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Chicopee Register

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Community pride on Chicopee Day at The Big E

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WEST SPRINGFIELD - The community came out in full force to celebrate Chicopee Day at The Big E on Sept. 29.

The annual parade included the Chicopee High School and Chicopee Comprehensive High School bands, CCHS cheerleaders and CHS color guard, members of the Air Force Junior ROTC, the 2026 Chicopee Colleen and her court, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), State Sen.

See CHICOPEE DAY page 6



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

tendees wave and celebrate as the Chicopee contingent rides in the trolley for the parade on Chicopee Day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TANNER DEMERS

The visit to Chicopee Comprehensive High School also included checking out the Career Technical Education programs.

DESE Commissioner visits schools

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Pedro Martinez, a commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, visited Chicopee on Sept. 28 to tour the local schools.

The visits took place at Bellamy Middle School and Chicopee Comprehensive High School, where Martinez and DESE leadership were joined by Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware and local and state elected officials visiting classrooms, meeting students and educators and learning about and experiencing the district's ongoing work of supporting student achievement, belonging and success.

At Bellamy, the visits included classrooms and learning about work around student discourse, student-led classrooms, community building and student belonging.

At Comp, the focus was on several aspects of the high school experience, including Career Technical Education, the school's term incentive system, Yondr pouches and FLEX Block.

Martinez expressed excitement for the opportunity to visit the schools.

"I love going out and just seeing what's happening in our schools, and as I always say, you can't do this work from an office. You really got to go see," Martinez said. "Right now, we're see-

See DESE COMMISSIONER page 5

Small Planet Dancers perform 'Emerald Road' at library

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Earlier this summer, the Small Planet Dancers from Westfield filled the library's Henry Bazan Community Room to standing-room-only capacity for "Emerald Road," a tribute show celebrating Irish and Scottish dance, and it didn't disappoint.

The troupe, originally known as Maple Run, was established in 1986 and continues to be a performing dance troupe that entertains in Western Massachusetts and throughout New England at fairs, festivals, fundraisers, community events and private functions. They are known for covering a wide variety of international and ethnic dances with special emphasis on Middle Eastern or Belly Dancing, Celtic, Flamenco, African, Clogging, Argentine Tango, and the history of American dance, including Black history.

Reflecting on the performance, Josephine Sarnelli, Artistic Director and Founder of the troupe, explained that "Emerald Road" was a show



TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Two performers from the show, posing for a photo after the show.

she and her team felt they wanted to give another shot.

"We tend to introduce other performances, but every once in a while, we like to rejuvenate old programs, and thought why not bring back this one," Sarnelli said.

The captivating perfor-

See SMALL PLANET page 8



TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Faith Hart-Berton with Crocheted Creations was also among the vendors.

The Arbors hosts Annual Craft Fair

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The Arbors held their Annual Craft Fair on Oct. 3, with local small businesses gathered for a day of community.

There was a raffle and bake sale, with Lorriane's Soup Kitchen was the beneficiary of the fundraiser for the event.

Marketing Director Allyson Grammo expressed excitement for the event.

"It's a team effort to get community vendors, people make crafts, small businesses, just to come into our smaller community. We do think it's a good opportunity for people to come into our community and see the Arbors too. Just making contacts, I think a lot of people know The Arbors, so some people come to us. We do have one resident who has a table here. I'm just kind of coordinating all of that and just getting a word out for things." Grammo said.

Grammo said the event provided an opportunity for the community to see what was out there for them.

See ARBORS page 8

Chicopee educators slam School Committee for PROTECT Act hesitancy

Board has not adopted state-mandated policy

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Gov. Maura Healey's PROTECT Act continues to spark controversy in Chicopee, where the School Committee has yet to put in place the policy she ordered.

Signed by Healey in August, the PROTECT Act prohibits federal immigration enforcement activity and civil arrests on public school property, and other locations, in Massachusetts without a judicial warrant or order.

It further requires School Committees to adopt policies outlining what procedures should be followed if a federal agent attempts to gain access to a student on school grounds.

The School Committee has had several opportunities to adopt its policy in accordance with state law, but enough board members have voted against the action that it has not been authorized.

Those on the committee who are against adopting a PROTECT Act policy voiced hesitancy regarding the law's conflict with federal statutes that were put into place by President Donald Trump.

Either way, Mayor John Vieau, who chairs the School Committee, made it clear Wednesday night that the group is actively violating state mandate.

"This is back on our agenda because we are, as a School Committee, now in violation of state law," Vieau said. "It can only be brought back up for a motion of reconsideration by one of the members who voted no at the last meeting, and only one of those members is present. So, that would have to come from Mr. Benard."

Still, Ward 9 Committee Member Ron Benard wouldn't budge.

"I'm not going to entertain to make a new motion to discuss it again," Benard said.

Long before that brief sequence unfolded at the end of the meeting, several Chicopee educators spoke out against the School Committee's inaction during the public speaking portion near the beginning.

The most prevalent voice was Dr. Will Kulig, a city resident and science teacher at Chicopee Comprehensive High School. He is also co-president of the Chicopee Education Association, which represents all the district's teachers.

Kulig expressed that students deserve to know that the adults responsible for their safety during the school day have a clear, consistent and legally current plan for protection.

He said the district in Chicopee is not "starting from zero" and that similar procedures already exist.

"Our administrators and staff already understand that these situations need to be handled carefully and through the appropriate chain of command," Kulig said.

According to Kulig, it shouldn't be about "reinventing our practices" but instead updating policies to ensure they match state law.

"And that clarity matters when most circumstances may be uncertain," Kulig said.

Kulig noted that when an incident occurs, a teacher should not have to turn into an attorney. He said a paraprofessional should not be tasked either with determining the arresting authority of a federal agent.

See PROTECT ACT page 10

IN THE CITY

Top Notch Barber Lounge opens in Chicopee

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Top Notch Barber Lounge officially opened its doors in Chicopee on Sept. 1.

The barber lounge is located at 257 Hampden St. and offers facials, haircuts, senior haircuts, eyebrows, steamers, designs, and more.

They are open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and recommend walk-in appointments.

Mayor John Vieau wished Jose Rodriguez, the owner, the best on the opening.

"I wish you success, good health, prosperity and wealth. Investing in Chicopee always pays dividends. It's a great move. I know you're from Holyoke, but you're getting that Chicopee pride," Vieau said. "I feel it. I feel that Chicopee pride and it's something special, so help me spread it."

Ward 2 City Councilor Shane Brooks also offered his congratulations.

"Welcome to the neighborhood. This is always kind of been the forgotten component of Ward 2, so now Hampden Street with Vitality and the residential housing, small shops like this are going to be a need to the community with the detailing, the haircuts. So, just remember our kids and remember our seniors. You'll do very well," Brooks said.

After Tevin Colon, aide to State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), presented a citation on behalf of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Rodriguez reflected on coming back to the city.

"Coming back to Chicopee, like the mayor said, I'm from Holyoke, but Chicopee is a lot to me. Has been a blessing to me, my family, my coworkers, employees, people that work with me, and I never thought that it would happen in the way that it happened. I have been detailing and owning the barbershop I never thought it would be like that again because I stopped cutting hair for about five years," Rodriguez said. "This today, is actually my first day back to cutting hair, so it's awesome that it's in Chicopee."

Rodriguez said he looks forward to serving the residents and shared why he came back.

"Just the hospitality of Chicopee and how Chicopee's always embraced me as a barber. I've been cutting hair for 13 years and most of those years have been in Chicopee, and due to the fact that it has been in Chicopee, I've always received love from the community, love from all the people that I've cut hair are mostly from Chicopee," Rodriguez said. "So, that's what made me come back, and I said, 'You know what, this time I don't just want to come back to as a barber. I want to come back as an investor both as a business and to the community.'"



Jose Rodriguez, owner of Top Notch Barber Lounge, and his wife, Mia Rosario, with the citation from the Massachusetts State House of Representatives.

Rodriguez was inspired to become a barber to better his life, having had a rough background that involved jail and imprisonment. What most fulfills his work is impacting the lives of each person through a haircut, offering counsel, boosting morale and confidence and offering resources.

"I wanted to change my life. I wanted to give my kids and other kids hope that there's something that you can do other than being in the streets and doing criminal type of activity. That there's something positive you can do in your life. God gave me the opportunity to change mine; they also have that opportunity and be that hopeful," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez also expressed gratitude for the community support.

"It's like a dream come true. It may seem small to other people, but for me, it's super big," Rodriguez said. "I never thought that I'd ever be a business owner, so to have the state and the city and the mayor and his office, etc, come here and support me is super big because I never thought of being here. But, now we're here."



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

An exterior shot of Top Notch Barber Lounge on Hampden Street in Chicopee.

On inspiring the next generation of barbers, he said this.

"If you have a dream, if you have a vision, don't be afraid. Just go for it. Don't worry about what the naysayers may say. Believe in yourself, trust in yourself and the biggest one: trust that God's going to give you the path for you to walk through it, and you'll be successful in the end as long as you got it," Rodriguez said.

His message was this.

"I'm excited to meet you guys. I'm looking forward to that, both me and the guys that are here. We're super excited to meet with you guys and engage with you guys and build with you guys new and fun memories," Rodriguez said.

To learn more, check out their Facebook page. A website is in the works and a new phone number is coming soon.

Chicopee, Westover launching grant-funded safety effort

The city and military base are partnering up.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Chicopee is partnering with Westover Air Reserve Base on a safety initiative that is federally funded by more than $410,000, which was accepted and appropriated Tuesday night by the City Council.

The money comes from the Department of Defense's Local Defense Community Cooperation Fiscal Year 2026 Installation Grant and was unanimously approved by the board.

The funding will be used to create an infrastructure assessment aimed at strengthening community readiness on the Air Force base and in the areas surrounding it.

Mayor John Vieau said Tuesday he was excited to learn that the city received the funding and that Chicopee will work closely with Westover in various capacities throughout this process.

"We have infrastructure that we share, whether it be our sewer lines, our portable water, electricity; we're sharing intimately with Westover," Vieau said. "The partnership and collaboration that we have now is better than it's ever been. We're at war and want to [contribute to] readiness for them and make sure there's no hiccups that come from the city side."

Vieau also announced that Chicopee joined the Association of Defense Communities, which connects close to 300 communities throughout the country that are tied to major military bases.

"Being a host base city and having a base here in our community is something that [made us] feel the need to join, which also opens us up to other grant opportunities," Vieau added.

City Planner Lee Pouliot presented virtually on Tuesday and echoed Vieau's excitement. He said that the grant award is a long time coming.

"We've been working on it for almost two years to get to an award, so tonight represents some pretty significant staff efforts and coordination with Jack Magnus from Westover as well," Pouliot said.

The department head identified that the goal of the readiness program is to "identify infrastructural vulnerabilities both on-base and off-base in the host community that would impact the base's ability to rebound after an [emergency]."

Pouliot noted that those involved will be studying infrastructure systems both on-base and off-base to find vulnerabilities and address them.

Following the completion of the plan, Chicopee will be eligible to apply for larger implementation grants from the Department of Defense through the same program.

"So, this planning effort, while it will take us a little bit of time to complete, will make us eligible in the long-term for some pretty significant capital funds that we would like to access. Those capital funds will be able to support both on and off-base infrastructure improvements that are recommended in the plan," Pouliot said.

Pouliot also acknowledged he is "anxious" to see this process move forward, given how much time his department invested in landing the grant.

When speaking to the councilors, he outlined how the grant works financially, mapping it down to the last dollar. He is confident the money will make a difference down the road.

"The grant award is for $369,043. There's a 10% cash match, which is $41,005, so the overall project value is $410,048," Pouliot said. "So, again, we'll be reimbursed for 90% of the planning effort here. And, what's critical is that we become eligible as a community to access these infrastructure grants for capital improvements in the future."

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Election letters must be received by Oct. 21

The Chicopee Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's state election by writing letters to the editor for publication.

Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Chicopee Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to krivers@turley.com by noon on Wednesday, Oct. 21 to be published in the Friday, Oct. 23 edition. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

Letter writers need to provide their name and the town they reside in.

Please include a daytime telephone number (for verification purposes only) when submitting your letter. Your phone number will not be printed.

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Nichols College Chicopee graduates

DUDLEY - Nichols College congratulates the 2026 graduating class, who earned their academic degrees at the College's commencement ceremony on May 2, 2026, at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass. Delcie D. Bean IV, founder and CEO of Paragus IT, an employee-owned managed information technology (IT) services firm that is one of the most successful, fastest-growing IT firms in the region, delivered the commencement address.

The following Chicopee students earned the degrees listed: Sierra Golden earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Leon Lopez earned a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership

IN THE CITY

Chicopee schools participate in training with Project Bread

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Earlier this summer, on Aug. 25, more than 90 Chicopee Public Schools nutrition staff members gathered at Chicopee Comprehensive High School for hands-on culinary training led by Project Bread, marking another milestone in a continued partnership focused on overall student wellness.

Sam Icklan, director of Community Nutrition Services at Project Bread, praised the district's proactive and innovative approach.

"We are incredibly grateful for our longstanding partnership with the Chicopee School Nutrition Department. Their team consistently demonstrates creativity, dedication, and a willingness to embrace new ideas," Icklan said. "Together, we've been able to develop innovative recipes, explore new training topics, and strengthen an already outstanding school meal program. Many of the successful strategies, recipes, and resources developed through our work with Chicopee have helped inform and inspire school nutrition programs across Massachusetts."

Melanie Wilk, RDN, director of Food Service for Chicopee Public Schools, detailed what inspired the district to move away from traditional school lunches in favor of farm-fresh quality, experimentation and restaurant-style entrees.

"Chicopee has always been willing to try new things and look for ways to improve the student meal experience, so I think that makes us a natural partner for organizations like Project Bread," Wilk said. "We serve a diverse student population across 15 schools, and we have a food service team that is willing to experiment, listen to student feedback, and continually improve what we offer, while also relying on taste tests that have become an integral part of our process because we want students to have a voice in what ultimately makes it onto the menu."

Wilk added that under the district's ChicopeeFRESH initiative, those efforts have translated directly onto the lunch tray.

"Students may see items such as chicken shawarma or lemon chicken bowls made with local chicken from Reed Farm in Sunderland, baked ziti with local ground beef from Austin Ridge Acres in Belchertown, teriyaki ramen stir fry, 'poke' bowls using local fish sticks from Red's Best, and other globally inspired meals alongside familiar student favorites," Wilk said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PROJECT BREAD

Chef Educator Ryan Eckles and Sam Icklan, Director of Community Nutrition Services from Project Bread, led a hands-on training on batch cooking, cost-saving techniques, and reducing food waste in school kitchens to help nearly 90 members of Chicopee Public Schools' nutrition team kick off the new school year.

During the training session, staff members put those batch cooking methods into practice by preparing a test dish of birria chicken quesadillas—a recipe that has since rolled out onto menus as the school year got underway, showing the vision being implemented in real time.

Beyond the rotating menus, Wilk noted that the district is continually expanding its agricultural partnerships.

"At the same time, we have continued to expand our farm-to-school efforts," Wilk said. "We work with local farms, food hubs, and regional producers, and we have even grown lettuce right inside one of our schools through our Flex Farm program. That project allowed students to see the connection between growing food and actually eating it in their cafeteria."

She also outlined challenges that have arisen under the new directives, chief among them balancing increasingly strict nutrition standards with student palatability, acknowledging that costs remain a significant hurdle.

"Higher-quality products, locally sourced foods, and items with simpler ingredient lists can often cost more while school nutrition programs still have to operate within very real financial constraints," Wilk said. "So, we are constantly looking at how we can maximize the federal and state reimbursement we receive and make thoughtful purchasing decisions so that we can continue improving food quality without compromising the financial sustainability of the program."

Wilk's message was that even though the perception of school lunch has shifted and elevated to a point of relevance, the core mission remains the same.

"Ultimately, our goal with ChicopeeFRESH is pretty simple: we want students to look forward to coming into the cafeteria," Wilk said. "And we want them to find food that is fresh, nutritious, culturally diverse, and familiar enough that they feel comfortable trying it, because we have to remember that school meals are an important part of the school day, and we want the cafeteria to be a place where students feel welcomed and cared for."

Safety departments are focus of several City Council items

CPD is getting new police K-9, hose bridges coming to CFD

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Whether they're a police officer or firefighter, those who work for Chicopee's public safety departments had a reason to smile if they tuned in to Tuesday's City Council meeting.

By approving orders from Mayor John Vieau, the board accepted gifts donated to the fire department and police department respectively.

Before those items were discussed, however, the City Council tackled a mayoral order stemming from the fire department's request to replace language in its roster ordinance.

Under the proposed revision, the roster would consist of one fire chief, six deputy chiefs, 14 captains, 23 lieutenants, 105 firefighters, one administrative operations manager, one principal clerk, one fire technical/general foreman and one motor equipment repairman.

The only difference in the new language would be the addition of a deputy chief – going from five to six – and the subtraction of a lieutenant – going from 24 to 23.

Fire Chief Matthew Cross was on-hand to explain the request to convert the lieutenant position to deputy fire chief.

He said that the department's fire prevention division has operated with two captains and two lieutenants. However, one of the lieutenants, who spent about a decade in the division, is now retired.

Meanwhile, the other lieutenant is looking to return to a regular shift, so Cross said two brand new lieutenants are set to join the division.

"And, with our emerging technologies, battery energy storage systems and the high-rise building we have going behind our station, I would like to change one of the captains. Instead of two captains, we have a deputy and a captain to provide some leadership and consistency in that division," Cross said.

The fire chief added that it would be prudent in terms of ensuring proper leadership is present.

"I think it would be really good for us to be proactive instead of reactive," Cross said. "It will not create any extra staffing. It's just changing the captain to a deputy chief, so we'll have a chief officer to lead that division."

Ultimately, the City Council unanimously voted to send the item to the Ordinance Subcommittee for a future public meeting, where it will be discussed further.

Now, here are two of the gifts accepted by the board, thanks to the generosity of the community.

First, the City Council unanimously accepted a $2,025 donation from the Rotary Charitable Foundation to the fire department.

The money will be spent on purchasing a pair of hose bridges, which are used to cover hoses that are spread across the road at the scene of a fire. This enables vehicles to travel over them.

Cross said the equipment will be kept on the training and safety apparatus so that it can be available whenever needed. He also gave the backstory on how the donation came to be.

"A member of the Rotary Club was at the state park brush fire we had, and he was wondering what would happen if we had an emergency down the street. Our hose lines ran across Slate Road," Cross said. "So, he wanted to donate [the hose bridges] to us. We told him we would have a use for them, and it would be to get an ambulance or another emergency apparatus over those hose lines without interrupting our operations."

The board also unanimously accepted the donation of a police K-9 to the police department from the Hometown Foundation. The donation has a value of nearly $15,000.

"We're getting a new dog," Vieau said, with a smile.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier is thrilled to welcome the new police K-9 to the city.

"This is a wonderful donation of a police K-9 and all the accessories that go with it," Balakier said. "This is a dog that is coming from the Hometown Foundation, and this will enhance our K-9 program."

The Hometown Foundation is a Connecticut-based nonprofit.

Its Police K-9 Program is a charitable initiative that exists to donate fully trained and equipped police K-9s to law enforcement at no cost.

The new dog will join a team of highly trained K-9s that already work with the police department.

"I believe we will now have four K-9 dogs to help us with police work," Balakier said.

Think Make Move program

CHICOPEE – Drop-in STEM, Art and Gym for ages 2.9 to five years old on Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. at Szetela School, 66 Macek Dr. Chicopee.

STEM: Oct. 7 – Nov. 18: Explore simple science, building and problem-solving through age-appropriate hands-on activities.

Art: Dec. 2 – Jan. 20: Create, imagine and express with colors, textures and various materials.

Gym and Movement: Jan. 27 – April 7: Jump, climb, balance, run and move while building coordination, strength and confidence.

Contact Shane at (413) 310-1632 or Silvia at (413) 505-9053.

Children must attend with an adult.

Funded by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Wiggles and Giggles program

CHICOPEE - Bring your little one to enjoy a class of music, movement, story time and play time with Music and Movement for ages 3 months to 18 months. Siblings are welcome.Drop-in and No cost to families. Fridays for 10 weeks 10 to 11 a.m. Sept. 18, 25 , Oct. 2, 9,16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13 and 20.It is never too early to begin your child's music education.

Where: OHANA Clubhouse, 43 Sheridan St., Chicopee. For information with Mrs. Silvia: Cell 413-505-9053 or e-mail: DurandS@headstart.org

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OPINION

Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

This month's story is quite the Random Act of Kindness! I don't know whether it should include, "She'd give you the shirt (coat) off her back" or Dolly Pardon's song, "Coat of many colors".

I first met Tangie Jackson as we were checking out of the supermarket and I complimented her on her beautiful flannel blue plaid coat. She accepted the compliment saying she had one in every color! We each cashed out going our separate ways, or so I thought. I went to back out and a car was blocking me, then out jumps Tangie with an orange and beige plaid coat draped over her arm. She excitedly came up to me and said she wanted me to try it on because she wanted me to have it! I did resist her offer but she was so animated, I decided to oblige. Perfect fit! I argued that I couldn't take her coat asking, why she would do something like that. Her explanation, "I'm from Mississippi (born there and moved to MA when she was 3½) and we do this kind of thing. I believe when you give, it comes back tenfold". To say this wasn't an awkward encounter I would be lying, but she just has such a fun and warm demeaner, it was infectious. In the end I accepted the coat which I love and in turn told her about my articles and asked if I could feature her in one. She agreed, we met for lunch, enjoyed the conversation covering many topics and shared many laughs. And now I'm going to tell you more about this incredibly generous person that I was so privileged to have cross my path.

Tangie certainly is not a stranger to tragedy in her life and is currently the sole care giver for her mom whose health is declining. She had 4 siblings that unfortunately have all passed, she lost her husband seven years ago and also her youngest daughter a year later at the very young age of 29. She passed from a rare heart disease that is unfortunately a genetic defect passed down from Tangie's maternal grandmother. Tangie's oldest daughter doesn't have this gene, but unfortunately both Tangie and her granddaughter do.

What an amazing attitude she has! She teared talking about her daughter's passing saying, "I'm so blessed to have had her for 29 years and she blessed me with my grandbaby," Her granddaughter lives in NJ with her dad but Tangie is very involved in her life enjoying regular visits during school vacations.

Her daughters were very close and began a 501C3 charity called 'Willis Way'. This charity adopted six families every Christmas and supplied all the needs of these families. Such an inspiration with lessons they learned from watching their mom. The truest example of giving back.

Tangie is involved with the Elks and not only helps fill backpacks but supplies items for them each year. Tangie reminisced as she spoke of her grandmother who always told her, "If you're able to give back to family & community, there is always someone worse off than yourself."

She took that to heart and became a Foster Mother to many kids for the duration of three months to 3 years. The longest was for a teen girl for three and half years. The young girl never went back to 'juvie' which unfortunately doesn't happen often. She helped her get into STCC and encouraged her to become her best self. She generally took in girls having two girls herself, but she did take in a five-year-old non-verbal boy who was eventually returned to his mom.

Tangie has been a CNA and in fact had her own agency for years helping community residents who needed help with home care.

Her Godbrother owns IKANDY and she often volunteers to advertise and promote events for him. She loves line dancing and if you're in her presence, be ready to dance and have fun! These events could have you taking a trail ride, taking part of a soul night, creating a double Dutch jumping competition or her emceeing a musical event. Her favorite style of music is 'Southern Soul' which she explained is similar to country music. She is a vivacious and energetic soul herself with a contagious personality.

Tangie truly is a beautiful person inside and out. She has also done modeling while volunteering with the Dunbar Community. She boasted she cooks a mean chicken pot pie, pineapple upside down-cake and sweet potato pie. I'm ready for dinner!

She truly is a woman with a huge heart and many facets to her personality, just such a pleasure to be around. In spite of life's hardships, she's such an inspiration with her positive beliefs.

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, you did or maybe received something nice being done for you.

See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness! ~ Barb

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

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Friends with more questions

In the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



The threat of night time temperatures in the 30s sure have us gardeners on the move.

I had a few questions from friends this week that pertained to the change in seasons. Read on; maybe you can relate!

One of my friends asked if she should harvest all of her unripe peppers, and if they would continue to ripen indoors.

Peppers will only continue to fully ripen (i.e. change from green to their ripe color) if they are showing a hint of their ripe color. They definitely won't be as sweet as if they ripened on the vine, and they will lose a little of their mass as they sit, but they would still be a great addition to a stir fry or sauce.

I generally harvest all of my unripe peppers and keep them one layer deep in my cool mudroom, using or discarding as I go.

Another question came in about the use of Neem as an insecticide. My friend put her houseplants outdoors for the summer months and is concerned about bringing hitch-hikers inside where plants will be in close quarters.

We always spray tender plants such as Rosemary or Bay with Safer's Soap or a Sun oil before returning them to the greenhouse for the winter.

Neem works a bit differently but like the others is also a less toxic approach. Neem oil comes from the Neem tree (Azadirachta indica), which grows naturally in India and Southeast Asia.

It is an effective pesticide, miticide and fungicide for both indoor and outdoor plants. You can buy it ready to use or in oil form which needs to be mixed with water and a small amount of dish detergent right before use. This will help it blend nicely and disperse evenly.

Neem is effective against spider mite, white flies, scale, mealybug and aphids – all of which are typical houseplant pests. It kills them by disrupting their reproductive cycles and feeding patterns.

My advice would be to spray in the shade or when skies are overcast since sometimes neem can cause a phytotoxic effect and it can kill bees if sprayed directly. Always spray a small area of the plant first as a test, and if no damage is visible a day later, coat the surface and undersides of the leaves as well as the stem.

Using this approach, clean plants will delight my friend's window sills this fall and winter.

My coworker kept joking with me that a plant that she was gifted would never, ever bloom. Well, I kept watch over the neighbor's, checking in on its progress.

About two weeks ago I informed her that flowers were on the way. She finally sent me a picture of her plant and it was following suit.

First buds and then flowers! Yay!

The plant in question is The Nippon Daisy, better known as the Montauk Daisy (Nipponanthemum nipponicum). When most flowers are calling it quits, this late season perennial is just getting started.

The plant is shrub-like, so it blends in well in the landscape with bushes or other specimen perennials, growing 1.5-3 feet tall and 3-5 feet wide. It looks like a regular white daisy, only more robust.

Enjoy them now through the first heavy frost. Plant in full sun; cut back a bit in the spring to keep them growing upright. It is both deer and rabbit resistant.

I hope that you enjoy these timely, friendly questions.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

In my Backyard

By Ellenor Downer

Common Nighthawk



eBird reported recent sightings of common nighthawks at the Rutland Prison Camps in Rutland and in Worcester.

The common nighthawk is a medium sized (8.7 to 9.8 inches long) nocturnal bird of the nightjar family found in both the Americas. It is typically dark colored: gray, black or brown with intricate patterns providing camouflage and making them difficult to spot during daytime.

They are mostly observed in flight. The slender body, long wings (wing span 20 to 24 inches) and white wing patches on the wings make them easy to identify.

Although they have a small beak, there mouth is large. They have noticeable barring on their sides and abdomen and short legs.

Its life span is about four to five years. The males of this species may roost together, but the bird is primarily solitary.

The common nighthawk is the only nighthawk occurring over the majority of northern North America. During migration common nighthawks may travel 1,600 to 4,200 miles, one of North America's longer migrations.

They migrate by day or night in loose flocks, frequently numbering in the thousands. An aerial insectivore, the migrants will feed en route and congregate in marshes, rivers and lakeshores.

The best time to see them during migration is in late afternoon into the evening.

During flight, their vocalization is a nasal "peent" or "beernt." Peak vocalizations are reported 30 to 45 minutes after sunset. The male makes a croaking "auk auk auk" in the presence of a female during courtship.

Night time feeding is rare. The most common insects in their diets are butterflies and moths. They actively avoid eating flies.

Artificial light sources such as parking lots attracts them in an effort to forage for insects enticed by the light. They even fly extremely low over the surface of water to drink.

Nighthawks preferred breeding and nesting habitat is forested regions with rocky outcrops, clearings, burned areas or spots with small patches of sand gravel.

The female lays six to seven eggs on a bare rock, gravel or even in lichens. Both male and female feed the young are by regurgitation usually before sunrise and after sunset. The male also feeds the female during nesting.

Sandhill crane

After writing about sandhill cranes, in the most recent bird column, I saw a sandhill crane in a field in Hardwick near the New Braintree line by the Ware River.

On my return, I saw a crane in a different location of the same field. I was not sure it was the same one or a different one.

Flocking Canada geese

In my travels, I saw several flocks of Canada geese. There was a small flock in New Braintree and a larger flock in a harvested corn field in Spencer. The large flock were migrating south for the winter. I'm not sure if the smaller group summered here or not.

Wild turkeys

Wild turkeys are a familiar sight. This week I saw a hen turkey with her slightly smaller poults on a lawn in Barre. Last week I saw a small flock of Tom turkeys.

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

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

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Send letters to:
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The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

The Chicopee Register welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to:
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Election letters to the editor

The *Chicopee Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Chicopee Register care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to journalregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Chicopee Register.

IN THE CITY

Hot Head Burritos opens

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Hot Head Burritos officially celebrated the grand opening of its Chicopee location with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Aug. 24.

The location, formerly home to Subway, is the company's second in Massachusetts and its third property owned and operated by N.E. Pat's Franchise Investment Partners, Inc., which is managed by brothers Gregg, Tom, and Wayne Yvon. It also marks Hot Head Burritos' 88th restaurant nationwide.

The chain was founded in Dayton, Ohio, in 2007.

The restaurant offers customizable, made-to-order burritos, bowls, tacos, and nachos, with 16 signature sauces ranging from "Mild to Wild." Guests can also choose from more than 40 fresh ingredients creating thousands of possible flavor combinations tailored to their preferences, including gluten-free, vegetarian, keto, paleo, and allergy-friendly options, a highlight Yvon shared.

"I can confirm these are probably the best burritos you are ever going to have for sure, because it's all fresh and made to order," Yvon said.

Yvon also shared that, as a longtime Chicopee resident and small-business owner of more than 40 years, he looks forward to beginning this new chapter in the city.

"I admit being a small-business owner can be a bit of a challenge, and I feel a lot of times we go overlooked because we're a lot of smaller operations. But that's the beauty of it as well, because we thrive and make it, similar to how Chicopee operates," Yvon said. "There aren't a ton of major corporations around, and the community continues to grow and work together. It's honestly a perfect fit to be here. It's going to be a home run, and we're excited."

Welcome to the neighborhood

Before the festivities and grand opening kicked off an ensemble of friends, family, community supporters and local dignitaries such as Mayor John Vieau, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), and Ward 2 City Councilor Shane Brooks all lined up and expressing excitement for the opening and thanked the owner, Gregg Yvon.

"It's incredible to welcome another franchise to Chicopee, and here we are today to celebrate Hot Head Burritos, which is now downtown, which is something that a lot of people are excited about, and we couldn't be happier to have you here," Vieau said. "I wish you many years of success. Good health, wealth, prosperity, all those good things that help us continue to be a community in Chicopee that embraces you, and we can't wait for everyone to stop by."

Following Vieau was Arriaga, who delivered additional remarks, before presenting owner Gregg Yvon with an official citation from the Massachusetts House.

"I want to say thank you and congratulations on behalf of the State House. I want to share that you could have done this anywhere, and you chose Chicopee and continue to choose Chicopee. For that, we thank you, and we truly look forward to supporting you and your business. We hope it's a success," Arriaga said. "Be it hereby known that the Massachusetts House of Representatives offers its sincerest congratulations to Hot Head Burritos in recognition of your commitment to providing flavorful food, friendly service, and a welcoming experience to Chicopee."

On behalf of the Senate, Lamari Jackson, aide for State Sen Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), also presented a citation and delivered remarks.

"I feel it's great to share that Chicopee, in the last couple of years, has been booming, thanks to the mayor's administration and all of our community partners. It's phenomenal and wonderful to recognize and see that we have so many local businesses down here on Center Street and the main hub of Chicopee," Jackson said. "So best of luck to you and to continued success, so on behalf of the Senate: 'Be it further known that the Massachusetts House and Senate hereby offer its sincerest congratulations to Hot Head Burritos in recognition of the joyous occasion of your grand opening here in Chicopee. Be it known that the Massachusetts State Senate extends its best wishes for continued success.'

Lastly, before the ribbon was cut, Brooks shared final sentiments.

"This is exactly the type of business that will contribute to what we're trying to build in downtown Chicopee, because we are truly in a unique position with having access to retail, hospitality, two locally owned supermarkets, a state-of-the-art library, school admin offices and we feel that your business is going to help tie everything together," Brooks said. "You are going to be beneficial. We want our folks downtown. We want downtown to represent us. It needs to be this destination across the river. And lastly, thank you very much for your trust in us, and we wish you nothing but success."

Hot Head Burritos is located at 105 Center St. in Chicopee, right across from the post office, and is open daily from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga and Chicopee Hot Head Burritos owner Gregg Yvon pose with the official citation from the State House of Representatives.

DESE from page 1

ing so many great things in our state. At the same time, we're seeing a lot of great challenges."

Martinez said he's visited the city before and loves coming out to the Western part of Massachusetts for these visits in "understanding both their strengths and where we can be better support."

"One of the things I love about communities like Chicopee is just, frankly, how engaged the community gets in, and that's one of the things I love about coming out here is just seeing how the schools not only working only, of course, with their staff and children, but also within the community. What partners they have, what kind of programs they have, what economics and extracurriculars," Martinez said. "I want to know what else we can do as a state, because I want to make sure that all of our students are thriving…I want to know how we can support. I want to know what it is we can do to make sure that, again, they're getting the resources they need as well as the teachers are getting the support they need."

Martinez also emphasized in-person interaction through these visits, noting one of the biggest concerns right now is funding.

"Really, for me, just hearing directly from our staff and from our students gives me a better insight about, again, as we think about our initiatives and we think about our priorities. We'll be going into the next session very soon in the legislature," Martinez said.

Martinez explained he's currently in his second year as DESE commissioner and helps with licensing teachers, managing finances for the state including grant funds and approving early-college programs and CareerTech.

"We really partner with our districts to see what they need, whether it's offering professional development training for teachers, bringing sometimes even districts together—some of our districts are smaller—so really just bringing out the collaboration from the state," Martinez said.

During his visit, he also appreciated the local and state elected officials and other community members through the School Department joining him for the conversations.



Pedro Martinez, a commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, chats with one of the teachers at Bellamy Middle School.

"One of the things especially is that we see not only just the school, but again, our mayors many times are the board chairs of the School Committees. We see just the different partners and the different community organizations. I get to meet the School Committee members as well as even some of our legislative leaders from the legislature," Martinez said. "For me, it just shows that it takes everybody and when we all work together and we're listening at the same time about both the successes and the needs are, I think, that just puts us in a better position to make better decisions."

Visibility is also important as many decisions are, sometimes, made daily.

"I don't think you can do this without being there and showing, especially as you go out to Western Mass—because I've said this—it feels different when you go out to Western Mass. I love the east and have a lot of concentration on children in the east, but I think as you go out to Western Mass, the needs are different, the challenges are different, especially as we think about teacher development and teacher recruitment and retention," Martinez said.

He also hopes to come back to visit the other schools in the district.

Bellamy Middle School Principal Bill Holt was thrilled to have Martinez stop by.

"Highlight all the hard work not only that our students are doing, but our staff are doing each and every single day," Holt said. "It's just a great opportunity to showcase that."

On what he hoped Martinez takes away from the visit, Holt shared this.

"It's just an engaged student population, really focused in on making each day a success. We have a lot of challenges—budget is one of our bigger ones, teacher retention would be another one—so I'm looking to discuss those and highlight those areas as a focus area," Holt said. "I'm sure he's fully aware of it, but just to highlight that's a need of ours, something that we deal with on a daily basis."

Holt's message was this.

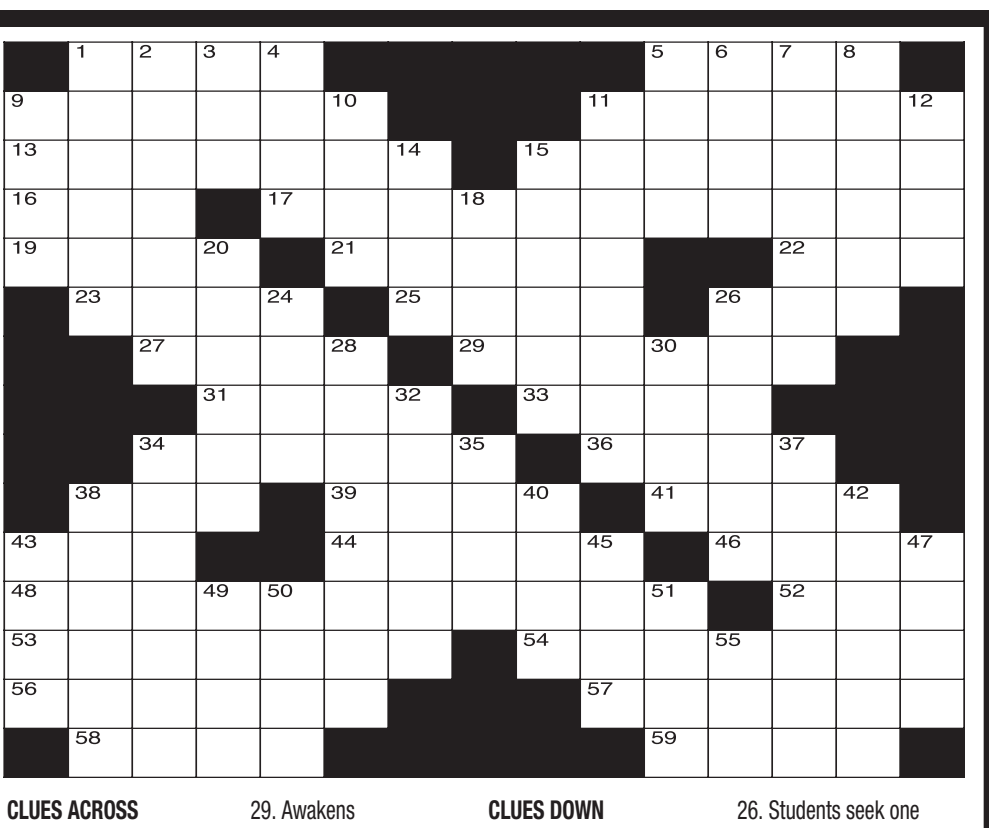
"We have a great school system who's dedicated to making every single day the best for their children," Holt said. "We are a positive learning environment that works really hard every single day to put the best product forth for their students."

Martinez's message was this.

"One that I'm here, again, to support. We want to make sure the agency and the state is really positioned to understand the challenges—again celebrate the successes, I will always elevate the successes—but also, understanding what the challenges are so we can make the best decisions," Martinez said. "We have a lot going on, we also have a huge commitment to education. We want to make sure people feel it and see it."



Bellamy Middle School Principal Bill Holt talks with Pedro Martinez, a commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, about the successes and needs at the middle school.



CLUES ACROSS
1. Difficult
5. Coarsely ground corn
9. A group of similar things ordered one after another
11. Loved Romeo
13. Something to solve
15. Pelvic areas
16. Informal debt instrument
17. Ineffective
19. A device attached to a workbench
21. Related on the mother's side
22. "Fresh Prince of __ Air"
23. Astronomer Sagan
25. C. Utah city
26. Turkey
27. Informal terms for money
29. Awakens
31. Those who favored Prohibition
33. Blabbed
34. Looked through
36. Rhode Island rebellion
38. A type of "cast"
39. One's duty
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Greek City
48. Removed someone's head
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most unnatural
56. "Dennis" is a notable one
57. Ointments
58. Examination
59. Leaked fluid

CLUES DOWN
1. Brave
2. A state of excitement
3. Jest at
4. Sandwich store
5. Chapter of the Koran
6. Dismounted from a horse
7. Small vehicle
8. Irked
9. A disreputable man
10. Monetary unit of Samoa
11. A list of woes
12. Weight unit
14. Alone, single
15. Broadway legend Bernadette
18. Monetary unit of Serbia
20. Worn by exposure to the weather
24. A body of traditions
26. Students seek one
28. Hydrophilic amino acid
30. Nasal mucus
32. Branch of U.S. Congress
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Grant an exemption to
38. Set up in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. One of an ancient people inhabiting Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Unhealthy



Chicopee pride on full display with the Chicopee High School Pacers banner and a member of the Air Force Junior ROTC posing for the camera.



From the left, 2026 Court Member Mila Dillard, 2026 Court Member Gracelyn Jarry and 2026 Chicopee Colleen Charlotte Fields on their float.

CHICOPEE DAY
from page 1

Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), members of the City Council, Mayor John Vieau, the Flex Athletics cheer and tumbling program members and many more.

Here is how elected officials and community members defined Chicopee pride and what it means to them.

City Councilor-at-Large Jessica Avery noted the many folks cheering "Chicopee! Chicopee! Chicopee!", calling it "Chicopee pride at its greatest."

"That says it all. I love that. See, that's the pride that Chicopee pride shows up with day in and day out no matter where we are," Avery said. "Chicopee pride is about community and about caring and when you see your neighbors and when you see your friends, you say hi and you celebrate and that's what I've been doing. We're in West Springfield, but I feel like we're walking down Front Street with all the faces that I see."

K'mora Matthew, a member of the CHS color guard showcasing the flag and baton with the band, has been with the group for two years.

"It means a lot because our community comes all together just for one day," Matthew said. "Chicopee pride is like for our school. It means a lot because we're not just different groups. We're all together. That's Chicopee pride."

2026 Chicopee Colleen Charlotte Fields, a 2026 CCHS grad excited to be back with her court for the event, shared this.

"Honestly, just focusing on building a community and bettering the city and really just loving the city and loving where you're from as a whole," Fields said. "Especially through events like this where you can show your pride."

Arriaga said Chicopee pride "is just being proud of who you are and the community that you live in and everything that makes us Chicopee."

"That means regardless of your background, regardless of your race and your gender, we are proud, we are community and we look out for each other as we should and it is my job as a state representative to ensure that my kids—all these kids here—have the resources so they have the best education so they can thrive because they are our future leaders," Arriaga said. "And everybody here is just truly positive from that community and that's what we strive for. For pride in what we do and what we represent and our future, which is our children."

Vieau summed up his definition of Chicopee pride this way.

"Chicopee pride is something very special that I think, it comes from your heart. It's this feeling of—not that you're better than anyone else—but we are not second to anyone else either. So, we have this wonderful community. I believe we have the best place to live, the best place to work and the best place to raise a family," Vieau said. "If you love four seasons, there's no better place to live in the whole country than the city of Chicopee, and we try to keep it affordable. So, it's a great city, there's lot of people that have what I have and that's pride and they believe in where we're heading as a city. I think that's probably the best message is I'm passionate about what I do and happy to represent the city of Chicopee today."



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Inside the trolley, we have a group photo of members of the City Council with Mayor John Vieau and special guests.



The Chicopee High School Marching Band amped up for parade marching.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONICA TORRES

The Chicopee Comprehensive High School cheerleaders get in formation.



A group shot of the Air Force Junior ROTC.



The members of Flex Athletics get ready to cheer.



The Chicopee contingent of local and state elected officials in a group photo post-parade.



The Chicopee High School Color Guard gets ready to march.

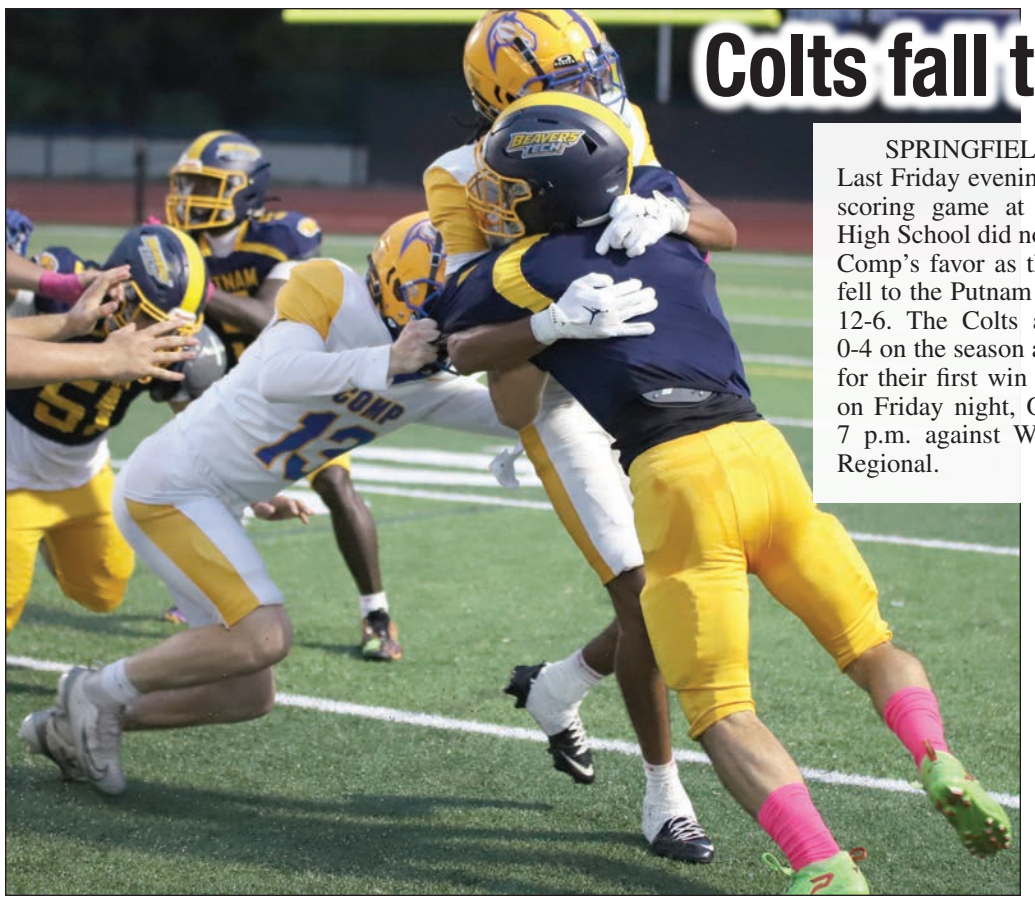
sports@turley.com @turleysports acebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

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Colts fall to Putnam

SPRINGFIELD – Last Friday evening, a low scoring game at Duggan High School did not end in Comp's favor as the Colts fell to the Putnam Beavers 12-6. The Colts are now 0-4 on the season and look for their first win at home on Friday night, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. against Wahconah Regional.



Logan Tougas goes for a tackle.



Matthew Skaza makes a block.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



A group of Colts goes for a tackle.



Mateus Ferreira takes a snap.



Chris Chagnon tries to get around tacklers.



Matthew Mackenzie gets ready to punt.

First half goal holds up for Pacers

CHICOPEE – Griffen Wrisley's first half goal held up for the Pacers as Chicopee High School boys soccer defeated Central 1-0 last Thursday evening at Szot Park. The Pacers are out to another great start this season. The Pacers are 6-2 on the season and are closing in on a state tournament spot. Last week, the Pacers are defeated Frontier Regional on the road. Abdulwahhab Alnauimi and Wrisley had three goals each in the victory. Chicopee had a 4-0 lead at halftime and did not look back. The Pacers will have a matinee at Central High School on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 12 noon, then rematch with rival Chicopee Comprehensive on Monday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.

T-Birds jump out to quick 2-0 start

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (2-0-0-0) rode yet another terrific goaltending performance to a 2-0 blanking of the Providence Bruins (0-2-0-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Neither team could generate much of anything at the offensive end of the rink in the opening 20 minutes, as the two clubs combined for just eight attempts on net, making life easy for Providence goalie Simon Zajicek and Springfield goalie Will Cranley.

Power plays continued to be a struggle for both clubs as well, with four combined efforts thwarted in the opening period. The T-Birds finally got their first taste of man-advantage success at 17:59 of the second when T.J. Tynan dropped a pass to Alek Kaskimaki in the right circle. Zajicek made the stop, but kicked the rebound right onto the waiting stick of Justin Carbonneau, and the 19-year-old fired home his second goal of the weekend to make it 1-0.

That would prove to be all the cushion that Cranley would need in his first start of the season. Providence had thrown just 12 shots on net in the first two periods, but added a dozen more in the third period, with Cranley coming up with answers to each, including a calm glove save on a dangerous rush chance from Dans Loc-

See T-BIRDS page 10



Alexa Franklin tries to kick the ball away ahead of an opponent.



Kelsey Morrissette moves up the left side of the field.



Comp falls to Agawam

AGAWAM – In very rainy conditions last Monday night, Chicopee Comprehensive girls soccer was defeated by Agawam 6-0. The Colts also lost matches to Chicopee, Northampton, and last Saturday on the road at Pittsfield High School 4-2. The Colts are 2-8 on the regular season and are at Southwick on Friday, Oct. 9 at 6 p.m.

Nathalie Gagnon makes a throw-in.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Layla Harnum is pressured near the sideline.

IN THE CITY

RiverMills Senior Center News

Holiday Craft Fair

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging's Friends of RiverMills will host a Holiday Craft Fair on Friday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main St.

Come on down to RiverMills for the Friends of RiverMills Second Annual Holiday Craft Fair! If you are a local crafter and would like to sell your handmade items, please contact Leah Laflamme at 413-534-3698 ext. 105 for more information.

A space for this event is $15.

Registration to reserve a spot is now open. This event is open to the public to sell and shop.

Memory Connections

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging continues to offer the support group "Memory Connections" on the first Wednesday of every month from 3 to 5 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Memory Connections is a program that serves caregivers of people with Dementia and their loved ones living with Dementia. Caregivers will participate in a program led by Laura Lavoie, president and founder of Our Dementia Life. During this time, their loved ones who have Dementia will spend time in an activity supervised by trained facilitators.

These activities with range from crafts, a walk, music, etc. At 4 p.m., everyone will join together for an early dinner. You must register in advance by stopping by RiverMills center or by calling 534-3698.Lest fugia sandame

Manicurist Needed

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging is looking for a manicurist to provide monthly manicure services to our members. You must be a licensed nail technician to provide these services. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be interested in this, please reach out to Program Coordinator Casey Conroy at 413-534-3698 ext 118.

Massage Therapist needed

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging is looking for a Massage Therapist to offer monthly chair massages to our members. You must be a licensed massage therapist to provide these services. If you are interested or know of anyone who may be interested in this, please reach out to Program Coordinator Casey Conroy at 413-534-3698 ext 118.



Lorraine's Soup Kitchen Board President Donna Marratta and Executive Director Kim Caisse represents Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry at the fair.

SMALL PLANET from page 1

mance traced the story of the Celtic people from the very beginning, showcasing the illustrious allure of banshees and faeries—now lost to the pages of fantasy and mythology—brought to life through a vibrant variety of wardrobe options and a seamless structure that highlighted the leadership and vision of the program, with ease and grace. It was solidified by dancers transitioning smoothly from high-energy, thunderous hard-shoe Irish step dances to hauntingly melancholic Scottish ballads, beautifully honoring the essence and resilience of the community.

All while between numbers, the music paused as dancers stepped up to the podium to offer historical insight into the songs and the events tied to them, allowing the audience to follow along and deepen their connection to Irish culture, before being pulled back into the performance—which, for Sarnelli, was integral in ensuring the true preservation of Irish history was honored.

"We always felt and agreed that [Emerald Road] needs to entail the history of the Irish civilization, because even though many celebrate their Irish roots, not many know the truth of what their ancestors went through to achieve this current point of freedom," Sarnelli said.

The interactive atmosphere went even further, as the audience was thrust into on-the-spot sing-alongs of traditional Irish tunes like "Danny Boy," "My Wild Irish Rose," and "The Foggy Dew," tying the entire community event together.



Josephine Sarnelli, Artistic Director and Founder of the troupe, with her partner.

Echoing those sentiments was Doris Dittman, one of the dancers in the troupe.

"I feel this show is quite special because it shows Irish culture as a whole, and the hope is that by the end of the performance we can educate people a bit, while highlighting the value of showing the range of cultural differences throughout our variety of events. We feel it helps the audience build a wider base of knowledge, while developing an appreciation through the arts," Dittman said.

Additionally, organizers didn't shy away from major turning points in Irish history, moving from the Easter 1916 revolution for Irish independence to Scotland's own struggles—while also weaving in powerful global parallels that culminated in a tribute to Nelson Mandela's fight to end apartheid in South Africa during the show's climax, where each section featured a signature twist of live music and distinct wardrobe that allowed a strong sense of identity to develop, enriching the experience and resulting in a standing ovation being bestowed upon the cast at the conclusion of the show.

Looking ahead, Sarnelli hopes the community's enthusiasm means "Emerald Road" won't be retired again anytime soon, as she discussed the possibility of returning to the library, along with discussing the idea of performing at new locations or venues.

"The consensus we gathered was that everyone loved it, and we couldn't be happier hearing the reaction," Sarnelli said. "So as always, we appreciate the Chicopee Cultural Council for inviting us and the library for hosting us; we are hoping to be invited to other locations, but are always happy to return here as well, and maybe perform a different show, but only time will tell."

The program was supported in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

Performers in position ready to kick off "The Fire Dance".



A bow achieved and taken during the Easter 1916 performance.

ARBORS from page 1

"We love to support small local businesses. I think it's important that people also know what The Arbors is like too. I think it's an opportunity to just be able to see how homelike our community is too, and that we're here to support our seniors in our community as well. It's so much fun. I have always loved craft fairs in general. So, I think just kind of seeing the wide variety of creative products that people make, and just really getting to talk to local people," Grammo said.

Business Officer Beth Hall emphasized supporting community.

"I think it's important to try and help support the community, and we do a different fundraiser every year. So, this year we're raising money for Lorriane's Soup Kitchen. We try to change it up a little bit, but we try to keep it as local as possible," Hall said. "It's team effort to help, and I help get all the vendors in. And then everybody helps to set everything up. We do a lot of events throughout the year. Our next big event, we have a bingo on Nov. 12, and that's going to be raising money for Tunnels to Towers."

Executive Director of Lorriane's Soup Kitchen Kim Caisse explained the collaboration with The Arbors.

"They're always very generous to us and they always consider us when they're having their craft fairs. They ask us to have a table here. Then we benefit from their bake sale which is awesome," Caisse said. "They do food drives during the year and stuff. So, it's nice to have people in the community continuing to work with us."



Cheryl Aluxek with Forget Me Nots, bringing a touch of color to the event.

She was thrilled with the turnout.

"I mean, it's awesome to see people come out and support, not only Lorriane's, but also The Arbors, helping them. It's just nice to have the community come together. It's nice to have a little bit of something like this, it's just serene and just people coming together. It's nice to see that and give back," Caisse said.

Caisse then shared information about Lorriane's.

"We're a food pantry. We do pantry Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We do a dinner at night, open to anyone, 4 to 6:00 p.m.," Caisse said. "We serve a hot, nutritious meal. We do a mobile pantry so people that cannot come to us, we're out in the community. We are a food resource, but we do other things at the pantry to help people out. We do clothes, toiletries, you know whatever it is that comes into the pantry goes out."

Cat Demers was with her business Owl Brand Crafts, sharing it was her first year at the craft fair as a vendor.

"Well, I think in the world of Amazon where everything you can buy with a click, and you're really blind buying, it's kind of funny how we've gotten away from the, we have to touch and feel, where we're okay just buying it blind," Demers said. "So, I love the fact that people can come here and they can touch, they can feel. Usually, it's something extremely unique instead of something that was just mass produced. My whole thing has always been, if it brings a smile to your face, I'm gonna make it. "

For more information about the Arbors, visit arborsassistedliving.com/locations/senior-living-massachusetts/chicopee.



Josh Hall displays his items from Josh's Handy Layers.



Nick, Jax and Tabbata Cory with the Craftea Mind in a group photo.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 6:30 PM** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under section 275-58 C (4) for the purpose of restaurant selling alcohol beverages located at 424 Front St. Applicant – Manjinder Singh, 424 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

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

The October 28, 2026 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
10/09 10/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD26P1932EA
Estate of:
Barbara D Henriques
Date of Death: 08/05/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Christine L Krokov of Cumming, GA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Christine L Krokov of Cumming, GA** 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 10/30/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 01, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
10/09/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on October 9th, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2004 Acura MDX
VIN: 2HNYD18824H549430
Stephanie Jackson
3 Laurel St., Apt. 1l
Holyoke, MA 01040

2007 Isuzu NQR
VIN: JALE5B16X77904380
Fast & Quality Moving Inc
8 Adair Rd., Apt. 2
Brighton, MA 02135

2025 Fly Wing Taizho
VIN: HZ2TCDM48S1008323
Miguel Angel De Jesus Martinez
220 Pearl St.
Springfield, MA 01105

2010 Mazda Mazda 3
VIN: JM1BL1S64A1314494
Pamela Dean
105 Union St.
Westfield, MA 01085

2010 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: KMHDC8AE0AU074574
Cassidy Day
1 Summer St., Apt. 1B
Easthampton, MA 01027

2013 Subaru Impreza
VIN: JF1GPAU63D2860876
Miguel Rodriguez
37 Lynwood Ave.
Holyoke, MA 01040

2018 Audi Q7
VIN: WA1LHAF73JD036883
Stephan Frank
121 Village St.
Bristol, CT 06010

2021 Taizhou Rugby 11
VIN: L5YTCKAV9M1138977
Thomas Lavin
341 Huttleston Ave.
Fairhaven, MA 02719

2013 Subaru Outback
VIN: 4S4BRBAC3D3224916\
Solomon Reynolds
97 Hamlin St.
Manchester, CT 06040

2006 Cheverolet Sivlerado 1500
VIN: 3GCEK14V76G181582
Jennifer Desreuisseau
519 E River St., Lot 38
Orange, MA 01364

2005 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM56405A005033
Richard Browning
224 Woodville Rd.
Asaway, RI 02804

2020 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCV1F37LA008344
Lexxiani Lopez
23 Wayland St., Apt. 2R
Hartford, CT 06114

2011 Bmw X3
VIN: 5UXWX5C52BL714285
Xoshell Baez
251 Beacon Cir.
Springfield, MA 01119

2010 Acura MDX
VIN: 2HNYD2H6XAH506373
Carlos Villanueva Martinez
121 Pilgrim Ave.
Worcester, MA 01604

2014 Honda Pilot
VIN: 5FNYF4H4XEBD01211
Unknown
Unknown
9/25, 10/02, 10/09/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on October 16th, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2015 Chrysler 200
VIN: 1C3CCCAB9FN719317
Djily Diop
897 Riverside Dr., Apt. 3
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

2003 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGES16533H542302
Xavier Aponte
25 Collins St., Apt. B5
Westfield, MA 01085

2007 Toyota Rav4
VIN: JTMBD33V075102966
Dennis Decosta
174 B Cedar Ter., Apt. B
Natick, MA 01760

2012 Hyundai Veloster
VIN: KMHTC6AD1CU069281
Efrain Felix
104 Lee Lang Terrace
West Springfield, MA 01089

2015 Honda Cbr1000rr
VIN: JH2SC5908FK700224
Enrique Santiago-Baez
21 Waverly St.
Springfield, **Ma** 01017

2011 Komfort 5th Wheel Camper
VIN: 47CFKNS2XBP627517
Unkown Owner

2010 Audi Q7
VIN: WA1LYAFE7AD006879
Aidalina Vizcarrondo
36 Oswego St., Apt. 3
Springfield, MA 01105

2004 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM56394A050560
Robert Jimenez
272 Greenaway Drive
Springfield, MA 01104
10/02, 10/09, 10/16/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on October 23rd, 2026 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2010 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL2AP6AN519115
Patrick Crenshaw
47 Asnuntuck St.
Enfield, CT 06082

2011 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFA1F51BH300551
Mahat Diriye
38 Jennings St.
Chicopee, MA 01020

2025 Super Mach TR200T
VIN: LFGTCMGN7S1A00218
Javonte Grant
72 Edgemont St., Apt. 72
Springfield, MA 01109

2008 Honda CRV
VIN: 5J6RE48728L028856
Freddy Cuello Mejia
321 Belmont Ave., Apt. 1
Springfield, MA 01108
10/09, 10/16, 10/23/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD18P2080PM
In the matter of:
Marlene Nida
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 **Temporary conservator First and Final** account(s) of **Dorene Archambault of East Granby, CT** 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 **10/29/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

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

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 24, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccamoni
Register of Probate
10/09/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD26P2102EA
Estate of:
John Emmett McCarthy, Sr.
Date of Death: 12/20/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **John E. McCarthy Jr. of Lisbon, CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **John E. McCarthy Jr. of Lisbon, CT** 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 11/04/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 30, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
10/09/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD26P2114EA
Estate of:
Richard Steven Mossey
Also known as:
Richard Mossey
Date of Death: 07/06/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Edalin D Paltoo of Springfield, 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 **Edalin D Paltoo of Springfield, 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 10/29/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 01, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
10/09/2026

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 6:30 PM** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Ordinance Amendment – Chapter 275-71 Renewable Energy – Add to the definition of Renewable Energy Storage Language and Battery Energy Storage System Language to Sections 275-71(a)(4), (b)(1), (c)(2), (d), and change 275-71(h) to 275-71(i), 275-71(i) to 275-71(j), and add 275-71(h) – Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). Full Text available in the City Council Office. Applicant: Councilor Frank Laflamme, City Council Office City Hall Annex, 274 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

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

The October 28, 2026 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
10/09/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Probate & Family Court Dept.
HD26E0040PP

To Bruce Pelletier of Granby, Hampshire County; Steven Pelletier of Ludlow, Hampden County; Samantha Sampson of Springfield, Hampden County, Darlene Sampson of North Providence, Rhode Island, Providence County; and all other persons interested

A petition has been presented to said Court by Michael E. Pelletier, of Chicopee, Hampden County, representing that they hold as tenants-in-common in an undivided part or share of land lying in Chicopee, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Two Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($225,000.00), and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the **second day of November 2026**, the return day of this citation.

Witness, **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 21st day of September 2026.
Rosemary A. Saccomani,
Register
10/09, 10/16, 10/23/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD18P2079PM
In the matter of:
Shirley Nida
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 through Fifth and Final** account(s) of **Dorene Archambault of East Granby, CT** 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 **10/29/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

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

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 24, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccamoni
Register of Probate
10/09/2026

See more legals on page 10

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.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD18P2079PM
In the matter of:
Shirley Nida
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 **Temporary Conservator First and Final** account(s) of **Dorene Archambault of East Granby, CT** 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 **10/29/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

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

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 24, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccamoni
Register of Probate
10/09/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD22P1136PM
In the matter of:
Frank Swiatkowski
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 **Beth Ann Lombardi 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 **10/28/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

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

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 23, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccamoni
Register of Probate
10/09/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD26P1990EA
Estate of:
Jose E Valerio
Date of Death: 07/12/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Julissa M Rodriguez 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 **Julissa M Rodriguez 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 10/27/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 29, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
10/09/2026

Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 Plans Mini-Reunion

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1974 will be holding a casual and informal gathering of classmates on Thursday, Oct. 22, at the View Street Tavern in Chicopee.

Starting at 3 p.m., come to enjoy conversation and laughs with classmates and friends. There will be a cash bar available, and pizzas will be available, compliments of the class treasury, at 5 p.m.

No reservations necessary, but if you think you can make it, it would helpful if you could email either Linda Parlengas at lparlengas@hotmail.com; Mona Marcil Friberg at tinker245@aol.com, or Lynn Provost Larrabee at penrose43@comcast.net.

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Trailer Trash performs concert for Harmony House

CHICOPEE - The popular local band Trailer Trash is performing a concert to benefit Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, a nonprofit home providing compassionate end-of-life care and companionship to hospice patients in need.

The concert will be on Friday, Nov. 6 at the Portuguese American Club located at 149 Exchange Street in Chicopee. Tickets can be purchased in advance online for $20 or at the door for $25. Doors open at 6:15 pm, with the concert commencing at 7 p.m. Known for their high-energy performances, Trailer Trash will bring their modern country sound to the stage for an evening of music and dancing while raising funds to sustain the work of Harmony House. The event will also include raffles, food for purchase from Pizza Lino with a portion of proceeds being donated to Harmony House, and a cash bar.

The event is supported by local sponsors, including headlining sponsor Yankee Home. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available at www.HarmonyHouseWMA.org/trailer-trashconcert or by emailing development@HarmonyHouseWMA.org.

Community members can also get involved with Harmony House by volunteering. If you might be interested in providing care and companionship to our residents, organizing special projects to engage our residents, or supporting our fundraising efforts, please email admin@HarmonyHouseWMA.org.

To learn more, please visit www.HarmonyHouseWMA.org.

St. Stanislaus Basilica hosting 50th Parish Bazaar

CHICOPEE – Come celebrate 50 years of Polish traditions, music, food and culture! St. Stanislaus Basilica will host its 50th Annual Bazaar on Oct. 17 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Stanislaus School and Parish Center, 534 Front Street, Chicopee.

The highlights of this family-friendly and festive event include great food, music by the Eddie Furman Orchestra, games of chance, basket raffles, items from Poland, religious items, unique holiday decorations, a magician/balloon artist and plenty of other fun games and activities for adults and children.

The Polish-American Kitchen will be serving a delicious Polish plate featuring pierogi, golumbki, kielbasa, and kapusta, along with hamburgers, hot dogs, and kielbasa grinders fresh from the grill, plus an assortment of home-baked pastries.

Admission and parking are FREE! For more information, call the Parish Office at (413) 594-6669, email contact@ststansbasilica.org, or check us out on Facebook.

PROTECT ACT from page 1

"Their first responsibility should be to remain exactly where they belong, with the students entrusted to their care," Kulig said.

Kulig emphasized that adopting a policy in accordance with the PROTECT Act will strengthen the district and better ensure Chicopee's educators are aware of their responsibilities.

"That confidence protects students first. It reduces disruption, uncertainty and the possibility that different schools respond differently to the same situation. And it protects our employees as well," Kulig said, adding that trained personnel should handle any legal scenarios.

He also explained that thorough safety policies minimize confusion and give staff a clear process.

Kulig said that is a much better alternative to waiting for an incident to occur to decide who is or isn't responsible for what.

"Our students deserve that certainty, our staff deserves that clarity, and the community deserves confidence that if difficult situations arise, Chicopee Public Schools has prepared for them before they reach the schoolhouse door," Kulig said.

Gina Potorski-Dahl, another city resident, is an English teacher at Chicopee Comp. She also serves as the CEA's building rep for that school.

One of her roles involves communicating with the teachers who leave Chicopee Comp to learn the reasons behind their decisions to go.

Recently, Potorski-Dahl has received an "inordinate amount of calls" from district employees claiming they don't feel safe in their respective buildings.

She said many of the people on the other end of the line, who are leaving the district, cite these concerns as their motivation to move on.

"They're scared, they're panicked, they're worried. They do not believe that standing in a classroom with the possibility of being assaulted, with the possibility of danger coming into the building and a lack of protocol and a lack of administrative oversight. They're going to other districts. They are leaving," Potorski-Dahl said.

As an employee of the Chicopee district for more than three decades, Potorski-Dahl is saddened by her observations.

She said the School Committee can make a difference and that it wouldn't be too hard to do. She pleaded with the members to act before more staff members leave the district.

"They're worried that a dangerous situation is going to make it so that they cannot go home," Potorski-Dahl said. "Oversight is lacking, and the School Committee is an excellent body of people sitting here that can help."

Chicopee High School Special Education Teacher Malulani Sherlock also expressed frustration to the board.

She even criticized Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware for chaperoning a group of students on a field trip to Finland instead of being at home in Chicopee to deal with the ongoing uncertainty.

"I'm here to address a far more immediate and personal issue of our current policy regarding ICE's access to our children who have assumed that safety is provided to all students regardless of race, religion or immigration status," Sherlock said.

She stressed that schools have long been havens and pointed out that the federal law only changed last year.

With the safety of the district's students at stake, Sherlock questioned why the School Committee is unable to agree on adopting a policy.

"I tell my students to not play games with me, and I'm wondering why I feel like I'm being played games with today," Sherlock said. "Our immigrant families deserve Chicopee High School's support, not only our high schools but our public school district. As I said the last time I was here, many of us have ancestors that are immigrants. I don't understand what or why this is so difficult."

The Chicopee Register will continue to follow this issue as it develops in future meetings of the School Committee.

T-BIRDS from page 7

melis.

Zajicek kept things close himself, as he made the best save of the day to stonewall Dylan Peterson early in the third from point-blank range.

In the end, though, Springfield's suffocating penalty kill and steady hand in net proved too much for the Bruins to overcome, with Otto Stenberg adding an empty-netter for good measure at 18:33 of the third to round out the scoring. Cranley's masterful night finished with 24 saves, earning the second-year netminder his first career AHL shutout.

Now 2-0 to start a season for the first time since 2021, the T-Birds ride that momentum back to Springfield to open their home slate on Saturday, Oct. 10 against the Laval Rocket for a 6:05 p.m. puck drop on MGM Springfield Opening Night, featuring the Community Bank Pregame Block Party from 3 to 5 p.m. at The Landing.

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Chicopee Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary,** costing $275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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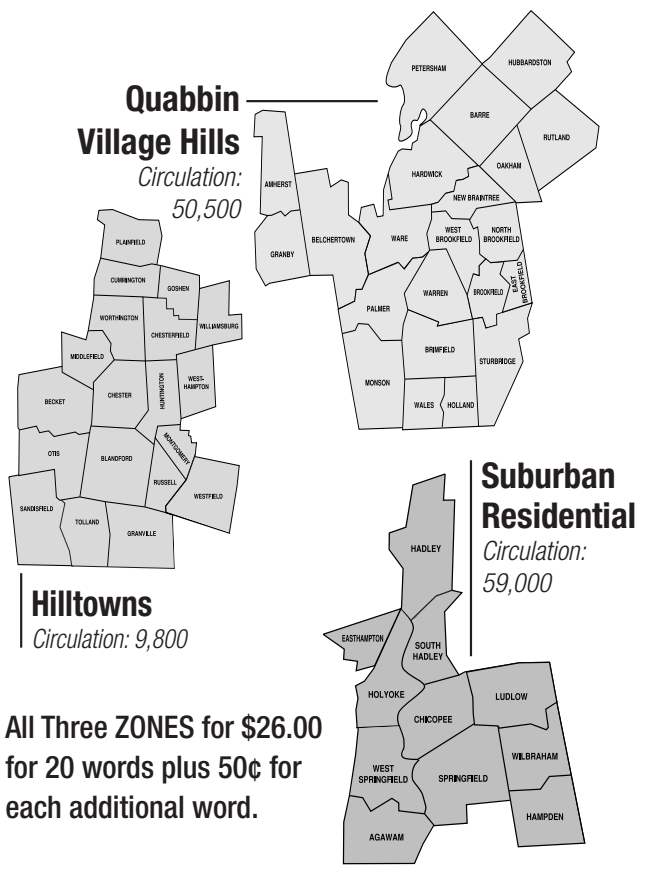
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1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
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21 Base Price $26.50	22 Base Price $27.00	23 Base Price $27.50	24 Base Price $28.00
25 Base Price $28.50	26 Base Price $29.00	27 Base Price $29.50	28 Base Price $30.00
29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 Base Price $32.00
33 Base Price $32.50	34 Base Price $33.00	35 Base Price $33.50	36 Base Price $34.00
37 Base Price $34.50	38 Base Price $35.00	39 Base Price $35.50	40 Base Price $36.00

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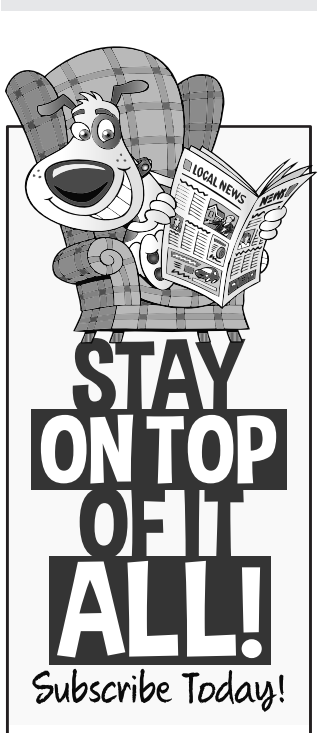
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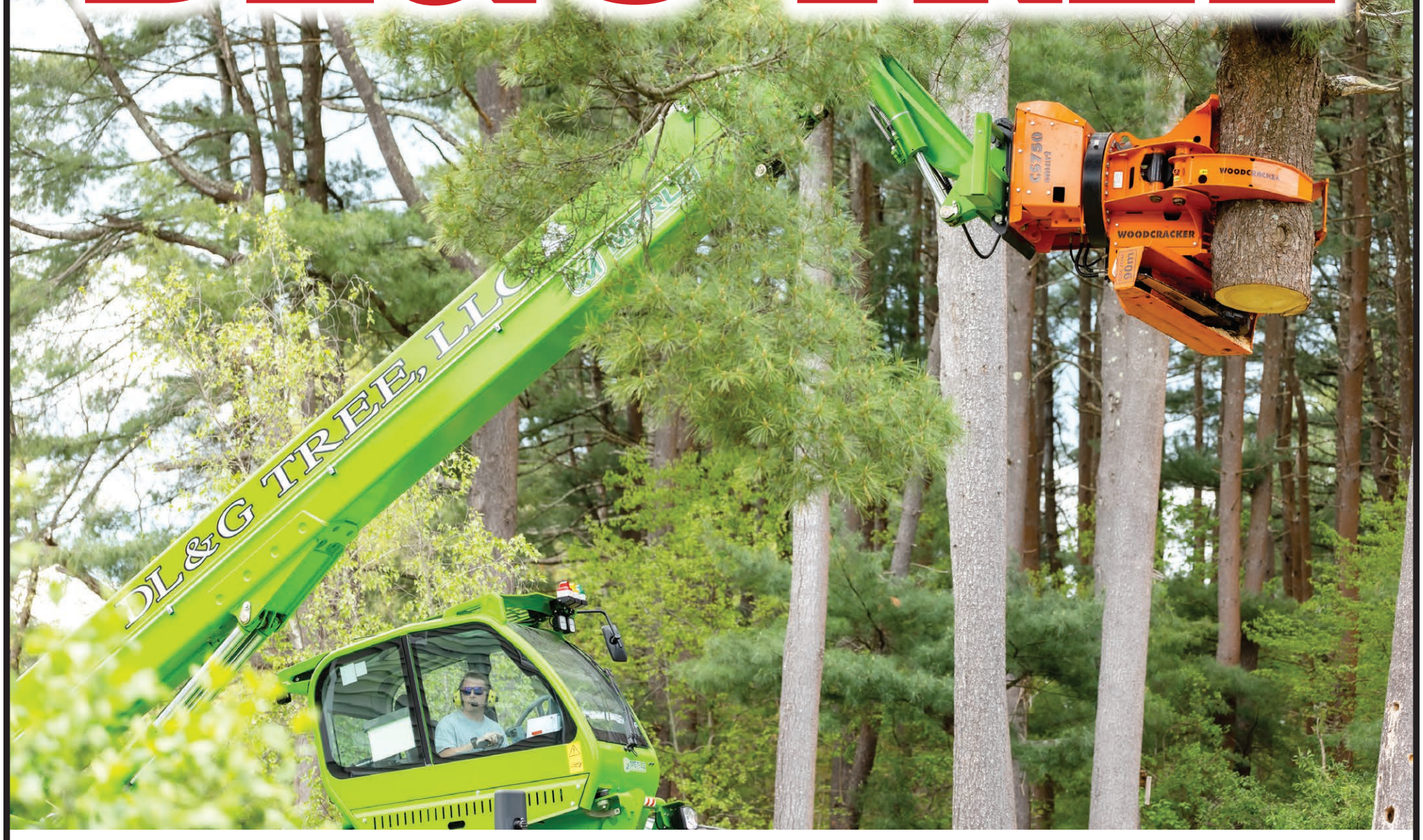


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