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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS



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Agawam graduates **Class of 2023**

By Gregory A. Scibelli
 gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School Class of 2023 graduated on a cool, overcast morning last Saturday, celebrating a commence-

ment that included a lot of hard work, and a lot of adjustments.

The Class of 2023 specifically went through the COVID-19 pandemic during the early portion of their high school careers.

Principal James Blain reflect-

ed on the class, saying he enjoyed bringing back so many AHS traditions and hated to see them leave. He also said the class did an excellent job bringing about new events and traditions, and new memories for the high school.

Valedictorian Sierra Moccio celebrated a long body of hard work for the past 13 years.

“Over time, I found school to be something that taught me perseverance,” Moccio said.

Moccio, who received her valedictorian medal from her parents

prior to giving her speech, said being the valedictorian of her class was a goal of hers and she pushed hard every day to achieve it.

CLASS OF 2023 | page 3



Ailany Batista shakes hands with Vice Principal Timothy Karetka.



The Class of 2023 takes their place at the commencement ceremony. More photos on page 2.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

City councilor announces bid for mayor

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – City Councilor Cecilia Calabrese has announced her intention to for mayor.

Calabrese made the announcement in a FaceBook video on Wednesday, May 31 and in a press release on Monday, June 5.

“By popular request I am now a candidate for mayor here in Agawam,” Calabrese said in the FaceBook video. “I just picked up my nomination papers [today] so if you would like to sign my nomination papers all you need to do is be a registered voter here in Agawam, Feeding Hills. I can certainly come to you to collect your signatures for nomination. Feel free to send me a message, you can call me, you can text me, you can email me, you can send me a DM (direct message) right here on FaceBook.”

MAYOR | page 11

Library hosts Pride party

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Much to the delight of LGBTQ+ teens in Agawam,

the public library hosted a Pride Party for grades 9-12 on Friday, June 2.

At this event there were arts and crafts, including tassel and

suncatcher making, as well as a round of pride flag trivia. There was also a display of LGBTQ+ young adult books for attendees to peruse and check-out.

“We have two crafts, pride rainbow suncatchers, which are a string of beads with a prism at the end so it catches the light and puts rainbows all over your house,” youth services associate Evan Delano said. “And, there are tassels, which you make out of yarn. You can do the colors of a pride flag or whatever you want. We have books you can check out, lots of LGBTQ young adult books and snacks.”

All the teens were excited to have this opportunity to be themselves and celebrate pride.

“I’m really excited to be here and to have this space to celebrate,” one teen said.

They felt that having this space to celebrate is especially important right now, given how much anti-LGBTQ+ legislation



Kam Sattler, Maddy Elwell, Lucy Hildreth, Kai Rising, Erik Johnson and Eden Berry show off their trivia prizes at last week’s Pride party held at the Agawam Public Library.

PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

PRIDE | page 12

Robinson State Park Day this Saturday

AGAWAM – Robinson State Park Day will be held on Saturday, June 10. Most events start or take place at the Trestle Pavilion, unless otherwise noted.

Please bring your own food, water, sun and insect protection and join us for a day of fun, adventure and education. Times listed are approximate and flexible.

Here is a list of the scheduled events:

9:00 a.m. Bird Identification Walk: led by John Hutchison of the Allen Bird Club. Bring binoculars Appropriate for experienced birders and people who would like to learn about the birds that find habitat in the park (and their bird songs)

9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Walks: Informal walks appropriate for all ages; minors must be adult accompanied.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.: “Big Tree”

PARK | page 11



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Congratulations to the **Class of 2023**



Class of 2023 President Lynn Jang takes a traditional graduation selfie with her class.



Valedictorian Sierra Moccio delivers her speech.



Salutatorian Nolan Chamberland is all smiles as he addresses his class.



Principal James Blain addresses the crowd.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Ella Agudelo smiles as she receives her diploma.



Jared Anziano gets his diploma from Mayor William Sapelli.



Linda Bajrami shakes hands with Superintendent Sheila Hoffman.



Davis Bryant is pumped up as he approaches the stage.



Landen Cahill stand with his diploma.



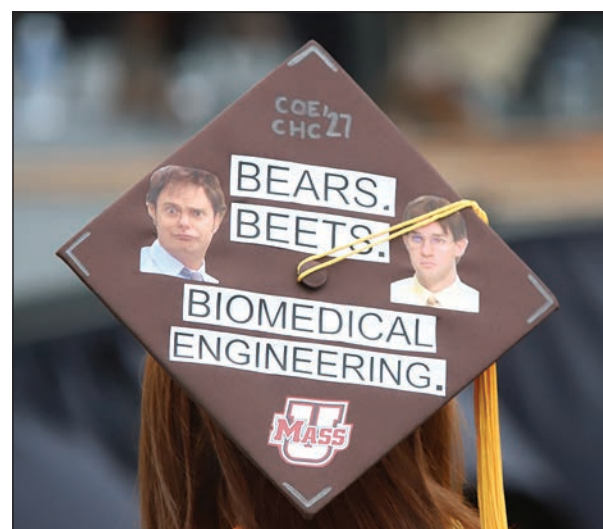
The band performs "Ruckus."

Congratulations to
The Entire 2023 Class of
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Caps are always a popular decoration.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 1,406 calls for service from May 29 to June 4 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Wednesday, May 31

Douglas Paul Reitmeyer, 52, of 11 Sarah Dr., Oxford, CT, was arrested at 11:33 p.m. for operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and possession of an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Tag sale next weekend at ACC

AGAWAM – On Friday, June 16 and Saturday, June 17, Agawam Congregations Church, located at 745 Main St. in Agawam, is having a huge tag sale on from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Toys, books, household items, seasonal décor, clothing, shoes, bags and much more. There will be something for everyone, so come on down and see what there is.

Historic Thomas Smith house site of quilt show to be held on June 24

AGAWAM – The public is invited to an open house and quilt show at the Agawam Historical Association's c. 1757 Thomas Smith House, located at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, June 24. Approximately two dozen quilts, both old and new, including children's and doll's quilts, will be on display inside and out (weather permitting) of the National-Register listed structure. Historical association members and area quilters will be present to answer quilting questions, identify patterns, and provide some history of the older quilts. Tours of the Thomas Smith House and its recently preserved 1920s garage will also be offered. This program is free and open to the public. Copies of Edith LaFrancis' town history Agawam, Massachusetts, and David Cecchi's Images of Agawam: Agawam and Feeding Hills, and Agawam and Feeding Hills Revisited will be available for purchase.

The Thomas Smith House was built c. 1757 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Smith House remains in near original condition, with no

central heat or plumbing, and is a time capsule of 18th century life. The property also features a 1920s garage, recently preserved for use as exhibit space with funding from the Town of Agawam Community Preservation Act Committee. The house was constructed by Thomas Smith, a carpenter and housewright who purchased the property in 1757; members of his family retained ownership of the property for the next eighty-six years. The vernacular Georgian-style residence has been described as "a rare surviving example of mid- to late-18th century Connecticut River Valley design and materials and one of the few remaining resources from the 18th century agricultural past of Feeding Hills. The history of land ownership for the Smith family property – its assembly by grant and purchase, its speculative trade, and familial division – is a model for the history of typical land transfers of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries, which has resulted in the property today having been vastly reduced to only a single acre of land. The history of its residents represents the long history of farming of this section of Agawam,

well into the 20th century, and the shift into working outside the community that its later owners made is representative of the pattern of suburban development that occurred throughout the town." The Thomas & Esther Smith House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 2, 2005.

The Agawam Historical Association is a private, non-profit organization working to preserve historic materials, documents, and landmarks pertaining to the Town of Agawam and to provide educational opportunities concerning Agawam's history. The association operates the c. 1757 Thomas Smith House at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills, and the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum at 35 Elm Street in Agawam. The Smith House is preserved in largely original, unrestored condition. The museum occupies the former Elm Street Fire Station, and houses artifacts pertaining to the town and the Agawam Fire Department. New members are always welcome! For additional information regarding the Agawam Historical Association, please visit agawamhistoricalassoc.webs.com/.

CLASS OF 2023 | from page 1

Moccio also said she was driven by the great success of her three brothers, and the support of her entire family.

The Salutatory address was given by Nolan Chamberland, who reflected on his time at Agawam High School.

He recalled several fond moments and is looking forward to the next step of his life.

Class of 2023 President Lynn Jang continued on with a newer tradition of taking a selfie with her class, using her cell phone and turning it on her class. It's a tradition that has dated back to the past few graduations, which are now held on campus.

AHS graduated more than 240 seniors this year, and were led by Class of 2023 Ad-

visors Francesca Della Bella and Mary Lynn Hunter.

Graduation was also held on the AHS campus for the third straight year. With little time to plan falling the mass reduction of COVID-19 restrictions, graduation was held in 2021 on the practice fields outside Harmon Smith Stadium.

Last year, Blain pitched a ceremony inside the stadium, which came to fruition, and is now the new normal for Agawam's commencements.

This year's class chorus performed "Shine the Light" and band members played "Ruckus" in their final performances.

Mayor William Sapelli and Superintendent Sheila Hoffman also gave addresses to the graduating class.




The Senior members of the chorus perform.

Congratulations
Taryn Crowley
 on this amazing achievement!
 We're so proud of you.
 Wishing you lots of success on your new adventure at Assumption University.
 Love, Nonie & Grandpa Blake



Congratulations
JAMES
 We are proud of all the work you've put in to get to graduation day. We are excited for everything that will come your way.
 Love, Dad, Sarah, Kyleigh & Chase



Congratulations
MARISSA
 AHS Class of 2023!
 We are so proud of you and all you have accomplished. Looking forward to watching your journey begin at Villanova!
 With Love,
 Mom, Kayla and Rory




Congratulations to All 2023 Graduates
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Opinion

Guest Column



A dogwood worthy of admiration

The Chinese dogwood in my backyard is in bloom and boy, is it pretty! Although the holly is trying to take over height-wise, the dogwood is holding its own and beckoning for all to admire. Creamy white bracts (mistakenly called flowers) seem to hover over its glossy green leaves in a way few other trees are capable.

It is as if the branches unfold before you, saying “here, look at me!”

Unlike other favorites in the landscape, the Chinese dogwood doesn't fade into the background once it has finished flowering; this plant has something to offer in every season.

Cornus kousa blooms just about a month later than our native flowering dogwood, Cornus florida. Unlike C. florida, Chinese dogwood sets its bracts after it has fully leafed out, and at a time when there is a bit of a lull in the flowering tree and shrub department.

Bracts can vary in size from one to three inches long depending on cultivar, and can be narrow or quite broad. Some can be more of a pure white than a creamy white- these can tend to turn pink with age.

The plants true flowers are barely noticeable, only about a half-inch wide, set in the center of the four bracts. Flowers last for several weeks, much longer than those of the flowering dogwood.

As the flowers fade into the background, the fruit set provides another season of interest. It is faceted, much like a raspberry, and can be red, orange-red or even pink toned.

About an inch in diameter and hanging from two-inch stems, it is quite showy in its own right when plentiful. Fruit can last up to two months.

Foliage, as mentioned, is glossy green during the growing season. Some pink-bracted cultivars have red veins or petioles, adding to the overall interest of the plant.

Fall foliage color is sketchy, sometimes it can be radiant, offering up shades of red, orange and purple; other times it is dull. Brilliance or bluntness all depend on the cultivar chosen and the weather.

Inquire at purchase about the particular attributes of the cultivar you've lugged to the check-out: Is it known for its fall color, long bloom-time, vase-shape, etc.? Or better yet, do a quick search on your phone before the work out, just to be sure you get what will do your landscape the most justice!

Once leaves have fallen, the bark of the Chinese dogwood becomes quite interesting when viewed close-up, especially on older trees. Where the bark has begun to exfoliate, gray, copper and sometimes olive tones appear on the trunk and older branches.

I must pay closer attention to this during the off season.

Plant Cornus kousa in moist, acidic, well-drained soil with lots of organic matter. With that said, the plant can adapt to most soils providing they are not overly waterlogged or droughty.

Plants grown in full sun usually flower the heaviest, but part shade, like the conditions in my yard, puts on fine growth as well.

If the Chinese dogwood appeals to you and you'd also like to learn more about other members of the genus Cornus, consult “Dogwoods” by Paul

Last day of school quiz...(match the faces)

- a. Teacher
- b. Principal
- c. Janitor
- d. Student
- e. Mom
- f. Bus driver



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Guest Column

What if I delay but die before claiming Social Security?



Dear Rusty:

Hypothetically, if I plan to sign up for Social Security at 70 and pass away before that, I will get nothing. My spouse would still get a boost in the amount she receives because I made more, but everything I put into the program vanishes. I haven't reached my full retirement age yet and I still have income, but if I sign up now at 63 my benefits will be withheld due to my income. Then at full retirement age (presuming I elected to claim earlier) a recalculation will take place and my monthly amount would be adjusted. Well, what happens if I decide to wait until 70 but pass away before I claim? Are my contributions repaid in a lump sum or will I or someone else still lose everything?

Signed: Uncertain About My Future

Dear Uncertain:

You are correct that if you pass away before collecting your earned Social Security benefits you won't personally get anything. Social Security has, since inception, been a “pay as you go” pro-

gram where those currently working and contributing to Social Security pay benefits for those currently receiving Social Security. That means that if you die before collecting, the monies you contributed will have already been used to pay other recipients, but the contributions you made may still entitle your dependents to benefits on your record. For those who are in their early 60s, average longevity is mid-80s, meaning your spouse would likely collect benefits on your record for more than two decades, any minor children could collect until they are adults and any permanently disabled child you may have would get benefits from your record for the rest of their life as well.

The Social Security payroll taxes you contributed were not put into a private account in your name. And, on average, it is to the beneficiary's advantage the program doesn't work that way because that personal account would be depleted fairly quickly after you claim rather than getting benefits for the rest of your life, you'd only get benefits plus interest from your personal account, which would run dry pretty fast. For Your Information, we have researched this very carefully and found that, on average, all payroll taxes contributed to Social Security by an individual will be recovered within about five years of starting ben-

SECURITY | page 5

Do we really need to go through this?



Comments on CONGRESS

By Lee Hamilton

There was finally some movement in Washington on raising the debt ceiling and a bill was passed by both chambers of Congress just days from a U.S. default – it would have been the first in the country's history.

If you're like me, you can't help but view this brinkmanship – with U.S. financial credibility and the economy on the line – with a mix of impatience and resignation.

Why impatience? Because its members seemed happy to waste valuable time they could be devoting to more productive work. In essence, this is a political game that's become a gridlock-inducing diversion.

And resignation? Because in the heated partisan atmosphere that's permeated Washington for the last few decades, a fight over raising the debt ceiling seems to have become part and parcel of the Congressional calendar. Waste of time that it is, you can pretty much set your clock by it.

And while the bill that cleared Congress last week means the debt ceiling won't be an issue again until early 2025, this drama could resume and an unprecedented default is still possible that

year.

Let's take a step back for a moment and consider what's at stake if the U.S. has no choice but to start defaulting on some of its bills. It might, for instance, keep paying interest on debts, keeping the markets calmer, if not exactly tranquil. But that would probably mean not paying federal workers and contractors, Social Security recipients or veterans' health care benefits, which would be politically wrenching.

On the other hand, if the government misses even a single debt payment, it would ruin global confidence in U.S. debt, with consequences for our economy that would last for years.

You might ask how any of this could even be possible. There's a lot of misperception about why the debt needs to keep being raised, but it's pretty simple: Most years, we spend more than we take in. This has been a truly bipartisan endeavor. Of the presidencies over the last five decades, the debt grew most in percentage terms under Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama – though in dollar terms, it grew almost as much during Donald Trump's single term as it did during Obama's two terms.

There's no question that some of those increases came because of spending – most recently on the pandemic and keeping the economy afloat because of it. But it's worth noting that the primary reason Reagan, Bush and Trump figure as major debt contributors is because they pushed through huge tax cuts during their time in office.



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

Editor

Gregory Scibelli
aan@turley.com

Subscriptions

cgriswold@turley.com

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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS TEAM



EDITOR/SPORTS
Greg Scibelli
aan@turley.com
sports@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
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Classic Car Show at Heritage Woods

AGAWAM – Heritage Woods Senior Living, along with MBS Productions, is thrilled to bring a Classic Car Show to Agawam, MA on Saturday, June 17 from 12 to 4 p.m. at 462 Main Street.

Check out classic cars, food trucks, and enjoy music from the 50s, 60s and 70s. A 50/50 raffle will be held to benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

The event is free and open to the public. Rain date will be June 18 from 12 to 4 p.m.

Grange hosting strawberry shortcake luncheon on June 24

AGAWAM – Community Grange #382 of Feeding Hills will hold a Strawberry Shortcake Luncheon “to-go” on Saturday, June 24. The Grange Hall is located at 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills. Pick-up hours will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The menu will consist of a hearty sandwich served with homemade macaroni salad and baked beans. Dessert will be a fresh strawberry shortcake. Also included will be a cold beverage.

Donation is \$10. Please pre-order your meals by calling 413-789-2061. The public is invited to attend. Proceeds will benefit Grange activities.



Free concert on Heritage Hall campus

AGAWAM – The Heritage Hall Campus in Agawam is pleased to host its annual summer concert on Thursday, June 15 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 462 Main Street, Agawam. New England's premiere oldies dance band, Decades, will showcase fun tunes from the 50s and 60s. The event is free and open to the public. Please bring your own lawn chair. There will also be a food truck and raffle to benefit the Alzheimer's Association.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

Cappiello and Don Shadow (Timber Press \$39.95). This book is a great reference, especially informative regarding the numerous cultivars in the nursery trade today.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the

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

CONGRESS ■ from page 4

Though the Reagan cuts were partially reversed under Bill Clinton, producing actual budget surpluses, the Bush and Trump cuts have made it virtually impossible for revenues to keep up with spending.

So in upcoming weeks, as Republicans and Democrats in Congress, along with the Biden White House, issue talking points aimed at making the other side look bad, remember that taking steps to avoid building up the U.S. debt requires looking at the full picture: tax and fiscal policy as well as spending. And as the rhetoric grows more heated, remember this, too: This doesn't have to happen.

Congress could just decide to get rid of

a ceiling on the debt and choose instead to spend its time addressing the actual challenges the country faces, including budget deficits, rather than engaging in debt theater. There are too many players who relish wielding the debt-ceiling cudgel for such a move to be likely.

But it would be good for the country if it happened.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

SECURITY ■ from page 4

efits. The actual length of time to recoup one's contributions varies somewhat depending on lifetime earnings and contributions made, but lower earning beneficiaries will recover everything contributed through payroll taxes within about three years, while it could take as much as five years for higher earners to get back everything they've paid into the program. And for clarity, since self-employed individuals pay both the employee and employer portion of the payroll tax, it does take longer for those, who own their own business to recoup what they've contributed. Nevertheless, on average, most who claim benefits will get considerably more from the program than they paid in Social Security payroll taxes.

As to your specific question, if you die before collecting, the contributions you made weren't deposited in a personal account for you and won't be paid out in a lump sum. Rather, the payroll taxes

you paid while working were used to pay benefits to beneficiaries receiving at the time and those working and contributing after you die will fund the benefits paid to your spouse or disabled adult child until they die or to your minor children until they are adults. The Social Security benefits you earned aren't just for you your eligible dependents will also benefit from your record.

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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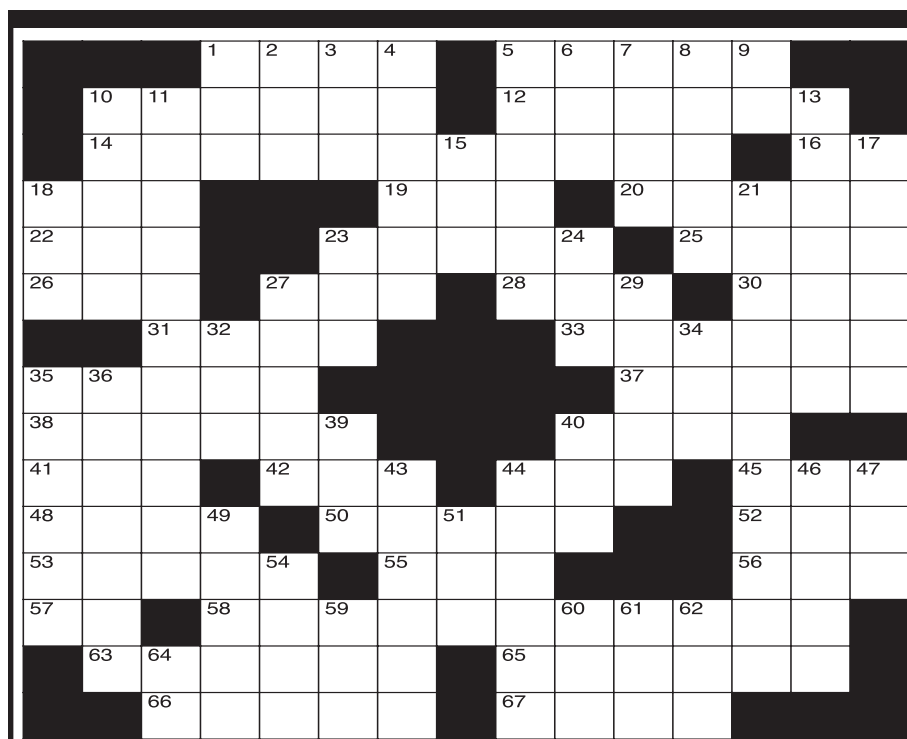
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 5. Where there's __, there's fire
- 10. Talked incessantly
- 12. Skill
- 14. Without shame
- 16. Where teens spend their days (abbr.)
- 18. Boxing's GOAT
- 19. Used to anoint
- 20. Cluster cups
- 22. Footballer Newton
- 23. They make up a forest
- 25. Split pulses
- 26. Self
- 27. Post-office box
- 28. Test for high schoolers
- 30. Large, flightless bird
- 31. Expectorated
- 33. Falsehood
- 35. Prickly, scrambling shrub
- 37. French river
- 38. Told on
- 40. Hillside
- 41. Peyton's little brother
- 42. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 44. Cathedral city in Cambridgeshire
- 45. Witness
- 48. Brews
- 50. Yellowish-brown
- 52. Arctic explorers, abbr.
- 53. Mexican agave
- 55. A type of “cast”
- 56. Encourage
- 57. Atomic #52
- 58. Relating to position north of south of equator
- 63. Gadget whose name you forget
- 65. Another recording
- 66. Small blisters
- 67. Dark brown or black
- 2. “__ and flow”
- 3. A very large body of water
- 4. Accumulate on the surface of
- 5. Central cores of the stem
- 6. Angry
- 7. Ceramic jar
- 8. Scraped a car
- 9. __ route
- 10. Soviet labor camp system
- 11. Strong hostilities
- 13. Vitamin of the B complex
- 15. Go quickly
- 17. Toast
- 18. A team's best pitcher
- 21. A Philly culinary specialty
- 23. Small child
- 24. Unhappy
- 27. Trims away
- 29. Characterized by crying eyes
- 32. Soft touch
- 34. American spy organization
- 35. A person's chest
- 36. Came from behind to win
- 39. Fall back
- 40. Nellie __, journalist
- 43. Great places to kayak
- 44. Suffer patiently
- 46. Majestic bird
- 47. Electroencephalograph
- 49. Organic compound used as an anti-septic
- 51. Objects connected to the web (abbr.)
- 54. Ship as cargo
- 59. The bill in a restaurant
- 60. Upper-class young woman (abbr.)
- 61. Judge in OJ Simpson trial
- 62. One's grandmother
- 64. Siberian river

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

ACC holding Strawberry Supper

AGAWAM – Agawam Congregational Church invites you to our annual Strawberry Supper on Saturday, June 24 at 5 p.m. The menu includes delicious roast port, roasted fingerling potatoes, green beans almondine and of course, homemade strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream. Cost is \$20. Tickets will be available in the church office Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Call 786-7111 or email office@agawamcong.com with any questions.



Class of 1968 to hold reunion

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School class of 1968 will be celebrating its 55th reunion this summer.

On July 8, Joanne (Demont) and husband Frank Locke will be hosting the event at their beautiful Main Street Deli.

This will be a casual summer affair, held outdoors rain or shine, from 6 to 9 p.m. Food, beer and wine will be available. To learn more, please visit the Deli's website, where you can view the buffet menu

and pricing. Tickets must be purchased in advance and can only be bought online through the website.

Talk this up with classmates you may be in touch with. The more the merrier. There is always a good time to be had when old friends from the class of 1968 get together for a reunion. If you have any questions, contact: Janice (Borgatti) DeFilipi at jdefilipi@gmail.com.

Registration for religious ed open

AGAWAM – Families are welcome to register for the 2023-2024 religious education program for youth at St. John the Evangelist Church, located at 833 Main Street in Agawam. A \$10 discount will be applied for families who register by June 30, 2023.

The youth program begins Sunday, Sept. 17, 9 to 10:15 a.m. for pre-K through seventh grades. A Confirmation preparation class will take place Sundays at 6 p.m.

for grades 8-12.

The registration fee is \$55 per student, or \$100 for a family with two or more registered children. For Sacramental Years (First Communion, Confirmation), there is an additional \$50 fee. For more information, visit stjohngawam.com, or contact Roxanne Casiello, Director of Religious Education, 413-786-8105, extension 103, or sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com.

Democratic Committee to hold caucus Saturday

AGAWAM – The Agawam Democratic Committee will be holding the 2023 Democratic Caucus at the Agawam Senior Center on Saturday, June 10 at 10 a.m. If you are interested in being elected as a delegate for the 2023 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, please attend the caucus. You must arrive prior to 10

a.m. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and doors will close at 10 a.m. The only requirement is that you have to be a registered voter, resident of the Town of Agawam, and a Democrat in order to participate in the 2023 caucus.

On Saturday, Sept. 23, delegates will gather at the Tsongas Center in Lowell to

adopt a party agenda and/or platform by a majority vote of Convention delegates present and voting based upon the recommendation, subject to amendments, of the Party Agenda or Platform Committee. Resolutions may be developed through a process beginning with caucuses of local Democrats.

YouTube seminar to be held at senior center Friday

AGAWAM – YouTube is a free app, and is one of the most important apps you can have on your cell phone, tablet, or computer.

Your speaker, Raymond Rose, will discuss:

- how to download the YouTube app on your phone or tablet.
- how to use the app.

• how You Tube can save you lots of money.

- watching free TV or podcasts.
- setting up your own free YouTube channel.
- listening to free audio books.
- watching videos of your family and friends.

The seminar takes place on June 9 at

1 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street. Bring a friend; it will be fun.

If you're not able to attend the seminar, visit RaymondRoseMedia.com and listen to all the info contained in the seminar.

Walk-ins are welcome - or reserve a seat by calling Kristina Lynch at the Senior Center at 413-821-0604 - or send her an email at KLYnch@agawam.ma.us

Applications being accepted for art festival

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans are accepting applications for the Pioneer Valley Art Festival that is being held at the Agawam Polish American Club, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills. The Art Festival is Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Set up is Friday, Aug. 25 beginning at 8 a.m.

For General Information and the Registration form please contact Ceil Rossi, President ACAA, at email to-carefree2@hotmail.com or call 413 207-1247. Deadline is Saturday, July 1.

Sacred Heart announces special masses

AGAWAM – Tuesday, June 13, is the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua. There will be a special Mass at 9 a.m. with the blessing and distribution of the St. Anthony Bread to be held at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills. Please come and spread the word to all.

On Friday, June 16 Sacred Heart Parish in Feeding Hills will be celebrating the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, patron of the parish. There will be a Sung Mass at 9 a.m. Please come and celebrate this special feast day in the life of the Church and of our parish.

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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS... \$2.12 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL or STEAK \$4.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS WHOLE 10 LB BAG \$1.53 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SPARE RIBS \$2.22 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CHICKEN BREAST SPLIT TRAY PAK... \$1.53 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CORN DOGS \$2.29 lb
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SPORTS

Championship drought ends for Agawam boys volleyball



Agawam boys volleyball captured the Western Mass. Class B Championship on May 27. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – A decade ago, the Agawam boys’ volleyball team defeated Ludlow High School in the Western Mass. finals before capturing the state championship title for the first time in school history with a 3-1 victory over Milford High School in the state finals.

Agawam was also the Western Mass. champions the next year, but they had to wait nine years before celebrating another championship title on the volleyball court.

The top-seeded Brownies didn’t have very much trouble dispatching North Division rival and second-seeded Minnechaug Regional, 3-0, (25-13, 25-15, 25-16)

in the 2023 Western Mass. Class B finals, which took place inside Chicopee Comp’s Herbert H. Curry Gymnasium, last Saturday afternoon.

“We haven’t won the Western Mass. title since 2014, so it feels very good to finally win it,” said Agawam senior Daniel Yovenko. “We didn’t have a volleyball season when I was freshman because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We were a brand new team in my sophomore year, and we worked very hard to rebuild this program from the ground up. We did come very close to winning the Western Mass. title last year.”

A year ago, the Brownies squeaked out a 3-2 win over the Minnechaug Falcons in the

VOLLEYBALL | page 8



Dennis Nesen goes straight up near the net



Joe Culhane comes down with a spike.



Nick Uschmann attempts a spike.



Daniel Yovenko attempts to get the point for Agawam.



Payton Malanson makes a catch in right.

Brownies fall in WMass final

WESTFIELD – After two dominant playoff wins, Agawam softball ran into a tough Westfield team in the finals of the Class A Western Mass. Tournament. Westfield turned Agawam away 9-0 in the game, which was played at Westfield State University last Tuesday. Agawam was limited to just four hits, two coming from Toni Vassallo. The Brownies now head for the Division 2 state tournament, and are facing Shepherd Hill in the Round of 32.



Alexina Lentos looks to get the tag down.



Kylie Circosta delivers a pitch in the second inning.



Mia Laudato fires over to first for an out.



Agawam softball was the runner up in the Class A Western Mass. Championship game.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Sports

Tri-County Baseball back in action

CHICOPEE – Last week, Tri-County Baseball was back in action with a number of games on the slate, though only four actually played due to rainouts. The Tri-County has gone through some turnover and some teams not making their way back to the league in recent years. This year, there are only six teams in the league, with Easthampton Savings Bank, a prominent member of the league for many years, not on the schedule this year. Regulars featuring players from all over the region including PeoplesBank, the Chicopee Falls Tigers, St. Joseph's, and DiFranco Realty are back this year. The Tri-County League, which features adult baseball, runs through the end of July.



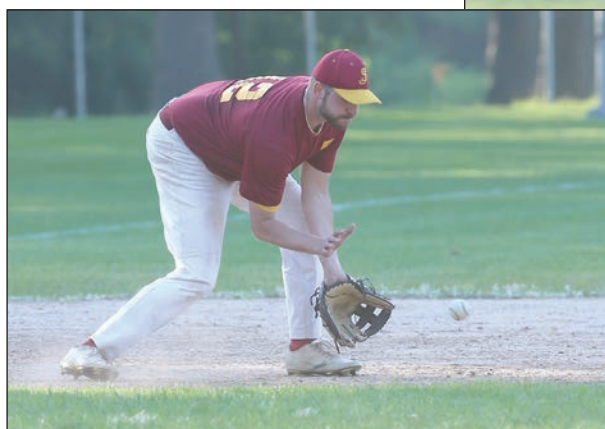
Luis DeJesus slings a throw to first.



Brandon Clark makes the out at first.



Jason Byers pitches for the Tigers.



St. Joe's Brandon Magni fields a grounder.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Find us online: www.sports.turley.com

Blue Sox in need of host families

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox is still searching for a few host families for the 2023 season.

To be a host family, all you need is a private room for the player to stay in, food options, and access to a kitchen.

In return, 2023 volunteer host families will receive:

- Free general admission to all Valley Blue Sox home and away games
 - Food vouchers for every home game
 - Transportation and ticket free to the Boston Red Sox game on June 12
 - Free clinics for any household member ages 6-13
 - Special Host Family recognition event
 - 40% discount on all merchandise
 - Season-long access to our live-game radio
 - Access to our fan bus to an away game to be determined
- If you are interested in being a host family, please contact matttd@valleybluesox.com for more information.

Opening weekend for Valley Blue Sox

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox return to MacKenzie Stadium next week, with their first home game on Thursday, June 8 at 6:35 p.m. The team will then have three more home games June 9, 10, and 11. There will be a special promotion for all fans who attend all 4 home games this coming weekend.

The team announced that any fans who attend all four games June 8-11 will receive their choice of either four flex tickets to any of the remaining home games this



season, or early access to a new Blue Sox T-shirt before they go on sale. Fans will receive a punch card on Opening Night that will be filled in with different colored stickers at each game until all four are collected after the weekend.

On Opening Night the team will be facing the Bristol Blues and giving away magnet schedules. The following night, Friday June 9 at 6:35 p.m. vs. the Ocean State Wolves, the team will be hosting

Isenberg Night, and giving away T-shirts sponsored by Isenberg School of Management. The first 100 UMass students to show their UCard upon entry will receive a voucher for one free meal and drink. Saturday June 10 at 6:35 p.m. vs. the North Shore Navigators, Boston Beer Co. will be sponsoring a Dogfish Tasting night, and fans will be able to enter a Red Sox/Sam Adams bench raffle. Finally on Sunday June 11 at 3 p.m. vs. the Martha's Vineyard Sharks, the City of Holyoke will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary with the team.

Fans are encouraged to come show their support for the start of the new season, and the Blue Sox look forward to seeing fans back at MacKenzie Stadium next Thursday.

VOLLEYBALL | from page 7

Western Mass. semifinals before losing to Ludlow, 3-1, in the finals at Holyoke High School.

"After losing in last year's Western Mass. final, we came into this season with some extra motivation," added Yovenko, who led his team in this year's championship match with 16 kills, along with five digs, and three aces. "We won today's match as a team, and it feels ten times better."

Yovenko's older brother, Ben, was also a member of the Brownies boys' volleyball team a couple of years ago.

"My older brother wasn't able to win a championship title when he was in high school," Yovenko said. "His uniform number was 15 and I also wear the same number. I looked up to him when I was younger."

The other seniors listed on the Agawam varsity roster are Carson Asselin, Colin Jorgenson, Antoine Poulin, Dan Fronchkevich, Colin La, and Nick Uschmann, who's a first-year member of the volleyball team. Uschmann also reached double digits with 10 kills in the Western Mass. final.

"This is a very big win for our program," said Kevin Pender, who won his first championship title as the Agawam boys' varsity volleyball coach. "I was an assistant coach when we won back-to-back Western Mass. titles in 2013 and 2014. We won the state title for the first time in 2013. We're also co-

league champions with Westfield this year."

The Brownies (18-2) advanced into the championship match following a 3-0 semifinal home win against fourth-seeded Ludlow, who are also members of the North Division.

"Ludlow is a talented volleyball team and we needed to play well in order to beat them the other night," Pender said. "It was also nice beating Ludlow, especially after losing to them in last year's final. This has been a very special season for us."

The last time that Minnechaug (10-10) won the Western Mass. title was in 2008. They also won both the Western Mass. and state titles four years earlier.

The Falcons defeated third-seeded Longmeadow, 3-2, in this year's semifinal match, which took place on their home court.

"This was the first time that any of us had played in the Western Mass. finals," said Minnechaug senior tri-captain Chris Zayas, who'll be a freshman at Westfield State University in the fall. "It was a good experience, but we didn't play our best match of the season. We needed to play our best to win this match."

Junior Ben Wilson and senior Amar Gamidov are also captains for the Falcons.

The other Minnechaug seniors are Jared Laliberte, Alex Tirabassi, and Will St. John.

Minnechaug head coach Josh Griffith wasn't available for comment following the match.

The Falcons held a 1-0 lead in the opening set before the Brownies built a double digit lead (14-4) with the help of a 12-2 run.

A kill by Yovenko gave the Brownies a commanding 19-7 lead.

The Falcons scored three unanswered points and closed the gap to 20-10 following a kill by Gamidov.

Agawam held onto the lead and entered the second set with a 1-0 lead in the match. "Winning the first set was huge for us," Yovenko said. "It set the tone for the rest of the match."

The Brownies held the lead from start to finish in the second set.

Minnechaug was trailing, 23-9 before reeling off five consecutive points with Tirabassi handling the serving duties. The Falcons sliced the deficit to 24-15 before the Brownies won the final point of the second set.

The score was tied several times at the beginning of the third set before the Brownies took a 14-7 lead with the help of an 11-3 run.

"We did put-together a couple of big runs in today's match," Pender said. "It's something that doesn't happen very often, especially against a good team like Minnechaug. We never took our foot off the gas pedal."

The Brownies never looked back after that, as their nine year championship drought came to an end.



Emil Zhmaidziak tips a shot over the net.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Sports

Kimball wins inaugural Winchester Open 100

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Saturday night's inaugural Winchester Open 100 might have been a new experience for fans and racers alike, but it ended with a familiar face in victory lane.

Monadnock Speedway graduate Matthew Kimball put his home-track expertise to work, besting a 24-car field to win the first-ever JDV Open Modified feature at the Winchester, N.H. bullring.

Kimball held off Carl Medeiros Jr. and Ryan Doucette to score one of the biggest wins of his Modified career thus far.

Inclement weather delayed the start of Saturday's main event, but did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of Kimball, who raced Mini Stocks at "Mad Dog" before making a career shift to Tour-type Modifieds. The Bennington, N.H. racer started from the pole, yielding to Monadnock veteran Todd Patnode on lap eight of the 100-circuit feature. Chris Pasteryak settled into third with Kirk Alexander fourth when a turn-three spin brought out the night's first caution.

Patnode immediately ducked down pit road, handing the lead back to Kimball. Alexander and Sam Rameau charged into third on the restart, while Pasteryak's hopes for a solid finish turned bleak when contact left the Connecticut racer sideways in turn two with 60 laps to go.

Rameau, who started 22nd, pounced on Kimball two restarts later to take the lead. Rameau set a fast pace, but Kimball was able to keep up, turning up the heat as slower traffic came into play. Early contender Alexander went for a backstretch spin with 17 laps left, though, eliminating the lapped-traffic



Matthew Kimball took the win last Saturday at Monadnock Speedway.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

fic wildcard and pitting Rameau against Kimball for the restart.

On the green flag, Rameau cleared Kimball for the lead, but Kimball loomed large in his mirror, tracing the curbs and keeping Rameau from building an advantage. With 11 laps left, Kimball dove inside on the backstretch, getting alongside Rameau in the turns and taking the lead back. Ryan Doucette threw his car to Rameau's inside to steal second, upsetting Rameau and letting Kimball escape. Another bobble from Rameau slowed the field, with Medeiros charging from the high line to take second as the top five shuffled.

Kimball was hardly home free, as another spin with six laps left forced a late-race restart. But the youngster got the jump on Medeiros coming to the green, and as Doucette made a bid for second, Kimball was able to

get away once again, coasting home to one of his biggest Modified wins yet and pocketing \$5,000 for the evening.

Medeiros held on for a strong second-place finish, with Doucette third at the line. Richard Savary drove back from a late pit stop to finish fourth, while Pasteryak salvaged a fifth-place finish.

Leading into the Winchester Open 100, Tom Harwood won his second straight New England Dwarf Car Series feature only a week after capturing the checkers at Lee USA Speedway. Adrian Smith won the Young Guns feature, while Robert Hagar topped the NHSTRA Late Models feature and Chris Davis came away with a win in the Pure Stocks main event.

JDV Productions' next scheduled event is the second annual Clash at Claremont on Saturday, July 29, featuring the NASCAR

Whelen Modified Tour in their fourth-ever appearance at Claremont Motorsports Park in New Hampshire's Upper Valley. Further information on this special event will be released in the coming weeks.

For more information on JDV Productions, visit JDVProductions.com and follow on social media for the latest updates throughout the season, including updates from the track on race day with feature winner posts.

Results: Winchester Open Modified 100; Monadnock Speedway; June 3

1. (43) Matthew Kimball
2. (50) Carl Medeiros, Jr.
3. (55) Ryan Doucette
4. (99) Richard Savary
5. (5CT) Chris Pasteryak
6. (02) Geoff Rollins
7. (1) Nathan Wenzel
8. (76) Kirk Alexander
9. (11X) Tyler Leary
10. (24) Todd Patnode
11. (04) Joey Jarvis
12. (17) Donnie Lashua
13. (95) Cory Plummer
14. (23) Bradley Zahensky
15. (13) Cameron Sontag
16. (06) Sam Rameau
17. (27) Derek Robbie
18. (02MA) Paul LaPlante
19. (99X) Kimberly Rivet
20. (7) Kurt Vigeant
21. (47) Jacob Perry
22. (51) Adam LaPoint
23. (24X) Cornelius Flynn
24. (30CT) Gary Byington

Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

The Agawam City Council Administrative Sub-Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on **TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 at 6:30pm**, at the Agawam Senior Center Veterans Hall, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on an Eversource petition for permission to perform work on Pine and South Westfield Streets in Feeding Hills, MA which could include installation of a new pole(s), manholes, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protect fixtures along and across the property. This petition is available by contacting the City Council Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA between the hours of 9:00am to 2:30pm, Monday through Friday or by emailing bbard@agawam.ma.us.

Robert E. Rossi, Chair
Administrative
Sub-Committee
06/01, 06/08/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD23P1083EA
Estate of:
James Dennis Fraser
Also Known As:
James D Fraser
Date of Death: 03/07/2023
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **James A.G. Fraser of Shelton, CT** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

James A.G. Fraser of Shelton, CT 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. 06/08/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD23P1048EA
Estate of:
Raymond W. Gendron
Also Known As:
Ray Gendron
Date of Death: 10/7/22
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Christine G. Gendron of Wells, ME**

Petitioner **Jean M. Wiernasz of Feeding Hills, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Christine G. Gendron of Wells, ME

Jean M. Wiernasz of Feeding Hills, 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. 06/08/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD23P0967EA
Estate of:
Ronald D. Kerr
Also Known As:
Ronald Kerr
Date of Death:
September 5, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Beth Kerr of Feeding Hills, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Beth Kerr of Feeding Hills, 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. 06/08/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23C0161CA
In the matter of:
Jorge Jonathan Maldonado
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

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

Jonathan Maldonado
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/29/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which

you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: May 31, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/08/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23C0155CA
In the matter of:
Shahzaib Shahzad Rana
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by **Shahzaib Shahzad Rana of Agawam, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Varun OM Gupta
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/26/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: May 25, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/08/2023

**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. HD23A0095AD
In the matter of:
Ashley May Belastbar
DeCoteau
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, §6**

TO:
any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:
Kelly Marie Simon of Agawam, MA

requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Ryan May Simon-DeCoteau
If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3.10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT **Springfield ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00 AM) ON: 06/23/2023.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 5, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/08/2023

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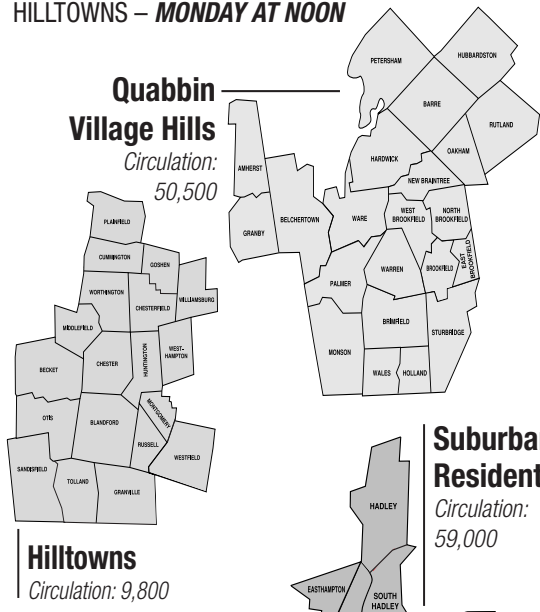
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MAYOR ■ from page 1

Calabrese is hopeful for this upcoming race, and plans to work hard to earn Agawam residents' votes.

"I look forward to earning your vote for mayor and for your support," she said. "Thank you, so much, to everyone out there who encouraged me to take this step. This is something I've been wanting to do for a very long time and this is my year. So, thank you so much, I'm looking forward to a lively campaign for mayor and, ultimately, to be sworn in as mayor in January of next year."

The upcoming mayoral race is not Calabrese's first. In 2009, she ran for mayor against six other preliminary candidates. She placed fifth in the primary election, therefore not gaining a position on the general election ballot. From there, she declared herself as a write-in candidate, though she was defeated by former mayor Richard Cohen.

Mayor William Sapelli declared he will

not be running for a fourth term, meaning there will be no incumbent in the upcoming election.

City Council President and former mayor Christopher Johnson has also taken out papers to run for mayor, rather than city council. Should both continue on the path for mayoral election, there will be two open seats on the city council. Neither Calabrese or Johnson have turned in their nomination papers to be certified by the registrar.

Calabrese has been a member of the city council for nine terms, and has been working in Western Massachusetts for over 30 years.

"Now in my ninth term as a member of the City Council, I have been an effective member of our municipal government," Calabrese said in a press release announcing her mayoral run. "I have supported improvements to infrastructure, and sustained funding for our first responders, ensuring that our police, firefighters, ambulance, and DPW remain appropriately equipped and

staffed. I have also fought for appropriate funding of our schools through the annual budgeting process."

Calabrese ran for state senate in the 2022 election and was defeated by incumbent John Velis, with Velis carrying 65% of the vote. In this race, she ran as a member of the Republican party.

Calabrese has faced some political backlash in the past.

In 2022, she made a FaceBook post with the image of Velis presenting a \$25,000 check to the Agawam Little League. Accompanying this post, was the commentary, "You are paying close to \$4.00/gal for gas again, but at least you ALSO paid for a democrat senator to have a nice photo taken with his pals."

"BTW...it should be YOUR name on the front of that check, not John's. YOU paid for that scoreboard, not him."

"And one more thing...I think it is shameful that the people in charge of Agawam Little League

have turned that awesome organization into the Public Relations wing for the Democrat Party...because that's what this is... baseball season is over and doesn't start again until Spring."

This post received criticism from other city council members, as well as Agawam community members. Calabrese took full accountability for the post and made no apology for the content.

"I did not remove the post because people deserve transparency and accountability from elected officials," Calabrese said at the time. "Citizens came to me with concerns about something that seemed 'wrong.' I felt it was my responsibility to react because people were upset about what they saw."

To officially be on the ballot for the preliminary election for mayor, Calabrese needs to turn in her nomination papers to the registrar for them to be certified. The preliminary election will be Oct. 10 and the general election on Nov. 7.

PARK ■ from page 1

Walks, led by Matt Largess, long time friend of the park and arborist from Rhode Island. He may also lead a walk through the recovering tornado damage. Meet at the Trestle Pavilion. These short walks are especially appropriate for children.

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Build Mason Bee Nests with Maryanne. Maryanne Pacetti of Scattered Seeds Foundation will host a fun and educational activity for all and, especially for children.

11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Ongoing Rapid Stream Assessments: Rod Parlee of the Bolton, CT

Conservation Committee, and Nancy Bobskill (former Environmental Science Teacher at Agawam High School), will conduct and explain rapid stream assessments. Participants will help collect samples from a stream and examine them for water purity. Bring rubber boots.

Additionally: The Robinson Swimming Pond may be open for swimming and exploring. The paved River Road is perfect for a bike ride or a stroll. Members of the Friends Group will be available at the Trestle Pavilion with photo displays, maps, and a general willingness to answer your questions and help you learn more about the park.

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Agawam Advertiser News

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Senate and House partners to mark Gun Violence Awareness Day with gun bills

WASHINGTON – On National Gun Violence Awareness Day, Sen. Edward J. Markey, a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, announced a package of gun violence prevention bills that would significantly decrease the threat of gun violence across the United States by putting an end to the 3D printing and distribution of ghost guns, strengthening accountability measures for irresponsible gun dealers, helping banks detect and report suspicious activity related to mass shootings, and strengthening state-by-state gun-licensing regulations through federal incentives.

“We’ve had more mass shootings in 2023 than days in the year,” said Markey. “Every day, gun violence in our schools and on our streets steals lives and rips families apart. We can’t keep living like

this, and Americans can’t keep dying like this. Congress took an important step last year in passing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, but the evidence is overwhelmingly clear that it’s not enough. We have an obligation to pass commonsense solutions, like my gun safety package, so that not one more life is lost to this unnecessary, man-made public health crisis.”

Today, Senator Markey and his colleagues announced the reintroduction of four gun violence prevention bills, including: 3D Printed Gun Safety Act, Keeping Gun Dealers Honest Act, Gun Violence Prevention Through Financial Intelligence Act, Making America Safe and Secure (MASS) Act.

The gun violence prevention bills are endorsed by Brady, Giffords, March For Our Lives, and States United to Prevent

Gun Violence.

In March, Markey and Rep. Elissa Slotkin, Mark Takano and Marilyn Strickland reintroduced legislation that would fund research at the CDC to better understand and address the United States’ ongoing gun violence epidemic, a public health crisis that has taken more than 180,000 lives across the nation.

In May 2022, Markey led his Senate colleagues in a letter to 28 shipping companies expressing concern over lax shipping security measures leading to firearm theft and making it easier for criminals to get their hands on lethal firearms. Markey also led 10 Senate colleagues in a letter to the Federal Trade Commission urging the agency to open an investigation into the marketing of lethal firearms, including assault-style rifles, to children.

Women’s Club holding rehearsals for entertainment

AGAWAM – The first rehearsal for the Catholic Women’s Club of Agawam’s entertainment will be held on June 22, in the St. John the Evangelist parish center gymnasium located at 833 Main St., Agawam, at 7 p.m.

All members are invited to be cast members and share their talent. Rehearsals will continue throughout the months of July and August.

Come with ideas for skits, songs or something you might want to present. Hope to see you there.

PRIDE ■ from page 1

has been proposed and put in place in the past year.

“I think it’s great that Agawam is able to openly support LGBTQ+ youth because I feel like today in the country there is so much legislation stacked up against us and it’s so important to just be able to get together and show that you’re supported, that you’re important to people because, things are not going too well, government-wise,” Eden Berry said. “So, I think it’s really important just to show that there’s support and that LGBTQ+ people are always going to exist.”

Erik Johnson agreed with Berry’s thoughts.

“I’ve been out as nonbinary for three years,” they said. “I’ve definitely been made fun of but, for the most part, people in this town, in this community, are awesome about it. So, I’m just happy I’m even here. It’s tough, but I’m happy that I have a library, a school, and just a community in general that is supportive.”

The teens weren’t the only people happy to have this event. Delano, who hosted the party, was also thrilled that Agawam library was able to have this party.

“I think it’s something that I really would have benefited from as a teenager. I wish that there had been, when I was growing up, more institutions coming out in support of LGBTQ+ youth,” Delano said. “I think also, right now, is a critical moment for libraries, specifically, to show their support for LGBTQ+ youth because this past year there were just astronomically more book challenges and book bans than ever



Agawam Public Library hosted a Pride party for high school teens.

before and a lot of that was LGBTQ+ material. So, it’s really a moment where a lot of people are trying to restrict access for kids to LGBTQ+ materials. We support intellectual freedom for everybody, so it’s really important to me that kids and teens know that the library supports them and wants them to be able to access the information that they need.”

Coming up, there will be another Pride party for tweens, grades six through eight, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 14.

The library also has two Pride book clubs, one for teens in grades 9-12, and the other for adults. The first session for both of these clubs will be on Wednesday, June 7.



Maddy Elwell, Lucy Hildreth, and Erik Johnson show off their finished suncatchers.

PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

The teen club will be from 2-3 p.m. and the adult session from 7-8 p.m.

“We are going an LGBTQ+ book group. We’re actually doing a group for teens and one for adults,” Delano said. “The first

meeting is bring your own book so basically anyone who wants to can come and there is no work you have to do ahead of time and people can just share their favorite LGBTQ+ books.”

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