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AGAWAM

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The Noble Train arrives

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Saturday, Aug. 1 Agawam Historical Association hosted reenactors from Fort Ticonderoga who explained the history of Henry Knox's Noble Train of Artillery. This event was held at the Thomas Smith House; it was open to the public and free to attend. The Thomas Smith House itself was also open for people to view. The event featured live oxen with the reenactors from Fort Ticonderoga.

Owen Lorenzo, one of the reenactors from working with Fort Ticonderoga, provided some historical context to the event.

"The beginning of the American Revolution, you know, battles of Lexington and Concord, and the Patriot militiamen, they beat the British back to Boston," Lorenzo said. "The British are trapped on Boston. It's the siege of Boston. And George Washington, who has taken command of the newly kind of formed continental army, wants to break this siege. The city of Boston doesn't have any cannons. There's not a lot of gunpowder. So, he sends a young man by the name of Henry Knox. He was a bookseller. Washington gives him this job of going to Fort Ticonderoga,



Reenactor Owen Lorenzo with his two oxen, Knox and Gates.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

which was a British fort. It was captured in May of 1775. And Henry Knox reaches there in December of 1775. The fort has upwards of one hundred cannons and he goes through it and picks 59 of them, he also takes some gunpowder. And he begins this march south from Fort Ticonderoga.

"They crossed Mohawk River, and then they get to Albany, and they have to cross the Hudson River. It's the middle of January, and there

is kind of this freak thaw, so all the snow is melting, it's super muddy. On March 5 these cannons are hauled up to the top of a hill overlooking Boston Harbor, Dorchester Heights. And from that position they can shoot the British ships. You know, the British Navy is the most powerful at the time. So being able to threaten these ships, the British general in Boston, William Howe, he packs up. The first major victory of the American Revolution is won.

Henry Knox used oxen. Mostly, he had 80 teams of oxen."

Laurenzo shared what he enjoys about bringing history to life through reenacting.

"I really like the opportunity to do this," he said. "I love reenacting. This is really fun to me. I also really enjoy, almost the challenge of taking, I raised these two from bottles. And I enjoy being able to take a pair of three-month-old calves who have

NOBLE | page 10

Mayor represents town in Sunshine Village tourney

Brendan Roone
Correspondent

CHICOPEE/AGAWAM – Last week on August 5th, the Chicopee Country Club hosted the 37th annual Sunshine Village Invitational golf tournament, on a perfect and sunny Wednesday.

The fundraiser featured a full field of more than 144 golfers who took to the range and teed off for a great cause, comprised of local

officials such as Chicopee Mayor John Vieau and Agawam Mayor Chris Johnson, along with a plethora of sponsors.

Those who were in attendance for the early start were treated to a complimentary breakfast, along with a post-dinner celebration in the evening.

Offering insight into the importance of this fundrais-

SUNSHINE | page 12



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONE

Chicopee Country Club Golf Director Mike O'Neill delivers remarks as current Sunshine Village President & CEO Michelle Theroux & Chairman of the Board of Directors Peter Benton look on.

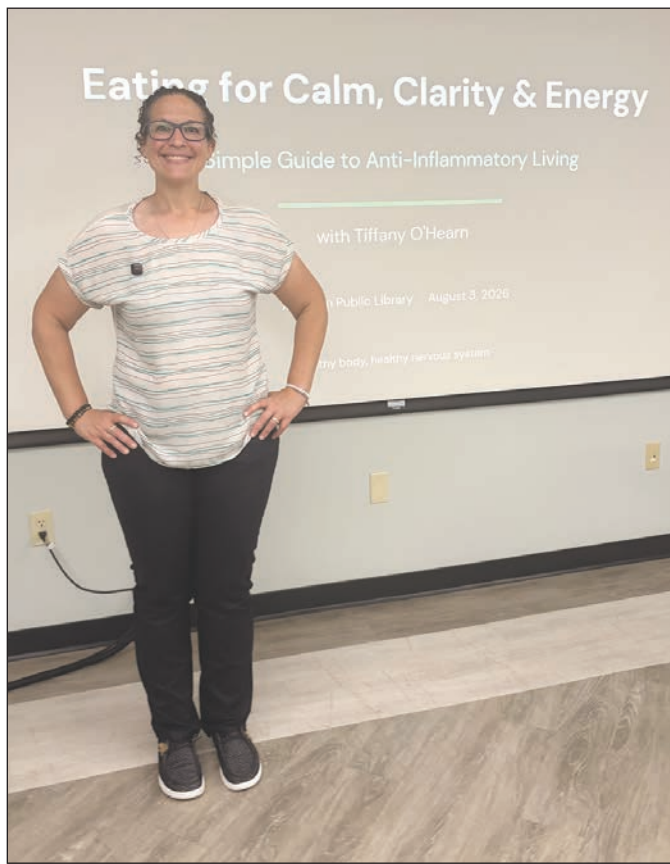
Tiffany O'Hearn educates residents on nutrition, offers tips on overall health

AGAWAM – On Monday, Aug. 3, Tiffany O'Hearn gave a presentation at Agawam Public Library on gut health, how to read nutrition labels, how gut health corresponds with the nervous system, and the levels of processed foods. O'Hearn, who used to be a comedian she shared, incorporated light-hearted jokes to deliver a smooth message to the audience about overall health.

O'Hearn shared what initially got her interested in looking into the food industry, nutrition, and overall health.

"My journey into nutrition began when my father was diagnosed with a stage 4 glioblastoma. In that moment I made a decision, if illness was going to find me, it wouldn't be because I was unaware. That experience sent me deep into understanding how food affects our minds and bodies," says O'Hearn.

TALK | page 5



Tiffany O'Hearn at her presentation "Eating for Calm, Clarity and Energy," at Agawam Public Library.

TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

APL hosts Pioneer Valley Bonsai Society

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM - On Thursday August 6 Agawam Public Library hosted "The Beauty of the Bonsai with Pioneer Valley Bonsai Society." This program was presented by Pioneer Valley Bonsai Society President Doug Taylor and Vice President Joe Polaski. They covered everything from how to get into taking care of Bonsai trees, how they're created, some misconceptions, and how to join Pioneer Valley Bonsai Society. The presentation included Taylor demonstrating how the Bonsai are reotted.

After the presentation Polaski explained he got interested in Bonsai about seven years ago. Polaski enjoys being a part of Pioneer Valley Bonsai Society and helping new members get started out in the hobby of taking care of Bonsai.

"It's just fun to connect people to it. It's a great hobby, he said. "We just try to get people, I'm very happy when someone gets it and



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA
A bonsai presentation was held at Agawam Public Library Aug. 6.

they take it and it kind of becomes their own thing. Because it's very upsetting for me when I talk to people who are so upset because they have trees that have died or they've had a bad experience. So, we try to help them avoid that. Everybody has their favorite species or what they want to work on. So that's typically what we will do, is help them go down the trail with that one

tree, and then you expand out."

Polaski explains Bonsai trees have become his escape and somewhat of a meditative hobby of his.

"I enjoy what I do. It can get overwhelmingly frustrating," Polaski said. "When I sit with one of these trees I just, I'm gone. I'm focusing on this. Everybody has some different sport where they're playing golf for some people. Not for me, I don't enjoy that. But this, I'm in my own world. I have my own bubble. And I'm happy to share it, but when I'm working on my trees, I'm working on my trees."

Doug Taylor, a bonsai enthusiast, shared his love for the art.

"I got into Bonsai in 1999, and I've been doing it religiously since then," Taylor said. "Even just going out early in the morning and watering all the trees is sort of very meditative and relaxing. And knowing that you're doing something good for the environment,

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Applications open for HERizon program

SPRINGFIELD – After a successful year in which participants reported increased confidence, stronger friendships and meaningful personal growth, applications are now open for HERizon, the Hampden District Attorney’s Office’s free leadership and empowerment program for high school girls across Hampden County.

Designed to help young women develop confidence, leadership skills and lasting connections, HERizon provides participants with mentorship, engaging discussions, interactive activities and opportunities to learn from female professionals and community leaders. The program meets bi-weekly at the Hampden District Attorney’s Office in Springfield and is led by young women who serve in a variety of roles throughout the District Attorney’s Office. Throughout the program, students explore topics including healthy relationships, confidence, mental wellness, women’s health, self-advocacy and navigating challenges both in school and beyond.

“HERizon is about helping young women recognize their own potential and giving

them the tools and support to become confident leaders in their schools and communities,” said Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni. “When young women feel empowered to use their voices, advocate for themselves and support one another, the impact extends far beyond the classroom. Programs like HERizon are an investment in the future of our community.”

The program continues to make a meaningful impact on participants. At the conclusion of this year’s program, in an anonymous survey, participants rated their overall experience 4.8 out of 5, while 100% said HERizon helped them grow as a person.

Participants described HERizon as a place where they felt supported, encouraged, and comfortable being themselves. Feedback on the survey included:

“It was a breath of fresh air to connect with other girls face to face and build a community.”

“Everyone was so supportive and passionate. I loved this group and the friendships that were built.”

“I loved being able to open up. Besides my own room, I

feel like this was the room I was most comfortable.”

Many also said the program helped them become more confident, set healthier boundaries and step outside their comfort zones.

“My confidence is so much better.”

“I’ve been able to set boundaries for myself without having to feel bad about it.”

“I’ve become more of a girl’s girl, combined with so much more confidence.”

Participants cited discussions on confidence, healthy relationships, positive self-talk, self-love and women’s health among their favorite topics, along with hands-on experiences like a car maintenance workshop and opportunities to connect with peers from across Hampden County.

HERizon is open to high school girls throughout Hampden County and is offered at no cost. Applications for the upcoming program are now being accepted.

Students interested in applying can learn more here. Questions about the program may be directed to Halie Matthew at Halie.Matthew@mass.gov.



Master stonecarver Randall Nelson will demonstrate his art at the historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Historical Association welcomes master carver

AGAWAM – The Agawam Historical Association is excited to welcome master stone carver and gravestone conservator Randall Nelson to the historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nelson has recently replicated badly deteriorated gravestones of Revolutionary War veterans to replace the original stones in Hartford’s Ancient Burying Ground, the Old Durham Cemetery in Durham, Connecticut, and East Haddam, Connecticut’s Riverview Cemetery. He is currently carving a dedication marker for Agawam’s Liberty Tree, which the association dedicated earlier this Spring. Nelson will carve the last line of the marker on-site during the event and install the stone on the grounds upon completion. Visitors will witness Nelson’s

carving firsthand and have the opportunity to speak directly with the artist. Nelson’s sculptural restoration business, Nelson Architectural Restoration, specializes in the preservation of building facades, monuments, and statuary. The business has completed hundreds of decorative stone and terracotta projects, repairing monuments and buildings in New England and across the country, including the brownstone Soldiers and Sailors Arch in Hartford’s Bushnell Park, the famous brownstone McClellan Gate at Arlington National Cemetery, and several restoration projects for the City of Savannah, Georgia. A graduate of Brooklyn’s Pratt Institute and the Vermont College for the Arts, and a working artist for more than 30 years, Nelson is presently vice president of the De-

scendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor. The ca. 1757 Thomas Smith House and 1920 Delmore Hawthorne Garage will be open for tours that afternoon. On display will be items to be included in a time capsule the association will seal later this year, not to be opened again for another century. Visitors are encouraged to provide letters to future Agawam residents describing 21st century life for inclusion in the time capsule. Brochures and business cards from local businesses are also wanted. New, hand-crafted Cats Meow Village keepsakes depicting the Thomas Smith House and the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum have just arrived and will be available for sale to benefit the Agawam Historical Association. This event is free and open to the public.

Theater company presenting ‘Dear Alien’

CHESTER – Join us at Chester Theatre Company for our final production of the season: Dear Alien, a cheeky existential comedy play by Northampton-based playwright Liz Duffy Adams.

Dear Alien follows a reclusive advice columnist known as “Dear Alien” as they attempt to finish a book, respond to their readers, help the lovelorn, enlighten the confused, avoid financial ruin, hide from online trolls, escape desolation and explain the nature of human existence. All under a deadline.

The recipient of a 2025-2026 Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, Dear Alien premiered in May 2026 at the Alley Theatre in Houston, TX.

In addition to Dear Alien,

Adams has also written numerous other plays and musicals, including Born With Teeth, which was produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company in London’s West End in 2025, and Or, a neo-Restoration comedy which premiered Off-Broadway at WP Theater and has been produced more than 80 times since. Adams is also a New Dramatists alumna and has received the Women of Achievement Award, Lillian Hellman Award, New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship and Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship.

Dear Alien is directed by Michelle Ong Hendrick, Co-Artistic Director at Chester Theatre Company, and stars Bill Kux (Ain’t Broadway Grand, Death of a Salesman) as Dear Alien, David

Keohane (The Crucible, Ah, Wilderness!) as Écrivain, a series of men who write to Dear Alien, and Eliza Fichter (A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Servant of Two Masters) as Scrittora, a series of women who write to Dear Alien.

The production team also includes Jeremy Winchester (Scenic Designer), Margo Caddell (Lighting Designer), Malory R. Grillo (Costume Designer), Raphael Hendrick-Baker (Sound Designer), Leanna Niesen (Stage Manager) and Ella Langford (Assistant Stage Manager).

Dear Alien runs through Sunday, Aug. 23 at the Chester Town Hall Theatre in Chester, MA 01011. Visit chestertheatre.org or call the box office at (413) 354-7771 to purchase tickets.



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DA invites faith-based leaders to 51A training

SPRINGFIELD – Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni is inviting faith-based leaders, clergy, staff, and volunteers from across Hampden County to attend a free training designed to help them recognize and appropriately respond to concerns of child abuse and neglect.

The training, “The Dos & Don’ts of 51A Reporting,” will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 19, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Participants may attend in person at Tower Square, 21st Floor, 1500 Main Street in Springfield, or virtually via Zoom. Parking will be validated at the Columbus Center Garage.

Presented by Assistant District Attorney Eileen Sears, the training will provide practical guidance to help faith-based community members understand their legal responsibilities and confidently respond when concerns about child abuse or neglect arise.

Topics will include:

- How to respond when a child discloses abuse.
- When and how to contact

the appropriate authorities.

The legal and ethical responsibilities associated with filing a 51A report.

Additional best practices for supporting children while following the appropriate reporting procedures.

Under Massachusetts law, a 51A report is filed with the Department of Children and Families when there is reasonable cause to believe a child is suffering physical or emotional injury resulting from abuse or neglect. Because members of faith communities are often among the trusted adults children turn to in difficult moments, understanding how to respond appropriately can play a critical role in protecting vulnerable children.

“Faith leaders and members of our faith-based community are often among the first people children and families turn to in times of crisis,” said District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni. “This training is designed to ensure those trusted individuals have the knowledge and confidence to respond appropriately, fulfill

their legal responsibilities, and ultimately help protect the children in our communities.”

Whether attending in person or virtually, participants are asked to RSVP in advance using the registration form: <https://bit.ly/51A-TRAINING>. The Hampden District Attorney’s Office encourages faith-based organizations throughout Hampden County to share this opportunity with clergy, youth leaders, volunteers, and others who work with children and families. Questions may be directed to Gina Anselmo at Gina.Anselmo@mass.gov.

In addition to this training, the Hampden District Attorney’s Office offers free 51A reporting presentations throughout the year to educators at schools and other community groups. Organizations interested in hosting a training for their staff, volunteers, or members are encouraged to contact the District Attorney’s Office at Gina.Anselmo@mass.gov to learn more or schedule a presentation.

ACAA’s Pioneer Valley Art Festival will feature local history

AGAWAM – History will have a place of honor at the Pioneer Valley Art Festival.

Historical societies of the Pioneer Valley History Network will be featured participants in the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans’ 6th annual Festival.

This year’s Art Festival will take place on Friday, August 21 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, August 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, MA.

Festival visitors will have an opportunity to meet local historians, learn about our region’s rich heritage, and enjoy fascinating stories from our past in the Pioneer Valley.

Among the participants will be Agawam Historical Association President David Cecchi, a local author who has written several books about Agawam and its beginnings.

Cecchi’s books include “The Big E: Eastern States Exposition”; “Around Agawam and Feeding Hills”; “Agawam and Feeding Hills Revisited”; and “Riverside

Park”. Copies will be for sale, with proceeds donated to the Agawam Historical Association. An addition, Cecchi will bring information about the Agawam Firehouse Museum, housed at 35 Elm Street in Agawam. He will also include information on the Thomas Smith House, a home built in 1757 and situated at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills, and which now operates as a living history museum by the Agawam Historical Association.

Rob Keenan and members of the 25th Continental Regiment will be in full uniform at their ‘encampment,’ where visitors will experience Revolutionary War history through authentic living history with interpretations and demonstrations. Members will be firing muskets during both days of the festival.

Carol Martin, founder of the Westfield Museum’s ‘Westfield Historic Industries Preservation Project’, will offer information on how Westfield became known as the Whip City. She will bring examples of old whips and artifacts.

Helena Alves and Patty Solomon, from Deerfield Teachers’ Center in Old Deerfield, will be on hand for the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and Indian House Memorial. They will discuss the history of the woman’s suffrage movement and how it swept the nation. One of the first national women’s rights conventions was held was held in 1850 in Worcester, MA, welcoming more than 1,000 participants from 11 states.

New to the Festival will be the Swift River Valley Historical Society. Polly Wozny will explain how the Quabbin Reservoir was created in the 1930s to supply drinking water to the Greater Boston area. The project displaced over 2,000 residents of the towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich and Prescott.

There will be 70 artists and artisans in attendance at the Art Festival. Admission and parking will be free of charge.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Ceil Rossi at tocarefree2@hotmail.com.

Fun for kids at ACAA Art Festival

AGAWAM – Fun for the kids and Fun for you. Join us at the Pioneer Valley Art Festival on Aug. 21 from 2 to 8 p.m. and Aug. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission for everyone. Food and drink available, including adult beverages. The Festival will be held at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick St, Feeding Hills.

On Saturday, Aug. 22, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., stop first at the Roaming Railroad where the kids (and adults) can ride the train for free with Conductor Dan as many

times as they want. Keep the fun going by dropping by the Agawam Rocks Tent where everyone can have fun painting rocks for their room or their garden for free

Kids (and adults) can be part of our USA 250th Anniversary Celebration by visiting booths manned by members of the Pioneer Valley History network. There will be lots of historical displays and even an authentic encampment created by the 25th Continental Regiment, complete with muskets being shot on the hour.

While the family is having fun, you can browse the booths of 65 different artists and artisans, view their creative work and perhaps find something you love for your home or for a gift for someone special. Inside the main building be sure to visit the Silent Action with art, donated by our participating artists and artisans. Net proceeds from the auction help fund scholarships for Western Mass students pursuing a degree in the visual arts.

For more information visit www.agawamarts.com

NAMI offering education program

HOLYOKE – NAMI Western Massachusetts is pleased to offer their NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program in person, starting Tuesday, Sept. 15, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Greenfield.

What is the NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program?

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 8-session educational program for family, significant others, and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program.

This means that research shows that the program

significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition. NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by NAMI-trained family members who have been there and includes presentations, discussions, and interactive exercises.

Town hosting hazardous waste collection

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam will host a Household Hazardous Waste drop-off day on Saturday, Sept. 12. Pre-registration is required. Residents may schedule an appointment beginning Monday, Aug. 24 by calling 413-821-0600 ext4 or 413-821-0624

Scheduling an arrival time is required as it helps keep the traffic moving, allowing less wait times for our residents.

This collection event provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil based paints, stains, thinn-

ers, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, and other household chemicals.

For more information or to search if an item is considered a Household Hazardous Waste, visit the town website.

Coalition hosting candidate forum

EASTHAMPTON – A coalition of Hampshire County Democratic Town Committees (DTCs) will host a candidate forum featuring individuals running in multiple local races, providing voters with a comprehensive opportunity to hear directly from those seeking to represent their community ahead of the September 1st Primary. It will be held at Easthampton High School on Aug. 10 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Designed to promote broad voter education, the forum will bring together candidates for U.S. Representative, Governor’s Council, State Representative, and State Senate. The event will allow voters to compare perspectives across races in a single, accessible setting.

Candidates for U.S. Representative and Governor’s Council, the two September 1st contested primaries, will have an opportunity to present their campaigns and answer questions.

Other candidates in the district running for election will introduce themselves. The moderated portion will be followed by a candidate meet and greet.

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Opinion

Guest Column



Is the Medicare Part B Premium a Percentage of our Social Security Amount?

Dear Rusty:

I have a simple question: Is the amount we pay for Medicare Part B premium a percent of our Social Security amount we receive?

Signed: Curious

Dear Curious:

Your Medicare Part B premium is not based on a percentage of your monthly Social Security benefit amount.

Medicare Part B premiums are set in October of each year by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and are based upon anticipated total costs of the Medicare program in the forthcoming year.

Generally speaking, Medicare Part B enrollee premiums are expected to offset about 25% of CMS' anticipated total Medicare Part B costs; the rest is borne by the Federal Government.

So, when CMS estimates Medicare program costs for the upcoming year, they also look at the number of anticipated Part B enrollees. They then divide 25% of total anticipated Part B program costs by the number of expected Part B enrollees, resulting in the "standard" Medicare Part B premium for next year.

For 2026, the standard Part B premium amount is \$202.90. The standard premium for 2027 will be announced in October 2026 and will likely be different.

It's important to understand also that not everyone pays the "standard" Part B premium. Some lower income seniors may pay less because of the so-called "hold harmless provision," and some higher income folks may pay more than the "standard" monthly Part B premium because of a provision called Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount.

The "hold harmless provision" says that monthly Social Security benefits

cannot decrease as a result of a Medicare premium increase, so if the annual SS Cost Of Living Adjustment is insufficient to offset any increase to the standard Part B premium, then the SS beneficiary may pay a smaller Part B premium amount so that their SS benefit doesn't decrease (note there are exceptions to this rule).

Conversely, those with a higher "provisional income" (an IRS definition), may pay more than the standard Medicare Part B premium. That's because of a provision known as IRMAA, which adds a supplemental amount on top of the standard Medicare Part B premium.

IRMAA supplement amounts are determined using a sliding scale to define the required higher Part B premium for each income level category and IRMAA will cause the Part B premium to be more than the standard premium amount.

For those with exceptionally high incomes, the Part B premium can be as much as \$690 per month.

For your information, income reported to the IRS two years ago is used to determine if an individual is subject to IRMAA for the forthcoming year.

The reason for this is timing: when next year's Part B premium is determined in October of each current year, the IRS has processed all tax returns for the preceding year but doesn't yet have individual income for the current year.

Thus, they must use a person's income from October of the preceding year to determine who will pay the standard Part B premium next year, and who will pay a higher IRMAA amount.

And just to complete this picture, you should be aware that IRMAA also applies to Medicare Part D

SOCIAL | page 5



Midsummer questions for the Garden Lady

Karen, who has a vegetable garden in Hardwick, is concerned over her tomatoes cracking and is asking the Garden Lady for some advice.

"With all the rainstorms we've had, one measuring over 5 inches last week, my cherry tomatoes, and even some of my paste types are starting to crack. Is this a normal occurrence and if so, is there anything I can do to prevent this from happening in the future?"

This is a timely question, Karen, and one that I am sure a lot of readers can relate to. I know I can.

It's always exciting when the tomatoes start ripening and then this happens.

Fruit cracking around the stem, either in rings or radiating downward is caused by overwatering; we or Mother Nature can be at fault. This year I will blame her for some of it.

A week ago many gardeners in the area received an inch or more of rain in two separate deluges. Keep in mind that most veggies require about an inch per week.

Adjust your irrigation to accommodate for the excess.

Mulches do well to moderate soil moisture; if you mulch, you can water less often. If cracking ends up being a big problem for you, consider scouring the seed catalogs for varieties that are resistant to it.

As long as the cracks are fresh, and haven't begun to

And yes, they are safe to eat.

Some people comment that the berries with this disorder are a little tough or flavorless. It doesn't really bother me.

Moldy berries would look furry and the area would be raised.

Bill is growing basil for the first time and he had this question for the Garden Lady: "My basil was slow to take off. I came back from vacation and it is in flower. While the bees seem to enjoy the flowers, I was hoping to harvest some of the leaves. Do you have any advice as to how to get it out of flower mode and into leaf production?"

Yes, I do. It involves giving the basil a hair cut. Sure enough, your plant needs to be rid of those flowers.

Once you do that, provide some nitrogen to get them greened up and growing. This could be by the addition of a little blood meal at the base of the plant or a foliar feed of fish emulsion or compost tea.

In no time your plant will rebound. Just be sure to keep those flowers trimmed off.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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.



by Roberta McQuaid



AGAWAM
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Agawam Advertiser News

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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 (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be

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

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



By Ellenor Downer

My daughter, Paula Ouimette, took this photo of a juvenile brown headed cowbird watching her run laps with her dog, Jo Jo.

The young cowbird perched on a fence near the driveway of the elementary school in Hardwick.

My daughter used the Seek app by iNaturalist to get the identification. It stayed there for about 20 minutes before flying off.

She said there were no other cowbirds around, but cowbirds lay their eggs in nests of birds smaller than then in hopes they will raise their

young.

Obviously, this young cowbird looks well feed. I wonder what bird raised it, often at the expense of their own offspring.

Warblers and vireos are the most common cowbird hosts. Their nestlings weight less than half as much as the cowbird nestling.

Some species will either push the cowbird egg out of their nest or leave that nest and start another nest.

The brown-headed cowbird is a stocky blackbird. The females do not build a nest and instead produce up to

three dozen eggs per summer.

They lay the eggs in the nests of other bird species and let them raise their young, know as brood parasitism.

Brown-headed cowbirds are native to North America, but many people consider them a nuisance bird because of their parenting style.

Cowbirds destroy the eggs and young of smaller songbirds and have been implicated in the decline of several endangered species, including Kirtland's warbler and black-capped vireo.

Adult male cowbirds have glossy black bodies and brown heads, hence their name. In poor lighting, the male's head looks brown.

The female is brown with the head lighter brown than the body. She has fine streaking on the belly/ Both sexes have thick, conical bills and black eyes.

They are 7.5 to 8.7 inches long. They feed on the ground



Juvenile brown headed cowbird

BACKYARD | page 5

Plenty more activities for adults at APL

AGAWAM – Feeling the heat? Stop by the library for a cool place to relax and check out our programs and activities while you're here!

Morning Qigong will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 11 a.m. in the Clini Community Room. Using simple but dynamic exercises, deep breathing, and flowing movements we will both awaken and calm the body and mind for the day ahead. This is a drop-in session and no registration is required. Participants should bring a yoga mat (if desired) and water for these classes.

Come take a coast-to-coast adventure without leaving the public library. America is Wild! with Author Brad Timm is an engaging, visually rich presentation inspired by his newly released book, America is Wild! In this interactive and entertaining program, wildlife ecologist Brad

shares some of his favorite animals and plants from across the country, offering a fresh perspective on the wildlife and landscapes we share our amazing planet with. Perfect for families, lifelong learners, and nature lovers of all ages, this presentation sparks curiosity, encourages learning, and inspires a deeper connection to the natural world around us. This event will take place on Thursday, Aug. 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community. Please register to attend.

Celebrate The 250th Anniversary of America's Beer with Advanced Cicereone Em Sauter and learn about the role of beer and brewing in American history. Starting from the Pilgrims landing on Plymouth Rock (because they were out of beer!) to the modern craft brewery movement and the beers we love today, beer has been woven

throughout the fabric of American history. This event is a collaboration between the Agawam Public library and the Agawam Municipal Golf Course and will take place on Monday, Aug. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the golf course. Beer samples will be available. Registration is required as space is limited.

Are you looking to dedicate some time to your body and mind? Join us on Monday, Aug. 31 at 6:30 pm. in the Clini Community Room for Gentle Yoga with Jay! This beginner-friendly class is designed to help you stretch, move, breathe, and unwind in a supportive environment. Whether you're stepping onto the mat for the first time or have years of experience, all levels are welcome. Modifications will be offered so everyone can practice comfortably. Please bring a yoga mat, yoga blocks, and water. This spe-

cial class is a collaboration between Agawam Public Library, Studio One Agawam, and Nest of Peace Yoga, and registration is required.

Our regular programs are a great way for folks to pursue their interests or try out something new! Join us for weekly Chair Yoga at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Clini Community Room. Led by yoga instructor Heidi Taberman, these drop-in classes are perfect for folks of all fitness levels. Tea & Trivia returns on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 2:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. We'll have a couple of rounds of both Jeopardy and pub-style trivia; the questions are the same for both sessions, so register for the time you prefer and join us for some fun! Are you a writer looking to connect with other writers? Register to attend our Writers Group

hosted by author Katherine Anderson on Thursday, Aug. 20 at 6 p.m. in the Peirce Conference Room. If you've been needing a place to get away and read for a bit, look no further than our Silent Book Club! Join us on 8 to 8:30 p.m. will be optional socialization time, and silent reading time will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Whether you'd like to join us to talk with others about your reading or just want to come in for the reading time, all are welcome! Registration is preferred but not required.

This month's Virtual Author Talk Series continues with a riveting conversation on Tuesday, Aug. 25 at 2 p.m. with award-winning biologist Beronda Montgomery as we discuss her book, When Trees Testify: Science, Wisdom, History, and America's Black Botanical Legacy. Combining the wisdom of science and history with stories

from her own path to botany, Montgomery talks to majestic trees, and in this unique and compelling narrative, they answer. Don't miss out on this insightful discussion about Black history and botanical mastery! Mystery and thriller readers take note: bestselling author Lucy Foley will discuss her take on one of Agatha Christie's beloved detectives in her brand new Miss Marple mystery, Murder at the Grand Alpine Hotel! Join us on Thursday, Aug. 27 at 2 p.m. for this thrilling conversation. To register to attend any or all of these virtual talks, please call the library or visit library.org/agawamlibrary.

Thank you to the Agawam Center Library Association and the Friends of the Agawam Library for sponsoring select library programs. We are closed Saturdays in the summer.

Cooper's accepting supply donations for Homework House

AGAWAM – For a limited time, Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home of Agawam, Mass., is accepting classroom supply donations for Homework House, which is located at 54 North Summer Street Holyoke, MA 01040.

Homework House strengthens our community by promoting educational success and providing free tutoring and mentoring for children living in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Homework House provides a safe and nurturing place for children to grow and learn. Donations will be collected at Cooper's now through August 31st. "We invite everyone to help out Homework House and be entered to win a \$100 Cooper's Gift Card," said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home.

Items to keep their class-

rooms clean and well stocked; disinfectant wipes, facial tissues, paper towels, copy paper, dry erase markers and erasers, card games such as Uno, Go Fish and flash cards, are their current needs. "We hope that while people are out purchasing items to send their children back to school with, that they will consider picking up a few extras for the Homework House. And, you'll be entered into our raffle!" said Gourde.

"We will swap a raffle entry for every item donated to the Homework House. One lucky winner of a \$100 Cooper's gift card will be notified on Sept. 1. Especially for people in the Greater Springfield area, it's easier to bring donations here, and we are open 7 days a week," Gourde said. Items may be brought to the shop anytime up until August 31. Cooper's is located at 161

Main St., Agawam, Mass., and is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 12 to 4 p.m.

"This drive coincides with Homework House as our August Round-Up charity; so, it's the perfect time to spread the word about their mission and really help them out," Gourde said. Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round-Up Program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the nearest dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated more than \$68,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity may be found on Cooper's website www.coopers-gifts.com/round-up/.

HCC opens registration for fall 2026 noncredit classes

HOLYOKE — Registration is now open for noncredit professional development and personal enrichment classes at Holyoke Community College for the fall 2026 semester.

The fall calendar begins Tuesday, Sept. 8, with individual classes running on different schedules throughout the semester. Many are available as single sessions that cost as little as \$20.

Class topics include

cooking, wine tasting, sewing, painting, piano, dance, conversational Spanish, music technology, voice-over coaching, investing, graphic design, financial literacy, retirement planning, Social Security strategies, writing, starting a home business, applying to college, mediation, understanding AI (artificial intelligence), K-12 education (professional development), and computer technology (with specific

classes geared toward seniors).

Most classes meet in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave, or on Zoom. Cooking and wine tasting classes meet at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St.

To see complete fall course listings and schedules, or to register, please visit hcc.edu/bcs.

Public invited to Hibernians Summer Picnic

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties invite the public to attend the Annual Traditional Summer Picnic 2026 on Sunday Aug. 30 at Hamels Pavilion in Holyoke from 1 to 5 p.m., rain or shine. This year for young people ages

1-10 we are offering mac and cheese, chicken fingers and lemonade, face painting, and sculpture balloons.

The giant barbeque will include: hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, corn on the cob, tossed salad, dessert, coffee, iced tea, cash bar,

music, dancing, raffle.

Featuring The Healy's "The Institute for Better Living."

The cost is \$30 for adults and kids 16 and over; kids 10-15 are \$15. For reservations/tickets call Ryan Allen at 413-531-3040 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 by Aug. 25.

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AGAWAM – The following was submitted by Feline Friends:

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

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

We are incredibly grateful for the response to our appeal for help with supplies. We have received packages at the professional office at 532 Springfield St. (at the corner of Cleveland St.) in Feeding Hills and at the Agawam Public Library. Please include your name and

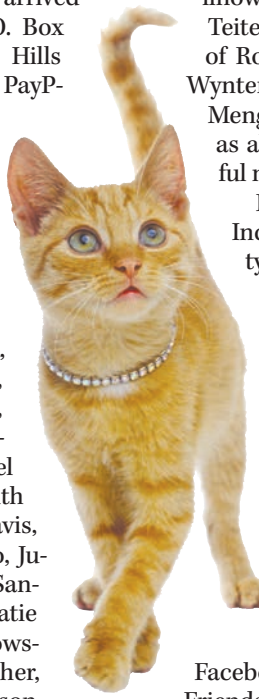
contact information for acknowledgment. Financial donations have arrived by check at P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills 01030 as well as PayPal and Venmo.

Thank you to those who donated in late June and the first 3 weeks of July: Patricia Chraplak, Joan Eckert, Deborah Hasty, Amelia McMeans, Daniel Guidera, Judith Clini, Karen Davis, Joanne Daurizio, Judith Roberts, Sandra Thomas, Katie Heald, Ken Kurowski and Irene Fisher, Joanne Lamson, Big Y Community Bag Program (East Main St., Westfield store), P.J.

and Bernie Scantlen, Eva R, Sandra Robb, Heidi Malinowski, Glen Birk, Sara Teitelbaum in memory of Rocco, Dawn Struck, Wynter Manyak, Crystal Mengele, Carol Roy and, as always, our wonderful monthly sponsors.

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, nonprofit 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.



Class of 1967 reunion in October

AGAWAM – Agawam High School Class of 1967 will be holding its 60th reunion in October 2027. We are seeking our classmates that have not been contact-

ed recently. Please contact John DeVecchi with your name, address, and phone number(s) to agawam67@aol.com.

Applications open for wreath bazaar

AGAWAM – Agawam Congregational Church is now accepting applications for the Holly Wreath Christmas Bazaar to be held on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you are interested in participating

contact the church office at 786-7111 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for an application. You may pick one up at the church office or request one be sent to you by email. The church email is office@agawamcongregational.org.

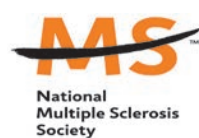


Nobody dreams of having multiple sclerosis

Some dreams are universal: hitting a ball over the Green Monster; winning the World Series with a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning. Finding out you have MS is not one of them.

Multiple sclerosis is a devastating disease of the central nervous system where the body's immune system attacks the insulation surrounding the nerves. It strikes adults in the prime of life - and changes lives forever.

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SPORTS

Mount Carmel takes Men’s PVSSL title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Anthony Bourget was an assistant boys’ soccer coach under longtime varsity coach John O’Keefe at Minnechaug Regional High School before stepping down at the end of last season.

Bourget was also the head coach of Villa FC, which captured the last two Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League men’s championship titles. Villa FC changed sponsors before the start of the 2026 summer league season and are now known as Mount Carmel FC.

Mason Perham is one of the former Minnechaug soccer players listed on the Mount Carmel roster.

Perham scored a second half goal, which helped top-seeded Mount Carmel FC win the championship title once again with a crisp 2-0 win over second-seeded Rumbleseat before a large crowd at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow on Friday, July 31.

“We’ve won the last two men’s championship titles with Villa, and this is our first one with Mount Carmel,” Bourget said. “Winning the championship game is something that we expect to do every year. It was a hard fought battle tonight. Rumbleseat played very well against us.”



Anthony Basile turns play around.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Mount Carmel FC, who finished the PVSSL regular season with a 10-1-0 record, defeated fourth-seeded CF Ardor, 2-0, in the semifinals. Rumbleseat, who also lost to Mount Carmel during

the regular season, entered the playoffs with a 9-1-1 record. They advanced into the men’s finals for the first time in more than ten years

MOUNT CARMEL | page 8

Sport Shop grabs ladies title

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Since joining the prestigious Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League in 2021, West Side Sports Shop has claimed the women’s championship title five times.

West Side Sports Shop entered this year’s playoffs as the fourth seed. They posted a 2-0 shutout victory over second-seeded W. Mass Xtremes in the women’s finals held at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow last Friday night.

“We might be the fourth seed, but we played very well in the playoffs,” said West Side Sports Shop head coach Chris Andre. “We lost to the Xtremes twice during the regular season.”

The only year that West Side Sports Shop didn’t take home the championship trophy was in 2024. They beat top seeded Here for Beer in the finals a year ago.

“We’ve set a high standard here,” Andre added. “A number of these players have been playing for me since our first year in this league. We also add a couple of new players each year. The players get along with each other very well and we always have a lot of fun.”

West Side Sports Shop, who finished the 2026 reg-



Kaela Mochak heads up the field.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

ular season with a 7-4-0 record, defeated the fifth-seeded Lusitano Women, 5-1, in the quarterfinals. Just like they did a year ago, they beat top seeded Here for Beer, 3-2, in the semi-

nals. West Side Sports also won the regular season match-up Here for Beer. “Here For Beer is a very talented soccer team,” An-

SPORTS SHOP | page 9

Agawam youth basketball finishes up summer season

WILBRAHAM – The Spec Pond Summer Basketball League held playoff last week, utilizing a few sites in addition to the courts at

Spec Pond. Agawam, a 5-6 team, were involved in a matchup held in Belcher-town at Chestnut Hill Community School.

- Top Row Left: Hazel Atkin eyes the hoop.
- Top Tow Right: Ava Lottermoser heads down the court under pressure from an opponent.
- Bottom Row Left: Aria DeCaro tries to get around a guard.
- Bottom Row Middle: Maisyn Carr holds the ball back after making a rebound.
- Bottom Row Right: Ainsley McDonald heads for the hoop.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Sports



Mount Carmel captured the PVSSL Men's title this year.



Shane Sewell sends a pass away.



Deandrae Brown dribbles away from a defender.

MOUNT CARMEL | page 7

after knocking off the third-seeded KO Elites FC, 2-1, in the semifinals. “This is the first time that we’ve made the finals in many years, and it was a fun game to-night,” said Kyle Giroud, who was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Chicopee Comp. “It’s always a great time playing in this league and I’m looking forward to playing again next year.” Giroud is also a member of the Skidmore College men’s soccer team. The men’s finals was scoreless at halftime. Mount Carmel broke the ice four minutes into the second half.

The scoring play began with a crossing pass from Joao Miranda to Deandrae Brown, who fired a shot from the top of the box past Rumbleseat goalie Luke Theroux. Miranda was selected as the M.V.P. following the match. About ten minutes later, Perham scored a goal, which was assisted by Brown. “It just felt awesome to score a goal in the championship game,” Perham said. “We took control of the game at the start of the second half. We had another great season.” Perham has been a member of Villa/Mount

Carmel for the past four years. “I’m very happy for Mason,” Bourget said. “He began playing with us the year after he graduated from Minnechaug. We also have a couple of other Minnechaug players on our team. We have a bunch of talented players on this team.” The other former Minnechaug soccer players listed on the Mount Carmel roster are Kyle Atkin, Nick Cianflone, Chase Henderson, and Cam Rigney. The members of the Mount Carmel FC are hoping to make it a four-peat in the summer of 2027.



Jake Durham plays the ball off his toe.

Valley Blue Sox season comes to end

HOLYOKE — The Valley Blue Sox’s bats finally awoke at home during Game 2 of the 2026 NECBL Playoffs Opening Round on Aug. 2. While the Blue Sox ultimately lost 14-5 to the Sanford Mainers, head coach John Raiola says his team has a lot to be pleased with. “[As a coach] you try to provide the motivation and the energy and the right words, which are tough to find sometimes, especially when things aren’t going well,” said Raiola. “There are brighter days ahead, and we have an

outstanding coaching staff who brings that same message, and that is something we are proud of.” The journey to get to the playoffs was grueling for the Blue Sox, winning both games of a home-and-away series on the final day of the regular season to secure their spot in the postseason. The team gave it everything they had in the two weeks leading up to the playoffs, but unfortunately ran out of steam in the end. “They had to go out there and show up every single day, tired, and same lineup, grind-

ing their way through it,” said Raiola. “Credit to the players, credit to [team owner] Matt [Drury], and the coaching staff for keeping the train on the tracks.” Despite finally breaking their duck and hitting the ball out of Mackenzie Stadium for the first time all summer, Sunday’s loss eliminated Valley from the playoffs. Mackenzie Stadium is one of the larger fields in the league, with dimensions of 400 ft. to center, 330 ft. to right, and 315 ft. to left, making it one of the hardest parks in the NEC-

BL to hit a home run in. Valley did not hit a home run at the Mack until Sunday’s loss. Entering the postseason, it seemed unlikely that statistic would change, but Valley’s Josh Toole (George Mason) went yard with two outs and two men on base in the bottom of the second. Toole swung at the first pitch he saw from Drew Smith (UConn) and sent the ball out of left field, scoring the first Blue Sox home run at Mackenzie Stadium this summer, putting his team up 3-0. Fans were still riding the

high from Toole’s homer when Nick Spaventa (UPenn) added the second Blue Sox home run at the Mack an inning later. Spaventa hit the ball out into Valley’s bullpen with Esteban Garcia (Boston College) on third, extending the lead to 5-0. Though the Blue Sox did not walk away with the win, it was only fitting for the team that clinched their playoff spot on the last day of the regular season to also score their first home runs at the Mack during their last game of the summer.



“We talk so much about the wins and the losses throughout the year, but we don’t do it for the wins; the wins happen as a result of them continuing to show up and do the right things,” said Raiola. “They will look back on it, and they will realize that through failure comes a lot of success down the road, and that part in itself is rewarding.”

Sports



West Side Sports Shop, featuring adult female players from throughout the region, took the PVSSL Women's Championship.

SPORT SHOP | page 7

dre said. “We played very well against them the other night.”

The West Side Sports Shop captain is Rhiann Ryan, who graduated from Minnechaug a couple of years ago.

“I love being a member of this soccer team,” Ryan said. “It feels nice to finally beat Xtremes, especially after losing to them twice during the regular season.”

Six other players listed on the Westside Sports Shop roster played soccer for legendary head coach Nundi Goncalves at Minnechaug. They are Emily Howard, Gabby Rita, Lylah Jeannotte, Chapin Jeannotte, Gaby Williams, and Claire Poindexter.

One of the West Side Sports Shop starters in the championship match was Mallory Pereira, who grad-

uated from Ludlow High School.

Julianna Beaulieu, who graduated from Chicopee Comp, was selected as the M.V.P. of the women's championship game.

“I never expected to be the M.V.P. of this game, but I knew we could win another championship title,” Beaulieu said. “I’ve now won three championships with this team, which is very special. It’s been a lot of fun playing soccer for this team.”

Beaulieu, who played both basketball and soccer at Utica University, scored a pair of goals in the finals.

She got things rolling during the 16th minute of the opening half by putting a shot into the back of the net past goalie Madison Harmon.

“Once the ball left my foot, I knew it was going into the net,” Beaulieu said. “It set

the tone for the rest of the game.”

The Xtremes, who went 10-1-0 during the regular season, had an opportunity to tie the score during the 27th minute. Gianna Sakowski, who also graduated from Minnechaug, fired a shot on goal, which sailed high over the crossbar.

Beaulieu scored her second goal early in the second half.

Sara Avery, who was the West Side Sports Shop starting goalie, didn’t have to make very many saves in recording the shutout. Avery lives in Belchertown and she graduated from the MacDuffie School. She’ll be a senior on the AIC women’s soccer team this fall.

The members of the West Side Sports Shop will be looking to win another PVSSL championship title next summer.



Julianna Beaulieu sends a pass away.



Emily Howard makes a stop.



Sydney Mercier sends a free kick away.



Chapin Jeannotte takes the ball up the sideline.

Rocket to visit Thunderbirds for home opener

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today that the club will host the Laval Rocket as they open the home-ice portion of its 2026-27 season on Saturday, October 10 at 6:05 p.m. inside the MassMutual Center. Steve Ott returns behind the bench for the Thunderbirds for his first full season at the helm. After joining the T-Birds for his head coaching debut on Jan. 23, the former Blues associate coach led Springfield to a 19-13-2-0 record down the stretch, bringing the T-Birds from the bottom of the AHL standings into a playoff position. From there, Ott helped orchestrate a pair of stunning upsets. Springfield erased a 1-0 series deficit to win two straight and eliminate the Charlotte Checkers in the First Round before completing the biggest upset in Calder Cup Playoff history with a four-game dispatching of the Providence Bruins in the Atlantic Division Semifinals. The Thunderbirds had finished the regular season 38 points behind the Macgregor Kilpatrick Trophy-winning Bruins. While Ott’s team saw its season come to a crushing end in a deciding Game 5 of the Atlantic Division Finals against the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, the T-Birds will boast a number of return- ing players in the Blues system, including captain Chris Wagner, defenseman Calle Rosen, and goaltender Georgii Romanov. Springfield further bolstered its depth with the signing of two-time AHL MVP and former Springfield Falcon T.J. Tynan. The full 2026-27 AHL schedule, including the complete Thunderbirds slate of games, is expected to be released on Thursday, July 9.

Silk takes open modified race at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, NH - Ron Silk thought it was Independence Day all over again Aug. 1 at Monadnock Speedway. The July 4 winner of \$7,600 for topping that night's Open Modified main event, took home another \$10,000 Saturday by winning the night's 100-lap Dash For Cash headline race.

The Nutmeg State star, a two-time NASCAR Whelen Modified series champion, is no stranger to victory lane at the high-banked oval. A summer ago, he won a Whelen 200-lapper at Monadnock, while this summer he was victorious in two of the three Open Modified 100s at the fast quarter-mile.

But Silk's two Open Modified victories weren't enough to place him at the top for the overall series championship. That honor went to Bennington, NH second-generation star Matt Kimball, who cut his racing teeth here on the high banks in the oval's

youth division Young Guns. Kimball's spot atop the three-race points parade netted him \$5,000, which, when added to his Saturday fourth-place purse money and event bonuses, sent him home with close to \$10,000, not quite as much as Silk, but a still hefty pay day.

In other action Saturday on the high banks, Daniel Petrowicz scored his first career victory in the Limited Late Models, Jon Fultz made it two on the year in the Mini Stocks, and Jimmy Zellman won a thriller in the Pure Stocks. Young Gun Dylan Stati won his track-high eleventh 2026 feature race Saturday, while New England Dwarf Car ace Ryan Carman had to twice take the lead en route to his second win in six days, his Saturday win following a Sabbath Day score at Hudson.

A top-12 redraw put Silk on the pole for the night's

Country 93.5 FM Open Modified Dash For Cash 100-lap main event. Blasting off at the green, Silk led the first two go-rounds before twice trading the early lead with Kyle Bonsignore en route to holding the top spot for 83 laps as he dashed off to win with ease. The big defining moment in this one happened on a lap 56 restart.

Repeating his July 4 strategy, Silk led nine other cars to the pits for fresh rubber, handing the top spot to Brad Zahensky. Back under green, a wild mess unfolded as the tight pack charged out of turn two.

Kimball and Brian Robie entered Saturday's 100-lapper tied for the top spot atop the three-race series. When the dust had settled along the backstretch on lap 55, Bosignore and Robie were amongst the casualties. Kimball, then at mid-pack, started counting, all the way up to \$5,000.

With Silk sailing off into the night to win with ease, steady Joey Cipriano came home second. Anthony Nocella, with Kimball at his bumper, took home the bronze metal hardware. Zahensky's choice to stay on the track under caution netted him seventh, while Robie's promising start fizzled to a 14th place finish.

Daniel Petrowicz started up front in the nightcap Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model main event and never looked back as he sped off to his first career win in front of the night's huge Dash For Cash speedway crowd.

Robert Hagar had the fastest car in the field, closing a third-lap deficit to finish four lengths behind Petrowicz for his second runner-up showing of the weekend. Top points man JD Stockwell, a seven-time 2026 winner, had a rare quiet night, getting up for third,

just ahead of Hillary Renaud. Popular Pat Houle led the first dozen laps of the Keene Towing and Recovery Mini Stock feature, then giving way to rocketman Jon Fultz. Once in front, the Bay State ace was unstoppable, winning with ease ahead of number two point man Craig Chaffee.

Houle held strong to finish a season best third, with former track champ Louie Mahar fourth, and Tim Paquette fifth. Paquette's top-five run kept him atop the 2026 points parade.

Maya Bell was the early leader in the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock 25-lapper, then giving way to Dylan Zullo, who, in turn, surrendered the top spot to four-time winner Michael Yeaton, zooming off in quest of win number five. But this one wasn't over yet.

A lap-24 restart sat Yeaton and Jimmy Zellman side-by-side as the event's defining

moment unfolded. The top two banged and clanged out of turn four at the drop of the green, sending Yeaton to the pits and Zellman to the lead. The Bay State blaster held strong to edge top points man rookie Josh Brigham for the win. Kyle Begos, from way back in row nine, charged up for third, with Markus O'Neil and Zullo completing the top five.

Ryan Carman led twice in the New England Dwarf Car feature, taking the top spot the second time with a lap-21 pass of Tom Harwood as they blasted out of turn two. Harwood held strong for second, and Cody Hodgdon was solid in third.

Dylan Stati continued his dominance of the Doug's Auto Body Young Guns Saturday, romping to his eleventh win of the summer. Maeve Barry was second, and Mason Bezio earned the third-place trophy.

Hall of Famers signing autographs during Enshrinement Weekend

≈SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced a new autograph and memorabilia event in partnership with Hall of Fame Signings and Panini America. On Saturday, Aug. 15, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., returning Hall of Famers and basketball celebrities will appear at the Hall of Fame for in-person autograph and photo sessions. Specific times of signers will be posted next week.

“We're thrilled to offer fans a new way to connect with the game's greatest players and personalities during En-

shrinement Weekend,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “This partnership with Hall of Fame Signings and Panini America gives our visitors a rare, in-person opportunity to meet Hall of Famers and take home a piece of basketball history.”

This inaugural event is open to the public, and all autograph and photo op tickets can be purchased online in advance at halloffamesignings.com or in person at the Hall of Fame on Aug. 14 and 15.



Community members gathered to learn more about Henry Knox's contributions to The American Revolution.



Reenactor Chris Laurenzo with two oxen, Aries and Zeus.

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD26P1651EA
Estate of:
Michael Gramolini
Date of Death:
August 13, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **LouAnn Gramolini of Waterford, NY.** **LouAnn Gramolini of Waterford, NY** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure

by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

08/13/2026

NOBEL ■ from page 1

never seen people and don't know what they're doing and turn them into these guys who can, you know, listen and can work and can stand there when a cannon goes off. I really like the sort of the getting to talk to people aspect of it. I get to show my animals off, in what I've done with them. I like getting to teach.”

President of Agawam Historical Association David Cecchi said the association received a grant to help with the event.

“This was our way of commemorating Knox's trail of artillery coming

through. We thought it would be a nice summer event. So, we were fortunate that we were able to get a grant from the cultural council to help fund this,” said Cecchi.

Cecchi then shared that the Agawam Historical Association has never worked with the reenactors from Fort Ticonderoga until now.

“They've been great,” he said. “They're super knowledgeable and easy to work with. We showed them the Smith house, and they were really impressed with the house and so it was nice to hear that from another historical group.”

‘Great Reads from Great Places’ event set for Sept. 29

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library is pleased to announce its selection as a partnering library with the Massachusetts Center for the Book for the “Great Reads from Great Places” initiative. Each year the Massachusetts Center for the Book selects a title to represent the Commonwealth at the annual Library of Congress National Book Festival and provides free copies of the book to area libraries for use in discussion

groups and community programming. This year's title is Nothing More of This Land: Community, Power and the Search for Indigenous Identity by Joseph Lee. The Agawam Public Library will host a book discussion and virtual Q & A watch party with the author on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. in the Cline Community Room. Anyone interested in registering for this book discussion and event is encouraged to stop by the library information

desk to pick up a free copy of the book and discussion guide (while supplies last).

Before Martha's Vineyard became one of the most iconic vacation destinations in the country, it was home to the Wampanoag people. Today, as tourists flock to the idyllic beaches, the island has become increasingly unaffordable for tribal members, with nearly three-quarters now living off-island. Growing up Aquinnah Wampanoag,

journalist Joseph Lee grappled with what this situation meant for his tribe, how the community can continue to grow, and more broadly, what it means to be Indigenous.

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

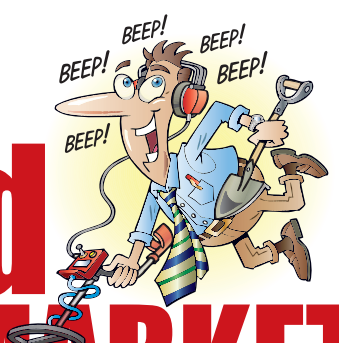
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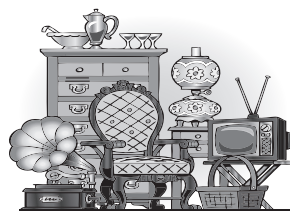
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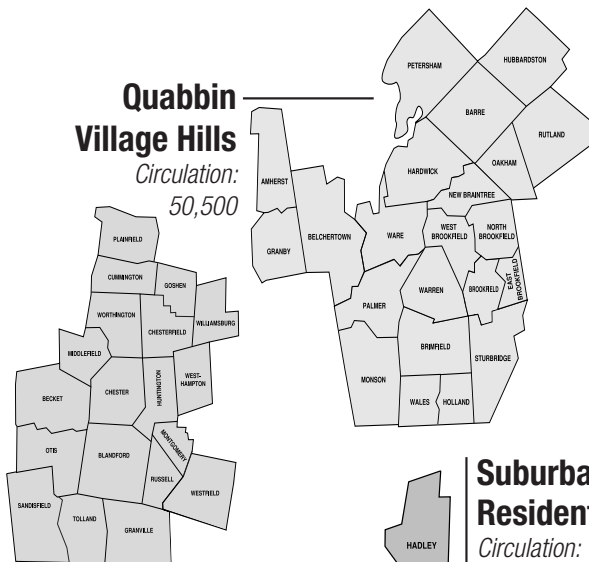
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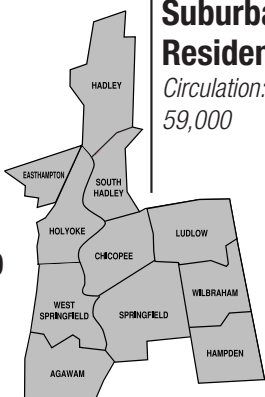
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SUNSHINE ■ from page 1

er before the action got underway was current Sunshine Village President & CEO Michelle Theroux.

“This is our major fundraiser of the year, and it’s great to know we have a full field that has come out to support our mission, which includes our elected officials because we know how busy their schedules can be so for them to take time to come out and support us, it means the world to us and it means we’re doing something right,” Theroux said. She then discussed what the funds raised from the tournament will be used for, “So some of the equipment that the funds raised will go towards landscaping, and other types of devices that will help benefit and support our clients, so we can ensure they will have a great day with us,” Theroux said.

Echoing similar sentiments was Chairman of the Board of Directors Peter Benton, who also delivered opening remarks, centered around the importance of the services provided by Sunshine Village.

“Well, I’d just like to say thank you to everybody that’s here for supporting our organization. It’s truly important to have the community involved and understand what we do. We serve the most vulnerable in our community, and we are here to help and always go above and beyond. I just want to say thank you again for being here, and I’d like to thank our volunteers and everybody for supporting Sunshine Village,” Benton said.

He also shared that he wanted to highlight the accolades and foundation his predecessor, Ernest Laflamme Jr., who was chair for 30 years, left in place, and now holds the title of Chair Emeritus.

Offering insight into the historic achievements that the Laflamme family carries was Community Relations Manager Corrine Jackson & board member Marie Laflamme.

“Marie understands how much heart and soul he [Ernest] put into getting this tournament off the ground, and so now we’re just really happy to keep this tradition alive, which allows us to serve our community and provide great care for the clients of Sunshine Village,” Jackson said. “So I want to add he always said this is more of a “friendraiser” because we want the community to know more about our clients, along with what we do, and pass along that we are right in their backyard,” Laflamme shared.

Corrine added, “We help provide the environment and tools to help our clients learn

how to work, while learning how to live and grow at our sites. So these are adults that have intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as those on the Autism spectrum, and what we also do is we work and create programs to help give them skills that they need to be out in the community, and learn safety skills, in a pursuit of being able to live independently,” Jackson said.

Benton also highlighted the legacy established by former CEO Gina Kos, who served in various positions for more than three decades.

We caught up with Kos while out on the range, where she shared a bit of her insight throughout her tenure with the organization.

“I remembered first year we held this tournament I volunteered for Sunshine Village, and then the next year I came back for the 2nd annual tournament, as the director of marketing and development, and then last year I retired, so I can confirm this is the first time in all of those years that I’ve been able to enjoy the golf tournament, and this wonderful organization,” Kos said. “Look, I had a wonderful career, and I’m grateful for everything, and I know today is going to be another great day to celebrate.”

As the afternoon carried on, we also caught up with Johnson and Vieau, who shared that Sunshine Village is one of high importance and the service they provide is extremely top-class.

“Sunshine Village is a great organization; they have a facility over in Agawam; they add a lot to the community, and it’s great to be out here supporting them and supporting their mission,” Johnson said. “They invite me to many events at their Agawam facility every year, and they’re fantastic hosts, so it’s always great to support them.

Vieau passed along, “It’s a beautiful day in Chicopee here at Chicopee Country Club, and I want to add that Sunshine Village is a wonderful campus. I’ve toured it many times, and I think turn-out speaks to the nature and level of professionalism that they provide to all; it’s truly an honor to be here,” Vieau said.

Sunshine Village has three locations throughout Western Mass, Agawam, Chicopee, and Three Rivers; next year will usher in the 60th year celebration for the organization.

To find out more about the programs and services they provide, check out their website, which is <https://www.sunshine.us>.

Looking ahead, the 38th annual Sunshine Village Golf Tournament invitational is set for Aug. 4, 2027.



Pina Godek, Agawam Mayor Chris Johnson with Matteo Godek and Alia Godek.



Former Sunshine Village CEO Gina Kos just finished her shot.



Thomas Benton, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Peter Benton, Stu Benton, and Bob Wilson, Former President of Cambridge Savings Bank.



Former Chicopee Mayor Richard Kos, Former Sunshine Village CEO Gina Kos, Former Chief of Staff to Mayor Kos John Beaulieu, and current Chicopee Ward 5 City Councilor Joe Pasternak III.



Chicopee Mayor John Vieau, Sarah Miller, Dave Wood, and Sue Racicot. CASEY CBDS Sunshine Village Program Manager Brandee Baker, AGAWAM CBDS and DAY HABILITATION Lisa Robatile, and Client Relations Manager Jennifer Gusman.

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NOTE EARLY DEADLINES:

- August 20 issue deadline is **Friday, August 14**
- August 27 issue deadline is **Friday, August 21**



(l-r) Board member Marie Laflamme, Sunshine Village Community Relations Manager Corrine Jackson, current Sunshine Village President & CEO Michelle Theroux and Chicopee Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Melissa Breor.