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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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AHS celebrates Class of 2025



After moving their tassel, the AHS graduates throw their caps into the air signifying the end to their high school careers. See more photos on pages 7 and 9.

Amanda Munson
 Staff Writer
 amunson@turley.com

AGAWAM – On June 14, the Agawam High School class of 2025 graduated 232 students on Saturday at the Springfield Symphony Hall. The program began with the graduates' processional, principal's welcome, mayor's address, superintendent's address, president of the class of 2025 address, salutatory address, valedictory

address, and the awarding of diplomas and certificates. Performances by the combined bands from Director William Hueglin and combined choirs Director Amanda Johnson, with special recognition to the graduates who will be entering the military during the Pledge of Allegiance. Graduates were also recognized for being in the National Honor Society, Pro Merito, Renaissance, Peer Leadership, La Societe Honoraire de Francais, and

La Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica. The Agawam School Committee, Superintendent's Office, Agawam High School Administration, and Class of 2025 advisors were in attendance, along with the families, friends, and AHS alumni who were proud to cheer on the newly grads. The awarding of diplomas and certificates were made by Mayor and School Committee Chair Christopher C. Johnson, the Agawam

School Committee, and assisted by: Assistant Principal Timothy Karetka, Assistant Principal Charles Joyal, Assistant Principal Amanda Danek, with Co-Advisors for the class of 2025 Francesca Della Bella and Mary Lynn Hunter. Beginning was Principal James P. Blain for the principal's welcome, "I want to recognize two class advisors that provided all the exper-

CLASS | page 8

APL stories focus on Pride Month

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library hosted their annual Pride storytime for kids and families on Friday, June 13.

Anyone was welcome to come by and enjoy stories, songs, and crafts at the library.

Children's Librarian Pamela Weingart ran the program and read the books Families, Families, Families and Peanut Goes for the Gold.

Peanut Goes for the Gold is a favorite at APL, and Weingart wanted to read Families, Families, Families due to the diversity of family types shown within the book.

"I chose Families, Families, Families because it showed the many different variations that a family could be, and I was confident that the patrons who came would see themselves in at least one page," Weingart said.

In between reading the

different books, Weingart also led the families in songs and taught them some sign language.

She also had each child and their family recite that they are brave, strong, and smart.

"I think my favorite part was 'I am smart. I am brave,'" Weingart said. "All young people should have the opportunity to realize that they are smart, they are brave, and they are strong enough to stand up for what's important to them."

The kids in attendance also got to color in a bee as part of the craft time during the event.

"We had the coloring page that said 'be true to yourself' and it's a bee, which is cute," Weingart said. "Also, sometimes bees are black and yellow, but like people, I wanted the bees to all be different so people could color the bee with whatever colors they felt represented them."



PRIDE | page 5

Marvin Howard receives American Legion Award

AGAWAM – Resident Marvin B. Howard was recently honored by the American Legion Department of Massachusetts as Massachusetts Legionnaire of the Year at the Legion's convention in Marlborough on June 6.

Howard was born in Orchard, Nebraska and enlisted in the United States Air Force with his high school classmate (and current Ludlow, MA resident) Wilfred Sawyer in 1955. Howard served overseas with the Air Police

at Anderson Air Force Base on Guam and at Loring Air Force Base in Maine until his release from active duty in 1959. He eventually settled in Agawam and worked as a machinist at Kaman Aircraft and Jet Tool until his retirement. He is a member of American Legion Wilson/Thompson Post 185 in Agawam and its honor guard. He serves there as post chaplain.

Howard has volunteered

HOWARD | page 6



Marvin B. Howard (far right) proudly celebrated his recognition as Massachusetts Legionnaire of the Year with his wife, Barbara and friend, Wilfred Sawyer.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Brownies volleyball team are state champions again

By Tim Peterson
 Sports Correspondent

SHREWSBURY – Sweet Revenge.

After losing a heartbreaker to Wayland High School, 3-2, in last year's Division 2 state semifinal match, the members of the Agawam boys' volleyball team were really hoping to face the Warriors again in this year's state tournament.

When the tournament pairings were announced at the end of May, the two squads were on opposite sides of the Division 2 bracket. They wound up facing each other in the state finals.

After splitting the first two sets, the top-seeded Brownies won the third and fourth sets leading to a 3-1 victory (25-22, 23-25, 25-13, 25-16) over the third-seeded Warriors before a large crowd at Shrewsbury High School.

"Since losing to Wayland in the semifinals last year, I've dreamed about beating them in this year's state tournament and it came true tonight," said Agawam senior tri-captain Joe Culhane. "We've worked very hard this season and we just wanted to win the championship title a little bit more than they did."

The Brownies, who finished their magical season



The Agawam High School boys volleyball has once again captured a state championship, defeating Wayland last Thursday evening.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

with a 24-2 overall record, took home the championship trophy for the third time since 2013.

Two years ago, Daniel Yovenko led Agawam to a 3-0 win over archrival Westfield in the Division 2 State Finals at Worcester State University.

"This win feels a little bit different than the one two years ago because we didn't have a powerful player like Daniel Yovenko to lean on," said Agawam head coach Kevin Pender. "This one was a team win. Every single player listed on the roster contributed. The guys on the bench pushed the starters to

get better every day at practice. We played our style of volleyball tonight."

Culhane, along with senior tri-captain David Dzhenzherukha, will be joining the men's volleyball team at Elms College.

"David and I will be playing volleyball at Elms, which is going to be an amazing experience for us," Culhane said. "We're hoping to win another championship there."

A current member of the Elms volleyball team is Nick Uschmann, who was a member of the Brownies 2023 championship team. Uschmann was recently se-

lected to the GNAC All-Conference Second Team.

"Nick told us about the Elms volleyball team," Culhane added. "It'll be a lot of fun being teammates with him again."

The Elms men's volleyball coach is Brandon Hapgood, who graduated from Minnechaug Regional.

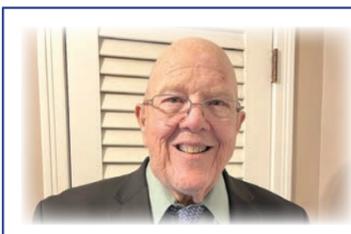
In their final high school match, Culhane had 15 kills and 16 digs, while Dzhenzherukha had 43 assists.

"We lost to Wayland in a reverse sweep in last year's semifinals, which just added to our motivation this sea-

TEAM | page 6



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Arcade on Wheels part of Summer Kickoff at Agawam Library

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library invites all ages to our Summer Reading Program Kick-Off on Monday, June 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Join us for an evening of fun and games of all kinds. This year's summer reading theme is "Level Up at Your Library," and in that spirit, we encourage everyone to reach new heights with reading, gaming and trying new challenges. We will have yard games (weather permitting), 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. Adults 18 and older have the opportunity to earn raffle tickets for reading and completing activities. Readers can choose between log-

ging their reading hours on Beanstack or following our Summer Reading Packet. Adult readers can earn up to 66 raffle tickets for reading throughout the summer; raffle tickets may be entered to win one of our grand prizes. This year's prizes include a Pickleball Paddle Set; a \$50 gift certificate to Agawam Bowl; a "Book Lovers Reading" Bag; a Dungeons & Dragons Starter Bundle; A Soy Candle Making Kit; and a Board Game & Card Bundle. New to Beanstack? Our

June Tech Sessions will introduce readers to the online platform used by the library to track reading hours and promote reading activities. Getting Started with Beanstack will be held on Wednesday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, June 24 at 10 a.m. in the Clini Community Room. This summer, we've challenged the Agawam community to collectively read 5,000 hours, and every hour you log during this reading challenge will help

us reach our goal! We'll be measuring the different milestones we reach with a giant game board inside the library, so be sure to stop by throughout the summer to see our progress. If you are participating online and would like to log more than 50 hours, please continue logging your reading as normal in Beanstack and we'll be able to see your extra hours. If you are participating in person and would like to log more than 50 hours, extra

logging sheets are available to pick up at the Information Desk. Summer Reading registrations begin June 23 and the challenge runs through August 8. In addition to our regular book clubs, game and trivia nights, virtual author talks, tech help and trivia, the library will offer some special programs to celebrate summer! Please see our website for a complete calendar of adult events and crafts for July and August. www.agawamlibrary.org.

Senior Center announces activities

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

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.

rience. 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.

Continuing Sessions with Glenn Olsen

Friday, June 27 at 1 p.m.
in the Conference Room

A little about me, I was a long term successful Physical Science Special Educator. In January of 2010 I had a severely disabling stroke. For the past 15 years I have focused on rehabilitation from my injuries with both traditional and non-traditional methods. We have discussed topics essential to living a healthy life style such as foods, nutrition, and vitamins. We will continue to talk about fascinating topics such as muscle testing, energy levels, orbs, the significance of color and more. I look forward to having you a part of our discussion.

St. John the Evangelist Church to host a Women of Grace Session

AGAWAM – Women in the Diocese of Springfield, Massachusetts are invited to attend an information session for an upcoming "Women of Grace" group study. The non-committal information session will be held Thursday, June 19, 6:30 p.m., in the parish center at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, Agawam. For more information, contact the parish office at 413-786-8105, or sje.pariahsecretary@gmail.com.

More about this program: Full Of Grace: Women

And The Abundant Life - Are you looking for a group study that would help to affirm your dignity and vocation as a daughter of God? The Women of Grace Foundational Study was developed by Johnette Benkovic Williams who has an EWTN (Eternal Word Television Network) program of the same name (www.womenofgrace.com).

This nine-week study will be held at St. John the Evangelist Church July 10 through Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m. at St. John's.

Therapy dog to visit library

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Public Library will host a visit from Maki the Therapy Dog. He will appear on June 9, 16, 23, July 7, 14, 21, and 28, Aug. 18 and 25 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on the fourth floor. Call for a 15-minute time slot.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Registration now open for many youth athletic summer programs

AGAWAM – Registration has begun for all of our summer programs. Some of our programs are at full capacity.

Doering PE Academy, Co-Ed Basketball Clinic, Boys Lacrosse Clinic, and Girls Lacrosse Clinic have openings as of this week.

Doering PE Academy

Doering Middle School PE Teachers will offer fun and physically engaging activities in a safe structured environment fostering fitness, teamwork, and social skills. The academy will consist of a variety of games, sports, and activities. Participants need to wear sneakers, bring a snack, and plenty of water.

Session I	July 1 through July 3
Session II	August 5 through August 7
Days	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Location	Doering Middle School Field & Gym if raining
Ages	Boys & Girls in Grades K-8 (*24-'25 school year)
Times	8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Cost	\$100 per person
Registration	Begins in person/online on Tuesday, June 3

Boys Lacrosse

Agawam High School Lacrosse Coaches will focus on the basic, skills, strategies, and rules of the game in this four day

program. Participants need to bring their own equipment, bring a snack, and plenty of water.

Days	Monday through Thursday (Friday will be used as a make-up day if needed)
Dates	July 28 through July 31
Location	AHS Stadium
Ages	Boys in Grades 1 - 8 (*24-'25 school year)
Times	9 a.m. to 12 noon
Cost	\$100 per person
Registration	Begins in person/online on Tuesday, June 3

Girls Lacrosse

Agawam High School Lacrosse Coaches will focus on the basic, skills, strategies, and rules of the game in this four day program. Participants need to bring their own equipment, bring a snack, and plenty of water.

Days	Monday through Thursday (Friday will be used as a make-up day if needed)
Dates	August 11 through August 14
Location	AHS Stadium
Ages	Girls in Grades 3 - 8 (*24-'25 school year)
Times	9 a.m. to 12 noon
Cost	\$100 per person
Registration	Begins in person/online on Tuesday, June 3

Co-Ed Youth Basketball

American International College (AIC) Men's Basketball Coaches will lead players through a series of drills and games that will enhance their ability in the game of basketball. Participants need to wear sneakers and bring plenty of water.

Days/Dates	Monday, July 14 through Thursday, July 17
Location	Agawam High School Gymnasium
Session I	Ages 7 - 10
Times	9 to 11 a.m.
Limit	35 per session
Session II	Ages 11 - 14
Times	12 noon to 2 p.m.
Limit	35 per session
Cost	\$50 per person
Registration:	Begins in person/online on Tuesday, June 3



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Feline Friends seeks more donations

AGAWAM – To all of our valued friends and supporters: The Cat Sanctuary is running short of supplies this month. Could you help out with an extra boost by donating unscented clumping cat litter, Kirkland purple bag of dry cat food, cases of Friskies, gift cards to Costco or B.J.s? For financial donations, checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills 01030. PayPal: @FelineFriendsRaffle. Venmo: @Feline-Friends. New drop off location: 532 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. *Look for the Feline Friends sign on the side door. Please put donations inside the door.*

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. Local pick up is available by calling 786-5019.

We are thrilled to announce that were chosen by E.B.'s Restaurant for their Give Back Wednesday Program on June 18. E.B.'s, lo-

cated at 385 Walnut Street Ext., will donate 10% of the day's total food sales to our sanctuary. It includes eat in or take out. Thanks to all who participated.

Thank you to everyone who donated goods or monetary donations in June. Your generosity is appreciated by the cats and their humans. Thanks to Katie H, Carl and Cheryl K, Kim, Joanne L, Carolyn C, Terry and Bill, Kay and Tootsie, Joan E, Crystal M, Ken K and Irene F, Virginia R, Valerie S, Dawn S, Julie G, Christina and Pete, Abigail F, Daniel G, Eva S, Judith R, Judith C, Juanita E, Glen G and Linda K.

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.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lions host local boy scout troop

On May 21, the Agawam Lions Hosted the local troops for both Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America and the local council members. This was recognition dinner for Scouting in our area. The troops attending were hosted to dinner and recognition of what

they do for the local youth. After dinner was completed, the troops were asked to come forward to receive the individual troop and Western Mass Council donations from the Agawam Lions. Members of the Agawam Lions, Western Mass Council and Scout Troop included:

Carl Borden Western Mass Scouting Council
 Alan Boissenalt King Lion Agawam Lions
 Alexa Piscitello Western Mass Scouting Council
 John Newsome Agawam Troop 77
 Thomas Crouss Sr. Agawam Troop 82

Thomas Crouss Jr. Agawam Troop 82
 Mel Gaynor Agawam Lions
 Lesley Young Western Mass Girl Scouts
 Joe Typrowicz Agawam Lions
 Brinna Burgos Western Mass Girl Scouts Council

Youth invited to come experience the 'Poop' Museum at library

AGAWAM – The Poop Museum is coming to the Agawam Library on Tues. June 24 at 6 pm. We are asking people to register so we know how many people to expect. Please register on the website agawamlibrary.libcal.com, or call 413-789-1550 ext. 3. This program is free and open to the public.

What is The Poop Museum?

The Poop Museum is run by Susie Maguire and is the place to come for those who are curious and have questions about poop, and also, if like Susie Maguire, they love poop, and think it's fascinating! Susie is a poop expert who thinks poop is the most interesting subject in the world. She has studied poop for years and loves

nothing more than sharing her expansive knowledge of poop with the people of the world.

At The Poop Museum, everyone learns many fantastic, fabulous and fun facts about human, animal and insect poop, many of which truly amaze and surprise.

Just a few of the poopers that visitors to the Poop Museum will meet, include:

- The world's messiest poop
- The animal that has poop attack powers
- The animal that uses poop as protection
- The rainbow poop
- The animal that has to hold its poop all winter long

At The Poop Museum, everyone learns a lot, and some of the facts that are shared are mind blowing! But The Poop Museum is also full of laughter ... because ... well ... our subject is poop and Susie has found a wonderful way to blend solid science, with the hilarity that humans love, when it comes to poop. So come and see us to learn and laugh and talk all about poop when The Poop Museum visits your town! We look forward to seeing you there.

If you are still unsure check out Susie Maguire's webpage and videos at thepoopmuseum.com. For more information on registration call the Children's Room of the Agawam Library at 413-789-1550 ext. 3 or email Pamela Weingart at pweingart@agawamlibrary.org.

Senior Center starting all skill levels ping pong every Thursday

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

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

ping pong player for many years, and is an enthusiastic player and teacher.

"Ping Pong with Jerry" provides an excellent opportunity for physical activity, social interaction, and friendly competition in a welcoming atmosphere.

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

Ping pong (table tennis) offers numerous health benefits, including improved hand-eye coordination, mental acuity, and

cardiovascular exercise in a low-impact format that's appropriate for various ages and physical abilities.

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



Pickleball tournament July 20 to benefit Greater Springfield Habitat

WESTFIELD – Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) is excited to announce a Pickleball Tournament open to players of all skill levels on Sunday, July 20, at The Picklr 415 E. Main St (The Westfield Shops Retail A-1).

From 12 to 4 p.m., seasoned players and rookies alike, will play a "King of the Court" three-person style play. Tickets are \$40 each, which includes prizes, snacks and refreshments, swag bags, and ridiculous amounts of fun. All are wel-

come to participate or spectate. To purchase tickets, visit habitatspringfield.org

"We are excited to be hosting this event. The staff at The Picklr has been educating us on all things pickleball and helping us to ensure a fun and lively event while raising awareness and supporting our construction programs," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director.

Greater Springfield Habitat is also looking for sponsors for the event. Sponsorships range from \$500 to \$1,500. For more information, see attached flyer.

GSHFH is dedicated to strengthening communities by empowering low-income families to change their lives and the lives of future generations through homeownership and home preservation opportunities. Since 1987, Greater Springfield Habitat has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County.

For more information, contact Olga Calligos, Homeowner Programs coordinator, at calligos@habitatspringfield.org or (413) 739-5503 x1003.

Strawberry Shortcake luncheon at Grange

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

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Can my husband work part time and collect Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am writing to you on behalf of my husband. His intentions are to go part time as of Jan. 1, 2026, working 30 hours a week and take Social Security benefits as supplemental income. How can we determine what his Social Security benefit would be with him still working part time? He will be 63 and 7 months old next January and has not yet applied for benefits. We look forward to hearing from someone very soon.

his projected earnings and withhold his benefits for the remaining months. They will also monitor his annual earnings as reported to the IRS and make any appropriate benefit adjustment afterwards.

If SS benefits are withheld because your husband exceeded the annual earnings limit, when he reaches his full retirement age (67), Social Security will give him time-credit for all months that benefits were withheld. Essentially, they will advance his actual claim date by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will make his monthly benefit higher at his FRA. The higher amount he receives after reaching his FRA will help him recover some of the money withheld as a result of exceeding the earnings limit before his FRA.

Please note that it is always best to inform Social Security up front if your husband plans to work and earn even part time prior to reaching his FRA. The IRS will provide the SSA with your husband's earnings information and SSA will (if his projected earnings weren't disclosed when he applied) issue an Overpayment Notice if he earns more than allowed. He will then be required to repay SS everything owed or have his benefits withheld until Social Security recovers what he owes.

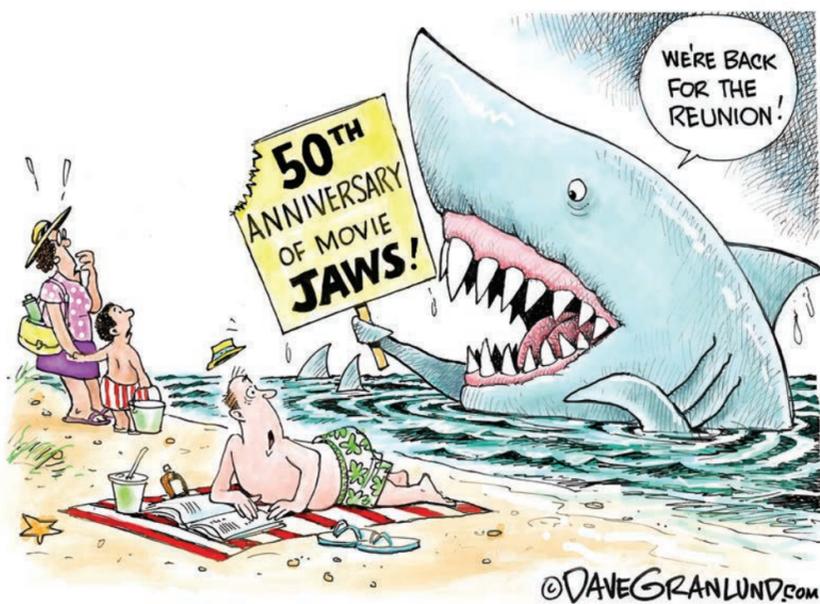
One final point: by claiming his benefits in January 2026, your husband's monthly amount will be reduced by about 22% from the amount he would get at his FRA of 67. Claiming early before FRA always results in a benefit reduction, whereas waiting longer than FRA to claim always results in a higher monthly amount (maximum benefit is reached at age 70).

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.

FYI, the earnings test lasts until your husband reaches his Full Retirement Age (his FRA is age 67), but in the year he attains his FRA the penalty for exceeding the limit is less, \$1 for every \$3 over the limit and the limit is much higher. The annual earnings test no longer applies once your husband reaches his FRA.

When your husband applies for his SS retirement benefit, Social Security will ask about his work plans and how much he expects to earn each year. Based upon that information, if he expects to exceed the annual limit they will pay his benefits for some months of the year depending on

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Guest Column

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Western bluebird

I received an email in May from a woman, who had a couple of Western bluebirds nest in her backyard birdhouse.

Western bluebirds are small thrushes, who usually perch upright. They are 6 to 7 inches long, larger than a sparrow and smaller than a robin. These bluebirds have thin, straight bills and short tails. The male Western bluebird is shiny blue above with rust orange on the breast and back. The throat is blue in males and the lower belly is whitish. Females are gray-buff with pale orange on the breast. Their throat is gray-buff. They have a blue tint on the wings and tail.

They inhabit open woodlands, both coniferous and

deciduous and burned areas. They commonly use bird baths. The female lays two to eight pale to bluish white eggs per clutch. They pounce on the ground when looking for worms and berries. They also catch insects. Their primary diet is insects and berries and will come to feeders for mealworms.

Compared to the Eastern bluebird, the male Western bluebird has a blue rather than the bright white belly like the Eastern bluebird. The orange also extends to the shoulders. Western bluebirds are not typically found in Massachusetts.

Eastern bluebirds

A Barre resident puts out mealworms for the East-

ern bluebirds, He has a pair coming to feast on the mealworms.

Mute swans and cranes

A Barre woman reported seeing a pair of mute swans on Long Pond in Rutland. I saw one of the swans this week on the same pond. She also reported seeing a sandhill crane. An Oakham resident thinks a pair of sandhill cranes have nested. He now only sees one in his field or flying overhead between Adams Pond and the Wolf Swamp area of Oakham. The last time I saw a sandhill crane in my hayfield, there was only one. Earlier this spring I saw

BACKYARD | page 5

What not do this last week of spring

By avoiding these common mistakes you'll be well on your way to a wonderful landscape this summer.

Sowing grass seed at the wrong time

Did you know that the end of August/ beginning of September is the best time to get a new lawn off to a good start? It is, first and foremost because crab grass (the arch enemy of real grass!) can't gain a foot hold late in the growing season. Slightly cooler temperatures and adequate rainfall prevalent during that time of year help too.

Scalping the lawn

Healthy turf isn't mown as low, or as often as you might think. Mowing to a height of about three inches will encourage a strong stand of deep-rooted grass that is capable of shading out developing weeds and sustaining itself during periods of drought.

Removing grass clippings

Take the bagger attachment off of your mower and

let the clippings fall back onto the lawn! Grass clippings are a valuable source of nitrogen, the nutrient responsible for giving grass its green color. It's silly to remove it, only then to provide it in the form of granular fertilizer.

Watering during the heat of the day

Most gardeners know that early in the day is the optimal time for watering the lawn as well as other plants. Less water is lost to evaporation, and fungal diseases are kept to a minimum since foliage has a chance to dry before darkness sets in.

Choosing the wrong plant for the location

Almost everyone has fallen victim to the "I've got to have that plant syndrome." This

condition causes even smart gardeners to buy plants that don't fit their particular situation. Heed the advice provided on the plant's tag. If it requires shade, plant it in a shady location. If it demands a well-drained soil and yours is clayey, amend the soil first! Etc. etc.

Applying mulch too thinly

Topdressing our shrub beds with a layer of mulch each season can be an expensive endeavor. Frugal gardeners may skimp in order to save money. Do so and you may be sorry, as weeds will no doubt pop through less than adequate coverage.

Make sure that bark mulch is three to four inches thick; hay or straw used in veggie gardens should be even thicker, to the tune of eight to 12 inches.

Mulching too close to the base of a tree

Never mound up bark mulch against the base of

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3 EASY WAYS TO REACH US

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

All letters are subject to editing for content and length.

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

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Agawam Advertiser News 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.



Children's Librarian Pamela Weingart read the book *Peanut Goes for the Gold* to kids and their families at the Agawam Public Library Pride storytime.



Everyone at the Agawam Public Library Pride storytime joined in on the dance party.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



Kids and their families got up and danced while singing a song, led by Children's Librarian Pamela Weingart.



Kids and their families did some coloring as part of the Agawam Public Library Pride storytime event.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

a tree. It can result in bark decay. This condition can bring about a disruption of the translocation process of food from the leaves of the tree to its roots, weakening it severely. The tree will also become more vulnerable to attacks by insects and fungi.

Not moistening peat moss before use

Most experts recommend adding peat moss to the planting hole when installing trees, roses or other shrubs. Rich in organic matter, it will get your plants off to a great start, but only if incorporated correctly.

Peat moss must be moistened before use, otherwise it will wick water away from the plant it is intending to

help. Once thoroughly wet, peat moss will aid in moisture retention!

Forgetting to "butterfly" root balls at planting time

Did you ever purchase a tree or shrub, perennial or annual whose root ball was so thick with roots you could barely see the soil in which it was planted? Plants that match this description are "root bound."

If this situation isn't remedied at planting time the roots may never know they have room to sprawl; ultimately, growth may be affected! Let the roots run free by taking both hands and splitting open or "butterflying" the root ball. Root balls of larger specimens can be scored in sev-

eral places with a knife.

Pruning summer blooming shrubs now

Don't prune your Rose of Sharon or Hydrangea now or you'll take the flowers with your clippings. On the flip side, you have until July 1 to prune your lilacs. Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be deadheaded now for even more flowers next spring.

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.

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

a two cranes in the field, which is near Wolf Swamp.

Titmouse and robin

An Oakham resident reported, "There was a lot of commotion at the robin nest and I went to the window to see what was going on. A titmouse was gathering the soft fuzzy from under the three eggs. Dad robin came along and drove the titmouse off." She said, "I put out lots of nesting materials, but as always, someone else's looks better."

Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee offer loon facts in their newsletter. The newsletter said, "Generally, loons will remain on the ocean until they reach adulthood at age three. This is not always the case, each year here in New Hampshire, the committee volunteers observe the presence of five to ten immature loons on the lakes during the breeding season. Upon their return as adults, these loons begin to look for a breeding territory

of their own."

They will acquire their first territory in one of three ways: by passively replacing a territory owner that has died or is otherwise missing, by establishing a new territory on a lake that is not currently occupied by loons or by fighting and evicting another loon from its territory and taking its place.

One of the ways a loon can acquire a breeding territory is to intrude upon an already-occupied territory and engage in territorial battles with the member of the pair that is the same sex. If the intruder wins, it will evict the resident loon and take its place as a pair member on that territory.

The article said, "Research has shown that while selecting their first breeding territory, loons tend to look for lakes and ponds that are similar, at least in terms of size and pH, to the lake they hatched on. This may be a result of increased chance of survival due to familiarity, if, as a chick, a loon learned to forage and evade predators on a lake with certain charac-

teristics, it makes sense that it would seek out those same characteristics, to which their skills are well suited, to breed on."

Another factor that has been shown to influence territory selection is previous chick production. Territorial intrusions tend to increase following successful hatches, indicating that loons without a territory of their own may use the production of chicks as an indicator of territory quality and target those successful territories for takeover.

Because they stay on the ocean for the first years of their lives and then must spend time, sometimes many years, acquiring a breeding territory of their own, most loons will not hatch chicks of their own until they are six-seven years old.

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.

PRIDE ■ from page 1

Weingart was delighted to be having this event, as she wanted to show that everyone is welcome at APL.

"It's important that people can be true to who they are and to who they are, and I wanted a place to celebrate that and to show that love makes a family," Weingart said.

The library has a variety of other fun events coming up for the summer.

Their summer reading kick-off is on Monday, June 23 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. People of all ages are wel-

come to attend. There will be an arcade truck, games and even ice cream provided by the Moolicious ice cream truck.

Following this kick-off event, the library will be launching into all of their summer programs.

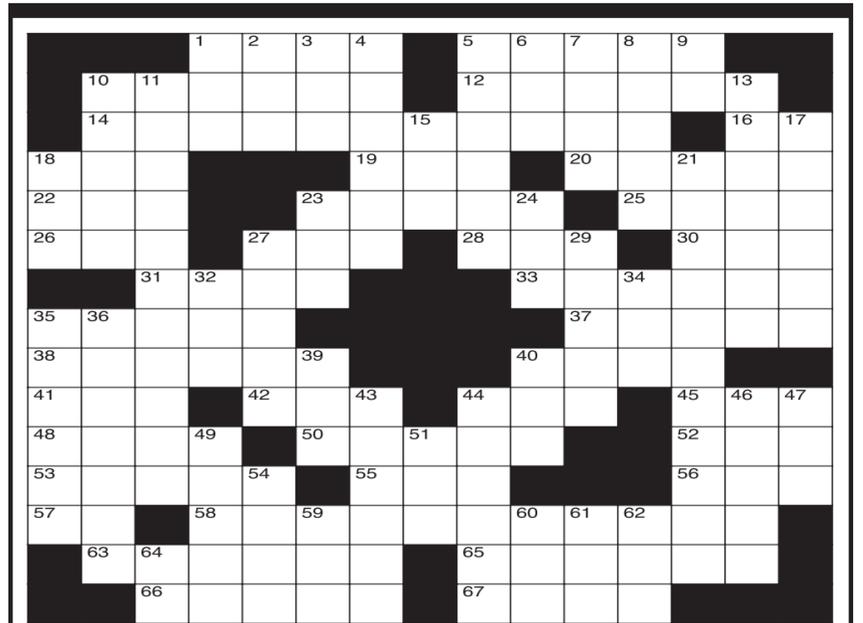
On Tuesday, June 24 they will have a Poop Museum for grades one through six, though younger kids are welcome. Kids have to register in advance and they can learn about the science behind poop.

"I'm so excited [for the poop museum]," Weingart said. "It's really cool."

There will also be a family paint night on Thursday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m. Kids in grades one through sixth and their families are welcome to come.

During this event an artist will come in and show kids and families step by step how to make a certain painting, though everyone is encouraged to get creative and add their own flair to their painting.

To keep updated on all of the different events that the library has throughout the summer, go to the library's website at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/>.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of bread
- 5. Range of mountains
- 10. Ended
- 12. Musical forms with a recurring theme
- 14. On the nature of being
- 16. Law enforcement agency
- 18. Australian flightless bird
- 19. Subway rodent
- 20. More dried-up
- 22. A beaver might build one
- 23. Suggestive of the supernatural
- 25. Art __, around 1920
- 26. American rocker
- 27. Not or
- 28. Earliest human: __-Magnon Man
- 30. Firearm
- 31. Tough outer skin of fruit

- 33. Alternative form of a gene
- 35. Low shrub some call "fat pork"
- 37. Plants in the chamomile tribe
- 38. Revolutionary War era spy
- 40. Portion of a book
- 41. Hoover's office
- 42. Title of respect
- 44. Tax collector
- 45. Cool!
- 48. Real estate
- 50. Boy's name
- 52. Airborne (abbr.)
- 53. Strongly recommends
- 55. Hit lightly
- 56. Bar bill
- 57. Atomic #54
- 58. Devotes again
- 63. Fish sauce
- 65. French stock market
- 66. Things that consist of two elements or parts

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Retired game show host Sajak
- 2. Equal (prefix)
- 3. Israeli city __ Aviv
- 4. Loved
- 5. A type of analyst
- 6. Ad __
- 7. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 8. Ran without moving
- 9. Opposite of yes
- 10. Diffuse clouds of gas
- 11. Mentioning one by one
- 13. Instruments used to dilate
- 15. Freshwater fish
- 17. Remotely-manned flying objects
- 18. Doctor of Education
- 21. Renums
- 23. Not the start
- 24. Pitching stat

- 27. Small water buffaloes
- 29. Ceramic jars
- 32. I (German)
- 34. Something to toss on a fire
- 35. The process of flowing in
- 36. A series of acts at a night club
- 39. Egg of a louse
- 40. Inquire too closely
- 43. Travelers
- 44. Drink
- 46. Behave in a way that degrades
- 47. Electronic music style
- 49. Northern Ireland city
- 51. Upset
- 54. Stiff structure resembling a hair
- 59. Father
- 60. North Atlantic fish
- 61. 8th month (abbr.)
- 62. Make an effort
- 64. Commercial

Summer Reading for kids and teens at the Agawam Library

AGAWAM – The Summer Reading Challenge at the Agawam Library is a seven week span full of activities, reading, and prizes following the theme of Level Up at Your Library. That means we are embracing all things gaming. The Summer Reading Challenge will begin on Monday, June 23 and end on Fri-

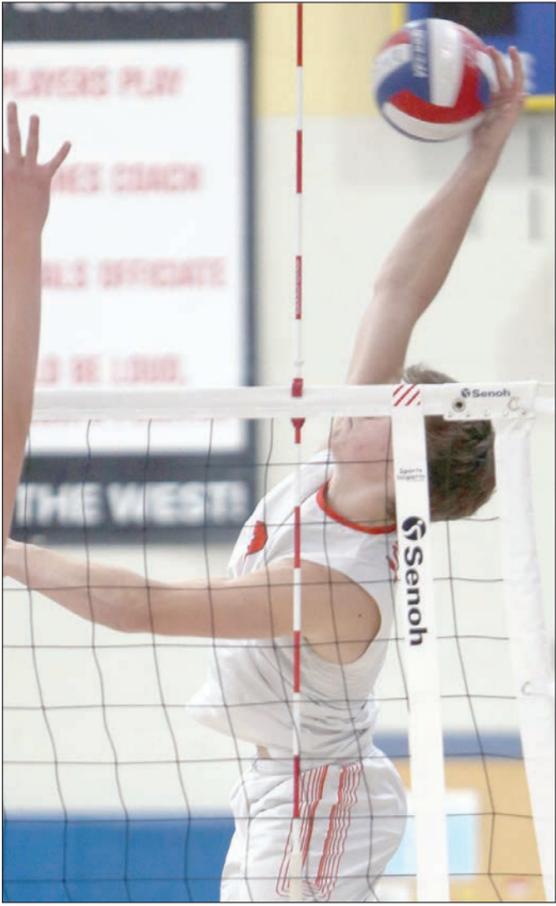
day, Aug. 8. Each week, kids & teens can enter raffle tickets for prizes and work to secure a spot in the Grand Prize Raffle. This year the grand prize is a Kindle Fire 7. The library is challenging the entire community to work towards logging a total of 5,000 hours of reading during the Summer Reading

Challenge. You will be able to follow our progress by checking out the life-sized game board by the Circulation Desk. To log your reading go to the website agawamlibrary.beanstack.org. We will also have lots of activities for kids and teens. All activities are free and open to public. Some events

require registration. Registration starts June 16. To register go to the website agawamlibrary.org, or call 413-789-1550 ext 3. The following events are happening June 23 to July 5. To view the full listing of Summer Reading events go to our website: agawamlibrary.org

Monday, June 23
 Family Take and Make Craft – Summer Treat Magnet. For kids of all ages. Available all day while supplies last. Drop-in, no registration is required.
 Kirby Scavenger Hunt – For grades 7-12. All Week. Stop by the Teen Space anytime the library is open to

do this scavenger hunt. Everyone who completes a Kirby Scavenger hunt will be entered into a raffle for a special scavenger hunt prize, separate from the Beanstack raffles.
 9:30 a.m. Toddler Time – For ages 19 m. – 36 m. Drop-in.
 LIBRARY | page 12



Dennis Nesen looks to clear the ball across the net during the state semifinals last Tuesday.



David Zhmiadziak gets a spike.



Joe Culhane scores for the Brownies. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY

TEAM | from page 1
 son.” Dzhenzherukha said. “I think we have the most well-rounded team in the whole state. I’ve loved playing volleyball with these guys during the past several years.”
 The Brownies’ other senior captain is Kyle Doughlas. Rounding out the senior class are John Cote, Dennis Nesen and Eric Nazarets. “Our senior class have been incredible this season,”

Pender said. “A couple of them were members of the 2023 state championship team.”
 At the beginning of the regular season, Agawam squeaked out a 3-2 road win against Wayland. In the state finals, the Warriors (16-9) held the lead in the first set before back-to-back aces by Nazarets, who’s a libero, gave the Brownies a 15-14 advantage. “My aces changed the momentum of the opening set,”

Nazarets said. “Winning the first set was very important for us. The Brownies wouldn’t trail again during the rest of the opening set. A kill by junior Tim Karcha, who had a team-high 16 kills, gave the Brownies a 21-17 advantage. “Tim Karcha didn’t make any errors in tonight’s match,” Pender said. “I don’t think he’s at the top of your scouting report when you’re looking at

us. We’re a balanced team.”
 Another kill by Culhane sealed the first set for the Brownies. The Warriors led by as many as seven points (14-7) in the second set, but the Brownies battled back. They closed the gap to 21-20 following an unforced error. Another unforced error made the score 24-23 before the Warriors won the final point of the second set. Wayland was led by junior

Finn Bell with 25 kills. Just like the Warriors did in the second set, the Brownies never trailed during the third set. Agawam built a 15-6 advantage following a Karcha kill. A kill by junior Chase Gerani (7 kills) pushed the Brownies lead into double digits at 17-7. The Brownies largest lead of the third set was 24-10. The Warriors did win the

next three points before the Brownies retook the lead in the overall match. Led by Culhane and Karcha, the Brownies took control of the fourth set, and they never looked back. Agawam held a 24-16 lead before a kill attempt by a Wayland player landed past the end line. It allowed the Brownies players and coaches to celebrate their second state title in the past three years.

Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 10, 2025**. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. *Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public*

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com *Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.



Marvin B. Howard receives the Legionnaire of the Year award from American Legion Convention Chairman James Brehio and Department Commander Nelson Blake on June 6 in Marlboro. SUBMITTED PHOTO

HOWARD | from page 1
 at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam since 2003 in the chapel and as a member of the honor guard firing detail. He was Volunteer of the Year there in 2005 and 2013 having served for over 12,000 interment ceremonies at the Cemetery, an incredible testimony to his commitment to his fellow veterans and their families. He has read the Governor’s Proclamation on Memorial Day and Veterans Day during cer-

emonies at the Cemetery since 2005. Howard is also a Director for The Friends of the Agawam Veterans Cemetery. Howard has run 39 marathons and has been volunteering for the Boston Marathon since he last ran Boston in 2002. He still runs 4-6 miles, six days a week. Howard was awarded the “Game Changer” Award in 2022 by the Springfield Thunderbirds for his work at the cemetery. He also served as the Parade

Marshal in the 2022 Memorial Day Parade in Agawam. In 2024, with scores of his fellow veterans, spanning generations, looking on, Howard was presented one of Massachusetts highest military honors by Governor Maura Healey, the Captain Thomas Hudner Jr. Valor Award, named for a Massachusetts hero of the Korean War. Howard’s wife and his lifelong friend Wilfred Sawyer were present at the American Legion ceremony on June 6 in Marlborough.

Congratulations Class of 2025



The AHS graduates, family members, and friends had a view of the stage to cheer their high school graduate on.



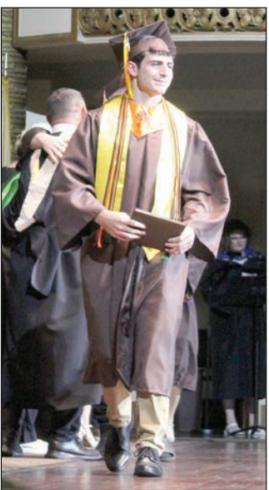
Mayor Johnson and Superintendent Sheila Martin smile at the AHS crowd before heading up to the stage.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY AMANDA MUNSON



The Agawam School Committee, Superintendent's Office, Agawam High School Administration, the Class of 2025 advisors, and Mayor Johnson all stand to welcome the class of 2025.



The address to the class of 2025 was given by President Terence K. Cheung, president of the class of 2025, who took a selfie before signing off.



Many graduates looked relieved to complete their high school careers.



The class of 2025 were welcomed to the stage to finally walk as high school graduates.



With the principal, superintendent's office, and AHS staff in attendance, many graduates were seen hugging close faculty members after receiving their diploma.



Superintendent Sheila Martin gave the superintendent's address to the class of 2025.



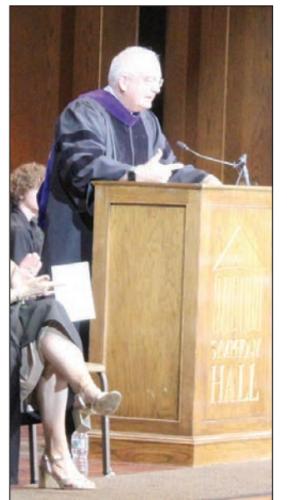
More than 200 graduates received their diplomas on Saturday.



Graduates EmmaAnn Elizabeth Gilbert and Nadine Marie Gilbert walked on stage before posing for their graduate portrait.



Many graduates hugged their favorite staff members.



Mayor Christopher Johnson gives his address after being welcomed by Principal James Blain.



Looking up into the crowd, graduates could hear the cheers from families and friends.



This graduate was happy to receive her diploma.



Waving behind her, this graduate is on her way to attend Western New England University.

Schools & Youth

COLLEGE NOTES

Uhart students named to Dean's, President's Lists

WEST HARTFORD, CT – The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 2,228 students have been named to the Dean's List and President's List for the spring 2025 semester.

The Dean's List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C.

The President's List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To be placed on the President's List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

Among the local honorees are:

- Amara Agosto of Agawam - Dean's List and President's List
- Samantha Mengwasser of Agawam - Dean's List and President's List
- Nick Ugolini of Feeding Hills - Dean's List

- Isabella Castro of Agawam - Dean's List and President's List

- Lunah Hayward of Agawam - Dean's List

Eastern releases Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC, CT – Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester, in which 1,302 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among the students were: Morgan Anjos of Feeding Hills, a full-time senior who

majors in Accounting
Jacob Napolitan of Feeding Hills, a full-time junior who majors in Finance

HCC announces Spring Dean's List

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the students who earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2025 semester. Each term, HCC recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher.

The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2025 term.

Agawam: Jacquelyn Chantal Bazelow, Kevin Robert Bryden, Jack Tillman Canney, Collin Cavanaugh, Dylan M. Christy, Samantha Elizabeth Coard, Chase Victoria Duncan, Jill Marie Fogg, Christina Elizabeth Gioscia, Egzona Grainca, Tyler Hayward, Lillian Mallon Kennedy, Kelly Vladimirovna Klepanchuk, Krystsina Kuzina, Tatsiana Marcu, Kylie Elizabeth Nooney, Elise Mackenzie Nooney, Oksana Parfeniuk, Kenna Marie Rainville, Yusuf

Sahin, Aiden Jeffery Therrien, Mai Linh Nu Ton, Jacqueline June Williams.

Feeding Hills: Breanna A. Allen, Reanna Elizabeth Allen, Allison Dana Boucher, Joshua Daniel Carrier, Emma-Liegh Cook, Donna Maria Davis, Megan R. Farwell, Helen Gorovenko, Sophia Hunt, Grace Esther Leiper, Olivia Marin Liacos, Jaxon Kaleb Luke, Joselyne Katrina Matos, Mia Margret McGregor, Thomasine Montanez, Jessica Yesenia Olmo, Amanda Paige Ouellette, Payton Elizabeth Roderick, Sofia Shevchuk, Giuliana Lyn Silva.

CLASS ■ from page 1

periences that our students deserve, Francesca Della Bella and Mary Lynn Hunter, thank you! Our graduation is a community effort, planning meetings, communication; our school committee, staff, administration all come together to ensure the ceremony is worthy of our accomplishments. I always appreciate the Agawam "all in" philosophy shared by everyone because it allows us to celebrate this special event. Next up, I am pleased to bring up five members

who will be entering the military from Agawam High School for the Pledge of Allegiance. Next, I would like to recognize the director of the combined bands Mr. William Hueglin and the director of the combined choirs, Mrs. Amanda Johnson and I ask that graduating seniors join them for the Star-Spangled Banner. On this great occasion comes the knowledge that not all our loved ones couldn't be with us today. At this time, I would like to ask for a moment of silence in remembrance for lost family members and loved

ones. Now, it is my pleasure to announce the mayor of Agawam, Mayor Christopher C. Johnson."

Mayor Johnson continued with the address,

"Good afternoon and greetings, congratulations to the class of 2025 from the Agawam school committee, city council, and every resident of Agawam. I could sit here and tell you to follow your dreams and eventually get a good job, but the heck with that. Class of 2025, do something great with your lives. Excel and think outside the box. The Agawam Pub-

lic Schools have given you the tools and given you the building blocks, the wings to fly as high as you ever want to fly and now it's up to you. Now it takes hard work and perseverance, please fly high, and do something great with your lives. To the mom and dads out there, congratulations. You got them through, wonderful job. To the graduates, as you go through life and everyone you encounter, treat them with kindness. Even if they don't believe in you or believe in the same political persuasion, we live in the greatest country on Earth. You are the future of that great country, and I know I have great confidence because I know you'll all do something great with your lives. On behalf of the entire community of Agawam, fantastic job and I couldn't be prouder of each and every one of you. Congratulations to the class of 2025."

Superintendent Sheila Martin was invited to the superintendent's address, "Today we celebrate a milestone, you the class of 2025 walk across

this stage not just as graduates but as adults stepping into the future with hope, potential, and courage. Now as superintendent, I've had my fair share of graduation speeches, and I've found it more difficult each year to offer wisdom and inspiration. This year I decided to look at people who keep things simple, honest, and surprisingly wise...our kindergartners. That's right, this year's graduation guidance came from the experts of juice boxes and recess. Their message to you is clear, be kind, be brave, and do your best. Whether you're stepping onto a college campus, the workforce, into the military, or onto an adventure that's unknown, kindness will always be your compass. The world can be noisy and chaotic; kindness brings calm and clarity. Class of 2025, you have shown your resilience and your creativity through your years here, now take it with you the most resilient advice we have. Be kind, be brave, and do your best. Congratulations and go be great!"

Class President of the

class of 2025 Terence K. Cheung walked up to the podium for his final address, "It's an absolute honor and privilege to stand before you as this class's president. On behalf of the class of 2025, we thank you for being here today and celebrating this special day. Whatever comes next, go with courage and go with heart. Whatever may happen, you already overcame so much. Class of 2025, this is the finish line and it's just starting the next race. We made it, let's be the change we once needed."

Salutatory address was given by Isabella Maria Oliveira who ended with, "Thank you to our teachers and parents who worked as the operators to our crazy journey. To my peers, we are now in control, although we are now leaving the park we've known our whole lives know that there's a whole new park waiting for us. Wherever you go from here, take the courage you built, the memories you made, and the lessons you learned to take you to the next thrill."

Congratulations to
The Entire 2025 Class of
AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL



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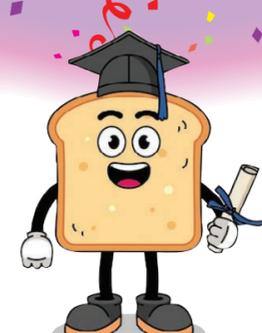
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CONGRATULATIONS
AHS
GRADUATES!



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**"A TOAST...
TO YOUR GRADUATION"**
Congratulations
&
EGGSCCELLENT Job....
Soon You'll Be Bringing Home
The **BACON!**

Your Friends
at






Adrian Barreto was proud to pose with his cap, gown, and diploma.



Several graduates decorated their caps with the college they're attending to a quote that got them to where they are today.



Eric Matthew Daris smiles in front of Symphony Hall.



Multiple caps were decorated that showed off the graduates' personalities and creativity. This mortarboard displayed a love of Disney.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY AMANDA MUNSON



Meeting outside the Symphony Hall, graduates were seen taking photos and gathering with their family and friends.

\$12.50 Each

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Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

CONGRATULATIONS
Tanner Blake!

We are so proud of who you have become. You have the smarts, the grit, and the drive that are all worth celebrating. Can't wait to see what you accomplish at Cornell University!

Love,
♥ Nonie and Grandpa Blake

Congratulations
Brianna

You deserve to be celebrated!
Never a doubt in you, never a doubt in your success. We are beyond proud of you!

♥ With love, Mom, Dad, Gabriella, Dominic, Grandma, Grandpa, Nonna and family

Graduation Greetings

Congratulations to the Class of 2025
We wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

Cooper's
GIFTS | APPAREL | HOME
(413) 786-7760
161 Main St. Agawam

Best Wishes
May your future be filled with health, wealth and happiness.

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Congratulations, Graduates!
We're proud of you!

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GARDEN CENTER INC.
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1236 Springfield St. Feeding Hills

Hats off to the Grads
We know you've worked hard and we're so proud of you!

Java Stop
AGAWAM'S
(413) 786-8418
4 Southwick St. Feeding Hills

You Did it!
Best wishes to the Class of 2025.

Joey's
Deli & Market
(413) 283-8393
1226 Springfield St. Feeding Hills

We Salute the Class of 2025
We are proud of your hard work and accomplishments, graduates!

The Lovemich
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A GIFT & LIFESTYLE SHOP
(413) 786-4289
1363 Main St. Agawam

We're Proud of You, Grads!
Best of luck to each of you, graduates.

Parrotta's
AUTO SERVICE
Since 1975
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357 Main St. Agawam

All the Best to All of You
Wishing you a world of success.

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1363 Main St. Agawam

Mission Accomplished
Congratulations on this milestone!

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Here's to You!
Supporting you in the headlines and on the sidelines!

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SPORTS

Brownies score shutout in opener

BELCHERTOWN – The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League is back in action in 2025 and the Agawam High School girls A summer squad scored a 1-0 shutout over

Belchertown last Thursday evening at Jabish Brook Middle School. The Brownies and Orioles were back in action this week.



Kylie Warner tries to dribble around an opponent.



Maya Gingerhua dribbles up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Bella Shunaman hustles with the ball.



Laura Parolo heads past midfielder.



Makayla Rosario looks to make a long kick up the field.

New England Mutiny gets shutout of Racing Power FC

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Sole possession of first place in the U.W.S. East Conference standings was at stake entering the first ever meeting on the soccer pitch between Racing Power FC USA and the New England Mutiny.

Avery Klingensmith navigates through traffic.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Bella Meadows traps the ball on defense.

After a scoreless opening half, the Mutiny scored three second half goals en route to a 3-0 shutout victory at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

“We played very well for the entire game,” said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. “We finally scored a few goals in the second half.”

The Mutiny had a perfect 5-0-0 record following their third shutout win of the season. They only allowed two

goals in their first five regular season matches.

The Mutiny are hoping to finish in first place for the fourth time since 2019. They lost to the Santa Clarita Blue Heat in the United Women’s Soccer Championship match a year ago in a shootout. It was their only loss of 2024.

Racing Power FC (4-1-0) outscored their first four opponents, 19-0. They only had four subs for the road match, including the back-up goalie.

Cat Perez, who was born in Bogotá, Colombia, was the Mutiny’s starting goalie for the first time this season. She was also a member of her country’s soccer team which competed in the 2024 Summer Olympics games in Paris, France. She has also played for Team Boca Blast of the WPSL.

Chloe Laizer, who recently graduated from West Springfield High School, replaced Perez 15 minutes into the second half.

The duo didn’t have to make very many saves against Racing Power, who’s an affiliate of the Portugal’s Pro women’s team.

The Mutiny starting defenders were Rachel Marchini, Aida Name, Anna Carson, and Laci Lewis, who’s the team captain.

Name, who graduated from Belchertown High School, will be a junior on

the University of Rhode Island women’s soccer team this fall.

Another defender listed on the Mutiny roster is Kylie Ray. She played soccer at Minnechaug Regional for legendary head coach Nundi Goncalves. Ray is currently a member of the women’s soccer team at Seton Hall University.

Tennessee Murphy, who lives in Monson, scored her first goal in a Mutiny home match during the 63rd minute.

The scoring play began when Lewis launched a crossing pass into the box from the right touchline. After the ball took a high bounce, Murphy headed it into the back of the net past goalie Riley Melendez.

“We knew that tonight’s opponent was a very good team,” said Murphy, who scored her first two goals of the season on the road. “It was a perfect cross from Laci. When I saw the ball go over the defender, I was a little bit nervous because I didn’t want to miss a scoring chance. After I headed the ball into the net, it was a very good feeling.”

Three minutes later, the Mutiny were given a penalty kick following a foul in the box.

Chioma Okafor, who’s a member of the UConn

Sports

Western Mass. Pioneers battle to draw with Black Rock

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—While the Western Mass. Pioneers haven't lost a home match this season, their faithful supporters have celebrated just one victory at historic Lusitano Stadium.

The only meeting of the regular season between Black Rock FC and the Pioneers ended in a 1-1 draw before a large crowd, last Friday night. "We do have a lot of quality players, and we always try to strive for excellence," said Pioneers defender Aidan Kelly, who's also the team's first year captain. "It's always disappointing whenever we drop points, especially at home. Hopefully, we can get a result in our next match at Vermont. We just need to keep working hard."

The soccer teams in the USL League Two earn three points for a victory and one point for a tie.

The Pioneers (5-0-2) had a total of 17 points after their first seven matches. They're battling Vermont Green FC (5-0-1, 16 points) for first place in the Northeast Division standings.

The first meeting of the 2025 regular season between the two rivals was scheduled to take place at Virtue Field in Burlington, Vermont on Tuesday night.

The Western Mass. squad will be hosting Vermont in their final match of the regular season on July 11.

The Pioneers also played a 1-1 tie in the home opener on May 23 against Seacoast United Phantoms, who are the defending USL League Two champions. Their only

home win came against New England FC, 4-1, on June 6.

"We dominated tonight's game, but we couldn't put away our chances," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Sometimes you can score a goal on four or five shots. Sometimes you take many shots and don't score any goals. It's just part of the game."

Black Rock hasn't celebrated a victory at Lusitano Stadium since the 2018 regular season. The two squads did play a scoreless draw at the old stadium in 2023.

Kelly, who joined the Pioneers a year ago, is from Belfast, Northern Ireland. He'll be a senior on the UMass men's soccer team in the fall. The Minutemen men's soccer coach is Fran O'Leary, who's a native of Dublin, Ireland.

"My college coach is from

Ireland," Kelly said. "He's the main reason why I decided to play soccer at UMass. It has been a great three years there and I have one more left. I'm really looking forward to it."

Kelly replaced Nicholas Oberrauch as the Pioneers captain.

"I learned a lot from Nicholas last year," Kelly added. "I was honored when Federico told me that I was going to be the captain of this year's team. I'm very glad to be leading this group of players."

Kelly is also a starting defender, along with Jared Smith, Jaiden Willems, and Juan Hermoso.

Kelly and Smith combined to score what turned out to be the only Pioneers goal against Black Rock following a corner kick two minutes into the opening half.

Israel Neto booted the

ball into the box from the left corner. Kelly tapped the ball over to Smith, who fired a wide open shot into the back of the net for his first career goal with the Pioneers.

"We've been working on set pieces at practice," Kelly said. "I got my foot on the ball and luckily Jared was there to take a shot. I'm very glad that he scored his first career goal in tonight's match."

Black Rock scored the equalizer on a header by Koki Hamada in the 10th minute.

Western Mass. goalie Cam Hall didn't have to make very many saves during the final 80 minutes of the match.

At the other end of the field, the Pioneers had seven more corner kicks during the final 35 minutes of the opening half, but they were unable to score.

With 15 minutes remain-

ing in the half, Mamadi Jiana, who's a former member of the Chicopee High School boys' varsity soccer team, stole the ball away from a Black Rock player. He then took a shot from inside the box, which sailed high over the crossbar.

The score was deadlocked 1-1 at halftime.

The Pioneers had several more scoring chances in the second half, but they could put the ball into the net past goalie Benjamin Diffley.

With less than two minutes remaining in the contest, Kelly made a sliding tackle breaking up a break-away opportunity for Black Rock.

The visiting team didn't have any other shots on goal, and the score was still tied when referee Fabio Cardoso blew his whistle for the final time.

Springfield Thunderbirds bringing back Community Caravan

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds are proud to announce the return of the T-Birds Community Caravan, with support from MassMutual, marking the third annual summer tour designed to bring the excitement of Thunderbirds hockey to communities across the region.

This year's Caravan will include three stops throughout the Greater Springfield area during the summer months, continuing the initiative's mission to keep the T-Birds top-of-mind in the offseason

while deepening the team's connection to local families and fans. This summer's Caravan dates are as follows:

- Saturday, July 19 - Sonny's Place, Somers, CT - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- Saturday, August 9 - Amelia Park Ice Arena, Westfield - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. *

*The Westfield Community Caravan will also feature the annual T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament on the outdoor deck hockey court at Amelia Park. The Street Hockey Tournament features teams of players ages 9-12. To

register your team, click here.

"After a fantastic continuation of the program last summer, we're thrilled to bring back the Caravan and keep building on its success," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "We're equally excited to welcome back MassMutual as a partner and thank them for embracing our mission of being champions in the community beyond the Thunderdome."

Each free-to-attend event will feature appearances by Thunderbirds mascot Boomer, team staff, and a lively mix

of interactive games, street hockey, family-friendly activities, and local vendors. Fans can also enjoy delicious food options, with each Caravan date spotlighting a local nonprofit beneficiary, helping to raise awareness and support for impactful community organizations.

"We're delighted to support the Springfield Thunderbirds not only on the ice but also throughout the local community," said Dennis Duquette, head of community responsibility at MassMutual and president

of the MassMutual Foundation. "Their caravan provides terrific activities for local kids and families, and we're proud to be a part of it."

The Springfield edition of the Caravan will be collecting donations benefiting The Gray House. Among the requested items are baby food, diapers and wipes, school supplies, and non-perishable food items. The Thunderbirds will also be hosting food drives at the July and August Caravan stops. The July Caravan at Sonny's Place will benefit the Enfield Food Shelf

in Connecticut, while the August Caravan in Westfield will collect items for the Westfield Food Pantry.

Additional information for all Community Caravans will be released in the coming weeks via the Thunderbirds' website and social media channels.

For more information on upcoming events, including the Community Caravan, stay tuned to the T-Birds on social media @ThunderbirdsAHL, or visit the Community Tab on www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Bonsignore breaks record for wins

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. - Justin Bonsignore had a perfect day Sunday at Riverhead Raceway.

Driving the No. 51 Phoenix Communications machine for Kenneth Massa Motorsports, Bonsignore was fastest in both NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour practice sessions on Father's Day, then followed it up by capturing his first pole award of the season in qualifying.

Bonsignore rocketed to the lead early, then settled for second for much of the middle stages of the race. It was on pit road where the Kenneth Massa Motorsports team again shined -

getting Bonsignore back out front into the final stages.

He would hang on, holding off Ron Silk, Patrick Emerling and Matt Hirschman over a flurry of restarts in the second half of the race to take the victory.

The win was Bonsignore's 46th career on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, all with Kenneth Massa Motorsports. It was also his 12th career at Riverhead - breaking a tie with Mike Ewanitsko for the most all-time in Whelen Modified Tour competition at the New York quarter-mile.

"I've been wanting to break the record for a long time," Bonsignore said.

"Mike was a childhood hero of mine. The pit crew did another awesome job, with two excellent pit stops. To have my family here, it's the first race that all of them have been to this year. For it to be on Father's Day at home and everything we did, it's just really cool."

Justin Bonsignore will return to the track at Pocono Raceway on Saturday, June 21, driving the No. 19 Toyota GR Supra in the NASCAR Xfinity Series for Joe Gibbs Racing. The team will carry sponsorship from TW Cable LLC for the event, which will air live on The CW at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

Valley Blue Sox rebounds with win over North Shore Navigators

LYNN, Mass. - After Valley dropped the first game of their five-game road trip they showed up and defeated the North Shore Navigators 6-1 at Fraser Field.

The Blue Sox came out firing early getting on the board thanks to Sebastian Mexico launching a two-run homer giving them a quick 2-0 lead. Starting pitcher for North Shore Trey Yesu struggled in the early goings but settled in during the second inning and kept Valley in check.

Valley starting pitcher Marty Coyne got himself into a bases-loaded jam in the

fifth but ended up only allowing one run due to an infield single before being relieved by Andrew Besell. Coyne pitched for four innings and allowed one run with two strikeouts plus a walk.

Valley held onto a 2-1 lead going into the sixth before shifting the tides. Rees Kozar drove in a run to make it 3-1 before the Sox loaded the bases and ran in three more guys off of reliever Sam Beiveau for North Shore, making it 6-1. It was no secret that the top of Valley's batting order delivered big time throughout the sixth inning to take control of

the game.

Jack Niedringhaus and Besell combined for three scoreless innings right out of the bullpen each recording strikeouts and giving no opportunities for Northshore to claw back.

The win gives Valley a 5-3 record on the season as they look to continue their road trip to Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, New York to take on the Martha's Vineyard Sharks Monday at 1 p.m.

The Valley Blue Sox displayed a balanced showing from both the pitching staff and offense.

MUTINY ■ from page 10

women's soccer team, blasted a shot into the lower left corner of the net giving the home team a 2-0 advantage.

Murphy, who's a first-year member of the Mutiny, assisted on the third goal in the 79th minute.

After dribbling around a couple of defenders, Murphy made a short pass to Avery Klingensmith, who finished off the play by putting a shot into the right corner.

"I used to play against Avery when we played in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League," Murphy said.

"It's been a lot of fun being teammates with her on this soccer team. She's an outstanding player."

Klingensmith, who's from Belchertown, will be a senior on the American University women's soccer team.

During her outstanding high school career, Klin-

gensmith was selected to the All-American team by the United Soccer Coaches.

Murphy, who transferred to the Loomis-Chaffee School four years ago, received the same honor last fall.

"My older sister, Brooke, was also an All-American

and it was a very special honor for me. I really didn't expect it, but it was a lot of fun celebrating the accomplishment with my family," said Murphy, who's entering her senior year at Loomis.

"I've also committed to play soccer at Bucknell University. It's a small school and I

really like the soccer team. I think it's a very good fit for me."

The Mutiny are scheduled to play a road match against the Maine Footy on Saturday night before facing the NJ Alliance in the regular season home finale at 5pm on June 29.



Anna Carson sends a kick home.



Laci Lewis dribbles toward the goal.



Aida Name of Chicopee gets in action for the Mutiny last weekend.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Public Notices

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 6:00PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Reed for property located at 151 Nicole Terrace.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation
Commission
06/19/2025

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT 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, July 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM** for all parties interested in the request of Serge Nakhabenko, who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch.180-69 (D) to allow for an addition to a residential structure located within the floodplain at the premises identified as 248 River Road.
06/19, 06/26/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P1128GD
In the matter of:
Kevin L Cardona
Of: Feeding Hills, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF**

GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Dept of Developmental Services** of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Kevin L Cardona** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Carmen M Rodriguez** of Feeding Hills, MA
Johana Collazoof of Agawam, MA

(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **06/27/2025**.

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. **Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named**

person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: May 28, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/19/2025

**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.
HD25C0192CA
In the matter of:
Kaitlyn Patricia Mansur
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Kaitlyn Patricia Mansur of Feeding Hills, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Lio James Mansur
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 07/03/2025**.

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

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

Date: June 05, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/19/2025

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD
The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public

hearing on **Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 6:05PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to gain public input on goals and objectives for a revised Action Plan within the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation
Commission
06/19/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD24P1248PM
In the matter of:
Cecile Piquette
of Agawam, MA
Protected Person/
Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
CONSERVATOR'S
ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **First and Final** account(s) of **Alison M Bartlett-O'Donald of Holyoke, MA** as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **07/18/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the

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

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

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

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

Date: June 06, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/19/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD24P0161 EA
Estate of:
John E Poliwczak
Date of Death:
November 21, 2023
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Mariclaire Smith of Chicopee, MA**
Petitioner **Stephen Walence**

of Hampden, MA
A Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Mariclaire Smith of Chicopee, MA
Stephen Walence of Hampden, 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.
06/19/2025

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

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, July 14, 2025 at 7PM** for all parties interested in the request of **Jamie Santanello**, who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch.180, Sections 23 (K) and 180-8.1 to allow for the keeping of hens at the premises identified as 12 Moore Street.

Doreen A. Prouty, Chairperson
Agawam Zoning
Board of Appeals
06/19, 06/26/2025



LIBRARY ■ from page 6

in. Join us for stories, activities, and playtime.

1 p.m. Pre-K Pals – For ages 2 years 9 m. – 5 years old. Drop-in, no registration is required. Come practice the skills you'll need for Kindergarten. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Summer Reading Kick-Off – For all ages. Drop-in, no registration is required.

Kick off your summer reading with an evening of fun and games.

Tuesday, June 24
9:30 a.m. Art & Stories – For ages 3-5. Drop-in. Hear a story and make a fun art project.

3 to 4:30 p.m. – Dungeons & Dragons for grades 7-12. Registration is required. Create your own character and journey through a magical world full of beauty and danger! Join Dungeon Master Evan for 7 sessions of dice-rolling, roleplaying, and imaginative adventuring. No D&D experience? No problem! This is a beginner-friendly program.

6 p.m. Poop Museum with Susie Maguie – For All ages. Registration is required. At The Poop Museum, everyone learns many fantastic, fabulous and fun facts about

human, animal and insect poop, many of which truly amaze and surprise. At The Poop Museum, everyone learns A LOT, and some of the facts that are shared are mind blowing! But The Poop Museum is also full of laughter ... because ... well ... our subject is poop and Susie has found a wonderful way to blend solid science, with the hilarity that humans love, when it comes to poop.

Wednesday, June 25
Joke Day – For all Ages. All Day. Tell a joke to a librarian in the Children's Room and get a small prize.

9:30 a.m. Grow, Play & Learn – For ages birth – 2 years old. Drop-in. Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

10:30 a.m. Grow, Play & Learn – For ages 3 years old – 5 years old. Drop-in. Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

Thursday, June 26
Family Take and Make Craft – Summer Treat Magnet. Available all day while supplies last. Drop-in, no registration is required.

9:30 a.m. Baby Story Time – For ages birth – 18 months. Drop-in. We will read stories, sing songs, learn a little American Sign Language and play together.

6:30 p.m. Family Paint Night for grades 1-6. Registration is required. Join special guest Stephanie Gaboury for a family friendly paint night. This is an acrylic-paint program designed for families, but welcome to children and adults of all ages. Students will learn about brush stroke,

color mixing, gradient blending, and more as they receive step-by-step instructions to complete their paintings on canvas.

Friday, June 27
Extra Fun Fridays – All Day. For kids of all ages. Kids of all ages can stop by the Children's Room anytime on Fridays and do special activities.

9:30 a.m. Grow, Play & Learn – For ages birth – 2 years old. Drop-in. Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

10:30 a.m. Grow, Play and Learn – For ages 3 years old – 5 years old. Drop-in. Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

Monday, June 30
Family Take and Make Craft – Hatching Dino Craft. For kids of all ages. Available all day while supplies last. Drop-in, no registration is required.

1 p.m. Pre-K Pals – For ages 2 years 9 m. – 5 years old. Drop-in. Come practice the skills you'll need for Kindergarten. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents

Tuesday, July 1
11 a.m. Ready for Kindergarten – For ages 3-5. Registration is required. Come practice the skills you'll need for Kindergarten. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

3 to 4:30 p.m. – Dungeons & Dragons for grades 7-12. Registration is required. Create your own character and journey through a magical world full of beauty

and danger. Join Dungeon Master Evan for 7 sessions of dice-rolling, roleplaying, and imaginative adventuring. No D&D experience? No problem. This is a beginner-friendly program.

6 p.m. Cardboard Drive-In – For kids entering K-2nd grade. Registration is required. Come create your own custom cardboard race car while we watch the Super Mario Bros Movie!

Wednesday, July 2
Joke Day – For all Ages. All Day. Tell a joke to a librarian in the Children's Room and get a small prize.

9:30 a.m. Grow, Play & Learn – For ages birth – 2 years old. Drop-in. Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

10:30 a.m. Grow, Play & Learn – For ages 3 years old – 5 years old. Drop-in. Stories, songs and skill building, led by an Early Childhood Developmental trained staff member, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. This program is provided by Pathways for Parents.

Thursday, July 3
Family Take and Make Craft – Hatching Dino Craft. For all ages. Available all day while supplies last. Drop-in, no registration is required.

4:30 p.m. Younger LEGO building for kids entering K-2nd grade. Registration is required. We will have a contest to see who can build the tallest tower that can hold up 5 rubber duckies.

If you have questions about these programs or would like to know more about upcoming programs for kids & Teens at the Agawam Library please call 413-789-1550 ext. 3 or email Pamela Weingart at pweingart@agawamlibrary.org.



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2025 SummerFest

Shows will be held at 7:00PM in the band shell at the School Street Park, 418 Corey Street.
In case of rain SummerFest concerts will be cancelled.
Please call Parks and Recreation at 821-0514 for cancellations.

Wednesday, July 2



Hard Knox

Wednesday, July 9



7Roads

Wednesday, July 16



Cover Daddys

Wednesday, July 23



Kitchen Jam

Friday, July 25 *



Movie -
Inside Out 2

Wednesday, July 30



Skid Marks

Wednesday, August 6



Neal and
The Vipers

Wednesday, August 13



Lindsey LaBelle
Kix 100.9

Wednesday, August 13



Greylan James
Kix 100.9

*Friday, July 25, Agawam Night Out Celebration at School Street Park.

This is a night for Agawam to stand together and promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity. Agawam Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement in our fight for a safer community.

2025 KidsFest

Shows will be held at 10:00AM in the pavilion at the School Street Park, 418 Corey Street.
In case of rain KidsFest concerts may be cancelled.
Please call Parks and Recreation at 821-0514 for cancellations.

Wednesday, July 2



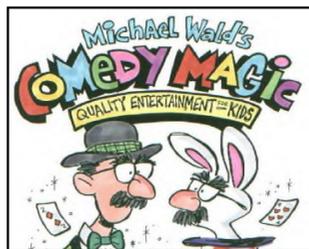
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Wednesday, July 16



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Wednesday, July 30



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