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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Ballot beginning to take shape

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Elections are swiftly approaching for the town, with the preliminary election taking place on Tuesday, Oct. 10 and the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Voters have until Sept. 29 to register to vote in the preliminary election and until Oct. 27 to register for the general election.

On the ballot will be the positions of mayor, city council and school committee.

Currently, five residents of Agawam have taken out papers to run for mayor. They are: City Councilor Cecilia Calabrese, William Clark, Council President Christopher Johnson, Andy Montefusco and City Councilor Rosemary Sandlin.

As of Thursday, July 27, only Calabrese and Johnson had returned their papers.

For the city council, a total of 13 people have taken out papers to run for a position.

Ten of those who have taken out papers to run for a position are current members of the city council. This includes: George Bitzas, Cecilia Calabrese, Paul Cavallo, Thomas Hendrickson, Dino Mercadante, Robert Rossi, Anthony Russo, Rosemary Sandlin, Gerald Smith and Anthony Suffriti.

Therefore, the only person on the city council currently who has not taken out papers to run for reelection is Johnson, who has returned his papers declaring his run for mayor.

Candidates cannot run for multiple positions, therefore if a citizen took out papers for more than one position, they are only able to appear on the ballot for one of those. Therefore, given that Calabrese has declared her run for mayor, she will not appear on the ballot for a city council position.

Challengers for the city council seats are Edward Borgatti, Susan Dawson and Maria Valego.

Of those who have taken out papers for a seat on the council, nine have returned them. These nine are: Bitzas, Borgatti, Hendrickson, Mercadante, Rossi,

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KIDS BOP to the beat at Bob Bloom's concert

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – KidsFest at School Street Park continues with Drummer Bob Bloom's concert on Wednesday, July 26.

Bloom was happy to bring his drumming skills to the

children and families of Agawam through his program "Drumming About You". Throughout his performance, he made sure to make each attendee become a part of the show.

"Everything I do is about everybody participating, everybody," Bloom said. "It's all

about that, it's all about the level of interactivity. That's why the program is called 'Drumming About You', it's not just to come watch."

Each show attendee got to play three different percussion instruments, a drum, a shaker and a castanet. They also got a chance to dance and play with the scarves Bloom had brought.

"They're all going to play three different kinds of percussion instruments and they're also going to get up and do some movement with colorful scarves," Bloom said.

The program was a big hit, with everyone in the audience joining in on the fun.

Bloom emphasized that he believed his shows are so enjoyable due to the level of interaction he includes in every performance.

"Everybody is doing it and they're doing it together, and that builds camaraderie and teamwork," Bloom said. "We're the Agawam Drum Team and I'm the coach. It's about that, it's about them."

The show was a ton of fun and each kid left with a smile on their face.

The final KidsFest show for 2023 is at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 9, with musician Johnny the K.



Drummer Bob Bloom performs for KidsFest at School Street Park.



A good crowd gathers at the pavilion to enjoy the rhythm of Bob Bloom's drums.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

LPVEC to locate parking

The LPVEC provides bus services for Agawam schools

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The bus company Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative is planning to put in an employee parking lot at 384 Shoemaker Lane in Agawam.

They presented their site plan to the Planning Board at the meeting on Thursday, July 20.

During this meeting the planning board approved the site plan, though they did request some landscaping be added in order to ensure that the lot wouldn't detract from the appearance of the area.

"The planning board doesn't have any issues with this, they did ask for some landscaping and for some trees to be planted to provide a visual aesthetic to the parking lot," Planning Director Pamela Kerr said.

The parking lot will have 127 paved parking spaces for the employees to use.

Due to the lot, there will be two curb cuts off of Shoemaker Lane into the parking lot.

There will be a sidewalk installed as well in order to ensure that the area is easily and safely accessible.

"The sidewalk will provide pedestrian access from the parking lot to the facility," Kerr said.

On top of the sidewalk, the project will include stormwater management and site lighting.

According to Kerr, LPVEC also has further plans to do more work on the bus lot at 384 Shoemaker Lane, with representatives planning to return to the planning board at a future meeting to present the plan for that location.

The LPVEC, which provides vocational education services for students in the Agawam Public Schools, also provides the bus services for the community as well as a couple of other communities nearby, including Southwick.

"I think it's part of a bigger picture for the bus company...the planning board supports local businesses and doesn't have any issues with [the project]," Kerr said.



Summer reading still going strong at library

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library is excited to finish up our annual Adult Summer Reading Program with a few minor changes. There is still time to finish your Bingo and Beanstack reading challenges. The deadline to enter for prizes is Friday, Aug. 11. Prize winners will be notified during the week of Aug. 14.

Due to our closure, we are extending the dates of our Tiny Art Exhibition and Contest. Artists of all ages can still submit their tiny masterpieces until Friday, July 28. Those who submitted Tiny Art are invited to a reception for prize announcements and refreshments on Monday, Aug. 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. All of our visitors are encouraged to explore the Tiny Art during the month of August when the pieces will be on display. Submissions for our Community Chapbook will be accepted until Aug. 11.

The Library is pleased to welcome musical group Whisper Not featuring Sarah Clay and the Star Cats on Monday, August 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Whisper Not will be here to perform songs that tell a story through retro-pop, swing, blues and Latin jazz. This program is supported by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Please register online www.agawamlibrary.org or by phone (413) 789-1550 X4.



We have adjusted our trivia dates to keep your trivia skills sharp all month. Please see the changes to our Kahoot trivia challenges below. Each challenge will be posted on our website and our social media for 2 weeks so you can play at your own pace.

July 31 to Aug. 11
Kahoot Trivia Challenge #2

Aug. 14 to Aug. 28
Kahoot Trivia Challenge #3
We will also be pushing back the schedule of Adult Take and Make Crafts. Supplies

can be picked up at the Information Desk beginning on the following dates:

Beginning July 24
Information Desk
Adult Craft Take & Make: Needle Felted Sheep

Try your hand at needle felting! Each kit contains everything you'll need to create a felted sheep, including a barbed needle, wool roving in various colors, and detailed instructions. While supplies last.

Beginning August 7
Information Desk

Adult Take & Make: DIY Collage Bookmarks

Using old receipts as bookmarks is a thing of the past! Create your own custom collage bookmarks with this take and make kit, which includes patterned cardstock, stickers, ribbons, decorations, instructions and inspiration images, and a laminating sheet to hold it all together. While supplies last.

Beginning August 21

Information Desk
Adult Take & Make: Shrinky Dink Pins
Create your own custom pins with this new take and make for adults. Each kit includes most of the supplies needed to create a set of handmade pins. While supplies last.

Announcements will be made soon regarding our canceled July programs. Find Your Voice is The Massachusetts Statewide Summer Library Program and is funded by the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Programs and crafts are sponsored in part by the Agawam Center Library Association. Visitors are welcome at the Agawam Library Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, please visit our website www.agawamlibrary.org or call the Information Desk at (413) 789-1550 X4.

Feline Friends fundraiser to be held Aug. 5, seeking donations

FEEDING HILLS – Feline Friends Inc. Cat Sanctuary will be holding a food/supply drive at Smithland Pet & Garden Center on Saturday, Aug. 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will be accepting food, litter & monetary donations for our kitties. Opened bags/boxes will also be accepted. Gift cards from various pet stores or Costco would be much appreciated.

Smithland, a valued sponsor, is stocked with Friskies Pate or Shreds canned food (single flavored cases preferred), some Fancy Feast varieties and unscented, clumping cat litter. All donations are gratefully accepted. The donation bin is located near the cash registers.

Other Wish List items: disinfecting wipes, paper towels, puppy pee pads, dry cat or dog food for strays & colonies.

The Sanctuary is grateful to Stop & Shop at 1282 Springfield St., Feeding Hills

for choosing Feline Friends to participate in their Community Bag Program in July. Thanks also to E.B.'s for hosting the June 21 Give Back Wednesday event. The sanctuary is also thankful to all of our community members for their support throughout the year. Just a reminder that the sanctuary has collection bins at the Agawam Public Library & the Agawam Senior Center as well as at Smithland in Agawam.

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, nonprofit sanctuary that does not euthanize or 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.



Legislation announced to direct \$100 Million to combat health risks of extreme heat

WASHINGTON – Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety, Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema (I-Ariz.) and Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (OR-01), Rep. Marilyn Strickland (WA-10) and Rep. Ruben Gallego (AZ-03) today reintroduced the Preventing Health Emergencies And Temperature-related Illness and Deaths Act to address the rising health risks of extreme heat. The announcement follows Earth's hottest day on record, the predicted hottest day in the past 125,000 years, and new national and local responses to extreme heat.

As climate change continues to worsen, extreme heat events in the United States are becoming more frequent, longer lasting, and more severe. Earlier this month, nearly one in three Americans were under an extreme heat advisory or warning. Prolonged exposure to this kind of heat can have dangerous consequences for human health, including heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and even death. The Preventing HEAT Illness and Deaths Act would improve and expand inter-agency efforts, provide \$100 million in financial assistance for community projects to reduce exposure to extreme heat, and issue recommendations for federal action on heat-health issues.

"It's no coincidence that we've seen back-to-back record-breaking heat this summer, it's the climate crisis announcing it's at our doorstep. We need to take bold and aggressive action to combat the climate crisis, but we also need to act fast to protect Americans from the health risks of extreme heat that we are experiencing right now," said Markey.

"My legislation would direct \$100 million in federal funding to help local communities on the front lines of the climate crisis stave off the worst outcomes of heat-related illness. As unprecedented waves of sweltering heat persist, I will keep calling on my colleagues in Congress to pass the Preventing HEAT Illness and Deaths Act and create a national response to save lives."

"As we learned from the 2021 Heat Domes, we must actively pursue short-term solutions to save lives during heat waves, in conjunction with long-term steps towards saving our planet," said Strickland. "The Preventing HEAT Illness and Deaths Act will address the dangers of extreme summer temperatures on human health and equip communities with the ability to combat the heat-health crisis."

The Preventing HEAT Illness and Deaths Act would: Create the National Integrated Heat Health Information System Interagency Committee to enhance inter agency efforts to address extreme heat; Formalize and expand the existing NIHHS within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which was initiated under President Barack Obama; Commission a National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine study on federal action on heat-health issues and response; and, establish and authorize a \$100 million financial assistance program to provide federal funding to community projects that reduce the health impact of extreme heat events, prioritizing projects in historically disadvantaged communities, communities with significant heat disparities associated with race or income, and communities with large gaps in heat preparedness.

Pioneer Valley Art Festival coming to Polish American Club Aug. 26 and 27

AGAWAM – On Saturday, Aug. 26 and Sunday Aug. 27 at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick St. will be the Pioneer Valley art festival from 10 a.m. To 4 p.m.

There will be over 70 artists and artisans, free public admission, food, our local rock painting group, free parking, and live entertainment by Handler & Levesque.

New this year is the "Art With A Heart" project. Visitors can enjoy a painting workshop with our instructors from ACAA. There will be two workshops at 11 a.m. and

2 p.m. each day. Net proceeds from all donations will go to local Food Banks.

A silent auction will be held for the benefit of the Gloria McLellan Art Scholarship. The scholarship will benefit area high school seniors who are pursuing further education in visual arts. McLellan was one of the founding members of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans pursuing her love of the arts and creating art well into her nineties.

The New England Mosaic, a 24 ft wall of

6x6 canvases representing a New England theme, will be on display. This year's theme is "New England's Seasons: Beauty, Bounty and Favorite Pastimes." Finished canvases are donated by their creators to be sold to fund community art projects and art scholarships.

New this year is our "Art With A Heart" project. Visitors can enjoy a painting workshop with our instructors from ACAA. There will be two workshops at 11:00am and 2:00pm each day. Net proceeds from all do-

nations will go to local Food Banks.

Visitors can stroll the festival and enjoy the live music of Handler and Levesque performing music from around the world for guitars and mandolin.

Our local "Agawam Rocks" group will be bringing "Frank the Snake" to our event! Stop by their tent and paint a memorable rock. Sponsored by Jen Baginski Pronovost.

For more information, please contact Ceil Rossi at info@agawamarts.com or (413) 207-1247.

New Bill to support American farmers and rural communities through plant-based food production

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. James P. McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee and Senior Member of the House Agriculture Committee, introduced a bill to support American farmers and rural communities through plant-based food production.

McGovern's bill establishes new opportunities for farmers and food companies, creates new jobs in farming communities, advances USDA's efforts to connect American farmers to new markets at home and abroad, and expands consumer choices at the grocery store, through plant-based food research and production. The Peas,

Legumes, and Nuts Today Act, or PLANT Act, provides a blueprint for maintaining America's leadership in plant-based food production, while empowering farmers and rural communities and producing delicious, affordable food options for all Americans.

"The PLANT Act will help us win the future of food," said McGovern. "Plant-based foods are already creating new opportunities for farmers across the country and exciting new options for consumers, and this legislation will be a game-changer. By putting farmers and their communities front and center as we grow the greatest

plant-based sector in the world, we can create countless good jobs while showing the world what makes American agriculture so strong. Now is the time to embrace the enormous potential that plant-based foods have to strengthen our economy and our food system."

The United States is already the world leader in plant-based food production, with over 55,000 people directly employed in a sector that generates \$4.5 billion in annual revenue. Other countries are making significant public investments in plant-based food innovation that may eclipse U.S. production. Since 2020, Canada, France,

Denmark, Australia, the European Union, and Sweden have all invested more in this sector than the United States. The PLANT Act would enable the U.S. to maintain a leadership role in plant-based food production by supporting farmers, food manufacturing workers, and rural communities. Specifically, the PLANT Act would provide support for U.S. farmers who grow the ingredients used in plant-based foods; ensure that food companies who turn those ingredients into plant-based foods are eligible for USDA producer programs; and make targeted R&D investments at USDA to foster American innovation.

MA Legislature passes \$375 million transportation bill

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Legislature on Thursday passed a bill that includes \$375 million in bond authorizations for transportation needs across the state, including \$200 million for the state's Chapter 90 program, which provides municipalities with a reliable funding source for transportation-related improvements, including road and bridge repairs.

"Ensuring that people in every region of Massachusetts have safe and dependable transportation options is fundamental to creating a competitive and equitable commonwealth," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "This funding invests in our infrastructure and transit sys-

tems everywhere, allocating much-needed funds to local roads and bridges, regional transit, EV infrastructure, and parts of the MBTA. I want to thank Senator Crighton for making this a priority, my Senate colleagues for their support, and Speaker Mariano and the House for agreeing on these critical investments in our infrastructure."

This legislation also authorizes \$175 million in programs that will support various transportation-related projects. This includes \$25 million for each of the following: the municipal small bridge program; the complete streets program; a bus transit infrastructure program; grants to

increase access to mass transit and commuter rail stations; grants for municipalities and regional transit authorities to purchase electric vehicles and the infrastructure needed to support them; funding for pavement and surface improvements on state and municipal roadways; and new funding dedicated to additional transportation support based on road mileage, which is particularly helpful for rural communities.

Senator Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) was glad to see the new funding dedicated to additional transportation support based on road mileage, "Western Mass has consid-

erably more rural communities than other areas of the state, so I'm glad to see the Legislature prioritize regional equity by taking more factors into account beyond just population and other socioeconomic factors. Addressing regional equity is about acknowledging and understanding that Western Mass has different challenges than other parts of the state. I'm grateful to Senate President Spilka, Speaker Mariano, and my colleagues in the Legislature for considering that," said Oliveira.

The bill having passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives, it will now be sent to the Governor for her consideration.

Flea market at church

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.

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 or follow us on facebook.

Summer Concert Series

AGAWAM – In partnership with Kix 100.9 summer concert series will continue on Aug. 9, at 7 p.m. with local artist Lindsey Labelle will open for Meghan Patrick at the School Street Park, 418 Corey St.

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Opinion

Guest Column

My Baystate story: From 'candy striper' to the ED

By Patricia Michalski

I started my career in healthcare in 1976 as a candy striper at Mary Lane Hospital. We were called "candy stripers" because of the red-and-white striped aprons we wore.

As volunteers, we did a range of duties to help the nurses comfort their patients. My first role in healthcare led to my love for caring for people. When I was old enough to get a job, I worked as a nurse's aide and later as a unit secretary on the Med/Surg floor and the Oncology Unit.

In 2016, I moved to Baystate Wing Hospital



Patricia Michalski

and now work as an Operations Associate in the Emergency Department.

Throughout my career, I have witnessed many changes and worked through many challenges, but COVID-19 brought the greatest challenges to our team. Working in the ED during the pandemic was difficult; Our patients were very sick and many of our team members worked long hours to help care for them. I am thankful that we are no longer in the middle of a pandemic and I am exceptionally proud of the work we did to help care for our community members and each other over the past two years.

The work of an operations associate in the

ED requires me to stay calm and work in a fast-paced environment. We often care for patients with extreme illnesses who are in pain and suffering. On busy and hectic days, I keep things organized and moving.

I have a special place in my heart for older patients and veterans and my role in the ED allows me to be a friendly face as I help care for them.

Throughout my career, as I worked in diverse roles, every day has been different. What has not changed is the comradery I have witnessed among my colleagues each and every day and the commitment we have to place our patients at the center of everything we do.

Patricia Michalski is an operations associate in the Emergency Department at Baystate Wing Hospital.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail aan@turley.com.



I have never been a daylily aficionado, but as of late, they are growing on me. Why I write is because on Cape Cod they are everywhere. The last few days I have seen them paired with shrubs, other perennials and even as a backdrop to carefully placed annuals.

Read on as I resurrect a column from the archives with new and updated factoids.

We've all seen the clumps of orange daylilies (*Hemerocallis fulva*) blooming along roadsides each summer. These remnants of long ago have oftentimes outlived the people who planted them and the farmhouse in which they were planted around.

Arriving from Asia in the late 1800s, the common daylily is now considered invasive because it crowds out native plants. While experts advise not planting daylilies that are known to run amok, there are many cultivars that rightly deserve a place in the landscape.

Two varieties of daylilies presently occupy space in my landscape, one that is a family heirloom, and another that was purchased on a whim.

The lemon lily (*Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus*) was a family heirloom, although I am not sure where it originated. I think it was my grand babci that first gave it to my mother back in the 1950s.

It has been almost entirely choked out of the banking of my childhood home by lily of the valley, but I am lucky enough to have saved a piece

The daylily, both friend and foe



Orange daylilies (*Hemerocallis fulva*)

and it is thriving in my perennial garden. It is delicate as far as daylilies go, perfectly lemon yellow and subtly scented.

The lemon lily has a short bloom time, a week or less in early June, but it makes a perfect bed fellow to deep purple bearded iris.

Today, thousands of cultivars of daylilies are available, many of which bloom for longer periods of time than the old-fashioned types. They are offered in shades of all colors except blue and pure white.

Minatures look great in rock gardens, while more beefy types work well to stabilize bankings. The majority blend nicely with annuals, perennials, and shrubbery, as mentioned.

Daylilies belong to the genus *Hemerocallis* - hemo being Greek for "beautiful," and callis Greek for "day." Individual flowers do open and persist in 24 hours or less.

Luckily though, there are usually several flowers per scape (stem), and when one goes by another is waiting to take its place. A desirable



Lemon lily (*Hemerocallis lilioasphodelus*)

variety will bloom for at least two weeks, or will repeat blooming later in the season.

When shopping for daylilies at the nursery simply count the number of buds per scape of the potted plant. The number of buds (or the number of scars if blooming is nearly finished) coincides with the number of days that particular variety is expected to bloom.

Unfortunately, my lemon lily had a mere four.

If you choose carefully and plan accordingly by including early, mid, and late season bloomers in your mix, it is possible to achieve continuous bloom over a three month period in a mixed border of daylilies.

Many people are opting to plant a single variety for a season's worth of flowers. Different than varieties that rebloom, ever bloomers offer a nonstop performance from the beginning of their bloom period until frost.

It is said that Dr. Darrel Apps, a geneticist and master breeder evaluated some 11,000 seedlings to end up with a mere few that flower continuously.

Breeding continues, so look for the newest introductions each year. My whim purchase from a few years back is a rebloomer called "Purple D'oro." I bought it because it was blooming in the nursery alongside Gayfeather, orange Helenium, and Purple Coneflower.

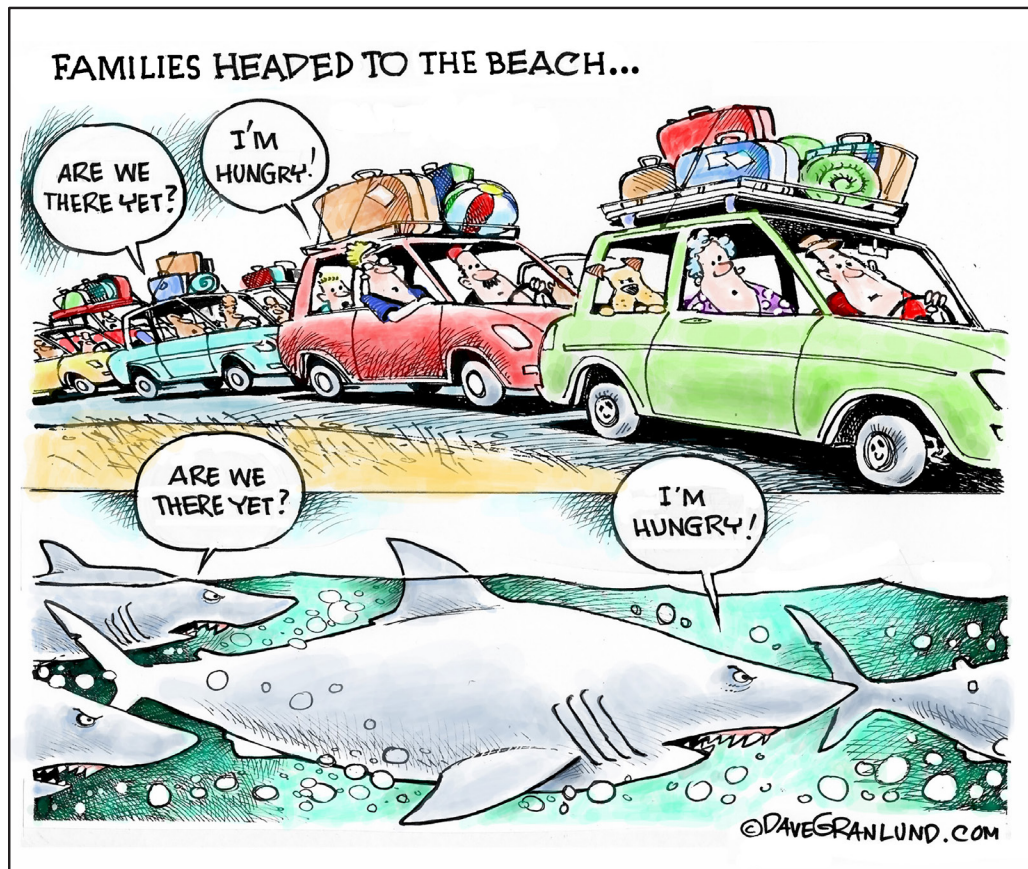
They are a power quartet in my summer border for sure, and the rebloom factor surely stretches out the show.

Locate daylilies where they will receive at least six hours of sun a day. Average soil, as long as it drains well, will grow strong plants.

Vigor determines whether clumps need to be separated and divided every few years, or if they can grow uninterrupted for many seasons. Division is best accomplished in early spring or immediately after bloom.

If you take the later approach, just be sure the plant has at least one month of growing time before frost hits. This way it will have an opportunity to root well, anchoring itself before winter freezing and thawing can heave it from the ground.

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.



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House Democratic Health committee leaders announce new legislation on prescription drugs

WASHINGTON – House Democratic Health Committee leaders introduced new legislation to further lower prescription drug prices for American families and rein in pharmaceutical price gouging. The bill was introduced by Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Richard E. Neal (D-MA), Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), and Education and the Workforce Committee Ranking Member Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-VA).

Nearly one year ago, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law, granting the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the first time the authority to negotiate lower drug prices for America’s seniors.

It was a historic achievement that lifted restrictions that had been in place for nearly 20 years preventing Medicare from negotiating drug prices. The law also further reduced drug prices for seniors by

penalizing pharmaceutical companies that raised prices faster than the rate of inflation. The Lowering Drug Costs for American Families Act builds on this important progress by ensuring more Americans can benefit from the law’s provisions.

“The Lowering Drug Costs for American Families Act builds on our historic work in the Inflation Reduction Act to expand access to lower drug prices negotiated by Medicare to even more Americans,” Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Neal



said. “This legislation is another step to bringing down the costs of prescription drugs and putting an end to the unconscionable decision to forgo life-saving medication. Lowering health care costs is key to finishing the job for the American people, and House Democrats won’t be deterred by Republican threats or Big Pharma’s lawsuits.” The Lowering Drug Costs for American Families Act builds on the drug pricing provisions

included in the Inflation Reduction Act last year. Specifically, the bill would:

Extend the historic drug price negotiation program to all Americans with private coverage.

This includes over 164 million workers and their families who get health coverage through their jobs and more than 16 million individuals with Marketplace coverage; stop drug companies from raising prices faster than inflation by ensuring that the inflation rebates enacted under the Inflation Reduction Act also apply to individuals covered by private health plans. Extending the inflation rebates to privately covered American workers can save as much as \$40 billion over the next decade alone; and strengthen the drug price negotiation program to deliver more savings to the American people by increasing the annual number of prescription drugs selected for negotiation from 20 to 50.

HNE offers grants to address mental health and opioid epidemic

SPRINGFIELD – Health New England will award grants totaling \$100,000 to eligible non-profit organizations with programs that work to address mental health and the opioid epidemic in Western Massachusetts. The programs must address health equity and at least one social determinant of health and focus on Health New England’s service area including Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties.

One in five adults in Health New England’s service area experience depression, according to the company’s community health needs assessment. Despite some

signs of improvement, the opioid crisis has grown in the last several years. For instance, in 2020 Hampden County experienced the highest rate of Emergency Medical Service calls related to opioid overdoses of any county in the state, the assessment reports.

“The mental health crisis and opioid use disorder have hit our home counties hard, and the impact of health and societal inequities in these cases is undeniable,” said Richard Swift, President and CEO of Health New England. “It is our hope that these grants help remove barriers under-resourced communities face to allow residents to enjoy better mental health and

avoid or recover from opioid addiction so they may thrive.”

Social Determinants of Health include: Built environment (includes transportation, access to healthy foods), education, employment, housing, social environment (social isolation, institutional racism), violence and trauma.

IRS-designated 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that manage innovative community-based programs benefiting underserved residents may apply for Health New England DEIB grants through Sept. 11, 2023.

In its fourth year, the Health New En-

gland DEIB grants program has awarded nearly \$340,000 to local non-profits addressing health equity in Western Massachusetts.

How to Apply

Completed grant applications are due by 11:59 p.m. on September 11. Only complete submissions made online will be considered. Non-profit organizations will only be eligible for Health New England community benefit funding once per calendar year. Apply here: <https://form.jotform.com/203005404536039>.

Those with questions may email communitygiving@hne.com.

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.

BALLOT ■ from page 1

Russo, Smith, Suffriti and Valego.

All six of the current school committee members have taken out papers to run for reelection. The only new challenger who has taken out papers is Catherine McDougal.

So far only three residents—Shelley Borgatti-Reed, AJ Christopher and Wendy Rua—have returned their papers.

All interested candidates have until Aug. 22 to turn in their nomination papers if they want to be on the ballot.

On election days, poles will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The different polling locations are: Precinct 1: Robinson Park School, 65 Begley Street

Precinct 2: Clifford Granger School, 31 South Westfield Street

Precinct 3: Agawam High School, 760 Copper Street

Precinct 4: Roberta G. Doering School, 68 Main Street

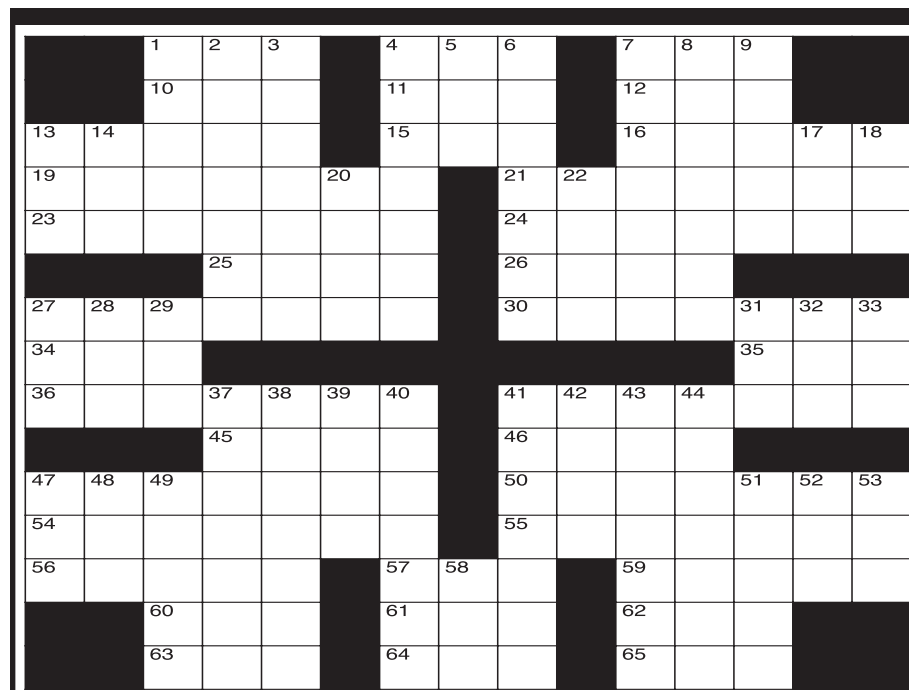
Precinct 5: Benjamin Phelps School, 689 Main Street

Precinct 6: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street

Precinct 7: Agawam Jr. High School, 1305 Springfield Street

Precinct 8: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street

If you have any questions about where to vote and the precinct you reside in, go to <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/>.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Indicates tire pressure
- 4. Request
- 7. Clairvoyance
- 10. 007’s creator
- 11. Adult male
- 12. Scandinavian god of battle
- 13. Cloths spread on a coffin
- 15. Breeze through
- 16. Ladyfish genus
- 19. It’s good to take them
- 21. Noble-governed territory
- 23. Members of U.S. Navy
- 24. Card game resembling rummy
- 25. Affected by injury
- 26. Member of a Semitic people
- 27. Left
- 30. Woman’s cloak
- 34. S. American plant
- 35. Prohibit
- 36. Offense
- 41. Dish soap brand
- 45. Ottoman military commanders
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Makes unhappy
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. Medical instrument
- 55. Promote
- 56. A beloved carb
- 57. Tag the base runner to get him out
- 59. Prehistoric people
- 60. Large African antelope
- 61. Vehicle
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. Scientific instrument (abbr.)
- 64. A major division of geological time
- 65. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Plant of the nettle family
- 2. Fit to be sold
- 3. Rather
- 4. Collected
- 5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 6. Patella
- 7. Ageless
- 8. Lists of course requirements
- 9. Pokes at
- 13. TV network
- 14. They ___
- 17. Cooking hardware
- 18. U.S. Army title
- 20. Iron-containing compound
- 22. Swiss river (alt. spelling)
- 27. Former French coin
- 28. Electronic countermeasures
- 29. Taxi
- 31. Helps little firms
- 32. Woeful
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Glowing
- 38. Tasks which should be done
- 39. An informal body of friends
- 40. Intrinsic nature
- 41. Neural structures
- 42. Brews
- 43. Where ships unload cargo
- 44. Singer
- 47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 48. Southwest Scotland town
- 49. Most worthless parts
- 51. Viscous
- 52. Put to work
- 53. Old world, new
- 58. Swiss river

STEM program gives students a head start for college

SPRINGFIELD – It's been a few years since he last sat in a classroom which is one of the reasons why Bradley De Jesus is grateful for the STEM Starter Academy Summer Bridge Program at Springfield Technical Community College.

"It's definitely helped me with relearning a lot of what I'd forgotten over the years," said De Jesus, who is interested in physics. He graduated from high school in 2015 and recently decided to return to school to pursue a degree.

De Jesus is taking math, English and First-Year Experience classes at STCC this summer through the Summer Bridge program, which offers incoming fall students registered in a STEM or Undeclared/General Studies major a head start toward their first semester on campus.

The program is part of the STEM Starter Academy, which supports underrepresented student populations by providing equity and access to majors in STEM.

"It's a great way for everyone to get their foot in the door for college," said Samar Ghrear, STEM starter academy activity coordinator who works directly with the students. Jason Phillips, an academic counselor at STCC, advises and works with students over the summer.

This year, 32 STEM Starter Academy students are participating, which is double the number of students enrolled last year, Ghrear said. She hopes to keep expanding in the coming years.

The program also includes 13 students from STCC's Male Initiative for Leadership and Education program. MILE is designed



Samar Ghrear, front center, STEM Starter Academy activity coordinator, with students in the Summer Bridge program at STCC. Jason Phillips, an academic counselor at STCC, is third from left. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

to provide inclusive academic support, mentoring and community engagement opportunities to male students at STCC and increase retention rates of Black and Latino men.

"We are thrilled to partner with STEM Starter Academy and STEM in continuing the MILE Summer Bridge program," said Miguel Maria, assistant dean of Student Initiatives. "With a focus on empowering incoming students, this transformative initiative offers a wealth of support and resources, including academic advising, tutoring, and financial aid counseling. We firmly believe that this program will ele-

vate our students' educational journey and drive substantial improvements in their academic outcomes."

Summer Bridge not only offers credit courses in English and math, but also a First-Year Experience class that addresses the many transitional needs of new students at STCC.

"We are excited to offer the Summer Bridge program to our students," said School of STEM Dean Lara Sharp. "The program is connected to our strategic planning for the next five years. Programs like Summer Bridge clear the path to student success and remove barriers."

STCC, the only technical community college in Massachusetts, is a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution, which means at least 25 percent of the students identify as Latina/Latino/Latinx.

Students in Summer Bridge started in June with two weeks of intense "boot camp" to prepare for the math course. They also learned how to use Blackboard, the application for online teaching and learning. Upon successful completion at the end of the summer, students will receive a total of seven free credits in math, English and First-Year Experience classes.

Students receive free supplies, tutoring

and advising as well as opportunities to participate in enriching STEM experiences, events and activities throughout the academic year. At the end of the summer, if they successfully complete the program with a grade of C or higher, they receive a \$500 stipend.

Interested in applying to STCC? Visit stcc.edu/apply or call Admissions at (413) 755-3333.



Professor Zahi Haddad works with students in the STEM Starter Academy Summer Bridge program.

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SPORTS

Brownies B squad makes playoffs

CHICOPEE – Despite a 4-0 loss last Wednesday night at Chicopee, the Agawam B Boys summer soccer team is headed for the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League playoffs.

Agawam defeated Granby 2-0 last Friday and are the No. 5 seed. They were headed to Pittsfield earlier this week.



James Shostak dribbles up the field.



Jaden Holloway traps the ball as a Chicopee player comes to steal.



Nicholas Gobielle looks to steal the ball.



Maxim Savoin sends a pass forward.

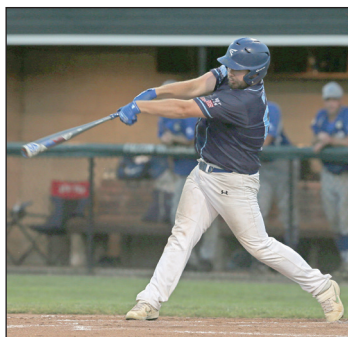


Connor Glynn chases down the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Dave Clark fields a grounder for PeoplesBank.



Nicholas Wilken, of Ludlow, swings and connects.



Braeden Lamirande gets an out at first for DiFranco.

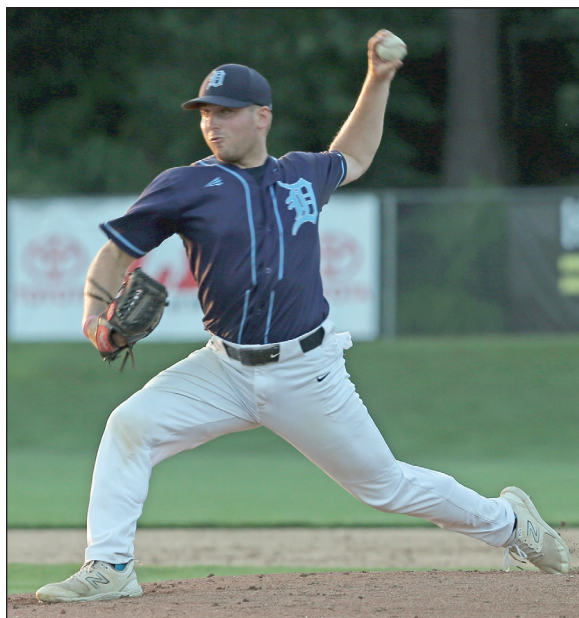


Ryan Hemenway, of Wilbraham sizes up a pitch.



Cam McDonald throw to first.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY



Agawam's Cam Rivest delivers a pitch for DiFranco Realty.



Zach Handzel, of Palmer, pitches for PeoplesBank.



Joe Ferry slides into third base safely.

Bankers cash in for finals

WILBRAHAM – Last Friday night, PeoplesBank Tri-County baseball took down DiFranco in the opener of a best-of-three series 17-0 in five innings.

The Bankers are the No. 1 seed in the Tri-County League playoffs. They would punch their ticket to the finals the following day when DiFranco forfeited the second game of the series, giving the Bankers the finals berth.

The finals were scheduled to begin earlier this week.

Sports

Valley Blue Sox win the West, playoffs begin

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox are the 2023 NECBL West Division Champions. In their final game of the regular season, the Blue Sox defeated the Keene Swamp Bats 8-7, to finish 23-18-2 on the season.

In a game that saw 23 hits and four different position players on the mound, the Blue Sox scored runs in four different innings.

Brendan Yagesh started the game for the Blue Sox, pitching two innings while allowing four runs with three strikeouts.

Keene got on the board first in the top of the second inning, following three RBI singles and a wild pitch to put the Swamp Bats up 4-0 early.

Valley rallied back to quickly take the lead back in the bottom of the second inning, batting around their entire lineup. Conor Kiely hit an RBI single to score EJ Kreutzmann in his first at-bat of the season. Zach Ketterman hit an RBI single to

score Michael Zarrillo.

Will Gale walked with the bases loaded, AJ Guerrero hit an RBI single, then EJ Kreutzmann was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, to allow the Blue Sox to take the lead 5-4.

Kurt Thomas took over for Yagesh in the top of the third, pitching two innings while allowing one run.

Keene tied the game at five after Bryan Padillia was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded.

Valley took the lead back in the bottom of the fourth after Michael Zarrillo walked with the bases loaded to put the team ahead 6-5.



Third Baseman Zach Ketterman made his first appearance on the mound this season, taking over for Thomas in the top of the fifth inning. The right-hander pitched two innings with three strikeouts, allowing one run.

The Swamp Bats tied the game at six following an RBI single in the top of the fifth, but Valley quickly took the lead back in the bottom of the inning after Guerrero hit an RBI groundout.

Center Fielder Will Gale also made his first appearance on the mound this season, taking over for Ketterman in the top of the seventh inning. The speedy outfielder pitched one inning, allowing one run and striking out one batter.

The Swamp Bats tied the game at seven in the top of the seventh inning after an RBI single.

CJ Willis, a position player who has made four different appearances on the mound this season, once again saw himself on the mound after relieving Gale in the top of the eighth inning. Willis pitched two scoreless innings to earn himself his second win of the season.

The Blue Sox took the lead in the bottom of the eighth after 2023 All-Star EJ Kreutzmann hit an RBI single to score Collier Cranford.

Willis pitched a clean ninth inning to secure the victory and division title for the Blue Sox.

With the NECBL Playoffs beginning Monday night, the Blue Sox remained at home to host their division rival Bristol Blues in the first game of a best-of-three-game series.

Belanger, Grenier get first career wins

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Joel Belanger and Carlos Grenier each scored his first career Monadnock Speedway victory Saturday at the historic high-banked oval.

Belanger won the nightcap 30-lapper in the NHSTRA Modifieds, while Nate Wenzel topped the first open-wheel go-round. Grenier earned his victory lap by holding Colton Martin at bay to win the 50-lap Pure Stock main event. In the NHSTRA Late Models, it was Hillary Renaud scoring her first win of the summer and, in so doing, becoming the fifth different LM victor this year.

Steve Miller Jr. won for the first time this year in the Six Shooters, and Adrian Smith continued to outrun everyone as he dominated en route to his third 2023 Young Guns victory.

Wenzel's win in the first Modified feature came gift-wrapped in the form of a Brian Chapin/Tyler Leary last-lap tangle that saw Wenzel avoid the mess immediately before him as he darted off to victory.

Chapin had taken control on lap three and was probably already making plans for where the night's trophy would later be displayed when he and Leary, up to second on lap 25, jingled in turn two as the checkers awaited them less than a lap away. Wenzel steered clear and blasted to his second win of the summer.

In the nightcap, Belanger held off all challengers to wire the event for his first career victory on the high banks. Geoff Rollins got up for second on lap 15 but, on this night, was no match for the speedy Belanger. Rollins was the night's overall Modified winner, putting together a pair of deuce runs. Aaron Fellows and Scott Zilinski each had a third for their hard night's work.

A field of 21 potent chargers went to war in the night's Pure Stock 50-lapper. Carlos Grenier, starting up front, had seen victory slip away from him in his last outing on the high banks and wasn't about to let it happen again.

He led Dominick Stafford on laps one and two, with two-time winner Colton Martin then taking over on a restart and riding in Grenier's shadow the rest of the way.

While the lap-two jingle didn't affect the race's outcome, it strongly impacted the mid-season points chase. Multi-time track champ and points titan Chris Davis, along with Zach Phillips and Andrea St. Amour were the big victims in this one, with Davis' early demise dropping him to 20th on the night.

Grenier and Martin fought hard the rest of the way, with Zach Zilinski in close tow until 2022 Claremont champ Chris Cham-

bers claimed third on lap 42. Grenier, third his last time out, prevailed to take a happy victory lap.

Hillary Renaud used her Saturday victory in the NHSTRA Late Models to leapfrog two spots in the points parade into second. She led all the way, with Haydon Grenier – up to second on lap two – strong in his runner-up performance. Points leader and reigning track champ Tim Wenzel used a final-turn blast to snatch third from JD Stockwell.

Steve Miller Jr. took the lead from Jacob Scott on lap three of the Six Shooter feature and never looked back. Scott then had his hands full for much of the race holding off Miller's father, Steve Sr., for second, as Scott, Miller Sr., and Andrew Scott took the checkers nose-to-tail.

Adrian Smith took the lead from Madison Cousino on lap eight of the Young Guns feature and then blasted off to his third win of the summer. Cousino, impressive all night, held strong the rest of the way to earn her first career podium finish in second, while Markus O'Neil came home third.

After a week off, Monadnock Speedway will return to action on Saturday, August 5, when the high-banked speedplant will host another full night of oval track racing featuring 50 Lap Mini Stock Challenge.

Thunderbirds caravan event moved

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds today announced that the first installment of the Thunderbirds Community Caravan presented by Dunkin' has been postponed to Saturday, Aug. 12 due to potential inclement weather this weekend.

The T-Birds Community Caravan will still make a total of three stops in the Springfield area throughout the summer months:

- Saturday, Aug. 12 - Szot Park (Chicopee), 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

- Saturday, Aug. 19 - Amelia Ice Arena (Westfield), 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in conjunction with the T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament

- Public skating from 10:50 to 11:50 a.m.

- Saturday, Sept. 9 - Forest Park & Cyr Arena (Springfield), 1 to 3 p.m.

Each event will feature an appearance from Thunderbirds mascot Boomer and team staff, as well as a wide variety of activities and vendors, including a Dunkin' Taste Truck, street hockey activities, and various food options.

Teams clinch playoff spots as Valley Wheel season nears close

WILBRAHAM – Sunday's action in the Valley Wheel Over-28 baseball league got a lot clearer as three teams cemented their spots in the playoffs while the fourth team will be determined by a matchup this week.

The Twins-Angels game held at Bruce Park in Suffield provided the stage for a preview to the playoffs.

The two teams have met in the last two playoff finals. It will not happen this year. Thanks to a complete game from Todd Bergstrom, as well as a two-run single in the ninth inning he also provided, the Twins prevailed over the Angels 6-4.

The game was close throughout, with the Angels and Twins trading leads a few times. Down 4-3 in the eighth, Trevor Portlock, of Wilbraham, drove home a run with a single to make the game 4-4. The Angels, unfortunately, could not bring home the go-head runs, which were at second and third with one out. Bergstrom was able to close the game in the ninth.

With the win, the Angels fell to 8-7 and their regular season is finished. The Twins are 8-6, and had a makeup game

scheduled with the Tigers on Wednesday at Spec Pond under the lights. A win gets the Twins to 9-6 and the final playoff spot. But a loss would make the Twins 8-7 like the Angels, and put the Angels in the playoffs. The Angels hold a 2-1 advantage in their tiebreaker over the Twins this year, winning the first two matchups the teams had.

Elsewhere in the league, the Cubs cemented their playoff spot, winning their ninth game of the season with a 14-12 win over the Orioles. The Orioles would finish 1-14 and out of playoff contention.

The Cubs meet the Athletics on Thursday night with the top seeds on the line.

The Athletics defeated the Tigers on Sunday evening at Spec Pond 9-7. Both teams have already made the playoffs this year, but will look for momentum in their respective games later this week.

The two makeup games were necessitated from rainouts last Thursday night that wiped out all the action about two hours before the games were scheduled.

The playoffs are currently scheduled for this Sunday at Spec Pond with the 2 and 3 seeds playing at 2:30 p.m. and the 1 and 4 seeds playing at 6 p.m.

West showcased in volleyball

BOSTON – In last month's Bay State Games, the Western part of the state featured a volleyball team. Here is a look at how they fared in some of their matchups held July 8 and 9:

The Central girls team opened up the Girls side of the showcase with strong play from Katy O'Connell (Northborough, Algonquin Reg. HS) and Lily Davidson (Rutland, Wachusett Reg. HS), leading them to a 25-13 first game win. The second game saw more of the same, as the Nault twins Victoria, and Sabrina (Shrewsbury, Shrewsbury HS) also helped power Central to a dominant game one performance, winning the second set 25-12.

Coastal 2, West 0

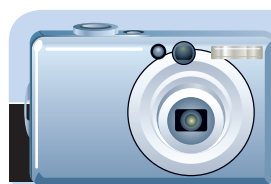
This match featured an impressive start for the West squad, as they held the lead numerous times thanks to Sasha Fyfe (Dalton, Waconah Reg. HS) and Gabrielle Adams (Greenfield, Frontier Reg. HS). Unfortunately, they were unable to hold the lead,

as Coastal stormed back to grab a 25:16 win in the first set, and rolled through the second game as well. Although closer in the end, the Coastal team found success thanks to consistent play from Haley Jenkins (Dartmouth, Dartmouth HS) and Hannah Storm (Swansea, Joseph Case HS).

West 2, Southeast 0

During this match, Southeast used a 6-point run, along with multiple diving plays to help propel them to a quick 25-15 first-game win. In the second game, West used great efforts from Chloe Schott (Longmeadow, Longmeadow HS) and Gabriella Manes (Feeding Hills, Agawam HS), however it wasn't enough as Zoe Smallman (Weston, Weston HS) and Caroline Gray (Whitman, Whitman-Hanson Reg. HS) continued their good performances on the day, winning the second game 25-21.

The west would play in a challenge game on Sunday, July 9, but did not play in either of the medal games.



Send Us Your Sports Photos!

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Register for 35th Annual Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk

BOSTON – Registration is now open for the 2023 Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, October 1, funds raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at one of the nation's premier cancer centers, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.



The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options:

5K walk, 10K walk, Half Marathon walk, or Marathon Walk. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

Register as an individual walker, team member, or start a team.

To register for the Walk) or to support

a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee.

Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be treated to 10 refueling stations as well as poster-sized photographs of patients displayed at each mile and half-mile marker as inspiration.

All four routes of the Jimmy Fund Walk will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line. Due to construction

in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Fenway neighborhood for 2023. The finish line will include a celebration complete with food, music, and a speaking program.

If walkers wish to participate a bit closer to home, the Jimmy Fund Walk has flexible opportunities. Participants can also join the event virtually by walking their way from wherever they are most comfortable-in their neighbor-

hood, on a favorite hiking trail, or on a treadmill at home. Virtual programming and supporting materials will be available.

The 2023 Walk will be held during the Jimmy Fund's 75th anniversary year and will aim to raise \$9 million in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer. The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$167 million for Dana-Farber Cancer in its 34-year history, raising a record-breaking more than \$8.8 million in 2022.

Funds raised from the Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Boston Athletic Association has supported the Jimmy Fund Walk since 1989, and Hyundai has been the presenting sponsor for more than 20 years.

Public Notices

Agawam Housing Authority Invitation for Sealed Bids

The Agawam Housing Authority, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the 667-2 Replacement of existing wood trim at entries, #005125 in Agawam, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by Tighe & Bond, Inc..

The Project consists of: Removal and replacement of existing wood trim and canopy posts, brick flashing, and associated repairs.

The work is estimated to cost \$125,000.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com. Tutorials and instructions on how to complete the electronic bid documents are available online (click on the "Tutorial" tab at the bottom footer).

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, General Building Construction, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until 2:00 PM on Thursday, 10 August 2023 and publicly opened online,

forthwith.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until on and publicly opened online, forthwith.

SUBTRADES: NONE

All Bids should be submitted online at www.biddocsonline.com and received no later than the date and time specified above. General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the Agawam Housing Authority.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at www.biddocsonline.com (may be viewed electronically and hardcopy requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

There is a plan deposit of \$50.00 per set (maximum of 2 sets) payable to BidDocs ONLINE Inc.

Plan deposits may be electronically paid or by check. This deposit will be refunded for up to two sets for general bidders and for one set for sub-bidders upon return of the sets in good condition within thirty (30) days of receipt of general bids. Otherwise the deposit shall be the property of the Awarding Authority. Additional sets may be purchased for \$50.00

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$40.00 per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), nonrefundable, payable to the BidDocs ONLINE Inc., to cover mail handling costs.

General bidders must agree to contract with

minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO), formerly known as SOMWBA. The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 10.4% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. Request for waivers must be sent to DHCD (David.McClave@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date if the work is estimated to cost less than \$500,000 OR 10 calendar days prior to the General Bid date if the work is estimated to cost \$500,000 or more – NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE BID DATE. See Contract Documents - Article 3 of the Instructions to Bidders.

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Date and Time: Thursday, 3 August 2023 at 2:00 PM Address: Colonial Haven Drive, Agawam, MA Instructions: **VOLUNTARY PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT:** Date and Time: Thursday August 3, 2023 at 2:00 PM Address: Colonial Haven Drive, Agawam, MA

SITE VISIT BY APPOINTMENT: NONE

The Contract Documents may be seen, but not removed at:

Agawam Housing Authority 66 Meadowbrook Manor Agawam, MA 01001 413-786-1297
Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street Hudson, MA 01749 978-568-1167
08/03/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1551EA Estate of: Philomena James Also known as: Philomena Marie James, Phyllis M James Date of Death: 02/12/2016 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for S/A - Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Michele Trznadel of Chicopee, 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: **Michele Trznadel of Chicopee, 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 08/25/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. 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 28, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/03/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P1589EA Estate of: Paul M. Radwanski Also known as: Paul Radwanski Date of Death: 01/22/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by **Carol Ann Radwanski of Agawam, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order

and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 08/24/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. 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 27, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/03/2023

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.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 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

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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, 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.

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.

The Hibernians will celebrate Holyoke's 150 anniversary of incorporation as a City and also present the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship to Gavin Sullivan, Patrick Sweeney, and Caroline Taylor.

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.

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church hosting annual Greek festival Aug. 26

HOLYOKE – Saturday, Aug. 26, at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Grounds, 410 Main Street, will be having the second annual Greek festival from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

There will be Greek food, pastries and music. Event is rain or shine. Admission will be free. For more information, contact Sharon at 413-533-9880 or email holytrinityofholyokey@gmail.com.

BBB offers advice on how to avoid rental scams

HOLYOKE – BBB Scam Tracker is getting reports of party hosts tricked by rentals that don't materialize. Before planning the next party, get to know this scam to avoid being conned.

How the scam works

A consumer is planning a party and needs to rent supplies. They do a web or social media search and find a few options. For example, they may find a legitimate website with a convenient online booking system. Or the consumer might message someone through a social media account that seems professional. Either way, the "vendor" promises to reserve the rental for the date it's needed, if the consumer pays a deposit first. The "vendor" may also require

you to fill out a contact form with your personal details.

The date of the party arrives, and the rental tent, furniture, or other supplies don't arrive. At this point, the "vendor" may tell the consumer they've had an emergency and can't deliver on their promise. However, the scammers will disappear completely when asked for the money back. Other times, the consumer can't contact the rental company at all.

One consumer reported this experience to BBB Scam Tracker: "The day of the event, the rental never came. I called the phone number, and it went straight to an answering machine... I left several messages. None have been returned, and it has now been two months."

How to avoid rental scams

Do the research before renting. Look for the rental company's website and ensure it has accurate contact information. Then, read consumer reviews about the company on third-party websites, such as BBB.org. Search the business name plus the word "scam" to ensure there are no reports of fraudulent business dealings.

Be careful with personal details. The consumer may need to fill out a contract with personal information, the consumer should make sure they are dealing with a legitimate, professional company before handing over sensitive information.

Be wary of people who contact randomly on messaging apps. Legitimate businesses may use messaging apps to interact with

customers, but it's unlikely they will contact the customer out of the blue this way. Even if speaking with a business through a messaging app, ensure they have a website and working contact information.

Always pay with a credit card. It's much easier to dispute fraudulent charges using your credit card. If paying with a debit card or cash, the consumer may not get your money back if scammed.

For more information

If you spot a party rental scam or any other kind of scam, report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker to help build consumer awareness.

Always look for businesses that follow BBB Accreditation Standards and BBB Standards for Trust.

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

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

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 16.

Community Autumn Events

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 _____

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

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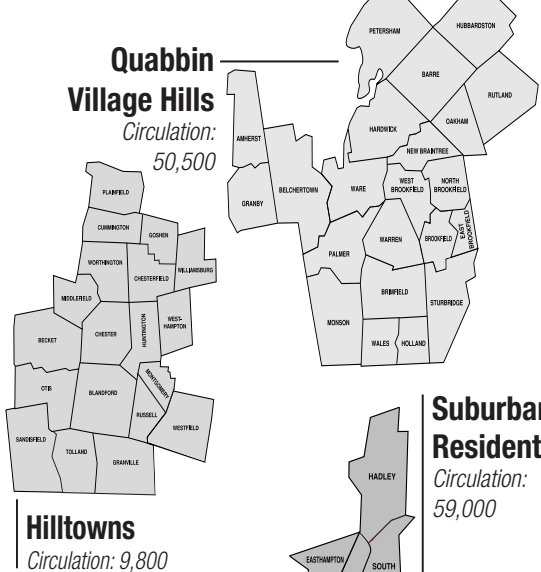
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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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 This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised 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.

