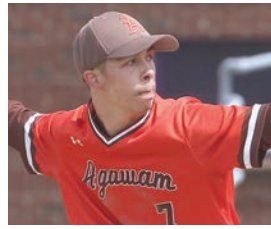




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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

April 25, 2024 | Vol. 46, No. 9 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Music program gets kids moving

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The library hosted a You & Me in Music program, put on by Certified Music Therapist and Owner of Harmonious Happening Renee Coro, MT-BC.

This program took place over the course of three weeks and was available to children ages two to five as well as their guardians or caregivers.

“You and Me in Music is an Early Childhood, parent-child interactive group,” Coro said. “We’re really trying to facilitate the connection and the relationship between the caregiver and the child within a musical setting.”

To open each session Coro welcomed everyone in with a gathering song. She then followed with a body awareness song to wake everyone up and followed by some type of instrumental play.

“Then I like to get up and move,” Coro said. “That’s a really important part of our session. We get up and dance...we do all different types of music.”

For the end of the session she brought everyone back together with a closing song.

While each session does follow a similar structure, Coro also said she is flexible within that structure in order to help fit the



Children got up and danced to Certified Music Therapist and Owner of Harmonious Happening Renee Coro's music.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

needs of everyone present for that day.

She will alter lyrics of songs, shift the tempo or even repeat songs as she feels it is needed.

“In the moment a music therapist like myself is able to either speed up the tempo or slow it down,” Coro said. “If we have a group that comes in with a ton of energy that morning, we are ready to jump and dance, I’m

going to match their energy and maybe do a song that is very, very upbeat.”

Children’s Librarian Pamela Weingart has greatly enjoyed Coro’s program.

“I think what I really loved about it was...the kids were playing along and following Renee’s instructions and doing it well and having a great time, but I really enjoy how all of the care-

givers were also following along, even if their child wasn’t directly looking at them,” Weingart said. “I feel that Renee just makes anybody want to sing along, play along and she just has this energy that brings people in.”

A reason Coro feels many enjoy her program is that she also tries to support parents and

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New school zone slowing traffic

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Recently, by the vote of the city council, new school zone signs were installed along Mill Street at Agawam High School.

The idea for the signs was initially proposed by Councilor Rosemary Sandlin, who thought installing this school zone would increase safety around AHS.

The council voted in favor of this endeavor and so the signs were installed. These signs work to flash the speed cars are going along those roads to remind them of the school zone speed limit of 25 mph.

The signs are active Monday-Friday 6:45am to 7:30am for arrival and 1:45pm to 2:30pm for dismissal as well as Monday-Thursday 2:45pm-3:15pm for dismissal of the after school program.

Additionally, they are active for dismissal at 10:45-11:15 for half days (the next ones which are scheduled for May 9 and June 21).

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Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild hosting new show next weekend

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer



This quilt titled “Chronicles” and made by Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild Member Loretta Forsihe will be raffled off at their quilt show on May 4 and 5.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

AGAWAM – The Pioneer Valley Quilt Guild is hosting a quilt show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 4 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 5 at the Elks #61 Lodge at 440 Tiffany St., Springfield.

At this show there will be a variety of quilts and quilted items made by Guild members available for purchase.

“There will be a few things on the display that aren’t quilts, per se, but are made by the quilting method,” PVQG Member Elaine Conway said. “We have an upholstered chair, a Christmas tree skirt and even a ghost figurine that goes with a story about quilts.”

They anticipate that the display will be roughly 82 items in the main room of the Elks.

There will also be an 8 foot quilted balloon on display for all to see. This quilt was created by Herbert Menzel in 2012.

“He and 30 people made 24 panels, 12 on the top, 12 on the

bottom, and it gets set up at the quilt guild,” Conway said.

“It’s very unique,” Co-Chair of the Quilt Show John Roy said.

In addition to these items, there will be eight vendors, a quilt appraiser, raffle baskets and a food vendor.

“The vendors will primarily be vending quilting supplies and machines but there will also be a vendor from Thirty-One Bags,” Conway said.

Also, there will be a section showing some of the guild’s community relations and the donations they have made, for any interested in learning more about the guild’s contribution to the community.

There will also be handmade non-quilt items for sale at the PVQG Boutique.

Additionally, PVQG Member Loretta Forsihe has volunteered her quilt “Chronicles”, which won Best in Show at the Big E in 2022, to be raffled off during the show.

This quilt was inspired by a quilt made hundreds of years ago

by women taken from Africa to be enslaved in Australia.

“On the way over [to Australia] they gave them needles and fabric and these women sat and sewed a quilt in this pattern,” Co-Chair of the Quilt Show Janet Foy said. “This quilt is the pattern of that original quilt.”

The original quilt is hanging in the Australia Quilting Museum, according to Foy.

Admission for the show is \$10 and proceeds go toward the guild. The admission is good for both days of the show.

“The money we raise from the quilt show goes to community service projects, we make blankets for A-Okay for Families, we make cardiac and cancer pillows for people to use to support themselves,” Foy said. “A lot of what we make is donated.”

Those in attendance of the show are also welcome to get more information about the guild and to sign up to join.

QUILT | page 6



SPORTS

Brownies offense breaks out in win

HOLYOKE – Last Friday afternoon, Agawam baseball picked up a big win against league rival Holyoke 14-5.

In the win, Agawam's offense pounded out 17 hits, with Vinny Catelotti, Owen Lavelle, Thomas Plakias, and Gavin Schloss-

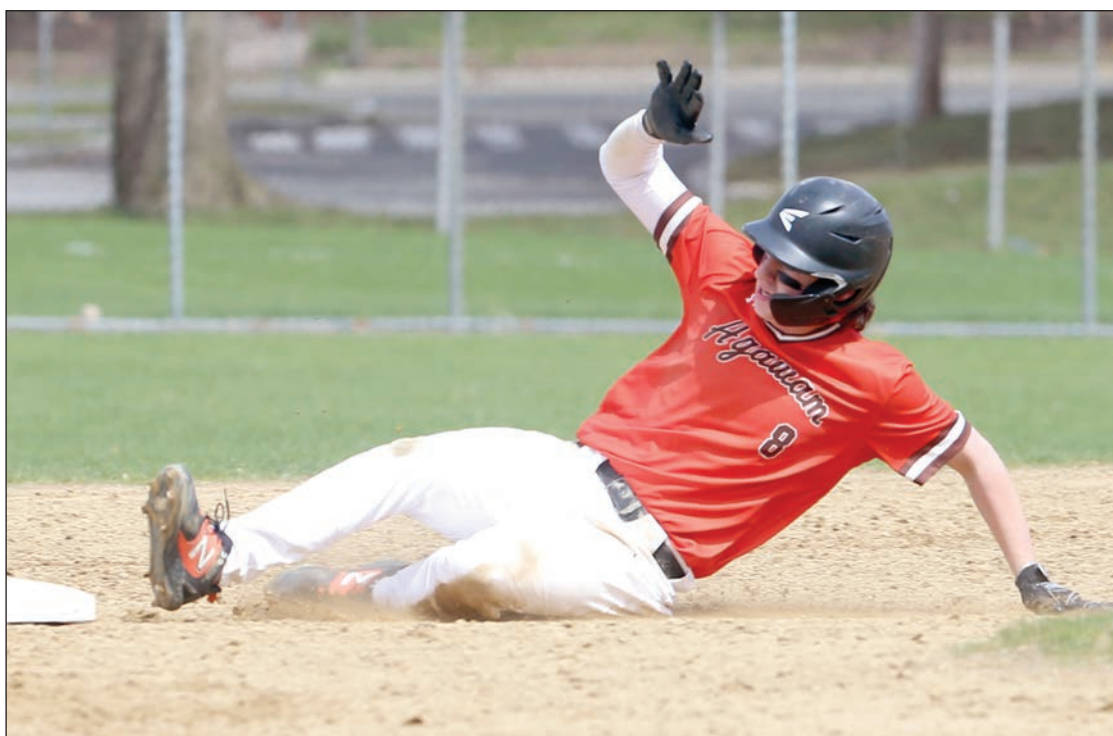
er all getting three hits each. Catelotti drove in four runs for the Brownies. Agawam improved to 2-4 on the season.



Drew Scherban cleanly fields a grounder to second base.



Michael Plakias sends a throw across the diamond.



Thomas Plakias slides safely into second.

Softball falls on the road at South Hadley

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—Two days after allowing a five-run lead to slip away from them in the late innings against East Longmeadow, the South Hadley varsity softball team didn't want a repeat performance against Agawam.

The Lady Tigers, who held a three-run lead entering the top of the seventh, wound up only allowing one run in the final inning. The Brownies had a runner standing on second base and the tying run at the plate with two outs when South Hadley junior righthander Ella Schaefer ended the drama with a strikeout giving her team an exciting 4-2 non-league home victory, last Wednesday afternoon.

"We fell apart in the late innings in our

last game, but we were able to hold it together in today's game," said South Hadley head coach Junior Perez. "Agawam plays in one of the toughest leagues in Western Mass, so they're used to playing in competitive games. This is a very big bounce back win for us."

It was the first meeting between the two high schools on the softball diamond since the 2017 regular season when the Brownies posted a 13-0 shutout victory.

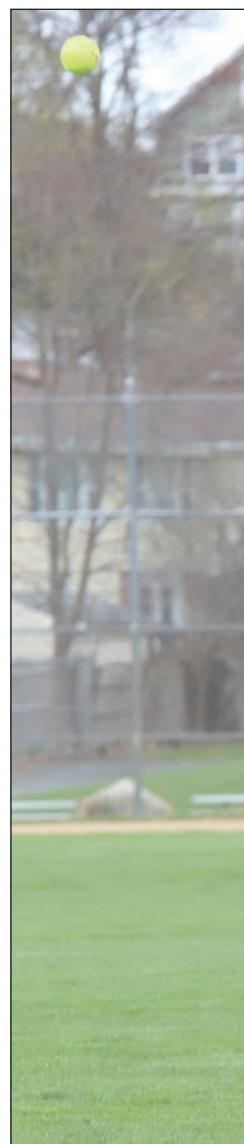
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Gavin Schlosser chases down a fly ball in center field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Parker Bean pitches for the Brownies.



Top photo, Avery Gordon sends a pitch to the plate. Above, Katelyn Cleavall makes a catch in right.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Girls lacrosse gets back on track

AGAWAM – After a tough stretch with four straight losses, Agawam High School girls lacrosse got its offense back going in a 14-1 win over Wahconah Regional last week.

The Brownies got three goals from Emma Murray and two goals each from Gabriela Cosentini and Alexis Hurley. The

rest of the scoring was spread around several other players on offense while goalie Paytyn Burke made one save in getting the win.

The Brownies improved to 2-4 on the season and look to keep moving toward .500 this week with a matchup against West Springfield on Thursday, April 25 at 4 p.m.