think eclectically, whether it's state, local delegation, we're here to support you."

Majeran and LeMay were moved by the community support, crediting Common Capital for helping them open their doors.

"It's pretty exciting," Majeran said. "It's hard to believe we made it to this day."

"Happy to be back in Chicopee too. The other place was very nice. It's just that here, I think we have a lot more support, and it's a busier road. We're very happy," LeMay said.

Majeran and LeMay also stressed the importance of the deli providing healthy, local in-



(L to R) Jay Kozak, loan manager at Common Capital, Lamari Jackson, legislative director for State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Cora LeMay and Gerry Majeran, owners of CR Corner Deli & Market, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Mayor John Vieau, Ward 2 City Councilor Shane Brooks and Emil Farjo, business assistance manager at Common Capital, pose for a group photo after the ribbon-cutting to mark the grand opening of CR Corner Deli & Market in Chicopee. Majeran and LeMay were also presented with certificates of recognition from Vieau and the Massachusetts State Legislature for their business.

gredients to residents, an alternative to the fast-food chains that line Memorial Drive.

"I think being here as a small business is important because, like he said, this road is all mostly fast foods," LeMay said.

"I think the people need something different and, hopefully, we're going to be it," Majeran said. "I think it's good stuff."

Jay Kozak, loan manager at Common Capital and Emil Farjo, business assistance manager at Common Capital, were happy for the deli's successful opening.

"We knew that Gerry and Cora were going to be successful here, but seeing all of these people come out to support them during their grand opening really supports that," Kozak said.

Farjo added Common Cap-

ital is also here to support local businesses throughout Western Massachusetts, including in Chicopee.

"Local, local. Stay local. Your money stays local and it's all about the community," Farjo said.

LeMay wants the community to know she looks forward to getting involved in the community through the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce and supporting local organizations, including Sunshine Village.

"We'd like to put back into what they do for us," LeMay said. Majeran had this message for residents.

"Come on in! Check us out!" Majeran said.

To learn more, call (413) 331-2133.



Juanita and John Majeran enjoy their Italian Stallion sandwiches, with chips, during the grand opening celebration for CR Corner Deli & Market on Sept. 20.

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Moda Mia opens on Center St.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHLOE SOTO, MAYOR'S OFFICE

CHICOPEE – The community came together in Chicopee Center last Saturday to celebrate the opening of Moda Mia, the brainchild of Johanna Maldonado, a passionate fashion enthusiast from Springfield. Moda Mia, located at 26 Center St., promises not just a shopping experience but represents the spirit of revitalization in Chicopee. Caption courtesy of Chloe Soto, Mayor's Office.

SUPERINTENDENT from page 1

a big believer of invites over food, so we're looking at the staples in the community and invite the community to meet there so that we can talk, so we can have a conversation and see what the concerns are from that lens," Ware said.

Ware plans to finish his findings by December 2023 and present them to the School Committee in January 2024, with the hope that his recommendations will help funnel a strategic plan.

"So we can actually start working on how do we take all of that information that I have amassed and roll it into an actual plan for the school system to look three years from now, five years from now and then 10 years from now," Ware said.

Two targeted improvements

Ware explained the two biggest things he wants to improve in the district are the student experience and teacher experience.

For the students, it includes addressing mental health, social-emotional learning, access to needs and helping students engage in clubs or after-school

connections.

Additionally, a focus on not just students doing well, but those who aren't and need more support.

"Are we looking at what's causing that behavior? Are we looking at why that student doesn't want to come to school? Are we looking at why that student is always late to school? Are we looking at why that student really hasn't found school to be the connection that they want it to be? So that's what I mean by student experience," Ware said.

For teachers, Ware stressed supporting teachers, explaining he has and will meet with Laura Demakis, president of the Chicopee Education Association, once a month to "talk about situations before they become a bigger issue."

He's already tackled one challenge: competitive compensation for teachers after salary contract negotiations were reopened on Aug. 23

"I'm really trying to attract and retain teachers and educators – again when I say teachers I mean across the board, anyone that's in the classroom – all the way up to the principals. Really trying to get the right leadership and keep the right leadership in place," Ware said.

On Current Issues

Ware also reflected on current topics the community is focused on including bullying, school safety and the Yondr phone pouches.

On the cell phones, Ware touched on distractibility and said it was not the students' fault, sharing a recent conversation he had with a student.

"I said, 'It's not your fault. During COVID, we encouraged you to use technology, we encouraged you to use computers, so you become addicted to it,'" Ware said. "And I want to tell you why. Because at the end of the day, we forced you there because we couldn't be together.' So, when you actually put something on someone and they learn how to use it then yes, it's your go-to. It makes total sense on the psycholog-

ical level. But now we're asking you to back up from it. That's hard."

Yondr, right now, is at the high schools with a possible pilot program for the middle schools being considered.

"It has been well received, especially from the adult perspective, I could tell you, and from the students because students had some voice in that," Ware said.

On school safety, Ware said, "It's always on our minds" and staying up to date on training and technology is important.

"We're looking at one of our platforms that actually helps us to use our technology around communication with the community, around our camera system, things of that nature that ties it all together so that we have a quicker response, a quicker connection to the police department and et cetera," Ware said.

Additionally, he is holding quarterly meetings with the chiefs of the fire and police departments about drills and training and looking at ensuring safety for events outside of school.

"It's very comprehensive and when I mean comprehensive, it's always ongoing," Ware said.

On bullying, Ware has spoken with parents about what bullying is and the laws, including workshops available to help understand what the laws are.

He is optimistic about tackling bullying by addressing mental health and providing resources for social-emotional learning.

"We have done a really good job of hiring additional counselors, additional social workers to support those social-emotional efforts. We have a director of social-emotional learning here in our building, Abbey Tenczar, who does a phenomenal job with running surveys to our community and actually taking that feedback and then actually taking it to the committee," Ware said.

Ware wants to use that information and data to help the school district figure out what needs to change.

"I think that if we attack our climate and culture and understand that we have things that we could tweak and then improve upon, then we should actually see less reports of students not feeling comfortable, students feeling bullied, students actually being bullied," Ware said. "We look at that from all levels; elementary, middle, high, pre-k, and we talk about what we need to change."

Ware also stressed "that all students should feel welcome in school."

students should feel safe," Ware said.

Connecting and motivating parents

One item Ware stressed a lot was connection, whether with students, teachers, parents and the community at large.

This includes more parent involvement.

Ware shared he's working with his team to bring in a district translator for Spanish-speaking students and family liaisons to build connections with families.

Additionally, a focus is being placed on enhancing communication digitally.

"We actually are working on how to build out pieces of communication that should go to families. So, we have these positions, we're working with them and then we're looking at our platforms, so how do we communicate with the community?" Ware said. "Currently, we are engaged in the conversation around what our website does and how it's limiting, and we own that. So, looking at our website and how to work with another platform that would embolden communication that would be like a pushout to all families. So, if they have a device like a cellphone, it would work like an app on their phone. They would actually get real-time information and they'll be able to communicate with their child's school"

Ware added he wants to, also, get more involved in events in the community and enhance school registration for new families after speaking with a parent about how she heard about where to register her child.

"We're really trying to couple the things together so that we are going into the community, not waiting for the community to come to us," Ware said.

Final thoughts

Ware wants the community to know the Chicopee schools are resilient, understanding there have been challenges, but "we are bouncing back."

"We are not just what you heard in the paper in regard to what happened to our leadership or what happened at a football game or anything. There are some hardworking people in this district," Ware said. "I witness it and I want people to understand that when I say we're resilient is we understand that we may have taken some hits, but I'm watching people get back up and saying, 'I'm not running. I'm not giving up' and I love that."

Ware said that resilience is the energy he's tapping into to motivate, create and cultivate in the district, and everyone is working to be one percent better every day.

"We are going to get things better and I think that people, as long as they hold on and give us some time, have some patience, they'll be proud of what they see," Ware said.

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Sports

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Pacers overcome wet weather to grab fourth win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—Griffen Wrisley is a member of the freshmen class at Chicopee High School. He certainly doesn't look like a freshman on the soccer pitch.

In the first meeting of the regular season against Holyoke Division rival Holyoke, Wrisley scored five goals leading the Pacers to an 8-2 victory on a damp evening at Szot Park in Chicop-

ee, last Monday (Sept. 18).

"I've never coached a freshman at the varsity level who was as talented as Griffen," said Chicopee boys' varsity soccer coach Hugo Destapado. "He always gets the job done because he's a true competitor. He just outworks everyone else on the field."

Destapado has been coaching Wrisley since he was 10-years-old.

Wrisley, who recorded his first varsity hat-trick, scored at

least one goal in Chicopee's first six regular season matches.

Wrisley netted his first career varsity goal at Springfield Central, which was a 5-3 loss, on September 6. He also had an assist in that match.

After scoring another goal in a loss to Westfield, Wrisley netted a pair of goals in each of the Pacers' next three matches against Monson, Springfield International Charter School, and Granby, which were all victories.

The home victory improved the Pacers overall season record to 4-2 and they had a 3-1 league record, while the Purple Knights under the guidance of first-year varsity coach Cam Rivest, fell to 0-5. All their losses came against league opponents.

The Pacers took a 1-0 lead during the sixth minute of the opening half when sophomore Dominic Garcia received a pass from sophomore Hamid Yousif before firing a low shot into the

back of the net past Holyoke junior goalie Landon Koziara (5 saves).

Koziara was replaced in goal by sophomore Jaybriel Rivera-Scott (4 saves) late in the first half.

Yousif assisted on half of the Pacers goals. He finished his freshman season with just two assists.

A minute later, Wrisley put

See PACERS page 8



Julia Zielinski serves the ball away for Comp

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Colts fall to visiting Lions

CHICOPEE – Last Monday afternoon, Chicopee Comprehensive girls volleyball lost to Ludlow 3-0. For Comp, it was its fourth loss of the season. Their only win of the year has come against West Springfield. The Colts would suffer two more losses, falling to Wahconah and Westfield later in the week, and are now 1-6 for the season.



Paola Quinones Ramos bumps the ball over the net.



Emily Morrissey gets the hit over the net.



Charlotte Smith gets the backwards hit over to the other team.

Colts fall for third time



Calvin Kagan makes his way around the traffic to throw.



Shane Upham heads for the sideline on a run.

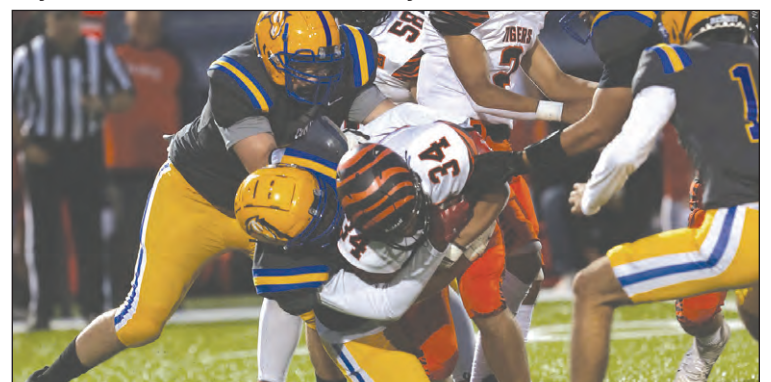
CHICOPEE – Despite scoring first, Chicopee Comprehensive football was not able to hold on to the lead and lost to visiting South Hadley 28-19. South Hadley came back with two touchdowns in the second quarter to take a 14-7 lead, and didn't look back from there. The Tigers improved

to 2-1 on the season while Comp would drop to 0-3. Both teams will begin conference play this week. Comp's tough AA schedule begins with Central on Friday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. while the Tigers travel to Pittsfield for a matchup that begins at 5:30 p.m. in Suburban North action.



Hayden Courchesne kicks the ball away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Jayden Sherman goes for the tackle.

Monadnock season concludes with championship races

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Five track champions were crowned last Saturday – Nate Wenzel and Michael Yeaton both first timers – as Monadnock Speedway closed out its 2023 racing season on Championship Day at the high-banked quarter-mile.

Late Model ace Tim Wenzel won his crown for the second season in row, Louie Maher is now a two-time king of the Mini Stocks, and then there's Chris Davis. Davis ran a conservative race Saturday to wrap up his fourth Pure Stock title, those along with a Mini Stock championship to boot.

Cole Littlewood and Geoff Rollins led the swarming 19-car NHSTRA Modified field to the green Saturday, with the 100-lapper not only deciding the 2023 track championship, but also contested as the third of four NHSTRA Quest For The Cup races.

Defending track champ Tyler Leary entered Saturday two points ahead of Nate Wenzel, while Wenzel sat atop the Quest leaderboard. Others, including Rollins, were in the Quest hunt too, a battle that will be decided at Lee.

Leary took the lead from Rollins on lap three but, seven circuits later, it was open-wheel rookie Scott Zilinski at the point, his mirror soon filled by Trevor Bleau's ride and, just behind that, JT

Cloutier's.

Bleau took charge on lap 19 but his stay up front was brief, as Cloutier had the lead three laps later. In front, he'd open a huge lead until a lap 43 caution – one of a dozen on the afternoon – brought the pack back to his bumper, and Zilinski to his side.

Getting the jump, Zilinski began his second run at the head of the class on lap 44, again with some major thunder at his back bumper. Wenzel, his nostrils filled with the warm aroma of a pending championship, took over on lap 74, and he never looked back.

When Leary and Zilinski made contact in turn three five laps later, the title chase was over. Cloutier, who'd survived an unnecessary bouncing off the frontchute wall back on lap 59, got back up for second on the 80th go-round, then following Wenzel under the checkers to conclude his own successful season.

With Wenzel earning his first NHSTRA track Modified crown, and solidifying his point lead in the Quest chase, he joined his younger brother, Tim, in celebrating their 2023 sibling Monadnock championships. With Cloutier strong in second, Kimmy Rivet, who earlier this summer survived a horrific crash, ended her summer on the podium with a third-place finish.

Rollins, who struggled through a largely forgettable Saturday afternoon, made masterful use of no fewer than four trips to the pits to stay on the lead lap and finish fourth, keeping his Quest hopes alive for the series' finale next month.

Tim Wenzel, as his brother Modified hot shoe Nate would do later in Saturday's event, closed out his championship summer with an exclamation point, romping to his track-high sixth victory of the summer in the Late Model main.

Taking the lead from Andrew Brousseau on lap 19, Wenzel never looked back. Brousseau, though, didn't fare as well. Picked off by a lapper with three to go, he finished fifth on the day. Hillary Renaud concluded her successful summer in second, and Claremont's Dylan Zullo used a last-lap pass to earn the third-place hardware.

Cameron Sontag rocketed to his third win in a row in the Mini Stock feature, taking the lead from Louie Maher with two laps to go. Maher, though, offered little resistance, riding his runner-up finish to the 2023 championship. Pat Houle, in his strongest run of the summer, came home third.

Colton Martin, trading rides for the day with Andrea St. Amour, blew the field away to win Saturday's Pure Stock feature. Chris Chambers, in St. Amour's

team car, was second, and Zach Zilinski earned the first of his two Championship Day trophies in third.

Chris Davis, who'd seen a title slip away from him in last year's season finale, stayed clear of trouble Saturday, cruising home in fifth to add another championship trophy to his large collection.

Zach Zilinski wired the Six Shooter feature to win his second in a row. Steve Miller Jr. stayed glued to the 16-year-old pilot's bumper to finish second, while Michael Yeaton's third-place run netted him the 2023 championship.

Markus O'Neil led all the way to score his second Young Gun victory of the year Saturday. He had four-time winner Owen Zilinski draped all over him for most of the way but never faltered en route to victory. Addison Brooks came home third.

Oval-tracker Cole Littlewood, aboard the family Honda, won Saturday's Spectator Race finale, stealing the win out of the last turn from Xander Stillwell.

Last Saturday's 2023 Championship Day event concluded Monadnock Speedway's 2023 racing season. The high-banked speedplant will take on a new and improved look in the coming weeks, as it receives an entirely new racing surface, its first since the initial paving was completed a half-century ago.

Framingham edges WSU football

WESTFIELD – Framingham State's Jared Martino blocked a game-winning field goal attempt in the closing seconds as the Rams held on for a 9-8 win over Westfield State in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football game at Bowditch Field in Framingham on Saturday afternoon.

Both teams had to grind it out in rainy and windy conditions all day long, with the Rams taking a 3-0 lead late into the third quarter before Westfield seized the lead on a 22-yard Gabriel Fernandez touchdown pass to Michael Foley. On the ensuing point after try, the Owls came up with a two-point conversion when the kick attempt resulted in a broken play, and holder Owen Thompson was able to pitch the ball ahead to Blake Simpson in the endzone for the two point conversion. Thompson released the ball just as he was being brought down by the rush to give Westfield an 8-3 lead with less than a minute left in the third quarter.

Westfield had a chance to extend the lead in the fourth quarter, but a fumble gave Framingham possession at their own 5-yard line midway through the fourth quarter. The Rams mounted a seven-play, 95-yard scoring drive that was fueled by a bold 54-yard halfback option pass to Manny Lara out of the Framingham endzone, and capped by a 3-yard TD run from Devaun Ford to bring the score to give Framingham a 9-8 lead. The two-

point conversion failed when Westfield State's Cam Danahy dropped Kevin Leal in the backfield on the try.

The Owls got the ball back for a final scoring try with 3:57 left to play after a short punt gave Westfield 1st and 10 at their own 42. Westfield worked the ball into scoring possession with a methodical drive, getting a key fourth down conversion on a pass to Will Brewster and a pair of third down conversions to keep the drive alive.

Westfield set up for a 32-yard field goal try with seven seconds left, that could have won the game, but Martino flew in from the right side of the formation to block the attempt.

On a day where offense was hard to come by, Fernandez finished 12-29 passing for 162 yards, a touchdown and an interception. Brewster caught three balls for 62 yards, and Foley added five catches for 54 yards.

Ford led Framingham with 158 rushing yards on 27 carries, and the 54-yard pass that keyed the winning drive.

Tyler Cooley led Westfield with six tackles and a fumble recovery. Danahy picked off a pass for the Owls.

Westfield is now 0-4 overall and 0-2 in the MASCAC. Framingham is 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the conference.

The Owls will be home next Saturday, Sept. 30 to host Mass Maritime as part of Family and Champions weekend, with a noon kickoff at Alumni Field.

Railers signings round out roster

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders), and General Manager and Head Coach Jordan Lavallee-Smotherman announced today that the club has signed defenseman Jake Schultz to an ECHL contract for the 2023-24 season.

Schultz, 27, signs in Worcester after winning the Federal Prospects Hockey League Defenseman of the Year award with the Binghamton Black Bears during the 2022-23 season. As captain in Binghamton, Schultz recorded 33 points (12G, 21A) in 41 games played to go with 136 penalty minutes. He notched career highs in goals, assists, and points last season. The 6'3", 209lb defenseman suited up in five road games for the Worcester Railers in 2022-23, recording two goals in a weekend series against the Newfoundland Growlers.

"Jake brings a toughness and size to our back end that we were missing last season," Lavallee-Smotherman said. "We noticed quickly in his brief time with us the positive impact he had on our locker room, and can't wait to have

him embrace a leadership role for us this season."

The Rochester, NY native has made previous stops in the ECHL with the Indy Fuel, Wheeling Nailers, and Greenville Swamp Rabbits. In 48 career ECHL games, Schultz has recorded seven points (5G, 2A) and 127 penalty minutes. This will be the seventh season of his professional career.

"I'll do whatever it takes to earn the trust and respect of my teammates," Schultz said. "After last season, I'm hoping to put up some good numbers, too. I'm looking to bring that confidence that I had with me in Binghamton."

The Railers have announced twenty-three players officially signed for the 2023-24 season as Schultz joins Jack Quinlivan, Chris Ordoobadi, Connor Welsh, Myles Abbate, Todd Goehring, Ryan Verrier, Andrei Bakanov, John Copeland, Zach White, Quinn Ryan, Christian Evers, Brendan Robbins, Mike Higgins, Blake Christensen, Blade Jenkins, Max Johnson, Nick Fea, Artyom Kulakov, Anthony Callin, Keeghan

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PACERS from page 7

his name on the scoring sheet for the first time by putting a shot into the left corner. Senior Daniel Lonczak was credited with the assist.

Wrisley also scored his team's next two goals on a tap in and a line-drive shot that deflected off the crossbar before landing in the net.

Yousif and Tiago Destapado, who's also a sophomore, assisted on those two goals, as Chicopee built a 4-0 lead 15 minutes into the contest.

Chicopee's fifth goal of the match was scored by senior Umaru Kamara five minutes later.

Wrisley capped off the Pacers first half scoring by weaving between a couple of defenders before firing a shot into the left corner for an unassisted goal giving his team a 6-0 advantage.

Holyoke finally broke the ice during the 22nd minute by converting a corner kick goal. Sophomore Christian Piedra booted the ball from the left corner and junior Arthur Mazzu directed the ball into the net past senior goalie Adam

Brunelle (2 saves) for his first varsity goal.

Holyoke's second goal was scored by senior Bradley Provost with a little more than five minutes remaining in the opening half. It was assisted by junior Xavier Matos.

At the start of the second half, senior Caleb Morrisette (2 saves) replaced Brunelle.

Chicopee sophomore Jason Gregoire scored a breakaway goal 22 seconds into the second half.

Wrisley capped off his memorable evening with another shot off the crossbar that landed in the back of the net.

With five minutes left in regulation, Rivera-Scott made a save on a penalty kick taken by Chicopee senior Nicholas Kendra.

A couple of days later, Chicopee High were shutout, 2-0, in the first meeting of the regular season against cross-town rival Chicopee Comp.

The second meeting of the regular season between the Purple Knights and the Pacers is scheduled to take place on October 12 at Holyoke High School.

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Chicopee Register



CHS's Air Force Junior ROTC marches on Chicopee Day at the Big E.



Chicopee's elected officials were invited to ride in the parade on "A Salute to Chicopee" at the Big E.

CHICOPEE DAY from page 1

honor," she said.

Mayor John Vieau participated in the parade for the third time in his position; the 2020 parade and Big E itself was cancelled by COVID-19. Vieau said it is an honor to serve as mayor of the city and that participating in the parade is something he does not take for granted. "This is such an amazing Eastern States Expo; it's a big deal, and to have Chicopee ROTC here looking sharp, professional and our bands with the brand-new uniforms really is promoting that Chicopee pride, and that's what it's about for me tonight. Chicopee pride," Vieau said.

Vieau recalled that in past years the city brought fire apparatus, police vehicles and DPW machines to West Springfield to participate in the parade. He also recalled the presence of local businesses, as in a past year kielbasas were thrown into the crowd.

While the Chicopee entourage didn't run as thick as it has in recent years, those who participated still had a great time. Vieau was most pleased for the students who got to march.

"I think that's a memory that you never forget," he said. "I remember my daughter being in the Chicopee Comp band, and we still talk about it; her preparation for the day and being involved in your first parade as a freshman is a big



This edition of Chicopee's Colleen Court experienced riding in the Big E parade on Chicopee Day for first time since as members of the court on Sept. 26.

deal so it's a memory for them. It's hopefully something they'll cherish for the rest of their lives."

Ward 2 City Councilor Shane Brooks will surely cherish participating in the parade for the rest of his life. When asked to summarize what Chicopee Day at the Big E is all about, he offered the following.

"I'd like to think it's a reflection of the pride that a lot of Chicopeeans have in

our community, and obviously (the Big E has) afforded us an opportunity to come and share that excitement with the fairgoers on usually Tuesday or Wednesday, the second week of the fair," Brooks said.

Both Vieau and Brooks commented on how beautiful the weather was on Tuesday. Brooks most enjoyed interacting with the constituents before, during and after the parade.

"The smiles on the faces of little kids are always great so it's one of the highlights of the week for me for sure," he said. "We're all here for the right reason tonight. It's to engage with the community and the fairgoers and really give young people, as evidenced by the bands marching and other clubs and folks representing Chicopee, an opportunity to shine, so that's all you could ask for."



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The Gonzalez Family, consisting of Jose, Isabella, Noah and Kimberlee, hold up their Dungeons & Dragons coloring pages and drawings during the Dungeons & Dragons Mixer at Chicopee Public Library.

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS from page 1

just leave the castle? What if I just don't want to do this?"

Brent Tenerowicz, the library's youth services associate, was excited to hold the event as he and Corrina Stokes, the library's youth services specialist, are big fans of Dungeons & Dragons.

Tenerowicz explained the game and franchise have grown in popularity in the last couple of years, especially with the show "Stranger Things" featuring the game.

"Being able to do anything related to D & D and being able to help anyone with it in any way is always just a huge high point for us, because we really like being able to get folks more interested into this game because of the freedom and creativity that it fosters," Tenerowicz said.

Tenerowicz said the library can help with support as they cannot run the games themselves, but they want to also

help others learn how to run their own games.

"If ever there were any kids, teens or adults who are interested in running a game for, you know, their kids or other people in the community, we're more than willing to help them if they have questions about it," Tenerowicz said.

Tenerowicz wants the community to know the library has resources available for players and is happy to support them in learning the game.

"We are always happy to help with any questions, and I just really want everyone to realize that whether they are brand new to playing or they've been playing for a while, we can offer so many resources for it and help folks save a bit of money because the rule books are not cheap, but we have access to a ton of the different expansion books," Tenerowicz said. "If there's ever a point where someone needs a particular D & D book, we can most certainly get it for them."

Blanchard, Letitia LaBelle



CHICOPEE -- Letitia LaBelle Blanchard passed away peacefully on July 26, 2023. Born and raised in Chicopee, she graduated from Holy Name High School in Chicopee in 1955. She leaves behind two sons, Albert (Rusty) Bassett and William Bassett. A memorial Mass was held for Letitia Sept. 25, 2023, at St Mary's Church on Somers Road in Hampden.

St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church to hold Armenian Food Festival Sept. 30

INDIAN ORCHARD -- St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church will hold its annual Armenian Food Festival on Saturday, Sept. 30, from noon to 5 p.m. at 135 Goodwin St., Indian Orchard, MA.

Visitors are invited to enjoy Armenian dinners including shish kebab and losh kebab along with rice pilaf. Baked goods will be featured such as paklava and spinach-cheese pie.

To place a take-out order or for more information, please call the church at (413) 543-4763.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on October 10/21/2023, 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.

2007 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 1NXBR32E17Z795938
Nestor Miranda Anaya
1580 Burr Oak Dr 8
Fayetteville, AK 72704

2006 Buick Lacrosse
VIN: 2G4WC582861305937
Marianna Flis
885 Harcourt Rd
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

2007 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFA15567H311277
Marie Clark
205 Southallen St 1B
Albany, NY 12208

2007 Honda Pilot
VIN: 2HKYF18687H534831
Jannira Alvarez
42 Florence St
Springfield, MA 01105

2020 Volkswagen Jetta Gli
VIN: 3VW6T7BU5LM022620
Brian Heaney
22 Notre Dame St
Hudson Falls, NY 12839

2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J4GS48K25C570460
Lucsimon Lindor
133 West St
Auburn, MA 01501

2008 Honda Fit Sport
VIN: JHMGD37648S013136
Eliezer Guerra Sanchez
595 E 170th St
Bronx, NY 10456

2004 Toyota Avalon
VIN: 4T1BF28B04U360582
Edgardo Martinez
32 Parkway Pl
Meriden, CT 06450

2007 Kia Rondo
VIN: KNAFG525377088360
Andres Felipe Castro
Calanche
1143 41st St W
Birmingham, AL 35208

2006 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL11DX6C256985
Gerardo Alfredo Flores Cruz
351 E Marshall St
Norristown, PA 19401

2009 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL24E59C197567
Ricardo Gonsales
40 Clinton St
Manchester, CT 06040

2003 Toyota Sequoia
VIN: 5TDBT44A23S184515
Daisy Santiago
26 Cutler St
Worcester, MA 01604

2009 Chevrolet Silverado
VIN: 1GCEK39J59Z267236
Alayna Garcia
202 State Route 365
Remsen, NY 13438

09/29, 10/06, 10/13/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23C0283CA

In the matter of:
Branden John Howie
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Branden John Howie of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Mary-Jane Howie
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/26/2023.**

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

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

Date: September 27, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/29/2023

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 October 10/1/2023, 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.

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VIN: 1FTNW21L43EB42738
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

2011 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCP2F42BA111050
Destiny Kamroski
40 Price St.
Springfield, MA 01104

2007 Chrysler Sebring Touring
VIN: 1C3LCS56K97N547151
Juan River
67 Park St.
Chicopee, MA 01020

2005 Infiniti FX35
VIN: JNRAS08W05X203458
Justin Illslex
128 Beech St.
Tewksbury, MA 01876

2003 Chevrolet Avalanche K1500A
VIN: 3GNEK13T73G307944
Wayne Doucette
190 Richmond Rd.
Coventry, CT 06238

2006 Hyundai Elantra Gls
VIN:

KMHDN46D06U365909
Rene Sokoll
76 Entrybrook Drive
Springfield, MA 01108

2013 Ford Transit
VIN: NM0LS7CN3DT158986
Unknown
Unknown
Unknown

2007 Chevrolet Malibu
VIN: 1G1ZT57F37F289784
Shamyya Washington
119 Main St. Apt. 11
South Hadley, MA 01075

2008 Dodge Avenger Se
VIN: 1B3LC46J28N144158
Shawn Mcgrath
129 Moss Rd.
Springfield, MA 01119
2009 Nissan Altima

VIN: JF1GPAB60G8259994
Jose Arismael Hernandez
12 Beacon St.
Burlington, MA 01803

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Thorndike, MA 01079

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Diana Ortiz
5 Frederick St., Apt. 1
Westfield, MA 01085

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Tricia Quarles
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Boston, MA 02121

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Zaka Merhni
11952 Reedy Creek Dr.,
Apt. 104
Orlando, FL 32836

2001 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BR12E11C408267
James Odonnell
9 Cedar St. 3L,
Taunton, MA 02780

09/15, 09/22, 09/29/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23C0284CA
In the matter of:
Christopher Alexander Roberson
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Christopher Alexander Roberson of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Cristoforo Alexander Luciano
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/25/2023.**

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

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

Date: September 27, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/29/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P1920EA
Estate of:
Ernest J Robidoux
Date of Death: 08/22/2023
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 **Lori A Silva of Palmer, 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: **Lori A Silva of Palmer, 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 10/12/2023.**

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: September 14, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/29/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD21P0995PM
In the matter of:
Robert D Zulkiewicz of Chicopee, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/
Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **First and Final** account(s) of **Alison Bartlett-O'Donald** of Holyoke, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **10/27/2023.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

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

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by regis-

tered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

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

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

Date: September 22, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/29/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD23P1932EA
Estate of:
CHARLES THEODORE SHADDOCK
Also Known As:
CHARLES T. SHADDOCK
Date of Death:
June 30, 2023
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Yvonne Campbell of Springfield, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Yvonne Campbell of Springfield, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve *without* surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
09/29/2023

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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- 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.

RAILERS from page 8

Howdeshell, Adam Goodsir, and Anthony Repaci as the twenty-three signees. This concludes the Worcester Railers signings ahead of the 2023-24 season. The team's professional tryouts & full

training camp roster are expected to be announced next week.

The Worcester Railers HC 2023-24 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Saturday, Oct. 21 and Sunday, Oct. 22 vs. the Adirondack Thunder and Trois-Rivieres Lions. Season memberships, mini-plans, and group packages for the 2023-24 season are on sale now by calling the Railers front office at 508-365-1750 or by visiting RailersHC.com.

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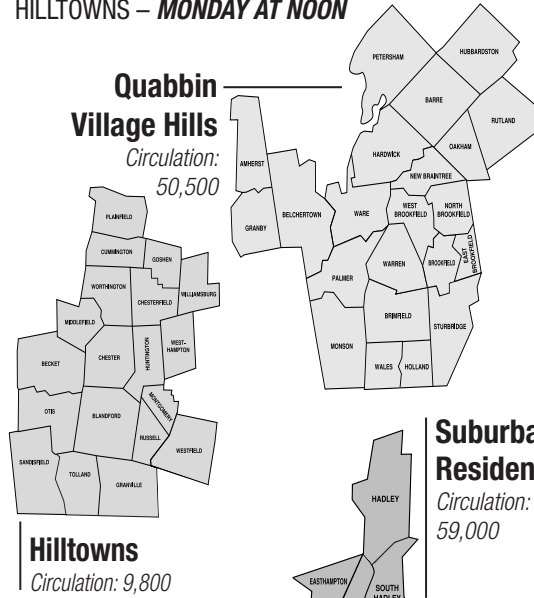
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Local businesses add flavor to the Big E

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

WEST SPRINGFIELD – When the Big E comes to town, it highlights the opportunity of getting to know the businesses in your communities.

Food and beverages are by far the most consumed products at the Eastern States Exposition (known as the Big E) as many local restaurants, breweries, farms and culinary artists offered up their work to thousands of people.

Inside the Massachusetts State Building on the Big E grounds was Common Ground Ciderworks of North Brookfield. The brewery set the stage providing delicious refreshments including cider and wine along with branded apparel showcasing the uniqueness of their brand.

Not only does Common Ground brew multiple flavors of cider, but it also brews seltzer, wine and beer. In addition, the Common Ground Brewery located at 31 East Brookfield Road also offers coffee.

Throughout their time at the Big E, Common Ground has gotten a lot of positive reception as Cindy Larson, owner of both Common Ground and Hitchcock Tavern in West Brookfield expressed the uniqueness of their local flair.

“It’s a neighborhood thing,” said Larson referring to the community based brewery that appreciates and supports everything local.

Having a popular selection of hand-crafted hard cider, the one that stands out the most to the customers is the Apple Danish Hard Cider.

Enjoying their second year at the Big



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Customers lined up to try Macken's Specialty Sliders out of Southwick.

E, Common Ground Ciderworks has a lot lined up in the fall. On Saturday, Sept. 30, Common Ground will be hosting the Friends of the North Brookfield Town House's Oktoberfest fundraiser.

For Halloween themed fun, the brewery will be having a Spook Walk at the end of October.

Common Ground Ciderworks also supports local organizations including the Michael Pecha Cancer Fund.

Common Ground Ciderworks can be followed on Facebook and on Instagram or by calling 508-637-1059. A new website is in the making for the local brewery.

For a good meal while wandering the grounds of the Big E, a family-owned food truck, Macken's Specialty Sliders was the place to go. Based in Southwick, Macken's Sliders offer specialty sliders from beef, pork, chicken and vegetarian options.

Their food truck travels to various locations, including cities such as Springfield, Hartford, Connecticut and other locations in western Massachusetts. James Macken was running the food truck as they appeared at the Big E for their third year.

Macken and his family established the food truck business in 2016 and was motivated by a family celebration. The view of everyone's enjoyment while cooking on the grill sparked an idea in Macken's mind.

“I thought, how amazing would it be if I could make this into my career,” said Macken.

Keeping it local, Macken's Sliders work with local suppliers to get their delicious burgers and their meats are 100% natural. The most common sites to spot Macken's Sliders are local breweries, festivals, parties, and corporate and private catering events.

The headliner of their menu was the legendary Bacon Waffle Cheeseburger. Ingredients include 100% all beef, applewood smoked bacon, topped with cheddar cheese between two Belgian waffles with sugar baked into the waffles. The burger was so popular it received an award for the number one new food to try at the Big E in 2021.

A portion of the proceeds from sales of Macken's Sliders merchandise is donated to Cystinosis Research. Macken's Sliders also offer discounts to active members of the military, police and fire departments.

To learn more about Macken's Sliders, visit them at www.mackenssliders.com or call 413-273-7271.

REGION

Pawzaar Craft Fair

Event to benefit the Foundation for TJO Animals

SPRINGFIELD -- The annual Pawzaar Craft Fair is a signature event for the Foundation for TJO Animals. It is a local craft fair that attracts some of the Pioneer Valley's finest crafters, along with hundreds of animal loving patrons, all to benefit homeless animals in the community.

The event will be held in the parking lot of the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

There will be 30 vendors, great raffles, Jeannies Weenies and Fat City Kid food trucks, music provided by Visual Sound Productions, pet merchandise for sale, bake sale and more. Special guests Jonathan Hall and Toto the Tornado Kitten will be stopping by for the afternoon.

Proceeds go directly to the medical care and treatment for Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center animals in need.

More information is available on www.tjofoundation.org, by emailing info@tjofoundation.org or by calling 413.306.5161

NYC Bus Trip Dec. 9

LUDLOW - Come and spend Saturday, Dec. 9, for a day in NYC on a 36-passenger King-Gray coach bus and spend the day shopping, sightseeing or museum hopping. The roundtrip fare is \$77 and includes the driver's gratuity.

Participants will arrive at 6:45 am at Ludlow High School's parking lot at 500 Chapin St. for a prompt 7 a.m. departure. There will be one rest stop going to NYC and one coming home.

The bus will drop passengers off in Times Square. Note: Departure from NYC will be 6 p.m. from the New York Palace Hotel (formerly The Helmsley Palace) on 455 Madison Avenue at 50th Street.

Send check made to Gloria Fortunato, 52 Deer Run, Belchertown, Mass. 01007. In the notation section of the check, write your cell phone number.

Deadline for seat reservation is Nov. 11 and a wait list will be kept. Thank you, and we look forward to having you join us.

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