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AGAWAM

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Creativity displayed at Art Show

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM - On May 15 students, teachers, family members and friends gather in the school's rotunda to celebrate the unique abilities of the Agawam High School art students. The students and AHS art teachers, Amber Waters, Rebecca Osborn and Dianna Decaro, have made a welcoming atmosphere for the AHS Spring Art Show, complete with the artwork of the students, cake for later and peaceful background music.

We spoke to three AHS seniors who told us about their inspiration and artistic journeys. Victoria Okyere talked about when she first got interested in making art.

"Freshman year I took a class, it was fun and I started to take more," she said. "Maybe, like, what you feel."

Hannah Parker has been an artist since childhood and shares the feelings behind her beautiful art. "What I feel and comforts, and also my mom," Parker said. "My mom is the inspiration for the wooden pieces over there, they're sculpted wood"

Angelina Lavrenchuk has been into art since she was

very young.

"I've been an artist since I could remember basically," she said.

When asked what inspires her art she replied with, "Other people's art and nature."

Rebecca Osborn, is one of the art teachers at AHS. She said not having to verbalize their art is a big reason for their passion

"I think they enjoy it a lot because they don't have to present it in a verbal way," Osborn said. "It seems like a lot of the art type kids are a little shy, not always, some of them are very outgoing. But if they are a more shy kid, then this gives them an opportunity to show their stuff without having to feel like they have to talk about it, you know."

Osborn enjoys being able to guide students through their journey as artists and creative people. "It's great. It's my favorite thing," Osborn said. "I love to see students find their own voice and then thrive, and it's really fun to kind of help them along. It's my favorite thing when they surpass me. I get to ask them for advice and then they're teaching me, it should be like, you know, a back and forth."



Osborn said the origins of her becoming an art teacher came from a love of art in college

"Well, my first degree was in fine arts and then I went back for teaching," said Osborn. "The main reason I

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Above, Agawam High School art students wearing their sculpture projects.

Left, Agawam High School senior, Hannah Parker's innovative recycled road sign.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA



Tammy Rumplik recently was awarded the Massachusetts STEM Teacher of the Year.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rumplik awarded STEM Teacher of the Year

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
amunson@turley.com

AGAWAM - Superintendent Sheila Martin and school committee members recognized one of their own educators when it was announced one was recognized at the STEM Summit at Gillette Stadium on May 7, the Massachusetts STEM Teacher of the Year granting the winner a \$5,000 grant to their respective school system for STEM related uses. Martin announced saying, "I am super proud to announce Mrs. Tammy Rumplik is a co-winner of this award! We found out and I'd like to recognize her and

this special honor, she's also here to do her presentation with students and Principal Costanzi," on May 13.

From the Agawam Public Schools Facebook, "The goal of the program is to recognize and honor a Massachusetts STEM teacher making significant contributions to STEM education and to promote the impact that educator is making in the field. This year's co-winner of STEM Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Tammy Rumplik, STEM teacher at Doering School. Mrs. Rumplik started her career in Agawam Public Schools as a paraprofessional in April 1997 and as a full-time Teacher in September 1999. She transferred from

a science teacher at Granger/Clark to STEM teacher at Doering in December 2021."

"It was a very exciting time, the last week or so has been a whirlwind! I was able to speak and present at the Massachusetts STEM Summit which was amazing. The co-winner was amazing as well and it was great to be part of that event, answering questions and being part of a panel. It felt really cool to have that recognition of what I do. I just love it," said Rumplik.

Moving onto the grade K through 6 Science/STEAM Report 2025, Rumplik said they went to Boston for the Applied Learning Showcase, which is part of the Project

Lead the Way, the curriculum used for K through 6. "It's real-life science learning that's applied. It uses the philosophy: activities, projects, and problems. The kids are learning their content. They are doing activities, not just memorization. Then they are doing projects where they're practicing their skills some more, and then they are solving real-world problems where they're applying their knowledge," said Rumplik.

The presentation of PLTW (Project Lead the Way) Launch stated that they received an expansion grant for access to more

TEACHER | page 6

ACAA host Sunshine Village

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM - At Agawam Public Library on May 14, club members and attendees gathered for May's Agawam Community Artists and Artisans meeting. The club and Sunshine Village collaborated to create a welcoming atmosphere where all are encouraged to enjoy refreshments, chat with a fellow community member, or look at the artwork on display. Sunshine Village has also organized a free raffle for one lucky winner to get a Sunshine Village beach towel. There is a fused glass piece on display, by Kathy Glists, it's a beautiful bright red glass plate.

Club President Ceil ACAA | page 6

Rossi and Treasurer Karen Conkey touted the mission of the ACAA.

"Our association has a mission to bring art into the community, so we do a lot of different things. It's not just about the artists in the room, it's about getting other people that might not even know they're artists, but who love art, to experience it," says Conkey.

"I wanted to showcase what else is out there besides our art. Sunshine Village had their art here last month and I thought it was very impressive," Rossi said.

Robin Fernandes and Carolyn Maloney, who are both on the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans



CEO and President of Sunshine Village Gina Kos and Treasurer of Agawam Community Artists and Artisans Karen Conkey.

TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA



Senior Center announces new upcoming activities

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior Center will be holding the following activities and events in the coming weeks:

Chair Fit to Music

Mondays, May 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23

My name is Mary Ellen. I am a certified Level 1 YogaFit instructor. In addition, I completed an Exercise Design for Senior's training. I am passionate about teaching fitness while using proper form and keeping it fun. The Chair Fit class will consist of cardio, weights, stretch bands, balls, balance, yoga... and music too! All levels of fitness are welcome. Cost for the class is \$3. Classes started May 12
 The class will be moving to Fridays beginning June 27 in the Veterans Hall.

Jewelry Making with Sandy

Tuesday, May 27 from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. in the Garden Room

We here at the Agawam Senior Center are so excited to offer Jewelry Making with Sandy. Sandy will bring all the materials you need and you bring your creativity. Cost for the class is \$3 per person plus the cost of your supplies. Call Kristina at 413.726.2836.

Manicures with Jane

Monday, June 2 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.

Caregivers Connect Dementia Caregiver Support Group

Tuesday, June 3 from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Garden Room

Laurie Cecchi, OT, OTR, CAPS (Certified Aging in Place Specialist), CDCS (Certified Dementia Care Specialist) is a highly respected dementia specialist with 35 years of experience in clinical practice. With a strong passion for improving the quality of life for individuals affected by dementia.

During our support

group this month we are excited to have Brenda Labbe from Greater Springfield Senior Services join us to offer information on how their agency can support you and your family as well. Join us to feel heard, supported, and uplifted as you navigate the complexities of caregiving and celebrate the moments of joy and connection with your loved ones. Caregivers Connect will meet the first Tuesday of the month from 6-7 p.m. Hot Dogs, Beans, and Sauerkraut will be offered by Director Cindy Sullivan starting at 4:30 in the Coffee Shop.

Monthly Ballroom Dance

Wednesday, June 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Veteran's Hall

Join Richie Mitnick for

an afternoon of great tunes, dancing and snacks. Our monthly ballroom dance takes place in the Veteran's Hall of the Senior Center from 2 to 4 p.m. We look forward to you joining us.

AT&T Cyber Aware Online Safety Training For Seniors

Friday, June 6 at 12:45 p.m. in the Dining Room

AT&T tech experts will host a fun, interactive and informative training session about how older adults can stay safe in a digital world while taking full advantage of the latest connected technology and devices. They will discuss several topics, including: phone/online scams, fraud and robocalls; ways to protect yourself and your data;

how to be a savvy wireless consumer; how best to utilize apps, social media and more. Presenters will also discuss ways attendees can engage in national and local efforts and government programs that help to bridge the digital divide. This free event includes a short presentation and Q&A session, followed by AT&T tech experts helping individuals one-on-one with any technical questions, device issues or troubleshooting. This is not a sales event – the information provided is universally applicable and AT&T employees will do their best to assist and answer questions from all participants regardless of their provider. <https://about.att.com/pages/cyberaware> Register with Kristina.

Boy Scout bottle and can drive scheduled

AGAWAM – The community's longest-running Scout group, Troop 82, will host a bottle and can drive from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday May 31 at Agawam Congregational Church located at 745 Main Street, Agawam. Funds raised will support troop activities, training

and gear.

The troop runs programs year-round and accepts new members aged 11-17 at any time during the year.

Scouts are also offering donation pick up before May 31; email troop82agawam@gmail.com to make arrangements.

Children story times announced for APL

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library Children's Department announced the following story time events upcoming for the month. Baby Story Time for ages birth through 18 months along with their caregivers will be offered Thursday, May 15

and May 29 at 10 a.m. Toddler time, for children age 19 months to three-years-old on Monday, May 12 at 10 a.m. Art & Stories for children ages three to five are scheduled for Tuesday, May 13 and May 27 at 10 a.m. For more information, contact the library.

Veterans' Council announces Memorial Day ceremony

AGAWAM – The Agawam Veterans' Council is having their annual Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony on Monday, May 26.

The parade will take place

along Main St. between Town Hall and the Veterans' Green.

The ceremony will take place following the parade at the Veterans' Green.

Fire Department conducting safety campaign

AGAWAM – The Agawam Fire Department, in cooperation with The American Red Cross, is conducting a home fire preparedness and safety campaign. Those who sign up and participate in the program will be visited by Agawam Firefighters who will install new smoke detectors and Carbon Mon-

oxide detectors in the home free of charge. To be eligible, participants must meet the following criteria:

- Must own your home.
- Existing smoke detectors must be battery operated. Hardwired detectors not eligible.
- Current smoke alarms more than 10 years old or

not present.

To participate, interested parties should sign up by going to <https://agawam.ma.us/smokedetectorsignup> or calling 413-726-2885.

The goal of the program is to increase fire safety awareness and improve fire detection capabilities.

"Early detection is critical in a fire emergency, giving people the time they need to escape safely. Smoke detectors are proven lifesavers. Through this program, we hope to strengthen the safety of our community and help prevent future tragedies," said Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois.

Yoga class offered at Stanley Park

WESTFIELD – Yoga will be starting for the 2025 season on Thursday evenings beginning May 8 through Aug. 21 from 6 to 7 p.m., on the Acre Lawn next to the Pavilion Annex. Please join certified instructor Michelle Gagnon, as she leads the yoga classes. This class is for all levels of yoga practitioners, and all abilities are welcome. The poses are foundational, and modifications are always available.

As a class we will harness the power of our breath in alignment with the movement of our bodies.

Children 10 and up are welcome accompanied by an adult. Please bring your own mat and any props as needed, wear comfortable and stretchy clothes.

Prepare to strengthen, stretch your body, and open your minds. Bring lots of water (you might also want a small towel). Pre-registration is strongly

encouraged.

Donations to the Park are welcome, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person per class.

Registration forms are available on our website at www.stanleypark.org and will also be available at class. You may sign up on our website, by e-mailing us for the registration form at development@stanleypark.org, or register at the Park at your first class.

Chamber to host trivia event

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The West of the River Chamber of Commerce invites you to participate in Chamber Trivia Night at the 99 Restaurant & Pub on Riverdale St. in West Springfield on Wednesday, May 28 from 5 to 7 p.m. Join the chamber for a fun night of trivia and networking. To register for the event, go to www.ourwrc.com.

Senior Center starting ping pong every Thursday

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior Center is pleased to announce its ongoing weekly ping pong program, "Ping Pong with Jerry," held every Thursday from 1 to 2 p.m.

Players of all skill levels are welcome to join this inclusive and engaging activity. "Whether you're a beginner looking to learn the basics or an experienced player wanting to maintain your skills, this program offers a supportive environment for everyone," added Ping Pong host Jerry.

Jerry has been an avid ping pong player for many years, and is an enthusiastic player and teacher.

"Ping Pong with Jerry"

provides an excellent opportunity for physical activity, social interaction, and friendly competition in a welcoming atmosphere.

Equipment is provided, but participants are welcome to bring their own paddles if preferred.

Ping pong (table tennis) offers numerous health benefits, including improved hand-eye coordination, mental acuity, and cardiovascular exercise in a low-impact format that's appropriate for various ages and physical abilities.

For more information about this or other programs offered at the Agawam Senior Center, please call 413-821-0604.

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Volunteers needed for summer reading

AGAWAM – Volunteer on Fridays during the Summer Reading Program. Teens entering 7th grade and up: volunteer at the Agawam Public Library during our Summer Reading Program! Volunteer for one hour every Friday from June 27 to Aug. 8 (with the exception of July 4th). Help us run activities for children, prepare kids' crafts, give out prizes, and more! Fill out the interest form at bit.ly/aplsummervolunteers

All events are free and open to the public. Some programs require registration. To register, go to our website: agawamlibrary.org or call 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

We hope to see you soon!

Thursday, May 1 – Teen Take & Make Craft for Grades 7-12 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.

Every Tuesday in May from 2 to 3 p.m. After School Drop-in for grades 9-12. Play our Nintendo Switch, try out the button maker, eat snacks, or just hang out! No registration necessary.

Every Thursday in May from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Trivia Thursday for grades 7-12. Visit the Teen Space and answer a trivia question to get a small prize!

Wednesday, May 14 from

6 to 7 p.m. Teen Advisory Board for grades 7-12. 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.

Wednesday, May 21 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Chess Tournament for grades 7-12. Compete with your peers for the title of Chess Champion. Snacks will be provided. Registration required. Please register at agawamlibrary.org.

Thursday, May 29 from 6 to 7 p.m. Teen Book Club

(Bring Your Own Book) for grades 7-12. Come eat snacks and discuss books. Bring a book you love (or a few) and tell some fellow book lovers all about why you love it and why they should read it, too. Registration required. Please register at agawamlibrary.org.

If you have any questions, or would like more information please visit our website at agawamlibrary.org or call 413-789-1550 ext. 3

Garden Club plans annual plant sale

AGAWAM – Agawam Garden Club is planning its annual plant sale for Saturday, May 31. 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.

Hypnosis for Weight Loss presentation to be held at library

AGAWAM – Cristina Di Nardo-Dupre has been changing lives through her therapy and clinical hypnosis programs including Weight Loss through Hypnosis. Cristina has sold thousands of her self-published book "The Best You from Inside Out" and has recently released a new version of her book "The Best You through Hypnosis: Total Mind and Body Transformation."

Arriving in the United States from Italy at age 21, Cristina adapted quickly to the fast-paced American lifestyle, including gaining 15 pounds in her first month. Her constant weight loss struggle over the years motivated her to develop a healthy lifestyle program over a decade ago,

where she drew upon her extensive training in clinical hypnosis studied in Italy as well as the United States. Cristina went on to create this book to help her clients follow her Weight Loss through Hypnosis program. Cristina integrates healthy eating principles, clinical hypnosis, cognitive behavioral strategies, and her Six Incentives to guide people in developing healthy habits for life. Clinical hypnosis enhances people's ability to learn how to regulate their emotions and their body, thus building confidence to practice life-long healthy habits. "The Best You through Hypnosis: Total Mind and Body Transformation" covers Cristina's whole program and even includes over 75 healthy reci-

pes to help with this transformation.

On June 2 at 6 p.m., Cristina will be giving a presentation at the Agawam Public Library about her book and the programs that she offers. The presentation is free to attend. Her book will be available to purchase at an event-only price of \$20. If there is any interest in booking a presentation with Cristina at your convenience and forum, please contact her office.

Cristina has over 40 years of therapeutic experience as a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker in Massachusetts. Cristina has spent over a decade helping thousands of people transform their lives to achieve a healthy lifestyle with her clinical hypnosis. She has been a member of the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis for ten years and received certification through them as well. Cristina's website with more information can be found at: www.thebestyouthroughhypnosis.com. She is located at 159 Main Street, Unit N, Agawam, MA 01001.

Feline Friends announce fundraisers

AGAWAM – Feline Friends will be holding its monthly donation drives at Smithland Pet & Garden Center on Saturday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will be collecting food, litter & monetary donations for our kitties. Opened bags/boxes will be accepted.

Smithland, a valued sponsor, is stocked with Friskies Pate or Shreds canned food (single flavor cases are preferred), many Fancy Feast varieties and unscented, clumping cat litter.

We would also appreciate jars of baby food (meat/

poultry varieties), paper towels, puppy peepads and gift cards to Smithland or Costco. Checks or cash are always gratefully accepted at Feline Friends, PO Box 174, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Just a reminder that we have donation bins at Smithland near the registers and at the Agawam Public Library. Please include contact information with donations if you would like an acknowledgement. We are grateful for every donation.

We are thrilled to announce that we have been chosen by E.B.'s Restaurant

for their Give Back Wednesday Program on June 18. Looking forward to seeing our friends there.

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

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

Smithland Pet & Garden Center closure to affect Feline Friends fundraisers

AGAWAM – Feline Friends issued a statement last week concerning the recent announcement made by Smithland Pet & Garden Center:

We regret to report that we will no longer be holding donation drives at Smithland Pet & Garden Center due to the surprise closing of all Smithland locations by the end of June. Feline Friends Inc. Cat Sanctuary has been honored to have been associated with Smithland (formerly Dave's) of Agawam. The store as well as the friendly & helpful employees will be missed by the community.

We appreciate all of the

wonderful donations received from our wonderful donors and Sandy & Crystal will miss sharing pictures and stories every month. If the store remains open on June 7, we plan to be there from 10-12.

Just a reminder that we have a donation bin and at the Agawam Public Library. Please include contact information with donations if you would like an acknowledgement. We are grateful for every donation. Please contact us if you would like us to pick up donations.

We are thrilled to announce that we have been chosen by E.B.'s Restaurant for their Give Back Wednes-

day Program on June 18th. Looking forward to seeing our friends there. On June 18th, E.B.'s, located at 385 Walnut Street Ext., will donate 10% of the day's total food sales to our sanctuary.

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

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



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Donald "Willis" Blakesley Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament

To benefit the annual Donald "Willis" Blakesley Scholarship for an Agawam High School graduate and the Andy Yee Palliative Care Unit at Mercy Medical Center

Sponsored by
PSR&B Pellegrini, Seeley Ryan & Blakesley
A Personal Injury Law Firm

Date: Thursday, June 19, 2025
Location: Agawam Municipal Golf Course 128 Southwick Road, Feeding Hills
Registration: 9:00-9:45
Shotgun start: 10:00
Grab and Go Lunch at the turn
Cocktail hour and dinner immediately following.
Dinner sponsored by: SEELEY HOWARD PRIVATE WEALTH
Additional sponsorships:
☐ \$375 > Lunch Sponsor
☐ \$200 > Friend of "Willis" Sponsor
☐ \$100 > Tee/Green Sponsor

Fees:
• Individual Golfer \$125
• Foursome \$500
• Dinner Only \$50

Scan the QR code and print out and mail registration or register on-line by June 9, 2025 >

Questions contact:
Jim Marcus - 413-626-6245
Dan McDonough - 413-218-3046

If you were a friend of Don's, you were a friend for life! There is nothing he loved more than spending time and enjoying life with his family and friends. In his honor, we intend to make this tournament a fun and memorable gathering of friends and family!

Opinion

Guest Column



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

Will 'DOGE' hurt our Social Security or Medicare benefits?

Dear Rusty:

I am a new AMAC member and have an important question for you and your answer will be greatly appreciated.

My question is: Is the new DOGE effort going to help us, or hurt us, all those living on Social Security and receiving Medicare benefits? Please let us know soon.

Regards: Worried Senior

Dear Worried Senior:

Here at the AMAC Foundation, we offer free access to everyone, the public as well as AMAC members, for our acclaimed Social Security Advisory Service, at which we answer all inquiries from anyone with questions about Social Security and enrollment in Medicare.

As you can imagine, we very closely watch all action in Washington, D.C. which will affect Social Security and Medicare, especially any Congressional legislation being considered. The new Department of Government Efficiency organization is tasked with uncovering and eliminating fraud and waste in all areas of the Federal Government and that includes Social Security and Medicare. But the important thing to remember is that DOGE is seeking only to discover fraud and government waste.

Recently a great deal of visibility has been given to DOGE's efforts to discover potential fraud and waste in the Social Security Administration.

Everything we have seen thus far indicates that DOGE's efforts have identified opportunities for reducing fraud and waste at the Social Security Administration, so our expectation is that DOGE's efforts will tend to help the Social Security Administration become more efficient but not endanger anyone's Social Security benefits.

Indeed, President Trump and the DOGE team have repeatedly said that no cuts in Social Security benefits will occur as a result of DOGE's efforts. Reducing fraud and waste at the SSA would tend to improve the

agency's financial posture and improve their ability to pay full benefits longer. The same is true for Medicare.

Actually, DOGE is very transparent and posts everything they find on this website: www.doge.gov. A quick look at this website reveals that none of what they have found at the SSA indicates any threat to SS or Medicare benefits.

I suggest that any negative news media and social media accounts of DOGE's activities be taken with a grain of salt. All such articles are largely meant to attract attention to unlikely "doomsday" scenarios. The reality is that our government is over \$36 trillion in debt, and that debt is growing, which is an unsustainable financial path for our country.

DOGE is specifically tasked with eliminating the deficit gap by reducing frivolous government spending and fraud. But reducing crucial benefits for seniors on Social Security and Medicare are not part of DOGE's efforts, nor their goal.

Rest assured that here at the AMAC Foundation we are watching all current DOGE efforts very closely and will vigorously oppose anything which will negatively affect Social Security and Medicare. Indeed, AMAC's stated goal is to strengthen and preserve Social Security for all future generations.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column

An Oakham couple saw their first Baltimore oriole at their feeder on Monday, May 5.

I saw the first Baltimore oriole for this year on Tuesday, May 13. I heard it singing on two occasions, but I could not locate it. The male oriole's whistling song is often heard while the bright orange and black bird is perched in a tree top. They prefer tall trees in open areas.

The Baltimore oriole is a medium sized icterid black-bird common in eastern North America as a migratory breeding bird. It received its name from the resemblance of the male's colors to those on the coat-of-arms of 17th-century Lord Baltimore. The female weaves a hanging basket nest. As a child, orioles nested in an elm tree in our yard and my family and I enjoyed watching the orioles from our porch.

Young male orioles don't

molt into the bright orange of the adult until the fall of their second year. Until that time they resemble the drab, female plumage. However, females become deeper orange with every molt and some older females are almost as bright orange as males.

Orioles have a long pointed beak with a thick base. The male has a black head with black wings and tail. The wings also have white marks.

The Oakham couple also had a Bald Eagle in their yard. The eagle was eating a fish while perched on a tree limb.

Worthington birds

I received an email from a Worthington resident.

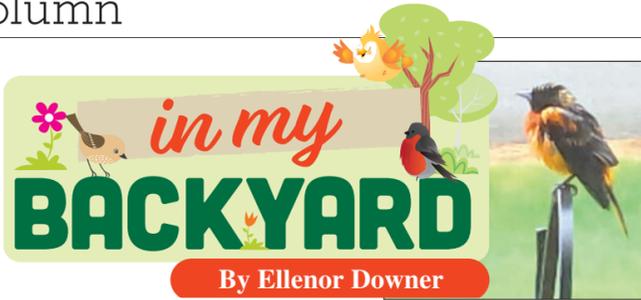
Baltimore oriole

He said, "For years the red breasted grosbeak has returned to my feeder in the first week of May. I was thinking he was late this year, but yesterday afternoon (on May 7) one arrived."

He also said, "About a week ago I heard a wood thrush, but not since. I am nervous about bird populations. I know scholars say they are declining, and this year I am seeing very few robins, making for a silent spring." He also commented he hoped there were plenty of robins my way. Yes, there are.

The Worthington resident also saw a bear. He said, "A

BACKYARD | page 5



Rhododendrons 101

I was never all that fond of rhododendrons. Indeed, they are pretty when in flower, but the other 11 and a half months of the year I find them a bit uninteresting.

As I write, however, I am staring out my window at pink rhododendron buds that before long will burst into bloom. The shrub is on the massive side, and each year a multitude of bees and our resident hummingbirds frequent the blossoms.

For this reason, I am rethinking my stand: when sited appropriately and cared for well, this shrub is deserved of a place in the average landscape, if just for its flowers alone.

Please enjoy a column from the archives that will give you some pointers to help you achieve just that!

Where in the yard should a rhododendron be placed? Most rhododendrons look

better when grouped with other shrubs in a border or foundation planting.

Before doing so, however, consider the ultimate size of the variety you have chosen and position it the proper distance away from buildings and other plants. Petite two foot tall container plants may grow upwards of seven feet tall in just ten years!

In our locale, siting in partial shade is best; morning sun and afternoon shade make an ideal combination. Too much sun will result in rhodies with yellow leaves.

What kind of soil do rhododendrons prefer? Most of us know that rhododendrons are acid-loving. They require a soil pH of 5.5. Adjust your pH if necessary by adding agricultural sulfur or ferrous sulfate, not aluminum sulfate.

Soils that are light and well-drained and have a high organic matter content are

desirable, especially if the humus is acidic, say from oak leaves or pine needles.

How should they be planted? Never sink a rhododendron too deeply - plant the root ball level with the ground or even an inch or two above it. Water the newly planted rhododendron well the entire first season.

Since they have very fine roots, it will take a while for the roots to grow from the existing root ball into the surrounding soil. If the root ball dries out during this period it will be hard to rewet and the plant may die. Should this happen, drip water from your hose for several hours until the root ball is rehydrated.

What else can be done to keep rhododendrons healthy? Since rhododendrons are shallow-rooted, keep cultivation at the base of the plant to a minimum. To prevent weeds and conserve soil moisture, consider using a coarse mulch. If your soil is fertile, extra nutrients are rarely necessary.

Rhododendrons planted in less than ideal soil can benefit from a balanced fertilizer intended for acid-loving plants. Apply it in early spring; nev-

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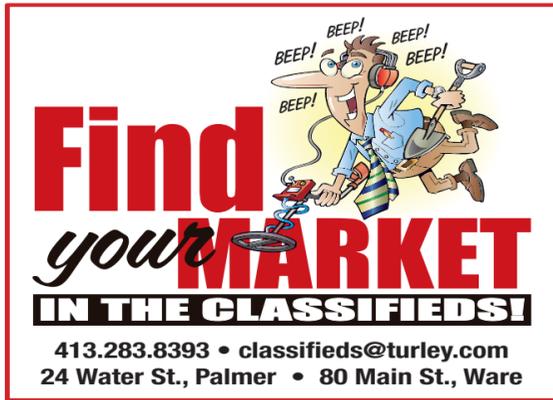
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Agawam Advertiser News welcomes letters to the editor

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

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

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the 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.

Opinion

Guest Column

By Eric Goodhart
Guest Columnist

The cost of private four-year colleges and universities has steadily increased far beyond the means of all but a small percent of American households.

Now, in May 2025, a bill is moving through Congress to cap PLUS loans for parents at \$12,500 per year and eliminate the interest-free benefit of Stafford loans for students beginning with the Class of 2026. Colleges that did not adopt the principles and strategies as Grove City and Hillsdale College did in the 1980s will need to become independent or die. Below is the history that has led to this.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 marked the beginning with no end. President Lyndon Johnson signed the Higher Education Act on Nov. 8, 1965. The act aimed to strengthen the educational resources of our non-profit colleges and universities in the U.S. and provide financial assistance to students in postsecondary and higher education. What first appeared to be a positive thing has become something entirely different.

There are three primary reasons for that. In 1971, Pres-

ident Richard Nixon broke the 1944 Bretton Woods Agreement and removed the dollar from the gold standard. During the 1960s, the Federal Reserve was printing dollars at an unprecedented rate, a period now known as the "Guns and Butter" decade. Nixon's move was the catalyst for inflation as the dollar lost value.

A year later, Nixon signed Title IX of the Civil Rights Act into law. Many of the most expensive private colleges were beginning to admit women. Title IX prohibits gender-based discrimination in any college or other educational program that receives federal funding, also known as American taxpayer dollars.

In the fall of 1979, President Carter raised the Department of Education to a cabinet-level position. All colleges agreed with the principles of Title IX. However, a few questioned the long-term impact the law would have on academic freedom and the cost of college.

One of those was a highly regarded college in Pennsylvania, Grove City College. It did not agree to sign the Title IX agreement because it had already followed the ideals of colleges' founding in 1876. Upon

Is community college the answer?

close examination, the college's Board of Directors decided Title IX would increase families' college costs. Hillsdale College followed their lead.

Grove City College was 100% correct, but they had to go all the way to the Supreme Court to maintain their independence. Watch the video on their website at www.GCC.edu (Type 'Supreme Court' in the search box.) That is proof enough to show how Title IX has been the key factor in why college is so expensive today.

The entire Cost of Attendance for a good four-year private college in 1962 averaged \$2,300 to \$3,000 per year. In 2025, those same colleges will cost \$77,000 to \$88,300 per year. State universities now cost up to \$40,000 per year.

Financial aid has not made the colleges affordable. In fact, in most cases, it has made them more expensive and put more students and their parents into debt. The formulas used to determine "need" penalize families that save for college. The Asset Protection Allowance in 1990 has been steadily reduced to Zero in 2024. Read what follows carefully.

The Higher Education

Act of 1965 included Stafford loans to students at an increased annual amount over five years. However, by 1980, colleges began to increase their yearly costs as the DOE expanded the grant and loan amounts to students with need. All kinds of adjustments to benefit colleges more than students began to appear to astute observers. None of which could be forgiven in bankruptcy.

As families became alarmed by higher costs, the effective lobbyists that colleges paid influenced lawmakers in Congress by making adjustments to "help" families afford college. The DOE made it even less affordable. In 1980, the Parent Loan to Undergraduate Students (PLUS) was introduced as a "generous" funding source for parents. Only one parent needed to sign, and no serious credit check was required. The borrowing limit was \$4000 per year. However, as colleges increased their costs, their lobbyists went to work.

In 1993, the \$4,000 annual cap was removed, allowing parents to borrow up to the full cost of attendance, less any other financial aid received by the student. That soon put parents in debt more

than the students with their Stafford loans. That should never have been done.

It gets worse. Now, Congress does not even believe that a family of four, for example, with the oldest parent at 48, needs an emergency fund of about \$49,000. Such budget planning was once sacrosanct and basic to sound family financial planning. It does not say much about either Congress or non-profit tax-exempt colleges' understanding of basic economics. Now, three to six months of household expenses are considered an asset to pay for college.

Additionally, Congress continued to yield to the pressure of paid college lobbyists not to increase the financial need when a family has more

than one student in college. In other words, if the Student Aid Index, formerly known as the Expected Family Contribution, were \$40,000 with one student in college, it would remain the same if two students were in college, rather than \$20,000 per student.

The Trump administration's proposed changes, as outlined at the top of this article, will affect the high school class of 2026 and younger. Therefore, parents should be aware of what is coming for planning purposes. If a family with more than one child is not debt-free by the time the first child applies to college, the family income is less than \$400,000, and the family is living below its means, significant challenges will lie ahead.

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

bear reached up 7.5 feet and got the bottom of my feeder. I saw him in the dim light of a motion light, full height as he was doing it. A real monster that my 40 lb dog chased off."

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident said, "Last week in the yard the first ruby-throated hummingbird (male), phoebe and a house wren were seen."

He said, "In Warren it looks like the ospreys are incubating eggs." He also said, "I have several black swallow-tailed butterfly chrysalises in my garage that I need to get into the daylight now that the weather seems to be

more spring like. Last year, he and his wife overwintered three and they all emerged and flew away.

Peregrine falcon cameras

Peregrine falcons are the fastest birds on Earth. They live throughout the world, including right here in Massachusetts! Several web cameras allow the public to witness falcons during breeding season.

Some site in Massachusetts with web cameras: Clock Tower of the Custom House, Boston nesting for over 20 years <https://marriott.ozolio.com/mwc-pulse-boston/>

Fox Hall Dorm UMass Lowell nesting since 2007 [cons/.](https://www.uml.edu/Fal-</p>
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DuBois Library UMass Amherst since 2003 years <https://www.library.umass.edu/falcons/>

Bird experience

The Brimfield resident sent the following email. "I had an interesting experience earlier today, May 12. We have a love seat that is tucked under a which hazel shrub and behind a winterberry holly. There are other small trees and shrubs nearby and there is a feeding station about 15' away. While sitting very still I began to hear bird's wings flapping close by, then I could feel the air moving near my head."

He continued, "Then the

bird landed briefly on the top of my head. Of course I couldn't see the bird. As soon as it left my head I turned my head slowly but couldn't see any birds behind me. I have a very healthy hear of hair for an old coot and I think the bird might have been looking for nesting material.

I suspect it was a titmouse because several had been back and forth to the feeder before this happened."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

er add fertilizer past June or you will encourage succulent growth that is apt to be winter killed.

After large-flowered rhododendrons are done blooming, they can be deadheaded quite easily. Simply hold on to the center of the spent flower cluster and bend it forward. Deadheading will keep your shrub looking tidy as well as prevent excessive seed formation.

Plants that spend energy making seeds have less energy for next year's flowers. If pruning is needed it can be accomplished at the same time as

deadheading; any later and you may sacrifice flower buds.

Since flowers are the plant's main attribute, don't risk it. How do I deal with large areas of winter kill? This spring has brought with it some seriously damaged rhododendrons. My guess would be that this came as a result of excessive wind and a few days of very chilly late winter weather.

Although I addressed this question over a month ago, readers are still concerned about their rhododendrons and other ericaceous plants such as azaleas and leucothoe, that also have large areas of brown leaves and dead

branches. Oftentimes, dead stems that are cut back to well within the shrub, to a point of active growth, will respond with new growth that will rejuvenate the rest of the plant.

I am hopeful that this is the case for my readers.

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

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CLUES ACROSS

- Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- Pittsburgh ballplayer
- British thermal unit
- Chemical compound
- Afflict
- Indicates density of data (abbr.)
- Refrain from harming
- Mesas
- Galls
- Wild, long-legged sheep
- Leg bone
- Engine additive
- Rhine distributary
- "CSI" actor George
- Recipe measurement
- Stony waste matter
- Chap
- Upright stone slab
- Useful book
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- Mountain Time
- Forest-dwelling monkey
- Snakelike fishes
- Pulsate steadily
- Places where people live
- Negative
- US, Latin America, Canada belong to
- Sino-Soviet bloc (abbr.)
- Periodical
- Unit of work
- A type of sense
- CLUES DOWN
1. Island
27. Witnessed
28. Popular breakfast food
29. ___ Mahal
31. BoSox legend Williams
32. Professional drivers
33. Atom or molecule type
34. The Constitution State
35. Chest to store clothes (Scottish)
36. Type of solution
37. Speaker
38. Specifying
39. Formerly (archaic)
40. Wiseman and Krom are two
44. The bill in a restaurant
47. Tennis shot

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 6

Habitat for Humanity to participate in 'Women Build 2025'

WEST SPRINGFIELD – What if picking up a hammer could change a life – including your own? Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) understands real change happens when we act. Therefore, the nonprofit organization is challenging individuals, teams, and local companies to sponsor "Women Build 2025."

Women Build is more than just a volunteer event—it's a call to action. It empowers women to better their communities and shine a light on the challenges families face when decent housing is out of reach. Participants gain hands-on experience constructing a home for a local family, while actively addressing the need for affordable housing. The

work is vital. The impact is lasting. "While Women Build centers on the inclusion and empowerment of women, it welcomes volunteers of all genders and gender identities," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. "It's about breaking down stereotypes, learning new skills, building together, and most importantly—having

fun while making a difference. Women Build 2025 offers five levels of sponsorships, ranging from \$250 to \$10,000. For more information, see attached flyer or visit habitatspringfield.org/women-build. GSHFH is a housing ministry dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income

families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home repair opportunities. This is accomplished by working in partnership with diverse people, from all walks of life, to build and repair simple, decent, affordable housing. Habitat's mission to provide homeownership opportunities to low-income families is

unique as it requires partner families to work alongside the community that is reaching out to help them. GSHFH has helped roughly 100 local families realize their dream of homeownership over the last 38 years. For more information, contact Aimee Giroux, executive director, at giroux@habitatspringfield.org or (413) 739-5503 x1007.

Fish lift now open for season

HOLYOKE – The first and most successful fish lift on the Atlantic Coast, the Robert E. Barrett Fishway at the Holyoke Dam, opens for its annual viewing season on Wednesday, May 7, with special Mother's Day activities on Sunday, May 11. The Fishway is fun for all ages and admission is free.

the season at 1:30 pm. This tour is free and open to the public. A knowledgeable and friendly guide will take guests on a forty-five-minute tour of the facility and share information about fish species of the Connecticut River. Additionally, The

Day and the spirit of re-birth on the Connecticut River.

In addition, the 58th Annual HG&E Shad Derby will be held on May 10, 11, 17, and 18 with a grand prize of \$1,000 in cash for the first-place winner in the senior division (www.hged.com/shadderby).



The Barrett Fishway, owned and operated by Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E), consists of two elevators or "lifts" which carry migrating fish up and over the Holyoke Dam. Visitors can watch the lifts in action from an observation deck overlooking the Connecticut River.

Barrett Fishway offers free educational programs for schools. Reservations for school groups are required, please visit www.hged.com/tour for details.

Located off Bridge Street (Route 116) in Holyoke, just west of the South Hadley-Holyoke Bridge, the Holyoke Fishway's 2023 season runs from May 7 through June 15, hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. The facility is closed on Monday and Tuesday, with the exception of Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For further information on the Barrett Fishway, visit www.hged.com/fishway or call (413) 536-9460.

Continuing a decade-old tradition, all mothers visiting the Fishway on Sunday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., will receive a free carnation to commemorate Mother's

Paper Festival to take place June 7

HOLYOKE – The inaugural Holyoke Paper Festival is set to bring a one-day celebration of art, paper, and place to downtown Holyoke on Saturday, June 7 at the De La Luz Soundstage, 114 Race Street.

arts scene, and its powerful connection to the Connecticut River and the land of the Pocumtuc, Agawam, and Nonotuck peoples.

scoring Holyoke's national significance in paper and printmaking culture.

The Holyoke Paper Festival is made possible by support from MassDevelopment, the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, Holyoke Community College, and local business and property owners.

To learn more about the festival or to get involved as a sponsor, volunteer, or donor, visit www.holyokepaperfestival.com for the latest updates and details.

Festival attendees can look forward to a full day of programming including a fine art exhibition, interactive workshops, guest speakers, local tours, and more—all highlighting the legacy and future of paper as a creative medium. Entries to the art exhibition have been received from artists across the country, under-

Children's Museum of Holyoke hosting artmaking party

HOLYOKE – The Children's Museum at Holyoke and The Color Collaborative are thrilled to invite families to a special Imagined Worlds Artmaking Party on Saturday, May 31 from 12 to 2 p.m. This free community event, held outside the museum, or inside the museum if raining, promises an afternoon of hands-on creativity, connection, and fun—including pizza! Youth artwork will influence the design of a large-scale mural on Dwight Street in Holyoke.

through collaborative artmaking. The results are not only beautiful, but powerful tools for emotional wellness, empathy, and community pride.

"We're excited to bring this project to Holyoke and to collaborate with such a beloved institution," said Sharon Leshner, Artistic Director of The Color Collaborative. "We're always looking forward to seeing what youth create and how their artwork will add to the neighborhood for years to come."

Imagined Worlds is a traveling youth mental health and public art initiative designed by The Color Collaborative. The project invites youth to reflect on the question: "What would a world look like where you would feel happy and safe?"

The event is part of a broader initiative that brings together artists, therapists, educators, and families to support youth mental health through public art. Finished artworks may travel to other communities or be displayed locally as part of a larger Imagined Worlds exhibition.

Using an art therapy-informed art activity, the program encourages young participants to express their hopes and dreams

joyful, creative play," said DJ Tucker, Executive Director at the Children's Museum at Holyoke. "We're proud to partner with The Color Collaborative to uplift youth voices and bring community-driven art to life right here in downtown Holyoke."

This event is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Beveridge Family Foundation, The Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation, M&T Charitable Foundation, the Carlos Vega Fund, Valley Creates of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, Summerlin Floors, and Clayton Insurance.

Whether you're a young artist, a family looking for a fun day out, or a community member passionate about youth mental health, Imagined Worlds promises to be a memorable and meaningful experience for all.

TEACHER ■ from page 1

science units, more quality trained teachers in STEAM, and extends for the next three school years. This will be used for materials and training teachers.

Following was the recognition of Roberta Doering Schools from the PLTW as a 2024 to 2025 Distinguished Gateway School, which recognizes schools across the U.S. for their efforts to provide broad access to transformative learning for students through the PLTW Gateway programs. "The kids learned about occupational therapy and OT toys and had to design ones of their own," added Rumpalik. The visiting students showed off their designs and explained the intentional use of each one.

When asked how Rumpalik's class got involved with the PLTW Gateway program, she continued. "Everybody participates in STEAM class at the middle school for 5th and 6th grade, and we do use the PLTW program. The cool thing about the 6th grade program is it's more like career pathways and this pathway is designed in engineering."

ACAA ■ from page 1

Board of Directors, said they are pleased with the current composition of the club

"I like the diversity of the club because there are so many areas and expressions that are kind of represented as part of the membership," Fernandes said.

presenter and was pleased to come to the ACAA to promote what Sunshine does.

"Ceil Rossi was kind enough to invite Sunshine Village to come in to the artists and artisans community to highlight what Sunshine Village does, in particular our Agawam program and our community based day services which is full of artists who long to be entrepreneurs," Kos said. "And we hope that we'll be able to find some partnerships for our artists to sell their homemade goods. Sunshine Village is an incredibly special place. It's full of clients who bring with them their unique abilities and talents that they're able to share with not only the employees, but real-



Agawam Community Artists and Artisans attendees and club members, CEO and President of Sunshine Village Gina Kos, Community Relations Manager of Sunshine Village Corinne Dumont, and Sunshine Village associates during the meeting May 14.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

ly our community. One of the best things about Sunshine Village is the community support we get as an organization that translates to support for our clients. It opens doors for jobs and volunteer opportunities. We promote the abilities of people with disabilities. What we want people to see is that our clients, people who have intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, people who are on the autism spec-

trum can be meaningful, contributing members of our community, and that there are so many of our clients who are artists, whose talent is immeasurable, and we're here to showcase that." Rossi, thanked Kos for coming to do her presentation.

wanted a better life for their children. Since then Sunshine Village has developed into a place where people with physical, developmental and intellectual disabilities as well as people on the autism spectrum can come to find their passion, build a career, and foster friendships.

ty-based day services which is a program that provides pathways for clients to develop their career goals.

"What all these programs do in a nutshell is help people live their lives to the fullest," Kos said.

Kos has worked at Sunshine Village for 34 years. She shares that Sunshine Village was founded in 1967 by a group of parents who

For more information about Sunshine Village visit, www.sunshine.us. For more information about upcoming events at Agawam Public Library visit, agawamlibrary.org.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

newspaper correspondent

Agawam Advertiser News seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo

Send writing samples with resume to

Editor, Greg Scibelli
24 Water St.
Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to gscibelli@turley.com



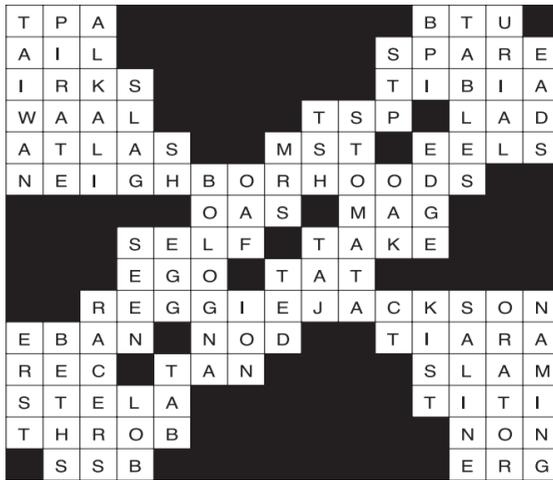
Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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





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SPORTS

Shlosser one-hits Comp



Nathan Ukrainets throws over to first.



Parker Bean fouls off a pitch.



Aiden Lavelle makes contact.



Gavin Shlosser sends a pitch home.

AGAWAM – Last Monday afternoon, the Agawam High School baseball team celebrated its Senior Day with a 4-0 shutout over Chicopee Comprehensive.

The Brownies got 112 great pitches from starter Gavin Shlosser. He allowed just one hit and three walks and struck out an impressive 15 batters of the 21 outs he got. Vincent Catelotti had a two-RBI hit and nine different players registered hits for the Brownies.

Comp's Jacoby Haney allowed four runs on nine hits with three strikeouts. He did hurl a complete game as well, going six innings.



Gavin Cruz catches a pickoff throw.



Vincent Catelotti catches a throw to third to try and tag out an attempted base stealer.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

LAX team falls in close loss

WILBRAHAM – Last Thursday evening, it was a battle of 2025 powerhouses as the Agawam High School boys lacrosse team, with just two losses, went up against one-loss Minnechaug. The Falcons and Brownies went back-and-forth but the host Falcons were able to snag the win 11-9. Brayden Federico led Agawam with three goals while Justin Lareau and Riley Jorgensen had two goals each. Minnechaug improved to 14-1 while Agawam fell to 12-3 with the Western Mass. playoffs looming.

Brownies go 18-1, head for tournament

AGAWAM – In the final week of the regular season, Agawam secured both a top seed in the Western Mass. tournament as well as a likely high seed in the state tournament. The Brownies went an incredible 18-1, which included a split with Chicopee Comprehensive and two wins over Westfield, which has been a top team for the past several years. Agawam swept eight of its final nine matches and then, in its regular season finale, defeated Needham of Eastern Mass. 3-2. The Brownies move into the Class A Western Mass. Tournament and were scheduled for a semifinal matchup with Central High School at home on Tuesday, May 20. The finals will be held later in the week.



The Brownies celebrate a goal.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Brayden Federico looks for an open teammate.



Justin Lareau gets set to make a pass.



Brayden Martin looks for a path to the goal.



Riley Jorgensen holds the ball away from a defender.



Casey Thomas gets ready to rush the goal.

Sports

Dylan Zullo picks up win at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Dylan Zullo won his first career Super Street victory Saturday, May 10, at Monadnock Speedway, topping the season opener at the high banked quarter-mile.

Jimmy Zellman made the move of the night to snatch victory in the Pure Stock main event, while Kyle Templeton had his way in the Mini Stocks. Fourteen-year-old Sofia Rego won the night's Young Guns feature, while Adam Lovejoy topped a spirited field of Pro V8 Sportsmen.

After rain forced postponement of the oval's scheduled 2025 season opener two weeks ago, a large field of competitors filled the pits Saturday, as the popular NASCAR sanctioned speedplant began its 55th season of competition.

Moisture still present at the top of the track and the dew coming in prevented the scheduled All State Materials Group 604 Modified feature from being run safely, but a stout field of 19 open-wheelers were on hand to time trial in preparation for next Satur-

day's twin features. Second generation hot shoe Andrew Brousseau was fastest on the clock Saturday, blistering the high banks with a lap of 12.343 seconds, after fast-timing in practice at 12.288.

Firing from the pole, teen star JD Stockwell led the first 14 laps of the Twin State Truck Services Super Street main event Saturday. Dylan Zullo, though, was on a rail

The second-generation Claremont pilot moved up to second on lap nine, quickly pulling up to Stockwell's bumper and riding there until low-lining out of turn two to take command on lap 14. Zullo would then shoot ahead to score his first career Monadnock Super Street victory four lengths ahead of Stockwell.

Strong all night, Zach Zilinski came home third, with Hillary Renaud winning a hard-fought battle over Erik Smith for fourth.

Jimmy Zellman came up just a handful of points shy of last summer's Pure Stock championship. Bidding to improve on that finish this time around, the Bay State blaster

won a thriller Saturday with a masterful move as the Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stocks restarted lap 22.

Carlos Grenier, who'd taken the lead from Colton Hull on lap three, seemed to have the field covered, including Zellman, who'd followed him to the front on the same go-round. But a Carter Chamberlin looper in turn two brought Zellman to Grenier's side, and potent Kyle Kenny to his back bumper.

With Zellman refiring from the top of the track, Kenny was poised to low-line his way to second. But Zellman wasn't buying it.

Firing like a missile at the drop of the green, Zellman beat Grenier into turn one and held him in his shadow to win a thriller. Kenny was strong in third, with Hull fourth and Markus O'Neil impressing in fifth.

Kyle Templeton, who entered Saturday's Fabian Fules Mini Stock main event with two Claremont feature wins already to his credit this season, kept that dominant streak intact, taking the lead

from John Fultz on lap six and then soaring off to win with ease.

Behind Templeton, the action was fast and furious. Former track champ Louie Maher rocketed into second when Fultz slowed on lap 19, and Young Gun alum-nus Zach Zilinski, made a late-race charge through the field to earn opening night's bronze medal finish.

Adam Lovejoy took

charge on lap four of the Pro V8 Sportsman feature and never looked back. If he had, he'd have seen Jimmy Renfrew Sr. charging through the pack. Renfrew got up for second on lap seven, but could never find the fast path past Love-joy.

The visiting rear-wheel drive competitors raced three-across and nose-to-tail for all 25 laps without drawing a caution flag. At the

checkers, Scott Riggleman, who'd hauled in from 300 miles away, finished the race in third.

In the youth division Doug's Auto Body Young Guns 15-lapper, second-year driver Sofia Rego led all the way to score her first career victory. Hunter Duquette rode in her shadow until wobbling on lap 11, but then recovered to come home second. Maya Bell was third on the night.

MIAA holds annual meeting

FRANKLIN – More than 250 principals, assistant principals and athletic directors from throughout the Commonwealth attended the MIAA 46th Annual Meeting – “A Celebration of Leadership and Service in Support of Educational Athletics” – held April 2.

Highlighting the event was a performance by the Mighty Singing Falcons from Foxborough Regional Charter School, under the direction of Evelyn D. Lee.

The day began with the annual MIAA business meeting, presided over by outgoing MIAA president Stephanie Sibley, who was presented with a rocking chair in appreciation of her service to the association and the Board of Directors.

In his Executive Director Report, Dr. Bob Baldwin reviewed the accomplishments of the Board and the association over the previous year, and also presented several potential initiatives:

- Standardized Annual Calendar for Interscholastic Athletics
 - An objective process to adopt and/or remove an MIAA sponsored sport
 - Power ranked sports standards for Number of Championship Divisions
 - Establish a Division 1A component of the statewide tournament
- The Board also recognized several retiring athletic directors and officials for their dedication and service.

Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will conduct a Public Hearing on **Monday, June 2, 2025 at 7:00pm**, at a Regular Meeting of the Agawam City Council to be held at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA on the proposed Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026, as submitted to the City Council by Mayor Christopher Johnson on May 9, 2025. The Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 is available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA between the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. It is also available at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA and the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. For an online version, please visit the town website at www.agawam.ma.us or contact the Clerk's Office.

BY ORDER OF:

Rosemary Sandlin
City Council President

TOWN OF AGAWAM FISCAL YEAR 2026 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

Council	\$138,700
Mayor	\$250,701
Procurement	\$105,527
Human Resources	\$186,534
Law Department	\$220,878
Auditor	\$182,337
Clerk/Elections	\$286,717
Assessor	\$287,370
IT Department	\$564,459
Treasurer-Collector	\$336,897
Police Department	\$7,330,994
Fire Department	\$4,923,114
Building & Planning	\$518,070
Health Department	\$974,539
Agawam Public Library	\$1,280,958
Parks & Recreation	\$287,804
Council on Aging	\$418,307
Public Works Administration	\$155,700
Highway & Grounds	\$2,796,918
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	\$704,937
Engineering	\$196,559
Stormwater Department.....	\$986,800
Building Maintenance	\$6,300,347
Agawam Public Schools	\$53,562,979
Emergency Management	\$44,880
Line Items.....	\$33,586,086
TOTAL - GENERAL FUND OPERATING BUDGET	\$116,629,112
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET	\$2,647,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND BUDGET	\$119,276,112
Wastewater Department	\$ 5,320,432
Water Department	\$ 7,998,704
Municipal Golf Course	\$ 1,174,262
TOTAL - SELF-SUSTAINING DEPARTMENTS	\$ 14,493,398
TOTAL - ALL DEPARTMENTS	\$ 133,769,510

05/15, 05/22/2025

Section 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT TO BID MGL c.149 Over \$150K

The AGAWAM HOUSING AUTHORITY, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Window Replacement at State Aided Development: Country View (667-1) in Agawam, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by KMA DESIGN STUDIO.

The Project consists of but not limited to:

Replacement of existing vinyl

windows in 1 story brick senior housing. The work is estimated to cost \$600,871.00.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 06/06/2025 at 2:00PM EDT for filed sub-bids and by 06/12/2025 at 11:00 AM EDT for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS

WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **Doors and Windows**, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM

Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **18 June 2025 at 2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until **09 June 2025 at 2:00PM EDT** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

TRADES

Painting
General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **AGAWAM HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

General bidders must agree to contract with minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 13% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. **Request for waivers must be sent to EOHLIC** (Chad. Howard@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. **NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED.**

The Contractor and all sub-contractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at 6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a **statutory** requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled (Optional)

Date and Time: 06/04/2025 at 11:00AM EDT

Address: 95 North Westfield Street, Community Building, Agawam, MA 01001

Instructions: Please gather outside community building at center of property

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc.
433 Main Street
Hudson, MA 01749
978-568-1167
05/22/2025

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court

Probate and Family Court

Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P0739EA

Estate of:
Jean Graham Brindle
Date of Death: 02/21/2025
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 **Elsie A Mallory of Agawam, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Elsie A Mallory of Agawam, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/16/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: May 19, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/22/2025

INTERMENT NOTICE
Alfred J. Ducharme Jr.
Date of Death: August 8, 1984
will be laid to rest at the Massachusetts Veterans

Memorial Cemetery
1390 Main St., Agawam
on June 20, 2025
05/22/2025

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield MA, 01103
Docket No.
HD19P0406PM
In the matter of:
Sylvia Timothy
of Springfield, MA
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

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

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **06/10/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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

Date: May 06, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
05/22/2025

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TAG SALE

MASSIVE MOVING SALE. 2319 Barre Rd., Wheelwright. Friday, May 23 and Saturday, May 24. Great variety of household items including tools. Weather permitting.

MOVING SALE: May 25 & 26, 9am-3pm. Everything must go. Dishes, furniture, small appliances. 134 Rutland Road, Oakham.

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75 Thornwood Street
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May 23 and 24
8AM to 2PM

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HELP WANTED

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For over 60 years The Holy Rood Guild at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts, known for the exceptional quality and fine tailoring of liturgical vestments, is seeking a Sales Support Specialist. Excellent communication and computer skills required. Respectful, positive interaction with clergy and religious organizations necessary. Experience in sales, artistic design, and customer service a plus.
For more information and to apply, contact Fr. Stephen Shanahan at (774) 315-3107 or by email: brstephenofstjoe@yahoo.com. holyroodguild.com

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **FULL-TIME HIGHWAY TRUCK DRIVER/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/LABORER.**

Applicants must possess at least a Massachusetts Class D driver's license. Class A or B CDL with Air Brake Endorsement is preferred. Must possess or be able to obtain 2B or higher & 4G Hoisting Engineer's licenses within 6 months of hire. \$22.00 to \$28.79 per hour based on qualifications. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. *Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

HELP WANTED

The Town of Huntington is seeking a **PART-TIME ASSISTANT TAX COLLECTOR.**
18 hours per week to be worked Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. \$20.00 to \$22.00 per hour based on experience. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. *Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

YARD AND BARN HELP. 14-years or older working with Morgan horses, grooming and helping with showing (I need some good help). 508-867-7855.

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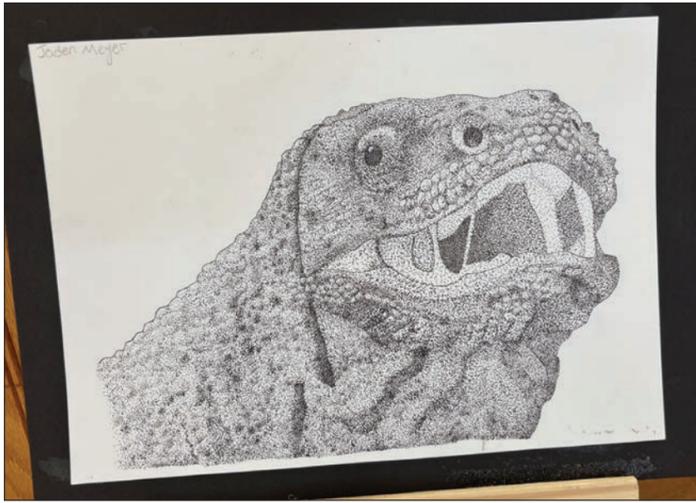
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Above, art display by AHS art students at the Spring Art Show.

Left, Senior, Jaden Meyer's stipple drawing of a lizard.

ART ■ from page 1

did that was I enjoy working with kids and it seemed like a way to combine the things that I like to do. I love art, obviously, it's something that I study academically, as well as actively create. So then I felt like I had the ability to share that and pass that knowledge on." Osborn hopes that attendees of the art show will be able to see that art can be so many different things and be presented in so many different ways.

"I hope people realize that art can be many things. There is such depth to what art is. People think that it's

easy, but if you ask any art student, it can be quite difficult. It's much harder than being told like 'this is a rule for this subject.' It's open and it's about problem solving creatively, which is a beneficial skill for any field. So, no matter what art students end up doing after high school or in their life, the skills they learn taking art classes will be of value. I hope that people understand too, that there are many opportunities for arts careers. There are many different fields within that overall umbrella term of art, where people can design and work and have a creative ca-

reer and have an effective salary to have a life that is comfortable."

Osborn gave out three scholarships to three lucky AHS seniors who have excelled artistically throughout their high school careers. She brought attention to the hard work each piece took and the passion the students brought to their art. It's clear the AHS art students have real talent and true passion for the masterpieces they create. With the guidance of their dedicated teachers, they managed to put on an art show that perfectly encapsulated their artistic abilities.



Hannah Parker with the quilt she made out of her old sports merchandise.



Angelina Lavrenchuk with her impressive fruit painting. TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA



Jaden Meyer with his thought-provoking hand sculpted light up mask.



Hannah Parker with her stunning and inspirational three wooden carved beach scenes inspired by her mother.

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Love Dad, Mom & John

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