



CULTURE
Gina Kos
appearance
PAGE 2



HISTORY
Museum
opening
PAGE 3



SPORTS
Baseball
wins
PAGE 6

AGAWAM

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Rosie Robotics is headed to Worlds

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Rosie Robotics is headed to Worlds after placing first in their district championship.

Rosie Robotics placed first at the New England District Championship and as a result, the whole team is going to Houston, Texas to compete in Worlds.

“It was an absolutely generational run at districts,” Secondary Electrical and Scouting Team Member Vincent Barrett said. “It just felt really amazing.”

Rosie is one of 600 teams going to Worlds. These 600 teams were selected out of the 4,000 that compete each year.

This moment was huge for the team. Last year was their first time making it to districts in several years. For them to have not only made it to districts again, but to have earned first place this year was a huge accomplishment.

“In my opinion it was unexpected,” Pit Boss Owen Elwell said. “I walked in that day thinking we were not going to get picked for alliance and then we went in and won our division and then the entire event.”

The way the district event worked is each team started by completing a series of challenges. This year they had to take coral and put it on a reef to earn points.

They could also earn points by removing algae from the reef and by climbing onto a hanging barge.

The first 15 seconds of the challenge are automatic, which means the team cannot touch the remote to



The Rosie Robotics Team gathers around their various trophies, plaques and banners they earned from their victories this year. SUBMITTED PHOTO

control the robot.

Therefore, they have to have code in the robot that provides it with instructions on how to operate without the team controlling it.

The last 20 seconds of the challenge the team can use the remote to control their robot and get it to climb the barge.

There are a variety of different strategies the team can use to approach the challenges to win. Rosie decided to focus on building

their robot so it could effectively and efficiently place the coral onto the reef.

“The different strategies you can implement into your robot and into your design dictate what alliances you get on and ultimately dictate how your events go,” Design Team Lead Tim Rua said.

After the initial challenge the teams are scored and given seeds. The top eight teams are able to pick their alliances.

Rosie was selected to join one of these alliances, and from there they went undefeated in their division.

The team agrees that their victory was thanks to the collective knowledge that is present on their team.

“It’s the people,” Rua said. “Throughout the years we’ve accumulated amazing people on this team and the students, the coaches, and the staff that we have on this team at this point are

incredible.”

This victory was well earned by the team. They have been working on developing their robot since the kick-off event for the season on Jan. 4.

During this time, they spent over 24 hours each work planning out and working on their robot.

On top of this planned time in the shop, the team also spent many hours

ROBOTICS | page 10

Town announces new tax work-off program

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Earlier this week, Mayor Christopher Johnson’s office announced the Town of Agawam is commencing with the application period for the Senior Citizen/Veteran’s Tax Work-Off Program. This initiative aims to provide opportunities for eligible seniors and veterans to contribute to their community while receiving assistance with property taxes.

Beginning on Tuesday, April 22, and running through May 2, interested individuals are encouraged to submit their applications for consideration. The program offers eligible participants the chance to work in various capacities within municipal departments, earning credit toward their property tax bills based on the work they complete with any of the participating town departments. It gives seniors the opportunity to offset their property taxes through service to the town.

This the second year since the program was put into action. It was originally passed by the Agawam City Council, but not fully implemented until last year.

“We are excited to continue our commitment to supporting our senior citizens

TAX | page 10

Annual Easter Egg Hunt rescheduled for Saturday

AGAWAM – This Saturday morning, the Agawam Parks and Recreation Commission will once again partner with the Agawam Rotary Club to host an Easter Egg Hunt for children at School Street Park.

The event was rescheduled for this Saturday after being postponed on April 12 due to very inclement weather that included a coating of snow.

You do not need to register in advance. The cost to participate is \$5 per family/car payable upon entry to School Street Park.

You are advised to arrive early as the hunts will begin



promptly at 10 a.m. Parents or guardians should bring a container of some kind for children to use to collect eggs.

There will be three separate hunts for different age groups. There will be a four years and younger hunt, an age 5 to 7 hunt, and one for ages 8 and older. There will be special prizes available in each hunt and allergy-free gift bags can be obtained upon request.

AHS Music Department takes spring trip



On Thursday April 10, the AHS Music Department took their annual spring trip. This year was a trip to Boston where our music students got to take a land and sea tour of the city on the famous Boston Duck Boats, enjoyed lunch at Quincy Market, and then had the opportunity to speak with Senator Velis’ Chief of Staff about issues they were passionate about and take a private tour of the State House. After a delicious dinner together, they finished up the day with a performance by the Blue Man Group. After all the hard work our music students put in all year, this was a perfect opportunity to have some fun and learn while spending the day together in Boston.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



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Gina Kos to be featured speaker at next ACAA meeting

AGAWAM – Sunshine Village, a local non-profit organization with a mission of improving the lives of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, will be featured at the May meeting of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans (ACAA.)

Gina Kos, Executive Director, will be sharing the many successes of the Agawam Community Based Day Services (CBDS) - a program which was opened in 2022 at 588 Silver Street. Sunshine Village, which has held a national accreditation since 1981, helps their clients realize their full potential with support from both CBDS and

day habilitation services. In addition to Agawam, SSV offers services at sites in Chocopee and Three Rivers and all programs provide safe, nurturing environments in which everyone can live and learn, work and earn and give and grow.

Clients at the CBDS program are supported with professional development including technology, teamwork, problem-solving, communication and social skills while improving personal development, involving wellness, self-motivation and self-advocacy. Kos said, "Sunshine Village is so proud of our artists who

shine each day through their incredible paintings, drawings and photographs. We often display their works of art at local exhibits and now will be able to share not only their unique talents through portraiture but also showcase their handcrafted goods - many of which are sold at local boutiques and consignment shops."

The mission of the ACAA is to promote and encourage community participation in and develop an awareness and appreciation of the arts. "We were so happy that the ACAA reached out to us and invited us to share all that Sunshine Village does to

deliver on our promise of a great day with their members," Kos said.

The May meeting of the ACAA will take place on Wednesday, May 14, in the Community Room at the Agawam Public Library, located at 750 Cooper Street in Agawam. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a social gathering and refreshments. The presentation by Sunshine Village's Executive Director, Gina Kos will begin at 7:00pm. This meeting is free and open to the public.

Further information contact: Ceil Rossi (413) 207-1247 or email her at info@agawamarts.com.



Gina Kos will share her work at the next ACAA meeting. SUBMITTED PHOTO

AFD hosts Wildland Fire Awareness Day at Robinson State Park May 4

AGAWAM – The Agawam Fire Department, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation's Bureau of Forest Fire Control, invites community members to Wildland Fire Awareness Day on Sunday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to noon at Robinson State Park.

This informative event aims to educate residents on crucial strategies to protect their homes and communities from wildfire risks. Participants will gain valuable insights into reducing wildfire hazards around their properties, learn practical

tips for wildfire preparedness, and discover how to make their homes less vulnerable to wildfires.

Highlights of the event include:

- Interactive presentations on wildfire risk reduction.
 - Introduction to the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Firewise USA® program.
 - Opportunities to engage with local fire experts and ask questions.
 - Special appearance by Smokey Bear for fun and photos.
- Complimentary coffee

and donuts will be available throughout the morning.

Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois said, "This event is particularly important for residents whose homes border forested areas or open fields. Understanding and implementing wildfire prevention measures can significantly enhance safety and protect our community from potential wildfires. We strongly encourage all residents to attend."

Join us to learn how proactive measures can significantly enhance community safety and preparedness in wildfire-prone areas.

Holy Week services to be held at Saint David's Episcopal Church

AGAWAM – Saint David's Episcopal Church announces their Holy Week Services.

On Maundy Thursday, April 17, the Church will have a celebration of Holy Eucharist at 5:30, followed by a solemn stripping of the altar. On Friday, April 18, Saint David's will have Good Friday Services at 12 noon and 5:30 p.m. Holy Week climaxes on Easter Sunday, April 20, with festive services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. The 10 a.m. service on Easter Sunday as well as the two services at 5:30 p.m. will also be broadcast on the Agawam television station and livestreamed on

the Church Facebook Page. All services should last a little under one hour. Everyone is welcome.

Saint David's is located at 699 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. For more information, please call the Church office at 413-786-6133, check the Church webpage at www.stdavidsagawam.org, or go to the Church Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/StDavidsFeedingHillsMA.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saint David's Episcopal Church invites all children to a combined Stations of the Cross and Easter Egg Hunt

on Friday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The day begins with a Bible Story for children, includes a special version of the Stations appropriate for all ages, and wraps up with a giant Easter Egg Hunt. The event is free, and all are welcome.

Saint David's is located at 699 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. For more information, please call the Church office at 413-786-6133, check the Church webpage at www.stdavidsagawam.org, or go to the Church Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/StDavidsFeedingHillsMA.

Golf tournament scheduled to help Parish Cupboard



AGAWAM – Once again, we gather for a fun day of golf followed by a wonderful dinner to support The West Springfield-Agawam Parish Cupboard and its pantry and meal programs that feeds the hungry and people in need. Our 31st event includes 18 holes of golf (Scramble format), lunch, dinner, contests, raffles and prizes. Enter a foursome or sign up alone and we will place you in a foursome. It will be held

on Saturday, May 31 with registration from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. There will be a shotgun start at 12 noon. Social hour for the dinner will be at 5 p.m. The cost to play is \$125 which includes dinner.

For dinner only, it is \$30 per person. Please send payment to Parish Cupboard 738 Main Street West Springfield, MA 01089. Any questions call Bob at 413-734-7969 or email Parishcupboard@aol.com.

Democrats holding caucus for delegates

AGAWAM – Notice is hereby given to all registered Democrats in the Town of Agawam that the Agawam Democratic Committee will be holding the Agawam

Town Democratic Caucus in order to choose delegates for the Massachusetts State Democratic Convention.

The Agawam Town Democratic Caucus will be held

on Saturday, April 19 at 10 a.m. at the Agawam Public Library (750 Cooper St., Agawam, MA 01001) in the large conference room.

Delegates chosen by this

caucus will be asked to attend the Massachusetts Democratic Convention being held in Springfield, MA on Saturday, Sept. 13 at the MassMutual Center.

Class of 1968 to host reunion on June 18

AGAWAM – The 1968 Agawam High School class is having a reunion on Wednesday, June 18 at Take 5 Restaurant on Springfield Street in Agawam at 2 p.m. until closing.

It will take place on the patio weather permitting. (Indoors if weather is inclement.)

AHS play set to raise curtain on May 1, 2

AGAWAM – The AHS Drama Club presents Puffs: Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic & Magic. The Agawam High School Drama Club presents this off-Broadway hit comedy, a parody of the story of a well-known wizarding school that became a cultural phenomenon. Tickets will be on sale at the door on May 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. in the

Agawam High School Auditorium. There will be a bake sale and raffle prizes at each performance. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$8 for students and senior citizens. This show is rated PG. The auditorium is wheelchair-accessible. Please come to support the Performing Arts Department. For more information, contact jjaeger@agawamed.org or 413-374-3688.

Sat. & Sun. April 26-27 10am - 4pm

"Thistle," Watercolor by Pauline Thomas Southwick, MA

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Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum set to re-open

AGAWAM – The Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum may have been closed for the past five years, but the archive committee of the Agawam Historical Association (AHA) has been busy during that time, organizing the association's collection of historical artifacts and ephemera for the museum's reopening, initially planned for Memorial Day 2024.

"We realized a full opening was not going to happen last year," stated AHA president David Cecchi, who, along with museum curator Anne Liptak, AHA treasurer Katy Krause, and AHA past president Sue Scantlen, make up the archive committee. "The collection had grown considerably since the museum first opened in 2002, so last winter we focused on readying the fire house portion of the muse-

um for opening." A 'Sneak Peak' of the first floor Chief Russell "Rusty" Jenks Apparatus Room held on Memorial Day 2024 attracted more than 60 visitors.

Since then, the archive committee's attention has returned on the second-floor exhibit space. The entire space was rethought, with more room dedicated for archive storage, and display cases, including a custom, archival display cabinet hand-built in England. The displays were rearranged to best tell the story of Agawam and Feeding Hills, and include a pair of wall maps published in 1855, one before the incorporation of Agawam as an independent town, and one after; exhibits on the history of the Agawam woolen mill; aviation in Agawam; the Hastings general store; and Riverside Park.



The Rosie Robotics Team gathered around their various trophies, plaques and banners they earned from their victories this year. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Several styles of Agawam Gin bottles will also be displays, along with new donations from the family of Har-

lan Atwood, who at age 16 won the 1935 Feeding Hills Country Club Golf Championship; and the family of

Leonard "Buddy" Johnson, a standout athlete of Agawam High School's Class of 1947. Atwood's championship trophy and Johnson's letterman sweater, football helmet, cleats, and numerous medals won for his track prowess are valued additions to the historical association collection.

While combing through the collection and conducting research to develop new exhibits, the archive committee made two observations: there were a lot of "new" historical photographs that had never been seen before; and a longtime member and past president of the association seemed especially deserving of recognition.

"I began to create a mental catalogue of the photos I was coming across," Cecchi said. "And realized there were enough for a new book.

We thought it would be a good idea to coincide publication with the reopening of the museum." Cecchi spent last summer and fall organizing the photographs, researching, and writing Around Agawam and Feeding Hills, his fifth title in Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series, and the third to focus on Agawam and Feeding Hills. With selections from the association supplemented with images from his own collection, the book features more than 200 historical photographs from the mid 1800s through the 1990s and will be published at the end of April. Cecchi's first book, Agawam and Feeding Hills, was published in 2000 to raise funds for the renovation of the Elm Street fire station into the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum.

Catholic Women's Club to hold meeting

AGAWAM – The annual May Banquet of The Catholic Women's Club will take place at Storowtown Tavern in West Springfield, MA. It will be on Thursday, May 15, and begins at 6 p.m. with fruit/cheese platter and veggie & dip platter. The buffet dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. The menu is salad, bread and butter, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, Chicken Francaise, Yankee Pot Roast, Broiled Scrod, tea, and cof-

fee with a dessert ice cream puff to complete the meal. Open seating will be used.

The price is \$36, and checks should be made out to the Catholic Women's Club or C.W.C and sent to Paula Raiche, 181 Leonard St., Agawam, MA 01001 by May 7, 2025. Checks may also be put in the basket at weekend Masses. No refunds will be made. The club's monthly and yearly meetings will be held after the dinner.

Velis returns as Senate Vice Chair of Joint Committee on Aging and Independence

BOSTON – The Joint Committee on Aging and Independence, chaired by Representative Thomas Stanley (D-Waltham) and Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville), held its first hearing of the 2025–2026 legislative session today, taking testimony on several proposals aimed at strengthening home care services and consumer protections, modernizing the Councils on Aging statute, and expanding access to inclusive, person-centered care for older adults across Massachusetts.

"It was great to kick off the session with such thoughtful testimony on how we can better support older adults

in every corner of the Commonwealth," said Rep. Stanley. "Whether it's improving home care, making services more inclusive, or empowering Councils on Aging to continue to offer their vital programs, these bills reflect what we're hearing from communities — and I'm looking forward to moving this work forward together."

"It's an honor to co-chair the Joint Committee on Aging and Independence with Representative Tom Stanley once again," said Sen. Jehlen. "It was great to kick off our first hearing of the session with familiar bills, including some priority legislation such as the home care licen-

sure bill. I believe it is more important than ever to work together with colleagues and advocates to ensure the health and wellbeing of older people and their caregivers across the Commonwealth."

"As one of the folks providing testimony this morning said, 'we are all aging,'" said House Vice Chair Samantha Montano (D – Boston). "This statement frames the work to be done this session, and I look forward to crafting licensed standards for Home Care in service of a stronger and cared for Commonwealth. Without an intergenerational community we all suffer."

"After passing such a

monumental oversight bill last session to transform our long-term care sector, I am eager to get back to work and continue to improve the lives our Commonwealth's older residents. It is an honor to serve as the Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Aging and Independence again this session alongside Chair Jehlen and Chair Stanley," said Senate Vice Chair John Velis (D-Westfield). "This session, the charge of the committee is particularly critical as we work to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our older residents, and those living on a fixed income, who have been struggling to make ends meet."

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Opinion

Guest Column

Will my Social Security increase if I keep working after applying?

Dear Rusty:

I am going to be 67 in a few weeks and I plan on working for another year or two.

According to Social Security, they count the best 35 years to come up with your benefit. I currently have 30 years, with 2024 and 2025 taxes yet to be filed. If I take my benefit now, will I get an upward adjustment after filing my taxes for those years or do I need to wait to apply for SS until after filing my taxes to get credit for those years?

Signed: Still Working

Dear Still Working:

Whenever you claim your Social Security benefit, SSA will look at your lifetime earnings record on file at the time as received from the IRS and calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount"

using that record on file. They will use your highest earning 35 years to do that calculation and, if you do not yet have 35 years, they will use "zero \$\$" enough times to make it 35 years. In other words, your benefit will always be calculated using 35 years, whether you actually have 35 years of earnings on record or not.

However, Social Security revisits your earnings record whenever additional information is received from the IRS, so if file your taxes and add the additional year's income after you start your Social Security benefits, you will get credit for those additional earnings. Essentially, you will be replacing one of

the "zero \$\$" years originally used to calculate your benefit amount and Social Security will recalculate your monthly amount to reflect that, resulting in an increase to your monthly benefit.

Thus, as long as you work and earn and report your earnings to the IRS, Social Security will update your record and automatically give you a higher benefit if warranted by your more recent earnings. That recalculation usually happens later in the year after April 15, but Social



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Security will make any increase retroactive to the beginning of the calendar year, so you will get any higher benefit effective

with January.

So, since you have already reached your Full Retirement Age, you can (if you wish) apply for Social Security now and be confident that Social Security will give you credit for any additional earnings after you apply. And for clarity, if you choose to wait beyond your full retirement age to claim, you will earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs), which will continue to increase your monthly benefit amount until you are 70

years of age. DRCs will add 8% to your PIA for each full year you delay (.667% for each month you delay past your FRA).

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Vacation plans, anyone?

Many people plan trips over April vacation! Not me, I am planning an escape to the garden.

I have been chomping at the bit to do some gardening in spite of this crazy, post-winter weather we are having. Can you believe it snowed twice last week?

Maybe a dusting at your house, but Saturday's snowfall was a despicable four inches! At least forecasts for this upcoming week are improving, and I'm hoping that vacation week's are even better.

While it's best to wait until Memorial Day to sow bean and squash seeds, as well as transplant your tomato and pepper seedlings into the garden, there are many veggies that thrive in cooler spring temperatures. Here is a re-cap of a column from a few years back, outlining the veggie seeds that can be sown in the garden now:

Beet seeds can be planted as soon as the soil can be worked. Sow them close together and thin to three inches apart for full size beets - use the culled greens in salad. For a pretty beet try Chiogga for its alternating stripes of pink and white; pick early for best quality.

More interested in beet greens than beets themselves? Beautiful Bull's Blood grows well throughout the summer months without getting bitter. Carrots will also grow well under cool conditions, although they may take longer to come up. Keep them moist to hasten germination. Experts recommend sowing fast-growing radish seeds to mark carrot rows as well as provide shade (and therefore moisture retention).

I've also heard of folks covering rows of carrot seeds with burlap or straw for the same reason. For the longest, straightest roots, be sure the seed bed is deep and rock-free. Thin twice, with an ultimate spacing of one inch apart.

Amazingly enough, carrots come in all shades of yellow and orange, purple and red, even white. Try Yellowstone, Atomic Red, Purple Haze and White Satin for an extremely colorful coleslaw.

Lettuce is one of the best crops to start now. In fact, it won't germinate at all when

soil temperatures top 75 degrees. Sow your seeds every couple of weeks for a continuous supply throughout the summer. Get creative with lattice or interplant with other crops to give lettuce a break from sun and heat.

When all your friends are complaining that their salads are bitter, you'll be rewarded for your efforts with sweet greens. Look for seeds that suit your season. Consider New Red Fire or Slobolt for growing in the summer months; Tango or Lollo Rossa for fall and winter season extension.

Parsnips, like carrots, take a long time to come up and need consistent moisture in order to germinate. Try some of the tricks I mentioned above or just be diligent with the hose.

Old Sturbridge Village

grows two great heirloom varieties - Hollow Crown and Student. Harvest some after a few hard frosts in the fall, but hold on harvesting the rest until early spring.

You will be in for a sweet surprise. Peas have been a favorite plant of mine for the last several years. Sow them now and provide support for all but the dwarfest varieties. I plant them around the perimeter of my garden up against the fence, and will utilize "pea brush" for another row or two within the garden.

Be on the lookout for cut worms - in my garden they nearly always decimated my crop. If you see pea seedlings cut off at the soil line, gently cultivate around your plant and dispose of the chubby green or golden caterpillars.

Oregon Giant is a great snow pea, with flat pods perfect for stir fries. Tall Telephone (aka Alderman) is nearly six feet tall under optimal conditions, and yields upwards of 30 pounds of peas per one hundred foot row.

Spinach is another crop that must be started early to ensure success, and a crop I can't quite seem to master. I was never satisfied with the meal or two I ate before the plants bolted - I wanted more!

So instead of growing regular spinach, I now grow New Zealand Spinach. It isn't a true spinach, nor does it resemble one, but it can be grown throughout the summer and substituted for cooked spinach in nearly any recipe.

Soak the large seeds overnight before sowing to hasten germination. Pinch off and use the waxy leaves when they reach two or three inches long. New Zealand spinach also freezes extremely well.

Enjoy these earliest days in the garden; I know I will! The best vacation ever spent.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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Agawam Advertiser News welcomes election 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 Friday'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 news-

paper 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.

Velis concerned about funding cuts

BOSTON – With well over \$80 million proposed to be stripped from essential mental health programs by the Governor’s FY’26 budget, Senator John C. Velis (D-Westfield) is raising the alarm on the catastrophic impact this reduction in funding would have on the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable residents. As the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery, Velis is calling on his fellow lawmakers to prioritize restoring this funding ahead of the legislature’s budget debates this spring.

Despite the Department of Mental Health receiving a 7% overall increase in

the Governor’s H.1 budget compared to the previous fiscal year, many vital mental health programs face serious cuts including, but not limited to:

- 50% reduction in DMH Caseworkers who support those with a behavioral health disorder to live safely within their community.

- \$15.3 million cut to Intensive Residential Treatment Programs for children and adolescents. Effectively closing more than half of the beds dedicated to serving youth with the most serious mental health, emotional, and safety disturbances within the Commonwealth.

- \$14.2 million cut to grants that help improve

interactions between first responders and those with mental health challenges.

“Over the past several years the Commonwealth has made itself a leader in the nation through our work to create parity in how we support mental health and physical health. Understanding the very real fiscal challenges our Commonwealth is facing, I remain seriously concerned that these proposed cuts to various Department of Mental Health programs in the FY’26 budget are a step in the wrong direction,” said Velis. “Put simply, we are jeopardizing the sustained stabilization of our most vulnerable residents, risk

inundating our emergency rooms, and creating a greater strain overall on a system already asked to do more with less.”

Paired with uncertainty around federal funding and Massachusetts’s slow revenue collections, Velis shared that he is cognizant that tough decisions must be made but firmly believes these cuts will not have the intended cost savings for the Commonwealth.

Velis is slated to host an informational briefing next week at the State House alongside mental health providers, families, and other advocates to rally support among lawmakers to restore this funding.

Clean up at Pynchon Point set for April 26

AGAWAM – Everyone is welcome to join in on the WRWA’s annual cleanup at Pynchon Point on Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There is a paved parking area with 150’ ramp that leads down to the banks of the beautiful Westfield River, a lovely place to recreate, and leave trash. In the past, the park has been shut down due to neglect (<https://archives.thereReminder.com/localnews/agawam/massive-cleanupreop/>) and these annual cleanups ensure that Pynchon Point remains open as a safe and clean area for both recreation and the wildlife that depend on

a healthy River to live.

The cleanup also takes place along the sidewalk on River Road for those with mobility issues who still want to help.

The WRWA will provide light snacks, gloves, trash bags, and instructions to all participants. All children under 18 must have a waiver signed by a parent at the event or in advance. This cleanup is a great opportunity to meet others who share an interest in clean water and environmental justice.

Contact Sheryl Becker at 413-374-1921 or sher1e-arth69@gmail.com.

Town offers free document shredding event at DPW Annex

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam has announced that it will host a free document shredding event for residents on Saturday, April 26 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street.

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 removed. 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.

Mayor Christopher Johnson is pleased Valley Green Shredding continues to partner with the Town of Agawam to provide our



residents with this annual event. “Residents should shred any documents that contain personal information such as a social security number, bank account number or credit card number. Items like bank statements, medical records and tax documents are a few that may contain personal information that would make it easy for a criminal to steal your identity.”

For more information on how to protect your personal information from identity theft, including how to protect your kids about text scams, understanding your credit, and identifying identity theft, visit the Federal Trade Commission at <https://consumer.ftc.gov>

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

Town in need of doctor for BOH

AGAWAM – The Agawam Health Dept and Mayor’s Office are informing Agawam residents of

a volunteer opportunity to serve as Medical Doctor (MD) on the Agawam Board of Health.

For inquiries, please contact health@agawam.ma.us or mayor@agawam.ma.us.

NAMI announces Walk-a-thon event

WESTFIELD – NAMI Western Massachusetts (The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Mass) will be holding its 25th Annual Walkathon Anniversary Celebration, ‘A Journey of Hope and Recovery’ on Sunday, May 18 at Stanley Park’s Beveridge Pavilion Annex in Westfield, beginning at 11 a.m. with registration starting at 10 a.m.

The event is suitable for all ages and abilities and will directly benefit NAMI Western Massachusetts’

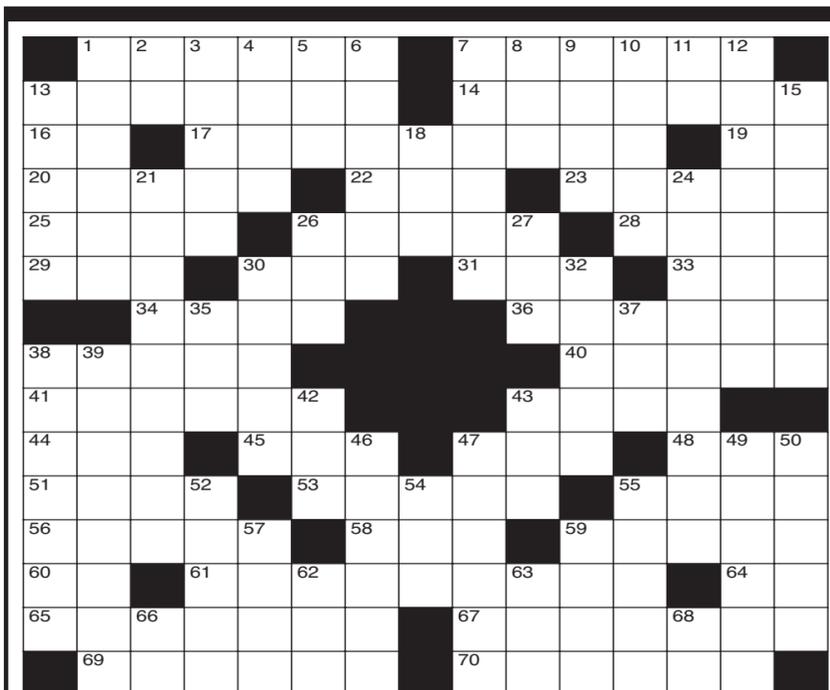
continuing efforts to help improve the lives of all those affected by mental health conditions and their families.

Join us while having a fun time and supporting a great cause! Among the festivities will be guest speakers, including Ms. US 2025; activities, face painting, raffles and much more! Please help NAMI-WM continue their mission by participating in this Walkathon or by donating to the event easily on our website.

NAMI is the National Al-

liance on Mental Illness, the nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI provides advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental health conditions can Build Better Lives.

For further information please contact our office at 413-786-9139 or visit us at www.namiwm.org/walkathon for the entry/pledge form. Volunteers are needed. Thank you for supporting your community.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dark blacks
- 7. Construct a wall to confine
- 13. Most inappropriate
- 14. A type of board
- 16. Sacred Hindu syllable
- 17. Flatterer
- 19. The Granite State
- 20. Tears down
- 22. China’s Chairman
- 23. Former Houston footballer
- 25. Periods of time
- 26. Expressed pleasure
- 28. World alliance
- 29. A Brit’s mother
- 30. Television network
- 31. Brother or sister
- 33. Type of spirit
- 34. ___ Ladd, actor
- 36. A medium oversees it
- 38. One time province of British India
- 40. Wrong

- 41. The highest parts of something
- 43. Insect
- 44. Baseball stat
- 45. A way to use up
- 47. Where wrestlers compete
- 48. It helps elect politicians
- 51. As fast as can be done
- 53. Genus of legumes
- 55. Samoa’s capital
- 56. Monument in Jakarta
- 58. Former French coin
- 59. Exploiters
- 60. College sports official
- 61. Uninterrupted in time
- 64. Stephen King story
- 65. Marked by no sound
- 67. Weathers
- 69. Denouncements
- 70. More beloved

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Winged nut
- 2. It cools a home
- 3. Kisses (French)
- 4. Oxford political economist
- 5. Keyboard key
- 6. Leaf pores
- 7. Agrees with publicly
- 8. Not around
- 9. Czech city
- 10. Muscle cell protein
- 11. Greek letter
- 12. Movements
- 13. Ned ___, composer
- 15. Popular series Game of ___
- 18. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 21. Helper
- 24. Gift
- 26. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 27. Treat without respect
- 30. Trims
- 32. Slang for lovely
- 35. City of Angels
- 37. Guitarists’ tool
- 38. Island nation
- 39. Delivered in installments
- 42. A baglike structure
- 43. Cooking vessel
- 46. Gets in front of
- 47. Wounded by scratching
- 49. More breathable
- 50. Medical dressings
- 52. Indiana hoopster
- 54. Married Marilyn
- 55. An ancient Assyrian city
- 57. Congressmen (abbr.)
- 59. Approves food
- 62. Ventura’s first name
- 63. Between northeast and east
- 66. Atomic #71
- 68. Email designation

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SPORTS

Brownies trounce Knights

AGAWAM – Last Thursday afternoon on a cloudy day, Agawam High School baseball scored a mercy-rule win 12-1 over Holyoke High School.

Jonah Higby went five innings, not allowing a hit.

But Holyoke managed a run on a pair of errors and a hit-by-pitch.

Gavin Shlosser had three hits, three runs scored, and three RBI.

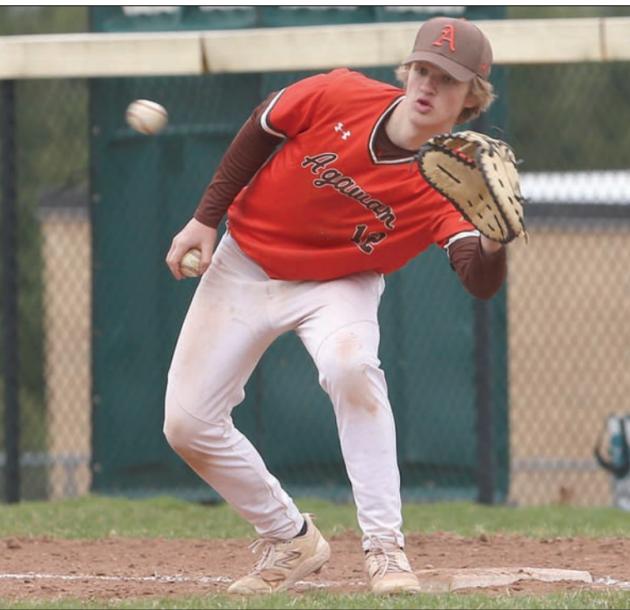
Vincent Catelotti had two hits and two runs scored.



Aiden Wykes winds up for a long throw.



Nathan Ukrainets sends a quick throw over to first.



Gavin Cruz catches the ball at first base.



Jonah Higby delivers a pitch for the Brownies.



Aiden Lavelle slides safely into third.



Vincent Catelotti makes the throw.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Girls lacrosse gets first win in three seasons against Minnechaug

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Minnechaug girls' varsity lacrosse team swept the season series against Valley Wheel League rival Agawam during the past two seasons. The best thing that the Lady Falcons players can hope for this spring is a split.

For the first time since 2022, the Brownies celebrated an 8-4 victory over the Lady Falcons at Harmon A. Smith Field, last Thursday.

"All of us really wanted to win today's game because we lost to Minnechaug in overtime at home last year," said senior tri-captain Isabella Spaulding. "They've always been one of our biggest rivals and it feels great to beat them."

A year ago, Minnechaug defeated Agawam, 16-9, on their home turf field before squeaking out a 13-12 overtime road win a couple of weeks later.

The Lady Falcons also didn't have much trouble winning the first game against the Brownies two years ago before pulling out a very close victory in the second meeting.

When Spaulding was a freshman, Agawam won both regular season games against Minnechaug.

The two rivals also battled each other for the third time that spring in the Western Mass. Class A semifinals. The Brownies posted an 11-8 victory in that contest before losing to Longmeadow in the Western Mass. finals.

"We played Minnechaug in the semifinals when I was a freshman," Spaulding said. "We really wanted to win that game because we wanted to face Longmeadow in the fi-



Vivian Gouvin angles toward the goal.

nals. We haven't beaten Minnechaug since I was a freshman."

Not only did Agawam end their four game losing streak against Minnechaug in last Thursday's match, but they also won a league game for the first time since defeating Westfield, 11-4, on May 5, 2023.

"We went 0-8 against our league opponents last year," Spaulding added. "We're off to a very good start so far this season. It just feels great, especially since it's my senior year."

Agawam, who has also defeated Wahconah Regional, South Hadley, and Belcher-



Gianna Goodrow is pursued by an opposing defender.

town, had a perfect 4-0 overall record following last Thursday's home match.

Minnechaug (1-3) began the regular season by squeaking out a 7-5 non-league victory at Mount Greylock before losing back-to-back home matches to Northampton and Somers.

"We're coming off two very tough home losses," said first-year Minnechaug head coach Luke Jenne. "We're a young team and we've been trying to do several different things offensively. We faced a very strong Agawam team today. We held them to only two goals in the second half."

First-year Agawam head

coach Taylor DeGeorge, who graduated from Agawam High School in 2019, won three games against Minnechaug during her outstanding varsity lacrosse career.

"Whenever we play Minnechaug, it's always a very important game, so this is a very special win" said DeGeorge, who played college lacrosse at Assumption University in Worcester. "Everyone did their job in today's game. We scored eight goals, but we also played phenomenal team defense."

The home team scored the first three goals of the contest.

"We wanted to get off to a good start in today's game," DeGeorge said. "We held a 6-1 halftime lead, but it's never comfortable whenever we're playing Minnechaug. We just couldn't let up."

Less than a minute into the first period, Spaulding scored an unassisted goal giving her team a 1-0 lead.

Spaulding, who scored a team-high nine goals in the first four games of the regular season, is planning to play college lacrosse at Framingham State University. She would also like to join the F.S.U. women's volleyball team in the fall.

"I've been playing lacrosse since I was in the third grade and it's a privilege to continue playing the sport in college," Spaulding said. "I'm also going to be playing volleyball at Framingham State. I always seem to do better academically whenever I'm playing a sport because I'm on top of everything."

Kyra Bernard, who's also a senior tri-captain for Agawam, will be playing college lacrosse at the University of



Brooke Dwyer crosses midfield as she heads to score.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Hoop Hall of Fame announces new governors

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame is pleased to announce the completion of its Board of Governors reconfiguration to include the addition of Ms. Sheila Johnson, Ms. Cynthia (“Cynt”) Marshall, and Hall of Fame Coach Tara VanDerveer, bringing the Board of Governors to its maximum of 23 leadership positions.

The Naismith Hall of Fame is in the best financial condition since its inception in 1959, and continues to grow, along with basketball, in significance to constituencies within and outside of the game. The Hall’s Board reconfiguration is designed to leverage this strong position to further enhance the organization’s business plan, global reach, and positive impact.

The Naismith Hall’s three newest Governors are powerhouses in business and basketball.

Sheila Johnson joins the Board with a wealth of expertise and experience, including at the intersection of tourism and hospitality, sports, arts and entertainment, and philanthropy. Johnson is the founder and CEO of Salamander Collection, a grow-

ing luxury hotel company, which includes Salamander Middleburg – one of only five properties in the U.S. to earn separate Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Awards for its accommodations, restaurant, and spa. As a Partner of Monumental Sports and Entertainment, Johnson is an owner of three Washington, DC professional sports teams: the Wizards, Mystics, and Capitals. Among Johnson’s other leadership roles include: board member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; College of Performing Arts at The New School; Trust for the National Mall; The Metropolitan Opera; Jackie Robinson Foundation; Simon & Schuster Publishing Advisory Board, and founder and chair of the Middleburg Film Festival. In partnership with James Beard Award-winning Chef and Restaurateur Kwame Onwuachi, she founded the Family Reunion – a celebration of culinary excellence and diversity in the hospitality community. On her election to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Board of Governors, Johnson stated: “I look forward to helping to elevate and broaden the positive reach of this important

organization in its many facets – from sports museum, to cultural institution, to community and leadership builder, and more.”

Cynt Marshall brings visionary leadership and mastery in creating positive cultural transformation in organizations through a people-centered approach. Marshall is the founder and CEO of Marshalling Resources, a premier consulting firm focused on leadership and organizational development. Marshall served as CEO of the Dallas Mavericks from March 2018 through December 2024, and previously as a leader in operations, legislative affairs, and human resources at AT&T, where her roles included president of AT&T’s North Carolina division, and senior vice president of human resources and chief diversity officer. At both organizations, Marshall spearheaded transformational work to improve operational effectiveness, organizational culture, and employee and stakeholder engagement – in the case of AT&T, helping the company for the first time ever reach Fortune’s 100 Best Companies to Work For list (one of only two Fortune 50 compa-

nies on that list). Marshall, who serves on several corporate and nonprofit boards, reflected on her newest Governor role: “I am delighted to join the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Board at this momentous time in the organization’s and basketball’s history. I am excited to get to work to help deepen the Hall’s connections to the many audiences basketball touches. The opportunities are boundless.”

Tara VanDerveer joins the Naismith Hall of Fame Board – herself a 2011 inductee. VanDerveer retired as the winningest coach in NCAA Division I history, and enjoyed an unprecedented level of success through an energetic and positive approach to the game, and through genuine and lasting connection to her players. As National Coach of the Year five times over three decades, and 18-time Pac-12 Coach of the Year, VanDerveer accumulated an impressive 1,216-271 (.818) record in her 45 years as a collegiate head coach (Stanford, Ohio State, Idaho), and a 1,064-220 (.829) record over 38 seasons at Stanford. Since retiring from her coaching career in 2024, VanDerveer

now serves as Special Adviser to the Athletic Director at Stanford University. An ambassador for the sport, and now teaching a Masterclass for Continuing Education at Stanford, Coach VanDerveer is poised to add tremendous perspective and leadership to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “I am honored to serve on the Naismith Hall of Fame Board of Governors,” VanDerveer reflected. “It is an opportunity for me to give back to the game that has given so much to me.”

Chairman Jerry Colangelo remarked on the addition of these three new Governors: “I could not be more proud and grateful to welcome Sheila Johnson, Cynt Marshall, and Tara VanDerveer to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Board of Governors. I have long admired each’s tremendous accomplishments and ability to lead any organization they have been involved with to the highest levels of achievement, with integrity and universal acclaim. Sheila, Cynt, and Tara epitomize the leadership we need to take the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame to its next level at a time we are poised for significant growth.”

Brownies softball evens record

AGAWAM – Last Thursday afternoon, Agawam High School softball had its final game on its home field prior to the start of construction.

The Brownies were successful in shutting out rival Pittsfield 4-0. The Brownies had seven hits, two from Avery Gordon.

After taking a 1-0 lead, Agawam really broke through with three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Gordon had a big complete game victory, going all seven innings. She allowed five hits, overcame two errors, and struck out five hitters. The Brownies are now 2-2 on the season, their other victory coming against East Longmeadow. Coming up, the Brownies are set to travel to Westfield High School on April 16, followed by a home game at Borgatti Park against Easthampton on April 22 at 4 p.m.

Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League tryouts begin this weekend

Players looking to join the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League can attend the tryouts beginning Sunday April 13. The first weekend of tryouts was rained out. Tryouts will take place at 2 p.m. at Blunt Park in Springfield. The

final tryouts are set for Saturday, April 19 at 2 p.m.

The league, which plays its games in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, makes sure that everyone gets a fair share of the action. Everyone plays a minimum

of 4 innings in the field, and everyone bats. The league follows MLB rules with some modified rules adapted with safety in mind.

The Valley Wheel stands apart from other leagues across the country for this

reason: Their league charter and one of their main goals, is to work toward having a league with teams of equal strength.

The league is now seeking new players to fill open roster slots. Enjoy the competi-

tion and camaraderie with a great group of guys who enjoy the game as much as you do. Stay in shape and make new friends. Be part of something that happens once a year, and with luck, win a championship. Grab your glove and

cleats and join a team for a great adventure. It’s not too late don’t miss out; opening day is just around the corner. For more information, contact Jim Nason at 413-433-4308 or visit the website www.ValleyWheelBaseball.org

LACROSSE | from page 6

Hartford.

Minnchaug freshman goalie Genevieve Johnson then made a couple of saves keeping it a one goal game. She finished the match with a total of ten saves

“Our goalie has made some amazing saves this season,” Jenne said. “She’s only a freshman and the future is very bright for her.”

Down at the other end of the field, Agawam junior goalie Kilee Barna only had to make five saves in the home win.

With 3:34 left in the first period, Agawam senior tri-captain Gabriela Cosentini received a pass from senior Vivian Gouvin before firing a low shot into the cage.

Spaulding scored her sec-



Makayla Rosario heads for the goal. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Finn Mahoney fights to get around a defender.

ond goal with 35 seconds remaining in the period, which was assisted by sophomore Gianna Goodrow.

The Brownies took a 4-0 lead early in the second period when junior Makayla Rosario scored following a free position shot.

The Lady Falcons finally got on the scoreboard when freshman Peyton Lee wiped a shot into the cage. Junior Aubrey Stachowicz was given the assist.

During the final six minutes of the first half, Rosario scored another free position goal and junior Finnola Mahoney added an unassisted goal, which gave the home team a commanding 6-1 half-time lead.

Goodrow found a wide open lane in front of the net

before scoring an unassisted goal two minutes into the second half.

Lee scored the Lady Falcons’ only goal of the third period.

With 29 seconds left in the period, Spaulding, who’s going to play defense at the collegiate level, posted her second hat-trick of the season giving her team an 8-2 lead. She also had a hat-trick against Belchertown.

“Bella is a very special lacrosse player,” DeGeorge said. “She has a high lacrosse IQ. We’re very lucky to have her on our team.”

Minnechaug tried to make a comeback during the final twelve minutes of the match. They only managed to score a pair of goals by sophomore Caelan Luszcz and senior Ella Sarno.

Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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USDA INSP. SKINLESS & SHANKLESS KAYEM OLD TIME SMOKED HAM	\$1.99 lb	Happy Easter			
USDA INSP. CHICOPEE PROVISIONS BLUE SEAL KIELBASA FOR EASTER	\$4.99 lb	90 Meat Outlet			

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Public Notices

Agawam Conservation Commission LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 6:00PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, Ma. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Melloni for property located at 147 M Street.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
04/17/2025

Legal Notice Town of Agawam

The **Agawam Planning Board** will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 6:00pm** and the **Agawam City Council** will hold a public hearing on **Monday, May 5, 2025 at 7:00pm**, both in the Veterans Hall at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of these hearings will be to hear the petition of Bethany Assembly of God for a zone change request on **580 Main Street** to include the parcel in the "Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District." City Council's public hearing will be livestreamed on the Town of Agawam's website at www.agawam.ma.us and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15 or Channel 1074. Copies of the proposed zone change can be obtained from the Office of Planning and Community Development between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm at the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing the Office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us

By Order Of:
Violet Baldwin, Chair
Agawam Planning Board
Rosemary Sandlin, President
Agawam City Council
04/17, 04/24/2025

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 FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

The Petitioner requests that: **John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/06/2025**. 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. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 08, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/17/2025

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL
The Agawam City Council will conduct a public hearing on **Monday, May 5, 2025, at 7:00pm**, at a Regular Meeting of the Agawam City Council to be held at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on TR-2025-30 which is the Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2026 to Fiscal Year 2030 as submitted by Mayor Christopher Johnson on April 10, 2025.

The Capital Improvement Program is a prioritized plan of proposed capital improvements over the next five fiscal years. A capital improvement is a project or undertaking which provides for the planning, design, construction, reconstruction, renovation or replacement of a public building or facility; an addition to a public building or facility; the purchase of land, buildings or facilities for a public purpose; or a long range development study.

TR-2025-30 is available for public inspection on the Town of Agawam website (www.agawam.ma.us) or by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at vgioscia@agawam.ma.us.

BY ORDER OF:
Rosemary Sandlin, President
Agawam City Council
04/17, 04/24/2025

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. HD25P0764EA Estate of: Kathryn A Dufraigne Also known as: Kathryn Griffin Dufraigne Date of Death: 12/14/2024 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 **Ann E Griffin of South Hadley, 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: **Ann E Griffin of South Hadley, 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 05/23/2025**. 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. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 11, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/17/2025

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. HD25P0724EA Estate of: Thomas R Longtin Date of Death: 02/08/2022 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 **Susan G. Longtin 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: **Susan G. Longtin 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 05/06/2025**. 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. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 08, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/17/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield MA, 01103 Docket No. HD13P0814PM In the matter of: John J Moriarty of Agawam, MA Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Amended Fourth and Final account(s)** of Tyson R Ence Agawam, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/01/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 27, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/17/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield MA, 01103 Docket No. HD13P0814PM In the matter of: John J Moriarty of Agawam, MA Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **First account(s)** of Tyson R Ence Agawam, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/01/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 27, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/17/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield MA, 01103 Docket No. HD13P0814PM In the matter of: John J Moriarty of Agawam, MA Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Third account(s)** of Tyson R Ence Agawam, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 05/01/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 27, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/17/2025

AGAWAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS FY'26 SCHOOL BUDGET

Agawam - According to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, section 38N, copies of the proposed school department budget shall be available to the public 48 hours prior to the posted public hearing, which is scheduled for **April 29, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Agawam Junior High auditorium**. There will be copies of the proposed budget available in the Superintendent's office located at the Agawam Junior High School 1305 Springfield Street, at the Town Clerk's office in the Agawam Town Hall located at 68 Main Street, and at the Agawam Public Library located at 750 Cooper Street.

04/10, 04/17/2025

Region

HCC Theater Dept. to perform Sam Shepard's "True West," April 16-19

HOLYOKE – Two brothers walk into a room – the cluttered kitchen of their mother's suburban house on the edge of the Mojave Desert. One is a screenwriter on the verge of his big break, the other a petty thief scratching for a living off the grid. (Somewhere out there in the wild too is their father, a toothless drunk who, despite his absence, looms large in both their lives.)

As coyotes howl and temperatures rise, each brother covets what the other's got.

That's the setup for *True West*, a seminal work by the late Sam Shepard that opens Wednesday, April 16, at Holyoke Community Col-

lege. Directed by HCC theater professor Tim Cochran, the play explores timeless themes like sibling rivalry and paternal worship while also questioning myths about Hollywood and the American West.

"It's a story about class, it's a story about family," said Cochran. "It's like a chess match between the two brothers, Lee and Austin, as they try to manipulate each other. One move leads to another, and, before you know it, it becomes a powder keg of conflict."

The HCC Theater Department production of *True West* runs April 16-19, with shows at 7:30 p.m. each night in the college's Black Box Theater

(room 111 of the Fine and Performing Arts Building), with an additional matinee performance on Saturday, April 19, at 2 p.m. (The Friday, April 18, show will be ASL-interpreted.)

The play originally premiered in 1980 and is set about the same time in Rancho Cucamonga, a Los Angeles suburb. The action takes place over the course of a few days in a single location, a congested kitchen.

For *True West*, unlike most HCC productions, Cochran and HCC theater professor Matt Whiton, the stage designer, decided to forego the college's larger Leslie Phil-

lips Theater for the more intimate Black Box Theater, which seats only 55 people, compared to 320. That choice, Cochran said, allowed Whiton to design a hyper-realistic set, adding to the claustrophobic, voyeuristic nature of the play.

"I love directing in the Black Box," said Cochran. "The barrier between the audience and the action is very limited. The audience is literally in the same space with the actors. You will really be in the kitchen with the brothers as they battle it out."

The small theater is accompanied by an equally small cast of four actors: HCC alum Tom Roché '16,

of Holyoke, portrays Austin, a screenwriter who is house sitting for his mother; Miguel Dailey of Agawam plays Lee, his prodigal – and threatening – brother; Dan Madden of Longmeadow is Austin's Hollywood agent, Saul Kimmer, while Shea Molbury, of West Springfield, plays the mother, who is on vacation in Alaska.

Cochran selected the play, he said, in part because of the impact it had on him as a college student studying theater in the '90s.

"It wasn't until I listened to the writing of Sam Shepard that I realized there were plays out there that actually captured the rhythms and

pacings and heartbeat of the way people really talked," he said. "Everything counts. You feel like you're sneaking a peak into people's lives."

"The play really changed the way I saw theater," he said. "I've heard the same thing from others, time and time again."

While he's attended every rehearsal, Cochran said the first time he sees the play performed live in front of an audience will be opening night, though he fondly remembers watching a recorded PBS American Playhouse version of *True West* from 1984 starring Gary Sinise and John Malkovich as Austin and Lee.

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Rosie Robotics has won their district competition and will be moving onto the Robotics Worlds Championship. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Rosie Robotics' robot, Delta, earned them first place in the New England District Championship.



Rosie Robotics set up at the New England District Championship.



Rosie Robotics were thrilled to have been announced as the winner of the New England District Championship.



The Rosie Robotics Team celebrated as they heard that they had won the New England District Championship.

ROBOTICS ■ from page 1

talking with each other on the phone to flesh out their ideas.

The team is excited to be able to experience Worlds as a group.

"I'm excited to see other people I'm not familiar with," Lead Marketer and Safety Captain Kassie Sagan said. "There is definitely a solid batch of 25 teams that we see all the time and who we are friends with, so I am excited to just see other teams, especially from around the world."

Sagan and the others hope to be able to make friends and also learn from the other teams at Worlds.

All of the students on Rosie are grateful for the support they have received from the community. Rosie is a predominantly student led club, and they are grateful to their mentors for allowing them this leadership opportunity, while still being available for support when needed.

Mentors current and old

all came out to districts to support the team.

"The past mentors and kids who used to be a part of Rosie came back to watch... we are grateful for their support," Machining Team Member Robbie Cooney said.

They are also grateful to Agawam High School Principal Jim Blain for all of his support.

"Mr. Blain will always come up to the robotics kids and ask how we are doing and wish us luck," Sagan said.

Finally, all of Rosie is grateful for the sponsors who have funded them throughout this year.

"Without you we would not be able to do this," Elwell said.

The Agawam Lions Club was a particularly strong supporter of the team, making donations throughout the season and helping them get to Worlds.

The team needs a lot of donations to help them afford their travels to Houston. They are accept-

ing donations at gofund.me/2a8be655 and on venmo at @rosie839.

Additionally, all the students on Rosie Robotics encourage their fellow students to come and join the team.

"There are infinite soft skills you can learn here," Rua said. "A big one for me has been leadership and public speaking."

Not only can you learn a variety of skills through this team, but the students have also found a community among their fellow robotics members.

"I feel like robotics is a safe place where anyone can come and feel like they belong with someone," Cooney said. "They can belong on a team and have fun doing what they like. Sometimes you feel like you're alone, like you have nowhere to go, but then you find that one thing and you find people who do that thing and it helps you find a sense of belonging, which is how I felt when I found Rosie Robotics."

TAX ■ from page 1

and veterans through this meaningful program," said Johnson. "This initiative not only assists our residents in managing their property taxes, but also fosters a strong sense of community involvement and civic engagement."

To qualify for the program, applicants must either be a senior citizen age 60 or older, or is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces. Eligible tasks may include administrative duties or other assignments within participating town departments. The town will

be monitoring the jobs that seniors are taking on with the town.

The program will be administered and monitored by Cindy Sullivan, the executive director of the Council-on-Aging/Senior Center.

If an individual is interested in participating in the program, applications must be picked up at that location and question directed to her office. Last year's program was popular and the town received many applications from interested residents. It is expected there will be plenty of interest once again this year.

Applications will be ran-

domly entered into a lottery, which will be conducted on May 9 to select participants for the program. There are 16 slots available for senior and veterans. Selected applicants will be notified promptly following the lottery drawing. If a selected applicant declines participation based on placement, then another applicant will be chosen in their place until positions are filled or applications are exhausted.

For more information on eligibility requirements and how to apply, please visit the Town of Agawam website, or contact Sullivan at the Senior Center.

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