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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

June 5, 2025 | Vol. 47, No. 14 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Town awards trash, recycling contract to new vendor

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – Ever since single-stream recycling and trash removal was introduced for the town of Agawam about a decade ago, Republic Services has been the vendor Agawam residents have observed coming by their homes to collect each week.

Last week, the town announced it was ending its relationship with Republic and awarded the trash and recycling removal contract to USA Waste and Recycling.

According to Tracy DeMaio, Environmental Project Coordinator with the Agawam Department of Public Works, the town has signed a new contract with USA which will begin on Tuesday, July 1, which is also the start

of the next fiscal year. It is not known how long the new contract is for.

Most residents will not see a noticeable change in their basic services. For every residence in the community, there are two barrel issued, a trash barrel and a single-stream recycling barrel. Single-stream recycling allows anything that is a recyclable item to be placed in the bin. Most recycle bins in Agawam are orange and brown, matching the town's school colors.

The Town purchased those barrels when they started the program and will continue to own those barrels. They will continue to be utilized and residents will not need purchase new barrels.

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Honoring the Ultimate Sacrifice



Members of the Agawam Veterans Council lead a Memorial Day ceremony at Agawam American Legion Post 185. See more photos on page 6. SUBMITTED PHOTO



Ms. Connecticut Senior America 2017, Charlene Saltonstall Armitage and Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 1995, Jessie Rivers at The 32 Annual Ms. Massachusetts Senior America Pageant.



Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 2024, Victoria Wright crowning Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 2025 Laura Hicks.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Therrien welcomed as school committee's new student representative

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
amunson@turley.com

AGAWAM - On May 27, current Student Representative Christina Ritter introduced and welcomed its new student representative, Aiden Therrien. The committee was also posed with consideration of adding a second student representative to add a more diverse student perspective to the school committee.

While welcoming Therrien to the stand, Ritter had a few words for the committee before her time ended as student representative.

"I really appreciated the opportunity to serve everyone as the student representative. It's been a valuable experience for myself, and I am grateful to have represented the student body and get to know all of you for the past year. Now I would like to introduce the new student representative Aiden Therrien. Aiden is involved in the school and especially when it comes to athletics. He's the founder and head of 'Gwam Athletics Club which runs a student led Instagram account sharing game times and amazing photography, recapping scores, and highlighting a player of the week to recognize amazing athletic achievements. Not only is the organization providing great experiences, but a lot of families and students rely on

Instagram to stay up to date with school sports and get to know the athletes behind the games. He also made a great impact on Agawam Athletics as the varsity member of the soccer team since last year."

Therrien serves as a MIAA student ambassador where he works with students to give input on athletic policies and shape the future of high school sports in Massachusetts. He is also a member of the National Honors Society and Spanish and History National Honors Society.

Ritter added that Therrien is working as a referee across the state and in his free time, he does photography involving school sports and other events. Ritter ended by saying, "I am confident he's a good fit for this role and represents the student body very well."

Therrien began by introducing himself and reiterating his involvement within the school, while adding his gratification towards the staff that nominated him.

"The 'Gwam Athletics club is essentially aimed at providing a platform for athletes and giving them, I feel, the recognition that they deserve," Therrien said. "There was a need in our school for that, and I saw a need and I filled it. I look forward to working with all of you next year."

Ritter passed on to Therrien the student representative sash to end his introduction.

City hosts 32nd annual Senior America pageant

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

HOLYOKE - On Sunday, May 25, the 32nd Annual Ms. Massachusetts Senior America Pageant was held.

The event took place at Holyoke High School. Set up outside the school's auditorium was a display of the past women who have competed in the pageant and won the title of queen. Ms. Massachusetts Senior America of 2024 was Victoria Wright, she was at the pageant Sunday ready to pass on her crown to the next queen. This memora-

ble presentation of all the past queens truly showed how important this pageant is to the community as well as the women who compete each year. This pageant has been going on for decades and it's clear each queen is remembered for inspiration and guidance. A raffle was going with a cash prize, selling tickets for the raffle was Mary Lee Manning and David Jenney.

Manning was the runner up for the 2024 pageant. She said her experience competing in the Ms. Massachusetts Senior America Pageant last year and the community she

found within the pageant world.

"It was a wonderful experience," Manning said. "I learned a lot. I met wonderful people. We go and entertain in some wonderful places for seniors. Everyone is great. We go to senior centers, we go everywhere to entertain, it's great. I hope more people will get involved in it. I think they should try a new experience in their life, try something different. If you have a talent, or even if you don't think you have a talent, they find a talent for you. I do country music. I love to dress up in all

the outfits and go out there and entertain. It's so much fun." When asked what she hoped people would get out of watching the pageant she told us, "I hope they get entertained and I also hope that maybe some of them would join the club.

David Jenney helped Manning sell the raffle tickets before the pageant began. Jenney said the pageant is important and how it positively impacts women entering "The Age of Elegance." "There's a variation of talent that goes on. It's import-

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Gulluni shares recent narcotics investigations

SPRINGFIELD – Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni announced the results of three major drug trafficking investigations that have dismantled significant narcotics distribution networks operating in and around Springfield.

“These operations reflect the power of collaboration between my office and our local, state, and federal law enforcement partners,” said District Attorney Gulluni. “Together, we’ve made a significant impact on the availability of dangerous drugs in our region and brought dozens of traffickers to justice.”

DA Gulluni was joined by Massachusetts State Police Lieutenant Colonel Marc Lavoie of the Division of Homeland Security and Preparedness; Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Tucker of the Division of Investigative Services; Springfield Police Superintendent Lawrence Akers, among other representatives.

The investigations were

led through DA Gulluni’s office and the Hampden County Narcotics Task Force (HCNTF), the Strategic Action & Focused Enforcement Task Force (SAFE), and the Massachusetts State Police’s Commonwealth Interstate Narcotics Reduction Enforcement Team Western Region (CINRET West). The operations were supported by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) New York, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) New York and Springfield, the Massachusetts State Police Gang Unit, and the Springfield Police Department Firearms Investigation Unit.

Operation One: Garcia Market Drug Trafficking Organization

Since October 2022, investigators with the DA’s HCNTF and SAFE units have been investigating drug trafficking activity centered around Garcia Market (344 Orange St.) and Angel’s Used Appliances (167 White St.), which

served as fronts for an extensive trafficking network. The area has long been plagued by gun violence, with over 80 firearm-related calls to police during the investigation period.

On May 15, investigators executed arrests and seizures, resulting in:

- 12,138 grams of cocaine
- 530 grams of fentanyl
- 15 firearms
- 19 individuals arrested

The defendants face a range of charges including drug trafficking, firearm possession, child endangerment, and stolen property offenses.

Operation Two: Springfield-Bronx Drug Pipeline

In the summer of 2024, CINRET West began investigating Anthony Perez of Springfield for heroin/fentanyl distribution. Surveillance revealed that Perez was supplied by a large-scale drug trafficking organization operating in both Hampden County and the Bronx.

In collaboration with HSI



Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni addresses the media at the Hampden District Attorney’s Office’s May 27 press conference sharing details of three major operations that disrupted dangerous supply lines of drugs in our region. To his left are Springfield Police Department Deputy Chief Steven Kent and Springfield Police Superintendent Lawrence Akers. To his right are Massachusetts State Police members Lt. Colonel Marc Lavoie, Lt. Colonel Daniel Tucker, and Detective Lt. Liam Jones.



The three operations represent a collaboration between the District Attorney’s office, state, local, and federal law enforcement organizations, to get dangerous drugs and weapons off the street.

and DEA agents in New York and Massachusetts, investigators conducted a months-long investigation, leading to:

- 2,061 grams of heroin/fentanyl
- 3,060 grams of cocaine
- 29 firearms
- 30 individuals arrested

The defendants face trafficking, firearm, and conspiracy charges. The most recent arrests occurred on May 14.

Operation Three: Luna Drug Trafficking Organization

In a recent investigation, the Massachusetts State Police Gang Unit and Springfield Police Department uncovered a cocaine trafficking network run by Ruben Luna and associates.

Search warrants executed on May 22 at three Spring-

field locations uncovered:

- Approximately 20 kilo grams of cocaine
- 437 grams of cocaine
- 570 grams of cocaine
- 78 grams of heroin
- Additional narcotics and pills
- Three individuals arrested

The defendants are facing trafficking and conspiracy offenses.

All defendants are presumed innocent of all allegations until proven guilty.

Use of Advanced Detection Technology

Gulluni also highlighted the role of new technology, including the MX908 Drug Analyzer and the TruNarc Analyzer, provided through a partnership with the Massachusetts National Guard. These devices enabled inves-

tigators to detect substances such as fentanyl, cocaine HCL, xylazine, eutylone, tramadol, and several cutting agents, enhancing field-level narcotics identification.

“These three operations have disrupted dangerous supply lines and removed dozens of high-level traffickers from our streets,” said DA Gulluni. “Our priority remains saving lives, preventing overdoses, and holding accountable those who profit from addiction and violence.”

As the region heads into the summer months - when drug trafficking and violence historically rise - Gulluni emphasized that these proactive operations send a strong message and are intended to protect public safety in Springfield, Hampden County, and beyond.

Authors Madison, Jewell to give talks on recent books

AGAWAM – On Monday, June 9, there will be a lecture by author Robert Madison on his biography of Lt. Richard Falley, Jr. It will be held in the Judy Clini Community Room from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Madison’s lecture is about the untold service of Lt. Richard Falley and the military career of a Western Massachusetts Patriot in time to celebrate our country’s 250th Anniversary.

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 the 1756 French and Indian

war followed by his 1775 service after the Lexington and Concord conflict, included are accounts of Colonel Knox’s Artillery Train and a comment made in a Westfield tavern, Falley’s involvement in the 1776 Battle of Bunker Hill, General Burgoyne’s 1777 surrender at Saratoga, NY, a history of Shays’ Rebellion, and ends with Falley’s Springfield Armory contract for 1,000 muskets in 1798.

Register today to learn about this forgotten piece of New England Revolutionary War history and celebrate our nation’s 250th anniversary of independence.

On Tuesday, June 10 at 2 p.m., there will be a virtual session with author Lisa Jewell.

You’re invited to an exclusive preview event with New York Times best-

selling author Lisa Jewell as she introduces readers to her forthcoming title Don’t Let Him In (Out June 24, 2025!). Along with an introduction to her newest bone-chilling, psychological thriller, Jewell will chat about her life as a writer and her critically-acclaimed body of work.

In Don’t Let Him In, three women are connected by one man in this kaleidoscopic thriller.

Nick Radcliffe is a man of substance and good taste. He has a smile that could melt the coldest heart and a knack for putting others at ease. He’s just what Nina Swann needed in her life after her husband’s unexpected death. But to Nina’s adult daughter, Ash, Nick seems too slick, too polished, too good to be true. Without telling her mother, Ash begins digging into Nick’s past.

Arts League Exhibition on display in June

HOLYOKE – During the month of June, Wistariahurst Museum at 238 Cabot St. in Holyoke will host an exhibition of artwork by members of the Holyoke Arts League (HAL). The museum and gardens are the historic home of the Skinner Family that owned and operated the Skinner Silk Mill, the world’s premier silk fabric production facility in the city’s Canal District.

We hope you will attend our opening reception and meet the artists who live in Western Massachusetts and

Northern Connecticut on Monday, June 2, from 5-7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Throughout the month of June, the exhibition may be viewed free of charge during the museum’s open hours, Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

This juried show will include entries in oil and pastel, watercolor, acrylic, tempera, gouache and other non-oil wet media, graphite, charcoal, printmaking and other graphic media, sculpture and ceramics. Submissions are

accepted through May 24.

Light refreshments will be served. The Arts League was founded in 1923 and is now celebrating its 102nd year in Holyoke. The League holds artist demonstrations and weekly adult figure drawing sessions. For more information about HAL, visit <https://www.holyoke-arts-league.org> online. You may also address inquiries to holyokeartsleague@gmail.com For more information about Wistariahurst, call (413) 322-5660 or online at info@wistariahurst.org.

Polish food sale to be held on June 14

LUDLOW – A Polish Food Sale will be held on Saturday, June 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church

Hall, 25 Parker St. Indian Orchard, MA. There will be Golabki (3) \$12, Kapusta (Large) \$10, Pierogi (12), Pierogi Available, Cabbage,

Potato and cheese \$14, Sweet Cheese, Blueberries \$15

Everyone is welcome to come and purchase.

Sacred Heart holding St. Anthony Mass

AGAWAM – Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills will be hosting a special Mass in honor of St. An-

thony of Padua on Friday, June 13 at 9 a.m. It will include the blessing and distribution of the St. Anthony

bread and veneration of the relic.

All are welcome to attend.

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Senior Center announces more activities for June

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

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 the fascinating history of 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); Agawam 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.

Senior Center Brainstorming Session

Tuesday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Dining Hall

Senior Center Staff, Friends of the Agawam Senior Center, Agawam Council On Aging, and Agawam Media are pulling together resources to better serve Senior Center members with future programs and events. Please join us for this important session as your input is vital in helping us understand the wants and needs of our members. The Brainstorming Session will be held on June 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Dining Hall. Each of the four previously mentioned groups will give

a brief introduction of their involvement, purpose, and commitment, to the Senior Center followed by Q&A and an exchange of ideas with those in attendance. Please plan to attend and help us to truly put our best foot forward to make this a Senior Center worthy of your continued membership.

Coffee and Chats with Mayor Johnson

Wednesday, June 18 at 10 in the Friends Coffee Shop

Join Mayor Johnson in the Friends Coffee Shop at 10 a.m. for all the latest and up to date information regarding the beautiful Town of Agawam and Feeding Hills.

Coffee Talk With Veterans - Coffee Shop

Wednesday, June 18 at 1 p.m. in the Friends Coffee Shop

Are you a Veteran? We here at the Agawam Senior Center would like to offer you a space to have a coffee or tea on us. Come alone or bring a buddy. We would love to get to know you.

The Dementia Experience

Monday, June 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Seminar Hall

The Dementia Experience is a powerful, 30-minute interactive training using sensory modification. Participants will engage in typical daily activities while encountering what it feels like to live with dementia. Stephanie Schellenger MHS, CDP the Memory Care Program Director from Heritage Woods will be here at the Senior Center to conduct this educational experience. Please call Kristina to register for a time slot.

Forastiere Pre-Planning Presentation Lunch and Learn

Wednesday, June 25 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. in the Veterans Hall

Join Forastiere Funeral Home for a lunch and learn. We will have a pizza lunch and dessert as you dive further into the benefit of pre-planning services for your future and peace of mind. Please call Kristina at 413-726-2836 by Friday, June 20, 2025 to register for this event.

Eversource to install smart meters

SPRINGFIELD – With work to prepare the electric system to support Eversource's transition to smart meters nearly complete in Western Massachusetts, the energy company is alerting customers that crews will begin upgrading meters in the next few months.

Eversource will begin installing the first smart meters at customers' homes and businesses in late July and continue through the following months. At the same time, the energy company will expand to Eastern Massachusetts its work installing network devices—technology that will extend the range of Eversource's meter network and help the smart meters safely and securely communicate important information back to the energy company.

Eversource will send customers in Western Massachusetts a series of notification letters approximately 90, 60, and 30 days in advance of work to install smart meters starts in their community. The energy company is also reaching out directly to customers in Eastern Massachusetts

with information about what to expect as work to support the transition to smart meters begins in their neighborhood.

"Now more than ever, we're focused on empowering our customers with greater control over their energy use, and smart meters are key to those efforts," said Eversource Senior Vice President of Customer Operations, Digital Strategy and Chief Customer Officer Jared Lawrence. "Upgrading to smart meters is like replacing an old flip phone with a smart phone. This modern, smart tech will enable our customers to monitor their energy use in near real time—including how they use power, how much they use and peak times of use during the day—so that they can make informed decisions about the most effective ways to reduce their energy consumption and bill.

The information smart meters provide will also significantly improve service for our customers by enabling our team to proactively address power outages before they occur and to deliver enhanced,

real-time outage alerts."

In addition to helping customers better manage their energy use and speeding power restoration outside storms, smart meters will enable Eversource to start or end a customer's service remotely when they move in or out of their home, eliminating the need to schedule a crew to come out. Customers will also be able to sign up to receive high usage alerts if the amount of energy they use exceeds a set threshold based on their historical energy usage and other helpful notifications.

The transition to smart meters for all Eversource's Massachusetts electric customers is expected to take approximately three years to complete.

Eversource will send a letter to customers whose meters are being upgraded to the latest technology in the next few months, and all customers will be notified several times in advance of work to install their new smart meter.

Learn more about Eversource's transition to the modern power grid of the future.

Celebrate Juneteenth at Wistariahurst



HOLYOKE – On June 19, join Wistariahurst Museum and Genuine Culture in the gardens as we host our annual Juneteenth event, Celebrate Juneteenth!

This event commemorates freedom and the country's second Independence Day through community and celebration. Wistariahurst and Genuine Culture are excited to collaborate once again to bring back this celebration for the third year. Enjoy activities throughout Wistariahurst's grounds. Play games in the gardens, get creative with hands-on art projects, and get your face painted. There's something for everyone, with activities for people of all ages to participate in.

This event will feature performances including live-

ly music from the Young@Heart choir, who "prove you can grow old without growing boring." The Bethlehem Baptists will also share song and spoken word performances. DJ Pzo Pete will provide tunes throughout the event that will get you dancing! When you finally work up an appetite after all of this fun and games, we will have local food vendors to satisfy your cravings. White Lion Brewing Co. will be serving up beverages galore with 10 drinks on tap. Souper Sweet will be serving up sandwiches and soups to guests as well.

Treat yourself by shopping for an array of products from crystals to jewelry. Black owned businesses, makers, and artists will be selling a variety of locally

made items. Local organizations will also have tables at the event, giving you the opportunity to learn about their initiatives, and what work they're doing in the community.

Juneteenth serves as a poignant reminder of the remarkable resilience of Black lives, symbolizing the challenges and victories of formerly enslaved individuals striving for unity, education, and political engagement during the Reconstruction period.

So mark your calendars and bring your friends and family to Wistariahurst Museum on June 19th, 2025 12:00-3:00pm! It's going to be a day filled with joy, laughter and a whole lot of celebration. Let's make memories, honor history, and uplift the voices of the Black community in Holyoke. Best of all, admission to this celebration is completely free and open to the public! We can't wait to see you there.

Wistariahurst Museum has received a grant from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, through its Festivals & Projects grant program to support this event.

HCC to host July 4th fireworks

HOLYOKE — The City of Holyoke will be hosting the annual Fourth of July fireworks on Friday, June 27 (with a rain-date of June 29). The event will take place on the grounds of Holyoke Community College, at 303 Homestead Avenue.

Vendors interested in taking part in the event should contact the Parks and Recreation Department before June 13, for a permit application at 413-322-5620.

We encourage everyone to come early to enjoy the mu-

sic and food from a variety of vendors as well as many children's activities.

The event begins at 6 p.m., with the fireworks display scheduled to start at dusk.

Many of the streets around the college will close early, please plan for alternate routes. We are currently searching for volunteers, please call the Mayor's Office at 413-561-1600.

If you are planning to bring your dog to the fireworks, the dog must be always kept on a leash.

Grange holding Strawberry Shortcake luncheon

AGAWAM – Celebrating 100 years, Community Grange #382 of Feeding Hills will hold a Strawberry Shortcake Luncheon "to-go" on Saturday, June 21. The Grange Hall is located at 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills. Pick-up hours will be 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The menu will consist of a freshly made sandwich of your choice

served with macaroni salad and baked beans.

Dessert will be a strawberry shortcake and a beverage will also be included.

Donation is \$12.00.

Please pre-order your meal(s) by calling (413) 789-2061. The last day for orders is June 18.

Proceeds will benefit 2025 community projects and building fund.

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Opinion

Guest Column



I'm a retired veteran; why must I pay for Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I'm a retired Navy veteran, who is going to be turning 65 years old this year.

My question is concerning mandatory Medicare sign-up requirements. Why do I have to sign up for Medicare coverage at 65 when I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I turn 67? My Social Security benefits will not pay for my mandatory Medicare because I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I'm 67.

I currently pay for Tricare and utilize my local Veterans Administration medical facilities and referrals for my health care. With me turning 65 and having to wait until I'm 67 for my full Social Security benefits, it just seems unfair that I'll have to pay out of pocket Medicare monthly expenses for two years. Is there any way to avoid this unfair penalty?

Signed: Retired Navy Vet

Dear Retired Navy Vet:

First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. Please know that here at the AMAC Foundation we care a lot about our veterans and you may find the "For Veterans" section of our Foundation website interesting - visit www.amacfoundation.org.

Regarding your question, you should be aware that enrolling in Medicare is not mandatory, but there are consequences if you do not enroll when you become eligible, normally at age 65. For one thing, if you are a retired veteran on military Tricare, you will lose your Tricare benefits if you don't enroll in Medicare when you are eligible.

Tricare requires that you enroll in Medicare when eligible. And, since you are not yet collecting Social Security, you will be required to separately pay the Medicare Part B premium directly to Medicare; they will bill you when you enroll in Medicare. Another potential consequence is that if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when you are first eligible, you may incur a lifetime late enrollment penalty for enrolling in Part B later.

Something else to keep in mind is that there are two "parts" to Medicare - Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services and Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services - doctors, medical tests, etc. Medicare Part A is free to you, but there is a premium for Medicare Part B (\$185/month for 2025).

Note that you will need to pay a Part B premium as long as you are enrolled in Medicare Part B (it doesn't go away after you are collecting Social Security, but it is taken from your Social Security payment). And there is no way for you to avoid the Part B premium after enrolling and enrolling

in Part B is necessary for you to continue your military Tricare-for-life benefits. Note that Medicare Part A and Part B do not include prescription drug coverage, but your Tricare coverage usually does.

It's important to note that Medicare and Social Security are two independent senior programs with different eligibility rules. As you may know, you can collect early (reduced) Social Security at age 65 (and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your SS payment). But you would be collecting Social Security early and, in addition to a reduced benefit, you would also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test if you are still working. The SS earnings test limits how much you can earn before some of your SS benefits are taken away if you exceed the earning limit prior to your full retirement age.

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

So, is it unfair that you must pay for Medicare Part B before you are collecting Social Security? Well, I think not, because the two programs are completely independent benefits (the Social Security Administration merely administers Medicare payments as a convenience). Remember your Medicare Part A is free, but you must pay a premium for Part B, and you must take both to retain your military Tricare-for-life benefits. You can visit this site to see how to pay your Medicare premiums until it is later deducted from your Social Security payment: www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/pay-premiums/online-bill-pay.

Once again, thank you for your service to our country.

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Pothole cheerleaders...



Guest Column

The peony takes the stage in June

As I look out my living room window, I can see the chubby round buds of one of my favorite June-bloomers, the peony. No doubt, the plant will be in full flower just in time for my birthday, as it has for a number of decades.

Read on to learn all you need to know, straight from the archives!

Who doesn't love the peony? Its frilly flowers, fine fragrance and fit form make it a favorite in the June perennial border.

And although it only blooms for a short while, the plant itself is reliably hardy and notably long lived in our climate. In fact, the peony that grows in my garden is one my great grandmother

grew in the 1930s! Here are a few tips to keep your peonies thriving for the next seventy years.

Planting Peonies are best planted in the fall, September or October in our area. This timing will give the plants an opportunity to develop a healthy stand of feeder roots before the ground freezes.

Choose a location that receives six or more hours of sun a day. Don't skimp on the size of the planting hole;

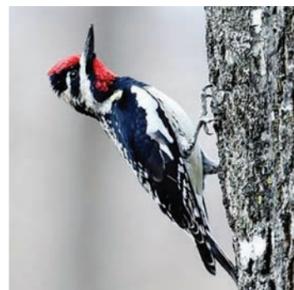
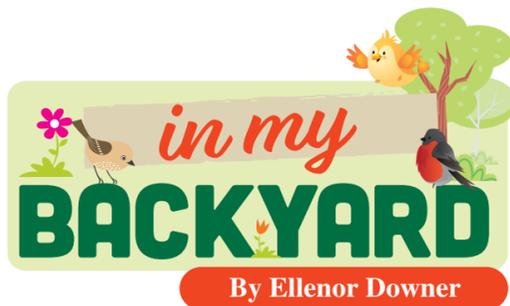
one that measures a foot and a half deep by two and a half feet wide will sustain the plant for many years.

If your soil is average, the addition of a balanced fertilizer may be all that is necessary at planting. Soils that are lean should be improved prior to planting by amending the hole with roughly equal parts good soil and aged compost or manure.

Peonies prefer a pH of 6.0-7.0, a wide enough range to accommodate most home garden situations. If your soil is more acidic than that, bring up your pH by adding lime.

Mail order plants usually arrive bareroot. These can be soaked in a bucket of

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Yellow bellied sapsucker

A Brimfield resident reported a yellow bellied sapsucker pair in his yard.

He said in an email, "I began seeing a male yellow-bellied sapsucker at a dogwood tree in front of the house. The bird was there every day last week. On Saturday, I saw a female on the same tree. I'll try to find a nest, I did find a sapsucker nest in the Brimfield State Forest a few years ago." He also has a mountain ash in his yard with lots of sapsucker holes.

Yellow-bellied sapsuckers lap up the leaking sap and any trapped insects with its specialized, brush-tipped tongue from holes they makes in a variety of trees especially birch and maples

Like many of the woodpecker family, it has barred

black and white feathers with a red cap. The male also has a red throat. They sit still on tree trunks for long intervals while feeding. To find one, listen for their loud mewing calls or stuttered drumming.

Sapsuckers inhabit young deciduous forests. To find a sapsucker's territory, people should keep an eye out for their distinctive, neatly organized rows of sap wells. They cling motionless to trees while calling, birders should look closely at the trees around the for their sharply contrasting black-and-white face stripes and the bright-red patches on their heads.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker makes two kinds of holes in trees to harvest sap. Round holes extend deep in the tree and are not enlarged. The sapsucker in-

serts its bill into the hole to probe for sap. Rectangular holes are shallower and must be maintained continually for the sap to flow. The sapsucker licks the sap from these holes, and eats the cambium of the tree too. New holes usually are made in a line with old holes, or in a new line above the old.

The sap wells made by yellow-bellied sapsuckers attract hummingbirds, which also feed off the sap flowing from the tree. Other birds as well as bats and porcupines also visit sapsucker sap wells. Although a few individuals remain throughout much of the winter in the southern part of the breeding range, most head farther south, going as far south as Panama. Females tend to migrate far-

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Subscriptions
www.turley.com

\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand \$1.00

WEB

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

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

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



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The Agawam Advertiser News (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



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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

COLLEGE NOTES

Local residents graduate from Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WORCESTER – Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) celebrated its 2025 Commencement with a series of ceremonies honoring the achievements of graduates across all degree levels. For the second year, commencement exercises were held at the DCU Center, where WPI conferred 1,298 bachelor's degrees representing a diverse range of disciplines in science, engineering, technology, business, and the humanities. President Grace J. Wang, PhD, and Board of Trustees Chair William

Fitzgerald presided over the 156th Commencement exercises on Friday, May 16.

Wang told members of the Class of 2025 they are entering a changing world filled with competing visions for how to solve challenges and advance society. But, she said, along with knowledge and technical competence in their chosen fields of study, WPI graduates have been equipped with the ability to think critically, to be resilient, to work in teams, and to do it all with a sense of ethics and global responsibility.

"Outside these walls today is a world that needs you," Wang said. "Not just because of what you have learned to do in your chosen field, but because of who you are, and also because of the leadership qualities you built at WPI."

Delivering the undergraduate Commencement address, Michelle Gass '90, president and chief executive officer of Levi Strauss & Co., reflected on her journey from student to global business leader to inspire the Class of 2025. Gass said she's

often asked how a chemical engineering graduate from WPI became CEO of one of the most iconic apparel companies in the world. The answer, she told the graduates, lies in a handful of guiding principles she started refining in her years on the WPI campus.

"I've realized that to the extent I've been successful and able to engineer the kind of life I wanted for myself and my family, it's largely because I learned how to approach problems and moments intentionally and productively,

while keeping real people in mind at all times," Gass said.

Gass and Mark Fuller, chair and treasurer of the George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, a significant supporter of WPI, received honorary degrees as part of the ceremony.

Student speaker Dheepina Zhidro, a biomedical engineering and mechanical engineering double major, reminded fellow graduates about the community they formed for themselves, shaped by a collective experience that included strug-

gle, doubt, and, ultimately, achievement.

"WPI has given us more than an education," Zhidro said. "It has given us a blueprint for how to live, how to lead, create meaningful change, and leave every place we enter better than we found it."

The following graduates earned BS degrees:

- Christian Rua from Feeding Hills, Massachusetts, majored in Computer Science
- Margaret Johnston from Feeding Hills, Massachusetts, majored in Civil Engineering

Croteau Named to Dean's List at Lebanon Valley College

ANNVILLE, PA – Cameron Croteau of Feeding Hills, Mass., is one of more than 800 Lebanon Valley College students named to the Dean's

List for the spring 2025 semester. Dean's list students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.4 out of 4.0.

Croteau is pursuing a

bachelor of science in exercise science at The Valley and is a graduate of Tec Connections Academy.

Assumption students named to Spring 2025 Dean's List

WORCESTER – Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester. Students named to the Dean's List

must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on this prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

- Kailey Butler of Agawam
- Taryn Crowley of Agawam
- Milana Kogan of Feeding Hills
- Emily Padilla of Feeding Hills

Emmanuel student named to All Conference Team

BOSTON – Delaney Brown, of Agawam was recently named to the Great

Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) All-Conference Team, in recognition of out-

standing play as a member of the Emmanuel College women's lacrosse team.

HCC celebrates students for 2024-2025 achievements

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to celebrate the students who earned honors and awards for their outstanding achievements during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Awardees were honored

Wednesday, May 21, during a ceremony in the Leslie Phillips Theater.

Below is a list of HCC honorees and award recipients for the 2024-2025 academic year. Some students received multiple awards.

A full list of students along with their specific honors and awards can be found at hcc.edu/awards-2025

Agawam awardees are: Jacquelyn Bazelow, Miguel Dailey, Eric Jorgensen, Elise Nooney.

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ther south than do males.

Other birds

The Brimfield resident reports the return of the rose-breasted grosbeak, cat-bird and great crested flycatcher. His wife saw two great crested flycatcher near the nest box a pair used last year.

Eagle nests

The Brimfield resident also reported a tree with a bald eagle nest at the Stebins Wildlife Refuge in Longmeadow fell down and the fire department rescued two chicks. They have been

placed in the care of a local raptor rehabilitator. The chicks look to be fully grown, but unable to fly. He will care for the birds until they are old enough to release.

In Ludlow there is another eagle nest and there are two chicks in that nest also but they are still very young, their heads are just visible above the rim of the nest.

Solitary sandpiper

The Brimfield resident reported seeing a solitary sandpiper at one of the ponds in Warren. He said he has seen spotted sandpipers there, but this was the first time he saw a solitary sandpiper at that location.

Black bear

Saturday, May 24 I saw a black bear walking down the side of my road about 4:30 p.m. I slowly followed him in my car. He left the road and went up a steep path leading into some woods. At the top of the hill, he turned and looked oward the road. He had a healthy, dark black coat of fur.

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

water overnight to rehydrate prior to planting.

When it comes time to plant, remember this: eyes point up, roots point down! Eyes should end up no more than two inches below the soil surface; any deeper than that and flowers may be sacrificed. Get your plants off to a good start by watering occasionally until the ground freezes. Once it does, a light mulch can be applied over the peonies to prevent them from being heaved out of the ground during periods of freeze and thaw.

Fertilizing and Watering

Peonies fertilized at planting time require no additional food until the following fall. Bear in mind that too much nitrogen will encourage lots of leaves but few roots and flowers. For that reason choose a fertilizer that is lower in nitrogen than the other nutrients.

After the third season fertilize after blooming, as well as in the fall. An established peony is drought resistant, but if spring rains are scarce, a weekly watering will promote good flowers.

Staking

Heavy peony flowers, especially the old-fashioned types will no doubt bow down to the ground in the wind and rain unless staked. I usually pick some for the vase in the bud stage in an attempt to avoid this task, but nevertheless it makes the plant nice and tidy and should be accomplished. Middle weight bamboo stakes inserted into the ground on the outer edge of the plant cut to three-quarters its height, work well. Run two rows of twine or jute at one third and two thirds up the bamboo, respectively. Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening as you go.

If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don't tighten so much that it looks unnatural. I have been using a three rung, large tomato cage with success for the last several years. The key is to get the cage in place early!

Diseases

One year my peony buds wilted and dried up just pri-

or to bloom. The culprit was botrytis.

Good hygiene can reduce the risk of this fungus invading your garden. Each fall simply cut the stems of herbaceous peonies down to the ground. Haul them off to the trash, don't compost.

If watering is necessary, do so early in the morning and water at the plant's base rather than overhead to keep foliage dry. Any stems that show signs of wilting should be cut away and thrown in the trash as well. Disinfect clippers in between cuts.

By next weekend, I am sure there will be peonies in a vase, perfuming the entire room, just like they have for a number of decades each June...
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.

Fire Department hosts 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 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.



think OUTSIDE of the BIG BOX

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

newspaper correspondent

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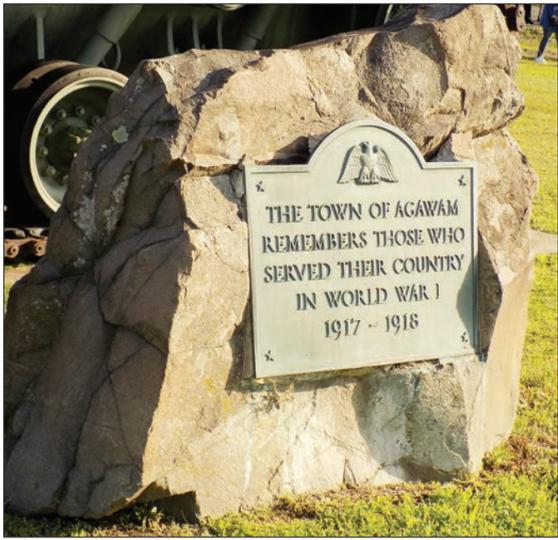


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CLUES ACROSS

- Marsh plant
- Southern constellation ("The Peacock")
- Fogginess
- Home to Fools' Day
- Absence of the sense of pain
- Popular November holiday
- Consume food
- Buddy
- Long-haired goat-antelope
- Japanese honorific
- Actor Malek
- One point south of southeast
- Illegal acts
- As fast as can be done
- Prevents harm to young
- Exclamation of satisfaction
- African nation
- Slow-moving animal
- Oh, goodness!
- A team's best pitcher
- Cleanser
- Radioactivity units
- Expectorated matter
- Satisfy
- European health advocate
- Expression of annoyance
- Strong liquor
- Large red deer
- Holder of less common religious beliefs
- West Indian shrub
- Family of proteins
- Wealthy, influential business leader
- Low spirits
- Approves food
- Monetary unit of Iran and Oman
- Mary __, cosmetics
- Expressed in pithy maxims
- Relaxing spaces
- The NFL's big game
- Proof of payment (abbr.)
- Starchy preparation of dried orchid tubers
- Indicates near
- Minneapolis suburb
- Herring-like fish
- Doctors' group
- Pouches
- Bread dipping in sauce
- Commercials
- A reminder of past events
- Affected by injury
- Geological time
- Stationary part of a motor
- Brings together
- Of sound mind
- Personal computer
- Without (French)
- A bank might give you one
- Agricultural testing organization
- A small island
- Type of gene
- Murres
- Card game
- A measure of human health
- Australian airline (abbr.)
- One point south of due west
- Affirmative



The World War 1 Memorial at the American Legion Post 185.

Memorial Day marked at several locations

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam marked the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 25 with more than just a parade and ceremony at the Veterans Green. Members of the American Legion, Agawam Veterans Council, and their Color Guard, took place in ceremony at numerous

locations. Among them, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge at the border of West Springfield, the Agawam American Legion Post 185, Springfield St. Cemetery, Granger School’s “Field of Parade,” the South Westfield St. Cemetery, and the Agawam Center Cemetery.



A ceremony is held at South Westfield St. Cemetery.



Members of the American Legion ready for a ceremony.



Left: A British flag is placed at one of the graves.



Above: Christian and Gabriel Rua perform “Taps.”

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Better Business Bureau: Sponsored ad could be a scam

Sponsored content is everywhere online. From the top results of your search engine to the tempting deal you scrolled past on social media – it’s hard to avoid.

While most sponsored ads are legitimate, some aren’t. Just as real, trustworthy businesses can purchase sponsored ads to boost their content in your search results or social media feeds, so too can scammers that create impostor websites.

BBB Scam Tracker continues to receive reports from consumers who are tricked into clicking on fake websites that are advertised on search engines and social media as “sponsored.” These scams are not only specific to retail websites and merchandise – there are also reports of sponsored ads for

fake passport renewal services, healthcare open enrollment websites, lost and found services, puppies for sale, and more.

How the scam works

It starts with a simple search. Let’s say you’re looking to buy sneakers, and the top result of your search is a “sponsored” ad for a retailer selling your item. Or, you may see a sponsored ad on your social media feed for the same product.

You click on the link and are taken to what appears to be a legitimate website. The merchandise may even be majorly discounted, and you think you’re getting a great deal. At checkout, you enter your personal and financial information and make your

purchase.

At this point, you may never receive your merchandise. If you try to contact the company’s customer support, they may not have a record of your purchase, making you realize that you purchased from a fake website. You may not be able to find the original website that you purchased from or their contact information may be disabled.

As mentioned, these sponsored ad scams are not always tied to fake retail websites. One person shared their experience on BBB Scam Tracker, “I did a [search engine redacted] search for ‘Apply Global Entry’ and I clicked on the first link that showed up. I didn’t realize it was a sponsored link. I filled out all my daughter’s per-

sonal information including name, date of birth, address, passport information thinking I was on the U.S. government’s website and realized only when I arrived at the payment page that this was a scam.”

How to avoid sponsored ad scams

No matter what, always confirm you are on a legitimate website. Even if a website is sponsored and shows up at the top of your search results, always confirm that you are on the correct website before making a purchase or entering your personal information. Scammers are easily able to create lookalike websites that seem like the real deal. See BBB’s tips for identifying a fake

website.

- Use caution when making purchases through social media shops. Sometimes, sponsored ads on social media platforms take you to purchase products on the app’s shop. You may not be able to tell if the retailer or merchandise is legitimate through the app’s shop. If you’re unsure, you can search for the retailer on your own and find their real website to purchase from. See BBB’s tips for buying from social media ads.

- Be wary of too-good-to-be-true deals. Major discounts on otherwise expensive products often trick people into purchasing items on fake websites. If the deal seems too good to be true, it probably is. Do a quick search to compare

prices on other sites to get an idea of what the item really costs.

- Use BBB to verify business information. If you’re questioning whether the website you’re visiting is an impostor site, check with BBB.org to find the business’s information and verify its web address. If you’re not familiar with the business, you can also see if there are any customer reviews or complaints listed.

Be proactive and keep trusted contact information handy. Having official websites bookmarked or customer service numbers saved can help you avoid scams when you’re in a hurry and searching for a business.

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Agawam Library summer reading program, activities continue this month

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

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 Bi-

ography 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 Cline 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 au-

thor 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 Cline 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.

ACAA announces new exhibit at Cooper’s

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 to carefree2@hotmail.com or contact the artist listed on the art.

Feline Friends are still accepting donations at Agawam Public library

AGAWAM – 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. No cat food (Friskies, Fancy Feast) remains on the shelves, but if you have other donations, we plan to be at Smithland for the last time from 10-12.

Just a reminder that we have a donation bin at the Agawam Public Library. Please include contact information with donations if

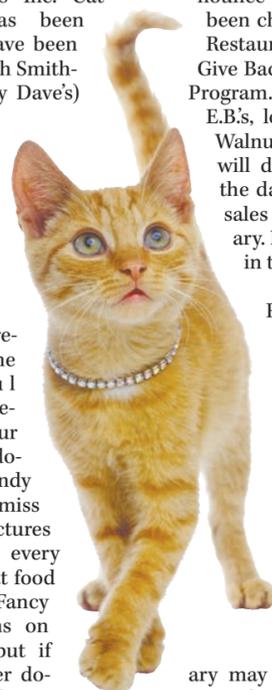
you would like an acknowledgement. We are grateful for every donation.

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 Wednesday Program. On June 18, E.B.’s, located at 385 Walnut Street Ext., will donate 10% of the day’s total food sales to our sanctuary. It includes eat in to take out.

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.



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” 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.

BBB: Recognize wedding photographer scams

You’ve hired a photographer to capture every magical moment of your special day, only to find out at the last minute that they’ve disappeared without a trace.

BBB has received reports of wedding photographer scams on BBB Scam Tracker. Some scammers take couples’ money and disappear before the big day, leaving couples scrambling, while others never receive the treasured photos they paid for in advance.

What are the signs of a wedding photographer scam?

After searching online for a wedding photographer, you find one you like on social media or another wedding vendor site and reach out. After discussing the details and confirming your wedding date with the vendor through email or social media, you decide to book them. You sign a digital contract and send your deposit through a peer-to-peer payment app. Your final payment will be due just before your wedding date.

This type of scam can take a few different turns as wedding dates approach. Some brides report after making the final payment to the photographer before the wedding, the photographer reaches out a few

days before the big day to cancel. In other instances, the photographer may not show up to the wedding at all. When you try to contact the photographer to get your money back, they are unresponsive, or their contact information no longer works.

One person shared their experience with BBB Scam Tracker, “After receiving my money, she stopped contacting me and all of her contact information went out of service. After digging I found she had done the same if not worse to 30+ other brides, some who never received their wedding photos.” This person reported losing \$1,700. Another report states, “... She began the process of setting up a plan for our wedding day. She took our deposit. She took our payment in full the week before the wedding. She cancelled two days before the event and kept the entirety of the money.” This person reported losing \$5,300.

Other couples say that the scam doesn’t take place until after the wedding when waiting for their photos to arrive. Another BBB Scam Tracker entry reads, “...He charges a deposit and has you sign a contract. Full payment is due before the wedding/event and he would either show up and

do the work and you never hear from him again or he doesn’t show up at all, either way you never get any photos [or] videos and he stops all contact with you.” They reported losing \$2,400.

How can you spot and avoid vendor scams?

- Do your research ahead of time. Before you book with any vendor, look at several sources for ratings and reviews. Don’t rely on one website. A great place to start is BBB.org, where you can check the business’s BBB Accreditation and read complaints and reviews. If you suspect a potential scam, search BBB Scam Tracker to see if any reports have been filed.

- Check out the photographer’s online presence. In addition to reading ratings and reviews, look for the photographer’s website and social media pages. Photographers usually share their work on social media, so seeing a long history of happy clients on their pages is typically a good sign.

- Use caution on social media. Be wary of booking services with someone who only operates and communicates through social media. If you can’t find anything else online about the photographer,

obtain some references from the photographer and call them to get feedback.

- Ask for a phone call or in-person meeting. Before booking your photographer, ask to speak on the phone or to meet in person to finalize the details and sign the contract. If the photographer refuses a phone call or a meeting, take that as a warning sign.

- Review your contract and keep it on hand. Check that the terms and conditions meet your expectations, especially regarding cancellations and refunds. Confirm the details for the day of the wedding and the expected turnaround time to receive your edited photos. Review the terms for making your payments, and make sure the contract includes the photographer’s contact information. Be sure to ask for a copy of the contract that is signed and dated by both you and the photographer.

- Peer-to-peer payment apps can be a red flag. Businesses that only accept payments through peer-to-peer payment apps can be a red flag for a scam. If you’re being asked to send a large amount of money through one of these apps, ask if you can instead pay via a different method like a credit card, cash, or cashier’s check.

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SPORTS

After pair of big wins, Pioneers draw in home opener



Mamadi Jiana advances up the field.



Israel Neto looks to clear the ball away.



Santiago Blasco Gomez balances the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Putting the ball into the back of the net wasn't a major issue for the Western Mass. Pioneers in their first two regular season matches.

The Pioneers, who out-

scored Boston City and the Albany Rush, 15-0, on the road, played a 1-1 draw against the Seacoast United Phantoms in the home opener at historic Lusitano Stadium on May 23.

"I thought it was a very good game tonight," said longtime Pioneers head

coach Federico Molinari. "Seacoast won the championship last year and they're a very good team again this year. They defended very well against us. We did play much better during the second half than we did in the first half."

The Pioneers first home match was played on a mis-

erable night weatherwise.

Eleven different players scored a goal in the Pioneers' first two road matches.

Israel Neto led the way offensively with three goals. Matt Cence and Robbie Lyons both scored two goals. The other goals for the Pioneers were scored by Oskar

Kaufmann, Aiden Kelly, Austin Bush, Jose Suarez, Jose Bustamante, Gustavo Barbosa, and Mamadi Jiana, who's a former member of the Chicopee boys' soccer team.

The Phantoms (0-1-1), who are the defending USL League Two National champions, had won the previous

three matchups between the two rivals held at Lusitano Stadium.

The home team had an opportunity to take an early lead, but a breakout opportunity by Kaufmann in the second minute of the match

DRAW | page 9

Brownies suffer walk-off loss in state tournament opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHARLTON—Agawam senior righthander Gavin Shlosser received plenty of support from his defense

in the first six innings of the Division 2 preliminary round game at Bay Path, which is a vocational high school located in Charlton.

Things didn't go very well for the 33rd-seeded Brownies in the bottom of seventh inning, as the 32nd-seeded Minutemen battled back for a 2-1 walk-off victory, last Thursday afternoon.

"We played one of our best games of the season in the first six innings," said Agawam head coach Jay Yarymowicz. "You just have to give Bay Path credit for pulling it out in the end."

Agawam, who upset Springfield Central in the quarterfinals of the Western Mass. Class A tournament before losing to Minnechaug Regional in the semifinals, qualified for the Division 2 state tournament for the first time since 2023. They finished the 2025 campaign with an 11-8 overall record.

Shlosser, who's the ace of the Brownies pitching staff, is one of the seven seniors listed on the Brownies varsity roster. He's going to continue playing baseball at Framingham State University next year.

The other Brownies seniors, who'll be receiving their diplomas at Springfield Symphony Hall on June 14, are Nathan Ukrainets, Vincent Catelotti, Owen Lavelle, Cody Adamczyk, Joe Szemela, and Jonah Higby.

"The seven seniors are very special players," Yarymowicz said. "They worked very hard every day, and I can't say enough good things about those guys."

Bay Path (17-5), who was scheduled to face top-seeded Plymouth North in the round of 32 game, only had three

singles against Shlosser during the first six innings. They didn't have a runner reach second base until the bottom of the seventh inning.

Shlosser was helped with three double-plays and an outstanding diving catch by junior centerfielder Parker Bean in the second inning. Overall, the righthander allowed two runs on six hits with seven strikeouts. He issued only one walk.

The Brownies entered the bottom of the seventh holding onto a 1-0 lead. They only needed to record three more outs to advance to the round of 32, but the contest ended before that took place.

Senior Dale Nussey, who was the Minutemen starting pitcher, lined a single into center field leading off the frame. Senior shortstop Jacob Delvalle followed with a double putting runners at second and third with no outs. Yarymowicz elected to intentionally walk sophomore first baseman Max Lapriore which loaded the bases.

Following a mound visit, Bay Path senior right fielder Josh Hemingway was hit by a pitch forcing home the tying run. The bases were still loaded when senior left fielder Hunter Davis hit a foul pop-up that was caught by Catelotti next to the Bay Path dugout, which is located on the third base side of the field. After making the catch in play, Catelotti, who's the Brownies third baseman, fell over the out of play line. It allowed the runner at third base to score the winning run.

Watching the play unfold from the first base dugout, Yarymowicz thought Catelotti caught the ball after crossing the line, which would've made it a dead ball. The home plate umpire didn't see it the same way.

TOURNEY | page 9



Agawam High School boys volleyball was the runners up in the Western Mass. title game.

Top-seeded Brownies stunned by Westfield

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—For some unknown reason, Chicopee Comprehensive has not been a very friendly place for the Agawam boys' volleyball team this spring.

Agawam lost their only match of the 2025 regular season to the Chicopee Comp Colts, 3-1, at Curry Gymnasium at the beginning of April.

The top-seeded Brownies made another visit to Comp on May 24. Once again, they suffered a 3-1 loss to archrival and second seeded Westfield in the Western Mass. Class A finals.

"We haven't played very well in this gym this year," said Agawam head coach Kevin Pender. "If I knew the reason why, I would fix it. We got off to a very slow start in today's match. You just have to give Westfield a ton of credit."

Westfield (18-4) took the first two sets 25-22, and 25-19 before Agawam (19-2) kept their hopes of winning back-to-back Class A titles alive by squeaking out a two-point win (25-23) in the third set.

The Bombers held the lead in the fourth set from start to finish and they took home the Class A title for the first time since 2023.

Both teams are members of the North Division, and the Brownies swept the two regular season matchups, 3-1 and 3-0.

"We played a little bit better against them during the regular season than we did in today's match," Pender said. "We didn't execute our game plan. We also made more errors than we typically do."

The Brownies, who captured the Class B title in 2023, lost to Wayland in the Division 2 state semifinals a year ago.



Eric Nazarets gets a hit to his side.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

VBALL | page 9

Sports

UConn, BYU to meet in Hall of Fame series at TD Garden this November

BOSTON – Position Sports, in partnership with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, announced that projected preseason Top 10 teams UConn and BYU will meet in the Hall of Fame Series Boston event on Saturday, Nov. 15, at TD Garden. This marks just the second meeting between the programs, with the Huskies defeating the Cougars in the first matchup during the opening round of the 2003 NCAA Tournament.

“We’re thrilled to es-

tablish TD Garden as our newest Hall of Fame Series venue, creating a basketball showcase in the heart of New England, just a short journey from our home in Springfield,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “The matchup between UConn and BYU brings together one of the sport’s premier programs and one of its most exciting up-and-coming teams, led by a local talent in AJ Dybantsa. This event not only highlights

elite college basketball but also reinforces our ongoing relationship with the Boston Celtics and our shared commitment to celebrating the game’s rich history in the region.”

This will be UConn’s second appearance in the Hall of Fame Series, following a win over Gonzaga at Madison Square Garden last December. The Huskies are led by two-time National Champion Alex Karaban, who hails from Southborough, Mass. BYU, featuring Brockton, Mass.,

product and consensus No. 1 incoming recruit A.J. Dybansta, is also set to participate in the Hall of Fame Series Las Vegas event on Opening Night, Nov. 3.

“Bringing the Hall of Fame Series to Boston for the first time is an exciting milestone, especially just down the road from the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield,” said Melissa Meacham-Grossman, President of Position Sports. “UConn’s championship legacy and BYU’s emerging star power—highlighted

by Massachusetts’ own A.J. Dybansta—set the stage for a memorable night at TD Garden, in a city where the game’s history runs deep, thanks to the tradition of the Boston Celtics and the legacy of their many Hall of Famers.”

Further details regarding ticketing, game times, broadcast details, 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.

DRAW ■ from page 8

was saved by Seacoast goalie Jahn Tobias.

With 15 minutes remaining in the first half, Tobias made a diving save on another shot attempt from Kaufmann.

Down at the other end of the field, Western Mass. goalie Cameron Hall also made a couple of key saves, which kept the contest scoreless until the second half.

The Phantoms also had nine corner kicks during the first 45 minutes.

Early in the second half, the referee awarded the Phantoms a penalty kick following a foul inside the box.

Hall, who posted shut-outs in the first two matches, made a diving save on the shot taken by Taig Healy. The ball was deflected away by Hall, but Healy was in the

right spot to knock home the rebound shot giving the visiting team a 1-0 advantage.

The Pioneers scored the equalizer a little more than ten minutes later.

The scoring play began with Suarez sending a crossing pass from the left side of the penalty area to Kaufmann, who fired a shot into the lower right corner of the net.

Neither team was able to score another goal during the last 30 minutes of regulation.

The second meeting of the regular season between the two squads is scheduled to take place on June 25th.

The Pioneers played a road match against the Boston Bolts on June 3 before returning home three nights later to face NEFC, who’s competing at the USL-League Two level for the first time this season.



ABOVE: Oskar Kaufmann grabs a quick stop.



RIGHT: Jaiden Williams sets for a throw-in.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Chase Gerani winds up for a big hit.



David Dzhenezherukha grabs a set near the net.



David Zhmiadziak gets over the net for a spike.

VBALL ■ from page 8

One of the Brownies senior captains is David Dzhenezherukha, who was credited with a game-high 37 assists and had 13 digs in this year’s Western Mass. finals.

“We always expect to make it to the Western Mass finals, but this wasn’t the result that we wanted,” Dzhenezherukha said. “We didn’t pass very well, and our energy was down. It’s a very difficult loss for us, especially after beating them twice during the regular season. This loss will give us some extra motivation heading into the state tournament. We just need to stay focused 100 percent of the time.”

Despite the setback, the Brownies were expected to be the top-seeded team in the Division 2 state tournament.

Agawam’s other senior captains are Joe Culhane, who had a team-leading 17 kills, and Kyle Doughlas.

Their other three seniors are Eric Nazarets, Dennis Nesen, and John Cote.

The score of the opening set was tied a couple of times before the Bombers, who were ranked second in the Division 2 power rankings, built a 15-8 lead with the help of a 10-3 run.

The Brownies were trailing, 24-19, before closing the gap to two points.

The Bombers won the final two points of the first set.

The second set was also close, but Westfield managed to take a 2-0 lead in the overall match.

In the third set, the Brownies used a 5-0 run with Nazarets handling the serving duties to take a 9-7 lead.

The score was tied 18-18 when a Culhane kill gave the Brownies the lead back, which they didn’t relinquish.

Westfield won the first two points of the fourth set, and they never looked back the rest of the way.

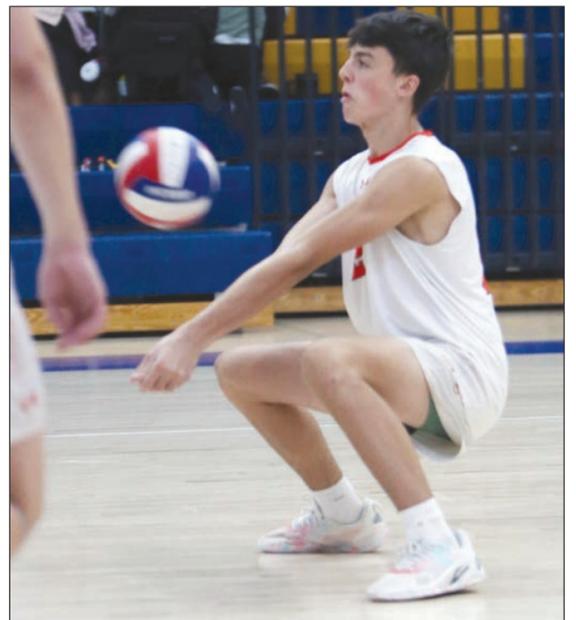
The fourth meeting of the 2024 campaign between the two rivals could possibly take



Joe Culhane steps up for a set.

place in the Division 2 state finals. That match would most likely take place at Worcester State University.

The Brownies probably don’t want to make another visit to Herbert H. Curry Gymnasium anytime soon.



David Zhmiadziak gets over the net for a spike.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

TOURNEY ■ from page 8

“The umpire said that Vincent caught the ball in play before falling over the line, but I saw it a different way,” Yarymowicz said. “His opinion is the only one that matters and mine doesn’t. This is a very tough loss for us and I’m very proud of my

guys.”

The Brownies had several scoring opportunities, but they didn’t score a run until the sixth inning.

With one out in the second inning, junior designated hitter Cole Ingham and Lavelle, who started the game in left field, had back-to-back singles. Both run-

ners moved into scoring position following a wild pitch. Nussey retired the next two batters, ending the inning.

Ingham, who had three of the Brownies eight base hits, beat out an infield hit with two outs in the fourth inning before stealing second base. The next batter hit a ground ball to the second baseman

for the third out.

Szemela (catcher) and junior shortstop Aiden Wykes (2-for-3) had singles in the fifth, but the Brownies failed to score once again.

Meanwhile, the Brownies defense recorded double plays in the third, fourth, and fifth innings, which kept Shlosser’s pitch count below

50. The righthander threw a total of 63 pitches in the game.

The Brownies finally broke the ice in the sixth inning.

Catelotti began the rally by hitting a line-drive single into right field leading off the frame and he advanced to second base on a fielding

error. After the next batter struck out, Ingham hit a single down the left field line, which put runners at the corners. Catelotti scored when Lavelle hit a ground ball to the shortstop.

The Brownies would watch their 1-0 lead slip away in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Obituaries

Gloria Lawrenz, 1932-2025

Gloria Edith (Piccin) Lawrenz, was a remarkable matriarch who has peacefully and honorably departed from this earthly life. Her larger-than-life presence will leave an indelible void in the lives of her many devoted loved ones. At the age of 92, Gloria gracefully made her way to heaven after a quick bout with cancer. Gloria was the picture of health, youth and timelessness up until her very last days. Gloria left us peacefully on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 in her sleep in her beloved Montana home surrounded by her devoted children.

Born in West Springfield, Massachusetts in 1932, Gloria was the daughter of a true Italian family who had immigrated from Vittorio Veneto, Italy to the United States after WWI. Her parents founded the historic Venetian Bakery which was still in operation until very recently on Baldwin Street in West Springfield, Massachusetts. She always shared many stories of growing up as a young girl in this culturally rich Italian neighborhood. Gloria and her family were very proud of their Italian heritage and it showed.

Gloria Edith Piccin graduated from West Springfield High School in 1950 and married Robert "Bob" Thomas Gibson in 1954. Together they had 4 beautiful children; Celeste, Roberta, Judith and George. Years later, in 1969,



Gloria met William "Bill" Robert Lawrenz who would become the long-time love of her life. Together they both embraced their second chances by forming a blended family with 6 children, including her 4 children and Bill's 2 children, Laura and Curt. In this bold union, they decided to pioneer a new life for themselves and their children by moving West to Evergreen, Colorado in 1970, where they established their "New Horizons".

After a short time in Colorado, Gloria and Bill had another child, named Gloria. The family then embarked on many business and travel adventures, including an ice cream shop, a carpet shop, a country music bar, a thriving real estate business, and many trips to favorite Ports of Call destinations.

After exploring in their family motorhome, Bill and Gloria finally settled in Montana and purchased a home on stunning Flathead Lake in 1979. This was the beginning of an epic era of family summers on the lake that lasted more than 45 years. These special family gatherings

were an anchor for their family of 7 children, many grandchildren and great grandchildren. These summers are filled with memories of large Italian family dinners, Tortellini Sundays, boat rides and nights around the fire. Gloria's legacy will live on in a lifetime of memories and love created by her positive personality. She taught us everything about life, patience, strength, love and family.

Gloria is preceded in death by her parents, Antonio and Virginia Piccin, her late husband Bill Lawrenz, and beloved two older brothers Gino Piccin and Dino Piccin, along with her cousin Nini Kroll.

Gloria is survived by her younger sister Teresa Ouimette, her lifelong best friend Shirley Reid, her 5 children, Celeste Gibson, Roberta "Ruby" Gibson, Judith Gibson (John Kiefer), George Gibson (Shauna), and Gloria Arpasi (David), Bill's children, Curt Lawrenz and Laura Armstrong, her 13 grandchildren, her 8 great grandchildren, many cousins and countless other friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Gloria's name to the Exposition Area Alumni Scholarship Fund, Post Office Box 124, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01090. Donations may also be made online at exposcholarship.org.

Ronald C Sieczkowski

Ronald C Sieczkowski of Agawam, passed on June 1, 2025 surrounded his by family. He was born in Adams, MA on July 19, 1935, he was the son of Margaret (Schoenfelder) and Chester Sieczkowski. He was raised in Adams and attended local schools. Mr. Sieczkowski retired from Bassette Printing of Springfield. In earlier years he was a police officer for the town of Williamstown and employed as a guard at the Berkshire County Jail. Ron and his wife

loved to bowl, play golf and travel the United States. Ron is survived by his wife Joan of Agawam; two daughters Lynn Pangburn of Arizona and Donna Jones and her husband Mark of Charlestown, Rhode Island; four grandchildren, Mary Lea, Ryan, Lauren and Kristen; and great grandchildren Julian, Mason, Jones, Berkley, Charlie and Claire.



Calling hours for Ron will be held from 10-11AM on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at Colonial Forastiere Funeral & Cremation, 985 Main St., Agawam with a funeral home service beginning at 11AM. A private interment will be held by the convenience of his family. For online condolences please visit www.forastiere.com.

Armand R. Provost, 1933 – 2025

AGAWAM – Armand R. Provost, 91, passed away on May 27, 2025, at Baystate Medical Center. Born in Agawam, MA on August 18, 1933, he was the son of the late Adolphus J. and Lena (Flebotte) Provost.



For many years, Armand was employed at Center Pontiac. In his spare time, he enjoyed restoring vehicles, building stock cars for local tracks including Lebanon Valley Speedway and Riverside Park Speedway, and building and customizing his Harley Sportster that was in milk crates when he purchased it. He was also an avid snowmobiler and was a member of VAST. He enjoyed cruising Lake George in Wales, MA in his custom mahogany boat, snowmobiling at "The Buckhorn" in Stratford VT, and being a member of the "Forever

Young" Car Club with his many friends. Armand was loved spending countless hours at his daughter and late son-in-law's farm helping wherever he was needed and enjoyed every minute on the farm. He cherished his time with his family and friends, and in the past four years he loved spending time with his two great-grandchildren who will miss him dearly.

To cherish his memory, Armand leaves his wife of 67 years, Dorothy (Bopp) Provost; his daughter, Debra Neilson and her husband Paul Gauthier; his granddaughters, Jamie Berry and son-in-law John Berry; Carly Neilson and her partner Eric Paquette; and Kristi Neilson; his great-grandchildren Chase and Charlotte Berry; his sister Joan Kane, his brother-in-law John Poirier,

as well as many other family members and dear friends. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his son-in-law Edward "Ted" Neilson, and his siblings Adolphus "Junior" Provost III and his wife Norma Provost, Shirley Poirier, and Robert Provost POW/MIA.

Family and friends are invited to gather on Thursday, June 5, 2025, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Colonial Forastiere Funeral & Cremation, 985 Main Street, Agawam followed by a service at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Springfield Street Cemetery, Feeding Hills, MA.

Memorial contributions in Armand's memory may be made to T/O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center, 627 Cottage Street, Springfield, MA 01104 or to Dakin Humane Society, PO Box 6307, Springfield, MA 01101. For more information or to leave an online condolence, please visit www.forastiere.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.

DEATH NOTICES

Lawrenz, Gloria
Died May 14, 2025

Provost, Armand R.
Died May 27, 2025
Service June 5, 2025
Colonial Forastiere Funeral & Cremation

Sieczkowski, Ronald C
Died June 1, 2025
Service June 7, 2025
Colonial Forastiere Funeral & Cremation

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.I.R., 2nd Battalion, Company D, Reenacted 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 avail-

able 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.

Public Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at The Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA, on **Monday, June 23, 2025 at 7PM** for all parties interested in the request of Daniel Adzhigirey, who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch.180-37(B) and 180-8.1 to allow for the keeping of hens at the premises identified as 150 Meadowbrook Rd.

Doreen A. Prouty, Chairperson
Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals
06/05, 06/12/2025

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of

Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA on **Monday, June 23, 2025 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of MBNZ Holding CO., which is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch.180, Section 7 to allow for the construction of an addition to an Auto Body Repair business at the premises identified as 223 Garden Street.

Doreen A. Prouty, Chairperson
Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals
06/05, 06/12/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division
Docket No. **HD25P1134EA**
Estate of: **Robert W Bourgeois**

Date of Death: January 6, 2025 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of **Christopher V Bourgeois of Feeding Hills, MA** Petitioner **Stacey A Lemke f/k/a Cavallo of Agawam, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Christopher V Bourgeois of Feeding Hills, MA **Stacey A Lemke f/k/a Cavallo of Agawam, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to

be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
06/05/2025

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. HD25P1098EA
Estate of: **Arthur Lawrence Granger, Sr.**
Also known as: **Arthur Granger, Arthur L Granger**
Date of Death: **01/21/2025**
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 **Arthur L Granger, Jr. of Southwick, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Arthur L Granger, Jr. of Southwick, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsuper-**

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 06/20/2025.** 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
06/05/2025

Legal Ad AGAWAM

Conservation Commission
The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Notice of Intent Application of the Town of Agawam for work to be performed on the South West Street Right-of-Way adjacent to 841 South West Street, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
06/05/2025

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 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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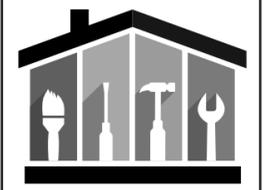
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about 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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turleynews



TurleyPublications



Display of past queens of Ms. Massachusetts Senior America outside the Holyoke High School auditorium. TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

PAGEANT ■ from page 1
 ant to all of these ladies, you know, but they don't start till they're 60 years old. Well, you know, it's like a new life for them. So it's very exciting, and also very demanding. It's a thing that most people should know about that they don't," Jenney said.

The auditorium was packed with friends and family of the women competing, past queens, and supportive community members. Competing in this year's Ms. Mas-

sachusetts Senior America Pageant was Donnalee Holubecki, Carolyn Janet Nestor, Laura Hicks, Lori McElhiney and Christine Wilson. The pageant opened with a lively dance performance and then began the talents. Each contestant either danced, sung, or did baton twirling. It was clear each contestant had a passion for the talent they chose and felt confident performing it for the audience and judges. Throughout the pageant special guests, Wright, Jessie Rivers, and Pe-

ter Arnone sang angelically for the contestants, judges, and audience members. These vocal presentations were done flawlessly and showed their support for the past and future queens. Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 2024, Wright, gave a heartfelt farewell speech before passing her crown to the winner of Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 2025, Laura Hicks. Hicks looked absolutely joyful when she was announced winner of the pageant.



Mary Lee Manning and David Jenney at the pageant. TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

This pageant is beloved by the team running it, the women competing, and the past queens. Each contestant

worked hard leading up to the pageant and it didn't go unrecognized. Ms. Massachusetts Senior America al-



Ms. Massachusetts Senior America 2025, Laura Hicks after winning the title of queen.

lows women to build friendships, find support for their talents and have their day in the spotlight.

BBB: Watch out for roofing scams after storms

Roofing scams tend to pop up after big storms. BBB Scam Tracker often receives reports of shady "free" roof inspections. Homeowners should know how to recognize these cons and always hire businesses they can trust.

How the scam works

You receive a call, or someone shows up at the door claiming to represent a roofing company that is working in your area. (Sometimes con artists use the names of legitimate companies, so always check BBB.org first to learn the real address, phone number, and name of the real company).

Note: BBB Accredited Businesses promise to adhere to BBB's Standards for Trust, so look for the BBB Accredited Business Seal when hiring a roofer. It's the Sign of a Better Business.

The fake "roofer" offers a free inspection or an on-the-spot roof repair. Why, you ask? The person may claim that their company is working on a neighbor's home and is offering inspections to those living nearby, or they just happened to notice your damaged roof. But if you ask questions about

where the business is located or how their services work - if you're not dealing with an honest company, you'll most likely be met with vague answers. If you are speaking on the phone to a con artist, they may hang up if pressed for more details.

If you accept the free inspection from a con artist, the dishonest "inspector" shows up at your house. If they don't find enough wear and tear to merit a whole new roof, they may fabricate it, by tearing off shingles to mimic wind damage (so pay attention and watch what they do). Or they may show you pictures of someone else's damaged roof. Don't hire a company that does this! Repairs from such a dishonest business are not likely to be high quality.

One person shared this experience on BBB Scam Tracker. "Perpetrators came to my dad's home saying he needed roof repair as they were "working on homes in the neighborhood" & noticed a small hole in his shingle. Dad trusted them & allowed them to go up on the roof & "fix" the hole. They came down with a pre-ripped shingle in their pocket to "show" him the damaged

one. It did not match his current roof shingles. From there it escalated into moss removal (which was not done), fixing woodpecker holes in his siding (filling with spray foam), pouring a concrete walkway (VERY poor quality that any legit contractor would not have done), saying he needed foundation work done to fix his "bowing wall" & ultimately ended up putting paint up on the side of his home that he did not ask for forcing him into accepting more work... They did not allow my dad to say no. When he told them he was out of money, they coached him through how to take out a HELOC, move money from his 401K & his pension. They stood over his shoulder coaching him through moving money so he could pay them more. They never provided a legitimate business name, card, email or scope of service proposal or invoice. Dad just kept paying them every time they asked for more. He felt like he couldn't say no."

How to avoid roofing scams

- Beware of unsolicited offers. Many scams begin with a contractor who "just

happens to be in the area" and notices your roof or home appears to need repairs from the outside. Roofing scams typically increase in frequency after a powerful storm, so stay alert. Legitimate roofers may also be in the area, so be savvy enough to check BBB.org and do your homework before hiring.

- Get your insurance company to inspect your roof, and/or get a second opinion. Filing a claim with your insurance company goes on your record and could affect future claims or your continued coverage. Before signing any paperwork or contracts with a roofing company, you can have your insurance company come out for an inspection to verify the need for repairs or replacements. You can also call another reputable roofing company to take a look.

- Research roofing companies before you hire. Look at a company's business rating on BBB.org. Keep a close eye on previous reviews and any complaints other consumers might have had. Doing your own research is one of the best ways to know if a roofing company is reputable or just a cover for a scam.

TRASH

■ from page 1

Also not changing will be the days that residents will have their trash and recycling picked up.

DeMaio said trash and recycling will continue to be on the same regularly scheduled day. Prior to the end of June, residents should all receive a mailer home with a calendar which also reflects the recycling collection schedule. Recycling is collected every other week.

DeMaio said the format for barrels will remain the same and every parcel will only be allowed one trash and one recycling barrel.

Any trash that exceeds the town's 65-gallon trash cart capacity will be required to have an official town green overflow bag.

"Green bags are for household trash only (no recyclable materials, hazardous waste, yard waste, bulk waste, electronics, or

construction debris permitted)," DeMaio stated.

Bags are sold in rolls of 5 for \$15 each. Overflow bags are available for sale at Rocky's Hardware, Geisler's and Stop & Shop.

The calendar residents will receive will also outline dates for holidays, yard waste, and other collections. Residents, however, will need to pay for all bulk items to be picked up, though those bulk items can be scheduled for pick-up at any time. Residents will be given a number to contact USA to scheduled bulk pickups. The town website will soon have a page with the fees for bulk items on its webpage. Other questions from residents can be potentially found at the town's trash and recycling webpage at www.agawam.ma.us. Other questions from residents can be sent to recycle@agawam.ma.us.

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