



LOCAL
Music book
 PAGE 2



LIBRARY
February events
 PAGE 3



SPORTS
Swim team action
 PAGE 7

AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

February 8, 2024 | Vol. 45, No. 50 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

District makes progress on formative goals

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – At the school committee meeting on Jan. 23 Superintendent Sheila Hoffman presented an update on the district’s formative goals, based on the formative evaluation.

The process for doing an evaluation on the school and meeting these goals contains five steps. These steps are: self assessment; analysis, goal setting, and plan development; plan implementation and collection of evidence; formative assessment; and summative evaluation.

The first step was started in the fall. Hoffman performed a self-assessment and then discussed common goals with the school committee.

“I developed a plan around those goals with some key evidence and action steps,” Hoffman said.

The goals decided on by Hoffman and the committee were based on school-based data meetings.

One of the student achievement goals was to meet or exceed MCAS achievement targets, which schools have already taken steps toward.

“In November and December the elementary school principals presented their MCAS ‘glows and grows’ and then presented the action steps that they were going to take and then at a following meeting the remaining principals did the same thing,” Hoffman said.

The district also has three district improvement plans: the development of a revised strategic plan, continued enhancement of safety protocols and calibration of educator evaluation with administrators.

GOALS | page 11

New mayor celebrated at Inaugural Social

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – An inaugural social was held to celebrate Mayor Christopher Johnson at Oak Ridge Golf Course on Feb. 2.

Dozens of community members came together to congratulate Johnson on his election.

Throughout the evening there was a social hour, complete with appetizers and beverages, followed by a buffet dinner.

Johnson was sworn in as mayor at his inaugural social on Jan. 2.

This is his second time serving as mayor of Agawam, as he had initially served as Agawam’s first mayor.

In his second term as mayor, Johnson hopes to be able to continue to cultivate the collaborative environment in Agawam’s government that thrived under Former Mayor William Sapelli’s lead.

He also plans to focus his efforts on bringing a new high school to Agawam. He promis-

JUMP | page ?



Solicitor Steve Buoniconti, Mayor Christopher Johnson and Associate Solicitor Charles Sciafani came together for Johnson’s inaugural social.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



City Councilor Ed Borgatti, Administrative Assistant Barabara Bard, Attorney Shawn Allyn and City Councilor Maria Valego gathered for Johnson’s inaugural social.



Mario Rua, School Committee Member Wendy Rua, Gina Smus and City Councilor Peter Smus all took part in Mayor Christopher Johnson’s Inaugural Social.

Fiber optic internet on the horizon

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – There may be a new administration, but it is still right on top of a key issue for residents; providing an affordable high-speed internet option for residents.

Johnson recently met with the company in charge of the fiber optic installation, Go Net Speed (originally known as OTELCO).

According to Johnson, Go Net Speed is working on the process to be able to install fiber optics for the town, but the company has faced challenges along the way.

“The difficulty is that in Massachusetts there is a more extended process for them to get licenses to be able to run their fiber optic on existing utility poles,” Johnson said.

Massachusetts is the only state in New England that still uses the old system, which is “lengthy and cumbersome.”

Go Net Speed has been able to do projects in other states where they have the One Touch Make Ready system. This system simplifies what needs to happen to prepare utility poles to add attachments, such as fiber optics.

Those who have the One Touch Make Ready system can have a single crew move all attachments on a pole in a single visit, instead of having to send a different crew to different locations over the course of several days.

“It’s all about ‘I want to run a wire across your pole, you’re another utility company, what has to happen to make your pole ready to add my wire?’” Johnson said.

So far in MA, Go Net Speed has some pole licenses, but not all they need to do the roll out.

“The process in Massachusetts is just taking longer than they anticipated,” Johnson said. “It’s not within their control, they have to wait.”

INTERNET | page 11



413.283.8393 • Facebook: @AgawamAdvertiserNews • Email: aam@turley.com

Explore endless fireplace possibilities

MENOTA
 AMERICA'S LUXURY FIREPLACE

Lic: ST: 303179 • Pt: 204150 • HOD: 737 • 478

Depend on State Line for Your Comfort

Propane • Heating Oil • Fireplaces
 Heating • Hot Water • HVAC • Generators
 Service Plans • 24-Hour Emergency Service

Visit our **Hearth Showroom** to see working fireplace displays!

STATE LINE
 PROPANE • OIL
 SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATIONS

PROPANE 413-998-0080 OIL • SERVICE 413-998-0090

StateLinePropaneOil.com
 500•514 Salmon Brook Street, Granby, CT

Advertising is now available for the 'Band book'

AGAWAM – With the Agawam High School Band Parents Association, founded in 1949 as the Band Parents' Club, now known as the Friends of Agawam Music Education and the seasonal musical performances at the high school now consisting of both band and choral ensembles, the fundraiser previously known as the "Band Book" has become the "Music Book."

The Music Book was conceived to raise funds to cover some of the costs the band incurs during the performance season that are not covered by the school department budget. Since the first edition in 2010, the Music Book has raised more than \$25,000 toward that end. The Music Book features photos of student musicians, recognition of senior members, a schedule of performances, and other music department-related information. Last year's edition commemorated the 100th anniversary season of the Agawam High School band with historical facts and photos.

The Music Book relies on advertising



solicited from the local business community and the generosity of band-minded individuals who participate in the FAME Music Patron program. The Music Book also includes display ads taken out by family and friends to celebrate the district's many talented musicians.

The Music Book is professionally designed and printed, and copies are distributed free of charge at band performances and other events. Advertising rates remain unchanged, and an engaged audience makes the Music Book a great opportunity to support the Agawam High

School Music Department while promoting a product or business.

The Music Book is actively supported by dozens of local businesses, organizations, and individuals. All area organizations and businesses are invited to purchase space in the Band Book. Full Page (7.5 x 9.5) \$200; Half Page (7.5 x 4.5) \$100; Quarter Page (3.5 x 4.5) \$75; Eighth Page (3.5 x 2) \$35. Individuals are also invited to support the band by becoming a Music Patron, with several giving level options: Conductor - \$75 minimum donation (name listing and one-line message

(85-character max.) in Band Book); Soloist - \$50 minimum donation (name listing and one-line message (85-character max.) to appear in Band Book); Performer - \$25 minimum donation (name only listed); and Student - \$5 donation (students only please; name only listed).

Deadline is Friday, March 1. All Payment, ad material, and patron information is due at that time. Please make checks payable to FAME and send with ad material and patron information (name(s) and message, if applicable, 85-character max., including spaces, as you wish it to appear in the Music Book) to: David Cecchi, FAME Music Book Coordinator, 29 Albert Street, Agawam, Mass. 01001 by Friday, March 1. Press-ready PDFs may be sent directly to: cecco@davidcecchi.com - Please put MUSIC BOOK in subject line. All other ad material should be included with your payment. If you have questions regarding ad material or would like to see a copy of past MUSIC BOOKS, please contact David Cecchi, Music Book Coordinator, at 786-3236 or cecco@davidcecchi.com.

Rotatry Club hosts Dinner for Hope on Valentine's Day

AGAWAM – The Agawam Rotary Club will host Dinner for Hope, a fundraiser at the Agawam Senior Center on Valentines Day, Feb. 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. The menu will include ziti with marinara sauce, Italian meatballs, garlic breadsticks, side salad, and dessert. The dinner will be catered by Storrowton Tavern.

The cost for adults 13 and over is \$21 pp, children 6 to 12 \$11 pp, and under 6 free. Tickets are available by calling the club secretary, Lynne Merceri at (508)

951-3027, or patrons may pay at the door.

Dinner will be followed by a free concert from 6:30 to 8 p.m. featuring Decades, New England's premier oldies dance band.

The event will help fund Rotary International's campaign to eliminate Polio around the world as well as supporting local projects including student scholarships, the food pantry, a new pollinator garden at Agawam High School, and other projects to benefit the community.

Agawam United Methodist announces events for February

AGAWAM – A pancake breakfast will be hosted at the Agawam United Methodist Church. The pancake breakfast will be served at 11:30 a.m., immediately following the church service. Any and all are welcome.

Help prepare a meal for the Samaritan Inn homeless shelter in Westfield on the second Saturday of every month. Preparation time is between 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. The meal is prepared the church kitchen,

then delivered to the Samaritan Inn for 5 p.m. Anyone is welcome to join us in the preparation of the meal. Please join on Feb. 10 or on any other second Saturday of any month.

The Crochet Club meets every Tuesday night from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It is free of charge to anyone who either crochets or who would like to learn to crochet. Yarn and hooks are available for those who don't have their own.

Country line dancing event on Feb 17

AGAWAM – St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., will be holding a country line dancing event on Saturday, Feb. 17, 5 to 9 p.m. to help support the church in its many programs and ministries.

Instructional line dancing will be provided by Ballroom Outlet. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Tickets are \$25 per person. Tickets can be purchased online at stjohnagawam.com or call the office Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Agawam Garden club scholarships now available

AGAWAM – Applications are now available for the Agawam Garden club 2024 scholarship. To qualify for the scholarship students must be a graduating senior of Agawam High School or a college student who graduated from Agawam High School and is planning to attend an institution of higher learning in the fall.

Applicants must be majoring in or planning on majoring in one of the following: botany, environmental engineering, environmental science, earth systems, forest management, natural resources, plant soil and insect science,

sustainable agriculture, sustainable horticulture or food and farming, turf grass science and management, landscape design and management technology, clean energy, technology studies: waste water or other environmental related studies. The recipient will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship at the club's annual June meeting. Completed applications along with transcripts and references must be submitted to Denise Carmody, 40 Primrose Lane, Agawam MA 01001 by April 1. Applications are available through Agawam High School or can be found on our website at agawamgardenclub.com.

ACC to hold souper bowl

AGAWAM – As of Sunday, Jan. 14, SOUPer Bowl Sunday is underway at Agawam Congregational Church.

"Cans of various soups will be collected from members and friends through Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 11, the day of the big football game," said church Missionary Committee chair Lesley Young.

The "Football Stadium" is set up in the Narthex where folks can place their donated cans of soup to be brought to the Parish Cupboard the week of Feb. 12.

For more information, contact the church office at 413-786-7111 or office@agawamcong.com.

ACC hosting Valentine's dinner

AGAWAM – A unique dessert will be featured in the Saturday, Feb. 17, Valentine's Italian night dinner at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St.

Large red velvet cake cupcakes, filled and topped with white chocolate, buttercream icing with a fancy chocolate, two-heart decoration on top will be included. Church member Sharon Christian is making the delectable cupcakes from a family recipe that always delights everyone.

The spaghetti with meatballs and sauce

dinner will, also, include a salad and dressing. Coffee, tea, and water will be included.

Tickets are \$14 with a deadline of Wednesday, Feb. 14 at noon to purchase tickets. The sit-down dinner will be served in the church hall. Take out orders are available, as well.

The church office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. Call the office at 413-786-7111 or office@agawamcong.com. The church is handicapped accessible with a large, well-lit, parking lot.

Art festival coming to Agawam

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans will present Beat the Winter Blues Art Festival on Saturday March 2, with snow date of March 9. The Art Festival will become an annual event.

The art festival will take place at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 1061 Springfield St., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be food served from the Sa-

cred Heart Parish kitchen. Breakfast and lunch may be purchased.

Artists and artisans will be selling framed original art, prints, pottery, fused glass, jewelry, stained glass, photography, wire art, wood craft, gourds, and more.

For further information please contact Ceil Rossi email at tocarefree2@hotmail.com or call (413) 207-1247

Virtual support groups offered

WESTERN MA – During a cancer journey patients and their families often benefit from the support of others. Virtual support groups will be held in 2024 by Camille St. Onge, LICSW, and oncology social worker.

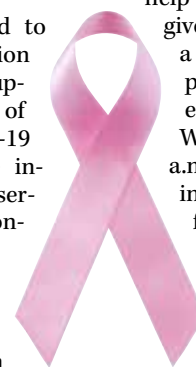
For many years, people had to travel to a predetermined location in order to attend addiction support group meetings. As a result of restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic and because of the increasing availability of digital services, these groups now meet online.

"Offering support groups virtually brings people together regardless of their location," said St. Onge. "Sharing concerns with a support group can be a beneficial way for people facing cancer to get the help they need to cope with the physical and emotional concerns that arise during and after a cancer diagnosis. While support and self-help groups can vary greatly, groups share one thing in common, they

are a place where people can share personal stories, express emotions, and be heard in an atmosphere of acceptance, understanding, and encouragement."

The support groups are designed to help patients, their families, and caregivers cope with the challenges of a cancer diagnosis. Virtual Support Group offered include: General Cancer Support Group, 1st Wednesday of each month, from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; Partners in Caregiving, 2nd Wednesday of each month, from 5 - 6:30 p.m.; Expressive Writing through Cancer, 3rd Wednesday of each month, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Breast Cancer Support Group, 4th Wednesday of each month, from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

All meetings are currently held virtually and made possible by funds raised by the Walk of Champions. For more information contact Camille St. Onge, LICSW, Oncology Social Worker by calling 413-239-7239 or by email at ctomagin@gmail.com.



Agawam Public Library announces upcoming events

AGAWAM – The Adult Winter Reading Challenge is ongoing until Feb. 29. There is still time to register with Beanstack or pick up a paper log and follow along with logging and activities. Each hour read earns readers one raffle ticket and makes them eligible for prizes to be drawn on March 1. Visit our website www.agawam-library.org or call the Information Desk for more information (413) 789-1550 X4.

Adult Game Night will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Light refreshments like cookies, cupcakes, and juices will be available. This is a drop-in event for 18+ interested in socializing over board games and snacks. There will be games available, but feel free to bring another choice.

Afternoon Tea & Trivia will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m.

Evening Tea & Trivia will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. Come with a team or come alone for some tea and a

fun time matching wits. Prizes are awarded for the winning teams. Please register online or by calling the Information Desk.

Enjoy tea and sweet treats, good conversation and the movie that follows the Crawley Family on their adventure to the South of France. Dress up is optional, but fascinators are encouraged. The event will take place on Monday, Feb. 12 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Refreshments for this event are made possible by the Agawam Center Library Association. Please register as space is limited.

APL will host Sourdough Brandon on Thursday, Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. Brandon Cochran will show the audience everything they need to know on how to build, maintain, and store a sourdough starter.

Patrons will even leave with a piece of the sourdough starter. This event is sponsored by the Agawam Center Library Association. Please register for this adult event.

If patrons are curious about eBooks or a free alternative to Audible, come learn how to use Libby. Patrons will be shown how to find and borrow eBooks and audiobooks. Please bring a smart device and/or an e-Reader to the event. Patrons will also need your library card and your PIN/password to set up Libby, so make sure to have those ready to go in advance. The Library Tech Help sessions will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. Both sessions require registration and will be held in the Clini Community Room.

The virtual author series continues with a great line up this month. Popular Rom-Com Author, Tessa Bailey will discuss her new sports romance series on Thursday, Feb. 8 at 8 p.m.

Viewers can enjoy a conversation with National Book Award Winning Author Jason Mott on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 4 p.m..

New York Times Bestselling Author

Kim Scott discusses her book *Radical Candor: Be a Kick-Ass Boss Without Losing Your Humanity* on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. Please visit the website to register for any or all of these virtual author talks. <https://library.org/agawamlibrary>

Adult Craft Night returns on Monday, Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Decorate a ceramic mug with a heart-shaped theme, an initial or just beautiful artwork using oil-based permanent markers. All materials will be provided. This event is sponsored by the Agawam Center Library Association. Please register as supplies are limited for this event. The Agawam Library will be closed Monday, February 19 for President's Day. Visitors are welcome at the library Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To register for our events, please visit our website www.agawamlibrary.org or call 413 789-1550 X4.

Winter reading challenge to be held at library

AGAWAM – Did you know kids and teens can enter to win prizes just by logging reading online? The Agawam Public Library's annual Winter Reading Challenge goes through Feb. 29. During this time kids and teens can log days that they read on the library's Beanstack website found at, agawam-library.beanstack.org.

On March 4, the prize winners will be announced, so be sure to log all the reading and earn raffle tickets before that day. For more information about this program or other programs at the Agawam Library go to our website agawamlibrary.org or call 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Free financial seminar Feb. 15

WEST SPRINGFIELD – On Thursday, Feb. 15, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity will host a free financial seminar for the community.

Sue Zielenski of Bank of America will present the topic: "Creating a Savings and Spending Plan" at the Bank of America Financial Center at 225 Memorial Ave. Class will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. There is no cost to attend, but participants are required to sign up. Every registered guest is entered for a chance to win the door prize. To sign up, visit <https://bit.ly/3On4saZ>.

"With the ease of digital wallets and debit cards, it's easy to lose track of your spending," said Olga Calligos, GSHFH Homeowner Programs coordinator. "I think it's really important to have a game plan every month to make sure you're on the right track towards your financial goals."

To keep up-to-date about future Habitat events, visit habitatspringfield.org/upcoming-events.

For more information, contact Olga Calligos, Homeowner Programs coordinator, at calligos@habitatspringfield.org or (413) 739-5503 x1003.



Tickets for a Valentine's dinner available

AGAWAM – Save the date of Saturday, Feb. 17, for a Valentine's Italian night dinner at Agawam Congregational Church.

The spaghetti and meatballs dinner with a salad and cupcake dessert will be held beginning at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$14 with a deadline of Wednesday, Feb. 14 at noon to purchase tickets. Take-out orders will be available, as well. Contact the church at 413-786-7111 or office@agawamcong.com. The church office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Agawam Congregational Church, located in the town's Historic District, is handicapped accessible with a large, well-lit parking lot.

Agawam Day in Florida on March 6

ST.PETERSBURG, FLA – Agawam Day will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, from 10 a.m. to noon, at Fort De Soto National Park, shelter #14, in St. Petersburg.

Agawam Day in Florida has been held on the first Wednesday of March since 1981. Each year 40 to 60 former Agawam

residents join together for a reunion of friends and family for a picnic, raffles, beautiful scenery, hugs and to share old memories.

For more information contact Hank Drewnowski by cell phone call or text at 860-462-7273 or by email at hdrew2452@gmail.com.

Section of mall set to be 'renewed'

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Mall, Western Massachusetts' largest shopping destination, announced today more than 10% of the center's square footage is set to be remodeled or renewed in the first quarter of 2024.

Over 56,000 sq. ft. of the shopping center is planned to undergo construction ranging from store refreshes to new openings.

"Our local and national partners' reinvestments in our center, and in our community, indicate the strength and longevity of retail and their commitment to our

shoppers," stated Holyoke Mall General Manager, Lynn Gray.

Brands extending their leases represent more than 106,000 sq. ft. and showcase Holyoke Mall's impact within the region with their multi-year investments.

The 1.6 million sq. ft. shopping center opened their fourth full-service restaurant, Monsoon Bistro, in January and is set to open two additional food concepts, Terra Nossa Brazilian Grill and Milkshake Lovers, later this spring.

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 \$225, 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.

OPPORTUNITY TO EARN SOME ADDED \$ IN YOUR POCKET

Local CPA firm seeks one to aid them during the upcoming tax season between February and April as a **DATA INPUT TECHNICIAN**

Ideal candidate could be from the following background: Student, Retired - fully or partially, Unemployed currently

It's not necessary to be an accountant. We'll provide training and support to aid you. One only needs to have a willingness to learn and some computer experience.

Interested candidates should contact:

Tom D Fielding, CPA

46 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA (Near the Big-E)
Telephone 786-5982 or e/mail to tdfcapc@comcast.net



LEGAL NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of Corporators of Country Bank for Savings will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at 420 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA for the election of Corporators, Trustees and any other business as required by law or the Bylaws of Country Bank for Savings.

Dawn Piechota
Clerk of the Corporation

Live Onsite & Webcast Public Auction

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH AT 10:30 A.M. ET

ASSIGNEE'S SALE

FURNITURE STORE

• FURNITURE INVENTORY & ACCESSORIES •

Beautiful Rooms
ACCESSORIES & FINE FURNITURE

42 MYRON STREET WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA
TO BE SOLD ON THE PREMISES AND BY LIVE INTERNET BIDDING



NATIONAL BRANDS INCLUDING: BarcaLounger; Bernhardt Furniture; Bradington Young; Braxton Culler; Caracole Furniture; Charleston Forge; CTH Sherrill Occasional; Hickory White; Hooker; John Richard; King Hickory; Sam Moore; Sherrill and Many More • **Consisting of:** Sofas • Sectionals • Recliners • Swivel Rockers • Occasional Chairs • Ottomans • Cocktail, End & Console Tables • Entertainment Centers • Bookcases • Desks • Dining Room Sets • Buffet • Mirrors • Floor & Table Lamps • Chandeliers • Bar Stools • Framed Paintings & Prints • Wall Décor • Clocks • Knick Knacks • Bowls • Jars • Trays • Throw Pillows • TCL 55" TV • Many More Items Too Numerous To Mention •

LIVE ONSITE & LIVE ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE AT WWW.BIDSPOTTER.COM SEND FOR DESCRIPTIVE BROCHURE or VISIT our WEBSITE at WWW.POSNIK.COM

SALE PER ORDER OF GARY M. WEINER, ESQ.
OF THE FIRM OF WEINER LAW FIRM, P.C., 1441 MAIN STREET, SUITE 610, SPRINGFIELD, MA
ASSIGNEE FOR THE BENEFIT OF CREDITORS

TERMS OF SALE: 25% DEPOSIT CASH, WIRE TRANSFER OR CERTIFIED CHECK

15% BUYERS PREMIUM APPLIES ON ALL ONSITE PURCHASES

18% BUYERS PREMIUM APPLIES ON ALL ONLINE PURCHASES

OTHER TERMS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT TIME OF SALE

INSPECTIONS: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH – 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. & MORNING OF SALE – 8:30 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M.



West Springfield, MA • Philadelphia, PA
413-733-5238 • 610-853-6655
TOLL FREE 1-877-POSNIK-1 (767-6451)
MA Auc. Lic. #161 • PA Auc. Lic. #AY000241L

www.posnik.com • E-mail: info@posnik.com

Opinion

Guest Column



Will my WEP reduction go away if I continue working?

Dear Rusty

I'm 63 years old and have not yet started my Social Security.

I now work for the State of Illinois and will draw a pension from that state's university system. I don't pay into Social Security from this position and, as a result, my Social Security payment will be reduced. But I have also worked elsewhere and contributed to Social Security for 26 years.

If I retire from the state university and begin drawing my reduced Social Security payment and then work in a different job, which does contribute to SS, will the reduction to my Social Security payment ever be eliminated? Or will I be permanently stuck with the smaller Social Security payment?

Signed Curious Educator

Dear Curious

A rule called the Windfall Elimination Provision will apply to your Social Security benefit because your Illinois state pension was earned without paying into the Social Security program. The basic rule is that anyone with a pension earned without contributing to Social Security and who is also entitled to Social Security benefits, is subject to WEP, which reduces that person's Social Security retirement benefit. It's a law enacted many years ago to equalize how SS benefits are paid to all Social Security beneficiaries.

However, the WEP rules also provide relief for those who have only a small non-covered pension and for those who have separately contributed to Social Security for a lot of years. For example:

The WEP reduction to your SS benefit cannot be more than 50% of your non-covered (IL) pension

The WEP reduction is smaller for each year over 20 years contributing to Social Security from substantial earnings

WEP does not apply to those who have at least 30 years contributing to SS from substantial earnings

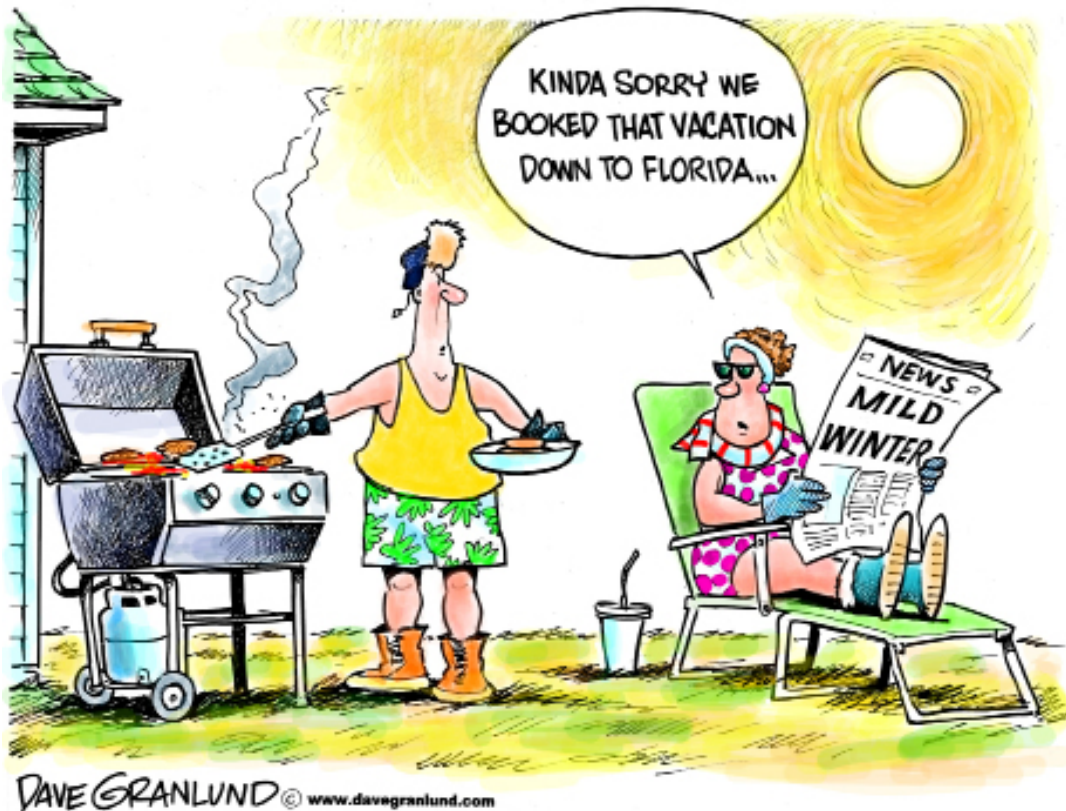
Although you could retire at 63 and collect your pension from the university and also collect your WEP-reduced Social Security, you have something else to consider if you take another job, which pays into Social Security.

Social Security has an annual "earnings test" for those who collect benefits before their Full Retirement Age. The earnings test limits how much you can earn while collecting early SS before they take away some of your benefits. The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320 and, if that is exceeded, you will lose \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If your work earnings substantially exceed the earnings limit, you would likely be temporarily ineligible to receive Social Security benefits. FYI, the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 67.

Without knowing your expected income from a new job, I can't say how much of your SS you would be able to receive, but you can use this as a guide: Social Security will take away benefits equal to half of what you exceed the annual earnings limit by and they typically recover by withholding future benefits.

If 12 months or more of benefits are withheld, you will be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits until your earnings are less or you reach your full retirement age, the earnings test no longer applies once you reach your FRA. So, depending on your expected annual work earnings, you may wish to defer claiming your So-



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

Letters to the Editor

Resident grateful for EMS response

Letter to the Editor

I want to express my gratitude to Dale and Josh on the Agawam EMS team. I called to get help since my 94-year-old Mom had fallen on the bathroom floor and could not get up. It was not a pretty sight. First dispatch was incredible as I said it was not an emergency, she assured me they would help without delay. Josh and Dale were here within minutes fully knowing what they would meet. They were upbeat and took charge without hesitation. They stood her up, even getting her laughing, and got her where I could help. They wanted to wait and get her

back to bed safely too. Before leaving they encouraged me to call them back if I needed help again. What kind of men would help without attitude or unwillingness in that situation? We in Agawam should be proud and grateful that we have men like Josh and Dale in our town. I know I am. Attitude and willingness mean a lot in this day and age when there does not seem to be a lot. I believe Josh and Dale are exemplary individuals who more than deserve to be recognized. Thank you for what you do guys. You do it well.

Jill Lewin
Agawam Resident

Guest Column

Spare the vase this Valentine's Day



My husband gave me a bouquet of roses on the first Valentine's Day we spent together. They were beautiful in the vase, but I felt bad that he had spent the money he did for the gift. Being in the business, I told him how much roses are marked up because of the holiday.

It's a supply and demand thing mostly, and tradition to give them of course, but wouldn't it be nice if we received a gift that kept on giving? One solution would be to preorder your sweetheart a rose bush through a mail-order nursery.

What excitement it will bring when it arrives in springtime, and then imagine the delight when it blooms year after year. If your interest is piqued, then read on to learn about proper planting techniques and basic rose culture, so that you (or your sweetheart!) will be a successful rose grower.

Rose bushes will be shipped once it is deemed safe from freezing temperatures. In my experience, mail-order roses can arrive anywhere from the end of April through the end of May.

First off, unpack the rose and soak its roots in room temperature water for at least one hour (and up to twelve). This is necessary to rehydrate roots that may have dried out in the shipping process.

Once rehydrated, the rose is ready for a quick pruning. Carefully snip back any broken or crossing canes.

A rose bush 8-12" tall at planting will start out nice and bushy. If you need to trim back canes that are longer than that, prune back to an out-facing bud, that way growth will be directed out and not towards the plant's center.

Consider placement carefully. To bloom their best, roses need, at the very least, six

hours of sunshine.

Morning sun is preferred, so that dewy foliage will dry quickly, diminishing the chances of foliar disease such as black spot or powdery mildew. Soil should drain well and be rich in nutrients or amended to that end.

The planting hole should be prepared while the rose bush is soaking. Dig a hole about twice the diameter of the plant's roots, roughly one and a half feet by one and a half feet.

As long as the soil removed from the hole is decent, in other words, not all sand or clay, 50% of it can be mixed with well-rotted manure (fresh will burn!) or cured compost, and used as back fill. First, take a small amount of the mixture and make a mound in the hole for the plant to sit on and the roots to spread down.

In our locale, and anywhere that temperatures dip below 0°F, the graft union (the bump at the plants base), if there is one, should be planted two inches below the soil surface. With that in mind, position the rose on the mound at the proper depth and begin to refill the hole with soil, a third of the hole at a time, firming as you go.

Once the rose bush has been planted, water it well at the base of the plant (a couple gallons at least). If you find that the water isn't sinking in, but running away, dam up a couple inches of soil about a foot away from the base of the plant to act like a basin.

Water is crucial at this stage; never let a newly planted rose dry out. A three inch layer of bark mulch or cocoa bean hulls can be applied around the rose to reduce moisture loss and discourage weed competition.

Avoid fertilizing until the rose has broken dormancy and is growing vigorously. Use half strength fertilizer and only do so until mid-July so that succulent growth will have a chance to harden before cold weather hits.

This way your rose will be less prone to winter kill. I do not provide any winter cover for my roses.

There will likely be a few branch tips that suffer winter kill regardless. Those I prune back in springtime when the roses start to leaf out.



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

Editor

Gregory Scibelli
aan@turley.com

Subscriptions

cgriswold@turley.com

\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand \$1.00

WEB

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

@AgawamAdvertiserNews

The Agawam Advertiser News is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

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.

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS TEAM



EDITOR/SPORTS
Greg Scibelli
aan@turley.com
sports@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

The Agawam Advertiser News (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



@AgawamAdvertiserNews

WEB

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Opinion



I received an email from a birder in Brimfield, who sends bird updates on a regular basis. He reported an acquaintance in Hardwick have five fox sparrows visiting their yard this winter. He said, "Lucky them, I only see one or two fox sparrows in the yard during migration and didn't see any this year."

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow about 7 inches in length. It has rufous streaking and a gray head and back. The tail and rump are reddish brown and the underparts whitish with brown streaking. There is a central, irregular shaped dot on the breast

Like many sparrows, it feeds on the ground eating seeds, fruits and insects. It jumps forward and back pulling up ground debris to uncover food beneath. It may come to feeders where seed is scattered on the ground.

Fox sparrows inhabit deciduous or coniferous woods, brushy areas and wood edges. Their song is a short series of clear, melodious whistles.

The female lays four to six light blue green eggs in a cup like nest of grasses, lichens and leaves lined with hair fur and rootlets. The nest is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "[I] wanted to pass on some of my backyard action this winter.



Fox sparrow

I was surprised to see five or six cowbirds along with a solitary red wing black-bird last week." He has a lot more juncos around with the white throated sparrows. He said chickadees and nuthatches and the titmice population is down a bit He had a few starlings that stop by now and then along with cedar waxwings. He has not seen as many wild turkeys this year.

Golden crowned kinglet

A Brookfield resident emailed two photos of a golden crowned kinglet he took on Saturday, Jan. 27. He said, "Walking into my home, I spotted this tiny bird at the door." Tiny is an apt description of this bird as it is only 3 1/2 inches long.

More Brimfield birds

A frequent emailer said he read about the sighting of bluebirds and grackles in this column. He wrote, "Coincidentally we had a lone grackle in the yard last week. It showed up for a couple of days. I thought it was unusual to see just one grackle, they are most often seen in a group especially this time of year."

The Brimfield resident said, "When I mentioned to a friend from Belchertown that I had seen a grackle at the feeders he



Bluebird

mentioned that he had a group of about 30 grackles visit his feeder briefly one day last week."

He said three days ago "I noticed a male bluebird at the feeders. It has visited daily since first being seen. The bird is feeding on suet cakes and a 'log' that is made of seeds, fruit and meal worms."

He counted over 70 juncos and four white-throated sparrows in the yard. He recently had three starlings, who seemed to like a feeder containing suet pellets. He said he rarely sees starlings at his feeders. He removed the feeder to deter the voracious eating starlings.

Bluebirds

This seems to be the year for flocks of bluebirds showing up at feeders. On Friday, Jan. 26 six or eight male and female bluebirds were at my suet cake, which contained fruits. I removed the ice from a small dish like feeder, I use for mealworms, grape jelly or orange halves. The bluebirds ate all the mealworms and I



Bluebird

filled it again. They have been hanging around daily and I put out mealworms twice a day.

Tuesday, I looked out the window and saw several bluebirds perched on my car. One occupied a side mirror, another was on the roof and two on the hood by the windshield wipers. I think they may have been drinking the water from the melting snow on the car.

Later, when I looked to see if they were still there, a mourning dove was perched by the wiper blade.

Large flock of robins

A North Brookfield resident, who lives on Lake Lashaway, emailed on Friday, Jan. 17 she had a flock of 30 or more robins zoom in to the neighborhood.

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 or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Schools & Youth

President's List at Dean College

FRANKLIN – Emily Ball of Feeding Hills has earned a place on the President's List for the fall 2023 semester.

Students named to the President's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

WPI fall 2023 Dean's List

WORCESTER – The following students were named to WPI's fall 2023 Dean's List. These students are from Feeding Hills.

Margaret Johnston, class of 2025, majoring in Civil Engineering.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

I prune just past the damage, at a leaf bud. Besides that, and general shaping, the only other pruning I do is deadheading.

Spent blooms should be removed from rose bushes to direct energy away from seed production and back to flower production. Where the cut is made depends on the type of rose that you have.

Over the last decade, tremendous gains have been made in rose breeding, resulting rose bushes that blend well into landscape plantings and require less maintenance for

the homeowner. I still enjoy my heirlooms, and grow the Rugosa to remind me of the beach.

Still others prefer climbers or hybrid teas. Whatever your sweetheart may fancy, indulge this Valentine's Day in a gift that will keep on giving!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

SECURITY ■ from page 4

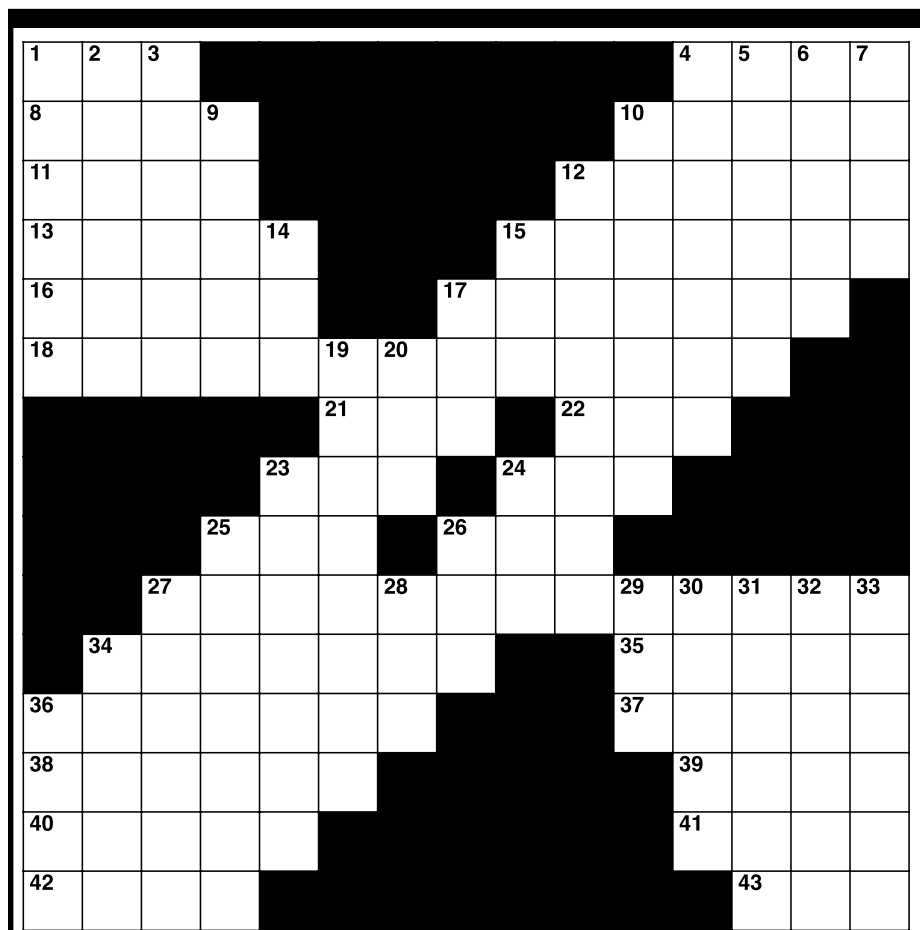
cial Security until you either earn less or reach 67 years of age.

If you already have 26 years contributing to Social Security from "substantial earnings," your WEP reduction will already be mitigated and any additional years of substantial earnings from which SS payroll taxes are deducted will result in an even smaller WEP reduction.

If you can achieve 30 years of SS contributions from substantial work earnings, WEP will no longer apply. So, you may not be "stuck with" the WEP reduction permanently, but you will need to contact Social Security to request that your WEP reduction amount be reviewed in light of any

additional years of SS-covered earnings. This should be done after you submit your income taxes each year you have additional SS-covered earnings.

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. One point south of due east
- 4. Coagulated blood
- 8. Fortifying ditch
- 10. Devotee of Hinduism
- 11. Trunk of a tree
- 12. Bank note
- 13. Capital of Guam
- 15. Study again
- 16. Covered with hoarfrost
- 17. Opening
- 18. Legendary Rolling Stone
- 21. Stray
- 22. Computer storing system
- 23. Signal
- 24. Pitching
- 25. Human being
- 26. Malaysian isthmus
- 27. The "Blonde Bombshell"
- 34. A gland
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Endangered
- 37. Three-dimensional
- 38. In a way, precipitated
- 39. God associated with dissolution
- 40. Blemished
- 41. Flow or leak slowly
- 42. Disco legends The Bee ___
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to board
- 2. Get down
- 3. Highly seasoned sausage
- 4. First day of month
- 5. Eurasian shrubs
- 6. The organ that bears the ovules of a flower
- 7. Small lake
- 9. Belief
- 10. Sunrooms
- 12. Metric weight unit
- 14. Vasopressin
- 15. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 17. One-time family room staple
- 19. Got back
- 20. Anger
- 23. Sang merrily
- 24. Sea eagle
- 25. Military men
- 26. Kilo yard (abbr.)
- 27. Found in the sea
- 28. Protects from weather
- 29. Type of medicine
- 30. City along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Lack of disunity
- 36. One-time European Commission officer

Habitat for Humanity embraces energy-savings initiatives

By Brandice J. O'Brien

Marketing and Communications Manager,
Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Energy savings and green products are all the rage right now. Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity, or GSHFH, is working tirelessly to provide their homeowners and prospective partner families with environmentally-friendly products that help them save on utility costs, while keeping expenses low. That's not an easy feat considering inflation and limited resources. Yet, the non-profit organization is able to accomplish this achievement through fundraisers, donations and grants.

Sometimes, it's the small changes that make the biggest difference. GSHFH is now incorporating electric mini split heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems to avoid using fossil fuels. In some instances, based on location and home design, tankless water heaters or air-sourced water heaters are installed.

"Our goal is to provide our partner families with an energy-friendly home that will allow them to save money, while protecting their investment for many years to come," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. "We want them to pass their home to the next generation of family members and provide them with a solid foundation for a better, more stable future."

Energy-friendly products range from solar panel installation, the use of Low-E glass windows, to a plant-based fiber insulation called HempWool; light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures, and the affiliate's first-ever insulated concrete form (ICF) home.

Solar panel installation can help a family significantly cut their electric bill and the use of Low-E glass windows lets in natural light while reflecting inside heat back into the home during the winter months. During the summer, outside heat is reflected away from the home.

LED fixtures reduce energy usage and programmable thermostats provide heating and cooling only during the times it was most needed. Plus, Energy-Star appliances, which are rated for maximum energy efficiency and cost savings, are used.

HempWool is a US Department of Agriculture-certified bio-based insulation that is naturally mold and pest resistant. It's also resistant of volatile organic compounds and toxins. It's easy to install, doesn't sag,



Dean student working with rebar at Chestnut.



WNEU Pharm Club putting in HempWool at Holyoke.

and like the Low-E glass, lowers the energy bills for heat in the winter, cooling in the summer, and general comfort.

"It's a lot less itchy to handle," said Tom Eisenman, GSHFH volunteer.

Additionally, new construction projects are built to meet the Specialized Opt-in Energy Code of Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code. The code sets significantly higher requirements for heating and cooling loads, which can be responsible for 60% of a building's energy use.

In November 2022, GSHFH began its most notable energy-efficient project yet: an ICF home. A dedication ceremony celebrating the completion of construction will be held at 11am on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 360 Chestnut St. in Holyoke. The project is a collaboration between the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association and Habitat for Humanity International to build 50 ICF homes across the country.

The insulated concrete forms are hollow

foam blocks that are stacked into the shape of exterior walls of a building, reinforced with steel rebar, and filled with concrete.

"Doing something different in construction is not easy," said Gregg Lewis, chief communications officer at NRMCA. "Construction is hard enough when you're doing the same thing day in and day out. Try to take on a new way of building and it's really a huge deal."

ICF combines one of the finest insulating materials – expanded polystyrene (EPS) with one of the strongest structural building materials – steel reinforced concrete. The result is a wall system of unmatched comfort, energy efficiency and noise reduction.

"The house will be quiet, even when it's windy and stormy outside and it'll stay nice and toasty inside," said Steve Bogle, an Integraspec local distributor.

Integraspec is the brand name of the foam blocks. Steve and his wife Cheryl, also

an Integraspec distributor, worked with GSHFH in the early stages.

Unlike a traditional wood frame house with sheathing, an ICF home offers several additional benefits to the builder and homeowner. The foam panels are made from recycled material. ICF walls do not off-gas, whereas conventional walls sheathed with oriented strand board (OSB) off-gas through glues and resin. ICF walls are resistant to mold and rot, which provides a better living environment for those suffering from allergens or asthma. Also, due to the rising cost of lumber, this method significantly reduces the need for wood for framing and sheathing the exterior and less trees are cut down.

"We're excited to have built a more energy-efficient, affordable home for one of our Habitat families," Aimee said.

To see pictures from the construction phase of the ICF build, visit habitatspringfield.org/Holyoke.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

USDA INSP. FROZEN BABY BACK PORK RIBS **\$3.66** lb

USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE LINKS **\$2.33** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS..... **\$2.19** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED MEATBALLS 5 LB BAG..... **\$12.99** lb

Lenten Specials

USDA INSP. FROZEN 16/20 COUNT SHRIMP 1 LB BAG **\$6.88** ea

USDA INSP. FRESH OCEAN GOURMET STUFFED CLAMS **\$6.99** lb

SLICED IN OUR DELI TGI FRIDAY'S STUFFED JALAPENO PEPPERS 8 OZ... **\$3.49** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPLOIN WHOLE OR HALF **\$5.87** lb CUT FREE

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN WHOLE PORK BUTT **\$2.09** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN TRY SOMETHING NEW! CHULETA KAN KAN **\$3.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH TOP ROUND ROAST or LONDON BROIL **\$4.48** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST **\$1.77** 10 LB BAG

BIG SPECIALS for THE BIG GAME

USDA INSP. WHOLE PEELED BEEF TENDERLOIN FOR YOUR SWEETHEART **\$8.88** lb
CUSTOM CUT FOR FREE.....

USDA INSP. FROZEN IQF CHICKEN PARTY WINGS 4 LB BAG..... **\$7.99** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN BREADED PRE-BROWNE CHICKEN TENDERS 5 LB BAG **\$13.99** lb

12 CT KING'S HAWAIIAN ROLLS **\$3.99** ea

USDA INSP. FRESH HILLSHIRE FARMS BEEF KIELBASA 12 OZ..... **\$4.99** lb

USDA INSP. SUPERIOR MINI ECLAIRS 5 CT .. **\$2.99** lb

90 Meat Outlet

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288
www.90meat.com

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

SALE DATES: 2/8/24-2/14/24 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

ANGELA'S HAIR SALON

778 Springfield Street, Agawam
413-786-6988

WALK-INS WELCOME

Tues. Fri. \$5 eyebrow wax after 5 pm

MEN • WOMEN • CHILDREN	Haircut	Perm or Color SAVE
ALL HAIRCUTS \$18 <small>(Free wash with every haircut)</small>	\$2 OFF	\$5 OFF
HIGHLIGHTS/COLOR \$45 PERMS \$60 NAILS \$10+	W/COUPON	W/COUPON
Tuesday Senior Discount \$15	WITH THIS AD. EXP. 3/31/24	

CENTER STREET AUTO PARTS OF CHICOPEE, INC.

We will pay you top dollar for your car AND we will pick it up! Call us for a price!

- Top-Of-The-Line Auto Salvaging Services
- First-Rate Used Auto Parts
- Top-Grade Auto Body Parts
- Sell Your Old or Used Car to Us

"Serving all of Western Mass."

centerstreetautoparts.com
 651 Center St., Chicopee 413-733-2778

\$\$\$ Money on the Spot for All Vehicles

SPORTS

Girls suffer setback at Monson

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

MONSON – After winning their first eight games away from the friendly confines of Clifford P. Kibbe Gymnasium, the Agawam girls' varsity basketball team hit a speed bump in a non-league game at Monson High School.

Led by senior guard Aniah Myrie and junior forward Olivia Chrzan, the Lady Mustangs defeated the Brownies, 41-26, before a large gathering at Michael J. Kane Gymnasium, last Monday night (Jan.29).

"We just didn't play very well from the opening whistle to the end of tonight's game," said Agawam head coach Tim Murphy. "We've been shooting the ball very well on the road so far this season, but Monson played very well in their home gym."

Agawam (10-4) also didn't play very well in their previous visit to Monson, as they lost, 46-25, at the beginning of the 2019-20 regular season.

While it was their first road loss

of the 2023-23 regular season, the Brownies had already clinched a berth in the Division 2 state tournament.

The Brownies, who were ranked 46th in the MIAA Division 2 power rankings, are also trying to qualify for the Western Mass. Class A tournament for the first time since the postseason tournament format was changed three years ago.

"We've already qualified for the states, but we probably won't finish in the top 32, so tonight's loss isn't really going to hurt us very much in terms of the power rankings," Murphy added. "Things just didn't go our way tonight."

The top 32 teams in each of the five divisions automatically qualifies for the state tournament. The other teams like Agawam, who finish the regular season with a .500 or better record, will also qualify for the state tournament.

Even though the Mustangs had a 5-7 overall record following the 15-point home win, they were ranked 13th in the Division 5 power rankings.

"We've faced a lot of higher division teams this year," said first-year Monson head coach Walt Jackson. "This win should help us in the power rankings."

Monson and Hoosac Valley are the only Division 5 teams who are members of the Suburban League. The other five Suburban League teams are either in Division 2,3, or 4.

Chrzan scored 14 of her game-high 22 points during the second half. She also dominated defensively.

"Coaching a talented basketball player like Olivia is a treasure," Jackson said. "I'm teaching her some new skills, but I'm also learning things from her as well."

Chrzan and Myrie (14 points) combined to score 36 points against the Brownies. Freshman guard Chelsea Hull scored the other five points for the home team.

Chrzan also achieved a milestone. She became Monson's All-Time leading girl's scorer with 1,362 career points moving past



Isabella Laprise looks for a path to the hoop.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

BASKETBALL | page 8

Boys basketball team suffers pair of defeats

AGAWAM – Last week, Agawam suffered a pair of defeats against Berkshire teams, losing to Pittsfield and Taconic.

On Friday evening, the Brown-

ies lost at home to Taconic High School 78-71. In the loss, Colin Smith led all scorers with 27 points while Elijah Maldonado had 18 points and Melih Tomak

added 14 points.

On the road last Tuesday, Agawam fell to Pittsfield 74-65. The Brownies are now 10-5 with just three games remaining in the

regular season. Agawam has already qualified for the state tournament and also hopes to qualify for Western Mass. at the end of this month.



Sophia Laprise shoots in traffic.



Camryn Saroglou hustles down the lane in the 100 freestyle.



Gabriella Gebo goes for the win in the 200 freestyle.



Hannah Newsome completes a leg of the 200 medley relay.

Girls swimming defeats East Longmeadow

AGAWAM – Depth paid off for Agawam last Friday afternoon at the girls swimming team narrowly got by East Longmead-

ow 88-85. The girls improved to 5-2 on the season with the sectional and state meets looming in the next two weeks.



Donna Carrier competes in the 200 individual medley.



Ellina Michelakis does the 100 fly stroke.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Hannah Solitario takes a shot.

Sports

Modifieds champion plans lengthy 2024 schedule

CHELMSFORD – Modified champion Jon McKennedy announced today that he will drive in over 15 Tour-Type Modified races across the New England region in 2024.

Competing for his own team, McKennedy will mix between Outlaw Open Modified Series races at Thompson Speedway, Open Modified races at Stafford Motor Speedway, select NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour events and a few Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series races to make out a robust calendar for 2024.

“We’re excited to get the ball rolling in our FURY race cars and go chase some trophies,” McKennedy said. “I feel this is a great opportunity for me to go out there and continue to show we can win races. We did have some other opportunities for rides, but felt this was the best route for this season. We have picked some of the higher profile events at my favorite tracks for the 2024 season and feel the competition is going to be stout at all of them.”

A full sponsor lineup for the car and paint scheme will be released in the near future.

McKennedy’s season will begin at Thompson Speedway with the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series during Icebreaker weekend on Saturday, April 7, followed by the Open Modified event at New

Hampshire Motor Speedway’s Northeast Classic on April 13.

He will follow that up with seven more Thompson events during the 2024 season (May 27 - Outlaw Mods, June 13 - Outlaw Mods, June 27 - Outlaw Mods, July 25 - Outlaw Mods, August 7 - Outlaw Mods, August 14 - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour and October 12 - Outlaw Mods). Thompson Speedway will continue to be operated by the American-Canadian Tour and Pro All Star Series for 2024, keeping short track racing alive at the Connecticut oval.

McKennedy will compete at Stafford Motor Speedway for the NAPA Spring Sizzler (April 27-28), Open Modified Mountain Masters (July 17) and the Fall Final with the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series on Sept. 28.

His NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour starts will take place at Monadnock Speedway (May 4 and July 20), Seekonk Speedway (June 1) and New Hampshire Motor Speedway (June 22). McKennedy will compete in the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series at Thompson (April 7), White Mountain Motorsports Park (July 27) and Star Speedway (Sept. 15).

The 2022 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion, McKennedy is no stranger to winning races and championships.

On top of the 2022 title, McKennedy finished second in the 2020 Tour standings driving for Tommy Baldwin Racing. He also picked up his first career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win at Myrtle Beach Speedway in 2018, and has another victory at Claremont Motorsports Park in 2022, which helped lead to his title.

McKennedy is a former ISMA Supermodified champion, 4-time ISMA Star Classic winner, 4-time ISMA Ollie Silva Memorial winner and 4-time Modified Racing Series champion. He has multiple Star Speedway championships to his resume, a North-South Shootout with Tommy Baldwin Racing (2018) and a championship in the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series (2014), along with many karting titles in his early years and additional race wins in multiple divisions. McKennedy was also named the 2016 North East Touring Series driver of the year.

For a full tentative schedule for Jon McKennedy’s 2024 season, see below.

2024 Schedule

Subject To Change

- April 7 - Thompson Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series
- April 13 - New Hampshire Motor Speedway - Open Modifieds
- April 27-28 - Stafford Speedway - NAPA

Spring Sizzler

- May 4 - Monadnock Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour
- May 27 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series
- June 1 - Seekonk Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour
- June 13 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series
- June 22 - New Hampshire Motor Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour
- June 27 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series
- July 17 - Stafford Speedway - Open Modified Mountain Masters
- July 20 - Monadnock Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour
- July 25 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series
- July 27 - White Mountain Motorsports Park - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series
- Aug. 7 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series
- Aug. 14 - Thompson Speedway - NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour
- Sept. 15 - Star Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series
- Sept. 28 - Stafford Speedway - Monaco Modified Tri-Track NAPA Fall Final
- Oct. 12 - Thompson Speedway - Outlaw Open Modified Series

Worcester Railers score win over Trois-Rivières Lions

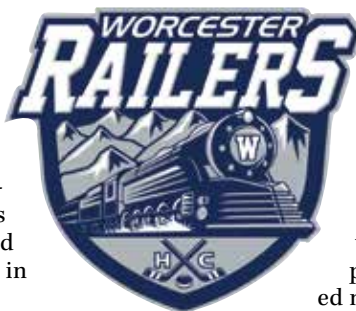
TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC – The Worcester Railers HC (20-18-3-2, 45pts) took down the Trois-Rivières Lions (19-22-2-2, 42pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 6-4 in front of a crowd of 1,819 at the Colisée Vidéotron. The Railers are back at the DCU Center against the Maine Mariners on Friday, February 9th at 7:05pm.

Blade Jenkins (3-2-5) struck first tonight for Worcester, as he put the Railers ahead immediately following the power play. The Railers followed up with three more in the second from Anthony Callin (1-1-2), Trevor Cosgrove (1-2-3), and Jenkins’ second of the night. Trois-Rivières were good for two in the second as Justin Ducharme (1-1-2) and Cedric Montminy (1-0-1) each scored goals to make it a 4-2 game heading into the third. There were four goals in the third, including two straight to open the period for Trois-Rivières from Nicolas Guay (1-1-2) and Al-

ex-Olivier Voyer (1-1-2) to tie the game 4-4. Jack Quinlivan (1-0-1) scored the game-winner after coming out of the penalty box before Blade Jenkins secured the win with his third goal of the night and second straight hat trick in as many nights.

Like Friday’s game, it was another dominant first period from Worcester. The Railers outshot the Lions 16-7 through the first 20 minutes, highlighted by Blade Jenkins’ (18th) fourth goal of the weekend. Neither team scored the rest of the frame as the Railers went into the second period with a 1-0 lead.

Scoring opened wide in the second period with five goals combined between the two teams. First it was Anthony Callin (8th) with a loose puck in front sup-



plied by Blade Jenkins to grow Worcester’s lead to 2-0. The Lions cut back into their deficit with Justin Ducharme’s (12th) tally as he swept up a rebound from in front of Muse and tucked it along the far post. The Railers responded midway through the period with a pair of goals back-to-back.

Trevor Cosgrove let one go from the blueline that Vrbetic never saw to make it 3-1 Worcester. Jenkins followed up with his second of the afternoon on a break down the left wing to give Worcester their largest advantage of the night at 4-1. The Lions got one back just before the end of the period when Cedric Montminy scored to make it 4-2 heading into the third.

The Railers killed off a Jack Quinlivan

high-sticking penalty to start the third before Ryan Verrier was sent to the penalty box for a delay-of-game call. From there, Trois-Rivières kept their foot on the pedal. Nicolas Guay (2nd) scored on the power-play followed by Alex-Olivier Voyer (12th) to complete the Lions comeback and tie the game 4-4. With the game tied heading into the final five minutes of the third, Quinlivan (2nd) was sprung out of the penalty box and muscled his way around a Lions defender to beat Vrbetic and put Worcester ahead for good, 5-4. With the net empty and the Lions looking to tie the game, Blade Jenkins (18th) was given the puck in the neutral zone by Anthony Repaci, where he strode into the attacking end and scored his third goal of the game. Jenkins is the first player in Worcester Professional Hockey history to score hat tricks in back-to-back games, scoring one on Friday night, Worcester’s first of the season.

VF AUTO
AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE INC

443 Springfield St. • Agawam
Monday – Friday 7:30 – 5PM
413-789-2181
www.vfauto.com

Local News.
Local Deals!

Agawam Advertiser News
aan@turley.com • 413.283.8393
agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE.

WARRANTY
3 Years / 36,000 Mile

From a basic oil change to complete car repair services, our professional staff can handle all of your needs!

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR EXPERTS
WE FIX EVERYTHING!

MOTORCYCLE SERVICE.

We can handle all of your motorcycle’s maintenance & tire needs, including MA State Inspections

*Inspections coming soon

AUTOMOTIVE SALES.

Preowned vehicles you can trust! Financing available.

Value & Friendly service is in our name!

FREE Wi-Fi • Shuttle Service • Financing Available • Rental Cars Available • State of the art equipment

E	B	S							C	L	O	T					
M	O	A	T						S	A	I	V	A				
B	O	L	E						D	O	L	L	A	R			
A	G	A	N	A					R	E	L	E	A	R	N		
R	I	M	E	D					V	A	C	A	N	C	Y		
K	E	I	T	H	R	I	C	H	A	R	D	S					
					E	R	R		G	I	S						
					C	U	E		E	R	A						
					M	A	N		K	R	A						
					M	A	R	I	L	Y	N	M	O	N	R	O	E
					P	A	R	O	T	I	D		T	E	A	L	S
					P	E	R	I	L	E	D		C	U	B	I	C
					R	A	I	N	E	D				S	I	V	A
					A	C	N	E	D					S	E	E	P
					G	E	E	S						S	S	E	

Sports

Disciplined game nets win for Springfield Thunderbirds

HARTFORD, CT - The Springfield Thunderbirds (21-19-3-2) went on two separate runs of three straight goals to defeat the Hartford Wolf Pack (23-13-5-0) by a final score of 6-3 on Saturday night inside the XL Center.

While the scuffling Springfield power play would not get the credit for the game's opening goal, they were responsible for the offensive possession that led to it. Jakub Vrana found his way to a soft space at the top of the right circle, where Hugh McGing located him for a one-time blast past Dylan Garand's glove at 9:05. Vrana's seventh goal of the season made it 1-0, and the T-Birds offense was far from finished.

Just 1:54 after Vrana's tally, a misplay of the puck in neutral ice sprung Ryan Suzuki on a clean breakaway. Suzuki perfectly picked the lower corner over Garand's

blocker, making it 2-0 at 10:59.

Then it was Vrana's turn to join the breakaway game, as he, too, beat Garand on the stick side off a stretch pass from Mikhail Abramov, making it 3-0 at 13:59.

Brennan Othmann took it upon himself to give his team a spark, as the Wolf Pack rookie dropped the mitts with ex-Hartford blueliner Wyatt Kalynuk at 16:40 of the first. Kalynuk, unfortunately, received a game misconduct for removing his elbow pads prior to the fight. Just 24 seconds later, the scrap paid dividends for the Pack as Alex Belzile crashed the paint and cashed in with a backhand poke through Malcolm Subban to make it a 3-1 score after 20 minutes. Subban was flawless in turning aside 14 of 15 Wolf Pack shots in the first.

As the second began, it became evident that Othmann's fight lit a spark in the Hartford bench. Just 55 seconds into

period two, Ryder Korczak found a loose puck in a four-man scrum outside the blue paint and found Brandon Scanlin for a one-time shot through Subban to make it a 3-2 game.

Then at 2:46, Korczak was in the middle of things again, driving a puck to the net, where towering Matt Rempe rammed home the rebound, getting Hartford back to even in not even six minutes of game action.

Springfield utilized its timeout and was able to stabilize defensively. With just under seven minutes left in the period, rookie Zach Dean came up with his signature play of the season. The rookie centerman beautifully toe-dragged the puck from the left circle to walk around a defender before elevating a backhand shot over Garand's glove at 13:47, giving Springfield the lead back at 4-3 on his first goal in 13 games.

Springfield's well-disciplined night carried through all 60 minutes, as the T-Birds did not allow Hartford's fourth-ranked power play any chances all evening. At 7:54 of the third period, captain Matthew Peca added to the lead again with a wrist shot that ricocheted off Garand high into the air and bounced over the goal line to make it 5-3.

The insurance goal proved to be more than enough, as the Wolf Pack could not find a way to get one through Subban and the defensive front of the T-Birds. Will Bitten added his 10th of the season into an empty net at 18:08 with McGing tallying a third assist on the game's final goal.

The T-Birds get the All-Star break to get rest before their next contest on Saturday, Feb. 10 for Ice-O-Topes Night at the Mass-Mutual Center against the Hershey Bears. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m.

BASKETBALL | from page 7

Angie Arbour (1,352 career points) who graduated in 1993.

Chrzan is now chasing Mike Sweeney, who's currently the school's all-time leading scorer with 1,456 points. Chrzan and Sweeney, who has held the All-Time scoring record since 1981, are cousins.

"My next goal is to become the school's all-time leading scorer," said Chrzan after she scored her 1,000 career point as a sophomore. "If it ever does happen, I'm hoping that my cousin will be able to come to that game."

Chrzan made three free throws and a hit short jumper during the first eight minutes of last Monday's game. Myrie also scored an inside hoop following a steal, which helped the Lady Mustangs build a 7-3 lead entering the second stanza.

The Brownies only points of the first quarter was a 3-pointer by junior guard Marlee Montagna (team-leading 6 points).

With 2:15 remaining in the second quarter, Hull buried a 3-pointer from the right side giving her team a 16-8 advantage.

It was the Lady Mustangs final points of the opening half.

Agawam came storming back with back-to-back inside hoops from junior center Mia Canavan (4 points) and junior forward

Emma LaCresse (2 points). Another Montagna 3-pointer closed the gap to 16-15 at halftime.

The Lady Mustangs head coach wasn't very happy heading into the locker room.

"I just told the girls at halftime that we needed to play better basketball in the sec-

ond half," Jackson said. "We responded and we played much better at the start of the third quarter.

The Lady Mustangs built a double digit lead (29-17) with the help of a 13-2 run during the first four minutes of the third quarter. Myrie scored six of those points

with the help of two 3-pointers. Chrzan added five points, and Hull hit a jumper in the lane.

Chrzan scored seven more points during the fourth quarter and Myrie buried another 3-pointer, as the Lady Mustangs celebrated their fourth home win of the regular season.



Mia Canavan goes for a rebound ahead of an opponent.



Marlee Montagna tries to overcome an opponent and shoot.



Katelyn Cleavall takes a mid-range shot.

Public Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA on **Monday, February 26, 2024 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of Recai Bayram, who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances Ch. 180, Sections 17 and 8.1 to allow for the keeping of hens at the premises identified as 31 Reed Street.

Doreen A. Prouty
Chairperson
Zoning Board of Appeals
02/01, 02/08/2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Hampden, s.s. TRIAL COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 2379CV-00383 CHARLENE DEGRAY AND TOD A. DEGRAY Plaintiffs
ETHEL E. (SMITH) SLATER, deceased, her

heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest, et als THERESA (SMITH) MAY COOK, deceased, her heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest WILLIAM I COOK, and/or his heirs, assigns, and successors in interest Defendants

This case came on to be heard upon the motion of the Plaintiffs, praying for an Order of Notice and thereupon consideration thereof, it is

Ordered and Adjudged that an Order of Notice issue to said Defendant, THERESA (SMITH) MAY COOK, deceased, her heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest, and to said Defendant, WILLIAM I. COOK, and/or his heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest by publishing an attested copy of this order once each week for three consecutive weeks in the Agawam Advertiser, a newspaper published in the Town of Agawam at least fourteen (14) days before the day of March 7th next, and that said defendants and/or their heirs, devisees, assigns, and successors in interest do cause their written appearance to be entered and their written

answers or other lawful leadings to be filed in the office of the Clerk of said Court at Springfield in said County of Hampden on or before the said 7th day of March next. If THERESA (SMITH) MAY COOK deceased, her heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest, and WILLIAM I. COOK, and/or his heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13 (a) your answers must state as a counterclaim any claim you have against the Plaintiffs, Charlene DeGray and Tod A. DeGray, which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the Plaintiffs' claim or you will thereafter be barred from making any such claim in any other action.

Entered: 1/20/2024
By the Court:
Manitsas, J.
Clerk/Magistrate

02/08, 02/15, 02/22/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court

**Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P0433EA
Estate of:
Colleen F. Paton
Date of Death: 04/26/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Heather M. Parolo of Agawam, MA and Maura E. Chlebus of Monson, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/08/2024.

This is NOT a hearing

date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 30, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/08/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD18P2155EA
Estate of:
Dorothy Alice Rosati
Date of Death: 06/07/2018
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by John V Rosati of Feeding Hills, MA

requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/01/2024.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: January 26, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
02/08/2024

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

3X SNOWBLOWER for 42" Cub Cadet Tractor includes chains, rear weights, and usage books. Used two times. Paid \$1680. **413-238-5966**.

4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW, 3 sets of tires with rims 15", '94 Jeep Wrangler for parts only. Call **413-967-7118** or **413-658-8513**.

FOR SALE

ANTIQUE ALBANY CUTTER SLEIGH made Binghamton, New York 1882. Excellent original condition for competition, \$3500. Also, 1956 Cub Cadet 154 tractor, 5' mower, great condition, \$3500. **413-289-1039, 413-758-3072..**

ESTATE SALE

HEAVY QUILTED MOVING blankets. **413-238-5966.**

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

CHAIR SEAT WEAVING & refinishing - cane, fiber rush & splint - Classroom instructor, 20+ years experience. Call Walt at **(413)289-6670** for estimate.

CHIMNEY SWEEP AND INSPECTION, chimney liners and repairs. Wood stoves, fireplaces, oil furnace and boiler flues and cleanouts.
CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL!!!
413-282-8181
WESTERNMASSHOME REPAIR@GMAIL.COM

SERVICES

HOME REPAIR & REMODELING for all your interior & exterior needs. Carpentry, woodworking, porches, patios, windows, doors, painting, drywall, siding, landscaping, clean-outs. Competitive pricing, References. Please call Brendan **(413)687-5552**

NAWROCKI HOME IMPROVEMENT
Kitchens, bathrooms, replacement windows & doors, roofing, siding, decks, custom woodworking, drywall. Full insured & registered **413-237-2250** Mark

Read your local newspaper online at www.newspapers.turley.com

2024 TAX TIME

CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES
For Full Accounting & Tax Service
Registered Tax Return Preparer
228 West St., Ware, MA 01082
413-967-8364
Call For An Appointment
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

AJE FINANCIAL SERVICES
588 Center Street
Ludlow, MA 01056
www.ajefinancial.com
(413)589-1671
Personal, Business, Corporate and Partnership Tax Filing
Bookkeeping and Accounting Services
Trusted Experts Since 1995

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States
FAST TAX USA
TAX PREPARATION SERVICE
413-348-2279
IRS Certified Tax Preparers
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.
1622 B North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069
www.FastTax-MA.com
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

TAX-TIME SURVIVAL GUIDE
Call your local Turley Publications sales representative for information and rates on advertising your tax service here!
413-283-8393

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here
CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

DRYWALL AND CEILINGs, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**

HOME REPAIRS AND REMODELING. Quality work. Carpentry, sheetrock, flooring, tile, etc. Fully licensed and insured. Call Chris **413-426-5160** for free estimates.

MEDIATION UNRESOLVED DISPUTE? Try no-risk ZOOM resolution. Pay only if satisfied. Certified mediator Jeffrey Allard MD, JD. Email: manomed@live.com or text **413-544-8998**.

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN? Look no further! **PJ's Electrical** offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate! **(413) 366-1703**

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING
Serving Wilbraham & Ludlow
Weekly lawn care
Landscape design and installation
Hedge trimming, pruning, and mulching
Now scheduling spring cleanup
For more services visit
mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text **413-266-9975**
Insured - Commercial - Residential

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

WE DO LLC Painting interior, exterior and drywall repair. Popcorn ceiling removal. We treat your home like our own homes. Fully licensed and insured. Call WE DO today for a free estimate ask for Mac **(413)344-6883**

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

TREE WORK

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **MONDAY 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	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
 Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
 Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
 Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Quabbin
Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Call us at 413.283.8393

SERVICES

TREE SERVICE

H & H TREE SERVICE All phases of tree care. Call Dave 413-668-6560 day/night.

TUNE UPS

SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR

A&M TUNE-UPS

Snowblowers, Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers & Small Engine Repair. Work done at your home. Call Mike (413) 348-7967

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

AUTO PARTS

4 YEAR OLD MYERS PLOW, 3 sets of tires with rims 15", '94 Jeep Wrangler for parts only. Call 413-967-7118 or 413-658-8513.

HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT TOWN ACCOUNTANT

The Town of Palmer is seeking applicants for the full-time position of Assistant Town Accountant.

The applicant should have a working knowledge of accounting theory and accrual concepts along with strong organizational, interpersonal, and analytical skills as well as experience with Microsoft Office. Previous experience using MUNIS accounting software is a plus. Complete job description can be found at <https://townofpalmer.com/jobs>. Please e-mail a cover letter and resume to gpotter@townofpalmer.com or via mail to the Town Accountant's Office at 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. This position will remain open until filled. The Town of Palmer is an EOE/AA employer.

CLASS A DRIVER. Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC. Construction equipment and trucks. Experience required, full time. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation in Wales is looking for a part-time (16 hours/week) **Administrative Assistant** to assist with operations and office management duties. For a full job description, please visit www.norcrosswildlife.org or email dgugliotti@norcrosswildlife.org.

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

APARTMENT FOR RENT. 826 East St., Ludlow. Monthly rent \$1200. Gas heating, central air, 1.5 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, kitchen/dining combo, full basement, electric stove & microwave, refrigerator and dishwasher; washer & dryer not included. One private parking spot. Not pets allowed. First/last/security. Call 413-218-4041, 413-583-3097.

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.

Creative writing/publishing workshop offered March 10

WEST BROOKFIELD – With just 26 letters and a handful of punctuation, writers create fascinating worlds and unforgettable stories.

A creative writing and publishing workshop will be held on Sunday, March 10, from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Salem Cross Inn in West Brookfield.

Award-winning author Ed Londergan provides a full day of information. "The workshop will cover the entire writing and publishing, including idea development and sources of inspiration, drawing from storytelling traditions, developing the story, structure and flow, conceiving and bringing characters to life, dialogue, editing, short fiction, writer's block, and the publishing process," Londergan said in a press release. "The publishing process can be confusing and frustrating. I'll take the group through the various publishing options available. There will also be some fun writing exercises."

"Everyone has a story to tell. The workshop aims to help those who want to write but don't know where to start or have had an idea for a story that's been bubbling in their head for years and finally want to put it on paper. I also help people who have written something and need to know how to move ahead."

Past workshops have been attended by people of all ages and occupations, from 12-year-old students to 75-year-old retirees. "Four attendees have written books and had them published," Londergan said.

"One of the things past attendees have enjoyed and learned from is the writing exercises," Londergan said.

"The writing exercises this year are different than what I've done in the past. I enjoy seeing the creative ideas that come out of them."

"Back-and-forth discussion is always a popular part of the day. Attendees learn from each other. Individual issues or problems anyone has with their writing are discussed, and the group helps them with suggestions and observations. At times, a lot of 'here's what happened to me, and here's what I did.'"

The workshop is limited to 14 participants. The cost is \$110, and lunch is included.

Registration is required. The registration deadline is March 3. To register, email ed.londergan@gmail.com or call 508-864-8685.



Scholarship and fellowships now available for students



WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund has scholarship and fellowship money available for graduates of Hampden County public and private high schools. Graduating high school seniors and students already in college may apply for Scholarships of \$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 financial need. 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, \$316,000 was awarded to 30 individuals. Scholarships were given to 22 graduating seniors from nine Hampden County high schools. Three scholarships were also awarded to current college students to assist them in completing their undergraduate degrees. Five 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 philanthro-

pist 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. Applications are available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.

GOALS | from page 1

The strategic planning committee has already met several times to discuss the strategic plan.

"At the different listening sessions and workgroups that we had there was a variety of community members there," Hoffman said. "We had a couple student representatives and we had teachers, administrators, community members and school committee members."

Based on all the work from these sessions, there is a draft of the strategic plan in place. There was also a survey that went out district-wide to allow community members to give their input.

"I think we're in a really good place," Hoffman said. "Hopefully that plan will be solidified soon."

As for the enhancement of safety protocols, the presentation at the Jan. 9 school committee meeting demonstrated the steps the district has taken to ensure safety for all staff and students.

"We've added safety coordinators... we're taking a look at the protocols we have in place, especially threat assessments and we're looking to partner again with another community partnership to make improvements," Hoffman said.

They have also been working on putting in new camera systems at the schools and ensuring support for student

mental health.

For the third district improvement plan, the calibration of educator evaluation with administrators, already about 25 administrators have conducted eight Learning Walks in the last few months.

"We set out for teams to work together to make sure that when we're doing evaluations of teachers, we're calibrated," Hoffman said. "We know what's proficient, we know what we're looking at, what different standards of teaching look like."

During these Learning Walks administrators will observe a classroom and then give feedback on the classroom activities.

"Really we're just doing all the things we need to do to make sure that teachers know what a great job they're doing and then any feedback we can give to make it even better," Hoffman said.

These Learning Walks have been so successful that, though they were scheduled to end in January, the district has decided to continue with them.

"Every group that I've been part of wanted to continue because we agree that that's been the best part of our day," Hoffman said.

Hoffman overall is pleased with the progress the district has made so far on this formative evaluation. The district has collaborated well to ensure growth all around.

INTERNET | from page 1

Once the utility licenses are all secured, the company will quickly move to install the fiber optics in Agawam.

"Their pledge is to move forward and get the system built in Agawam in a relatively short amount of time," Johnson said. "They think it will take three or four months."

As soon as they know that definitive date they will begin the process of allowing those interested to sign up to receive the fiber optic wires.

Johnson would like to remind residents that not everyone will be eligible to receive fiber optics. They need to have above ground utilities for these wires to be installed.

"It's not going to go everywhere in town," Johnson said.

Fiber optics are the most advanced broadband technology available. Therefore, having these fiber optic wires will help to improve the capacity of data and the data speed in town.

"Fiber optic has a tremendous amount more capacity," Johnson said. "You're talking about significantly higher speed internet service. With that higher speed internet...your download speed, your upload speeds, all of that capability is enhanced."

Fiber optic wires transmit informa-

tion through strands of glass, which allows data to travel faster across greater distances than with cable. This greatly improves connection speed.

Additionally, with cable the cables are made of copper, aluminum and plastic which is more susceptible to environmental conditions than fiber optic wires.

Overall, this will be greatly beneficial for Agawam. Not only will it provide better internet throughout town, but it comes at no cost to Agawam to install the infrastructure and will provide high speed internet at an affordable cost for residents.

"We don't have a municipal utility," Johnson said. "This is a private option, so this doesn't cost the town anything."

Go Net Speed is private, and is looking at coming to Agawam and other communities in the area to install these wires. Only those who sign up to receive the wires will pay for the services.

Former Mayor William Sapelli proposed this idea in 2021, and Johnson looks forward to being able to see it through to the end.

"We're just trying to give residents and businesses options," Johnson said.

As soon as Go Net Speed has a definite date for all the utility licenses, that is when they will announce when the roll out will occur and they'll begin the sales process.

Welcome to Mayor Christopher Johnson's Inaugural Social



MAYOR | from page 1

es to ensure that all residents and business owners have the information they need to make an informed decision on

the matter.

This inaugural social event helped to celebrate all Johnson has achieved so far, and to wish him the best of luck as he moves forward in his term.



An inaugural social was held on Feb. 2 to celebrate Mayor Christopher Johnson.



City Councilor Ed Borgatti and Administrative Assistant Barbara Bard enjoy the inaugural social.



Mayor Christopher Johnson and Attorney Tanya Moriarty enjoy the evening. TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



City Councilors Rosemary Sandlin and Maria Valego celebrated Mayor Christopher Johnson at his inaugural social.



City Councilor Rosemary Sandlin and Former Councilor James Cichetti welcomed guests to Mayor Christopher Johnson's inaugural social.



Chief of Staff Jennifer Gannet and Administrative Assistant Barbara Bard celebrate Mayor Christopher Johnson.



Dozens of people gathered at Oak Ridge Golf Course to celebrate Mayor Christopher Johnson.



Mayor Christopher Johnson greeted and welcomed guests to his inaugural social.