



A TURLEY PUBLICATION I www.turley.com

August 24, 2023 Vol. 45, No. 26 \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Enter the Haggis concludes Summer Concert Series

By Quinn Suomala Staff Writer

AGAWAM - Enter the Higgs, a Canadian Celtic rock band, was the perfect band to finish off Agawam's summer concert series.

With their catchy and unique music, Enter the Higgs drew a large crowd for their performance on Wednesday, Aug. 16.

The concert attendees were both old fans of the band as well as Agawam residents looking forward to a fun night out.

"They're my favorite band, I've been following them since 2005," attendee Barbara Teiner said.

The concert area was packed with people dancing, clapping and enjoying the music. Attend-

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Enter the Haggis, a Canadian Celtic rock band, finished off Agawam's summer concert series at School Street Park

Laurie Hogan and Christine Ottino with her kids Julia and Alison Ottino come to enjoy the concert. TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

Construction work on Tuckahoe begins

By Quinn Suomala Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The former Tuckahoe Turf Farm property on South Westfield Street is now closed as the Master Plan Improvement Project finally begins construction.

Due to the construction, this area will be closed to the public until further notice. Construction is anticipated to be done in the spring of 2024, in time for the area to be enjoyed for the summer, but until then residents are asked to stay out of their area for their own safety and the safety of the workers.

"We just want to protect the public and the contractors," Chief Procurement Officer Jennifer Bonfiglio said.

Outside of this area closure, this construction project is not anticipated to majorly affect residents. According to Bonfiglio, the only anticipated closure due to this construction will be on a section of Pine Street in November. The closure should only last about two days and a detour will just be over a two-day period," Bonfiglio said.

This 292-acre property has wetlands, a 10-acre pond and several walking trails. The new construction promises to bring about an improved environment and new recreation areas for those who visit the area.

Included in the new recreation opportunities are multiuse pathways, pedestrian and bike access on Pine Street, a canoe/kayak launch at the pond, a footbridge to view the wetland meadow, a walkway and platform at the dam for viewing and fishing, open field activities in the "West Meadow", ADA access

to all major site improvement areas, and educational signs at stormwater management locations

Additionally, this project will provide environmental improvements for the area. These improvements include: removal of debris and fill from wetlands, removal of three culverts to restore stream segments, restoration of erosion at the dam, water level management for the pond, re-

A message from the Turley's

Dear Reader,

Every week a team of reporters, editors and people who assemble the paper work hard to bring readers information they need to know about their community. It's hard work and we love it.

Our goal is to provide a clear reflection of the community, and share stories about issues and events in your town as well as those about your neighbors, family and friends; in essence, a clear reflection of the community. We provide news that is difficult to find anywhere else.

Turley Publications has been doing so for 60 years now, and enjoys being an integral part of the community.

Every year we invite residents to join those who already subscribe to the Agawam Advertiser News, so they too can be informed and join their neighbors in keeping upto-date on so many aspects of the community. We do that by mailing an issue of Agawam Advertiser News to everyone in Agawam, on us, so you can see for yourself what types of information we provide.

If you want to know when and why your taxes go up, who is running for election, what successes and challenges are in your school system, what others are doing to make your community a better place, and so much more, we hope you will consider subscribing.

We also value your opinions and ideas. Please let us know what's important to you by picking up the phone and calling us. Let us know if we're meeting your expectations.

You can also call us to let us know about an important event in your family's life. That's why we're here.

We love being a part of this community and maybe even, in a

small way, a part of your family. We hope to be arriving each week at your home holding up that mirror The Agawam Advertiser News.

be set up for residents. More details will be provided as that date approaches.

'We'll make sure there is plenty of prior communication to that happening but it should

moval of invasive species, restoration of wetland and river front areas, and management of meadows for recreation and

TUCKAHOE | page 8

Patrick Turley, CEO Keith Turley, President Turley Publications, Palmer

Town awaits legislation for election charter change

By Quinn Suomala Staff Writer

AGAWAM - The town is still waiting to hear back from the state on the legislation they filed about gaining permission to put a question on the ballot about changing the town charter.

Agawam sent legislation to the

state in June asking for permission to put on their ballot a vote to change the town charter so that they may alter the timing of their municipal primary election. Currently, the municipal primary election takes place four weeks before the municipal general election. The goal is to change it to take place eight weeks before the general election, to match the federal election schedule.

The reason for this change is that with only four weeks between the primary and general election there is not enough time for the town to do early voting by mail.

'Once they mail the ballots back in, to count them, to check them off, to set up the ballots for the official ballot for the general election, you just don't have time," Mayor William Sapelli said.

If they were to change the timing to eight weeks between the two elections, which is the schedule the federal election follows, it would allow the town enough time to have an option of early voting by mail.

This year, due to the current timing of the primary election, Agawam has opted out of early voting by mail.

The town is waiting to hear back from the state on whether or not they can add this question to their ballot.

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Deaccession sale planned by historical museum



A Museum Deaccession Sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum. SUBMITTED PHOTO

AGAWAM – A Museum Deaccession Sale will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum., located at 35 Elm St.

Members of the Agawam Historical Association's archive committee have spent months cataloging and organizing the association's collection in preparation for a May 2024 re-opening of the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum. Among the association's holdings are boxes of materials collected by Agawam's past historians, Edith La-Francis and Marilyn Curry, and documents, photos, and artifacts donated by residents in the twenty years since the museum opened.

18th century town meeting notices, 19th century school department records, 20th century personal mortgage ledgers, and items pertaining to the town's Sister City Commission that was active in the early years of the 21st century are all part of the collection.

There is also a good amount of material with no apparent connection to the town, or which is duplicated in the collection, and it is those items that will be offered for sale.

"The Archive Committee came to the decision that items in the collection need to have a connection to the town, support a story that connects to the town, or be unique in a way that makes sense to include it," explains association Curator Anne Liptak.

"With both onsite exhibit and storage space extremely limited, these decisions were made with much thought and discussion," added association vice president David Cecchi. "The end result will be that the collection will be more focused on what makes Agawam history so interesting, and Agawam's history is interesting" The result of this re-focus will benefit those with an interest in the past: some of the deaccessioned items include an 1855 topographical map of Massachusetts, newspapers whose headlines document noteworthy events of the past 50 years, and duplicate Agawam town reports, some of which date back to the 1800s. Assorted fire-related items will also be part of the sale, as will commemorative museum posters, museum birdhouses, ornaments, and Agawam history books.

Author David Cecchi will be on hand to sign his four local history books, and copies of Edith Lafrancis' Agawam, Massachusetts will also be available. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the non-profit historical association, which in addition to operating the Agawam Historical & Fire House museum on Elm Street owns the Thomas Smith House at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills.

Agawam Public Library hangs new art in gallery

AGAWAM - The Agawam Public Library is bringing to the gallery a variety of artists and mediums for the month of September. On the main floor will be the Library's own Jolene Mercadante, providing animal photographs. Mercadante works to change the public perception and stereotypes of pit bulls, dogs that were once considered the "All American Dog." Her photographs capture her own pit bulls as the loving, loyal, beautiful, and sometimes humorous dogs that they are. She also loves revealing the beauty of all animals in nature. Mercadante's photographs will be on the main floor gallery walls of the library.

The colorful works of Deborah Guidi will also be on display in the month of September, in the library's glass cases. Guidi uses ink, watercolor, and mixed media to capture the images of creatures, both real and imaginary. The patients Guidi sees as a veterinarian inspire her works, alongside her own pets and imagination. She wants to make sure people know that art is for everyone, even for science-focused individuals. Guidi's art will be on display in the cases in the hallway leading to the children's area.

The crocheted creations of Jesselle Velez will also be on display in September. Sixteen-year-old Velez loves making cute little crocheted critters, and runs her own business called Hnoss's Crocheted Critters. Although she started out two or three years ago crocheting scarves and hats, she quickly wanted a change of pace and started making a wide variety of crocheted critters. Velez is artistic across many different mediums, including sculpting, painting, and drawing, but is drawn to crocheting the most for its meditative and calming nature. All patterns on display were created by Velez, She can be found at @ hnossscrittercorner on Instagram and at Hnoss's Critter Corner on Facebook. Velez's works can be found in the Johnson Memorial Case on the main floor, and the Deliso Case by the elevator on the lower floor.

All these displays can be viewed any time during regular library hours. The Agawam Library is open Mondays through Thursdays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays beginning Sept. 9, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are interested in displaying your art in the Agawam Library, please contact Library Associate Erica LeFebvre at elefebvre@agawamlibrary.org or call at 413-789-1550 x8858.

Orientation Aug. 30

AGAWAM - Agawam High School's Grade 9 and transfer student orientation will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 30 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, to access their schedule through the Powerschool App. Our Student Leaders will bring new students 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.

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

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- > President of Agawam City Council
- ► Served as Agawam City Solicitor
- Served as Chair of Agawam School Committee
- Attorney at Johnson, Sclafani & Moriarty
- Served as Chair of STCC Board of Trustees
- Served on MassHousing Board of Directors

Endorsed by Mayor William P. Sapelli

"I strongly support Chris Johnson to be Agawam's next Mayor. I have enjoyed working with Chris as Council President. I believe his combination of leadership skills and experience make him the right choice for Agawam."

– Bill Sapelli





Please join us and meet Chris at our Ziti Dinner

Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 5:30 PM Italian Sporting Club 349 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA Tickets: \$15.00 per person and \$25.00 per couple

Chris Johnson For Mayor Proven Experienced Leadership

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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT CHRIS JOHNSON

Opinion Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY

By Russell Gloor

When should my wife claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty

My wife will be 65 next year, and her full retirement age is 66 years plus 10 months.

Can she collect 50% of my Social Security benefit at her full retirement age and then get her own higher personal amount at age 70? Her own amount at her full retirement age is \$1,100 per month but her age 70 amount is \$1,800. My Social Security is \$2,300. Suggestions welcome.

Signed: My Wife's Helper

Dear Helper

Your wife cannot separate her spousal benefit from her personal Social Security retirement benefit – whenever she claims she will be automatically deemed to be filing for both her own benefit and her spousal entitlement. Thus, she cannot claim her spousal benefit first at her Full Retirement Age and defer claiming her own SS retirement benefit until she is 70.

When your wife should claim is, essentially, a decision which should consider the urgency of her need for the money, her life expectancy, whether she will be eligible for a spouse benefit from you and whether she is working.

If your wife claims before her Full Retirement Age and is working, she'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much she can earn before some SS benefits are taken away. Social Security's earnings test goes away at FRA.

Average life expectancy for a woman your wife's age is about 87. If your current \$2,300 benefit is a result of you taking your Social Security at your full retirement age or earlier, then your wife will receive a small "spousal boost" from you.

If she claims at her Full Retirement Age, your wife's total Social Security payment will be 50% of the amount you were entitled to at your FRA and that will be her permanent amount, except for annual COLA increases.

However, from what you've shared, your wife's age 70 amount is considerably more than her maximum spousal benefit so, if her life expectancy is long, that suggests she may wish to consider waiting until age 70 to claim her own maximum benefit. By doing so, your wife will get more in cumulative lifetime benefits if she achieves average life expectancy. The unknown factor is your life expectancy because, as your widow, your wife will be entitled to 100% of the amount you were receiving at your death, instead of the smaller amount she is receiving on her own or as your spouse. If life expectancy is long for both of you, then your wife maximizing her own benefit by waiting until age 70 to claim is a prudent choice. But if your, or your wife's, life expectancy is shorter, then your wife claiming at her Full Retirement Age would be a better decision. 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



Thank you for supporting Leonard House fundraiser

Dear Editor:

The Board of Trustees of the Captain Charles Leonard House wishes to thank all those who attended the popular Craft Beer Tasting & BBQ held on July 28 and sponsored by McCarthy's Liquors of Agawam. Store owner John McCarthy generously donated all proceeds to the Leonard House to help with the maintenance and preservation of the historic former stage coach tavern and local landmark.

Thank you as well to all the vendors who participated, helping to create an enjoyable summer evening on the grounds of the Leonard House. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food prepared by the staff of Joey's Deli and Market in Feeding Hills. A big thanks goes out to Les Tingley for his help with the live music concert performed by Korey Bruno and the Knightsmen. Many of our guests mentioned how much they enjoyed the music. The support of Sarat Ford was greatly appreciated. Everyone liked the festive lighted tents from Tony Boido at TNT Tents and Tables in West Springfield.

The music performance at the BBQ and Beer Tasting was supported by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council. The Trustees and guests appreciate the support from this local agency.

Last but not least, the Trustees would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the setup, the raffles, the food and the cleanup after the event. We could not have done it without you.

Hope to see everyone at our Craft Beer and Wine Tasting on Oct. 13.

Trustees of the Captain Charles Leonard House



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



001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone

Stretch Code addition a win for Agawam

Dear Editor:

The Resolution adopting the "Specialized Stretch Energy Code" for the Town of Agawam, on the agenda for the next city council meeting, is a great idea that will save a lot of money and lower emissions, so opponents who say it will cost more to build are wrong.

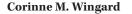
To be clear, the specialized stretch code which requires pre-wiring for new buildings and major renovation projects will protect consumers from potentially exorbitant expenses for retrofitting their properties in the future, as well as from expensive energy bills from energy inefficiency.

As Representative Lindsay Sabadosa and Cunningham, of ZeroCarbonMA wrote in the CommonWealth Journal, Lobbyists and special interests are using a flawed report from the Home Builders Association of Massachusetts partnered with researchers from MIT and the Wentworth Institute of Technology, to make this claim, but the report included outdated building codes to make false comparisons that inflated the cost of building without fossil fuels. In fact, the report found that the main drivers of cost are not building codes, but policy issues including zoning, permitting delays, and legal challenges, as well as supply chain issues, higher costs of construction, and higher lending costs. Sabadosa and Cunningham went on to sav that a new report from the Passive House Network and independent analysis by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources showed that all-electric homes cost less to build than those using gas and are even cheaper when incentives from Mass Save and the Inflation Reduction Act are factored in. They also reduce monthly energy bills, and protect our health. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has set very ambitious climate goals to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. State Law passed under the Baker administration requires that by 2050 Massachusetts cut total greenhouse gas emissions by at least 85 percent below 1990 levels. Change is hard, and no one likes change, but one of the wettest summers on record that has decimated crops and flooded businesses, wildfires that rage, and temperatures throughout the world that hit unprecedented highs show us how necessary this is.

The city council rejected the first attempt to pass the original Stretch Code before passing it in 2016, causing us to lose eligibility for thousands of dollars in grants and other benefits from the State for the years it was not in place. Let's not make the same mistake twice. Please urge your city councilors to adopt this updated "Specialized Stretch En-

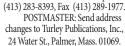
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ergy Code."





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<u>Opinion</u>



Treceived an email this week from an Oakham resident, who saw a couple of warblers at Muddy Pond in Oakham. He said they were very vocal and "chirping." He said at first he thought they were Tennessee warblers, but then he noticed more gray on their head and neck. They may have been orange-crowned warblers.

The orange-crowned warbler is about five inches long and looks similar to the Tennessee warbler. A distinguishing feature is the orange-crowned has yellow under tail coverts and the Tennessee, white.

Drab is a term used to describe the orange-crowned warbler and is best identified by its lack of field marks. The orange crown patch is seldom visible as these warblers flitter about in the trees. It has dull olive-green upper parts and pale olive-yellow underneath. In addition to the yellow under tail coverts it has faint streaking on the sides of the breast.



Orange-crowned warbler

The female lays three to six cream colored eggs in a nest of bark strips and grasses, placed either on the ground or in a shrub. They eat insects and berries and inhabit dense thickets, forest edges and brushy fields. Their song is a high-pitched chipping trill, which trails off at the end. The call is a metallic "chet."

Wild turkeys and poults

I had to stop to let a flock of three adult hens and over 12 poults cross a road recently. As they made their way across the road, I tried to get an accurate count. However, the young turkeys moved quickly and often went behind another poult or a hen. This was the second time I saw the flock in the same general area.

Loon census

On July 15, the Loon Preservation Committee of New Hampshire held their annual loon census. In their newsletter they said, "During the Loon Census, a total of 440 volunteers took to 121 lakes across New Hampshire to count loons. In total, they documented 431 adult loons, 56 loon chicks, and 2 immature loons. This census coverage represents roughly 1/3 of the lakes that LPC biologists monitor annually, and as such, our final population numbers for the season will likely be higher."

Loon fact

After the hatch of their first chick, adult loons often remove the membrane from the first hatched egg and any attached large pieces of eggshell from their nest. This behavior has been widely documented here in New Hampshire, both on LPC's Live Loon Cams and by wildlife photographers, as well as by biologists in the field.

In a recent newsletter from LPC an article said, "The removal of eggshell fragments from loon nests may occur in part due to the asynchronous hatch of the two chicks. Until the second chick hatches, the loons brood their first chick on and around the nest. While they may take it into the water for brief swims or to feed it, the first chick ends up spending a lot of time on the nest while the family waits for the hatch of



Loon

the second chick."

The article continued, "Loon eggs and newly-hatched loon chicks are brown in color, and as such, they blend in with their surroundings on the nest. The egg membrane and the inside of eggshells, in contrast, are a creamy white color. That makes them much more conspicuous and, if left on the nest, could increase the chance of nest predation. Therefore, it is believed that in removing egg membranes and large eggshell pieces from the nest, adult loons may be protecting their chick and the second egg from being easily noticed by predators."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

Midsummer questions for the Garden Lady



arie, who gardens in Wheelwright, has harvested her potatoes and she's a little upset with the outcome.

"The potatoes have raised, warty areas all over them. In other places they are pitted. Is my soil infected with some type of disease or is there an insect that is causing these imperfections?"

My guess would be that you are fighting the scab fungus. It is most prevalent in soils that contain lots of decaying organic matter and remain wet for a considerable amount of time.

With all of the rain we had this summer there are many gardeners in the same boat, pun intended!

Although the fungus can remain in the soil for years, it is most active when the pH is between 5.7-7.5. With this in mind, rotate your potato crop from year to year.

Also, do not lime or apply wood ashes to

the soil where potatoes are to be planted. If you amend the soil with compost or manure, be sure it is well-rotted.

Select seed potatoes that are certified disease-free and choose varieties that are resistant to the disease. Thicker skinned russet types as well as those with reddish brown skin seem to suffer the least amount of damage.

Check out the Moose Tuber section in the Fedco Seeds catalog (www.fedcoseeds. com) for a resistant variety that suits you.

Karen reads the column from her Brimfield home. She takes great pride in her new flower gardens!

"Some of my annual flowers are starting to look a little beyond hope. Should I pull out my snapdragons, bachelor's buttons and calendulas or will they rebound?"

All of the flowers you mention are cool loving annuals. By the heat of midsummer they are looking tired.

There are a few things that you can do now to help the plant send out more flowers once the weather cools in early autumn.

First, deadhead spent flowers regularly. Lots of times this action will encourage the plant to initiate new growth from the base.

If it does, cut it back to that point and apply liquid fertilizer. In no time at all you should be delighted with a burst of new blooms.



Of the three that you mention, you will get the best response from calendula and snapdragon. I like to leave these in place and work my fall mums and kale around them.

It is time to harvest carrots from Lisa's vegetable garden and she's a little concerned that many of them are forked or bumpy.

"What causes this phenomenon?"

Forked, bumpy or otherwise deformed carrots are likely the result of your soil type. Is it heavy clay or does is have lots of rocks in it?

Carrots prefer loose, well-drained soil, that way their roots can grow straight down. What likely happened in your garden is that the carrots split to avoid a stone.

Before planting your seeds next spring,

remove rocks and if necessary, sift the soil. You can also try growing carrots in a raised bed filled with screened loam or special raised bed soil mixes.

Overcrowded conditions can also cause roots to fork, so be sure you thin your seedlings carefully to about a thumb's width apart.

Overwatering can also cause forking. This year we didn't have control over much of that!!

One other suggestion: don't apply fresh manure to your seed bed - it too can cause the problem you speak of. Instead, add plenty of organic matter it the form of finished compost if you would like to increase your soil's fertility.

Test results could initiate some revisions to our fertilization and liming routine this fall, preparing the way for a healthier, more productive garden next spring and summer, and maybe even a few more peppers for Genevieve to enjoy!

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

Ding Dong School: The woman who created kid's television



By J. Mark Powell jmarkpowell.com

Before there was Sesame Street...Before there was Mister Rogers' Neighborhood...Before there was Romper Room...Before there was Captain Kangaroo...

There was Miss Frances and Ding Dong School. The show not only was the first in its genre, it literally created children's television – and set the bar very high, too.

Let's hop into the Wayback Machine and revisit 1952.

Television was brand new then. TV stations were launching all over the country and big, cumbersome TV sets were popping up inside more and more American homes.

Judith Waller was public service and educational programming director at WN-BQ-TV in Chicago. Most local stations produced hours of their own programming daily, way more than they do today.

As Waller was talking with her boss one day, he noted that with the Baby Boom in full swing there were more than 235,000 pre-school children in the Chicago area. Then he pointedly asked, "What are you going to do about it?"

Waller rolled into action. She devised a nursery school program to teach kids watching at home. Because viewers would be little people, the show utilized six cameras that shot from angles toddlers would see.

All props would be easily recognizable to little children.

Auditions were held for the program's host. Frances Horwich was one of the educators who tried out for the gig. A woman of a certain age with a kindly disposition, she headed a local college's education department. She lacked showbiz experience, but had once taught nursery school.

While the thought of being alone on set for a full hour each day scared her, she thought, "Why not?" and gave it a try. She was soon hired to be "Miss Frances," then successfully negotiated to own the rights to the show.

When the producer's 3-year-old son was told each episode would begin with an old-fashioned teacher's desk bell ringing, he blurted out, "Ding Dong Show!" and so they had the program's title.

A pilot episode was filmed. One horrified station executive said the show was so bad it would kill television and make TV viewers listen to radio again.

So, it was decided to air the program just once.

WNBQ didn't issue a press release announcing it or promote it in any way. They figured they'd let it die of its own embarrassment.



Miss Frances HOLY COW | page 6

STCC receives significant state investment

SPRINGFIELD – In a landmark move for community colleges in Massachusetts, Gov. Maura Healey signed a budget which includes several provisions that expand educational access to new populations while continuing support for programs that have been crucial in retaining current students.

The fiscal 2024 budget includes several key investments that are poised to make a transformative impact on students of Springfield Technical Community College.

"Massachusetts' investment in education, especially community colleges, will have a far-reaching impact on individuals and our region as a whole," said John B. Cook, president of Springfield Technical Community College. "We are excited to embrace these initiatives, collaborate with partners and continue providing top-quality education that empowers our students to transform their lives."

The SUCCESS initiative and related funding has led to increased programming, academic engagement and wraparound support for STCC students, said Vice President for Student Affairs Darcey Kemp. "SUCCESS has been a key driver for our retention and persistence efforts over the past three years," Kemp said. "Some of our signature programs are born from SUC-CESS, such as Lead and MILE. These programs have produced students who have fully embraced the collegiate experience, strengthening their purpose and growing their leadership capabilities. The programs have motivated them to achieve their academic and personal goals."

On the investments in nursing programs at STCC and across the state, STCC School of Health and Patient Simulation Dean Christopher Scott sees some relief for area healthcare institutions.

"Nursing has always been one of our most successful and popular programs," Scott said. "With this grant, we'll be able to build capacity, increase our enrollment cap, and answer healthcare organizations that have been clamoring for more nursing talent."

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

Velis calls for inclusion of Veterans in state Democratic party

WESTFIELD – State Senator John Velis (D-Westfield) announced his support for efforts to update the Massachusetts State Democratic Party's charter to allow veterans to be named as "add-on" delegates at political conventions and have a stronger role in state party decisions.

"Less than 1% of our country's population serves in our military today. Our state party needs to do everything we can to elevate those voices and ensure that veterans are included in our party's platform," said Senator Velis, who is Senate Chair of the State Legislature's Veterans' Committee and a veteran of the US Army Reserves.

"Massachusetts veterans have selflessly and courageously served our nation and understood the importance of protecting our democracy. Their insight and experience are invaluable to the decisions our state party makes and they deserve to be represented at our conventions."

In addition to the minimum 2,500 delegates required for state conventions, the state party's charter allows "add-on" delegates to be selected to ensure diversity. The effort to amend the charter would include veterans on the list of "marginalized communities" eligible to be named as "add-on" delegates, including underrepresented ethnic and racial groups, LGBTQ+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, and youth.

The effort to amend the charter to make veterans eligible will be considered at the party's convention this fall.

HOLY COW I from page 5

And so Ding Ding School debuted on Thursday morning, Oct. 2, 1952.

Primitive by today's hi-tech standards, it began with closeup of Miss Frances' hand ringing the aforementioned bell, followed by a cheesy studio organ playing the show's equally cheesy theme song. Miss Frances sang in a warbly voice that was better suited for a little country church choir than television:

"I'm your school bell, ding dong ding; boys and girls all hear me ring. Every time I ding dong ding, come with me to play and sing."

Then she jumped into the lesson. Miss Frances talked like she was speaking to actual children.

"How are you, boys and girls? What are you doing today? (Pause.) Really? That's good!"

WNBQ's big brass cringed for an hour until the show ended. No one expected what came next.

The station's switchboard was flooded with more than 150 calls in 45 minutes as parents told how their kids loved the program. That was nothing compared to the tidal wave of enthusiastic fan mail that followed. Ding Dong School instantly became part of WNBQ's morning lineup five days a week. It was such a hit, NBC picked it up in 1953 and broadcast it nationally.

Miss Frances even became a TV star. More than 12,000 children and parents attended a promotional event in Boston.

She was stopped by adoring fans 18 times daily. When she and her husband flew to Florida for a vacation, kids on the plane recognized her – and sang the show's theme song over and over all the way to Miami.

Likely making it history's most miserable flight for the passengers.

But TV is a cutthroat business. De-

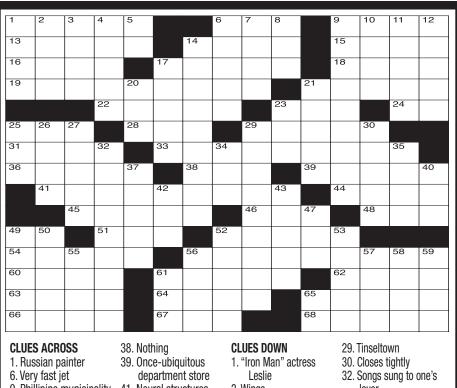
spite its success, NBC cancelled Ding Dong School in 1956 for the more lucrative The Price Is Right.

The show continued in syndication until 1965.

Miss Frances eventually moved to Arizona where she dabbled in local public television until her death in 2001 at age 94.

Children's television is one of broadcasting's few success stories; and it's largely due to the huge influence of a single teacher and her little bell.

Holy Cow! History is written by novelist, former TV journalist and diehard history buff J. Mark Powell.





9. Phillipine municipality 41. Neural structures 2. Wings lover 13. Intestinal 34. One thousandth of 3. Adjust the spacing 44. Thick piece of 14. Small freshwater something 4. They're usually locked an inch 45. Slang for trucks with 5. Atomic #43 35. Small drink of fish 15. Algerian coastal city trailers Wise individuals whiskey 37. Political divisions in 16. Vomit 46. Longing 7. Horse mackerel 17. Famed astronomer 48. Senior officer 8. Pearl Jam's debut ancient Greece 18. Ghanaian currency 49. Levels of frequency album 40. Helps little firms 51. Bird's beak 19. Improved the 9. Confines 42. Baby's eating 10. Colorless crystalline condition of 52. Move rapidly accessory 43. Very long periods of 21. Int'l association of downwards compound 11. Unsatisfactorily interpreters 54. Koran chapters time 47. Small block of wood 22. Infections 56. Streteches out 12. Plant of the parsley 49. Town in Surrey, 23. Dish made with 60. Top of the human family lentils body 14. Determines time England 50. Enquiry 24. Thou 61. A Chinese temple 17. Causes the birth of and Indian town 25. Former CIA 20. Small ornament on a 52. Murdered 28. Unit used to watch chain 53. Bura-__: Chadic are two 62. Fertility god 21. Richly decorated cloth compare power language 55. Crater on Mars 63. Sea eagle levels tapestry 29. Members of Pueblo 23. Vito Corleone was one 56. Mammal genus 64. Dry 65. Zodiac sign 25. Igbo musical 57. Sock people 31. Myanmar monetary 66. "Horizon Call of the instrument 58. Make 59. Stony waste matter Mountain" character 26. Put in harmony units 33. Polished 27. Japanese alcoholic 67. Have the ability to 61. Partner to cheese 36. Signed a contract 68. Take somewhere drinks 65. Pound

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 13

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Dinner Show to be part of next Page One production

AGAWAM – Page One Productions of West Springfield announced the signing of an additional, exciting, Dinner Show Tribute being brought in September to The Brass Rail Meeting House in Southwick.

"I'm very excited that a Whitney Houston/Celine Dion Tribute Dinner Show will be presented on Friday, Sept. 22 starring Michelle Brooks-Thompson who was on TV's The Voice," revealed POP president Roberta Page.

The show was developed by Page,

Brooks-Thompson, and her agent, Page disclosed.

Songs to be included in the performance will be such heartwarming like Greatest Love Of All, I Will Always Love You, Because You Loved Me, The Power of Love, My Heart Will Go On, and many more, with Brooks-Thompson's spot-on renditions. There will also be several surprises, said Page.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., a delicious, served buffet with many offerings at 6 p.m.,

and the show at 7:15 p.m. Cost is \$65 complete and will include a remembrance of the evening.

Assistance for the buffet will be available, if needed. There is ample, free parking and the building is handicapped accessible.

For more information, contact PageOneProductions@att.net or call/text 413-530-8000, or send check or money order payable to Page One Productions, P. O. Box 423 West Springfield, MA 01090. Deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 19 with no refunds.



New behaviorial health hospital opens with ribbon cutting

By Quinn Suomala Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Baystate Health and Lifepoint Health partnered together in order to build a new behavioral health hospital at 45 Lower Westfield Road in Holyoke. This new hospital, called Valley Springs Behavioral Health Hospital, was celebrated at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, Aug. 14.

"Today we're here to see a vision become reality: a state-of-the-art contemporary behavioral health hospital," President and CEO of Baystate Health Mark Keroack remarked at the ceremony.

This new hospital is 122,000 square feet with 150 private and semi-private rooms for adults and children. The entire building was designed to meet both the wants and needs of the patients within. With a gymnasium for activity, access to the outdoors for recreation and areas for patients to create art, the building is made to ensure that patients feel supported.

"We're going to have better environments, better facilities and more resources to help people," Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Baystate Health Barry Sarvet said. "This kind of facility has outdoor spaces for recreation, lots of light...it was designed from the ground up for this kind of care."

Valley Springs Behavioral Health Hospital CEO Roy Sasenaraine proudly described how this building was intentionally built to be modern and filled with light, so that the patients within would not feel "the apprehension of going to an institution that looks like 'an asylum'".

"This building has hundreds of windows everywhere, light is one of the important things to our clinical treatment and care for all patients," Sasenaraine said.

This facility comes at a key time for behavioral health. Even before the pandemic, hospitals and psychiatrists were seeing an increase in the demand for mental health care. The pandemic only made an already bad situation worse.

"I would argue quite literally that this is the challenge of our time; behavioral health," State Senator John Velis remarked in his speech at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Keroack agreed, and promised that Baystate Health would continue to focus on behavioral health treatment in their work.

"We're facing new and growing problems caused by the pandemic and the ongoing opioid epidemic," he said. "Because of this, Baystate Health is invested in embedding behavioral health providers, to partner with other providers in nearly all our out-patient practices. We've expanded our partial hospital offerings and now we're partnering to greatly expand both the capacity and quality of our inpatient behavioral health care."

This building increases the capacity for inpatient behavioral health care in the region by 50%, an impressive and much-needed increase.

"We don't have enough inpatient services for people, we've been having patients waiting for days, sometimes weeks in the emergency room, for beds," Sarved said. "We don't have enough beds in Western MA and this hospital is going to provide a solution by giving us the beds that we need."

Prior to the opening of this hospital, there was limited availability for space dedicated to behavioral health in Western MA. Many of the emergency departments in the area housed the behavioral



Congressman Richard Neal gives his support to the new behavioral health hospital. TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA health patients who could not get beds in behavioral health hospitals. The patients who were able to get a bed in a behavioral health hospital often had to leave western MA and therefore their families and support. This hospital changes that.

"It will increase access for behavioral health patients because they don't have to wait in the ED to get assessed, we'll do the assessment and we'll do the admissions here," Sasenaraine said.



President and CEO of Baystate Health Mark Keroack informs the audience on why this new hospital is so important.



The leadership team from Baystate Health and Lifepoint Health cuts the ribbon to Valley Springs Behavioral Health Hospital.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 1,302 calls for service from Aug. 14 to Aug. 20 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log

St., Cohoes, NY, was arrested at 4:32 p.m. for trespassing.

Tuesday, Aug. 15



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have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Monday, Aug. 14 t Jeffrey Santiago, 40, of 148 Mangam

Michael A. Nitri, 34, of 161 Hartford Terrace, Springfield, was arrested at 3:45 p.m. for being a fugitive from justice on a court warrant, and possession of a Class A Drug.



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AUGUST EVENTS:

24th - Karaoke DJ PaPo 7-10pm 25th - Theater of Malum & Tributary 7pm 29th - Music Bingo 7-10pm 30th - Karaoke - Henry 7-11pm 31t - After Bike Night Party, Karaoke, Food 6pm-close

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Monday - Starting 9/11 Open for Football with 50¢ Wings Tuesday - Music Bingo 7-10pm Wed. - Karaoke - Henry 7-11pm Thursday - Karaoke - DJ PaPo 7-10pm Friday 8th - Shovelhead 7-11pm 16th - Paul's Music Show 7-11pm 22nd - Murphy's Law 7-10pm 29th - Faith Rheault Acoustic 7-10pm Saturday - Open Sunday - Starting 9/10 for Football 1-6pm FREE BASKET OF FRIES WITH PURCHASE COUPON & Expires 9/30/23

Springfield Technical High School every class reunion Sept. 23

SPRINGFIELD - The spirit and camaraderie of Springfield's Tech High School is alive and well as they gear up for another exciting reunion on Saturday Sept. 23 at the Elks Lodge, #61 at 440 Tiffany St. from 3 to 8 p.m. The reunion is open to all tech classes.

An outside barbecue will be held rain or shine under the lodge's pavilion and will include hot dogs, hamburgers, pulled pork, salads, vegan options, dessert and more. Cash bar. Free parking and handicap accessible.

A fun-filled afternoon will include DJ and dancing, cornhole and bocce games, raffles and time to reminisce with friends over the years and make new friends as well.

According to committee chair Mike Borecki, "Tech High was a great school and many lifelong friendships were forged back then. It's our dream for everyone to have fun and to keep the Tech Spirit tradition alive for many years to come."

Seating is limited and tickets are \$25

HCC offers free line cook training

HOLYOKE - The Holyoke Community College is offering free training classes in line cook skills offered through the Office of Workforce Development office. The free line cook training starts in September and is for anyone interested in developing new skills.

Classes will be held in person at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St. For more information about the programs, please visit hcc.edu. Class times are as following:

Line Cook a.m. Training Sept 18 to Oct 20, 2023 Mon is from 9 a.m. to Noon Tues to Friday, 9 a.m.to 3:30 p.m. Line Cook p.m. Training Sept 18 to Nov 9, 2023 Mon to Thursday, 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Line Cook AM Training Oct 30 to Dec 8, 2023 Mon is from 9 a.m. to Noon Tues to Friday, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm

basis. Open seating. For tickets call Mike

McCormick '74 at 413-531-4763, Dawn maino '67 at 413-896-2206.

each. All are on a first come, first served Borecki '72 at 413-351-6572, Margaret Duncan '71 413-896-3930, or Matt Villa-



Standing in front of Tech High on Elliot Street, committee members for the September 23 Every Class Tech Reunion (L to R) Mike Borecki '72, Dawn Duncan '71, Matt Villamaino '67, Paul Montefusco '69, Joan Learned '56, Walter LaBroad '47, and Margaret McCormick '74. SUBMITTED PHOTO

ELECTION I from page 1

If this will be on the ballot for this year, the town needs to hear back from the state by September, 60 days prior to the general election scheduled for Nov. 7, so that they are able to release the summaries of the ballot questions.

Sapelli said that the only update they have received from the state was that it is in the senate now and they are working on it. "We are presently calling down there

and asking our legislators that they try to keep that on the fast track so that we'll get our answer by mid-September and we can put that on the ballot," he said.

According to Legislative Director and Adviser in the Office of State Representative Nicholas Boldyga, Joel Dusoe, Boldyga and Representative Michael Finn are working with this legislation.

"Rep. Boldyga and Rep. Finn are working together to ensure that legislation gets across the finish line in a timely manner, so that the voters of Agawam can decide at the upcoming municipal election whether or not to amend the town's charter," Dusoe wrote in a formal statement.

A petition of this type needs to be voted on by the House, then the Senate, then signed by the governor. Ideally, given that this petition is not controversial and is approved by the town, it should move easily through these processes and be given to the town in time for the election. However, there is no guarantee.

TUCKAHOE I from page 1

wildlife habitat.

This project will bring a new life to this property and provide a new area for residents to get outside and enjoy nature.

"I think the residents will enjoy it," Bonfiglio said. "It will be a great piece of property to go walk and bike through and kayak and enjoy nature. It's the largest parcel that the town owns in Agawam so it will be nice that the residents will have access to it."

These improvements to the area have been long in the making. According to Bonfiglio, in 2018 the mayor formed the ad hoc advisory committee to explore possi-

ble uses of this property. This committee suggested that the town explore expanding the walking areas, opening the town up to the public, adding some fishing opportunities and creating a canoe launch on the pond.

From there, the project took off. With funding from the Community Preservation Act Committee, the Tuckahoe Master Plan was created and turned into a schematic design plan in 2020.

The town contracted with Woodard and Curran, the engineer on the project, and designed the project over the course of about a year and a half.

Overall, this project is estimated to cost about \$6.1 million. Thankfully, the town has secured a variety of grants and other funding-including \$500,000 from the Tennessee Gas Mitigation Fund, \$400,000 from the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant and \$50,000 from the MA Trails Grant-to help pay for this project.

The town did have to borrow about \$2.9 million to finish covering the costs but this is supported through the solar lease payment.

These many years of work are finally coming to fruition, and the area will soon be ready for residents to enjoy.

"It's exciting and I think that once everybody sees the finished project they will be very happy with it," Bonfiglio said.

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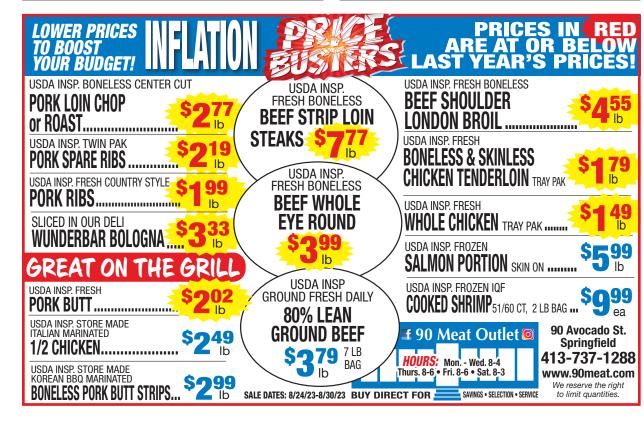




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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.





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SPORTS

Fall leagues get update **by PVIAC**

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

The fall preseason has started this week, and with it, alignments for fall leagues have been updated. Full realignment typically takes place every four years, but has happened more frequently due to the pandemic and the introduction of the new state tournament.

In Western Massachusetts, due the geographic diversity throughout the region, the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association makes leagues based on the competitiveness of a school in a given sport, sometimes regardless of what division they play in at the state level for tournament.

For example, in the updated Kurty-Fielding Division for girls soccer, South Hadley, a Division 4 and smaller school, is in a crowded league with larger schools like Agawam, Wahconah, Chicopee Comprehensive, and Pittsfield.

The Central League features one of the top teams in Western Mass. once again. Monson is a part of the league, along now with Palmer, which has had a couple of very successful leagues. Chicopee, Southwick, and Granby are also a part of the league, along with larger schools in Amherst and Northampton. Northampton was defeated by Monson in an independent game last year.

PVIAC | page 10



WILBRAHAM - Earlier this ets, a 5-6 girls basketball team, 12 in the playoffs of the B Division war went 5-5 in the regular seamonth, the Agawam Yellow Jackwere defeated by the Spartans 20-



Hannah Podworski pivots before shooting.



Molly Hutchison makes her way to the hoop.



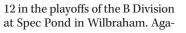
Abby Lemay takes a close-range shot.







Olivia Curto gets ready to shoot.



son prior to making the playoffs.



Brooke Cruz gets low before making a jump shot. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

St. John's captures men's title

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW - Aiden Casinghino

The brothers had never been teammates on the same soccer team until this summer. The duo helped the top-seeded

mer Soccer League held at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, last

Saturday night. "Because I'm a few years older Track standouts, golf coach among Hall inductees

was a senior captain of the Tantasqua Regional boys varsity soccer team in 2018. Braylon Casinghino was a senior captain of the Warriors soccer team a year ago.

St. John Heating & Cooling celebrate an exciting 2-1 victory over the second-seeded Villa FC in the men's championship match of the prestigious Pioneer Valley Sum-

than my brother, we never played on the same soccer team in high school," said Aiden Casinghino,

ST. JOHN'S | page 10



St. John's took home the PVSSL Men's Championship this year.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

IUUUUUUU

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee would like to announce this year's inductees and congratulate all of these talented athletes who have been found worthy of such an honor.

Individual athletes to be inducted include Michael Andry, a 2013 graduate who excelled in track; Ashley Monahan, a 2013 graduate who was also outstanding in track; Alycia Rackliffe, a 2013 graduate who earned honors in both basketball and volleyball; and Mike Riley, a 1978 graduate who was one of the best baseball pitchers in town history. Also to be inducted this year is long-time golf coach Bill L,Heureux, who led several teams and individuals to state or regional championships.

Four teams will be inducted along with the individuals. They are the 1988-89 and 1989-90 girls basketball teams, which won back-to-back Western Mass. championships, the first ever in that sport for Agawam, the 2013 boys hockey team, who took the state championship that year, and the 2013 boys volleyball team, who also won the state championship for Agawam that year.

These individuals and teams will be honored at a luncheon and ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023 at Agawam High School beginning at noon. Tickets for this event are \$30 each and may be purchased by contacting Rosemary Stratton, 120 Pineview Circle, Agawam (786-7692) or the AHS Athletic Dept. office. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Sports

Bonsignore rolls to 13th Career Thompson win



Justin Bonsignore picked up his first Thompson Speedway in four years last week.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

NECBL announces 2023 all-league selections

SOUTH HADLEY – The New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) is proud to announce the 2023 All-NECBL teams. The honors were voted on by all 13 on-field managers of NECBL franchises. Only regular season statistics and performances were taken into consideration during the selection process.

The list includes 47 players across three teams: the All-NECBL First Team, the All-NECBL Second Team and the All-NEC-BL Honorable Mention Team. Each is composed of one player at each non-outfield position (C, 1B, 2B, SS, 3B), three outfielders, one designated hitter, three starting pitchers, two relief pitchers and one closer. In the case of ties, some positions may include additional honorees.

Making the second team was Valley Blue Sox DH A.J. Guerrero.

Guerrero led the Blue Sox in hits (42), RBIs (23), finished second in runs (21), third in batting average (.298) and led the league in doubles (11) in 141 at-bats. His best performance of the season came on July 26 when he went 2-for-3 with two doubles, two RBIs and two runs scored, leading Valley to an 8-3 victory.

THOMPSON – Justin Bonsignore hadn't won at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park since 2019, but Wednesday night, he reminded everyone on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour why he leads all active drivers with wins at the oval.

Bonsignore's Kenneth Massa Motorsports team sent him off pit road first after a pit stop around halfway, then Bonsignore held off the charges of Doug Coby, then Ron Silk through multiple restarts to score his 13th career Thompson win. The victory tied Bonsignore for second all-time in Thompson wins with Ted Christopher, only trailing Mike Stefanik, with 15.

The victory was also Bonsignore's third of the 2023 season (Riverhead, Loudon) and his 10th top-five finish in 11 races this season.

"After we won seven out of eight here, then the runs we started having were a bit frustrating for us," Bonsignore said of Thompson. "The car was really good. We missed it a little bit, too tight on the first set of tires, but on the second set, it fired off so well. This is a really big confidence booster. This is my favorite track – and to bounce back like this and to lead half the race... it was a total team effort to win this one."

Bonsignore and the Kenneth Massa Motorsports team will be heading to Langley Speedway in Virginia for the next NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour race on Saturday, Aug. 26.

T-Birds announce signings

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today that they have signed forwards Mitchell Hoelscher and Steven Jandric, as well as defenseman Austin Osmanski, to one-year AHL contracts for the 2023-24 season.

Hoelscher, 23, skated in 57 games with the Thunderbirds in 2022-23, tallying 16 points (9g+7a). The Waterloo, Ont. native earned a call-up to Springfield after beginning the season with nine points (1g+8a) in just six games with the ECHL's Indy Fuel. He was originally a sixth-round pick by the New Jersey Devils in the 2018 NHL Draft.

Jandric, 25, began his 2022-23 rookie season with the ECHL's Worcester Railers,

where he posted 19 points (8g+11a) in 20 games. In 31 games with Springfield, he added eight points (2g+6a). A native of Prince George, B.C., Jandric skated collegiately for five seasons, accumulating 114 points (35g+79a) in 161 NCAA games with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (2017-20), the University of Denver (2020-21), and Merrimack College (2021-22).

Osmanski, 25, saw 30 games of action last season in Springfield, posting six points (1g+5a), 28 penalty minutes, and a +1 rating. A native of Buffalo, N.Y., the 6-foot-4, 215-pound defenseman was selected by his hometown Buffalo Sabres in the seventh round (189th overall) of the 2016 NHL Draft.

PVIAC from page 9

Ware joins the Pioneer North League and will now meet twice this year with Easthampton, St. Mary's, Frontier, Mahar, and even Holvoke.

Holyoke was dropped from the Central League after a couple of disappointing years.

The top league in the region is the Coombs League, and features Minnechaug, Belchertown, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Ludlow, West Springfield, and Westfield.

In boys soccer, there are not a lot of big changes, though the Churchill League, which features Agawam, Westfield, and Pope Francis, and Pittsfield, will add Hampshire Regional and Mt. Greylock of Williamstown

Dropped the Holley League is Chicopee Comprehensive. Chicopee, Holyoke, and Monson are also a part of that league along with SICS and Northampton. South Hadley will be part of the Moriarty League, and will once again matchup with Frontier, Easthampton, and Mahar. Southwick and Lenox will also be in the league this year.

Granby is part of the Schmid League this year, and Ware is a crowded Bi-County League that features eight teams.

Pathfinder, which now co-ops with Palmer, is in the Tri-County League again this year.

Football leagues did not see any major changes. The AA still features the same six teams, including Minnechaug and Holyoke. Agawam is part of the Suburban South, and South Hadley, Ludlow, and Chicopee are in the Suburban North again this season.

Belchertown will compete in the Intercounty South, and Palmer and Ware are part of the Intercounty North along with Greenfield, Mahar, Athol, and Franklin Tech. Pathfinder remains in the Tri-County.

ST. JOHN'S from page 9

who also played soccer at Springfield College. "Winning the men's championship title is fantastic, especially having the opportunity to play on the same soccer team with Braylon. We fought very hard for the entire 80 minutes."

St. John Heating & Cooling (10-1 regular season record), who was previously known as Griffin's Café, lost to the Lusitano Red, 1-0, in last year's finals. They also captured the men's title in 2016 and 2019.

"We've been able to win the summer Belchertown High School. league title every three years. There wasn't a summer league season in 2020 because of COVID," said St. John Heating & Cooling co-coach Jon Remillard, who's from Palmer. "We have some younger guys on this year's team who worked very hard. It feels great to win another title."

"It has been a lot of fun playing on the same soccer team with Aiden," Braylon Casinghino said. "Watching him receive the M.V.P. award was awesome. He just put us on our backs and got the job done. We came out firing on all cylinders in tonight's game."

The Western New England University men's soccer coach is Devin O'Neill. His two sons, Sean and Shay are listed on the St. John Heating & Cooling roster, but they didn't play in the championship match. The O'Neill's were outstanding soccer players at

Aiden and Braylon Casinghino, who live in Brimfield, are really looking forward to being teammates with their younger brother, Cole, next summer.

varsity soccer team, which is coached by Matt Guertin.

"We're hoping Cole will be joining our summer league soccer team next year." said Aiden Casinghino, who has been playing in the PVSSL for the past five years. "It has been a lot of fun playing in this soccer league.

At the start of the summer league season, Braylon Casinghino replaced Mark Tiffany, who's also from Belchertown, as the St. John Heating & Cooling starting goalie.

Villa FC (9-0-2 regular season record) posted a 4-0 shutout victory over St. John Heating & Cooling at the beginning of the

was one of them," Braylon Casinghino said. "I think it would've been a little bit different outcome if I had been there."

Troy and Matt Remilard were also key members of the St. John Heating & Cooling soccer team.

All three of the Remillard's were outstanding soccer players at Palmer High School.

It didn't take St. John Heating & Cooling very long to score a goal in the finals.

During the fifth minute of the opening half, Byron Peabody, who also graduated from Palmer High School, fired a rebound shot into the lower left corner of the net

Remillard shared the coaching duties with Jaime Prickett, who lives in South Hadley.

Following this year's championship match, Aiden Casinghino received the MVP award.

"Winning the championship game means a little bit more to me than receiving the MVP award," he said. "The MVP award should go to the entire team because everyone has worked very hard this summer. The championship cup trophy is the only one that matters."

While Aiden Casinghino is a midfielder, his younger brother was the St. John Heating & Cooling starting goalie.

Bravlon Casinghino will be a goalie for the Western New England University men's soccer team in the fall. He was in the spotlight throughout the entire second half of the championship match.

Cole Casinghino is entering his senior season as a member of the Tantasqua boys'



Mike Lima, of Ludlow, sends a free kick across the field. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY summer league regular season.

"I only missed two games during the regular season and our loss against Villa



Jed Theilman settles a ball.

past Villa goalie Mike Tranghese, who played soccer at Monson High School, giving St. John Heating & Cooling a 1-0 lead.

Ten minutes later, they took a 2-0 lead following a goal by Jed Theilman, who's from Amherst. Aiden Casinghino was credited with the assist.

Villa FC cut the deficit in half following a goal by Deandrae Brown, which was assisted by Anthony Basile.

Brown played college soccer at UConn a couple of years ago.

Villa FC had six corner kicks and several other scoring chances during the second half, but Braylon Casinghino managed to hold onto the one goal lead for St. John Heating & Cooling.

"Braylon is a tall goalie," said Jon Remillard, who has been playing in the adult soccer league since 2010. "The players on the opposing team are afraid of him and I'm very glad that he was a member of our team this summer. I hope he has a good year at Western New England. He's a very good goalie. We do have several brothers playing for our team this year, which made it a lot of fun."

Sports

PVIAC ALL-STARS

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GIRLS TENNIS Olivia Gryszowka

Sophia Consolini

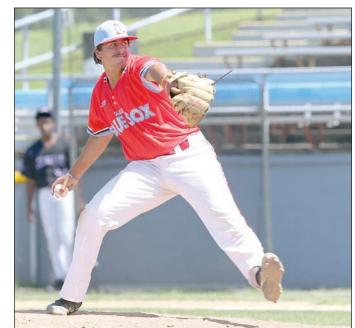
Valley Blue Sox season ends in opening round

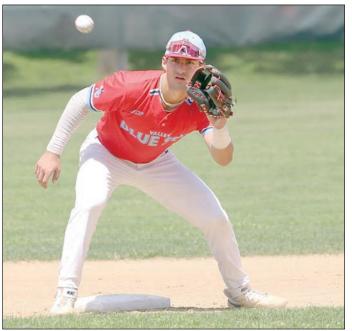
HOLYOKE – Earlier this month, the Valley Blue Sox won their division and went after the New England Collegiate Baseball League championship. The Blue Sox won back-to-back titles in 2017 and 2018, but have not gotten back there since.

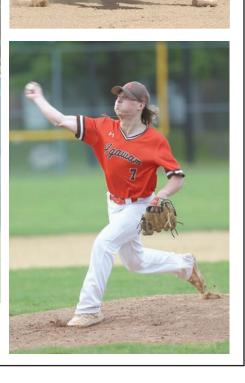
Unfortunately, history would repeat as the Blue Sox were defeated by the Bristol Blues two games to one in a best-of-three series.

The Valley Blue Sox season has come to an end after falling to the Bristol Blues 10-3 After winning the first game of the quarterfinals series, the Blue Sox were shutout in game two and defeated in game three at home, allowing Bristol to advance to the semifinals.

The Blues piled on the scoring early, putting up six runs in the first three innings. An RBI groundout in the first, a throwing error and RBI single in the second, and a sacrifice fly and RBI single in the third allowed the Blues to







take the lead 6-0.

Dillon Ryan started the game for the Blue Sox, pitching three innings allowing six runs and striking out two batters.

Joe Dooley took over for Ryan in the top of the fourth, pitching four innings allowing four runs with one strikeout.

Bristol added a run in the top of fifth following an RBI double, another in the sixth off an RBI double, and two more in the seventh after a sacrifice fly and RBI groundout to go up 10-0.

The Blue Sox put a run on the board in the bottom of the seventh after Jeff Pierantoni hit an RBI single to score Matt Bergevin.

Brendan Yagesh relieved Dooley in the top of the eighth, pitching a scoreless frame with three strikeouts.

Valley added two more runs in the bottom of the eighth following an RBI single from Michael Zarillo to score CJ Willis and Bergevin.

2023 All-Star Michael Weidinger got the ninth for the Blue Sox, striking out two batters during his clean inning.

Kurtis Thomas fires a pitch.

Michael Zarillo prepares to catch a ball on a steal attempt.



Zach Ketterman fields a grounder.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM Matthew Ber

Matthew Bergevin gets the out at first.

Enter the Haggis concludes Summer Concert Series





Crowds gather to watch Enter the Haggis.

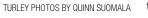
CONCERT from page 1

ees also got to enjoy food handed out by the Agawam Lions Club as well as snow cones courtesy of the Agawam Veterans Council.

Agawam's summer concert series has been every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. at School Street Park. It began on June 28 and has been packed with great music for families since the beginning.

There were also a few shows at the park at 10 a.m. on some Wednesday mornings just for kids to enjoy.

Each concert brought a different kind of music and fun for families to enjoy. This series certainly provided fun and entertainment for Agawam residents this summer and the next concert series will be eagerly anticipated by all.



Madelyn Godden and their grandmother Lerryn Godden dance along to the music.



During a break in the performance, concert attendees line up to get merchandise for Enter the Haggis.



Crowds cheer for Enter the Haggis.





Avery Gaynes, Shea Gaynes and Barbara Tiener play with bubbles while enjoying the music.



The Agawam Lions Club helps to serve food to the concert attendees.

Public Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL **ADVERTISEMENT** 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, September 11, 2023 at 6:30PM for all parties interested in the request of Christina & Nathaniel Ehle, who are seeking a Special Permit from Chapter 180-23 (K) of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, to allow for the keeping of chickens at the premises identified as 82 Northwood Street.

Doreen A. Prouty Chairperson Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals 08/17, 08/24/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and **Family Court** 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD21P2299EA Estate of: Melvin H Benson Date of Death: 09/13/2021 CITATION ON PETITION FOR **ORDER OF COMPLETE** SETTLEMENT A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by Bruce A Benson of Chicopee, MA Audrey E Butler of South Windsor, CT Carol С a n d Kozikowskiof West Springfield, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of

Complete Settlement including a determination of testacy and 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 09/11/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this nroceeding. 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: August 07, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 08/24/2023

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING

The Agawam City Council Administrative Sub-Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., at the Agawam Senior Center Veterans Hall, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on two Eversource petitions for permission to perform work on Industrial Lane and Hunt Street, Agawam, MA which could include installation of a new pole(s), manholes, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protect fixtures along and across the property. This petition is available by contacting the City Council Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing bbard@agawam.ma.us.

Robert E. Rossi, Chair Administrative Sub-Committee 08/17, 08/24/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Probate and Family Court** Hampden Probate and **Family Court** 50 State Street Springfield MA, 01103 Docket No. HD19P2362PM In the matter of: **Del Field** 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 Amended First and Final account(s) of Matthew Weir of Worcester, MA 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 09/19/2023. 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 thir-

ty 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 toyou.

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 abovenamed 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: August 02, 2023 Rosemary A. Saccomani

Register of Probate 08/24/2023

Notice of Private Sale

Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisins of M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on September 11, 2023 at 8:00 a.m., at USA Towing, said motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

2008 Acura TL VIN: 19UUA66268A019203 No plates on vehicle Last known reg. owner: Irina Krokhmalvuk 351 E. Columbus Ave. Springfield, MA 01105

08/24, 08/31, 09/07/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and **Family Court 50 State Street** Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23C0242CA In the matter of: **Roberto Peter Zaffetti** CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Roberto Peter Zaffetti of Feeding Hills, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Robert Peter Zaffetti IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden **Probate and Family Court** before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/14/2023. This is NOT a hear-

ing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: August 17, 2023

Rosemary A Saccomani Register of Probate



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 have MS is not one of them.

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

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PALMER OFFICE

GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT SEEKS DESIGNER / PAGINATOR

Turley Publications, Inc. is looking for a Graphic Designer to produce newspaper pages and advertisements in a busy, fast-paced environment. Must be efficient with InDesign Creative Suite. Web design and Wordpress skills a plus.

We will consider less experienced applicants but must have proven design skills.

Design samples required. Send with resume to: Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 Attention: Graphics Manager Or e-mail directly to dsloat@turley.com. No phone calls or drop-ins, please.



Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

The successful candidate will have strong community journalism skills and is also expected to gather news and write stories for the two papers as well as for other occasional companywide publications.

This is a job for a self-starter who has a vision for growing and connecting with our valued readers, and who thoroughly enjoys community



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This full-time position with flexible schedule is based in our Palmer office at 24 Water St., this is not a remote position.

Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Willingness to mentor a staff writer and correspondents
- Editing experience and ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style
- Management experience and/or experience managing content for a print publication.

Please send resume and writing examples to: Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

Agawam Advertiser News **OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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