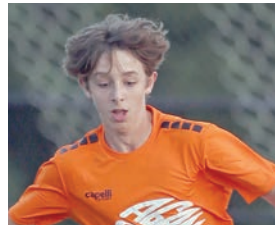




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# AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS



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## Residents raise objection to school name change

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – With the School Committee off for the summer, the once-per-month Agawam City Council meetings are the only place for public speaking on issues in July and August.

Three residents spoke at the July 10 meeting objecting to the recent school committee decision to rename Robinson Park School as William Sapelli Elementary School.

The school committee approved the name change at its June 27 meeting. It first appeared as new business on June 13, and was brought forward as an idea by City Councilor Gerald Smith at the May 23 school committee meeting.

Parent Jesse Clauson says he has two children attending the school, and complained the name change would hurt a key part of the school's behavior code, which

has been viewed as successful by parents and school officials there. It's called the "RPS way" and uses the school's initials to emphasize being "Responsible, Polite and Safe."

"Every child is introduced this when they come," he said.

Clauson emphasized that his objection was not in any way an attack on Sapelli.

"He has dedicated his life to the schools and served our town in many different ways," he said. "(But) we are surprised this change was made without any community involvement."

He said while the item appeared on the agendas for the school committee, he blamed a "cumbersome" town website that is "poorly organized" as reasons why residents were not fully aware of the name change proposal.

He also said the school com-

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The Midtown Horns perform at School Street Park. More photos on page 6.

TURLEY PHOTO BY QUINN SUOMALA

AGAWAM – Despite a lot of rain and storms, the Summer Concert Series in Agawam has managed to go on each week.

Last Wednesday night, School Street Park was once again full of activity with the Midtown Horns performing.

Next week, National Night Out will be held in conjunction with the weekly concert.

## Town continuously monitoring river flooding water levels



The flood gauge is located on River St., across from Hangar Pub.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The summer has been one of rainy weather, and many have raised concerns over potential flooding dangers.

Chet Nicora, director of the Agawam Emergency Management Office, wants to assure residents that Agawam has safety measures in place in the event of flooding.

Agawam has a flood gauge on the Connecticut River to monitor water levels in the event of a flood. The gauge can be viewed on River Rd, across from Hangar Pub. This gauge was put in place thanks to the work of the AEMO, the Agawam Engineering Department and the National Weather Service.

This gauge is the key to monitoring water levels in Agawam. "This is the gospel right here," Nicora said.

The AEMO has also monitored water levels several times

a day due to the recent weather. If warranted, they would immediately put out a CodeRED with flooding information.

"That flood gauge, everytime it goes up, we have amps that will tell us what areas will flood, so we get a good jump on it," Nicora said. "If it got up to a point where we would need to, we would go on CodeRED to start notifying residents in flood-prone areas."

The gauge is marked with numbers 14 through 24, which mark the water level rise in feet. If the water level were to reach 14, it would mean minor flooding in some areas, but nothing that would raise cause for concern, according to Nicora. However, if water levels were to reach 18, this would begin an Action Stage.

"When it hits 14, we've got a couple very small areas that would be at risk," Nicora. "We would be more worried when it starts to hit 18, that's telling us

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## New firefighter joins department



Callum Hastings is the newest firefighter to join the Agawam Fire Department. He was sworn in last week by Town Clerk Vincent Gioscia. With Hastings are Mayor William Sapelli and Fire Chief Alan Sirois.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 7 6 2



# Exciting events announced at the School Street Park

AGAWAM – All events take place at the School Street Park, 418 Corey St.



## National Night Out Tuesday, Aug. 1, 5 to 7 p.m.

Free food, water, child safety kits, dance presentations, face painting, police K9 and fire safety demonstrations, home security, and much more.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships, and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for communities across the nation to promote partnerships, with the crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie. While the one night is certainly not an answer to crime, drugs and violence, National Night Out represents the kind of spirit, energy to help make neighborhoods a safer place year-round. The night celebrates safety and crime prevention successes and works to expand programs for the next 364 days.”



## Jimmy Mazz Tuesday, Aug. 1, 7 p.m.

Jimmy Mazz and his live band will be playing songs by a wide variety of artists singing everything from the classics to the 50’s, Motown to one hit wonders of the 60’s and 70’s, and country music.

## Parish Cupboard Monthly Wishlist

WEST SPRINGFIELD/AGAWAM – The Parish Cupboard puts out a monthly wishlist seeking donations of particular items of need. All donations to the Cupboard are greatly appreciated.

July 2023 Wishlist: pasta sauce, pas-

ta-all types, pancake mix and syrup, coffee and tea, cake mixes, Ramen noodles, canned meats, chicken, Spam, canned beets, canned carrots, hot cocoa, popcorn and stuffing.

## Garden Club to meet Aug. 8

AGAWAM – Join us for the next meeting of the Agawam Garden Club to be held Tuesday Aug. 8, 6:30 p.m. at The Agawam Public Library 750 Cooper Street, Feeding Hills. After a short business meeting Peter Redfern and Patti Steinman from the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary will present a program about the birds found in our own back yards.

Peter Redfern has volunteered at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary for over 20 years leading education programs for children and adults.

He has turned his backyard into habitat for birds and butterflies.

Patti Steinman is the senior teacher/naturalist at Arcadia. She has overseen camps, preschool, school and public programs at Mass Audubon for over 30 years. Club meetings are open to the public and not restricted to Agawam residents. More information about the club can be found on our website [agawamgardenclub.com](http://agawamgardenclub.com) or follow us on facebook.

## 2024 first quarter property, real estate tax bills due Aug. 1

AGAWAM – The First quarter preliminary real estate and personal property tax bills for fiscal year 2024 are due in the Town of Agawam collector’s office by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1. Bills may be paid online at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us), by mail in the envelope provided or you may utilize the drop box that is provided outside the town hall for your convenience.

First quarter payment notices were mailed June 23. By law, bills were mailed to owners of record as of Jan. 1, 2023. Any new homeowner or anyone who has not received their real estate or personal property tax bill should contact the collector’s office immediately to obtain the bill amount. The telephone number is 786-0400 extension 8218.

## Flea market at Congregational Church in search of vendors

FEEDING HILLS – Feeding Hills Congregational Church, 21 North Westfield St., is hosting a giant Flea Market/Tag Sale/Craft Sale on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be an assortment of crafts, antiques, and tag sale items. Space is still available inside the church for \$40 or outside for \$25. Vendors interested in participating can call Christine 413-210-2421.

## Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Gap Act to expand eligibility, increase benefits

WASHINGTON – Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), a member of the Senate Health, Labor, Education and Pensions Committee, and Rep. Lori Trahan (MA-03) today introduced the Bridging the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Gap Act, legislation to expand SNAP benefits for young adults, families, and Americans with regular medical expenses by breaking down harmful rules that limit eligibility and benefit levels.

The legislation would ensure that working students ages 17 to 21 can continue to receive their families’ benefits and extend existing rules for seniors and people with disabilities so that all SNAP beneficiaries who spend at least \$35 a month on health-related expenses can receive higher monthly benefits.

“Nearly one-in-three college students are food insecure. Families across the country are seeing Congress cut their

benefits as their medical costs rise. The Bridging the SNAP Gap Act will reverse this trend and help ensure that no student or family falls through the cracks,” said Markey. “Families should be able to put food on the table, this shouldn’t be controversial.”

“For decades, working families have relied on SNAP to help make ends meet and get food on the table. I’m proud to be working with Senator Markey to introduce the Bridging the SNAP Gap Act to strengthen the vital nutritional support that SNAP provides,” said Trahan.

Specifically, the Bridging the SNAP Gap Act would; Raise the student income exclusion age from 17 to 21 to let young people receive SNAP benefits as part of their parent(s) household without reducing the amount of SNAP benefits the family can get; Guarantee that all SNAP recipients can get addition-

al benefits if they have at least \$35 of monthly medical expenses; and, Reduce and streamline paperwork for the medical expense deduction floor, currently at \$165 in 2023, with increases mirroring that of Medicare Part B rates.

In April, Markey led his colleagues in a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Social Security Administration urging them to make SNAP more accessible for Americans who are receiving or are eligible for Supplemental Security Income benefits, including low-income elderly and individuals with disabilities. In December 2022, Markey successfully advocated to insert a provision to ensure that victims of “SNAP skimming” would have their benefits repaid by requiring the USDA promulgate regulations to reimburse individuals and families whose SNAP benefits were stolen.

## Hibernians to hold summer picnic Aug. 27

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invite the public to attend a Traditional Summer Picnic featuring Jim O’Connor and the Boston Blackthorn Band at Hamel’s Summit View Pavilion, 555 Northampton St., on Sunday Aug. 27, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine.

Tickets are \$30 per person for adults and children ages 16 and up; children ages 5-15 tickets are \$11. For reservations call John Gaughan @860-904-3056 or Fran Hennessey @ 413-785-5687 by Sunday Aug. 20.

There will be Irish and American Music; Dancing; Hot Dogs; Hamburgers; BBQ Chicken; Baked Beans; Potato Salad; Tossed Salad; Dessert; Coffee; Cash Bar; Children’s Games, and Raffles.

The Event will benefit the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship.

## Bipartisan push to end violence against children around the world

WASHINGTON – Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, alongside Rep. Maria



Salazar (R-FL) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced a major new bill to update and strengthen existing U.S. Government efforts to end global violence against children, improve inter-agency coordination in addressing violence and promote the use of evidence-based strategies and information gathering capabilities.

Globally, half of all children experience violence. Violence includes abuse, neglect, and exploitation and can be physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional in nature. Violence can happen anywhere—in communities, schools, homes, workplaces, and in humanitarian settings. Sexual exploitation and abuse take many forms and include human trafficking, early and forced child marriage, homicide, online exploitation, and gender-based violence.

“America has played a leading role in developing strategies to reduce and end

child violence, and our new bipartisan bill builds on that legacy to help put an end to violence against children once and for all,” said McGovern.

“We must do more to protect vulnerable children from being exploited by evil individuals across the world,” said Salazar. “I am proud to co-lead the Strengthening Efforts to End Violence Against Children Act to help innocent children who are at risk of sexual exploitation, human trafficking, forced child marriages, online abuse, and gender-based violence.”

“It is our duty to protect children from exploitation and violence,” said Fitzpatrick. “I am grateful to partner with my colleagues on the bipartisan Strengthening Efforts to End Violence Against Children Act to ensure that appropriate resources are directed to protect vulnerable children at risk of violence around the world.”

Specifically, the Strengthening Efforts To End Violence Against Children Act will:

Align current interventions for vulnerable children with USAID’s Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity Strategy and evidence-based interventions such as the INSPIRE strategies and Violence Against Children Surveys.

Elevate the USAID Special Advisor for Assistance to Orphans and Vulnerable Children and require the Special Advisor to advise USAID offices, bureaus, and field missions and other U.S. government agencies to address violence against children through the current whole-of-government strategy. Update USAID reporting requirements to identify how U.S. agencies are utilizing the INSPIRE strategies and findings from Violence Against Children and Youth Surveys, including in response to the effects of COVID-19.



# WestMass ElderCare awarded grant to support nutrition operations for vulnerable populations

HOLYOKE – WestMass ElderCare, a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of older adults and individuals with disabilities, is set to announce the receipt of a generous grant from the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs. The grant will support the transformation and modernization of Nutrition Operations, a crucial facility that serves over 1200 meals per day to food-insecure individuals through Meals on Wheels home delivery and congregate meals at local senior centers and housing sites.

The Food Insecurity Infrastructure Grant program was created to provide grants for capital infrastructure investments that increase access to locally produced food for families and individuals throughout the state who may be facing food insecurity, live in gateway cities or food deserts, or otherwise face unequal

access to food.

With this financial boost, WestMass ElderCare aims to implement comprehensive improvements to the operation of Nutrition Central, creating an environment that enhances food preparation and delivery, including kitchen equipment, improved storage facilities, and a streamlined meal packing area.

“Receiving this grant from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources is a tremendous honor for WestMass ElderCare,” said Roseann Martoccia, executive director of WestMass ElderCare. “This significant funding will be instrumental in enabling us to continue to serve meals to those in need while ensuring the highest standards of food safety and quality. We are deeply committed to addressing food insecurity in our community and making a positive impact in the lives of our consumers. It is more

than a meal as daily wellness checks from the drivers are great for the recipient and give caregivers peace of mind.”

By optimizing the infrastructure of Nutrition Central, WestMass ElderCare will be better equipped to meet the increasing demands for meals brought about by the sharp rise in food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. In a 2022 survey of WMEC’s Home Delivered Meal consumers, 72 percent of those surveyed responded that their home delivered meal was their main meal of the day. Many of the home bound consumers WMEC serves have limited mobility or access to transportation, and cannot purchase locally grown fresh produce on their own.

WMEC’s “Nutrition Central” and main office have been located in Holyoke since its founding in 1973, and at 4 Valley Mill Road, a renovated former paper-making

factory, for the last 31 years. After more than three decades in this location, facility improvements are necessary to increase capacity and accommodate operational changes which were implemented to maintain stability for meal consumers during the COVID pandemic and have been continued as improved efficiencies in WMEC’s operation.

WMEC’s Meals on Wheels home delivery program, in combination with the Community Table program, plays a crucial role in ensuring that vulnerable individuals can access a nutritious meal, combatting hunger and malnutrition, as well as providing social and wellness checks to help combat social isolation.

For more information about WestMass ElderCare and its services, please visit [www.wmeldercare.org](http://www.wmeldercare.org) or contact Lynn Wolf at [lwolf@wmeldercare.org](mailto:lwolf@wmeldercare.org) or 413-538-9020.

# Greater Springfield YMCA has programs for all ages

SPRINGFIELD – The YMCA of Greater Springfield is a leader when it comes to serving the human needs in greater Springfield by providing programs that promote life-long personal growth and balanced development of spirit, mind and body.

The Y provides care through nationally accredited Early Learning Centers located in Springfield (15m-5y) and Wilbraham (4w-5y).

The Y before and after school programs for children K-6 grade are offered at multiple locations throughout Springfield, Chicopee, and Hampden/Wilbraham. The School Age programs’ goal is to nurture young people by providing a safe place to learn foundational skills, develop healthy, trusting relationships, and build self-confidence.

The Y-AIM program is a social intervention program designed to provide positive adult mentors, strong peer relationships, and academic support, in and out of school, to middle and high school students

in Springfield.

In addition, the Y operates four summer camp and program sites: Camp Weber in West Springfield, Stony Brook Acres in Wilbraham, and Fun City Summer Program in Springfield, all for ages 6 through 15. Small Fry Summer Program in Springfield is for ages 5 entering Kindergarten.

At two of the health and wellness centers located in Springfield and Wilbraham, members have access to; cardio and strength training equipment, group exercise classes, personal training, wellness programming, steam and sauna, \*pools, \*gymnasium and \*childcare while parents work out (\*Wilbraham location). The Scantic Valley Y location offers preschool sports and swim lessons for all ages.

The Y believes in making their programs and services affordable for all. The Y will not turn anyone away based on an inability to pay full fees. Financial assistance is made possible through the generous contributions of YMCA donors.

## FLOODING | from page 1

that that river is going to seep areas all through the back area.”

Following the Action Stage, there is a Flood Stage if water were to reach 20 feet, a Moderate Stage at 22 feet and a Major Stage at 24 feet.

Were it to reach any of these stages, the AEMO would alert endangered residents through CodeRED.

“There would be a series of announcements,” Nicora said. “One: the river is getting high, two: there is a potential for flooding, three: get out of there.”

CodeRED works as a mass notification system for residents of Agawam. It is not only used in the event of flooding, but in any other emergency situation the area could encounter, including tornadoes or hurricanes.

“It’s not only flooding, we use it when we have any kind of an emergency where we have to notify the town,” Nicora said.

Nicora highly recommends that Agawam residents sign up for CodeRED alerts, it is the main way for the AEMO to alert residents in the case of an emergency.

“If people aren’t on it, they should go out to our town website and sign up, everybody should be ready,” he said.

If not already signed up for this program, go to <https://www.agawam.ma.us/145/Sign-Up-For>.

For residents not on CodeRED, in the event of a flood, Nicora states that the AEMO would also contact local police and firemen and have them alert residents of the emergency.

“If it was really getting serious, we would ask police and firemen to get loud speakers and go through the neighborhoods, just in case someone doesn’t have CodeRED,” he said.

If flooding were to occur, Nicora wants to assure residents that a temporary shelter would be established at the Senior Center.

“If necessary, we would open a temporary shelter at the Agawam Senior Center, as that is not in a floodplain,” Nicora said.

Nicora also made a point to say that he believes it will be unlikely that Agawam would experience this level of flooding this year, but it is still better to be safe than sorry.

“There’s only been one time when I’ve seen enough water to flood, and it wasn’t that bad,” he said. “We’ve had some flooding that goes in back of the houses but I can’t remember the last time we had real flooding. But that doesn’t mean you can’t be prepared for it.”

## POLICE LOG

*The Agawam Police Department responded to 1,410 calls for service from July 17 to July 23 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.*

### Monday, July 17

Christopher Alan Hubbard, 31, of 20 Royal Circle, Salem, NH, was arrested for disorderly conduct.

# Summer book fair to be held at Children’s Museum

HOLYOKE – The Children’s Museum, 444 Dwight Street, is having its first book fair. Taking place on Saturday, July 29 and Sunday, July 30, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. This event aims to foster a love for reading, encourage creativity, and provide a platform for children to explore the wonders of literature regardless of socioeconomic status.

Admission to the book fair is free. Museum admission is children & adults \$8, seniors (62+) \$5, children under 1 year of age, and members are free.

The book fair selection of new and gently used books showcasing various genres, including fiction, non-fiction,

picture books, graphic novels, and more, plus enter a raffle. From beloved classics to contemporary favorites, there will be something to satisfy every young bookworm’s appetite.

“Books spark children’s imagination and foster their creativity. Through the stories they read, they can explore different worlds, characters, and scenarios,” said Executive Director Abigail Scanlon. “This imaginative play cultivates creativity, empathy, and emotional intelligence. It encourages children to think creatively and generate their own ideas and stories encompassing the very mission of our museum.”

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# Opinion

## Guest Column

### Will WEP and GPO affect my wife's spousal benefit?



**Dear Rusty:**

My wife worked for the U.S. Postal Service in New York for about 22 years and then in the private sector for about 15 years. She began collecting her "deferred annuity" from the USPS at age 62 and she plans to collect her Social Security benefits at age 67, which is her Full Retirement Age.

Her Social Security benefit before the Windfall Elimination Provision is less than 50% of my Primary Insurance Amount, so the plan is for her to start collecting a "spousal" benefit from me at age 67. My question is: will my wife's spousal benefit be reduced by both the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset?

**Signed: Inquiring Husband**

**Dear Inquiring Husband:**

Your wife cannot separate her personally earned Social Security retirement benefit from her Social Security spousal entitlement from you whenever she applies for Social Security, your wife will be automatically deemed to be filing for all benefits she is entitled to when she claims.

Because your wife has a "non-covered pension" from the U.S. Postal Service and assuming that pension is under the older Civil Service Retirement System, your wife's personally earned SS retirement benefit will be reduced by the Windfall Elimination Provision. WEP reduces Social Security retirement benefits for anyone, who also has a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security.

The Government Pension Offset is different: the GPO will affect any additional amount your wife is entitled to as your spouse, which we refer to as her "spousal boost." The "spousal boost" amount is the difference between your wife's pre-WEP FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, which is your Primary Insurance Amount. Because of her USPS pension, GPO will reduce your wife's "spousal boost" by 2/3rds of the amount of her non-covered pension, which may eliminate her potential spousal boost.

So WEP will affect your wife's personally earned SS benefit and the GPO will affect her spousal entitlement from you. But, depending on the amount of her USPS pension, your wife will not be entitled to an additional amount as your spouse if 2/3rds of her USPS pension amount is more than her "spousal boost" amount. And if the GPO doesn't completely eliminate your wife's spousal boost, it will at least drastically reduce it.

I have previously published several articles

about both WEP and GPO and how each provision works, which you are welcome to review by visiting the AMAC Foundation's special Social Security website at [www.SocialSecurityReport.org](http://www.SocialSecurityReport.org). In particular, one such article providing more detail on how the GPO works can be found by visiting this link [www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-government-pension-offset-gpo/](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-government-pension-offset-gpo/).

Social Security will make the final determination about your wife's benefit entitlement under WEP and GPO when she applies for her Social Security benefits, but I'm afraid your wife's entitlement may be much less than you are anticipating because of these two provisions. If you have additional questions, please feel free to email us directly at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org) or call 1-888-750-2622.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).*

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Several people spotted a juvenile red-tailed hawk by Coldbrook Road in Oakham last week. People, who saw the bird, hoped its parents were near by and take care of it. That did not happen.

When no parent appeared by the next day, the bird was brought to a wildlife rehabilitator.

The red-tailed hawk is the most commonly seen hawk in this area. It is about 19 inches long. It gets its name from its reddish upper tail. It also has a white chest with a belly band and markings on the chest. Plumage varies considerably. The immature has a finely, banded gray-brown tail and keeps this plumage for one year.

The female lays one to five bluish white eggs with dark marks in a platform of sticks lined with bark and greens in a tree. The nest can be 15 to 120 feet high.

They often are seen perched in a tree by a



Juvenile red-tailed hawk

field. They make a slurred scream like "tsee-aarr" often directed at an intruder. Fledglings and adults also make a "klooeek" sound. During courtship or territorial encounters, they make a piercing "chwirrk."

**Bird talk**

On July 7, I spoke about birds at the Oakham Senior Center. Ava, age 7, won the door prize of a "Squirrel Slammer" feeder. She came to the event with her great-aunt, who also took the photo of the young red-tailed hawk in this column. She related the story of its rescue since it appeared to be abandoned.

One Oakham woman attending the talk said a robin nested near the house. She and her husband could watch it from their home. One day, they saw the mother shove all her babies out of the nest.

**Wild turkeys**

Recently, I saw a turkey dust bathing along the side of the road. An Oakham resident had one doing the same thing in her yard. At first, she was concerned it was injured, but it did get up and leave.

Several people reported wild turkeys in their yard with youngsters. I saw one group on some-one lawn recently. The poults looked adorable.

**Loons**

Most loon pairs hatch their young the first two weeks of July. Both Wachusett Reservoir and Quabbin Reservoir have nesting loons. Floating nests not only provide suitable nesting sites, but they also rise and fall with the water level. This is especially important this year with all the heavy rain in preventing flooding of the nests.

Massachusetts Audubon Society sighting  
In Berkshire County, sightings reported to Massachusetts Audubon Society included a northern goshawk and two hooded warblers in Great Barrington and a single hooded warbler at the Hopkins Memorial Forest in Williamstown. Other sightings were a least bittern at Richmond Marsh and merlins in Pittsfield and Lenox.

In Worcester County, sightings included a Brewster's warbler in Harvard, two black vultures soaring near the Hardwick Winery and five evening grosbeaks.

It is good to hear there are evening grosbeak sightings as many of the people at the bird talk at the Oakham Senior Center said they had not seen evening grosbeaks in some time.

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](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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# Opinion

Get out of the garden with a few good books



The saying goes like this: "If you can't handle the heat, stay out of the kitchen!" I'd like to switch it up to say "garden" in place of "kitchen" in light of the fact that I really can't handle the summer heat as well as I used to. These last few weeks, gardening has been accomplished early in the day or during the evening hours instead of midday.

What does a gardening fanatic do if they aren't actually gardening? Read about gardening, of course!

Call me old-fashioned, but I still prefer books over online text. I like to see and hold my books, curl the pages and even write in the margins.

Sometimes, just for fun, I'll pick a book and flip the pages to see where my finger will land. What interesting topic will I read about?

Today I'll choose three books and end up with the topics for today's column that way. Maybe we can all learn something new or at least refresh our skills.

The first pick is from one of my favorite herb books, "Herbs in Bloom" by Jo Ann Gardner (Timber Press). I flip the pages and end up on Feverfew (*Tanacetum parthenium*).

Timely, because Feverfew is blooming in my yard right now.

Feverfew is from the Latin word febrifuge thanks to its past use as a fever reducer. Both its single and its double form (*Flora pleno*) lend themselves to admission into



Feverfew

the perennial border; often they bloom the first year from seed.

The plants thrive in both light shade and full sun, with the single flower type resowing itself to almost nuisance status if given the opportunity. The flowering span seems to go on and on, the white daisy flowers lending themselves to use in the vase alongside bee balm, summer phlox, veronicas and more.

I especially like the double flowers, and had great luck drying them, their off-white color the perfect addition to a wreath of hydrangea and dried roses.

Second year plants will return with some winter-kill that will need addressing. After blooming plants will likely not return for year three.

Still, feverfew is a must have for those of us who love herbs in the flower garden. Keep volunteers at bay by deadheading all but a few of the flowers.

The second pick is ironic, considering the rain we've been getting.

On page 138 of "Secrets to Great Soil" by Elizabeth P. Stell (Storey Books), we learn about improving soggy or poorly drained soils, first by mentioning the use of raised beds.

My stone edged raised beds that usually demand a daily watering in the summer heat are handling all the rain in stride. Un-



Coneflower

like the corner of my vegetable garden that was literally under water after the 3.5" we received on Friday.

In addition to that mention on raised beds, a number of perennials are cited as thriving in moist soil. You'd be surprised to learn that Astilbe (*Astilbe* spp.) falls into this category, as do the more familiar native wetland plants: Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and its cousin Great Blue Lobelia (*L. siphilitica*), the three of which bloom later in the summer.

Candalabra primrose (*Primula japonica*) was also mentioned. I have purchased this plant two years in a row and it never thrives; now I know the reason: it needs moister soil.

The plants growing under the tree canopy at Positively Perennials are a sight worthy of mention in mid-May when they are in full multi-tiered bloom. Next year, check it out!

We seem to be on a flower theme, so let's see what "The Flower Gardener's Bible" by Lewis and Nancy Hill (Storey Books) has in store. Alas, pick three does not disappoint.

I landed on a page devoted to both the native Coneflowers (*Echinacea* species) and the Globe Thistles (*Echinops* species). Right now, my new border, devoted to our pollinators, is striking with Purple Coneflower as



Globe Thistle

one of the stars.

This plant too, has seemed to enjoy the rain, gaining some height after the shock of being divided and replanted early in May. If you leave the spent flowers in place, self-sown seedlings will emerge next spring, begging to be moved about the landscape or shared with friends and family.

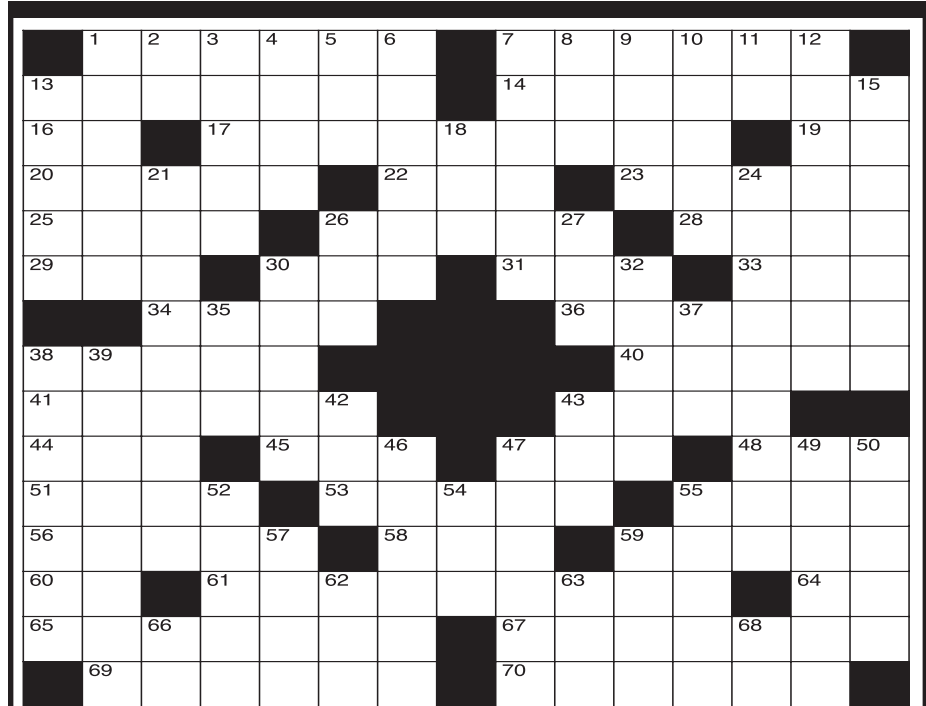
Like Feverfew, from our first pick, Echinacea has history as a healing plant and continues to be used today for immune support.

Globe Thistle, with its steel blue globes and deeply cut, silver gray foliage, as stiff as it is, also deserves a place in the garden. It is a true bee magnet!

Stems can be harvested as everlasting once flowers color up but before the individual florets, aka "pickers" on each plant open. Clip and dry them upside down for use in wreaths and arrangements.

Well, it's been fun escaping the heat with you! Read any good books lately?

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



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Bonus materials
- 7. Formal names
- 13. Free from restraints
- 14. One who scrapes away
- 16. Type of device
- 17. Skin cancers
- 19. The Show Me State
- 20. Plate glasses
- 22. Red-brown sea bream
- 23. Small (Fr.)
- 25. Flightless Australian birds
- 26. High IQ group
- 28. Stiff structures
- 29. Revolutions per minute
- 30. Where a bachelor lives
- 31. Licensed for Wall Street
- 33. A place to park
- 34. Energy, style and enthusiasm
- 36. An important creed in Catholic Church

- 38. 18-year astronomical period
- 40. Furies
- 41. Removes from the record
- 43. Noted child psychiatrist
- 44. Feline
- 45. High schoolers' test
- 47. Not happy
- 48. They \_\_\_
- 51. On top
- 53. Precious stones unit of weight
- 55. Moved quickly
- 56. Seagulls
- 58. A seed with hooks or teeth
- 59. Partner to "ooed"
- 60. Exclamation of surprise
- 61. Most unpleasant
- 64. Organization help service members
- 65. Type of cockatoo
- 67. Humorous criticisms
- 69. Went through and

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Settle in tents
- 2. Big
- 3. Books
- 4. Masses of eggs in fish
- 5. Language
- 6. Not standing
- 7. Chinese philosophy
- 8. Computer giant
- 9. A device to catch
- 10. Emits coherent radiation
- 11. Actor O'Neill
- 12. Smallest interval in western music
- 13. Not lower
- 15. Revolves
- 18. Leavened bread
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Cable
- 26. Adult male
- 27. Airborne (abbr.)
- 28. Bullfighting
- 29. organized
- 30. Wakes up
- 32. Broadcast
- 35. \_\_\_ Angeles
- 37. Vehicle
- 38. Not religious
- 39. North American peoples
- 42. A baglike structure
- 43. Body art (slang)
- 46. Picked for a role
- 47. Actress Tomei
- 49. Former hoopster "Big Country"
- 50. Icelandic poems
- 52. More pleasant
- 54. It can add flavor to meat
- 55. Self-immolation by fire rituals
- 57. Expression of annoyance
- 59. \_\_\_ Spumante (Italian wine)
- 62. Consumed
- 63. Body part
- 66. Thus
- 68. In reply (abbr.)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 9

## 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 13, 2023**. 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 16.**

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



# Midtown Horns rock School Street Park



Onlookers begin dancing to the music from The Midtown Horns.



Kids dance and run through the front of the stage while enjoying the music.



Members of the crowd dance for onlooking toddler.  
TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



Crowds gather to enjoy the music from The Midtown Horns.



The Midtown Horns dance while singing "Fly as Me" by Silk Sonic.



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# SPORTS



Aiden Monaghan sends the goal kick away.



Goalie Joseph Papdakakis sends the punt away. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Connor Glynn holds the ball before making a pass.



Patrick Keating winds up for a long kick.



Nicholas Gobielle corral a loose ball.

## Boys score shutout

CHICOPEE – Last week, Agawam defeated Chicopee Comprehensive in boys summer soccer action 5-0.

Agawam is 3-2-2 heading into the final week of the season and is holding on to the seventh seed for the PVSSL playof

Find us online: [www.sports.turley.com](http://www.sports.turley.com)

## Pioneers take season finale, make playoffs

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – The atmosphere at Lusitano Stadium is always a lot more festive whenever the Western Mass. Pioneers celebrates a victory.

The Pioneers faithful supporters were in no hurry to head home following the July 15 5-1 win over AC Connecticut in the regular season finale.

The Pioneers 10th win locked up sole possession of second place in the USL-2 Northeast Division. They also clinched a playoff berth for the fourth time since 2019. The 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

“I think making the playoffs is a little more special for us this year,” said Connor Hicks, who’s one of the Pioneers’ veteran players. “Our backs were against the wall a couple of weeks ago, but we were able to make the playoffs again.

Following a 2-1 home loss against rival Seacoast United on June 23, the Pioneers (10-1-3) closed out the regular season with five consecutive victories.

“After we lost to Seacoast, most people thought we wouldn’t be making the playoffs this year,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “There was a lot of pressure on us to win every match, but boys worked very hard. It’s not very easy to qualify for the playoffs in this league.”

The Pioneers, who’ll begin their postseason journey this weekend, have posted an impressive 42-6-8 regular season record since the start of the 2019 campaign.

“We’ve changed a lot of players since 2019,” Molinari said. “When the new players join us, they always play very hard, and they also have a good attitude. It has been an outstanding season so far.”

Hicks, who’s from Monson, and Khalid Rose are the only remaining players from the 2019 playoff team.

Hicks, who has been a defender for most of his Pioneers career, was an outside midfielder against AC Connecticut (4-7-3). He had a couple shots on goal, but has never scored a goal while wearing a Pioneers uniform.

PIONEERS | page 8

## Girls soccer edges Granby

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY – The top eight teams in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League girls B-Division standings will be competing in the playoffs next week.

Two of the teams hoping to clinch a postseason berth are the Agawam Brownies and the Granby Lady Rams.

The Brownies, who entered last Tuesday night’s road match with a 1-3-3 record, celebrated a 1-0 victory over the Lady Rams.

“We really needed a win and it’s a very good confidence booster for the girls,” said Agawam coach Chris Izzo. “All of the girls played very well. They’re also learning how to play different positions.”

Izzo shares the coaching duties with Mike Berthiaume.

The Lady Rams had a 3-3-2 summer league record following the home setback.

“We did have a couple of chances, but we just came up a little bit short,” said Granby summer league coach Thomas Zumburski. “It’s a little bit disappointing because we were really hoping to win tonight’s game. We’re still hoping to make the playoffs.”

Most of the Granby players are members of the varsity soccer team, which is coached by Bob Weaver, in the fall. Most of the Agawam players play for the junior varsity squad.

One of the key players in the summer league contest for the Brownies was Avery Ellis, who posted her first shutout of the summer league season. Ellis, who’s entering her junior year of high school, was a member of the Brownies junior varsity soccer team a year ago.

“We normally have two keepers for every summer league game, but Avery played the whole match tonight,” Izzo said. “She just did a fantastic job. Our defense also played very well.”

Agawam had several shots early in the opening half.

During the 15th minute, Isabella Laprise sent a pass from the right side to Megan Fitzgerald. She then fired a shot on goal, which skipped wide left.

Then shot attempts by Jace Mansur and Marissa Fusco were saved by goalie Ellie Szlosek, who also played the entire match.

Late in the opening half, Granby’s Kelly Lynne Kennedy shot was deflected away by Ellis.

Then the home team was given a penalty kick following a foul

in the box.

Ellis managed to make a one-handed save on the PK taken by Autumn Sicard.

“Anytime that your keeper can make a PK, it’s a very important thing for your team,” Izzo said. “I think it gave us the momentum. Avery also made a save on a PK in our last game against West Springfield.”

It turned out to be the turning point of the game.

With about two minutes remaining in the first half, a chip shot by Fitzgerald landed in the right corner of the net giving the Brownies a 1-0 halftime advantage.

“Megan is one of our top goal scorers,” Izzo said. “She was able to chip the ball over the goalies head into the corner.”

A couple minutes into the second half, a free kick taken by McKenna Zumburski banged off the crossbar.

It was the Lady Rams best scoring opportunity of the second half.

The Brownies had a chance to take a 2-0 lead in the 56th minute on a shot by Bella Shunaman, which sailed wide.

Agawam still had a 1-0 lead when the referee blew his whistle for the final time.



## Sports

## Garrett Hall takes win in Granite State series

HERMON, ME – The Granite State Pro Stock Series returned to “Vacationland” for the first time since 2021 with Saturday night’s Go FAS Racing 100 at Speedway 95. And against a tough field, Garrett Hall captured his second career GSPSS win in the series’ debut at the Hermon, Maine speed-plant.

Seventeen drivers, all but one from the state of Maine, turned out for the GSPSS’ rain-delayed debut at the historic oval just outside Bangor. Wiscasset Speedway regular Josh St. Clair topped the charts in time trials, splitting the heats with home-track ace Mike Hopkins.

But in race trim, it was Hall who prevailed. With reigning GSPSS champion Joey Doiron in the pits, Hall worked the inside line around the third-mile oval en route to victory.

Hall won in his GSPSS debut in 2017, claiming the series’ only trip to Oxford Plains Speedway. With Saturday’s win, the Scarborough native is the first series driver to win twice in the Pine Tree State.

Hopkins, a road warrior with two wins in the Southeast earlier this season, came up short of victory in his second-ever GSPSS appearance, finishing second at his hometown track. St. Clair held on for third



Garrett Hall was the winner up in Maine last Saturday.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

in his series debut.

Points leader Travis Benjamin extended his advantage with a fourth-place finish, while Ben Ashline rounded out the top five.

Saturday’s GSPSS showdown capped off a night of racing that included Speedway

95’s local classes. Dalaney Dunn came out on top in the 25-lap Cage Runner feature. Scott Modery took the checkers in the Street Stocks, and Kris Foss won the evening’s Sport 4 feature.

The next race for the Granite State Pro

Stock Series is a return to Riverside Speedway on Saturday, August 12, where Travis Benjamin will try to back up his June performance with another win at “Grovetona.” Details on the fifth race of the GSPSS’ twelfth season will be released shortly.

For more information on the Granite State Pro Stock Series, visit [www.gspss.net](http://www.gspss.net) or find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

## RESULTS

## Go FAS Racing 100, July 22, 2023

1. (94) Garrett Hall
2. (15ME) Mike Hopkins
3. (14) Josh St. Clair
4. (7B) Travis Benjamin
5. (99) Ben Ashline
6. (32) Brandon Barker
7. (75) Gary Smith
8. (32ME) Nick Jenkins
9. (28R) JR Robinson
10. (7CT) Cory Casagrande
11. (56) Evan Beaulieu
12. (21C) Shane Clark
13. (81) Bryan Lancaster
14. (28) James Doucette
15. (15) Trevor Krouse
16. (21ME) David Oliver
17. (01) Jet Decker

## Sports nutrition tips from Boston Children’s Hospital

What should an athlete eat to prepare for a big event? Read on for sound tips from the Sports Medicine Division.

• Carbs are your friend and other game-day nutrition advice

• Like a car, your body needs fuel to run. These foods help you rev up for top performance on game day:

• Carbohydrates (pasta, fruit, bread, oatmeal, sugar) provide fast energy. Without carbs, an athlete is likely to hit a wall of sluggishness.

• Fat (nuts, nut butters, olive oil, avocados, salmon or tuna) provides lon-

ger-lasting energy. Fats and carbs work together to fuel performance.

• Protein (chicken, beef, eggs, dairy) builds muscle and repairs tissues. Protein after a practice or game is essential to building and maintaining muscle strength.

## Pre-game fueling

Three to four hours before a practice or game, an ideal pre-game meal includes mainly carbs with some protein and fat.

• peanut butter toast with a banana

• granola bar

• yogurt and fruit

Closer to game or practice time, snacks or meals should decrease in volume and be mostly carbs.

• oatmeal

• sports drinks

• Post-game recovery

• A snack or meal with both protein and carbohydrates within 30 to 45 minutes after a game helps muscles recover more rapidly.

• chocolate milk

• banana and peanut butter or al-

mond butter

• graham crackers with peanut butter

or almond butter

• yogurt with granola

• turkey sandwich

Foods that work for your teammates might not work for you. Be sure to try out different foods before and after practice and see how they make you feel. When game day rolls around, you’ll know what fuel your body thrives on.

Stay tuned for more news and injury-prevention tips from Boston Children’s Hospital.



Jordan Koduah makes a pass.



Connor Hicks attempts to run down the ball.



Alec Hughes shoots and scores for the Pioneers.



Tomas Duben makes his way toward the goal.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY

## PIONEERS | from page 7

“I did score a goal in my first game with the Pioneers four years ago, but it was disallowed because of offsides,” said Hicks, who’s planning to play for the Pioneers in 2024. “I was trying to score a goal in tonight’s game.”

Alec Hughes, who’s a first-year member of the Western Mass. Pioneers, led the way offensively with two goals and a pair of assists.

“We really needed to win tonight’s game to make the playoffs,” Hughes said. “It has been a lot of fun playing for this soccer

team this summer.”

The home team, who scored five goals in a home match for the first time since a preseason friendly with KO Elites FC, took a 1-0 lead six minutes into the opening half.

The scoring play began with Gabriel Pacheco sending a pass from the left side of the box to Tomas Duben, who tapped the ball over the goal-line past AC Connecticut goalie Clayton Knibbs.

Less than ten minutes later, Duben was credited with the assist as Hughes fired a shot into the left corner for his first goal of the match.

Duben and Hughes hooked up again during the 32nd minute. A tap in by Hughes increased the Pioneers lead to 3-0, which was the halftime score.

“I always try to put myself in the right spot and let my teammates find me,” Hughes said. “I just want to do anything to help my team win.”

The Pioneers outshot AC Connecticut, 15-1, during the first 45 minutes of the match.

Any thoughts the AC Connecticut players might’ve had of making a second half comeback didn’t last very long.

A goal by Lucio Berron, which was assisted by Hughes in the 58th minute, gave the Pioneers a commanding 4-0 advantage.

AC Connecticut, who also lost the first meeting to the Pioneers, 2-1, received an early Christmas gift following an own goal in the 73rd minute.

A couple of minutes later, Jordan Koduah scored the Pioneers final goal, which was assisted by Hughes.

It was a perfect way to wrap up the regular season for the Pioneers players and their supporters.



# Sports

## West beats East in NECBL All-Star Game

LYNN – The West Division defeated the East Division 5-1 in the 2023 NECBL All-Star Game, presented by Metro Credit Union, behind eight scoreless innings thrown by nine different pitchers.

Catcher Kevin Bruggeman (Upper Valley, C, Hofstra) won the 2023 All-Star Game MVP after going 2-for-2 on the night with two hits including a two-out two-run single with the bases loaded in the fourth inning. Bruggeman was one of two West All-Stars with multi-hit performances, joined by Anthony Livermore (Keene, 3B, Northwestern).

The West Division struck first with a leadoff single by T.J. Williams (Vermont, OF, Notre Dame) on a full count in the top of the first inning. Williams stole second base and later scored from second on an RBI single by Greg Bozzo (Keene, C, Northeastern). East Division starter Santhosh Gottam (Newport, RHP, Brown) limited the damage to one run to keep the game close through the first inning.

Garrett Howe (Ocean State, 2B, Samford) hit a leadoff double with a bloop to left field for the East Division. Howe attempted to steal third, but was caught

with a perfect throw by the catcher Greg Bozzo (Northeastern). West Division starter Nolan Sparks (Vermont, RHP, Rochester) escaped a first inning jam with a diving stop by Kyle Hannon (North Adams, 3B, Penn State) at third base to leave two runners stranded for the East Division.

Alex Logusch (Ocean State, RHP, Winthrop) allowed three walks to load the bases in the fourth and a Ryan Cesarini (Upper Valley, DH, St. Joseph's) sacrifice fly scored Javon Hernandez (Danbury, SS, Auburn) to start the inning.

The West continued its rally when Williams reached base for a third time after his second hit-by-pitch to load the bases once again with two outs. Bruggeman's two-run single drove in Nighthawks teammate Adarius Myers (Upper Valley, OF, Louisiana Tech) along with Brandon Butterworth (Vermont, 2B, NC State) to give the West a commanding 4-0 lead.

Brent Francisco (Bristol, RHP, East

Stroudsburg) recorded the first 1-2-3 inning of the evening after retiring three straight batters in the fifth inning, including strikeouts of Anthony DePino (Mystic, 3B, URI) and Mike Bello (Mystic, OF, Auburn).

Bruggeman reached base for a second time with a single to right field in the sixth inning, and later advanced to second on a Kyle Hannon two-out walk. Wyatt Lunsford-Shenkman (Ocean State, RHP, East Carolina) struck out the league's second-leading home run hitter Samuel Tackett (North Adams, OF, Virginia Tech) to escape the jam with a scoreless frame to keep the East within four.

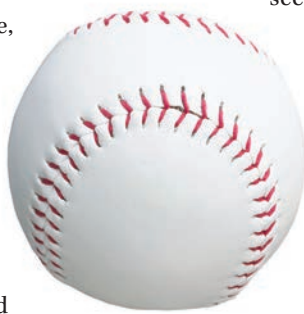
Michael Weidinger (Valley, LHP, William & Mary) retired the side in the sixth inning, including two fly outs and a strikeout of Nolan Nawrocki (Martha's Vineyard, SS, Clemson) to continue a dominant pitching performance by the

West Division.

In the bottom half of the seventh inning, Anthony Livermore (Keene, 3B, Northwestern) showcased his speed with a diving attempt at first base to earn an infield single in his first plate appearance of the game. Livermore went on to steal second and third base before scoring on three straight walks allowed by East pitcher Jay Allmer (Mystic, RHP, Seton Hall), the league's leader in saves.

The East Division cut into the lead with a solo home run by Jake Berger (North Shore, 3B, Harvard) in the bottom of the eighth. Fellow Navigator Stan DeMartinis III (North Shore, OF, Bentley) followed with a single to left, but Week 2 Pitcher of the Week George Viebrock III (Danbury, LHP, Denison) retired the next three batters to maintain a 5-1 lead for the West heading into the ninth.

West Division Fan Vote winner Luis Misla (Upper Valley, LHP, SUNY Cortland) split the ninth inning with 2023 Home Run Derby champion and two-way player Anthony Steele (Danbury, LHP, Penn State) to seal a dominant 5-1 victory for the West Division.



## Public Notices

### LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, August 7, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.** in Veterans Hall located at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Michael Dipon for a zone change request for 314, 318 & Rear Silver Street, Agawam from Business A & Agriculture to entirely Residence A-3 (ZC-2023-1).

This public hearing will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us) and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15. ZC-2023-1 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at [vgioscia@agawam.ma.us](mailto:vgioscia@agawam.ma.us)

BY ORDER OF:  
Christopher C. Johnson  
City Council President  
07/20, 07/27/2023

### LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL

The Agawam City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, August 7, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.** in Veterans Hall at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam,

MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Mayor William Sapelli on an Ordinance to amend Section 29 of Chapter 180 of the Code of the Town of Agawam regarding Residence A-3 districts (TOR-2023-5). This public hearing will be live-streamed on the Town of Agawam's website at [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us) and will also be televised on Cable Access Channel 15. TOR-2023-5 is available for public inspection by emailing the office of the City Clerk for an electronic copy at [vgioscia@agawam.ma.us](mailto:vgioscia@agawam.ma.us)

BY ORDER OF:  
Christopher C. Johnson  
City Council President  
07/20, 07/27/2023

### Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD23P1375EA

Estate of:  
Virginia M. Gruska  
Date of Death:  
January 23, 2023

### INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petitioner Michelle Yacovone of Feeding Hills, MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
Michelle Yacovone of

Feeding Hills, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to 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.  
07/27/2023

Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and  
Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD23P0946EA  
Estate of:

### Mary Eileen Patnaude Also known as: Mary E Patnaude Date of Death: 03/05/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for S/A - **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Donna L Kosinski of Feeding Hills, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Donna L Kosinski of Feeding Hills, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/11/2023.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this pro-**

**ceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

### UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: July 13, 2023  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
07/27/2023

### TOWN OF AGAWAM INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Agawam, through the Chief Procurement Officer is inviting bids for Filed

Sub-contractor and General Contractor firms for the addition and renovation of the proposed 18,000 SF Police Department Headquarters, located at 1070 Suffield Street Agawam, MA.

All bidders must be DCAMM certified. Filed Sub-Bid categories include Masonry, Misc. Metals, Waterproofing Damp proofing & Caulking, Roofing & flashing, Tile, Acoustical Tile, Resilient Flooring, Painting, Fire Protection, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical.

Bid documents are available at [www.Projectdog.com](http://www.Projectdog.com). The project ID code is 857149.

Filed Sub Bids are due on August 16, 2023 by 2:00pm, and General bids are due August 30, 2023 by 2:00pm. All Bids will be electronically received via Projectdog.com.

Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with M.G.L. c. 149, SS44A-44J, as most recently amended, and all other applicable laws. Bids are subject to Prevailing Wage Rates as required by MGL c. 149, SS 26 to 27H.

Refer to the bid documents for Bidder instructions and requirements. The Town of Agawam reserves the right to reject any or all bids if it is in the public interest to do so.

Jennifer Bonfiglio  
Chief Procurement Officer  
07/27/2023

## Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to [notices@turley.com](mailto:notices@turley.com)
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)





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Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

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Landscape installation and restoration  
Hedge trimming, pruning, and mulching. Schedule fall lawn overseeding and repair  
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**STOP WET BASEMENTS**

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All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

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Chores and odd jobs too! Professional and reliable. No job too small. Servicing the Wilbraham area.  
Call Tom, **339-832-5682.**

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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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# Schools & Youth

## Holyoke Community College STEM scholarship deadline Aug. 1

HOLYOKE — Students enrolled full time in chemistry, biology, engineering, mathematics, physics or other STEM fields at Holyoke Community College have until Tuesday, Aug. 1, to apply for a National Science Foundation scholarship of up to \$10,000 a year.

Through HCC, the National Science Foundation Scholarship offers on average \$6,500 per year to qualified full-time students and prorated amounts for part-time students.

New and current HCC students are encouraged to apply. The application deadline for the fall 2023 semester is Aug. 1. Scholarship awardees will be notified by Aug. 20.

Students chosen for the NSF scholarship become members of HCC's STEM scholars 2.0 Program, also known as STEM Cohorts for Research & Engagement.

STEM scholars are expected to maintain enrollment in a STEM program, be in

good academic standing, complete an associate degree at HCC, and/or transfer to an accredited STEM degree program at a four-year institution. The scholarships are renewable every year as long as students continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

Beside the financial awards, STEM Scholars become part of a learning community that fosters a sense of belonging and academic success, and includes mentoring, research, and honors experiences, community service, and internships.

The application and eligibility guidelines can be viewed at [hcc.edu/stem-scholarship](http://hcc.edu/stem-scholarship).

STEM disciplines include biological sciences, physical sciences, math, computer and information services, geosciences, and engineering.

The program is led by HCC math professor Ileana Vasu, coordinator of the STEM Scholars program. She can be reached at [ivasu@hcc.edu](mailto:ivasu@hcc.edu) or 413-552-2438.

### UHart announces Dean's Lists

WEST HARTFORD, CT – These students from Agawam were named to the University of Hartford Dean's List: Kristen Langevin, Brianna Benjamin, Alexandra Humphries, Kolby Lindell and Samantha Mengwasser.

### President's List at Coastal Carolina University

CONWAY, SC – Gianna Curto, from Agawam, was named to the President's List at Coastal Carolina University for the Spring semester.

### Kaily Mayo named to President's List

SMITHFIELD, RI – Kaily Mayo of Agawam was named to Bryant Universities President's List.

### Bryant University spring Dean's List

SMITHFIELD, RI – Bryant University has named these Agawam residents to the 2023 Dean's List this spring semester: Emily DeGeorge, Emily Oliver and Prem Patel.

### UMass Amherst spring dean's list

AMHERST – These local students were named to the dean's list at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the 2023 spring semester.

#### Agawam

Nicholas Theodore Archambault, Maxwell H Blanton, Ryan Philip Butler, David Carl Dagenais, Joseph Christopher Dowd, Jack Philip Frogameni, Elizabeth Leigh

Gonet, Sara Joy Lubarsky, Meagan Elaine McKiernan and Justin Donald Salva.

#### Feeding Hills

Eyan Anthony Corridan, Mia Rose DePalma, Daniel Frederick Donahue, Joshua Minseo Kang, Ryan James MacDonald, Samantha Pearl Mielnikowski, Lena Hannah Tedeschi, Kayleah Elizabeth Unglaub and Joseph Edward Weyant.

#### SCHOOL ■ from page 1

mittee members did not ask or consult with the administration of the school to ask about the potential impacts to the school community.

He encouraged the school committee to reconsider the name change and suggested another school, namely Agawam Junior High and Agawam High School, which are not named for anyone.

Jessica Crowley also stated she opposed the name change. She noted her daughter had already graduated the school and moved on to Roberta Doer-

ing School.

She also cited "RPS Way" and said her daughter believed it was important to her to keep the name the same.

Kerry Cordis said the motto to put children first is another reason to not change the name.

"It's confusing to these young kids to take away the name," she said.

The city council made no comments about the name change at the meeting, and does not have the ability to override the name change.

The School Committee will not meet again until after the school year begins.

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9-Month CD rates are effective as of 7/1/2023. Minimum CD opening deposit is \$1,000. Automatically renews at maturity for 9 months at the then current CD rate and term. Minimum balance to obtain APY is \$0.01. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Available for IRAs and business customers.

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Special offer is for opening a new Get Real Checking<sup>SM</sup> account. Minimum balance to open Get Real Checking<sup>SM</sup> is \$10. Bonuses are for new checking account customers and limited to one account per customer. Bonus payouts may be 1099 reportable. Account must be in good standing and have a positive balance at the time the bonus is paid. May not be combined with other promotional offers. Customers who have previously received a bonus on a checking account closed with the bank within the previous 12 months are not eligible. This is a limited time offer and subject to change without notice. \$200 promotional offer is for opening a Get Real Checking<sup>SM</sup> account and activating direct deposit (of at least \$25) OR enrolling in Online Banking and conducting 5 debit card transactions using your debit card within the first 60 days of account opening (\$200 will be credited to the account by the last day of the statement cycle following the 60th day the account has been open). \$50 promotional offer is for making 5 bill payments using Online Banking OR enrolling in eStatements within 60 days of account opening (\$50 will be credited to the account by the last business day of the statement cycle following the 60th day the account has been open). Minors (anyone under the age of 18) are not eligible for Online Bill Pay. \$50 loyalty bonus will be paid after the account has been open for 12 months (\$50 will be credited to the account by the last day of the statement cycle following the 365th day the account has been open).