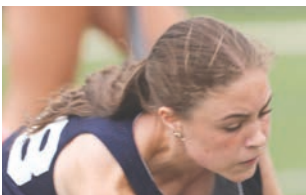




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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Marven Hart, Dan Florian and Kathleen Duquette with Friends of Agawam Veterans Cemetery participate in the Agawam Night Out celebration. TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Community comes out big at Agawam Night Out 2026

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last Friday, July 24 at School Street Park, Agawam hosted its annual Agawam Night Out celebration. This free event was open for everyone of all ages to enjoy. Agawam police

and firefighters were there providing information. Agawam High Rosie Robotics students were at the event showing off the robots, including one that shoots bouncy balls and their latest competing robot, Zulu. King Gray Coach Lines handed out free popcorn and pro-

vided tours of a bus made in 1927. Food trucks lined the paths around School Street Park. Sacred Heart Parish handed out free homemade cookies, made by the volunteers of St. Martha's Guild. The event also featured a small train ride around the park and bouncy house ob-

stacle courses for children. Agawam Night Out has been an event that has grown in size through the last several years.

The completion of the second phase of School Street Park has also been

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New England Mosaic project to be unveiled

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans announced this week the 2026 New England Mosaic Project is being unveiled on Wednesday, Aug. 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course.

The mosaic has become a beautiful tradition of unique art coming from all over the region for the past few years. Each year since it began, it has drawn interest from various artists representing all types of different mediums to take part. It takes several months to collect and organize the work, and next week's unveiling event will be the culmination of the hard work put into the work.

According to a press release from the ACAA, approximately 200 community members from all over Western Mass. created art on a 6"x6" canvases. Those canvases will be part of 24-foot display at the unveiling. The Mosaic Artists range from first timers that have never created a canvas to seasoned artists who regularly create

art and all the canvases are themed around what the artist loves about New England. The range of artists and their experience level add to the intrigue of the different canvases as well as the unique things that are displayed throughout the 24-foot work of beauty.

The other part of the unveiling will be the sale of the different small works of art with proceeds from the sale going to help graduating students.

The canvases will be sold that evening with net proceeds going to fund the Gloria McLellan Memorial Scholarship for Visual Arts. This year, two students from Southwick, one for Wilbraham and one from Westfield each received \$1000 scholarships toward their tuition. Learn more about this scholarship at www.agawamarts.com.

Donations toward the scholarship funds are appreciated by the ACAA.

The ACAA thanks the following libraries that helped

MOSAIC | page 10

Jukebox Hero'z performs for SummerFest Concert Series

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last week, Jukebox Hero'z performed at

School Street Park as part of this year's SummerFest concert series. Jukebox Hero'z is a Foreigner Tribute Band, featuring George Vertucci on

keyboard, Rich Donelly as lead singer, Jeff Burke on drums, Francesco Tata on lead guitar, Bill Wallace as second guitarist, and Chris Petriccione

on bass. There was a large turnout of community members who gathered at School Street Park to enjoy some rock music, socialize, and buy

food from the Agawam Lion's Club concessions. All proceeds from the concessions go towards the Agawam Lion's Club's activities and programs.

Upcoming shows Retro Floyd on Aug. 5, KIX 100.0 Country Show, Lindsey LaBelle and Jacob Hackworth on Aug. 12 and General Gist on Aug. 19.



Attendees Mary Gontczaruk and Darlene Cloutiex



Attendees Ann Rivers and Tom Lingenberg at the SummerFest concert last week. TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA



Agawam Veterans Council President Patrick Astaferrero and Dennis King at the SummerFest concert on July 22.

Hot car safety: tips on making sure nothing is left behind

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

One of the largest heat-related safety threats of the summer is hot cars.

In 2025 there were 31 children who died nationwide due to being left in a car during the summer heat. So far in 2026, there have already been 12.

It is crucial to maintain awareness of how quickly a car's internal temperature can rise in the heat.

"It could reach up to 120 degrees and north of that within five to ten minutes of sitting

in the sun," Agawam's Deputy Fire Chief Frank Matuszczak said.

Due to these dangerous temperatures, if a person sees a child or an animal within a car in the heat and they are unsure if the car is running or not, they need to call 911 immediately.

"It is a true emergency at that point," Matuszczak said.

Children's internal body temperatures rise faster than adults, making it even more dangerous for them to be left in a hot car.

Heatstroke begins when

a person's internal body temperature reaches 104 degrees. Death occurs at a body temperature of 107 or higher.

With car temperatures reaching over 120 degrees, these dangerous internal temperatures can happen quickly.

Matuszczak advises people to never leave children or pets in the car in the heat, even if they think it will be a quick trip. Sometimes even a five minute trip can result in heat related injury or even death.

When getting out of the car, always do a sweep to ensure no one is left in the back seat.

Over 50% of pediatric vehicular heatstroke deaths are the result of a parent or caregiver forgetting the child in the car.

The National Highway Safety Administration recommends leaving an important item in the backseat with a child to serve as a reminder to look in the back.

It is also important to teach children that cars and vehicles are not play areas and to leave car keys out of their reach.

This will help prevent children from accidentally locking themselves in a vehicle when their caregiver is not paying

attention.

Many modern cars are made to be more air tight to help retain air conditioning or heating in all weathers. While this has a benefit, it also means they hold heat in the summer for longer than many older models.

"If you are going somewhere, you should leave [your kid] at home, if you can, or take the child with you," Matuszczak said.

With the hot temperatures cars can reach, it is also important to be conscientious as a person gets into a hot car.

Many modern cars have ways of lowering the windows using a key fob, which Matuszczak recommends using to help lower internal temperatures before getting inside the car.

This is especially important as metal surfaces, such as seatbelts, can reach temperatures over 180 degrees, which can result in burns.

If a person's car does not have the ability to lower the windows using the key fob, it will be best for them to open the car doors for a few minutes before getting inside.



Blood drive to honor lost infant continues

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – In 2024, the unthinkable happened for the Robillard and Goncalves families experienced an unthinkable tragedy when infant Chase Goncalves lost his life from bacterial meningitis.

Lindsay Robillard, Chase's mother, has worked to honor her son's memory, starting a blood drive last year to help others. She is pleased to announced their next blood drive, which began on Tuesday, July 28, and will run through Aug. 12. However, she notes that a person can help outside of those dates.

"Giving blood anytime during the year is Chase's memory is deeply appreciated," Robillard said.

She shared the following information about this year's hard drive, and hopes people will be able to participate.

"This year we will honor Chase by holding a blood drive at the Kraft Family Blood Donor Center at 35 Binney St, Jimmy Fund Building, Floor 1 in Boston, MA," Robillard said. "Those who wish to donate should call 617-632-3206 or email sbob-bie@bwh.harvard.edu to schedule an appointment."

Robillard said both her and Chase received lifesaving blood transfusions during

their medical journeys.

Chase passed away in August 2024 from bacterial meningitis.

"Chase was pure love and pure joy from the minute he was born," Robillard said. "He brought us immense peace. His illness was completely unexpected. Chase was fully immunized, healthy and breastfed his entire life. He was a beautiful baby who loved to be outside in nature and loved to be in the arms of those who loved him. We lost our future with him and his brother Jack lost his best friend. Losing Chase has tested our ability to live in this world without him. We were so connected to him and we continue to maintain our connection to him. We visit and spend time with him often at the cemetery and express our love for him by keeping flowers and mementos at his gravesite. It is a way to continue to 'parent' Chase. Talking about Chase and doing acts of kindness in his honor help us to remain close to him. He will always be a part of our family. Our grief and period of 'grieving' will never end. We will continue to love and miss him every second of every day. A loss this profound upends your entire world. Parents are not supposed to bury their children and this out-of-order death is destabilizing.



Chase Goncalves lost his life from bacterial meningitis.

Our grief is an expression of our love. By holding this blood drive we hope to honor and keep his memory alive while also providing lifesaving blood donations. We ask those who are unable to donate in Boston to consider donating at a local Red Cross,

as hospital blood supplies are generally at a critical low in the summer months."

Robillard hopes to continue to honor his memory through the drive and is grateful to all those who help honor his memory through donations.



His family now holds a blood drive to help others and honor the child's memory.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Feline Friends Summer Fun Raffle

AGAWAM – The following was submitted by Feline Friends:

Thanks to everyone who took the time to enjoy wonderful food from E.B.'s on July 15 as part of their generous Give Back Wednesday Program. We appreciate being included in the program.

We will be selling raffle tickets for our Summer Fun Raffle through Aug. 14. Tickets are \$10 each. Prize value is \$25. Winners will be chosen by our raffle wheel daily from Aug. 16 to 31. Winners will be announced on Facebook daily as well as being contacted personally.

We are incredibly grateful for the response to our appeal for help with supplies. We have received packages at the professional office at 532 Springfield St. (at the corner of Cleveland St.) in Feeding Hills and at the Agawam Public Library. Please include your name and contact information for acknowledgment. Financial donations have arrived by check at P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills 01030 as well as PayPal and Venmo.

Thank you to those who donated in late June and the first 3 weeks of July: Patricia Chraplak, Joan Eckert, Deborah Hasty, Amelia McMeans, Daniel Guida, Judith Clini, Karen Davis, Joanne Daurizio, Judith Roberts, Sandra Thomas, Katie Heald, Ken Kurowski and Irene Fisher, Joanne Lamson, Big Y Community

Bag Program (East Main St., Westfield store), P.J. and Bernie Scantlen, Eva R, Sandra Robb, Heidi Malinowski, Glen Birk, Sara Teitelbaum in memory of Rocco, Dawn Struck, Wynter Manyak, Crystal Mengele, Carol Roy and, as always, our wonderful monthly sponsors.

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, non-profit sanctuary that does not discriminate against any cat based on age, gender or disability. More information about our sanctuary may be found on our website at felinefriendsinc.org or our Facebook page at Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary. Contact us with questions at info@felinefriendsinc.org or by phone at 413-786-5019.



Library's 'Great Reads from Great Places' event set for Sept. 29

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library is pleased to announce its selection as a partnering library with the Massachusetts Center for the Book for the "Great Reads from Great Places" initiative. Each year the Massachusetts Center for the Book selects a title to represent the Commonwealth at the annual Library of Congress National Book Festival and provides free copies of the book to area libraries for use in discussion groups and community programming. This year's title is Nothing More of This Land: Community, Power and the Search for Indigenous Identity

by Joseph Lee. The Agawam Public Library will host a book discussion and virtual Q & A watch party with the author on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Anyone interested in registering for this book discussion and event is encouraged to stop by the library information desk to pick up a free copy of the book and discussion guide (while supplies last).

Before Martha's Vineyard became one of the most iconic vacation destinations in the country, it was home to the Wampanoag people. Today, as tourists flock to the idyllic beaches, the

island has become increasingly unaffordable for tribal members, with nearly three-quarters now living off-island. Growing up Aquinnah Wampanoag, journalist Joseph Lee grappled with what this situation meant for his tribe, how the community can continue to grow, and more broadly, what it means to be Indigenous.

Registered participants will be invited to participate in an exclusive Q&A with Joseph Lee on September 29th at 6pm. This discussion series is part of the 2026 Great Reads MA program, sponsored by the Massachusetts Center for the Book.



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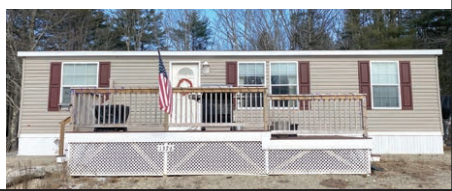
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August events for children and teens at the Agawam Library

AGAWAM – Summer is still in full swing for Children and Teens at the Agawam Library! There is still time to complete your Plant-A-Seed, Read Summer Reading Challenge. Log your reading, write book reviews, contribute to our Community Reading Goal of 6,000 hours, and earn raffle tickets that can be entered to win awesome prizes until Aug. 7. We will also have lots of fun, free activities for kids and teens happening at the Agawam Library during the month of August. Below is a listing of everything that's going on for kids and teens this month. Some events require registration. To register, call 413-789-1550 ext 3 or go to our website agawamlibrary.org.

- Art & Stories - For ages 3 – 5**
Tuesday, Aug. 4 and 18 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in

Join us for a short story time followed by an art project. We will explore simple art concepts and experiment with materials. Please wear clothing that can get messy!
- Baby Story Time - For birth – 18 mo.**
Thursday, Aug. 6 and 20 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in

Join us as we learn a little American Sign Language, read stories, sing, & play together.
- Dungeons & Dragons – Grades 5-6**
Friday, Aug. 7 at 2 p.m. – Registration Required

This is the last session of a

- three-session program. Join Dungeon Master Anna for imaginative adventuring.
- End-of-Summer Ice Cream Party - For all ages**
Friday, Aug. 28 at 3 p.m. - Registration Required

Join us in celebrating the end of summer vacation the Friday before school goes back into session! We will have ice cream and popsicles, and coloring materials and board games will be available.
- Family Movie: Monsters University (2013) (G) - For all ages**
Friday, Aug. 14 at 2 p.m. - Registration Required

Join us for a showing of Monsters University (2013) (Rated G). Feel free to bring a blanket to sit on, but chairs

- will be provided. Snacks will be available.
- Family Take & Make Crafts - For all ages**
First Day of the Week & Thursdays - While supplies last - Drop-in & pick up.

A new Take & Make craft will be available on the first day of each week and again on Thursdays.

Aug. 3 and 6: Fruit Dino-saur Tubes Aug. 10 and 13: Farmer Clothespin Puppet Aug. 17 and 20: Apple Tree Sign Aug. 24 and 27: Bunny in a Carrot Craft Aug. 31: School Themed Magnets
- Joke Days – For all ages**
Wednesdays and Fridays

Tell a joke to the librarian

- in the Children's Room and get a small prize.
- Teen Craft – Grades 7-12**
Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. – Registration Required

Diamond Art Coasters Diamond Art is a simple and satisfying craft that involves attaching rhinestones to a color-coded background to make a picture. Each participant will choose a coaster to create.
- Teen Escape Room: Escape From the Terrible Thicket - Grades 7-12**
Monday, Aug. 3 – Registration Required 4 to 5 or 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Join us for an exciting Escape Room presented by Wicked Fun Games. You've become lost in the forest!

- Mix potions with the correct herbs, read the signs of the forest, and translate fairy messages to find your way out. Registration is required.
- Teen Take & Make Craft - Grades 7-12**
Available starting Monday August 3 until supplies run out

Toddler Time - For 19 mo. - 36 mo.
Mon. Aug. 3, 17, and 31 at 9:30 a.m. - Drop-in.

Join us as we read stories, sing, and play together
- Weekly Scavenger Hunts – For all ages**
Aug. 3-7. Racoon-Themed Hunt & Riddle Aug. 10-14. Pigeon-themed Hunt & Riddle Aug. 31 to Sept.4 School-themed Hunt & Riddle

LaRochelle receives scholarship award

AGAWAM – Matilda La-rochelle, a 2026 graduate of Agawam High School, has been awarded a \$3,000 William J. Wagner Memorial Scholarship from the Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, an affiliate with Westfield Bank. Larochelle is one of 12 highly deserving scholarship recipients from 12 local high schools invited to participate in the Foundation's 20th annual scholarship program.

Larochelle has distinguished herself through exceptional academic achievement, leadership, service, and innovation. Named Class Valedictorian, she graduated first in a class of 243 with an outstanding 4.63 GPA. An AP Scholar with Distinction, Larochelle excelled in a rigorous academic program while earning national recognition from the College Board, reflecting her intellectual curiosity and deep commitment to academic excellence. Her accomplishments also span advanced STEM research, competitive programming, and student advocacy. She was selected for prestigious programs including MIT's Introduction to Technology, Engineering, and Science and Stanford's International Genetically Engineered Machine initiative, where she conducted bioengineering research and explored complex topics in molecular genetics. At Agawam High School, she served as President of both the Em-

powerment Club and the Future Medical Career Club, leading initiatives that raised awareness for underserved communities and supported healthcare-related causes. As team leader of the Programming Team, she helped develop an award-winning app that earned top honors in the Congressional App Challenge.

Service has played an equally important role in Larochelle's high school experience. She contributed to numerous community efforts, including organizing multicultural events, volunteering with senior residents, and representing her peers on the Western Massachusetts Regional Student Advisory Council, where she advocated for more than 1,000 students. She also strengthened her professional skills through a competitive internship in health technology, developing market strategies and gaining experience in collaborative problem-solving. This fall, Larochelle will attend Columbia University to study biomedical engineering. She aspires to pursue advanced research and a career as a cardiothoracic surgeon, focusing on innovative biomedical solutions to treat disease and improve patient outcomes. One of her teachers described Larochelle as "an intellectually gifted, thoughtful, and compassionate individual whose presence elevates every classroom, project, and community she joins," a fit-

ting reflection of the resilience, initiative, and sense of purpose she brings to all she does.

The Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation was established in 2006 as a private 501(c)(3) foundation, through a gift of stock from Chicopee Bancorp, Inc., valued then at \$5.5 million, upon the successful conversion of Legacy Chicopee Savings Bank to a publicly traded company. Now, in its twentieth year, the Foundation has donated in excess of \$7.1 million back into our local communities. The Foundation grants funding to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations serving the communities of Chicopee, Ludlow, South Hadley, Ware, West Springfield and their immediate surrounding communities.

In 2022, the Foundation's Board of Directors proudly renamed its scholarship to the William J. Wagner Memorial Scholarship in recognition of the Foundation's founding President, who served in that capacity until his passing in 2021. Mr. Wagner was a community servant, who was notably passionate about helping youth succeed and lived by the old adage that, "What you do has far greater impact than what you say." Through and since Mr. Wagner's leadership, the Foundation has proudly awarded 172 academic scholarships totaling \$514,000 to eligible high school graduates.

Women's Center Foundation committing more grant funds

SPRINGFIELD – The O'Dell Women's Center Foundation is committing \$1 million in funding to nonprofit organizations serving low-income women and girls throughout Hampden County, Massachusetts.

This represents the Foundation's largest grant-making investment to date, the 2026 grant program reflects the growing need for services that help women and girls achieve stability, opportunity, and long-term economic mobility.

"Our decision to double our grantmaking reflects both the urgency of the needs we see across our community and our unwavering commitment to supporting women and girls," said Keely Krantz, Founder and President of the O'Dell Women's Center. "Wom-

en deserve access to both immediate support during difficult times and opportunities that lead to long-term financial stability."

The Foundation's grant-making is centered on two funding priorities:

Critical and Basic Needs supports programs that help women and their families meet essential needs and maintain stability during challenging circumstances.

Education, Career Development, and Economic Stability supports programs that help women achieve financial stability through education and career advancement.

Grants will range from \$20,000 to \$100,000, with an average award of \$50,000, supporting organizations that provide critical ser-

vices while helping women build stronger futures. Applications are now open and will close Sept. 18.

The O'Dell Women's Center Foundation is committed to investing in programs that address both immediate challenges and long-term opportunities for women and girls. By supporting organizations that remove barriers and expand access to education, employment, and essential services, we help build stronger families and more resilient communities throughout Hampden County.

For more information about the 2026 grant cycle or to register for the virtual information session, visit the O'Dell Women's Center website at www.odellwomenscenter.com.

Thomas Smith home to have open house

AGAWAM – On Saturday, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be an open house held at the historic Thomas Smith House.

The c. 1757 Thomas Smith House and 1920 Delmore Hawthorne Garage will be open for tours.

Master stone carver & gravestone conservator Randall Nelson will be on-site to talk about his work

carving replicas of badly deteriorated gravestones of Revolutionary War veterans as replacements for the original stones.

The National Register-listed Thomas Smith House is one of a few remaining resources from Feeding Hills' eighteenth-century agricultural past, and is significant architecturally as an un-

usually intact example of eighteenth-century building practices and a rare surviving example of mid-to late-eighteenth century Connecticut River Valley design and materials.

The Hawthorne Garage illustrates the property's evolution from agricultural to suburban setting that took place in the early twentieth century.



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We couldn't be more excited and proud to welcome him to Agawam Dental Care!

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Opinion

Guest Column



I was cheated: I delayed claiming Social Security but didn't get my full benefits

Dear Rusty:

I'm 70 now and took my Social Security benefits at age 68.

Social Security would not allow me to take all my increased percentage earned by waiting until age 68 to claim. My local Social Security office said I would get an increased amount but not my full age 68 amount because it was "not an option;" they said I could take it only the way "they said." That's our illegal government.

Signed: Feeling Cheated

Dear Feeling Cheated:

Regarding your comment that SS "would not allow" you to take all of your "increased percentage," I assume you are referring to a Social Security rule which applies whenever benefits are claimed after full retirement age (FRA) but before age 70. That rule says that the Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs), which are earned when someone delays claiming until after their Social Security full retirement age, are applied only in January of each year. What that means is that whenever benefits are claimed mid-year after FRA but before age 70, only the DRCs earned through the end of the previous year are immediately applied, and any additional DRCs earned during the current year are not applied until January of the following year. The only exception to that rule is if someone applies for benefits to begin in the month they turn 70 (or after) when all earned DRCs are applied immediately.

So, if you applied for your benefits to begin when you turned age 68 mid-year in 2024 (but before the end of that year), you would initially only get DRCs earned through the end of the previous year (through December 2023), and the DRCs earned in 2024 wouldn't have been

credited to you until January 2025. Which means you now actually do get your full percentage of delayed retirement credits earned by waiting until age 68 to claim, but you did not get them all until January 2025. Essentially, those extra benefits earned from the beginning of 2024 to the month your SS benefits started were delayed until the beginning of the following year.

We run into this complexity fairly often here at our AMAC Social Security Advisory Service, which is why we counsel those who contact us about waiting longer to claim are aware of this rather obscure rule. Not to defend your local SS office, but they are required to pay benefits according to the established Social Security law. Thus, they were required to inform you that paying you the full age 68 benefits effective immediately when you applied was not an option. It wasn't personal; they were just following the rules.

I know this explanation doesn't dissuade you from "feeling cheated," but I hope understanding how SS works in this case assures you it wasn't personal – SSA applies the same rules to all beneficiaries.

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



The joys of harvest season

It's been a fun week in the garden! I love it when the harvest starts to roll in.

This week I picked broccoli, kale, green beans and zucchini. I also replanted a few crops in hopes of a second harvest prior to the first frost.

Read on to hear about my adventures.

You may remember my column from a few weeks back, where I was having a hard time getting "into it" this year. I guess like building any relationship, the more time you spend, the more time you may want to spend as things start to progress and go well.

Anyway, I am happy with my garden again and it feels good to spend time out there. Back to the harvest.

I enjoy harvesting broccoli. It's always fun to see just how big you can get the heads to grow before they want to flower.

The first one I cut was maybe six inches in diameter. Not bad, but the second one was closer to nine inches.

More heads will be ready in the coming weeks. After that I will be harvesting side shoots.

This year, cabbage moths were kept at bay by using a tightly woven bug netting draped over the plants and supported by wire hoops and secured at the base by old wooden planks or stones. So far so good; no worms of any kind in the water left over after steaming.

Kale is broccoli's cousin and is subject to the same

pests. Because of that I also grow it under the netting. I've been harvesting the kale for well over a month and we already have several bags of it in the freezer. I am starting to rethink my use of plastic baggies, but for now the leaves are washed, patted dry then ripped into pieces and stuffed into baggies pushing out as much air as possible. When my husband makes his vegetable juices and stews, all he does is empty the contents into his creation.

I noticed that the older leaves of the kale were starting to have a yellow cast, so I got out the organic granular fertilizer and gave the plants a sprinkle and a good watering. Hopefully that will reinvigorate the plants for picking well into the fall.

My bush bean seeds got planted late; well after Memorial Day. The harvest is just starting. I will be sure to pick often to keep the plants producing.

I have been saving my own bean seeds for a few years now. It's easy, just harvest the dry pods of "the ones that got away." Make sure they are crispy dry.

Break open the seed pods and store the seeds with a packet of desiccant (usually in a bottle of vitamins or with leather shoes)

in a jar. If you are growing open pollinated or heirloom, non-hybrid varieties you will reliably get the same variety back again. They don't cross pollinate with neighbor beans.

This week I was happy to harvest four zucchinis with more coming. It's funny that already I see freebies at the end of driveways on my commute. I truly hope I have an abundance.

To avoid "boat-sized" squash, pick them small, say six to eight inches long. The seed cavity won't be too big that way and you will encourage the plant to keep producing.

No doubt the vine borer will do in my early sowing soon enough, but never fear, I have sown additional seeds under cover to hopefully have a later harvest once this one expires. I try and keep them covered until the plants bloom, at which time the cover needs to be removed so that the flowers can be pollinated and fruit can form.

I hope you are enjoying the start of the harvest season as much as I am.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.



A Belchertown resident shared this photo of a glossy ibis he took at Lake Wallace.

The glossy ibis is a medium-sized wading bird, 18.9 to 26 inches long, with compact body, long neck, long legs and long, curved bill.

The plumage appears dark, almost blackish, at a distance or in poor light. Up close, the body is maroon with wing coverts showing a metallic green, bronze and violet tones.

Juveniles are a duller brown color with some white streaking on their neck.

Glossy Ibis occur in flocks, both at nesting col-

onies and when foraging. They typically feed by lowering the bill into water, mud or soil, to feel for prey.

In addition to consuming animal matter, plants may constitute a major portion of their diet during some seasons.

They frequent almost any wetland environment with shallow water or exposed mud and also readily feed in farm fields or open areas where soils are moist.

They inhabit shallow freshwater wetlands as well as brackish and saltwater wetlands, mangroves, and rice fields. Over much of its range,

When flying, the glossy ibis has its neck stretched forward and legs straight behind it. The glossy ibis does not call often, but may make murmuring sounds while foraging.

During the breeding season, glossy ibises will court one another by preening and touching bills. Males and females will work together to build a large nest.

Nesting in tight colonies, glossy ibis nests are often no more than 2 feet away from each other. The female will lay three to four eggs and incubate them for 20-22 days.

Glossy ibises can be found across the globe. Their range has greatly expanded in the 20th century in North America.

This species has gone from a rare and local Florida species to regularly breeding as far north as Maine and occasionally along the east coast of Canada. The first Massachusetts nests were found at coastal sites in 1974.

The oldest recorded glossy ibis was at least 21 years old and lived in Virginia between 1971 and 1992.

Sutton birds

Recently, my brother and sister-in-law hosted a pool party. My brother, Ted, puts out grape jelly for the Baltimore orioles and a nectar feeder for the ruby-throated hummingbirds on his deck.

Birds included male and female ruby-throated hummingbirds for the nectar feeder. Baltimore orioles, red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker and a scarlet tanager came to the deck.

They also have a pond that abuts their backyard. They have a pair of mute swans on the pond. They raised a family for several years in a row.

Great blue heron

I often see a great blue heron wading in Long Pond in Rutland. Every time I drive along Route 122 by the pond, I look for the heron.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowne@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



Juvenile glossy ibis

Photo by Doug Moore

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The other is a

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costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries

should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Senior Center announces some upcoming activities

AGAWAM – Here are some upcoming activities happening at the Agawam Senior Center. Some require registration or confirmation. Information in the details below:

Jewelry Making with Sandy
Wednesday, July 29 at 1 p.m. in the Dining Room

We are excited to offer Jewelry Making with Sandy. Sandy will bring all the materials you need and you bring your creativity. Cost for the class is \$3 per person plus the cost of your supplies. Call Kristina at 413.726.2836

Fitness Training with Ethan
Tuesday, Aug. 4

Have you ever wanted to have a personal fitness trainer but were not able to afford it? Wow you are in luck! Ethan Sotolotto will start 40 minute 1:1 personal training sessions. Cost to you is \$30 per session. First session begins Tuesday evening Aug. 4. Call Kristina at 726-2836 with questions or to register.

Glee Club Music
Wednesday, Aug. 5 at 11 a.m.
Music with the Glee Club of Work Opportunity Center

Diabetic Support Group Meeting
Wednesday, Aug. 5 at 1 p.m. in the Garden Room.

Join us on Aug. 5 at 1 p.m. in the Garden Room for an informative and supportive session!

We're pleased to welcome our guest speaker: Dina Dugan, MS, RD, LDN Clinical Dietitian, Baystate Noble Hospital.

Dina will discuss the powerful role nutrition plays in managing health. As she shares, the food choices we make each day impact every organ in our body and can

either contribute to or help prevent chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes. Don't miss this opportunity to learn practical tips for healthier eating and connect with others in a supportive environment. All are welcome—we hope to see you there.

Bingo with guest caller
Monday, Aug. 10
Bingo with special prizes. Guest caller will be State Sen. John Velis.

Movie
Wednesday, August 12 at 1 p.m. in Veterans Hall

Michelle A. McCarthy, RMT – Reiki ~ Healing Connection -
Monday, Aug. 17 by appointment

Monday, Aug. 17 for a Reiki appointment in the library. Must sign up in advance. Reiki is a Japanese stress reduction and relaxation technique. It is based on the idea that a "Life Force Energy" flows through each of us. Reiki is a "hands on" method of reducing stress, promoting relaxation and creating balance in ourselves and our actions. Appointments start at 11:30 a.m. Call Kristina at

726-2836 to book your appointment. Cost is \$20 per 20-minute session in the library.

Karaoke and Cousins Lobster
Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Karaoke with Raven is back. We had such a great time last summer, Raven has decided to come back for another fun filled evening of Karaoke. Cousins Maine Lobster will be here for you to purchase all your favorite seafood delights.

Helping children build confidence for summer camp

HOLYOKE – For many children, summer camp is filled with adventure, new friendships, and memories that last a lifetime. But for others, it may also be their first experience spending time away from home—a milestone that can bring both excitement and understandable anxiety.

According to Karyn Rossacci, DNP, MSN, NP-C, RN, CCRN, Chief Nursing Officer for MiraVista and TaraVista Behavioral Health Centers and a parent herself, those nervous feelings are not something to fear. In fact, they can become an important part of a child's emotional growth.

"Summer camp gives children the opportunity to discover something incredibly important," said Rossacci. "They learn that they can try something unfamiliar, experience uncertainty, and come through it stronger on the other side."

Rossacci encourages parents and caregivers to resist the temptation to eliminate every anxious feeling before camp begins.

"Our goal isn't to eliminate every anxious feeling. It's to help children discover they can move through those feelings with confi-

dence, knowing they're capable, resilient, and never alone."

Instead, Rossacci recommends helping children prepare for the experience while reinforcing their growing independence.

Among her suggestions: Talk about camp with excitement, focusing on the friendships, activities, and experiences they'll enjoy.

Practice independence before camp through sleepovers with grandparents or relatives, day trips with trusted adults, or encouraging children to make age-appropriate decisions on their own.

Normalize anxious feelings by reminding children that feeling nervous doesn't mean they aren't ready, it simply means they're doing something new.

Pack a small reminder of home, such as a favorite stuffed animal, family photo, or handwritten note.

Keep goodbyes warm, loving, and brief. Children often take emotional cues from the adults around them, and a calm farewell communicates confidence in their ability to succeed.

Celebrate courage when camp is over. Whether they conquered the climbing

wall, made a new friend, or simply spent their first night away from home, recognize the bravery it took to try something unfamiliar.

"Growing up isn't about never feeling anxious," Rossacci said. "It's about learning that we can face those feelings, ask for support when we need it, and discover we're stronger than we thought."

While some pre-camp jitters are a normal part of childhood, Rossacci notes that trusted adult caregivers should pay attention if anxiety becomes persistent, overwhelming, or begins interfering with a child's daily life. In those cases, conversations with a pediatrician or mental health professional can provide additional guidance and support.

"As parents, we naturally want to protect our children from discomfort," Rossacci added. "But some of life's greatest confidence comes from discovering that we can do hard things. Camp often becomes one of those experiences children remember for the rest of their lives—not because they were never nervous, but because they found the courage to keep going."



Please attend the GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club Touch-A-Truck event on Saturday, Aug. 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Thank you for supporting historic house

AGAWAM – The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club is having their Touch-A-Truck event on Saturday, Aug. 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Held at the Bethany Assembly of God parking lot, we are asking attendees to be a non-perishable food donation for the Bethany Food Pantry.

There will be Agawam emergency vehicles in attendance as well as private utility trucks and construction vehicles from local businesses. Children will have the opportunity to sit in the vehicles and talk to our first responders and vehicle operators.

The First Time Bus Riders

Program will be held that day, too. A bus will be provided by LPVEC for children to learn safe riding techniques and get valuable information about bus safety.

We will also have a few kid-run booths with unique items to sell.

Hope to see you there.

Greek Festival set for Aug. 22

HOLYOKE – Holy Trinity Church in Holyoke is celebrating its 5th Greek Festival on Aug. 22 from 11-5 p.m.

The community event will raise funds to support the Ladies of the Philoptochos (Friends of the Poor) Society whose main mission is to support those facing hardships.

As America celebrates

250 years, this year's features will include live music, a community-wide charity drive (personal care items, Walmart Gift-Cards, and slightly used backpacks), honor those who protect and serve by offering First Responders \$5 off any purchase with ID, and a crowd-pleasing Baklava Sundae!

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***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Egyptian bull god

5. Romanian monetary unit

8. Santa's helper

11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal

13. Sea eagle genus

14. Broad volcanic crater

15. Minneapolis suburb

16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.)

17. Exchange rate

18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea

20. Men's fashion accessory

21. Craft material

22. Offerings

25. Early

30. Large room

31. Soviet Socialist Republic

32. One who hauls

33. Shorthand for accepting

38. Promotional materials

41. Loss of memory

43. One who beheads

45. Photographers

48. Small, rich sponge cake

49. White clerical vestment

50. Partner to "oohed"

55. Abba __, Israeli politician

56. Zero

57. Owl monkey genus

59. Lace bug genus

60. Mild expression of surprise

61. Storage devices

62. Keyboard key

63. Make a mistake

64. One-time Korean president

CLUES DOWN

1. Bridge building degree

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. Large, stocky, lizard

4. Rumanian river

5. Missive

6. Stout-bodied moths

7. Brings out

8. Bird of prey

9. King of Thebes

10. Cleaving tool

12. African antelope

14. Three are particularly famous

19. Satisfy

23. C. European river

24. Dictator

25. Portion of (abbr.)

26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

27. Consume food

28. Woman (French)

29. Scrape or wear away by friction

34. Popular vegetable

35. Pacific Standard Time

36. Brazilian state capital

37. Paddle

39. Cause to become insane

40. Drier and flakier

41. Mimic

42. ESPN host Kimes

44. One who moseys

45. Secret political clique

46. Behind the stern of a ship

47. Supernatural force

48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches

51. Swiss river

52. Grayish white

53. Engrave

54. UNC's chief rival

58. Midway between south and southeast

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE xx

Historical Association to pay tribute to Henry Knox

AGAWAM – The Agawam Historical Association's yearlong commemoration of the United States Semiquincentennial continues with a special event paying tribute to Henry Knox and his Noble Train of Artillery at the historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills on Saturday, Aug. 1, from 12 to 4 p.m. During the winter of 1775-76, Knox's "Noble Train of Artillery" passed through several nearby towns en route from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston. There, 59 pieces of captured British ordnance, hauled 300 miles over frozen rivers and snow-covered mountains, played a crucial role in forcing the British evacuation of the city in the spring of 1776. Citizens along the entire route remembered for their entire lives the experience of seeing this collection of artillery, hauled by horses and oxen, as it passed through their communities. Skilled costumed educators from Fort Ticonderoga, friendly, well-trained oxen, and reproduction cannon bring to life the Noble Train of Artillery. This educational program features skilled oratory and dramatic demonstrations, led by staff trained at the origin of this signature event in our War for Independence. Visitors will be invited to handle reproduction, inert cannon ammunition, and examine reproduction cannon, to better understand the pow-



Costumed educators from Fort Ticonderoga will provide demonstrations, with oxen and cannon, commemorating Henry Knox's Noble Train of Artillery at the historic Thomas Smith House on Saturday, Aug. 1 from 12 to 4 p.m. This ca. 1855 Van Ingen engraving depicts Knox (on horseback) with soldiers transporting a disassembled canon on a sled through the snow following his capture of artillery at Fort Ticonderoga in the winter of 1775-76.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

er of these weapons. Watch as oxen move sleds bearing heavy cannon and discuss the challenges faced by Henry Knox and these teamsters driving from Ticonderoga to Boston. This fascinating living history event is perfect for the whole family! The c. 1757 Thomas Smith

House and 1920 Delmore Hawthorne Garage will also be open for tours that afternoon. Also on display will be items to be included in a time capsule the association will seal later this year, not to be opened again for another century. Visitors are encouraged

Heritage in Bloom fundraiser tickets available

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park invites the community to join us for Heritage in Bloom: Stanley Park's Annual Fundraiser, taking place on Saturday, Sept 12 at 5 p.m. in the scenic Beveridge Pavilion. This signature evening celebrates the history, natural beauty, and enduring legacy of Stanley Park while supporting the ongoing care and preservation of one of the region's most treasured public spaces. Guests will enjoy a memorable evening surrounded by the park's gardens, beginning with light hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour and a guided garden tour high-

lighting the beauty, history, and stewardship of the landscape. The evening continues with dinner stations and dessert catered by The Bubble Mug at the Pottery Cellar, along with a cash bar available throughout the event. Festivities will also include expanded online and in-person raffles, a dynamic online auction, and the interactive Stanley Park Heritage Challenge, a team-based competition celebrating the park's history, landmarks, wildlife, and memorable moments from more than 75 years of community impact. Stanley Park is also honored to welcome Ward Caswell, great-grandson of

founder Frank Stanley Beveridge, as guest speaker. He will share reflections on the park's founding vision and the shared responsibility of preserving this special community resource for future generations. "Heritage in Bloom" celebrates the generations of donors, volunteers, staff, and visitors who have helped Stanley Park flourish. The event underscores a simple message: heritage is what we inherit, and legacy is what we leave behind. Tickets are now available for purchase online at: <https://spwi.betterworld.org/events/annual-fundraiser-heritage-bloom>

Cooper's Gifts accepting school supplies and food donations

AGAWAM – For a limited time, Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home of Agawam, Mass., is accepting non-perishable food and school supplies donations for the Westover Galaxy Community Council. The Westover Galaxy Community Council (WGCC) needs non-perishable food and educational items for back-to-school season, to help the families of Westover. Items will be collected at Cooper's now through July 31. Each item donated earns donors one raffle ticket to be used on any of the prizes featured in Cooper's display of a dozen United States-made items. "We will swap you a raffle entry for every item that you donate!" said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home. "Many of our favorite vendors have been very generous in supplying some fantastic prizes, all made right here in the USA," said Gourde. "If customers would like to purchase entries for the raffle, tickets are \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5. All donations and ticket

sales go directly to the charity." "We are thrilled to offer the WGCC prize, too, which was kindly provided by their organization" continued Gourde. "It's two tickets to the 2027 Great New England Air Show with a VIP experience! Enjoy shaded seating with premium views, which is guaranteed to be an unforgettable day, with up-close, exclusive looks at remarkable aircrafts." The WGCC is comprised of veterans, local businesspeople and other citizens who want to support the men, women and mission of Westover Air Reserve Base (WARB), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization formed in 1989 and run 100% by volunteers. "We have held this raffle for years; our customers are very supportive and like to take care of our local heroes and their families," explained Gourde. "Especially for people west of the river, it's easier to bring donations here, and we are open seven days of the week,"

said Gourde. Items may be brought to the shop anytime during the month of July. Cooper's is located at 161 Main St., Agawam, Mass., and is open daily 10am-5pm, Saturdays 10am-4pm and Sundays 12-4pm. "This WGCC is also our July Round-Up charity, so it's the perfect time to spread the word about their mission and really help them out," reaffirmed Gourde. Each month Gourde selects a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round-Up Program, through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the nearest dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated more than \$68,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity may be found on Cooper's website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/.

Youth Field hockey signups underway

AGAWAM – Girls in grades 1-8 (26-27 school year) will learn the fundamental skills, techniques, and strategies of Field Hockey while practicing and playing in this fun program. Girls will be broken into four different divisions based on grade. New Player "Try It" day will be held on Thursday, June 18 at the AHS Stadium from 6 to 7 p.m. This is a great opportunity to try the sport and meet the coaches before registering. Registration begins in person and online Wednesday, June 10 through July 12. Effective Monday, July 13 all registrations must

be done in person and fees will increase by \$25. No new player registrations will be accepted after July 20. New players or players purchasing a new uniform will need to visit the Parks & Recreation office to be sized. To ensure we have enough time to order uniforms all players will need to be sized by Monday, July 20. To access online payments and registrations log onto agawam.ma.us, then go to the Parks and Recreation Department page, then click on the "Online Payments & Registration" button, then click on agree. This will send you to the Unipay Gold site where you

can select specific program registrations under transactions. Coaches will contact players at the beginning of August. Girls will meet from mid August through October. Practices will be held in the early evenings and games will be played against neighboring communities. Players need to supply their own stick, shin guards and mouth piece. The costs for the programs are as follows: Grades 1 and 2: Returning \$100, New player \$125. Grade 3 and 4: Returning \$125, New player, \$150. Grades 5 to 8: Returning \$150, New player, \$200.

ACAA continues 'Call for Art'

AGAWAM – Agawam Community Artists and Artisans (ACAA) is inviting artists and artisans to participate in its Sixth Annual Pioneer Valley Art Festival. The Art Festival will be held on Friday, Aug. 21, and Saturday, Aug. 22 at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills. Show hours are from 2 to 8 p.m. on Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. The ACAA is encouraging artists, artisans, and writers to submit their work for review. Among the artistic mediums included are watercolor, acrylic, oil, mixed

media, sculpture, photography, ceramic, stained glass, wood, fashion, textile, and jewelry. All work must be original and handmade by the artist or artisan, of professional quality. Prints and giclees will be accepted. No kits, food, soap, candles, or AI-generated work will be accepted. Tent space is available on the paved parking lot for \$50. Students from any area high school are accepted free of charge, and must have a tent set up. The Pioneer Valley Art

Festival is highly promoted through local TV stations; Agawam Media Channel 15 and 1074HD; Agawam Cultural Council website; newspapers; town forums; Mailchimp; the ACAA website, www.agawamarts.com; and the ACAA Facebook page, that has over 850 followers. The week before the festival, there will be over 20 street signs placed around Agawam. Further information, including registration forms, can be obtained by contacting Ceil Rossi at email: to-carefree2@hotmail.com.

Applications open for wreath bazaar

AGAWAM – Agawam Congregational Church is now accepting applications for the Holly Wreath Christmas Bazaar to be held on Saturday, Nov. 21

at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you are interested in participating contact the church office at 786-7111 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for an application.

You may pick one up at the church office or request one be sent to you by email. The church email is fice@agawamcong.com.

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SPORTS

Blue Sox nearing end of regular season

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox went 1-for-2 in a doubleheader against the Mystic Schooners on Saturday. Entering Saturday's doubleheader against the Schooners (22-17) Valley sat at 16-18-1, sixth in the South Division and outside the playoff picture, trailing both Danbury and Bristol for one of the division's postseason spots. The Blue Sox (17-19-1) responded with a convincing 10-3 victory in Game 2 to split the twin bill and remain in the postseason hunt.

Mystic struck first in the first game and opened the inning when Bryce Detwiler lifted a sacrifice fly to right field after consecutive singles from Jack Harley and Anthony Belisario put runners on the corners.

The Schooners added another run in the fourth as Chris Walsh lined a two-out single before Adam Troch followed with an RBI double down the left-field line, giving

ing Mystic a 2-0 advantage. Valley answered immediately in the bottom half; however, Chris Cancel launched a solo home run to left field to cut the deficit in half.

Andrew Oppenheimer kept the Blue Sox within striking distance throughout his six-inning start, allowing three runs, only two earned, while striking out four. But Mystic manufactured what proved to be the decisive run in the sixth after a hit batter, a walk and a Valley error loaded the bases. Walsh singled to center to score Detwiler and extend the lead to 3-1.

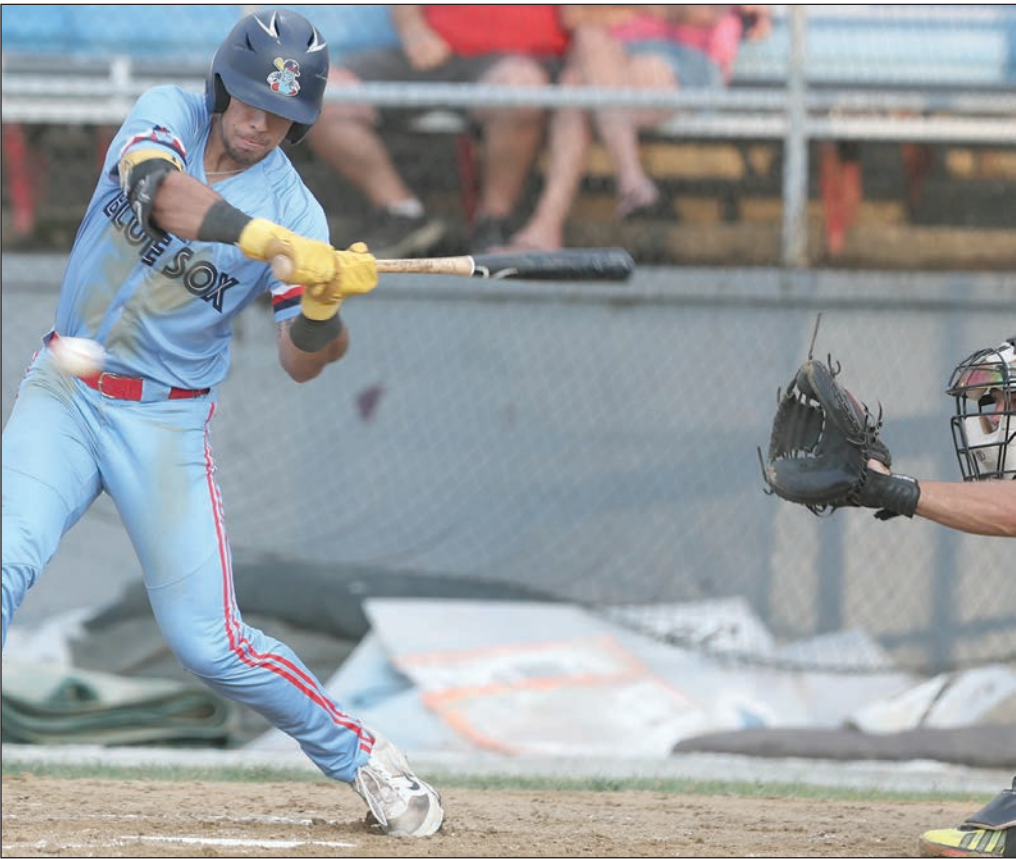
Valley mounted one final rally in the seventh. Chris Carson doubled to center before pinch-hitter Alex Hill delivered an RBI single to trim the deficit to one. With the tying run aboard, Mystic closer MJ Bollinger recorded the final two outs to preserve the 3-2 victory. Despite matching the Schooners with seven hits, the Blue Sox came

up just short.

The Blue Sox wasted little time putting the loss behind them in the nightcap.

Nick Tomasetto ignited the offense with a solo home run in the first inning before Michael Iannazzo added a sacrifice fly later in the frame to give Valley a 2-0 lead. Tomasetto drove in another run with an RBI single in the second, and after Mystic answered with one of its own, Valley broke the game open in the third.

Nick Spaventa blasted a solo home run to center before Chris Carson added an RBI single. A wild pitch later scored Michael Iannazzo to cap a three-run inning and extend the Blue Sox's lead to 6-1. Valley continued to add insurance the rest of the way, highlighted by Tomasetto's two-run single in the fifth, an RBI single from Iannazzo in the sixth and Nico Soul's



Estaban Garcia has his eyes on the ball as he swings.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



Above: Sophia Dibella pushes a pass away.
Right: Caitlin Cauley passes ahead of pressure.
Far right: Amelia Dibella makes her way up the field.

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Above: Gianna Battiste plays a ball off her stick.
Right: Alyssa Dasilva sends a free hit away.



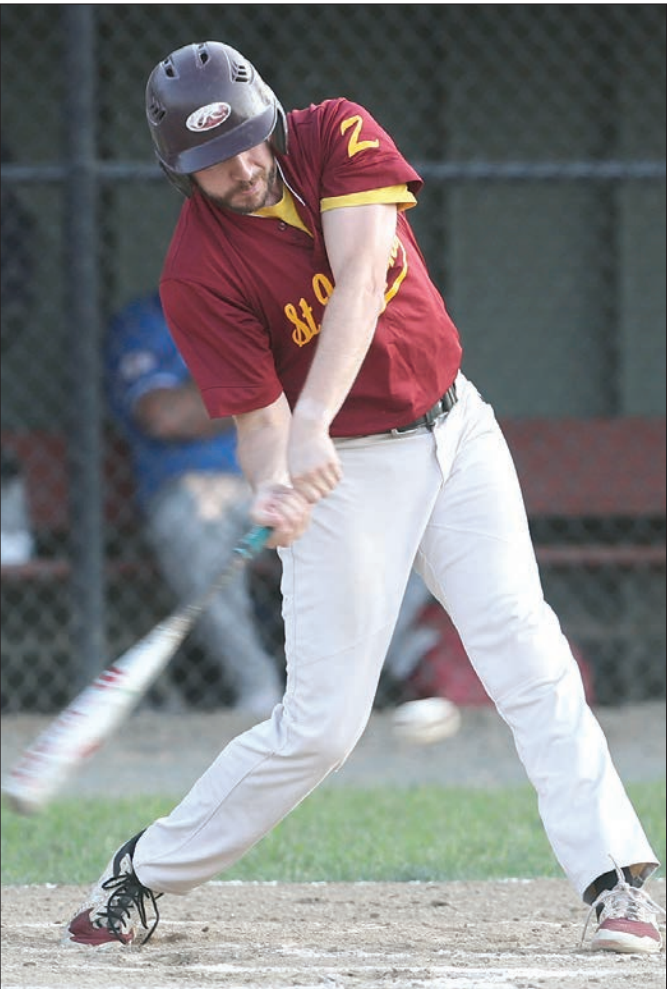
Field hockey bonanza

SOUTH HADLEY – This summer, the turf at South Hadley High School takes a break from summer soccer and has been the host recently of a summer field hockey league, helping many young high school field hockey players have an opportunity

to get repetitions and experience with small mini-games. Teams representing several area high schools take part in one or two games each Wednesday night. The league runs through mid-August and precedes the fall preseason.

Sports

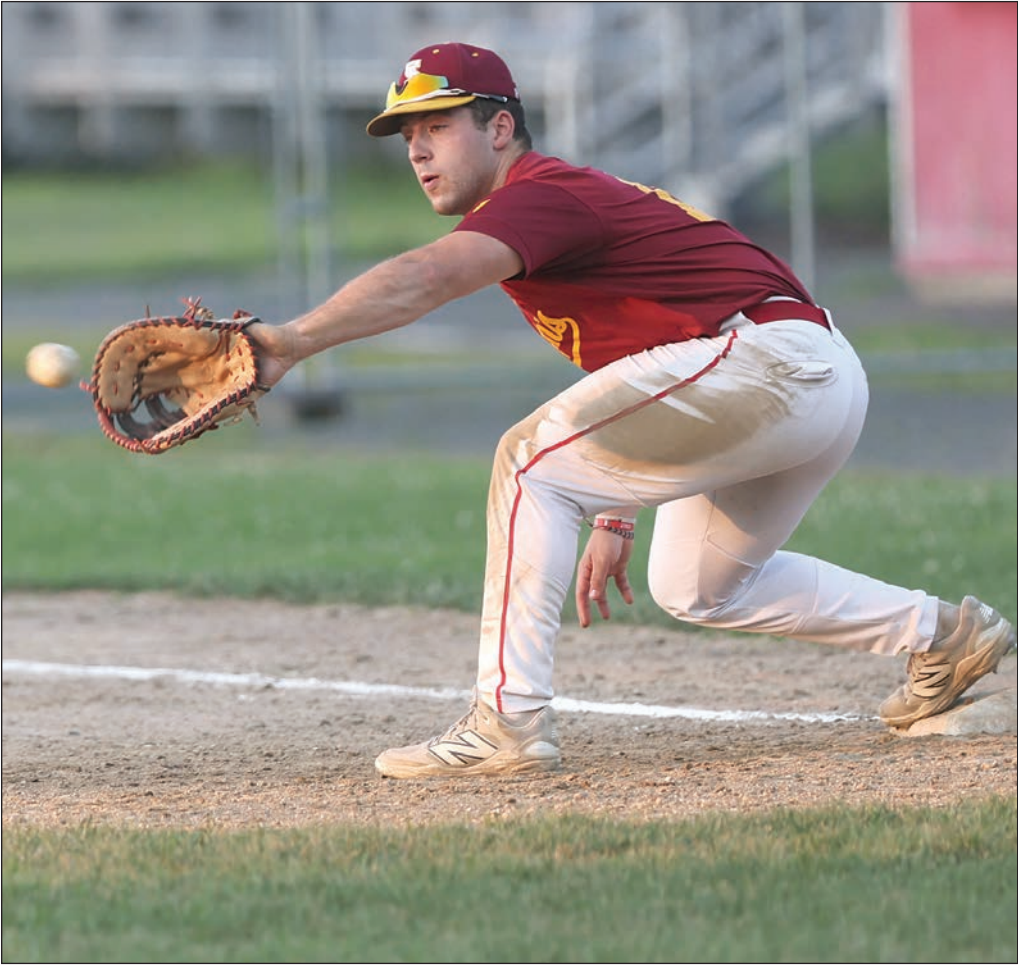
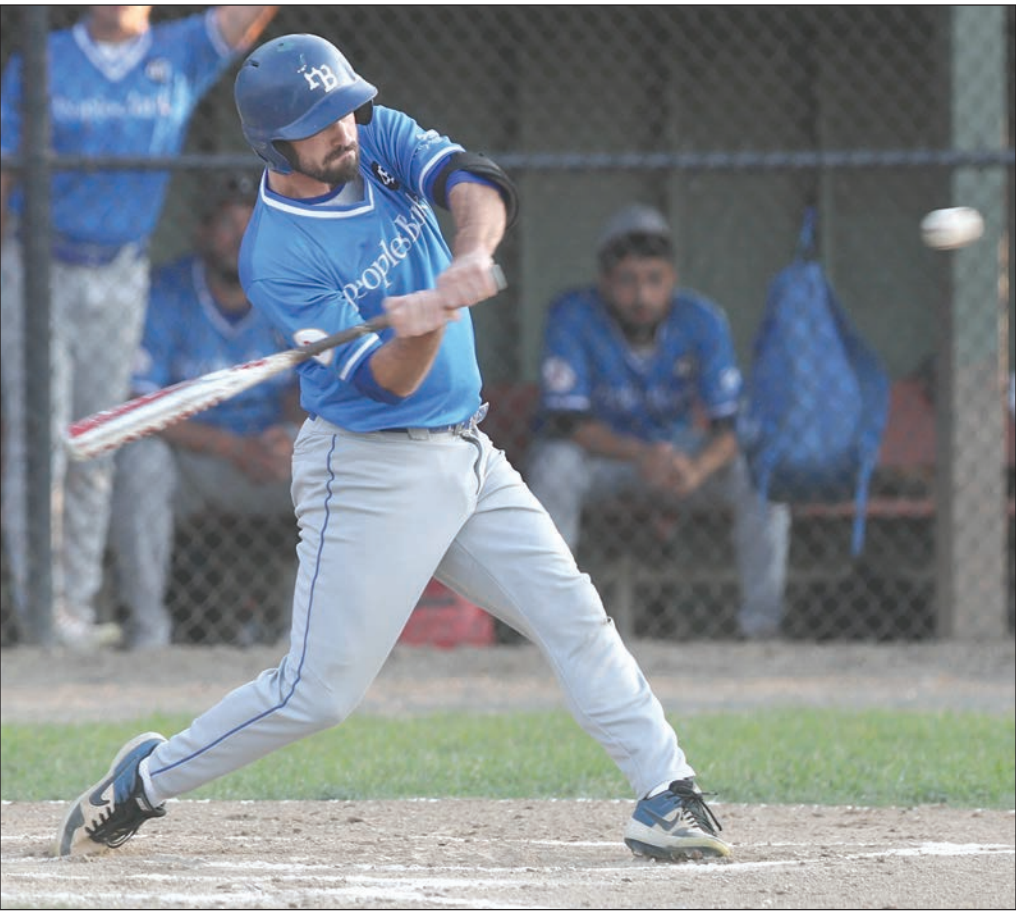
Saints beat rival PeoplesBank



HOLYOKE – Last Thursday night, the pennant race stepped up with rivals PeoplesBank and St. Joe’s matching up at Mackenzie Stadium. While PeoplesBank trailed early in the game, they nearly came all the way back, but St. Joe’s prevailed 9-7. The playoffs are on the horizon in the league with St. Joe’s and PeoplesBank likely drawing top seeds for the six-team playoffs.

Clockwise from left: Brandon Magni swings and connects for the Saints; Dave Clark sends a throw to first for PeoplesBank; Jake Jachym fires home for the Bankers; Joe DeMichele makes a catch at first; Seth Adams swings and connects; Tre Yesu, of Monson, fires home for St. Joe’s.

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Springfield Thunderbirds Community Caravan has two more dates

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds will continue to be a busy presence in the Greater Springfield community throughout the offseason, as the team is happy to announce its summer event calendar.

The T-Birds Community Caravan, with support from MassMutual, will host two

more dates of fun throughout the summer months:

- Friday, July 31 at Basketball Hall of Fame, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Kids dressed in T-Birds gear receive free admission to the Hall of Fame museum; parents will receive discounted admission
- Benefiting Foundation

for TJO Animals - fans are encouraged to bring dry/wet dog and cat food for donation; everyone who donates will be entered to win four T-Birds game tickets & T-Birds prize pack

- Saturday, August 22 at Amelia Park Arena (Westfield), 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Caravan will coincide

with T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

- Ages 9-12; games to be played 3-on-3
- Registration includes one ticket to Opening Night + T-shirt for each player
- Public ice skating inside Amelia Park Arena (skate rental available)

Additionally, the Thunder-

birds are proud to collaborate with the Springfield Hockey Heritage Society to be part of the Heritage Society's annual HockeyDay on Saturday, July 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Better Living Center at the Big E. The annual event will kick off a celebration of 100 Years of Hockey in Springfield, dating back to the origi-

nal Springfield Indians of the Canadian-American Hockey League in 1926.

Numerous past Springfield Indians, Kings, and Falcons are scheduled to appear as part of the celebration, which is open to the public. Tickets are available now by clicking here.

Sports

Emerson grabs win at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, CT – The Crown Vics began Wednesday’s showcase with multi-time winner Ethan Williams showing the way early before youth prevailed. Upon his first time at the Thompson 5/8-mile, young Jack Emerson would take over the lead with eight laps remaining and never looked back to take the win over Williams and Ty Mello.

Jared Materas and Jason Williams may have brought the Late Model field to green but it was Matt Lowinski-Loh who quickly took over the top spot within the first lap. Materas would bring out the first caution on lap 10 after spinning across the nose of Jared Roy’s #1CT. Things went sideways once again on lap 18 with a mechanical issue

slowing Jake Johnson leaving Williams and Mike Benevides to pile in for a massive wreck into the turn four wall. Back to green, Lowinski-Loh drove away with the 25-lap win over rookie Travis Hydar and Jared Roy.

Todd Douillard ran away with the lead at the start of the SK Light Modified feature before Austin Goff made it a two-man show by lap four. RJ Marcotte, John O’Sullivan, Kevin Davis and Daltin McCarthy ran nose-to-tail behind the leaders, keeping them honest before Goff was shuffled back on the inside groove. Motoring into turn one, Davis and O’Sullivan launched sideways into the corner to bring out the lap nine caution that also ended the day for newcomer Bran-

don Michael with a hard lick into the turn one wall.

Douillard would be next on the wrecker on the restart with Marcotte leaving no room to race, making hard contact with the turn one wall to end his day. Back to green, McCarthy, Goff and Eddie Gomarlo ran nose-to-tail at the head of the field. The busy night for the Thompson Speedway wreckers continued on lap 13 with McCarthy and O’Sullivan piling into the turn three wall. Under green for the final time, Austin Goff would run away with the win followed by RJ Marcotte and rookie Milania Shilosky.

Dan Bowes took off at the start of the Twisted Tea 40 for the New England Supermodified Series with hopeful winner Jon McKennedy drop-

ping out on lap five with mechanical issues. All the while, Jeffrey Battle began reeling in Bowes out front as Ben Seitz lay in wait back in third. Battle would finally nab the lead on lap 22 while Seitz and PJ Stergios went to war for third behind him. Stergios would win that battle and one more against Bowes as the right-rear tire on the #25 was all but expired through the final fifteen circuits. Jeffrey Battle lambasted the field for the win with PJ Stergios coming home second and Dan Bowes holding on for third to round out the victory lane podium.

Ryan Lineham would bring out the lap one caution in the Street Stocks when a three-wide move in the first corner didn’t pan out. Back under green, Nick Ander-

son and Mike Viens showed the way up front with Jerrod Soucy and Al Stone III keeping the pressure on behind them. Soucy would make his way around to lead the half-way marker and never looked back for win number one on the season ahead of Lineham and Viens.

The Thompson Sunoco Modifieds rounded out Wednesday’s racing program under the leadership of Nathan Pytko and Derek Ramstrom at the head of each lane under the initial green flag. Keith Rocco and Todd Owen made their way to the front by lap five just as contact between Bryan Narducci and Ramstrom sent the #35 into the turn one retaining wall. The remainder of the 50 lap feature saw Rocco

and Owen wage their classic over-under battle for position before Owen finally began to drove away with fifteen laps remaining to take his first Sunoco Modified victory of the season. Keith Rocco came home second with Narducci coming back from his penalty for the lap five caution to claim third.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returns to Thompson Speedway on Wednesday, August 5 for the Thompson 150 presented by FloSports.com. The August midweek showdown at the Big-T will also feature the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Crown Vics with a 6:00pm Post Time. Event schedule will be released in the near future.

New Basketball Hall of Fame exhibit dedicated to Stephen Curry

SPRINGFIELD – On Friday July 24, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame made history by launching its newest exhibition dedicated entirely to 12-time NBA All-Star, two-time MVP, Olympic gold medalist, four-time NBA champion, and the undisputed greatest shooter of all time:

Stephen Curry.

This project represents the first time in the Hall’s nearly 75-year history that a current, active player will be honored with a dedicated feature experience.

Developed as the next iteration of the Hall of Fame’s acclaimed gallery, “The Vault,”

the immersive exhibit titled Stephen Curry: Beyond the Arc goes far beyond Curry’s legendary on-court accolades. Created in direct partnership with Curry’s Thirty Ink business team, the exhibit is designed to explore his multifaceted legacy as a basketball icon, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and family man.

Visitors can expect a captivating, curated journey through Curry’s life and career, featuring:

- Exclusive Memorabilia: Rare game-worn gear, championship artifacts, and Olympic ephemera
- Rare Footage: Archival

video tracing his journey from an overlooked college prospect to a global superstar.

- First-Hand Storytelling: Immersive audio and video components that capture the emotion and heart of a true champion.

The Stephen Curry: Beyond the Arc experience

promises to be an unparalleled attraction, offering fans an intimate look at a superstar of basketball - and a superstar of life.

The exhibit was scheduled to open to the public July 24 at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts



BLUE SOX ■ from page 7

sacrifice fly in the seventh. The Blue Sox finished with 10 runs on 14 hits.

Earlier, Carson was named an NECBL All-Star, and the outfielder backed up the honor with another productive performance. Carson finished the double-header 3-for-7 with a double,

an RBI and two runs scored, helping pace a Valley lineup that received contributions throughout the order. Tomasetto led the way by going 3-for-5 with a home run and four RBIs, while Iannazzo collected two hits and two RBIs. Spaventa also homered as the Blue Sox salvaged the split.

Four Valley pitchers com-

bined to secure the Game 2 victory. Lukas Jachens started before Niall Todd earned the win with two scoreless innings in relief. Jon Shields and Jason Pinsonnault closed out the final three innings as the Blue Sox improved to 17-19-1, keeping themselves alive in the NECBL playoff race entering the final week of the regular season.



Clockwise from top left: Nick Tomasetto looks to turn a double play during recent action last week at Mackenzie Stadium; Trey Spees swings and makes contact; Nico Soul fields the ball in the outfield; Joshua Toole frames up a pitch.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



MOSAIC ■ from page 1

distribute and collect the canvases: Agawam, Southwick, Westfield, West Springfield, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, and East Forest Park. This year, the West Springfield Senior Center joined the libraries in supporting this project.

The artists as well as the general public are invited to join us, view the 24-foot Mosaic and perhaps find a piece of art that will fit into your home or be the perfect gift.



The 2026 New England Mosaic Project will be unveiled next week at Agawam Municipal Golf Course. The mosaic has become a yearly tradition.

Baystate Health announces new Convenient Care Facility in Ware

WARE — Baystate Health is pleased to announce the location of a new convenient care facility in Ware, expanding access to high-quality, accessible care for residents across the region.

Baystate Mary Lane Convenient Care - Ware will be located at 144 West Street, in the former Smithland Pet and Garden Center. Conveniently situated near other local amenities and accessible by public transportation, the site is designed to meet patients where they are, making it easier to get the care they need, when they need it.

Expected to open within the next 9 to 12 months, the facility will feature 4 exam rooms, on-site imaging, and a laboratory. Patients can choose between scheduled appointments and walk-in visits, with evening and weekend hours available. The on-site lab will serve convenient care patients as well as other community members with lab orders.

Convenient care provides treatment for a wide range of non-life-threatening conditions, offering timely, efficient care close to home. In addition to be-

ing urgent care, our convenient cares offer more to the community serving as a bridge to primary care, supporting patients in managing new or ongoing conditions, connecting those without a primary care provider to ongoing care, and helping guide individuals toward better long-term health.

In the future, the site could expand to add primary care services, hosting a new family medicine residency program, with an anticipated launch in 2028 or 2029, while the organization looks for a potential larger site for the future growth of that program. This program will follow the successful approach used at Baystate Franklin Medical Center, training new family doctors to provide innovative, community-focused, and evidence-based care, with a focus on wellness and prevention. The potential expansion to primary care and the launch of a family medicine residency program is dependent on securing support from the Rural Transformation Health Fund. If awarded, the program could begin as early as 2028-2029 and

would grow over time, helping to strengthen the local primary care workforce and expand access for the community.

“Expanding access to care in communities like Ware is central to our mission,” said Dr. Seth Gemme, Chair of Emergency Medicine and Interim Advisor to the Chief Physician Executive, Baystate Health. “This new convenient care location is about meeting people where they are, especially when unexpected health needs arise, and ensuring they receive timely care close to home. By strengthening access points across the region, we help patients stay connected to care, improve continuity, and support the overall health and well-being of the communities we serve.”

This expansion reflects Baystate Health’s mission to deliver compassionate, quality, and accessible care while advancing the health of all communities it serves. Rooted in Western Massachusetts for more than 140 years, Baystate Health continues to be a pillar of the community, serving today’s residents and helping future generations thrive.

Registration, volunteer signups open for Run Stanley 5K

WESTFIELD – Stanley Park is excited to announce that registration is now open for the 14th Annual Run Stanley 5K, taking place on Sunday, October 4, 2026. Participants and volunteers can sign up online at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/RunStanley>.

Run Stanley is a beloved community tradition that brings together runners, walkers, families, students, and their four-legged companions for a morning of fitness, fun, and support for Stanley Park. The event welcomes participants of all ages and abilities through a variety of race divisions, including the 5K Trail Run/

Walk, K9 Division, 1-Mile Stroll & Roll, and the ¼-Mile Munchkin Run for elementary school students.

Elementary schools are also encouraged to participate in the School Spirit Challenge. The elementary school with the most registered participants will take home the coveted Run Stanley School Spirit Trophy.

In addition to participants, Stanley Park is seeking volunteers to help make the event a success. Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles, including registration, course marshaling, water stations, finish line support, and event setup and cleanup. Community

members, service groups, students, and local organizations are encouraged to get involved.

As a private nonprofit organization, Stanley Park relies on the support of events like Run Stanley to help maintain its nearly 300 acres of gardens, trails, wildlife sanctuary, and recreational spaces, which are enjoyed by more than 400,000 visitors annually. The park remains free and open to the public year-round.

To register for the race or sign up to volunteer, visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Westfield/RunStanley>

Greater Holyoke Chamber invites businesses to 58th Annual Chamber Cup

HOLYOKE — The Greater Holyoke Chamber is inviting businesses, professionals, local leaders, and community partners from across the region in a relaxed and welcoming environment. The event is open to Chamber members and non-members alike, making it a regional opportunity for businesses looking to expand their reach and community presence.

Businesses can participate in several ways, including registering a foursome, becoming an event sponsor, sponsoring a hole or meal, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering during the event. Each option offers a different path to visibility and engagement, whether a

relationships, strengthen team connections, and engage with professionals from across the region in a relaxed and welcoming environment. The event is open to Chamber members and non-members alike, making it a regional opportunity for businesses looking to expand their reach and community presence.

Businesses can participate in several ways, including registering a foursome, becoming an event sponsor, sponsoring a hole or meal, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering during the event. Each option offers a different path to visibility and engagement, whether a

company wants to host clients, recognize employees, promote its brand, or support a signature community event.

The day will include golf at Westover Golf Course, breakfast, lunch, raffles, and opportunities to connect with business owners, executives, public officials, nonprofit leaders, and professionals from throughout Western Massachusetts. For sponsors and raffle donors, the event provides added exposure before and during the tournament, helping businesses stay visible among a broad and engaged audience.

The Greater Holyoke Chamber encourages businesses to register early, secure sponsorship opportunities, and plan now for participation in the 2026 Chamber Cup. Companies interested in playing, sponsoring, donating raffle prizes, or volunteering can visit holyokeychamber.com or contact the Chamber for more information.

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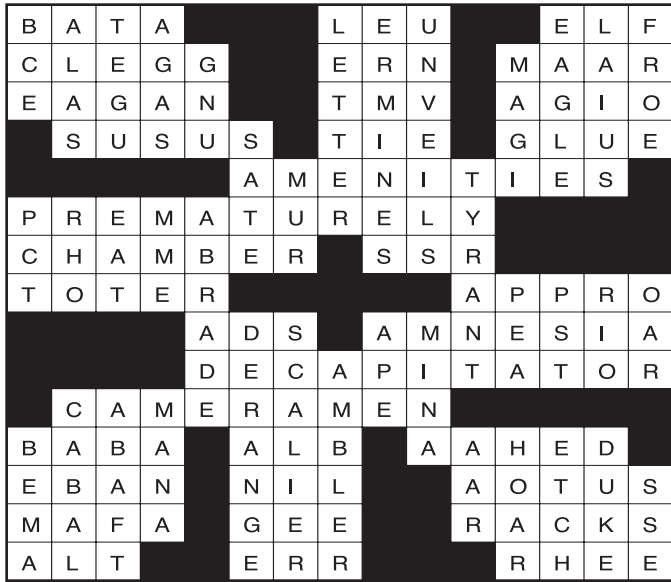
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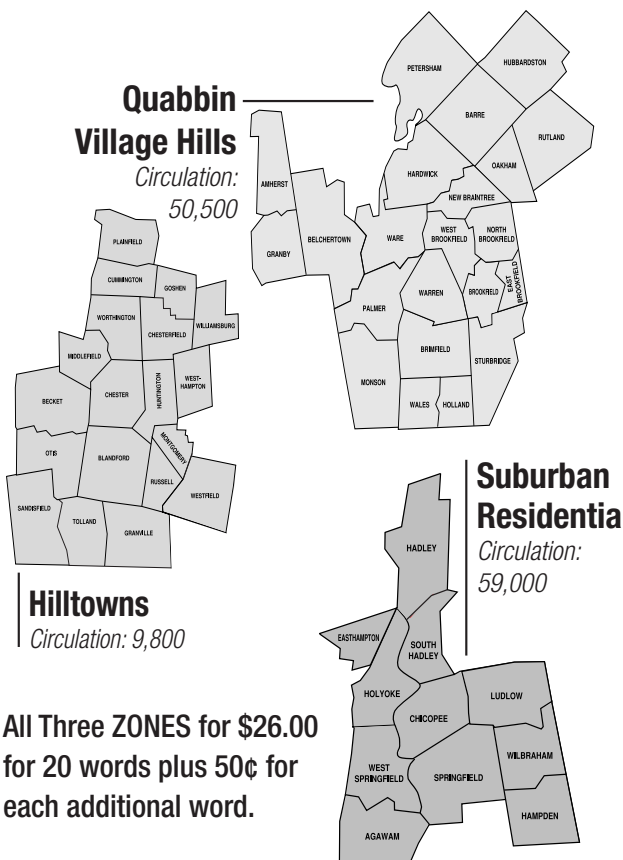
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big factor in the event's emergence. Like many other events to take place there, the size of the park and the band shell lends it to many different great events.

In addition to the Night Out, a Friday Night Movie event was also held for area children to enjoy to close out the evening.

Agawam Night Out is a part of the summer event series the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department promotes along with its Summer Concert Series, which resumed earlier this week with its regular Wednesday evening concerts.



Above: Gemma Dejackome and Rachel Cabrera with Hampden County Juvenile Court at Agawam Night Out on July 24.
Left: The inside of a bus brought by King Gray Coach Lines, made in 1927.
Right: Sue Devillie, Rebbeca, and Alexandra T. with TruNorthBank.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA



AnnMarie Folley, Gina Smus, and Dan Fayvaryk with Sacred Heart Parish.



Shelly Daries and Brettney Simonet with Foster MA.



Kylie Seldomrudge and Ricky Seldomrudge with Granny's Place Farm.



Above: Vice President of King Gray Coach Lines Matt Gray, President Dennis King, Elena Dore, Matthew Heisler, Kim Kaboray, and Mel Gainor with King gray Coach Lines at Agawam Night Out on July 24.



Right: Agawam Firefighters Tianna, Jake, Derek, Bill, Frank and Scott.



Above: Paige Rust and Kelly Ross with Dirty Sip Society at Agawam Night Out on July 24.
Right: Agawam High's Rosie Robotics Team at Agawam Night Out last Friday evening.

