

Chicopee Register

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Chicopee Police Department teams up with

ARRIVE ALIVE TOUR

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The police department and Arrive Alive Tour teamed up to host an impaired driving demo for high school students on June 9 through 12.

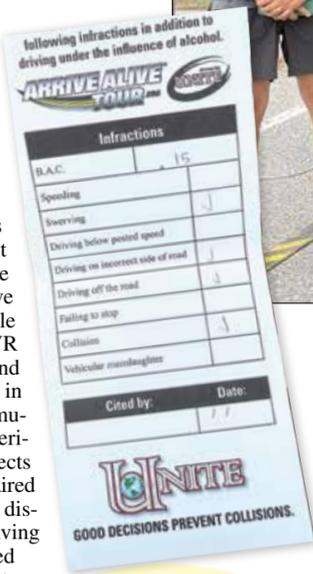
The demos took place at Chicopee Comprehensive High School on June 9 and 10, followed by Chicopee High School on June 11 and 12.

During the demos, students would sit inside the Arrive Alive Tour vehicle wearing a VR headset and participate in a driving simulator to experience the effects of impaired driving and distracted driving in a controlled environment. They then would receive a citation ticket explaining the infractions they received during the simulation which included



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Jalen Burress of Arrive Alive Tour and members of the Chicopee Police Department teamed up for an impaired driving demo event at the high schools from June 9 through 12.



An example of a citation ticket students received after taking part in the impaired driving demo.

speeding, swerving, driving below-posted speed, driving on the incorrect side of the road, driving off the road, collision and vehicular manslaughter.

The citation would also

include the blood alcohol content level.

Jalen Burress of Arrive Alive Tour said the company is based out of Grand Rapids, MI and they "team up with schools all over the country."

Burress has been with the company for two years and added the company itself has been doing this for 20 years.

"So, whether would it have been them reaching

out to us or us giving them a call, we got a team of guys that work out of our office at home that work on getting us scheduled at schools all over the United States," Burress said.

Burress hoped students enjoyed the demo while taking away vital lessons, emphasizing using Rideshare apps and friends who aren't drinking as resources to stay safe.

"We just hope that

they get out of the car with a deeper understanding for how dangerous they can be in real life because, unfortunately, accidents that are caused by drugs or alcohol or being distracted by a phone, they're happening every hour of every day and that could just change even a few students' minds in trying it in real life, that could potentially save lives down the line."

Please see **CPD**, page 5

Special permit for Cabotville Mills approved

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - On June 3, the City Council discussed a special permit application for the former Cabotville Mills, which was put to a vote by the Zoning Committee and passed.

The application, which would be for a residential development to include up to 600 new residential apartments at the former mills and four outbuildings on Front Street at 165 Front St, and 0 Exchange St, was motioned for approval under the Mill Conversion and Commercial Center Overlay Ordinance. Waivers for landscape requirements, parking, and noise level were also requested and put to a vote, which passed as well for motion; however, a variety of conditions were amended into the agreement for the initial special permit to proceed.

First, it was noted that for this to proceed, all conditions of the tax and water bill payments as part of the enrolled payment plan, which was set up on May 21, must remain satisfied, with the applicant, Bridgewater Capital Partners, c/o Mark Yunger.

Please see **PERMIT**, page 2

Chicopee drapes the Portugal flag for Portuguese Heritage Day

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - The weather didn't stop the community from gathering inside City Hall Auditorium on June 10 to drape the Portugal flag for Portuguese Heritage Day.

Mayor John Vieau explained how the city "is a very diverse community" and "it continues to grow," noting the Portuguese contributions to the community including Bernardino's Bakery, the Portuguese American Club, Dino's European Hairstyles, the Red Fez and the former Cavalier Restaurant.

He also recognized the Portuguese-American community was celebrating after Portugal beat Spain in the Nations League Final.

"I know that I have many friends in the room and I'm thankful for that and there are many small businesses, again, that contribute to this economy. I know how proud and hardworking the Portuguese community really is," Vieau said. "And we're here to celebrate that."

Vieau then read the mayor's proclamation to raise--or drape--the flag.

"It states, 'Whereas, Portuguese-Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community and enduring work ethic and perseverance to succeed and contribute to society. And whereas, Portuguese-Americans have contributed to the



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Mayor John Vieau in a group photo with Portuguese-American residents of Chicopee as they hold the Portugal flag.

'Whereas, Portuguese-Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community and enduring work ethic and perseverance to succeed and contribute to society. And whereas, Portuguese-Americans have contributed to the advancement of early American society from manning the whaling ships in New England through the introduction of grape cultivation in Georgia.'

advancement of early American society from manning the whaling ships in New England through the introduction of grape cultivation in Georgia," Vieau said.

After explaining the country's political influence and impact, Vieau noted Tony Coelho, who was the first Portuguese-American to serve in Congress after

he was elected to the California House of Representatives and Ernest Moniz who served as the former Secretary of Energy.

Other areas Portuguese-Americans contributed to the United States, he added, include the military and education.

"So, therefore, as mayor of the city of Chicopee, I do hereby recognize today, June 10, as Portugal Day in Chicopee and also, I want to recognize the whole month as Portuguese-American Heritage Month in our city," Vieau said.

Afterward, the proclamation was presented and

Please see **FLAG**, page 6

RiverMills hosts mental health presentation

By Elise Lyons
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The senior center hosted a presentation on "The Importance of Mental Health" on June 9.

The presentation was run by Chelsea Parker, the clinic director for the Chicopee Outpatient Services offered by the River Valley Counseling Center. The River Valley Counseling Center has many locations, including but not limited to, offices in Chicopee, Holyoke, Springfield, Westfield and Easthampton.

The Chicopee Outpatient Services specifically are open Monday through Saturday; see their website for their hours of operation, as opening and closing times vary by the day.

After the presentation, Parker elaborated more upon the services her organization offers.

"We are an outpatient mental health clinic," Parker said. "We provide counseling services for all ages-- zero to 100-- and we have different programs. We do programs in the schools for the kids; we have therapists in the Chicopee schools, Holyoke schools, we're branching out into Amherst, Easthampton, Westfield-- we're everywhere. So, we're doing the school-based programs, in-home programs for the kids and families, and we provide outpatient one-on-one services. Maybe couples, maybe family, but a lot

Please see **MENTAL HEALTH**, page 3



TURLEY PHOTO BY ELISE LYONS

Chelsea Parker, clinic director of the Chicopee Outpatient Services at the River Valley Counseling Center, gives her presentation on the importance of mental health, how to recognize the signs that someone is struggling, and where to resources for those in need.

IN THE CITY

Sandra Peret announces candidacy for Chicopee City Collector

CHICOPEE - As a third-generation Chicopee resident, I am excited for the opportunity to continue to serve the community as City Collector.



Sandra Peret

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Chicopee residents that welcomed me at their doors, signed my nomination papers, and offered words of encouragement. I enjoyed meeting residents, sharing my interest and qualifications in the position, and answering questions.

My community service began with volunteering at the American Cancer Society, Chicopee Council on Aging, Valley Opportunity Council, St Stanislaus School fundraising events, and with its school committee. Formal service to Chicopee involved being previously elected as

School Committee Representative for Ward 2. Currently, I serve as the Ward 4 School Committee Representative and as the School Committee Liaison to city government.

As the Ward 2 and Ward 4 School Committee representative, I made it a priority to learn the processes, question the status quo, and seek improvements to better serve our children. I remain accessible to constituents and welcome their input. I will bring this same approach and responsiveness to the City Collector's office.

Professionally, I bring over 30 years of leadership experience with the Chicopee Visiting Nurse Association, where, as Director of Operations, I managed the daily clinical functions, established

internal controls, and ensured compliance with complex government regulations. On multiple occasions I was the Acting Executive Director, managing and coordinating the many facets of the organization. This provided me valuable experience in the agency's clinical, business, and technological functions. As City Collector, I will manage responsibilities with the same ethics, diligence, and professionalism.

If I am elected, I am prepared to take on the responsibilities of City Collector with energy, dedication, and a commitment to excellence. This will be my full-time focus.

I am grateful for the opportunity to continue working on behalf of Chicopee residents. Your vote is greatly appreciated!

In closing, I extend my thanks to Mr. Iwanicki for his years of service as City Collector. I wish him the best in retirement.

Chicopee Public Library hosts events for kids and families

CHICOPEE - Each month the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children, teens and families. The Youth Services Department seeks to provide opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that promote literacy and explore creativity. Here is the slate of events for June 2025, including information about the annual Summer Reading Challenge!

Afterschool Thursdays is a new program series for school age children that the library is hosting this spring. Each Thursday afternoon at 4 p.m. will be a different opportunity for older kids to explore a fun, creative activity. Recommended for ages six and up, teens and tweens welcome.

Saturday Playgroup will be held at 1 p.m., on Saturdays in June. The play-space will be open for families with kids of all ages to meet and play.

The Summer Reading Kickoff Fantasy Faire will take place on Monday, June 23 from 3 to 5 p.m. Hear ye! Hear ye! The library will host a Fantasy Faire in the town square (aka the library's back yard) to celebrate the beginning of Summer. Sign up for the Summer Read-

ing Challenge. Undertake a quest to become a knight. Visit with community partners sharing resources. Enjoy the new shade structure. Fantasy/Renaissance Faire attire encouraged.

Outside Musical Storytime will be held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. during summer reading. A little bit storytime, a little bit dance party. Join us outside on the back patio under the new shade structure (weather permitting) for stories and movement. Geared towards kids ages two through five, older kids welcome.

The library will host a **Capoeira Martial Arts & Dance Performance** on Wednesday, June 25 at 2 p.m. Mass Capoeira Culture Center will demonstrate this Afro-Brazilian martial art that incorporates fighting, dance, music and acrobatics. The audience will learn some music and movement to play along. Outside weather permitting. This program is supported by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Create a Paper Sculpture on Thursday, June 26

at 2:30 p.m. The library will provide the supplies, you provide the imagination.

Toddler Time will be held on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. during summer reading. An open ended playtime for Toddlers to socialize and play! For ages 0-2, no registration required. This program will be held outside on the library's backyard patio, weather permitting, or in the Children's Room.

Summer Reading Challenge

"Chicopee, Did you read today?" is the question of the season. The Library is challenging everybody to read every day from June 23 - August 15. You can read books or comics, listen to audiobooks, read to someone, or listen to someone read to you. You can read as much or as little as you want. The goal is to spread the joy of reading and learning throughout the community. Sign up for our reading challenge online with Beanstack (look for the link on the library homepage) or visit the library to get started!

For more information about what's going on at the Chicopee Public Library, visit www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

Shoe Drive fundraiser launched to raise money to support the CPL

CHICOPEE - The Friends of the Chicopee Public Library is conducting a shoe drive fundraiser beginning July 7 and running through Sept. 8 to raise funds for the library.

The Friends will earn funds based on the total weight of the pairs of gently worn, used and new shoes collected, as Funds2Orgs will issue a check for the collected shoes. Those dollars will benefit The Chicopee Public Library's special programs.

Anyone can help by donating gently worn, used and new shoes at the following collections sites:

- Chicopee Public Library 449 Front St Chicopee
- The Boys & Girls Club 580 Meadow St Chicopee
- The Council on Aging Riverfront Senior Center 5 W. Main St. Chicopee
- Goodworks Coffee

House 46 Center St Chicopee

All donated shoes will then be redistributed through the Funds2Orgs network of micro-enterprise (small business) partners. Funds2Orgs works with micro-entrepreneurs in helping them create, maintain and grow small businesses in developing countries where economic opportunity and jobs are limited. Proceeds from the sales of the shoes collected in shoe drive fundraisers are used to feed, clothe and house their families. One budding entrepreneur in Haiti even earned enough to send to her son to law school.

"We are excited about our shoe drive," said Lisa Pasternak, President of the Friends of the Library. "We know that most people have extra shoes in their closets they would like to donate to us. By doing so, we raise money for library special

programs, and we have the chance to help families in developing nations who need economic opportunities. It's a win-win for everyone."

By donating gently worn, used and new shoes to the Friends of the Chicopee Public Library, the shoes will be given a second chance and make a difference in people's lives around the world.

About the Friends of the Chicopee Public Library

The Friends are a non-profit group that raises monies through donations and fundraisers (Concerts, Shoe Drive, Golf Tournament, Concession Sales, Raffles just to name a few) to help support the library's special programming and projects that would go unfunded.



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A special permit for the former Cabotville Mills has been passed by the City Council on June 3.

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Next, the third and final condition raised by the city was receiving an agreement that all terms and requirements from the planning director are met by the applicant.

The conclusion from the Zoning Committee was quite favorable as new details emerged, including that an engineering firm attached to the project has been hired and is getting ready to begin work.

As the night progressed, uncertainty did start to arise as parking-related concerns were brought to focus, as it was revealed that the devel-

oper is now looking for a reduction from 1,200 spaces to provide and offer up to 637 parking spaces throughout all of the affected properties, due to the number being considered 'way too many' according to reports. This eventually led to mild confusion being raised by Ward 9 Councillor Mary Beth Costello, which was later clarified by Ward 4 Councillor George Balakier.

"What I recall during our first meeting was that they felt the number (1,200) was too many spaces for this particular project," Balakier said. "So, I think they were looking at different scenarios and felt this could work, and this is

the number that they gave us, and that's the best I can provide an answer to."

Also, during the meeting, it was shared that the new developer is planning to use 'noise-cancelling' materials within the residential spaces, such as cork and rubber, which they "felt will assist in reducing the noise level among the potential tenants who move in," according to comments from Balakier, which were proposed as part of the pitch by the developer when offering an outline to proceed forward with the purchase of the renovation.

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IN THE CITY

SUNRISE SWEETS *officially opens in Chicopee Center*

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - SunRise Sweets, an establishment providing refreshing treats, officially opened its doors in Chicopee Center on June 5.

SunRise Sweets is located at 28 Center St. and their offerings include handcrafted specialty milkshakes with flavors including Coquito de Abuela, Strawberry Cheesecake or Caramel Cookie Butter Shake, açai bowls and a limited smoothie menu.

Currently, they are open Tuesdays through Thursdays from Noon to 8:30 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from Noon to 10 p.m.

The grand opening included remarks from Mayor John Vieau, State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), Tevin Colon, aide to State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Savannah Roman, the founder of SunRise Sweets, and her two aunts Marieli Roman and Karen LeBron.

Roman shared SunRise Sweets is an extension of her personal hobbies of making milkshakes since her childhood and "blending smoothies for my own health," along with a lifestyle rooted in "conscious, positive speech and mindful thinking."

"Starting this business feels like it was woven into my path. I just had to take a turn at the end of the road to finally see it. Anyone can sell ice cream, yes. But I chose to intertwine it with advocacy for mental health because I, too, was once someone struggling with bad habits and pessimistic thinking. It took five years to rewire my brain, replace my habits, and completely transform the version of myself I wanted to be," Roman said. "With this rebranding of self came the realization that everyone deserves to feel that same transformation. My entire life changed because of my mindset, my perspective, my language, my energy. I know I can't rewire people's minds for them, but if I can shed light, offer encouragement, or remind someone of how powerful, capable, and adaptable they are, I will. We



Savannah Roman celebrates after cutting the red ribbon for the grand opening of SunRise Sweets.



Mayor John Vieau provides remarks on the grand opening of SunRise Sweets in Chicopee Center.

as people hold immense power, and it just takes belief in ourselves to unlock it. That's the real power behind SunRise Sweets. That's what gets me out of bed at 22 years old, every day, to build this life and share it."

Roman credits divine timing for the location along with Andrea Monson, her EForAll mentor.

"We shared a high-stress phone call a few months ago where I told her SunRise Sweets had been closed for two months, I had nowhere to go, and I didn't know what to do. I was worried that as an upcoming business being closed for so long, I'd be forgotten about and everything I worked so hard to build would diminish," Roman said. "Right after our call, she made a few phone calls on my behalf and set up an appointment for me to view this space back in April, and here we are now."

As a new business owner, Roman has come to understand the importance of supporting local businesses, calling them "the unique bones of our community" with each one "bringing something different, soulful and irreplaceable to the table."

"Once you fully understand the grit, the sacrifice and the long hours it takes just to open your doors each



A close-up shot of an açai bowl offered at SunRise Sweets.

day, you see how impactful every dollar really is. I encourage others to consciously trade their hard-earned money for those who pour their heart into 16-hour days just to serve their community," Roman said. "Supporting local businesses means you're directly fueling someone's dream. More than that, you're preserving the creativity, culture, and heart of your city. We deserve to show up for one another, and this is one of the most powerful ways to do so."

Community impact through genuine kindness

and making people feel seen and cared for is what fulfills her most, with a special spot, also, for personal impacts.

"In just our first week open, I've already received messages from customers saying our hand-written cup quotes brought them relief, clarity or made them feel supported. One man nearly cried this week because the message on his cup felt like it came straight 'from God' and 'he really needed it,'" Roman said. "As much as that touched him, it touched me. I think it's important to experience more of these soft and

vulnerable moments out in public, and I find it even more important that there are safe spaces to do so."

Roman added her favorite quote to write is "Stay close to the things that make you feel alive."

"And this is what makes me feel alive. I exist to remind people of who they are. That they are not alone, not broken, not judged. When I see the look on someone's face after reading their cup and they say, 'Wow, I needed this,' Roman said. "That's the moment I continue for. Creating SunRise Sweets allows me to pour my light into something tangible, into something people can hold, taste, and experience. It has allowed me to build a space where people can be seen for who they are and not what they have accomplished. To be heard, loved, and supported just as they are. These are the people I think about when I unlock the door each day, and these are the intentions that fuel everything we do."

Reflecting on her grand opening, Roman said the community support meant a lot to her.

"It means more than words can describe. I was in awe on the day of our grand opening. The support from friends, family, former co-workers, and even com-

plete strangers was beautifully overwhelming," Roman said. "To have such a supportive community and a growing platform excites me, because I now have more eyes and ears to share the true message of light behind SunRise Sweets. I can now touch the hearts and spirits of strangers and families in a much bigger way. Having such great exposure makes my mission of creating positive change in ourselves for the people that much easier."

She also recommends these options to customers.

"I would 100% recommend the açai bowl with Nutella and almonds added. It's something I've been eating non-stop for years, and even customers from Chicopee Center agree that it's seriously addicting!" Roman said.

Roman's message was this.

"I want the community of Chicopee to know that there are now two suns shining here. One in the sky, and one right in the center at SunRise Sweets," Roman said. "My message is simple and true: Come as you are, and you will be welcomed with warmth and acceptance."

To learn more, visit www.sunrisesweetsllc.com and check them out on Facebook and Instagram.

MENTAL HEALTH from page 1

of it is individual counseling."

Though Parker mainly works in her practice, she explained this event was not the first time she had been asked to speak to the community regarding mental health.

"(Program Coordinator) Casey (Conroy) reached out to me maybe two or three years ago," Parker said. "During Mental Health Awareness month in May, she [d] asked me to come around and talk to the participants about mental health and why it's important."

After Conroy reached out to Parker last year to do another event but no one signed up, she connected with her again for another event.

"She reached out to me

and she was like, 'We have a bunch of people who want to go!' This was the biggest turnout we've had and the questions [participants asked] were really really fantastic. It was great that people wanted to come," Parker said.

When asked about her thoughts on the importance of having access to mental health resources, Parker said this.

"I think that we used to not have a lot of access to [mental health resources] because people weren't talking about it and I think, now, we have more access to it because there's more agencies in the community. Whether it's River Valley or another agency, there's more places providing mental health [services], so there's more access for people [to find what

they need], especially with TeleMedicine— that makes it more widespread. We get clients that are from out towards Palmer, Ware, and they want services, but they can't come to Chicopee and so now they get the option of being able to do TeleMedicine," Parker said.

Parker added what she hopes attendees took away from the presentation.

"I think my biggest thing that I want people to take away is that it's okay if they're feeling a certain type of way. It's okay if they can relate to feeling any of the symptoms that we talked about today [during the presentation] and that it's okay to talk about it," Parker said.

As a final message, Parker encouraged members of the community to reach out if

they feel that they are struggling with their own mental health.

"I think that mental health is so important and I think that it's just really important that we know how we're feeling," Parker said. "I think everybody could benefit from having a therapist and I think it's okay to feel like we're struggling with mental health, but let's get the help that we need. Help is out there."

To learn more about upcoming events at the senior center, call 413-534-3698 or check out their monthly newsletter.

For more information on the services provided by the River Valley Counseling Center, visit rvccinc.org or call the Central Intake Department at (413)-540-1234.

First Central Bible Church holding VBS next week

CHICOPEE - From June 23-27, First Central Bible Church at 50 Broadway Street in Chicopee is bringing Vacation Bible School to local communities.

The program is for children ages three through 12 and runs each evening from 6 to 8:30 p.m. There is no charge.

Throughout the week, kids will embark on an exciting adventure filled with engaging Bible lessons,

high-energy games, creative crafts, worship, and fun activities that help them learn about Jesus and how trusting in Him can help them navigate life.

Registration is required at <http://vbs.firstcentral.church>.

To learn more about First Central, including worship times and all programs available to both children and adults, visit the church at www.firstcentral.church.

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IN THE CITY



Can my husband work part time and collect Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am writing to you on behalf of my husband. His intentions are to go part time as of Jan. 1, 2026, working 30 hours a week and take Social Security benefits as supplemental income. How can we determine what his Social Security benefit would be with him still working part time? He will be 63 and 7 months old next January and has not yet applied for benefits. We look forward to hearing from someone very soon.

Signed: Anxious for Information

Dear Anxious:

If he claims Social Security at age 63 and 7 months, your husband's benefit will be about 78% of what it would be if he waited until age 67 to claim.

And, since your husband will not yet have reached his SS Full Retirement Age, he will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earning Test, which limits how much he can earn while working and collecting early Social Security retirement benefits. The amount he can earn without paying a penalty changes yearly but, for reference, the earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 per year.

If his work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away some of his benefits. Using the 2025 limit as an example, if your husband's annual 2025 earnings were \$40,000, then he would owe about \$8,300 (half of the amount he exceeded the limit by). Social Security would withhold his monthly benefits for enough months to recover what he owes for exceeding the earnings limit. How many months they withhold would be determined by his monthly SS benefit amount.

FYI, the earnings test lasts until your husband reaches his Full Retirement Age (his FRA is age 67), but in the year he attains his FRA the penalty for exceeding the limit is less, \$1 for every \$3 over the limit and the limit is much higher. The annual earnings test no longer applies once your husband reaches his FRA.

When your husband applies for his SS retirement benefit, Social Security will ask about his work plans and how much he expects to earn each year. Based upon that information, if he expects to exceed the annual limit they will pay his benefits for some months of the year depending on his projected earnings and withhold his benefits for the remain-

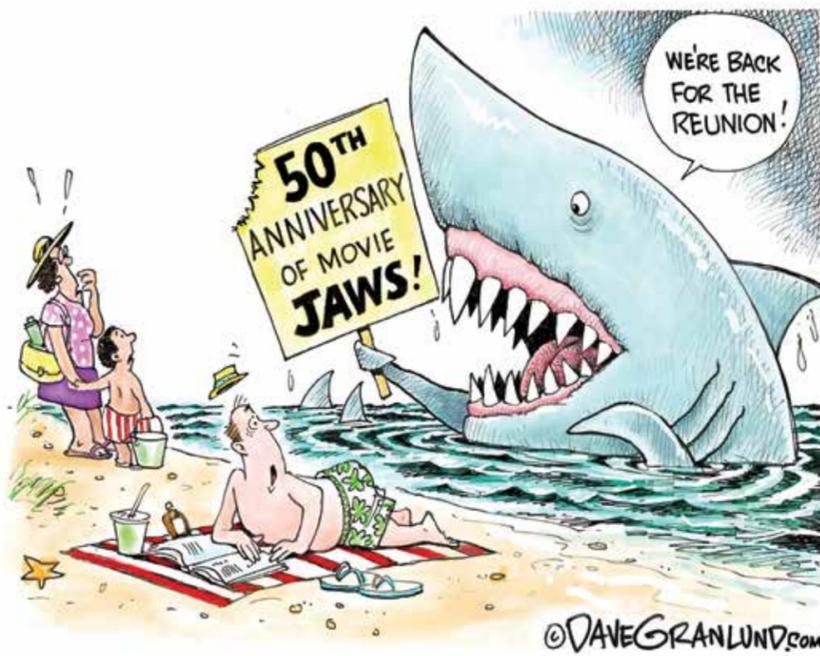
ing months. They will also monitor his annual earnings as reported to the IRS and make any appropriate benefit adjustment afterwards.

If SS benefits are withheld because your husband exceeded the annual earnings limit, when he reaches his full retirement age (67), Social Security will give him time-credit for all month's that benefits were withheld. Essentially, they will advance his actual claim date by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will make his monthly benefit higher at his FRA. The higher amount he receives after reaching his FRA will help him recover some of the money withheld as a result of exceeding the earnings limit before his FRA.

Please note that it is always best to inform Social Security up front if your husband plans to work and earn even part time prior to reaching his FRA. The IRS will provide the SSA with your husband's earnings information and SSA will (if his projected earnings weren't disclosed when he applied) issue an Overpayment Notice if he earns more than allowed. He will then be required to repay SS everything owed or have his benefits withheld until Social Security recovers what he owes.

One final point: by claiming his benefits in January 2026, your husband's monthly amount will be reduced by about 22% from the amount he would get at his FRA of 67. Claiming early before FRA always results in a benefit reduction, whereas waiting longer than FRA to claim always results in a higher monthly amount (maximum benefit is reached at age 70).

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



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thoughts on CEA contract negotiations

To the Editor:

Preparing for school today, this thought came to mind- public education is one of the most generous movements in human history. This is my opinion.

Here is another opinion: Chicopee Public Schools as an entity, lacks generous. I say this after attending another long round of contract negotiations as a member of the Chicopee Education Association.

Contracts are all about money and time, and if you aren't aware, the CEA is in the midst of a lengthy contract negotiation.

In negotiation, the City of Chicopee wants more time from teachers-in exchange

for nominal raises that do not meet the realities of inflation or the recent 20% increase in healthcare fees. Speaking of time- they already have it-given generously by teachers.

I wonder if city employees like police or firefighters work extra hours without compensation after their shifts are completed. I know that teachers work hours after hours- they have to.

And they do not receive compensation or overtime pay. To give an example, I spend at least four hours per week doing "overtime."

This time is needed to get the job done, to serve the needs of my eighty students. I know of colleagues who clock in considerably more.

If all the hours spent

by Chicopee teachers were added up, it would amount to thousands and thousands. What is the dollar figure on that dedication?

The City of Chicopee wants "more time." Why are they demanding what they already have?

Because they don't see they are more focused on weighing, measuring and finding loopholes than seeing the generosity of education and teachers who have made their positions as lawyer, superintendent, mayor, school committee members, possible.

Margaret Jasinski
Member of the Chicopee Education Association

What not do this last week of spring

By avoiding these common mistakes you'll be well on your way to a wonderful landscape this summer.

Sowing grass seed at the wrong time

Did you know that the end of August/ beginning of September is the best time to get a new lawn off to a good start? It is, first and foremost because crab grass (the arch enemy of real grass!) can't gain a foot hold late in the growing season. Slightly cooler temperatures and adequate rainfall prevalent during that time of year help too.

Scalping the lawn

Healthy turf isn't mown as low, or as often as you might think. Mowing to a height of about three inches will encourage a strong stand of deep-rooted grass that is capable of shading out developing weeds and sustaining itself during periods of drought.

Removing grass clippings

Take the bagger attachment off of your mower and let the clippings fall back onto the lawn! Grass clippings are a valuable source of nitrogen, the nutrient responsible for giving grass its green color. It's silly to remove it, only then to provide it in the form of granular fertilizer.

Watering during the heat of the day

Most gardeners know that early in the day is the optimal time for watering the lawn as well as other plants. Less water is lost to evaporation, and fungal diseases are kept to a minimum since foliage has a chance to dry before darkness sets in.

Choosing the wrong plant for the location

Almost everyone has fallen victim to the "I've got to have that plant syndrome." This condition causes even smart gardeners to buy plants that don't fit their particular situation. Heed the advice

provided on the plant's tag. If it requires shade, plant it in a shady location. If it demands a well-drained soil and yours is clayey, amend the soil first! Etc. etc.

Applying mulch too thinly

Topdressing our shrub beds with a layer of mulch each season can be an expensive endeavor. Frugal gardeners may skimp in order to save money. Do so and you may be sorry, as weeds will no doubt pop through less than adequate coverage.

Make sure that bark mulch is three to four inches thick; hay or straw used in veggie gardens should be even thicker, to the tune of eight to 12 inches.

Mulching too close to the base of a tree

Never mound up bark mulch against the base of a tree. It can result in bark decay. This condition can bring about a disruption of the translocation process of food from the leaves of the tree to its roots, weakening it severely. The tree will also become more vulnerable to attacks by insects and fungi.

Not moistening peat moss before use

Most experts recommend adding peat moss to the plant-

ing hole when installing trees, roses or other shrubs. Rich in organic matter, it will get your plants off to a great start, but only if incorporated correctly.

Peat moss must be moistened before use, otherwise it will wick water away from the plant it is intending to help. Once thoroughly wet, peat moss will aid in moisture retention!

Forgetting to "butterfly" root balls at planting time

Did you ever purchase a tree or shrub, perennial or annual whose root ball was so thick with roots you could barely see the soil in which it was planted? Plants that match this description are "root bound."

If this situation isn't remedied at planting time the roots may never know they have room to sprawl; ultimately, growth may be affected! Let the roots run free by taking both hands and splitting open or "butterflying" the root ball. Root balls of larger specimens can be scored in several places with a knife.

Pruning summer blooming shrubs now

Don't prune your Rose of Sharon or Hydrangea now or you'll take the flowers with your clippings. On the flip side, you have until July 1 to prune your lilacs. Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be deadheaded now for even more flowers next spring.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

Election letters to the editor

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

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

Campaign news

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

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

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Submissions are also accepted via email at chicopeeregister@turley.com.

IN THE CITY

Suspect arrested after trooper struck

CHICOPEE - Naisha Rodriguez, 32, of Springfield, has been arrested in connection with an alleged hit-and-run on Interstate 90 West on Tuesday, June 10, in which a trooper of the Massachusetts State Police was struck.

Rodriguez was arraigned today, June 11, 2025, in Chicopee District Court and was charged with operating under the influence causing serious bodily injury, misleading a police investigation, and leaving the scene of a motor vehicle crash causing personal injury. Bail was set at \$500,000, without prejudice.

At approximately 2:20 a.m. on June 10, 2025, a vehicle struck and seriously injured a trooper working a motor vehicle stop on Interstate 90 West near exit 51 in Chicopee. The operator did not remain on scene in the aftermath of the crash.

Massachusetts State Police personnel assigned to Troop B and Fire Officials responded immediately to the scene, closed all westbound lanes, and facilitated transport for the injured trooper to Baystate Medical Center. The trooper was seriously injured but is presently in stable condition.

Troopers assigned to the Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, the Crime Scene Services Section, and the State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office responded to the scene, along with an assistant district attorney assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Motor Vehicle Fatality Unit. The Massachusetts State Police Employee Assistance Unit also responded to provide for the needs of first responders.

Detectives from the Hampden District Attorney's State Police Detective Unit and Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section-West were able to identify Rodriguez as a suspect and arrested her at her residence in Springfield at noon.

Rodriguez is presumed innocent of all allegations until proven guilty. Her next appearance in court will be July 10, 2025 for a pre-trial hearing.

This remains an ongoing investigation by the Hampden District Attorney's Office and the Massachusetts State Police.

A breakdown of the FY26 city budget

CHICOPEE - While the Mayor's budget has been available on the auditor's page of the city website, the format, with numbers and amounts of line items, has been commented on as confusing.

We want to provide the following breakdown to help residents understand where their city tax dollars are spent.

Percentages are:

- Education – 48%
- Public Safety – 12%
- Public Works – 10%
- Insurance – 9%
- Retirement – 7%
- Debt Service – 7%
- General Government – 4%
- Human Services – 1%
- Library – 1%
- Unclassified – 1%



This does not include state and federal grants and allocations. Also, the wa-

ter and sewer budgets are self-funded through water and sewer bills.

budget. <https://www.chicopeema.gov/.../FY2026-MAYORS-REVIEW-BUDGET>

L'Heureux announces run for Ward 5 City Council seat

CHICOPEE - Julie L'Heureux has officially announced her campaign to run for the Ward 5 City Council seat, sharing this message.

"I am excited and proud to throw my hat in the ring and officially announce my candidacy for

Ward 5 City Councilor in Chicopee. I will run a positive campaign that will display integrity, visibility, and honesty. I plan to work, if elected, to make Chicopee a better and safe place to live, work, and play," L'Heureux said.

Knights of Columbus holding Fifth Sunday Rosary

LUDLOW/CHICOPEE - The Ludlow Knights of Columbus Council 3535 and Chicopee Knights of Columbus Council 18251 will cosponsor a Fifth Sunday Rosary on Sunday June 29 at 12:30 pm at St. Stanislaus Basilica, Chicopee.

This is a Jubilee Year of Hope pilgrimage site allow-

ing participants to perform a plenary indulgence. The prayer service will include the Marian Rosary, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Year of Hope prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Light refreshments will be served afterward. All are welcome.

CPD from page 1

Burress said.

Public Information Officer Travis Odiome explained the program came together through the 2025 Municipal Road Safety Grant and each year, it allows police departments to do an education portion towards law enforcement and distracted driving.

"So, I saw that program (Arrive Alive Tour) was run through the eastern part of the state the year before and I thought it'd be a great idea to bring it out here," Odiome said. "Something different for the kids. It's not just a static display of a vehicle crash. They actually get to sit in the vehicle, drive the vehicle. They change it so they're either impaired by alcohol or drugs or they can do distracted driving. I think sitting in the wheel actually showed them the effects of it would look better than just someone sitting across from them explaining it."

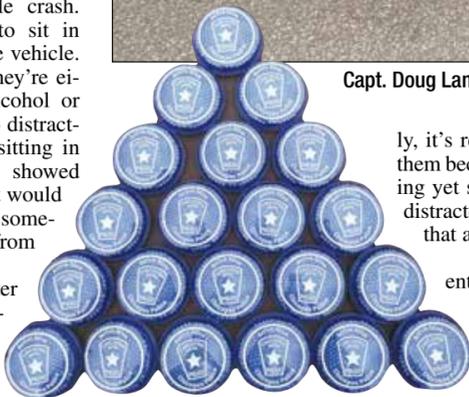
Odiome said after the demo, the students also took a survey, with 142 students at Comp taking part and 162 taking part at Chicopee High.

"The results indicated that distracted driving is a very minor issue according to the students, with 6.5% of the survey admitting to the frequency of sometimes texting and driving. So, the events still had an impact on their thought process with driving," Odiome said. "They said after experiencing Arrive Alive, a remarkable 96.2% pledged to never drive distracted and to think twice before doing so and they were also warned of



Capt. Doug Lambert talks with students.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS



Participants also received pedestrian lights from the Chicopee Police Department.

the dangers of driving drunk and intoxicated on drugs."

What concerned him was the number for distracted driving.

"I think one reason for that would be because these are lot of kids who went through this didn't have their permit yet and/or don't have a license," Odiome said. "If they're answering honest-

ly, it's really not an issue for them because they're not driving yet so they're not driving distracted so they don't see that as a problem."

His advice for parents was to start having conversations when their kids are ready to get their permits or licenses and to encourage them to call if they need a ride or help.

"Education is key, so if they can give different types of ideas on how to avoid that," Odiome said. "I've told my kids that I'd rather have them call me at any time of the day that they don't feel comfortable driving or being in the car with someone else who isn't able to drive, I'd rather get that phone call rather than us knocking on the door having to give bad news."

Odiome's message was this to the students.

"Just be aware of what you're doing. Make good choices, don't get behind the wheel distracted or impaired. Distracted is one of the bigger ones with these younger kids because they don't always have access to the alcohol at this point. But even your cell-phones, the car radios or just having other people as passengers in your car can cause distractions," Odiome said. "The reward's not there based on the risk, right? If you get in an accident and you end up killing somebody, you're going to lose your license for a long time. You've waited a long time to get this, so don't risk it."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CCHS Principal Andrew Lamothe tries out the impaired driving demo.



This screen shows broken windshield glass after a participant got in a car accident during the impaired driving demo.

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COLLEGE NEWS

Riley was named to the Spring 2025 Champlain College Trustees' List

BURLINGTON, VT - Devin Riley of Chicopee, MA, was named to the Champlain College Trustees' List for the Spring 2025 semester. Students on the Trustees' List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters. Riley is majoring in Game Business

and Publishing. Making the Trustees' List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate you on this great accomplishment and honor.

Devin Riley was named to the Champlain College President's List for the Spring 2025 semester

BURLINGTON, VT - Devin Riley of Chicopee, MA was named to the Champlain College President's List for the Spring 2025 semester. Students on the President's List have achieved a grade point average of 4.0 or higher during the semester. Riley is majoring in Game

Business and Publishing. Making the President's List is a tremendous achievement. Many of the high achievers balance their career-focused classes with jobs, internships, clubs, and volunteering. We congratulate them on this great accomplishment and honor.

Chicopee students named to Emmanuel Dean's List for Spring 2025

BOSTON - In recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, Emmanuel College has named more than 850 students to the Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

The following local students were named to the Dean's List:
Gwyneth Gagnon who is majoring in Chemistry - Forensic Science ACS.
Dafne Burgos who is majoring in Communication and Media Studies.
Victoria Lopez who is majoring in Double Major: English; Writing, Editing and Publishing.
Jacob Proulx who is majoring in Mathematics - Mathematical Modeling.

Chicopee student graduates from Emmanuel College

BOSTON - Emmanuel College awarded a BA in Marketing to Kathleen

Brooks of Chicopee (01013) at the College's 103rd Commencement on May 10.

Emilia Lapierre named to Assumption University's Spring 2025 Dean's List

WORCESTER - Assumption University has announced that Emilia Lapierre, of Chicopee, Class of 2027, has been named to the University's Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters. "Earning the right to be

named to the Assumption University's Dean's List is an extraordinary accomplishment and we congratulate those students who demonstrated exemplary academic excellence this semester," said Assumption University President Greg Weiner, Ph.D. "These students have demonstrated a deep commitment to the pursuit of truth in the company of friends that lies at the heart of the Catholic liberal education Assumption provides."

Fairfield University congratulates Spring 2025 Dean List

FAIRFIELD, Conn. - The following Fairfield University student(s) received Deans List Honors for the Spring 2025 semester.

Michael Wolanski of Chicopee.

In order to be placed on the Dean's List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

Boys & Girls Club raises \$32,000 at the 10th Annual Great Futures Golf Classic

CHICOPEE - Last Friday, June 13, the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee hosted its 10th Annual Great Futures Golf Classic at the Chicopee Country Club.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the events presenting sponsor, Polish National Credit Union, along with dozens of other sponsors, donors, and golfers, the event raised over an impressive \$32,000 to support enriching youth and teen programs at the Club.

The morning kicked off with a delicious breakfast courtesy of Caolo & Bieniek Architects, fueling 32 foursomes in their carts, sponsored by Curry Honda

Chicopee, before they hit the greens for a 9 a.m. shotgun start. The 18-hole course buzzed with excitement as golfers teed off and putt-putt with purpose. Complimentary cigars were provided by A. Crane Construction Co.

Along the course, golfers enjoyed interactive challenges and activities like Chippo sponsored by Country Bank and Spin the Wheel sponsored by Florence Bank, keeping the energy high and reminding everyone that Great Futures can also start with great fun. Watering Holes and Beverage Carts were sponsored by Freedom Credit Union, Liberty Bank



The foursome from Al Laflamme Jr. Plumbing & Heating also took part.



and Westfield Bank providing some hydration throughout the day.

This year's tournament wasn't just about golf, it was about supporting the future leaders of our community and supporting giving youth the chance to explore new opportunities, stay active, and build their futures. Information about the Club can be found at www.bgchicopee.org.

The foursome from Caolo & Bieniek Architects won the Par-tee Carts.

FLAG from page 1
the Portugal flag was draped to applause.

Brian Mendes, the owner of the Portuguese-American Club, said seeing everyone at the flag-raising means a lot to the community.

"We don't get to get together daily. Events like this bring a lot of family and friends together and then for lunch at the Portuguese Club to continue on the day. It's a great day for Portugal, it's a great day for our community and it's wonderful to see all the people come out on a rainy day like today for sure," Mendes said.

Mendes emphasized family is the biggest part of the culture and something he takes pride in, adding people would be enjoying a special lunch of Bifana, a popular Portuguese pork sandwich, chicken, rice and potatoes at the Portuguese American Club afterward.

"We're a family. We come together as one, we come together in large groups. We have many events at the Portuguese Club that we can rely on so many families to come out, have a good time and most everybody gets along for sure. It's a really big family," Mendes said.

Mendes was thrilled with the turnout despite the weather.

"I think that's a big part of the Portuguese commu-



The Portugal flag is draped at City Hall Auditorium.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS
Mayor John Vieau provides remarks.

nity is we come as one, we come to everything," Mendes said.

Mendes also appreciated the city recognizing all the varying heritages that define Chicopee, including Portuguese.

"I think it's awesome. I



Mayor John Vieau with the mayor's proclamation recipients.

love the direction that Chicopee's going with all of these different cultures and different awarenesses. It brings people together, it shows that the city cares about our community and the different cultures that we have in the city of Chicopee," Mendes said. "This is our third event here. It seems like it's getting bigger and bigger as the years go on and

I hope the tradition doesn't stop."

His message to the community was this.

"Just stay true to your pride, stay true to your heritage. Everyone should be grateful where their ancestor came from and what heritage and cultures that they bring," Mendes said. "Like I said, it's a great day. Great day in Chicopee."

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Aldenville Post 337 falls to Monson



Justin Moskal delivers a pitch home.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE— During the past several years, all the District 3 Legion baseball teams qualified for the play-offs. That won't be the case this summer. Only the top six teams in the standings will qualify for the Legion play-offs.

Two days after having their season opener at North Adams Post 125 postponed due to rain, Monson Post 241 defeated Aldenville Post 337, 4-2, at Szot Park in Chicopee, last Wednesday night.

"There isn't going to be a Western Mass. playoff this year," said Monson manager Steve Tripp. "The top six teams will qualify for the State tournament. Every game that you play during the regular season is very important."

The first-place team in the District 3 standings will be hosting one of the pods in the preliminary round of the double elimination state tournament. There are going to be



Ryan Netkovic gets the throw to second.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

a total of seven pods with four teams each. The winner of each pod, along with Quincy Morrisette Post 294, will advance to the Final Eight Team Department Championship Tournament, which will be held at Adams Field in Quincy from July 26-30.

The Northeast Region One Tournament will be held at Holy Cross College in Worcester.

Brayden Mega, who graduated from Pathfinder Tech, was the winning pitcher for Monson against Aldenville. The righthander went

the distance allowing two runs on just three base hits. He issued two walks and recorded six strikeouts.

"We received an outstanding pitching performance from Brayden Mega," Tripp said. "This is the third year that he's been playing for us, and he has improved each year. We do have several other very good pitchers on this year's team."

Monson's other pitchers are Austin Meacham (Monson High School), Nate

Please see **LEGION**, page 8



Memphis Huertas gets ready to receive a pitch.



Brandon Carillon grabs the bounding ball.



Alex Savlick goes after a grounder.

Pioneers battle to draw with Black Rock

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—While the Western Mass. Pioneers haven't lost a home match this season, their faithful supporters have celebrated just one victory at historic Lusitano Stadium.

The only meeting of the regular season between Black Rock FC and the Pioneers ended in a 1-1 draw before a large crowd, last Friday night.

"We do have a lot of quality players, and we always try to strive for excellence," said Pioneers defender Aidan Kelly, who's also the team's first year captain. "It's always disappointing whenever we drop points, especially at home. Hopefully, we can get a result in our next match at Vermont. We just need to keep working hard."

The soccer teams in the USL League Two earn three points for a victory and one point for a tie.

The Pioneers (5-0-2) had a total of 17 points after their first seven matches. They're battling Vermont Green FC (5-0-1, 16 points) for first place in the Northeast Division standings.

The first meeting of the 2025 regular season between the two rivals was scheduled to take place at Virtue Field in Burlington, Vermont on Tuesday night.

The Western Mass. squad will be hosting Vermont in

their final match of the regular season on July 11.

The Pioneers also played a 1-1 tie in the home opener on May 23 against Seacoast United Phantoms, who are the defending USL League Two champions. Their only home win came against New England FC, 4-1, on June 6.

"We dominated tonight's game, but we couldn't put away our chances," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Sometimes you can score a goal on four or five shots. Sometimes you take many shots and don't score any goals. It's just part of the game."

Black Rock hasn't celebrated a victory at Lusitano Stadium since the 2018 regular season. The two squads did play a scoreless draw at the old stadium in 2023.

Kelly, who joined the Pioneers a year ago, is from Belfast, Northern Ireland. He'll be a senior on the UMass men's soccer team in the fall. The Minutemen men's soccer coach is Fran O'Leary, who's a native of Dublin, Ireland.

"My college coach is from Ireland," Kelly said. "He's the main reason why I decided to play soccer at UMass. It has been a great three years there and I have one more left. I'm really looking forward to it."

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 8

Mutiny gets shutout of Racing Power FC

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Sole possession of first place in the U.W.S. East Conference standings was at stake entering the first ever meeting on the soccer pitch between Racing Power FC USA and the New England Mutiny.

After a scoreless opening half, the Mutiny scored three second half goals en route to a 3-0 shutout victory at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"We played very well for the entire game," said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. "We finally scored a few goals in the second half."

The Mutiny had a perfect 5-0-0 record following their third shutout win of the season. They only allowed two goals in their first five regular season matches.

The Mutiny are hoping to finish in first place for the fourth time since 2019. They lost to the Santa Clarita Blue Heat in the United Women's Soccer Championship match a year ago in a shootout. It was their only loss of 2024.

Racing Power FC (4-1-0) outscored their first four opponents, 19-0. They only had four subs for the road match, including the back-up goalie.

Cat Perez, who was born in Bogotá, Colombia, was the Mutiny's starting goalie for the first time this season. She was also a member of her country's soccer team



Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, navigates through traffic.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM



Anna Carson sends a kick home.

ed from Belchertown High School, will be a junior on the University of Rhode Island women's soccer team this fall.

Another defender listed on the Mutiny roster is Kylie Ray. She played soccer at Minnechaug Regional for legendary head coach Nundi Goncalves. Ray is currently a member of the women's soccer team at Seton Hall University.

Tennessee Murphy, who lives in Monson, scored her first goal in a Mutiny home match during the 63rd minute.

The scoring play began when Lewis launched a crossing pass into the box from the right touchline. After the ball took a high bounce, Murphy headed it into the back of the net past goalie Riley Melendez.

"We knew that tonight's opponent was a very good team," said Murphy, who scored her first two goals of the season on the road. "It was a perfect cross from Laci. When I saw the ball go over the defender, I was a little bit nervous because I didn't want to miss a scoring chance. After I headed the ball into the net, it was a very good feeling."

Three minutes later, the Mutiny were given a penalty kick following a foul in the box.

Chioma Okafor, who's a member of the UConn

Please see **MUTINY**, page 8

which competed in the 2024 Summer Olympics games in Paris, France. She has also played for Team Boca Blast of the WPSL.

Chloe Laizer, who recently graduated from West Springfield High School, replaced Perez 15 minutes into the second half.

The duo didn't have to make very many saves against Racing Power, who's an affiliate of the Portugal's Pro women's team.

The Mutiny starting defenders were Rachel Marchini, Aida Name, Anna Carson, and Laci Lewis, who's the team captain.

Name, who graduated

SPORTS

T-Birds bringing back Community Caravan

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds are proud to announce the return of the T-Birds Community Caravan, with support from MassMutual, marking the third annual summer tour designed to bring the excitement of Thunderbirds hockey to communities across the region.

This year's Caravan will include three stops throughout the Greater Springfield area during the summer months, continuing the initiative's mission to keep the T-Birds top-of-mind in the offseason while deepening the team's connection to local families and fans. This summer's Caravan dates are as follows:

- Saturday, July 19 - Sonny's Place, Somers, CT - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Saturday, August 9 - Amelia Park Ice Arena, Westfield - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. *

*The Westfield Community Caravan will also

feature the annual T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament on the outdoor deck hockey court at Amelia Park. The Street Hockey Tournament features teams of players ages 9-12. To register your team, click here.

"After a fantastic continuation of the program last summer, we're thrilled to bring back the Caravan and keep building on its success," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "We're equally excited to welcome back MassMutual as a partner and thank them for embracing our mission of being champions in the community beyond the Thunderdome."

Each free-to-attend event will feature appearances by Thunderbirds mascot Boom-er, team staff, and a lively

mix of interactive games, street hockey, family-friendly activities, and local vendors. Fans can also enjoy delicious food options, with each Caravan date spotlighting a local nonprofit beneficiary, helping to raise awareness and support for impactful community organizations.

"We're delighted to support the Springfield Thunderbirds not only on the ice but also throughout the local community," said Dennis Duquette, head of community responsibility at MassMutual and president of the MassMutual Foundation. "Their caravan provides terrific activities for local kids and families, and we're proud to be a part of it."

The Springfield edition

of the Caravan will be collecting donations benefiting The Gray House. Among the requested items are baby food, diapers and wipes, school supplies, and non-perishable food items. The Thunderbirds will also be hosting food drives at the July and August Caravan stops. The July Caravan at Sonny's Place will benefit the Enfield Food Shelf in Connecticut, while the August Caravan in Westfield will collect items for the Westfield Food Pantry.

Additional information for all Community Caravans will be released in the coming weeks via the Thunderbirds' website and social media channels.

For more information on upcoming events, including the Community Caravan, stay tuned to the T-Birds on social media @ThunderbirdsAHL, or visit the Community Tab on www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.



Bonsignore breaks record for wins at Riverhead

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. – Justin Bonsignore had a perfect day Sunday at Riverhead Raceway.

Driving the No. 51 Phoenix Communications machine for Kenneth Massa Motorsports, Bonsignore was fastest in both NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour practice sessions on Father's Day, then followed it up by capturing his first pole award of the season in qualifying. Bonsignore rocketed to the lead early, then settled for second for much of the middle stages of the race. It was on pit road where the Kenneth Massa Motorsports team again shined - getting Bonsignore back out front into the final stages.

He would hang on, holding off Ron Silk, Patrick Emerling and Matt Hirschman over a flurry of restarts in the second half of the race to take the victory.

The win was Bonsignore's 46th career on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, all with Kenneth

Massa Motorsports. It was also his 12th career at Riverhead - breaking a tie with Mike Ewanitsko for the most all-time in Whelen Modified Tour competition at the New York quarter-mile.

"I've been wanting to break the record for a long time," Bonsignore said. "Mike was a childhood hero of mine. The pit crew did another awesome job, with two excellent pit stops. To have my family here, it's the first race that all of them have been to this year. For it to be on Father's Day at home and everything we did, it's just really cool."

Justin Bonsignore will return to the track at Pocono Raceway on Saturday, June 21, driving the No. 19 Toyota GR Supra in the NASCAR Xfinity Series for Joe Gibbs Racing. The team will carry sponsorship from TW Cable LLC for the event, which will air live on The CW at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

Valley rebounds with win over North Shore

LYNN, Mass. - After Valley dropped the first game of their five-game road trip they showed up and defeated the North Shore Navigators 6-1 at Fraser Field.

The Blue Sox came out firing early getting on the board thanks to Sebastian Mexico launching a two-run homer giving them a quick 2-0 lead. Starting pitcher for North Shore Trey Yesu struggled in the early goings but settled in during the second

inning and kept Valley in check.

Valley starting pitcher Marty Coyne got himself into a bases-loaded jam in the fifth but ended up only allowing one run due to an infield single before being relieved by Andrew Besell. Coyne pitched for four innings and allowed one run with two strikeouts plus a walk.

Valley held onto a 2-1 lead going into the sixth before shifting the tides. Rees

Kozar drove in a run to make it 3-1 before the Sox loaded the bases and ran in three more guys off of reliever Sam Beiveau for North Shore, making it 6-1. It was no secret that the top of Valley's batting order delivered big time throughout the sixth inning to take control of the game.

Jack Niedringhaus and Besell combined for three scoreless innings right out of the bullpen each recording strikeouts and giving

no opportunities for Northshore to claw back.

The win gives Valley a 5-3 record on the season as they look to continue their road trip to Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, New York to take on the Martha's Vineyard Sharks Monday at 1 p.m.

The Valley Blue Sox displayed a balanced showing from both the pitching staff and offense.

MUTINY from page 7

women's soccer team, blasted a shot into the lower left corner of the net giving the home team a 2-0 advantage.

Murphy, who's a first-year member of the Mutiny, assisted on the third goal in the 79th minute.

After dribbling around a couple of defenders, Murphy made a short pass to Avery Klingensmith, who finished off the play by putting a shot into the right corner.

"I used to play against Avery when we played in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League," Murphy said. "It's been a lot of fun being teammates with her on this soccer team. She's an outstanding player."

Klingensmith, who's from Belchertown, will be a senior on the American University women's soccer team. During her outstanding high school career, Klingensmith was selected to the All-American team by the United Soccer Coaches.

Murphy, who transferred to the Loomis-Chaffee School four years ago, received the same honor last fall.

"My older sister, Brooke, was also an All-American and



Laci Lewis dribbles toward the goal.

it was a very special honor for me. I really didn't expect it, but it was a lot of fun celebrating the accomplishment with my family," said Murphy, who's entering her senior year at Loomis. "I've also committed to play soccer at Bucknell University. It's a small school and I really like the soccer team. I think it's a very good



Aida Name of Chicopee gets in action for the Mutiny last weekend.

fit for me."

The Mutiny are scheduled to play a road match against the Maine Footy on

Saturday night before facing the NJ Alliance in the regular season home finale at 5pm on June 29.

Yoga at Stanley Park

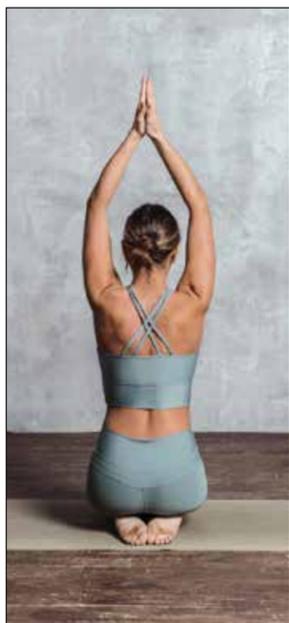
WESTFIELD – Yoga will be starting for the 2025 season on Thursday evenings beginning May 8 through Aug. 21 from 6 to 7 p.m., on the Acre Lawn next to the Pavilion Annex. Please join certified instructor Michelle Gagnon, as she leads the yoga classes. This class is for all levels of yoga practitioners, and all abilities are welcome. The poses are foundational, and modifications are always available. As a class we will harness the power of our breath in alignment with the movement of our bodies.

Children 10 and up are welcome accompanied by an adult. Please bring your

own mat and any props as needed, wear comfortable and stretchy clothes. Prepare to strengthen, stretch your body, and open your minds. Bring lots of water (you might also want a small towel). Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

Donations to the Park are welcome, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person per class.

Registration forms are available on our website at www.stanleypark.org and will also be available at class. You may sign up on our website, by e-mailing us for the registration form at development@stanleypark.org, or register at the Park at your first class.



PIONEERS from page 7

Kelly replaced Nicholas Oberrauch as the Pioneers captain.

"I learned a lot from Nicholas last year," Kelly added. "I was honored when Federico told me that I was going to be the captain of this year's team. I'm very glad to be leading this group of players."

Kelly is also a starting defender, along with Jared Smith, Jaiden Willems, and Juan Hermoso.

Kelly and Smith combined to score what turned out to be the only Pioneers goal against Black Rock following a corner kick two minutes into the opening half.

Israel Neto booted the ball into the box from the left corner. Kelly tapped the ball

over to Smith, who fired a wide open shot into the back of the net for his first career goal with the Pioneers.

"We've been working on set pieces at practice," Kelly said. "I got my foot on the ball and luckily Jared was there to take a shot. I'm very glad that he scored his first career goal in tonight's match."

Black Rock scored the equalizer on a header by Koki Hamada in the 10th minute.

Western Mass. goalie Cam Hall didn't have to make very many saves during the final 80 minutes of the match.

At the other end of the field, the Pioneers had seven more corner kicks during the final 35 minutes of the opening half, but they were unable to score.

With 15 minutes remaining in the half, Mamadi Jiana,

who's a former member of the Chicopee High School boys' varsity soccer team, stole the ball away from a Black Rock player. He then took a shot from inside the box, which sailed high over the crossbar.

The score was deadlocked 1-1 at halftime.

The Pioneers had several more scoring chances in the second half, but they could not put the ball into the net past goalie Benjamin Duffley.

With less than two minutes remaining in the contest, Kelly made a sliding tackle breaking up a breakaway opportunity for Black Rock.

The visiting team didn't have any other shots on goal, and the score was still tied when referee Fabio Cardoso blew his whistle for the final time.

LEGION from page 7

Kaczuwka (Ware High School), and Liam McGrath (Quaboag Regional), who's a first-year member of the Legion team.

Mega, who won five games for the Pioneers this past spring, will be playing college baseball at Monroe University, which is in New York City. Their baseball team competes at the NJCAA Division I level.

Mega can also play for the Legion team again next summer.

"I just wanted us to win our season opener," Mega said. "I was feeling very good out on the mound, especially after my teammates gave me an early 4-0 lead."

Aldenville (2-1) began the Legion season with a 9-1 road win against the Wilbraham Falcons.

A year ago, Aldenville lost to Belchertown in the District 3 championship game.

Righthander Justin Moskal, who was the ace of the South Hadley High School pitching staff this past spring, didn't receive very much support from his defense against Monson.

The majority of the Aldenville players are from South Hadley.

Monson second baseman Miguel Velasquez led off the second inning with an infield hit. Then Kaczuwka, who started at third base, bounced into a 6-4 fielder's choice play and catcher Shane Szado drew a walk.

After stealing third base, Kaczuwka scored the game's first run following a throwing error by the catcher.

"Nate is a fantastic base runner," Tripp said. "He has very good baseball instincts.

You can always count on him to do the right thing."

With one-out in the fourth, Kaczuwka reached first base following a fielding error. Szado and right fielder Jarett Skowyrza followed with walks, which loaded the bases. Then McGrath hit a foul pop-up which was caught by first baseman Matt Drobiak. He threw the ball to catcher Memphis Huertas, but the runner at first base broke towards second on the play.

Kaczuwka crossed the plate following a run down. An infield hit by center fielder Jason Mumper scored Monson's third run. Another run scored on a throwing error, which gave the visiting team a 4-0 lead.

Aldenville cut the deficit in half with a two-out rally in the bottom of the fifth inning. Shortstop Brandon Carillon was hit-by-a-pitch, and third baseman Alex Savlick walked. One run scored on a double by centerfielder Noah Carillon. Drobiak also drove home a run with a single into center field.

Mega would then retire the final seven Aldenville batters of the game, which gave Monson its first win of the Legion season.

"We just made several costly mistakes in tonight's game," said Aldenville manager Mason Scott. "We did battle back after following behind 4-0. We're now looking forward to playing Westfield."

Aldenville squeaked out an 8-7 win at Westfield Post 124 last Friday night.

On the same night, Monson suffered an 11-3 loss to East Springfield Post 420 in their first home game at Legion Field in Palmer.

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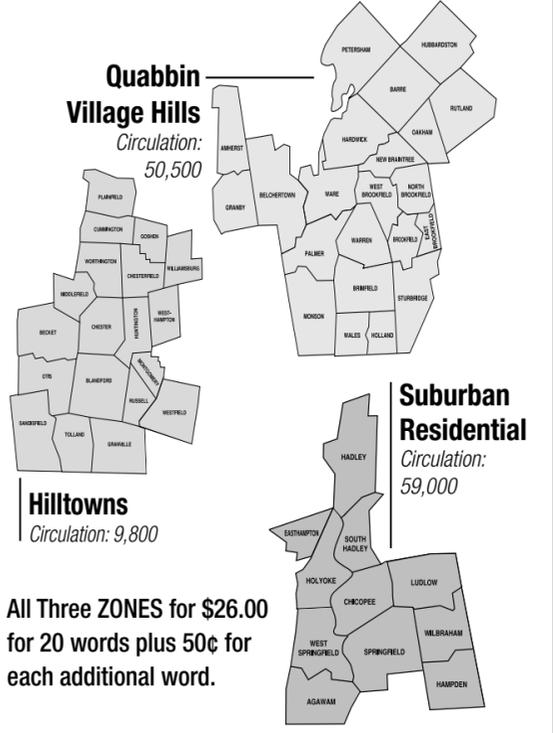
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CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Determination of Heirs** has been filed by **Campagnari Construction LLC of Springfield, 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 07/15/2025.** 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.

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WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
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06/20/2025

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A
Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on July 4th 2025 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.

2012 Nissan Rogue
VIN: JN8AS5MV5CW375115
Andrew Hanson
88 Macarthur Dr.
Millbury MA 01527

2007 Mercury Grand Marquis
VIN: 2MEHM75W27X614958
Tyson Baker
15 Stanton Ave.
Brocton, MA 02301

2016 Chevrolet Equinox
VIN: 2GNALBEK6G1185498
Ta Leah Smith
164 High St., Apt. 303
Holyoke, MA 01040

2007 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J8GR48K57C674373
Brittany Callahan
28 Russell Rd.
Westfield, MA 01085

2010 Ford Edge
VIN: 2FMDK4JC0ABA52610
Felicia Everard
125 Maple Lane
Medway, MA 02053

2009 Chevrolet Silverado 1500
VIN: 2GCEK23C791140436
Joel Diaz Santana
38 Ina St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2018 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL3AP3JC182954
Augustine Mensah
426 S Springfield Rd., Apt. G2
Clifton Heights, PA 19018
06/20, 06/27, 07/04/2025

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 June 27th, 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2007 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM56737A132534
Tyler James Fandell
410 Conestoga St.
Windsor, CT 06095

2003 Subaru Impreza
VIN: JF1GD67503G510602
Lindsey Tara Giberson
51 Pine Tree Rd.

Albrightsville, PA 18210
2007 Acura MDX
VIN: 2HNYD28367H505428
Jayliz Magana
49 Allendale Rd.
Hartford, CT 06106
2007 Honda CR-V
VIN: JHLRE485X7C097039
Glorivee Delgado
14 Roxbury Rd.
East Hartford, CT 06118

2006 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: KMHDN46D86U288870
Diabolique Fogle
51 Vinton St., Apt. 1
Springfield, MA 01104

2010 Acura TSX
VIN: JH4CU2F6XAC025768
Elijah Lamar Richardson
109 Babcock St., Apt. 2
Hartford CT 06106
06/13, 06/20, 06/27/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P1253EA
Estate of:
Lorraine A. Lengieza
Date of Death: 04/04/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michael R. Wheeler of Corona, CA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Michael R. Wheeler of Corona, CA** 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 07/10/2025.** 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: June 12, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
06/20/2025

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 June 20th 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2010 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB6APIAL640738
Amy Lynn Wintch
3 Old Chester Rd.
Huntington, Ma 01050

2008 Toyota Sienna
VIN: STDZK23C28S122869
Lisa Jarvis
7 Ludlow Rd.
Chicopee, MA 01020

2004 Freightliner Conventional
VIN: 1FUJA6CK54DM34178
Ip Express LLC
949 Olive St 2nd Fl
Elizabeth, NJ 07201

2009 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 5FNRL384X9B036607
Jose Vallecastro
595 E 170th St., 5N
Bronx, NY 10456

1995 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCE6649SA001030
Roxanne Rodriguez
178 Florence Rd., Apt. 3C
Florence MA 01062
06/06, 06/13, 06/20/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 748-8600
Docket No.
HD19P1222EA
Estate of:**

**Sara A. Maldonado
Date of Death: May 8, 2019
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Moises Maldonado of Chicopee, MA.**

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

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
06/20/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD24P1850EA
Estate of:
Frederick Peter Radwanski, Jr.
Also known as:**

**Frederick Peter Radwanski
Date of Death: 07/05/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by: **Hyman Darling of Springfield, MA** requesting that the court authorize the Personal Representative

to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.
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 06/30/2025.**

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.

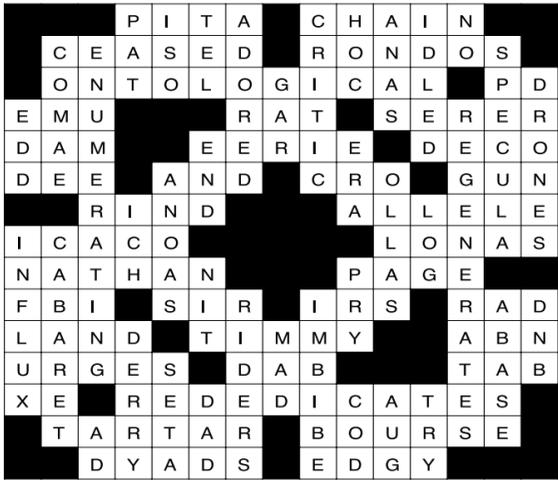
Witness, **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 13, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
06/20/2025

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.

\$12.50 Each



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Chicopee Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON**

Thursday, July 3

Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, **PUBLIC NOTICES EARLY AD DEADLINE**

Place your public notice no later than **NOON**

Thursday, July 3

– Thank you!

DL&G TREE

Tree
Removal



Structural
Pruning



Crane
Service



Storm
Damage



Stump
Grinding



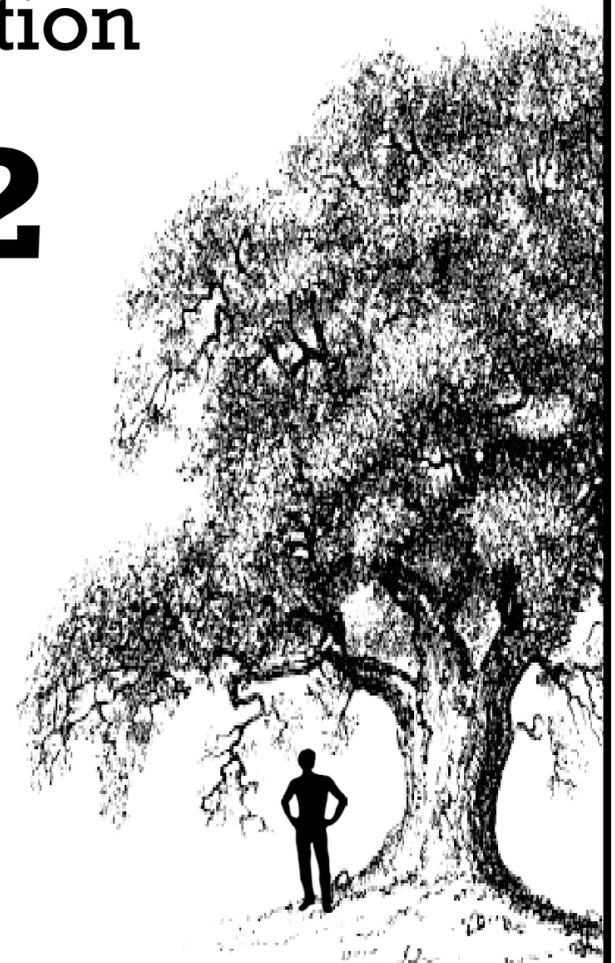
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Clearing



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and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



INSURED AND CERTIFIED