



**REGION**  
**Taber gallery**  
 PAGE 3



**OPINION**  
**In My Backyard: Snowy Owl**  
 PAGE 4



**SPORTS**  
**Brownies at West Side duals**  
 PAGE 7

# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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# Snowmageddon 2026: Winter makes ugly return

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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AGAWAM – If you were born in or around the 1980's or earlier you remember what this was like. Wall-to-wall snow as you make your way down the road. Small paths that remind you of ant farms to get from place-to-place on your property.

And for those that are younger, welcome to the old-school New England snowstorm.

Last Sunday into Monday dumped about 20 inches of snow or more depending on where you lived. Here in Agawam, 20 inches was a benchmark though it could have varied depending on

the elevation.

Because of the severity of the storm combined with lower than ideal manpower, school was cancelled both Monday and Tuesday this week.

Department of Public Works crews worked for 24 hours straight from when the storm began early to mid-day Sunday through Monday morning, when the majority of the snow had subsided.

Unfortunately, due to much milder winters over the past decade, fewer independent contractors, who are hired to supplement the town crews and plow side-streets and other rural areas,

SNOW | page 10



This was the look outside of many homes as snow accumulations ranged from 1 to 2 feet.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Resident Todd Bard was one of many residents who spent much of Monday behind a snowblower clearing paths.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



## Trevor Moynihan achieves 1,000-point milestone

Last week, Agawam High School's Trevor Moynihan achieved the 1,000-point plateau. He scored his 1,000th career point on Wednesday, Jan., 21 while Agawam was on a road game at Taconic High School. Agawam was victorious in the matchup while Moynihan led the team with an impressive 39 points, including 14 made free throws.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

## Hendrickson to run for state representative

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
 gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – For the first time in four years, State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, will meet a challenger in the general election this November.

This year, it will be Agawam City Councilor Thomas Hendrickson will potentially challenge the 16-year incumbent representative.

Boldyga was elected in 2010 and has been lightly opposed a few times, but Hendrickson is looking to make a full court press to claim the house seat for his own. Boldyga's house seat has changed over the past decade, and most recently has actually expanded. The Third Hampden District used to be a four-town region that included Agawam, and towns west Southwick, Granville, and Tolland, as well as the small town of Russell. Now, the hill towns of Blandford, Montgomery, Chester, Huntington, and Middlefield are all included in the district.

Hendrickson made his announcement last Friday morning with his intention to seek to unseat Boldyga.

"Since joining the Agawam City Council in 2022," Hendrickson states. "Hendrickson has achieved several legislative successes, including his work bringing Community Choice Energy Aggregation to Agawam, his efforts to improve government transparency, and his support for the new Agawam High School project."

Boldyga, a Republican in a heavily Democratic House of Representatives on Beacon Hill, has been the exception since gaining the seat. He unseated Rosemary Sandlin, who is currently an Agawam City Councilor.

Hendrickson will run as a Democrat. He believes he has ideological differences to Boldyga, and also believes he will be a more accessible state representative than his opponent.

The biggest difference between me and my opponent,



City Councilor Thomas Hendrickson

even bigger than ideological differences, is the degree to which I will be present and active in the State House and within the district," Hendrickson said. "There have been vitally important issues that the Town of Agawam has brought to Rep. Boldyga's attention that have been completely ignored. For example, GoNetSpeed was attempting to build a fiber optic internet system in Agawam to compete with Comcast's monopoly, but their project was impeded by regulatory red tape. The City Council requested that Rep. Boldyga support One-Touch-Make-Ready legislation, which would eliminate some of this red tape. He declined to do so without explanation, and his inaction on this issue resulted in GoNetSpeed ending its project in Agawam. This is just one of many examples of his inaction that we'll be calling attention to over the course of this campaign."

Hendrickson, who is just 26-years-old, says he believes his drive and recent record of community service qualify him to be the next state representative for the Third Hampden District.

"I'm currently serving in my third term on the Agawam City Council," Hendrickson said. "I have a master's

REP | page 8

## Rotary Club speaker series kicks off on Feb. 3

AGAWAM – On Feb. 3, the Agawam Rotary Club is inviting the public to hear Kimberly Haidinger, author of a couple of middle school kid books on climate activism and her teen daughter, Luna, who illustrated the books speak on their book. The event will be held at the Agawam Library, 658 Cooper Street, Agawam at 4 to 5:15 p.m.

Kimberly and Luna will be the first in the Agawam Rotary Club's monthly free to the public presentations on topics that are relevant to our community. Please join us for a great presentation!

Kimberly and her daughter, Luna, are from the Farmington Valley area in CT. They are a mother-daughter team helping children understand

climate change through creativity, collaboration, and clear language. They were recently featured on NBC Connecticut, where meteorologist Steve Glazier highlighted their work on A Kid's Guide to Climate Activism.

The inspiration their project was drawn from their family's time living in Denmark, and their shared belief

that climate action begins with small, everyday choices. Come and join members of the Agawam Rotary Club and learn how you and your family can understand climate issues and see yourselves as capable changemakers.

To learn more about our guest speakers, visit <https://www.thecarbonemission-project.com/>



# New activities coming up in February at APL

AGAWAM – Our Adult Winter Reading Challenge has begun, but there is still plenty of time to log your hours, complete activities, and contribute to our community reading goal! Visit [agawamlibrary.beanstack.org](http://agawamlibrary.beanstack.org) to participate online or visit the Agawam Library Information Desk to participate in person. The last day to enter your raffle tickets for the end-of-challenge drawing is Saturday, Feb. 21.

Can you feel the love? We've got a great slate of events this month themed around Valentine's Day that you won't want to miss! Everybody loves chocolate, but did you know that it's good for you? Learn about the health benefits of both dark chocolate and coffee at A Perky Pairing: A Coffee and Chocolate Tasting with presenter Kim Larkin, taking place on Thursday, Feb. 5 at 6:30 p.m. At this fun and educational workshop, Kim will uncover the histories of both coffee and chocolate while participants sample different pairings. Each person will receive a coffee-chocolate tasting wheel to help throughout the workshop. This decadent class is sure to fill up fast, so be sure to register to save your seat!

Pets make the best valentines! Celebrate yours by creating a custom pop-art

portrait of your best boy or sweetest girl at our Adult Craft Night: Paint Your Pet on Monday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. Attendees will create an 8"x8" colorful portrait using acrylic paint and paint markers. No drawing or painting experience is needed! Please bring or forward via email an 8"x8" good quality photo (printed on paper) of your pet's head to trace for this project. If you are emailing your photo for the library to print, please send it to [kfrost@agawamlibrary.org](mailto:kfrost@agawamlibrary.org) by Monday, Feb. 9 at 1 p.m. Come feel all the warm furry love of the Valentine's Day holiday at the library for this craft night. Registration is required as supplies are limited.

Transport yourself to 1900s Paris and revel in the romance of the Moulin Rouge at our Red-Themed Valentine's Day Movie Matinee on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 10:30 a.m. Tasty brunch items will be served. Please register to attend this event. If music is more your style, join us and jam out to songs you love (or love to hate!) at Valentine's Day Music Bingo: Sappy Love Songs and Anti-Love Songs. Compete to win one of our low stakes prizes as you enjoy some forgotten love songs. Regardless of your opinion on Valentine's Day, the musical selections will have something for everyone.

This event will take place on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m. and registration is required.

Do you like games? Boy, does the library have you covered! Our monthly Game Night for adults will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. and is excellent for folks who enjoy board games and card games. We'll have 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 will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 2:30 p.m. Come by yourself or with a team and join us for a couple of rounds of Jeopardy and pub-style trivia; prizes will be awarded to the winning teams. We will use the same questions for both sessions, so register for the time you prefer and join us for some fun!

If you don't have time to stop by the library this month, join us online! We've partnered with Tewksbury Public Library for two virtual events this month that are sure to captivate you. Author Michelle Young will discuss her new book, *The Art Spy: The Extraordinary Untold Tale of WWII Resistance Hero Rose Valland*, on Wednesday, Feb. 11 at

7 p.m. on Zoom. A riveting and stylish saga set in Paris during World War II, *The Art Spy* uncovers the true story of how an unlikely heroine infiltrated the Nazi leadership to save the world's most treasured masterpieces. Explore a piece of history that's a little more recent at *Burglary at the Louvre: How Can Writers Top This?* on Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. In this presentation, mystery authors Connie Berry, Lane Stone, Nina Wachsmann, and M. A. Monnin—known collectively as the Curators of Crime—will examine the public's fascination with the recent burglary of Napoleonic jewels at the Louvre and discuss how as authors they have used the same elements in their books. To attend these events, please visit [agawamlibrary.org](http://agawamlibrary.org).

Our Virtual Author Talk Series kicks off on Thursday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. with an unforgettable discussion of Vanessa Riley's newest book, *Fire Sword and Sea*. A seafaring journey of self-discovery and reclamation of personal power, *Fire Sword and Sea* is based on the folk story of the female pirate Jacquotte Delahaye. On Thursday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m., Dr. Lindsey Stewart will discuss her book *The Conjuring of America: Mojos, Mermaids, Medicine, and 400 Years of Black Women's*

Magic. Stewart's book tells the stories of Negro Mammies of slavery; the Voodoo Queens and Blues Women of Reconstruction; and the Granny Midwives and textile weavers of the Jim Crow era. These women, in secrecy and subterfuge, courageously and devotedly continued their practices and worship for centuries and passed down their traditions. Join us to take part in the magic and celebrate the legacy of America's founding Black women! History buffs take note: Smithsonian Curator Emeritus Tom Crouch will present his book *Smithson's Gamble: The Smithsonian Institution in American Life, 1836-1906*. A Smithsonian veteran of almost 45 years, Crouch paints a robust picture of a unique American Establishment and its lasting legacies. This event will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. To register attending these virtual author talks, please call the library or visit [library.org/agawam-library](http://library.org/agawam-library).

Fend off the cold with a little bit of light exercise at Chair Yoga on Wednesday mornings at 9:05 a.m. Led by yoga instructor Heidi Taberman, this drop-in class is perfect for folks of all fitness levels. Do you need help using digital library resources like Libby, Hoopla, or Kanopy? Book a One-on-One Library Tech Help Appointment

with Librarian Erica LeFebvre to get started. We'll have three 45-minute appointments on Wednesday, February 18th between 5:30 and 8 p.m. as well as Monday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To book an appointment, please visit [agawamlibrary.libcal.com/appointments](http://agawamlibrary.libcal.com/appointments). Please note that these appointments are specifically for help with library resources, not general tech help. Are you a writer looking to connect with other writers? Join our Writers Group hosted by Katherine Anderson on Thursday, Feb. 26 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. Please register to attend.

Thank you to the Agawam Center Library Association and the Friends of the Agawam Library for sponsoring select library programs.

Upcoming holiday closings include Monday, Feb. 16 in observance of Presidents' 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.

## Smith Scholarship applications now being accepted

WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund will be awarding \$317,000 in scholarships and fellowships to residents of Hampden County, who have also graduated from an eligible high school or private school. This year 21 scholarships, four fellowships and one William R. Rooney Award for students with special needs will be presented to recipients at the June 18 Awards Night ceremony at Storowton Carriage House in West Springfield.

Scholarships are offered not only to graduating high school seniors but also to students already in college

or those wishing to return to college. Scholarships of \$12,000 are distributed as \$3,000 annually and renewable each year until graduation. Fellowship awards of \$15,000 are distributed as \$7,500 annually and renewable for one additional year to students pursuing a full-time graduate degree. Students must maintain at least a B average to renew.

Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including academic records, merit, and financial need. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student feels deserving

of financial assistance. Applicants must submit their transcripts and, if applicable, college entrance exam scores or graduate degree specific tests, and three letters of recommendation.

Completed applications must be received either electronically or be mailed to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15, 2026. Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, and on-line at [www.Horace-SmithFund.org](http://www.Horace-SmithFund.org) or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

## Annual report released by Holyoke Mall

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Mall today released its 2025 Community Report that highlights the results of the Center's collaboration with Western Massachusetts non-profit community organizations over the past year. The Community Report is now available at Holyoke Mall Community Impact Report 2025. In 2025, Holyoke Mall hosted over 150 non-profit events and partnered with many different local organizations that utilized the Center for fundraising, awareness campaigns, and other events.

In December of 2025, Holyoke Mall was honored to receive the Melha

Shriners Commitment to the Community Service Award, recognizing our strong partnership and dedication to community engagement, helping the Shriners connect with hundreds of supporters and raise substantial funds for outreach and philanthropic initiatives.

"Community partnership has always been a core part of who we are," said Kristen Hinckley, Marketing Director at Holyoke Mall. "We are proud to work alongside so many dedicated non-profit organizations and are grateful for the opportunity to support the important work they do throughout our

community." Holyoke Mall is pleased to work with non-profit organizations seeking opportunities for tableting, fundraising and awareness campaigns, or larger-scale events in the common area. The Center remains committed to being a valuable resource for the Western Mass community.

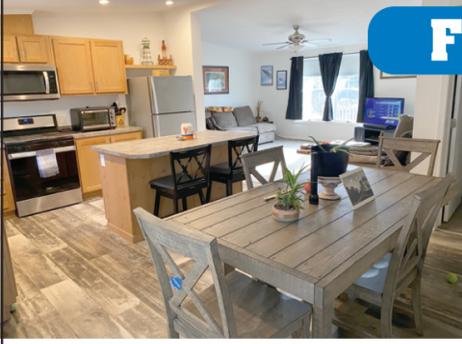
Holyoke Mall event space and community rooms are free for non-profit use. Groups are asked to fill out and submit the required paperwork to be granted access. For more information, please visit <https://www.holyoke-mall.com/community/>.

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Chamber holding mayoral breakfast

AGAWAM – The VIP Mayoral Breakfast will be held on Mar. 4 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Tansy's Catered Table. The event is put on by the West of the River Chamber of Commerce. The chamber believes the breakfast ought to be a celebration of flavors and a fun way to start the day with the mayors of Agawam and West Springfield. The event will feature updates from both mayors and questions can be submitted to [robin@westoftheriverchamber.com](mailto:robin@westoftheriverchamber.com) for a Q&A part of the event. Go to the West of the River's website to register for the breakfast.

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Artist Michael Madeiros sets up his contribution to the "River Valley Radical Futures" exhibit at Holyoke Community College.



Creature masks from artist Sunny Allis are part of the "River Valley Radical Futures" exhibit at HCC's Taber Art Gallery, running Jan. 20-March 12. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## HCC art gallery exhibit imagines radical Valley future

HOLYOKE — A new exhibition at Holyoke Community College's Taber Art Gallery asks visitors to imagine a future Pioneer Valley 100 years after the fall of capitalism.

"River Valley Radical Futures" opens Tuesday, Jan. 20, and runs until Thursday, March 12. The gallery will host a closing talk from project lead and curator Alex Gerber and book launch on Thursday, March 12, from 5 to 7 p.m.

The show features the work of eight area artists and has its origins in the Mak-

ing Radical Futures Lab at Smith College in Northampton. Gerber is a post-doc fellow and associate director of Smith's Design Thinking Initiative.

"The lab uses participatory and speculative design practices to explore collaborative ways of imagining futures without capitalism," Gerber said in a statement about the show. "Worker co-operatives, mutual aid networks, and other community groups came together through a series of workshops throughout the

Pioneer Valley to imagine how their values and current work might lead to future, alternative economic systems."

Those sessions led to the creation of an illustrated map of the Connecticut River Valley 100 years beyond the fall of capitalism.

In "River Valley Radical Futures," the map is brought to life by paintings and sculptures and other artwork — "artifacts excavated from the future we imagined," says Gerber.

Gallery visitors will see

body extensions and creature masks, cow brushes and bells made from local materials, a floating house design, a tool sharing station, a secret-baring mural, a flood system made from local clay, and an apothecary, among other pieces.

The exhibition includes the work of artists Sunny Allis, David von Dufving, Andrea Hairston, Mary Kate Cleary, Bo Kim, Sharon Leshner (a.k.a. Sharon Color), Michael Madeiros, and Laura Torracco.

"This is an exciting

project that opens up the art-making process from what is usually a single artist materializing their thoughts alone in the studio into a collaborative effort between artists, educators, community workers, facilitators and organizers," said gallery director Rachel Rushing. "By collaborating across disciplines and experiences the workshop participants were able to imagine the kind of future their work could make possible."

"When visiting the Taber, you'll see artwork that has

begun the process of bringing those ideas to life," Rushing said. "Imagination is at the core of this exhibition, and I hope visitors will be inspired and energized to continue imagining what kind of future we all hope to create, together."

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.

## HMC to offer diabetes education, support group

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Medical Center will host an ongoing bilingual Diabetes Education and Support Group for community members with diabetes. Diabetes education will be provided at each meeting with a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist or member of the HMC Endocrinology & Diabetes Center team. The group will meet every Wednesday from 9am -

11am in the Holyoke Medical Center Medical Office Building Conference Room located at 11 Hospital Drive, 3rd Floor, in Holyoke.

"Being educated and having a better understanding of diabetes enables people to be more successful in controlling or even reversing the progression of their disease. Support group members will be able to discuss struggles and solutions they have

found while managing their diabetes with others going through similar experiences," said Corina Valvo, RN, BSN, CDCES, Diabetes Program Coordinator for HMC Endocrinology & Diabetes Center.

For more information or questions regarding the Diabetes Education and Support Group, please contact the HMC Endocrinology & Diabetes Center at 413.534.2820.

## Women empowerment brunch returns March 1

HOLYOKE — At a time when women are balancing rising economic pressure, caregiving responsibilities, and increasing burnout, The Becoming Initiative is bringing women together for something many say they rarely experience. A moment to pause, reconnect, and be supported.

On Sunday, March 1, The Becoming Initiative will host the She Decides Women's Empowerment Brunch at Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke. The event is expected to serve more than 200 women from across Western Massachusetts and will launch a yearlong series of empowerment and personal development programming.

She Decides was created in response to what organizers describe as a growing need for spaces that support women beyond the workplace. Many women are leading families, contributing to the workforce, and holding communities together while quietly carrying emotional, financial, and personal burdens. The brunch creates a space where women can

be seen, supported, and reminded of their value.

Last year's event sold out within two weeks. Attendees shared stories of renewed confidence, meaningful connection, and a sense of clarity they had been missing. The response revealed a clear demand for continued programming focused on growth, leadership, and wellness.

This year's event will serve as a cornerstone fundraiser for The Becoming Initiative, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing skill-based training, personal development, and transformational experiences for individuals at all stages of life. Funds raised will directly support workshops, community gatherings, and leadership focused initiatives throughout the year.

Women attending the brunch will participate in guided conversation, storytelling, and moments of reflection designed to encourage personal growth and connection. Organizers say the goal is not just inspiration, but impact that extends

long after the event ends.

"We created She Decides because women are constantly giving to everyone else and rarely have space to be poured into," said Nicole Polite, Founder and Executive Director of The Becoming Initiative. "This brunch is a reminder that women matter, their stories matter, and when women are supported, entire communities are strengthened."

The Becoming Initiative is currently seeking community partners, sponsors, and supporters who want to invest in women and help expand access to these experiences. Sponsorships help offset the cost for women who may not otherwise be able to attend and ensure the organization can continue its programming throughout the year.

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are now available.

For more information about the She Decides Women's Empowerment Brunch or partnership opportunities, visit: <https://www.thebecominginitiative.org/events>.

## Irish Night 2026 set for Feb. 28

HOLYOKE — The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties and Ladies Order invite the public to attend Irish Night in Holyoke 2026 on Feb. 28 at the Log Cabin 500 Easthampton Rd. Holyoke, Mass. Doors open at 5 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m.

The night will feature the Keohane and Kenneally

Irish-American band and a corned beef and cabbage dinner with ribs. The price is \$50 per person and valet parking services will be available.

For reservations by Feb. 24 call Joe O'Connor at 413-627-7148, or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 or online at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

Additional entertain-

ment by the Cassin School of Irish Dance and Piper Matt O'Connor. The night is in memory of Hibernian Daniel P. Curran and will benefit the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship.

The Hibernians wish a Happy St. Patrick's Day to all.

## Fun and Games at Catholic Women's Club

AGAWAM — Fun and Games will be enjoyed by members and guests of the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam at their Feb. 9, meeting. It will be held in the Fr. Joyce Room in the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center, 833 Main St., Agawam, MA.. The evening will begin with refreshments at 6:30 p.m., followed by the club's monthly business meeting at 7 p.m. Members will then break into smaller groups to play the game Left, Right, Center. Those attending are reminded to bring quarters which are needed to play. Also, any member who has a set of the game to please bring it that evening. All area Catholic women are invited to join the members for this relaxed, fun event.



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## Tansey's Catered Table

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# Opinion

## Guest Column



**SOCIAL SECURITY Matters**  
By Russell Gloor

### Claiming Social Security early and investing it

Dear Rusty:

I am a 63-year-old single lady and I have questions regarding Social Security "early retirement," though I will still be working full time.

I know there is a maximum allowable income limit and, if I exceed that, I will need to return probably 2/3 of my received Social Security benefit. I'm thinking about taking those early SS benefits about \$1,400 per month and putting them in my high yield savings or CD where I can gain the interest on it and have it stay "liquid" so I can return what I need to.

My current interest rate is 3.65% on the savings and over 4.25% on CD, with options for 3, 6, 9 mos. or longer - but I want to be able to access the money to pay Social Security back at the end of the year. Can you advise me on this?

**Signed: Still Working but Wondering**

Dear Still Working:

I commend you, for investigating your options before claiming early Social Security benefits while still working. FYI, the 2026 annual earnings limit for those collecting early SS benefits is \$24,480 (changes annually). If your 2026 work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. The annual earnings limit lasts until you reach your Full Retirement Age and the limit is about 2.5 times higher during the year you attain FRA.

FYI, when you apply for benefits, Social Security will ask if you are working and, if so, how much you make. Using that information, they will evaluate whether you can take benefits now and, if so, how many months they can actually pay your benefits.

For example, if your projected 2026 earnings are, say, \$100,000, you would be about \$75,000 over the annual limit which means that half of that \$37,500 would need to be paid back to SS. Since your monthly SS benefit at your current age would be about \$1,400 per month, Social Security will say that you are temporarily ineligible to collect early benefits because you cannot pay back within one year what you would owe for exceeding the limit. In other words, they won't pay your SS benefits just yet because your earnings are too high and they do not want to overpay benefits, which you will only need to return.

For additional perspective, if your expected 2026 earnings are less say about \$50,000 that means you would be about \$25,000 over the limit about half of that (about \$12,500) would need to be paid back to SS.

In that event, SSA would tell you they will withhold nine months of your SS payments in advance and pay your benefits for only 3 months. This because the overpayment, with your current benefit of about \$1,400, could be recovered by withholding your SS payments for nine months. They do not want to intentionally overpay your SS benefits.

So, despite your best repayment intentions, Social Security will not favor intentionally overpaying your benefits. Historically, overpayment of benefits due to exceeding the annual earnings limit has been a notoriously difficult issue for the Social Security Administration. So, to get your early SS benefits while you are working full time, you would likely need to lie about your anticipated 2026 earnings on your application for SS benefits, which we strongly discourage.

Keep in mind that this all changes when you reach your FRA (67), because the earning limit goes away entirely when you reach FRA and the limit goes up by about 2.5 times in the year you attain full retirement age. So, depending on your earnings level, you may wish to either wait until your full retirement age, or until you stop working full time, to claim SS.

Now, as for the general idea of taking early benefits and investing them, many have said they wish to do that and we understand that logic. Our caution is that it requires religious discipline to put the SS money into a higher yield investment vehicle to accomplish the goal of beating the SS increase realized when you wait to claim. Many who try it succumb to the temptation to use the invested funds for emergency needs and sometimes non-emergency needs. I offer this only as something to be aware of, as some have shared that they failed in their investment objectives with their Social Security money.

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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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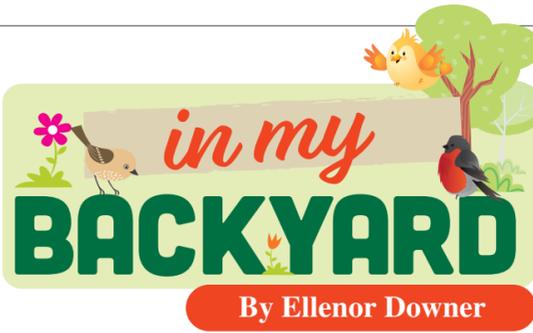
In late December of last year and early January of this year, a snowy owl has been seen at Northampton Airport and in a cornfield.

The snowy owl is an irruptive species from the tundra. Usually, it is the young snowy owls that head this way. There have been reports of snowy owls at Plum Island this month. Logan Airport is another common location for them.

The snowy owl is large and white. The mature males have a lot of white. Females and juveniles have dark brown and black barring. Living in the Arctic, it is well adapted to cold with dense feathers including feathers on their feet. They hunt rodents like lemmings in open tundra. They have exceptional sight and hearing.

Their flight is silent allowing them to catch unsuspecting prey. They hunt during the day, a rarity for most owls. They expand south during winter food scarcity in the tundra. It is one of North America's heaviest owls with a wing span of 4.5 to 5.5 feet.

They are generally solitary, but form pairs. They build nests in the ground in shallow scrapes. The female lays three to 11 eggs, the number of eggs depending on food availability. Males bring food and the females incubate and feed the chicks.



*in my*  
**BACKYARD**  
By Ellenor Downer

#### Helping owls

Here are some tips if you see a snowy owl. Keep a safe distance to observe quietly. Do not play bird calls from your phone or other device. Don't feed the owls. Avoid flashes when taking photos. Keep noises to a minimum. If you find an injured owl: contact your state wildlife agency or local rehabilitator. If you find a dead owl: contact your state wildlife agency.

Also people should avoid using rodenticides; they are poisonous to birds and other animals even a pet. If an owl or other birds of prey eat a rodent that ingested, it will kill them.

#### Evening grosbeaks

A Worthington resident reported a friend saw two evening grosbeaks on Tuesday, Jan. 6. He said in his email he remembered when they used to be in giant flocks. He asked if they were rare out my way. I have not seen evening grosbeaks in sometime. Other people in Central Massachusetts have seen them recently. The Massachusetts Audu-

bon Society reported six evening grosbeaks in North Brookfield.

#### Mass. Audubon sightings

Recent Mass Audubon sightings include western grebes, eared grebes, tufted ducks and sandhill cranes as well as an unusual visitor, a scissor-tailed flycatcher, a rare state record and a rosy-billed pochard. Other sightings include goldeneye, mergansers, horned larks, and wintering raptors like Northern harriers in Massachusetts in early January.

On Jan. 6 and again on Jan. 13 a male King Eider was seen among thousands of common Eiders in North Chatham. A Pacific loon and over 400 razorbills were at Race Point in Provincetown.

#### Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident sent an email on Jan. 6 that he received a preliminary total for the Springfield Christmas Bird Count, which was 66 species, a few below the average. He also said, "We occasionally see them in the

BACKYARD | page 5

## Councilor opposes mileage taxes

Dear Editor:

I will be presenting a resolution before the Agawam City Council in opposition to Senate Bill 2246 and Senate Bill No. 2404, which propose the implementation of mileage-based taxes in Massachusetts.

Mileage-based taxation would impose a direct and ongoing financial burden on residents based solely on the number of miles they drive, regardless of income level, geographic necessity, or lack of transportation alternatives. For communities such as Agawam and throughout Western Massachusetts, personal vehicles are not a luxury—they are a necessity.

Our residents rely heavily on their vehicles to com-

mute to work, attend medical appointments, care for family members, fulfill religious obligations, shop for necessities, and manage daily life. Unlike more urban areas, Western Massachusetts does not have the level of public transportation infrastructure that would allow residents to reduce their dependence on personal vehicles.

These proposed policies would increase the overall cost of living for Agawam residents and place a disproportionate burden on working families, seniors, and those who must travel longer distances simply to meet basic needs. In many cases, mileage-based taxes would cost residents more than traditional gas taxes,

further straining household budgets at a time when affordability is already a serious concern.

Transportation funding solutions should be fair, equitable, and sensitive to the realities faced by residents across all regions of the Commonwealth. Any proposal that unfairly penalizes those who depend on their vehicles to maintain their livelihoods and family connections should be carefully reconsidered.

I stand with the people of Agawam and Western Massachusetts in opposing policies that impose undue financial hardship and fail to account for regional differences and everyday necessities.

George Bitzas



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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters.

All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@turley.com).



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## Agawam Advertiser News welcomes letters to the editor

The Agawam Advertiser News 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 the Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [aan@turley.com](mailto:aan@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 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 the Agawam Advertiser News.

# Schools & Youth

## COLLEGE NOTES

### University of Hartford students named to Dean's List and President's List

WEST HARTFORD, CT – The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 2,327 students have been named to the Dean's List and President's List for the spring 2025 semester.

The Dean's List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C.

The President's List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To

be placed on the President's List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

Among those recognized are:

- Samantha Mengwasser of Agawam - Dean's List and President's List
- Kyra Benard of Agawam - Dean's List and President's List
- Abby Drumm of Agawam - Dean's List and President's List
- Emma Gendron of Agawam - Dean's List and President's List

- Jalynn Hayward of Agawam - Dean's List and President's List
- Lunah Hayward of Agawam - Dean's List and President's List
- Antonio Castro of Agawam - Dean's List
- Isabella Castro of Agawam - Dean's List
- Erin McLaughlin of Agawam - Dean's List
- Nick Ugolini of Feeding Hills - Dean's List and President's List

Congratulations to all our students on their hard work and academic success.

### Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students for the 2025 Fall Semester

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2025 Fall Semester.

Springfield College has named Landon Ashford from Feeding Hills, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Ashford has a primary major of Business Management.

Springfield College has named Matthew Benard from Agawam, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Benard has a primary major of Sport Management.

Springfield College has named Sara Bolton from Agawam, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Bolton has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-OT.

Springfield College has named Liliana Cicchetti from Feeding Hills, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Cicchetti has a primary major of English.

Springfield College has named Patrick Dahm from Feeding Hills, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Dahm has a primary major of Sport Management.

Springfield College has named Shane DeFilipi from Feeding Hills, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

DeFilipi has a primary major of Physical Education.

Springfield College has named Christina Grasso from Agawam, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for

the 2025 fall semester.

Grasso has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-OT.

Springfield College has named Valentyna Gurulyova from Agawam, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Gurulyova has a primary major of Human Services.

Springfield College has named Colin La from Agawam, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

La has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PA.

Springfield College has named Isabel Lalancette from Feeding Hills, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Lalancette has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PT.

Springfield College has named Dana Leiper from Feeding Hills, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Leiper has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PT.

Springfield College has named Lio Mansur from Feeding Hills, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Mansur has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PA.

Springfield College has named Abigail Moore from Agawam, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Moore has a primary major of Education.

Springfield College has named Daniel Mudrenko from Feeding Hills, MA to the dean's list for academic excel-

lence for the 2025 fall semester.

Mudrenko has a primary major of Business Management.

Springfield College has named Emma Murray from Feeding Hills, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Murray has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PT.

Springfield College has named Jaiden Pacheco from Agawam, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Pacheco has a primary major of Education.

Springfield College has named Christopher Rondinelli from Feeding Hills, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Rondinelli has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PA.

Springfield College has named Donovan Salva from Feeding Hills, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Salva has a primary major of Business Management.

Springfield College has named Gabriella Serrano from Agawam, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Serrano has a primary major of English.

Springfield College has named Kristopher Thomas from Agawam, MA to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2025 fall semester.

Thomas has a primary major of Human Services.

# Rotary Club holding Murder Mystery dinner

AGAWAM – The Rotary Club of West Springfield, in conjunction with The Majestic Theater, will host a Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser, A Valentine's Murder Mystery, Sunday, Feb. 1 at 5 p.m. at Tansey's Catered Table, 485 Springfield St., Agawam, Mass. The evening includes a sumptuous three-course meal and the Majestic Murder Mystery performance.

The event promises an engaging evening full of intrigue, hilarity, and unscripted moments. Guests will enjoy a lively, interactive dinner and work together to solve the evening's crime, all while supporting a worthy cause. But beware! The killer is hiding in plain sight somewhere in

the room, and if you aren't careful, you may find yourself a suspect...

Last year's event was sold out and interested participants are encouraged to get tickets early for the limited number of seats available. Tickets are \$75 each and can be purchased through the Club's website, [www.WestSpringfieldRotaryClub.com](http://www.WestSpringfieldRotaryClub.com)

Title sponsor is Teddy Bear Pools & Spas, and there are additional sponsorship opportunities available that include tickets to the event: <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/6035/page/murder-mystery-dinner>

The proceeds from the event will directly benefit the Rotary Club of West Springfield's Scholarship

and Community Grants programs. The Club awards grants each year to civic organizations, educational institutions and not-for-profits that work toward the betterment of West Springfield's quality of life.

The Rotary Club of West Springfield, under the leadership of President Simon Brighenti, meets for lunch at Storowton Tavern on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, and for an evening social on the third Thursday, at various West Side locations.

For more information on the Valentine Murder Mystery, tickets or sponsorships, contact Victoria Larriva at [vlarriva@WSBG-Club.com](mailto:vlarriva@WSBG-Club.com)

# Stanley Park history program to explore the park's origins and lasting legacy

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park of Westfield in collaboration with the Westfield Athenaeum invites the community to step back in time during a special Stanley Park History Program on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. The program will be held at the Westfield Women's Club, 28 Court Street, Westfield, MA.

Local historian Robert Brown will lead an engaging discussion on the origins of Stanley Park, tracing its beginnings in 1949 and highlighting the people, vision, and preservation efforts

that shaped the park into the cherished community space it is today. Brown's dedication to uncovering and sharing Westfield's history earned him a Westfield Preservation Award from the Westfield Historical Commission in 2023.

Attendees will also enjoy a screening of the 8-minute documentary, Stanley Park: Rooted in the Past, Growing for the Future, which captures the park's history, mission, and enduring impact. Stanley Park staff will be on site to answer questions about the park, upcoming

programs, and ways to get involved during the upcoming season.

Light refreshments will be served.

This free program is open to the public and offers a meaningful opportunity for longtime supporters and new visitors alike to deepen their connection to Stanley Park.

For questions or additional information, please contact the Development Office at 413-568-9312 ext. 108 or email [development@stanleypark.org](mailto:development@stanleypark.org)

## BACKYARD ■ from page 4

yard and sometimes hear the barred owls calling.”

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



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| 13. French modernist painter       | 38. Cleans oneself                          | 7. Buddhist monasteries               | 29. Old English letter                  |
| 15. Persons                        | 39. Unloaded for money                      | 9. Inhabitant of Bering Sea island    | 30. A way to exaggerate                 |
| 16. Painful intestinal obstruction | 40. Genus of flowering plants               | 10. Body part                         | 31. Get up and leave                    |
| 17. Professions                    | 41. Take a puff                             | 12. Milestone birthday                | 32. "Boardwalk Empire" character        |
| 18. Is up to the task              | 42. Congressmen for the future              | 14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone       | 33. More generous                       |
| 21. Wood or metal bolt             | 43. God of battle in Scandinavian mythology | 15. More (Spanish) ballplayer         | 34. Hanging cloth used as a blind       |
| 22. Tax collector                  |   | 17. Chicago ballplayer                | 36. Ancient Greek sophist               |
| 23. A way to save for the future   |   | 19. Leaves a place                    |   |

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# SPORTS

## Brownies fall at home to Central

AGAWAM – Last Friday night, Agawam High School boys basketball mounted a tough challenge against a powerful Central High School team. But the Brownies came up short with a 69-52 loss. Trevor Moynihan had 11 points while Brody Sheehan scored 10 points for the Brownies. Agawam girls basketball is now 7-6 on the regular season.

Clockwise from immediate right: Brody Sheehan takes a free throw; Trevor Moynihan heads into the paint; Caeden Roeder tries to keep the ball on his right as he hustles down the court; Gavin Cruz makes his way down the court; Michael Dilizia heads for the hoop; Dylan Jorgensen crosses midcourt to start an offensive play.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



## Baldwin to chase unprecedented third straight SMART Modified Tour Championship

Sadler-Stanley Racing announced Wednesday that Luke Baldwin will return to the Pace-O-Matic No. 7VA for another season of SMART Modified Tour racing in 2026.

Baldwin will be searching for an unprecedented third straight championship on the SMART Modified Tour powered by Pace-O-Matic, after capturing the title in his rookie season in 2024, and following it up with another crown in 2025.

Baldwin won three of 13

series events in 2025 to go along with top-10 finishes in all but two races. Baldwin also won twice during the 2024 season, including capturing the \$20,000 to win 'King of the Modifieds' at South Boston Speedway in its inaugural season as his first career win.

The team will continue with a PSR Chassis, partnered with Pace-O-Matic.

"What Luke has accomplished both on and off the track the last two years has

been impressive and fun to watch," Sadler-Stanley Racing co-owner Hermie Sadler, said. "Luke has a great future ahead of him and it will be exciting to watch him race in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, along with on the SMART Modified Tour. We are truly excited to have him back in the Pace-O-Matic Modified in 2026 trying to chase some history."

"Going back to Sadler-Stanley Racing for a chance to win a third consec-

utive SMART Modified Tour championship - it's incredible," Luke Baldwin said. "Hermie and Bill took a chance on me, and it has paid off in many ways. I expect no different in 2026."

"We are just thrilled that Luke will lead Sadler-Stanley Racing for the 2026 SMART Modified Tour season, and run for this third consecutive championship," co-owner Bill Stanley said. "He brings excitement and a winning attitude to the track every

week, and we can't wait to get the season started with him behind the wheel of the Pace-O-Matic 7VA."

"Pace-O-Matic is proud to once again be the premier sponsor of the SMART Modified Tour and Sadler-Stanley Racing for 2026," Paul Golddean, President and CEO of Pace-O-Matic, said. "The SMART Modified Tour is an exhibition of cutting-edge innovation and excitement, just like the skill games we develop. We are excited to

watch Sadler-Stanley Racing pursue a historic third consecutive championship, and we wish all the drivers luck this season."

Information on the driver lineup for the No. 16 Pace-O-Matic entry for the 2026 season will be released in the coming weeks.

The SMART Modified Tour 2026 schedule includes 14 events at 13 different tracks. All SMART Modified Tour races are streamed live on FloRacing.

# Sports

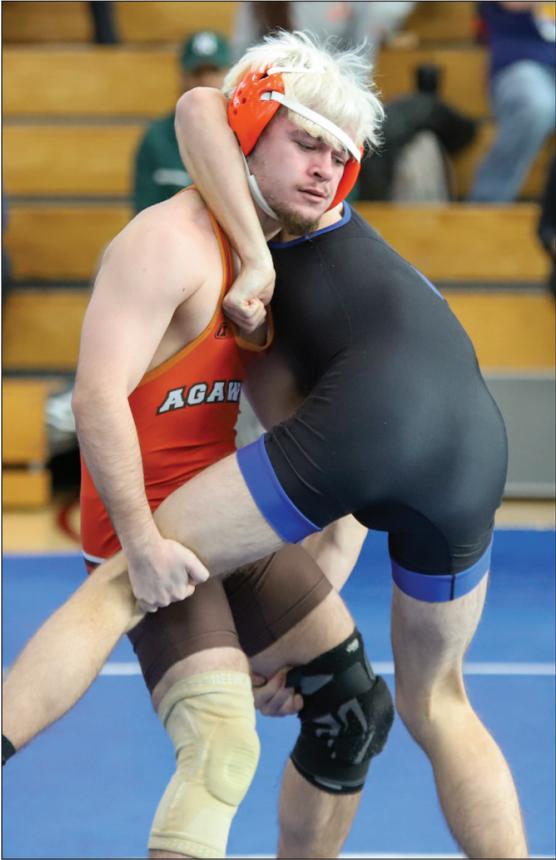
## Agawam wrestling takes part in West Side duals



Andrew Amato tries to bring his opponent down.

Above, Kyle Ghareeb locks up at 120 pounds after making an escape. Below, Lincoln Despard goes for the belly-to-belly throw for a takedown.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Above, Jordin Agosto tries to avoid a leg takedown. Below, Tyler Callahan locks up at 138 pounds.



## Brownies take early lead, but lose at Belchertown

BELCHERTOWN – Last Tuesday evening, Agawam High School girls basketball had its offense going early in the matchup with Belchertown, but the Orioles came back as the game went on, took a lead and held on to it during the second half for a 62-40 victory. Belchertown got some big offense from its

starters. Gabriella Slovack had 18 points while Aubrey Klingensmith had 17 points. Morghan Litz scored 14 while Kina Roy had 11 points.

Agawam was led by Alanna Rose with 17 points. Agawam fell to 2-10 on the season while Belchertown is now 7-4 with four straight wins.



Left, Isabella Laprise makes a no-look pass. Above, Bella Santaniello starts a play on offense for Agawam. Right, Sophia Laprise makes a layup attempt.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



# Sports

## Ott named new head coach of Springfield Thunderbirds

SPRINGFIELD – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today that Steve Ott will assume the role of head coach for the team's AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds, for the remainder of the season. Ott replaces Steve Konowalchuk, who has been relieved of his duties. Current Thun-

derbirds assistant coach Chad Wiseman will serve as the interim head coach for today's Thunderbirds game against the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins until Ott can join the team later this week.

"The Blues want to thank Steve Konowalchuk for his contributions to our organization over the last two years and wish him all the best

moving forward," said Armstrong. "We're looking forward to Steve Ott taking over in Springfield to push our young players to get better every day and further their development path to become St. Louis Blues. The current staff will take over his duties with the Blues for the rest of this season."

Ott, 42, has nine seasons behind the Blues' bench af-

ter first joining the staff as an assistant in the summer of 2017. During his tenure, the Summerside, PEI, native has helped the Blues compile a 350-244-74 (.588 points percentage) regular-season record and four postseason appearances. In 2018-19, just his second season as a coach, Ott played an instrumental role in helping the Blues make

a historic rise in the standings during the regular season, ultimately capturing the 2019 Stanley Cup championship. Ott becomes the fifth head coach in Thunderbirds history

As a player, Ott enjoyed a 14-year NHL career, including 122 games with the Blues from 2014-2016. Overall, he accumulated 288 points in 848 career regular-season games,

including stints with Dallas, Buffalo, St. Louis, Detroit, and Montreal.

Konowalchuk, 52, was in his second season as head coach of the Thunderbirds and has recorded an overall record of 47-50-4-8 (.486 points-percentage) during his time in the organization, including a record of 13-18-4-2 (.432) this season.

### 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 weekly basis.

## Registration set to open Feb. 1 for Quabbin Valley

SOUTH HADLEY – On Sunday, Jan. 11, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

At the meeting it was determined registration for players will open up on Sunday, Feb. 1.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a week-night game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determine as the league's board explores possibilities for in-

terleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take

place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration link will be live on Feb. 1 at [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org). Players must register and then pay the league dues via

Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

## Bill assistance events being held by Eversource

SPRINGFIELD – As many Massachusetts customers experience higher winter energy bills driven by colder weather and seasonal energy use, Eversource is hosting a series of in-person bill help events throughout the month of January to connect customers with programs and payment options designed to help make energy bills more manageable. At these events, Eversource customer care representatives will be available to review bills, answer questions and help customers understand which assistance programs or payment options may be

right for them.

These events are part of Eversource's ongoing outreach to ensure customers are aware of the resources available to help manage energy costs, including financial assistance programs, flexible payment plans, and energy efficiency solutions. The goal is to provide customers with clear information and one-on-one support so they can make informed decisions about their energy bills that best fit their individual needs.

"Winter energy bills can be challenging for many customers, especially during periods of sustained cold

weather when energy usage is higher," said Eversource Senior Vice of Customer Operations and Digital Strategy Jared Lawrence. "We want customers to know that help is available, and these in-person events are an opportunity for us to meet customers in their communities and connect them directly with resources that can make a difference."

Energy usage typically increases during the winter months as customers rely more heavily on heating systems and other household energy needs. Colder temperatures, longer periods of

heating use and shorter days can lead to higher overall energy consumption, which alone can significantly impact monthly bills, regardless of changes to rates.

"We know higher winter bills can be stressful, and no customer should feel like they're facing that alone," Lawrence said. "We encourage customers to attend one of our bill help events or reach out to us directly so we can work together on a solution. Our team is here to listen, answer questions and connect customers with options that can help make their bills more manageable."

### REP | from page 1

degree in public policy, and I work as a government affairs manager and legislative analyst in my day job. What's more important than my resume though, is my passion for public service and my commitment to the principles of honesty, justice, and democracy. There are plenty of "well-qualified" politicians that lack moral clarity; at the same time there everyday people that can do extraordinary things."

While Agawam residents certainly know the councilor, Hendrickson will need to appeal to the voters of several other towns as well.

"The costs of essentials like healthcare, energy, and housing are skyrocketing for working class families throughout the district," he said. "The ongoing cost of living crisis transcends municipal bor-

ders and it transcends political parties. The policy platform that I'm running on is aimed at addressing all of these things, so I'm confident that we'll find traction even in areas of the district where I don't have much of an established reputation."

Hendrickson's run for state representative will allow him to keep his city council seat during his campaign. With municipal elections running in odd-numbered years, he would be able to continue on as city councilor should he be defeated.

Boldyga has not made a formal announcement for his re-election campaign, though he is currently Hendrickson's presumed opponent. There is also still time for other candidates to announce runs. More Republican or Democratic candidates will necessitate a primary election.

## Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**The Trial Court**  
**Probate and Family Court**  
**Hampden Probate and Family Court**  
 50 State Street  
 Springfield, MA 01103  
 Docket No.  
 HD26P0121PM  
**In the matter of:**  
**Lindelee A. Davis**  
**Of: Agawam, MA**  
**RESPONDENT**  
**(Person to be Protected/ Minor)**

**CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO**

**G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Matthew Davis** of Granby, VT in the above captioned matter alleging that **Lindelee A. Davis** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that

(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is

disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **02/18/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named**

**person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.**

Witness, Hon. **Claudine T. Stouemire**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 21, 2026  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
 Register of Probate  
 01/29/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**County of Hampden**  
**The Superior Court**  
**CIVIL DOCKET**  
**#2579CV00861**

TO: **John G. Kudlic**, to the best of Plaintiff's knowledge, is a Massachusetts resident, having a last and usual mailing address at 491 B Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, in the County of **Hampden**; and in said **Commonwealth AND TO ALL PERSONS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE SERVICE MEMBERS' CIVIL RELIEF ACT OF 1940 AS AMENDED 2003 as amended:**

**Florence Bank** a duly incorporated financial institution with a place of business at 85 Main Street, Florence, Hampshire County, Massachusetts claiming to be the holder of mortgage covering property

known as 525 Springfield Street, Agawam, Hampden County, Massachusetts

given by the Defendant to Florence Bank dated October 16, 2020

recorded in Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 23478, Page 541, has filed with said court a Complaint for authority to foreclose said mortgage in the manner following: by entry on and possession of the premises therein described and by exercise of the power of sale contained in said mortgage.

If you are entitled to the benefits of the Service Members' Civil Relief Act of 1940 as amended, and you object to such foreclosure you or your attorney should file a written appearance and answer in said court at Springfield in said County on or before 3/3/2026 or you may be forever barred from claiming that such foreclosure is invalid under said Act.

Witness, Michael D. Ricciuti, Esquire, Chief Justice of the Superior Court, at Springfield, Massachusetts, this 20th day of January, 2026.

Laura S. Gentile,  
 Clerk of the Courts  
 By: William T. Walsh, Jr.,  
 Assistant Clerk  
 01/29/2026

## Agawam man arrested on drug charges

HOLYOKE – Last Tuesday, the Hampden County District Attorney's office issued a press release stating an Agawam man, Michael Jenks, 56, was arrested in Holyoke following a traffic stop.

He failed to obey police commands and was detained, according to the release.

During a search of Jenks' vehicle, officers found suspected crack cocaine in the vehicle, police said. Further searching recovered more

crack cocaine and a pair of brass knuckles, according to the release.

As a result, Jenks was arrested and charged with possession of a Class B drug, carrying a dangerous weapon (brass knuckles), concealing his numbered license plate, and driving and uninsured and unregistered motor vehicle.

Jenks was taken into custody, but a female adult passenger was released by the police and his vehicle was impounded.

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### DEATH NOTICE

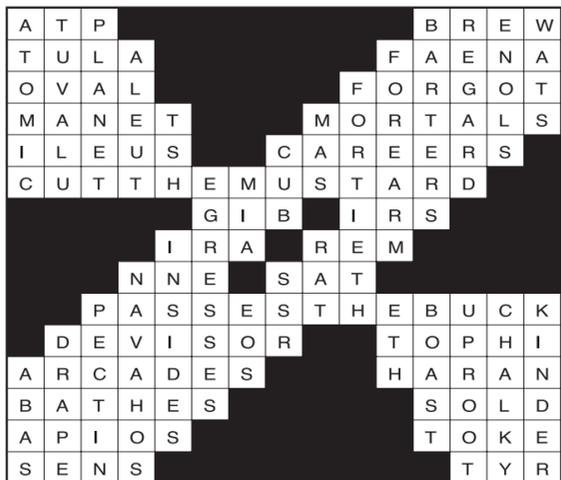
**JULIE A. PICKETT**  
 Died Jan. 2, 2026

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- 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](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)**



*Agawam Advertiser News*  
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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.

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For more information and to apply, contact **Wally Connor, Facility/HR Manager** at (508) 885-8700 Ext. 550 or by email: [wally@spencerabbey.org](mailto:wally@spencerabbey.org)

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time Town Hall **Floater/Selectboard Administrative Assistant/ Assistant Town Clerk.** \$20-\$22 per hour based on experience. 15 hours per week. Application and complete job description are available online at [www.huntingtonma.us](http://www.huntingtonma.us) or by emailing [admin@huntingtonma.us](mailto:admin@huntingtonma.us). Position is open until filled. *Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

Wilbraham United Church is hiring a part-time, experienced **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER.** Apply to **Wilbraham United Church, Attention: Alesia; 500 Main Street; Wilbraham, MA 01095.** More information at [www.wilbraham-unitedchurch.org/about-us-2/](http://www.wilbraham-unitedchurch.org/about-us-2/)

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

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**SNOW** ■ from page 1

were hired to start the winter.

Mayor Christopher Johnson said the town is working with about 70% less of the workforce it had five years ago to help the town employees with the DPW.

Nonetheless, praise was high on both social media as well as from the mayor or himself for the job Agawam's DPW did getting roads clear on Monday morning. For the most part, all roads were passable and main roads were clean by mid-day Monday.

There was more light snow in the forecast later in the day, but it had mostly subsided while town employees were resting.

"DPW employees did a great job in clearing roads after the last storm," Johnson said. "This is one of the largest storms Agawam has experienced in many years. The town has about two-thirds less hired plows than it did five years ago which places a greater burden on the DPW. I appreciate the hard work and dedication of our public works employees."

As of Monday afternoon, public works employees were clear the Agawam High School parking lot and other parking lots of town-owned properties trying to public locations ready to re-open. Agawam Public Library was closed Monday, though the parking lot was accessible for dropping off books by the afternoon hours.

There will likely be more work having to take place over the next couple of weeks. Because of the enormous amount of snow that fell, DPW crews may have to place tons of snow in dump trucks and move it to other locations in order to clean up some spaces. Parking bans were in effect through late Monday and trash collection was delayed by one day for the entire week.

Residents should keep an eye on the town website for any further updates on the aftermath of the snowstorm.

The snow could stick around for quite a while with temperatures forecasted, as of press time, to remain below freezing, even during the daytime.



With the massive amounts of snow, small paths are all many people were able to make.

The access to the rear parking lot at Agawam High School was not passable early Monday as DPW crews worked feverishly to get parking lots all over town.



Suffield St. was passable by Monday, but like many roads, it was much more narrow due to the amount of snow.

## 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 tick-

et 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.

## MassHire announces February job expo

SPRINGFIELD - Hundreds of people are expected to attend the Feb. 3 Job Expo at the Basketball Hall of Fame. Forty to fifty companies are expected to attend the event, which runs from 4 to 7 p.m. They will be hiring to fill hundreds of openings. Job seekers will have opportunities available in many different industries including: health care, manufacturing, social services, education and banking. The Job Expo is held in Center Court

and is open to the public. This provides an increasingly rare opportunity for applicants to meet recruiters face to face.

The turnout is expected to mirror a growing trend of increasing numbers of job seekers attending recruiting events. Kevin Lynn, Executive Director of MassHire Springfield Career Center says the job expo continues to be a draw, "Our October Job Expo had 617 job seekers show-up to meet with

54 employers. This was the largest group of job seekers since before the start of COVID in 2020. Local companies continue to hire with many struggling to find the right candidates."

Job Expos give people the chance to make positive impressions on prospective employers while at the same time having the opportunity to learn about career paths and corporate culture. This helps job seekers determine which organizations are the

best fit for them.

Located at 95 Liberty Street, MassHire Springfield Career Center served over 11,000 job seekers and 1,600 business last fiscal year. We provide people with job search assistance and access to skills training. Our business services include no cost job postings and recruiting events. A list of companies and positions available at the job expo is attached. An updated list can be found at MassHireSpringfield.org.

## Suffield Players holding playwriting workshops

SUFFIELD, CT - The Suffield Players are pleased to announce Drafting the Drama, an eight-week, in-person playwriting workshop running March 3 through April 21 taught by theatre artist and educator Matt Bessette.

Designed for both emerging and experienced writers, Drafting the Drama is an intensive, hands-on course that explores the craft of playwriting from concept to page. Each class is structured to open new creative horizons while introducing practical, advanced, and nuanced techniques used by profes-

sional playwrights. Participants will build confidence in their writing voice while developing original work in a supportive, collaborative environment.

Bessette returns to The Suffield Players to lead a second round of classes, guiding participants through a focused playwriting workshop designed for writers at all levels of experience. The course emphasizes storytelling craft, professional techniques, and creative confidence, helping students bring their ideas to life on the page in an engaging and sup-

portive setting.

A unique feature of the workshop is its connection to The Suffield Players' acting curriculum. Selected scripts developed during Drafting the Drama will be used in the Stepping into the Spotlight acting class that immediately follows the workshop. At the conclusion of that class, students will perform the selected scripts for a live audience, offering playwrights the opportunity to see their work fully realized on stage.

Who Should Enroll:

- Aspiring playwrights exploring dramatic

writing for the first time

- Experienced writers looking to refine their craft
- Actors, directors, and theatre-makers interested in original storytelling
- Anyone interested in developing scripts for the stage in a structured, encouraging environment

Registration & Information:

Enrollment is now open. Full details, tuition information, and registration are available through The Suffield Players website. Space is limited to ensure an interactive classroom experience.

## Town still in need of independent 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 prof

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 driver'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 at 1000 Suffield St.

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