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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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ROSIE ROBOTICS

kicks into high gear

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On March 20, Agawam High School's Rosie Robotics Team met. They shared with their accomplishments, collaborative building process and what makes them more than a team. Assistant lead of design, AHS freshmen, Rachel Haire said, "We're like one big family."

The team consists of sub teams, machining, design, software, marketing, electrical, and scouting.

Team Lead Dana Henry talked about the origin of the team

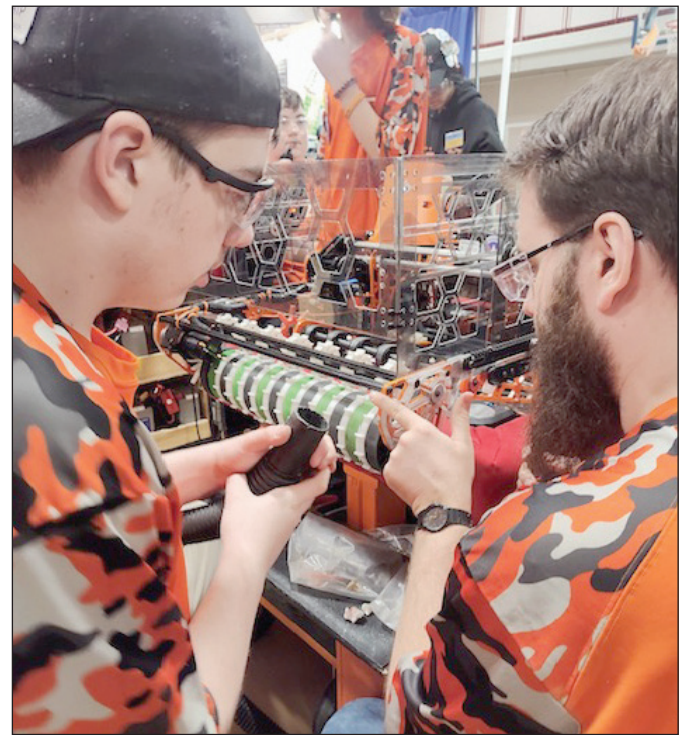
"In 2002, John Burns and myself co-founded the team,"

Henry said. "There are many facets to running a first robotics team. It's run like a small high-tech business, in which you lose 25 percent of

your workforce to graduation every year. It's a constant turnover of students that come through the program. Pick a profession, and there's

been somebody that's come through Rosie that is excelling in that profession."

ROSIE | page 6



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Above, Robbie and Rosie Alumni and Mentor Bob Giordano making adjustments to the robot during a break at the NEFIRST District Event at Western New England University. Left, the judges at the NEFIRST District Event at Western New England University interviewing Kylie, Vincent, and Jacob on business attributes and how Rosie operates.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

The Fire House section at the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum.

Agawam Historical Association opens museum doors, prepares for America's 250th

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM - On Saturday Apr. 4, the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum opened its doors to the public from one to three. The museum is run by the passionate members of Agawam's Historical Association. Agawam Historical Association works to keep Agawam's history alive, and accessible for the community to enjoy and learn from. The museum is one of the tools the historical society uses to encourage education throughout the town on Agawam's history.

President of Agawam Historical Association David Cecchi testified to the impor-

tance of the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum.

"It's really an interesting history. Before the association, you know, had the opportunity to, you know, establish a museum in this building. There was nothing really. There was not a place where they could go and really see things. So, this is a great place. We've been able to amass a pretty interesting collection of different things from all different eras of Agawam. And, people like to know about, you know, the town that they live in. We've had a lot of people who move here are really interested in the history of the town."

MUSEUM | page 10

Fire department fights two-alarm blaze

AGAWAM – At approximately 2:42 p.m. last Tuesday, Mar. 31, Agawam firefighters were dispatched to Juniper Ridge Drive for a reported residential structure fire. With initial dispatch reports of heavy fire and a possible trapped occupant, a second alarm was requested while units were enroute.

Upon arrival, crews encountered a home heavily involved in fire, with neighbors reporting that an occupant may still be inside. Firefighters made entry into the residence without the protection of hose lines and successfully rescued an elderly male occupant.

Extensive fire suppression operations were required, and the fire was brought under control in approximately 30 minutes. Agawam firefighters were assisted by the Springfield Fire Department, Westfield Fire Department, Southwick Fire Department,



The fire occurred last Tuesday afternoon.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

FIRE | page 6

Academic 'A' ceremony



SUBMITTED PHOTO

On Tuesday, Mar. 24, members of the Class of 2026 earned recognition for their academic success over the four year journey at AHS. This high honor is issued to those students who have maintained a 3.0 (B) cumulative GPA during their freshman, sophomore, junior, and first semester of senior years at Agawam High School.



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DPW offers yard-care suggestion for spring

AGAWAM – The Agawam Department of Public Works offers the following tips for spring clean-ups of your yard:

Caring for Your Yard, Protecting Our Waterways

Spring has arrived, which means many residents will be outside cleaning up their yards. Together, all these yards produce large amounts of stormwater runoff after a rainfall. Stormwater runoff, rain or snow-melt that soaks into exposed soil or remains on top of impervious surfaces such as pavement and rooftops, eventually flows into our local streams, rivers and ponds. Stormwater runoff has become a major and fast growing source of pollution that affects every watershed. According to the U.S. EPA, nitrogen and phosphorus are two of the most troublesome pollutants in stormwater runoff and are considered the primary cause of water quality problems in our lakes, ponds and streams. Although nitrogen and phosphorus are nutrients that are natural parts of the ecosystem, too much in the water causes algae to grow faster than our ecosystems can handle, harming the water quality. Managing stormwater where it's creat-

ed, in our own backyard, can help curb stormwater pollution.

Spring Cleanup

Mulch or compost fallen leaves and garden trimmings so they don't get washed away during a spring storm. A mulch-mower is ideal for retaining and spreading clippings on your lawn. Clippings decompose quickly, providing important nutrients for the lawn and reducing the need for nitrogen fertilizers.

Dog waste has been cited as one of the largest contributors of bacterial pollution in our waterways. Pick up pet waste to keep your yard healthy and protect our waterways.

Direct roof drains away from paved areas to help encourage infiltration and reduce stormwater runoff from your property.

Patch Grass

Inspect lawn for bare spots. A thick lawn produces less runoff than a thin lawn with exposed soil. Reseed grass mid-spring, when the threat of frost is past due.

Test Soil

Excess fertilizer will not improve grass growth and could pollute local waterways. Consider testing your soil. A soil test lets you know

what your lawn and garden really need in terms of nutrients. For more information about having your soil tested, visit the UMass Cooperative Extension web page www.ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory

Lawn Care

Maximize slow-release nitrogen fertilizer. Slow-release nitrogen limits nutrient runoff. This should be applied in the spring, not autumn, to provide a steady source of nutrients throughout the growing season. Additionally, consider organic alternatives to chemicals, such as compost or manure.

Mow Sharp and High. A sharp mower blade cuts grass cleanly which improves turf health and promotes denser growth. Mow your lawn often enough so no more than 1/2 the length of the grass is removed. Taller grass has deeper roots - preventing erosion, suppressing weeds and helping the rain soak into the ground.

Aerate Turf. Grass does best, and traps more stormwater, when it grows in loose soils. Many lawns are the opposite, compacted from years of heavy use, including outdoor parties, riding mowers, even parked cars. Core

aeration is a process that removes finger sized soil plugs from the top layer of a lawn so air and rain water can support better root growth.

Sweep Away

Clippings and Fertilizer

Keep clippings and leaves out of the street and storm drains. Keeping clippings out of the streets and storm drains will have significant benefits for our local water ways.

Use a leaf blower or sweep away loose grass clippings and fertilizer granules off sidewalks and driveways onto your lawn where they can do good.

Plant Trees and Shrubs

Spring is a great time to plant native trees and shrubs which provide important water quality benefits. Both reduce stormwater when their leaves intercept rainfall, increase infiltration when their roots penetrate the soil, and filter pollutants that gradually develop beneath their canopy.

The Department of Public Works will commence its Spring Yard Waste Collection during the Months of April, May and June. Yard Waste will be collected on scheduled recycling days during the weeks listed below.

A Week Streets will be col-



lected on scheduled recycling collection days on the following weeks:

- April 13-17
- May 11-15
- June 22-26

B Week Streets will be collected on scheduled recycling collection days on the following weeks:

- April 6-10
- May 4-8
- June 15-19

Residents must put their yard waste out by 6:30 am on their scheduled collection day.

Yard Waste is defined as:

- Grass clippings, leaves, weeds, shrub trimmings, and brush or limbs under 3" in diameter.
- Acceptable Yard Waste preparation:
 - Brown kraft bags or 30

gallon barrels with handles may be used.

- Barrels must be labeled as Yard Waste, no heavier than 40lbs.

- Loose brush/branches, under 3" in diameter and 3' in length, must be tied in bundles with biodegradable twine, weighing no more than 40lbs.

Not acceptable:

- Loose brush or branches
- Bundles tied with wire, nylon or plastic (these items harm grinding equipment)
- Bundles heavier than 40 lbs
- Brush and limbs greater than 3" in diameter
- Yard waste bags contaminated with rocks, soil, or wood chips
- Yard waste in plastic bags

Eversource teams with foundation to offer free trees

SPRINGFIELD – As part of its ongoing commitment to sustainability and strong environmental stewardship, Eversource is partnering with the Arbor Day Foundation for the third year in a row to distribute more than 1,000 free trees to customers in select communities across its three-state service territory. This year, customers in Pittsfield and New Bedford will be eligible to reserve a complimentary tree through the company's innovative Energy-Saving Trees program and take advantage of the many benefits trees provide.

Through this initiative, customers will have access to an interactive platform that allows them to view their property and find the best location to plant their tree to conserve energy, as well as calculate estimated environmental benefits and annual cost savings.

Using the online portal that launched this week, eligible customers can reserve one free tree per household on a first-come, first-served basis and choose from a list of species ranging from Eastern Redbud and Flowering Dogwood to River Birch and Sweetbay Magnolia. The program will continue until all trees are reserved, and distribution events are planned in each community for late April or early May.

"From providing shade and cleaner air to supporting biodiversity, planting the right tree in the right location not only promotes positive environmental benefits for entire communities, but it also helps keep the power flowing for customers and promotes the ongoing reliability of the electric system," said Eversource Manager of Vegetation Management Christopher Gonzalez.

"We're excited to be giving away hundreds of trees again this year through our partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation so we can help our customers learn about the importance of planning before they plant and how properly placed trees can also lead to long-term energy savings. This valuable initiative is just another example of how we're working every day to be responsible environmental stewards and foster sustainable growth in the communities we serve while ensuring the delivery of safe, reliable electricity for our customers."

"Thriving tree canopies are a fundamental part of building strong, healthy communities, and we're grateful to partner with companies like Eversource that are committed to enhancing sustainability in the cities and towns they serve," said

Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "By encouraging people to plant trees with purpose today, this partnership is creating positive, lasting change for years to come."

Since 2024, Eversource has partnered with the Arbor Day Foundation to bring community tree distribution events directly to various communities across Massachusetts, including Framingham, Springfield, West Springfield and Waltham – helping customers experience the benefits of strategic tree planting and supporting municipalities in advancing their own sustainability goals.

"Springfield Forestry was excited to partner with Eversource and the Arbor Day Foundation to host a free tree giveaway in our community last year," said Springfield City Forester Alex Sher-

man. "Springfield residents were able to select from a variety of trees and shrubs to plant in their yard at no cost. The event was well organized, which made it simple and convenient for residents to come pick up their trees. Thanks to Eversource's continued commitment to the communities they serve, we were able to increase the overall tree canopy in Springfield."

Eversource works year-round to advance educational partnerships with arborists, municipalities, students and the public about planting the right tree in the right place. For more information about the energy company's nationally recognized sustainability efforts, please visit Eversource.com. For registration and portal assistance, please contact the Arbor Day Foundation by calling 1-855-234-3801.

Volunteers needed to flag graves

AGAWAM – The Agawam Veterans Council is seeking volunteers for flagging veteran graves at local cemeteries in preparation of Memorial Day on Saturday, May 2. (Rain date May 3) Anyone interested in participating, please meet at 8 a.m. in the Springfield Street Cemetery (across from Sacred Heart Church) in Feeding Hills.

Grange to sell craft supplies

AGAWAM – Community Grange #382 located at 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills is holding a Craft Supply Sale on Saturday, Apr. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring a bag or two and shop all the vendors.

Visit us at www.turley.com

Town to collect disposed sharps at free event

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam Health Department will hold a free drop off event called Sharps Disposal Day. It will be held on Saturday,

Apr. 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Public Library. The event is for Agawam residents only and proof of residency will be required. Dis-

posed sharps must be in an approved sharps container. Any questions, contact the Health Department at (413) 786-0400 ext. 8207.

ACC hosting spring tag sale

AGAWAM – Agawam Congregational Church will hold a huge tag sale on Friday, Apr. 10 and Saturday, Apr. 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ACC is located at 745 Main St. They will have something for everyone.

Expect sports cards, clothing and accessories, toys and games, books, holiday decorations, puzzles, kitchen and other household items, and much more. Vendor tables are available for \$25.

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USDA INSP. TURKEY BREST.....	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FARM FRESH LARGE EGGS BOX.....	\$1.79 doz	USDA INSP. FROZEN • BARBER FOODS CHICKEN CORDON BLEU CLUB PAK 6 PIECES.....	\$8.99 ea
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USDA INSP. FROZEN PIG FEET.....	\$2.69 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN FEET.....	\$3.49 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN FEET.....	\$3.49 lb

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St. Patrick's Committee announces parade award winners

Top bands, performers, and float designers recognized for excellence

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke is proud to announce the 2026 Parade Music and Float Award winners, recognizing the outstanding units that brought energy, creativity, and tradition to the 73rd Annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Parade.

Each year, these awards celebrate the performers, designers, and community groups whose dedication and talent help make Holyoke's parade one of the largest and most beloved St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the country. "From the incredible musical performances to the creativity and craftsmanship of this year's floats, our participants once again made this parade truly special," said Jim Wildman, Parade President. "We are grateful for the pride and passion each group brings to Holyoke."

2026 Parade Music Award Winners

Most Outstanding Unit in the Line of March

Presented by Kinvara Literary Society
Tian Guo Marching Band

Best Pipe Band

Presented by Devin Sheehan & Dr. Michael Dodge
Holyoke Caledonian Pipe Band

Best Brass Band
Presented by Kathryn & George Dulchinos
Bombyx Brass Collaborative

Best String Band
In Loving Memory of Heather McMahon
Fralinger String Band

Best Band Captain
Presented by Westfield Parade Committee
Aqua String Band

Best High School Marching Band

William H. Burns Memorial Award
Chicopee Comprehensive High School Marching Band

Best Drum & Bugle Corps
In Memory of Sara Mutch
St. Peter's Drum & Bugle Corps

Best Flag Corps
Presented by Kathleen Krisak
South Hadley High School

Best Drumline
Presented by Mass Surgical Supply
Libertas Academy Charter School Drumline

Spirit of the Parade
In Loving Memory of Uncle Jamie Feyre
Hot Tamales

People's Choice Award
(More than 17,400 votes submitted!)
In Memory of Monsignor David Joyce
Westfield High School Marching Band

2026 PARADE FLOAT AWARD WINNERS

Grand Prize

Dr. Elmer J. Harrington Memorial Award
West Springfield - "Prosperity"

Best Colleen Float

Daniel E. Tierney Memorial Award
Springfield - "Dublinia"

1st Prize - Irish Theme

William C. Lunney Memorial Award
Sons of Erin - "Coming to the Shores of America"

2nd Prize - Irish Theme

John T. Sheehan Memorial Award
John Boyle O'Reilly Club - "Woven in Irish Spirits"

3rd Prize - Irish Theme

Shaun Ferriter Memorial Award
Agawam - "Walk the Board to Blarney"

1st Prize - Patriotic Theme

William "Buck" Ford Memorial Award
Springfield Lodge of Elks - "Taste the Freedom - 250 Years of Sweet Independence"

2nd Prize - Patriotic Theme

Henry P. Dowd Memorial Award
Unity Dance Spectrum - "Celebrating 30 Years and 250 Years of the USA"



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KARA WALSH-VEY

The 2026 Agawam Colleen and Cour aboard the award-winning "Walk the Board to Blarney" float.

3rd Prize - Patriotic Theme
Vincent Brown Memorial Award
South Hadley - "Let Freedom Be"

1st Prize - Open Theme

John E. Dowd Memorial Award
Smith Vocational and Agricultural Float

2nd Prize - Open Theme

John T. Sheehan Memorial Award
Dean Career & Technical Education

3rd Prize - Open Theme

Mary Sheehan Memorial Award
Springfield Puerto Rican Parade Committee

1st Prize - Religious Theme

John K. Bowler Memorial Award
Mater Dolorosa - "Celebrating 120 Years"

2nd Prize - Religious Theme

Lila Courtney Memorial Award
AOH/LAOH - "St. Brigid's Float"

3rd Prize - Religious Theme
Jericho - "Our Favorite Things"

The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke extends its sincere congratulations to all award recipients and thanks every participating unit for contributing to another unforgettable parade.



ACAA hosting annual 'Spring Into Art' show

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans will host their "Spring Into Art" show on Saturday, April 18 at the Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. The show hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The show will include 26 talented artists and artisans, who will be presenting an array of oil, acrylic, watercolor paintings, alcohol and colored pencil art.

Artisans will feature fused glass, jewelry, gourds, pottery, silk scarves, wire wrapped trees, woodworking and handmade American style flutes.

St. Martha's Guild members will be serving breakfast and lunch for purchase throughout the day.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Diane Boglisch at email: deeboglisch@comcast.net.

Garden Club to hold next meeting Apr. 14

AGAWAM – The next meeting of the Agawam Garden Club will be held Tuesday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street. After a short business meeting Evan Abramson, Founder of Landscape Interactions, will present a talk on "Building Resilience through Biodiversity: Scalable and Replicable Stormwater Management Designs". In this presentation

he will explore diverse strategies for storing and managing runoff while simultaneously supporting at-risk native pollinator species. Abramson holds a Master of Science in Ecological Design from the Conway School of Landscape Design as well as certificates in Permaculture Design and Biodynamic Gardening. All meetings are open to the public and not restricted to Agawam residents.

Agawam Community Artists and Artisans invites 'Call for Art'

AGAWAM – Agawam Community Artists and Artisans (ACAA) is inviting artists and artisans to participate in its Sixth Annual Pioneer Valley Art Festival.

The Art Festival will be held on Friday, Aug. 21, and Saturday, Aug. 22 at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills. Show hours are from 2 to 8 p.m. on Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The ACAA is encouraging artists, artisans, and writers to submit their work for review. Among the artistic mediums included are watercolor, acrylic, oil, mixed media, sculpture, photography, ceramic, stained glass, wood, fashion, textile, and jewelry.

All work must be original and handmade by the artist or artisan, of professional quality. Prints and giclees will be accepted. No kits, food, soap, candles, or

AI-generated work will be accepted.

Tent space is available on the paved parking lot for \$50.

Students from any area high school are accepted free of charge, and must have a tent set up.

The Pioneer Valley Art Festival is highly promoted through local TV stations; Agawam Media Channel 15 and 1074HD; Agawam Cultural Council website; newspapers; town forums; Mailchimp; the ACAA website, www.agawamarts.com; and the ACAA Facebook page, that has over 850 followers.

The week before the festival, there will be over 20 street signs placed around Agawam.

Further information, including registration forms, can be obtained by contacting Ceil Rossi at email: tocarefree2@hotmail.com.

April Art Exhibit to be on display at public library

AGAWAM – Agawam Public Library is excited to feature art from three local artists during the month of April.

Jan Caruso, Christine Berge and Cheryl Shea will be exhibiting their pieces on the main walls and in the Johnson Case on the main floor of the library. Pieces will include pen and ink drawings, watercolor paintings, acrylic

abstract paintings, and Ukrainian Easter eggs. The artwork will feature mostly realistic or natural subjects, highlighting the artists' aim to "capture nature & creativity with color and vibrancy" through their pieces.

Partway through the month, pieces from Agawam Schools' Early Childhood Center will also be exhibited in the glass cases leading

into the Children's Room. Together with their teachers, students have built something beautiful after listening to stories such as Ready, Set, Build! by Meg Fleming, and Vincent Paints His House by Ted Arnold. The students at the ECC have created open ended art inspired by their little hands.

Visitors are welcome to view the gallery at the Agawam Public Library during regular open hours: Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library will be closed Monday, April 20 in honor of Patriots Day. Please contact Adult Services Library Associate, Erica LeFebvre at (413) 789-1550 x8858 or elefebvre@agawamlibrary.org if you are interested in displaying artwork at the library.

Highway Dept. Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver

The Town of New Braintree Highway Dept. is seeking qualified applicants for the immediate full-time position of Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License, Class B (CDL) with DOT Medical Examination Certification and a Hoisting Engineer License Class 2B with DOT Medical Examination Certification. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and an employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

Highway Dept. Seasonal Laborer

The Town of New Braintree is seeking a qualified candidate to perform seasonal work in the maintenance of town commons, roadways, grounds and cemeteries. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License (Class D). This is a seasonal position for 20 hours per week with a flexible schedule, May through October. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

For further information, please contact **Richard Ayer, Highway Superintendent, at 508-867-2451, or via email at Highway@newbraintree.gov.**

A.A./E.O.E.



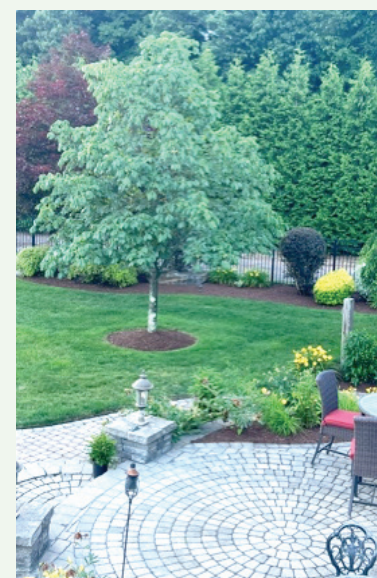
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Opinion

Guest Column



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

I'll be 65 soon and am working. Must I enroll in Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I will be 65 in October and I am working full-time. My goal is to work until age 67, which is my Full Retirement Age or until age 70.

I heard I have to apply for Medicare Part A only. Is this true or will I be penalized? And do I have to go to the Social Security office to do this or can I do it online? And then will they be still giving me my Medicare through the next five years of working or do I have to pay for something? I will have my own healthcare insurance. Thank you for your help.

Signed: Confused

Dear Confused:

There are two things you should be aware of:

You do not need to claim Social Security benefits when you enroll in Medicare

You do not need to enroll in Medicare at age 65 if you have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, "creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants.

Thus, it is perfectly okay for you to delay taking your Social Security benefits until age 67 (your SS full retirement age) or even until age 70 when you will get the maximum SS benefit you are entitled to. And if you now have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, you can delay enrolling in Medicare until such time as your employer's healthcare coverage ends. When you stop working, you will enter a Medicare Special Enrollment Period, during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Whenever you decide to enroll in Medicare or Social Security, you will not need to visit your local SSA office to do so. You can enroll in Medicare either online at www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up or you can call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to enroll in Medicare on the telephone. Similarly, when you are ready to claim Social Security, you can do so online at www.ssa.gov/apply or you can call 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply for SS over the phone. To apply online, however, you should first create your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Creating your online SS account now at age 65 will facilitate later online enrollment and will also provide you with an estimate of your SS benefit amounts at various ages - e.g., now at age 65, at your FRA of 67 or at age 70. And that should help you decide when it is best for you to claim Social Security.

A few final points:

You should verify with your employer's health insurance provider that they don't require you to enroll in Medicare at age 65. Most employer plans don't, but some do.

You don't need to enroll in Medicare Part A or Part B now as long as your employer's coverage is creditable. And it's okay to enroll in Medicare a couple of months prior to your employer's creditable healthcare coverage ending when you stop working, requesting that your Medicare coverage starts when your employer's healthcare ends. This will ensure that there is no gap in your healthcare coverage. If your employer coverage is creditable, you will not suffer a Medicare Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling after age 65.

If you claim Social Security benefits at any time prior to your FRA and are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. The AET lasts until you reach your FRA (67), after which you can earn as much as you like without your SS benefits being affected.

Whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be required to take Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Medicare Part A is free because you are also eligible for Social Security. But you don't need to enroll in Part A at age 65 unless you also claim Social Security.

Medicare Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is optional if you have creditable employer coverage as explained above. You do not need to enroll in Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium of \$202.90 in 2026 until your employer's creditable healthcare coverage ends, even if you claim Social Security earlier.

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HOW ASTRONAUTS WILL TRAIN FOR RETURN TO MOON...



Guest Column

The ins and outs of forsythia

Each year as forsythia burst into bloom, I am reminded of my dad.

You see, this spring harbinger always blooms right around his birthday. This year would've been a monumental one, as he would have celebrated 100 years!

Although most landscape professionals aren't all that fond of forsythia, it holds a special place in my heart. When it is in full bloom our eyes are lifted away from the still drab lawn and the bare borders to bask at its branches of yellow flowers.

If you are lucky enough to have forsythia growing in your yard, perhaps you will find the following facts interesting, straight from the archives.

Forsythia can be forced into bloom indoors. While it is a little late in the sea-

son to fully appreciate this technique, it can easily be achieved now.

As long as temperatures are above freezing, you can harvest the branches. Simply prepare them as you would any other cut flower by removing side shoots that would be under water in the vase. Fill the vase with hot water and just prior to insertion recut the end of the stem on a 45 degree angle to expose as much surface area as possible.

We use hot water because it will move through the

plant's vascular system quickly, hydrating it fully.

Place the vase in indirect, bright light, and change the water a couple of times a week. Expect blooms in a matter of days this time of year; if you harvest stems in early March it will take a bit longer to enjoy the flowers.

Forsythia buds are tender. While the shrub itself is hardy to Zone 4, the buds are reliably hardy to only Zone 5.

After an especially cold winter you may see forsythia in half-bloom! The tops of the shrub may be devoid of blossoms, but the bottom chock-

GARDEN | page 5



Eastern Phoebe

I saw an Eastern Phoebe on March 28, my first sighting of 2026.

The Eastern Phoebe is a plump songbird with a medium-length tail. It appears large-headed for a bird of its size. The head often appears flat on top, but phoebes sometimes raise the feathers up into a peak. Like most small flycatchers, they have short, thin bills used for catching insects. The Eastern Phoebe slightly larger than a tufted titmouse.

The Eastern Phoebe is brownish-gray above and off-white below, with a dusky wash to the sides of the breast. The head is typically



By Ellenor Downer

the darkest part of the upper parts. Birds in fresh fall plumage show faint yellow on the belly and whitish edging on the folded wing feathers.

The Eastern Phoebe generally perches low in trees or on fence lines. Phoebes are very active, making short flights to capture insects and very often returning to the same perch. They make sharp "peep" calls in addition to their familiar "Phoebe" vocalizations. When perched, Eastern Phoebes wag their tails down and up frequently.

These birds favor open woods such as yards, parks, woodlands and woodland edges. Phoebes usually breed around buildings or bridges on which they construct their nests under the protection of an eave or ledge.

Bring in bird feeders. The Allen Bird Club of Springfield reminds area

residents that early spring means hungry bears. If people enjoy feeding birds during the winter, it's now time to bring feeders in at night or to put them away entirely until next December. Black bears have an excellent memory and will return to feeders where they find easy meals. When that happens, bears can become a nuisance. FYI, over 50 million Americans purchase more than one billion pounds of bird seed and suet annually.

An excellent way to feed birds year-round is by planting native fruit and seed bearing plants that provide food for wildlife. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's new citizen science initiative, Garden for Birds, offers regionally-tailored tips on the best plants to choose to help

BIRDS | page 5

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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Agawam Advertiser News

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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 newspaper

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

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



By Julie Midura
Guest Columnist

Nature is our Cathedral

feel more like a spiritual encounter than mere singing.

My other church is a cathedral. There is no sign out front. No doors or windows. No foundation. No floor or walls or ceiling. At least not in the manmade sense.

Gravel, granite and earth are the floor. The vast canvas of blue sky is the ceiling. The sentinel of trees lining the path form the walls. The foundation is made from mountains rather than poured cement, but they hold me up and give me far more strength than concrete ever could.

In my church, I listen to our pastor preach words of truth, faith and hope. Inspiring me. Redirecting me. Providing spiritual nourishment. Leading me along the path to a life of purpose.

In my cathedral, I listen to nature preach a homily in a language all its own. No words are needed, but it speaks to me nonetheless. Giving my life meaning and purpose. Deepening my faith. Restoring my soul.

The melody here is different. The music does not



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



reach my ears from a speaker in the corner of the room, but through a tapestry woven from rustling leaves, cascading streams and roaring waterfalls. The sounds blend together, proclaiming God's glory not through spoken words, but through something equally powerful.

This place is no less sacred than the church where

I worship every Sunday. It is a sanctuary created by the hands of God himself. Built out of unfailing love. When I am standing in the quiet stillness and immense grandeur of Creation, I bear witness to God's profound greatness.

There is a sacredness in this cathedral of earth and trees and sky which transcends human understand-

ing. A peace which contradicts life circumstance. A gratefulness in spite of the many trials and challenges.

Out here, I experience deeply personal moments of connection. As though there is a thread joining heaven to earth. A yarn woven of reverent awe and immeasurable joy linking my human heart to the Divine.

My worship is not re-

stricted to the confines of a building. It flows from me in equal measure out here in the wild places... where the wind dances and the water flows and the heavens themselves declare glory.

My soul is fed at both my church and my cathedral. But some days, I can hear God speaking to me louder in the church that was not built by human hands.

BIRDS ■ from page 4

struggling wildlife to thrive. This program is free and participation can be cancelled at any time. Information on how to turn a yard into a bird-supporting habitat can be found by visiting gardenforbirds.org.

Common mergansers

My husband and I saw the male and female Common Merganser diving in cedar Lake Sturbridge in between the ice on Thursday, March 19. They were beautiful.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "In my last email I had re-

ported a broad-winged hawk seen in the yard. I later was looking at some photographs I had taken of the bird and discovered I was wrong, the bird was a red-shouldered hawk. Also it would have been very early for a broad-wing."

He saw crows, blue jays and a red-shouldered hawk on his trail camera as well as raccoons and an opossum.

He also has eight goldfinch visiting regularly. He said, "For most of the winter we have only seen one or two at the feeders. One was starting to show some yellow plumage."

He puts out a coffee can

of whole peanuts every day in a tray. He said, "Blue jays, titmice and an occasional red-bellied woodpecker take the peanuts that are usually gone within a couple of hours. Lately the peanuts have been lasting two or three days and I haven't seen any blue jays." He also noted it is "A sign of spring, the chipmunks are out and about and the daffodil leaves have started to emerge, hooray."

Goldfinches

I received an email from a Worthington resident. He said, "Around mid-February each year my bird feeders are inundated by a flock or maybe flocks of goldfinches in

their drab winter colorations. It's amazing how many flit in and out of my feeders. And, when the goldfinches come, they are joined by an equally large flock of pine siskins. They must travel together and they look somewhat similar since the goldfinches aren't yet sporting their bright yellow colors. They usually hang around for a month or so and then move on further North." He said, "I enjoy watching them at the feeders, the few who decide to spend the summer in Western Massachusetts."

Bluebirds

I received an email from a Hampden resident, who

shared video from a blink camera she installed inside her bluebird house in 2025. She placed the camera in the birdhouse to keep track of activity and this resulted in two broods of bluebirds successfully hatching and fledging a total of eight young. She said, "The camera helped to keep the sparrows from establishing a nest and gave us close ups of the bluebird families." She also said, "Once September rolled around, it was time to clean and sanitize the birdhouse. However, a downy woodpecker found it was a fine place to spend the night. He has continued arriving at sundown and leav-

ing at sunrise the next day. The bluebirds sometimes stop by during the day possibly checking it out for their future nest." She said, "Our hope is the bluebirds return this spring and don't have issues with the woodpecker as well as the sparrows."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@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.

HEALTH ■ from page 4

full. This generally happens because the lower portion of the shrub was insulated under a snow bank or leaf mound.

Likewise, the blossoms are also tender - sometimes reduced to mush the morning after a hard freeze.

Forsythia flowers are borne on the previous year's wood. With that in mind, prune as soon as possible after flowering.

Simply cut the oldest stems all the way down to the ground. You can safely remove up to one-third of the bush in a single pruning session. New growth will emerge over the summer and provide blossoms for next season.

While some books recommend cutting overgrown forsythias down to the ground

completely, in my experience, this advice is drastic. The plant will need a couple of years to recover from that approach.

Sometimes you see forsythia pruned into balls or stiff hedges. While some homeowners consider this look appealing, I like to see the bush a little less tame. It's also hard to guarantee flowers throughout such a manicured shape; sometimes part will bloom and the rest will be just foliage. Kind of a weird look.

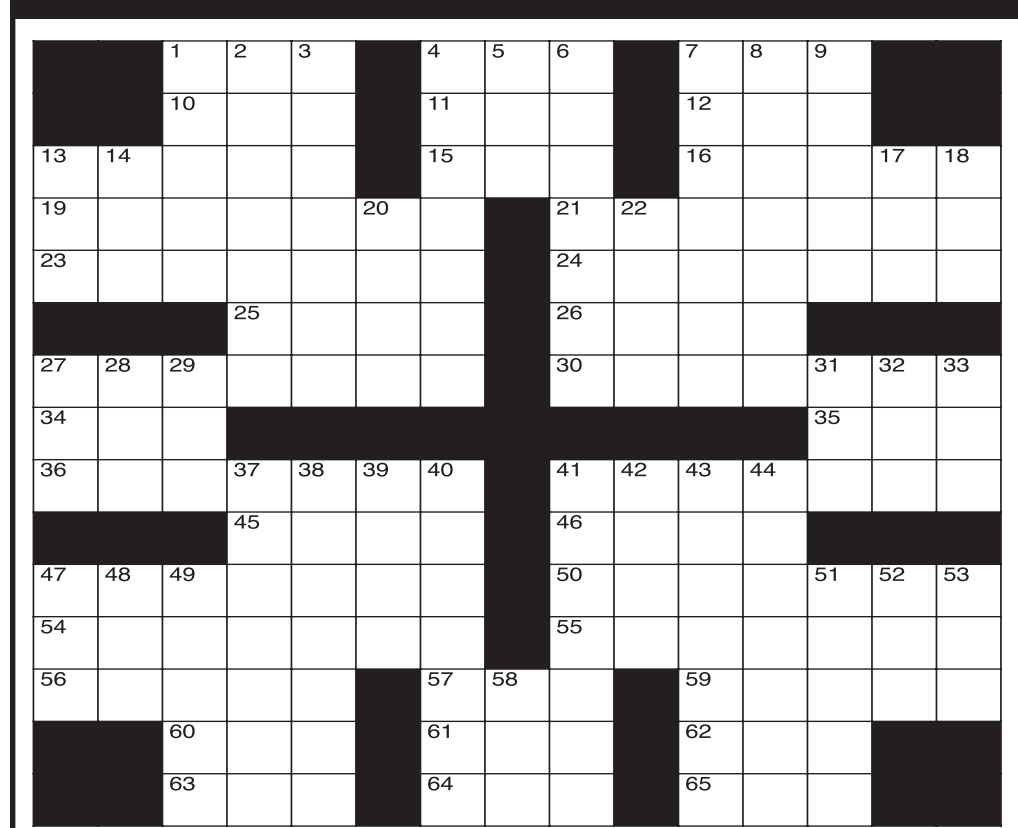
Propagating forsythias is easy! Do you want more of a good thing? Try layering your forsythias. Take a long, pliable branch and bend it to the ground a foot or so from the main plant. Cover the bend with soil and secure it with a brick or heavy stone. In a few months' time it will root, and

by the following spring the new plant can easily be separated from its mother.

Forsythia is easily grown. Perhaps this is why we see so many forsythias in the landscape.

While it will undoubtedly bloom best in full sun, once established, it can tolerate all but the driest of soils and adapts to a range in pH. Also, it is bothered by few pests or diseases.

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



CLUES ACROSS

- Health care pros
- A person inhabiting Benin
- One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- Split pulses
- Frozen water
- Small constellation
- Perennial mountain rice
- Pick up
- Japanese historical period
- Suggesting the horror of death and decay
- Unattached
- Fishing port in SE France
- Products for dogs
- One point south of southeast
- Having the skill or resources to do something
- Involve oneself deeply
- Immobile
- ___ pai dong; Hong Kong food stall
- Move quickly on foot
- Gathered
- A way through
- Another name for Thor
- Sharp dueling sword
- The supreme commander of a fleet
- Seasoned sausages
- Path
- Christian hermit
- Ancient region of Asia
- Minor
- Where wrestlers go to work
- Roman statesman
- Explosive
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Where golfers start
- Grow old
- Autonomic nervous system
- No seats available

CLUES DOWN

- A legally binding command
- General feeling of discomfort
- Dribble
- Soft touch
- South American plant
- Clouds of gas and dust in space
- Warm-blooded vertebrates
- Lines created by folding
- Strong belief
- Senior officer
- Adult
- Joint entrance
- examination in India
- Passports and drivers' licenses are two
- Those who go against an accepted authority
- One point east of northeast
- Journalist Tarbell
- One's mother (British)
- Nowhere to be found
- A way to save for old age
- Fall behind
- Midway between northeast and east
- The work of a sailor
- Mark with striae
- Energy, style and enthusiasm
- Sticky situation
- Monetary units of Spain
- Three-banded armadillo
- Chooses
- More disreputable
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
- Livestock owners assn. in Spain
- Duplicating machine (abbr.)
- OJ trial judge
- Politician
- Airborne (abbr.)

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Local filmmaker premiered latest movie

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The movie industry in Western Massachusetts may not be large, but fans and participants are not without passion for film, or whatever digital medium that cinema is captured on currently.

On March 14 the audience began arriving well before the evening's event was to begin, and why not.

The impresario locally is Ludlow native Geno McGahee, and people were arriving for his latest production, "Dark Places". Dark as part of the title is apt as McGahee is known mostly for horror productions.

That does not mean he is not without the ability to work in other genres. Not exactly a fan of the Hallmark style, he did make a "Christmas Invitation", which may not be considered a tribute, but was fun.

"Deadly Western" was horror with aspects of what used to be called horse operas. His team of actors, used to working in the Bay State, traveled out west, rode horses, made a western and came home.

Also out in Cali, he would make "Fatal Justice", an homage to McGahee's favorite film, "Twelve Angry Men".

This night, the premiere would be at Agawam Cinemas in the town of that name. Dedicated movie theaters are rapidly vanishing in this age of streaming, so it was a pleasure to experience a night out at the movies.

At a little past 7 p.m. everyone moved into one of the two theaters and took their seats as the movie began.

Lindsey DeLand as Natalie, is a beginning college student. She meets Jason, played by

Jake Tyler, a boy next door type guy, or so it seems. They click and begin a relationship, but not too fast.

At home, things are not going smoothly for Natalie's family. Eric Michaelian, portrays her dad, James, who is under stress due to an over-demanding workload. He is compensating with alcohol.

Gabbie Mendelsohn as Liz, the mom, is doing all she can to keep things together, and it is not going well.

Natalie is fortunate to have a bestie, Debbie, played by Rita Marie Spence, not that in the end Debbie will be able to prevent the denouement.

Jason and Natalie develop their relationship as events unfold.

James avoids going into rehab but will not be able to save himself.

Natalie, worried about her dad, goes to the police, played by Lorrie Bacon, as detective Amy Trent, and partner Phil Godeck as Detective Adams. The duo is sympathetic and hear her story. After they heard her and she is leaving, she wishes them luck in finding the murderers of one of her professors. Professor Warren, played by Gus Bottazzi has been found dead.

Detective Trent insists she sit back down. The professor had attempted to proposition Natalie, and the detectives suspect she knows something.

Detective Amy admits that she is not unhappy with the demise of the professor. In fact, she is delighted.

Meanwhile, as the movie goes on, the Goat Head as the



Geno McGahee

The cast and crew of "Dark Place", the latest film by Ludlow native Geno McGahee.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

personification of Satan and leader of the cult, played by Danell Reese, makes his appearance. If he is not the complete incarnation of evil, he is doing a convincing imitation.

Natalie's relationship with Jason is moving along and her feelings continue to grow. He invites her to a family early New Year's celebration, and though she has some feelings she might not be in a good place, she agrees.

So, she goes to the family's middle-class home and meets Jason's folks. Dwight an ex-police officer volunteers assistance in finding Natalie's dad.

The family and Natalie discuss it all and it does not all sound benign when Brent Northup as Bill relates his experience with a goat head.

Debbie senses something is wrong and investigates at Natalie's house, and contacts Trent. The detectives are galvanized into action and learn some crucial information about Jason.

The situation at the party finds Natalie in trouble, but she pushes back and the whole situation sees her resist but change as she rises to the occasion.

The detectives arrive at the house and find Natalie, but

come to a conclusion that will shock Debbie and the audience.

So, it ended and the audience stuck around for a lively Q & A with McGahee taking many questions about the movie and answering ques-



"Dark Places" premiered on March 14. The film can be viewed on Tubi.

tions about his other productions as well.

"Dark Places" included interesting music and made good use of various Massachusetts locales. It will be interesting to see what McGahee does next.

Many of the actors are part of the production team, but Rick Caride does a lot of work, directing lighting among other duties and deserves mention.

"Dark Places" is available on the screaming platform Tubi as are most of the previous Xposse productions.



The Agawam Fire Department responds to a large fire on Juniper Ridge Dr.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

FIRE | from page 1

Longmeadow Fire Department, and National Ambulance.

There were no civilian injuries reported. One firefighter was transported to the hospital and is currently in stable condition. The res-

idence sustained significant fire damage and is considered a total loss.

The Agawam Fire Department is grateful for the support of our mutual aid partners. Our thoughts are with the family affected by this devastating loss.

The cause of the fire is be-

ing investigated by the Agawam Fire Department, Agawam Police Department, and Massachusetts State Police Troopers assigned to the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services.

The Agawam Fire Department provided this report.



Tim, Charlie, and Danny at the NEFIRST District Event at Western New England University, explaining how the robot functions to Agawam City Councillor Anthony Russo in the pit at the competition.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The team, including Fidan, Tyler, Wendy Rua, Jacob, Racheal, Kylie, Kassie, Lucas, Lydia, Dana Henry, Mario Rua, Bobby Taylor, Madison, Charlie, Eli, Vincent, Owen, Dean, Matt, Tim, Connor, Robbie, Danny, Jon Elwell, Jack Barry, Lynne Henry, and Nikki License, celebrating winning the Innovation in Control Award at the NEFIRST District Event at Western New England University.

ROSIE | from page 1

Lead of design Kylie Henry shared a memory of their win at the New England District Championships at the Big E last year.

"One of the most exciting things that I think has stood out to us, and one of our biggest accomplishments, was last year. We have never personally done that in the past. Getting this big accomplishment, I'm pretty sure even now when talking about it, we're all like starstruck at actually being able to do that. It was just so fantastic."

Kylie has been mentoring Haire on everything she needs to know about the Impact Award and the Woody Flowers Award.

"The Impact Award is basically how, as a team, we've impacted our community. The Woody Flowers Award is where the students on the team will nominate one mentor on the team that has really shown excellence in teaching us," Kylie said.

Robbie Cooney, an AHS freshman apart of the machining and scouting teams shared why likes the Robotics team.

"I like how, no matter what happens, there's always people that are going have your back," said Cooney. "There's always someone, if something goes wrong, or you need help, they're going be there and they'll come check on you and make sure you're okay."

Assistant Lead Owen Elwell, a junior at AHS, tells us about the welcoming atmosphere Rosie creates. "My favorite thing about robotics is the environment that you interact with, at like different events. It's all positive. It's all really nice unique connec-

tions."

Lead of the Software Team, Eli Lukin, an AHS sophomore tells us how gratifying being a part of Rosie is. "I just really enjoy seeing something that I wrote get improved upon and then actually being used on our robot and seeing how that thing I was able to write actually helps us in a competition."

Assistant Lead of Rosie, Jon Elwell says Rosie is focused on inclusivity.

"One of the biggest things I try to push here is that everyone is welcome," said Elwell. "It doesn't matter if

you're coming in with disabilities or if you're coming in as the top of the class. Everyone has a place and we want to give everyone a chance to showcase what they can do."

AHS senior, Matt Edwards, is the lead of the machining team. His experience of being this year's driver, "I know the materials and I know what it's made of, and it's like, I know how much of a beating the robot can take before it snaps." He then speaks to the evolution of Rosie as a club, "I'd say everything's constantly evolving. We've spent the last five years

not only building robots but trying to fine tune this team, and we kind of try to turn it into a functional business. Every part is something to learn. I'm always doing something different."

This team has existed for more than 20 years. They are a core part of the AHS community, participating in Pep Rally, and several fundraisers throughout the year. This year Rosie's robot is named Zulu. Rosie stands for recognizing outstanding science inspired education, and that is exactly what this beloved AHS team is doing.

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SPORTS

LACROSSE

LAX falls to Falcons

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - If the Minnechaug Regional girls' varsity lacrosse team can continue to perform like they did in the first three games of the regular season, it should be a very successful spring.

The Falcons improved to a perfect 3-0 after dispatching Valley Wheel League rival Agawam, 11-4, on a gloomy afternoon at Harmon A. Smith Field in Agawam, last Thursday.

"We've started the season off strongly and I'm hoping that we can keep it going," said Minnechaug senior tri-captain Aubrey Stachowicz, who has been a mem-

ber of the girls' varsity lacrosse team since she was a freshman. "I'm very excited because this is our best start since I've been a member of the varsity team. We're hoping to win a championship title this year."

Under the direction of first-year head coach Thomas Brennan, Minnechaug Regional began the 2026 campaign with home victories against Amherst (15-1), and East Longmeadow (12-10).

"I've watched these girls play lacrosse during the past couple of years, so I'm not very surprised that we're 3-0," said Brennan, who was an assistant coach a year ago. "We're still trying to put the pieces together, but I'm very

proud of how well the players have performed so far this season."

Stachowicz contributed a goal and two assists in the Falcons first road game of the season. She's planning to attend the University of Alabama in the fall.

"The University of Alabama has been my dream school since I was in the sixth grade," said Stachowicz, who has only played lacrosse in high school. "They don't have a women's lacrosse team there, but I'm planning to try out for their club lacrosse team. One of my teammates will also be attending Alabama."

LAX | page 9



Gianna Goodrow makes a pass from behind the goal.



Makayla Rosario maneuvers her way up the field.



Finnola Mahoney tries to make a pass inside.

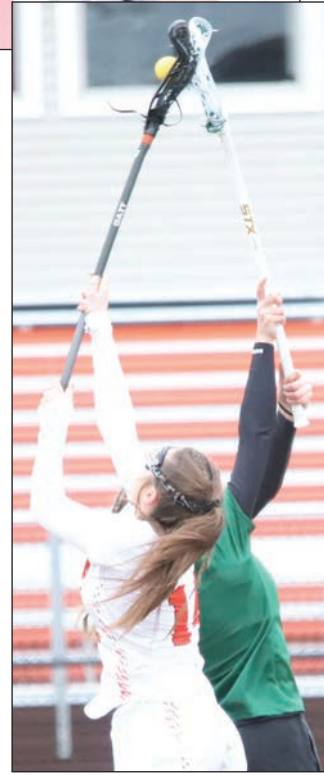


Tessa Pszeniczny receives a pass.



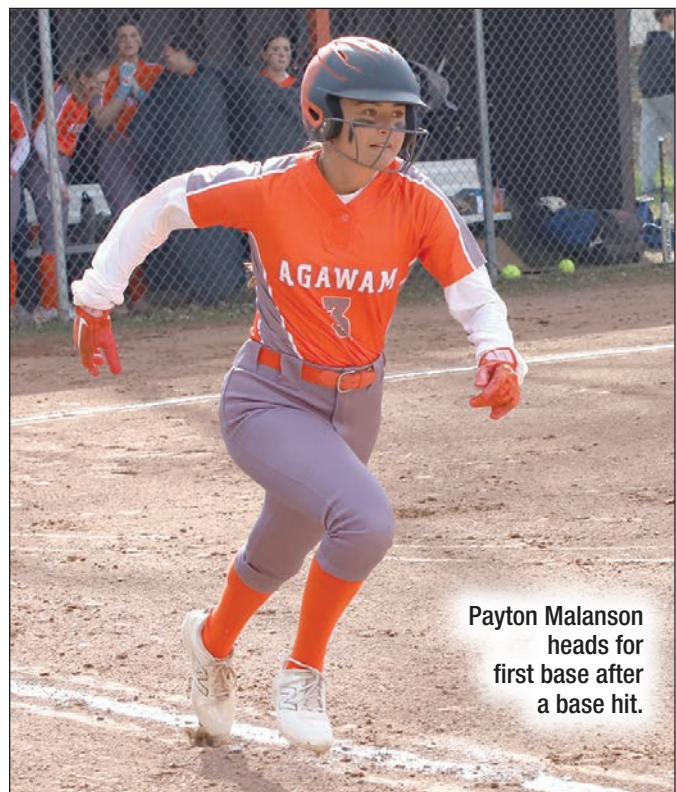
Lily Charest attempts to block a pass.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Olivia Govoni goes for a faceoff.

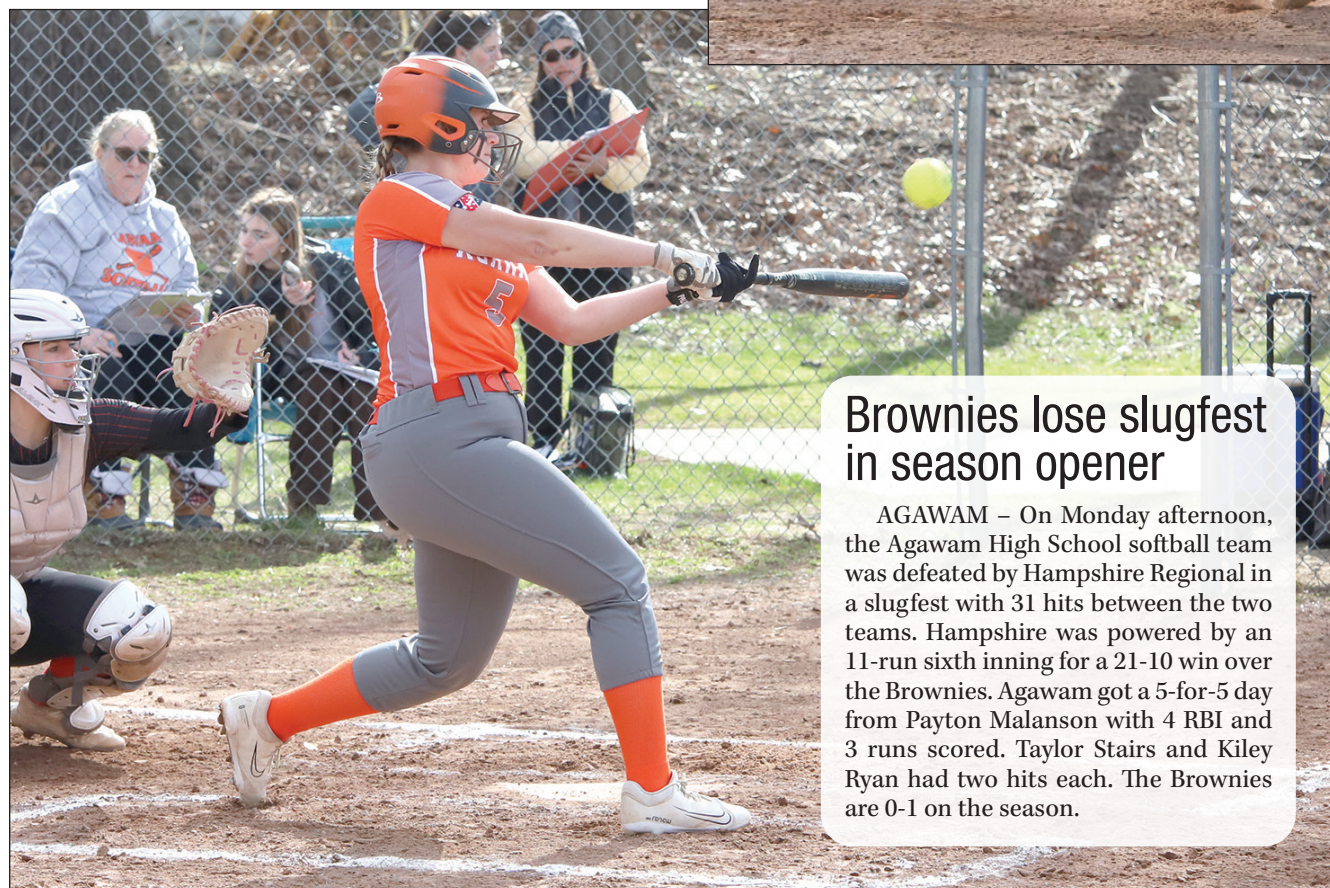
SOFTBALL



Payton Malanson heads for first base after a base hit.



Avery Gordon sends a pitch to the plate.



Taylor Stairs lifts a fly ball to the outfield.

Brownies lose slugfest in season opener

AGAWAM - On Monday afternoon, the Agawam High School softball team was defeated by Hampshire Regional in a slugfest with 31 hits between the two teams. Hampshire was powered by an 11-run sixth inning for a 21-10 win over the Brownies. Agawam got a 5-for-5 day from Payton Malanson with 4 RBI and 3 runs scored. Taylor Stairs and Kiley Ryan had two hits each. The Brownies are 0-1 on the season.



Madison Georgina sends a throw to first.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

LACROSSE

Offense gets going in season opening win for Brownies

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School boys lacrosse team picked up its first win of the season with a 16-6 win over visiting Westfield last Tuesday afternoon.

Justin Lareau had the big scoring game for the Brownies with four goals. But it was Casey Thomas who led the team in points with two goals and four assists.

Brayden Federico, Liam Grealis, Cam King, Brayden Martin, and Jaden Holloway all had two goals each for the Brownies.

Agawam scored 12 times in the first half while limiting Westfield to just three goals to have a commanding lead at the break.

In the win, Douglas Mackinnon had 17 saves for the Brownies.

Agawam, now 1-0, had a long layoff and is back in action on Friday, Apr. 10 at home against East Longmeadow. The Brownies then face rival Minnechaug on Monday, Apr. 13 at 5 p.m.

How to contact the Sports Editor

Send all sports-related photos and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call (413) 283-8393.

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Requirements: Applicants must be 21 or older and eligible to work in the United States. Background checks are required under state cannabis regulations.

Interested candidates should email **holyokewilds9@gmail.com** with their contact information and brief work history.

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

SEASONAL FACILITIES CREW wanted at Norcross Wildlife Foundation. For a full job description, please visit **www.norcrosswildlife.org** or email **info@norcrosswildlife.org**

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535**; or by email to **selectmen@northbrookfield.net**.

WANT TO WORK THIS SUMMER part or full-time? Help wanted for assisting in landscape maintenance and installation projects. Liberty Orchards Landscape, **413-283-6408**.

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Schools & Youth

Gloria McLellan Memorial Scholarship applications available

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans (ACAA) have kicked off their annual scholarship fundraising program, designed to be awarded to high school and college students from Western Massachusetts who are pursuing further education in Visual Arts.

Deadline to apply for the Gloria McLellan Memorial Scholarship is May 1. Students can apply at www.agawamarts.com.

Anthony Nguyen of Springfield, Sarah McDonald of Longmeadow, and Charles Santiago of Chicopee were each awarded \$1200 scholarships last year.

The scholarship is named after Gloria McLellan, a local artist and one of the founding members of ACAA.

Funds for the scholarship are raised through the ACAAs New England Mosaic Project, which has just launched in local Western Mass libraries. Through the libraries, anyone can pick up a blank canvas, apply art to it, and return it by May 15. The canvases become part of a 24-foot Mosaic display. The canvases are sold at two events in August with net proceeds going directly to the scholarship.

Scholarships will be awarded in June for the 2026 fall semester.

CWC Scholarship applications available

AGAWAM – Application forms for the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam's scholarship are available. Applicants must be a child or grandchild of a club member and a graduating high school senior. The forms will be available at the club's monthly meetings in March and April or at the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center office at 833 Main St., Agawam MA, Monday -Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Completed forms and all requested information must be returned by Apr. 30 to the email or mailing address on the application. No late applications will be accepted.

HCC Culinary Arts program hosting April 15 open house, free tasting

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College will host an open house and free community tasting event on Wednesday, April 15, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St.

Visitors will be able tour the state-of-the-art kitchens at the college's culinary arts facility, sample dishes prepared by culinary arts students and faculty, learn about the college's culinary arts certificate and associate degree programs, noncredit job training and personal enrichment classes, and play Food Bash Bingo for a chance to win prizes.

Visitors will have the opportunity to talk to representatives from HCC pro-

grams including: Admissions, Marieb Adult Learner Success Center, HCC Foundation, Alumni Relations, Thrive Center and Food Pantry, El Centro, ALANA Men in Motion, and Jumpstart, as well as personnel from area community groups, including Tech Foundry/Tech Hub, United Way, Alzheimer's Organization, and Holyoke Medical Center.

Staff from the HCC Admissions office will also be on hand to discuss enrollment options, including MassEdUcate and MassReconnect, the state programs for free community college.

In 2021, HCC placed 50th among the Best Culinary Schools in America, a list that also includes such esteemed

schools as the Culinary Institute of America. HCC's culinary program ranked third in New England after Johnson & Wales in Providence, R.I. and Southern Maine Community College in Portland. Best Choice Schools cited HCC for the quality of its one-year certificate and two-year associate of arts in science degree programs in culinary arts, as well as its 20,000 square-foot culinary arts facility, which opened in downtown Holyoke in 2018.

The HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute is equipped with four modern kitchens, a bakery, hotel lab, and student-run dining room.

For more information visit hcc.edu/culinary or send an email to CAI@hcc.edu.

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. HD25P0699EA
Estate of:
Frederick Blair
Date of Death: 03/13/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/04/2026.**

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.

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

Date: March 30, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/09/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
HAMPDEN, Div.
Probate & Family Court Dept.
HD26E008PP

To *Deborah A. Davignon, of Hampden County, Brian J Murphy, of Gallatin County (MT), Dennis G. Murphy, of Hampden County, Yolanda Murphy, of Hampden County, and to all other persons interested.*

A petition has been presented to said Court by Paul D. Murphy, of Hampden County, representing that they hold as tenants-in-common in an undivided part or share of land lying in Feeding Hills, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Three Hundred and Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$311,000.00), and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.

If you desire to object thereto, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection in said Court at **Springfield** on or

before 10:00 AM. on the return date of **April 27th, 2026.**

Witness, **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of said Court, this 2nd day of March 2026.

Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register
03/26, 04/02, 04/9/2026

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE

The Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7PM** for all parties interested in the request of Longbrook Estates Condominium Trust, which is seeking a Variance from the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinance, Ch. 180-29 (C) to allow "Building 39", which previously had been found to be in violation of the required setback to remain at the premises identified as Unit 304 and Unit 305 Longbrook Estates, 1485 Suffolk Street.

Doreen A. Prouty, Chairperson
Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals
04/02, 04/09/2026

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE

As allowed under the Town of Agawam's Charter, Section 2-8, Paragraph C and M.G.L. Ch. 40A, Section 8, notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA, on **Monday, April 27, at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in Longbrook Estates Condominium Trust's appeal of the Inspector of Buildings denial for a building permit for repairs to

Building 39.
Doreen A. Prouty, Chairperson
Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals
04/02, 04/09/2026

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. HD26P0716EA
Estate of:
Stephen D Prew
Date of Death: 02/26/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Nancy D Murphy of Agawam, 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 **Nancy D Murphy of Agawam, 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 04/30/2026.** 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 CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: April 02, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
04/09/2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF AGAWAM FY'27 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Agawam – In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 38N, the Agawam School Committee will hold a public hearing on the proposed school department budget for Fiscal

Year 2027.

The hearing will take place on **Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** in the Agawam Junior High School Auditorium, located at 1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. All interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard in regard to the proposed budget.

Copies of the proposed budget will be available to the public at least 48 hours prior to the hearing at the following locations:

Superintendent's Office: Agawam Junior High School, 1305 Springfield Street

Town Clerk's Office: Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street

Agawam Public Library: 750 Cooper Street

Agawam School Committee
04/09, 04/16/26

AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

The Agawam City Council Administrative Sub-Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on **TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026 at 6:30PM**, at the Agawam Senior Center Hall Seminar Hall, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on an Western Massachusetts Electric Company petition for permission to install and maintain underground lines near the area of Wilbert Terrace, Feeding Hills and could include installation of manholes, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protect fixtures along and across the property. This petition is available by contacting the City Council Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing bbard@agawam.ma.us.

Robert E. Rossi, Chair
Administrative Sub-Committee
04/02, 04/09/2026

Sports

LAX ■ from page 7

That will be Ava Luszczyk, who's also a senior tri-captain.

Luszczyk anchors the defensive unit, along with sophomore Oksana Dobronski, sophomore Kendall Placzek, and junior Ava Scatolini.

The Falcons' other senior tri-captain is Nolah McConnell, who didn't play in the game against the Brownies because of an injury. She's planning to play lacrosse at Worcester State University.

The Brownies (0-2), who won their first meeting against Minnechaug a year ago, suffered an 11-10 non-league loss at Tantasqua Regional in their first game of this season.

Agawam head coach Taylor DeGeorge praised the performance of senior tri-captain Lucia LaRocque defensively.

"We're a very young team this year, but Lucia controlled our defense very well," DeGeorge said. "When you play defense for more than the 75 percent of the time,

you're going to get tired."

Agawam's other two senior tri-captains are Makayla Rosario, and Finnola Mahoney.

Last Thursday's contest was scoreless for the first eight minutes of the opening quarter.

Minnechaug junior Sophia Kozub finally broke the ice by scoring the first of her three goals with 3:44 left in the quarter.

Junior Caelan Luszczyk, who assisted on Kozub's goal, netted an unassisted goal a minute later giving the Falcons a 2-0 advantage.

"Scoring the two goals in the first period gave us the momentum," Stachowicz said. "It's always very important to take the lead in every game. We do have a very strong offense this year."

With 6:04 left in the first half, the Brownies cut their deficit in half following a free position goal by Rosario.

Then three consecutive goals from Luszczyk, Kozub, and sophomore Peyton Lee extended the Falcons lead

to 5-1 with a little more than two minutes left in the second quarter.

The duo of Kozub and Lee finished with hat-tricks, while Luszczyk added two goals.

The Brownies second goal was scored by sophomore Bella Santaniello, who's older sister, Hope, was an All-American soccer player in high school.

Santaniello's goal was assisted by junior Gianna Godrow.

After holding a 6-2 half-time lead, Minnechaug outscored Agawam, 4-0, during the third quarter.

The Falcons' first two goals of the second half were scored by sophomores Lillian Sergienko and Anna Taylor. Kozub scored her third goal of the match with 4:37 left in the quarter before Stachowicz's goal gave the visiting team a commanding 10-2 advantage entering the final twelve minutes of the contest.

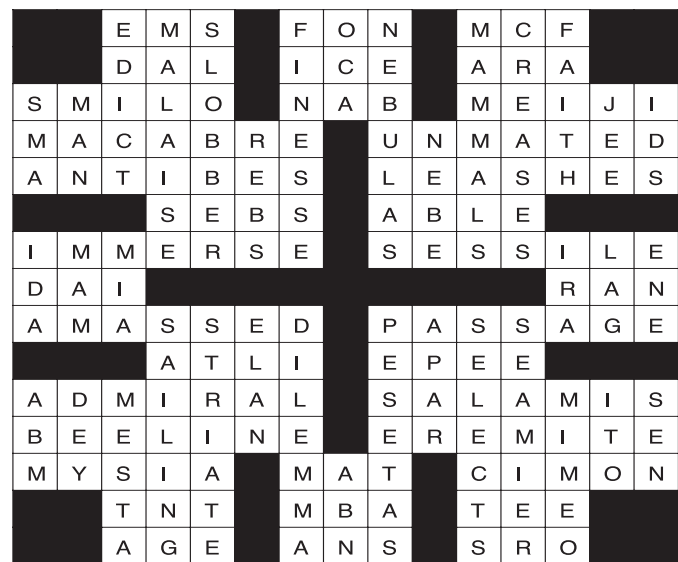
With no shot clock, the Falcons took their time whenever they held possession of the ball during the

final quarter.

Lee fired a shot into the cage with 2:37 left in regulation.

The Brownies responded with goals by Santaniello and Rosario during the last two minutes, but the outcome had already been determined at that point.

Agawam will be looking to split the rivalry series for the second consecutive year when they travel to Wilbraham on April 27.



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A display at the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Many of the members of the Agawam Historical Society were in attendance on Saturday to support the museum including, President David Cecchi, Treasurer Katy Krause, Secretary Carolyn Cortis, Director Raymond Pond, Bruce Cortis, and Sue Scantlen.



Another display in the Fire House section at the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum.



The Fire House Museum opened up last weekend.



Agawam Historical Society Treasurer Katy Krause working at the gift shop at the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum.

MUSEUM ■ from page 1

Cecchi shared why it's so important to the association that the museum remains free to access, "People are fairly generous with the donations. Part of the reason, you know, it's free. We want it to be accessible. We don't want that to be a barrier at all."

Although there are not currently any new exhibits at the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum, Cecchi explained that this is because each of the current exhibits has so many artifacts to offer and so much information attached to them.

Coming up on the Fourth of July is America's 250th

birthday. Agawam Historical Society has been having events throughout the year to lead up to this celebration and Cecchi shared with us a



I'm a firm believer that if you're passionate about something, do it. And so, I enjoy learning how to learn that history and share it was other people."

— Agawam Historical Association Treasurer Katy Krause

preview of what the association has planned to celebrate the birth of our country, "We're having a big Fourth of July event. The 25 Continental is gonna be having an encampment. The Green Valley Homestead reenacting group is gonna have people there. We're doing a recital of the Declaration of Independence. We're doing a bell ringing at 2 o'clock. We're also doing a time capsule on the Fourth of July."

Cecchi and Agawam Historical Association Treasurer Katy Krause talked about why they enjoy being a part of the association. Cecchi tells us, "I love the research. I love the stories. I just love finding information. Because Agawam, in my opinion, didn't really value its history for a long time. It was just kind of, not really a big issue. Some towns really embrace their heritage and history, and Agawam didn't really seem to do that. I think that the attendance we've had over a thousand people at our events over the past two years. I think that

shows that people are interested in the history."

"I am very passionate about history and genealogy. They go hand in hand. I'm a firm believer that if you're passionate about something, do it. And so, I enjoy learning how to learn that history and share it was other people," says Krause.

Many members of the association were at the museum Saturday to support the museum by providing directions and information to guests as well as running the gift shop located in the fire house section of the museum on the lower level. Attendance was high with many community members making an appearance to show their interest in our town's history. Passion for our town's history is important for both members of the Agawam Historical Association and members of the community to keep the museum up and going. For more information about Agawam Historical Association visit, The Agawam Historical Association.



Display in the Marlyn P. Curry Room at the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum.



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