

Chicopee Register

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CHICOPEE YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

Chester Szetela receives MASC Lifetime Achievement Award

Oct. 18 designated 'Chet Szetela Appreciation Day' in Chicopee

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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CHICOPEE (Oct. 20, 2023) – At-Large School Committee Member Chester “Chet” Szetela received the Massachusetts Association of School Committee’s Lifetime Achievement Award during a ceremony in the City Hall Auditorium on Wednesday.

Mayor John Vieau announced Oct. 18 as “Chet Szetela Appreciation Day” in Chicopee.

Szetela, a member of the School Committee since 2002, also received a proclamation from the City of Chicopee and the Massachusetts State Senate.

“I’ve been very, very blessed and gifted,” Szetela said. “I enjoyed the kind words and the people making an effort to be here... (It’s important) to want to serve. I really wanted to become part of the community, and I’m very glad that I did.”

Szetela said his late wife of 60-plus years, a school-teacher, inspired him to pursue his career in education. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts and master’s degrees in education, he embarked on a 40-year career in the classroom and as a counselor, spending 34 years with Chicopee Public Schools.

Vieau noted that Sze-



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski.

At-Large School Committee Member Chester Szetela was awarded with the Massachusetts Association of School Committee’s Lifetime Achievement Award on Oct. 18.

la has actively championed school safety, helping to implement training programs to prevent bullying and promote safety preparedness. He has also advocated for the presence of school resource officers in Chicopee schools.

Szetela, a lifelong Chicopee resident and longstanding member of the Housing

Authority Board of Directors, has seven children, 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Vieau described the ceremony as a “Szetela family reunion,” and Szetela voiced appreciation for his family.

“I think of myself as being a rich man by having six daughters. I appreciate them being here,” Szetela said.

Chicopee spreads Christmas cheer at annual tree lighting

Residents pack City Hall for festivities

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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CHICOPEE (Dec. 8, 2023) – The community came out in droves on Dec. 1 for Chicopee’s Annual Tree Lighting.

Throughout the evening, residents enjoyed dance performances from Vibe Dance Center and DanceDynamics, musical performances from Victoria Narvaez, the Chicopee High School Marching Band, Victory Chapel Choir and the Girls Scouts, donuts from Dunkin’ and Bernardino’s Bakery, soup from ChicopeeFRESH and hot chocolate and cookies from Chicopee Comp’s Culinary Department. Additionally, visits with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus.

After Mayor John Vieau arrived with Santa Claus via fire truck from the fire department, he addressed the crowd.

“It’s about kicking off the holiday season, and Chicopee likes to do it right,” Vieau said.

As Vieau led the countdown to lighting the tree and holiday lights, Santa, 2023 Grand Colleen Kailyn Poniatowski and Colleen Court member Hailey Prive then flipped the switch to huge applause.

Illianna Whitehead came with her family and friends to enjoy the festivities, saying it’s a family tradition to attend the tree lighting.

“What I and my family enjoy is seeing people we know or, you know, just having a great time seeing the tree lighting, so things like that,” Whitehead said.



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS.

Newborn Jiraiya, dressed in a teddy bear outfit, meets Santa Claus during Chicopee’s Christmas Tree Lighting festivities.

Chloe Soto, the city’s communications and special projects manager, was excited to bring the event together for the community, and the turnout was huge despite the weather.

“That is really Chicopee spirit, right? We come together when we need to, when we have to and when we want to, right? So, this I feel is a success, but the biggest success is having all these people come. So having everybody come together, that’s the real success for me,” Soto said.

Whitehead shared these reminders for the community this holiday season.

“Coming to events like this, just be respectful. Be respectful of people. In this holiday season, just spread some joy,” Whitehead said.

James K. Tillotson Memorial Day recognized on Nov. 25

City councilors remember their longtime friend, colleague

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE (Dec. 1, 2023) – James K. Tillotson, one of the most passionate, knowledgeable and longstanding elected officials in city history, passed away on Nov. 18 at age 88 following a two-year battle with cancer.

Tillotson was currently serving as a councilor-at-large and previously served as Ward 1 City Councilor, Ward 1 member of the Board of Aldermen and Ward 1 School Committeeman.

Tillotson’s career of public service spanned more than a half-century; he taught at Lambert Lavoie Elementary School and then Chicopee High School, where he was the hockey coach. He also taught at the High School of Commerce in Springfield and served as its director of Social Studies K-12.



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Councilor-at-Large James Tillotson, pictured here on March 2, 2021, during the opening of the refurbished City Hall Auditorium.

Tillotson, a veteran of the air National Guard who was sent to France during the Berlin Crisis, passed away peacefully at home in the company of his family and is survived by his wife Joan, his four children

and their families, among others.

To commemorate Tillotson’s service, Mayor John Vieau proclaimed Nov. 25, 2023, as James K. Tillotson Memorial Day in the city of Chicopee at the Nov. 22 City Council meeting. At the end of the meeting, most of Tillotson’s colleagues fought back tears as they remembered their companion.

“Jim was a friend when I got on the City Council. Being in politics all my life, I still looked up to Jim. He helped me through a lot. He’ll be truly missed,” City Council President Frank Laflamme said.

Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski noted that Tillotson was his mentor for over 20 years, dating back to Zygarowski’s time in the police department.

“He was a real gentleman, a family man and a friend. In my opinion, he’s a legend on this council,” Zygarowski said. “He loved sports, and I’m sure he’s up there either roller-skating, ice skating or playing hockey, knowing Jim.”

Zygarowski recalled seeing Tillotson



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CITY OF CHICOPEE

James K. Tillotson.
1935 – 2023

about a week before his passing. He looks back fondly on visiting Tillotson at his home to share news clippings.

“I used to bring him the Chicopee Register, and one of his good friends Chet Szetela was on the front page, and he really enjoyed getting it,” Zygarowski said.

Ward 1 Councilor Joel McAuliffe brought a photo of Tillotson to the

meeting and placed it at Tillotson’s seat. McAuliffe joked that there was nothing he could say about Tillotson that Tillotson never said himself.

“A legendary figure in Chicopee history; it’s a tremendous loss,” McAuliffe said. “The amount of institutional knowledge that this board loses as a result of losing Jim is really tremendous. Just a really phenomenal guy. I loved debating with him, and we both had conversations that he enjoyed, the debates as well. Just a breath of knowledge that is irreplaceable.”

YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY 27

Firefighters rise the ranks



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI.

From left, School Committee rep. Samuel Shumsky, City Council President Frank Laflamme, City Council Vice President Robert Zygarowski, Mayor John Vieau, Lt. Jeffrey Pelletier, Capt. Phillip Sanford, Capt. Katie Kalbaugh, City Councilor Delmarina López and State Rep. Shirley Arriaga, in City Hall on Jan. 25.

Kalbaugh becomes department's first female captain

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE (Jan. 27, 2023) – For six members of the fire department, Jan. 25 was a day that will be remembered for a lifetime.

Katie Kalbaugh and Phillip Sanford were promoted to captain, Jeffrey Pelletier earned the rank of lieutenant and recruits Nicholas Meuse, Laura Rousseau and Hunter LaRochelle were sworn in as new firefighters.

Twenty years after becoming the department's first female firefighter, and after serving as the department's first female lieutenant, Kalbaugh is now the city's first female fire captain.

"It's been a lot of work," she said.

"It's a lot of studying and getting ready, and this time we also had an assessment center, which was basically a whole day of different stations where we were tested. It was a lot so it's exciting that it's here."

Kalbaugh moved to Chicopee in 1991 and has lived in the city longer than she's resided anywhere else. She applauded all those who were promoted on Wednesday and said she looks forward to her new role.

"I have made Chicopee my home. I've raised my family here. I live here and work here so it is really great to serve the city every day," she said.

Sanford is originally from Chicopee and has been with the fire department for nearly 22 years. He said he feels fortunate to work in a department where one can climb the ranks.

"It's a great moment; a long time coming," Sanford said. "It's not easy to do, but it's great to have the opportunity. If you want to make it there, you can get there."

FEBRUARY 10

Dr. Marcus Ware named superintendent

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE (Feb. 10, 2023) – By a final vote of 10 to 1, the School Committee named Dr. Marcus Ware as the city's next superintendent during a special meeting on Feb. 6.

"He's passionate about lifelong learning, he has been in the classroom teaching, and he bases his information on experience and knowledge," Ward 4 committee member Sandra Peret said. "For me, someone who is an educator is someone who should be sitting in the superintendent's chair."

Ware was employed in Connecticut as an executive director of strategic initiatives for the Windham Public School dis-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WINDHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Dr. Marcus Ware will become Chicopee's superintendent next school year.

trict and began his tenure in Chicopee entering the 2022-2023 school year.

Ware served in his role in Windham for one school year prior to being named Chicopee superintendent. Previously, he was Principal of Windham Middle School, a position he entered in August 2018.

From September 2012 to August 2018, Ware served as Head of School for the Springfield Commonwealth Academy.

Ware earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of Hartford and earned a master's degree in Special Education, Teaching and Counseling from Cambridge College.

FEBRUARY 17



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Special Education Teacher Margaux Lamirande stands next to Student Council members Julianna, Erin and Kaan at Litwin Elementary School on Monday.

Fifth graders at Litwin School celebrate milestone by giving back

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE (Feb. 17, 2023) – Litwin Elementary School students shared wise words and displayed big hearts while partaking in their "1000th day nonperishable food drive" in support of Lorraine's Soup Kitchen and Pantry.

From Feb. 1 to Feb. 16, the school motivates students to participate by announcing the number of donations collected each morning, sparking inspiration to bring in more.

The project, now in its eighth year, enables students to celebrate the milestone by collecting and donating nonperishable food items.

Fifth-Grade Special Education Teacher Margaux Lamirande oversees the project alongside the fifth-grade Student Council, which is responsible for organizing all of the nonperishables brought in by the

student body during the drive.

"The school looks forward to it, including the announcements of how many cans we have," Lamirande said. "It builds excitement, and the kids are excited to bring things in to help."

Fifth-grader Erin also gets excited about the morning announcements and shares how the student council is involved in the process.

"On Wednesday or Friday, we go to each of the classrooms to pick up the goods and drop them off in Room Three," she said. "The goal is 1,000 pounds of nonperishable food items, and we have 570 more pounds to collect."

Kaan enjoys the 1000th-day experience. Besides celebrating the achievement of 1000 days of school, supporting the community is also important to him.

"It makes me feel good," he said. "It's celebrating a milestone and helping people that need help. It helps both the community and us."

Junior ROTC honors DeLeon-Figueroa

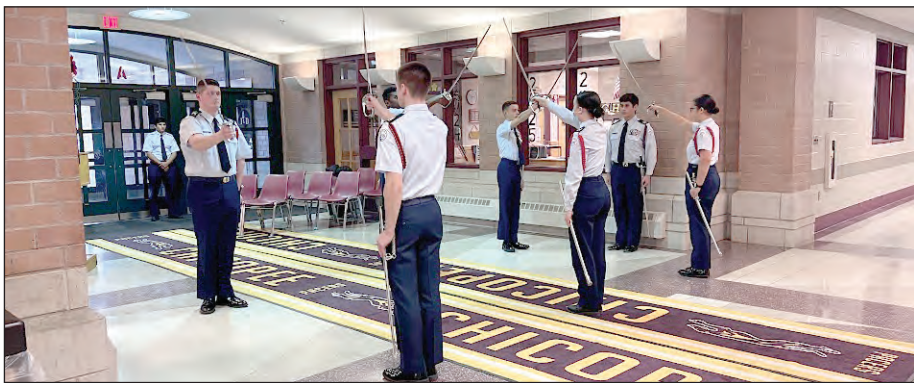


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICOPEE HIGH SCHOOL

CHICOPEE (Jan. 27, 2023) – The Chicopee High School Air Force Junior ROTC corps held an honor roll ceremony on Jan. 20 in honor of US Army Master Sergeant Jose DeLeon-Figueroa. A former Chicopee High School student, MSG

DeLeon-Figueroa was killed in action on Aug. 21, 2019 in the Faryab province of Afghanistan. His foster parents, Lisa and Bill Campbell were present to place his nameplate on to the permanent memorial plaque in the CHS entrance way.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

MARCH 3

A new Colleen is crowned at the Coronation Ball



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOEL RODOWICZ

From left, court member Nydia Morales, court member Martha O'Donnell, Colleen Kailyn Pontiatowski, court member Hailey Prive and court member Ava Lapa.

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE (March 3, 2023) – By the time the clock struck 10 on the evening of Feb. 25, a new Colleen had been crowned at the Coronation Ball.

Chicopee's 2023 Colleen is Kailyn Pontiatowski, and her court consists of Ava Lapa, Nydia Morales, Martha O'Donnell and Hailey Prive.

All will represent the city in the iconic Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 18; City Councilor-at-Large Jerry Roy will serve as Chicopee's parade marshal.

Ten young women participated in this year's Colleen contest, which was sponsored by the Chicopee St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and held at the Knights

of Columbus Council 69 on Granby Road. Each participant spent several weeks preparing for the event, and all were interviewed by a panel of judges leading up to the contest.

The panel included Ray Hoess-Brooks, Shannon Page, Dr. Lisa Lewis and Navy Petty Officer First Class James Donohue.

On the night of the event, a full house at the Knights of Columbus witnessed each contestant shine under the bright lights.

After each young woman was introduced, the judges deliberated and selected five finalists. From there, each finalist climbed the stage, grabbed a microphone and answered a question pertaining to the risks and benefits of social media.

Ultimately, Pontiatowski was chosen as Colleen. She was crowned by the 2022 Colleen, Ashley Terron.

MARCH 17

Tradition continues as Badges battle on the ice



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

From left, Police Capt. Holly Cote, Police Chief Patrick Major, Boys & Girls Club Executive Director Jason Reed, Fire Chief Dan Stamborski and Fire Capt. Katie Kalbaugh posed for a photo during the Battle of the Badges Charity Hockey Game.

Police department secures 5-3 victory

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE (March 17, 2023) – The badges battled again on March 12 in a hockey exhibition at Fitzpatrick Arena in

Holyoke, and the police department defeated the fire department by a score of 5-3.

Proceeds from the Annual Battle of the Badges Charity Hockey Game benefited the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee and a scholarship fund for Chicopee High School and Chicopee Comprehensive High School students.

"You have two great hockey teams here that are competing for a great cause. It's nice to see so many people turning out

to just enjoy what we hope is a memorable day," Mayor John Vieau said. "They work hand-in-hand every day together, and now to have this good, honest competition on the ice, it's really incredible."

The police department has emerged victorious often in the series' history, and Police Chief Patrick Major was excited to witness the rivalry's latest chapter. He said the event builds camaraderie between the departments and was happy to see so many children in attendance.

"They're so excited; you can tell," Major said. "They come out to see a good game, and it gives them a chance to see their mothers and fathers out there, seeing what we do, not just in a (police or fire de-

partment) uniform but being part of something a little bit bigger than that."

Fire Chief Dan Stamborski said he was proud of both the firefighters and police officers who participated. He said members of both departments work extremely hard on the streets protecting the community so the opportunity to enjoy a recreational event was a welcome change of pace.

"Mostly, we're not out there working on pleasant scenes on the streets. We're usually called together for some kind of tragedy, and this is a much more uplifting event for the men and women involved," Stamborski said, noting that the fire department fielded approximately 15,000 calls last year.

APRIL 21



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

A 240-foot stretch of Old Lyman Road was changed to allow only one-way traffic in 2022.

Ward 9 residents have differing opinions on Old Lyman Road

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE (April 21, 2023) – When a 240-foot-long, 16-foot-wide stretch of Old Lyman Road was quietly reversed from two-way to one-way traffic in 2022, it resulted in a loud response from Ward 9 residents.

The roadway served two-way traffic for decades prior to the 2022 decision. Most recently, the City Council voted for the Department of Public Works to submit a cost analysis to the Mayor's Office exploring the price of widening the road to meet the state required width of 20 feet.

A group of residents, who used the stretch of road as a cut through, feel upset that Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello requested the reversal without consulting the neighborhood.

Others are quite pleased with the deci-

sion and its results.

After filing for the change with the support of six signatures, Costello has since acknowledged she could have sought more input. She said she had no requirement to notify the entire neighborhood but only the residences affected on Old Lyman Road.

"We went by the ordinance to play it safe. The ordinance does not indicate any notification of the public. It's posted at City Hall. It's not a zone change so it doesn't require notification of people (more than) 300 feet (away). I wish I could have done more, but, by law, per the ordinance, we played it safe, we made sure there was nothing controversial, and there was absolutely no violation of the Open Meeting Law because we followed the ordinance to a tee," Costello said.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

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Laura Stamborski, who lives on nearby Landing Drive, considers the stretch of Old Lyman Road to be a main access point and feels as though the decision to change it to one-way traffic was rushed.

“As a neighborhood, we feel like they went from zero to 60. They didn’t try other solutions first and didn’t include us in the conversation to find out what other solutions they could have found,” she said.

Stamborski said millions of cars traveled both ways on the road without

incident, although Costello points to a small accident that occurred when two school buses brushed up against each other in 2019.

Stamborski collected data, noting that out of a traffic flow of 418 cars, 85% of people travel through the stretch at a speed of 30 mph or less and that the average speed there is only 18 mph.

Stamborski is most concerned that emergency services can no longer travel both ways on the street. Although they legally are able to drive the wrong way, Police Chief Patrick Major has maintained they are unlikely to do so, as the liability would be too great if an accident

erly for Chicopee fire and building departments,” Courchesne said.

Jeanette Jez lives on Fairway Drive and spoke at the meeting as she saw many City Council members were present. She appreciates Tesla being “very accommodating in the changes that they’ve made” per concerns from residents.

“Oftentimes, when I come to these meetings or I read about them, we’re just talking about that particular business, and I want to know what the city, and I mean

that collectively, is doing to plan for that,” Jez said. “Certainly, we want to welcome new businesses or restaurants or whatever it may be, but knowing that we have a challenge of traffic up in that area, I think it would be very shortsighted not to anticipate residents coming to the Zoning Board or City Council asking for help.”

The proposal passed 5-0 and will be presented to the City Council on May 2 for a final vote.

APRIL 28

Zoning Committee approves proposed Tesla dealership



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Jeanette Jez shares her thoughts on the Tesla partnership on Burnett Road during the Zoning Committee Meeting at City Hall.

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE (April 28, 2023) - The Zoning Committee unanimously voted on April 26 to approve, with restrictions, the proposed Tesla dealership on Burnett Road.

The vote took place after postponing a decision on April 19, giving committee members time to review a traffic study submitted by Tesla.

Ward 7 City Councilor William Courchesne read the restrictions.

“The entrance and exit will be moved to the traffic light at New Lombard Road and Burnett Road. There will only be 310 parking spaces. The building will be limited to 37,000 square foot building maximum, 20 bay maximum, six off-network charging stations and batteries stored prop-

MAY 12



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABBIE MEULEMANS

To celebrate Earth Day, students at Barry Elementary School planted a new tree.

Barry Elementary celebrates Earth Day by cleaning school, park

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE (May 12, 2023) – On April 26, the Barry Elementary School community was invited to pick up litter around the school and in nearby Garrity Grove Park as part of a weeklong celebration of Earth Day.

Earth Day occurred during school vacation so the festivities at Barry Elementary took place when the students returned. After filling their bags with trash and recyclables, students enjoyed multiple crafts and a poster contest.

“It’s very important so the Earth isn’t polluted,” fourth-grade student Emersyn Ouellette said. “It’s important to pick up trash because it will keep on going and going. You may think it goes away and goes somewhere else, but it doesn’t. It will probably go in the ocean.”

Amelia Pitoniak, an art teacher at Barry Elementary who is vice president of the

school’s PTO, helped coordinate various events during the first week after vacation.

“Tuesday, we all wore green and blue to support our Earth, Wednesday, we had our Earth Day family event, and it was an opportunity for the community and the children of our school to come and collect some trash around the school’s property and the park in the back,” Pitoniak said.

Students then traded in their collected bags of garbage to do a recycle craft. They collected paper towel tubes and strung them on strings, creating birdfeeders.

On Thursday, each student planted a small bulb in a little pot, which they were able to take home. A tree was also planted in front of the building.

“Then, on Friday, all the kids worked on posters,” Principal Kate Lambert said. “We had a little poster contest and had over 150 kids participate in that. It was nice to see kids being engaged in something that was outside of the school setting but also ties into their home life and their school life.”

City Council discusses ongoing trash and safety issues at Walmart

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE (May 26, 2023) - The City Council held a thorough discussion on May 16 addressing ongoing trash and safety issues at the Walmart on Memorial Drive.

Ward 5 Councilor Frederick Krampits said the management team met with the License Committee to discuss the issues.

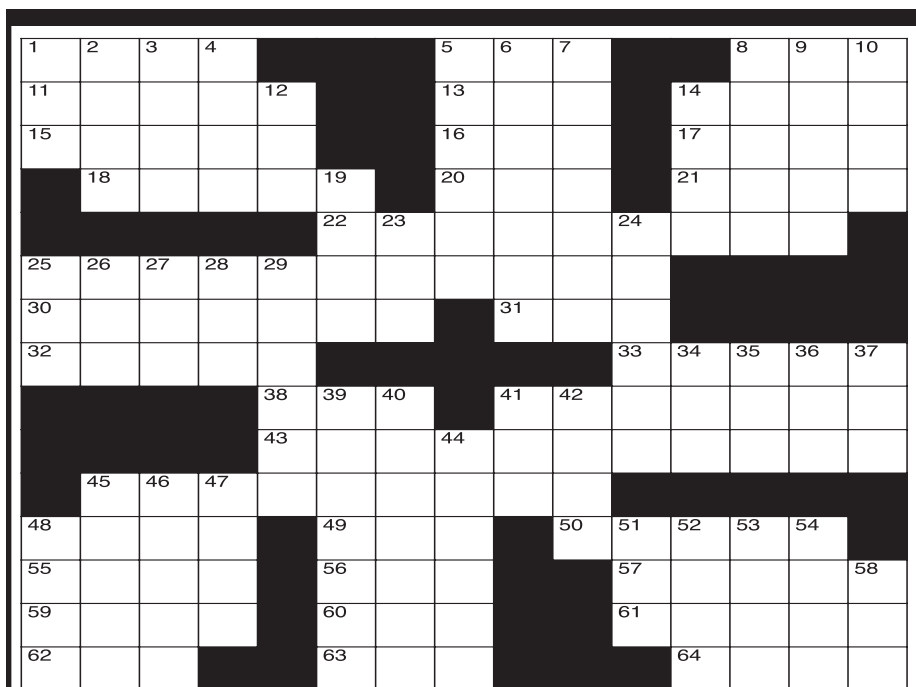
“There was a good dialogue about some of the issues that were going on, but there was also a need to get answers to some questions to our office by June 8

so we could schedule the next meeting,” Krampits said.

Krampits explained the committee is looking for answers from Walmart on the following items: using paper bags, a security plan, adding a second fence near the property line and possibly trimming the trees in that area, a plan of cleanliness, a contact list with updated information and the status of the carriage virtual fence to prevent carriages from leaving the property by locking the wheels.

Ward 6 Councilor Derek Dobosz thanked the council for supporting “at least

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CLUES ACROSS

1. A way to injure
5. Mutual savings bank
8. Rock TV channel
11. Large number of fish swimming together
13. Military mailbox
14. Female of a horse
15. Category
16. City
17. Breezed through
18. Officer who bears a mace
20. Tax collector
21. “Cheers” actress Perlman
22. Pauses before acting
25. Extracted information from a wave
30. Tendency to revert to something ancestral
31. No seats available
32. Nocturnal rodents
33. Moves gently to

and fro

38. Not good
41. A way to ready
43. One who makes something better
45. Things associated with American history
48. Ancient Phoenician fertility god
49. A continuous portion of a circle
50. Volcanic craters
55. Units of electrical resistance
56. Gamble on
57. Ethiopian town
59. One point east of northeast
60. Polynesian garland of flowers
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. State of fuss
63. Keyboard key
64. Partner to relaxation

CLUES DOWN

1. “The world’s most famous arena”
2. Polite interruption sound
3. Private school in New York
4. Refuse of grapes
5. ___ Tomei, actress
6. Adult beverages
7. Supporter
8. Papier-___, art material
9. Forests have them
10. Most ancient Hindu scriptures
12. Downwind
14. Marketplace
19. Flowering plant genus
23. Street where nightmares happen
24. Admirer
25. Dip lightly into water
26. When you hope to get there
27. Partner to cheese
28. Egg
29. A way to disqualify
34. South American plant
35. Fold-away bed
36. Debbie Harry album “___ Koo”
37. Swedish krona
39. Displaying warmth and friendliness
40. Official orders
41. Bowling alley necessity
42. Stray
44. About milk
45. Expressed pleasure
46. Caribbean dance
47. If not
48. ___ fide (Latin)
51. Swiss river
52. Hebrew calendar month
53. One easily swindled
54. Point that is one point south of southwest
58. Small island (British)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 16

YEAR IN REVIEW



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

The Chicopee Walmart on Memorial Drive was a topic of discussion at the May 16 City Council meeting due to recent trash and safety issues.

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some action” on the issue. In his opinion, Walmart should hire police detail more regularly at their expense, switch to paper bags and address the trash problem. He added, “We’re looking for additional action.”

“I think Walmart knows we’re serious, and I hope they offer real solutions so we don’t have to,” Dobosz said. “The trash and crime is just out of control at the Chicopee Walmart, so I’m glad we’re doing something.”

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello shared how Walmart made national headlines in 2019 due to the crime issues. When her youngest daughter started at Elms College, Costello added, the big story for the freshman class was taking photos at Walmart and sending them to their families due to that publicity.

“To them, that was a big deal, so Walmart’s got to step up to the plate. We as a city have to make sure we’re enforcing ordinances in order, like Councilor Balakier said, to fine them,” Costello said. “We got to continue to be proactive.”

JUNE 9

Sixteen Trailblazers graduate from the Academy



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Interim Superintendent Alvin Morton poses with the Chicopee Academy Class of 2023.

Principal Leonard, VP Skiba set to retire

By Dalton Zbierski
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CHICOPEE (June 9, 2023) – Principal John Leonard fought back tears as he took to the podium during Chicopee Academy’s graduation ceremony on June 1, where 16 Trailblazers received their diplomas.

Leonard and Vice Principal Martha Skiba are set to retire in the coming weeks. For both longtime Academy staff members, last Thursday’s graduation in the school’s gymnasium was one to remember.

“The Class of 2023 is by far the largest class we have ever had at Chicopee Academy,” Skiba said. “This is an incredible turnout. I can’t believe how many people are here and what a beautiful day we have to celebrate. We’re here to pay tribute and to honor the 16 graduating seniors today. This was not an easy journey, and today, you seniors have reached an important milestone: high school graduation.”

Leonard worked with Skiba at the school for 18 years, having spent the past 14 as principal, and credited her for her tremendous professionalism and support.

He emphasized that the Class of 2023 is the largest in the school’s history and praised the graduates for overcoming adversity many times on their journey to graduation.

“The students have encountered many bumps and turbulence during their high school careers, whether they were here at the Academy or (Chicopee High or Comp). They’ve learned the value of patience, relationship building, working together, communicating, and they have found new ways to cope and conquer many obstacles,” he said.

The Academy Class of 2023 includes Jamil Carrasquillo, Jade Charette, Destiny Cruz, Inelise Diaz, Ryan Gallagher, Sebastian Johnson, Kylie Lussier, William Mercado, Adam Monteiro, Caleb O’Brien, Quincy Ononiua, Jammarr Privette, Allen Rosario, Daniel Vasilevich, Brian Velazquez and Kyleigh White.

Charette was awarded with the Student of the Year award.

NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

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Chicopee Comprehensive High School awards diplomas to 252 graduates



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Drew Orzechowski, Stefan Banar, Kyle Girard, Luke Theroux and Ava Lapa take a group photo with their diplomas after graduating from Chicopee Comprehensive High School on June 2.

The ceremony was held in the high school’s gymnasium

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE (June 9, 2023) - Families gathered in the gymnasium on June 2 for the Chicopee Comprehensive High School graduation ceremony.

Mayor John Vieau said the graduates are stepping into uncharted territory, reminding them to stay humble and be bold.

“Remember that saying goodbye to Chicopee Comp doesn’t mean leaving behind the experiences or knowledges that you’ve gained here. Rather, you carry them with you as invaluable tools that will help you shape the future with what you want and deserve,” Vieau said.

Valedictorian Jovante Gonzalez is graduating with a 103.5 cumulative average and will attend Amherst College to major in Biochemistry with a future in medical. He reflected on working closely with his classmates throughout high school.

“I can truly say that I’ve been able to

work with the most smartest, skillful and supportive individuals. I truly believe that I am standing here today giving this speech because of the people that I’ve been able to work with on a daily basis. They have pushed me not only to be better academically, but also as a human overall,” Gonzalez said.

Principal Andrew Lamothe told graduates to not limit themselves and remember “the importance of continuous learning and personal growth.”

“Give each day your best effort. Embrace the opportunities before you, stay true to your values and use your unique talents to make a difference in the world,” Lamothe said.

Emmie Jones is going to Elms College and will major in graphic design and studio arts, while Eric Martins will look for a job in the automotive industry when he turns 18.

Jones and Martins want the community to know the Class of 2023 made an impact and will in the future.

“I would say that we made a huge impact and that our impact on the school will help the community grow,” Jones said.

“If we can do it, anyone can,” Martins said.

Chicopee High School awards diplomas to 191 graduates

The ceremony took place at Szot Park

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE (June 9, 2023) - Families gathered at Szot Park on June 1 for the Chicopee High School graduation ceremony.

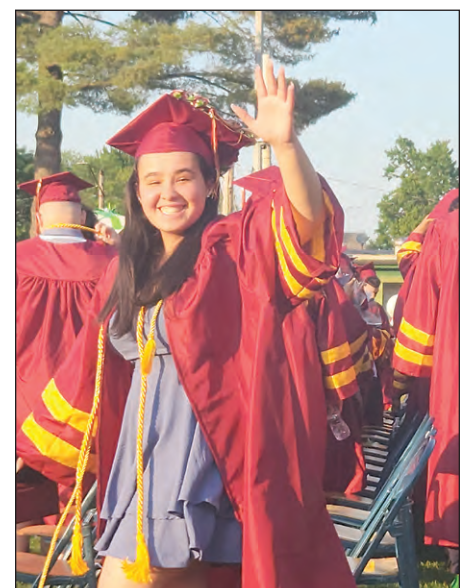
In her remarks, Principal Carol Kruser hopes the graduates are excited, highlighting their kindness, grit and resilience.

“You’re probably a little nervous too, and that’s okay. But you are all sitting here today because you accepted challenges, faced adversity, made plans, changed plans and had a little bit of faith that it would all work out,” Kruser said.

Class President Keiara Hawes said the graduates have been through so much but are still together.

“We are all here today, together, celebrating what is just the beginning. Together: that is one word that always comes out the lips of someone when they mention our class. How we do things together, we party together, we hang out together, we lose together, we celebrate together, and that is one thing I pride myself so much about my own class,” Hawes said.

Valedictorian Ella Florence will decide between Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland or the University of Vermont, reflecting on living life with fulfillment, knowledge, feeling emotion and accepting



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Alyssa DeJesus waves to her family after receiving her diploma during the Chicopee High

failure. Her mother put the Valedictorian medal on her during the ceremony.

“Remember, you control your own story. You write your own too,” Florence said. “You may write your own novel, but there’s tons of editors and co-authors along the way that contribute to your story.”

Riana Austin will attend Westfield

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** page 7

GUEST COLUMN



Are spousal benefits always a factor?

Dear Rusty
Both my wife and I have worked our entire lives.

When we retire, will we both be entitled to full benefit amount each or will there always be a spousal factor in there? Also, how are those benefits calculated – based on your highest salaries throughout your career, or your ending salaries when you retire?

Signed: Looking Ahead

Dear Looking
Prior to retiring from work is a smart time to investigate how Social Security will fit into your golden years. To answer your second question first, each person's personal SS retirement benefit is based on the highest earning 35 years over their entire lifetime, with earlier years adjusted for inflation.

The person's Average Indexed Monthly Earnings, essentially the person's lifetime average inflation-adjusted monthly earnings amount, is first determined.

Using AIME, the person's Primary Insurance Amount is calculated using a special benefit formula which will yield a PIA of about 40% or less of the person's AIME. The PIA is the amount received if benefits start in the month full retirement age or "FRA" is attained, as you can see, Social Security likes acronyms.

Since you and your wife were both born after 1959, FRA for both of you is 67. The age when you claim benefits, relative to your FRA, determines how much you'll get. Claim before FRA and your benefit is reduced; claim after your FRA and your SS retirement benefit will be more (up to age 70 when maximum is reached); claim at your FRA and your benefit will equal your PIA – the full (100%) amount you've earned from a lifetime of working.

Spouse benefits only come into play if the PIA for one of you is less than 50% of the other's PIA. In that case, the spouse with the lower PIA gets a "spousal boost" to their own SS retirement benefit when claimed.

The amount of the "spousal boost" will be the difference between the lower PIA and half of the higher PIA, but the amount of the "spousal boost" (as well as the person's own SS retirement amount) will be reduced if benefits are claimed before full retirement age. Any time SS benefits are claimed before full retirement age, those benefits are permanently reduced.

If one spouse is entitled to a "spousal boost" from the other, the spousal amount will reach maximum at the recipient's full retirement age. Thus, if the lower earning partner's highest benefit will be as a spouse, then that spouse should not wait beyond their FRA to claim. If, instead, the lower earning partner's own SS benefit at age 70 is more than their spousal amount, waiting longer than FRA to claim could be prudent, depending on life expectancy.

So, as you can see, deciding when to claim Social Security benefits should consider many things, including financial need, work status if claiming before FRA, marital status and life expectancy. But it is your lifetime earnings which determines your SS retirement benefit amount, and it is how your FRA entitlements compare to each other that determines whether spousal benefits will be paid.

The Association Mature Citizens

GUEST COLUMN



Possibly no one had more influence on American foreign policy in the late 20th century than Henry Kissinger, who died last month at age 100. In his long and active career, he advised presidents, carried out policies and initiatives, and was a highly visible figure around the world.

While it's early to pronounce judgment on his legacy, it's clear that his impact is deeply mixed. His accomplishments were both positive and negative. He was respected and he was reviled.

Kissinger is the only person to have served as national security adviser and secretary of state at the same time, positions he held in the Nixon and Ford administrations. He was brilliant and secretive, and he wasn't much focused on the human cost of his policies.

He was interested in strategy, not values.

He showed little interest in democratic governance or transparency. A creature of the executive branch, he seemed to almost scorn the idea of three separate and coequal branches of government.

You sometimes got the impression he had contempt for Congress.

I was not close to Kissinger, but our paths did cross on foreign policy matters. I served in Congress, and we approached policy from different perspectives. Coincidentally, we were both connected to the commission that investigated the 9/11 attacks.

Kissinger was the original pick to chair the group, and former Sen. George Mitchell was to be vice chair. Both stepped down because of perceived conflicts of interest.

Former New Jersey Gov. Tom Kean chaired the 9/11 Commission, and I was vice chair.

Kissinger's view of the world, which he characterized as sober realism, may have been influenced by his background as a Jew who spent his childhood in Nazi Germany, before his family fled and settled in New York. He was a very talented man and, wherever he went, in academic, policy circles and government, he rose to power very quickly.

In the 1970s, Kissinger was widely

praised for his diplomatic work. When he was named secretary of state in 1973, a Gallup Poll found him to be the most respected man in the world.

He engineered President Richard Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972, opening the door to improved U.S.-Chinese relations and ultimately reshaping the geopolitical map. He promoted détente with the Soviet Union, helping to reduce Cold War tensions.

In the Middle East, his tireless shuttle diplomacy improved relations between Israel and its neighbors. These were real accomplishments.

Kissinger shared the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating the agreement that ended the Vietnam War. His critics found that highly ironic.

During the war, Kissinger orchestrated the U.S. bombing and invasion of Cambodia, which expanded the conflict and fueled a civil war that eventually brought the Khmer Rouge to power, resulting in up to three million deaths. The Cambodia disaster was Exhibit No. 1 for critics who accused Kissinger of war crimes, but he was also tied to a brutal military coup in Chile, Indonesia's bloody invasion of East Timor, a violent civil war in East Pakistan and other foreign policy disasters.

Kissinger later had a lucrative career in consulting. He clearly enjoyed being a celebrity, rubbing elbows with rich and powerful people and being photographed with glamorous women.

He became a great figure on the social circuit in Washington. Getting Kissinger to attend your dinner was a big achievement.

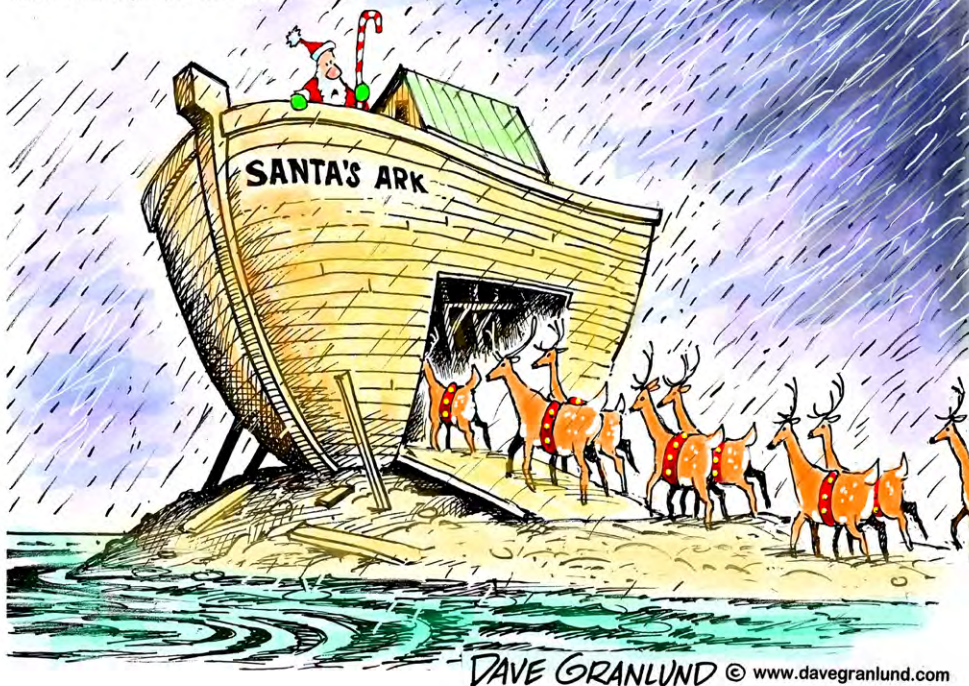
Henry Kissinger left quite a stamp on American foreign policy. He was a master of developing strategy and exercising power.

But American greatness isn't just about using force and gaining advantage. It also relies on our faith in democratic governance and our belief in human rights and the dignity of all people.

There's a place for sober realism, but American foreign policy should be grounded in our values.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

RAINY DECEMBER...



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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.

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

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YEAR IN REVIEW

YEAR IN REVIEW from page 5

State University to study Health Science and is interested in the medical field. She's excited about the next chapter and will

miss everyone she's grown up with.

"It's a very loving class. It's a very supportive class. I'm very, very happy to be part of it. I'm very glad I was a part of it," Austin said.

JULY 28

Gov. Maura Healey announces Food Security Infrastructure Grant award winners



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS.

Gov. Maura Healey talks about Fruit Fair, co-owned by Jared and Sam Newell, during the Food Security Infrastructure Grants Announcement outside Fruit Fair on July 20. Fruit Fair was the recipient of a \$500,000 grant from the grant program.

The press conference was held at Fruit Fair in Chicopee

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE (July 28, 2023) - Governor Maura Healey was in Chicopee on July 20 to announce the recipients of the Food Security Infrastructure Grant program.

The grant program awards over \$26 million to 165 recipients across the state, including Fruit Fair, who will be receiving \$500,000.

During the press conference, Healey explained the administration visited farms and spoke with farmers throughout the state in the last couple of weeks that were devastated by the recent floods.

"I think it really drives home food security and what it means in the state because so many of those farmers are putting food on the table for the residents right here, among us in our communities here in Chicopee and elsewhere around the state," Healey said.

Healey said Fruit Fair is "an absolute gem in this community."

"Chicopee has always had a strong immigrant population and history and foundation. As we moved through the aisle of Polish foods, moved through the aisle of Latino foods, it's just a real testament to the strength of the Chicopee community and greater community and that's what we need from our providers as well," Healey said.

Co-owner Sam Newell said Fruit Fair will install a hydroponic greenhouse on their roof to produce and provide more access to local food.

"A lot of people in our city are going to be healthy. A lot of people are going to have food access. We can give this produce away, like they don't have to worry about money, stressing their grocery dollars," Newell said. "I think the overall health of Chicopee is going to increase."

Healey encouraged residents to support their local businesses and farms, including Fruit Fair.

"It's especially important in this time that we support our small businesses, that we support our local businesses, that we support our local food providers and farmers who do tremendous work and really contribute to the health and well-being of our communities," Healey said.

AUGUST 18



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Sgt. Erik Sunny, Officer Johnny Jusino, Sgt. Alan Blankenship, Sgt. Melissa Lyman, Lt. Eric Laflamme, Sgt. Tom Gazda, Capt. Holly Cote, School Resource Officer Mark Hammon, Officer Desland Peart, Public Information Officer Travis Odiorne, Officer Souvannasane, Officer David Rivera and Officer Kyle Whalley pose for a group photo during National Night Out at Sarah Jane Park in Chicopee on Aug. 14.

Chicopee comes together for National Night Out

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - (Aug. 18, 2023) - After two reschedules due to weather, Chicopee's National Night Out kicked off its

29th year on Aug. 14 at Sarah Jane Park to huge success.

Police Capt. Holly Cote credits Jean Fitzgerald for starting the event 29 years ago, explaining it originated in Rivers Park before expanding over the years to its permanent home at Sarah Jane Park. She was

elated about the turnout.

"Even though we had two rain delays, this is an amazing crowd, and we have so many people. It is really Team Chicopee," Cote said. "Every single division and department within the city comes to help. As I look around, I see familiar faces everywhere and I'm so proud of our city."

Fire Department Capt. Katie Collins-Kalbaugh has been on National Night Out's Planning Committee for many years and co-chair alongside Cote the last few years, sharing they start planning the event in February/March.

"It's a great free night out for families. Meet and greet with the police and fire, meet and greet with community members, find resources, climb the rock

wall, go in the bounce house, watch K9 demonstrations you name it, all for free, all fun. Lot of education but in a fun way," Collins-Kalbaugh said.

Mayra Rivera was one of the attendees, coming with her daughter, Marilyn, and granddaughter, Analia.

"Her coworker told her to come by, so we came and it's nice. I like it, it's fun," Rivera said. "The kids have fun and love it, they enjoy it, and that's the best part, enjoying it and loving it."

Rivera and her family want the community to know National Night Out is a fun event to bring the family to, especially for the kids.

"That's the best part. Enjoying it with the family," Rivera said.

SEPTEMBER 29

A Salute to Chicopee at the Big E



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

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

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

WEST SPRINGFIELD (Sept. 29, 2023) - A yearly tradition continued at the Eastern States Exposition on Tuesday, as fairgoers celebrated "A Salute to Chicopee".

Elected officials, businesspeople and

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

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) participated in the parade for the

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** page 8

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YEAR IN REVIEW

YEAR IN REVIEW from page 7

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

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

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

Arriaga expressed that the city is fortunate because not every town and city has an official day at the Big E. She mostly enjoyed seeing the smiles on the faces

of the parade's participants and described how it felt to participate in the parade.

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

Mayor John Vieau participated in the parade for the third time in his position; the 2020 parade and Big E itself was cancelled by COVID-19. Vieau said it is an honor to serve as mayor the city and that participating in the parade is something he does not take for granted.

"This is such an amazing Eastern States Expo; it's a big deal, and to have Chicopee ROTC here looking sharp, professional and our bands with the brand-new uniforms really is promoting that Chicopee pride, and that's what it's about for me tonight. Chicopee pride," Vieau said.

Chicopee High School Gymnastics Team for three seasons and selected for the Massachusetts National Team in 2011, becoming the first Chicopee gymnast to make the national level in over 10 years.

"I think it's one of the harder sports that you can do. There's so much complexity. There's four different events. It requires a lot of strength and flexibility and technique, so it just stood out as my favorite and I always loved it," O'Shea said.

James Koske, recognized for his achievements in football and baseball at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, was nominated by his friend and teammate, John Griffin, a 2011 inductee.

"You learn so much about teamwork. You learn about strife, how to handle adversity and how to translate that into life as well, how to be disciplined,

regimented, listening to your coaches and taking directions and also being an individual as well while you're out there on the field," Koske said.

Former Athletic Director Jim Blain helped create the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009 to honor athletes, teams, coaches and contributors at both high schools for their impact in sports. He explained Chicopee "is steeped in athletic tradition."

"We felt it was important back in 2009 to create something that we could display in the schools, and we could have a night like this so that people knew and we remember them and honor them in a very special way that, you know, they meant something to their high school and they brought distinction," Blain said.

OCTOBER 6

Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame inducts 2023 class



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY

A group photo highlighting the Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2023 inductees. Left to right are James Koske, Sarah Fratessi, Glen Bogdanovich, Frank Nadeau, Alex Niemiec, Allie O'Shea and Robert Parent.

By Kristin Rivers
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This year's inductees include the 1987-1988 Chicopee Comprehensive High School Basketball Team, the 1983 Chicopee High School Boys Soccer Team and athletes who left a mark in football, gymnastics, track, baseball, hockey and softball.

Allie O'Shea was part of the Chi-

CHICOPEE (Oct. 6, 2023) - The Chicopee Athletic Hall of Fame honored the 2023 class on Sept. 30 in a banquet at the Portuguese American Club.

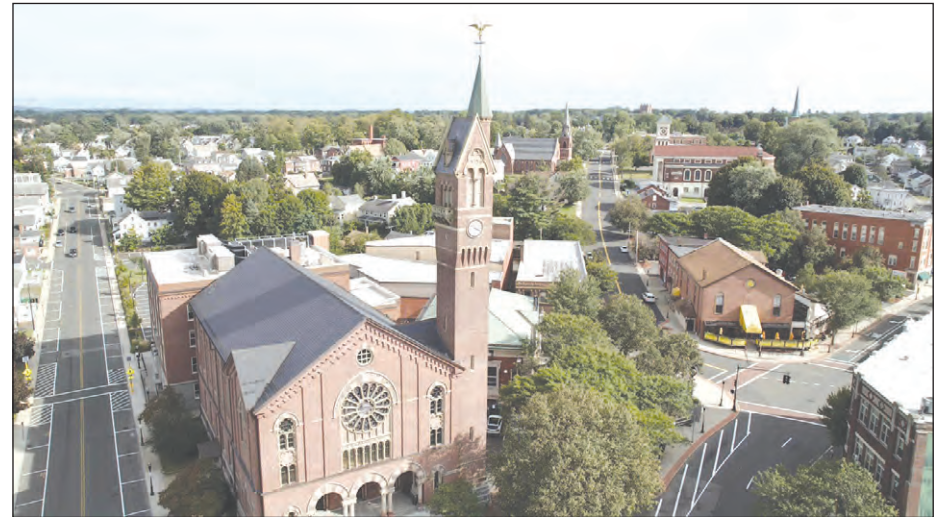


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Mayor John Vieau held a press conference in City Hall on Oct. 3 to address an error in insurance premiums.

'Human error' caused to Chicopee to overpay \$226,826 in insurance premiums

Vieau holds press conference; López responds

By Dalton Zbierski
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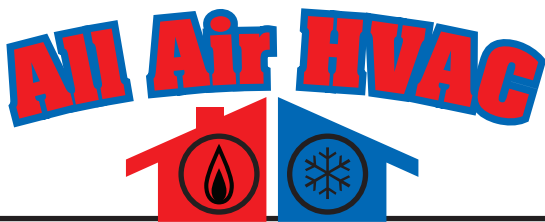
CHICOPEE (Oct. 6, 2023) - Mayor John Vieau held a press conference in his City Hall office Oct. 3 to acknowledge that the City of Chicopee overpaid \$226,826.56 in insurance premiums between 2017 and 2023 to former city employees who either died or resigned.

This year, the city has recovered some of the funds through insurance providers,

as the total loss improved from roughly .2% to .1%. Several steps have been taken to avoid a future mishap.

Vieau chalked the mistake up to "human error" and a "breakdown in process" that was identified in late November 2022 when a dental audit was completed by HUB International, the city's insurance broker. The dental census revealed 85 names that could not be found on payroll pension, direct bill report or in the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System.

During the press conference, Vieau also responded to accusations of corruption by fellow mayoral candidate and Ward 3 Councilor Delmarina López.



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YEAR IN REVIEW

NOVEMBER 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

Chicopee Register Staff Writer Kristin Rivers passed out candy and newspapers to children, teens and adults at the Spooktacular last week.

Thousands attend Spooktacular at Szot Park

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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CHICOPEE (Nov. 3, 2023) – Several thousand people attended the Halloween Spooktacular at Szot Park on the evening of Oct. 26, as dozens of small businesses and local vendors passed out candy to children and teens dressed in a range of creative costumes.

Preparations for the Spooktacular began months ago. The event was organized by the Mayor's Office and coordinated by Chloe Soto, Mayor John

Vieau's communications and special projects manager.

The weather could not have been better. The sun shined throughout the 4-7 p.m. event, and summer-like temperatures prevailed.

Fire Capt. Katie Kalbaugh attends the Spooktacular every October. She explained why the event is so successful.

"It gets the community together in a fun, positive and safe environment. We put a lot of planning into it so it's a safe event for everybody. We have activities of all varieties, and we just have fun together," Kalbaugh said.

"I'm passionate about what I do, and I'm not done. So, I'm excited to serve for two more years," Vieau said.

López greeted her supporters at the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille by saying "We ran an amazing, amazing campaign" and gave Vieau and his campaign "a run for their money."

"We are grateful because the people said that they want change and even though we have come up a little short, I'm at peace with that," López said.

López congratulated Vieau while sharing this message.

"Don't celebrate too hard because you better put in the work because the community is watching," López said.

Looking ahead, López said she's not going anywhere and will celebrate her campaign with her team while trusting God to guide her next move.

"I'm a Chicopeean through and through, but I don't know what my next move is. God will tell me," López said.

NOVEMBER 24

Chicopee natives achieve dream of joining fire department

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
dzbierski@turley.com

CHICOPEE (Nov. 24, 2023) – Dreams became reality when three young men joined the fire department earlier this month after graduating from the Western Massachusetts Fire Training Academy.

Hunter Davis, 20, Patrick McQueen, 24 and Michael Wos, 27, each grew up in Chicopee and have earned the privilege of serving their home city as firefighter, an opportunity they longed for.

While each new department member's journey took different twists and turns, all three are confident they are where they're supposed to be.

Hunter Davis

"This is where I grew up and this is my dream job," Davis said. "I want to progress in the Chicopee department, and this is the place I want

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** page 10



TURLEY PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

From left, Firefighters Patrick McQueen, Hunter Davis and Michael Wos recently the Chicopee Fire Department in 2023.

NOVEMBER 10

Vieau defeats López, earns victory in mayoral race



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF TRASK

With Ward 2 City Councilor Shane Brooks by his side, Mayor John Vieau announces he won this year's mayoral election during a speech at the Portuguese American Club on Tuesday night.

Candidates hold watch parties, reflect on campaigns

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE (Nov. 10, 2023) - Voters reelected Mayor John Vieau on Nov. 7 as mayor of Chicopee, defeating challenger Ward 3 City Councilor Delmarina López.

Vieau received 5,058 votes, while López received 3,695 votes, a difference of 1,363 votes.

Vieau shared he was "just really excit-

ed and humbled and honored to continue to serve Chicopee as the mayor."

"My committee put in so much work. It was a thorough campaign. I felt like we've touched all the bases and really got our message out for the people of Chicopee that Chicopee's stable and Chicopee's heading in the right direction," Vieau said.

Vieau said he spoke with López "just recently" after the votes were counted.

"I said she ran a great race, and I wished her best in her future endeavors and I'm proud of her. I am. I win and lose with dignity," Vieau said.

Vieau ended his reflections with this message.

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YEAR IN REVIEW from page 9

to be. It's the best feeling in the world to work for the city I live in."

Patrick McQueen

"It's a great feeling. Growing up in

Chicopee since I was born, just being able to serve and help out people in my own community, nothing beats it honestly," McQueen said.

Michael Wos

"I wasn't really up for the 9 to 5 job

so I think when I chose fire, I wanted to challenge myself and prove to myself that I can fulfill or try to perform the tasks as a firefighter and try to protect my community and protect the citizens," Wos said.

DECEMBER 15

National Night Out is nationally recognized



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

On the left, Owen LeHouillier tests a radio in a patrol car at National Night Out, and on the right, Reynaldo Caraballo sits aboard a DPW vehicle.

Chicopee is only city in state to earn National Night Out Award

By Dalton Zbierski

Editor

dzbierski@turley.com

CHICOPEE (Dec. 15, 2023) – Chicopee has earned national recognition as the only Massachusetts city to receive the National Night Out Award, given to communities throughout the country for outstanding participation in the National Night Out program.

The award commemorates the festivities at Sarah Jane Park on Aug. 14, when the city held its 29th edition of National Night Out, a free event designed to bring the community together with first re-

sponders.

"We are immensely proud of our city for achieving this national recognition," Mayor John Vieau said. "This award recognizes our collective efforts and the spirit of cooperation that defines Chicopee."

This year's event was organized by Police Capt. Holly Cote, Fire Capt. Katie Kalbaugh and Chloe Soto and Monica Torres from the Mayor's Office. It was made special by the contributions of community members, local businesses, civic groups and public safety personnel.

The National Night Out Award is typically given to cities with populations ranging from 50,000 to 100,000 people.

The criteria of the award included the level of community participation, the partnership between police and the community, neighborhood and community in-

volvement and the overall organizational and planning efforts.

Soto, Vieau's communications & special projects manager, joked that she and her team did backflips when they heard about the award. She said Chicopee placed 22nd on the national list, which is an amazing accomplishment that was unanticipated.

"National Night Out is really about community. It's about creating these stronger bonds between our police, our fire and all our public servants," Soto said. "We're just so proud to be able to bring everyone together to have a good time in a safe environment where they don't have to dig in their pocket to pay for anything... It's great to see all the smiling faces and see people genuinely enjoying themselves."

DECEMBER 22

Food Bank of Western Mass debuts new Chicopee facility

By Dalton Zbierski

Editor

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CHICOPEE (Dec. 22, 2023) – Dec. 14 was a banner day for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, as its newly constructed, state-of-the-art food distribution facility on Carew Street officially opened.

Food Bank employees showcased the 62,000 square-foot building during an evening ceremony attended by elected officials, donors, partners and invested residents from Chicopee and neighboring communities.

Since 1982, the Food Bank has been feeding neighbors in need in Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties, and the strategically located warehouse and office space will allow the operation to further pursue its mission of ending hunger.

"It's at the crossroads of the major interstates of Western Massachusetts, so we selected this location because it will really enable us to provide healthy food to anyone and everyone who needs it, when they need it, across all four counties in Western Massachusetts," Food Bank Executive Director Andrew Morehouse said.

The new structure is far larger than the food bank's previous home in Hatfield, enabling it to serve more people than ever. Last year, the Food Bank distributed the equivalent of 11 million

meals to about 107,000 people monthly, and Morehouse expects the number to rise, as residents battle inflation and the end of federal pandemic benefits.

"So, they turn to the Food Bank and our 175 partners, the local, frontline food pantries, meal sites and shelters, to seek food assistance so they can carry on with their lives and get ahead in life," Morehouse said.

The Food Bank employs 64 people, but that number could rise as management capitalizes on the facility's "incred-

ible" capacity. Morehouse said the staff is currently in a "learning mode," getting accustomed to the space and repeatedly rearranging inventory to maximize efficiencies and food flow.

Statistics are already proving the larger warehouse to be more effective than the previous site.

"In the last three months, we've provided 25% more healthy food than the same period last year, and we're confident we'll be able to sustain that growth moving forward," Morehouse said.



TURLEY PHOTO BY TEDY MAKUCH, CHS SENIOR

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts officially opened on Dec. 14.

Elms College MSN Program nationally ranked by Forbes Advisor

CHICOPEE, Mass. -- The Master of Science in Nursing program at Elms College has been ranked by Forbes Advisor as one of the most affordable, high-quality online MSN programs in the United States. The MSN program at Elms was one of nine programs ranked by FA and the only one located in Massachusetts.

Forbes Advisor is part of the Forbes organization and is dedicated to helping consumers make the best financial choices. A portion of their editorial content includes the ranking of higher education institutions and programs.

"This ranking by Forbes Advisor shows that the programs we offer in the School of Nursing, such as the MSN program, are highly regarded across the country," said Julie Beck, D.Ed., RN, CNE, dean of Elms College's School of Nursing. "A significant part of this recognition goes to our dedicated nursing faculty who provide our nursing students with an extraordinary healthcare experience."

The MSN program at Elms is fully online and allows students to pursue one of four tracks: Nursing & Health Services Management, Nursing Education, and an MSN/MBA dual degree option. The fourth track, School Nursing, is the only MSN School Nursing Program in the United States.

"Our MSN students are experienced professional nurses who are looking to advance their careers. What makes our program unique is that we challenge our students to embrace the rapidly changing healthcare environment, while supporting their work-school-life balance," said Emily Cabrera, Ed.D., MSN, RN, director of the MSN program at Elms.

For the online MSN rankings, FA rated data from several sources in the following categories: affordability, credibility, student outcomes, student experience, and the application process.

To learn more about the MSN program at Elms, go to: www.elms.edu/msn.

Galipeau receives Collaboration Recognition Awards at Lasell University

NEWTON – Chloe Galipeau, of Chicopee, was selected as the best person to work with in their Fundamentals of Visual Art course, taught by Professor Granita at Lasell University for the 2023 fall semester. She was also selected as the best person to work with in their First Year Symposium course, taught by Professor Sundberg at Lasell University for the 2023 fall semester.

Recipients of the Collaboration Recognition Award are selected by their peers for exemplifying superior skills in collaboration by sharing ideas and useful information, communicating in a professional manner, and cooperating in a way to ensure success.

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Sports

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Comp falls to Tantasqua in OT thriller

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FISKDALE—In the middle of the 2022-23 regular season, the Tantasqua girls' varsity basketball team made the trek west on the Mass. Pike to Chicopee Comp's Herbert H. Curry Gymnasium where they lost a heart-breaker in overtime.

When the two squads battled each other in the Tantasqua Regional Fieldhouse on Dec. 22, the outcome of the non-league contest was once again decided in overtime.

This time, it was the Lady Warriors players doing the celebrating following a thrilling 67-64 victory over the Lady Colts.

"This is our best win so far this season," said Tantasqua head coach Andrew Haley. "We lost to them on a buzzer beater in overtime at their place last year. Tonight's game was very similar, but it ended up in our favor. They're a very good basketball team and we had this game cir-



Taryn Carriveau holds the ball away from an opponent.

Amherst keeps Chicopee co-op winless



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Connor McDonnell, of Granby, goes after a puck behind the goal.

AMHERST – Last Monday at Orr Rink, Amherst Regional hockey defeated Chicopee 6-1.

The Pacers, which now have a five-school co-op that includes Chicopee Comprehensive, South Hadley, Granby, and the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School, is 0-3 to start the season but did score its first goal of the season in the first period of the contest. Chicopee's co-op was scheduled to host the Holiday Classic mini-tournament at Fitzpatrick Rink in Holyoke earlier this week. Agawam and Gardner were among the scheduled participants in the tournament.



Alex Rachele makes his way up the ice.



Stephen Samson tries to clear the defensive zone.

See COMP page 13



With a lot of pressure on, Alyssa Caney goes for the hook shot.



Natalie Fournier pushes the ball away as pressure comes.

Comp sweeps High at swim meet

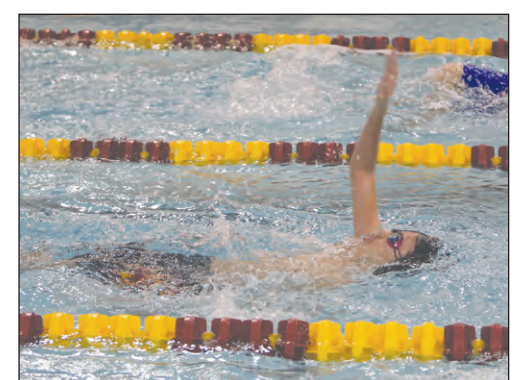
CHICOPEE – Last Thursday afternoon, Chicopee Comprehensive swimming defeated Chicopee High in both the boys and girls meet. The girls were winners 87-65 while the boys had a commanding win 129-28. Both teams will be back in action following the new year.



Comp's Catarina Carlos gets set to dive.



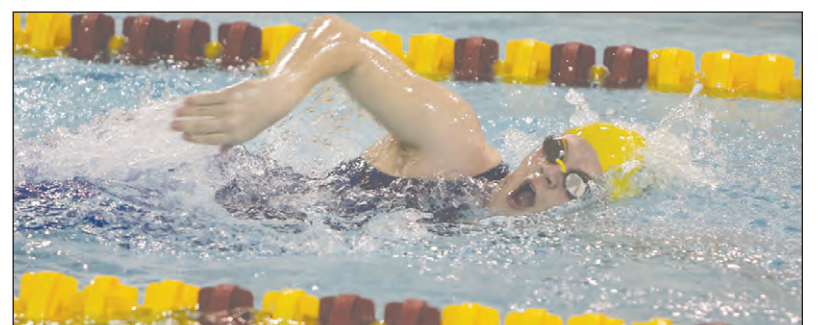
D. Caraballo competes in the 100 freestyle.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Tyler De Pinho races down the lane.



Gavin Belanger does the fly stroke.



Mo Donoghue heads down the lane in the 100 freestyle.

T-Birds coach gets call to NHL, named interim coach of Blues

Daniel Tkaczuk will take over as interim head coach in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD – On Dec. 13, St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced the team has relieved Craig Berube of his coaching duties and named Springfield Thunderbirds head coach Drew Bannister interim head coach. Bannister will travel to St. Louis on Wednesday and serve his first game behind the bench on Thursday when the Blues host the Ottawa Senators.

Bannister, 49, has spent the past three seasons with the Blues' AHL affiliate in Springfield, leading the team to a 93-58-19 regular-season record. The Belleville, Ontario, native has also

guided the Thunderbirds to consecutive playoff appearances, including 2021-22, when they won the Eastern Conference and reached the Calder Cup Final.

Bannister began his coaching career in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL), where he spent three seasons as an assistant with Owen Sound and three as head coach with the Soo Greyhounds. He also served as head coach of the AHL's San Antonio Rampage and as an associate coach with the Utica Comets. As a player, Bannister's career spanned over 20 years and included 164 NHL regular-season games between the Tampa Bay Lightning, Edmonton Oilers, Anaheim Mighty Ducks, and New York Rangers.

In addition, Thunderbirds general manager Kevin Maxwell has announced that Daniel Tkaczuk will take over the

head coaching duties in Springfield on an interim basis.

Tkaczuk, 44, joined the St. Louis Blues organization in 2016 as an assistant coach with the club's AHL affiliate, the Chicago Wolves. After spending the 2017-18 season as a Skills Coach with the Blues, he rejoined the AHL affiliate as an assistant coach under Bannister in 2018, a role he has held ever since, including a promotion to Associate Head Coach in 2022.

The Toronto, Ontario native began his coaching career in the OHL as an assistant coach with the Owen Sound Attack from 2011-15 before spending the 2015-16 season with the Kitchener Rangers. Tkaczuk and Bannister were co-assistant coaches with Owen Sound from 2012-15.

Tkaczuk was the sixth overall draft

pick in the 1997 NHL Draft by the Calgary Flames and played 12 professional seasons in both North America and Europe. As a member of the Saint John Flames, Tkaczuk captured a Calder Cup championship in 2000-01. He was tied for second among Flames skaters with 10 goals in the Calder Cup Playoffs that season.

In 286 AHL games with Saint John, the Worcester IceCats, Bridgeport Sound Tigers, Charlotte, Syracuse, Rochester, and Hartford, Tkaczuk posted 59 goals and 109 assists for 168 points. He was a career point-per-game performer in the playoffs, scoring 14 goals and adding 17 assists in 29 career Calder Cup playoff contests. Tkaczuk also skated in 19 NHL games with Calgary, putting up 11 points (four goals, seven assists) in the 2000-01 season.

Granite State announces Pro Stock Series 2024 schedule

WALPOLE, N.H. – Granite State Pro Stock Series officials announced Friday the schedule of events for the 2024 racing season. The series slate includes a nine-race championship battle spread from May to October, with the championship event taking place at Lee USA Speedway's Octoberfest weekend.

The Granite State Pro Stock Series will visit five different tracks in 2024: Lee, Star Speedway, Claremont Motorsports Park, Riverside Speedway and Speedway 95. The schedule begins with the annual 100-lap spring event at Star Speedway in Epping, New Hampshire, this year on Saturday, May 4 with a Friday night practice on May 3. From there, teams will roll to Claremont Motorsports Park for the Memorial Day weekend, with a main event set for Sunday, May 26.

On Saturday, June 8, the series will make the first of two visits to Lee USA Speedway. That will be followed by the first of two races at Hermon, Maine's Speedway 95 on Saturday, June 16. After a few weeks off, the schedule continues with a return to Claremont for Independence Day weekend on Friday, July 5 with a special event.

The high-banks of Hudson International Speedway will host the series again on Sunday, July 14, while Riverside Speedway returns to the schedule with an event on Saturday, August 10. The final two events of the year will take place at Speedway 95 on Sunday, September 15 and Lee's Octoberfest weekend, where the champion will be

decided, on Saturday and Sunday, October 5-6.

"Our 2024 schedule is shaping up to be one of the best in our history," Mike Parks, President of the Granite State Pro Stock Series, said. "Return trips to places like Star, Speedway 95, Lee USA and Riverside, mixed with us getting back on the high-banks of Hudson, will produce an exciting championship battle for fans to follow during the summer of 2024."

Additional information regarding the 2024 Granite State Pro Stock Series schedule including event registrations, rules and more will be available soon. For the latest news, fans and teams are encouraged to visit gpsss.net and follow the series on social media.

2024 Granite State Pro Stock Series Schedule

Saturday, May 4 - Star Speedway - Epping, N.H.

Sunday, May 26 - Claremont Motorsports Park - Claremont, N.H.

Saturday, June 8 - Lee USA Speedway - Lee, N.H.

Sunday, June 16 - Speedway 95 - Hermon, Maine

Friday, July 5 - Claremont Motorsports Park - Claremont, N.H.

Sunday, July 14 - Hudson International Speedway - Hudson, N.H.

Saturday, August 10 - Riverside Speedway - Groveton, N.H.

Sunday, September 15 - Speedway 95 - Hermon, Maine

Saturday/Sunday October 5-6 - Lee USA Speedway, Lee, N.H.

Olympic team among eligible Hall candidates

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the list of eligible candidates for the Class of 2024, including several high-profile, first-time nominees, including the 2008 U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team ("Redeem Team"), Vince Carter, Seimone Augustus, Bill Laimbeer, Rick Barnes, Mike Fratello and Penny Taylor.

A first look at the list of eligible nominees will be provided by "NBA Today" on ESPN, hosted by Malika Andrews, with Class of 2023 Hall of Famer Becky Hammon, Kendrick Perkins, Chiney Ogumike, and Brian Windhorst. A complete list of eligible candidates can be found below.

Finalists from the Honor's Committee for the Class of 2024 will be announced on Friday, February 16, in Indianapolis, Indiana, during NBA All-Star Weekend.

The entire Class of 2024 will be unveiled during the NCAA Final Four in Phoenix, Arizona, on Saturday, April 6, in a nationally televised broadcast.

The announcement time and broadcast network for both the Finalist and the Class Announcement will be announced in the near future.

Enshrinement weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, August 16, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, followed by the Enshrinement ceremony on Saturday, August

17, at Springfield's historic Symphony Hall.

VIP Packages for the Hall of Fame Enshrinement Weekend will go on sale on Friday, February 16. All single-event tickets to the Ceremony, Tip Off Celebration, and Awards Gala, as well as other ancillary events, will go on sale on Saturday, April 6, at 12:00 p.m. EST. All packages and tickets will be available for purchase at hoophall.com.

The complete listing of events and pricing will be released by Feb. 1.

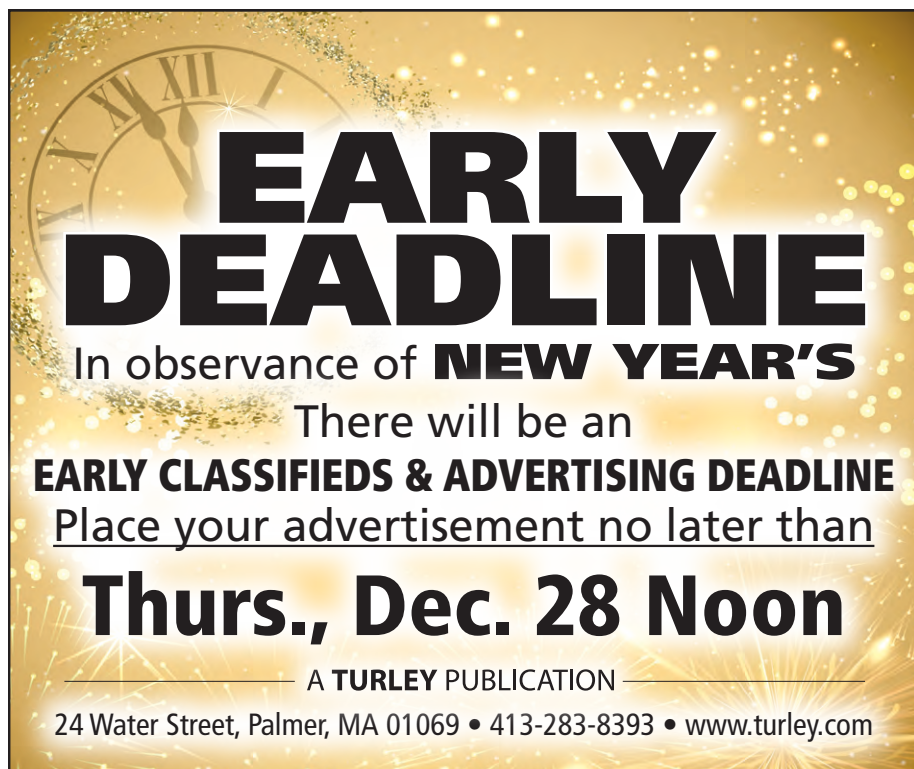
The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame also announced changes to its election process that will more carefully examine candidates from the International, Men's Veteran's, Women's Veteran's, and Contributor Committees. Since 2011, the Hall of Fame has allowed these categories to be stand-alone 'direct-elect' committees with the objective of ensuring candidates who may have 'fallen through the cracks' received focused and specialized consideration in these various categories.

The Election Process Committee has determined that this objective of more acute consideration has been met during this 12-year period, and now candidates put forth from these categories will revert back to the previous and traditional process of being presented for final consideration to the Honors Committee for election.

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follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



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COMP from page 11

cluded on our schedule since the beginning of the season.”

The home victory improved Tantasqua's overall record to 4-1. It was also the Lady Warriors' second win of the season against a Western Mass. opponent. They posted a 57-35 win at Holyoke High School in the season opener. They were scheduled to play at Minnechaug Regional on Wednesday afternoon and will be hosting Longmeadow at the end of the regular season.

The trio of senior point guard Gabby Scanlon (20 points), sophomore center Sophie Webb (20 points), and junior forward Maya Gidopoulos (17 points) combined to score 57 of Tantasqua's 67 points.

“Those three players are capable of scoring from anywhere on the court,” Haley added. “Sophie is a very good young basketball player. She plays inside and outside. Maya made a couple of big shots, which kept us in tonight's game. Gabby is one of our leaders. They really don't care who scores the points.”

Scanlon, who's a tri-captain, along with senior's Riley West (2 points), and Nicki Vejack (4 Points), scored 13 of her points before halftime.

Webb and Gidopoulos picked up the scoring slack in the second half with 15 points apiece.

“We really wanted to win tonight's game more than anything,” said Gidopoulos, who made a couple of huge 3-pointers late in the fourth quarter and during the four minute overtime period. “We lost to them in overtime last year and it just feels great to beat them. We're hoping to qualify for the Division 3 state tournament again.”

It was the first time that Chicopee Comp (3-2) played a regular season game at the Fieldhouse.

“Even though we didn't come out on top, it was still a cool experience getting an opportunity to play a game here,” said Comp head coach Tony Couture. “We did make a couple of big shots in the fourth quarter, which pushed the game into overtime. Then they made a few more shots than we did in overtime.”

Tantasqua is the only team from outside of Western Mass. listed on the Chicopee Comp's regular season schedule.

The Lady Colts four double figure scorers were junior guard Taryn Carriveau (20 points), junior guard Kaitlyn Gilhooly (15 points), senior forward Alyssa Caney (12 points), and junior guard Eliza Burger (11 points).

Carriveau scored 24 points in last year's contest, including the game-winner at the buzzer in overtime.

In this year's meeting, Carriveau made two free throws with 7.8 seconds remaining in regulation, which sent the game into the extra session tied at 57-57.

The Lady Colts took a 60-58 lead with 2:45 remaining in OT following a Caney steal and fast-break lay-up. The Lady Warriors scored the next seven points.

West began the run with an inside hoop. Webb hit a pull-up jumper from the right side of the key and a 3-pointer from the left corner by Gidopoulos increased Tantasqua's advantage to 65-60 with 1:43 left.

Then Comp made one final comeback, as a pair of free throws by Carriveau and Caney cut the deficit down to 65-64 with 41.7 seconds remaining on the scoreboard clock.

With 7.5 seconds left, Gidopoulos made a wide open lay-up, which turned out to be the difference maker for the home team.

Following a Comp timeout, Gidopoulos stole the inbounds pass and was fouled with 1.3 seconds remaining. She



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Eliza Burger flies for the three-point attempt.

missed both free throws and a long shot attempt at the buzzer by Gilhooly rattled off the back iron ending the action packed game.

Both teams had impressive runs in the opening half.

The Lady Colts put-together a 19-5 run between the last four minutes of the first quarter and the first four minutes of the second quarter.

Carriveau, who hit a buzzer beater at the end of the first quarter, hit another long bomb from beyond the arc with 3:46 left in the first half, which increased the visitors lead to 21-10.

It was the high water mark for the Lady Colts, as the Lady Warriors responded with an 11-0 run.

An inside basket by junior forward Maggie Johnson (4 points) knotted the score at 21-21.

The Lady Colts, who played their final game of 2023, headed into the locker room holding a slim 26-24 lead after Burger hit a jumper just before the buzzer sounded.

Led by Scanlon, Webb, and Gidopoulos, the Lady Warriors outscored the Lady Colts, 19-9, in the third quarter.

Trailing 43-35 entering the fourth quarter, the Lady Colts battled back with a 10-0 run.

The visitors made seven foul shots before taking a 45-43 lead with 5:20 left when Gilhooly hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

The score was tied several more times in regulation before the Lady Warriors outscored the Lady Colts, 10-7 in overtime.

It was the only game of the regular season between the two teams. They won't be meeting in the postseason tournament either because they're in different Divisions.



Kaitlyn Gilhooly tries to pursue the hoop.

Governor appoints Shavon Prophet to MassCEO Advisory Board

CHICOPEE – Governor Maura Healey has appointed Chicopee resident Shavon Prophet to serve on the Advisory Board for the Massachusetts Center for Employee Ownership for a four-year term. The 19-seat multi-stakeholder board will advise MassCEO and the MA Office of Business Development on policies to strengthen employee ownership in the Commonwealth.

Prophet is the former Program Director of MassCEO and a “business advisor for the greater good” specializing in shared ownership models and impact investing. She is a passionate advocate for business, capital, and community development strategies that advance economic and racial justice.

During her tenure at MassCEO, she was one of only two people of color in the U.S. in a role of its kind and helped to secure additional grant funding to offer expanded technical assistance and capital resources for MA worker cooperatives— The Gateway City Legacy Business Program and the Capital for Cooperatives Program. She has helped hundreds of business owners explore succession planning and employee-led buyouts, with a special focus in worker cooperatives.

“The biggest barriers to growing employee ownership are lack of education and access to capital,” Prophet said. “The formation of this board highlights employee ownership as an economic development priority in our Commonwealth, which continues to be a national leader in this sector. I'm honored to serve in this capacity and

will do my utmost to help create equitable opportunities for business ownership and wealth creation for more people in our state.”

The MassCEO Advisory Board was established by the passage of the MassCEO Enabling Act in November 2022, which fortified the Office as a permanent part of the state government. Other Advisory Board members include government officials such as the Secretary of Labor & Workforce Development and President of the MA Office of Business Development, as well as representatives from industry groups like the Associated Industries of Massachusetts and the New England ESOP Association. Also named to the board are the Presidents of the UMass System, AFL-CIO, Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation, and the Center for Economic Democracy among others.

Prophet adds, “I'm humbled and reverent as a second-generation Filipino American to be one of the few women of color appointed to serve on this board. I'll take my seat at this table seriously and hold the door open for more to follow.”

Prophet now leads portfolio development for Obran Cooperative, the first and only cooperative conglomerate in the US, and also independently advises business owners and economic development professionals on employee ownership transitions. To inquire about hosting an educational session or scheduling a consultation, please contact prophet.shavon@gmail.com.

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Six reasons why you should take your mental health seriously

By Stan Popovich

Many people underestimate the impact that mental illness can have on an individual or family. It can be difficult to admit that you have a mental health problem in your life. Secondly, it can be just as difficult in getting the people you know to understand your situation without making any kinds of judgments.

As a result, here are six reasons why you should make your mental health an important priority in your life.

1. Your situation will improve if you get help: Your anxieties and fears can be challenging to manage and more than likely you will need some help. Just as you talk to your doctor about your regular health, you should not be hesitant in seeking help for your mental health. If left untreated, your anxieties

and fears may not go away.

2. Drugs and alcohol are not the answer: Drugs and alcohol can make your problems more complicated. Many people have said that drugs and alcohol will only add more problems to your situation. Be smart and learn how to **cope with your mental health issues** by talking to a qualified professional. There are many health professionals in your area that can give you some ideas on where you can go for assistance.

3. You will save time and money: Eventually, you will have to confront your fears and mental health issues. Save yourself the time and heartache and confront your problems now rather than later. You will save months of struggling by getting help right away. The sooner you get assistance the faster you will start getting some relief.

4. You are not alone: Everyone deals with fear, stress, and anxiety in one's life whether your friends and others care to admit it. In addition, do not be embarrassed that you are getting help. We all learn new things from others daily and learning how to manage your anxieties is no different. In addition, your goal is to get your life back on track and not to get everyone's approval. If people start asking you questions, just say you're dealing with stress. Most people can relate to dealing with stress and anxiety!

5. Do not make the mistake of doing nothing: There are many people who struggled with anxiety and other mental health related issues, and they tried to ignore their problems. As a result, some of these people struggled daily and eventually things became more difficult. It can be scary asking for assis-

tance, but the key is to take things one day at a time.

6. You have a variety of options: There are many mental health support groups, organizations, and counselors in your area that can help get your life back on track. Talk to your doctor to get more details on where you can go for some assistance. Help is available but you must be willing to make the choice of getting better. Remember that every problem has a solution. You just have to make the effort to find the answers.

Biography

Stan is the author of "A Layman's Guide to Managing Fear" which covers a variety of techniques that can drastically improve your mental health. For more information, please visit Stan's website at <http://www.managingfear.com>.

PUBLIC NOTICES

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on 12/29/2023, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

1999 Dodge Dakota
VIN: 1B7GG22Y3XS187032
Steven Morales Vidal
212 Main St.
Wilbraham, MA 01095

2002 TOYOTA CAMRY
VIN: 4T1BF32K62U529631
Rodrigo Dos Santos
148 S Quinsigamond Ave.
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

2002 Toyota Tundra
VIN: 5TBBT441X2S247948
D Buckingham
21 Westhill Rd.
North Falmouth, MA 02556

2003 Toyota Highlander
VIN: JTEHF21A230132052
Yolangeles Pabon Serrano
42 W Glen St.
Holyoke, MA 01040

2004 Honda Pilot
VIN: 2HKYF18564H585988
Melanie Rodriguez
16 Juniper Ct.
Greenfield, MA 01301

2005 Chevrolet Venture
VIN: 1GNDV03EX5D129784
Eduardo Hernandez
81 Division St.
Waterbury, CT 06704

2005 Ford Explorer
VIN: 1FMZU77K75UB46337
Tyves Rocco Rovito-Duprey
682 Enfield St.
Enfield, CT 06082

2005 Freightliner X line
Motorhome
VIN:4UZABFDC05CN82091
El Shaddi Dental Associates
PC
Po Box 486
Randolph, MA 02368

2006 Yamaha Yzfr1
VIN: JYARN15E16A002292
Rafael Ortiz
97 Washburn St.
Springfield, MA 01107

2009 Ford Taurus Sel
VIN: 1FAHP27W49G109527
Omar Rivera
PO Box 6482
Holyoke, MA 01040

2010 Ford Focus Se
VIN:1FAHP3FN7AW214684
Mark Antonellis
28 Eddy St.
Waltham, MA 02453

2014 Toyota Camry
VIN:4T4BF1FKXER426902
Yasandra Feliberty
6 Cycle St.
Westfield, MA 01085
12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2023

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23P2603EA
Estate of:
Dolores M Johnstone
Also known as:
Dolores M Tobias
Date of Death: 11/10/2023
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal
Probate of Will with
Appointment of Personal

Representative has been filed by Amanda M Burgess of Atkinson, NH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Amanda M Burgess of Atkinson, NH 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 01/17/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested

in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: December 20, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/29/2023

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD22P2216EA
Estate of:
Waclaw Rozanski
Date of Death: 09/21/2022
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Marcin Rozanski of Chicopee, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law 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 01/23/2024.

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. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 20, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/29/2023

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23P2531EA
Estate of:
Malvin David Silva Davila
Also known as: Malvin Silva
Date of Death: 11/01/2023
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for S/A - Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Karen Michelle Torres of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/22/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 18, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/29/2023

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1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling).

Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands.
Thank you.

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- Have a valid driver's license
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Send letter of interest and resume to: William Sullivan, Interim Principal; Gateway High/Middle School, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050
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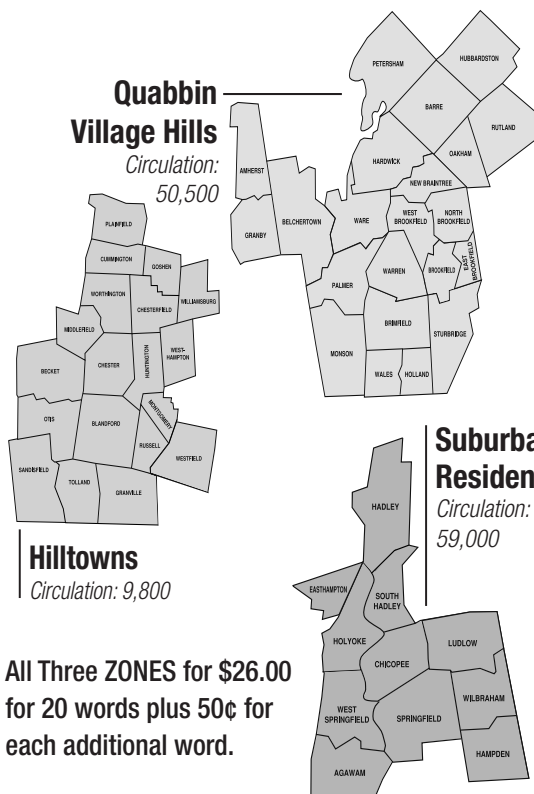
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Patriot Wing leads the way



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE

CHICOPEE – Westover Air Reserve Base has been named lead Reserve C-5 wing, and has mobilized 140 Citizen Airmen for an in-place activation to support USCENTCOM.

The majority of the Patriot Wing members that reported last week are aircrew and aircraft maintainers, with the remainder coming from various mission support agencies. Joining the 439th Airlift Wing

personnel are 25 Citizen Airmen from the 512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Slated for 90 days, the call up will be to support five flying missions on an on-going basis.

“Our main effort will be focused on picking up C-17 airlift taskings so those aircraft can in-turn support other global requirements and move cargo and humanitarian supplies as part of

the support to U.S. Central Command,” said Colonel Gregory D. Buchanan, 439 AW commander. “Westover being elevated as lead C-5 wing for the entire Reserve command speaks to the readiness of our warfighters and the installation. That the mobilization will last through the holidays and into the new year amplifies the resiliency of our Citizen Airmen as they provide rapid global mobility.”

FunnyRaising Comedy Show donates Over \$10,000 to Harmony House



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARMONY HOUSE

Members of the Harmony House Board of Directors accept a generous donation from Jess Miller Productions and the FunnyRaising Comedy Show. From left are Karen Ware of Harmony House, Jess Miller and Gina Mazza, Jennifer Faustino and Dr. Win Whitfield of Harmony House.

CHICOPEE – A sold-out show produced by Jess Miller Productions recently generated over \$10,000 which they donated to Harmony House of Western Massachusetts. The FunnyRaising Comedy Show was a huge success and had patrons laughing all evening while supporting Harmony House. Three different comedians kept up their lively repartee, and members of the audience embraced the jokes and laughter. Harmony House also had raffles and prizes which made the evening even more enjoyable. The FunnyRaising Comedy Shows are “Built on Laughter and Sustained by Kindness.”

Locally based in Chicopee, Harmony House is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a loving home providing compassionate care for the terminally ill who have limited or no resources for special care in their final stages of life. Harmony House is primarily staffed by trained volunteers including licensed nurses, caregivers, companions, and others. If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please contact Harmony House at 413-315-9784 or by email at harmonyhousewma@gmail.com.

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Chicopee Police Department is hiring

Important civil service dates are listed here CHICOPEE – Are you interested in becoming a Chicopee Police Officer? If so, here are some important dates that you should be aware of. Civil Service will be holding its entry level Police Officer exam in March of 2024.

The application period has begun and will be ending on Jan. 16, 2024. The notice to appear is March 1, 2024, and exams go from March 16-30, 2024.

The Chicopee Police Department is a Civil Service Department. In order to be considered for employment you must take and pass the exam. Exam information can be obtained by going to Mass.gov and searching for Civil Service exams.

M	A	I	M			M	S	B			M	T	V				
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