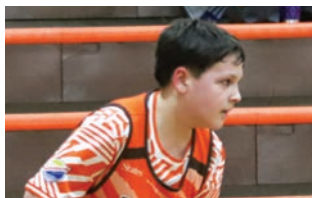




LOCAL
ACAA
Mosaic
PAGE 3



REGION
Parade
events
PAGE 5



SPORTS
Youth
basketball
PAGE 8

AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

March 12, 2026 | Vol. 48, No.2 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com



Tanner Ogle shows his table with various artwork on the table.

'yWrite' Author Showcase displays local creatives at fun event

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

AGAWAM — On Saturday, Feb. 28, 13 local authors and artists all gathered from inside the Agawam Congregational Church, which played host to the 1st ever 'yWrite' Author Showcase.

Reflecting on the overall success of the event were co-hosts Angela Grout, who is the creator and owner of 'yWrite' which a podcast and social media channel, recorded over 100 episodes offering a deep dive and closer look at the range of voices in the industry, along with Pastor Reverend Daniel Cohen, who is a published author just as well, and a main staple of the church.

"I feel we had a great turnout here today, espe-

cially with this being the first, which can be a bit nerve-wracking, but I can confirm everyone had a wonderful time. And I hope we get to continue this, because this event provided opportunities for authors to network, and to live the reality of being a published author, which includes the highs and lows of this profession," Grout said. "I want to add writing can be a lonely, passionate, and driven mission which requires an author to have confidence and humility to know they are producing/providing something that someone somewhere needs, and it's a point of yielding this desire of finding your audience and which genre you feel attracted towards."

Grout also added that some of her highlights from

the event included the live readings.

"I felt the reception towards the author spotlights was well received, and it was reinforced by the diversity of our authors, from some being graphic artists, to others who penned narratives of all genres such as memoirs, fantasy, fiction, and many more, and I feel that was truly our intent, and we couldn't be happier," Grout said.

Echoing similar thoughts to Grout's leadership of the event was Cohen, who also told the *Agawam Advertiser News* that even though he co-hosted, he bestows all credit to Grout, citing "it was her brainchild".

"I thought it was awesome, it's always great to meet so many people who have so many interesting

stories to tell come together, and I felt they all did a great job," Cohen said. "So it's a simple story, I got in touch with her through a couple of people from Ch 15, and I wound up on her show after asking if there were any opportunities to speak about my book," Cohen mentioned. "That's where she then discussed and floated the idea of this author showcase, and I want to add it was more of her idea than mine, and I felt this is a great partnership in effect."

Among those in attendance was graphic artist Tanner Ogle, who said events like these are always beneficial for all parties.

"Events like this are a great place to network, and discov-

AUTHORS | page 12

Local man arrested after devices seized

AGAWAM — A Feeding Hills man has been arrested following an investigation into the possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni announced.

Nicholas E. Clark, 44, of Feeding Hills, was arrested on March 4, 2026, following an investigation conducted by State Police Troopers assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office Detective Unit.

The investigation began on Jan. 9, 2026, after the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) issued multiple CyberTipline reports related to Clark through the electronic service provider Synchronoss Technologies. Investigators subsequently obtained records associated with a Verizon Wireless cloud account linked to Clark.

Investigators reviewed the material and identified hundreds of files depicting underage children. Authorities confirmed that the content included child sexual abuse material.

On March 3, 2026, investigators applied for and were granted search and arrest warrants by the

Westfield District Court for Clark and his residence in Feeding Hills.

On the morning of March 4, investigators arrested Nicholas E. Clark without incident at his residence in Feeding Hills.

Investigators also executed a search warrant at Clark's residence. During the search, investigators seized several electronic devices including external hard drives, USB storage devices, a laptop computer, and a cellular phone. Investigators also located additional media files on one of the seized devices containing images and videos consistent with child sexual abuse material.

"The exploitation of children online is one of the most disturbing crimes investigators confront," said Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni. "I commend the State Police assigned to my office for their diligent work in identifying this material and taking swift action to protect children and hold offenders accountable."

The investigation remains ongoing. Clark is expected to be arraigned in Westfield District Court. He is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Agawam park not among those sold by Six Flags

By **Gregory A. Scibelli**
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM — Late last week, Six Flags announced it was selling seven of its amusement parks. But Six Flags New England, located right here in Agawam, was not among the parks sold.

EPR properties are buying the seven parks for a combined \$331 million.

Six Flags, the nation's largest operator of regional amusement parks, said it is selling the seven parks in order to focus on the properties that they believe will generate the strongest returns and offer the greatest long-term upside, according to Six Flags President and CEO John Reilly said.

Six Flags is selling two parks in Missouri, one in New York, one in Minnesota, one in Michigan, one in Texas, and one in

Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

The sold parks will be re-branded as Enchanted Parks, though they will operate under the Six Flags name for the 2026 operating season.

Six Flags New England is one of Agawam's largest taxpayers in the community and has continued to thrive. It has a water park and multiple restaurants. It has expanded over the years and built new and exciting roller coasters and rides. It also includes Fright Fest during the Halloween season and has also had a holiday offering for visitors.

The park has also been a regularly large employer to teenagers and adults throughout the community and surrounding communities, with ride operations, security, and even character actors among the many season jobs offered by the park.

Mayors give updates to chamber



Mayors Christopher Johnson of Agawam and William Reichelt of West Springfield spoke at the West of the River Chamber of Commerce Mayor's Breakfast last Wednesday morning.



Mayor William Reichelt and Mayor Christopher Johnson.

AGAWAM — On Wednesday, May 4, Tansey's Catered Table hosted the West of the River Chamber of Commerce's Mayor's Breakfast.

The event featured Mayor Christopher Johnson of Agawam and Mayor William Reichelt of West Springfield. Both mayors delivered updates to the chamber members and guests on the recent happenings in the neighboring communities.



Phone: 413.283.8393 • Facebook: @AgawamAdvertiserNews • Email: aan@turley.com

AC Tune-Ups & New Installations
PROPANE: 413.998.0080
OIL/AC: 413.998.0090
500•514 Salmon Brook St., GRANBY, CT

STATE LINE
PROPANE • OIL
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATIONS
StateLinePropaneOil.com
Lic. S1: 303179 • P1: 204150 • HOD: 737-478

Looking for an AC solution for your home or office?
Carrier
Turn to the experts

Go Ductless!
Let us design a system that works for your environment.

March activities for adults at Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – March is National Craft Month, and there's no better way to celebrate than by joining other artists and crafters at our Bring Your Own Craft Day! We invite you to bring your materials to the library for a morning of creativity and connectedness. Dust off your scrapbooking kit, load up your basket of yarn, gather your drawing pad and colored pencils! Please bring all materials you may need to complete your work. This event will take place on Saturday, Mar. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Clini Community Room and registration is required. The crafting fun doesn't end there; our annual favorite Crafterpalooza is back! Donate new or gently used crafting supplies to the collection bin at the library between March 2nd and March 16th. Then join us for our free shopping days to stock up on favorite craft materials or try something new at no charge! Our shopping days will take place on Friday, Mar. 20 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., and Saturday, Mar. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Attendees may fill one bag and take one larger carry out item. If you're interested in making art but aren't

sure where to begin, check out our Stitched Journal Workshop on Monday, Mar. 30 at 6 p.m. Local artist Lisa Hersey will guide participants through the process of creating a pamphlet stitch journal with a pocket on the back. This is a beginner friendly class and no prior bookbinding skills are necessary. This event will take place in the Clini Community Room; please register to attend.

Can't get enough music? We're thrilled to welcome back singer/songwriter Matt York on Monday, Mar. 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room for Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash: Songs & Stories. York will perform songs and tell stories about these two musical icons and the important role their friendship played in the trajectory of folk and country music, creating a new lane of music that we now think of as Americana. Please register to attend both of these events.

Preparing for job interviews can feel overwhelming, especially if you've never had the chance to practice in a real-world setting. Alleviate your worries at our Mock Speed Interviewing Night on Monday, Mar. 9 at

6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Hosted in partnership with the Employers Association of the NorthEast (EANE), this program offers a supportive, low-pressure environment where participants will rotate through short mock interviews and networking conversations with experienced HR professionals and hiring managers. This event is ideal for high school students, college students, and young adults preparing for their first job, internship, or career move. Please register to attend.

If one of your goals this year is to focus on your well-being, then the library is the place to be! Qigong for Spring is a weekly class held throughout the season that will help you harness the expansive energy of spring to build strength and flexibility while balancing mind, body, and spirit for a fresh new year. With similarities to yoga and tai chi, Qigong is an ancient healing art that blends fitness, breathwork, and meditation. Classes are drop-in and will meet on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the Clini Community Room beginning March 3rd and ending June 23. Join us for weekly Chair Yoga at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Clini Community Room. Led by yoga instructor Heidi Taberman, these drop-in classes

are perfect for folks of all fitness levels. Instructor Siubhan Clark returns for Root to Rise Sound Healing, a restorative sound bath experience designed to support grounding, stability, and gentle expansion. Through layers of therapeutic sound, you'll be guided into a deeply relaxed state that helps settle the nervous system, anchor awareness in the body, and create a sense of inner support. From this place of grounding, the sound journey gradually invites subtle uplift—encouraging clarity, renewed energy, and a feeling of steady forward movement without force. This event will take place on Thursday, Mar. 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room and registration is required. Come as you are. Root deeply. Rise gently.

Did the 2026 Winter Olympics inspire you to focus on your fitness? Then you're invited to join us for a special event with the Hydrow Team, comprised of an Olympian, a Paralympian, a U.S. National Champion, and a former Division 1 rower. Meet the Hydrow Athletes: Rowing, Motivation & Performance will take place on Thursday, Mar. 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Come hear their stories, learn about the sport of rowing, and discover what it takes to stay strong, focused


and motivated. Attendees will have an opportunity for hands-on experience using one of the Hydrow rowing machines, and there will be a fun mini-rowing competition with prizes. The Agawam Public Library Walking Group will be held at the Riverwalk in Agawam on Saturday, Mar. 28 at 9 a.m. for a morning session of movement and motion. Led by librarian Kristen Frost, this group is a great way to increase your daily step count and get some fresh air and exercise. We will meet at the Borgatti Field parking area (257 River Road, Agawam). Please register to attend both of these events.

Our monthly programs are an excellent way for folks to pursue their interests or try out something new. Tea and Trivia returns on Tuesday, Mar. 17 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Mar. 18 at 2:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. We'll have a couple of rounds of both Jeopardy and pub-style trivia, and prizes will be awarded to the winning teams. The questions are the same for both sessions, so register for the time you prefer and join us for some fun! Are you a writer looking to connect with other writers? Join our Writers Group hosted by Katherine Anderson on Thursday, Mar. 19 at 6 p.m. in the Peirce Conference Room.

This in-person workshop is open to writers of all levels and genres. Registration is required.

Do you need help using digital library resources like Libby, Hoopla, or Kanopy? Book a One-on-One Library Tech Help Appointment with librarian Erica LeFebvre to get started! We'll have three 45-minute appointments on Wednesday, Mar. 18 between 5:30 to 8 p.m. as well as Monday, Mar. 23 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To book an appointment, please visit bit.ly/APLTech.

Our Virtual Author Talk Series continues on Thursday, Mar. 12 at 7 p.m., acclaimed author Kate Quinn will discuss her latest fantastical work, *The Astral Library*, which poses the question: Have you ever wished you could live inside a book? Welcome to the Astral Library, where books are not just objects, but doors to new worlds, new lives, and new futures. Join us for a special conversation between award-winning journalist Shoshana Walter and best-selling and award-winning author Barbara Kingsolver as they chat about Walter's book *Rehab: An American Scandal*. This event will take place on Tuesday, Mar. 24 at 2 p.m. To register attend these virtual author talks, please call the library or visit library.org/agawamlibrary.



Experience the Power of Sound, Vision, and Electrical Precision

Camera Systems, Commercial Audio-Video, Home Theaters, Network Systems, Lighting Design, Electric Service Upgrades, EV Charger Installation, Generator Installation, TV Installation & more!

EPOS ELECTRICAL & AUDIO/VIDEO

eposhomes.com
sales@eposhomes.com
 (413) 241-6895

ACC hosting magic show on March 28

AGAWAM – The Agawam Congregational church invites the community to a very special Magic Show on Saturday, March 28 at 3 p.m. The show is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and teens, and it is for people of all ages (not just children).

Their guest Magician is David Reed-Brown, of Simsbury, CT, who gives people

hope through the art of Magic, especially in tough times. Along with the astounding, fun magical wonders, he shares meaningful stories that inspire and touch the heart. He is well-known in the region having performed thousands of shows, including 50+ for the Big E, First Night Hartford (twice), many shows for companies,

community organizations, weddings, all-night graduation parties and private events. He has also "appeared" at Jeff McBride's Wonderground in Las Vegas.

Reed-Brown has been an Instructor at McBrides Magic & Mystery School in Las Vegas for over 8 years, where faculty train many of the magicians you see on

TV, online and in theaters around the world. So, come create amazing memories for a lifetime with great people, and (adults) connect with your inner 11 year-old again.

Agawam Congregational Church is located at 745 Main St in Agawam. The event is designed for people of all ages.

Residents wanted to serve on Conservation Commission

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam is seeking dedicated residents to serve on the Conservation n.

The Conservation Commission plays a vital role in protecting our community's

natural resources, including wetlands, open space, wildlife habitats, and water resources. Commission members review applications, participate in site vi a local environmental policy, and

work to preserve the natural character of our town for future generations. Conservation Commission meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

This is a volunteer position and a meaningful way to contribute to the future of our community.

If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest to Mayor's Office.

FIVE ISLANDS



Georgetown, Maine
 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
 Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park



\$1200/week
207-607-9333

It's Celebration Time!

**TENTS, TABLES, CHAIRS,
LUXURY RESTROOM RENTALS,
AND MUCH MORE!**

**For All Your Indoor & Outdoor
Event Rental Needs**



**197 Main Street
Unit Rear
Agawam**
www.tntrentals.net
 413-896-8297

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.

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

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$1.94 lb USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SPARE RIBS TWIN PAK... \$2.22 lb USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST..... \$2.88 lb USDA INSP. FULLY COOKED SMOKED BRISKET \$4.99 lb USDA INSP. SWISS CHEESE..... \$4.44 lb USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF OXTAIL..... \$9.99 lb USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK STOMACH \$3.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ST. PATRICK'S POINT CUT CORNED BEEF \$4.99 lb FROZEN WHOLE CORNED BEEF AVG 20 LB \$2.99 lb USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIBE EYE CUT FREE \$9.99 lb USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB \$1.49 lb USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN THIGHS 10 LB 99c lb USDA INSP. FROZEN SCALLOPS ON HALF SHELL 2 LB BAG \$9.99 ea USDA INSP. FROZEN SKINLESS HADDOCK FISH FILLETS 2 LB BAG \$9.99 ea USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP 26/30 COUNT PEELLED & DEVEINED 2 LB BAG \$15.99 ea	<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; color: red;">Denten Specials</p> <p>90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com We reserve the right to limit quantities.</p> <p>HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3</p> <p>SALE DATES: 3/12/26-3/18/26</p> <p>BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE</p>
---	---	--	---



BASIC PISTOL COURSE
WITH LIVE FIRE

For License To Carry Permit
\$140
 Call For Class Dates/Details
 413-537-0620 Matt Marcinkiewicz
muscione@hotmail.com



ALL SIZE TEMPORARY CONTAINERS
BULK PICK UP OR COMPLETE CLEAN-OUT
DEMOLITION SERVICE AVAILABLE

28 Moylan Lane, Agawam, MA 01001
 Phone 413-786-2449 • Fax 413-789-3738
www.jrsweeping.com
"No Haul is Too Big or Too Small!"

March programs available for kids, teens at the library

AGAWAM – This March, the Agawam Public Library is excited to present some great programs for kids and teens, including Baby Storytimes for infants & their caretakers, weekly crafts, a Teen Crafternoon and so much more! All of our programs are free and open to the public. Some programs do require preregistration. To register, go to our website agawamlibrary.org or call us at 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

Baby Story Time - For birth – 18 mo.
Thurs. March 12, 19 at 9:30 am Drop-in.
Join us as we learn a little American Sign Language, read stories, sing, & play together.

Crafternoon - For grades K-2
Tuesday, Mar. 10 at 4:30 p.m. - Registration is required

Join us for some crafting time. We will have coloring sheets and paper crafts available, or you can bring some-

thing from home to work on.
Family Take and Make Crafts - For all ages
First day of the week and Thursdays - While supplies last - Drop-in & pick up.

A new Take & Make craft will be available the first day of each week and again on Thursdays.

March 12: Western Cat Magnet Puppet
March 9 and 12: Bee Hand Puppet

March 16 and 19: Leprechaun Hat
March 23 and 26: Bookworm Mask
March 30: Sheep Paper Doll

Grow, play, and learn – This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.
Wednesdays and Fridays Ages 0-2 at 9:30 a.m. Ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m. - Drop-in.

Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding

caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child.

Make Shrinky Dinks – For grades 5-6

Wednesday, Mar. 25 at 6 p.m. - Registration is required
Come design your own keychain or earrings on special materials, then watch it shrink before your eyes.

Music with Mr. Liam - All Ages
This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

Saturday, Mar. 21 at 9:30 a.m. - Registration is required

Join us for an energetic show filled with drums, the ukulele, puppets, and comedy as Mr. Liam (Liam Hurley) plays old favorites & silly parodies!

Open Lego Building – For grades 1-4
Tuesday, March 24 at 4:30 p.m. - Registration is required

Show off your Lego building skills. Use Legos to build something awesome. Creations will be put on display

in the Children's Room.

Pre-K pals - For ages 2 - 5
This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

Mondays in March at 11 a.m. - Registration is required
Each week, we will focus on an area of development and provide fun activities to support your child to learn through play.

Special Saturday Drop-In Craft Basketball Sign Craft - For All Ages

Saturday, March 28 - All Day - While supplies last - Drop-in and pick up.

Kids can create a basketball sign to hang up at home.

Stroller Strides with FIT4MOM - For parents & their child ages 1 month - 10 years old
Saturday, Mar. 7 at 9:30 a.m. - Registration is required

This program is brought to us by FIT4MOM. Stroller Strides is a 60-minute total-body workout with

strength, cardio, and core training, all while engaging the little ones in a stroller.

Teed Advisory Board - For grades 7-12
Wednesday, Mar. 11 at 6 p.m.

Make plans for teen library programs and the Teen Space, and eat pizza! Members of the Teen Advisory Board can earn community service hours for their participation. If you'd like to join, contact Evan at edelano@agawamlibrary.org or 413-789-1550 extension 3.

Teen After School Drop-in - For grades 9-12
Every Monday the Agawam Public Schools are in session (new day) 2 to 3 p.m. in the Activity Room.

Stop by the library after school and visit the Activity Room. Play our Nintendo Switch, try out the air hockey table, eat snacks, or just hang out! No registration necessary.

Teen Crafternoon - For grades 7-12

Wednesday, Mar. 25 at 2 p.m.
Visit the Teen Space for some crafting time. Do our suggested craft or use our materials do make something totally different.

Teen Take and Make Craft - For grades 7-12
Available now

Stop by the Teen Space to pick up a Take and Make Craft kit. They'll be available until we run out of supplies. No registration necessary.

Teen Trivia Thursday - For grades 7-12
Every Thursday the Agawam Public Schools are in session at 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Visit the Teen Space and answer a trivia question to get a small prize.

Toddler Time - For 19 mo. - 36 mo.
Monday, Mar. 16 and 30 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in.

Join us as we read stories, sing, & play together.

ACAA New England Mosaic project underway

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artists' 2026 New England Mosaic project is officially off and running.

This year's Mosaic theme is "New England Treasures." Net proceeds from the project fund scholarships for Western Massachusetts high school and college students pursuing an education in visual arts.

The 2026 Mosaic project kicked off recently at eight

local libraries and the West Springfield Senior Center.

The Mosaic effort invites the public to paint/create a small 6x6-inch canvas. Last year over 200 artists participated. The returned canvases are assembled onto a 24-foot Mosaic display and are sold at two events in August.

Whether this would be your first canvas or if you are a seasoned artist, we invite you to pick up a free canvas at any

of the following libraries: Agawam, West Springfield, Westfield, Southwick, East Forest Park, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, and Chicopee; or, at the West Springfield Senior Center. Details are included with each canvas. You can paint, draw or apply anything to a canvas that illustrates what you love about New England. Canvases need to be returned by May 15.

Whether you create a

canvas or not, please join us at our Mosaic Unveiling on Wednesday, Aug. 5, from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course. There, you can view the Mosaic, perhaps see a canvas you would like, and support our scholarship.

The Mosaic will also be on display at the sixth annual Pioneer Valley Arts Festival, to be held on Aug. 21 and 22 at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills.

St. Joseph's holding church community fish dinner

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph's National Catholic Church at 73 Main Street in Westfield is hosting a Community Dinner on Sunday, Mar. 15 at 12 noon. This community dinner will feature baked fish with crumb topping, scalloped potatoes, and cold slaw. Dessert served will be lemon cake, coffee and bottled water will also be available.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. Everyone is welcome. To purchase

tickets and reserve your place, text or telephone Cliff at (413) 977-2007. If leaving a message, provide your name and telephone number. Take-out meals-to-go will be available for pick-up at 12:30 p.m. When ordering tickets, indicate if dinners are to-go. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Mar. 12. All community members are welcome. Please join us for a wonderful and delicious Sunday dinner. Everyone is invited.

Subscribe to the Agawam Advertiser News online at agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

ACAA art collection showcased at nearby theater

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artists are showcasing a collection of art at the Majestic Theater, 131 Elm St., West Springfield, MA.

The art represents the collective talents of many

local artists, including our artists from Connecticut. The display showcases original art in mediums such as watercolor, acrylic, colored pencil and oil. The collection is diverse, the subjects ranging from vivid florals,

realistic woodland and beach art.

The art is on display in the café. All of the art is for sale by contacting the staff of the Majestic, who will hold your piece until the close of the show, on Sunday, April 5.

Art lovers may peruse the collection during the hours that the Majestic is open, or while attending a show at the Majestic. For further information contact Ceil Rossi, at tocarefree2@hotmail.com.

Preschool Enrollment

Agawam Early Childhood Center

Are you an Agawam resident looking for a comprehensive, competitively priced preschool experience for your 3 or 4 year old child? The Agawam Early Childhood Center (ECC) will begin accepting applications for both morning and afternoon sessions for the 2026-2027 school year beginning March 23, 2026.

- The ECC provides all students with a standards-based education that builds the foundation for all future learning with the Agawam Public Schools.
- We meet the needs of children with and without disabilities and follow a developmentally appropriate curriculum where all children learn through play hands-on activities.
- We offer half-day sessions at the ECC Perry Lane 3-year-olds 8:30am-11:10am and 4-year-olds 12:10-2:50 pm.
- Applications are currently available at the Family Resource Center or you can download the application via the Agawam Public Schools website (agawamed.org). Select "Schools" - Early Childhood Center, select "Menu" - select "ECC Enrollment Information."

Scan below to RSVP



Contact Us (413) 821-0597

Agawam Public Schools Kindergarten Information Night

For ALL Agawam students who will be 5 by September 1

March 12, 2026 ~ 6pm-7pm

Sapelli Elementary School, 65 Begley Street

- Learn about the screening process
- Receive enrollment information
- Learn how to prepare your child for K
- Meet educators and principals

Questions? Contact Andrea Polley apolley@agawamed.org



Scan below to RSVP



Snow Date **March 19, 2026**

Best Of Luck To The 2026 COLLEEN AND COURT!

"Wave hello to Pete" who's marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22nd



Peter McNair
City Council



Opinion

Guest Column



Is there income tax on Social Security benefits?

Dear Rusty:

The Trump Administration is saying that now there will be no taxes on Social Security benefits. Since we're getting ready to start our 2025 income tax return, can you explain how this all works?

Signed: Confused Taxpayer

Dear Confused Taxpayer:

You are obviously referring to the so-called "One Big, Beautiful Bill" and how that bill affects income tax on your Social Security benefits. And this is because of the publicity surrounding the so-called "one big, beautiful bill" enacted last year, which claims to "eliminate income tax on Social Security benefits." Well, that bill did, yet technically didn't, fully eliminate income tax on benefits." Allow me to explain.

The OBBB does eliminate income tax on most SS benefits, but it does so in a somewhat unique way – by providing an additional \$6,000 (per person) deduction to your federal taxable income as reported to the IRS. Thus, you will pay less total income tax when you file your taxes with the IRS because of that additional deduction to your taxable income.

The extra deduction is available to those over age 65 and is meant to offset the income tax which will still be levied by the IRS on the SS benefits you received in 2025. Essentially, the rules governing income tax on Social Security benefits have not changed.

The IRS will still levy income tax on your SS benefits if your combined income from all sources (known as your "provisional income") is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly or more than \$25,000 if you file as an individual. If your provisional income is below the threshold for your IRS filing status, you will pay no income tax on your received 2025 SS benefits.

But if your provisional income exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status, then somewhere between 50% and 85% of your received SS benefits will be taxed (how much SS income to be taxed depends on your combined income in 2025). By now, you should have received form 1099-SSA which advised of your 2025 Social Security income, including any income tax you had withheld from your SS benefits.

This income should be reported when submitting your 2025 income tax return. If your "provisional income" is over \$32,000 as a married couple filing jointly (or over \$25,000 as an individual filer), then your 2025 SS benefits will still be taxed by the IRS. But when completing your 2025 Income Tax Return, you will also be able to claim an additional \$6,000 per person (\$12,000 if you file jointly), which will likely offset any income tax you must pay due to the SS benefits you received in 2025.

If you use a tax preparer or tax preparation software, they will guide you through this calculation. Note, too, that the \$6,000 per person deduction amount will be less if your combined taxable income is more than \$150,000 as a married couple (or more than \$75,000 as a single filer).

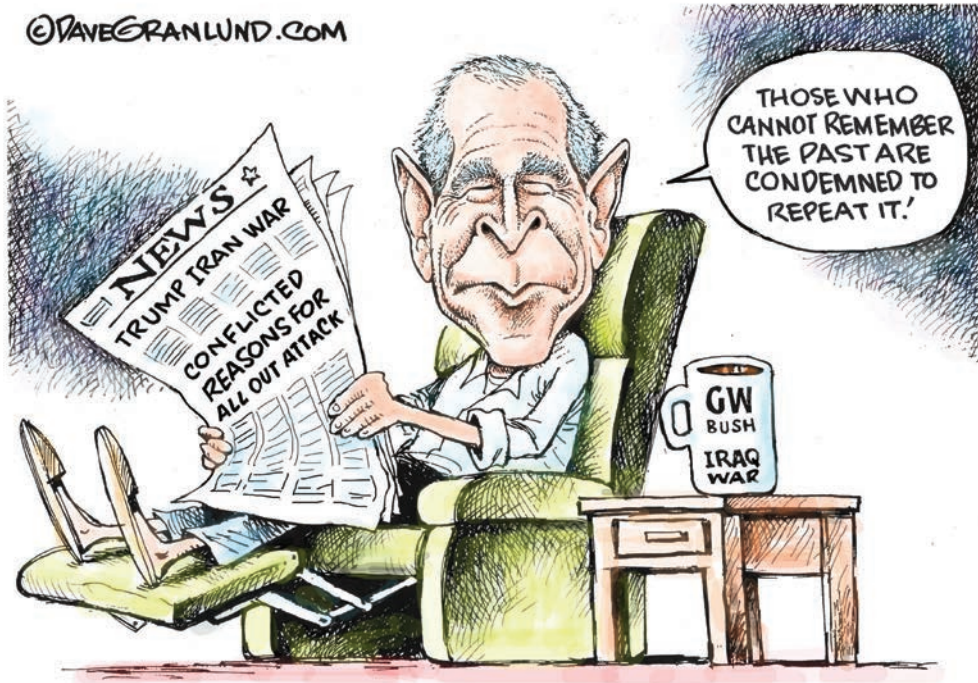
Be aware, though, that the OBBB is temporary tax accommodation which expires after tax year 2028. And that's because the process used to pass the bill in Congress (a "budget reconciliation" process) didn't actually change SS law; rather it provided a way around it to offset income tax paid on SS benefits.

So, to recap, the IRS can still levy income tax on your received Social Security benefits but, because of the OBBB, you will likely also (depending on your provisional income level) receive an extra deduction which offsets any taxes calculated on your Social Security benefits.

Finally, be aware that if your first husband also predeceases you, you will then become eligible for a surviving ex-spouse benefit from him, even if he has remarried.

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 AMACO.

©DAVEGRANLUND.COM



An herb catalog and a favorite herb

One of my favorite seed and plant catalogs of all time is Richters Herbs (richters.com). I look forward to the paper copy arriving in the mail by early December.

The company is out of Ontario, Canada, and offers over 1,200 unique varieties, mostly herbs of all kinds with a few vegetables thrown in for good measure. I've ordered from them for well over two decades and think their products are just great, everything from common culinary herbs to unique medicinal plants and everything in between, even dye plants and ornamentals.

I love how the seeds are

packaged in foil lined envelopes and quantities are liberal, often giving you enough seed for two or three years of sowing, depending on the variety. On occasion I have had to order plants that I couldn't find locally and despite the distance, they arrive in good shape.

Basil (*Ocimum spp*) is one plant in particular that we typically order seed of, and we will soon be starting

it indoors. The Richters catalog boasts 29 varieties, and we grow nine of them in the Paul Rogers Herb Garden at Old Sturbridge Village.

A trip to our herb garden in season is really worthwhile. Who doesn't like Italian or Genovese basil? Picture the pesto!

But in addition to our old favorites, there is lemon, anise, cinnamon and spice, each with fragrant leaves. Looking for unique foliage? Try dark opal, whose leaves are tinted dark purple or bush basil, whose tiny leaves altogether make a round globe of a plant, and who could leave out lettuce



GARDEN | page 5

Red-winged blackbird

On March 2, I received an email from a Worthington resident that he just saw a red-winged blackbird.

Male red-winged blackbirds arrive before the females. They are one of the first birds to return to northern breeding grounds, arriving in late February or early March.

Red-winged blackbirds are abundant songbirds, who inhabit marshes, wetlands and fields. The male is glossy black with bright red and yellow shoulder patches or epaulets. Females have streaked brown plumage.

The highly territorial males often sit on high perches, singing and displaying their epaulets. Their "conk-la-ree" is heard frequently. They are known for "dive bombing" crows, hawks and even humans to defend their territory. They primarily eat insects such as beetles, dragonflies and moths during the breeding season and seeds and grains during



fall and winter. They nest in loosely associated colonies in shrubs or cattails and are found across most of Northern America. They are polygamous and a single male may mate with up to 15 different females in his territory. Red winged blackbirds can form huge roosts during the winter of up to a million birds.

A Brimfield resident sent an email recently. He said, "On Saturday I was driving to West Springfield to put up some picture at the library for an exhibit. Some members of the Allen Bird Club are displaying photographs there for the month of March. On the way I stopped by a nest in Ludlow that bald eagles have used for at least

Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident sent an email recently. He said, "On Saturday I was driving to West Springfield to put up some picture at the library for an exhibit. Some members of the Allen Bird Club are displaying photographs there for the month of March. On the way I stopped by a nest in Ludlow that bald eagles have used for at least

BACKYARD | page 5



Male red-winged blackbirds

Agawam Advertiser News welcomes letters to the editor

The *Agawam Advertiser News* welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the *Agawam Advertiser News*, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to aan@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered

for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspa-

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

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in the *Agawam Advertiser News*.



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
www.turley.com

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

WEB
www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

@Agawam Advertiser News

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.



\$12.50 Each

Digital Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

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
agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President



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.

Schools & Youth

Smith Scholarship applications now being accepted

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

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

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

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

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

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

Historical Association names scholarship for Curry

AGAWAM – The Agawam Historical Association is proud to offer one (1) \$1,000 scholarship to an eligible graduating senior of Agawam High School in memory of Marilyn P. Curry. Curry moved to Agawam in 1964 and lived there until her death in 2021. She was deeply committed to the preservation of history in her adopted hometown, as the longtime chair of the Agawam Historical Commission, a trustee of the Captain Charles Leonard House, twenty-term president of the Agawam Historical Association, and town historian. The Marilyn P. Curry History Room in the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum was dedicated in her honor in 2025.

Applicants must be a graduating senior of Agawam High School and intend to continue their education enrolling at an undergraduate level college/university or technical/trade school in the fall of 2026. Applicants must follow all application requirements to be considered. All application material must be received no later than April 10, 2026. In addition to the monetary award, the scholarship recipient will also receive a four-year family membership to the Agawam Historical Association.

The Agawam Historical Association, a private, non-profit organization created in 1962, preserves and promotes the rich his-

tory of Agawam and Feeding Hills through informational programs at its quarterly meetings, educational events at the historic Thomas Smith House, and its collection of artifacts and records at the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum.

Scholarship applications may be obtained through the Agawam High School Guidance Office, or by visiting the Agawam Historical Association website: <https://www.agawamhistory.org/scholarship>.

For more information, please contact Agawam Historical Association Scholarship Committee chair Alan Rogers at 413-789-6017, 413-207-1575, or alan@urbureau.com.

Junior Women's Club scholarships

AGAWAM – The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Clubs offers scholarships to graduating AHS and home school students who live in Agawam/Feeding Hills.

Please consider apply-

ing through our website ~ easy to do with all electronic applications. Download the application form, save and rename, and submit it.

We offer wo separate applications ~ one general

and one for field of education.

The April 1 deadline will be strictly adhered to. For more information, go to <https://www.agawamgfwc.com/scholarships>

Class of 1970 planning fall reunion

AGAWAM – Agawam High School Class of 1970 will be holding its class reunion in the fall. We are looking for our classmates. Please contact one of the

committee members listed below with your name and email address. Thank you and hope to see you all soon.

Gale Sullivan: GaleP-Sullivan@verizon.net Hol-

ly Cloran: PohnerHolly@gmail.com Scott Macey: mace1459@comcast.net Gail Donais: GCDonais@cox.net Shirley Porter: ShirleyPorter525@gmail.com

GARDEN ■ from page 4

leaf, with its crinkled pale green leaves.

Over the years I have found that there are just a few obstacles to growing great basil. Seeds should be planted indoors – rarely will they do well from an outdoor sowing.

Start basil about the same time that tomatoes are sown, in mid to late March. Make shallow furrows and space the seed one-eighth of an inch apart in rows within a small pot or seed pack. When true leaves form pluck out the tiny seedling and transplant it into a cell of a four or six pack, or an individual tiny pot.

Grow on indoors until the weather improves. Basil is particularly cold sensitive, so be sure that all danger of frost has passed before transplanting it into the garden.

Downy mildew disease was discovered to be prevalent some years back. While I don't take any particular precautions, and my basil shows little sign of the familiar leaf blotching, Richters does offer seeds of resistant varieties

for you to try if this disease has been troublesome in your garden.

Basil foliage has also been known to burn if planted outdoors without a period of hardening off. For this reason, gradually get seedlings used to bright sun and wind over the course of a week before planting in the ground.

Provide your transplants with fertile, well-drained soil in a sunny spot. If, over the course of the summer you notice that the leaves are no longer grass-green, but instead are pale or even turning brown, your plants may have a nitrogen deficiency.

I usually have had to "top dress" my basil twice after planting, each time with a sprinkling of balanced organic fertilizer and some aged compost. Usually they green up in a matter of days.

Basil has the insatiable desire to flower. We must "deadhead" or the plant will fulfill its earthly desire to reproduce by making and dropping seed, all at the expense of foliage production.

Since we grow this plant for its leaves and not its seed, or its flowers for that matter,

clip away the buds at the first sign of them. Another challenge to basil growing has been the Japanese beetle.

Basil leaves riddled with chew marks should best be removed. Japanese beetles are relatively easy to hand pick in the morning and at night.

A gentle tap on a leaf will easily knock beetles into a wide mouth jar of soapy water positioned underneath. Ideally, basil leaves should be harvested after the dew has dried in the morning but before the sun shines too brightly; at that particular time its oils are the most pungent.

Enjoy the new catalog recommendation and be sure to get those basil seeds started by the end of the month.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

three years."

In Brimfield, he said, "Lately we have been seeing a Cooper's several times in the yard and a broad-winged hawk was seen on Feb. 22. The broad-winged hawk sat in a tree in front of the house for over an hour. Last year a pair of broad-wings had a nest on the next door neighbor's property. They could see the nest from their deck, but I was never able to see the nest walking around near where they described its location."

Turkey vultures

On Feb. 11, the Brimfield resident saw a turkey vulture in the center of Palmer near the intersection of Routes 20 and 32. This week, his wife saw 25 turkey vultures flying above that area. They often

see vultures soaring over that area and the first of the year shows up in mid-February. He said, "I believe the vultures nest in the area, possibly on or near Mount Dumplin that is just north of the turnpike ramps."

Other birds and more

The Brimfield residents still has lots of junco about as well as a healthy the gray squirrel population. Recently they saw two and sometimes three red squirrels. He is enjoying the longer days and looking forward to warmer temperatures.

Red-tailed hawk

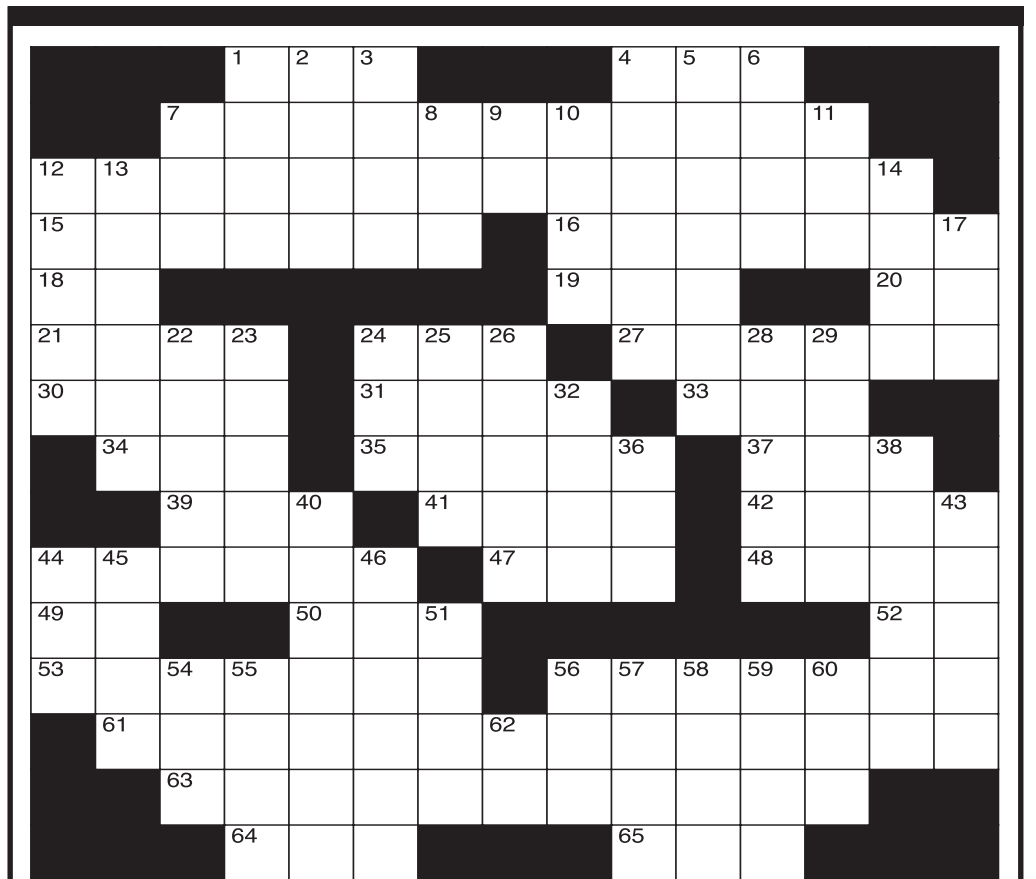
A Rutland couple saw a red-tailed hawk quickly grab a gray squirrel her husband shot. They watched it hun-

grily consume a "warm meal" in the yard. They moved their feeder nearer to the house due to the deep snow. They have lots of black-capped chickadees and woodpeckers come to the new location

Bluebirds

An Oakham resident sees bluebirds on a daily basis. She enjoys watching them.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edown-er@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Blockchain-based entity
- 4. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 7. Painted with glue
- 12. Legendary crooner
- 15. Structure made with strips of wood
- 16. Tropical fruits
- 18. Commercial
- 19. Comedienne
- 20. The Ocean State
- 21. Ancient Scot
- 24. Basics
- 27. Stated propositions
- 30. Scottish island group
- 31. Expression of annoyance
- 33. Large tree
- 34. Engine additive
- 35. Conspiracy
- 37. Drunkard

- 39. Someone who is morally reprehensible
- 41. Ancient Syrian city
- 42. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 44. Carry (slang)
- 47. Sweet potato
- 48. European river
- 49. The Golden State
- 50. Windy City ballplayer
- 52. New Testament
- 53. Possess spiritually
- 56. A treeless grassy plain
- 61. Popular historical novel
- 63. In a law-abiding way
- 64. A place to sleep
- 65. Criticize

- 4. Occupant
- 5. Member of Great Plains people
- 6. Social media firm
- 7. Digital audiotape
- 8. Midway between east and southeast
- 9. Chronic, progressive disease
- 10. Chinese lute
- 11. Not wet
- 12. Moves wings up and down
- 13. Communication devices
- 14. Swiss river
- 17. Female sibling
- 22. Receive
- 23. Relating to a type
- 24. General's assistant (abbr.)
- 25. Steep bank
- 26. Taxi driver
- 28. Moves into without

- 29. Bicycle manufacturer
- 32. Traditional rhythmic pattern
- 36. Fugitives are on it
- 38. Bitter-tasting organic substance
- 40. Die
- 43. Matched
- 44. Literary genre __-fi
- 45. Cannot
- 46. Pounded
- 51. British rock group
- 54. Debt relief order
- 55. 2006 NL Cy Young winner
- 56. Green vegetable
- 57. Tough outer skin of fruit
- 58. __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 59. Ailments
- 60. Famed singer Charles
- 62. Camper

Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers plus more! The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

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

Join Our Team!
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

Turley Publications
Send resume & cover letter to:
Jamie Joslyn
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com



NOW HIRING: Advertising Representative

Offering a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Committee announces calendar as parade season gets underway

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – “Parade season” is underway in the City of Holyoke.

It has gone from being just a weekend featuring the St. Patrick’s Day Road Race and the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and now there are numerous events beginning in March and leading up to the main events.

Starting earlier this week, the Ancient Order of the Hibernians joined the mayor and city officials and the St. Patrick’s Day Committee

to raise the Irish flag at city hall in order to herald Irish season.

Coming up next, there will be a public safety meeting held at the Holyoke Elks Lodge featuring a lunch event at 12 noon on Friday, Mar. 6. With several incidents that have happened at public events in recent years, the St. Patrick’s Committee has been regularly holding safety meetings in order to convene stakeholders involved with the parade.

At the lunch, the Committee will convene federal, state, and local public safety

agencies for a coordinated planning session in preparation for Parade Weekend. Officials will review logistics, safety protocols, and operational plans to ensure a safe and successful celebration for all attendees.

The next big events will take place on Saturday, March 7 starting with the Tartan Party for Dobbin. It begins at 2 p.m. and takes place at Heritage State Park.

A family-friendly afternoon at the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round featuring unlimited rides, free face painting, crafts, and Holyoke Tartan

merchandise for sale. Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

There will also be face-painting, hair braiding and green glitter, a craft table, and plenty of food, beer, and wine for sale to go with the unlimited merry-go-round rides for attendees.

Marshal Mania will take place that evening, going from 6:30 to 11 p.m. An evening of live music and celebration featuring “Unforgettable Fire,” the premier U2 tribute band, with opening act the Greater Holyoke All Star Band. Tickets are \$30

and proceeds go to benefit the committee.

Finally, on Sunday morning, the weekend is capped with the Annual Colleen Gathering from 2 to 5 p.m. The Colleen Gathering is an event that is rotated among the communities that crown colleens.

Holyoke, which crowns the “Grand Colleen” is this year’s host and the event will take place at Wyckoff Country Club.

Colleens representing Holyoke, Agawam, Chicopee, Springfield, West Springfield, and Westfield

will gather with family and friends to celebrate Parade season with food, music, Irish dancing, and raffles.

Other upcoming events include the Chamber of Commerce’s breakfast and then the main events, the 49th running of the St. Patrick’s Road Race on Saturday, March 21 at 1 p.m. and the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Sunday, March 22.

For more information on the numerous events taking place over the next few weeks, go to www.holyokest-patricksparade.com.

Journalism scholarships now available through Valley Press Club

SPRINGFIELD – The Valley Press Club, based in Springfield, Mass., will award \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut who are interested in pursuing a career in journalism.

• **The Valley Press Club Scholarships**, funded by contributions and dues to the Press Club, are for students planning careers in print, online or broadcast journalism.

• **The Republican Scholarship**, funded by The Republican, is for students living within the newspaper’s circulation area who are planning careers in print journalism.

• **The 22News Scholarship**, funded by WWLP-22News is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism.

• **The MassLive Scholarship** is for a Massachusetts high school senior

planning to pursue a career in print, online or broadcast journalism/communication. This scholarship is available to a student who is underrepresented in the field of journalism and is planning to attend an institution of higher education in the field.

• **The Edward J. Malley Jr. Memorial Scholarship**, established in memory of a chief photographer for the Springfield Newspapers, is for students planning careers in photojournalism.

• **The Rhonda Swan Memorial Scholarship**, established in memory of the award-winning journalist, editor and author, honors her legacy by supporting students from the Greater Springfield area who aspire to careers in journalism and bring voices and perspectives that have been historically underrepresented in the field.

Primary emphasis is placed on career goals,

writing ability, scholastic aptitude and overall achievement as measured by an applicant’s high school transcript, class rank, academic awards, SAT scores and extracurricular activities. The deadline for submissions is Apr. 10.

Scholarship applications are available at www.ValleyPressClub.com or high school guidance offices. Applications may be sent by mail to Noreen Tassinari, Scholarship Chair, Valley Press Club, P.O. Box 5475, Springfield, Mass. 01102 or electronically to NTassinari77@gmail.com

Over the course of six decades, The Valley Press Club has presented over \$140,000 in scholarships to eligible students. The Valley Press Club consists of active and retired journalists and public relations professionals from corporate and nonprofit organizations.

Hampden DA holding St. Pat’s Day party

SPRINGFIELD – Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni is kicking off his re-election campaign with his annual St. Patrick’s Day Party on Friday, Mar. 20 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the John Boyle O’Reilly Club, 33 Progress Avenue in Springfield. Tickets are \$25 per person and will be available at the door.

Now a long-standing tradition in Western Massachusetts political circles, the annual St. Patrick’s Day Party has become a major networking event for elected officials, candidates and civic leaders from across

the region. This year, as DA Gulluni is up for re-election, the event provides a great way to kick off his campaign year while connecting with supporters and community leaders. The event serves as a fundraiser for Gulluni’s campaign and consistently draws prominent local political figures for an evening that blends policy conversations with celebration.

The festive gathering will feature live Irish music, Irish step dancing and traditional food, creating a lively backdrop for informal conversations among leaders shaping

the future of the region.

“This event has always been about bringing people together,” said DA Gulluni. “St. Patrick’s Day is a chance to celebrate heritage, strengthen relationships and connect with the community in a setting that is welcoming and fun. It has grown into a night that many people mark on their calendars every year.”

The St. Patrick’s Day Party is open to the public and has become a highlight for those looking to engage with local political and civic leadership in a relaxed, social setting.

Community shredding day set for April 11

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam has announced that it will host a free document shredding event for residents on Saturday, Apr. 11 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street. Weather permitting. Event will be cancelled if raining.

Valley Green Shredding will provide an on-site mobile

shred unit to securely and confidentially shred residential documents for free. In an effort to service as many Agawam residents as possible, residents are asked to limit their confidential documents to two standard size boxes or two recycling bins per vehicle. All three-ring binders and binder clips should be re-

moved. Paper clips, staples, spiral bound notebooks are all acceptable. Participants are asked to place all materials in the trunk, bed trunk, or cargo area of the vehicle and to please stay in the vehicle upon arrival.

For additional information please contact the Department of Public Works at 821-0624.



WEST SPRINGFIELD
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



Summer PROGRAM '26

Now Registering!

A SUMMER FILLED WITH



STEM & Art



Sports & Recreation



Water Games



Tech, E-Sports,
Drones & More!



Field Trips & more!

Monday - Friday
7:00am to 5:30pm

JUNE 22-AUGUST 14

\$210 PER WEEK

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER:



SPACE IS LIMITED!



www.wsbgclub.org



413-736-1831



615 Main Street
West Springfield, MA

SUMMER CAMP

Check Out These Great Camps!

The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives.

Summer camp benefits children in myriad ways. Recognition of the many advantages of attending summer camp can serve as a great reminder of just how fun it can be for children to spend their time away from school at a camp of their choosing.

• Campers continue to socialize throughout summer.

Socializing isn't just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they're used to.

• Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many tend to feature children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds. Indeed, the Graduate School of Education at Harvard University notes that summer camp may be the first time children spend substantial amounts of time with people whose backgrounds differ from their own.

• Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. A 2025 study from researchers at the University of Michigan published in the journal Health and Place found that efforts to reduce kids' screen time are more successful when children are given a chance to play outside. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a

potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.

• Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular

activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time. That can add an aimlessness to summer days. Camp can provide the structure kids are accustomed to but still offer a break from responsibilities like homework or the commitments required of extracurricular activities.

There's no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.

summer@HCC

Holyoke Community College Summer Youth Programs for Ages 8-16



Save your spot and register today for summer fun!

- July 27-31, Minecraft Designers (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- August 3-7, Python Programmers (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- July 20-24, Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- July 13-17, ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10, 11-14)
- July 6-10 and 13-17, Fun Bites with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
- July 20-24 and 27-31, Around the world with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)
- July 6-10 and 13-17, Cooking without Borders with Chez Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)
- July 20-24 and 27-31, Passport to Flavors with Chef Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)

Check out our adult enrichment courses, too! hcc.edu/bcs

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PATHFINDER TECH 2026 SUMMER YOUTH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

REGISTRATION OPENS 8AM APRIL 1ST



CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITE PROGRAM!

WEEK #1: July 6 - 10
WEEK #2: July 13 - 17
WEEK #3: July 20 - 24

Hands-on fun for students entering grades 4 to 8!

Visit our website for program descriptions and availability!
WWW.PATHFINDERTECH.ORG/SUMMER-YOUTH-PROGRAM/



Proud publishers of 12 community newspapers

Turley Publications, Inc.
Call 413-283-8393 to advertise your business here

Greene Acres Equestrian Center L.L.C.

2026 Summer Riding Sessions
June 29 - July 3 • July 20 - July 24
August 10 - August 14 • August 24-28

9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up
Call to Register (413) 813-9291
53 Ware Road, Belchertown
Email: Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com

Girl Scout Camp For All Girls!

DAY & OVERNIGHT

www.gscwm.org



Belchertown Kidz Club

TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • SCHOOL AGE
Offering Flexible Care Programs For Kids Ages 15 mo. - 12 yrs.
Open 7:00 a.m.-5:30* p.m. / MONDAY - FRIDAY
Both Full Time & Sibling Discounts

NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING/SUMMER/FALL PROGRAMS

KIDZ SUMMER PROGRAM/K-6TH GRADE
Ages 5 - 12 yrs. • JUNE 22ND-AUGUST 21ST
9 Weeks • Full & Part Time Options/Single Weeks or All Summer!
Swimming • Field Trips • Close walk to Playgrounds & CHCS Pool
Daily Creative & Educational Indoor/Outdoor Activities!
*Start of camp based on Belchertown School Schedule

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE
K-6th Grade • Full & Part-Time • Homework Support
School Bus Pick Up & Drop Off • Indoor & Outdoor Activities

PRESCHOOL Year round program for Ages 3-5 yrs.
Full & Part Time • Choose from Full Day or 3/4 Day Options
Creative Educational Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum

TODDLER/YOUNG PRE-K Year round program for Ages 15 mos.-3 yrs.
Choice of Full Day 7:00-5:00 or 3/4 day option 8:30-2:30
Come Grow, Learn, and Play!

4 Stadler Street • (413) 323-5439 Follow Us 
belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com EEC LICENSED PROGRAM #177446

Join Our Toddler Room Waitlist



REGISTER FOR SIX WEEKS, GET THE SEVENTH FREE!

BEMENT SUMMER CAMP

FOR CHILDREN ENTERING GRADES K-9
Campers participate in a wide variety of fun activities including arts & crafts, swimming, nature programs, hiking, and 18 enrichment themes! Lunch is included and before and after care is available!

DAY CAMP JR. DAY CAMP	ENRICHMENT CAMPS	Weekly Tuition \$350-\$500	MOUNTAIN BIKING & ADVENTURE CAMPS
WEEK 1: JUNE 15-19 WEEK 2: JUNE 22-26 WEEK 3: JULY 6-10 WEEK 4: JULY 13-17 WEEK 5: JULY 20-24 WEEK 6: JULY 27-31 WEEK 7: AUGUST 3-7	Studio Arts & Crafts Speech & Debate Broadway at Bement Magic Behind the Music Graphic Novel Camp Little Explorers Camp Movie Magic Camp	Cross Country Camp Taylor Swift Camp Soccer Club D&D Camp Counselor in Training Soccer Camp Spanish Explorers	Gamer's Guild STEM Challenges! Mission Monadnock History Hunters Flag Football & More PE Games & Sports

The Bement School
94 Old Main Street
Deerfield, MA 01342

Registration Link
bement.org/summer




SPORTS

Agawam 5/6 advances in playoffs

AGAWAM – Last Thursday evening, Agawam 5/6 Suburban boys basketball team played in a playoff matchup against Ware, scoring a 29-18

victory thanks to some good shooting in the first half that paced the Brownies to a big lead by halftime.

Ware had some good

shots in the second half, but was not able to overcome the deficit. Agawam was scheduled to play Gateway in the next round.



Agawam gets the rebound during first half action



The Brownies try to get the ball back on defense.



The Brownies try to get the ball back on defense.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



The Brownies beat Ware to advance in the playoffs

Local high school seniors headed to All-Star Games

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2026 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Friday, Mar. 20, the Hall of Fame will host the 2026 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. Sixty of the region's top seniors were selected from different divisions to participate in the final high school contests of

their prep career.

"We are honored to welcome Western Massachusetts' top high school basketball players to the 15th annual All-Star celebration at the Basketball Hall of Fame," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "This event is a special opportunity to recognize the hard work and achievements of these outstanding seniors, and we invite the communi-

ty to join us as they take the court one final time in their high school careers."

A committee of local coaches and media members, representing each division on both the boys' and girls' sides, selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls' teams, two boys' teams of Class A and B players, and two boys' teams of Class C

and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters are on the next page.

For the 15th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award win-

ners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court as well as their sportsmanship and character off the court.

Participants in the Boys Class C and D game include: Ware's Jack Gaudreau and Brady Guimond, Palmer's Dylan Doherty, Gavin Smola, and Stephen Fredette, Mahar's Jayden Delgado, Granby's Zavien Fernandez, and Monson's Austin Meacham.

In the girls game, partici-

pants include: Minnechaug's Cailin O'Brien, Kelly Cronin, and Elizabeth Woytowicz, Mahar's Hayden Comeau, and Agawam's Isabella La-prise,

And in the Boys A and B game, participants include: Holyoke's Jordan King-Perilli, Chicopee's Dominic Garcia, Belchertown's Jake Pacunas, Minnechaug's Miles Fergus, Chicopee Comprehensive's Brody Fay, and South Hadley's Isiah James.

Worcester Railers fall to Trois-River Lions in shootout

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC — The Worcester Railers HC (25-22-5-2, 57 pts) fell in a shootout to the Trois-Rivières Lions (26-24-1-3, 56 pts) on Sunday, Mar. 8, with a final score of 3-4 at the Colisée Vidéotron, in front of a crowd of 2,010. The Railers are back in action on Wednesday, March 11th against the Norfolk Admirals at the DCU Center for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop.

Trois-Rivières struck first on Sunday afternoon, as Jacob Dion (1-2-3) gave the Lions a 1-0 advantage just 0:59 seconds into the first off a redirect from a Railers defenseman's skate. The Lions grew their lead to 2-0 at 6:22 as Mathieu Bizier (1-0-1) sank a one-timer from

left circle. Riley Piercey (1-1-2) picked up the first goal for the Railers unassisted at 6:47 in the second on a rush from the defensive zone. Calle Odelius (1-0-1) tied the game for Worcester just shy of eight minutes later with a point shot through the pads of Benjamin Gaudreau. Trois-Rivières closed out the second with a late power play goal from Isaac Dufort (1-1-2), which regained the Lions' lead heading into the third (3-2). Worcester tied the game once more as MacAuley Carson (1-0-1) narrowly snuck the puck between the pads of Gaudreau (3-3). Carson's goal pushed the game into extra-time. Nicholas Girouard claimed the only goal scored in the five-round shootout for

the Lions' narrow 4-3 win.

Trois-Rivières picked up the game's first goal just 59 seconds into play. Jacob Dion (5th) capitalized on the Lions' first shot of the game, as a lucky bounce off Calle Odelius' skate put the puck in the back of the net. Another goal for Trois-Rivières at 6:22, this time a one-timer from Mathieu Bizier (2nd) along the inner edge of the left faceoff circle, put the Lions ahead by two. Cam McDonald and Anthony Poulin came to blows with just over a minute remaining on the clock. Both men headed to the box for roughing to serve their first half of the penalty. As the period came to a close, Worcester remained shut out by Trois-Rivières goaltender

Benjamin Gaudreau. Worcester outshot Trois-Rivières 10-9, and both teams finished the first period with one penalty apiece.

Worcester was eager to close the growing gap created by Trois-Rivières in the first. Riley Piercey (4th) fired a shot in the left corner over Gaudreau and shrunk Trois-Rivières' two-goal lead to one at 6:47. Piercey gained quick possession in Worcester's zone off the faceoff and made a 2-on-1 rush down the near boards alongside Max Dorrington. Calle Odelius (2nd) kept the scoring going for the Railers at 14:29. The puck remained loose in the Lions' zone after a quick initial save from Gaudreau. With a rebound that rico-

cheted off the right boards, Odelius stepped up to the puck and fired it between the legs of Gaudreau and evened the board at two apiece. The tie game didn't last long, however, as Isaac Dufort (9th) closed out the second with a slapshot to beat Gahagen with 16 seconds remaining on the Lions' power play and just 1:24 left in the frame. Worcester tied Trois-Rivières with shots on goal at 10 each. The two teams also tied in penalties with two each.

MacAuley Carson (3rd) kept the game alive for the Railers as he tucked the puck through Gaudreau's five-hole at 11:24. Max Dorrington set up the play as he entered the zone with just one hand on his stick and set Carson

up for the goal with a quick pass. Carson's goal was the only one scored in the third period and pushed the game into overtime. Shots on goal favored Worcester with 9 to Trois-Rivières' 8. Worcester and Trois-Rivières were even with penalties at two.

As overtime came and went, neither team found the back of the net for the extra frame of play, and both Worcester and Trois-Rivières were forced into a shootout. In the end, it was Nicolas Girouard for the Lions that came out on top and lit the lamp for a fourth and final time in the fifth round for a 4-3 final in favor of Trois-Rivières. Worcester trailed in total shots on goal by two, with 33 to Trois-Rivières' 35.

Sports

St. Patrick's Day Road Race to kick off big weekend

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Last March, for the first time in several years, it was gorgeous weather for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race.

More than 6,000 people participated in this year's event, with nearly 5,000 participants finishing the 10K, or 6.2-mile course.

It was Samuel Whittaker of Salem, CT, who finished the race in 31:24. Alex Corbett, who placed second in last year's race, came in 23 seconds later at 31:47.

The top female finisher was Angelia Rafter at 34:13 and she placed 12th overall. Rafter is from Glastonbury, CT.

Among local finishers, Matt Provost of Monson was 19th overall at 35:09. Ryan Davis of South Hadley was a close 20th at 35:10. Lindsay Smith of South Hadley finished 22nd at 35:12.

While the race course, commonly known as a "hilly" course throughout downtown Holyoke ending with a turn off Beech St. and up the hill on Hampden St. toward the finish line remained largely the same, there was one noticeable change in this year's event.

Presidential Timing took over the official timing duties after 4RUN3 went out of business last year. Those looking for more results from the events can go to www.presidentialtiming.com to look at more specific results from the race. Like previous timers, you can look up people by name and bib number to get more specific results.

This year, the road race is set to take place on Saturday, Mar. 21 with the main race beginning at 1 p.m.

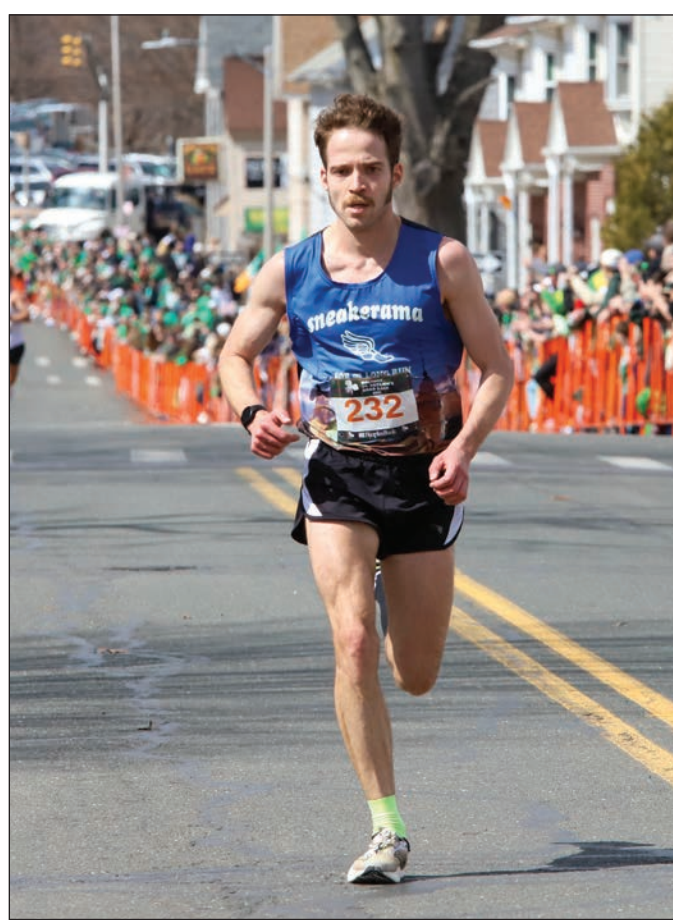
This year's race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick's Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

While there has been a considerable amount of snowfall this past winter, the Holyoke DPW will have the streets utilized in the race



The participants are off in the 48th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race last March.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Alex Corbett takes second in the race for the second year in a row.

ready to go for both runners and spectators. Helping matters has been the recent warmer weather that has helped accelerate the melting a lot of the snow.

For participants in this year's race, Runner numbers and bib-tags can be picked up on Friday, Mar. 20 from 3 to 6 p.m. They can also be picked upon Saturday morn-

ing between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

There will be free shuttle service going from Holyoke Community College to the race area. The shuttle will drop runners off at the Mater Dolorosa School parking lot outside of the clothing drop. Race officials advise using a shuttle by 12 noon in order to make the start of the race.



Female winner Angelia Rafter crosses the finish line at 34:13.



Samuel Whittaker crosses the first line first overall.

Registration now underway for Quabbin Valley Baseball League

SOUTH HADLEY – Registration has opened for the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule. During the 2025 season,

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

Those elements will return along with a 16th game

with an opponent to be determined as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open

practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall

league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration is live at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

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

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

Springfield Thunderbirds upset by Iowa Wild

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (22-27-5-2) put forth a big push down the stretch but succumbed to a late goal in falling 2-1 against the Iowa Wild (19-30-4-1) on Saturday night before the ninth consecutive Pink in the Rink sell-out crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

The two clubs, who combined for 23 goals in two games in Des Moines in February, continued a weekend of tight checking in the opening period, with young netminders Will Cranley of Springfield (eight saves) and

William Rousseau of the Wild (nine saves) turning away every shot that reached the target in period one. Dillon Dube came the closest to breaking the tie for Springfield, ringing the post behind Rousseau with one offering.

The Thunderbirds were frequent penalty killers in the opening half of the game, and the Wild finally connected as their fourth power play began at 9:01 of the third, as Dylan Gambrell stole a clearing attempt, firing a shot on net to force a rebound off Cranley's pads. Tyler Pitlick drove to the rebound and

backhanded it under Cranley to make it a 1-0 game as the veteran potted his ninth goal in 14 AHL games this season.

Cranley had to atone for his own gaffe late in the period when he turned a puck over right in front of an open goal, but he recovered to sprawl back into his crease and make a stop to hold the score at 1-0 into the third.

Steve Ott's team emptied the tank in the final period, to the tune of an 18-5 shot advantage. After failing to connect on two more power plays, the T-Birds used a great effort on the rush to

finally crack into the score sheet as Matthew Peca made a perfect drop pass onto the tape of Hugh McGing, who one-timed it through Rousseau to even the score at 13:49.

The Thunderbirds had thoughts of jumping to the lead down the stretch, but Rousseau and Iowa kept Springfield from a tie-breaking goal. Instead, it would be the visitors who tasted victory late in the third. After a misplay at the offensive blue line from the T-Birds, Jean-Luc Foudy raced up the ice to set up a 2-on-1 with Gam-

brell, who one-timed a shot past a stretching Cranley with exactly 2:00 remaining in regulation. Springfield's last-ditch efforts with Cranley on the bench for a sixth attacker came up empty, and Iowa completed the two-game sweep of the weekend. The visiting team won each of the four matchups in the season series between the teams.

The T-Birds returned to a sold-out Thunderdome on Wednesday, Mar. 11 as they host the Providence Bruins for the first of two games wearing St. Patty's Day specialty jerseys.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

Sports

More players wanted for Pioneer Valley Baseball

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, is now fully open for registration for the 2026 season.

The adult league will be administered by the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, and a registration link is on the home page of the league's website www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Thought it will be under the Quabbin umbrella, there will be no major changes in how the league is operated.

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular season schedule followed by a double-elimination playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to uti-

lize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this season.

There are several spots open for that sixth team, so players interested in joining the league should get signed up as soon as possible to claim a spot.

The league is a wood-bat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball rules though all players do bat. The league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule. Games are played on Saturday mornings with 10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m. range. The league will start play in late April and run through the end of August. There are slots open for both full-time players and

part-time players. The fee for full-time players will be \$260 with part-time players getting up to 11 games for \$130. Fees paid go toward the operation of the league, paying for insurance, umpires, fields, and baseballs. No one profits in any way.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limited open roster spots on the other teams in the league.

Games are played at ballfields throughout the region from as far south as Southwick's Whalley Field, through South Hadley's Beachgrounds and up north at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information.

Feline Friends still in need of donations

AGAWAM – We are incredibly grateful for the response to our appeal for help with supplies. We have received packages at the professional office at 532 Springfield St. (at the corner of Cleveland St.) in Feeding Hills and at the Agawam Public Library. Financial donations have arrived by check at P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills 01030 as well as PayPal: @FelineFriendsRaffle. Venmo: @FelineFriends. Please include name/ contact information

with donations if you would like an acknowledgement. Venmo donations do not provide addresses or email information.

We appreciate every single donation. Local pick up is available by calling 786-5019.

Like everyone else, this winter has been challenging for us with heating bills and snow plowing costs. We really need Friskies multi-packs as well as Scoop Away clumping litter and dry food. Costco and B.J.'s have

the best deals for multi-cat households.

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, non-profit sanctuary that does not discriminate against any cat based on age, gender or disability.

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

Women needed for state commission

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is currently seeking candidates for the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women, one of 11 Regional Commissions across the Commonwealth that strives to represent women and girls in the areas of equality and opportunity.

The mission of the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women (HCCSW) is to provide a per-

manent, influential voice for women and girls across the county that facilitates and fosters community and inclusiveness. The Commission stands for fundamental freedoms, basic human rights, and the full enjoyment of life for all women and girls throughout their lives.

HCCSW represents all cities and towns in Hampden County which include Agawam, Blandford, Brimfield, Chester, Chicopee, East Longmeadow,

Granville, Hampden, Holland, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Montgomery, Palmer, Russell, Southwick, Springfield, Tolland, Wales, West Springfield, Westfield, and Wilbraham.

To apply for the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and to submit a resume, please visit: <https://masscsww.org/about/regional-commissions/hampden-county/>

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P0451EA
Estate of:
Elaine M Carlson
Date of Death: 01/24/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Crystal R Currie of Ludlow, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Crystal R Currie of Ludlow, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/01/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 04, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
03/12/2026

TOWN OF AGAWAM Public Hearing
Thursday, April 2, 2026
6:00 PM
Agawam Senior Center
954 Main St.
Agawam, MA 01001
Proposed FY 2026 CDBG Application

The Town of Agawam, in association with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, will conduct a public hearing regarding the FY26 Community Development Block Grant Program. The hearing will take place at 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 2nd, 2026, in person at the Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

The public is encouraged to attend this hearing to discuss the Town's FY26 application to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities for up to \$950,000 in available Community Development

Block Grant Funds. All persons with questions or comments regarding the grant application will have an opportunity to be heard. Those unable to attend can send written comments to the Agawam Planning Department, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001. Attn: Taryn Egerton, Planning Director & Conservation Agent, or via email at tegerton@agawam.ma.us.

The Town is encouraging input on community needs and projects which would benefit from grant funding. There are currently two projects being considered for inclusion in the grant application. These include the next phase of comprehensive infrastructure improvements on Moore Street, between the High Street and Valley Street intersections as well as additional engineering design on Moore Street between High Street and Maple Street. Additional projects may be discussed and may be included in the grant application. Additional community needs that can be addressed through the Block Grant program will also be discussed.

Persons who require special accommodations for the hearing should contact the Town at least one week prior to the hearing date at (413) 786-0400. For further information contact Erica Johnson at PVPC at (413) 781-6045 or ejohnson@pvpc.org.
03/12/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P0367EA
Estate of:
Karen Guertin

Date of Death: 12/28/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of a Will and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Palmer Healthcare Center of Palmer, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Karen Lavoie of Sharon, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve With Personal Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/26/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the ad-

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: February 26, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
03/12/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P0446EA
Estate of:
Francis Joseph Korob
Date of Death: 11/15/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Donna Miodowski of Windsor, CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Donna Miodowski of Windsor, CT be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a writ-

ten appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/08/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 03, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
03/12/2026

Town of Agawam Request for Sealed Bids Tree Trimming

The Town of Agawam is requesting sealed bids for Tree Trimming. IFB Packages will be available at 10AM 3/9/26. Packages are available via email at bids@agawam.ma.us. Bids are due by 3/26/26 at 2:30 PM.
03/12/2026

HELP WANTED

- Produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.
- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines.
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo.

EXPERIENCED WRITERS & JOURNALISTS

Send writing samples with resume to:

GREG SCIBELLI
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to:
gscibelli@turley.com

www.turley.com



Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$225.00
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**
New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

MISCELLANEOUS

MILLING, TURNING, GRINDING, TOOLS. Tools inspection, tools granite surface plates, red head spindles and more. **CERA BIDE GRINDING, 34 Front Street, Indian Orchard, 413-543-1227.**

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

WANTED

WANTED! CASH for:

- Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
- Electronics & Audio Equipment.
- Sports Cards.
- 70s/80s/90s Toys.
- Antiques & Collectibles.

Much, much more!

Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.

Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

WANTED

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.

Call Paul **413-206-8688**

SERVICES

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists

Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.**

SERVICES

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**

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Handyman Services

Walker Home Improvement

Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!

(413) 687-5552

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

ELECTRICIAN

BUILT 'N POWERED. Serving all your electrical and construction needs. Fully insured and licensed. Free estimates. 10% Senior and Veteran's discounts. Call Tom **413-472-4104.** Electrical Lic. #56789/CLS Lic. #104505

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured. Master Elec. #20773A. Text/call Luis **413-218-3301.**

HEATING & AIR COND.

NO HEAT? Taking no heat calls – Oil and Gas, AC service also. **413-222-2904** Bobby.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor.
Tim **413-563-2229.**
Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal Insured
Josh Rozell **413-636-5957**

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

PAINTING

PRO PAINTING

Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry.
413-310-5099.

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

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374.**

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**

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**

JUNK REMOVAL

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

PETS

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS. Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F. Ready, w/shots. Now \$1,200. **413-218-2321**

HELP WANTED

The Town of Oakham is seeking an experienced certified municipal **TOWN CLERK.** 10 hours a week. \$31.82 - \$40.30 depending on experience. Email admin@oakham-ma.gov for a full job description and town employment application.

The Town of Oakham is seeking an experienced working **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT.** The Highway Superintendent serves as the working department head responsible for the planning, administration, and day-to-day operations of the Town's Highway department. Pay rate is \$31.82 - \$40.30/hr depending on experience. Email admin@oakham-ma.gov for a full job description and town employment application.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

TAX SERVICES

2026 TAX TIME

CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES

For Full Accounting & Tax Service
Registered Tax Return Preparer

228 West St., Ware, MA 01082
413-967-8364

The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

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

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

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!

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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.

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: _____

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

Make checks payable to Turley Publications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!



City Council recognizes Rosie Robotics team

AGAWAM – Last Monday night, Mar. 2, the Agawam City Council and Mayor Christopher Johnson joined together to recognize Agawam’s Rosie Robotics team for their recent accomplishments. The team has continued to perform well in competitions year-after-year. Johnson and Council President Anthony Russo issued a citation to the team and their advisers at the start of the regular council meeting.

Above, members of the Agawam Rosie Robotics team surround the Agawam City Council on Monday, Mar. 2. Left, Mayor Christopher Johnson and City Council President Anthony Russo issue a citation to the robotics team for their recent accomplishments.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



yWrite Founder Angela Grout delivers opening remarks.



G. Michael Dobbs poses with all his books.



Some of Tanner Ogle’s work and sketches he has done.



Carole Appleton stands by her table showing off her book.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY



Pastor Daniel Cohen reads from his book.

AUTHORS | from page 1

er new friends, meet fellow creators and artists, whether they are up and coming or working for a big publisher, and it just gives you a sense of motivation to keep following your passions,” Ogle said. He also discussed how he got the invite from Grout.

“I did a similar event like this that was hosted by Mike (Dobbs) at Focus Springfield. He invited Angela (Grout), and she passed along that she liked my art. She then invited me on her podcast (yWrite), and I did the podcast with

her, and then she reached out to me, and here we are.”

Other notable authors in attendance was Mike Dobbs, who has written countless books, ranging in all topics and genres. Dee DiFatta, who told the story of perseverance, echoed by her novel of ‘Your Daily Dose of Productivity’, a book filled with daily affirmations, penned after her diagnosis with MS. Betsy O’Neil Sheenan who has written and published various poems, and her main staple ‘Splinter in Verse’, which is a story written entirely in verse, there was also S.M.

Wells who talked about her memoir ‘Feel’, and revealed her novel can be found at Barnes and Nobles and will be going on a nationwide tour, starting with a trip to Seattle, Washington soon.

Additional titles that caught the eye of many were ‘Betrayal of Trust’, a fictional story of elder abuse and the struggle of financial disparity by Carole Appleton, who revealed it’s based on a true story, that involved her mom. And, lastly, there was also suspense writer Jeff Vanoudenove, who has written over 18 books and count-

ing, who caught up with the Advertiser and discussed how he got the invite from Grout.

“I was a guest on yWrite, we met at other author events, and I was told that when she was creating this event, she was thinking about highlighting some of the past authors she had on her podcast, and so after the invite to join, I’m here and I want to add any type of exposure I can get is beneficial, and I’m very thankful for it, because I’m trying to get my name out there as an author,” Vanoudenove said.