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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Clark receives Gold Award from Girl Scouts

AGAWAM – Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts proudly recognized 21 members of the 2025 Girl Scout Gold Award class who earned the highest award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award. Twenty-one teen world-changers in Central and Western Massachusetts who invested nearly seven hundred hours creating lasting impact on issues important to them.

Kathryn Clark of Agawam was among the awardees.

Clark earned her Girl Scout Gold Award with *“Unleashing Knowledge: Epilepsy Education and Empathy,”* a project inspired by her own experiences living with epilepsy and the misconceptions she faced. To raise awareness and foster understanding, Kathryn created educational materials, including recorded presentations and distributed copies of *Epilepsy: The Abilities in Me* to fifty school counselors. She partnered with the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut to extend her impact, and her resources will continue to be used by schools and community groups. Clark also led clothing and pet supply drives to support epilepsy services, setting up a model others can replicate.

“Never underestimate the impact of your story—educating others with empathy is a powerful way to make a difference,” she said.

Gold Award Girl Scouts become innovative problem-solvers, empathetic leaders, confident public speakers, and focused proj-

ect managers. They learn resourcefulness, tenacity, and decision-making skills, giving them an edge personally and professionally. As they take action to transform their communities, Gold Award Girl Scouts gain tangible skills and prove they’re the leaders our world needs.

The 2025 Gold Award Girl Scout class identified issues in their communities, took action, and found or created solutions to earn their Gold Awards, addressing real-life problems such as access to menstrual hygiene products, neurodivergence awareness, animal welfare, environmental sustainability, mental and physical well-being, and mapping a whole town for a rural fire department.

“Earning the Gold Award is a distinguished honor that sets Gold Award Girl Scouts apart from their peers,” said Theresa Lynn, CEO of Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts. “We’re proud to recognize 21 outstanding young women this year whose efforts demonstrate the leadership, problem-solving, and commitment to community that the Gold Award represents. Their work makes a lasting impact and shows they are exactly the kind of leaders our world needs.”

According to recent research, Gold Award Girl Scouts are more likely to fill leadership roles at work and in their personal lives and are more civically engaged than their non-Girl Scout peers.

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

People gathered outside of the Agawam Police Department tent during Agawam Night Out to get to learn more about the police department.

Community celebrates ‘National Night Out’

By Quinn Suomala
 Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam Night Out was an evening filled with fun and community building for the people of Agawam.

“The goal of this evening is to build a better relationship between the community and the police,” School Resource Officer Taylor Hartman said. “These days a lot of people have a bad view of us and we just want to show them that we are people like they are and that it’s okay to come up and talk to us.”

Hartman hoped that peo-

ple would come up and ask the department any questions they had, so they could learn more about the police and how they operate.

This year Agawam did their Night Out separate from National Night Out so they could make the event bigger and better than ever. The event was held Friday, July 25.

“We wanted to change it up and make it a little bigger, get more resources because we wouldn’t be competing with Springfield and Chicopee,” Hartman said. “We also have food trucks now, before when we did it on National

Night Out no one could purchase anything, but because we’re separate now, we can.”

On top of the food trucks, there were also a variety of vendors passing out free items for children and their families. Additionally, there was a train and the National Guard brought their obstacle course.

Throughout the evening there were also a variety of demonstrations. The Fire Department did a jaws of life demonstration, the state police did a flyover and there were some trained dogs who showed off their skills. Hartman hoped these

demonstrations would help to show people the wide variety of services that these departments can offer.

“The demonstrations also offer people a chance to get to know the different departments,” Hartman said. “When else do you ever get to talk to the fire department, for example, unless they are coming to your house to help with something?”

Children and their families were also invited to check out the different vehicles owned by these different

NIGHT OUT | page 7



The new electronic sign at Sacred Heart Church is celebrated.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Church celebrates new electronic sign

Sacred Heart Church parish has completed the installation of a new electronic sign in front of our church. The new electrical sign will display the multitude of events, news and information that take place at our parish.

Many individuals, parishioners, groups and contrac-

tors were involved in making the sign project a success. We wish to thank the Boy Scouts Troop 82, Thomas Crouss, Jr., Aaron O’Connell, Seth Pouliot and Jack Sullivan for lending a hand, Craig and his crew from Witch Equip-

ment for their generosity in equipment and labor, Mike from O’Connell Electrical Services, Sign Dynamics Inc, Chicopee Cement, DeCaro Brothers Landscaping, CRW Landscaping and the sign committee: Peter Smus, Charlie Kehoe, Tony Russo, Bruce Peterson, Daniel Frydryk, Phil Cristofori, Gina Smus and Lisa Raffia.

Town releases aggregation plan for power supply program

By Gregory A. Scibelli
 gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam City Council previously approved a Massachusetts law that would allow residents to have a choice in who would be their power supplier. The new law was approved to all residents to be able to get better rates from electric providers, which are able to change service rates through the state’s attorney general’s office.

According to the town’s website, the town recently developed its Aggregation Plan, and residents can now pursue savings on their electric bills.

The website states, The Town of Agawam developed its Aggregation Plan, in compliance with Massachusetts law regarding public aggregation of electric consumers. It contains required information on the structure, operations, services, funding, and policies of the Town’s Plan. The Plan has been developed in consultation with the Town’s munic-

ipal aggregation consultant, Colonial Power Group, Inc. (CPG) and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and is consistent with the Municipal Aggregation Guidelines developed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU).

The purpose of the Aggregation Plan is to represent consumer interests in competitive markets for electricity. It seeks to aggregate consumers in the Town to negotiate rates for power supply. It brings together the buying power of more than 28,000 consumers. The Town seeks to take greater control of its energy options, including enhancing the ability to pursue price savings, price stability and the amount of renewable energy content. Participation is voluntary for each consumer. Consumers can decline service provided through the Plan and choose an alternative supply option instead. The Town has distributed this Plan for public review prior

to submitting it to the DPU. Basic Service rates change twice a year or more, depending on rate class. As a result, the aggregation rate may not always be lower than the Basic Service rate. The goal of the aggregation is to deliver savings over the life of the Program against Eversource Basic Service. However, savings cannot be guaranteed.

Public comment is going to be accepted on the plan. The plan became available for review on July 28.

The Town of Agawam’s Aggregation Plan will continue to be available for public review and comment through **Friday August 29, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**

Any person who desires to comment may do so in person at the Clerk’s office or submit written comments using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail to jbonfiglio@agawam.ma.us; or (2) by postal mail to Jennifer Bonfiglio, Chief Procurement Officer, Town of Agawam, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.



Mall shooting suspect held without bail

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – A juvenile male who was involved with a shooting incident at the Holyoke Mall last Friday has been ordered held without bail and soon could be sentenced as an adult for the incident.

The juvenile, who cannot be named because of his age, was from Springfield according to the Hampden County District Attorney's Office.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni said the incident could have been much worse, and emphasized

the dangers of young people possessing and using guns.

"This harrowing situation could have ended much worse. Juveniles and guns is a recipe for disaster," Gulluni said.

The incident happened at about 4:30 p.m. last Friday afternoon. Police in Holyoke responded to a report of shots fired at the mall.

According to the DA's report, a Holyoke Mall security officer observed an individual who was allegedly shoplifting. The security officer alerted Holyoke Police who were working a detail assignment within the mall.

The suspect was approached by officers near the middle of the mall close to Round1, a bowling and arcade place at the mall. The juvenile showed a firearm and discharged the weapon, leading to a brief firefight. The juvenile was shot in the leg by police and transported to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. He was arrested and the firearm he used was recovered in the incident.

Gulluni said he plans to pursue a youthful offender indictment on the male, which would allow courts to sentence him as an adult if he is convicted.

"The juvenile's alleged behavior is appalling, and we will seek accountability to the fullest extent of the law. We are grateful that no innocent people or officers were injured," Gulluni said.

The incident caused a panic at the mall when the incident happened, with many people fleeing the mall when the gunshots were heard. No one else was injured but the suspect in the incident.

In the days following the incident, James Soos, a spokesperson of Pyramid Management, which owns the mall, issued a statement on behalf of the mall:

"The safety and well-being of our guests, tenants, and employees remain our highest priority at Holyoke Mall. We are committed to providing a secure and welcoming environment, and we continue to take proactive steps to strengthen safety protocols throughout the property. In close collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, these measures are continually reviewed and enhanced to meet evolving safety needs, including our Parental Escort Policy, which has been in place for several years. In addition, Holyoke Mall regularly conducts emergency

preparedness drills, training sessions, and risk assessments to ensure our team is equipped to respond swiftly and effectively in any situation. We also encourage guests to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to mall security or local authorities. We remain steadfast in our efforts to foster a safe, family-friendly environment for all who visit, work, and shop at Holyoke Mall."

The next step in the case is a dangerousness hearing scheduled for Aug. 4. If he is found to be a danger, the suspect will be held in jail until the case is resolved.

Springfield Museum seeking tour guides for students

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Museums is now accepting applications for docents, who will serve as dynamic educators leading tours and programs in the galleries. Docents are volunteers trained to deliver engaging educational tours for K-12 students and adult visitors. Volunteers receive extensive instruction in museum collections and interpretive techniques led by curators and museum educators, enhancing both personal growth and visitor experiences.

With several grant-funded elementary school field trips planned for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year—thanks to the generosity of funders like MassMutual Foundation (via Smithsonian), MGM Foundation, Westfield Academy, Shurtleff Children's Services, and the Michael Cimini Memorial Fund—the Museums are especially in need of history and science enthusiasts to join the docent program.

"Docents have the special privilege of sparking curiosity and creating memorable experiences for visiting school children," says School Programs Supervisor Katie Merrill. "They play a vital role in enhancing the visitor experience of our five world-class museums!"

In addition to training and ongoing workshops, ap-

plicants accepted into the docent program also enjoy exclusive social events and an annual symposium, discounts on Museum School classes and at the Hammer Museum Store, and free admission to select programs and lectures.

Multi-session training begins in late September and runs through winter or spring, depending on discipline (Art, History: up to 20 classes; Science, Dr. Seuss: up to 15 classes). Training takes place on weekday afternoons. Docents commit to leading at least 20 tours per year for two consecutive years following the training year. Tours generally occur Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 AM-2:00 PM, aligning with school field trips, but opportunities to lead tours or programs on evenings and weekends may be available.

Interested individuals should visit SpringfieldMuseums.org/volunteer to learn more and complete an application; email inquiries are welcome at docents@springfieldmuseums.org. Applicants will be reviewed based on qualifications and the number of docent guide openings available. Selected applicants will then be contacted for an interview.

MassMutual is the season sponsor of the Springfield Museums.

Velis Instrumental in strengthening Phone Free School Policy passed by Senate

BOSTON – Today, the Massachusetts State Senate passed legislation to limit students' access to personal electronic devices, including cell phones, during the entire school day. The final legislation was influenced by several similar policies introduced by Senators this session including a bill introduced by Senator John C. Velis. Through careful work alongside subject knowledge experts, Senate Velis received praise for his instrumental work in strengthening the final policy passed by the Senate.

The legislation, S2561 An Act To Promote Student Learning And Mental Health, would require local districts to develop policies that prohibits access and possession of personal electronic devices during school hours by the 2026-2027 school year. The legislation ensures that districts receive support and guidance from the Department of Elementary and

Secondary Education and also provides exceptions for students with IEPs (Individualized Education Programs). The legislation also requires that school policies ensure that parents and students can contact one another if requested during the school day.

"We are so grateful for Senator Velis's leadership, and we commend Senator Velis, the Senate Ways and Means committee, and the hardworking staff of the Senate for making a bell-to-bell policy work for the Commonwealth's students, teachers, and families," shared Casey Mock, Senior Director of Policy for The Anxious Generation. "We look forward to Massachusetts joining 19 other states in adopting a strong statewide policy."

"The passage of this bill means that every Massachusetts public school student will get the enormous benefit of a 6-to-7-hour break, each

school day, from cellphones and other personal electronic devices. This is a huge victory for students' mental health, focus, and real world connection," shared Debra Mann Schmill, President of Becca Schmill Foundation. "It is also a huge victory for teachers and school administrators. I cannot thank Senator Velis enough, first for working with the Becca Schmill Foundation on one of the 13 bills introduced this session on this topic, but also for fighting so hard to make sure that the bill that did pass would be most beneficial for Massachusetts students."

"We have a serious five-alarm fire on our hands. Our kids are distracted from their education, their social development is being hindered, and they are struggling with their mental health like we've never seen before. I don't think it's a coincidence that when you look at data related to lower

academic scores or increasing diagnosis of anxiety, that the trends drastically changed for the worse right around 2012 when smart phones became widely accessible," shared Senator Velis, Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. "When you bring up the idea of limiting a kids access to their cell phone, they are usually incredibly defensive and outraged, and in many respects, their reaction doesn't look that much different from telling someone in the throes of addiction that they are being sent to rehab. The very least we can do for their well-being and to support our incredible educators is restrict the use of cellphones during school hours."

With the legislation having been passed by the Senate, it now goes to the House of Representatives for their consideration.

Supplies running short for cat sanctuary

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

Just a reminder that we have a donation bin at the Agawam Public Library. Please include contact information with donations if you would like an ac-

knowledge. We are grateful for every donation. Local pick up is available by calling 786-5019.

Thank you to everyone who donated goods or monetary donations in July. Your generosity is appreciated by the cats and their humans. We are still looking for a location for a food drive.

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.

Stanley Park announces annual fundraiser

AGAWAM – Stanley Park is pleased to invite the community to its Annual Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 5 p.m. in the Beveridge Pavilion. This cherished event helps sustain the Park's natural beauty, facilities, and free public programs.

The evening will feature hors d'oeuvres, a buffet dinner, dessert, a cash bar, and show-stopping entertainment from Howl2Go Dueling Pianos—a high-energy, interactive, request-driven musical experience where two pianists battle it out with your favorite songs and a healthy dose of humor.

Returning this year is an exciting online auction with an added raffle, filled with must-have prizes you

won't want to miss out on, including an hour-long scenic plane ride for three, a weeklong Cape Cod vacation, gift certificates to your favorite local businesses, museum passes, and much more.

Follow Stanley Park on Facebook for exclusive previews of auction and raffle items leading up to the event.

Seats are limited, so don't wait—reserve yours now at https://auctria.events/ivorykeysandmelodies and enjoy a memorable night while making a lasting difference for Stanley Park.

Please call the Development Office at 413-568-9312 x108 or email development@stanleypark.org with any questions.

West of the River Chamber holding Legislative breakfast

AGAWAM – The West of the River Chamber of Commerce will be holding its next Legislative Breakfast on Wednesday, Sept. 24 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at Springfield

Country Club. The event will feature State Representatives Mike Finn and Nicholas Boldyga, and State Sen. John Velis. To register, go to business.ourwrc.com.

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USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK SHOULDER PICNIC..... \$1.39 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK..... \$1.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH WHOLE CHICKENS TWIN PAK \$1.49 lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS \$6.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... \$2.35 lb
USDA INSP. WUNDERBAR BOLOGNA..... \$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN \$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SUPERIOR ON MAIN ECLAIRS CREAM FILLED JUMBO PAK 30.75 OZ \$8.88 ea
USDA INSP. MONTEREY JACK CHEESE \$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 90% DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG \$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN GORTON'S CRUNCHY BREADED FRESH PORTIONS 3 LB BAG..... \$9.99 ea
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SALE DATES: 8/7/25-8/13/25

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BBB: Help for shopping for school tech

Though its role in the classroom will continue to evolve, technology is now a critical component of education. If you're shopping for technology for the upcoming school year, BBB has tips to help.

What you'll learn:
What trends are indicated by market research

How to avoid scams when shopping for tech supplies

Market research firm Deloitte details how educational shifts influence consumer shopping habits. In 2025, Deloitte reports that tech products will make up 26% of the

share of total spending on back-to-school shopping.

With this in mind, scammers may target shoppers with phony deals, enticing ads, and attractive but fake websites. Savvy online shopping is necessary to ensure you don't fall prey to a scam.

BBB offers these tips for buying tech products ahead of the new school year:

Shop with familiar retailers. Laptops, tablets, and other tech accessories can be a significant investment. Shop with businesses you know and trust to ensure you get a quality prod-

uct and good customer service. Search BBB.org to find BBB Accredited Businesses.

Watch out for impostors. Impostor scams are increasingly common when it comes to online shopping. Fraudsters may use the name, logo, and other characteristics of well-known brands to create look-alike websites and fake social media ads. Closely examine the website to verify they are who they are.

Approach significantly low prices with caution. Low prices and short-

term sales could signal you've encountered a scam. If the price seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Some companies rarely offer sales. Do more research if a company that rarely discounts products offers a huge sale. The products may be used or refurbished, or the website could be fake.

Know what you're shopping for. Set a budget, identify what capabilities will benefit your student, and compare your options. Then, shop around for a reliable seller. Researching the best product for your

needs will help you avoid scams and buyer's remorse.

Ensure you know who the seller is. Some big box retailers allow third-party sellers to list items on their sites, and those items can be hard to distinguish from the rest. Read all the fine print to ensure you're comfortable with the seller.

Finish your shopping early. Supply shortages are possible, especially as many consumers begin shopping for the same products. Do your shopping now to avoid paying higher prices or falling victim to a scam.

Parish Cupboard to hold pickleball fundraiser

AGAWAM / WEST SPRINGFIELD – West Springfield Agawam Parish Cupboard 3rd Annual Pickleball FUNdraiser will be held Saturday, Sept. 13 at Mittineague Park in West Springfield. All ages welcome – Recreational and Competitive play divisions. For info or to register: www.theparishcupboard.org or call 413-734-7969.

Dance sessions offered

WESTFIELD – Join us Aug. 18 on the Stanley Park Acre Lawn next to the Pavilion Annex from 6 to 7 p.m. for two Chakra Dance sessions led by Harlene Simmons from All Natural Reiki.

Chakra dance is rhythm for your soul, a movement-based practice that combines dance, music, and visualization to balance and activate the body's seven energy centers, or chakras. This dance is to balance your Chakras (energy centers) and discover a deepened connection to your true self and feeling of coming home.

Music for your Base Chakra : vibrational, connecting your body to earth

Music for your Sacral Chakra: sensual, connecting to your inner goddess or god

Music for your Solar Plexus Chakra : fiery & dynamic,

strong defined movement.

Music for your Heart Chakra: uplifting, joyful softening of your heart.

Music for your Throat Chakra: more ethereal, chanting as you dance, expressing your inner truth.

Music for your Third Eye Chakra: High vibrations, opens up to intuitive guidance through dance.

Music for your Crown Chakra: opening to a feeling of oneness, connected to the divine.

Dress comfortably, easy, flowing clothes are recommended.

Donations to the Park of \$5 per person, per class, is suggested.

For more information on Chakra Dance classes and all other Stanley Park events,

check online at: www.stanleypark.org.

Wistariahurst featuring senior artists

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is excited to welcome senior artists into the gallery for "Creating COA Artists" this August 2025. This exhibition features artists involved in Holyoke's senior center and Council on Aging.

Participating artists have anywhere from months to decades of experience, and this exhibition celebrates artists at all stages. A variety of mediums are featured in this exhibition from watercolor, to acrylic, to ceramic

and textiles. This diverse selection of artwork shows both a range of experience and mediums, coming together to form a truly unique exhibit.

The Holyoke Council on Aging and Senior Center has hosted a variety of art classes, encouraging their visitors to continue or begin creating. Many members of the senior center have used these classes to embrace their passion for the visual arts. Some of the artwork on view in the exhibit at Wistariahurst has

been created in these classes.

The opening reception of "Creating COA Artists" will be held Thursday, Aug. 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. Wistariahurst is an artist-friendly space that encourages creativity and supports the growth of this region's artists. Open Gallery Hours will be held on Mondays (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Tuesdays (4:30 to 6:30 p.m.) through Sept. 23, which will also be free and open to the public. We hope that you stop by and explore "Creating COA Artists."

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Holyoke Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Visit the link below to register for the opening reception. Registration is not required, but encouraged: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/opening-reception-creating-coa-artists-tickets-1505175413179?aff=odtdtd> creator.

Veterans holding golf tournament Aug. 31

AGAWAM – The Friends of the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam and the Friends of the Agawam Veterans Council proudly announce their First Annual Golf Tournament in support of Wreaths Across America, a national effort to honor and remember our fallen veterans during the holiday season.

This exciting event promises a day of camaraderie, remembrance, and community support. Golfers, sponsors, and community members are invited to participate and help lay wreaths at the graves of veterans resting

at the Agawam Veterans Memorial Cemetery this December.

Event Details: 18 Holes of Golf with a cart, lunch, dinner and a raffle entry.

Location: Agawam Municipal Golf Course

Date: Aug. 31
Time: 12 noon
Registration Options:
Individual Golfer: \$125

Team of Four: \$450
Dinner Only: \$30
Tee Sponsor: \$100 (Company or "In Memory of" dedication)

Other Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Payments Accepted:
Check (payable to FM-VMCA, PO Box 03, Feeding Hills, MA 01030)
Venmo

Credit Card (by phone)

To Register or Sponsor: Contact Marline Claremont at 413-221-9548 or email wreathfriends@gmail.com. Registration forms are available upon request.

Join us in honoring those who served with a round of golf, good food, and great company—all for a noble cause.

FHCC holding a paint night

AGAWAM – Join us for an evening of painting and FUNraising to benefit Church World Services at Feeding Hills Congregational Church, located on 21 North Westfield Street, on Friday, Aug. 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$35 and includes all the materials needed to paint a canvas of candlelit mason jars.

CWS is a faith-based global organization providing relief

for communities plagued by hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. Recently Feeding Hills Congregational Church put together health and school kits to help with disasters like the flooding in Texas and the Carolinas.

Deadline for registration is August 4th. For further information and to register contact Linda 413-896-4041 or Mary Beth at 413-426-2319.

Katherine Anderson to host writer's group

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library Writers Group is hosted by award-winning author Katherine Anderson on Thursday, Aug. 21 at 6 p.m. This in-person work-

shop is open to writers of all levels and genres. There will be opportunities for peer and host feedback, learning the basics of self-publishing, finding opportunities for

submission to magazines, literary journals, and presses, assembling a portfolio, and the basics of a query package for submissions and publications.

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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 \$275, 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.

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The August 21 & 28 issues of the *Agawam Advertiser* will be **DIRECT MAILED** to all residents!
This is a great opportunity to reach many potential customers.

CALL WENDY AT 413-283-8393
EMAIL: WDELFCAMP@TURLEY.COM

NOTE EARLY DEADLINES:
August 21 issue deadline is **Friday, August 15.**
August 28 issue deadline is **Friday, August 22.**

Opinion

Midsummer maintenance will keep annuals going strong

The half dead pot of petunias on the rental house's steps got me thinking about the perfect column for this time of year! After all, we invest hard earned money in annual flowers and plants, and we expect that they will provide us with color through the first frost. What steps can we take now to ensure that they will?

Read on for some useful advice, straight from the archives.

Remove spent flowers

Most annuals will continue to bloom abundantly if they are deadheaded on a regular basis. Deadheading is an entertaining term used to define the removal of spent flowers.

A plant produces flowers for one purpose: to survive. You see, once a flower has been pollinated it will produce seed; seed that will grow future plants.

If a plant has produced enough flowers that have gone to seed it will consider its job to be done, flower pro-

duction will cease, and it will begin to decline. By deadheading, we keep the plant in reproductive mode, in other words, in flower!

When you remove dying blossoms, make sure to pinch off the entire flower, not just the petals, or it will do no good. Include the stem as well to keep the plant tidy.

Petunias, marigolds, zinnias and salvia, among others, are examples of plants that require regular deadheading to look their best throughout the growing season.

Shear them back to encourage new growth

Some annuals start to get a leggy appearance about now. Others may have brown tips.

These plants require more drastic measures to bring back their youthful good looks. Give them a good haircut.

Simply look within the



to say, and I knew: brown, crispy leaves, and dead stems. I answered this same question perhaps a year ago, and at that time it was the second year people had been seeing these symptoms on their beloved lilac bushes.

Well, here we are after another wet spring. Read on to hear my answer.

All you have to do is ride in the car and you will notice brown leaved lilac bushes or those that are nearly devoid of leaves altogether! My best guess is that Pseudocercospora leaf blight of lilac is the culprit.

Some lilacs even lost their leaves then sported flowers in October because the plant, after leaf loss, was tricked into thinking it was time to flower and grow new leaves. Because this new growth is very tender, you may notice tip dieback in spring on those areas of new growth and/or flowering.

It simply didn't have enough time to harden off before winter. Lilacs are tough plants, though, so don't despair.

What can we do to help, you ask? First of all, clean up fallen leaves and debris so that it won't spread the inoculum. Second, water the bushes well and at the base if this fall is droughty.

In the spring, prune out any dead branches, disinfecting your tools in between cuts. You can also choose to prune the plant in such a way so that there is better airflow throughout.

That always helps to cut down on diseases. I'm not a chemical girl – I really try to enhance my cultural practices to strengthen the overall health of the plant. I am sure there are options out there for this particular malady should you wish to research it.

Melissa wants to know what my pick is for a long blooming perennial: "I love perennials, but I'm sick of plants that cost an arm and a leg then bloom for two weeks or less. Do you have a long flowering favorites that will give me my money's worth?"

Yes, indeed. Although I am a recent convert to the Coral Bell Admirer's Club, my membership is now a lifetime one.

You see, mom was giving away some of her plants last year. I more or less took them to make her happy, installing them in a part sun situation in my front yard.

Well folks, I cut some of the wispy stems, boasting

plant and find healthy, green growth. Cut calendulas, pansies and snapdragon back to that point. Alyssum or lobelia can often be sheared to within inches of the ground.

Don't worry; they won't look bad for long! You can jump start regrowth with a bit of liquid fertilizer.

Feed your plants

Annuals that are well fertilized at planting time likely look a bit pale by now. If foliage is off-color and flower production is nil, pull back the bark mulch and sprinkle some organic fertilizer granules at the base of each plant.

Cultivate gently and water in a little bit. You can also use a water soluble liquid fertilizer every couple of weeks.

If going natural is your cup of tea, make some! Compost or manure tea has long been used to keep growth lush. Steep a burlap bag of either compost or aged manure in a large trash bucket filled with water and use as needed.

Smaller batches can be made right in a watering can. Likewise, there are numerous blends of seaweed and fish emulsion on the market that can be watered in or used as a foliar feed.

Water, water, water

Be careful not to let your plants dry out. When you need to water the garden, remember to do so in the early morning, if possible, to avoid evaporation. Early evening is another good option, but try to get the job done with enough time for the foliage to dry before darkness sets in.

Deep waterings twice a week are far better than numerous quick showers. The former will promote deep, penetrating roots and future drought tolerance.

Well-watered, well-fed and well-groomed annuals will reward you with beautiful bountiful blossoms for another two months – well worth the effort indeed.

Summer questions for the Garden Lady

This question came when the Garden Lady was visiting the local library: "What is going on with my lilac?"

That was all she needed

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor



Why hasn't my SS benefit changed because I am still working?

Dear Rusty:

I am currently receiving Social Security benefits while continuing to work full time.

There are no restrictions on my wage earnings because I waited until full retirement age before beginning benefits. However, I was also told that my benefit amount would be reviewed each year if my current earnings were higher than past earnings.

That held true for the first two years, but has yet to be adjusted for 2025. I thought it might be because of HR 82, which does not impact me directly, but I think it may be the reason my payment has not yet been changed. Has enough time passed so I should contact SSA now to see if this is the case?

Signed:

Waiting Anxiously

Dear Waiting:

If you are already collecting benefits, Social Security reviews your earnings each year to see if your more recent earnings are high enough to warrant an increase in your monthly benefit. They do this automatically, after they get your most recent earnings data from the IRS and they typically do that review by the end of the third quarter of each year. If a higher benefit is indicated, they will increase your monthly amount and pay you retroactively to the beginning of the year for any difference in your benefit.

SSA has, indeed, been vigorously working on changes resulting from HR82 (the Social Security Fairness Act), which may have affected the timeliness of their review of your recent earnings. However, I suspect that is not why your SS benefit has not yet changed. More likely, it has to do with the fact that your past earnings have been adjusted for inflation, which is a normal part of Social Security's

process when calculating your benefit amount.

Your earnings for each year in your lifetime up to age 60 were adjusted for inflation when you originally claimed SS and your recent earnings would need to be higher than the inflation-adjusted amounts used by SS when you claimed. They use the 35 highest earnings years adjusted for inflation over your lifetime to calculate your benefit and inflation has a substantial effect. For example, \$50,000 earned in 1990 would require over \$100,000 in earnings today to cause an increase in your benefit. Thus, you cannot go by the actual dollars you earned in earlier years, because SS uses inflated amounts to calculate your benefit.

In any case, if you believe that the Social Security Administration neglected reviewing your earnings from last year or in any year since you claimed, you can make an appointment to review that with them by calling 1-800-772-1213. SSA typically does such appointments over the phone, so you likely won't need to make a personal visit to your local SSA office to investigate this.

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 ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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Upcoming activities at the Agawam Senior Center

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

Michelle A. Mccarthy, RMT – The heart-to-heart healing connection
Monday, Aug. 11 and 25 at 12 noon

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. When your Life Force Energy is low, you are more likely to feel the effects of stress or to feel ill. Reiki is a "hands on" method of reducing stress, promoting relaxation and creating balance in ourselves and our actions. Appointments on Monday, Aug. 11 and 25 beginning at 12 noon. Call Kristina at 726-2836 to

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

Agawam Senior Center Computer Tech & Support Club
Aug. 12 and 26 from 10 to 11 a.m.

The Agawam Senior Center Computer and Technology Club will meet on July 8 and 22 and again on Aug. 12 and 26.

Medicare Supplement Plans or Medicare Advantage Plans? Which coverage is best for me?

Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 1 p.m. in Seminar Hall
For those new to Medicare, this is the top question most people have when seeking health insurance. Even if you're already enrolled on a health insurance plan,

it's always a good idea to re-evaluate your choices each year. Circumstances change, and so can your health plan. While we won't go into Blue Cross Blue Shield plan details, you will leave with a clear understanding of which type of Medicare plan best fits your needs. We'll discuss Original Medicare, the differences between Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage plans, prescription drug coverage options, and real-life case studies and resources to help you make decisions.

Call the senior center to register for this event.

Computer Classes

Monday, Aug. 18 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The Agawam Senior Center in conjunction with Revitalize Community Development of Springfield will be

provide Computer Literacy Work Shops twice a month at the Senior Center. Andrew Fluit who is a Digital Navigator/IT Support from Revitalize will be here to provide this service at no cost to you. The class will be available to 9 students per time. We will be sharing the computers. Please call Kristina at 726-2826 to register. First come first serve.

Karaoke, Kettle Corn, And Cousins Maine Lobster Food Truck

Tuesday, Aug. 19 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Do you love to sing? Do you love to cheer on others as they belt out their favorite tunes? The Senior Center is offering Karaoke Night.

Agawam resident Raven will be coming in to run a fun

Karaoke night and the Senior Center will provide the sweet treat of Kettle Corn for you to enjoy.

So brush off those vocal cords, practice your favorite tune and come down to the Senior Center for a night of fun.

All ages welcome...bring those grandkids.

Cousins Maine Lobster will be here from 5 to 7 p.m. with the option of you to purchase some delicious lobster from their food truck this night! Bring money to purchase.

Come for the lobster, stay for the karaoke!

Coffee Talk with Veterans

Wednesday, Aug. 20 in the Coffee Shop

Are you a Veteran? We here at the Agawam Senior Center would like to offer you a space to have a coffee or tea

on us. Come alone or bring a buddy. We would love to get to know you.

Continuing Sessions with Glenn Olsen

Aug. 22 at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room

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

BBB advices to beware of rental unit scams

If you are considering a move and need to rent, watch out for a new twist on fake rental ads. According to multiple BBB Scam Tracker reports, scammers use fake tenant credit checks to trick potential renters into compromising sensitive personal information.

How the scam works

You find a good deal on an apartment while browsing rental listings online. When you call the number to inquire, the owner asks you to complete a credit check before you can see the place. If you agree, they'll send you a link to a website where you can get the credit check done.

The website may look professional, but it's all part of a scam. After you enter your sensitive information and pay for the credit check, the "landlord" will disappear. Your credit card information could be compromised, and you could even be at risk for identity theft.

One consumer in California reported paying for

the credit check as part of the application, then tried to cancel after they "put all of our personal information on there... there is no phone number on a form to request for someone to contact you and no one ever does." They lost \$100, had to cancel their card, and are now worried about identity theft.

Another consumer in Connecticut reported they filled out the application and paid, but "No credit check was made until after 35 days after I called email and texted numerous times regarding my refund for service not provided... lesson learned I will always look at reviews as if I did, I would not have lost my \$100..." - again, leave the name out since we never know if the scammer is spoofing a name.

Another consumer reported the following experience: "I gave my name, address, and social security number to obtain my credit score from this website. I was asked to take a screenshot of my score and send it to the same address that emailed me the link. After-

ward, I was sent an email with a showing time, but the house number was not listed on this email or on the listing on Craigslist." Afterward, the consumer was unable to reach anyone about the apartment. Their calls and emails went unanswered.

How to avoid credit check rental scams

Be wary of lower-than-usual prices. If the rent for an apartment is well below the going market rate, consider it a red flag. Scammers love to draw people in with claims that sound too good to be true.

Do some research. Search the listing online, as well as the associated phone number and email address. If you find another listing for the same property in a different city, you've spotted a scam. Reverse image searches can be helpful, too, as can searching the alleged landlord's name along with the word "scam." These searches only take a few minutes and are well worth the effort. Also, search BBB Scam Tracker for any recent reports.

Always see the property in person. Many rental scams involve listings for properties that don't exist. Something is fishy if the renter refuses to let you know where the apartment is before you complete a credit check or pay them a deposit. Be wary, too, if you are given the address of a home with a for sale sign in the yard. You might not be in contact with the actual owners. Verify the property owner's information. Contact a licensed real estate agent to see who owns a property, or check the county property appraiser's website. Ask the landlord for a copy of

their ID to verify they are who they claim to be before you offer up sensitive personal information like your social security number for a credit check. If the landlord refuses or gets upset, you could be dealing with a scammer. Check BBB.org for trusted property owners. Be cautious about credit check websites. If you need a credit check, always use reputable sources, such as those recommended by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (U.S.) or the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada. Also, check to see if the website is secure. Learn how to identify a fake website.

CLARK ■ from page 1

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of Gold Award Girl Scouts agree that earning their Gold Award gave them skills that help them succeed professionally. Seventy-two percent (72%) said earning their Gold Award helped them get a scholarship. Changing the world doesn't end when a Girl Scout earns her Gold Award. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of Gold Award Girl Scout alums take on leadership roles in their everyday lives.

The teens were honored at the Girl Scout Gold Award and Silver Award Ceremony on June 18 at Mechanics Hall in Worcester.

Hibernians holding annual picnic

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invites the public to attend the Annual Traditional Summer Picnic featuring The Healy's at Hamel's Summit View Pavilion 555 Northampton St Holyoke on Sunday, Aug. 24 from 1 to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

Tickets are \$30 per person for adults and 16-and-over, kids 10-15 are \$15.

For reservations by Tuesday, Aug. 19 call Joe O'Connor at 413-627-7148 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 aoh-holyoke.com

The Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship will be presented.

There will be Irish-American Music; dancing; A Super BBQ-hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, tossed salad, dessert; coffee. Also, included is a cash bar; kid's games; giant raffle.

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

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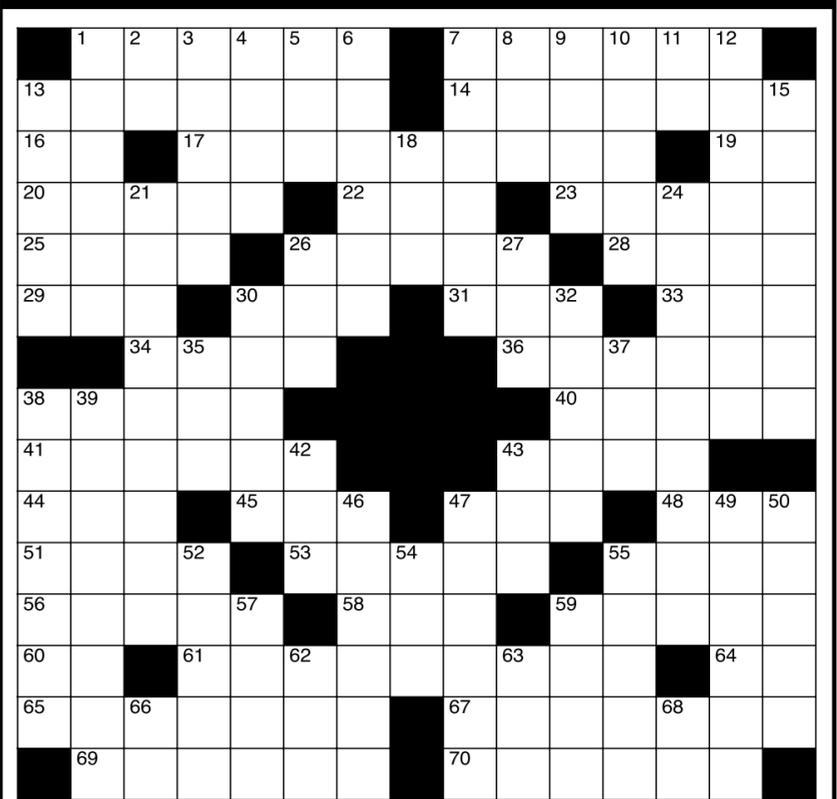
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CLUES ACROSS

- Spiritual leaders
- Salt
- Fortified wine
- Edible mollusk
- They precede C
- A way to compare
- State lawyer
- "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
- Eighth month (abbr.)
- Very willing
- __ ex machina
- Satisfies
- Mountain in New Zealand
- A doctrine
- Popular Dodge truck model
- Dekagram
- Naturally occurring solid
- Company officer
- Villains
- Cricket frogs
- One of the founders of modern psychology
- Endured
- A female domestic
- You can get stuck in one
- Partner to feather
- Passive optical network
- French ballet dynasty
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Bottom layer
- Sound
- Yankee great Judge
- Dickens character
- Late beloved TNT sportscaster
- South Dakota
- Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- Gold
- Longtime Braves hurler Julio
- Humor
- Shawl
- Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

- Animal disease
- Commercial
- Necklace materials
- Containers
- Investment account
- Colorado Heisman Trophy winner
- Dipped down (abbr.)
- Head injury category (abbr.)
- Lay about
- Intestinal
- Not yes
- Caused to be loved
- Muslim spiritual leader
- Showing sincere conviction
- Not in
- Number above the line in a fraction
- Lawn pest
- Pouch
- Ancient language in India (abbr.)
- Start over
- Wild white flower
- Fourteen
- Visual way to interact with computer (abbr.)
- Side by side and facing the same way
- Religious conflicts
- Touch lightly
- "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- Violent seizure of property
- One who supports the pope
- Malaise
- Body fluid
- Inauthentic person
- Title of respect
- Chilean city
- Japanese city
- Silk garment
- Draw from
- Automobile
- The man
- Top government lawyer

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 2

Community celebrates 'National Night Out'

NIGHT OUT ■ from page 1
public service departments.
The fire department, the police department and the Agawam Department of Public Works all brought over

some of their vehicles for kids to get to go into.
To finish off the evening, children and their families were invited to eat some popcorn provided by the King Gray Coach Line while watch-

ing the movie Inside Out 2. "The movie is the big thing at the end," Hartman said. "It's different and I hope it will draw a lot of kids and parents to come here."
Hartman hoped that over-

all this event would be fun for families and give people a chance to get out and get to know one another better.
This was her first year being in charge of running the event, and she had a good

time planning it and seeing everything come to fruition. "The whole thing has been a highlight for me," Hartman said.
In the future, Hartman hopes that this event contin-

ues to grow and that more and more people get involved. "Hopefully it was great tonight and people will spread the word for next year," she said.



There were a variety of community vendors at Agawam Night Out to hand out free items to families.



Families lined up at the different food trucks available at Agawam Night Out.



Agawam's Rosie Robotics brought some of their robots to Agawam Night Out for people to interact with.



Kids and their families were welcome to ride on a train at Agawam Night Out.

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Amanda Hichborn and Jessica Renaud from River Valley Counseling Center had a fun time at Agawam Night Out.



Thomas Gaynor, Matthew Heisler, Elena Dore and Jen Martins from King Gray Coach Lines handed out free popcorn.



The Friends of Agawam Cemetery enjoyed greeting the community on Agawam Night Out.



The Massachusetts Probation Service was happy to talk about their resources to community members at Agawam Night Out.

SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM 'NATIONAL NIGHT OUT' ON PAGE 12

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BlazeXpress "Big E Blaze to Win" Sweepstakes, PO Box 6403, Holyoke, MA 01041. Mail-in entries must be postmarked by Sept. 9, 2025, and received by September 10th, 2025. Limit one mail-in entry per person.

CLARK ■ from page 1

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of Gold Award Girl Scouts agree that earning their Gold Award gave them skills that help them succeed professionally. Seventy-two percent (72%) said earning their Gold Award helped them get a scholarship. Changing the world doesn't end when a Girl Scout earns her Gold Award. Ninety-nine percent (99%) of Gold Award Girl Scout alums take on leadership roles in their everyday lives.

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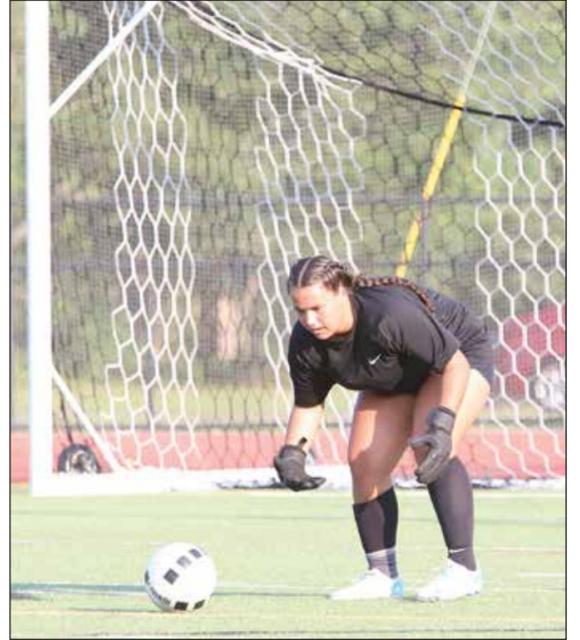
SPORTS



Meg Fitzgerald chases down the ball on defense.



Bella Schaman recovers the ball on defense and heads up the field.



Goalie Talia Oliveira collects the loose ball.

Brownies advance in A Division playoffs

AGAWAM – Last Tuesday evening, the Agawam Girls A summer soccer team got the playoffs off to a great start with a 4-0 shutout of Belchertown. The Brownies would advance to the semi-finals and faced Longmeadow, falling 3-2 last Friday night. Agawam now looks forward to the upcoming fall season.



Victoria Papova steals possession.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Laura Parolo looks to get around an opponent.



Madalynn Fluery tries to clear the ball away.

Rivalry renewed as PeoplesBank takes title over St. Joseph's

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

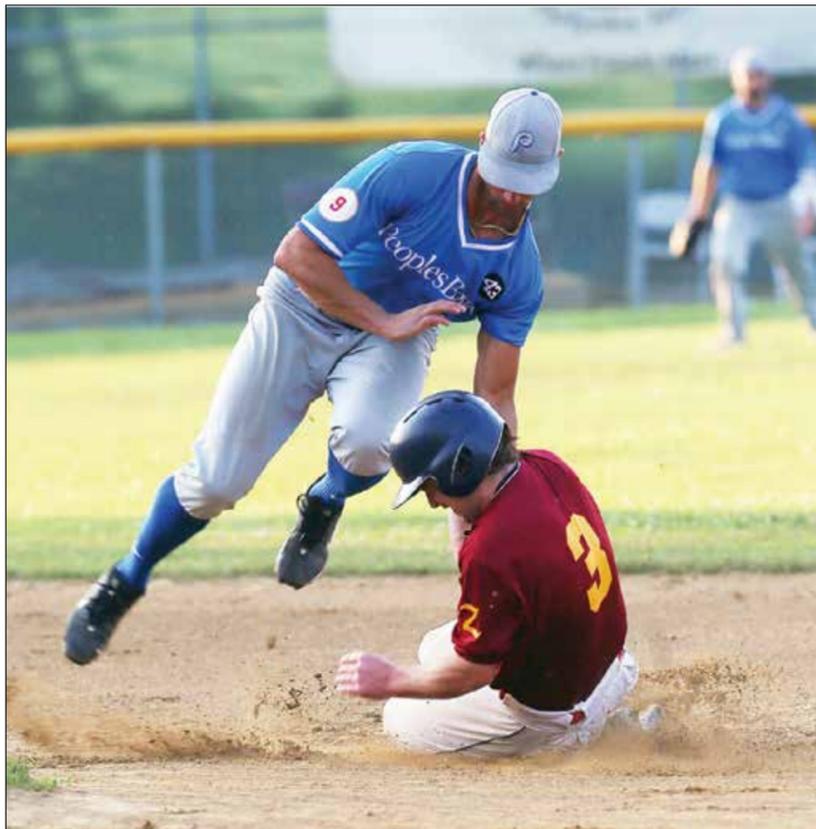
HOLYOKE — The Tri-County Baseball League will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2029.

PeoplesBank, who has been the best team in the league during the past thirty years, swept St. Joseph's in this year's best of three championship series.

"Feels great to win another championship. It's our goal every summer," said PeoplesBank player/manager Joe Ferry. "We just enjoy playing baseball with each other. Our chemistry is a key to our success. I can't thank the players enough."

Ferry, who started both games against St. Joe's in left field, was aided by assistant coach Rey Rivera, who had three base hits and an RBI in game two.

PeoplesBank has captured the championship title in each of the past twelve seasons and a total of twenty times since 1995.



Dave Clark gets the out at second.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM

Central takes silver, West bronze in field hockey games

FITCHBURG – Utilizing the turf fields at Game On Sports Complex, the Bay State Games for field hockey were held, featuring teams from Western and Central Massachusetts, both of which have had great success in the sport in past Bay State Games competitions. The games, which were held the weekend of July 11 to 13, started off with a strong 3-0 victory from Central over the Metro/Northeast team.

Western Mass. got into the action right after, taking on a Central team that has just played a few hours earlier. But Central was equal to the task and scored a 4-2 win over West.

West then had its second game of the day, facing off with the Coastal team, and rebounding with a 4-3 win.

On Saturday, July 12, West fell for a second time 4-1 against the Southeast team while Central also suffered a loss, falling 5-2 against Southeast.

Both teams would rebound with wins later in the day. Central beat Coastal 5-3

while West shut out Metro/Northeast with a 4-0 decision. That put the West team in the bronze medal game on Sunday, July 13.

West would defeat Coastal in a rematch of their second game of the tournament, winning 3-2. Central made the gold medal game, but suffered a 2-0 shutout against the Southeast team.

This year, representing Central Mass. in the games were Quabbin High School's Makenzie Casey and Tantasqua's Sophia Bochicchio.

Tantasqua's Dessa Demears played for the Western Mass. team, while Anna Taylor and Kendall Placzek represented Minnechaug Regional.

Agawam High School placed four players on the team. Alyssa DaSilva, Finnola Mahoney, Olivia Govoni, and Lily Charest represented the Brownies.

his thoughts on the game. "I thought we pitched really well. We got ahead of a bunch of hitters and that makes a big difference when you're getting ahead."

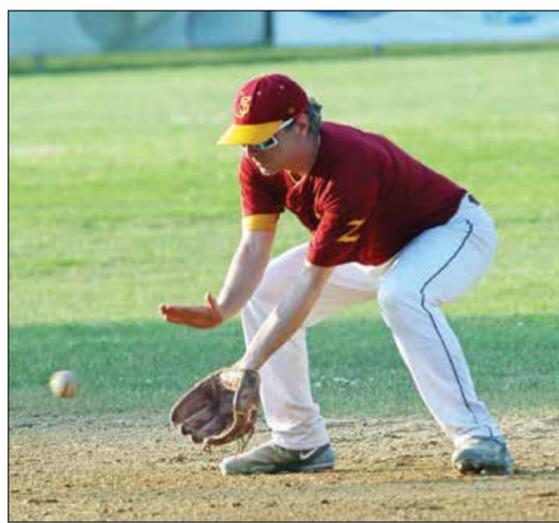
Sports



Sam Allen swings for PeoplesBank.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
James Flahive delivers a pitch home in the championship series.



Greg Vouros fields a grounder to second.

RIVALRY ■ from page 8

PeoplesBank and St. Joseph's both finished the 2025 regular season with ten victories.

"Our season was a success and great bonds were created," said St. Joe's player/manager Brian Hayes. "We had a team composed of mostly college players this year."

PeoplesBank, who was the top-seeded team, advanced into the finals after sweeping fourth-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas in the semifinals.

Second-seeded St. Joseph's needed three games to eliminate third-seeded bank-ESB in the semifinal round.

The Bankers scored seven runs on seven base hits in the bottom of the first inning enroute to a 10-0 victory in game one of the championship series last Monday night. The contest ended after 4 1/2 innings due to the ten run mercy rule.

It was also PeoplesBank last game of the season at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke.

"We just love playing games on this field," said Ferry following game one. "We played very well in tonight's, but as Kobe Bryant, who was my favorite athlete growing up once said, 'the jobs not

finished'."

PeoplesBank finished the job twenty four hours later with a 10-7 win in an old fashion slugfest at St. Joe's Field in Thorndike.

The winning pitcher in game one was lefthander James Flahive, who's sidearm. He allowed only two base hits and issued two walks in his final start of the 2025 campaign.

"Jimmy has been the best pitcher in the league during the past four or five years," Ferry said. "I don't ever recall him losing a game since he put on a Peoplesbank jersey."

St. Joe's shortstop Devin Slattery, who was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Ware High School, drew a walk with one-out in the top of the first inning. After the next batter flied out to right, Slattery was thrown out trying to steal second base by catcher Pete Hogan.

Centerfielder Seth Allen hit a ground ball up the middle into centerfield for a single leading off the bottom of the first inning against St. Joe's righthander Jack Feltovic.

Then Hogan walked before second baseman Dave Clark launched a 3-run homer that landed beneath the giant scoreboard in left field.

Following back-to-back

singles by first baseman Kyle Platner and right fielder Cam Rivest, DH Johnny Gegetsas delivered an RBI single to left giving the home team a 4-0 advantage.

Another run crossed the plate following a sacrifice fly to left by shortstop Sam Allen.

After catching the ball, St. Joe's left fielder Jacob Petrin threw the ball to third baseman Brandon Magni, who tagged out the runner who was trying to advance to third base on the play.

Shortstop Seth Allen, who's Sam's twin brother, capped off the opening frame by hitting a two run double off the left field fence.

"We kept passing the bat and put a lot of pressure on them in the first inning," Ferry said. "We had some hard hits and a couple of walks in that inning. We also batted around in the first inning of last year's finals. I capped the inning off with a bases loaded triple in that game."

St. Joe's DH Pat Fitzgibbons drew a walk leading off the second inning, but he was thrown out trying to steal by Hogan.

PeoplesBank scored three more runs in the third inning.

Clark, who was hit-by-a-pitch in the second inning, knocked home the first run

of the frame with a double to left. Platner followed with a two-run double to right.

Trailing, 10-0, St. Joe's began the fourth inning with a line-drive single by Petrin, who was thrown out trying to steal second base. Slattery also singled, but the next batter grounded into a 6-4-3 inning ending double play.

St. Joe's standard two runs on base in the top of the fifth, as PeoplesBank took a 1-0 lead in the series.

The Bankers jumped out a 7-0 lead in game two before St. Joe's battled with five runs in the bottom of the fourth inning.

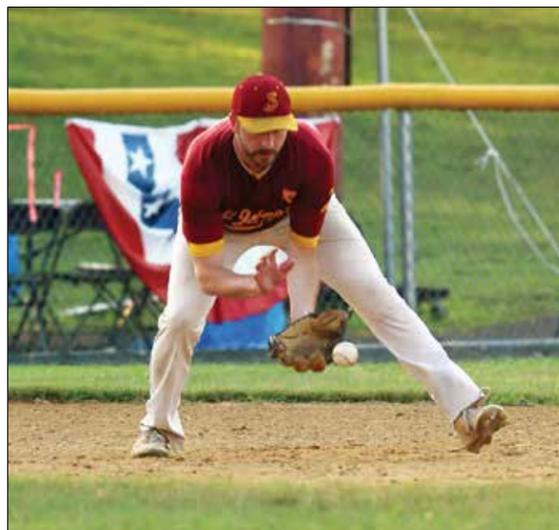
Center fielder Aaron Little knocked home two runs with a double and right fielder Colby Harrington contributed with an RBI single. The other two runs crossed the plate following errors.

The Bankers, who were led offensively by third baseman Cam MacDonald with two hits and two RBIs,

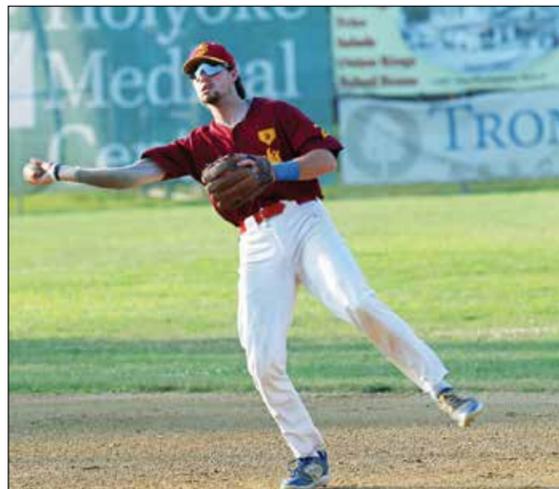
responded with three runs in the sixth inning giving the visitors a 10-5 advantage.

St. Joe's scored two more runs in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Danny Gaines was the winning pitcher in game two, which capped off another memorable season for PeoplesBank.



Brandon Magni makes a play for St. Joe's.



Nate Carrill makes an off-balance play.

Pirates indoor football season comes to the end

LOWELL – Pirates quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa made the first start of his Indoor Football League career. The Bay Area Panthers, the best team in the league, proved to be a little too much for the former Maryland Terrapin and the rest of the Pirates as Bay Area defeated Massachusetts 45-30 at the Tsongas Center. The Panthers secured home-field advantage throughout the upcoming playoffs, finishing the year with a 13-3 record. The Pirates ended the 2025 campaign with a mark of 7-9.

The Panthers wasted little time showing Tagovailoa the ropes as defensive back Joe Foucha intercepted his first throw on the second play of the game. On the next play, Bay Area quarterback Josh Jones threw a 31-yard touchdown pass to Tyrese Cham-

bers for a 7-0 lead. The rookie's indoctrination continued as the next drive ended the same way. After a 13-yard run by Tagovailoa to set up a first and ten at the Panthers' 13-yard line, his second pass of the night, intended for Don-tay Demus, was picked off again by Foucha. For Foucha, it was his seventh interception of the season. Panthers backup quarterback Liam Thompson then came on to lead Bay Area on a seven-play, 40-yard drive that ended with Trey Goodman taking a pitchout and scoring on a two-yard run for a 14-0 lead with 5:13 to play in the first quarter.

The Pirates then picked up the pace as Pooka Williams Jr. returned the ensuing kickoff 46 yards to the three-yard line. On the next play, the top running back in the

IFL scored his 11th rushing touchdown of the season to put the Pirates down by seven. The Massachusetts defense then stepped up, as on the next possession, defensive lineman Michael Mason pressured Thompson in his own end zone. Mason was held on the play as Thompson was called for intentional grounding. The result of the play was a safety, making the score 14 to 9 as the first quarter ended.

With the ball to start the second quarter, Massachusetts attempted a 46-yard field goal that was missed by Josh Gable. Thompson and the Panthers seized the opportunity as the quarterback scored on a nine-yard run for a 21-9 advantage.

The Bay Area defense then made a statement, as after an 18-yard run by Tagov-

ailoa to set up first and goal at the seven, they pushed the Pirates back to the 24. The Pirates attempted a 39-yard field goal, but the snap never got back to the holder. After the turnover on downs, the Panthers need four plays to go 24 yards for a score. Thompson connected with Chambers for his second touchdown reception of the game with a ten-yard pass for a 28-9 advantage.

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Chambers for his second touchdown reception of the game with a ten-yard pass for a 28-9 advantage.

Tagovailoa then engineered a seven-play, 18-yard drive for a score that was highlighted by a leaping catch by Steven McBride as he vaulted into the stands for a nine-yard reception. Then, on fourth and goal from the one, the rookie quarterback recorded his first IFL touchdown pass as Teo Redding's catch made the score 28-15 at halftime.

The teams exchanged touchdowns in the third quarter as Thompson completed a six-play, 44-yard march to the goal line with a five-yard run for his second score of the game that pushed the score to 34-15. Tagovailoa answered with a six-yard scoring run for his

first career rushing touchdown as the Pirates trailed 34-22.

After a missed field goal from 34 yards by the Panthers' Axel Perez, the Bay Area defense pressured Tagovailoa. On a third and 11, Jonathan Ross rushed the passer and was held in the end zone, which resulted in the second safety of the game. The third quarter ended 36-22 with Bay Area out front.

In the final quarter, Thompson scored his third rushing touchdown of the night on a three-yard run, and Perez added the point after and a "Deuce", giving the Panthers a 45-22 lead. Tagovailoa added his second rushing touchdown of the night on a nifty 19-yard run for the game's final points. His two-point conversion pass to Demus made the score 45-30.

Springfield Thunderbirds makes moves in operations staff

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced hockey operations staff changes on Wednesday. Julia Snow has been promoted to Head Athletic Trainer, and Dylan Schoen has been hired as the team's Video Coach. In addition, former Thunderbirds Head Athletic Trainer Koryd Lavimoniere has accepted a position with the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes as an Assistant Athletic Trainer.

"We're thrilled for Koryd on his much-deserved promotion to the NHL and want to thank him for his dedication to the Blues and Thunderbirds organizations," said Thunderbirds general manager Kevin Maxwell. "Our team will be in great hands with Julia moving into the head athletic trainer position, where she will remain a key resource for our players and staff. We look forward to continuing to work with her."

Snow is entering her fourth season in the Thunderbirds organization after serving as Assistant Athletic Trainer since August of 2022. She becomes the fourth female actively to serve as a head athletic trainer in the AHL. Prior to joining the T-Birds, Snow served as the Head Athletic Trainer for the ECHL's Worcester Railers, as well as stints with the Hyan-nis Harbor Hawks of the Cape Cod Baseball League and the

Massachusetts Pirates indoor football team.

Snow graduated from Worcester State University with a health education and therapeutic studies degree in 2018 before obtaining her masters in athletic training at Boston University.

Schoen is entering his first season in the Thunderbirds organization after serving as an assistant coach last season with Bowling Green State University.

"We are pleased to welcome Dylan into the Thunderbirds organization," said Maxwell. "His background in coaching at the junior and collegiate levels has prepared him to take on this new opportunity in Springfield, and we are happy to have him join our coaching staff."

A former NCAA Division III goaltender at SUNY-Geneseo and Stevenson University, Schoen has also served as a goaltending coach and as-

stant coach, respectively, for the North American Hockey League's Amarillo Bulls and Maryland Black Bears.

Springfield Thunderbirds fans are encouraged to visit www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com to learn more about 2025-26 Ticket Memberships, which feature the best benefits, including a special 10th anniversary season ticket holder jersey. For more information or to order now, call (413) 739-GOAL (4625).

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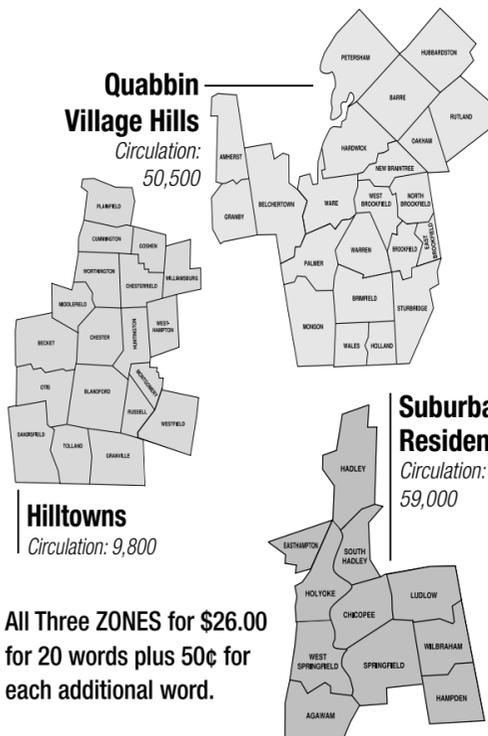
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Sports

Patnode, Brousseau take modified wins at Monadnock Speedway

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Todd Patnode and Andrew Brousseau each won a Modified feature on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway Saturday, July 26, the potent pair each roaring to victory on New England's fastest quarter-mile oval.

Andrea St. Amour was awarded the Pure Stocks win after a post-race inspection penalized Kyle Begos, and Erik Smith was victorious in the Super Street main event.

Young Gun Hunter Duquette continued his summer of success, scoring his fourth 2025 feature win. And while top 604 Modified point man Brian Robie came up short of winning for the

fifth time this season, he still had a strong night all the same.

Todd Patnode and Brian Chapin led the Allstates Materials Group 604 Modifieds to the green in round one of the open-wheeled rocket ships twin 35-lap main events. Patnode jumped all over the opening lead, bringing teen blaster Ty Leclerc - launching from row two - with him.

The Swanzey competitor, a past speedway champion and winner of volumes of both Modified and Pro Stock main events here, would be sorely tested but would never bend en route to ending a two-season personal

drought on the high banks.

Robie, charging from row four, got up for second on lap 13, yielded it back to rookie phenom Ty Leclerc on lap 20, and the battle was on, as Leclerc, Robie, and Chapin fought tooth-and-nail for the number two spot. Leclerc prevailed for a career-best runner-up finish, and Robie nudged past Chapin to steal third on the final lap.

In the nightcap 35, Brousseau started up front and never looked back. The second-generation hot shoe survived several strong restart bids by Colton Martin to stay on top as he blasted to his second win of the summer.

In a post-race inspection,

604 Modified competitor Brian Chapin was disqualified from both features as result of not complying to the engine rules of having a sealed engine.

Erik Smith had raced to many near misses in Twin State Truck Services Super Street features this summer but had never quite sealed the deal. Saturday, he put all that behind him, as the Green Mountain State hat shoe roared to victory.

Smith's win didn't come easily though. Had he extended his arm out the window, he could have high-fived points leader Dylan Zullo almost all the way, as the high-flying Claremont

speedster rode in his shadow from start to finish.

With JD Stockwell finishing at Zullo's bumper in third, Zullo finished the night still a handful of points atop the leader board. Zach Zalinski and Hillary Renaud were close behind in Saturday's nose-to-tail top five finish.

In the Pure Stocks, Kyle Begos led the field from the green to the checkers. Defending track Pure Stock champ Andrea St. Amour trailed Begos and ended in second on the night with Markus O'Neil in third. In a post-race inspection, Begos was penalized to ninth place finish for a camber rule violation.

Hunter Duquette wired the Doug's Auto Body Young Gun feature to earn his fourth victory lap of the season. Heat race winner Ella Grabowski was second, and Sofia Rego, aboard a loner ride, came home third.

In Senior Tour Auto Racers support card events, Chris Jarrett, aboard his 1970 Pinto open-wheeled entry, topped the STAR Sportsmen, with Ken Archambault second and Skip Stearns third. Windham, Maine's Alan Zemla was victorious in the STAR Modifieds, leading a trio of vintage coupe racers under the checkers, just ahead of Dennis Desautels and Skip Swiantek.

Quabbin Valley set to host second over-28 fall baseball league

Following up on the resounding success of its inaugural campaign, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 adult baseball league will hold its second Fall League this September and October.

Seeking to create a similar competition environment to its spring/summer

league, Quabbin Valley, with contributions from the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, created a four-team fall league last year featuring the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Twins.

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the league

is open to welcoming more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

While the fall league schedule is still under construction, it will mostly feature Sunday morning games played with wood-bat only, which is customary for fall baseball. There could be some Saturday games added to the

schedule depending on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rainouts, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season. Last year's fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields

are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

An interest/registration form, will be forthcoming

soon, but until then, to express interest in the league, you can email the coordinators of the league at either GScibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com.

Scheduled and team placement for unaffiliated players will be finalized in mid-to-late August. Please join in the fun this fall.

Schools & Youth

High School of Commerce to hold 50th Class Reunion

SPRINGFIELD - The High School of Commerce Class of 75 is holding their 50th class reunion.

It will take place at the Storowton Tavern, West

Springfield, MA, on Saturday August 30, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Contact Janet at jan0826@comcast.net to learn more.

Agawam High School Class of 1975 host reunion

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School Class of 1975 will hold a reunion on Saturday, Oct. 4 from 4:30 to 10 p.m. at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills. Please email connie-

beaudette@yahoo.com for any questions. There is also a Facebook page dedicated to the reunion, which can be accessed by searching "Agawam Class of 75 Reunion."

Freshman, new student orientation scheduled

AGAWAM - Agawam High School's Grade 9 and new student orientation will take place on Thursday, Aug. 28 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. All students new to AHS are encouraged to attend.

This is a student only event, and is an opportunity for students to meet new friends, school administrators, current AHS student leaders, and school staff. Chromebooks will be distributed and students will tour the building, and access their schedule through the Power-school App.

Our Student Leaders are

called "Chiefs", and will bring them on a tour around the building where they will have time to learn and meet with students who participate in a wide variety of extracurricular clubs and sports.

Transportation will be available for students. There will be a bus picking up and returning students from the Feeding Hills section and another from the Agawam section. The bus schedules are posted on the Agawam High School website and are attached below. We look forward to seeing freshmen on Thursday, Aug. 28.



Tell Us What You Think

Share your thoughts and suggestions with our staff and your fellow readers. Participate in our opinion pages, or contact us anytime with your feedback!

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Public Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA, on **Monday, August 25, 2025 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of Nadejda Modirca who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, Ch.180, Section 37(B) and Ch.180-8.1 to allow for the keeping of hens at the premises identified as 1099 Suffield Street. Doreen A. Prouty, Chairperson Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals 08/07, 08/14/2025

Agawam Conservation Commission LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 6:00PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, Ma. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Bowdren for property located at 1120 River Rd.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman Agawam Conservation Commission 08/07/2025

Agawam Conservation Commission LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 6:05PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, Ma. The purpose of this meeting

will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Calabrese Construction, LLC for property located at Old River St, 27 Walnut Street, & 17 High Street.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman Agawam Conservation Commission 08/07/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD14P1201PM

In the matter of: **James J D'Amato of Agawam, MA Protected Person/ Disabled Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **tenth and eleventh** account(s) of William P D'Amato of Colchester, VT as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **08/29/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to

object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

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

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

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

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 23, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomoni Register of Probate 08/07/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate

and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P1590EA

Estate of: **Harry Georgiades Date of Death: 06/16/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Hyman G Darling of Springfield, 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: **Hyman G Darling of Springfield, 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 08/28/2025**. 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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and

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 31, 2025, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 08/07/2025

Agawam Conservation Commission LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 6:10PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, Ma. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of the Town of Agawam for property located on Moore and Valley Street

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman Agawam Conservation Commission 08/07/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and

Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD21P0161EA

Estate of: **Paula Miriam Tanzer-Gushue Date of Death: 06/02/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Robert L Lankford, Sr. of Wichita, KS** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of heirs at law and other such relief as may be 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 09/02/2025**.

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.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 29, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 08/07/2025

Community celebrates 'National Night Out'



Children were given the chance to climb on and learn about different vehicles that the police department, fire department and Agawam Department of Public Works own.



The Agawam Veterans Council passed out snow cones to people who came to Agawam Night Out.



The Agawam Police Department was excited to welcome everyone to Agawam Night Out.



The National Guard brought their obstacle course for kids to play on.

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 10, 2025.**

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

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.

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.