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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Council approves district change

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
amunson@turley.com

AGAWAM - On May 19, Council President Rosemary Sandlin spoke about the petition for a zone change by Bethany Assembly of God Church to add the property located at 580 Main Street to the wireless telecommunication overlay district.

Speaking on this motion was Councilor Robert E. Rossi who commented on the visitors from the following meeting who expressed their shared concerns of the cell tower.

One of the first concerns were the safety and wellbeing of residents, and loss of value for their homes.

"The proponents suggested in their opinion that there is no health hazard, there isn't any loss of value or any

COUNCIL | page 12



Parade celebrates MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day was celebrated on Monday morning in town. This year, featured multiple events, highlighted by the annual parade down Main St. This year's parade was larger than usual and featured multiple civic, school, and community groups marching this year. A ceremony was also held in the Veterans' Green this year. See more photos on pages 6 and 7.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club sponsored its Annual Town-Wide Spelling Bee for fourth, fifth, and six graders on May 2. The winners of that event were recently announced. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Junior Women's Club holds annual spelling bee

AGAWAM - The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club sponsored its Annual Town-Wide Spelling Bee for fourth, fifth, and six graders. On Friday, May 2 in the auditorium of the Agawam Junior High School, students representing their grades competed within their grade level.

All final spellers were awarded certificates of participation. First place winners were awarded \$100.00 cash, a ribbon, and a Scrabble game. Second place winners were awarded \$50.00 cash, a ribbon and a Scrabble game. All cash prizes were generously donated by Westfield Bank: thank you to Mary Ann Ludtke, Agawam Branch Bank Manager. The Spelling Bee is available for viewing on Video On Demand (From anywhere anytime) or www.AgawamMe-

dia.tv and scroll to Video On Demand section.

AJWC member, Donna M. Shibley once again moderated the event. The pronouncer was Kathy Mouneimneh, retired Agawam High School English teacher and AJWC member. Judges were Antonia Moore, graduate of AHS, English teacher at AJHS, Ann Bongiorno, retired WSMS English teacher, and Stephen Bodurtha, former AJHS and AHS English teacher, Westfield Athenaeum librarian. We appreciate the time the judges donated to help with the Spelling Bee. Special thank you to Luisa Guidi and Sharon Rovithis friends of the Agawam Juniors who also helped that evening. Shout out to Les Tingley, Agawam Media Manager and Richard Danek and Doug Reed, camera operators who assisted

with the event. We appreciated the time the judges and volunteers also gave to help with the Spelling Bee.

- Winners were:
- 4th grade: Benjamin Phelps Elementary
 - 1st ~ Michael Shvakhman (room 18)
 - 4th grade: Clifford M. Granger Elementary
 - 2nd ~ Justin Makhoul (room 24)
 - 5th grade ~ Roberta G. Doering School
 - 1st ~ Rowan Herrick (room 208)
 - 2nd ~ Miriam Radtke (room 213)
 - 6th grade ~ Roberta G. Doering School
 - 1st ~ Alina Batteriwala (room 320)
 - 2nd ~ Noor Khawaja (room 315)

SPELLING | page 12

Fiber optic internet project halted by provider

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM - After more than three years of work, the town has run into a major hurdle in its potential pursuit of providing affordable high-speed Internet for the community.

Last week, Mayor Christopher Johnson was informed by Heidi Mahoney of GoNetSpeed, a firm the town contracted with to start the process of designing a high-speed fiber optic Internet accessibility infrastructure, that the firm would be pausing its plans in Agawam.

According to the email from Mahoney, "Unfortunately, after extensive evaluation, we've encountered challenges related to make ready costs that we have not been able to resolve with the pole owners. As a result, we've made the difficult decision to pause our plans in Agawam for the time being."

According to the mayor's office, Johnson plans to make a comment on the development sometime this week. The email from Mahoney was received just before the holiday weekend.

The project was originally started by the previous administration, under Mayor William Sapelli. GoNetSpeed was contracted by the town to explore installing a fiber optic network in the town's infrastructure. Surrounding communities like Chicopee

and Westfield have their fiber optic networks. The fiber optic Internet option gives residents an alternative option, often a cheaper one, to the cable provider the town has. In Agawam, Comcast/Xfinity is the cable and the only high-speed Internet provider in town.

"The goal remains to provide more options through competition and drive down the internet and streaming costs for our

residents," Sapelli said at the time of the contracting.

Those plans never came to fruition as Mahoney stated the negotiations with pole owners were unsuccessful.

GoNetspeed had established an operations center in Agawam on Gold Street and planned to use that location for expanded service to cities and towns in the Western Mass. region. GoNetspeed is working diligently to construct their

network. The project has been delayed based on state and federal permitting challenges and the projected timeline for operation is now later 2023 or 2024. GoNetspeed planned on following through on constructing a fiber network in Agawam despite

"The goal remains to provide more options through competition and drive down the internet and streaming costs for our residents,"

- William Sapelli

residents," Sapelli said at the time of the contracting. "GoNetspeed reaffirmed their plan to expand their service into Agawam and we pledged to work with them to speed up the timeline of implementation."

According to Sapelli, GoNetspeed recently met with the mayor and provided an update on their plan to offer a fiber network option to residents. The project has been delayed based on state and federal permitting challenges and the projected timeline for operation is now later 2023 or 2024. GoNetspeed planned on following through on constructing a fiber network in Agawam despite

100 percent fiber internet network that will bring access to the Town of Agawam.

GoNetspeed currently provides service to communities throughout Maine, Alabama, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and West Virginia.

The effort to bring fiber optic Internet started four years ago when Sapelli was approached about finding a more affordable option for residents. He formed a committee to explore the issue, and the town eventually began working with GoNetSpeed to help bring a project to fruition.



Library announces upcoming June programs available

AGAWAM – June is an exciting time at the Agawam Library. Library staff are busy preparing for our annual Summer Reading Program which will begin on Monday, June 23 and run through Friday, Aug. 8. We are excited to offer summer reading for all ages, so stay tuned for later this month when we kick off “Level Up at Your Library”.

This summer, the library encourages everyone to reach new heights with reading, gaming and trying new challenges. Adults can participate in fun programs and earn prizes just for reading! In the meantime, the library is ready for summer and all the celebrations that come in the month of June

June begins with Weight Loss Through Hypnosis with Cristina Di Nardo-Dupre on Monday, June 2 at 6 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Cristina Di Nardo-Dupre, MSW, LICSW is the director and founder of the Individual and Family Counseling Center in Agawam. The library welcomes Cristina as she presents her new book *The Best You* through Hypnosis: Total Mind and Body Transformation. Cristina will discuss effective weight loss strategies like clinical hypnosis, cognitive

behavioral theory, healthy eating and Cristina's Six Incentives. The presentation is free to attend. There will be a question-and-answer portion and her book will be available to purchase. Feel free to visit her website at www.duprehypnosis.com for more information. Please register for this event.

There are two more Qigong sessions on Tuesday mornings, June 3 and June 10 at 11 a.m. in the Clini Community Room. Join instructor Pamela Cincotta and give Qigong a try. Qigong (pronounced Chee-Gong) is an ancient Chinese practice to enhance health and healing in the body, mind, and spirit. Participants are asked bring a yoga mat, wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring bottled water. These classes are suitable for all levels, including beginners. Our Wednesday morning Chair Yoga continues on Wednesday mornings at 9:05 a.m. in the Clini Community Room. Both of these offerings are drop-in and all are welcome.

Looking to try something new this summer? Give Board Game Night for Adults a try. June Game Night will be Wednesday, June 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. We'll have games on

hand like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, Munchkin, and more - but feel free to bring your own! There will be multiple tables for multiple games, so bring a friend or meet some like-minded gamers at the event. Celebrate the joys of a good old game night with board games and snacks. This is a drop-in program and all are welcome.

On Monday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m., the Agawam Library welcomes local author Robert Madison as he discusses his book, *George Washington's Secret Armory: The Biography of Lt. Richard Falley, Jr.* On July 2, 1775, General George Washington arrived in the Boston area to take command of the newly established Continental Army. Falley supplied flintlock muskets from his secret armory at Mt. Tekoa in the foothills of the Berkshires. The lecture includes Falley's involvement as a prisoner and private in some of the most well-known battles of the Revolutionary War. Register today to learn about this forgotten piece of New England Revolutionary War history and celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary of independence. Please register for this event.

Tea & Trivia returns on

Tuesday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, June 18 at 2:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Get ready to have your wits matched and enjoy a nice cup of hot or iced tea! Please note that our trivia sessions are for ages 18 and older and registration is required. Our June Library Tech Sessions will feature all the information you need to use Beanstack - the online reading tracker that we'll be using for our summer reading challenge. Participants can register for either session: Wednesday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m. or Tuesday, June 24 at 10 a.m. Participants are asked to bring whichever mobile device you are most comfortable using.

Join us for our summer reading kick-off on Monday, June 23 at 5:30 p.m. Join us for fun and games for all ages, including a host of indoor and outdoor games, weather permitting. We will have yard games, a puzzle race, a mobile arcade, board games, and a visit from the Moolicious ice cream truck! Be one of the first to sign up to participate in summer reading and begin working toward the goal of achieving a collective 5,000 hours of reading while earning chances to win a variety of great raffle prizes.

Level up your brain and level up your game this summer at the Agawam Public Library! This event is for all ages and no registration is necessary.

The Library Writers Group will meet on Thursday, June 26 at 6 p.m. in the Peirce Conference Room. The virtual author line-up for June features three excellent authors, starting with Smithsonian Scientists Brian Gratwicke and Dr. Gina Della Tonga on Wednesday, June 4 at 2 p.m. This will be an informative and fun discussion of the Smithsonian's book, *Extinctopedia*. Best-selling thriller writer Lisa Jewell will introduce readers to her new book, *Don't Let Him In* on Tuesday, June 10 at 2 p.m. And children's author Katherine Applegate will talk to viewers about her heartwarming novel, *Odder* on Tuesday, June 24 at 4 p.m. Please note that these author talks will be held virtually. More information and registration can be found by visiting: <https://library.org/agawamlibrary>

Join world sailor Amy Alton on a voyage around the globe and Level Up your Travel. On Monday, June 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room, the library welcomes Amy Alton for a

presentation on her world travels. From 2014-2024 she lived on a sailboat full time with her husband, traveling tens of thousands of miles and visiting dozens of countries. If you've ever wondered what it would be like to cast off the lines and set sail into the sunset, Amy will talk about the highs and the lows about setting off to sea. She'll share photos and stories from her trip and the romance books that were inspired by her adventures and written under the pen name Liz Alden. Please register for this event.

Registration for adult programs is open now. Registration for the Summer Reading Challenge will open on

June 23. Please visit our online calendar at www.agawamlibrary.org to register, or call the Information Desk at (413) 789-1550 X4. Our programs are often supported by the Agawam Center Library Association. Please note that the library will be closed on Thursday, June 19 for the observance of Juneteenth. Please note that our last Saturday will be June 7. We will be closed on Saturdays during the summer. Please visit our website for more information www.agawamlibrary.org.

Smith House hosting Bond Drive

AGAWAM – The public is invited to the historic Thomas Smith House at 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills on D-Day+1, Saturday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. when the 82nd Airborne, 505th P.L.R., 2nd Battalion, Company D, Re-enacted will hold a WWII “Bond Drive” fundraiser to benefit the Agawam Historical Association.

The grounds of the historic Thomas Smith House

in Feeding Hills, Mass. will return to the 1940s with WWII era military and civilian vehicles, music, and demonstrations.

Facsimile souvenir War Bonds will be available for a donation of \$5 each, with all proceeds aiding the Agawam Historical Association.

The historical association's new Images of America title, *Around Agawam and Feeding Hills* will be

available for purchase. The book features more than 200 historic photos depicting Agawam and Feeding Hills' rich history. Proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the Agawam Historical Association.

The National Register-listed Thomas Smith House and its preserved 1920s garage will also be open for tours.

This event is free and open to the public.

Town awards contract for trash and recycling services to USA

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam is pleased to announce, USA Waste and Recycling of Enfield, CT has been awarded a five-year contract to service the residents of Agawam beginning Tuesday, July 1. There will be no change in the collection schedule. Residents will continue to receive weekly trash and every other week recycling collection on the same day they are currently serviced. Route Schedules will be available on line at www.agawam.ma.us as well as mailed to all eligible residents before July 1.

As a reminder, there will be one yard waste pick up during the month of June. Residents should have their yard waste out on their scheduled recycling collection day on the following weeks:

B Week: June 16-20

A Week: June 23-24

Bulk collection services will no longer be limited. Residents will be able to schedule a bulk collection, with a fee attached per item, at any time.

“Although residents are now required to pay per bulk item, we were able to in-

crease the frequency of bulk collections for residents” stated Mayor Christopher Johnson. “We hope that residents will responsibly dispose of their bulk household items by utilizing USA services or a private hauler of their choice.”

All contact information and fee per bulk item will be available online in the coming weeks.

The Department of Public Works would like to thank everyone in advance for their patience through what we are expecting to be a seamless transition.

ACAA announces new exhibit at Cooper's Commons

AGAWAM – A new art exhibit is on display at Cooper's Commons, 159 Main Street, Agawam.

The exhibit, sponsored by the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans, will be on display throughout the summer.

The ACAA is an Agawam art group consisting of many professional artists and artisans who participate in quality juried art shows and galleries. The group conducts the Pioneer Valley Art Festival each year in August, attracting visitors from throughout the region.

The art is displayed in

the historic building of Cooper's Commons on all floors and in all of the quaint rooms.

This art show depicts scenes of tobacco barns, whimsical farm animals, and covered bridges in oil, acrylic, lithographs and watercolor. All of the art is beautifully framed and would look wonderful in any style home.

Proceeds from any sold art goes directly to the artist.

For further information please contact Ceil Rossi at (413) 207-1247 or email tocarefree2@hotmail.com or contact the artist listed on the art.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Velis budget amendment adopted by state senate

Senator John C. Velis to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget to fund the creation of trainings for mental health clinicians and counselors to treat victims of hate and bias. Velis, who currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism, spoke from the Senate floor about the importance of these mental health trainings with different forms of hate on the rise in the Com-



State Senator John Velis

monwealth.

The amendment, which was adopted Tuesday afternoon, would provide funding to the Department of Public Health to create a competitive grant program for the development of specialized trauma trainings to be provided to mental health clinicians and counselors to help treat victims of hate and bias.

The amendment specifies that each training will

be unique to different forms of hate or bias impacting the Commonwealth, rather than a one size fits all approach.

“It has become evident in talking with victims of hate who have come forward to the Commission, including children, that there is a real gap when it comes to providers who are trained to understand, address, and treat these unique forms of trauma,” said Velis, who also serves as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee of Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery. “Hate manifests in different ways for

different groups, and it is essential that clinicians have access to trainings that are culturally sensitive and consider the historical prejudice the group has face.”

The latest Hate Crimes Report from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security found that hate crimes rose to 557 incidents in 2023, up 26% from 2022 and a drastic spike compared to 2018's total of 351 incidents.

Specifically, the report found that there were drastic spikes targeting the Jewish, LGBTQ, and Arabic communities.

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Senior Center announces new activities offered

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

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 Spe-

cialist) 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

Powerback Rehabilitation To You Balance Clinic

Wednesday, June 11 at 1 p.m.
in the Garden Room

Are you at a higher risk for falls compared to your neighbors? Come find out at our balance clinic. We will walk you through some exercises to help determine where you stand compared to others' your age. If you are

at a higher risk for falls you may benefit from some therapy. Powerback Rehabilitation to You brings Physical and Occupational Therapy to your doorstep. Let us help you get back to doing what you love without the hassle of driving to a rehab clinic or working around someone else's schedule. Register with Kristina

Around Agawam and Feeding Hills - Author Presentation and Book Signing

Wednesday, June 11 at 2 p.m.
in the Dining Room

Join us as local historian David Cecchi talks about his hometown, with photographs and artifacts from the Agawam Historical Association archives and his own extensive collection.

Around Agawam and Feeding Hills is Cecchi's fifth title in Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series, following Agawam and Feeding Hills (2000); Aga-

wam and Feeding Hills Revisited (2005); Riverside Park (2012); and The Big E, Eastern States Exposition (2016).

Copies of all books will be available for sale and signing by the author. Proceeds from the sales of the three Agawam and Feeding Hills books benefit the Agawam Historical Association. David Cecchi is a lifelong resident of Agawam. He is honored to follow in the footsteps of previous town historians Edith LaFrancis and Marilyn Curry.

Hampden County Sheriff Triad Division Educational Seminar

Thursday, June 12 at 1 p.m.
in the Seminar Hall

The Hampden County Sheriff's Office Triad Division is one way we are working proactively to help our senior neighbors stay safe and stay educated. Join us to learn about the free and tangible programs we offer to our community.

Education Board establishes more pathways for aspiring teachers

METHUEN – The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted unanimously this week to establish alternative assessments to the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL), creating a broader range of pathways for aspiring teachers that will ultimately strengthen and diversify the state's educator workforce.

"Massachusetts leads the nation in education, and we're proud to have the best teachers in the country," said Governor Maura Healey. "These additional licensure assessments will open doors for aspiring educators, remove unnecessary barriers, and help us build a stronger, more inclusive educator workforce."

"These new regulations give candidates more ways to demonstrate their content knowledge while still upholding high standards," said Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll. "By approving alternative assessments to licensure, we're supporting talented individuals who have the passion and skills to lead in the classroom but may not have performed well on the MTEL."

The Board's action this week makes MTEL alternatives permanent. Since 2020, the Department of Elementary and Secondary

Education (DESE) has used a pilot program to offer 26 alternative assessments for educator licensure. The assessments were intended to expand access to the teaching profession, allowing prospective teachers to demonstrate competencies in different ways while maintaining high standards for subject matter knowledge, communications and literacy skills.

The Department contracted with the National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (CALDER) at the American Institutes for Research to conduct a multiyear evaluation of the MTEL alternative assessment pilots. According to their recent evaluation, overall, candidates who took the alternatives are performing similarly to teachers who passed traditional MTEs and are more diverse than those who took traditional MTEs.

"In Massachusetts, our diversity is our strength. Research shows us students perform better when they have teachers who look like them and understand where they come from," said Education Secretary Patrick A. Tutwiler. "The Board's action this week represents an important step toward ensuring every classroom has excellent, di-

verse educators while also improving student outcomes."

The Board had sent regulations proposed by the Healey-Driscoll Administration out for public comment in February, for which DESE received more than 90 comments from students, families, educators and advocacy groups. In response to public comments, the final regulations incorporate an expanded list of prerequisite license options for the new Media Arts Endorsement. This now includes Radio and Television Broadcasting, Engineering Technology, Drafting, Information Support Services and Networking, Programming and Web Development, and Painting and Design Technology.

In addition to adding a new Media Arts Endorsement, the final regulations include new flexibilities for obtaining professional licensure, and the ability to apply the Bilingual Educator Endorsement toward the Sheltered English Immersion Endorsement requirement.

For more information about alternative assessments, visit DESE's website.

Marsh awarded scholarship



Agawam Garden Club scholarship recipient, Noella Marsh is pictured with her mother Leah McIntire and club member Luann Nowill. A check for \$1000 was presented at the club's May meeting.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

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. Pro-

ceeds 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.

Annual 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 ac-

tivities, 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.

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Opinion

Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

How do I apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I just turned 65 years old in February 2025. I need to sign up for Social Security but don't even know where to start.

**Signed:
Seeking Assistance**

Dear Seeking:

It is fairly easy to sign up for your Social Security benefits, by either calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or your local SS office, to make a telephone appointment to apply, or by completing your application for Social Security benefits online at www.ssa.gov/apply. However, to apply for benefits online you will need to first create your personal "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal account set up, you can apply directly from that account and also see an estimate of your SS benefits at different ages.

You may already be aware that age 65 is not your Social Security Full Retirement Age. Your FRA is when you get 100% of the benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working. By taking benefits at age 65, your monthly amount will be reduced to about 87% of your FRA amount; a permanent reduction. Born in 1960, your FRA is age 67, which means you will be taking your SS benefit about two years early and also means that if you are still working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test.

The AET limits how much you can earn before some of your benefits are taken away. For 2025, the annual earnings limit is \$23,400 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit they take benefits back by withholding future payments long enough to recover what you owe.

So, you can apply for your Social Security bene-

fits, as indicated above, either online or by calling SS for an appointment. Just be aware that by applying at age 65 your benefit will be permanently reduced, and you will be subject to Social Security's earnings limit. The earnings limit lasts until you reach your FRA, after which you can earn as much as you like without penalty.

Also, because you are 65, if you wish to enroll in Medicare, please be aware that you don't need to take your Social Security benefits to enroll in Medicare. You can enroll in Medicare (only) by calling Social Security as explained above or enrolling in Medicare online. Here is a link which explains how to enroll in only Medicare: <https://www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up>

I hope this information is helpful, and please know that the AMAC Foundation is always available to answer your questions. If it's easier, you can also speak directly to one of our certified Social Security Advisors by calling us during normal EST business hours at 1-888-750-2622. We cannot submit your SS application for you, but we can answer all questions you have about applying.

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, or email us at ss-advisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column

More basil? Yes, please!

Regular readers of the column will remember just how much pleasure I get out of making and freezing my version of pesto. In other words, pesto without the expensive pine nuts.

We use this spread in the rue for butternut squash lasagna and on pizza in place of marinara sauce. Sadly, we ran out of our frozen "cubes" over a month ago and have had to resort to the store bought tubes of the paste.

They're okay, but certainly not as tasty as home-grown. I vow I will grow more basil this year. Alas, if only the weather would cooperate.

Read on to learn how to grow, harvest and ultimately turn these flavorful leaves into "summer in an ice cube."

Over the years I have found that there are just a few obstacles to growing great basil. Seeds should be planted indoors - rarely will they do well from an outdoor sowing.

Start basil about the same time that tomatoes are sown, in mid to late March. Basil is particularly cold sensitive, so be sure that all danger of frost has passed before transplanting it into the garden.

As mentioned, we are waiting for the weather to

fulfill its earthly desire to reproduce by making and dropping seed, all at the expense of foliage production. Since we grow this plant for its leaves and not its seed, or its flowers for that matter, clip away the buds at the first sign of them.

Another challenge to basil growing has been the Japanese beetle. Basil leaves riddled with chew marks should best be removed.

Japanese beetles are relatively easy to hand pick in the morning and at night. A gentle tap on a leaf will easily knock beetles into a wide mouth jar of soapy water positioned underneath. Ideally, basil leaves should be harvested after the dew has dried in the morning but before the sun shines too brightly; at that particular time its oils are the most pungent.

As mentioned, I like freezing basil in paste form. Simply take two cups of rinsed and blotted dry basil leaves and coarsely chop them in a food processor. While the motor is running drizzle in one-quarter to one-third of a cup of extra virgin olive oil. You can add parmesan cheese to taste or save that

Usually they green up in a matter of days.

Basil has the insatiable desire to flower. We must "deadhead" or the plant will

JUMP | page 7



by Roberta McQuaid



Hiking the Appalachian Trail, New Jersey

By Julie Midura
Guest Column

Tom and I were strapping our sit pads back onto our backpacks after stopping for lunch at a rocky vista, when we heard faint rumbling in the distance. We weren't particularly concerned. "Maybe it will miss us," Tom said, as we shouldered our packs and continued north. We were three days into a 160-mile backpacking trip of the entire states of New Jersey and New York on the Appalachian Trail.

Ten minutes up the trail,

the trees began swaying ferociously as violent wind gusts barreled up and over the ridge. "We need to take cover... fast!" I yelled. We scanned the woods and made a beeline to a rock outcropping. Within seconds, the storm was on top of us.



In one fluid motion, I simultaneously unclipped my sternum strap with my right hand and my hip strap with my left and dropped my pack to the ground. Just as quickly, I yanked my rain jacket out of the back mesh pocket, shoved my arms into the

sleeves and pulled the hood over my head.

I managed to back myself partly into a small opening between the jumble of boulders, then I sat down, pulled my knees up to my chest, rested my forehead on my knees, and waited for the maelstrom to end. Tom was standing beside me, partially crouched over me.

Neither one of us spoke as the thunder raged and the hail pelted our backs. The driving rain infiltrated every layer of our clothing and poured off of us in rivulets. Adrenalin overtook fear as we waited for the

storm to pass.

The next three days on trail were a repeat of this one-from sudden downpours to all-day steady rainfall. It was the kind of weather that awakens frustration and aggravation even in the most easygoing of hikers.

After all, rain makes life far more challenging when there is nowhere to go to escape from it. Out here, we eat in the rain, walk in the rain, did a cat hole in the rain. We set up and take down our tent in the rain. We awaken each morning and pull

GARDEN | page 5

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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.

Schools & Youth

HCC Foundation awards \$364,400 in scholarships

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Foundation has awarded \$364,400 in scholarships to students for the 2025-2026 academic year.

This year, the HCC Foundation awarded 410 scholarships to 379 incoming, current, and transferring HCC students. Some students received multiple scholarship awards. Individual awards range from \$500 to \$5,000.

HCC celebrated this year's recipients and donors at a scholarship reception on May 15.

The HCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) that works to ad-

vance the college's mission, vision, and values. Founded in 1968 as the Friends of Holyoke Community College, in response to a devastating fire that forced the college to rebuild on a new campus, the Foundation now manages assets of more than \$20 million, the largest community college foundation endowment in Massachusetts.

Agawam recipients of scholarships are: Haleigh Alaimo, Trevor Jenks, Tatsiana Marcu, Aiden Therrien, Jacqueline Williams, Autumn Braleski (two awards), Josh Carrier, Joselyne Matos.



Nataly Gonzalez of Easthampton, Erykka Rocha of Holyoke, and Julius Dixon of Springfield celebrate their scholarship awards at the 2025 HCC Foundation Scholarship Reception. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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COLLEGE NOTES

Cyran graduates from Bob Jones University

GREENVILLE, SC – Edward Cyran, a resident of Agawam, was among over 600 students who graduated from Bob Jones University Friday, May 9.

Cyran graduated with a AS in Culinary Arts.

In addition to the 450 students receiving bache-

lor's degrees, 106 students received master's degrees and 50 earned associate degrees. Five candidates earned doctoral degrees.

Connery receives the Program of the Year award

DUDLEY, MA – Owen Connery of Feeding Hills, MA, received the Program of the Year award at the Nichols College annual Student Life Awards ceremony on Tuesday, April 15. This award recognizes an outstanding program developed, promoted and executed by a student organization. This year, the executive committee members of the Campus Activities Board received the award.

Jock named to Spring 2025 Dean's Honor List

CEDARVILLE, OH – Julia Jock of Agawam, was named to the Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University for Spring 2025. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester

and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate programs across arts, sciences, and

professional fields. With 6,384 students, it ranks among Ohio's largest private universities and is recognized by the Wall Street Journal as being among the nation's top three evangelical universities.

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Opinion

HIKING ■ from page 4

on the wet shoes, socks and clothing that we wore the previous day.

But a strange thing happened on this trip.

packing up a sopping wet tent. Wearing wet shoes and socks for four days was just wearing wet shoes and socks for four days. Not fun. Not enjoyable. But in the grand scheme of things, minor inconveniences and not major catastrophes.

Because we now understand that out here in the wilderness, we have the privilege to CHOOSE our suffering. It is one of our own making. Going into these long hikes, we are aware that there are numerous variables which will affect our comfort and safety. And we are willing to accept them.

Out here, our 'suffering' pales in comparison to the suffering that some are experiencing in this world. Ours is not cast upon us against our will. Many people don't have a choice.

We have now completed 7 of the 14 states on the A.T. Our 16-day backpacking trip ended abruptly at day six, just after we reached the New York border, due to medical emergency back home. More about that in my next column.

See you in the wild places, my friends!



Above, Day 1 at the Pennsylvania/New Jersey border. Right, Day 6 at the New Jersey/New York border. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

We became more accepting of the challenges. We gained perspective... undoubtedly due to the heartache we have been experiencing since our granddaughter, Charlotte's brain cancer diagnosis in January.

On this trip, packing up a sopping wet tent was just



GARDEN ■ from page 4

step for later.

Spoon the paste into containers, or as I like to do, into ice cube trays to be frozen for use later on. If you like garlic, go ahead and add that in. Fan of pine nuts? Go for it!

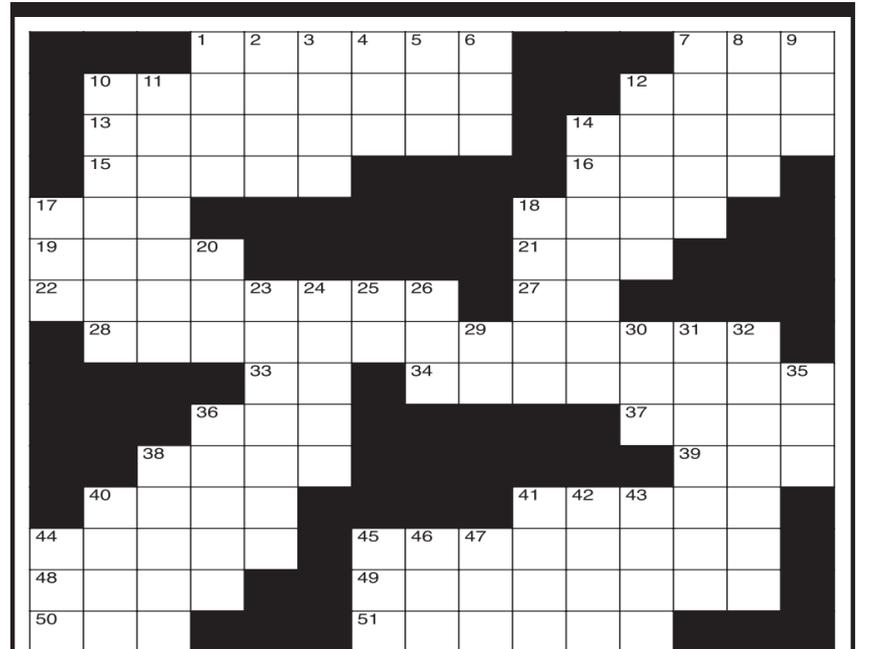
Pop the frozen cubes out

of the tray and into freezer bags. Then you can grab what you need for a particular recipe.

All this talk of basil has got me itching to get my transplants into the ground. Soon enough, let's hope!

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- Bring up
- Child
- Formal written defense
- Bangladeshi currency
- Burial site
- In the lead
- Large recesses in a church
- Count on
- Defunct phone company
- Golf scores
- Afflicts
- Defensive nuclear weapon
- Prominence
- "The Great Lakes State"
- SoCal ballplayer
- Location of White

House

- Magnificence
- Hip hop songstress
- Capital of Yemen
- ___ Blyton, children's author
- Bomb
- Pancake made of buckwheat flour
- Pinkish-violet
- A way to make right
- Monument to one buried elsewhere
- Region south of Dead Sea
- Acts out against
- Harsh cry of a crow
- Formal title for a woman

CLUES DOWN

- Kitchen devices
- Wings
- Mythological birds
- Everyone has one
- Matchstick game
- Bar bill
- Weights
- Satisfactorily
- Small amount
- Tree types
- Small protuberances
- Equivalent of 100K BTU
- Type of horse
- More (Spanish) province
- Argentinian
- A bad act
- Moving in a circular way

- Battery type
- Atomic #58
- Popular breakfast food
- An alternative
- Tooth caregiver
- A way to conform
- Disfigured men
- Cool!
- Genus of mosses
- Body part
- Kashmiri people
- Round water pot
- Something to purchase
- Emit coherent radiation
- Indicates 10
- Advertising metric
- Pitching stat
- Head movement

Memorial Day Tribute

Honoring All Who Served and
Remembering Those Who Made the Ultimate Sacrifice



Members of the American Legion Post 185 present the colors.



Emerson Smith, 4, pushes a stroller as she heads for the parade.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Led by the DARE vehicle, the Agawam Police Department marches.



War re-enactors perform during the parade.



Todd Arsalanian, 2025 St. Patrick's Day Parade Marshal, marches.



The marching band heads down the parade route.



The Agawam High School band performed at the parade.



The 2025 Colleen and Court wave to the crowd.



Thomas Bellefleur, 3, gets a high-five from Spiderman.



Harper O'Brien, 7, gets a hug from Springfield Thunderbirds mascot Boomer.



An antique fire truck takes part in the parade.



The Rosie Robotics team shows off its 2025 robot.



The Lions Club is represented.



Scout Troop 65283 marches.

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SPORTS

Brownies edged in WMass semifinals

AGAWAM – On a rainy afternoon last Friday, Agawam High School boys lacrosse was defeated by visiting East Longmeadow in the semifinals of the Class A Western Mass. Tournament 9-8. The Spartans moved into the fi-

nals of the tournament while Agawam dropped to 12-4 overall on the season. The Brownies await their seeding in the state tournament, which could begin later this week or early next week depending on Agawam's draw.



Jaden Holloway heads toward the opposing goal.



Brayden Martin sends a pass away.



Liam Grealis tries to defend against East Longmeadow.



Brayden Federico makes a pass on the run.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY SOFIA DIGRANDE



Justin Lareau vies for a loose ball.



Casey Thomas gets ready to receive this throw.



Taylor Stairs goes for a slap from the left-handed batter's box.



Avery Gordon sends a pitch to the plate.



Alexina Lentes gets a long lead off second base.



Madison Georgina fields a grounder to second.



Payton Malanson takes a swing.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Kiley Ryan fires a throw back to the circle.

Agawam softball gets quarterfinal win

AGAWAM – Last Wednesday on a cold day to play softball, Agawam High School handily defeated Minnechaug 12-4 in the quarterfinals of the Western Mass. Class A Tournament. Agawam would go on to the semifinals and lose

against East Longmeadow 9-4 in the semifinals last Friday. The Brownies are 11-9 overall to finish the first portion of the postseason, and await their seeding in the state tournament. Seeds will come out late this week.

Sports

New England Mutiny opens up regular season with victory

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Just like they did a year ago, the New England Mutiny didn't have very much trouble dispatching the Maine Footy in the season opener.

Led by Avery Klingensmith, who scored a pair of second half goals, the Mutiny began the 2025 campaign with a 4-1 victory before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium on Saturday, May 17. The match came to an end during the 73rd minute due to a severe thunderstorm.

"We had a very successful season last year and we're looking forward to picking up right where we left off," said Avery Klingensmith, who graduated from Belchertown High School in 2022. "We do have a lot of returners and several new players this season. We always play very well in front of our home fans."

The Mutiny, who finished the 2024 regular season with a perfect 8-0 record, began last season with a 3-1 win versus the Footy. Their only loss came last July against the Santa Clarita Blue Heat, 3-2, in a penalty shootout in the U.W.S. National Finals in Buffalo, New York.

Klingensmith, who was an All-American soccer player in high school, will be wrapping up her collegiate soccer career at American University, which is in Washington D.C., in the fall. She was selected to the Patriot League Women's Soccer Academic All-League Team in 2024.

"Being a member of a quality soccer team like this one helps me prepare for my college season," Klingensmith said. "My college soccer team finished with a .500 record last season and we're hoping to make the NCAA Division 1 Tournament this year. American University is also a very good school academically."

Klingensmith was one of the Mutiny starting midfielders in the season opener.

There are four other players from Western Massachusetts listed on this year's Mutiny roster.

"It's always great to have a Western Mass. presence on the team," said Klingensmith, who's beginning her fourth season with the Mutiny. "It's a lot of fun being teammates with them on this team."

Aida Name, who was one of Klingensmith's high school teammates, is another returning player listed



Laci Lewis makes her way up the field.



Kendall Bodak keeps play moving forward.



Abbey Jones guides a pass by an opponent.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Rachel Marchini passes up the field.



Chioma Okafor heads for the goal.



Taylor Jenkins is tripped up as she tries to clear the ball.

on the Mutiny roster. Name, who lives in Chicopee, was a starting defender against Maine.

Another starter was Kendall Bodak, who graduated from Monson High School. She was also selected as an All-American player by the United Soccer Coaches in high school. She'll be a sophomore member of the women's soccer team at Clemson University in the fall.

Bodak, who's a forward, was listed on the Mutiny roster a year ago, but she didn't play in any matches.

"It's an honor to be a member of this soccer team," Bodak said. "It's also fun being teammates with the other players from Western Mass."

One of Bodak's teammates at Monson High School was Tennessee Murphy, who currently attends The Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Connecticut.

Murphy was also selected as an All-American soccer player last fall. She entered the season opening match for the first time as a defender at the start of the second half.

Another local player on the Mutiny roster is Olivia Crespo, who graduated from Ludlow High School. She'll be entering her senior season at Franklin Pierce University.

For the first time since the Mutiny started playing home games in Ludlow, Hope Santaniello wasn't listed on the opening day roster.

Santaniello, who was an All-American soccer player at Agawam High School, is currently playing for a professional women's soccer team in Iceland.

Alexis Legowski, who was another member of last year's Mutiny squad from South Hadley, is playing for a professional soccer team in Poland,

The Mutiny head coach is Federico Molinari, who also coaches the Western Mass. Pioneers.

"It's always nice to start the season with a win," Molinari said. "I thought we played much better in the second half than we did in the first half."

The Mutiny pretty much dominated the first half, but the match remained scoreless until the 43rd minute.

That's when Laci Lewis sent a crossing pass from the right side into the middle of the box where the ball was headed into the back of the net by Taylor Jenkins giving the Mutiny a 1-0 lead.

Lewis and Jenkins were teammates on the UConn women's soccer team last year.

There are a total of six UConn women's soccer players listed on this year's Mutiny roster.

UConn head coach Mar-

garet Rodriguez is a former Mutiny player.

Klingensmith netted her first goal of the season during the 56th minute.

It was assisted by Kate Howarth, who played in her first match for the Mutiny since 2019.

Howarth began playing for the Mutiny in 2012. After playing for the Boston Breakers in 2013, Howarth returned to the Mutiny side as the team captain in 2014.

Following the 2019 season, Howarth, who's the Mutiny's all-time leading goal scorer and points leader, signed with the Orlando Pride, who's a member of the National Women's Soccer League.

Howarth has been sidelined with a leg injury during the past couple of years, but is healthy again this year.

"It felt very nice to put this jersey on again," Howarth said. "The environment here

is outstanding and I love playing for this team. It's a lot of fun."

Joe Ferrara, who's the owner and Managing Director of the Mutiny, was glad to see Howarth back on the field again.

"It's very special having Kate play for us again," Ferrara said. "She's one of the best players in the history of this club."

The duo of Howarth and Klingensmith hooked up again eight minutes later.

The Footy got on the scoreboard following a goal from Ava Feeley during the 70th minute.

Just before the referee stopped the match, Bodak netted her first goal in a Mutiny uniform.

Abbey Jones was credited with the assist.

The Mutiny will have a week off before hosting Ole' Eagles, who are a new U.W.S. squad at 7 p.m. on May 31.

Volleyball Hall of Fame welcomes new members to board

HOLYOKE – The International Volleyball Hall of Fame (IVHF) is pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to its Board of Directors: Jesus Prieto (Puerto Rico), Cody March (Pacific Northwest, USA) and Alejandro Castillo (Mexico).

"The International Volleyball Hall of Fame is proud to welcome Jesus Prieto, Cody March and Alejandro Castillo to our Board of Directors," said IVHF President Steve Bishop. "Their passion, experience, and commitment to volleyball will be invaluable as we continue to honor the sport's history and celebrate its greatest players, coaches, and officials."

Prieto brings a wealth of financial and administrative experience to the board. Holding a BS in Business Administration from the Univer-



Jesus Prieto



Cody March



Alejandro Castillo

Confederacion Norte, Centroamerica y Caribe de Voleibol (NORCECA) and Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB).

"Thanks to Steve Bishop, George Mulry and the rest of the IVHF board," said Prieto. "My life in the volleyball community keeps getting better. I am truly looking forward to working with this fine group of people to help honor, recognize and preserve volleyball."

March brings a wide scope of experience to the IVHF Board, having served in various leadership roles within USA Volleyball. He is currently the Executive Director of the Columbia Empire Region and has been instrumental in the growth and development of volleyball in the Pa-

cific Northwest. March has demonstrated a keen ability to foster community engagement and partnerships within the volleyball sphere. His dedication to the growth and accessibility of the sport has significantly impacted the Pacific Northwest region.

"I am humbled & honored to serve on the Board of Directors for the International Volleyball Hall of Fame," said March. "I look forward to working with such a forward-thinking group so dedicated to this organization, and I hope I can meaningfully contribute to the Hall's continued growth and advancement. I'm grateful for the Board's trust in me and I am deeply appreciative of this opportunity."

Castillo is a bilingual and multicultural marketing professional with a background in business. He served as a national referee in Mexico for nearly 20 years, is a TV analyst for collegiate indoor and beach volleyball in Mexico and has been a driving force

behind the sport's popularity there. He is the founder of the Plus Volleyball platform, with outlets on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, which features more than 300 interviews with volleyball guests from more than 40 different countries. He will serve as the co-chair of the IVHF International Media Advisory Council (IMAC), a new endeavor to expand the global reach of volleyball.

IMAC plays a crucial role in capturing and sharing stories of volleyball's legends and greats along with evaluating and developing criteria for the induction process across all categories, ensuring a fair and transparent selection of inductees that reflects the global nature of volleyball. Composed of respected members of the international volleyball media community, IMAC brings diverse perspectives and a wealth of experience to their advisory role.

Shlosser shuts out Central in WMass quarterfinals

AGAWAM – For the second straight week, Gavin Shlosser led the Agawam High School baseball team to a big win. Last Wednesday, Shlosser allowed just two hits and struck out eight as the Brownies defeated Central High School 5-0 in the Class A Western Mass. Tournament. Aiden Lavelle had a hit and two RBI while Vincent Catelotti turned in three hits.

Agawam would move into the semifinals of the tournament on Monday morning, and lost to Minnechaug Regional 4-2.

The Brownies are 11-9 to finish the first part of the postseason and await their seeding in the Division 2 State Tournament. Seeds and games for that will be announced late this week.

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 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
 05/29/2025

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.
HD25P1016EA
 Estate of:
Anna Rose Bachmann
 Also known as:
Ann Bachmann
Date of Death: 02/13/2025
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 **Deborah A McClernan of Mantua, NJ** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Deborah A McClernan of Mantua, NJ** 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 06/23/2025**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: May 12, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
 Register of Probate
 05/29/2025

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.
HD25P1018EA
 Estate of:
Sandra A Boyer
Date of Death: 11/18/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
 A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Nicole E Turgeon of Feeding Hills, 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: **Nicole E Turgeon of Feeding Hills, 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 06/19/2025**. 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 22, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
 Register of Probate
 05/29/2025

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
 05/29/2025

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
 05/29/2025

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
 05/29/2025

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.
HD25C0173CA
 In the matter of:
Debbie Whitehead
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Debbie Whitehead of Agawam, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Debbie Angelica Cloutier
IMPORTANT NOTICE
 Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/18/2025**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
 WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: May 21, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 05/29/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD23P1654PM
 In the interests of:
Payton R Charette
Of: Feeding Hills, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A CONSERVATOR

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Marline A Claremont** of Feeding Hills, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Conservator of the Respondent. The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The

original petition is on file with the 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 06/09/2025**. 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 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 12, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
 Register of Probate
 05/29/2025

Notice from the Silver Lake Corporation in Agawam, and the Pond and Lake Connection
On Monday, June 2, 2025 the Pond and lake Connection will be conducting an Aquatic Plant Management program at Silver Lake in Agawam, MA.

Two additional treatments are scheduled for July 14, and August 13.
 The use of the lake's water will be restricted as follows:
 Swimming, Fishing, Boating – restricted until completion of treatment.
 Livestock watering – 1 day.
 Direct Drinking – 3 days.
 Irrigation – 5 days

If you need additional information, contact Silver Lake Corporation, or the Pond and Lake Connection @ 203-885-0184
 05/29/2025



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Agawam Advertiser News
OBITUARY POLICY

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE

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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



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holyroodguild.com

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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.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Hypnosis for Weight Loss presentation at APL

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 con-

fidence 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 recipes 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.thebestyouthrough-hypnosis.com. She is located at 159 Main Street, Unit N, Agawam, MA 01001.

Ping pong offered every Thursday at Senior Center

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” pro-

vides 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.

Feline Friends Sanctuary announces upcoming fundraiser

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 Restau-

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

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, non-profit 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.

AFD 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 Monoxide detectors in the home free of charge. To be eligible, participants must meet the follow-

ing 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.

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/aplsumervolunteers

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.

COUNCIL ■ from page 1

thing else, that’s their opinion and they have a right to it. Although it’s not a valid one. They also suggested there is no harm from the frequency, but the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) says it’s a growing radiation concern with these cell towers. Increasingly as we go through the years, now with the 5G that increases the radiation factor. And the FCC suggests that these cell towers are at a minimum 1320 feet from any residential dwelling. The proponents here want to put it 700 feet from that street from the residential areas over there. Which in my opinion was not a very good thing to do,” Rossi said.

From real or imagined concerns, Rossi continued stating that when a concerned resident approaches him with these concerns,

“It’s my responsibility as a city councilor to take

heed of those concerns.” Rossi continued with bringing up the overlay district and the purpose of them, specifically the zoning laws and how they shape the landscape of the town. Based on the Mass.gov website, the use of overlay districts provides communities with an opportunity to meet the unique needs of geographic areas that may either require higher levels of protection or that may not be reaching their fullest development potential. They provide one of the most flexible means to alter zoning as they can impose either greater restrictions or more flexible provisions depending on the goals for the district.

“Agawam has 17 cell towers and right now, the town average has 99.27% coverage of four major carriers of the cell towers. I don’t see the need for this cell tower. I asked if they could move it to a different location and they said they

could move it, but don’t want to go through the permitting process because it would involve wetlands,” Rossi continued. With concerns of cost, permitting, and with no guaranteed success and approval meaning, “They want to continue going where they are and ask us to create a zoning ordinance where in fact there is a risk. We must consider what those risks are. I can’t in all good conscience go for an overlay zone change to allow something, that church has a lot of acreage and if they want to put a cell tower and I am not opposed to it, just move it to a safe distance from those houses. They refuse to make the change over there.”

Rossi repeated the 99.27% cell coverage of the town.

The council voted to approved of the overlay district change to discuss the cell tower further.

SPELLING ■ from page 1

Congratulations to all those students who participated in the Spelling Bee this year.

The AJWC is a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts, Junior Membership. Please consider joining us at a meeting.

For more information visit www.agawamgfwc.com, or check us out on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AgawamJuniorWomensClub/>

Sports

HoopHall announces college series

PHOENIX – Position Sports, in partnership with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, announced the field for the 2025 Hall of Fame Series Baltimore at the CFG Bank Arena on Monday, Nov. 3. This marks the Hall of Fame’s return to Charm City following last year’s successful debut event.

The Baltimore double-header will feature compelling local matchups that celebrate the region’s rich basketball heritage. Headlining the night, Maryland will face Coppin State—lo-

cated 30 and 3 miles from CFG Bank Arena, respectively—while Towson takes on Loyola Maryland, situated just 10 and 6 miles away. These regional matchups promise an electric atmosphere and a can’t-miss night of college basketball.

“Returning to Baltimore for a second year demonstrates the growing excitement around the Hall of Fame Series and the region’s passion for college basketball,” said Melissa Meacham-Grossman, President of Position Sports. “With Maryland headlin-

ing alongside respected local programs like Coppin State, Towson, and Loyola, this event highlights the incredible basketball tradition in and around Baltimore.”

Fans can sign up for presale information now at HOFSeries.com. Further details regarding ticketing, game time, broadcast coverage, and media credentials for the event will be shared at a later date.

The Hall of Fame Series, owned and operated by Position Sports, is a premier collection of multi-game,

singular events that feature top collegiate basketball programs in high-profile non-conference matchups played both domestically and abroad. Past stops have included the following cities: Baltimore (2024), Charlotte (2023), Las Vegas (2023-24), New York (2024), Phoenix (2023-24), San Antonio (2023), and Toronto (2023).

For more Hall of Fame Series information and updates, please visit HOFSeries.com or follow @HOFSeries on all social platforms.

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“I’m very honored to be appointed as a Board Member of the IVHF,” said Castillo. “I truly love the history of our sport and am committed to preserve it and share it.”

“We are thrilled to welcome Jesus, Cody and Alejandro to the IVHF Board,” said IVHF Executive Director George Mulry. “Their passion for volleyball and their extensive experience will be invaluable as we continue to expand the reach of the Hall of Fame and promote the sport around the world.”

The IVHF also recognizes the significant contributions of outgoing board member

Rob Slavin. Slavin served on the IVHF Board and its Executive Committee as Treasurer for many years and has been instrumental in the Hall of Fame’s success.

“We are grateful to Rob for his dedication and service to the IVHF,” said Mulry. “He has made a lasting impact on the Hall of Fame and the sport of volleyball.”

The IVHF is committed to honoring the sport’s history and celebrating its greatest players, coaches, and officials. With the addition of Jesus Prieto, Cody March and Alejandro Castillo to the Board, the IVHF is poised for continued growth and success.