



SENIORS
January activities
PAGE 2



ARTS
ACAA Meeting
PAGE 5



SPORTS
Tomkiel Tournament
PAGE 6

AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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The city council members take their oath.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Elected officials sworn in, new city council president elected

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Following one term with a new council president, city councilors elected their third different president in the past three terms on Monday night at the Agawam Senior Center.

Councilor Anthony Russo, who is beginning just his third term as a member of the Agawam City Council, was unanimously selected to the next president. This

comes after Russo served as the vice president of the council during the past term.

Russo succeeds Councilor Rosemary Sandlin, who served the past two years as council president. Mayor Christopher Johnson was the previous council president and served in that position for five of the six terms he served on the council.

Russo is joined by Anthony Suffriti, who was selected as the vice president, also by a unanimous vote of the

council. Suffriti has been on the council for 12 years, consecutively, and enters his seventh term on the council. While he has been a chair of sub-committees in the past and has been very active as a member of the council, Suffriti will be serving in a leadership position on the council for the first time.

Joining the two new leaders on the council will be a returning councilor and two

ELECTED | page 10

Johnson sworn in for new term in mayor's seat

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – With this new year comes a "new" set of elected officials as those voted for in last year's election are sworn into office.

Chief among those is Mayor Christopher Johnson, who was re-elected to his second term under his current administration. Johnson was elected the town's first mayor in 1990, when the Town of Agawam changed its form of government to having an elected mayor. Johnson served as mayor for 10 years before leaving the position.

Johnson then returned to town politics as a member of the city council in 2012. He served six terms on the city council before former Mayor William Sapelli decided not to run for re-election in 2023. Johnson then decided to run for the mayor's seat again, defeating Cecilia Calabrese, another city councilor, to become mayor again.

Johnson ran unopposed in last year's election, and easily won re-election. Johnson spent his first two years

back in the mayor's seat dedicated to three major projects that were already in process from the previous administration.

In his first year in office, Johnson worked with schools officials to push the Agawam High School project across the finish line. He saw through the final design work and held multiple public information meetings leading to the ballot vote for the debt exclusion Agawam will have to take on in order to pay for the new construction. The Massachusetts School Building Authority will pay for more than half of the building.

The new police department and Still Brook Park were also large parts of his first two years in office. Still Brook Park's original completion for public use finished late in 2024 and the ribbon was cut on the park. Since then, more amenities have been added to the park during the past year to add to the passive recreation offered there.

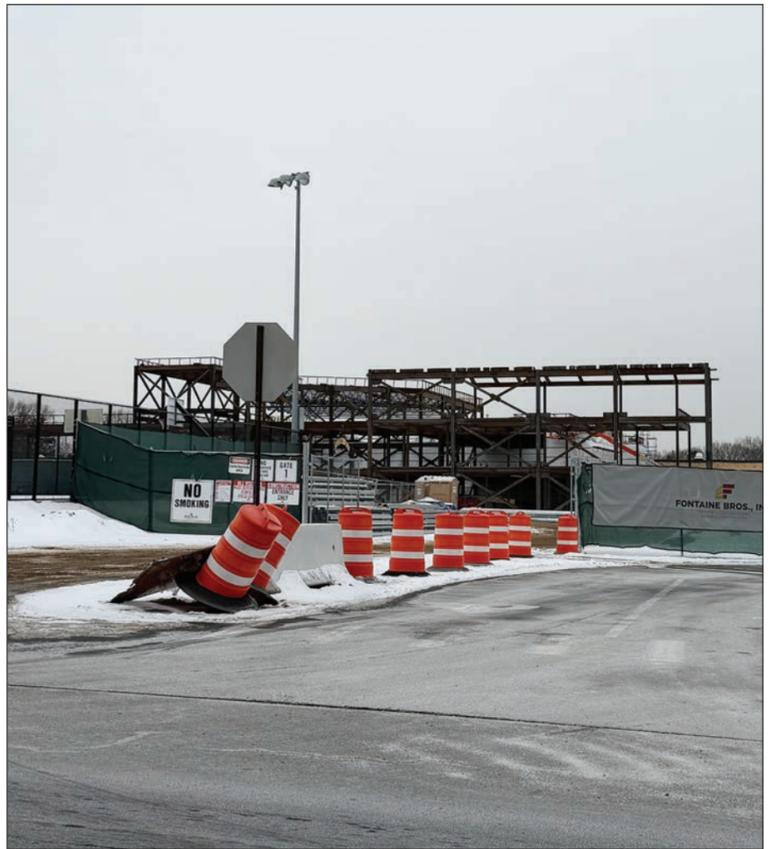
The Agawam Police Department made a lot of headlines at the end of last year as the final touches

were put on the converted insurance building, and a walkthrough was held followed by the ribbon cutting, grand opening, and open house held last month. The police department announced at the end of 2025 that all major police operations had completely moved to the new facility.

Coming up in his next term, there will be no shortage of challenges for the administration as the Agawam High School project continues to move forward. That kicked off earlier this week with the "topping off" ceremony held at the new construction at the high school building. The new construction will be continuing throughout the year before project moves into the next phases in which parts of the current building will be razed and new construction replacing it.

Johnson will also be working with school officials to address the roofs at the town's four elementary schools after the school district was invited to join in the MSBA's accelerated repair program to complete that project.

Time for the Topper



Christmas season may be over, but there is one more thing that needs to be topped, and it's not a tree. Earlier this week, the final beam was placed on the new construction at Agawam High School. A "topping off" ceremony was scheduled to be held on Tuesday, Jan. 5 and coverage from that event will be seen in next week's edition.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



'As Schools Match Wits'

From the set of "As Schools Match Wits," Host Beth Ward, and Agawam High School's Daniel Carlson, Austin LeBlanc, Jason Liacos, and Cullen Kirk. The team recently competed and their match will air on Saturday, Jan. 17 on PBS.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Webinar will educate public on BESS

AGAWAM – There will be a webinar event to educate the public on battery energy storage systems. The program is titled: Battery Energy Storage Systems in Massachusetts: Benefits and Safety Considerations. It will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. at

Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. Agawam, MA., 01001.

Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), are critically important for our energy grid. Come get the facts from the experts about BESS, how it works, and its impacts, and concepts es-

sential to making informed decisions about their placement.

Panelists from the Berkshire Environmental Action Team and the Clean Energy Group will be present and available to answer questions after the screening of the webinar.



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Upcoming events at Agawam Senior Center

AGAWAM – Here are some of the upcoming activities and events being held at the Agawam Senior Center.

Manicures With Jane

Monday, Jan. 12 in Seminar Hall
Jane is a licensed nail specialist, who will give your fingernails that extra special attention and love they deserve. She is offering simple manicures that include clipping, filing, soak, massage of the hands and your choice of color. These appointments are 15 minutes each. The cost is \$15 per person. Call Kristina at 413.726.2836 to book.

Agawam Senior Center Computer Tech Support

Wednesday, Jan. 14 and 28 from 1 to 2 p.m.
The Agawam Senior Center Computer and Technology

Club will meet.

Seminar with Powerback Rehab

Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 1 p.m.
Come join Powerback Rehab to You for a free falls risk assessment. Gain insight on what your risk for falls level is and where you stand against other people your age. Learn more about Powerback Rehab to You and what we can offer in the community for Physical and Occupational Therapy needs.

Call the Senior Center to Register. Seminar will take place in the Garden Room.

Hearing Checks with Gary

Thursday, Jan. 15
The next New Ears hearing care clinic will take place on Thursday, Jan. 15. Gary Winn a licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist, and owner of

New Ears Hearing Care, will conduct a free hearing clinic. He will check ears for wax build-up, perform hearing screenings, and counsel people about hearing loss. Hearing aids will be cleaned and adjusted if possible. Call 821-0604 to make an appointment. Hearing checks will take place in the seminar hall.

Low Vision Support Group

Tuesday, Jan. 20 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.
We have partnered with the Massachusetts Association for the Visually Impaired and will start joining their Low-Vision Support Groups via Zoom in December. Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 12 noon to 1 p.m. We will meet in the Conference Room of the Senior Center and have the Zoom set up and ready to go. Our conference room can fit 15-20 people. Call Kristina

at 726-2836 to reserve your spot. This group is for anyone who is experiencing any type of vision problems, there are MANY great resources we offer and collaborate together. Please join us.

Reverse Mortgage Seminar

Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 1 p.m.
Are you a homeowner 62 or older curious about how your home can help support your retirement? Join me, Terry Olbrych Loan Officer from US Financial Group, LLC for an informative seminar on reverse mortgages designed specifically for seniors. I'll break down how these loans work, who qualifies, dispel rumors and how they can provide financial flexibility without giving up your home. Whether you're exploring options for future planning or just want to learn more, this

relaxed, no-pressure session is a great place to start. Call the Senior Center to register. Seminar will take place in the Seminar Hall.

New Class Alert Monthly Class on Diabetes Mellitus Education

Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 12:30 p.m. in the Conference Room
A "DM Education Program" will be held at the Agawam Senior Center. We will be referring to materials for Diabetes Mellitus (DM) education, which cover managing the condition through healthy eating, being active, monitoring blood sugar, and taking medications. Key topics include healthy food choices, the importance of physical activity, medication adherence, and coping with the emotional aspects of diabetes. These documents aim to em-

power individuals to manage their health and improve their quality of life. Gina Smus, RN, CDN will be our educator for this class. We hope you will join us. Call Kristina at 413-726-2836 to join this class.

Join the Agawam Senior Center Book Club

The group's focus is on selecting an expansive list of titles from many genres to allow readers the opportunity to expand reading horizons, and our conversations are engaging and always strive to be considerate and attentive to the views of others. Feel free to stop in during any book meeting for more information or to join us--whether or not you have read the current selection. We meet the 3rd Friday of the month at 10 a.m. in the Garden Room, we would love to have you.

STCC launches Workforce Readiness Academy

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College is now enrolling for the Workforce Readiness Academy, a free, 20-hour-per-week program designed to help prospective students build the digital, academic and career skills needed to thrive in today's job market and succeed in college.

The Workforce Readiness Academy offers a hands-on, personalized learning experience that equips participants with essential digital literacy skills, industry-recognized certifications and strengthened college and career readiness competencies. Whether students are entering the workforce, changing careers or preparing for further education, the Academy provides the foundation they need to move forward with confidence, said Assistant Vice President of Workforce Development Gladys Franco.

"This program is an incred-

ible opportunity for anyone looking to gain confidence, earn meaningful credentials and take their next step toward a rewarding career or higher education," Franco said. "The Workforce Readiness Academy was intentionally designed to remove barriers and meet students where they are. Our goal is to ensure every participant leaves with the skills, support and resources they need to succeed."

The Academy is supported by the state Gaming Commission's Community Mitigation Fund.

The Academy is offered in two sessions. The first runs Jan. 26 - April 9, 2026, while the second runs April 13 - June 25. Both run Monday-Thursday. Enrollees can choose day (9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) or evening (5 p.m.-9 p.m.) options.

Each participant is paired with a dedicated College and

Career Advisor for individualized support throughout the program.

The Academy offers the opportunity to develop computer competency and workforce readiness skills every employer expects.

Students will work toward industry-recognized certifications, including ServeSafe and OSHA 10, while also engaging with local employers through networking and career connection opportunities.

"The Workforce Readiness Academy is a powerful starting point for anyone looking to build skills, earn credentials and gain confidence as they pursue new educational or career pathways," Franco said.

Spaces are limited. To learn more or register, visit stcc.io/wra or contact the Workforce Development Center at (413) 755-4225. To enroll in person, stop by Building 27 at STCC.

Feline Friends to be part of fundraiser

AGAWAM – With the new year upon us, we would like to acknowledge the wonderful people who sponsor us on a monthly basis throughout the year. We could not continue our mission without you! Thank you to Ann Balbi, Marcia Bergeron, Bucket List Travel Egypt (Annie), Joanne Daurizio, Debbie Facchini, Patricia Kuc, Sonya Lawson, Barbara Ledger, Mary Ann McDonald, Crystal Mengersh, Sharon Moore, Martha Olver, Jennifer Romano, Judith Roberts, Valerie Schumacher, Stephen Skerry and Sandy Stasiowski.

We have been chosen by Big Y of Westfield at 475 East Main Street to participate in the Big Y Community Bag Program for the month of January 2026. We will receive a \$1 donation whenever a Community Bag is purchased.

We are also preparing for our annual Valentine Raffle. Tickets will be available

shortly. Details will be posted on the Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary Facebook page as well via email.

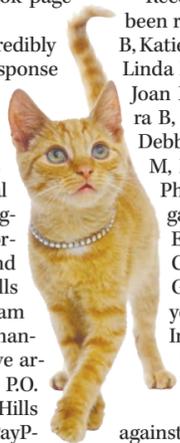
We are incredibly grateful for the response to our appeal for help with supplies. We have received packages at the professional office at 532 Springfield St. (at the corner of Cleveland St.) in Feeding Hills and at the Agawam Public Library. Financial donations have arrived by check at P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills 01030 as well as PayPal: @FelineFriendsRaffle. Venmo: @Feline-Friends. Please include name/contact information with donations if you would like an acknowledgement. Venmo donations do not provide addresses or email information.

We appreciate every sin-

gle donation. Local pick up is available by calling 786-5019.

Recent donations have been received from Barbara B, Katie H, Carl and Cheryl K, Linda K, Ken K and Irene F, Joan E, Robert and Barbara B, Amanda T, Jeremy B, Debbie P, Eileen H, Lauren M, Mike S, Catherine M, Phyllis D, Louise W, Abigail F, Jaana C, Jack and Elena M, Shirley M, Cyn H and the Paypal Giving Fund. Thank you all. Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, nonprofit sanctuary that does not discriminate against any cat based on age, gender or disability.

More information about our sanctuary may be found on our website at felinefriendsinc.org or our Facebook page at Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary. Contact us with questions at info@felinefriendsinc.org or by phone at 413-786-5019.



Athenaeum holds American Revolution Series

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Athenaeum Children's Library will present a series of programs about the Revolutionary War for children 8 - 12 each month January through May. The kickoff

event, Henry Knox's Noble Artillery Train featuring Owen Lourenzo and his trained oxen, will be presented on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 4 p.m. Owen will talk about the Noble Train and

how the oxen were integral to its success. The event is open to all ages and will be held on the Court Street lawn. This event is free to all attendees.

Lions Club to host 'purse bingo' Feb. 1

AGAWAM – The Agawam Lions Club will host "Purse Bingo for a Purpose" on Sunday, Feb. 1 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Tickets for the event can be purchased at www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/

purse-bingo-19. Join the Lions Club for a fun night of bingo, designer purses, and prizes. All to support inclusive play in the community.

The goal of the event is to install playground communication boards at seven local playgrounds. The playgrounds are: Perry Lane, Sappelli, Clark, Granger, Phelps, Doering, and School Street Park.

Playground communication boards are power-

ful tools that send a visible message of inclusivity. They promote social interaction among children of all abilities. They provide choice and independence, help reduce frustrations, and encourage collaborative play in diverse playground settings. These boards help children: Express wants, needs, and feelings, join in play with peers, and feel included, confident, and heard.



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Brian McQuillan will be the first guest of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans on Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. at Agawam Public Library.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Brian McQuillan to guest at next ACAA meeting

AGAWAM – Whether he’s building Rat Rods, crazy trailers or sculpting fascinating people or creatures, Brian McQuillan is always creating exciting works of metal art designed to captivate your imagination, and command your attention.

McQuillan’s magic is created in part, by the huge

amounts of nuts, bolts, antique toys, tools, automotive, and motorcycle parts that are always included in his art. Wherever his work is exhibited there is always a group of people gathered around challenging themselves to identify the fantastic amounts of objects contained in his art.

Brian’s work will be on display, and he will be doing a demonstration, on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans monthly meeting. The meeting will be held at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, beginning at 6 p.m. The meeting is open to the public and free of charge.

Brian is a member of the Scantic River Artisans and a member of the Monson Arts Council. He and his wife Marie make their home in Hampden, MA.

McQuillan’s sculptures can at time be fascinating, curious, humorous, and thought-provoking, but they are always entertaining.

“As an artist, my interests are all over the place. My subjects are also very diversified,” he said.

“Often, I’m captivated by a pose or an attitude, something in the way a subject presents itself. I try to find the soul of a subject or create a soul. By using facial expressions or movement, I

find that every human subject or animal or insect that I portray can be brought to life this way and by doing so create a reaction from the viewer.”

For further information please contact Ceil Rossi (413)-207-1247 or email to-carefree2@hotmail.com.

Agawam Historical Association hosts historical armory presentation

AGAWAM – The public is invited to the Winter Meeting of the Agawam Historical Association on Thursday, Jan. 15, at 6:30 p.m. at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam, when Springfield Armory National Historic Site Curator Alex MacKenzie will present “The Most Proper Spot in America:

The Continental Arsenal at Springfield,” revealing its hidden stories and the contributions of our region to American independence.

Following the creation of the Continental Army in 1775, General George Washington and his lieutenants organized a system of supply and logistics to support

the fledgling American military as it fought for independence. Brigadier General Henry Knox, Chief of Artillery, personally sited a military supply depot at Springfield, Massachusetts early in 1777. Hundreds of enlisted tradesmen poured into town to begin building, repairing, maintaining, and shipping all

sorts of military supplies, and Springfield was quickly bustling with activity throughout the American Revolution.

Alex MacKenzie is a museum professional, author, and historian specializing in U.S. military history, with a focus on small arms development, logistics, and supply. He has authored numerous arti-

cles and publications on the technical and industrial history of small arms centered on the Springfield Armory (1777–1968) and is a leading authority on the management and care of historic firearms and ammunition in museum collections. He has developed museum policy for the National Park Service,

contributed to publications on collections care, and regularly consults with museums nationwide. He serves as Curator of Collections at Springfield Armory National Historic Site and resides in Belchertown with his wife and two daughters.

This event is free and open to the public.



Conceptual rendering

Public Information Meeting

Longroad Energy welcomes you to learn and ask questions about a proposed energy storage project at 769 Silver Street, Agawam

Agawam Energy Center: Longroad Energy is proposing a battery energy storage project on an idle business property in Agawam’s industrial district, adjacent to an operating power plant and electrical infrastructure. Thoughtfully planned, the project will generate significant new long-term tax revenue for Agawam, enable a comprehensive community benefits plan, and help contribute to a more affordable and reliable grid. Utilizing proven technology, the project will be designed to achieve world-class safety by incorporating the most stringent safety standards.

Date: January 12, 2026

Public Information Meeting Location:
Agawam Senior Center, Dining Room
954 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001

Session 1: 3:30PM - 5:00PM

Session 2: 6:00PM - 8:00PM

For more information, please visit
longroadenergy.com/agawam-energy-center



Opinion

Guest Column



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

My wife believes she can get a spouse benefit while I'm still alive; can she?

Dear Rusty:

A friend of my wife told her and she believes, she could receive a Social Security benefit based on my SS benefit that I'm currently receiving while I'm still alive. I told her she could only receive spouse survivor benefits. Is there any truth to what she now believes? Would you settle this issue for us please? Thank you.

how your personal FRA retirement amounts compare. The best way for your wife to find out is to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to inquire and if she's eligible, also make an appointment to apply for her spousal benefit.

And to clarify your wife's options as your possible widow, a surviving spouse can also get a survivor benefit if their marital partner passes away, but only if the deceased spouse's current benefit at death was more than the surviving spouse is already receiving. The surviving spouse receives the higher amount, instead of their own smaller Social Security retirement benefit.

But here is an important thing to know: Whenever any Social Security benefit (including a spousal or surviving spouse benefit) is claimed before the recipient's Full Retirement Age, the payment amount is permanently reduced, both spousal and survivor benefits do not reach maximum until the recipient's Full Retirement Age. And just to complete the picture for survivor benefits, a surviving spouse is also entitled to a one-time, lump-sum death benefit of \$255 if their marital partner dies, in addition to any other benefit they are entitled to.

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.

**Signed:
Uncertain Husband**

Dear Uncertain Husband:

Well, surely I don't want to get in the middle of your marital discussion, but I'll be happy to explain Social Security's rules about your wife's eligibility for spousal benefits while you are both still living. And just for awareness for both of you, the rules about spousal benefits are one of the most confusing areas of Social Security.

Per Social Security's rules, a spouse (e.g., your wife) can receive a "spousal boost" from you - while you are still living - if the SS retirement benefit she is personally entitled to at her Full Retirement Age is less than 50% of the SS retirement benefit you are (were) entitled to at your FRA; full retirement age amounts are used to calculate living spouse benefits, regardless of when each of you actually claimed your Social Security.

So, if your FRA entitlement benefit amount is more than twice your wife's FRA entitlement benefit amount, she can, indeed, get a "spousal boost" from your record while you are both still living. The spousal boost is added to her own SS retirement amount and will be based on the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement. Thus, in this discussion, your wife may be correct - she may be able to get a spousal boost from you while both of you are living, depending on



TLC for overwintering plants

Have you taken a good look at your tender plants lately? Maybe you have a Gerber daisy, coleus, fuchsia or geranium that you are attempting to overwinter because you loved it so much this past summer.

Perhaps the flower color or leaf shade was perfect in a patio planter and you thought if you could get through the winter you wouldn't have to buy it new this spring. Or maybe you intend to use your overwintered plants as stock plants.

Soon you'll be taking cuttings and making your own new plants. Likewise, maybe you brought in some tender herbs in hopes of growing your own seasoning year round.

Whatever the case may be, closer examination of each plant at this point in the winter might be a smart idea.

What I have noticed almost across the board, especially with my Gerber daisy, fuchsia and geraniums is that there are a lot of older leaves turning yellow or showing discoloration. To me, that indicates that fertilizer is needed.

The fact that this coincides with the lengthening of the daylight hours is no accident. And all three plants have continued to bloom inside, which certainly has taxed their nutrient reserves.

I will start watering with half strength fertilizer twice a month now through mid March. I sure bet that old foliage will start to perk up and new growth won't be too far

behind. Don't push growth by fertilizing more than what I recommended or growth could become lanky and weak - just what aphids are looking for.

Speaking of pests, if you notice distorted foliage, webbed areas or stippling on the leaves, take a closer look at your plants. There are many tiny bugs with mouthparts that suck plant juices. Even in your sunny window spider mite, mealy bugs, aphids or white fly might be becoming more active.

Spider mite cause webbing, and are usually indicative of hot, dry conditions. Dousing with cold water will really set them back.

Mealy bug show up as a cottony blob usually on growth tips or at the junction of leaves and stems. Rubbing alcohol on a swab applied directly to the blob will dissolve that protective layer and the insect underneath.

Aphids are usually green and congregate in clusters on stems or leaf ribs. White fly usually hang out on the underside of leaves. They fly around if disturbed.

Both insects are best stopped in their tracks by use of an insecticidal soap. Safer's Soap or M Pede as it's known commercially work well. I've

even soaped up my plants using a mild dish detergent and hosed them off in the shower.

One pest in particular attacks the herb rosemary and is especially troublesome. I noticed stippling on the leaf tips and clear winged insects flying away when I brushed by the plants. After placing sticky yellow monitoring cards nearby I learned it was leaf hoppers!

As carefully as I could I carried the lighter plants outside and gave them a good shake to dislodge any eggs or nymphs (and to make me feel better) then I doused them to the point of run-off with insecticidal soap. I will have to be careful here, because tiny 3 mm size, wedge-shaped (adult) insects can transmit viruses from plant to plant.

I'll put out new monitoring cards near the rosemary plants to check if the population is decreasing. Regardless, I am glad I caught this situation early.

With the pests under control and a proper fertilization regimen, these plants will be in great shape come springtime, and ready for new adventures in the landscape.

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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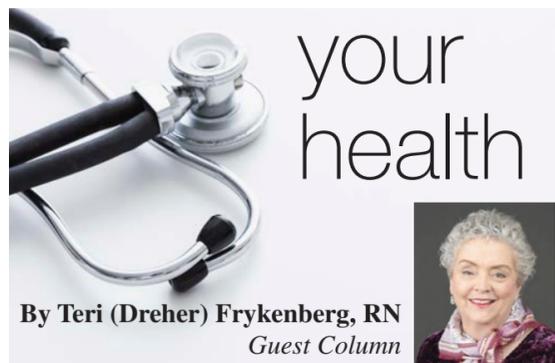
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your health
By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

All it takes is one kid with measles to infect up to 18 others in their classroom. With school beginning soon, public health and education officials around the country are concerned about new outbreaks. In the not too distant past, measles was considered "eliminated" in the U.S. because cases were almost unknown and 95 percent or more of Americans were vaccinated against it or had it in childhood. That herd immunity is slowly eroding, and our children are at greater risk of illness because of it.

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases out there, even more so than COVID and flu virus. It spreads through tiny droplets when people cough or sneeze, and can live in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours (think school

desks, cafeteria tables, lab stations).

And while today's measles is no more dangerous than before, it can still result in pneumonia, encephalitis (brain swelling) or even death in very young children or those with immunocompromised systems. We've seen three deaths in Texas attributed to measles.

In addition, measles can leave someone with a weakened immune system, making them more susceptible to other infections.

Illinois generally has experienced herd immunity, with vaccination rates at or above 95 percent. The state has seen 10 cases of measles this year, some in Cook County and others in the southern part of the state. There's evidence, however, that vaccination rates are dropping in some Chicago

Measles are a serious business for your health and others

schools and among kindergartners.

Massachusetts hasn't seen a single case - yet - because its citizens maintain a vaccination rate of about 98%. There's evidence, however, that the vaccination rate is not as strong among incoming kindergartners.

We all play a role in keeping our communities safe and healthy. The best way to keep the measles away from your child is to make sure they've had two doses of the MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine, which has been proven safe and is 97% effective at prevention. Even if they do catch the virus, the illness is likely to be mild and short-lived.

That said, it's possible there will be children in your child's class who are unvaccinated and could well bring measles to school along with their homework and lunchbox. It will be easy for them to infect other unvaccinated children, causing an outbreak.

To help stop measles in its tracks:

If you're unsure of your immune status and believe you were exposed to the measles, consult your health-care provider right away. An MMR immunity blood test can show

whether you have measles antibodies. (If you were born before 1957, you likely had measles and enjoy "presumptive immunity.")

Consider getting an MMR booster shot, especially if you were immunized between 1963 and 1967. The vaccine used during those years was less effective because it was made from a killed rather than live virus. A booster is a harmless precaution, as long as your doctor says you are eligible to receive a live virus vaccine.

Regularly disinfect surfaces and common touchpoints, like door handles and light switches.

Keep your unvaccinated child home if any of these symptoms show up. It could be a cold or the flu, but it could also be measles. Symptoms usually appear seven to 14 days after exposure.

- High fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red, watery eyes
- White spots inside the mouth (Koplik spots)
- A red, blotchy rash that starts on the face and spreads downward

Wait four days before going to a hospital to reduce the chance that the disease will be

transmitted to others.

As a registered nurse and someone who's worked in the medical field for most of my life, I advocate for science, not social media or crackpot theories about cod liver oil. (Cod liver oil, by the way, contains a lot of Vitamin A, which can be toxic in large doses, particularly with children.) Measles, once someone has it, is incurable - it has to run its course. It is a virus, not a bacteria, so it can't be treated with antibiotics.

Fall is approaching, and with it will come flu season and RSV season. Cases of COVID are already on the rise around the country. We are so lucky to live in an era in which vaccines can keep us and our children safe from some of the most common human diseases. Please take advantage of it.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

It's a new year of fun events at Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – All of us at the Agawam Public Library hope you had a relaxing and joyful holiday season, and we cannot wait to share what we have in store for the New Year.

Winter is here to stay, and what better way to stave off the cold than by curling up with a good book? Our Adult Winter Reading Challenge will run from Tuesday, Jan. 20 through Saturday, Feb. 21 and is an excellent way to jump start your 2026 reading goals. Log your reading and complete activities to earn raffle tickets that can be entered to win one of our five grand prizes! We've also challenged the Agawam community to collectively read 1,500 hours, and every hour you log during this reading challenge will help us reach our goal. To get started, please visit agawamlibrary.beanstack.org to participate online or visit the Agawam Library Information Desk to participate in person. Registration for this challenge will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 20 and the last day to enter your raffle tickets for the end-of-challenge drawing is Saturday, Feb. 21.

Attention wrestling fans. We have an extra special event this month that you won't want to miss. Author, podcaster and former WWE media journalist Brian R. Solomon will host a presentation and book signing for his latest book, *Irresistible Force: the Life and Times of Gorilla Monsoon* on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 10 a.m.. Brian worked at World Wrestling Entertain-

ment in the early 2000's as a creative services and publications copy editor and later became a staff writer for their suite of magazines and WWF.com website. He has interviewed and interacted with countless wrestling legends over the course of his career. Brian's encyclopedic knowledge of professional wrestling is clearly displayed in his biography of Gorilla Monsoon, one of the original character wrestlers in the early days of the WWF/WWF and later the "voice" of the WWF events. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to connect with this prolific chronicler of the professional wrestling world! Please register to attend.

If one of your New Year's Resolutions is to be more active, there's no better time to start than at our Resolution Walk with the Agawam Public Library Walking Group! Join librarian Kristen Frost on Saturday, Jan. 3 at 9 a.m. to get your heart pumping and your step count up. Weather permitting, this group will meet at School Street Park in Agawam; please meet at the pavilion (Corey Street entrance) and be sure to bundle up. Registration is required. If you're looking to exercise more but don't favor the cold, check out our weekly Chair Yoga classes instead. Instructor Heidi Taberman leads participants in an hour of gentle chair yoga on Wednesday mornings at 9:05 a.m. in the Clini Community Room. Classes are drop-in and no registration is

required.

Looking to try out a new hobby this year? Boy, do we have you covered! Winter Gardening with Master Gardener Shari Petrucci is the fourth installment of our series "Gardening Through the Year". In this session, Shari will cover the many winter projects that keep gardeners busy and prepared for spring. Topics will include how to read a seed catalogue, making a garden journal, planning your garden for spring, ordering seeds from your plan, and a hands-on winter sowing workshop using perennial seeds! This workshop will take place on Monday, Jan. 5 at 6:30 p.m.. Attendees are asked to please bring a seed catalog and a clean, empty one gallon milk or water jug. Information on obtaining a seed catalog can be found on our online event calendar when you register to attend. If you're a fan of board games and card games, then our monthly Game Night is perfect for you. Stop by on Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 6:30 p.m. for a fun evening of playing games like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, Munchkin, and more. Have a favorite game you'd like to share? Bring it along! This is a drop-in event for adults ages 18 and older, and light refreshments will be served. Tea & Trivia is back with two new sessions this month: join us on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 6:30 p.m. or Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 2:30 p.m. for a couple of rounds of Jeopardy and pub-style trivia. We will use the same questions for

both sessions, so register for the time you prefer and join us for some fun.

If your holiday spending has left you feeling stressed, start yourself on a new path with your finances at our event How to Reduce Spending with Jean Deschaine, Vice President/Senior Financial Center Manager of Berkshire Bank. Maybe you feel like you should have money left at the end of the pay cycle and are not sure why you don't. Maybe you are working toward a financial goal but need more cash flow to achieve it. Perhaps you want help with cutting back on unnecessary spending. This workshop explores a variety of options to reduce the amount of money spent in an effort to cover priority expenses and reach goals. Get yourself started on the right path to financial wellness this year. This event will take place on Monday, Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Registration is required.

Uncover your story, or create one that's new! Are you a writer looking to connect with other writers? Join our Writers Group hosted by Katherine Anderson on Thursday, Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. This in-person workshop is open to writers of all levels and genres. There will be opportunities for peer and host feedback, finding opportunities for submission to magazines, literary journals, and presses, and more. Registration is required. Join Adult Services Librarian Cher Collins on

Thursday, Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m. for Introduction to Genealogy, a class for beginners looking to unravel the mysteries of their family tree. Learn basic research strategies as well as tips and tricks for getting and staying organized. Please register to attend.

If you're curious about eBooks, are seeking a free alternative to Audible, or just got a new reading device for the holidays, be sure to join us for our Library Tech Class: Learning About Libby! We'll show you the essentials on how to find and borrow new eBooks and audiobooks, along with some helpful hints and tips. Feel free to bring your smart devices and/or your e-Readers with you to the class. You will need your library card and your PIN/password to set up Libby, so please try to make sure you have those ready to go in advance! We will have two sessions this month on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 10 a.m. Registration is required.

If you're not able to stop by the library in person this month, check out our online offerings! Our Virtual Author Talk Series for January kicks off on Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 2 p.m. with David Brooks. Author of *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply*, Brooks will lead a riveting and timeless conversation on how to connect with people from all walks of life, and why doing so is paramount to our individual and communal growth. On Tues-

day, Jan. 20 at 2 p.m., journalist Julia Hotz will discuss her book *The Connection Cure: The Prescriptive Power of Movement, Nature, Art, Service, and Belonging*. The first book on social prescribing, *The Connection Cure* explores the idea of nature, art, and service as a form of healing medicine. Mystery fans take note: author Liz Moore will invite readers into a rich and gripping dynasty of secrets and second chances in a discussion of her bestselling novel *The God of the Woods* on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. Please register to attend any of these author talks by visiting library.org/agawam-library. More of a history buff? Join us on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. for *How Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II*. Learn the true untold story of the academics who became OSS spies, invented modern spycraft, and helped turn the tide of the war to defeat the Nazis. This event is held in collaboration with the Tewksbury Public Library; please register online to attend.

Thank you to the Agawam Center Library Association for sponsoring select library programs. Upcoming holiday closings include: Monday, Jan. 19 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. During the winter months, any closings or late openings due to inclement weather will be reported to local TV stations 22 and 40, as well as their websites and the library's social media platforms.

HCC announces Fall 2025 Dean's List

HOLYOKE – Each semester Holyoke Community College recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Fall 2025 term:

Agawam:
David Oleg Abramchuk,
Victoria De Los Angeles

Albino, Jolene Cecile Bertone-Gross, Jenalyn Rose Broussard, Jessica Damaris Caez, Kylan Patricia Cavanaugh, Necla Ciftci, Ashley Anne DeForge, Alisha Celine Fleming, Emily Ryan Gonzalez, Egzona Grainca, Jadon Higgins, Iryna Ilechko, Sreeman Kondaveeti, Felicia Magovern, Zachary Alexander Makol, Kenna Marie Rainville, Aiden Jeffery Therrien,

Caleb White, John Taehee Yi. Feeding Hills:
Krista Adel Borsari, Alison Dana Boucher, Joshua Daniel Carrier, Gabrielle Olive Duval, Lindsey Ann Ghidoni, Helen Gorovenko, Sophia Hunt, Jaxon Kaleb Luke, Shannon Leigh Lyman, Joselyne Katrina Matos, Yusuf Sarhan, Sofia Shevchuk, Brayden Donald Signet, Rebecca Kaneonapua Wong.

Education Association to hold fundraiser

AGAWAM – The Agawam Education Association is having their annual fundraiser to raise funds for scholarships. This year's fundraiser is the AEA Super Bowl Squares and Kickoff Raffle. When you purchase a Super Bowl square (\$25) your purchase includes a raffle ticket for the Kickoff Raffle. The raffle prizes total close to \$3,000 (\$100 cash

prizes, professional sporting events, and we have a loaded locals day too that includes a couple prizes for those who are not local as well, including \$50 cash). The raffle ticket is eligible for prizes each day and runs from Thursday to Sunday for the four weeks leading up to the Super Bowl. The Super Bowl Squares payout are:

End of first quarter - \$200
End of second quarter - \$200
End of third quarter - \$200
Final Score - \$400
For more information or to purchase a square, please contact Kathy at kgoyette-jediny@agawamed.org
Venmo, check, and cash are accepted.

Christmas Tree collection in mid-January

AGAWAM – The Department of Public Works is pleased to announce that USA Waste and Recycling will be providing a collection of Christmas Trees during the week of Jan. 12 to 16.

Christmas trees will be collected on the same day as scheduled trash collection. Please be aware that the regular trash truck will not be collecting trees, a separate

truck will be running for the collection of trees.

Christmas trees 7' or larger must be cut in half and placed on the tree belt no earlier than 7am of the collection day listed above.

Trees in plastic bags will not be collected.

It is not the responsibility of the hauler to dig out trees buried in the snow due to plowing or excessive snowfall prior to the scheduled

collection days.

In the event of a snow delay during the scheduled collection week, residents should make alternative arrangements to recycle their trees at the Bondi's Island Landfill. Collection routes for trees will not be re-scheduled.

Residents may dispose of trees prior to or after the scheduled collection days at the Bondi's Island Landfill.

Town still in need of snow plow operators

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam is still seeking independent contractors to assist the town with plow and snow removal operations during the winter.

The town website states the requirements for plow operators. They must have: A minimum eight-foot plow

on a personal truck, must be available 24/7, must have at least \$500,000 general liability insurance, must have proof of workers compensation for employees, a W-9 shall be provided to the Town of Agawam, and each drive must submit their legal name, date of birth, and a valid driv-

er's license. The town offers competitive rates and pays promptly.

Full applications with specifications are available on the town website or by going to the Department of Public Works building located at 1000 Suffield St.

Two positions open on Zoning Board of Appeals

AGAWAM – Please be advised that there are openings for a permanent position and an alternate position on

the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals effective January, 2026. Interested parties should contact Barbara Bard

at 413-726-9716 or send in a letter of interest to bbard@agawam.ma.us as soon as possible.

Scholarship and Fellowship funds available

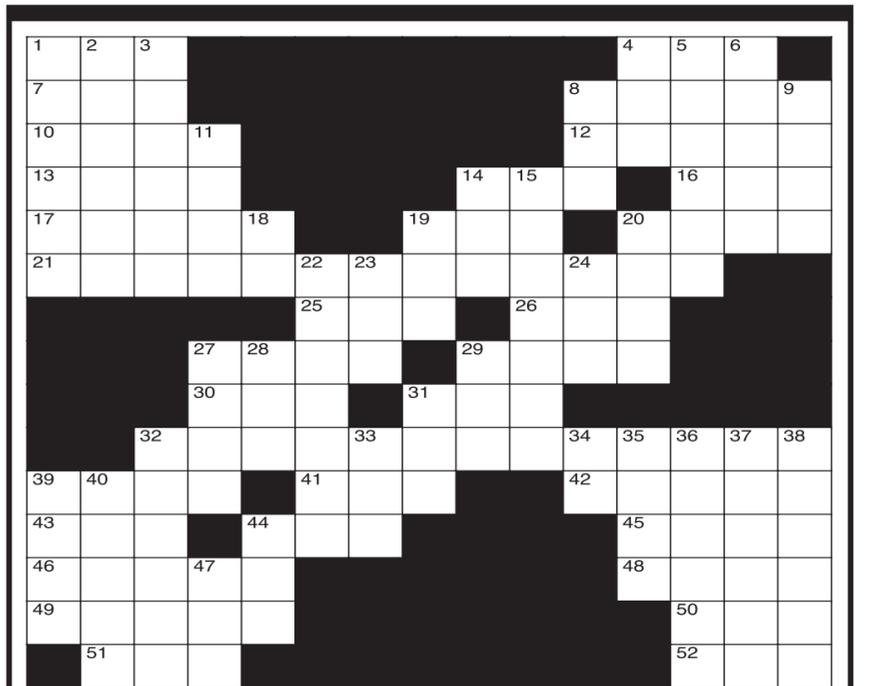
WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund, located in Westfield, Massachusetts has scholarship and fellowship money available for residents of Hampden County, MA. Graduating high school seniors and students already in college may apply for Scholarships of up to \$12,000. Those in their final year of college and previous

college graduates pursuing advanced degrees may apply for Fellowships of \$15,000. Applicants must maintain at least a B average in college and be enrolled as full-time students.

Awards are made based on both academic achievement and merit. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student

feels deserving of financial assistance and their goals in pursuing higher education.

Last year, \$297,000 was awarded to 24 individuals. Scholarships were given to 18 graduating seniors from 11 Hampden County high schools. Three scholarships were also awarded to current



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Former CIA
 - Language
 - Constrictor snake
 - Demand
 - Rich man
 - Short-tailed marten
 - Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
 - Superconducting super collider
 - International group of countries within the Americas
 - Sacred state for Muslims
 - Shock therapy
 - Engrave
 - Localities
 - Paddle
 - Periodical
 - Dishonestly gained money
 - Gain possession of
 - Actor DiCaprio
 - High schoolers' test
 - Mr. October
 - Sign of healing
 - One's grandmother
 - Entrap
 - One who simultaneously buys and sells
 - __ Francisco
 - Web-based data provider of marine life
 - Type of snake
 - Dark mark or stain
 - Member of the Sali
 - Former measure of length
 - CNN's founder
 - Witness
- CLUES DOWN**
- Acquire
 - Console
 - Hunting expedition
 - Pie __ mode
 - Simple shoes for peasants
 - Eurasian shrub
 - Reciprocal of a sine
 - Work together in harmony
 - Grenade
 - File extension
 - Minute pores in a plant
 - Medal of Honor
 - Make a mistake
 - Advance slowly, as if by inches
 - Sandwich meat
 - An awkward stupid person
 - Strong tree
 - Commoner
 - Electro-encephalograph
 - __ Mahal
 - Congressman
 - Disorderly crowd
 - 007's creator Fleming
 - Atomic #55
 - Part of a door
 - Short-tail martens
 - Baltimore ballplayer
 - Cuddle
 - Gang in "The Outsiders"
 - Of Croatia
 - Body cavity
 - Get free of



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SPORTS

Agawam wrestling takes second at home tournament

AGAWAM – Last Monday morning, Agawam High School wrestling hosted 18 teams at the Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament, a long-time tradition for the wrestling program. The Brownies, which have a massive program, entered two “teams” into the tournament. Their A team placed second with 188.5 points. Central High

School to took the championship this year. Agawam had three individual champions and three third-place winners. Agawam’s Tyler Callahan won the 138-pound bracket. Jordin Agosto had a win in the 144-pound bracket, and Tyler Gervais was a champion in the 215-pound weight class. A separate girls tournament also took place

at the meet, with Agawam also placing second. The Brownies had 134 points and two champions. Putnam was the winner of the tournament. Gabriella Ramos won the 145-pound bracket, and Stella Christopher picked up the title in the 165-pound bracket.



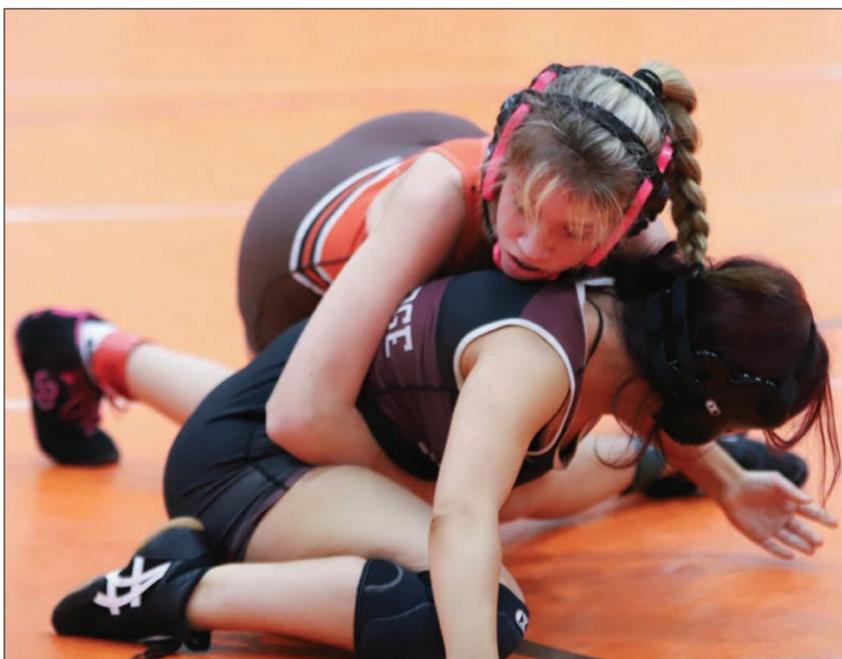
Gabriella Ramos gets the pinfall in her match.



Jonathan Forand tries to maintain the advantage in his match.



Caitlin Cauley works to turn her opponent over.

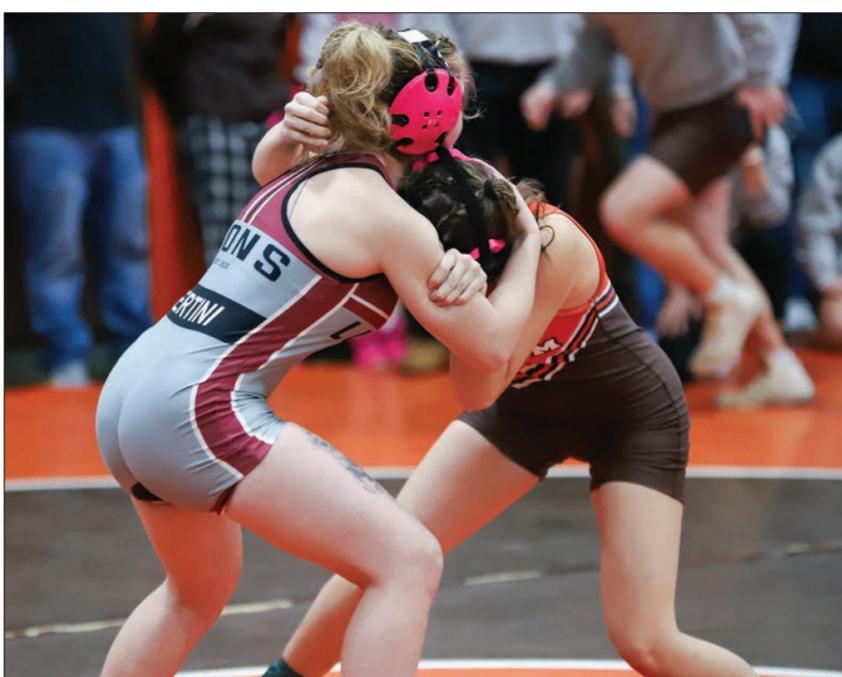


Cecilia Poggia gets a takedown in her match.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Mason Radtke looks to take down an opponent from Northbridge.



Peyton Griffin locks up in an early round match.

Providence Bruins snap T-Birds winning streak

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-13-4-2) suffered another gut-wrenching defeat late in regulation, 3-1, against the Providence Bruins (23-6-1-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Springfield’s power play got two early reps in the first four minutes of play, and the man advantage capital-

ized as Matt Luff unleashed his team-leading 11th of the season at 4:32 of the period, making it a 1-0 game off set-ups from Dillon Dube and Samuel Johannesson.

The Bruins had a wonderful shift following Luff’s goal that nearly tied the score, highlighted by a Victor Soderstrom point shot that rang the post behind Vadim Zhe-

renko.

Eventually, Providence would get even as they also struck on their second power play of the period, as Dans Locmelis beat Zherenko from the left circle at 13:35 after a Fabian Lysell one-time attempt careened right to the waiting rookie winger.

The Bruins’ defense suffocated the T-Birds’ attack in

the middle period, keeping the visitors to only two shots on net, but Zherenko was tremendous in his own right, denying all 10 Providence shots in the period. Among Zherenko’s best pieces of work was a clutch stop on a low-slot tester from Locmelis.

The 1-1 stalemate carried all the way into the game’s

dying minutes, but for the second time in three meetings in Providence, the Bruins found a way to break the tie late in regulation when Frederic Brunet uncorked a slapper that eluded Zherenko with just 1:11 remaining.

The T-Birds offense, which managed only 17 shots all night and just seven after the first period, could not get

an equalizing response, and Riley Tufte polished off the night with an empty-netter just 13 seconds after Brunet’s game-winning goal.

With their win streak snapped, the T-Birds were on the road on Wednesday, looking to start a new one as they visited the Utica Comets for a tussle at Adirondack Bank Center.

Sports

Brownies take ugly loss at MassMutual

SPRINGFIELD – On Saturday, Dec. 27, Agawam and Minnechaug ice hockey found a bit larger spotlight to play and made their way nearby to the MassMutual Center in Springfield, home

of the Springfield Thunderbirds. Minnechaug was the team that really shined, though, with a nine-goal first period and a 15-1 win over the Brownies. Dominic Fiorentino had three goals.

Ryan Donovan, Kelly Ba-log, and Brody Faneuff had two goals each. Agawam's sole goal came from Brady Klinakis. Agawam is now 0-8 while Minnechaug improved to 6-1 overall.



Owen Haubner tries to work around a Minnechaug defender.



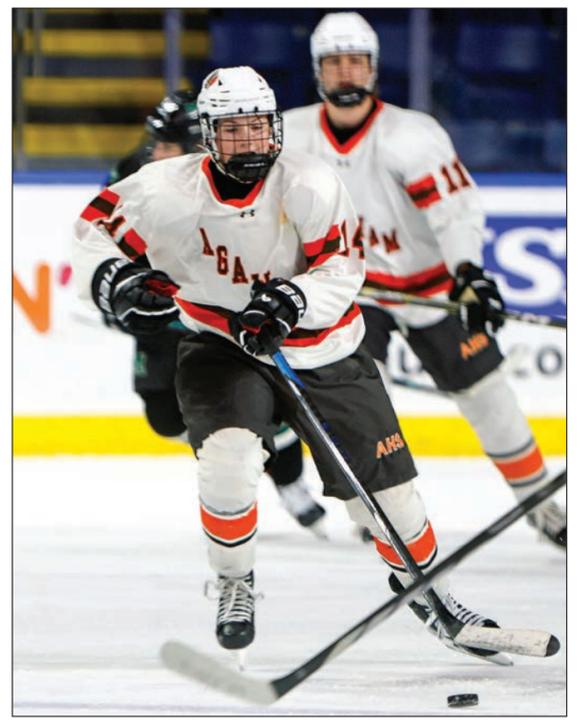
Left: Braden Parrelli holds the puck, ready to shoot.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Below: Ivan Gonzalez tries to clear the puck ahead of pressure.



Above: Anthony Barbarini eyes a teammate to his right.
Left: Brady Klinakis brings in a pass.
Right: Nicholas Brown advances up the ice.



Boys basketball wins three straight

AGAWAM – After a tough stretch of games, Agawam High School boys basketball has gotten three straight wins, capped by a 76-51 win over Pittsfield High School last Friday night at home. The Brownies would lead from the early-

going, but poured it on in the second half, distancing themselves from the Generals. Trevor Moynihan had a huge game with 29 points. Brody Sheehan and Gavin Cruz scored 12 points each. Agawam has improved to 4-3 with the three

straight wins and return to action on Thursday, Jan. 8 against Chicopee Comprehensive at home at 7 p.m. The Brownies then make a rare road trip to the other side of the state, facing Swampscott High School on Saturday, Jan. 10 at 5 p.m.

Railers lose as comeback fall short

WHEELING, WV — The Worcester Railers HC (13-12-1-1) fell to the Wheeling Nailers (21-7-1-0) on Friday, Jan. 2 by the final score of 3-2, in front of a crowd of 1,972 at WesBanco Arena. The Railers will take on the Nailers next on Friday, January 30th. Puck drops at 7:05 p.m.

Wheeling scored the first goal on the night from Logan Pietila (2-0-2) who scored for the Nailers to bring the score up 1-0. Worcester evened the score with a goal from Cole Donhauser (1-0-1). Wheeling quickly put themselves back on top of the board with their second goal 89 seconds later off another shot from Logan Pietila (2-0-2). Another goal from the Nailers broadened their lead 3-1 on a power play goal from Randy Hernández (1-0-1). Lincoln Hatten (1-0-1) brought the game back down to a one-goal lead for the Nailers as goaltender Tristan Lennox was pulled on a Nailers' power play. Hatten's goal gave the game its final score of 3-2.

The first period was a back-and-forth battle for the puck. Both Wheeling and Worcester came out fighting with an offensive approach, the former of which managed to outshoot

the latter by a five-shot margin of 12-7. Worcester faced one too many men penalty and one delay of game penalty. Both penalties were successfully fought off by the Railers, which left Wheeling still in search of their first point of the night to close the first. Worcester also faced a first-period shutout from Wheeling net-minder Taylor Gauthier.

Wheeling quickly broke the tie as Nailers' center Logan Pietila tipped the puck over the shoulder of Railers' goaltender Tristan Lennox just 25 seconds into the second period. Worcester worked to even the score on their first power play opportunity of the night, a hooking call on Bogdans Hodass. The 5-on-4 play led Cole Donhauser to tip a shot from Michael Suda past Gauthier to tie the game one-all. The Nailers did not keep the tie on the board for long. Pietila grabbed another goal to bring the new score up to 2-1 Nailers. The Nailers and Railers came to blows to close the second as Tanner Schachle took a seat in the box alongside Nailers' captain Matt Quercia after an encounter on the ice. Anthony Hora and Max Dorrington were both sent to the locker

room for individual misconducts. The horn signaled the end of the second as Adam Samuelsson batted off Connor Lockhart. Samuelsson skated away with a two-minute roughing minor to open the third period. Shots to close the period were 21-24 in favor of Wheeling. Total penalties for the period were 7 for Wheeling and 5 for Worcester.

Worcester opened the third period down a man from Samuelsson's penalty that carried over from the close of the second. With Worcester short-handed, Wheeling capitalized on the power play with a goal from Randy Hernández for the 3-1 Nailers lead. Worcester would see three more power-play chances in the third, none of which would be fulfilled with a goal. Down by two with five minutes to go and the net empty, Lincoln Hatten narrowed the gap back down to a one-goal affair on the power-play. Despite the comeback effort from the Railers, Wheeling skated away with the 3-2 victory. Final shots for Worcester were 32 to Wheeling's 33. The Railers closed the game with seven penalties, while the Nailers led the night with 10 infractions for themselves.

Monadnock reflects on great season

Monadnock Speedway competitors and race teams gathered this past Saturday, Dec. 13 at Best Western in Keene, New Hampshire, to celebrate the achievements of the 2025 racing season. The annual awards banquet served as a night of recognition, appreciation, and reflection on a competitive and memorable year at the speedway, while also setting the tone for the upcoming 2026 season.

Champions from each division were on hand to collect their well-earned hardware, highlighting the dedication, hard work, and perseverance required throughout the season. The evening underscored not only championship success, but also the sportsmanship and camaraderie that define Monadnock Speedway.

The All-States Material Group 604 Modified Championship was claimed by Brian Robie, who also earned the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Triple Crown Championship Award. Robie addressed the crowd following his presentation, sharing his plans for the future. While he intends to compete in select events during the 2026 season, he emphasized his commitment to helping younger drivers in the division grow, learn, and achieve their rac-

ing goals.

Dylan Zullo, champion of the Twin State Truck Service Super Streets, also collected his championship hardware along with the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Triple Crown Championship Award. In his remarks, Zullo noted that he plans to continue racing in certain events, while also exploring a new direction for 2026, leaving fans eager to see what changes may be ahead.

The Fabian Fuels Mini Stock Championship went to Jon Fultz, who stepped forward to accept his championship award along with the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Triple Crown Award. Fultz took time to thank everyone who supported his championship run, including his crew, family, sponsors, and fellow competitors, acknowledging the teamwork behind his successful season.

In the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock Division, Kyle Kenny was honored as the 2025 champion. Kenny enthusiastically addressed the crowd while accepting his awards, revealing that he plans to move into a new division for the 2026 season at Monadnock Speedway, though he did not disclose specific details.

Also recognized was the champion of the Six Shooter

Mini Series, Travis Hollins.

Carlos Grenier was in attendance to receive the Teddy Bear Pools and Spas Pure Stock Triple Crown Series Champion.

The Doug's Auto Body Young Gun Division was recognized collectively for its hard work and dedication throughout the 2025 race season. Several individual awards were also presented, with Ella Grabowski earning the Sportsmanship Award, Hunter Duquette recognized for Most Wins, Maya Bell receiving the Best Appearing Award, and Sofia Rego honored with the Hard Luck Award.

Special awards were presented across the weekly divisions as well. In the 604 Modified Division, Tyler Leary was awarded Best Appearing, while Tyler Leclerc received the Sportsmanship Award. The Super Streets Division saw J.D. Stockwell earn Best Appearing, with Eric Smith taking home Sportsmanship honors. In the Mini Stock Division, Kevin Clayton received Best Appearing, and Chris Fultz was awarded Sportsmanship. Rounding out the awards, the Pure Stock Division honored Addison Brooks with Best Appearing, while Michaela Krafve received the Sportsmanship Award.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a week-

ly basis. Please 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.

BBB Tip: Don't scan QR codes on unexpected packages

Paula Fleming pfleming@boston.bbb.org

A package you didn't order could be a fun surprise, but be careful, especially if it comes with a QR code. It might be the setup for a scam.

What you'll learn:

- **How brushing scams use fake packages and now QR codes to trick consumers and post fake reviews**

- **Why scanning a QR code from an unexpected package can expose your personal information or device to scammers**

- **What steps to take if you receive a package you didn't order, including how to protect your identity and report the scam**

In a "brushing" scam, you receive a package you didn't order, often without a return address. This is often a setup

by unscrupulous companies who found your address online. After the company ships the product to you, they can post a fake, positive review on your behalf to improve their store's ratings and get more sales.

Reports to BBB Scam Tracker over the last few months show a twist on brushing scams where the package contains a QR code. The code comes with instructions to scan it to find out who sent the package or how to start a return. Scanning the QR code can lead to a phishing website or download malware onto your device.

In a recent BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer shared this experience, "I received a small package at my door marked UNIUNI from: LEO This person/company has my name and address

- when I googled them the information states this is a brushing scam and that someone has obtained my personal information from either AliExpress, TEMU, or Amazon. I have an Amazon account but have not used those other sites. The label has a tracking number, QR code, customer number, and reference number. I have not opened the package, nor do I wish to - this is highly suspicious. I did not order anything from this company/person."

In one BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer received a package of pasta via Amazon in her name. Thinking it was a gift from a friend, she scanned the QR code that came with the package. The QR code took her to a website that appeared to be Amazon. The consumer said she has received a higher-than-normal

amount of scam emails since scanning the QR code.

In another BBB Scam Tracker report, a consumer received a ring in the mail that he did not order. The ring came with a QR code. The consumer checked BBB Scam Tracker before scanning the code, and after reading other reports about brushing scams, he decided not to scan it.

It might seem like there are no downsides to a free package, but it could be a sign that someone is using your personal information for their own gain. If this happens to you, BBB recommends checking the security of your accounts and notifying the retailer who sent you the package.

What to do if you receive a package you didn't order:

- **Don't scan QR codes.** They might take you to a

phishing site that steals your personal information or download malware onto your device.

- **Protect your identity.** If you did scan the QR code and enter personal information, change your passwords for any compromised accounts and enable two-factor authentication. Also, keep a close eye on your credit reports and credit card bills after you receive the package.

- **Notify the retailer.** If you can tell where the package is from, go directly to the retailer's website to get their contact information and report the package as a scam. Retailers like Amazon have policies banning brushing and fake reviews, and they will investigate your report.

- **Check for fake reviews.** If you can identify the company that sent you the packages,

look for false reviews in your name and report them to the retailer.

- **Pause deliveries.** One package is no big deal, but some targets of brushing scams are overwhelmed with a floor of unordered packages, creating a serious problem. If this happens, you may want to consider temporarily refusing package delivery at your home address and directing your real orders to a package acceptance service.

- **Keep the package.** The one silver lining of brushing scams is that you get to keep the gift - the Federal Trade Commission says you have a legal right to keep unordered merchandise. Don't try to return it, especially if there are instructions to scan a QR code or enter information. It could needlessly compromise more of your personal information.

Senior Center to reveal day trips

AGAWAM - Joanne Locke and Debbie Sorcinelli of Insiders Travel, LLC, in partnership with the Agawam Senior Center, will host a 2026 Day Trip Reveal Party on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

The event will be hosted at the Agawam Senior Center located at 954 Main St. with two presentations times. One will be at 12:30 p.m. following lunch and the

second will take place at 6 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to preview exclusive 2026 day trips curated for adults age 55 and over. While the trips are designed with this age group in mind, all are welcome to attend. RSVP to the reveal party is required. Guests who RSVP will be entered into a raffle to win a \$25 gift of adventure. A \$99 gift certificate

will also be awarded, with a raffle ticket for each \$20 trip deposit made that day. Cash and checks are accepted. To RSVP or for more information about 2026 trips, contact InsidersTravel2025@gmail.com or call/text Joanne Locke at (413) 478-4698 or Debbie at (413) 478-2834. A sign-up sheet is also available on the Agawam Senior Center bulletin board.

NAMI holding calendar raffle

HOLYOKE - NAMI-WM is holding a calendar raffle fundraiser for February 2026. Participants will pay \$15 for a chance to win prizes awarded each day of the month. These prizes include gift cards to various local businesses, and cash prizes.

Through our fundraising, we are able to raise

awareness and provide essential education, advocacy, support groups and programs throughout your Western Mass area. Mental health support and awareness has become an increasingly important issue with all of the changes in the world.

Our dedication and

commitment to mental health awareness and support within our communities is vital. Our Board of Directors, along with our dedicated staff, colleagues and volunteers work together with an ongoing goal to get our services, advocacy and assistance out into the community.

Town nurse announces last-chance flu shots

AGAWAM - Flu season is upon us. The Agawam Health Department still has a very limited supply of senior High-dose flu vaccine and regular

flu vaccine available. Once gone there will be no more until next year. Home visits available to be scheduled for homebound seniors.

Don't be sick for the holidays, get vaccinated today.

Please call Nurse Pam at 726-9722 to schedule an appointment.

Agawam Day in Florida tradition continues

ST PETERSBURG, FL - The 45th annual "Agawam Day in Florida" will be held on

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Former

Agawam residents, old friends, classmates and relatives will meet at Fort DeSoto National Park, St. Petersburg, FL. for a reunion, picnic, raffles, hugs

and to share old memories. For more information, contact: Hank Drownowski call/text 860-462-7273 or email - hdrew2452@gmail.com,

Department of Public Works hosts used holiday light collection for community

AGAWAM - Frustrated with broken holiday lights, or just have a bunch that no longer suits your needs? No matter what the reason, resist the urge to throw old holiday lights in the curb-side trash or recycling collection cart. Holiday light strings are known as "tangles" in the recycling industry. Tangles are things like

plastic bags, ropes, cords, hoses, wires, and light strings that jam sorting machinery by wrapping around the equipment, which is dangerous for workers.

Light strings may be delivered to the Department of Public Works front office from Dec. 1 to Jan. 16. This program is for light strings only: incandescent, LED

and "icicle" light strings with wires and attached bulbs. Boxes, bags, and packaging must be removed before placing lights in the recycling container.

Alternative options for recycling light strings would include mail back programs such as HolidayLEDs.com or Christmas-light-source.com

Public Notices

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.
HD25P2693EA
Estate of:
Adeline R Ayers
Also known as:
Adeline Rose Ayers
Date of Death: 10/18/2025
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 Arlene J Mazza of Feeding Hills, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Arlene J Mazza of Feeding Hills, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain

a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/05/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

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 31, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
01/08/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P2665EA
Estate of:
Deborah I Kelly
Date of Death: 09/03/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Public Administration has been filed by John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Corporate 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 01/21/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

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 inter-

ested 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 24, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
01/08/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P2646EA
Estate of:
Elizabeth Jane Kida
Also Known As:
Elizabeth Kida, Elizabeth J Kida, Betty Kida
Date of Death:
September 4, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Sheila A. Kida of Westfield, MA a Will has been admitted to in-

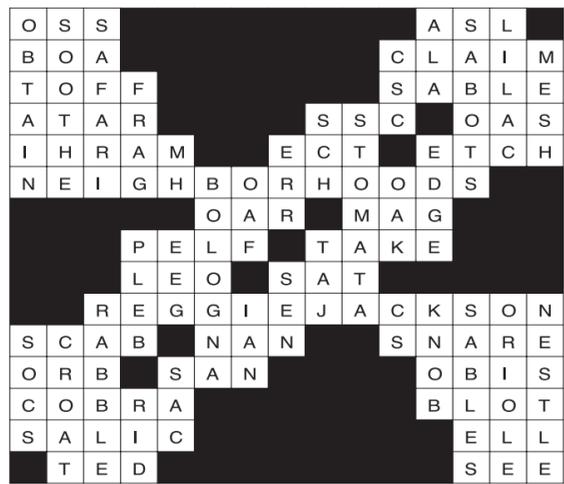
formal probate.

Sheila A. Kida of Westfield, 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.

From the Law Office of W. Rockne Palmer
48 E. Silver St., Suite 1
Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15, 2026. Applications will also be available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.



Agawam Advertiser News

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.

FUNDS ■ from page 5

college students to assist them in completing their undergraduate degrees, and three fellowships were given to college graduates pursuing advanced degrees, who had graduated from Hampden County high schools.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, established in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950.

Completed applications must be received either electronically or by mail to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15, 2026. Applications will also be available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

Classifieds

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413-537-0620

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- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:



Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email:jamie@turley.com

HELP WANTED

CANNABIS CULTIVATION FACILITY (Holyoke)

Holyoke Wilds, a licensed cannabis cultivation facility in Holyoke, MA, is seeking reliable individuals for trimmer and general cultivation positions. Duties include assisting with plant care, trimming, cleaning, and other general tasks within the facility.
Start Date: Within the next few weeks to months
Pay: Varies based on experience. Ranges from \$16 to \$20 per hour. Requirements: Applicants must be 21 or older and eligible to work in the United States. Background checks are required under state cannabis regulations. Interested candidates should email **holokewilds9@gmail.com** with their contact information and brief work history.

Holyoke Wilds is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

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MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **FRIDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$27.00	Base Price \$27.50
22	Base Price \$28.50	Base Price \$29.00	Base Price \$29.50
23	Base Price \$30.50	Base Price \$31.00	Base Price \$31.50
24	Base Price \$32.50	Base Price \$33.00	Base Price \$33.50
25	Base Price \$34.50	Base Price \$35.00	Base Price \$35.50
26	Base Price \$36.50	Base Price \$37.00	Base Price \$37.50
27	Base Price \$38.50	Base Price \$39.00	Base Price \$39.50
28	Base Price \$40.50	Base Price \$41.00	Base Price \$41.50
29	Base Price \$42.50	Base Price \$43.00	Base Price \$43.50
30	Base Price \$44.50	Base Price \$45.00	Base Price \$45.50
31	Base Price \$46.50	Base Price \$47.00	Base Price \$47.50
32	Base Price \$48.50	Base Price \$49.00	Base Price \$49.50
33	Base Price \$50.50	Base Price \$51.00	Base Price \$51.50
34	Base Price \$52.50	Base Price \$53.00	Base Price \$53.50
35	Base Price \$54.50	Base Price \$55.00	Base Price \$55.50
36	Base Price \$56.50	Base Price \$57.00	Base Price \$57.50
37	Base Price \$58.50	Base Price \$59.00	Base Price \$59.50
38	Base Price \$60.50	Base Price \$61.00	Base Price \$61.50
39	Base Price \$62.50	Base Price \$63.00	Base Price \$63.50
40	Base Price \$64.50	Base Price \$65.00	Base Price \$65.50

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Hilltowns
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Suburban Residential
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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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The 2026 and 2027 Agawam City Council. Absent are members Rosemary Sandlin and Cecilia Calabrese.



Mayor Christopher Johnson is sworn in by Clerk Vincent Gioscia.



Mayor Christopher Johnson addresses the public.

ELECTED ■ from page 4 newcomers. Cecilia Calabrese has re-joined the council after spending one term away. She gave up her seat on the council to run for mayor, losing to Johnson two years ago. She then easily won election back to the council in November, placing fifth overall among the top 11 vote-getters for the seats, which are all voted at-large by the entire community. Calabrese was previously the council's vice president with Johnson. Joining the city council for the first time will be Peter McNair, who ran for council in the past and was only elected to the legislative body for the first time. Christine Rickmon, who

is newer to the community, ran for public office for the first-time ever and squeezed in as the 11th place vote-getter. The trio replaces Gerry Smith, a three-term council, and Peter Smus and Maria Valego, both who served just the one term. Calabrese, McNair, and Rickmon have been getting their feet wet since the election on Nov. 4. Newly elected councilors are invited to sit on the council floor during November and December meetings so they can get used to the procedures and how the meetings run. Coming up in the next couple of weeks will be sub-committee assign-

ments for the entire council. Those selections are made by the council president and vice president, including who chairs the committees. There are four major sub-committees, Legislative, Administrative, Finance, and Community Relations. There are also councilors appointed a fifth sub-committee, a joint committee between the council and school committee, which discusses and evaluates the school budget each year. The Agawam Advertiser News hopes to speak with the new city council leadership during the next few weeks to find out their goals and ambitions for the upcoming term.



Members of the school committee are sworn in.



Several members of the public turned out for the swearing in ceremony held on Monday, Jan. 5.