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TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDABY BRENDAN ROONEY

CPD officers on-site posing for a photo with Bob "The Bike Guy" Charland from the Hampden County Sheriff's Office in front of the department's ice cream truck.

CPD hosts BIKE RODEO

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Earlier this summer, on Aug. 30, the police department hosted its Fifth Annual 'Bike Rodeo' at Wisnowski Park, bringing together families, officers and community volunteers for a day focused on youth safety.

Reflecting on the importance of the community event was CPD Public Information Officer Travis Odiorne.

"The purpose of today's event is to get the community out, get the kids out, and make sure that they have the proper headgear by ensuring their helmets fit properly, and their bikes are tuned up, just to ensure all precautions are secured and accounted for, before they set off to ride," Odiorne said.

Additionally, longtime community fixture Bob "The Bike Guy" Charland from the Hampden County Sheriff's Office was on-site to handle mechanical tune-ups and ensure every bicycle was road-ready.

"So, his role is he's going to go through and tune all the bikes up, he's going to check tire pressure, and make sure the brakes are good, and then kids get fitted for a helmet, and from there they get a chance to go through the ob-

See BIKE RODEO page 3



This young rider made it through the course with a perfect record

Chicopee celebrates Polish Heritage Month

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The community gathered inside City Hall Auditorium on Oct. 7 to raise the Polish flag to celebrate Polish Heritage Month.

The ceremony included remarks from Mayor John Vieau, Olen Bielski III, the director of Business Development at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield), a reflection in English and Polish by Fr. Brad Milunski and Fr. Krzysztof Smigielski from St. Stanislaus Basilica, performances of the National Anthem, Polish National Anthem and God Bless America and more.

Students from St. Stanislaus School were also among the guests.

Bielski explained how "not only is October Polish History Month, but it also celebrates a very distinguished general from the Revolutionary War, Casimir Pulaski," having arrived in Massachusetts on July 23,

See POLISH HERITAGE MONTH page 6



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

The mayor's proclamation is presented.

Chicopee Galaxy Youth Assoc. Coach killed in Holyoke shooting

By Kristin Rivers
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HOLYOKE/CHICOPEE - Ricky Arroyo, a coach for the Chicopee Galaxy Youth Athletic Association, has been identified as the victim shot and killed in a shooting near the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke on Oct. 11.

According to the Hampden County District Attorney's Office, the Holyoke Police Department responded to the scene on Nick Cosmos Way at approximately 1 p.m. "for a report of a man down."

"Responding officers determined that the incident involved a shooting. The victim was transported to a local hospital, where he later died. The victim has been identified as Ricky Arroyo, 35, of Chicopee," it reads.

During the response, Holyoke Police officers located an adult male suspect and took him into custody.

"The defendant, Craig Jones, 37, of South Hadley, was arraigned Tuesday, Oct. 13 in Holyoke District Court on the following charges: murder, carrying a firearm without a license, carrying a loaded firearm without a license, and discharge of a firearm within 500 feet of a building. His next date in court is scheduled for Nov. 13. Jones is presumed innocent of all allegations until proven guilty," it reads. "This remains an ongoing investigation being conducted by the Hampden District Attorney's Office State Police Detective Unit, in conjunction with the Holyoke Police Department. Hampden District Attorney Gulluni expresses his sympathies to the victim's family."

Jones has pleaded not guilty and is currently being held without bail.

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke said that none of its members, participants, staff, coaches or officials were injured in the shooting, sharing this statement with local media on Tuesday.

"The safety and well-being of the young people, families and dedicated staff we serve are always our highest priority, and we take any incident that could impact their sense of safety very seriously. The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke is deeply saddened by the loss of life following an altercation between adults that occurred outside of our facility after a basketball event held in our gymnasium last weekend.

See SHOOTING page 10

Western Mass Corvette Club hosted Annual Fall Car Show

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - On Saturday, Oct. 3 at the Chicopee Moose Family Center, The Corvette Club of Western Massachusetts hosted their Annual Fall Car show.

Entry for those bringing a car was $20 and spectators could attend for free.

President of the Corvette Club of Western Massachusetts Tom Patnaude shared about the club and Moose Club.

"I've been doing the presidency for a year and a half now, but I've been with the club for 14 years. I was one of the original members. One of our board members is a member here, and they love having us. So, it's just a nice relationship," Patnaude said. "We have a show in the spring, which is all Corvettes. And we have our show in the fall, which is all makes and models."

Patnaude then spoke about the charity fundraiser as well as past charity work the Corvette Club has done.

"One of our members lost his wife to multiple myeloma, and we also have a member that is fighting multiple myeloma right now. So, it does hit home. It's a worthy charity, and we hope to raise several thousand dollars for it. Not only are we a club that honors the iconic Chevrolet Corvette," Patnaude said. "We, our members, have a shared passion and we go to events together. We travel, we go to other car shows, and we also, in the meantime, raise money for charities. We've done quite a very few charities. We specialize in veterans charities, and sick children, cancer and things like that. Worthy charities."

See CAR SHOW page 7



TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Diane Pilletere with her car at the Western Mass Corvette Club Car Show.



TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

From Left to Right: Troop 1849 Eagle Scout Aiden Lindenfeld, 1849 Scout Master Rafe Demers, and 1849 Eagle Scout Kyle White.

Troop 1849 Scouts achieve Eagle rank

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — Earlier this summer, on Aug. 30, a special moment unfolded inside the Moose Lodge, as Aiden Lindenfeld and Kyle White, two scouts from Troop 1849 in Chicopee, earned the highly prestigious title of Eagle Scout.

The scouts were surrounded by family, friends and elected officials such as State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and Chicopee Rotary Club President Scott Channell for the celebration.

The ceremony was a reflection of the countless hours of not only community service, but also the expression of valor and perseverance exemplified by each of the young men throughout their scouting journey, which led them to this significant milestone.

To earn Scouting's highest honor, both young men completed extensive leadership service projects benefiting the local community: Aiden assisted with landscaping activities outside the lodge, along with the construction of a flag retirement box to house the flag on site. Kyle was instrumental in helping rejuvenate the community garden at the Gray House in Springfield.

First to grace the stage was 1849 Scout Master Rafe Demers, who provided brief opening remarks before his son William Demers, 1849

See SCOUTS page 8

IN THE CITY

School Committee to be represented at annual state conference

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – Chicopee Public Schools will be represented early next month at the largest annual gathering of educational leaders in the state of Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Association of School Committees/ Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents is holding its yearly conference from Nov. 4 – 6 in at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Boston North Shore in Danvers.

Chicopee will be represented by Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware and At-Large School Committee Member Robert Cantin, who was voted into the role by his fellow board members during a meeting last month.

The conference will include a variety of panel sessions and workshops centered on best practices in instruction, school management and other key issues facing students and teachers across the state.

As part of the multi-day event, the delegate assembly that features Cantin will vote on at least five official association resolutions meant to distinguish legislative priorities and organizational policies.

The resolutions will address issues ranging from school funding to building safety to facilitating academic success in the classroom.

Each adopted resolution will carry a three-year lifespan, and older policies must be reauthorized by the delegates to remain in existence.

During the School Committee's Oct. 7 meeting, Cantin said he would be available to field any inquiries regarding the resolutions in the weeks ahead of the conference.

"You've got to really read [the resolutions and background info] before you can make an informed decision, so please reach out to me, and I'll be more than happy to answer any questions," Cantin said.

Ward 6 School Committee Member Sonny Brooks offered a "general synopsis" of what happens at the conference, as he attended a past edition, serving as Chicopee's delegate.

"Every day, there are multiple sessions being held discussing every aspect of education, the problems that arrive in education, the solutions that we're looking for," Brooks said. "We have multiple speakers. In fact, this year, Dr. Ware will be one of the featured speakers, and one of our School Committee members, Grace Schofield, will be assisting and presenting with Dr. Ware."

Brooks added that the conference gives attendees an opportunity to interact with board members from other communities and "get a grasp on what is going on in the state from the leaders."

He described Cantin's role as being the committee's voice at the conference and said that once the votes are taken, the Chicopee board will act to enforce the policies.

"It's a very important meeting. Any input we can give [Cantin] to take with him is always helpful," Brooks said. "I know I took as much advice as I could possibly carry with me there because you'll hear things and see things that you may not necessarily be ready for. But with the help of the rest of your committee members, we can represent Chicopee in a very positive way."

City Council sends letter to state officials backing Head Start programs

The board expressed its support for the federally funded programs.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The City Council took a strong stand on behalf of early education during its meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

At the request of Ward 1 Representative Abgail Arriaga and At-Large Representative Jessica Avery, the board unanimously voted to send a letter to top state officials advocating on behalf of the federally funded Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

The letter expresses the council's support for maintaining standards that facilitate the education, health, safety, development and welfare of children across the city, state and country.

The resolution that was approved was subsequently delivered to the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation, Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey, the Massachusetts Legislature, the Massachusetts Head Start Association and several other key federal and state agencies.

Arriaga explained during the meeting that State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) initially reached out to Avery and herself, asking them to put it on the City Council's meeting agenda.

"So, I'm asking the council to invest in our young residents," Arriaga said. "Let's talk about our early education and the opportunities that prepare our youth for school. Not only does Head Start help our youth, but also family services as well."

Arriaga warned that federal funding is being taken away from the Head Start programs.

On Aug. 6, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services introduced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would significantly decrease existing Head Start program standards and funding requirements.

She said this threatens staffing, could force changes to classroom regulations, might eliminate specialized positions, has potential to increase class sizes and may lessen family support services.

"I'm asking our council to send this letter in support, as funding is being pulled," Arriaga said. "The importance of [this] funding is not only for educational purposes for the youth [and] the staff, but also making sure that we're supporting our young residents that will hopefully one day be owning all these homes that we're approving to be built."

Avery added that the Head Start programs represent an investment that pays back in dividends.

"For every dollar that goes into Head Start, 9 times that amount is brought back into the community," Avery said. "And with hundreds of children impacted in Chicopee, the ripple effects of this are just astronomical for our economy as well as for the education and families in Chicopee."

By sending the letter, City Council established its support for strong early childhood education standards, child health, safety, family engagement and developmental services.

The board's action displayed its vested interest in Chicopee's youngest community members, as well as their families.

CPL hosts programs for kids and families

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

Saturday Playgroup will be held on Saturdays at 1 p.m. We'll put out some extra toys in the playspace. It's a great time for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play.

Babies 0-12 months and their caregivers are invited to Baby Time on Tuesdays Oct. 20 at 10:30 a.m. Baby Time will include rhymes, songs, lap bounces and a short story, as well as some unstructured play time.

Storytime will be on Thursdays, Oct. 22 at 10:30 a.m. Join us for 30 minutes of circle time with read-aloud books, songs and rhymes, followed by a craft or activity. For ages 2-5.

Little Kid Dance Parties will happen on Tuesdays, Oct. 27 at 10:30 a.m. Little ones ages 0-5 are invited to move and groove with their caregivers. Older kids are welcome. If the weather's nice we'll be outside on the library's back patio.

Build with LEGO on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. Bring your creativity and hang out with our big pile of bricks. Best for ages 6 and up.

Kids, teens and families are invited to a Halloween Party on Thursday, Oct. 22 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Come enjoy some games and activities to celebrate the season. Costumes are encouraged, but not required.

Sewing Club will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 3:30 p.m. Learn and practice basic sewing skills by making fun projects. Great for ages 6 and up. Teens welcome! If you are not familiar with using a needle and thread, bring an adult to help. October's project will be Design Your Own Ghost!

Teens

Teens in middle and high school can participate in our new Craft Club, hosted twice per month after school at 3 p.m.! Each meeting will feature a different, exciting craft! For the month of October, we'll be making fall themed buddies out of pipe cleaners on Wednesday the 21st!

Fans of comics and manga are encouraged to stop by on Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m. for our new Bring Your Own Comic (B.Y.O.C.) Club! It's like a book club, except you get to read whatever you want! Share your thoughts about whatever comic you're currently reading, discover new stories from fellow fans, get to hear about new additions to the library's collection, and more.

Swing by the TeenSpace on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 1 to 3 p.m. and enjoy some awesome PC gaming with a selection of indie titles! We're currently testing the Ludolio platform, from the University of Sydney in Australia, which hopes to bring digital PC game access to public libraries in the coming years. Try different titles, provide feedback, and get a glimpse at what the future may hold.

Visit our website for more info about all of the library's events! www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

Trailer Trash performs Benefit 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/trailertrashconcert 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.

Center Fresh Farmers Market

CHICOPEE – The community is encouraged to stop by the Center Fresh Farmers Market at The Hub at Market Square.

The farmers market occurs the first and third Wednesday of each month from 2 to 6 p.m., with food trucks opening early for lunch at 1 p.m. There are food trucks, artists and artisans, farm-fresh offerings and live music.

The remaining dates are Oct. 21, Nov. 4 and Nov. 21.

To learn more, check out their Facebook and Instagram pages.

Spooktacular 2026 is Oct. 22

CHICOPEE – The community is encouraged to stop by this year's Spooktacular at Sarah Jane Park on Thursday, Oct. 22.Entry is free and the gates open at 4 p.m. and will be open through 6:30 p.m. The event itself runs through 7 p.m.

Sarah Jane Park is located at 21 Vivian Street in Chicopee. Trick or treat and enjoy some spooky Halloween fun.

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

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

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPLOIN WHOLE OR HALF CUT FREE $7.77 lb
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USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF $5.29 lb 5 LB BAG

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IN THE CITY

Chicopee City Council joins PROTECT Act conversation

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – It's been well-documented that the Chicopee School Committee has yet to adopt a districtwide policy to implement Gov. Maura Healey's PROTECT Act.

The PROTECT Act prevents state or local resources from being used to assist federal agents in asking about or recording a person's immigration status, except for in criminal contexts.

The Governor's Office has mandated school committees across Massachusetts put guidance in place to enforce the PROTECT Act, but the school board in Chicopee has yet to budge.

The School Committee spent long portions of multiple meetings weighing the pros and cons of establishing a district policy to uphold the law before ultimately taking no action twice.

Concerns about the Massachusetts' law's potential conflict with federal statutes has led at least one Chicopee School Committee member to vote down adopting PROTECT Act guidance for the district multiple times.

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, the conversation carried over into a meeting of the Chicopee City Council, as Jessica Avery, an at-large member, requested that the Public Safety/Police Commission Subcommittee meet to discuss local immigration policing practices, policies and impacts.

Avery said she's heard concerns regarding how taxpayer money is or isn't being spent on implementing the PROTECT Act.

She feels that more conversation is needed to develop a clearer picture, especially after the School Committee's inaction.

"I think it's really important to have this conversation and ask those questions," Avery said. "Because even though [the PROTECT Act] was passed, it's something our School Committee voted down."

Avery said there are different messages coming out of the city right now, so it's important to identify what Chicopee's legal liabilities are, as the School Committee chooses not to comply with Healey's directive.

City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme said he did some homework and spoke several times with Acting Police Chief Eric Watson about the issue.

Laflamme said he trusts what he heard from Watson, who said in an email that his department acknowledges that the policy prohibits officers and employees from using state or local resources to assist federal law enforcement personnel inquiring about immigration status, except when directly materialized to specific criminal offenses.

"He mentioned to me [he's] not sure what we would get out of sending this to a committee because of the fact that if you read the state [PROTECT Act], we have to follow it and our [city police department's] policy, which was just updated," Laflamme said.

As a result, Laflamme said he would vote not to send the item to a subcommittee and encouraged the rest of the council to follow his lead.

Avery responded that she also has spoken with Watson and received the same email. However, she believes simply taking Watson's word is "fiscally irresponsible," as the PROTECT Act is supposed to be implemented on different levels.

"Again, I understand that implementation versus authority and versus action are different things, which is why I think it's really important to have this conversation and ask those questions," Avery said.

She emphasized that's why she made the request, saying that this conversation isn't as simple as, "This is what state law requires us to do."

Avery made a passionate plea for her fellow board members to vote in favor of her request.

"I would urge my fellow councilors, if we want to consider the taxpayer and consider the fiscal impact that this is going to have if we are not following this law, I just want to make sure that we are protecting ourselves from that," Avery said.

Joel McAuliffe, another councilor-at-large, acknowledged that the topic is significant and has major implications. That said, he has a clear-cut reason on why he voted "No."

"I think it's an important topic. I'm going to vote no to advance it for a specific reason on my part, which is I'm not interested in drawing any specific attention about Chicopee's policies to the federal government given the issues that are ongoing," McAuliffe said.

When the talk was over and the voting was done, Avery's request to send the item to a subcommittee was shot down, with nine councilors voting "No" and four voting "Yes."

St. Stanislaus Basilica 50th Annual 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.

BIKE RODEO
from page 1

stacle course," Odiorne said.

Echoing those sentiments was Charland.

"We will do a basic safety check, make sure the brakes and reflectors are on, ensure everything is ready to go and then they are off," Charland said.

He also shared how the event promotes a sense of positivity about the presence of law enforcement during a time of ongoing negative perception.

"I feel this event is always positive, and just honestly a great time overall, because not only do we get the community together, but it allows kids to see law enforcement through a positive lens, during a time where negativity towards what we do in this profession is quite prevalent, so we always hope that we can break the stigma by hosting these interactive outings, where we allow kids the opportunity for one-on-one time with officers in a safe and productive environment," Charland said.

And once the young riders were cleared by Charland or any of the other staff on site, they rolled over to the obstacle course, where officers took turns greeting them on bikes of their own. Participants then waited patiently for the countdown to kick off, which simulated a real traffic situation to reinforce the rules of the road.

To note, the course stretched the entire length of the basketball court and featured various courses to follow set up by cones, along with a variety of signs, which Odiorne highlighted.


CPD officer on site, ready to take on the obstacle course with a few participants in tow.

"So, this gives kids an idea of what a stop sign looks like and what the traffic lights do—the red, yellow, and green lights—and how they should react to different situations," Odiorne said. "They get some obstacles, they got to go through a few turns, and it just gives some big general bike safety and riding tips to the kids."

Charland shared he felt the course was constructed quite well, and he hopes that the kids will understand the signs in place, noting that these regulations will apply just the same if they find themselves behind the wheel of a motor vehicle or motorcycle when they are older.

"It's a learning experience for all, especially the kids, and the expectation is that the lessons they learn today will continue to compound throughout their lives," Charland said.

Lastly, looking ahead, Odiorne noted that the event is made possible through a yearly traffic safety grant, and the expectation is for the event to grow from the year prior.

"I can confirm that, in terms of next year, we're already looking at different ideas to make it a little bit bigger," Odiorne said. "Currently, a couple of different ideas that have been proposed are how to attract more people, and that may include a different area of the city, but it's a work in progress, and we couldn't be happier to be here today."

Also, to add, the community event featured the CPD's ice cream truck on site, which is always a pleasant surprise and a welcome addition, and sees many lining up for a quick treat.


This rider was ready to go, as he waited for the countdown to go off.


Assistance was always present to riders of all ages.

CPL lists Adult Programs in October

CHICOPEE – Here are some of our upcoming library programs for October 2026.

Monday, October 26 at 6 p.m. Join us for an author talk with Suzanne Strempek Shea. Suzanne will share thoughts on her childhood from her book "Compositions: A memoir in 42 essays by 1 kid on her 8 years in Catholic School, handed in 60 Years late." This book is published by the Polish American Historical Association's PAHA Books imprint, which focuses on Polish-American topics. This book is Suzanne's first memoir and focuses on her childhood in a heavily Polish-American enclave, Polish-American Catholic school and church community.

This program is free and open to the public. No registration is necessary.

Wednesday, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4 Join us to learn how to Swing Dance with dance instructor Jeannette LoPresti. No prior experience is necessary and no partner needed. Lessons will be from 6 to 7 p.m. and you can practice what you learned from 7 to 7:30 p.m. No registration is required for this program.

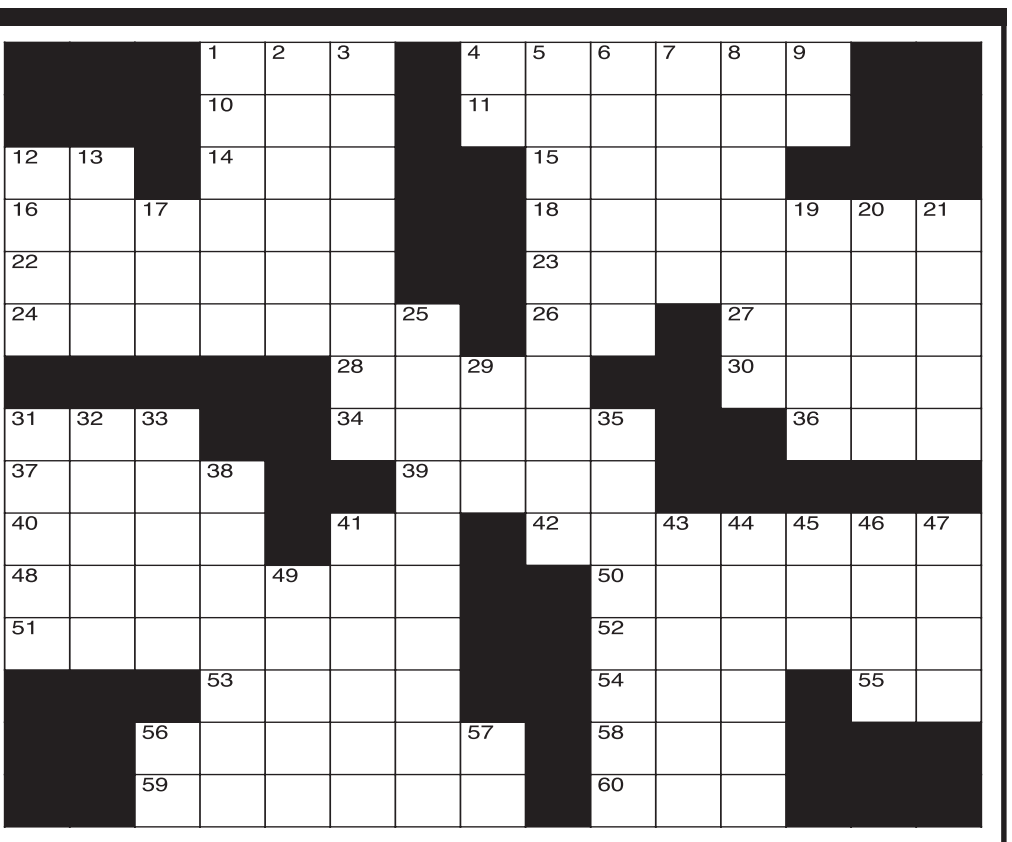
Election letters must be received by Oct. 21

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.



CLUES ACROSS
1. Small Eurasian deer
4. Province in Northern Ireland
10. A major division of geological time
11. Broadway actor Lane
12. Canadian province (abbr.)
14. Human gene
15. Two
16. A notable one was "blue"
18. Utter repeatedly
22. Ring-shaped objects
23. Sullies
24. Occurs
26. Commercial
27. Near
28. Tools you may need
30. A pledge
31. They start the alphabet
34. Silk garments
36. Soviet Socialist Republic
37. Longtime mayor of Rio
39. Hot meal
40. A type of gin
41. Atomic #84
42. $10 bill
48. About ground
50. Medicine man
51. Seedless raisin
52. National capital of Albania
53. Appendage
54. OJ trial judge
55. European government entity (abbr.)
56. Bike parts
58. Friend to "Barbie"
59. Stretched to see or hear
60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN
1. Make up for
2. Baltimore ballplayer
3. Wages
4. International organization of countries
5. Engravers of gems
6. Declared as fact
7. One who steals
8. Jewelry
9. Hospital worker
12. Nonsense (slang)
13. Town in Galilee
17. Value
19. Alternative identity
20. Sheep in their second year
21. Town in Surrey, England
25. Appropriate to a time of year
29. Creative work
31. Recesses
32. Largely forested municipality in Germany
33. Rider of Rohan
35. Ancient symbol co-opted by Nazis
38. Pioneer
41. Scribe
43. Painted a bright color
44. Member of British nobility
45. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
46. Helps people walk
47. Crest of a hill
49. People of southeastern Alaska
56. One's own device
57. The Mount Rushmore State

OPINION

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Dark-eyed junco

Every fall I look for the return of the dark-eyed juncos, also known as "snow birds" in the middle latitudes.

Over most of the eastern United States, they appear as winter sets in and then retreat northward each spring to breed. Other juncos are year-round residents, retreating into woodlands during the breeding season or, like those of the Appalachian Mountains, moving to higher elevations during the warmer months.

I have not seen any yet, but I keep an eye out for them. Often my first sighting of the year is along the side of the road when I spot their white tail feathers as they fly.

Dark-eyed juncos are little sparrows with gray plumage and white outer tail feathers and white underneath. Females and juveniles are slightly browner and duller.

They breed in forests including coniferous and deciduous types and can be found at elevations from sea level to over 11,000 feet. Typically, the female lays between three to six eggs per clutch. She usually lays one egg per day until the clutch is complete

Their diet primarily consists of seeds and insects, adapting to available food sources throughout the year.

Juncos are social birds, often seen in flocks during winter and they exhibit a distinctive hopping behavior on the ground. They flit about forest floors of the western mountains and Canada, then flood the rest of North America for winter.

They are among the most abundant forest birds of North America. They come to feeders and like many sparrows feed on the ground to glean seeds dropped there by other birds.

They prefer open, partially wooded areas with understory for cover. They also have a twittering call or trilling song. If flushed from the ground, they appear gray or dark brown overall with visible white outer tail feathers.

The dark-eyed Junco is one of the most common birds in North America and can be found across the continent from Alaska to Mexico, from California to New York. A recent estimate set the junco's total population at approximately 630 million individuals.

The oldest recorded dark-eyed Junco, originally banded in 1991, was at least 11 years, 4 months old when it was recaptured and rereleased during banding operations in the same state of West Virginia in 2001.

Large flock of sparrows

Recently, while driving to the bus stop to pick up my grandson, I flushed a large flock of sparrows along the side of the road. A large number of them flew across the road in front of the car. It happened quickly so I was not able to identify them. They were not juncos as they did not have white tail feathers

New bird feeder

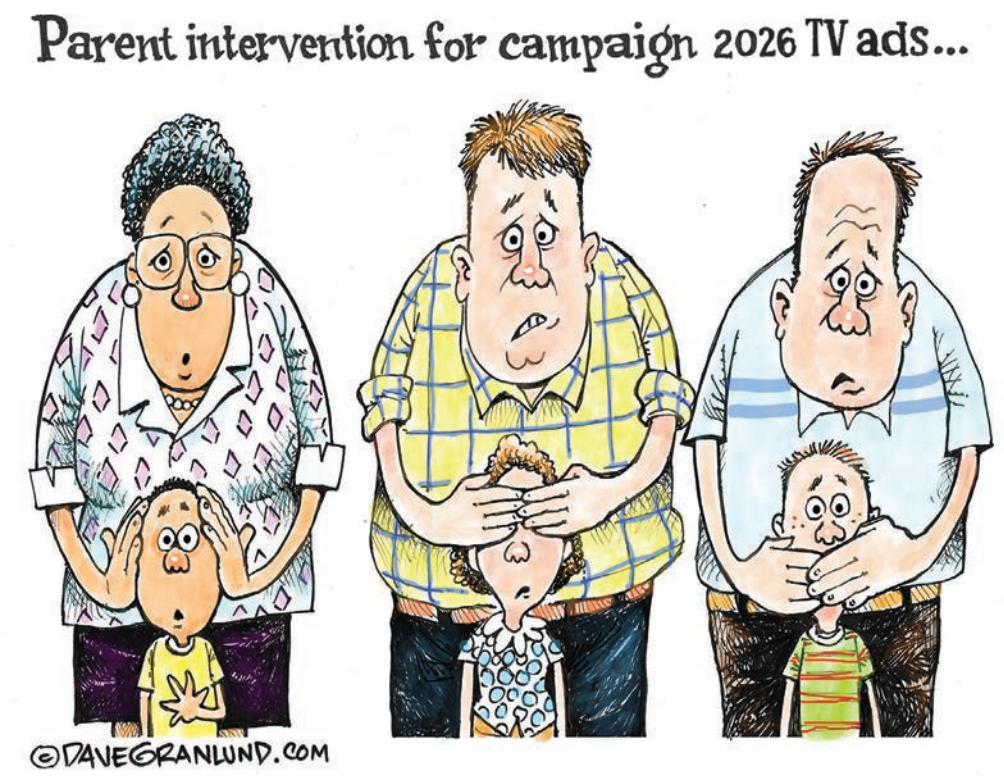
A man, who attends meals at the Oakham Senior Center, built a feeder from tubing someone gave him.

He filled it with seed and put it outside. It took a few days for the birds to arrive, but he has a lot of birds coming to it now.

eBird sightings

Recent eBird sightings included a Cape May warbler on Oct. 6 in Belchertown and an American redstart and a black-bellied plover, both spotted in the northeast Quabbin area on Oct. 6.

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



When to wash and when not to wash, that is the question

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



This is definitely one of my more humorous and lighthearted titles, isn't it? It occurred to me recently that many people might not actually know which fruits or vegetables really need to be washed before storing them properly.

Just yesterday, I found myself pondering this very topic, wondering if the fresh-picked apples I had should be washed before I tucked them away safely in the refrigerator for later use.

Read on to discover the answer to that question, as well as guidance for other crops you might be storing. While we're at it, I'll also share some extra tips that will help you achieve the longest possible storage life for your produce.

Apples, for example, should actually not be washed before storage. There is a natural, protective waxy coating on the fruit's surface which plays a crucial role in extending its shelf life and keeping it fresh longer.

Scientific experiments have shown that washing off this natural waxy layer causes apples to spoil much more quickly than if left untouched. The best approach is to place unwashed apples in a plastic bag that is either left open or has small perforations to allow airflow, then store the bag in the crisper drawer of your refrigerator. This method provides the ideal balance of air circulation and humidity.

If you want to store carrots or beets, use the exact same storage method as for apples.

However, before storing, you will need to cut back the greens on these root vegetables. Leaving the greens attached will cause them to pull moisture from the roots, which will make the carrots or beets limp and less crisp. Trim the greens back to about a half inch or so.

If your carrots or beets are especially muddy, it's best to let them air dry briefly to remove some of the extra dirt. But just like with apples, avoid washing off the protective waxy layer if you want them to last a long time. Also, it's a good idea to periodically check your bags of stored produce and remove any items that start to rot to prevent the spread of decay to other vegetables.

There is definitely some truth to the old saying, "one bad apple spoils the whole barrel," which applies to many types of produce.

Similarly, never wash potatoes before putting them into storage! Instead, gently brush off any dirt and store them in a single layer in a dark place with a temperature around 55 degrees Fahrenheit.

Keeping potatoes in darkness prevents greening, which makes them inedible. Also, avoid storing potatoes in the refrigerator, as cold temperatures change their texture and make them prone to rot.

I think it's safe to say that no one would consider washing onions or garlic before storage. However, it is advisable to gently brush off the dirt near the roots and the bottom portion of the bulb. After onions are properly cured, store them at temperatures close to 40 degrees Fahrenheit for best results.

It's important to keep apples, bananas, and tomatoes away from onions because these fruits release ethylene gas as they ripen, which causes onions to sprout prematurely. Ethylene gas will also encourage potatoes to sprout, so keep them separated as well.

Use onion bulbs that have two centers first, as they won't store well for long periods. Garlic stems should be cut back to a couple of inches before storing them for the winter in a cool, dry location using mesh bags, slatted trays, or similar setups.

Softneck types of garlic have flexible foliage that works well for braiding. In any case, ensuring good air circulation around your garlic will help maintain a long storage life.

Keep your garlic bulbs intact; once broken apart, individual cloves do not keep as long and spoil more quickly.

Winter squash should be gently washed in a 10% bleach solution prior to storing at temperatures between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit; in this case, washing helps prevent rot and disease.

The flavor of many of our favorite squashes actually improves with age during storage. The same washing advice applies to pumpkins and gourds as well.

As the harvest season continues, may these tips help you ensure the longest possible storage life for your fruits and vegetables—a well-deserved reward after all your hard work in the garden!

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 both food crops and flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Does a Veteran who uses VA Healthcare need Medicare at age 65?

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty:

I'm not yet old enough, but must I enroll in Medicare at age 65?

I am a disabled military veteran with VA benefits, so must I still take Medicare when I turn 65?

Signed: Disabled Veteran

Dear Disabled Veteran:

First, please accept my gratitude for your military service to our country. And please also know that if you now rely 100% on the VA for all your healthcare needs and you expect that to continue for the rest of your life, then you have the option to decline enrolling in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. However, if you believe that using healthcare providers from outside the VA may someday be in your future, you should enroll in Medicare when you are first eligible.

Although you are required to enroll in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services) if you collect Social Security after age 65, enrolling in Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient medicals services) is always optional because there is a monthly premium for Part B ($202.90 for 2026 - changes yearly).

So, as a military veteran using VA healthcare, you have a choice to either enroll in Medicare Part B at age 65, or not if you get all your healthcare services from the Veterans Administration.

Just be aware that VA healthcare is not considered "creditable" for Medicare purposes, so if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B during your Medicare Initial Enrollment Period and later choose to enroll in Medicare Part B, there will be a permanent Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B outside your initial enrollment period (your Medicare IEP is three months on either side of the month you turn 65).

So, the decision you will need to make as you approach 65 years of age is this: will all of your healthcare needs always be provided through the VA? Or do you want the convenience (and flexibility) to know you can use any healthcare provider anywhere the U.S. or its territories, whenever and wherever you wish.

If the latter is true, then you should likely enroll in Medicare Part B when you turn 65. You can still use the VA for some services if you are enrolled in both, but there is no coordination of benefits (e.g., the VA will not make copayments if you use Medicare services, and vice versa).

Which means that you may also wish to also consider a Medicare Advantage plan or a Medicare Supplement plan to go with Medicare Part B if/when you enroll.

I hope this answers your question, but please don't hesitate to contact us again if needed. And, importantly, thank you for your service to our country.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Chicopee Register

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Send letters to:
The Chicopee Register,
24 Water Street,
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or email
chicopeeregister@turley.com.
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:
Chicopee Register,
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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

Ohana School of Performing Arts celebrates 10 years

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The Ohana School of Performing Arts celebrated its 10th anniversary earlier this summer with a two-day performance showcase at Bellamy Middle School drawing a massive crowd across the two-day event back on June 19 and 20.

The anniversary showcase consisted of multiple shows and community giving initiatives.

The Chicopee Register stopped by for the first recital, which was back on Friday, June 19 at 6 P.M., and noted a line that stretched all the way out to the parking lot, with excited smiles.

Danielle Barone, an office assistant for the dance school, said it's truly special to reach the 10-year benchmark, sharing what makes Ohana stand out from the crowd.

"I feel Ohana is a very special place, because we are an all-inclusive studio, where our values are effort, heart and making friendships along the way," Barone said. "So, this year we are celebrating 10 years of growing a movement of inclusivity, kindness and positivity, and this year's theme is 'It Starts With a Dream,' which reflects our origins and the growth we have not only seen but felt by having been part of the Chicopee and Western Mass Community for this past decade."

Barone shared that the business hit a roadblock during the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw the necessity of fundraisers and word-of-mouth support to stay afloat, all while navigating the sale of the original building and location in South Hadley.

"It was tough for a time, but we came together and made the choice to relocate to Chicopee, and it has paid off, because here in the city we have found an even bigger heart and sense of belonging, and the community has welcomed us with open arms," Barone said. "We found a home for our recitals here at Bellamy, and as you can see, the community continues to show up, and we love to perform; it's a win-win across the board."

Before showtime, four different dancers—all of different ages—each shared the same level of passion for the sport and Ohana.



TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY
A group of volunteers who worked the merchandise tables.

CC Chagnon explained she has been with the studio for more than five years, arriving just after the start of the pandemic.

"So, I admit I did miss a lot of the big pivotal moments throughout the 10 years of service for the Ohana community, but even still, I love this place," Chagnon said. "I love performing, I love the vibe of the recitals, I love getting here, I honestly just love all the little details, and even though it can be nerve-wracking, I'm just grateful to know at the end of the day I can be on stage."

Ellie Schubert offered similar sentiments.

"It means so much having so many people watching, because the truth is that having the ability and platform to dance means so much to me, and having everyone here to support us is just amazing, to say the least, and I can't wait for everyone to see our recital; we have been working extremely hard for the past 9 months," Schubert said. "I also think the thing I love the most about Ohana is the community and that passion, and that everyone brings."

Carolyn Young said this.

"I love Ohana, from all of the tears to how everybody expresses their feelings through dance, and I'm just excited to get on stage," Young said.

Studio Veteran Tova Woldorf explained this is her final year with Ohana and she has been with the organization since its early days of inception.

"I remember when they(Ohana) first opened, it was really small, and I think there were five people in my class, and now, looking back, it's been incredible to watch the company grow and meet a whole bunch of new people," Woldorf said. "The move was definitely a change, but I think it really helped because it allowed a lot more people to come in and join the family."

Woldorf added that Ohana is cherished by all due to its ability to offer new opportunities.

"I remember starting my dance journey in ballet, but when I came to Ohana. I tried tap, musical theater, and now I've reached the most advanced levels of those, and it's great to see everyone have a chance to try something new and different and be encouraged every step of the way," Woldorf said.

She also confirmed that her future in dance does extend beyond Ohana.

"So, I plan to attend Brandeis University, and I would love to dance there," Woldorf said. "I already know they have a bunch of clubs, including tap and ballet, and I've talked to a bunch of my teachers here about it, and they're very excited for me to see where I can go from here on out."

In addition to the performances, a special and heartfelt moment unfolded that weekend, as the organization took a minute to spotlight and reveal that they donated $500 to the Magic for Maddie non-profit, along with rewarding more than $1,000 in scholarships to dancers in the program as well.

Organizers also explained that the school has donated more than $100,000 to charitable causes over the past decade while using dance and performance arts to support community engagement across Western Massachusetts.

A message of unity and gratitude was also shared by Owner & Creative Director Ashley Kohl, who penned in a statement which read this.

"It is hard to believe that today, we are celebrating 10 years. Looking back at the obstacles we've overcome, the lessons learned, and the beautiful people who have changed my life for the better, my heart is full," Kohl said. "This milestone has made me pause and realize that no matter where your dreams take you, it is the people in your life that always matter the most. They are the ones who bring you back home. They take you through the hardest moments, they catch you when you fall, and they celebrate with you."

Kohl then offered a message of eternal support to her dancers.

"To our incredible dancers, remember this is your moment, you have worked so hard, and we are so immensely proud to have you as part of our Ohana. And when those lights go up, it's your time to shine, so remember to dance with all of your heart and enjoy every second on that stage," Kohl said.

The other performances took place on Saturday, June 20, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Ohana School of Performing Arts is open Monday - Thursday 4 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and can be found at 41 Sheridan St in Chicopee.

PC Gaming event returns to Library on Oct. 24

Submitted by Brent Tenerowicz

Teen Librarian

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Public Library is hosting a special PC Gaming event for all ages on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 1 to 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a variety of indie computer games as we test a new gaming platform called Ludolio.

This platform was created by a team at the University of Sydney in Australia and currently offers 15 different games to enjoy, with more coming soon.

The games are currently available on most library computers for patrons to enjoy, but this special event will give everyone the opportunity to provide feedback on the platform, offer suggestions for features, enjoy a snack, and tell us what games they would like to see added. All feedback will then be shared directly with the creators of Ludolio as they get their platform ready for public libraries.

As one of the first public libraries to have access to Ludolio, I'm so excited for the opportunity to test their program and offer our patrons a way to access computer games through the library. I had learned about Ludolio's recent launch through a newsletter for an upcoming discussion on digital games and libraries.

I hadn't expected much when I reached out to Ludolio directly and signed up for their waitlist, since they're still so new and currently work exclusively with universities. However, I quickly heard back and have gotten to meet one of the creators over Zoom, discuss how the platform might change to better suit a public library, and set up a trial version of Ludolio on our library computers.

I've been having a lot of fun trying out all the different games. We have an interactive picture book, a look-and-find, a few different puzzle games (one of which is hand painted!), a rougelike, and even a highly realistic game where you have to manage the power grid on an island.

I really hope there are those in our community who are as excited as I am. There are so few options available to libraries when it comes to digital games, yet there are so many incredible titles that can only be accessed that way. I'm thrilled about the potential of a platform like Ludolio and what it could do for library communities.

Crossroads Fiber lowers residential Internet rates by $5 per month

CHICOPEE - At a time when rising costs are putting pressure on household budgets, Crossroads Fiber is lowering the price of residential Internet service in Chicopee. Beginning with October billing statements, both Crossroads Fiber residential plans will decrease by $5 per month.

The new monthly rates are: 350 Mbps: $54.95 per month; 1 Gbps: $64.95 per month

The price reduction applies automatically to all residential customers. It is not a limited-time promotion, introductory offer or special rate that customers need to request.

Crossroads Fiber has never increased its residential Internet rates and is now lowering them to provide even greater value to Chicopee residents.

"Crossroads Fiber is committed to providing Chicopee residents with fast, reliable Internet at a fair price," said Daniel Faille, general manager of Chicopee Electric Light. "We are pleased to lower our residential rates at a time when families are looking for ways to manage their monthly expenses."

The $5 rate reduction is in addition to the Crossroads Fiber Loyalty Program, which provides eligible customers with another $5 monthly discount after 60 months of service.

Crossroads Fiber provides 100% fiber Internet service throughout Chicopee. Residential service includes a free Wi-Fi 6 router, 24/7 support from the local team and no data caps. Standard installation is free with a minimum six-month service commitment.

Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser returns to Chicopee

Benefitis adults with developmental disabilities

CHICOPEE - The Joseph D. Freedman Bowl-a-Thon to Benefit Camphill Village returns to Bowlero Chicopee on Saturday, Nov. 14, offering raffles, games, and family fun—all to benefit the 100 adults with developmental disabilities living in Camphill Village.

Since its inception, the Bowl-a-Thon has welcomed hundreds of families and sponsors who have helped us raise almost $700,000 for this amazing organization.

"We've seen firsthand how Camphill Village changes lives—not just for residents, but for their families here in Western Mass and Northern Connecticut. These are our neighbors, our friends, and our loved ones," said John Freedman, a Springfield business owner whose sister Susan has lived a fulfilling life in Camphill Village for decades. "Supporting and organizing this event means supporting a community that continues to care for these individuals throughout their lives."

Though located on the Berkshire border in Columbia County, NY, Camphill's impact reaches deeply into our Western Massachusetts communities, where local families have loved ones living there or have been touched by its model of lifelong care.

Since 1961, Camphill Village has provided a peaceful setting for adults with developmental disabilities to garden, farm, create, and live alongside residential service volunteers from all over the world.

Now, as Camphill's residents who entered in their 20s have now surpassed their 50- and 60-year anniversaries of making their home in Camphill, the Joseph D. Freedman Bowl-a-Thon remains a major funding source for Camphill's residents, whose needs are evolving as they age.

Register and learn about sponsorships at camphillvillage.org/bowlathon.

Send Us Your Community Holiday Events

Turley Publications will print your Summer event FREE OF CHARGE in our **Holiday Dazzler Supplement** which will be published November 19, 2026.
Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.
Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 28.

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley!!

Event Name _____
Date/Time _____
Location _____
_____
Description _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
Cost _____
Contact name & phone number for more information _____
_____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email them to: jamie@turley.com* *Be sure to indicate "Summer Event" in the subject line of your email.

IN THE CITY



A wide group photo of the students at St. Stanislaus School, community members and elected officials after the ceremony.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

POLISH HERITAGE MONTH

from page 1

1777, to meet with General George Washington.

"'I came here where freedom is being defended, to serve it and to live or die for it.' General Pulaski met with General Washington on Aug. 20 where Pulaski impressed Washington with his horsemanship and that became the strategic priority of cavalry over infantry. On September 11, 1777 in the Battle of Brandywine, Pulaski proved his skills by averting disastrous defeat and saving Washington's life. In recognition of his actions, Congress appointed him to Brigadier General and authorized him to form an independent cavalry…" Bielski said.

Bielski said Pulaski was later mortally wounded on October 9, 1779, in the Siege of Savannah while leading the joint French-American cavalry charge and, in 1783, was posthumously named an honorary United States citizen.

After reflecting on his Polish heritage, Vieau explained Polish immigrants began arriving in Chicopee in 1880 and made lasting contributions through its churches, businesses, organizations and civic involvement.

"This is our month and our opportunity to recognize the traditions and values passed down from one generation to the next," Vieau said. "So, I'm grateful to the students, the elected officials, families, organizations and community leaders who continue to keep the traditions alive in the name of Polish heritage, an important part of our city."

Arriaga noted the children and elders in attendance as a reminder to remember who they are and where they came from.

"Whether you came to Chicopee by accident, intentionally, Chicopee is home to so many folks and I'm so proud of the Polish community and what they've done for our community and to continue to celebrate and pass those traditions down, not only in Chicopee, but also across the country," Arriaga said. "Chicopee is an immigrant community. We all come from different places. In Chicopee, we embrace that and celebrate that. So, please, be proud every single day and celebrate."



A group photo of community members showing off their Polish pride.

Oliveira recalled another Polish descendant who left his mark in history during the American Revolution in October 1777; that was Tadeusz Kosciuszko, an engineer who played a pivotal role in the Battle of Saratoga.

"At that point, we owe a debt of gratitude to Poland for sending two incredible leaders to our country, to train ourselves, to get us prepared, to make sure that we could defeat the British and that's exactly what we did," Oliveira said. "And so, as we celebrate Polish Heritage Month this month in October, we also celebrate the 250-year history of the United States and Poland by the generals who came over here."

After discussing the Polish-American impact in Chicopee and the opportunity for the legislators to visit Poland a couple of years back, Oliveira noted the country's growth today.

"That shows the strength of the Poles after a very difficult 20th century. It was ripped apart by Nazism and Communism. The Poles stayed true. The Poles came through and they're stronger than ever," Oliveira said. "So on behalf of myself as the co-chair of the Polish-American Caucus, I'm proud to be a Polish-American and I'm proud to represent the city of Chicopee, a city that has long been known for the last 100 years as a place for Polish immigrants to come."

Velis shared how he had the opportunity to serve alongside Polish forces during deployments to Afghanistan, reflecting on the values of hard work, sacrifice, service and tradition that should be elevated in the United States right now.

"It's really, really easy to turn on the news today and see all of the bad that's happening. Quite honestly, it can get depressing to be completely honest with you," Velis said. "But I look out at this crowd and I see a bunch of folks who are incredibly proud. Who are incredibly proud to be here and to raise this flag and to elevate that culture, elevate that tradition and I think there is something fundamentally special about that, so thank you for being here today. To the students, keep it up because you're on the right path and I just think this is a really cool tradition and I'm proud to be here to support it."

Vieau later presented his mayor's proclamation to a member of the Polish-American community as two students from St. Stanislaus School unveiled the banner, with refreshments enjoyed by all to close out the celebration.

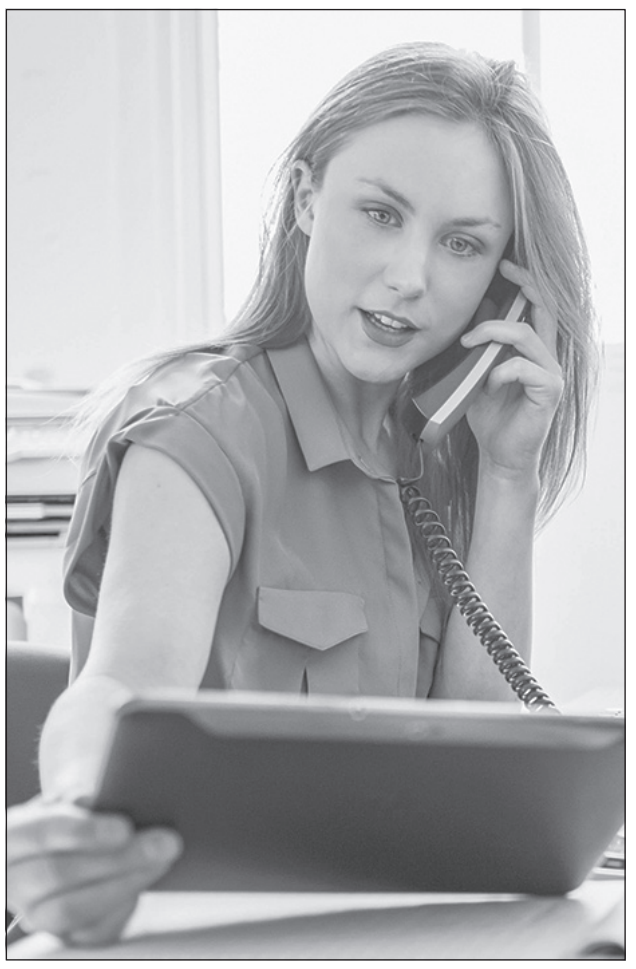
Celebrate Women in BUSINESS week

Women-owned businesses are thriving

Women entrepreneurs are not to be underestimated. Data affirms that women-owned businesses are growing and thriving.

According to North One banking, women-owned firms account for more than 12 million businesses in the United States. In addition, the 2024 Wells Fargo Impact of Women-Owned Business Report, in partnership with Ventureneer, Core Women and Women Impacting Public Policy, found the number of women-owned business increased at a rate of 4.5 times between 2019 to 2023. Women-owned businesses are driving economic growth, and a deeper look at some of the numbers supports that notion.

- The Women's Business Enterprise Council says there are 12.3 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., which comprises about 40 percent of the total number of businesses.
- Women-owned businesses bring in nearly $2 trillion every year, says the National Women's Business Council.
- During the pandemic, women-owned businesses added 1.4 million jobs and $579.6 billion in revenue to the economy, says Wells Fargo.
- World Bank indicates that roughly one-third of principal owners of all businesses are female.
- WBENC advises that 64 percent of new women-owned businesses are started by women of color.
- Women's Business Enterprises Canada says more than 85 percent of buying decisions are influenced by women. The Canadian Minister of Small Business notes that women business ownership is growing. In 2023, approximately 18.4 percent of all businesses in Canada were majority owned by women, compared to 15.6 percent in 2017.
- According to Forbes, women-led tech companies achieve a 35 percent higher ROI. A Forbes study with First Round Capital, a venture capital firm, found female-founded businesses in their portfolio outperformed male-founded companies by more than 60 percent.



Women-owned businesses are driving economic growth, and a deeper look at some of the numbers supports that notion.

Women-owned businesses are making a large impact on North America and around the world. Such firms continue to employ millions of people and foster strong economies.

Mary C. McGovern, MBA
Country Bank President & Chief Executive Officer

DIFFERENCE SINCE 1850 COUNTRY BANK



Mary McGovern brings more than 37 years of financial services experience to her role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Country Bank, where she is proud to be the institution's first female leader. A results-driven executive, Mary is recognized for her authentic leadership style that blends innovation, collaboration, and compassion.

Since stepping into the role, she has embraced opportunities to inspire others and elevate women in leadership, from speaking engagements to mentorship. She currently serves on the boards of the Massachusetts Bankers Association, the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Housing Authority, extending her impact beyond banking into community well-being.

Mary has helped Country Bank earn Women Led Business and Top Workplaces recognitions, along with the No. 1 spot in Massachusetts on Forbes' Best-in-State Banks list. She has also been honored by the Worcester Business Journal and Hannaford Supermarkets, and was named a Women Empowered 2026 honoree by Scouting America. At the heart of it all, Mary remains dedicated to advancing Country Bank's mission and empowering our team members, customers, and communities to thrive.

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IN THE CITY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Chicopee Academy welcomed families and students at Annual Open House

CHICOPEE - Academy welcomed students, families, staff, and members of the school community to its Open House on Thursday, September 17, offering an evening designed to showcase the school's unique, supportive approach to education.

With approximately 75 students, Chicopee Academy provides a smaller, personalized learning environment where relationships and student connections are an important part of the school experience. The Open House gave families an opportunity to experience that atmosphere firsthand in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

The evening began outside with a fabulous food truck, giving students, families, and staff a chance to gather, enjoy a delicious sandwich, and connect with one another. A huge thankyou to Teri Goulette, owner of SAY CHEESE food truck, for her generosity in donating the sandwiches for everyone. A lively game of Nitroball added energy and fun to the evening as students and staff competed and interacted outside the school.

Inside the building, families had the opportunity to meet and greet teachers in their classrooms. Teachers shared information about their courses, classroom expectations, and the ways they work to support students academically and personally. Families were able to ask questions and get to know the educators who work closely with their students each day.

"An event like this gives families a chance to see that Chicopee Academy is more than a school—it is a community," said Christopher Nadeau, Principal. "Our smaller size allows us to know our students, build effective relationships with them, and create an environment where students can feel connected and supported."

The Open House reflected the school's commitment to creating opportunities for students and families to connect with the school in ways that extend beyond the traditional classroom. From sharing a gourmet grilled cheese sandwich to competing in a game of Nitroball to visiting classrooms and meeting teachers, the evening provided a glimpse into the welcoming and community-focused environment that makes Chicopee Academy distinctive.

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.

SNHU announces President's and Dean's Lists

SNHU Summer 2026 President's List

MANCHESTER, NH - It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2026 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

From Chicopee: Kaila Melendez, Hailey Prive, Zachary Pirog, Denis Khamas, Lindsay Talbot, eriaunah Ellis, Kimberly LoRusso, Steve Neufville, Esperanza Otero and Caleb Winter.

SNHU Summer 2026 Dean's List

MANCHESTER, NH - Jose Cabrera of Chicopee (01020) has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's (SNHU) Summer 2026 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

CAR SHOW

from page 1

Crieg L. Galford shared it was his first time at the car show. He explained how he got involved and decided to bring his car.

"I went to another show, and they asked me to come. As far as the Corvettes, I had one since I was 19 years old. This is a new one. The first one was a '66. I like the community because they're very friendly," Galford said.

Bob McDiarmid, a member of the Corvette Club, shared what inspired him to participate.

"My wife passed away from multiple myeloma. She died in just over a year after she was diagnosed. That was a blow to myself, to her daughters too, Susan and my other daughter Jill," McDiarmid said. "And so when the Corvette Club decided to raise money, they asked for who would be a good person to donate."

Susan McDiarmid-Sprowson expressed her gratitude to the Corvette Club for their support.

"We're very appreciative of the Corvette Club being willing to have the MMRFB be the beneficiary of the money raised today. And the MMRFB is the only organization that raises money for multiple myeloma research specifically," McDiarmid-Sprowson said. "So, there's a lot of other cancer organizations that you can support, but MMRFB does multiple myeloma only. And that is a very–it's a very rare cancer–but it's something that with their help, they had 100 clinical trials and brought 15 drugs to market, and they are the drugs that are treating multiple myeloma across the world."

McDiarmid-Sprowson also emphasized the organization's work and impact, along with the event in helping to raise awareness.

"So, they are a small but mighty entity from everything I know about them, and the life expectancy that someone diagnosed has tripled in the last couple years, because of the research that they're doing," McDiarmid-Sprowson said. "So that's why it's really helpful for this type of event to happen because otherwise the money never comes into this type of disease, and our mom, unfortunately, died very quickly from it, whereas other people today, that actually came today, one individual said he was diagnosed in 2014 but because of the drugs that had been created from MMRFB, he's still able to live and enjoy life. And so, hoping to be able to do that for other families."

For more information about the MMRFB and to donate, visit the mmrf.org.

To learn more about the Corvette Club of Western Massachusetts, visit corvetteclubofwesternma.com.



A line of cars at the Western Mass Corvette Club Car Show.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA



Inside one of the cars at the Western Mass Corvette Club Car Show.



Mary Jane with her 1970 car at the Western Mass Corvette Club Car Show.



Crieg L. Galford with his 2017 Corvette.



IN THE CITY

Lambert graduates from FBI Youth Leadership Program



SUBMITTED PHOTO

QUANTICO, VIRGINIA- Andrew Lambert (16), son of Captain Doug Lambert of the Chicopee Police Department and Kate Lambert, Principal at Barry Elementary -graduated from the FBI National Academy Associates, Inc. (FBINAA) Youth Leadership Program (YLP) in Quantico, Virginia on July 17, 2026. The 27th session of YLP consisted of 58 young men and women representing 47 domestic and international chapters of the FBINAA. Sessions are held once a year with hundreds of applicants from around the world vying for limited spots. Participants must have demonstrated high academic standards and good citizenship to be selected for this program. Andrew represented the New England Chapter as the only member from the six New England States.

The FBINAA YLP offers lifelong enrichment opportunities in support of exceptional young leaders' drive for knowledge and their desire to make a difference in the world; their vision is to develop an influential community of socially conscious and service-minded leaders. This program offers 8 days of leadership and fitness training as well as immersive experiences in, and around, our nation's capitol. Students participate in rigorous classroom trainings and run a modified version of the Marine Corps Yellow Brick Road, which involves a 5k obstacle course.

Andrew is a rising high school junior whose future plans include exploring crime analytics and possibly pursuing a career in law enforcement. While in Virginia, he made connections with students from all over the globe, developed friendships, and strengthened his leadership skills. He met several agents and other distinguished dignitaries from the FBI that shared enriching life lessons on goal setting, living into your values, and to becoming a trusted leader.

Andrew has continued the FBINAA YLP legacy for the Lambert family. Captain Lambert is a graduate of the 286th Session of the FBI National Academy- a 10 week intensive leadership program for police leaders held at Quantico in 2023 and his sister, Clara, graduated from the YLP in 2024.

Senator Oliveira recognizes Stephanie Perez with the 2026 Latino Excellence Award


SUBMITTED PHOTO

LUDLOW — State Senator Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) is proud to recognize Ludlow resident Stephanie Perez as his 2026 Latino Excellence Award honoree for the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District, celebrating nearly two decades of service to children and families across Western Massachusetts and the countless lives she has touched along the way.

Presented annually by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, the Latino Excellence Awards celebrate Latino leaders from across the Commonwealth whose service, leadership, and contributions make a difference in their communities.

For 16 years, Perez worked as a service coordinator overseeing contracted services with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families and its providers. In 2023, she brought that commitment to the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, where she now serves as Director of Programs and oversees the development and implementation of youth and teen programming.

"Stephanie has dedicated her life to serving others, and that commitment can be seen in the countless children, young people, and families whose lives she has touched," said Oliveira. "For nearly two decades, she has made supporting others the focus of her career. As a Boys & Girls Club alumna herself, she now has the opportunity to provide young people with the same support and opportunities that were so important in her own life. I am proud to recognize Stephanie and celebrate the difference she continues to make throughout Western Massachusetts."

Perez's connection to the Boys & Girls Club extends beyond her professional role. As a Club alum, she credits the organization with providing experiences that were integral to her own development. Today, she helps create those same opportunities for a new generation of young people.

Her commitment to youth development also extends across Massachusetts through her service on the Massachusetts Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs Youth of the Year Committee, where she helps ensure meaningful experiences for Club Youth of the Year from across the Commonwealth.

SCOUTS from page 1


Former Eagle Scouts with Kyle White and Aiden Lindenfeld reciting the pledge before the big moment.

Troop Senior Patrol Leader, invoked the presentation of colors; from there, the three emcees were introduced: Zane Wetherby, Paulo Sardinha and Ethan Provost, all fellow scouts.

Wetherby ushered in the session and then addressed the attendees.

"The parents and Scout leaders of the Eagle Candidates, whom we honor here this evening, have labored long and faithfully to develop these scouts toward alert and participating citizenship through the Scout program," Wetherby said. "Their efforts culminate this evening in the presentation of the Eagle Rank. The success of these efforts, however, will only be manifest in the way the Eagle Scout himself sets a social pattern for those whose lives he touches."

Wetherby then exited the podium, as Provost followed behind, and introduced Channell, who presented a signature plaque in honor of both Lindenfeld and White's achievement.

"On behalf of the Chicopee Rotary Club, we congratulate you on your accomplishments and wish you both continued success as you embark on your journeys as Eagle Scouts," Channell said.

Echoing similar sentiments was Oliveira, who presented additional citations on behalf of the Massachusetts State Senate, along with additional heartfelt and impactful remarks, consisting of praise for reaching the milestone achieved by only a small fraction of all scouts.

"First off, I want to recognize that achieving the rank of Eagle Scout takes years of hard work, leadership, service and dedication, and to the parents, loved ones, and friends, thank you for allowing me to be here to offer this citation on behalf of the Senate," Oliveira said. "So let it be known, Aiden and Kyle, in recognition of your many accomplishments within Scout Troop 1849, leading to your acquired rank of Eagle Scout, that the Massachusetts Senate hereby extends its best wishes with continued success. This citation be signed by the President of the Senate and attested to the copy thereof transmitted to the clerk of the state Senate, signed by our Senate President Karen Spilka and by the three senators that represent the city of Chicopee: Adam Gomez, John Velis, and me."



A signature cake celebrating the achievement on display.

The moment then arrived as Eagle Scout CJ Dunlap was called to give the Eagle Charge, as all other Eagle Scouts in attendance gathered at center stage, as both Aiden and Kyle waited patiently.

"Kyle and Aiden, I have the privilege and honor of giving you the Eagle Charge on your elevation to the highest rank in scouting," Dunlap said. "Know that your position is now one of honor and responsibility, and understand you are both marked men, forever revered as Eagle Scouts, which means this is a great undertaking, and I close by sharing with both of you: be leaders, but lead only toward the best, and live and know that, as an Eagle Scout, you will now become a guide to other scouts and an example in the community."

Following the dedicated speech, both families graced the stage as Kyle and Aiden's parents bestowed the Eagle badges and certificates. Afterwards, the new Eagle Scouts then reciprocated the honor, awarding special pins to their parents and grandparents, before the traditional neckerchiefs were presented during quiet moments of gratitude to the family members, troop leaders and mentors who guided them along the trail to Eagle.

A final pledge was then made, solidifying the moment, en route to a proper celebration for all.


TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) offers remarks to both Kyle White and Aiden Lindenfeld on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

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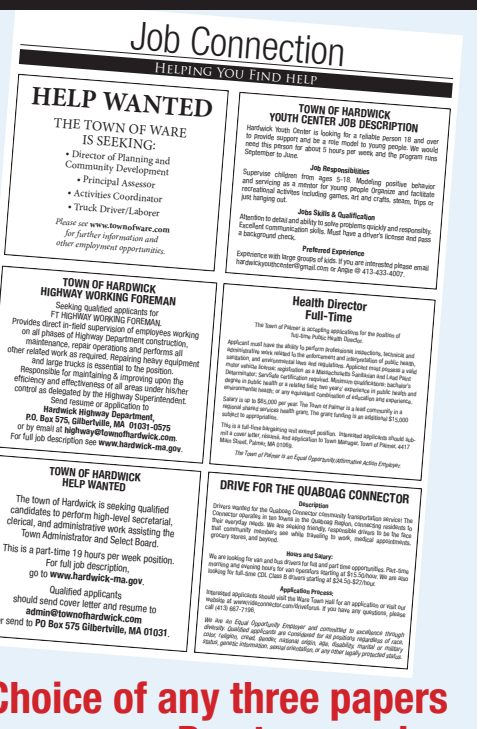
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$80 for each additional paper

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Sophia Moreira makes a play on defense.



Aisha Hill tries to shoot on goal.

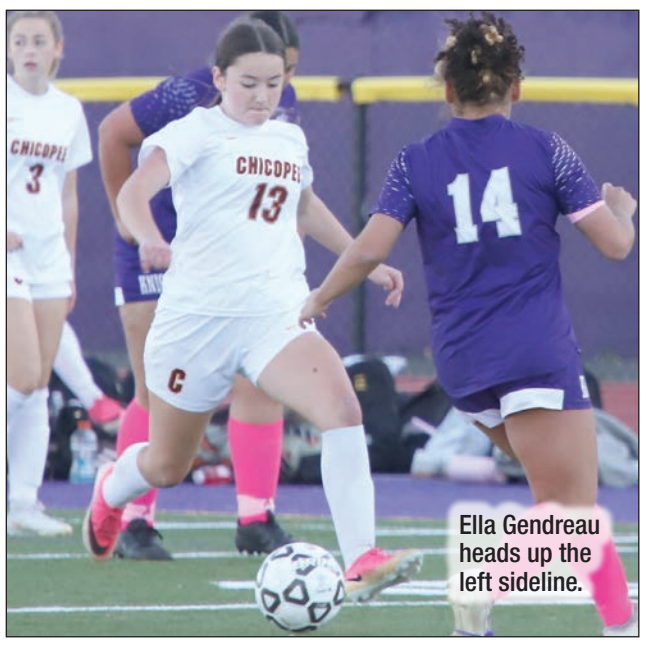
Chicopee takes down rival Holyoke

HOLYOKE – Last Friday afternoon, Cassidy Pytel and Ella Gendreau both had hat tricks as Chicopee High School girls soccer rolled to a 10-2 win over Holyoke at Holyoke High School.

The Knights fell to just 4-7 on the year while Chicopee rose above .500 for the season. Chicopee is now 6-5-1.



Charlotte Wrisley makes her way up the field.



Ella Gendreau heads up the left sideline.



Abriana Aponte make their way up the field.

Pacers boys soccer take down South Hadley

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY— Only one boys' soccer team from the Holley Division has defeated the Chicopee High School Pacers since the start of the 2024 regular season.

Powered by the senior tandem of Abdulwahhab Alnuaimi and Griffen Wrisley, the Pacers rolled to a 5-0 shutout road win over the South Hadley Tigers last Thursday afternoon to extend their league unbeaten streak.

"The past two years, we've had a really good team," said Wrisley, who recorded a hat-trick in his final regular season appearance against the Tigers. "This year is more of a rebuilding year. Having these results in the league really means a lot to us. It shows that we're still here and we're still ready to give that fight and win everything for the school."

The road victory improved Chicopee High's record to 8-2 overall and 8-0 against league opponents, while officially wrapping up a third consecutive Holley Division title.

"One of our goals was to clinch the Holley Division title," said Chicopee head coach Hugo Destapado. "We now want to finish the regular season with a perfect league record."

The last Holley Division team to beat the Pacers was Frontier Regional, who squeaked out a 2-1 win at Szot Park last October.

Besides being league champs again this fall, the Pacers will be looking to defend their Western Mass. Class B title in a couple of weeks.

One thing that the current Chicopee players have yet to accomplish is winning the Division 3 state championship title. A year ago, the Pacers lost, 3-1, at Greater New Bedford Regional Voc/Tech High School in a Division 3 Elite 8 contest.

"Winning the Division 3 state championship is our ultimate goal," Wrisley said. "We just have to stay focused and take it one game at a time."

It was also the third consecutive shutout and the fifth overall recorded by Chicopee junior goalie Zachariah Yarovoy (4 saves).

The Pacers starting defenders are sophomore Peter Morozov, junior Xavien Zayas, and senior Matheus Callegari.

"The guys in the back have been doing a great job so far this season," Destapado said. "Peter is only a sophomore, but he's become of leader of that unit, which is pretty impressive."

The Pacers began this week's action as the sixth ranked team in the MIAA Division 3 state power rankings.

The Tigers (6-2-3, 5-2-2), who captured the Moriarty Division title in 2024, entered last Thursday's home match with an outside chance of tying South Hadley for the league title.

"We still had a shot mathematically to finish in first place," said South Hadley head coach Byron Joy. "Chicopee is a very talented soccer team. We played much better against them in our first meeting. We were expecting a much better result in today's game. We would welcome another chance to play them again in the West Mass. tournament."

The South Hadley seniors, who are also hoping to face the Pacers again, are Daniel Beaulieu, Spencer Parsons, Jaxon Pueschel, Martin Dixon, Matt Butler, Nolan Masse, Rehan Shahid, Ryan Trudel, and Kaysen Gauthier.

The Tigers, who were ranked 16th in the Division 4 power rankings, also lost to the Pacers, 3-1, at Szot Park on September 18. They could

See PACERS page 10

Thunderbirds earn point against Charlotte

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (2-1-0-1) received another terrific netminding performance, but it proved not to be enough in a 2-1 shootout loss at the hands of the Charlotte Checkers (2-2-0-0) on Sunday afternoon inside the MassMutual Center.

Springfield starting goalie Will Cranley was the far busier netminder in the opening 20 minutes, as the Checkers outshot the T-Birds by a 13-3 margin through the first period, while Kirill Gerasimyuk had little action in the Charlotte goaltender's crease.

For a second straight night, the T-Birds' shorthanded unit chipped in on offense, as Alek Kaskimaki and Otto Stenberg worked a beautiful give-and-go, with Kaskimaki cashing in from the left-wing side at 10:46, giving Springfield the 1-0 advantage. Kaskimaki has now registered points in each of the season's first four games.

Cranley's excellence continued, as he and the Springfield penalty-killing unit went a perfect 3-for-3 on the day, improving to 18-for-19 on the season.

After going the first 103 minutes of his season without allowing a goal, Cranley finally succumbed to a strike from Cole Schwindt at 3:44 of the final period, which brought Charlotte back even, 1-1.

The goaltenders' duel carried through the end of regulation, and in the 3-on-3 overtime, Gerasimyuk received some luck from the iron as Kaskimaki hit the post on a breakaway backhander that would have sealed the game for Springfield.

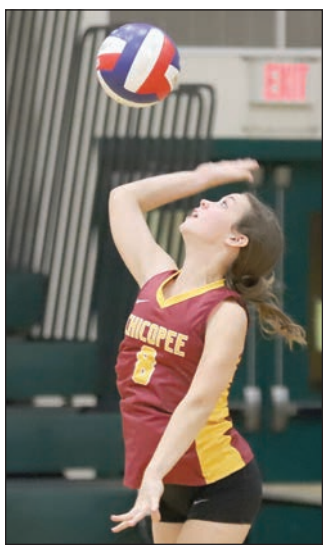
The shootout followed, and Angus Crookshank opened the festivities with a forehander past Cranley's glove, which proved to be all Gerasimyuk would need, as Justin Carbonneau, Kaskimaki, and Nikita Susuev all failed to get one behind the Checker backstop.

Despite the loss, Springfield has earned five points over its first four games of the season, allowing just eight goals to their opposition in regulation time.

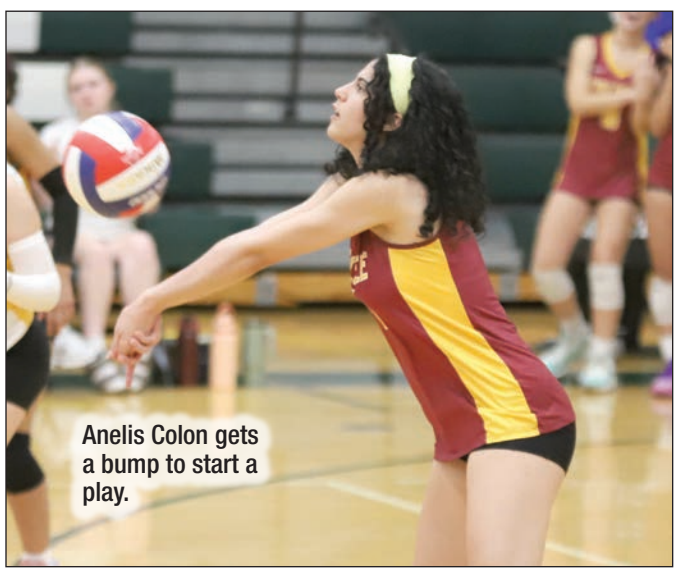
The T-Birds continue the homestand next Friday and Saturday with back-to-back meetings with the Lehigh Valley Phantoms, with puck drops set for 7:05 p.m. on Oct. 16 and 6:05 p.m. on Saturday.

Pacers edged by Falcons

WILBRAHAM – In a hard-fought match against Minnechaug, the Chicopee High School girls volleyball team fell 3-2. Chicopee would go on to beat Commerce and South Hadley later in the week and are now 5-10 on the regular season. Chicopee is unlikely to reach .500, but some wins could possibly get Chicopee into the top 32 in Division 3. The Pacers face rival Chicopee Comprehensive on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.



Victoria Torres Calderon gets play going with a serve.



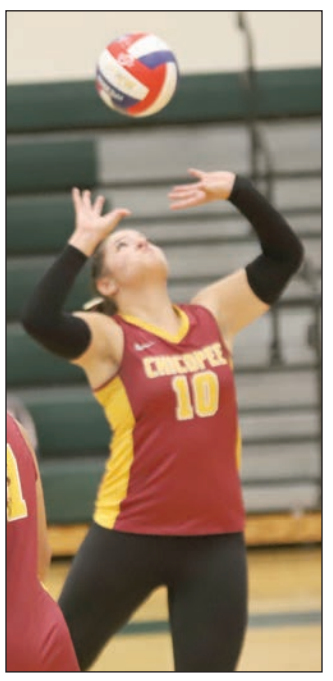
Anelis Colon gets a bump to start a play.



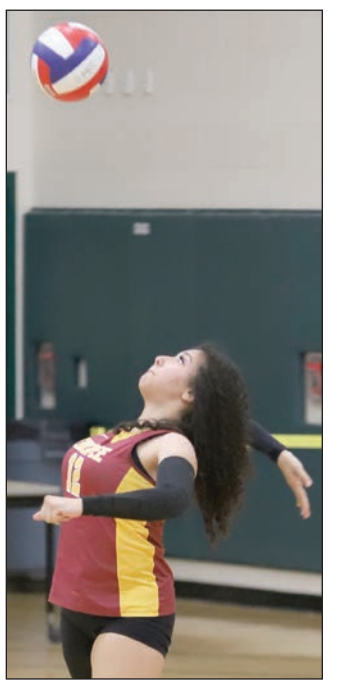
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Kelcy Brunelle sends a spike over the net.



Isabella Lachat overhands the ball back over the net.



Nemesis Torres Sanchez sets the ball straight up.



Jennysis Collado goes for a serve.

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

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CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Kelly J Youngberg of Palmer, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/11/2026.

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.

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 07, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
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.
HD26P2151EA
Estate of:
Gary J Denis
Also known as:
Gary Denis
Date of Death: 09/12/2026
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 **Gail Lempart 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 **Gail Lempart 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 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: October 07, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
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 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

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 30th, 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.

2007 Chevrolet Cobalt
VIN: 1G1AL55F277221535
Alexander Germaine
137 Sierra Vista Rd.
Springfield, MA 01128

1992 Chevrolet C3500
VIN: 2GCGC39N7N1227316
Travis Powell
50 Southampton Rd., Apt. 11C
Westfield, MA 01085

2009 Subaru Impreza
VIN: JF1GE60629H515321
Leonardo
42 Boyer St.
Springfield, MA 01108

2001 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGES16541H610166
Luz Anna Torres
73 Farnum Dr.
Holyoke, MA 01040

2003 Honda Civic
VIN: 1HGEM22593L078120
Earl Kiefer
94 Northway Dr.
Springfield, MA 01119

2003 Chevrolet Avalance
VIN: 3GNEK13T73G232257
Jay Carroll
100 Bonner St.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2004 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGES16584H507885
Christian Yael Torres Santiago
33 Trinity St., Fl 3
New Britain, CT 06051

2017 Suabru Outback
VIN: 4S4BSANC1H3244581
Elise Oreilly
1620 Pendleton Drive
Chicopee, MA 01020

2003 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGES26763H513108
Alexis Atkins-Nortez
135 Layzon Brothers Rd
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

1996 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BB02E3TC153817
Calet Sanchez Diaz
132 Wait St.
Springfield, MA 01104
10/16, 10/23, 10/30/2026

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, 10/16/2026

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 Division
Docket No.
HD26P2169EA
Estate of:
Marie Rolande Liette Plasse
Also Known As:
Liette Plasse
Date of Death: 08/17/2026
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Carol A. Pittsinger of Chicopee, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Carol A. Pittsinger of Chicopee, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
10/16/2026

SHOOTING from page 1

Our thoughts are with the family and loved ones of the individual who lost their life, as well as all those affected by this heartbreaking incident," they said. "While the individuals involved were not associated with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Holyoke, Club staff were present to monitor the event and immediately activated emergency protocols to help ensure the safety of those in the building. We are not aware of any young people who witnessed the shooting. As this remains an active police investigation, we are unable to provide further comment at this time. Our commitment to the safety and well-being of our members, families, staff and community remains unwavering."

Chicopee Galaxy Youth Athletic Association Statement and Vigil

The Chicopee Galaxy Youth Athletic Association remembered Arroyo in a statement posted on its Facebook page on Monday, Oct. 12, saying that he was "forever in our hearts" and a coach, mentor and inspiration to the community.

"It is with a heavy heart that we make this post, but Chicopee Galaxy lost a member of our family yesterday. Coach Ricky put his heart and soul into teaching the game of basketball to the youth of our community. He was a great mentor to his players and we couldn't have asked for a better coach to be part of Galaxy," it reads. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family during this time. He will be missed and always be remembered. We love you Coach Ricky."

A day later, on Oct. 13, family members, friends, former players and community members gathered at Szot Park in Chicopee with flowers and balloons for a candlelight vigil in Arroyo's memory, paying tribute to a beloved community member and coach gone too soon.

The Holyoke Sun and the Chicopee Register will continue to follow this story as it develops.

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Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.
visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

PACERS from page 9

meet for the third time during the Western Mass. Class B tournament.

It didn't take very long for Chicopee to take a 1-0 lead in their second meeting against South Hadley.

During the fourth minute of the opening half, Wrisley, who has scored 119 career goals, fired a low shot that deflected into the net off the glove of junior goalie Xzavies Rosario (6 saves).

"It was very important for us to take any early lead," Wrisley said. "It also gave us the momentum."

Wrisley hasn't made his college decision yet, but Destapado believes he'll be an outstanding player at the next level.

"It's still early in the recruiting process," Destapado said. "He's a very talented player and he can play at that level. It's been a tremendous ride with him during the past couple of years."

Rosario made a key save on a shot attempt by Callegari following a corner kick in the 25th minute.

The home team's four shots on goal during the first half were taken by junior Chris Sotiropoulos, Butler, Parsons, and Trudel.

The score remained 1-0 until Alnuaimi put a low shot into the left corner for an unassisted goal in the 28th minute.

Then Wrisley scored the Pacers final two first half goals and recorded his fifth hat-trick of the regular season.

The only goal of the second half was scored by Alnuaimi. Morozov was credited with the assist.

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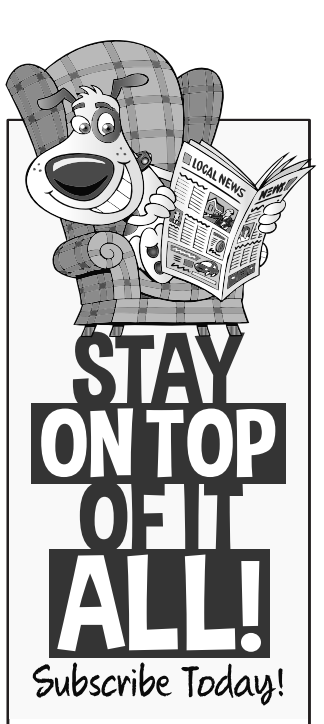
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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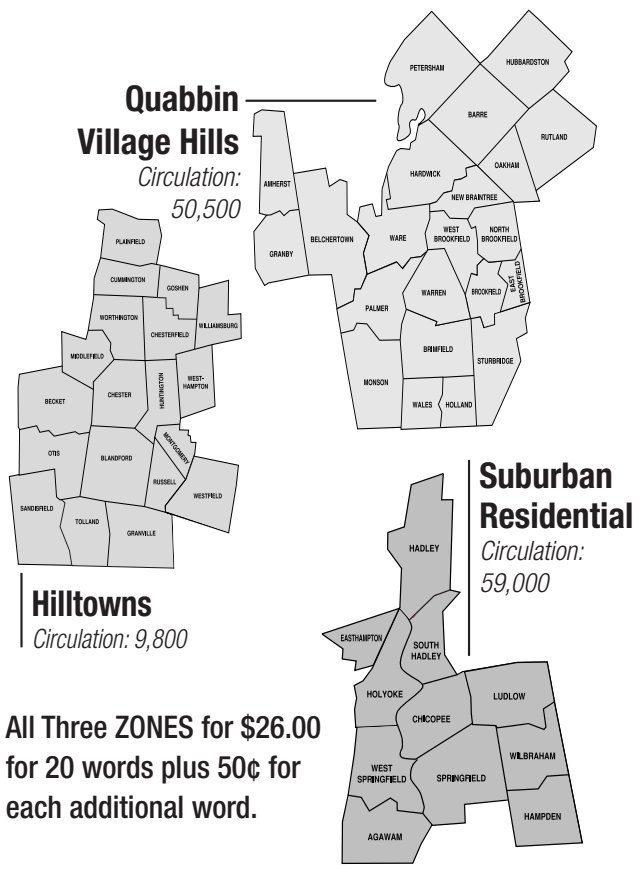
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