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AGAWAM

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The Agawam Rotary Club has been helping to support the newly established FHCC Church Cupboard.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rotary Club supporting FHCC Church Cupboard

AGAWAM – The Agawam Rotary Club is proud to have supported The Church Cupboard, a new food pantry at Feeding Hills Congregational Church Hall in Agawam, MA. Open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month from 9 a.m., it offers free, no-questions-asked access to non-perishable groceries. Guests may visit once per month, with food amounts based on household size and donation availability. To further its mission, the Agawam Rotary Club plans to partner with End Hunger New England, part of the Outreach Program, which has packaged over 890 million meals for those in need. Their meals offer six servings per pack, made from all-natural ingredients, with 6-12 grams of protein and 21 essential nutrients. Shelf-stable for 12-24 months, these meals are easy to prepare and highly nutritious. The

project was funded with the support of a \$2500 grant from the Rotary District 7890 Grant program. The Agawam Rotary Club purchased meals and joined forces with the East Longmeadow Rotary Club at a Meal Packaging Event, where volunteers will prepare these meals in a two-hour, assembly-line format. In September, Agawam Rotary Club dedicated time to prepare meals alongside the East Longmeadow Rotary Club. Additionally, the Agawam Rotary Club will provide shelving units to help store the meals. Rotary support for the Church Cupboard continued throughout the year. In February members of the Agawam Rotary Club attended an Open House at the Church Cupboard. In March the Agawam Rotary Club collected food donations at the Stop N Shop in Agawam to donate to the Church Cupboard and



Donations, including girl scout cookies have been made recently to the pantry.

In April, Agawam Rotary Club members filled totes with food to donate to the food pantry. The project is designed to help feed over 20,000 people.

Trio of councilors seek remedy for utility pole change issues

By Gregory A. Scibelli
 gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Residents have had to continue their wait for more affordable, town-owned and operated high-speed internet service every since GoNetSpeed made a decision to suspend their efforts to install the infrastructure Agawam needs for a fiber-optic network to be made available throughout the community.

Mayor Christopher Johnson had continued working with the firm after the effort was started by former Mayor William Sapelli.

Sapelli had initiated the process with GoNetSpeed and the Internet service provider firm was working through the process of trying to be able to install fiber optic cables throughout the community so the town would be able to offer a more affordable high-speed Internet service. For high-speed Internet, Comcast, or Xfinity, is typically the only main option in Agawam.

Several communities, including Chicopee and Westfield, have since installed their own fiber optic networks, and neighbor Southwick was also exploring the possibility of joining Westfield's infrastructure.

When Johnson received word that GoNetSpeed was suspending its effort due to difficulty negotiating with utility pole owners, the reason given was due to "challenges related to Make Ready costs that [GoNetSpeed has]

not been able to resolve with the pole owners."

In response to that, City Councilor Thomas Hendrickson, along with Councilors Rosemary Sandlin and Edward Borgatti, are sponsoring a resolution that supports "One Touch Make Ready" legislation.

The trio of councilors is looking for the full support of the entire council when the resolution comes to the full council.

"The price of internet access in Agawam is one of the most significant cost-of-living issues facing our community," said Councilor Hendrickson. "For many years, Comcast's stranglehold over Agawam's internet market has allowed them to charge exorbitant prices and has had severe consequences for Agawam residents. This legislation would make it easier for us to entice a competitor to come to Agawam, which would create market competition and fairer prices."

The councilors' resolution is to support HB.5290 and SB.2285, which would establish "One Touch Make Ready" applications in Massachusetts. This legislation would require the owners of utility poles to allow a single construction crew to make changes to multiple utility wires.

Borgatti said the legislation would be helpful to the community in its efforts.

"Showing our representatives from our district that

UTILITY | page 7

City Council holds workshop on intersection project

Supporters of Pajer Superette continued to express their concerns

By Gregory A. Scibelli
 gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Members of the community, specifically those who turned out on April 21 to support Pajer Superette from losing a few parking spaces in front of the business, got another crack at expressing their opposition to an intersection project when the Agawam City Council held a workshop on April 27.

The workshop came after

councilors made the decision to table to eminent domain takings for multiple properties at a five-way intersection that connects Rowley, Cooper, and Suffield streets. Suffield St. is also State Rte. 75.

The town was approved for grant funding from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission's Community Mitigation Fund to design a new intersection. More funding, nearly \$900,000, was then approved for the construction for the

project. Agawam was contributing about \$800,000 toward the project.

Grant funding expires on June 30, meaning the town needs to approve a project before then or risk losing the funds.

At the public meeting, Department of Public Work Superintendent told residents consideration was made to have a roundabout or rotary at the location, but that was scrapped for lane expansion,

turn lanes, and updated signals. While it was would have created multiple lanes with some dedicated turn lanes. The lanes would have been small and still involved land takings from multiple businesses.

Specifically, Pajer's was projected to lose several feet in front of its storefront, resulting in the loss of at least three parking spots, according to the design presented. This drew out social media posts and then a huge turnout at the April 21 regular city

council meeting where owners Alfred Pajer, supported by many residents, customers, and employees asking the city council not to approve the project as is.

He has pledged to work with the town on an alternate design, but not one that would cause him to have to sacrifice what he calls needed parking spaces.

The design includes updated traffic lights, crosswalks, and improvements to the sidewalks near the intersection.

One of the complicating factors in the possibility of "leaving Pajer's out of the project" is that the crosswalks would not all be Americans with Disabilities Act compliant. City Councilors questioned if there could be accommodations made on the project that would leave Pajer's alone, but Mayor Christopher Johnson said that was not possible. Not having the intersection be ADA compli-

INTERSECTION | page 12

Memorial Day Parade announced

AGAWAM – The Agawam Veterans Council is having their annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 25. Please join us at the new Veterans Memorial in School Street Park. Parade starts at 10 a.m. at Bethany Assembly of God

enters onto Main Street, turns down School Street and continue on to the new Veteran Memorial in School Street Park with the ceremony immediately following. There will be a picnic for those who wish to join the Veterans Council after the ceremony.

Town finally completes negotiations with DPW union

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – There are multiple unions working with the Town of Agawam. The several unions, which include administrative, police, fire, teachers, and nurses among them, typically agree

to three-year contracts.

Earlier this week, the city council was asked to fund the first year of the new contract with the Department of Public Works Employees Association. The contract is backdated to July 1, 2025, which means the DPW workers have been working off the

terms of their last contract for nearly a year.

The DPW workers will get raises of 2.5% retroactive to July 1, 2025, another 2.5% on July 1 this year, and 3% on July 1, 2027.

The contract will expire on June 30, 2028, meaning the town will be heading

back to the negotiating table sometime in the near future to start work on the next contract.

The city council was asked to transfer funding of more than \$69,000 to cover the raises for the first year of the

DPW | page 7



Agawam Public Library announces May activities for adults

AGAWAM – Agawam Public Library has a great lineup of programs happening this month that you won't want to miss! From author talks to arts and crafts, we have something for everybody.

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary at The Emancipation of Hannah Faythe Winslow: A Woman's Journey in Colonial America with author Karen Warfield. Opening with a dramatization of a young colonial woman, Karen will introduce us to her historical fiction novel which begins in Agawam, MA and meanders through Hartford, CT and down to the area of Gales Ferry. The book tells the story of orphan Hannah Winslow and her survival in a time where the things she experiences make her question her religious upbringing in a patriarchal society. Her determination takes her away from her home and ultimately toward her promising future. Come experience what Agawam was like at its inception! The author will also offer a book sale and signing.

This event will take place on Monday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Judith Cline Community Room and registration is required.

Unleash your creativity and help raise money for local scholarships at our Community Art & Paint Session for the New England Mosaic Project! Join us in the Judith Cline Community Room on Saturday, May 9 at 10 a.m. to 12 noon to paint or decorate a canvas that will be donated to the New England Mosaic Project. The canvases will be auctioned and proceeds will fund scholarships for local art students. This year's theme is "New England Treasures." A variety of art materials will be available at the library for attendees to use, or feel free to bring some of your own materials to make your piece more unique. Please register to attend.

Are you looking to focus on your fitness this spring? The library is the place to be! Join us for weekly Chair Yoga at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Cline Community

Room. Led by yoga instructor Heidi Taberman, these drop-in classes are perfect for folks of all fitness levels. Qigong for Spring is a weekly class held throughout the season that will help you harness the expansive energy of spring to build strength and flexibility while balancing mind, body, and spirit for a fresh new year. With similarities to yoga and tai chi, Qigong is an ancient healing art that blends fitness, breathwork, and meditation. Classes are drop-in and will meet on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the Cline Community Room through June 23. Have you been trying to find ways to increase your daily step count? Are you looking for other people who might want to get some fresh air and exercise? Join the Agawam Public Library Walking Group! On Saturday, May 30 at 9 a.m., librarian Kristen Frost will lead participants for a morning session of movement and motion at School Street Park in Agawam. Registration is required so we know how many walk-

ers to expect. Please meet at the Corey Street entrance of School Street Park under the pavilion.

Our monthly programs are a great way for folks to pursue their interests or try out something new. Tea and Trivia returns on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, May 20 at 2:30 p.m. in the Cline Community Room. We'll have a couple of rounds of both Jeopardy and pub-style trivia, and prizes will be awarded to the winning teams. The questions are the same for both sessions, so register for the time you prefer and join us for some fun! Are you a writer looking to connect with other writers? Join our Writers Group hosted by author Katherine Anderson on Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m. in the Peirce Conference Room. This in-person workshop is open to writers of all levels and genres. There will be opportunities for peer and host feedback, learning the basics of self-publishing, finding opportunities for submission

to magazines, literary journals, and presses, assembling a portfolio, and the basics of a query package for submissions and publications. Please register to attend!

Do you need help using digital library resources like Libby, Hoopla, or Kanopy? Our One-on-One Library Tech Help Appointments make it a breeze to get started! We'll have three 45-minute appointments on Wednesday, May 20 between 5:30 and 8 p.m. as well as Tuesday, May 26 between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. To book an appointment, please visit bit.ly/APLTech. Please note that these appointments are for help with library resources, not general tech help.

This month's Virtual Author Talk Series kicks off on Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m. with an exciting conversation with internationally acclaimed author Marjan Kamali as we delve into the timeless wonder of her New York Times bestselling novel, *The Lion Women of Tehran*. Join us for a timely conversa-

tion on AI, humanity, and the next steps towards building a better future with self-proclaimed "mad scientist" Dr. Vivienne Ming as we discuss her new book, *Robot-Proof: When Machines Have All the Answers, Build Better People*. This event will take place on Tuesday, May 12th at 2PM. What if the only thing standing between you and the seemingly impossible...was belief? Bestselling author Nir Eyal will explore this question as he discusses his new book *Beyond Belief: The Science-Backed Way to Stop Limiting Yourself and Achieve Extraordinary Results* on Tuesday, May 19 at 2 p.m. To register to attend any or all of these virtual talks, please call the library or visit library.org/agawamlibrary.

Thank you to the Agawam Center Library Association and the Friends of the Agawam Library for sponsoring select library programs. Please note that the library will be closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

Canvases for Mosaic due back May 15

AGAWAM – The New England Mosaic project, sponsored by Agawam Community Artists and Artisans, is about to conclude the first part of the project where people throughout Western Massachusetts can create art on a 6x6" canvas. Libraries in Agawam, West Springfield, Southwick, Westfield, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, East Forest Park and Chicopee and the West Springfield Senior Center have collectively given out over 280 free canvases. Canvases are due back by Friday, May 15.

Once the canvases are returned, they will be assembled into a 24-foot Mosaic display showing what each artist loves about New England. The canvases are then sold, with the net proceeds funding scholarships for high school and college students pursuing further education in visual arts.

Be sure to fill out the Artist Statement and include your email so we can personally invite you to the New England Mosaic Unveiling on Wednesday, August 5 at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, 128 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills.

Historical Association to hold annual meeting

AGAWAM – The public is invited to the historic Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam, for the annual meeting of the Agawam Historical Association at 6:30 pm, Thursday, May 28. Following the election of officers & directors, announcement of the Agawam Historical Association-Marilyn P. Curry Memorial Scholarship recipient, and a short business meeting, will be the featured presentation "Meet John Adams – A Lively and Revolutionary Conversation with America's Second President."

Acclaimed John Adams portrayist George Baker will transport audience members to the Revolutionary era with his engaging and entertaining portrayal of America's second president. Wearing historically accurate clothing and performing songs from the period,

Baker will capture the Massachusetts native's sharp wit, principled leadership,

and deep commitment to the American experiment. Baker's portrayal is part of the association's year-long celebration of the United States Semiquincentennial. Sheryl Faye's one-woman show "Abigail Adams - Liberty & Legacy" was presented to a capacity crowd at the group's March meeting. An 18th century encampment is among activities planned for a July Fourth event at the association's historic Thomas Smith House in Feeding Hills.

Baker has performed his one-man show throughout the country, at venues such as the New York Historical Society, the Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and George H. W. Bush Presidential Libraries, and was featured on National Public Radio's weekend program, Studio 360. A lawyer by profession, Baker brings clarity and credibility to Adams's ideas through a blend of history, music, and storytelling,

making Adams feel immediate and human, rather than distant and monumental. The program concludes with time for thoughtful audience questions and conversation.

This event is free and open to the public, but registration is suggested. Please send the names of those attending to 1855@agawamhistory.org with "Annual Meeting" in the subject line. Due to limited seating, preference will be given to Agawam Historical Association members. Membership information can be found at agawamhistory.org. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the mass cultural council, a state agency.

The private, non-profit, all-volunteer Agawam Historical Association preserves and presents Agawam and Feeding Hills history at its two locations and provides educational opportunities at its quarterly meetings. The

association archives and displays artifacts pertaining to the Town of Agawam and its Fire Department in the Marilyn P. Curry History Room and Chief Russell "Rusty" Jenks Apparatus Room of the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum, located in the former Elm Street Fire Station at 35 Elm Street in Agawam Center. The association has preserved the ca. 1757 Thomas Smith House, at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills, in largely original, unrestored condition; the property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. The association also offers an annual scholarship to an Agawam senior pursuing higher education in a history-related field. For more information, please visit agawamhistory.org or follow the Agawam Historical Association on Instagram and Facebook. Volunteers and new members are always welcome!

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Local residents take advantage of MassSave incentives

AGAWAM – The Mass Save 2025 Annual Impact Report is out, and it shows that Eversource electric and gas customers in Agawam received more than \$2.8M in energy efficiency incentives in a single year.

Delivered through Mass Save programs supported by Eversource, these incentives helped Agawam residents invest in home energy upgrades that improve efficiency and manage electricity and natural gas use, while meaningfully reducing both household energy costs and emissions across the community.

Statewide in 2025, Mass Save programs delivered

more than \$3.6 billion in total benefits, including weatherizing 52,000 homes, installing heat pumps in nearly 32,000 households, and investing \$450 million to expand program access and reduce participation barriers.

We'd be happy to connect you with a representative from Eversource, who can put the Agawam data in context and share how Eversource customers across the region are making use of these incentives. Would you have 20 minutes to chat this week?

To read the full Mass Save 2025 Annual Impact Report, visit MassSave.com/2025AnnualImpact.

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Photo Group to hosting Malcom-Brown on May 18

BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Photo Group (QuabbinPhotoGroup.com) will host a presentation by Western Massachusetts landscape photographer Jamie Malcolm-Brown on Monday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at the Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State Street, located behind the Belchertown Police Station.

His presentation, "Weather, Light, and Luck: The Reality Behind the Shot," will offer an in-depth look at the decision-making process behind his images. Attendees will gain insight into how he scouts locations, uses tools such as PhotoPills, tracks weather patterns, and adapts when conditions change unexpectedly.

Rather than focusing solely on technical settings, Malcolm-Brown will emphasize the realities of fieldwork that include missed oppor-

tunities, shifting plans, and the importance of flexibility. The program will highlight how learning to pivot can lead to stronger, more compelling photographs that convey a sense of place and story.

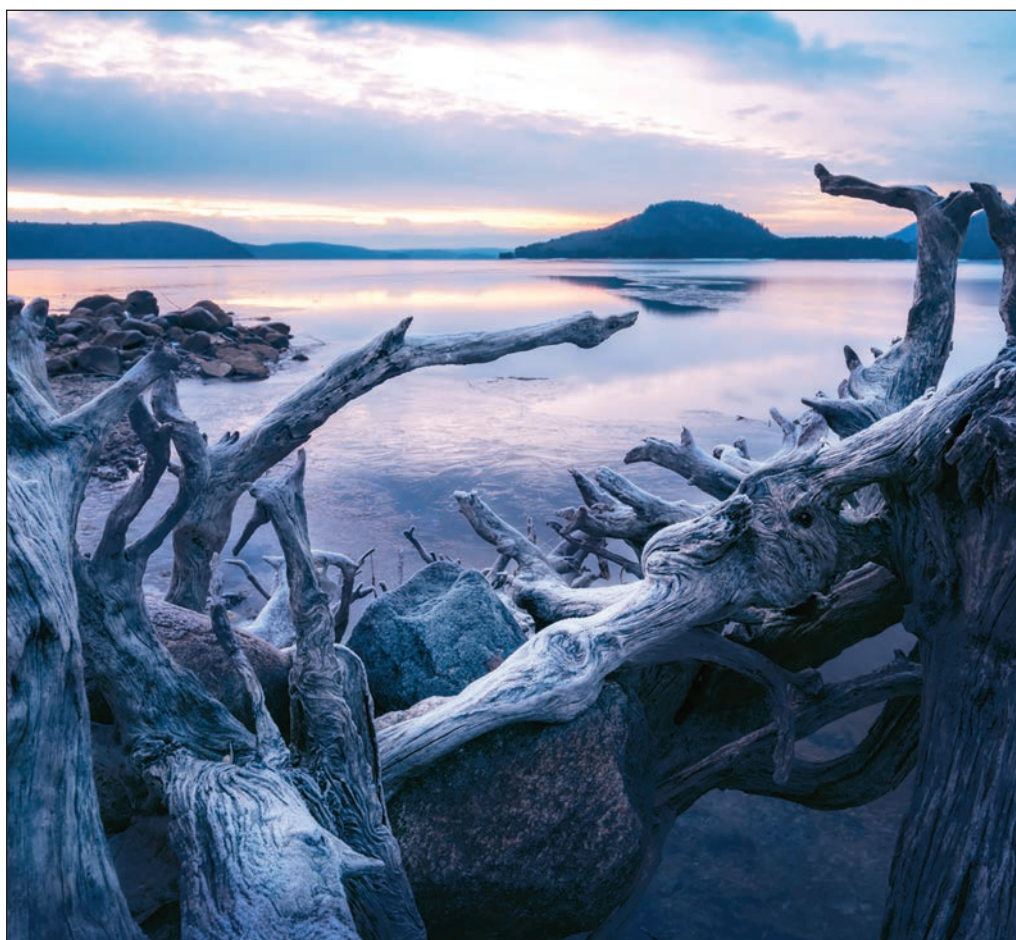
"We're really looking forward to learning how Jamie puts together his incredible images," said QPG President Mark Lindhult. "He has an impressive ability to capture absolutely stellar images." You can see his photographs at www.jamiemalcolm-brown.com or on Instagram at @jamiemalcombrown.

Malcolm-Brown, a self-taught photographer with more than two decades of experience, works primarily throughout the Pioneer Valley, focusing on capturing wild places shaped by fog, storms, night skies, and other fleeting natural conditions. His professional work

with Cultural Survival, an Indigenous rights organization, informs his approach to land conservation and visual storytelling.

The event is open to photographers of all skill levels, as well as anyone interested in landscape photography and the natural beauty of the Quabbin region.

The Quabbin Photo Group (QuabbinPhotoGroup.com) is a community of photographers based in Belchertown with a shared interest in nature, wildlife, and landscape photography, particularly within the Quabbin Reservoir region. The group hosts regular meetings, guest speakers, workshops, and field outings designed to help photographers of all experience levels improve their skills, share their work, and connect with others who appreciate the natural environment.



A frost covered tree stump sits in the foreground as the sun began to rise on a cold November morning. It is one of many photos to be featured when Jamie Malcolm-Brown presents to the Quabbin Photo Group May 18
SUBMITTED PHOTO

Agawam Community Artists and Artisans '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 water-

color, 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.

ACAA to hold unique art meeting

AGAWAM – Members of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans will present their first "Share and Feedback Circle" on Wednesday, May 13.

The "Share and Feedback Circle" will be part of ACAA's regular monthly meeting, to be held at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam, starting at 6 p.m. The meeting is open to the public, free of charge.

Everyone is welcome to join our fellow artists and artisans as we discuss ideas of how to improve your art and how to look at challenges you are encountering. Feel free

to join in on the dialogue that can lead to artistic growth and better techniques for your particular medium.

Everyone is encouraged to bring an example of their finished or in-progress art work. Others, without a sample, can join in on the discussions.

There will be artists at various tables situated around the library's Community Room, organized by mediums such as watercolor, acrylic, oil, mixed media, wood working, jewelry, etc.

In small groups of 6-8 members working in these related mediums, each artist

will briefly introduce their work. Then, each artist will receive constructive feedback from peers. Group members will ask questions such as what worked well, what challenges arose and what new approaches to the creative process may be possible.

This presentation should greatly benefit all artists and artisans, whether sharing a piece of art or contributing insights.

For further information please contact Ceil Rossi, President, ACAA at email: tocarefree2@hotmail.com.

HCC transfer coordinator receives lifetime achievement award

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College Transfer Affairs Coordinator Mark Broadbent received a lifetime achievement award from the New England Transfer Association, a nonprofit association of transfer professionals from two- and four-year colleges and universities.

Broadbent, a resident of Longmeadow, was presented with the Dr. Mary E. Dunn Lifetime Achievement in Transfer Award at the association's 2026 annual conference, which was held April 13-15 at the Hotel Northampton in Northampton, Mass. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant and sustained contributions to transfer in New England through their advocacy, leadership, and mentoring.

Broadbent has worked at HCC since 1990 and served as coordinator of transfer affairs for 34 years.

"This award is well deserved," said Renee Tastad, assistant vice president of student affairs and enrollment management. "Mark's work has opened doors and created transfer paths for countless HCC students. He continues to elevate HCC as a college of academic excellence through our many transfer programs."

Each year, HCC transfers hundreds of graduating students to colleges



HCC Transfer Affairs Coordinator Mark Broadbent recently received a lifetime achievement award

and universities both near and far, with University of Massachusetts Amherst, Westfield State University, Elms College, Western New England, Smith College, and Mount Holyoke College being among its top transfer partners.

"It's an honor, and it's humbling," said Broadbent. "It's an outstanding award."

Broadbent earned a bachelor's degree in history from Syracuse University and a master's degree in psychological services from Springfield College. He started working at HCC as a Springfield College intern and then moved into Admissions and the TRIO program before landing in his current position.

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Opinion

Guest Column



I want to do everything right when I claim Social Security

Dear Rusty:

I will be 62 in two years. I plan on signing up for SS at age 62, but I have heard there are details that are important when signing up. When it comes time, I want to make sure I do everything right. Can you help me understand?

Signed: Claiming Soon

Dear Claiming Soon:

Deciding when to claim your Social Security benefit is a decision you should make only after careful consideration of your personal circumstances. And details are, indeed, important. For example, if you claim at age 62 (when you first become eligible), your monthly SS benefit will be only 70% of the amount you would get by waiting until age 67 to claim. And there are other considerations as well, including:

If you are still working and claim at 62, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much you can earn from working while collecting early SS benefits. The earnings limit changes each year, and for 2026 it is \$24,480. If the annual limit after you claim early is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. And, if your work earnings substantially exceed the annual limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible for early SS benefits (until you either stop working full time or reach your SS full retirement age). FYI, the AET lasts until you reach your FRA (age 67).

The benefit reduction for claiming SS early is permanent. After you claim, you will only get increases for Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) which occur annually according to inflation. FYI, the average annual COLA adjustment is about 2.5%.

If you are married, the reduced benefit you get by claiming early will potentially be the basis of your spouse's survivor benefit if you pass first. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount you are receiving at your death, thus waiting longer for a higher personal benefit may also provide your spouse with a larger survivor benefit as your widow.

If you wait longer than age 62, your monthly benefit will continue to increase (by approximately 6% per year) until you reach your FRA, when you get 100% of the amount you are entitled to from a lifetime of working. FYI, you can even wait longer - up to age 70 - to claim an even higher monthly amount (8% more for each year of delay after FRA). At age 70, your SS benefit would be about 75% more than your age 62 bene-

fit amount.

If you haven't already done so, I suggest setting up your personal online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to see what your SS benefits are estimated to be at various ages. Then, when you are closer to age 62, contact us again to talk about your specific personal circumstances at the time, and we can provide you with everything you need to know about applying for Social Security.

In the end, when claiming your Social Security benefits, you should consider your financial need, your health and life expectancy, your plans for working, and your marital status. We commend you for exploring this well in advance of becoming eligible and we will be here to assist when it is time for you to apply.

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.

efit amount would be better than a similar reduction to a lower benefit amount. In other words, your original plan is still a prudent one.

Regarding your question about your estimated benefits, I expect your most recent SS statement didn't include future benefits because you are already collecting SS survivor benefits. You can contact SSA at 1-800-772-1213 to obtain the future SS retirement estimates you seek.

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The Garden Lady takes on spring bulb woes

Debi, who gardens in Hardwick, reached out to the Garden Lady with concerns over her daffodils.

They didn't bloom well this year, and she wonders if they need fertilizer.

"Dear Garden Lady, sorry to bother you in this busy season but our daffodils aren't doing well. I'm guessing they need food. What would you suggest?"

I am happy to answer your question! There are typically four reasons why daffodils don't bloom.

Probably the first mistake gardeners make is removing the foliage too soon after the flowers go by. Foliage needs about six-eight weeks of ripening before it can be removed.

While it is still green, it is photosynthesizing and making energy for next year's flowers.

It can get unsightly as it starts to yellow and finally turn brown and dry up, but we must be patient.

It is ready when it comes off with a gentle tug. Some gardeners get strategic with nearby plants so that the eye moves away from the foliage and to another

plant taking the stage in full bloom.

Another reason why daffodils may be stingy with their flowers is that the clumps are overgrown and need to be divided. Wait until the foliage has turned brown, then dig up the bulbs, pry them apart and replant them twice their width from one another and about two to three times their height deep.

I recommend using a pointed shovel, not a trowel. Sometimes they can be down deep and you want to make sure you get the bulb out intact.

Do this while the brown foliage is there so that you can find them. While it may feel "off" to be replanting in early summer, it is a perfectly fine time to do it.

Debi's bulbs could also need fertilizer, like she suggested. A sprinkling of granular fertilizer with low nitrogen, but sufficient phos-

phorus and potassium for blooming and rooting, respectively, would be ideal.

The two best times to feed are when the bulbs are up a few inches and now, just past bloom. Daffodils do require less fertilizer than tulips and hyacinths, and sometimes bloom for years without the addition of fertilizer.

I am wondering if the trees or the ground cover adjacent to Debi's daffodils were fertilized with a high nitrogen blend and it affected the bulbs? I have a few daffodils near an apple tree that is close to my compost pile, where I mix chicken bedding with vegetable scraps, etc.

I think the high nitrogen run-off from the pile affected my blooming, just as an example. Of five possible clumps I had a measly two flowers. Bone meal, high in phosphorus, is in order to re-balance the soil.

Knowing Debi's sun exposure, I don't think this is an issue, but it is worth the mention for other readers who may struggle with sparse blooms. Daffodils won't bloom in deep shade. Dap-

GARDEN | page 5

Yellow rumped warblers

These yellow-rumped warblers, also known as Myrtle warblers, flitted around the edges of Lake Wallace in Belchertown, on April 22.

A Belchertown resident sent an email reporting he saw two yellow-rumped. He attached the above photos. The second photo a rear view of the warbler clearly shows the yellow rump of this aptly named warbler.

These warblers are about the size of black-capped chickadee and have a long bill and narrow tail

They are gray with yellow on their sides, a small patch on the head and of course, the large patch on the rump. They have white on wings, throat and underneath. They have



black and white streaking on the breast. Males have a large black patch around the eye. The female is duller.

In summer, yellow-rumped warblers inhabit open coniferous forests and edges and not as often deciduous forests. They primarily feed on insects in the summer. On migration and winter they eat fruit and berries particularly bayberry and wax myrtle. Their song is a series of high-pitched notes often described as "chewy" or "chip-chip."

When males court females, they fluff their feathers, raise their wings and the feathers

of the crown and hop from perch to perch, chipping. They may also make display flights in which they glide back and forth or fly slowly with exaggerated wingbeats. The yellow-rumped Warbler's flight is agile and swift and the birds often call as they change direction.

The female builds the nest and sometimes uses material the male brings to her. The nest is a cup of twigs, pine needles, grasses and rootlets. The female also may use moose, horse and deer hair,

BACKYARD | page 5

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.

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters.

All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail aan@turley.com.

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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 (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.



This is a back view of a yellow-rumped warbler recently seen in Belchertown.



This photo shows a side view of a yellow-rumped warbler.

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

moss and lichens. The nest takes about ten days to complete. She lays a clutch of one to six eggs speckled with brown or reddish gray.

Bluebirds

A Rutland couple say two bluebirds in their yard on April 25. They hope they will nest in the yard.

Great blue heron

I finally saw a great blue heron perched in a tree at the beaver pond, which abuts my hayfield. Every year, one or two are frequent visitors and even nested there.

Purple martins

A purple martin watcher spotted the first purple martins in Massachusetts for 2026 in Rehoboth on April 4.

The largest species of swallow in North America, they wintered in Brazil and flew 7,000 miles to the United States and Canada.

Hummingbirds

Soon the ruby-throated hummingbirds will be back. It is time to get out the nectar feeders. Instead of purchasing prepared nectar in powder or liquid form, avoid the harm-

ful dyes and boil a one to four ration of sugar to water. I preferred to mix small batches, ¼ cup white sugar to 1 cup water on a more frequent basis to avoid spoilage. It can be stored in the refrigerator for about one week if making larger amounts.

Tom turkeys

In my travels, I spotted in three different locations Tom

turkeys displaying their tail feathers for one or more hen turkeys. I noticed one Tom with two hens strutting about as the females kept on eating near him.

Bird fact

Annually, over 50 million Americans purchased more than one billion pounds of bird seed and suet.

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.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

pled sunlight is fine.

Planting under deciduous trees is also fine. If you think shade is the culprit, wait until the foliage ripens and move them using the guidelines I provided for bulbs that are overcrowded.

I sure hope one of these suggestions will help your daffodils regain their former glory!

Rose, who reads the column in the Ware River News, was concerned that a number of her hyacinths were broken off at ground level when just buds, and she wondered what or who could the culprit be.

"This is so disheartening, I don't want to even grow them

any more."

I was astounded to hear this, because the same thing happened to me in one of my gardens at Old Sturbridge Village where I have a multi red, white and blue planting of hyacinths and tulips. Grooming last week yielded at least 10 hyacinth buds that looked as if they were but off at ground level.

Although the experts say rodents could be the cause, the cut was almost perfect, not gnawed in any way, plus hyacinths contain natural deterrents making them rodent proof, typically. I did cultivate the bed awhile back, my thought being that I may have cut a few of them off under ground.

As the stems elongat-

ed, they could have forced the bud above ground even though it was already dislodged, but the mystery remains. I'm sorry this happened, Rose, and I wish I had a definite answer for you, but at least know you are in good company with your hyacinth woes.

If anyone has any answers I would love to hear them!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Compost bins for sale this spring

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam is pleased to once again offer home compost bins at a reduced rate to all town residents.

Home composting is a simple way to restore nutrients in our soil. The addition of compost enriches soil, stimulates plant growth, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. In addition, composting food scraps with yard waste, has the added benefit of keeping those wastes out of our trash carts.

It's easy to make compost, and the Town of Agawam makes it even easier by offering rodent-resistant home composting bins for \$35.00, over 40% off the retail price. According to Environmental Project Coordinator Tracy DeMaio, a portion of the cost is funded by a grant awarded by the Mass Department of Environmental Protection.

"We are pleased Agawam is able to offer compost bins at an affordable rate to residents," stated Mayor Johnson. "Agawam is committed to providing its residents with quality services while promoting a sustainable future."

The New Age Composter is made in Massachusetts, constructed of thick, rugged 100% recycled plastic. The composter is adjustable and has a capacity of 24 cubic feet, the equivalent of about 12 bags of leaves. It has a cone shaped floor and cover which provide air and moisture to the composting material, requiring a minimum maintenance while producing compost in about 3 months.

The compost bin helps hold in heat and moisture, keep animals out, and look more attractive than open compost heaps. Organic material will start to turn to

compost in the bin in 3 to 6 months. Compost, known as "black gold" to gardeners, replenishes nutrients in the soil, helps retain moisture, makes the soil easy to work, and helps plants resist disease. Compost makes plants healthy so they can overcome adverse conditions without pesticides or chemical fertilizers.

Pre-paid orders will be accepted until Friday, Apr. 24. Residents must pick up compost bins between 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, or by appointment, at the Department of Public Works.

Order forms may be picked up at the Department of Public Works or downloaded on the town website at www.agawam.ma.us Residents may also visit the DPW section of the town website for more information on how to compost and how to set up the New Age Composter.

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- ▶ Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- ▶ Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- ▶ If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.
- ▶ You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

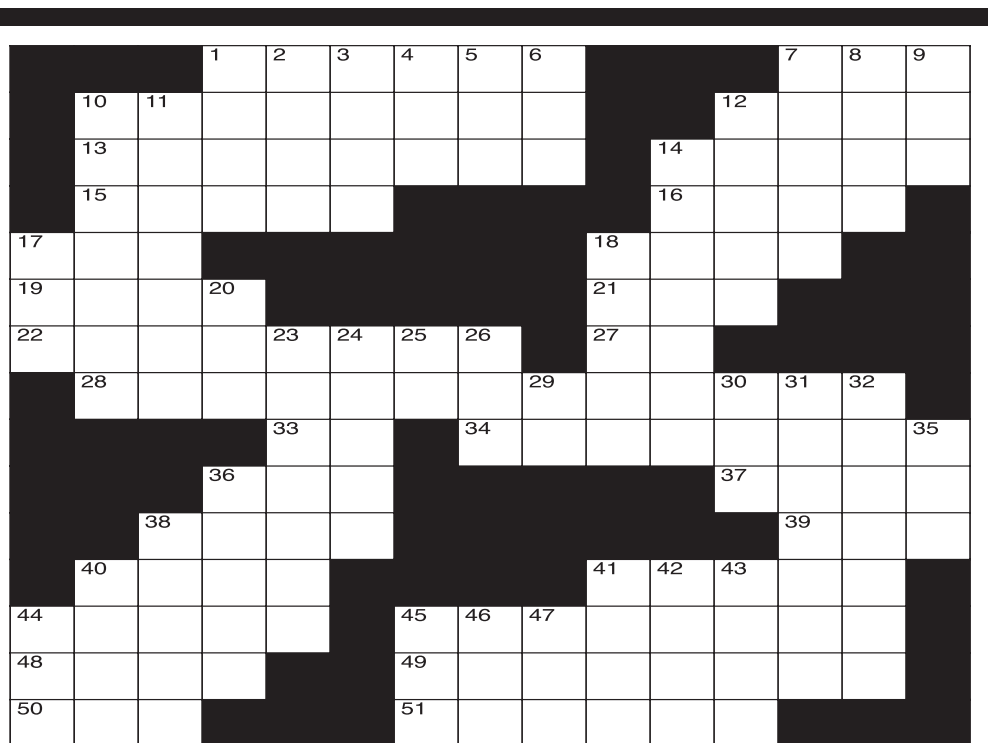
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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Large dung beetle
 - 7. Gambling game -lo
 - 10. Further along
 - 12. Type of tobacco
 - 13. Looked for
 - 14. Silk fabric
 - 15. Computer method to solve equations
 - 16. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
 - 17. Tear
 - 18. Brews
 - 19. "Famous" cookie baker
 - 21. Women's Army Corps
 - 22. Front parts of an animal
 - 27. It's causing quite a stir
 - 28. Beloved March holiday
 - 33. 12th letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 34. More impudent
 - 36. Indicates center
 - 37. Young woman (French)
 - 38. A cause of distress
 - 39. Santa's helper
 - 40. Hillside
 - 41. Many wombs
 - 44. Is afraid of
 - 45. Popular baked goods ingredient
 - 48. Popular computers
 - 49. Conceiving of
 - 50. Google certification (abbr.)
 - 51. Sturdy
 - 4. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
 - 5. Consumed
 - 6. A place to sleep
 - 7. Small seeds
 - 8. Legendary law man Wyatt
 - 9. Female sheep
 - 10. Indigenous peoples of eastern Siberia
 - 11. A place ships dock
 - 12. Reciprocal of sine
 - 14. Discomfort
 - 17. British Air Aces
 - 18. Exit sleep
 - 20. Solar energetic particle
 - 23. Plagues characterized by starvation
 - 24. Short musical composition
 - 25. Trauma center
 - 26. Habitual twitching
 - 29. A place where checks are exchanged (abbr.)
 - 30. Decameter
 - 31. Hinged surface in a wing
 - 32. Shouting
 - 35. Sports official
 - 36. Volcanic craters
 - 38. Supportive device
 - 40. It's part of a rosary
 - 41. Two-toed sloth
 - 42. Body art
 - 43. Let out
 - 44. Foreign medical graduate
 - 45. Nonprofit journalism organization (abbr.)
 - 46. Couples say it
 - 47. Bird's beak

Senior Center announces new upcoming activities

AGAWAM – Here are some upcoming activities happening at the Agawam Senior Center. Some require registration or confirmation. Information in the details below:

Manicures with Jane

Monday, May 11 in Seminar Hall

Jane is a licensed nail specialist, who will give your fingernails that extra special attention and love they deserve. She is offering simple manicures that include clipping, filing, soak, massage of the hands and your choice of color. These appointments are 15 minutes each. The cost is \$15 per person. Call Kristina at 413.726.2836 to book.

Register of Deeds invites homeowners to an Informational Seminar

Wednesday, May 13 at 1 p.m. in the Dining Room

Who we are and what we do:

*Homestead Act

*Consumer Notification System

*Title Fraud

All attendees are eligible to receive a free certified copy of their deed!

CarFit helps improve comfort and safety "Fit"

for Senior Drivers

Friday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

To help the 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day and all senior drivers find a better "fit" with their cars for comfort and safety, mobility experts are hosting a safety program designed to help older drivers and their families. CarFit is national program developed by AAA, AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association and is designed to give a quick, yet comprehensive check on how well an older driver and their vehicle work together. Agawam Senior Center will host CarFit check-ups at the former senior center parking lot behind Agawam Housing Authority. At a CarFit event, trained volunteers complete a 12-point checklist with each driver. Among the items checked are: correct position of driver's seat, driver's ability to easily reach pedals, and proper adjustment of mirrors.

Occupational therapists are on hand also to provide a consultation, if needed, that will teach drivers how to maintain and improve aspects related to their driv-

ing health. The therapist can also provide information to participants addressing individual needs, including information about local community resources on exercise, nutrition and other programs to help keep them safe on the road. It is critically important that mature drivers make safety a personal priority. Driving today is more difficult than ever because of increased traffic congestion, longer commute distances, new technology and faster speeds. Older drivers can take important measures to mitigate the stress associated with driving. CarFit is an opportunity for older drivers to make sure their personal vehicles are adjusted to their needs. Call Kristina to register for this great opportunity 413.726.2836.

Powerback Rehab Seminar

Tuesday, May 19 at 1 p.m. in the Garden Room

"Why travel for outpatient therapy? Powerback Rehab to You provides rehabilitation services in your home or meeting you out in the community. Come join Emily from Powerback and learn about the different ways PT

and OT can not only help you remain safe in your home but continue doing the things you love without having to drive to a clinic."

Sheryl Faye as:

Ruth Bader Ginsburg – "IDissent"

Tuesday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m. Dining Room

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an American lawyer and jurist who served as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1993 until her death in September 2020. She was the second woman and the first Jewish woman ever appointed to the Court and became the longest serving Jewish Justice. She championed fairness and equality and objected to different expectations for men and women, prejudice against minority groups in places like hotels and restaurants, and women having fewer job opportunities than men. Ruth served on the national board of the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) and launched The Women's Rights Project. She continued to be a leading voice for gender equality, women's interests, and civil rights and liberties. Ruth

Bader Ginsburg's life continues to be one of achievement: as a lawyer, professor of law, a judge, and then a Supreme Court justice, she stands out because she was not afraid to dissent, disapprove, and disagree with conditions of unfairness and inequality. This show is the inspiring story of how she changed her life—and ours. Call 821-0605 to sign up

CPR and AED Training

Wednesday, May 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. in Veterans Hall

The Agawam Senior Center is extremely excited to offer this potentially "life saving class" to our staff and any senior interested in joining us. On Wednesday, May 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Veterans Hall we will be offering CPR and AED training with Marsha Chappel from Baystate Hospital. Marsha is the certified AED and CPR trainer at Baystate Hospital and has kindly offered her training to the Agawam Senior Center. The cost is a \$20 donation due on the day of the class, all monies collected on that day will be donated to the American Heart Association. If you are interested in joining this class, PLEASE call Kristina at

413.726.2836 to reserve your spot. Spaces will be limited to 25.

Comedy Show

Wednesday, May 20 at 1 p.m. in the Auditorium

Comedians "On The Hill" are better than Under the Hill. Hosted by Angela Grout, better known in the comic world as-Tangela G. Join Tangela G & friends for an hour of laughter with 5 comics from WMASS. This comedy showcase is filled with humorous stories, and laughs for those over the limit in age or miles.

Hearing Checks with Gary

Thursday, May 21 by appointment

The next New Ears hearing care clinic will take place on Thursday, May 21. Gary Winn a licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist, and owner of New Ears Hearing Care, will conduct a free hearing clinic. He will check ears for wax build-up, perform hearing screenings, and counsel people about hearing loss. Hearing aids will be cleaned and adjusted if possible. Call 821-0604 to make an appointment. Hearing checks will take place in the seminar hall.

Golf Tournament to support Wreaths Across America

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam and the Friends of the Agawam Veterans Council proudly announce their Second Annual Golf Tournament in support of Wreaths Across America, a national effort to honor and remember our fallen veterans during the holiday season.

This exciting event promises a day of camaraderie,

remembrance, and community support. Golfers, sponsors, and community members are invited to participate and help lay wreaths at the graves of veterans resting at the Agawam Veterans Memorial Cemetery this December.

The Tournament will be held on June 28. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. and golfing starts at 12 noon at Agawam Municipal Golf Course. The costs are \$135

for an individual golfer, \$540 for a team of four, \$30 for dinner only, and \$100 to sponsor a tee. Other sponsorships are also available.

To Register or Sponsor, contact Marline Claremont at 413-221-9548 or email wreathfriends@gmail.com. Registration forms are available upon request. Join us in honoring those who served with a round of golf, good food, and great company— all for a noble cause.

State Ornithologist to Discuss Latest in Bird Conservation

SPRINGFIELD – On Monday, May 4, at 7 p.m. the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, MA invites the public to attend, From Wood Thrush to Goshawks: Using Traditional and Contemporary Approaches to Promote Bird Conservation. This program will be presented by State Ornithologist Andrew Vitz, who will explain

how a combination of traditional and advanced technologies are used in studying bird biology for improved conservation. Dr. Vitz will highlight species such as the American Goshawk, Eastern Whip-poor-will, American Bald Eagle, Wood Thrush, and American Kestrel. This presentation will be held, free of charge, in

the Tolman Auditorium of the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards Street, Springfield, MA.

The Allen Bird Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing Greater Springfield area birders together since 1912. For more information, please visit www.AllenBirdClub.org.

'Nacho Average Wellness' Event at Heritage Woods May 7th

AGAWAM – A group of local eldercare agencies and facilities is sponsoring "Nacho Average Wellness," Thursday, May 7 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Heritage Woods, 464 Main St., Agawam.

The event is designed to offer caregivers and professionals time to step away from their busy lives, reconnect with themselves, and connect with others, ac-

cording to Chantal Bernard, founder of Chanda Care, one of the sponsors.

The featured topic of the evening is "Don't be a Burnt Taco: How to Come Back to Yourself," with a focus on conversation around simple, practical ways for caregivers to reduce stress and prevent burnout.

Margaritas, including a non-alcoholic option, will

be available along with a taco bar and other light bites. In addition, guests will be able to enter a raffle for a wellness basket valued at \$100.

The event is sponsored by Chanda Care, Chanda's House, Brookhaven Hospice, and Heritage Woods. There is no charge to attend. R.S.V.P. to tiffany.lagacy.genesis@hcc.com.

Suffield Garden Club hosts May Market

SUFFIELD, CT – When you see the merry, yellow and white striped tents next to the Phelps-Hatheway House barn in Suffield, CT, you know it's time for May Market.

Now in its 48th year, the Suffield Garden Club's May Market always delights. Thirty-five vendors will be offering everything from plants, garden art, pottery, house signs, metal work, wooden ware, unique wreaths, and second-hand treasures to power equipment, jewelry and food. Shoppers can patronize returning favorites as well as new additions like

the Dirty Sip, an on-trend drink that mixes soda with flavored syrup and creamer. Also new this year is live entertainment for children and adults in the Summer House just south of the main house.

Gardeners can enjoy extra benefits such as the availability of Spear Head Spades, roses and shrubs, and Suffield High School's Agriscience students with a selection of student-grown plants and herbs. The Garden Club also offers "Member Plants" – locally grown perennials and annuals at amazingly low prices – and free gardening advice at the Club's booth.

Admission is free, but don't forget to bring cash or your checkbook since not all vendors take credit cards. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own reusable shopping bags, as well as a wagon or cart for transporting their treasures back to their cars.

The Suffield Garden Club, organized in 1934, is a non-profit organization dedicated to the beautification of Suffield. Proceeds from this event support civic beautification, high school scholarships, town conservation, horticulture education, and garden therapy programs.

Garden Club plans annual plant sale

AGAWAM – Agawam Garden Club is planning its annual plant sale for Saturday, May 30. This year's event will be held at the Historical Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills and will run from 9 a.m.

to 12 noon. The sale will include many perennials and shrubs all from members' gardens and all a bargain. Because the plants are all grown locally in members' gardens they are well acclimated to the area. Proceeds

from the sale go towards funding the club's scholarship and providing educational programs for the year. Please check the club's website for further information. agawamgardenclub.com

Community Grange to sell craft supplies

AGAWAM – Community Grange #382 located at 47 North West Street in Feed-

ing 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.

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Community Grange to sell craft supplies
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2x3 Black & White Grad Ad

Congratulations Karly Smith! We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College!



Love, Mom & Dad

New kids, teen activities at Agawam Library

AGAWAM – April showers bring May flowers, which works beautifully for us at the Agawam Library, as we have just rolled out our brand new plant inspired logo! We are also rolling out a slightly smaller program roster this month as we begin our Summer Reading Challenge preparations. Our Summer Reading Challenge will begin Monday, June 29th and go through August 8th. During the Summer Reading Challenge there will be lots of activities, games, and prizes to keep kids of all ages reading throughout the summer. But we still have some fun activities planned before that. Below is a listing of everything that's going on for kids & teens this month. Some events require registration. To register, call 413-789-1550 ext 3 or go to our website agawamlibrary.org.

Art and Stories - For ages 3 - 5
Tues. May 12 and 26 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in

Join us for a short story time followed by an art project. We will explore simple art concepts and experiment with materials. Please wear clothing that can get messy!

Baby Story Time - For birth - 18 mo.

Thursday, May 14 and 28 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in

Join us as we learn a little American Sign Language, read stories, sing, & play together.

Family Movie: Lilo & Stitch (2002) - For all ages
Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m. - Drop-in

Join us for a showing of the original Lilo & Stitch film. Bring a small (not messy) picnic to eat during the movie. We'll have some snacks and coloring sheets available during the movie.

Family Take and Make Crafts - For all ages
First Day of the Week & Thursdays - While supplies last - Drop-in & pick up.

A new Take & Make craft will be available the first day of each week and again on Thursdays. May 7: Foam Owl Ornament May 11 and 14: Butterfly Hand Puppet May 18 and 21: Construction Site Scene May 26 and 28: Robot Mask

Grow, play and Learn - This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

Wednesdays and Fridays
Ages 0-2 at 9:30 am Ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m. - Drop-in.

Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child.

Polymer Clay Crafting - For students in grades 5-6
Wednesday, May 27 at 6 p.m. -

Registration is required
Come craft small trinkets out of polymer clay! We'll be able to bake it in our mini oven to set it for you.

Pre-K Pals - For ages 3 - 5 This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.
Mondays in May at 11 a.m. - Registration is required

No class Mon. May 25 Each week, we will focus on an area of development and provide fun activities to support your child to learn through play.

Special Saturday Drop-in Craft: Dogs in Rain Gear Craft - For All Ages
Saturday, May 30

All Day - While supplies last - Drop-in and pick up.

These pups are playing in the rain. This craft kit features two different designs that show images of dogs in colorful rain gear holding umbrellas and grinning while standing in the falling rain.

Spring Carnival - For all ages.
Wednesday, May 20 at 6 p.m. - Registration is required

Celebrate Spring with fun activities, crafts, and games! This program is hosted by the Agawam Public Library Teen Advisory Board.

Teen Advisory Board - For grades 7-12
Wednesday, May 13 at 6 p.m.

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

Teen After School Drop-in - For grades 9-12
Every Monday the Agawam Public Schools are in session at 2 p.m.
Stop by the library after

school and visit the Activity Room. Play our Nintendo Switch, try out the air hockey table, eat snacks, or just hang out. No registration necessary. Note: there is no drop-in on Monday, 5/25.

Teen Take and Make Craft - For grades 7-12
Available starting Friday, May 1

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

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

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

Toddler Time - For 19 mo. - 36 mo.
Mon. May 11 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in.

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

Gold, Silver and Coin Buyback with Olde Tavern Antiques

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will host a Gold, silver and coin buyback event on Friday, May 15 at 8:30 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join Olde Tavern Antiques at RiverMills Center for a Gold, Silver and Coin exchange. Olde Tavern Antiques of Connecticut will be at RiverMills to buy your old gold, silver and coins that you are ready to par-

ty with. This is NOT an appraisal event. You will receive payment on the spot if you accept the offer, and a percentage of the earnings will go back to the FRIENDS of RiverMills Center. You must register in advance.

Learn to grow edible mushrooms

BELCHERTOWN - The New England Small Farm Institute, located at 275 Jackson Rd. in Belchertown, will host a workshop teaching people how to grow edible mushrooms on Saturday, May 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. Hosted by NEFSI and Forestopia, come enjoy a hands-on workshop that explores all dimensions

of shiitake mushroom cultivation on home and commercial levels. The workshop will provide an introduction to the agroforestry practice Forest Farming, cover the fundamentals of mushroom cultivations, and review basic considerations of those interested in growing commercially. Participants will

also have the opportunity to take home an inoculated shiitake log. The event has a suggested donation of \$20 to \$30 (add \$15 for participants wishing to take home one inoculated shiitake log). All are welcome. To register, please contact Sara Weil at info@smallfarm.org or call 413-323-4531.

ACC to hold Mother's Day Plant Sale

AGAWAM - The Agawam Congregational Church is having a Mother's Day Plant Sale to be held on May 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Come bright and early for the best blooms. We will

have over 50 hanging plants, hypertufa planters with sedums, annuals, perennials, bulbs, hostas, hypertufa lady bugs, pine cone flowers that last forever.

If you have a garage or

basement full of old pots (any size) and you want to get rid of them this is the time. Drop them off outside the back door of the church, 745 Main St. Agawam.

DPW ■ from page 1

contract. DPW workers will receive back pay for their raises, retroactive to the start date of the contract.

Because members of the DPW work across multiple departments that include some of the enterprise funds such as water, and wastewater, some of the funding to pay for the contract came from user fees.

Funds needed for snow/ice removal

Mayor Christopher Johnson also requested funding from reserves to cover the excess funds needed to cover the snow/ice removal budget. For the first time in several years, the town saw a large amount of snow over the course of the winter, involving multiple large-scale spending. The latest amount requested was more than \$95,000 to bridge the deficit, plus another \$40,000 for equipment.

"The longstanding practice in Agawam is that any deficit in snow and ice removal accounts filled via transfers from the Reserve Fund prior to the end of the fiscal year," Johnson stated in a memo.

Massachusetts General Law allows for deficit spending of take place in snow and ice budgets due to the unpredictable nature of snow and ice events over the course of the winter.

While Agawam received a larger amount of snow compared to recent years, it was



Additional funding was needed to close a deficit in the snow and ice removal budget this year. Agawam received more snow than it has in recent years.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

not nearly as severe as some of the hits that took place in Eastern Massachusetts, including one storm that dumped more than 30 inches of snow in one storm.

Agawam got nearly two feet of snow in late January, followed by an addition 8 to 10 inches in a subsequent storm.

NOTICE

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

Class of 1967 needs help organizing reunion

AGAWAM - Agawam High School Class of 1967 will be holding its 60th reunion sometime in calendar year 2027. We are seeking our classmates that

have not been contacted recently. Please contact John DeVecchi with your name, address and phone number(s) to agawam67@aol.com

UTILITY ■ from page 1

Agawam supports this legislation is an important step in supporting better services and pricing for internet ac-

cess for our residents," Borgatti said.

Both the House and Senate versions of the bill have been voted "Ought to Pass" in their respective Telecom-

munications, Utilities, and Energy Committees, and have both been referred to the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE** To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON** **Thursday, May 21**

- Thank you!

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SPORTS

Falcons score early and often to beat Agawam

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - A dominating performance.

That's probably the best way to describe Minnechaug Regional's 15-2 home victory against Valley Wheel league rival Agawam, last Monday (April 27).

"We've had several games during the season where we played very well in spurts," said first-year Minnechaug girls' varsity lacrosse coach Thomas Brennan. "I thought we played very well from the start to the finish in today's game. It was probably our best effort so far this season. We were unselfish on offense and the defense played exceptionally well."

The Falcons, who had a 7-3 overall record following the home victory, defeated the Brownies, 11-6, at Agawam High School on April 2. They also swept the season series with the Brownies (1-8) for the first time since 2024.

Agawam's only victory so far this season came at Westfield (11-4) on April 14.

The first three Falcons losses were on the road

against West Springfield (11-10), Somers Conn. (11-10) and Shrewsbury (17-7.)

"We lost at Shrewsbury, who's a very good team, the other day," Brennan said. "We don't talk about that game anymore because it's ancient history. However, we did learn from our mistakes."

There are six sophomores listed on the Minnechaug roster. Four of them combined to score 10 goals.

"The sophomores have been leading us offensively," Brennan said. "All of them are very coachable and they always play very hard."

Sophomore Peyton Lee led the way offensively for the home team with four goals.

Sophomore Lily Sergienko and junior Sophia Kozub also recorded hat-tricks.

Sergienko scored two of her three goals during the opening twelve minutes of the match. Lee added an unassisted goal, which helped the Falcons build a 3-0 lead.

"I thought we were very methodically on offense during the first quarter," Brennan said. "We worked the ball



Olivia Govoni advances up the field through traffic.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

GIRLS | page 10



Grace Curto reaches high to catch a pass.



Bella Santaniello tries to get around a Minnechaug defender.



Yabsira Kebede tries to make a save.

Wenzel opens up season with win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Open-wheel ace Nathan Wenzel strutted the stuff that made him both a speedway and New Hampshire state Modified champion Saturday at Monadnock Speedway, topping the season opening main event at the high-banked speedplant.

And even though Saturday marked the first event of the new season, reigning Limited Late Model track champion Dylan Zullo is already in the running for what may be the summer's most exciting victory at the historic quarter-mile oval.

With a huge crowd braving the chilly April temperatures, six drivers started their season with a flourish, each earning the first victory lap of the new season in their respective division. Along with Wenzel and Zullo, long-ago Mini Stock champ Kevin Clayton, Pure Stock hot shoe Jimmy Zellman, Pro V8 Sportsman pilot Chris Kingsley and Young Gun speedster Sofia Rego each went home victorious.

Colton Martin and JT Cloutier led the All States Materials Group 604 Modifieds to the green Saturday, with Martin jumping all over the opening lead. Cloutier rode second in his shadow, with Jimmy Rivet a close third, and Wenzel, from row three, quickly on the charge.

Wenzel had third on lap three and took second from Rivet on the tenth go-round. He and Martin then raced under a blanket until light contact on lap 28 sent Martin tumbling off turn two, then moving Wenzel and Rivet to row one, with Tyler Leary now up to third.

Leary powered up to second on lap 36, quickly gluing his ride to Wenzel's as the two former speedway champions squared off. They rubbed in the final turn, with Wenzel wobbling but still holding the point to score his first win of the season.

With Leary an airtight second, Martin charged back through the field to snatch third from Rivet, and Clouti-

er's strong night's work netted him fifth. Leary set fast time in qualifying, scorching his way around the high banks in 12.127 seconds.

Hillary Renaud led early in the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model feature. Dylan Zullo, though, was on a mission, blasting from row three as he began to pick up where he'd left off in his championship season a year ago. Taking the lead on lap two, he looked headed for an easy romp in Saturday's 30-lapper. A caution, though, on lap 24, brought JD Stockwell to his door and the action was just getting started.

Over the last three laps, they rubbed, they pushed, and they traded places, with Zullo prevailing to win by just a foot. Robert Hagar had the best view of the top-two chaos, watching from close behind as he impressed in third. Renaud was fourth on the night, and Erik Smith rounded out the first five.

Kevin Clayton won the Monadnock Speedway Mini

Stock championship more than a quarter century ago, taking top honors way back in 2000. In recent summers, victory lane had been like a foreign nation to him. But now, the popular wheelsman has a new streak started.

Starting up front, Clayton led all the way to win by three lengths over third row starter Craig Chaffee in the night's Keene Towing and Recovery Mini Stock main event. Steady Tim Paquette came home third, Tim O'Shea was fourth, and Dick Lamotte fifth.

Jimmy Zellman won a thriller in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stocks, coming off a pair of runner-up finishes at Claremont, the Bay State blaster had his mind set on something a little bit better. Leading all the way, he achieved that goal Saturday.

Zellman's opening night victory didn't come easily though. He had Colton Hull and Carlos Grenier draped all over him every inch of the way. Grenier got up for second on lap 18 and the potent

trio raced under a blanket the rest of the way. With Hull third, Josh Brigham impressed in fourth, and Kyle Begos was fifth.

Chris Kingsley won the spirited Beck's Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman feature. Stephen LaPlante was second and Garden State ace Scott Riggelman came home third. It was Kingsley's first career win on the high banks.

Sofia Rego had a memorable night in the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns, winning with ease in both her heat and feature races. Eleven-year-old Dylan Stati - yes, just eleven - was second in the 15-lap feature, and Maeve Barry was third.

Monadnock Speedway roars back into action next Saturday, May 2, with a special Todd Martell Memorial 75-lap Modified main event atop a full night of NASCAR Local Racing Series events, and the first visit of the season of the exciting Pro 4 Modified series. Post time is 6 p.m. each Saturday.

Brownies suffer first loss of season

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School boys lacrosse team is off to one of its best starts in years, jumping out to an 8-0 record before suffering its first loss of the season last Saturday on the road.

Agawam would lose to Wachusett of Central Mass. 12-8. Last Thursday evening, the Agawam offense was on full display with an 18-7 win over East Longmeadow on the road. Justin Lareau had seven goals and two assists to lead Agawam. Brayden Federico and Brayden Martin had three goals each and Liam Grealis added two goals.

The Brownies will face Tantasqua Regional at home on Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m.

Sports

Brownies take down Falcons

WILBRAHAM – Last Tuesday evening, boys volleyball rivals Agawam and Minnechaug met with the Brownies getting a 3-1 win. Agawam outlasted the Falcons in the first set to win 26-24, then took the second set. Minnechaug would keep it alive with a 25-22 in third set. Agawam prevailed 25-17 in the fourth set to take the match. Agawam is now 10-3 while Minnechaug is 8-6 on the season.



Jacob Nesen makes a jumping set.



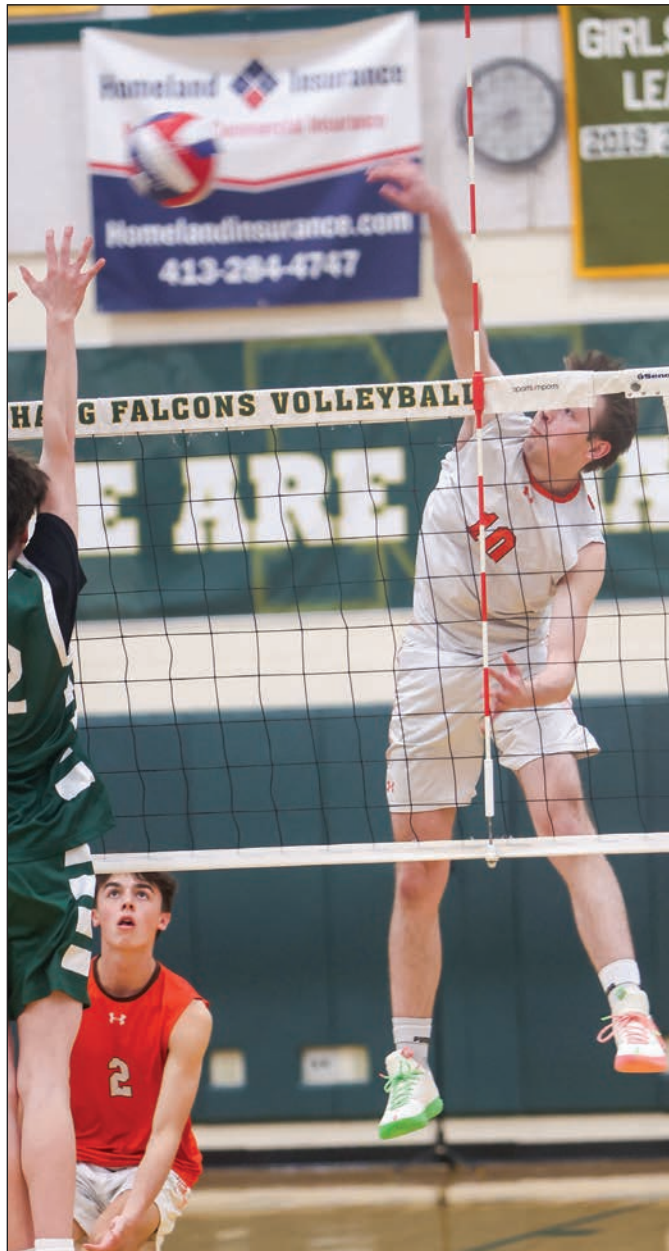
Elijah Ramos sets the ball straight up.



Mike Lumkowski goes for a score.



Dominic Manes sends the ball up for a possible spike.



Chase Gerani attempts a spike.



Alexander Williams returns the ball to the other side.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Springfield Thunderbirds defeated in series opener with Providence Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The Springfield Thunderbirds and Providence Bruins fought tooth and nail in another stingy contest, with the Bruins prevailing 2-1 in Game 2 of the Atlantic Division Semifinals on Sunday night inside Amica Mutual Pavilion. With that, the series shifts back to Springfield tied at one game apiece in the best-of-five set.

All of the scoring in the

game came in a window of less than six minutes' time in the opening period. For a fifth straight game in these playoffs, Springfield succumbed to a 1-0 deficit within the opening half of period one. Frederic Brunet geared a slapper toward Georgii Romanov, who made the initial save. However, the rebound bounced over to a waiting Matej Blumel on the right wing, and the 2024-25 AHL

goal scoring leader rifled it into an empty cage to make it a 1-0 game at 8:34 of the opening period.

The T-Birds were granted a power play and an opportunity to tie the score quickly, and at 11:30, Dillon Dube did just that, parking himself along the left post and guiding a Hugh McGing pass behind Michael DiPietro to even the slate, 1-1. Alek Kaskimaki picked up his sec-

ond assist in as many games to round out the scoring play.

The Bruins showed they, too, could answer in a hurry, as Brunet gathered a rolling puck along the right wing and geared a backhand pass across the slot to Georgii Merkulov, who beat Romanov with a quick release to put Providence ahead, 2-1, at 14:02.

Providence outshot the T-Birds 25-14 over the first

40 minutes of the game, but both DiPietro and Romanov were taxed with special teams work in a second period that featured 10 minor penalties and eight combined power plays of varying lengths.

The T-Birds finally were able to give DiPietro a steady diet of scoring chances in the third, but the Springfield power play left two more opportunities on the table, going 0-for-6 in the final two

frames after connecting on their first man advantage of the evening.

Springfield's netminding and penalty killing did everything in its power to buy the offense time for an equalizer. Romanov, for a fourth straight contest, kept his opposition to two goals or less. The T-Birds' backstop has now stopped 116 of 123 shots for a .943 save percentage in the Calder Cup Playoffs.

Sports

GIRLS ■ from page 8

around a lot to see how the defense will react. We didn't rush out shot opportunities."

Agawam only had three shots on goal during the opening quarter.

"Every time that Agawam had a good opportunity in the first quarter, our defense would force a turnover," Brennan added. "Agawam has some strong offensive players, so we knew that they're capable of scoring goals. They played well against us the first time that we faced them."

Any hopes that the Brownies players had of making a comeback vanished very quickly.

Kozub and Lee scored goals 18 seconds apart early in the second quarter.

With 9:53 remaining in the first half, Kozub delivered a pass to sophomore Anna Taylor, who fired a shot past Agawam freshman goalie Yabsira Kebede (4 saves).

Trailing, 6-0, the Brownies broke the ice following a goal from freshman Grace Curto, which was assisted by sophomore Sophia DiBella with 6:55 remaining on the scoreboard clock.

Minnechaug senior goalie Nina Semanie, who's planning to play hockey at Framingham State University, was also credited with four goals.

Nola McConnell, who's a senior starting defender for Minnechaug, will be playing college lacrosse at Worcester State University.

Lee scored two more goals during the final six minutes of the opening half.

The other three first half goals for the home team were scored by O'Connor, Kozub, and senior Aubrey Stachowicz, which made the half-time score 11-1.

Minnechaug's final three



Lucia LaRocque advances up the field after making a play on defense.

goals were scored in the third quarter by O'Connor, Kozub, and Sergienko.

With five minutes left in regulation, sophomore Bella Santaniello netted an unas-



Makayla Rosario circles the opposing goal.

sisted goal for the Brownies. Her older sister, Hope, was an All-American soccer player at Agawam High School.

The Falcons also celebrated victories over West Springfield (14-7) and Leominster (17-4) last week.

Public Notices

Legal Ad Agawam

Conservation Commission

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 6:05 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Notice of Intent Application of HP Hood, LLC for work to be performed at 233 Main Street, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.
05/07/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD26P0910PM
In the matter of:
Royetta M. Dionne
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/
Minor)
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF
CONSERVATOR OR OTHER
PROTECTIVE ORDER
PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by

Agawam East Rehab & Nursing of Agawam, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Royetta M. Dionne** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Kimberly Benjamin-Prokop of Westfield, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 05/26/2026. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or complete-

ly 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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 28, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/07/2026

**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.
HD21P1300EA
Estate of:
Lillian Etkin
Date of Death: 04/05/2020
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF COMPLETE
SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **James Goodhines** of Springfield, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement includ-

ing 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 05/21/2026.

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: April 15, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/07/2026

**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.**

**HD26P0900EA
Estate of:
Robert Henry Knight
Also known as:
Robert H Knight
Date of Death: 10/04/2025
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 **David A Greco** of Southwick, 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 **David A Greco** of Southwick, 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 05/26/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE 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 admin-

istration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 27, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/07/2026

**PUBLIC NOTICE
DESTRUCTION OF
STUDENT
SPECIAL EDUCATION
RECORDS**
Changes made to record retention laws now require **Agawam Public Schools Special Education Records to be retained for five years rather than seven years after the student has either graduated, aged out, moved out of Agawam or has been dismissed from Special Education Services.**

Agawam Public Schools Special Education records from the 2020-2021 school year will be destroyed after July 6, 2026. Any person(s) who have graduated, aged out, moved out of Agawam or has been dismissed from Special Education Services during the 2020-2021 school year may sign a release and pick up their special education file at the Agawam Special Education Department, 760 Cooper Street Agawam, 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. before July 6th. If you have any questions please call Jennifer Roberts at 413-726-1658 or email Jroberts@agawamed.org.
05/07, 05/14/2026

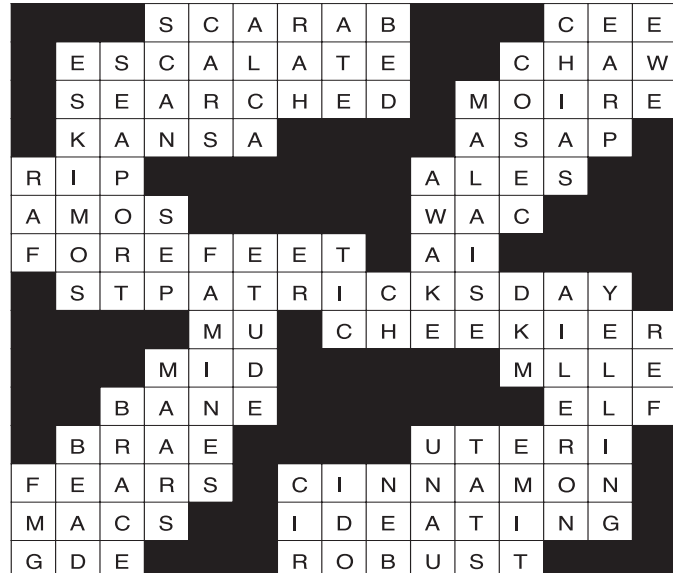
**Agawam
Conservation Commission
Legal Ad**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Kanegsberg for an Amendment to the Order of Conditions for the work at 184 River Road, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation
Commission
05/07/2026

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day,
PUBLIC NOTICES
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than **NOON**
Thursday, May 21
– Thank you!



Send Us Your Community Summer Events

Turley Publications will print your Summer event FREE OF CHARGE in our Summer Fest Supplement which will be published June 3, 2026. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley!!

Deadline for Calendar submissions is May 10.

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

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Pitching still needed for Pioneer Valley Baseball League

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, still has open roster spots for 2026 season.

The league is especially in need of some additional pitching for a couple of its teams. The season is just a few games in and there are many more games remaining through the summer with playoffs taking place in Au-

gust.

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

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular sea-

son schedule followed by a double-elimination playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to utilize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this season.

The league is a wood-bat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball rules though all players do bat. The league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule.

Games are played on Saturday mornings with 10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m. range. The league will start play in late April and run through the end of August. There are slots open for both full-time players and part-time players. The fee for full-time players will be \$260 with part-time players getting up to 11 games for \$130. Fees paid go

toward the operation of the league, paying for insurance, umpires, fields, and baseballs. No one profits in any way. Those who sign up after the season begins will pay a prorated fee for the season.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limited open roster spots on the other teams in the league, so get your registration in as soon as possible to participate in this season.

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

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information. The league hopes interested players will come out and join the fun this spring and summer.

INTERSECTION ■ from page 1

ant would result in the state revoking the grant funding.

In terms of the city council, the land takings are currently tabled and were likely to remain on the table for the May 4 meeting.

According to Mazza, the project needs to be approved by mid-May in order to meet the deadline to secure the grant funding. If the project or another version is voted through, it is possible it could take through next year to complete.

Residents continued to voice their opposition to any part of the Pajer's business being negatively affected by the project, and City Council President Anthony Russo assured the residents it was not the final word on the project.

The project workshop was taped and is available on Agawam's cable channel website along with the most recent council meetings.



The debate continues on improvements to a five-way intersection project that is being partially funded by the state. A workshop was held April 27 with the city council hearing more about the project and residents having another opportunity to air its concerns.

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