



LOCAL
Summer concert series
 PAGE 2



REGION
Dakin Fundraiser
 PAGE 6



SPORTS
Summer soccer action
 PAGE 7

AGAWAM

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Robinson Park School will be renamed William P. Sapelli Elementary School.

Elementary School renamed for outgoing mayor, longtime educator

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The school committee voted at their meeting on Tuesday, June 27 to rename Robinson Park Elementary School to the William P. Sapelli Elementary School. All committee members present—with the exception of Mayor William Sapelli himself, who abstained—voted yes on this proposal.

At the school committee meet-

ing on May 23, City Councilor Gerald Smith came forward with the proposal of this name change. He believed it was a great opportunity to honor Sapelli for all that he has done for the town of Agawam.

“I know this is not necessary but I do urge you, the members of the Agawam school committee, to vote yes on the proposal, to honor a man that has served for the better part of 50 years as a teacher, a coach, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent,

superintendent of schools, and the past six years as our mayor,” Smith said. “[He is] a gentleman well deserving of this honor.”

Sapelli has been dedicated to the town of Agawam for the majority of his life. He has served in many different aspects of education, including as a principal at the very school now named after him, and has worked as the mayor for six years now.

SCHOOL | page 6

Hoffman impresses school committee with recent work

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The school committee gave Superintendent Sheila Hoffman the results of her evaluation summative report.

Hoffman met or made significant progress on meeting the benchmark for all of the evaluation categories, thus receiving an overall score of proficient on this report.

“I would congratulate her on that, that is an outstanding rating,” Mayor and School Committee Chairman William Sapelli said at the June 27 school committee meeting. “The fact that she met or made significant progress on all her goals is quite commendable.”

The evaluation summative report contains 4 steps: assessing progress towards goals, assessing performance of standards, the overall performance rating and the individual school committee member’s comments. This report is set by the state and is used to determine if a superintendent is meeting the benchmark for a “good” superintendent.

Scores for each section of the report are determined by averaging together each school committee member’s individual ratings.

This year’s goal categories were focused on professional

practice goals, student learning goals and district improvement goals. The ratings for this section are: did not meet, some progress, significant progress, met and exceeded. Superintendents strive to reach “met” for their ratings in this category. Hoffman met the professional practice and district improvement goals and made significant progress on student learning goals.

“Over this past year, standardized testing scores, while not the only metric by which the district should be measured, continued to rise,” committee member Dawn DeMatteo said. “This tells me that not only Sheila, but the entire Agawam public schools staff is committed to the academic health of the students in the care of the district.”

The standards included instructional leadership, management and operations, family and community engagement, and professional culture. The ratings for this section are: unsatisfactory, needs improvement, proficient (which is the benchmark) and exemplary. Hoffman scored proficient in all of these categories.

“I have given Mrs. Hoffman an overall rating of proficient, with an exemplary rating in the areas of instructional leadership and management of operations,”

HOFFMAN | page 6

City councilors promote state assistance program for housing help

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The state-funded Residential Assistance for Families in Transition program began in Agawam on July 1. This program is meant to help homeowners who are at risk of foreclosure. According to City councilor Tom Hendrickson, applicants to the program can get up to \$7,000 over a 12-month period for housing assistance.

“I think it will be immensely beneficial to people in the

community,” City councilor Tom Hendrickson said. “There are approximately 700 households in Agawam that spend over half of their income on housing and by that metric they are considered at risk of homelessness, so housing costs are on the rise and it’s difficult for people. This program will hopefully help people to retain their homes and avoid foreclosure.”

Homeowners who have an income of below 50% of the Area Median Income are eligible for this program. The thresholds for

eligibility are \$34,900 for single individuals, \$49,800 for four-person households, and \$65,750 for eight-person households. Those interested in applying can go to the Emergency Housing Payment Assistance Portal, which is accessible through the state website.

“You can go right through the state website, if you go through mass.gov...and you search for that [the RAFT program], you can apply for it,” Hendrickson said. “You just need an ID, verification of current housing, verification of eligible housing crisis, you basi-

cally need your notice that you’re at risk of foreclosure, mortgage statements showing that you’re three months behind, and some other documentation.”

Hendrickson is willing to offer his assistance to any resident who encounters difficulties while applying for the program.

“If people have issues they can get in touch with me,” Hendrickson said. “I would also recommend reaching out to Sen. (John) Velis, who is also, I believe, familiar with the program and his office can probably help people as

well. But, if people need help signing up for it I am happy to help guide them through that process.”

Hendrickson and two other city councilors, Rosemary Sandlin and Anthony Russo, are working to ensure that residents are fully informed about this program. They issued a press release on June 30 to spread awareness about this program as it continues forward.

“We’ll definitely try to get the word out about it in any way that

ASSISTANCE | page 6



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Agawam summer concert series



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Midtown Horns will be the next performers at the Summer Concert Series at School Street Park

AGAWAM-- Wednesday July 19, at 7 p.m. the Midtown Horns will be performing at School Street Park, 418 Corey St. The Midtown Horns is New England's largest cover band and has performed shows and functions throughout the states of MA, NH, VT,

ME and RI.

From Contemporary, to Motown, to Classic Rock, to Latin Rhythms, Soul, Funk, and Rhythm and Blues the Midtown Horns band does it all as they entertain audiences with many of the greatest songs in popular music.

BHN's Kamp for Kids open house is July 18

WESTFIELD — Kamp for Kids, a summer day camp for children and young adults with and without disabilities, will be holding an open house event, Kamp Welcome Day, from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, July 18, at Camp Togowauk.

Camp Togowauk is at 754 Russell Road in Westfield. Kamp for Kids is for children and young adults ages 3 to 22 and offers an opportunity to experience growth, inclusion and fun in a summer camp setting that includes a spray park, expressive arts, outdoor education, arts and crafts and non-competitive sports.

State Senator John Velis will be in attendance, along with other public officials, representatives of Behavioral Health Network and parents and friends of Kamp for Kids. A brief program will be held, including remarks by officials

and BHN staff and "Kampers" will give demonstrations they prepared of their creative work, including skits, songs and artwork.

Kamp for Kids was founded by Judy Hoyt, whose son Rick was the inspiration behind the camp. Rick Hoyt, who became famous through his participation in several Boston Marathons with his father Dick, passed away in May at the age of 61. They inspired the #TeamHoyt online community with followers from around the globe.

The camp operates every summer during July and August with about 150 Kampers over three sessions. This year, Kamp runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Friday from July 10 through Aug. 18. For more information, visit bhninc.org/kamp-kids.

Foundation awards Girl Scouts of Central and Western Mass

REGION — Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts recently announces it has received a three-year, \$165,000 grant from the Women's Foundation of Boston.

According to a press release, the grant will fund the expansion of the "It's a Girls World" community based program that encompasses STEM, Financial Literacy, Healthy Living and Mental Health Wellness programs.

GSCWM is one of 10 nonprofits that exclusively serves women and girls awarded in WFBoston's 2023 grant cycle and one of three grantees who serve women and/or girls in Massachusetts "Gateway Cities,"

the release states.

"Historically as a society, we have not done enough to build women and girls' confidence in their academic, athletic, leadership, and financial abilities, all of which are priorities for the organizations we support and help scale," said Christina Gordon, co-founder and CEO of the Women's Foundation of Boston.

"It is crucial that we continue to invest in nonprofits, especially those operating in our Gateway Cities, giving them the ability to serve thousands of women and girls in need of our support."

According to GSCWM Fund De-

velopment and Marketing Manager Jamie Mahon, "this generous grant enables us to expand what we've been doing in Worcester County and allows us to serve more girls, meeting them where they are, in communities that may experience gaps in access to resources and programming."

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts plans to bring It's a Girls World to Chicopee, Holyoke, Pittsfield, Springfield and Westfield.

To inquire about It's a Girls World, or to join, volunteer, donate or reconnect, contact GSCWM at info@gscwm.org or visit gscwm.org.

About GSCWM

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serves nearly 5,000 girls in kindergarten through grade 12 with the support of over 3,000 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in the region. The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities. GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.

About the Women's Foundation

The Women's Foundation of Boston, Inc. is a nonprofit public charity that creates, funds and accelerates high-impact economic and leadership programs that equip Greater Boston women and girls to be financially independent and successful leaders. WFBoston is becoming the primary vehicle for investing in women and girls in Greater Boston and is building a fast-growing network of female nonprofit and business leaders.

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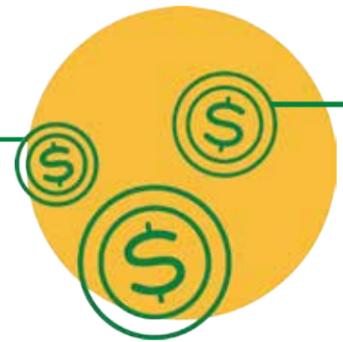
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SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Melissa Alvarado was elected to WSU's Board of Trustees.



Daniel Currier was elected to WSU's Board of Trustees as the student trustee.



Ali Salehi was elected to WSU's Board of Trustees.



Gloria B. Williams was elected to WSU's Board of Trustees.

Westfield State University announces new board chair, officers and student trustee appointment

WESTFIELD--Westfield State University Board of Trustees has elected Ali Salehito serve as its chair, while trustees Melissa Alvarado and Gloria B. Williams, were elected as vice-chair and secretary, respectively. Daniel Currier was elected to the board as student trustee.

An Ipswich resident, Salehi serves as managing director of Hansen Engineering and Machinery Co., Inc. of Danvers. He holds a bachelors degree in mechanical engineering and a master's in engineering management from Western New England University.

Alvarado, a Westfield resident, is an assistant vice president in strategic planning and delivery at MassMutual Financial Group. Alvarado has a

B.S. in business administration from Westfield State, Alvarado holds an M.B.A. in finance from Western New England University and earned an executive certification in leadership and management from the University of Notre Dame.

Williams, a Springfield resident, is an educational consultant and leadership mentor, who previously completed a 21-year tenure as a master principal for Springfield Public Schools. Her exceptional service in education, including as a representative for the Superintendent's Advisory Committee, was recognized when she received the 2019 Educational Legacy Achievement Award. Williams earned a bachelors degree in education from

Westfield State College and a certificate in advanced graduate studies, from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Currier, of Attleboro, was elected by the student body in April to serve as Westfield State student trustee for the 2023-24 academic year. A junior with majors in accounting and finance with minors in economics and English, Currier was formerly vice president for Finance for Westfield State's Student Government Association and is president of the Accounting Club. Currier is also a Commonwealth Honors Scholar and has received the Executive Excellence Award from the Westfield State University Student Government Association.

Staying safe and emotionally healthy during summer vacation

HOLYOKE -- Dr. Negar Beheshti, a board-certified adult, child and adolescent psychiatrist and Chief Medical Officer for Holyoke-based MiraVista Behavioral Health Center and sister hospital, TaraVista Behavioral Health Center in Devens, recommends a balance of structured fun and learning during school vacation. Beheshti recommends as well that primary care givers do their due diligence to keep everyone engaged in safe behavior that supports mental health.

Conversations around behavior and activities, she adds, should be age appropriate.

"For example, children in elementary school may be doing a lot of summer camp activities and this is an opportunity to talk to them about appropriate behavior with other peers at the camp," Beheshti said. "When you get to the tweens, they may not want the regular, structured routine of summer camp. However, it is still good to do some type of structured program as it gives middle-schoolers the opportunity to continue social development and promotes new learning opportunities. Some school districts offer enriched learning programming at least part of the day that holds the potential to explore something new in a fun way."

Other tips and recommendations for a safe and enjoyable summer break for young people from Dr. Beheshti, including what routines should be maintained, how to approach a difficult topic, including a change in normal behavior, and support available to a child questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity, can be found at <https://www.miravistabhccare.com/staying-emotionally-healthy-during-school-break/>.

The state Executive Office of Health and Human Services recently created new resource hubs for LGBTQ+ individuals including at <https://www.mass.gov/lgbtq-youth-mental-health-resources>, as well as a web resource page on summer programs for youth that are a mix of the academic and the recreational at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/summer-learning>.

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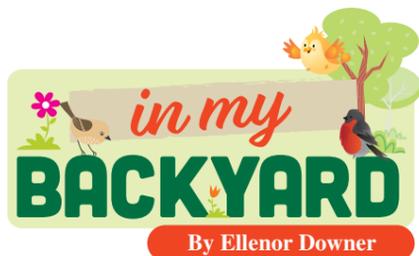
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929 Memorial Drive
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Opinion



By Ellenor Downer

A Brimfield resident reported a great crested flycatcher using a nest box in his yard, a first for him for this species.

He said he saw them several times in his yard this year and recently saw a bird enter the box. He set up a wildlife camera and got a photo of the flycatcher at the nest box.

The great crested flycatcher is about eight inches long and has a crest as its name implies. The belly is bright yellow and the tail is reddish brown. The bird is gray overall with a darker gray throat and two white wing bars.

It raises its crest in alarm or curiosity. During aggressive displays it shows the reddish-brown feathers on its wings and tail by spreading them open. Its warning call is a loud, ascending "wheep" and a "preeet."

The female lays five to six whitish eggs with darker marks in a new lined with grass, fur, bits of paper and occasionally bits of snakeskin. It will nest in a natural cavity, old woodpecker hole or nest box. They breed in the east and middle states in the north and south and some parts of Canada.

The great crested flycatcher inhabits woods and wooded urban areas. It flies from a perch to catch insects and often feeds high in the tree tops. Occasionally, it eats berries.

Flycatcher at Lake Winnisquam

Sunday, June 25 I spent the day at my camp on Lake Winnisquam in Meredith, New Hampshire with one of my daughters and granddaughters. While standing on the dock, I noticed a great crested flycatcher flying out from tree branches along the shore. Its yellow belly was the identifying mark.

Other birds at the lake

I also saw double-crested cormorants. One swam by the dock and another landed on a rock in the lake.

I did hear the loon, but I did not see them. The call came from a cove across the lake where the Loon Preservation Committee maintains a loon sanctuary with a floating nest.

There were several boats anchored in the cove. I think one boater got too near the roped off area as the loon started making its tremolo call, an alarm call. Loon chicks usually hatch sometime around the Fourth of July week or second week in July.

The water was quite warm and great for swimming. I hoped to make the trip to the lake again on the Fourth of July, but the weather did not cooperate.

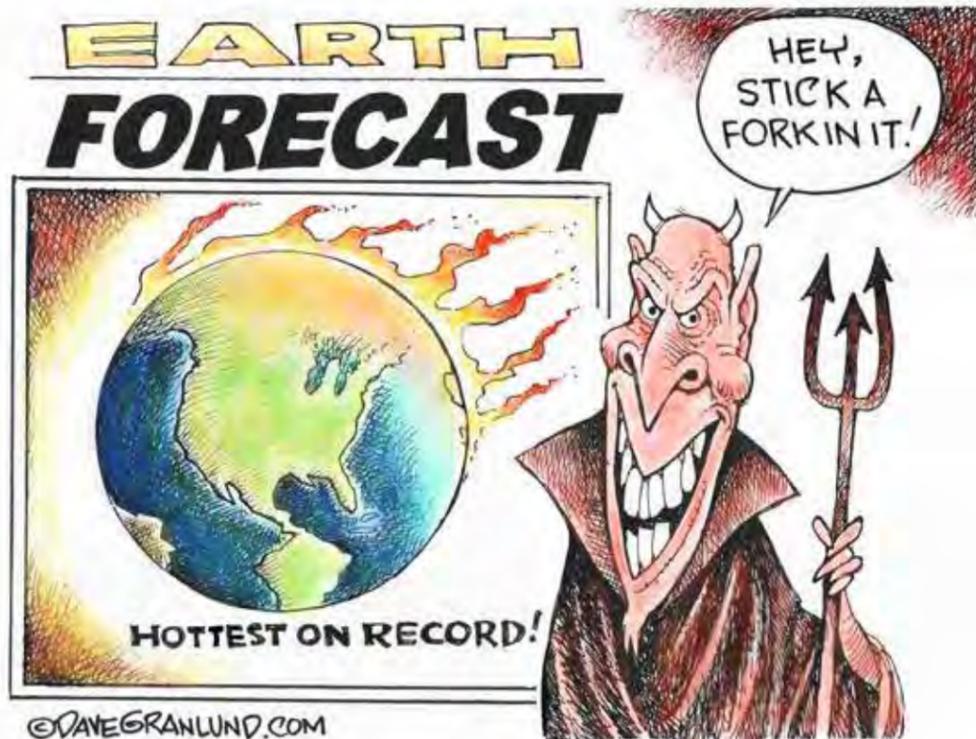
Fledglings in Brimfield

I received an email from a Brimfield resident the end of June. He reported several fledglings in his yard. He saw at least three cardinals with dark bills being fed by their parents.

Other youngsters included three fledgling downy woodpeckers following their mother and begging for food, a young chipping sparrow, eastern towhee and a red-bellied woodpecker. He said the eastern towhee resembled the female, but it had a streaked breast. He saw the red-bellied at the feeder.

He also said, "House wren have nested in the yard for several years, unfortunately they stuff several nesting boxes with sticks that don't get used. On at least two occasions have evicted black-capped chickadees, who had started to use a box.

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.



Why can't I collect survivor benefits from my deceased wife?

Dear Rusty: I am a 62 year old widower that is still working full time. While my late spouse was in hospice, I was able to get her to apply for Social Security disability and she received one payment before she passed away two years ago. I was told that I could collect a survivor benefit, so I called my local Social Security office, but they told me that I could not collect any type of benefits from my wife and that all the money she paid into SS for all of those years was basically gone for good. Would you please advise what I can do and if this is true? I was also told that Social Security's agents will do everything they can to avoid paying out benefits.

Signed: Frustrated Widower

Dear Frustrated Widower: I suspect that the reason Social Security said you were not eligible for benefits as a widower is because you are working full time. At age 62, you are subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn while collecting early Social Security benefits. The 2023 earnings limit is \$21,240 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. If your earnings are high enough, that could make you temporarily ineligible to collect benefits until 1) your earnings are less, or 2) you reach your Full Retirement Age (FRA) when the earnings test no longer applies.

Assuming you have not yet claimed your personal SS retirement benefit, you are still eligible to collect a survivor benefit from your wife when your earnings are less or after you reach your full retirement age. One strategy you may wish to consider, if you plan to keep working full time, is to wait and claim only your surviving spouse benefit at your FRA (67), thus allowing your personal SS retirement benefit to continue growing until you are 70 when your personal SS retirement benefit will be about 75% more than it would be now. Although your survivor benefit reaches maximum at your FRA, your personal benefit doesn't reach maximum until age 70, so it's possible to collect your smaller survivor benefit from your wife first

and claim your higher personal benefit later.

You were apparently given some confusing information when you contacted Social Security. If you haven't already claimed your own SS retirement benefit, you are still eligible for a surviving spouse benefit from your wife but likely cannot collect a widower benefit at this time because you're working full time. However, that doesn't mean you can never collect a survivor benefit; only that you can't collect it at this time because of the "earnings test." The earnings test goes away when you reach age 67, so you can claim only your survivor benefit at that time or before if you no longer work full time and allow your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow to age 70 if you like.

From our experience with the Social Security Administration, the skill level of SSA representatives varies, but we have never suspected their goal was trying to avoid paying benefits due. Nevertheless, depending on the agent you spoke with, the information provided may have been less clear about the best claiming strategy for you, which is why the AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service exists. Our advisors are all highly experienced and strive to provide you with complete and clear information which enables you to make an informed choice about how and when to claim the Social Security benefits you are entitled to. I hope we have succeeded.

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.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email aan@turley.com.

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Schools & Youth

Local students graduate from Eastern Connecticut State University

AGAWAM-- More than 850 Eastern Connecticut State University students graduated in the 2022-23 academic year, which culminated with two commencement ceremonies at the conclusion of the spring 2023 semester. The University's undergraduate ceremony occurred May 16 at the XL Center in Hartford, CT, and the graduate-level ceremony occurred May 13 on Eastern's campus.

Mia Perella of Agawam graduated with a Master of Science degree in Early Childhood Education.

Jacob Sweeney of Agawam graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Earth Science.

Free Small Business Legal Clinic now accepting applications

SPRINGFIELD--The Western New England University Small Business Legal Clinic is accepting applications from entrepreneurs and small business owners seeking legal assistance for the fall semester.

Under faculty supervision, law students assist clients with a variety of legal issues. This is a free service available to local businesses that might not have the resources to obtain such services. The Small Business Clinic has assisted more than 500 small businesses since it opened.

"The Clinic is a great resource for entrepreneurs who lack the finances to retain an attorney," explained Associate Clinical Professor of Law Robert Statchen. "By using the Clinic's services, businesses can avoid problems by getting legal issues addressed early and correctly. It also provides students with a great opportunity to get real world experience."

The Clinic requests small business owners to submit their applications by Aug. 15. Applications received after that date will be considered if additional resources are available. Students will begin providing services in mid-September. For more information, call the Legal Clinic at 413-782-1469 or email Marie Fletcher, Clinical Programs Administrator at mfletcher@law.wne.edu.

The School of Law Small Business Legal Clinic was established to afford law students with an opportunity to provide practical consultation to entrepreneurs starting new and building existing small businesses in the community. This initiative strengthens alliances within the community by using the resources of the University to foster new business development. For more information or to complete an online application, visit <https://www1.wne.edu/law/centers/small-business-legal-clinic.cfm>.

Antonio Russo initiated into Omicron Delta Kappa

LEXINGTON,VIRGINIA-- Antonio Russo, a native of Agawam, was recently initiated into the Western New England University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society. The Society welcomed 486 new initiates from 24 universities during May 2023.

Elms College announces dean's list for spring 2023

CHICOPEE-- The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following students to the dean's list for the spring semester. To qualify, a full-time student must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher, without incompletes. These students are from the Agawam area:

Santino Giordano, Sabrina McBride, Brady Spaulding, Quincy Butler, Madison Carra, Megan Fanning

Alec Ferrendino, Ariana Korcz, Samantha Landry, Zachary Ramos and Liam Sole.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Previous attendees of Barks and Brews.

Barks and Brews event to benefit humane society

SPRINGFIELD — The eighth annual Barks and Brews event, presented by Dakin Humane Society, will take place on Sunday, Sept. 10 at Fort Hill Brewery in Easthampton. The event will begin with a VIP Preview Hour from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., with general admission taking place from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Ticket options are:

VIP admission tickets, priced at \$75, entitle holders to on-site parking, 2 complimentary beers, an event t-shirt, and an exclusive preview hour with refreshments. VIP Sales end Aug. 1.

General admission tickets, priced at \$35, include a complimentary beer. Parking is located on-street and at the local school lot. Shirt not included.

Tickets may be purchased online. All attendees of the event must be at least 21 years old.

Guests are invited to bring crowd-friendly dogs on a non-retractable leash. Retractable leashes are not allowed. Please do not bring strollers. A Splash Zone and misting sprinkler will be available to keep dogs cool and the pavement

wet. There will be a hot dog eating contest, 50/50 raffle, caricature art, nail-trimming, dog baths, vendor booth shopping, food trucks, and more!

Barks & Brews is an important annual fundraiser for Dakin, a 501(c)(3) organization. In previous years at Fort Hill, this event has generated about \$30,000 for services and programs that help animals in need. A 50/50 raffle will be held at the event, but ticket holders need not be present to win.

UMassFive joins Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce

HADLEY - To help conclude the celebration of Pride Month, UMassFive College Federal Credit Union (UMassFive) is pleased to announce the organization has joined the Massachusetts LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

A longstanding supporter of the LGBT community, this new partnership will allow the local credit union to further extend its reach, particularly with local LGBT businesses.

"This partnership is a natural fit for UMassFive," stated Lauren Duffy, UMassFive's Executive Vice Presi-

dent and Chief Operating Officer. "The Credit Union has always been committed to putting the best interests of our members and local businesses first, and one of the ways to do that is by assuring that diversity, equity, and inclusion are in the fabric of our organizational culture. Joining forces with the MA LGBT Chamber allows us to further this mission".

"Our Chamber is proud to add UMassFive as a partner," said Grace Moreno, Executive Director of the MA LGBT Chamber of Commerce. "Ensuring that we have strong insti-

tutional partners across the state, especially in western Massachusetts, will benefit LGBTQ-owned and operated businesses of all sizes and bring more economic prosperity to our communities."

Collaborating with the MA LGBT Chamber opens the door for UMassFive to sponsor the Western Mass branch of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce networking events, participate in additional volunteer opportunities, host educational financial workshops, participate in job fairs, and much more.



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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email aan@turley.com.

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HOFFMAN ■ from page 1

school committee member Shelley Reed said. "Mrs. Hoffman is an exceptionally strong leader, as shown by the evidence provided to us regarding curriculum, inclusiveness, teacher evaluation logs, and meeting the students' diverse needs. She is continually discovering new ways to improve student engagement, and improve student growth regarding MCAS after a few very trying years."

With Hoffman's scores on each category, it was clear that she was meeting or exceeding the expectations of the committee.

"Sheila Hoffman is an exceptional superintendent," committee member Wendy Rua's comments said. "When reviewing the progress towards the goals and assessing the performance standards it is easy to find evidence of exemplary performance in each category."

All the committee members appeared especially grateful for Hoffman's level of communication with the committee and the community as a whole, with many of them citing this communication as a direct reason for Hoffman's high score on

this evaluation.

"She makes herself available to all stakeholders and is visible in the school buildings as well as in the community and other events," committee member A.J. Christopher said.

"Mrs. Hoffman's leadership style is one of inclusion, she delegates effectively to administrative staff and encourages collaboration with all stakeholders," the mayor said. "She is consistent in keeping parents, students, staff and elected officials up to date with all key issues and developments... It is my firm opinion that Agawam is indeed fortunate to have Sheila Hoffman leading our district as superintendent of schools."

Hoffman herself was grateful for the committee's feedback regarding her work throughout this year. She promises to keep pushing hard to ensure that the district continues to improve.

"I promise to continue to set very ambitious student learning goals, I think that's very important," Hoffman said. "If they're met or not met, I think it's more important that they're ambitious because we need to close that learning gap."

ASSISTANCE ■ from page 1

we can," Hendrickson said. "We want to make sure that those who are eligible and who need it can get access to it."

"As Agawam city councilors, it is our duty to the citizens of Agawam to keep them abreast of programs that assist them," Sandlin said. "The RAFT program could provide crucial help to homeowners in distress."

This program will be greatly beneficial to Agawam residents, the councilors say.

SCHOOL ■ from page 1

"What stands out to me is his dedication to the town, to making things better," superintendent Sheila Hoffman said. "It was focused on the schools when he was an educator and a coach and superintendent... but then as a mayor it really extended into how deeply he cares about the citizens and making this a great place for people to live."

With three of the four elementary schools in Agawam already named after a previous superintendent, Smith thought it was time that the fourth school honored yet another deserving person for their work in Agawam.

"He's done a fantastic job in education and also as our mayor," Smith said.

The school committee agreed with him. All four members present at this meeting, Shelley Reed, Dawn DeMatteo, A.J. Christopher and Michael Perry, voted yes on this proposal. Absent members, Wendy Rua and Kerri O'Connor, also sponsored this bill.

"This is a well-deserved honor and I, along with my colleagues, myself, Ms. O'Connor, Ms. Rua, Mr. Perry, Mr. Christopher, and Mr. Demario are all going to sponsor this bill together and we are honored to do so," vice chair Shelley Reed said.

Hoffman, as current superintendent, also fully supported this proposition.

"I think Mr. Sapelli has dedicated his career to Agawam schools and now to the town of Agawam," Hoffman said. "Other

With rising housing costs, many residents are struggling to make ends meet, and Hendrickson is glad that this program is there to support residents in need.

"We have hundreds of households in Agawam that spend half their income on housing and we understand that the cost of living is going up for people and it's tough to make ends meet nowadays for working families and low-income families so this will provide some assistance for those who are eligible," he said.



Robinson Park's new name was approved at the June 27 school committee meeting.

schools have been named after former superintendents, and he was also a former superintendent and he's, overall, a great guy and has been a mentor to me and I think this is a nice tribute in his honor."

Sapelli himself was touched by this dedication.

"I can't tell you how proud and honored I am, and humbled by this action and I can't thank Gerry Smith and the entire school committee for this distinct honor," he said. "It doesn't happen often, as we all know, and it's quite a special occasion for me. Thank you one and all, I greatly, greatly appreciate it."

Moving forward, the school committee hopes to have a ceremony in September to honor this renaming.

"We certainly will be having a ceremony, an unveiling of the new signage and just a dedication to Mr. Sapelli," Hoffman said. "It will most likely be at the end of September"

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Database management system

5. Medical procedures

11. ___ Clapton, musician

12. Defender

16. Exert oneself

17. Indicates position

18. Prevents river overflow

19. Atrocities

24. Mister

25. Ends

26. Slope or tilt

27. Taxi

28. The very ends

29. Actor Sean

30. Japanese persimmon

31. Sours

33. Beneficiary

34. Baseball official

38. Muddy, boggy ground

39. Not worldly

40. Actress Lathan

43. Soil

44. ___-Cola

45. Asleep

49. ___ Angeles

50. Give birth to a child

51. Beach shelter

53. Commercial

54. Taste property

56. Local jurisdictions

58. It cools your home

59. Dismounted from a horse

60. Charge with a crime

63. Close in

64. Spoke

65. Famed garden

5. Abba ___, Israeli politician

6. Saw

7. "Westworld" actor Harris

8. Belonging to me

9. Shoelace tube

10. Takes to court

13. Early multimedia

14. In a way, produces

15. Bowlers

20. Of I

21. Equally

22. Gets some sun

23. A place to stay

27. Town in Galilee

29. Aronofsky film

30. Klingon character, "Star Trek"

31. Equal to 100 square meters

CLUES DOWN

1. Draw a scene

2. Its sultan is famous

3. Unlucky accident

4. A way to ski

36. Membranes

37. Some is poisonous

38. Partner to Pa

40. Small brown gray rail

41. A salt or ester of acetic acid

42. Sodium

44. Military official (abbr.)

45. Lighted

46. Took off

47. All

48. Ohio city

50. More abject

51. A radio band

52. Controversial tech product (abbr.)

54. Monetary unit

55. Passed with flying colors

57. A way to win a boxing match

61. The Golden State

62. Home of the Longhorns

SPORTS

SOCCKER

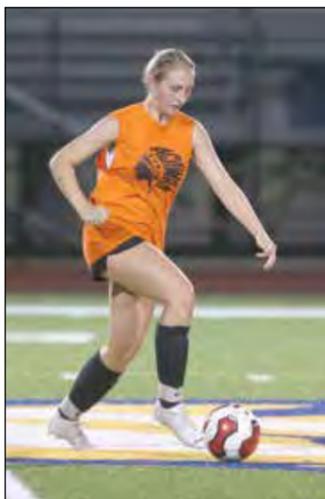
Brownies battle to tie with Comp prior to break



Mia Oyler sends a pass toward the middle of the field.

AGAWAM – Prior to the holiday week, under the lights at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, the Brownies tied Chicopee Comprehensive in A Division

action in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League on June 28. The girls are 1-2-2 for the first half of the summer season and were back in action this week.



Angelina Kozhenevsky keeps the ball under control.



Madison Oyler goes after a loose ball.



Gabriella Wood stops the ball before making her next move.



Joann Schmuck kicks the ball away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Bankers rolling to first place finish



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Dave Clark makes a good throw to first.

HOLYOKE – PeoplesBank are the elite of the Tri-County Baseball League, and are now 13-1 heading into the final stretch of the season. Last week, the Bankers scored at 14-4 win over St. Joe's, and a 12-1 win over DiFranco Realty. Those wins took place

on consecutive nights and the Bankers now have a five-point lead for first place. The Chicopee Falls Tigers hold second place at 10-5-1. St. Joe's has moved into third place at 7-8. The regular season is heading for a close during the next two weeks.



Cam McDonald winds up for a long throw for an out.



James Flahive continues to rack up wins for PeoplesBank.

Pioneers score shutout to keep playoff chances going



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Gianluca Cersosimo sends a kick away.

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Mamadi Jiana was one of the seven reserve players listed on the Western Mass. Pioneers starting line-up sheet for last Friday night's USL League Two match-up with Vermont Green FC.

Jiana, who was a member of the boys' varsity soccer team at Chicopee High School a couple of years ago, entered the match during the 78th minute. Two minutes later, he scored what turned

out to be the game winning goal. The Pioneers kept their postseason dreams alive with an exciting 1-0 victory before the largest crowd of the regular season at Lusitano Stadium.

"The tempo was very high when I came into the game late in the second half, and I was ready for the moment," Jiana said. "When I saw the scoring opportunity, I knew that I had to capitalize on it. We played very well tonight, and it just feels amazing."

Sports

Wall Stadium Speedway to host big race

MILFORD – Six-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Doug Coby will look to add yet another track to his winners list this Saturday night. Wall Stadium Speedway, located in New Jersey, is a high-banked, high-speed track that has tight corners and often produces exciting side-by-side racing.

When the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour rolls into town for the Jersey Shore 150, Coby will drive the Tommy Baldwin Racing, Mayhew Tools No. 7NY. With one win this season (Monadnock Speedway), Coby enters the race third, 30 points back in the championship standings on

the Whelen Modified Tour circuit entering the eighth race of the season.

In his 35 career wins, Coby has been to Victory Lane at 12 different tracks. At Wall Stadium, Coby has three career Tour starts, with only one coming in the last 18 years. Coby started sixth, led 72 laps and finished 10th in 2019. He did not compete in the Whelen Modified Tour event at Wall last year, but Jimmy Blewett won in the Tommy Baldwin Racing entry Coby will be driving for this event.

"I watched the race last year and it didn't seem like it was similar to the one in 2019," Coby said. "It

seemed like the groove had moved around. Wall is one of those places that can throw a lot at you – and a lot can happen quickly. Our car will be good. I've never won there and it's on my bucket list of tracks where I want to win. I got my first pole there, used to race at Little Wall as a kid, and I've always liked the facility."

Saturday's practice session will roll from 3:30-4:30 p.m., followed by Mayhew Tools qualifying and the Jersey Shore 150 at 8 p.m. The main event will be live on FloRacing.TV for those who would like to watch from home.

Blue Sox score doubleheader sweep

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday, the Valley Blue Sox swept a doubleheader versus another North Division opponent. The team defeated the Upper Valley Nighthawks 4-1 to climb back to .500 on the season at 14-14. Valley now leads the West Division by one game over the Bristol Blues.

As in the first game, the Nighthawks got on the board first, following a sacrifice fly in the top of the second.

Blue Sox pitching was rock solid in the ballgame, only allowing one run off five hits. Dillon Ryan started the game for the team, pitching three innings allowing one run while striking out two batters.

Michael Weidinger would relieve Ryan in the top of the fourth inning, pitching two shutout innings and striking out five batters.

All of the runs for the Blue Sox came in the bottom of the fifth following a huge rally, even with the team only recording two hits in the inning. Efrain Correa Jr. was hit by a pitch, Will Gale singled, and newcomer Jack Power walked to make it bases loaded with no outs.

Jeff Pierantoni and Eliot Dix both hit RBI fielder's choices to take the lead for Valley. The team added two more insurance runs off an RBI sin-

gle from AJ Guerrero, and a throwing error from Upper Valley to allow the final run of the ballgame.

Jason Arrigo would relieve Weidinger to close the game for Valley. Arrigo's curveball was ranked third in the league in RPM. The right-hander pitched two scoreless innings to earn himself the save, and added to his strikeout totals with three more on the night.

AJ Guerrero went 2-for-3 in the game, with an RBI. Will Gale also had two hits, going 2-for-2 with a walk and a stolen base.

In Game 1, another close game throughout the seven inning contest saw the Blue Sox rallying back from a three run deficit to claim the victory.

The Nighthawks scored one run in the top of the first inning following an RBI double, then added two more in the top of the second inning off an RBI single.

Sean Scanlon was on the bump to start the game for Valley, pitching four innings while allowing three runs and striking out two batters. In the bottom of the second inning, the Blue Sox took a run back off of an RBI double from Zach Ketterman. Matt Bergevin scored on the play to make it a 3-1 game.

Valley added two more runs to tie

the game in the bottom of the third following RBI singles from AJ Guerrero and Matt Bergevin.

The Blue Sox then wasted no time taking the lead, scoring a run in the bottom of the fourth inning following the first home run hit by a Blue Sox player at home this season. Zach Ketterman hit a towering solo shot over the right field wall to make it a 4-3 ballgame. The third baseman went 2-for-3 with two RBIs in the contest.

Terry Murray relieved Scanlon in the top of the fifth inning, pitching two innings allowing one unearned run while striking out two.

The Nighthawks rallied back to tie the game 4-4 in the top of the sixth after two straight errors from the Blue Sox.

Zach Cameron pitched a scoreless frame in the top of the seventh to set the Blue Sox up to walk it off in the bottom half of the inning.

Jeff Pierantoni walked in the bottom of the seventh, then AJ Guerrero hit a double to put runners on second and third with only one out. EJ Kreutzmann hit a ground ball down the third base line allowing Jeff Pierantoni to score. The Blue Sox secured their second walk-off victory of the season 5-4.



Tomas Duben stops the ball as he runs into the opposing defense.

PIONEERS ■ from page 7

"I'm very proud of the guys."

It was Jiana's third goal of the regular season and all of them were game winners.

"We can't win games with just eleven players," said Pioneers longtime head coach Federico Molinari. "We need contributions from all 18 players to be successful. Mamadi is a local player and we're very happy to have him on our team this year."

Jiana scored his first goal wearing a Pioneers uniform in a 2-1 road win against AC Connecticut on June 10. A little more than two weeks later, Jiana, who currently lives in Westfield, was a starter in another road match against Pathfinder FC. He netted the only goal of that contest.

During the past two years, Jiana scored 17 goals and had 13 assists for a total of 47 points as a member of the men's soccer team at Norwich University, which competes at the Division 3 level. He recently entered the NCAA transfer portal and is hoping to play soccer for a Division 1 school in the fall. Jiana has two more years of college eligibility remaining.

The Norwich University men's soccer coach was Adam Pfeifer, who retired at the end of last season. Pfeifer is currently the Athletic Director at Kimball Union Academy and is also the Vermont Green head coach.

The first and second place finishers in the Northeast Division will qualify for the playoffs.

The Pioneers (8-1-3) and Vermont (9-3-0) are battling for one of those two spots, along with the Seacoast United Phantoms. If the Pioneers can win their final two regular season matches at Albany, which was scheduled to be played on Tuesday night, and at home against AC Connecticut on Saturday night, they should lock up a playoff berth. The last time that the Pioneers didn't qualify for the playoffs was in 2018.

"This is a very good win for us tonight," Molinari said. "We made a couple of changes at halftime, and we played a lot better in the second half."

Alec Hughes, who entered the match at the start of the second half, had a couple of opportunities to give the home team a 1-0 advantage.

Hughes breakaway shot in the 58th minute was flicked over the endline by Vermont goalie Nathan Schmur resulting in a corner kick.

Less than ten minutes later, Hughes had another wide open shot, but his chip shot clanked off the cross bar.

The Pioneers didn't miss their third scoring chance.

The scoring play began when Connor Bagdon, who had also entered the match at halftime, intercepted a pass before delivering a pass to Lucio Berron. After dribbling the ball over the midfield line, Berron made a short pass to Ignacio Albo, who then found Jiana open on the left side. Jiana dribbled the ball into the box before firing a rocket shot into the right corner past Schmur, who made a diving attempt to make the save.

"I was wide open, and Ignacio passed the ball to me," Jiana said. "Then I shot the ball with my right foot into the corner. As soon as I shot the ball, I knew that it was going to go into the net."

When the Pioneers made the trek north to the University of Vermont on June 17, Albo scored the only goal of the match.

A year ago, the Pioneers pulled out a thrilling 3-2 come-from-behind home victory over the Vermont Green.

In the first ever meeting between the USL-League two rivals.

During the first half of last Friday's home match, Western Mass. goalie Gianluca Cerosimo (4 saves) made a couple of outstanding saves, which allowed Jiana to score his third game winner of the season with ten minutes remaining in regulation.

HoopHall introduces new board members

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced four new board members. Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Executive Director of the National Basketball Players Association Foundation, was named to the Board of Governors. Executive Chairman of Delano Media Group, Todd Delano; Former NBA Head Coach and Player, Vinny Del Negro; and Thomas Tull, Chairman of the USIT Fund, and Chairman of Tulco Holdings, were named to the Board of Trustees.

"We are very pleased to be adding Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Todd Delano, Vinny Del Negro, and Thomas Tull as board members," said Jerry Colangelo, Board Chair of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "Each new member brings unique perspectives which will be invaluable in supporting the Hall of Fame's mission to promote and preserve the game."

"I look forward to working closely with our new Board members," said John Doleva, President and CEO of the Hall of Fame. "We have a signif-

icant amount of investment coming to the Hall over the next few years, and the Board's input and guidance is critical to the success of our organizational goals."

Board members serve as ambassadors of the Hall while also being responsible for preserving the fundamental mission and financial well-being of the Basketball Hall of Fame. The Board is made up of individuals that work in or have worked in the game, as well as business leaders that have supported the game in Springfield, Mass., or on a national or global level.

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DEA warns most fake pills contain lethal fentanyl

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is alerting the public of a sharp nationwide increase in the lethality of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills.

According to a news release, the DEA lab found that, of the fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills analyzed in 2022, six out of 10 now contain a potentially lethal dose of fentanyl. This is an increase from DEA's previous announcement in 2021 that four out of ten fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills were found to contain a potentially lethal dose.

"More than half of the fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills being trafficked in communities across the country now contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl," DEA administrator Anne Milgram said in the release.

"This marks a dramatic increase – from four out of ten to six out of 10 – in the number of pills that can kill. These pills are being mass-produced by the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco Cartel in Mexico. Never take a pill that wasn't prescribed directly to you. Never take a pill from a friend. Never take a pill bought on social media. Just one pill is dangerous and one pill can kill."

Last year, the DEA issued a Public Safety Alert on the widespread drug trafficking of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills in American communities. These pills are largely made by two Mexican drug cartels, the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco Cartel, to look identical to real prescription medications, including OxyContin, Percocet, and Xanax, and they are often deadly. In 2021, the DEA seized more than 20.4 million fake prescription pills. Earlier this year, the DEA conducted a nationwide operational surge to target the trafficking of fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills and, in just over three months, seized 10.2 million fake pills in all 50 states. Through its One Pill Can Kill campaign, the DEA is working to alert the American public of the dangers of fake prescription pills.

Fentanyl remains the deadliest drug threat facing this country, according to the DEA. It is a highly addictive synthetic opioid that is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Just two milligrams of fentanyl, the small amount that fits on the tip of a pencil, is considered a potentially deadly dose. According to the CDC, 107,622 Americans died of drug poisoning in 2021, with 66 percent of those deaths involving synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

The Sinaloa Cartel and Jalisco Cartel in Mexico, using chemicals largely sourced from China, are primarily responsible for the vast majority of the fentanyl that is being trafficked in communities across the United States, the DEA says.

For more information, go to the Fentanyl Awareness page at dea.gov.

Public Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA on **Monday, July 24, 2023 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of Nancy Wheeler, who is seeking a Variance from Chapter 180-26 (A1)

of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, to allow for the construction of an addition with less than the required side yard at the premises identified as 44 North West Street.

Doreen A. Prouty
Chairperson
Agawam Zoning
Board of Appeals

07/06, 07/13/2023

RMV Service Center in Chicopee offering road tests

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles recently announced the Service Center located in Chicopee has expanded to offer road tests.

According to a news release, this location will continue to accept dropped off registration bundles for B2B bulk transactions for insurance agents and car dealerships, including new registration and titles, registration transfers and renewals, address changes and cancellations.

The RMV is implementing this customer service change to further support its ongoing efforts to prepare for the Work and Family Mobility Act which took effect on July 1, the release states. The RMV has also increased staffing and will be making translation assistance available for customers using a hotline, informational materials and interpreter services.

"The Registry of Motor Vehicles continues to strategically prepare for the implementation of the Work and Family Mobility Act and the anticipated customer service demand," said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie.

"The transitioning of this service center to accommodate additional road tests will help provide customers in Western Massachusetts with increased access, dedicated support

services and additional opportunities to help secure driving credentials."

B2B service

Customers will continue to be able to drop off registration bundles at the Chicopee RMV between the hours of 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. and pick up returned bundles between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

There are no changes to any other B2B locations servicing Western Massachusetts. Bulk registration services will continue to be processed in Easthampton, Greenfield, North Adams, Pittsfield and Springfield.

Road Test Information and Requirements

Customers can schedule required road test appointments online at mass.gov/myRMV. Road test applicants must bring a physical copy of their learner's permit, a printed and completed copy of the Road Test application and be accompanied by a qualified sponsor. A sponsor is a person who is a licensed driver over the age of 21 with at least one year of experience driving. In addition to meeting the application and sponsor qualifications, the applicant must make sure the vehicle brought for testing meets all functional and safety requirements.

Private passenger vehicles used for a Class D road test must meet the following requirements (including vehicles with an ignition interlock device, and vehicles with adaptive equipment for a competency test):

Be in good working condition and be able to pass a safety check.

Have a valid registration and current inspection sticker.

Contain adequate seating accommodations next to the operator for the use of the examiner and have a rear seat for the sponsor.

Be designed to let the examiner make an emergency stop using the parking brake. If not, the vehicle cannot be used for the road test.

Any vehicle with a center console that does not have a parking brake as part of the console cannot be used.

Any vehicle that does not allow the examiner unobstructed access to the parking brake cannot be used.

The RMV has created a webpage to help applicants locate all information related to their road test. The webpage, which is located at mass.gov/guides/road-test-information, includes information on what to expect, videos to help prepare for the road test, links to checklists and applications to increase applicants' chances of passing their exams.

Tips for driving safe with pets this summer

Distracted driving is of most concern in summer, when more people take the opportunity to travel, explore and visit family. Traveling with pets compounds this concern, as unrestrained pets can both cause distractions and make accidents more dangerous.

"Pets can easily take a driver's attention from the road, posing a serious risk not only to the pet but also to the passengers riding in the same vehicle," says Michael Leung, co-founder and lead product designer of Sleepypod, a manufacturer of premium pet carriers and pet restraint systems. "If there is nothing restraining a pet in a hard stop or car accident, the pet can become a projectile and potentially collide with fellow pets or human passengers."

Such a collision could be catastrophic, regardless of a pet's size. A 10-pound dog in a 50-mile-an-hour car crash exerts 500 pounds of force. Meanwhile, an 80-pound dog in a 30-mile-per-hour crash exerts 2,400 pounds of force.

Unrestrained pets may also fall or jump out of open windows or flee the car in fear after a crash, potentially becoming lost, injured, or worse.

A quality, rigorously tested pet restraint can make all the difference in preventing distracted driving and

keeping human and pet passengers safe during an accident. Interestingly, an American Automobile Association survey found that, while more than 80% of drivers admitted that they recognize the dangers of driving with an unrestrained pet, only 16% used pet restraints.

Leung spearheaded Sleepypod's rigorous advanced crash-testing program. He and his research and development team gather real-life accident data through Sleepypod's crash replacement program, which offers customers who have used a pet safety restraint while in an accident replacement pet restraints or discounts on new pet restraints.

Follow these tips for minimizing pet-related distractions and keeping pets safe during accidents:

Pets should always be restrained in a back seat to prevent them from injury

if an airbag is deployed. If the pet cannot restrain your pet with a reputable, tested car restraint, the next safest option is to place the pet in the footwell behind the front seat. Smaller pets are safer when fully contained in a restrained carrier, while larger dogs should ride in a car safety harness that does not connect the pet with an extension tether. Pets should be unable to slide forward far enough to "submarine," or drop off the seat, at any point during a collision.

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

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UMass Amherst Study impact of air pollution on women's reproductive health

AMHERST -- Funded by a new grant from the National Institutes of Health, a University of Massachusetts Amherst environmental and reproductive epidemiologist is trying to develop a better



Carrie Nobles

understanding of the effects of ambient air pollution on women's reproductive health.

Carrie Nobles, assistant professor in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences, will use the two-year, \$650,000 exploratory/developmental research grant from the NIH's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to identify mechanisms and susceptible reproductive processes across the menstrual cycle and early pregnancy.

Previous, smaller studies by Nobles and colleagues have linked air pollution to fertility at the broad population level, "but we don't understand exactly how and who is most affected," says Nobles, who is also analyzing the impact of air pollution and other environmental factors on men's fertility in another NIH-funded study.

"Around the time of ovulation and also around the time

of implantation of the embryo, exposure during those points to higher levels of air pollution does seem to relate to a lower probability of getting pregnant and also a higher risk of pregnancy loss,"

says Nobles about findings from studies involving couples seeking infertility treatment. "But there are very few studies that have this fine detailed information on the timing of things like ovulation, the earliest possible detection of pregnancy and, potentially, a pregnancy loss. So, we will be able to look at these acute exposures that are hard to detect."

Nobles will estimate participants' exposure to ambient air pollution during biologically informed windows of the menstrual cycle and early pregnancy by looking at the EPA's Community Multiscale Air Quality models where they live.

Nobles hypothesizes that air pollution exposure around ovulation and implantation will change reproductive hormones and reduce fertility. Pollution exposure during critical windows in early pregnancy is also expected to increase risk of pregnancy loss.

Trolley museum announces summer activities

EAST WINDSOR, Conn. – Summertime is the best time to visit the CTM, visit once or all summer long. CTM will hold activities for all ages. Let CTM help you make memories that will last a lifetime. Activities including- Trolley Rides: Take a trolley ride operated by period dressed motormen on a trolley car dating back to the early 1900's. Learn historic information about the collection and how the Museum began. Trolley Experiences: Get up close and personal as you climb aboard selected trolleys from the Museum's incredible collection in the Visitors Center. From streetcars to Interurban cars this is your chance to take the controllers and let your imagination "operate." Crafting Station: Make a Motorman Hat, create your own trolley fare ticket & more. Take your new creations home with you for future use. Scavenger Hunt/ISPY- Hunt through the Visitors Center to locate Trolley History answers for a chance to win a trolley fare token. Dress-up Station: Dress up as a Motorman or Conductor. Great Photo op. Scavenger Hunt- Navigate through the Visitors Center using a scavenger Hunt. Whoever completes the hunt wins a souvenir trolley fare token. LEGO Build- put your building skills to the test and create a design to coincide with the weekly transportation theme. Creations stay at the Museum to be broken down at the end of the day. Fire Truck Museum: View over 15 Fire Trucks dating back to 1923. Learn more about the Fire Truck Museum's collection along with historic Fire Fighting Equipment.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

There is lots happening at the nearby Connecticut Trolley Museum this summer.

(Admission to Fire Truck Museum is included in the Trolley Museum admission ticket).

Admission prices are \$12 for Adults, \$11 for Seniors (62+), \$11 for Youth (ages 12-17), Children (ages 2-11) \$9, children under 2 and Museum Members free. Please visit the website for Special Event

prices. The Museum is open from 10am-4:00pm (last trolley ride departs at 3pm), for more information visit www.ct-trolley.org or call 860-627-6540. The Connecticut Trolley Museum is located at 58 North Road (Rt. 140) and is 15 minutes north of Hartford and 15 minutes south of Springfield.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 13, 2023.**

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Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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