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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Election slate set with primary set for Oct. 10

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The town will officially need to hold a preliminary election this fall. With four candidates for mayor, the preliminary election will be needed to narrow the candidates down to two.

The candidates for mayor are: City Councilor Cecilia Calabrese,

William Clark, Council President Christopher Johnson and Andy Montefusco. All candidates turned in their nomination papers by Aug. 22 for them to be certified. Johnson and Calabrese both made major announcements of their candidacy before the summer. Clark and Montefusco got their papers certified later in the process. Both have made posts on

Facebook forums confirming their candidacy.

Twelve candidates for city council turned in their papers to be certified. This includes eight of the current city councilors: George Bitzas, Thomas Hendrickson, Dino Mercadante, Robert Rossi, Anthony Russo, Rosemary

ELECTION | page 11

Mascot target of senator's new bill

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam's current mascot, an image of an indigenous man with a headdress that spells out the town name, and mascot name, the Brownies, have come under fire.

Recently, Senator Joanne Comerford has put forward bill S.245 to the senate. This bill, if passed, would prohibit the use of Native American mascots by public schools in the Commonwealth of MA.

The bill would not require towns to immediately change their mascots, merely begin the process of change. Towns would be able to use their current equipment with the mascot on it throughout the entirety of its use, as Comerford and other legislators are aware of the limited budgets of the schools.

"It doesn't require communities to change all of their supplies or infrastructure that has the symbol on it immediately," Comerford said. "For example, uniforms can become old and in need of replacement before having to get new uniforms."

While not the first attempt at a bill that would make schools change their mascots, this bill is the most recent. It was presented by Comerford before being referred to the Joint Committee on Education.

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Fresh-squeezed fundraiser

Granger students held a lemonade stand to raise money for activities

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Clifford M. Granger Elementary School's fourth grade class held a lemonade stand at their school on Monday, Aug. 21 to raise money for their class activities throughout the year.

These kids and their parents sold lemonade, cotton candy and even homemade bracelets.

"We thought, why not lemonade at the end of the summer?" Stephanie Pettazzoni, the organizer for the event, said. "It's a hot day and the kids are having fun."

Parents and students alike came together for this event, and it was more successful than they had imagined it would be.

"I think we've surpassed what

we even imagined we would bring in at a lemonade stand so far, it's been great," Stephanie Pettazzoni, the organizer for the event, said.

The goal of this event was to raise funds to support a variety of the class activities throughout the year. This includes their upcoming graduation and their field trips throughout the year.

"We do independent funding with the fourth graders to supply them with their end-of-the-year graduation before they leave elementary school, we give them a nice field trip, their yearbooks, t-shirts, all sorts of fun," Pettazzoni said. "It's just to make sure their fourth grade year is the best."

This fun lemonade stand came together rather quickly, as Pettazzoni and other parents tried to organize a fun way to raise money before the school

FUNDRAISER | page 11



Harper Potvin and Tessa Blake show off the signs they made to help sell lemonade.



Above, members of Clifford M. Granger Elementary School's fourth grade class sell lemonade. Photo left, Kevin Sullivan uses his sign to help bring in people to the lemonade stand.

Turley photos by Quinn Suomala



Car Club of New England Car Show supports local schools



Joleen Soares and Troy Atherton hold up their gourmet popcorn offerings to attendees during the car show.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Residents stopped by the Moose Lodge 1849 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Aug. 16 for The Car Club of New England Annual Car Show.

The event, featuring 130 classic and modern cars, raised \$1,400--\$700 each--for Old Mill Pond School in Palmer and Benjamin Phelps School in Agawam to help them buy school supplies.

Additionally, vendors included AMS Oil, Lincoln Technical Institute, Go Green Design, TJ's Pop, Opa's Collectibles and more.

Jamison Dupuis, president of The Car Club of New England, explained the organization annually hosts two car shows to support veterans and local schools.

"What we decided to do this year and moving forward with the kids is this show here, 100% of the proceeds when you come through the gate, you make your \$10 do-

nation, 100% of that is going to purchasing school supplies for two local schools," Dupuis said.

Dupuis got involved in the organization when he used to run a car show at the Springfield Armory while serving in the Massachusetts Army National Guard.

When a local car club considered shutting down, Dupuis was asked to take over and has run it since.

"So it just kind of happened based off of a car show," Dupuis said.

Dupuis came to Chicopee seven years earlier and connected with Bob Gallagher, who mentored him on running car shows, later joining the Moose Lodge last year.

"It's a good venue, the people are great, the people are established," Dupuis said. "We've done a lot of stuff in Chicopee, in the local area, supporting small businesses, things like that, and small businesses have supported us, so we always want to give back to the areas that take care of us."

John Gardner is a member of The Car Club of New England and has taken part in car shows for many years, bringing his

2013 Corvette 3LT Yellow to the event.

Gardner also helps run the Knights of Columbus Elder Council 69 Cruise Nights on Wednesdays from 5 - 8:30 p.m.

"I only have 20,000 miles on it. I try to do something different every year to customize it to the way I like it, and I dress it up like Lightning McQueen so the kids like it," Gardner said.

Gardner enjoys the car shows to meet fellow enthusiasts and see other cars.

"Sometimes you can get ideas for your own car, you know, from other people and then it's meeting the people, talking to everybody," Gardner said.

Jesse Cotto had a 1997 Honda Civic LX customized for autism awareness in honor of his nephew and grandchildren.

Cotto is part of Da Click Auto Club in Springfield and was invited to the event by Dupuis.

"My main goal is as long as I put a smile on a kid's face, that's my trophy. I don't come to win. It's daily driven, I never put her away. It's take her, drive her, go to work and any show that she can make it to, we bring her out, but my main thing is I see the kids smile and that's good enough for me," Cotto said.

Cotto wants the community to know the importance of supporting local communities at the car shows.

"The whole point is supporting local communities. Help out our kids, that's the only way we're going to expand and the kids are going to have better futures. We can't do it all on our own, sometimes we got to reach out," Cotto said. "It's better for us to come together even if we're different backgrounds, different cars, different clubs. Unity is what's going to keep us in the long run to be able to help out kids."



A 1931 Ford Vickie was one of many classic cars on display for attendees during the The Car Club New England Inc. Annual Car Show at the Chicopee Moose Lodge 1849 on Aug. 26.

A 2013 Corvette 3LT Yellow dressed up like Lightning McQueen to entertained families.



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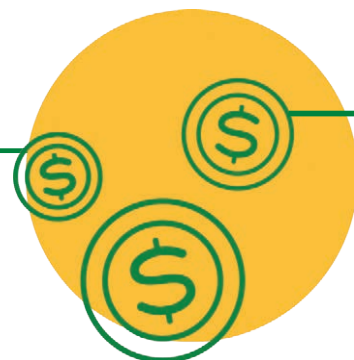
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Governor visits to break ground on new Veterans' Home

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Veterans home will soon have a new building, complete with 234 long-term care beds and various community spaces.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new building was held on Monday, Aug. 14, and there were many different state and city officials in attendance.

One such official was Governor of Massachusetts Maura Healey, who was glad to be present at such a crucial event for helping the veterans in this area, and proud that her organization had been able to help make this new building happen.

“To all of our veterans, most importantly, today is about you...and that’s why we are hired to work for you, go to work whether it’s in a state house or in our nation’s capital to secure funding, to pass laws, to get the right resources in place to make sure that we are better serving those who have served all of us,” Healey said.

Healey was also delighted to announce that in the fiscal year 2024 budget that Healey signed off on, the Department of Veterans Services received a \$11.4 million dollar increase.

“To all our colleagues in the legislature, thank you for your commitment in making sure that our veterans are getting the care, the services, the opportunities and the respect that not only they need but they so richly deserve,” Healey said.



State officials, including Gov. Maura Healey, break ground for the new Veterans' Home in Holyoke.

The Veterans Home received \$263.5 million from the VA State Home Construction Grant Program for this reconstruction as well as a conditional award last year. It was thanks to this funding that this nearly \$500 million project was possible.

“This is a \$482 million investment in our veterans, it’s going to be a facility that veterans, their families, the entire state of MA will be so proud of and we want to be clear that our investment in the home symbolizes the next level of care and commitment to veterans and families all across the state,” Healey said.

In the new building, most veterans will also receive their own private room, a significant improvement upon the cramped quarters that were present during the pandemic.

This new building is a step towards helping to improve the Veterans Home since the COVID-19 outbreak it experienced in 2020. During this outbreak the home lost 76 individuals, a tragedy that all at the home are working hard to ensure it never happens again.

According to Senator John Velis, during the crisis he organized a meeting with the affected families. At this meeting, the families demanded that there be a new building put in place, that the structure of government in the veterans home be redone and that the tragedy that occurred there would never happen again.

“We lost veterans and we lost so many great human beings, and I’ll never forget

that,” Velis promised. “So that third thing, that third thing that the family members said, never forget and never let something happen again.”

Velis swore that he would continue to put his best work forward to ensure that the veterans of MA would be the best supported in the country.

“Massachusetts is the best place in the nation to be a veteran but make no mistake about it, but if we rest on our laurels that will be surpassed,” Velis said.

Representative Patricia Duffy was also honored to have been a part of the process of giving these veterans a better home.

“To give all of you—veterans, families, staffers—the home that you deserve is the honor of my public service career,” she said.

DPW performing pavement milling

AGAWAM – The Department of Public Works has been performing pavement milling activities within the O'Brien's Corner area of the Town of Agawam.

The installation of SAMI stone and a new asphalt pavement surface is scheduled to begin Sept. 5.

Residents are reminded that on-street parking will not be allowed within the work limits of the project during the construction period. The construction may cause traffic delays or detours, residents are encouraged to plan accordingly.

Please be aware that the construction schedule dates are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances such as inclement weather or necessary emergency work. Updates to the schedule and a copy of the Agawam Pavement Management Report can be found on the Town of Agawam website at <http://agawam.ma.us/492/Pavement-Management>.

The DPW is making every effort to complete this work as quickly as possible. If you have any questions please call 413-821-0600.

Garden Club meeting Sept. 12

AGAWAM – The next meeting of the Agawam Garden Club will be held Tuesday, Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. After a short business meeting Jacqueline Clark will present the program titled “Put Your Garden to Sleep”.

Jacqueline, a Certified Landscape Designer and Horticulturalist, started her own business in 2005, “Garden Designs by Jacqueline”. A ticket for the bus trip to the New York Botanical Garden on Sept. 17 will be raffled at this meeting. Club meetings are open to the public and not restricted to Agawam residents. More information about the club can be found on the website agawamgardenclub.com or follow on Facebook.



Agawam Senior Center announces upcoming news and events

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior Center has announced the following events:

UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA

Thursday, Sept. 7 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia: Understand the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia. Join Community Educator, Mark Nutting as he helps navigate the risk factors of Alzheimer's, the stages of the disease and the FDA-approved treatments. Meet in the Seminar Hall for 10:30 a.m., call Kristina at 726-2836 to register.

LOOKING TO SELL YOUR HOME... HAVE QUESTIONS...?

Wednesday, September 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Have you been considering selling your home? If so, please join us on Wednesday Sept. 13 from 1:30 to 2:30

p.m. The presentation by Sue Drumm, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Realty and a 25-year Agawam resident, will cover important steps and strategies to help homeowners prepare their property for sale. This will include things like staging, making repairs or improvements, setting the right price, and understanding the selling process.

If you're interested in attending, make sure to mark your calendar and register by calling Kristina at the Senior Center, 413.726.2836.

LEARN HOW TO USE IPHONES & IPADS

Friday, Sept. 15 at 1 p.m.

Your speaker, Raymond Rose, will discuss:

- sending text messages & emails
- using Facebook & Instagram
- taking and sending Photos

- understanding your Health app
 - keeping your iPad and iPhone safe from hackers
 - learning the Settings app
 - play games online with friends
 - and much more
- Please bring an iPad or iPhone.

SOLINSKY HEARING- THE BENEFITS OF HEARING AIDS

Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 10:30 a.m.

About 20 percent of the U.S. population experience changes in hearing significant enough to impact mental and physical health. All of the negative symptoms of hearing loss can be positively and dramatically impacted by today's advanced hearing technologies. Join Solinsky Hearing in the Seminar Hall for this informative discussion, call Kristina at 726-2836 to register.

SIX WEEK NUTRITION CLASS

Sept. 12 to Oct. 17 at 10 a.m.

A 6 week nutrition series with Ascentria who is supported by the SNAP program. This class will be mostly nutrition based, some very simple exercises, and BINGO. There will be a snack every week that everyone can try and will hand out prizes/incentive items for the winners of Bingo. Walk-Ins are welcome - or register by calling Kristina Lynch at the Senior Center at 413.726.2836

FLU SHOT CLINIC

Thursday, Oct. 19 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

The Agawam Senior Center in collaboration with the Agawam Health Department will be holding a flu clinic on Thursday, Oct. 19 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. High Dose Flu vaccine will be made available for Agawam seniors on a first come first serve basis.

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Sept. 1 & 2 (Fri. & Sat.) 8am-3pm

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Opinion

Guest Column



Ten ways to help adoptable pets

Volunteer - There are many different ways one can volunteer with an animal rescue organization, and the experience is truly rewarding. Volunteering offers a way to personally get involved with adoptable pets while eschewing the responsibility of pet ownership itself.

Volunteering duties might include: walking dogs; cleaning; socializing cats; taking photos; office tasks; community outreach; fundraising; transporting animals; attending adoption events; and more.

Donate - Animal rescues and shelters need financial assistance, and monetary donations are a welcome way to aid the mission. Certain shelters and rescues don't even have an operating budget, funded solely through donations.

Donations can assist with daily operations, supplies, food, veterinary care, vaccinations, community outreach, and much more.

And if a financial donation is not possible, animal organizations are also in need of many items, such as: food; towels; blankets and pet beds; crates and carriers; pet toys; collars, leashes, or harnesses; cat litter; and more.

Educate - By educating others about the importance of adopting, as well as spaying and neutering our pets, we lay the groundwork needed for actual change. However, educating should not be confused with arguing; creating conflict and tension over these topics may feel befitting at times, but we can spend our time more wisely by having respectful, compassionate conversations with people who are willing to listen.

Advocate - Supporting legislation that improves the lives of animals is a pivotal step toward making change. There must be regulations in place for certain actions and behaviors—including legal consequences—to set a precedent. Also, many municipal animal shelters are relying on antiquated budgets to function. Contact your representatives by calling or writing a letter so that you can share your thoughts regarding local and state bills.

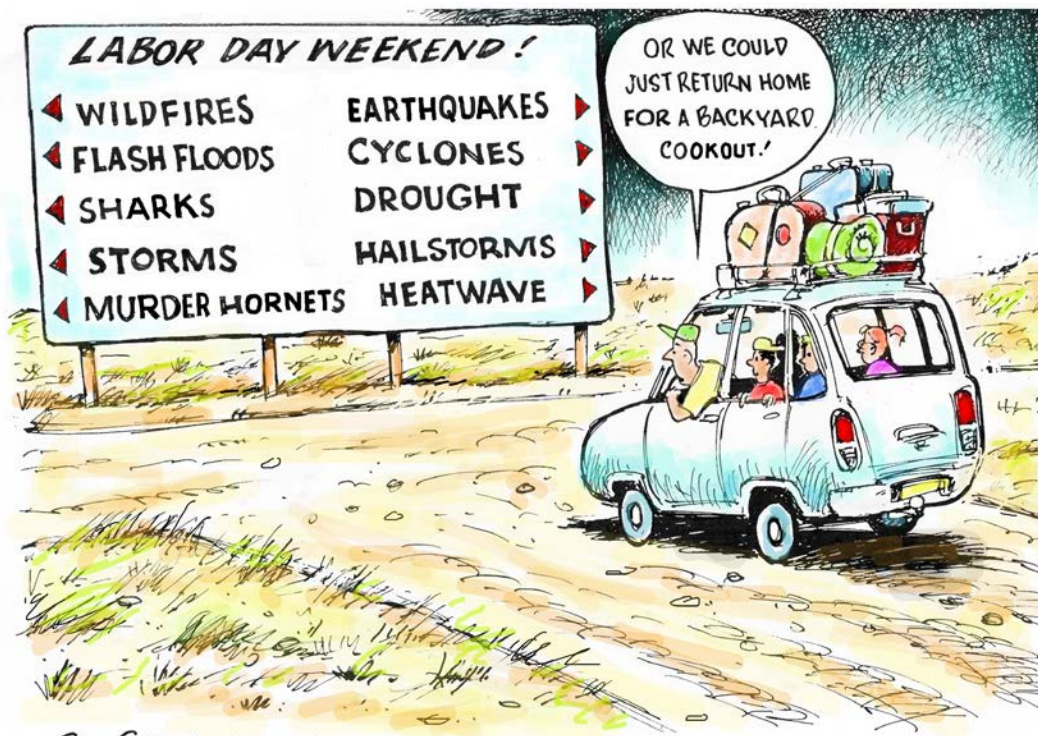
Wishlists - An animal group near you may already have a "wish list" on its website, go check it out! These lists, which highlight the current needs and donation requests of the organization, can be independent or linked directly to a website such as "Amazon" or "Chewy."

Additionally, when shopping online, consider choosing one of your local animal rescues as your "AmazonSmile Charity"—this is a separate entry from the main website that offers consumers the same items and prices while also contributing a certain percentage of qualified purchases to a charitable group.

Spay/Neuter - Spaying and neutering our pets is unbelievably important. Pet overpopulation can best be described as a crisis, both in the U.S. and around the world, and unconstrained cat and dog breeding creates lasting impacts. Spaying/neutering presents pet owners with a way to not only be part of the solution, but also to keep their pets healthy and safe.

Three benefits of spay/neuter include: diminishing the burden on animal groups; keeping stray/feral pet populations in check; and protecting pets from health concerns.

Events - Hosting a fundraising event for an animal group is a unique and valuable way to help. You can design your



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Guest Column

What about the money Congress stole from Social Security?



By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty

Is there any way that Congress will vote to pay back the Social Security funds they took for their stupid reasons, and left IOUs in place of the funds?

Because of the funds they took going back many years, we didn't have any decent Cost Of Living Adjustments for a few years. In fact, there were I think three to five years that we didn't get any COLA. Please Rusty, can you find out if this is true or false? Help us seniors.

Signed: Resentful Senior

Dear Resentful Senior

I can assure you that I've fully investigated the allegation that politicians have squandered Social Security's money and found that charge to be, simply speaking, a myth. I've gone back and looked at Social Security revenues and expenses since the government first started collecting FICA payroll taxes in 1937 and found that every dollar ever collected for Social Security has been used only for

Social Security purposes. Over the years, various claims have been made that the money has been used for other things, but I've researched each of these charges and found them all to be false.

Where the misconception mostly originates is that any excess money collected from working Americans for Social Security is invested in "special issue government bonds," which pay interest, as mandated by President Roosevelt when Social Security began. As with any investment, a financial obligation instrument is given in return for dollars received.

Remember when we used to buy "U.S. Savings Bonds?" We'd use our money to buy those bonds, hold them and later redeem them for a higher amount than we paid. That's exactly how Social Security contributions have always worked - excess money collected from working Americans is used to purchase special issue government bonds, which are held in reserve, earning interest, for future Social Security needs.

These special bonds reside in a Social Security Trust Fund and, as of the end of 2022, were worth about \$2.8 trillion. Are these bonds "worthless IOUs" as some would claim? Hardly, since they are redeemable as needed to pay Social Security benefits.

SECURITY | page 5

Fort Blunder: The time we put a fort in the wrong place

By J. Mark Powell
jmarkpowell.com

We all make mistakes. To err is human, after all. For example, flowers sometimes get inadvertently planted or fences built on the wrong side of the property line. It's an imperfect world after all.

When armies and nations make such a faux pas, war can result. Fortunately, that didn't happen with this week's tale.

Although the story does begin with a war. Two of them, in fact.

We know Canada today as a mellow place, a country famous for its politeness and good manners (along with trying to stay warm half of the year). But that wasn't always the case.

When the American colonies launched the Revolutionary War, our neighbor to the north stayed loyal to England.

Twice, (during the Revolution and again 37 years later during its sequel, the War of 1812) the U.S. invaded Canada. Twice, we had our fanny handed to us on a platter; and, as my Canadian friends in college were fond of gleefully pointing out, "We burned your White House, too!"

After narrowly surviving the War of 1812, President James Madison said it was time to seriously invest in defense spending. Since a fort had famously stopped the British fleet at Baltimore (giving us The Star-Spangled Banner in the pro-



J. MARK POWELL'S
HOLY COW! HISTORY

cess), the War Department set about building a string of fortifications along the Atlantic coast, many of which still stand today.

An imposing fort was planned to protect America from Canada as well. Money was authorized to build an eight-sided fortification with 30 foot stone walls and armed with 125 powerful cannons.

It would be built in New York state on the northern end of Lake Champlain within sight of the border. Twice during both wars, the British had used that waterway to launch their own invasions of our country.

Once the new fort was in place, no warship could get past it.

So, the Army set to work building the new fortress in 1816. Dozens of workmen and soldiers, overseen by the Corps of Engineers, commenced the mighty task.

It was so important; President James Madison even inspected the site in 1817.

Things were progressing nicely. Dozens of acres of woods had been cleared and the massive stone walls were going up.

Then it happened. A clerk in Washington discovered a mistake.

A bad mistake. A make-your-face-turn-red and hang-your-head-in-shame mistake.

The survey that had been used to select the new



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Opinion

PETS ■ from page 4

own event, or combine efforts with an existing or upcoming event, such as a birthday party, wedding, or school function, asking attendees to bring a gift or donation for the animals.

Share - Talk about your own stories of adoption, both on social media and in your day-to-day life. The more we talk about our stories of adoption, the more we can share the message that shelter pets are not less or broken because of their circumstance. They are resilient and capable of such a powerful love. Additionally, "sharing" can quite literally mean getting on social media and sharing posts or adoption profiles from animal groups, who are constantly posting their

needs, adoptable pets, wishlists, and more. When you "like," "comment," or "share," those posts, you're boosting engagement and allowing more people to see and help.

Adopt - According to various reports and statistics, more than 6.3 million domestic animals enter into animal shelters and rescues across the U.S. each year. Adopting a pet is a tremendous decision that not only saves one animal, but also creates space in an already overburdened system for another, doubling the impact with every adoption.

When you adopt a pet, it's a lifelong promise (the pet's life, of course). This is not a decision that should be made lightly; before you adopt, consider whether you will be able to provide that animal with the fol-

lowing basic needs for the pet's entire life: love and attention; food, water, and shelter; exercise and medical care.

Foster - Fostering a pet entails the temporary housing of an adoptable pet in one's home prior to adoption. Foster homes afford shelters and rescues the ability to save even more animals, and it helps animals that would otherwise be in a cage find comfort and support.

Fostering is not for everyone. The foster must be able to transport the pet to various places and provide the animal with care. It is also important to consider that fostering is intended to be temporary—many folks (like myself) have trouble saying goodbye, and that's okay, but if this is you, perhaps there's an alternative way to help.

Here are some questions you might ask yourself before fostering a pet:

Am I emotionally prepared to say goodbye?

Is everyone in my home equipped for this experience (other pets included)?

Am I able to transport this pet to vet visits and adoption events?

The best way to discover the needs of your local animal groups is by doing a search online, checking recent social media posts from the organization(s), or by contacting them directly and asking how you can help.

Editor's Note: The following information was acquired over the course of my career as a journalist, through my work as an animal advocate, and through common knowledge.

SECURITY ■ from page 4

Considering that, since 2010, Social Security's income from payroll taxes on American workers has been less than needed to cover benefits paid out, redemption of bonds held in the Trust Fund is the only reason that Social Security has been able to continue paying full benefits to every beneficiary. The Trust Fund is a financial safety net, which is now protecting all SS beneficiaries from having their benefits cut.

Problem is, unless Congress acts soon to reform Social Security's financial pic-

ture, the Trust Fund will be fully depleted in about 2033 resulting in about a 23% cut in everyone's monthly Social Security benefit. I'm optimistic that will not happen (it would be political suicide) and, hopefully, Congress will act soon to reform Social Security and restore it to financial solvency and avoid a future cut in everyone's benefits.

Regarding Cost of Living Adjustment and the lack thereof for several past years, COLA is determined by the government's standard inflation measure, the Consumer Price Index (CPI). There were several years (2010, 2011, and 2016) in which the

CPI showed no inflation so, therefore, no COLA increase was given.

Last year, due to soaring inflation, everyone got an 8.7% increase in their Social Security benefit, but that doesn't happen every year. FYI, the average annual COLA increase over the last two decades has been about 2.6%, although COLA for each year can be wildly different depending on each year's inflation measure.

In any case, the lack of a COLA increase in past years was not a result of any political chicanery, it was the result of low inflation during those years.

The Association Mature Citizens Foun-

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

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between east and southeast
4. At right angles to a ship's length
9. William Penn's business partner
14. ___ de plume
15. Accomplished soccer coach
16. Bone cavities
17. ___ juris: independent
18. Popular Philly sandwich
20. Northern Ireland county
22. Performing artist
23. S S S
24. Lacks flavor
28. Commercials
29. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
30. Qatar's capital
31. Indigenous peoples of Alberta
33. Popular footwear
37. Indicates position

38. Anglican cathedral
39. Aircraft part
41. Before
42. Blood group
43. Secretary organ
44. Fencing swords
46. The small projection of a mammary gland
49. Technological advancement
50. Male parent
51. Dissociable
55. More cold
58. Cape Verde Islands capital
59. Blood disorder
60. Creative
64. Sun up in New York
65. Made angry
66. Relieves
67. Brooklyn hoopster
68. Seasonsings
69. Movable barriers
70. Attempt

2. Spiritual essences
3. Representative
4. Entering
5. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
6. Midway between northeast and east
7. Consumed
8. Tablelands
9. Kids' craft accessory
10. Not known
11. Sound directed through two or more speakers
12. A major division of geological time
13. Wild ox
19. Shock treatment
21. Turner and Lasso are two
24. Genus of flowering plants
25. Relating to ductless glands
26. Stock certificate
27. Satisfies
31. Places to enjoy a rest

32. Edward ___, author and writer
34. "___ but goodie"
35. One hundredth of a liter
36. Shabbiness
40. TV personality Roker
41. Triangular upper part of a building
45. Speed at which you move
47. Offend
48. A reference point to shoot at
52. Forays
53. Biblical city
54. Blatted
56. Northern sea duck
57. Shabby (slang)
59. Allege
60. Tax collector
61. Whereabouts unknown
62. Chinese philosophical principle
63. Indicates equal

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 9

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Feline Friends Inc. announce September fundraiser



FEEDING HILLS – Feline Friends Inc. Cat Sanctuary will be holding a food/supply drive at Smithland Pet & Garden Center on Saturday, Sept. 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will be accepting food, litter and monetary donations for our kitties. Opened bags/boxes will also be accepted. Gift cards from various pet stores or Costco would be much appreciated.

Smithland, a valued sponsor, is stocked with Friskies Pate or Shreds canned food (single flavored cases preferred), some Fancy Feast varieties and unscented, clumping cat litter. All donations are

gratefully accepted. The donation bin is located near the cash registers. Other Wish List items: Disinfecting wipes, paper towels, puppy pee pads, dry cat or dog food for strays and colonies.

The Sanctuary is grateful to Stop & Shop at 1282 Springfield St., for choosing Feline Friends to participate in their Community Bag Program in July. Thanks also to E.B.'s for hosting the June 21 Give Back Wednesday event.

The sanctuary is also thankful to all of our community members for their support throughout the year. Just a reminder that

Feline Friends have collection bins at the Agawam Public Library and the Agawam Senior Center as well as at Smithland in Agawam.

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, nonprofit sanctuary that does not euthanize or discriminate against any cat based on age, gender or disability.

More information about our sanctuary may be found on our website at felinefriendsinc.org or our Facebook page at Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary. Contact with questions at info@felinefriendsinc.org or by phone at 413-786-5019.

ACC seeks funding proposals

AGAWAM – Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs due by Oct. 17.

The Agawam Cultural Council has set an Oct. 17 deadline for organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

According to Council Spokesperson Les Tingley, these grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Agawam -- including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, or performances in schools, workshops, and lectures.

The Agawam Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding net-

work in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the Agawam Cultural Council will distribute approximately \$25,000 (exact amount not yet determined) in grants. Last year the Agawam Cultural Council distributed \$23,000 in grant funds for 37 projects.

For information about the Local Cultural Council Program, and Grant Application process, visit the Massachusetts Cultural Council website: <https://massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/application-process/>

Community Crochet Club

AGAWAM – On Tuesdays at the Agawam United Methodist Church, 491 Mill St., from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. there will be a

Community Crochet Club. For more information or to register call Mark Mickey at 413-306-7194 between 1:30 to 10 p.m.

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.



Page One Productions will bring a new Dinner Show to the Brass Rail in Southwick next month. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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.

Household hazardous waste collection day set for Sept. 9

AGAWAM – The Agawam Department of Public Works is planning to hold its annual household hazardous waste collection day on Saturday, Sept. 9 at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street, between 9 a.m. and noon. Although this event is free to Agawam residents, pre-registration is required. Appointments may be scheduled by calling the DPW at 821-0600 ext.0 or 821-0624 beginning Monday, Aug. 14.

Participants should remain in their vehicle and place all waste in the trunk, rear

cargo area, or truck bed.

This program offers residents a safe, economical way to dispose of household items that are flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic. Solvents, pesticides, caustic cleaners, and oil-based paints are some examples of the different types of items that will be accepted. Latex paint will not be accepted at this event.

For a more detailed list of acceptable materials visit the town website at www.agawam.ma.us.

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SPORTS

Gomez hits the turf running as athletic director

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Karen Gomez has started her position as the new athletic director in Agawam, and she is looking forward to getting to better know the Agawam community from an athletics perspective.

“I have experience as athletic director and in the program, but I need to learn about the Agawam community,” she said. “Yes, I’ve coached here but I need to learn who we are and what we stand for.”



Karen Gomez

As athletic director, Gomez said that one of her main goals will be helping Agawam athletics to find, form and polish their own unique community identity and culture.

“I don’t know what that mantra is going to be just yet, but I want it to be a positive recognition and more of an identity,” Gomez said. “I think right now we have a lot of things going and everything is all over the place, but I want to tie those all together to say ‘this is what Agawam athletics is.’”

While learning about and developing the Agawam athletics culture, Gomez also hopes to encourage her student athletes and to help them learn how to communicate and be good leaders in the community, not just good athletes.

She plans to focus on community service. Agawam athletics already works hard to contribute to the community, with many of the athletes volunteering in one way or another, and Gomez plans to continue the tradition.

“It’s education, it’s family, it’s athletics and it’s our community,” she said. “It’s looking at this whole student and then looking at the athletics second, then while they’re combining those two, adding the civic duty.”

On top of this focus on civic contribution, Gomez also believes strongly in teaching and modeling respect. Whether the person be a student or a staff member, Gomez said she will expect them to respect those around them.

“Respecting your opponents, respecting your officials, respecting your team, I expect that from my student athletes all the way up through my coaches,” she said.

Gomez believes that the athletics department already has a

Agawam girls scrimmage

WILBRAHAM – The Agawam High School girls soccer team scrimmaged at Minnechaug Regional on Sunday during a large play day with several teams involved. Among the teams Agawam got to lock up with was perennial powerhouse Monson.

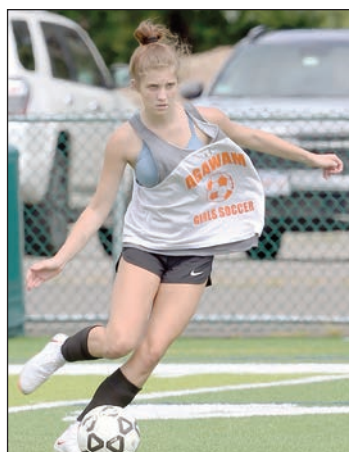
Agawam will have more scrimmages this week and open up the regular season on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at South Hadley.



Isabella Castro makes her way up the field.



Joann Schmuck punts the ball away.



Kylie Warner sends the ball away.



Gabriella Cosenti fights for the header.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Agawam field hockey hosted a play day on Sunday morning.



Agawam field hockey has a new coach this season in Nina Bruno.



Among the teams attending the event was Greenfield, an opponent Agawam has seen in the past.

PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



The Brownies had three scrimmages during the play day.

Brownies host field hockey play day

AGAWAM – Last Sunday morning, Agawam hosted five other schools in a field hockey play day. The teams played short scrimmages as they all prepare for the regular season, which is set to start next week. Agawam’s season opener is on the road at Frontier Regional at 4 p.m.



Agawam was scheduled to face Suffield, Conn. as well during the preseason.

Sports

Kennedy looks for new additions to Tri-County next season

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – While Mike Kennedy was a three-sport athlete at Holyoke High School forty years ago, his favorite sport has always been baseball.

Kennedy was a member of Holyoke's 1985 state championship baseball team.

"We defeated Boston College High School in the Division 1 baseball state finals," said Kennedy, who played first base. "It was a fun experience, especially being a group of city kids. Baseball has always been my favorite sport."

Holyoke, who defeated B.C. High, 4-2, in the state championship game, finished the 1985 season with a 24-1 record. They squeaked a 1-0 victory over Minnechaug Regional in the Western Mass. finals.

After graduating from High School, Kennedy was a member of the PeoplesBank baseball team in the Tri-County League for the twenty four years. During that time, PeoplesBank won eight Tri-County League championship titles.

Kennedy recently completed his first season as the President of the prestigious Tri-County League. He took over the reins from Don LaValley.

"This is my first year as the league President," Kennedy said. "I think it was a very successful season."

Kennedy has received a lot of support and his right hand man is Eric Emet

"Eric has been a very big help to me," Kennedy said. "He has kept my head above water in my first year as President."

In his role as the T.C.L. President, Kennedy presented the 2023 championship trophy to PeoplesBank player/manager Joe Ferry.

Top-seeded PeoplesBank didn't have very much trouble sweeping second-seeded Chicopee Falls Tigers in the best of three championship series.

PeoplesBank captured the T.C.L. championship title for the tenth consecutive year, and for the 18th time since 1995.

While PeoplesBank has been the dominant team in the T.C.L. during the past 30 years, there were only five other teams in

the league this summer.

Kennedy is looking to add a few more teams before the start of the 2024 season.

"My main goal is to add a few more teams," Kennedy said. "I would like to have at least ten teams in our league during the next couple of years. I want this league to get back to where it used to be."

The three teams that dropped out of the T.C.L. following the 2022 season were Pa'Lante, Easthampton and Teddy's Bear Pool.

On a positive note, 413ATC was a first-year member of the T.C.L. this summer. They finished in third place behind PeoplesBank and the Chicopee Falls Tigers in the regular season standings. They were swept by the Tigers in the semifinals.

"The 413 team had a bunch of young players," Kennedy said. "For being a first-year team in this league, I thought they had a very good season."

Kennedy is hoping more of the high school and Legion baseball players will join the Tri-County League during the next couple of years.

"What we really need to do is to get the younger baseball players from the area to play in this league," he said. "Most of our current players are older."

The other three T.C.L. teams this summer were St. Joseph's, DiFranco Realty, and the Longmeadow Cardinals.

The Tri-County League teams play their games on some of the best kept baseball fields in Western Massachusetts.

PeoplesBank homefield is MacKenzie Stadium in Holyoke.

The Chicopee Falls Tigers play their home games at historic Szot Park.

The 413ATC home field was at Westfield State University and St. Joseph's has played their home games at St. Joe's Ballpark in Thorndike for many years.

"All of our baseball fields are high quality," Kennedy said. "Most of the fields have lights, which is always a bonus."

While PeoplesBank will be looking to add another championship title to their collection in 2024, all the other Tri-County League teams will be looking to knock them off the top of the mountain.

GOMEZ ■ from page 7

strong foundation, with a great coaching staff and dedicated students. According to Gomez, Agawam is a supportive community that has had good leadership of and dedication to its education and athletics, one of the main reasons she chose to live in and contribute to this town.

"Agawam has a rich tradition in athlet-

ics, they've had some phenomenal athletic directors and athletic leadership...and when I started my professional career I chose to live in Agawam because of the community," she said. "I love the community support, I love the fans at the games, I think people value education and athletics."

This opinion does not come without evidence to support it. Not only is Gomez a

resident of Agawam, but she has also been a part of the athletics department for eight years now.

Gomez was the field hockey coach at the varsity program for Agawam High School for eight years prior to beginning this new position. She also has a background in health and physical education and was the athletic director for Westfield Public Schools from 2006-2015 before becoming

the athletic coordinator from 2016 until taking up her new position in Agawam.

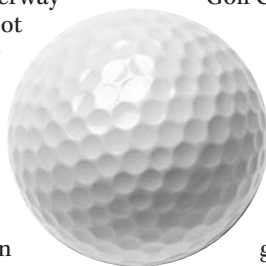
She plans to use this experience to ensure that Agawam continues its traditions in athletics, while also helping Agawam to find its own unique voice.

"Communication, perception, appearance—who are we?" Gomez asked. "I think I need to accomplish that goal my first year to be successful moving forward."

Foursomes needed for charity golf tournament

AGAWAM – Registration and signups are currently open and underway for the Sixth Annual "Shoot Fore The Stars To Cure Cancer" Golf Tournament to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute.

In the first five years, the event has raised over \$15,000 for cancer research. The four-person scramble event will take place



on Monday, Sept. 18 at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT.

The event will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start. There will be prizes up for grabs (Closest to Pin/Long Drive) along with a putting contest. Entry fee covers golf, lunch and dinner. Please contact Shoot-ForeTheStarsToCureCancer@gmail.com more information. We hope you can join us.

Westfield State Owls picked fifth in preseason poll

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University football has been picked to finish seventh in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference in the league's annual preseason coaches' poll.

Westfield finished with 19 points. Defending conference champion UMass Dartmouth headed the poll with 63 points and seven of the nine first place votes. Coaches may not vote for their own teams in the polling process.

The Corsairs were followed by Bridgewater State with 53 points, WestConn with 47 points and one first place vote, and Framingham State with 46 points and the other first-place vote. Plymouth State was fifth with 41 points, followed by Mass Mari-

time (29 points).

Westfield ranked ahead of Worcester State (19) and Fitchburg State (10).

The Owls return a solid nucleus of veterans, which includes leading rusher Jordan Smith (Coventry, Conn.), quarterbacks Gabriel Fernandez (Holyoke, Mass.) and Colby Pires (Milford, Mass.).

On the defensive side, top tackler Tyler Cooley (Randolph, Mass.) and defensive lineman Cade Nelson (Shrewsbury, Mass.) headline a large group of returnees in the front seven.

The Owls have been in preseason camp since Aug. 11. They will kick off the regular season with a non-conference game at Anna Maria on Saturday, Sept. 2 at 12 noon.

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10th annual Michael J Dias Foundation golf tournament

LUDLOW – The Michael J Dias Foundation announces its milestone 10th annual golf tournament fundraiser, scheduled to take place at the scenic Ludlow Country Club on Monday, Oct. 16. The golf tournament is sponsored by Luso Federal Credit Union. It promises a day of camaraderie, sport, and community support, all in the spirit of making a positive impact.

The Michael J Dias Foundation, renowned for its commitment to providing sober housing to individuals in recovery, has organized this remarkable event as a crucial fundraising effort to further its mission. The tournament will kick off with registration commencing at 9 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 10 a.m.

The cost per golfer is \$150, which includes greens fees, golf cart, a delectable lunch to refuel mid-game, and a buffet dinner to celebrate the day's successes.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and individuals eager to make a difference. Sponsors are an integral part of supporting the foundation's vital work, contributing to the well-being and recovery of those the foundation serves.

Registration for the 10th annual golf tournament and becoming a sponsor is easily accessible through the official registration portal: <https://bit.ly/MJDGOLF23>. For more information about the event, sponsorship opportunities, or the inspiring work of the Michael J Dias Foundation, please visit the foundation's official website at www.mdiasfoundation.org.

For inquiries and additional information, please feel free to contact Isabel Martins, who can be contacted via email at imartins@mdiasfoundation.org or by phone at 617-429-0541.

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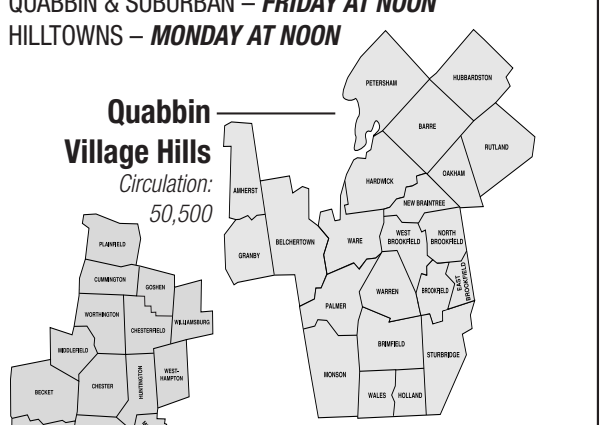
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!



Blake Saltmarch, Anabel Bartone and Gabriella Sterne help sell lemonade to raise money for their class. Turley photo by Quinn Suomala

FUNDRAISER ■ from page 1

year could begin.

“It’s a good way to get the kids together with their friends before the school year starts and to get the community involved,” Pettazzoni said.

The stand was a success, and Pettazzoni was grateful to all the other parents who pitched in to help.

“All the moms and dads really stepped up and helped a lot,” Pettazzoni said.

Each parent brought about five to ten gallons of lemonade and, with about 30 kids helping at the stand, this was more than enough.

The lemonade sold fast in the warm weather, with many cars pulling over to get a sip of the refreshing beverage before continuing on with their day.

FORT ■ from page 4

fort’s site was wrong. Way wrong.

It mistakenly placed the international border three-quarters of a mile to the south. Meaning the fort intended to protect us from Canada was being built – in Canada!

President Madison was mortified. He ordered construction to stop, told the Army to immediately withdraw, then apologized profusely to the Canadians, who shrugged it off with a “these things happen” response.

Washington had spent \$175,000 (about \$3.5 million today) on the project. Now it was all wasted in a textbook example of a government boondoggle.

With the Army gone, local residents took stone and other materials for use in their houses, buildings and barns. In a few years, the site was picked clean.

No trace of it now exists.

The fort had never been officially named. Americans and Canadians alike eventually called the place exactly what it was: Fort Blunder.

Twenty years later, the Army built another fortification nearby. Called Fort Montgomery, it was smaller and less imposing than the original.

By then U.S.-Canadian relations were warming significantly.

In 1909 it was abandoned. Today it sits empty on the shores of Lake Champlain, a decaying relic from a bygone era.

But one thing was certain: when the Army began building Fort Montgomery, you can bet they made darn sure they went to work on the right side of the border that time!

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

Obituaries

Richard R. Berryman



Richard R. Berryman, 75, of Acton, formerly of Agawam, passed away on August 23. He was the loving husband of Antoinette (Bonfitto) Berryman for 53 years and devoted father of Russell R Berryman and his wife Alison of Chelmsford and Andrew M. Berryman and his wife Laura Peeke of Lexington. Son of the late Hollis and Helen Berryman, Richard was born and lived

most of his life in Agawam where he and Toni raised their family. His grandchildren Violet, Adam and Maxwell were the light of his life and the reason for their move east.

Richard retired from ISO New England after a 36-year career of “keeping the lights on for all of New England.” A 20 military veteran of the Army National Guard and Air Force Reserve, Rich was proud of his service to his country. Richard was active in the Episcopal Church in Agawam and West Springfield serving as junior and senior wardens. His quiet faith in God guided him all his life.

His 1970 Mach1 Mustang was his pride and joy. Bringing the car home “in buckets”, Rich rebuilt the Mustang. He attended weekly car shows and cruises winning Best in Show. Rich turned his passion for BBQ into a new hobby becoming an international judge for Kanas City BBQ Society traveling around the New England and to England and Austria to judge.

NASCAR fan, mechanic, pilot, music lover, drummer, birdwatcher, trail walker, and biker, Rich loved the ocean and spending time there with family. Marrying into large and fun-loving Italian family, he cherished the loud and raucous gatherings. Steady, always willing to lend a hand, and supportive, Rich will be greatly missed by his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, all his nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, 309 Waverley Oaks Rd, Waltham, MA 02452, or a charity of your choice.

Marcia J. Blanchette

Marcia J. Blanchette, 81, passed away peacefully Monday, August 21, 2023. She was a daughter of the late Rodolphe and Lorraine (Couture) Tetrault. Marcia was a graduate of Sacred Heart High School and following high school she joined the Sisters of Notre Dame De Namur, Connecticut Province, where she dedicated 18 faithful years. Marcia graduated from Emmanuel College in Boston. She worked as a counselor and then Director of Counseling at St. Joseph’s College in West Hartford and later taught Psychology at STCC. Marcia also attended the Crossroads UPC ministry in Chicopee for many years. She will be remembered as an outgoing people person who enjoyed helping others.

Marcia was predeceased by her parents and her husband Leo Blanchette.

She leaves her beloved sisters; Carolyn L. Tetrault of Agawam and Christine L. Tetrault of Maryland, her cousins, Janet Larkin and David Couture, their children and many dear friends. She will also be remembered by her 6 stepchildren, Jerry Blanchette, Donna Weston, Carol Griffith, Sherry Walz, Helene Kane and Leo Blanchette Jr. and all of their families.

Funeral services was held on Monday, August 28, 2023 at the Colonial Forastiere Funeral and Cremation, 985 Main Street, Agawam, MA from 9 to 10 a.m. followed by at liturgy of Christian burial at 11 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Church, 395 Chestnut St., Springfield, MA. Burial will be in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Tinkham Rd. Springfield. For more details and to share condolences please visit www.forastiere.com.

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.

DEATH NOTICES

BERRYMAN, RICHARD R.

Died: August 23, 2023

BLANCHETTE, MARCIA J.

Died: August 21, 2023

Services: August 28, 2023

aan@turley.com' in a bold, blue and white font."/>

ELECTION ■ from page 1

Sandlin, Gerald Smith and Anthony Suffriti.

As only eight of the 11 city councilors are running for re-election; this leaves three open spots on the council.

Four challengers have also turned in their nomination papers for the city council. They are: Edward Borgatti, Susan Dawson, Peter Smus and Maria Valego. At least three of those candidates should earn a seat barring any write-in campaigns.

Seven candidates have turned in their nomination papers for the school com-

mittee. They are: Shelley Borgatti-Reed, AJ Christopher, Dawn DeMatteo, Catherin McDougal, Christopher Pass, Michael Perry and Wendy Rua.

McDougal is the only challenger for a position on the school committee. The remaining six candidates are incumbents.

The preliminary election is set to take place on Tuesday, Oct. 10 and the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Early voting by mail will not be available. There is a ballot measure the town is waiting on which will ask voters whether or not to change the length of time between the primary and

general elections. The current timeline is four weeks. Voters will be asked to change it to eight weeks so the primary can take place in early September, allowing more time for ballots to be finalized, making mail-in voting more feasible.

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

Precinct 2: Clifford Granger School, 31 South Westfield Street

Precinct 3: Agawam High School, 760 Copper Street

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

Precinct 5: Benjamin Phelps School, 689 Main Street

Precinct 6: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street

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

Precinct 8: James Clark School, 65 Oxford Street

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

MASCOT ■ from page 1

Currently, the bill needs to be heard by the Joint Committee on Education. Every bill is required to have a public hearing, where the public has the opportunity to speak either in favor

Comerford proposed this bill due to requests from many indigenous peoples in the area to get rid of all mascots using their image.

“I think it’s important because indigenous people are telling us that it’s important,” Comerford said. “I trust that some folks in Agawam do not see this as a symbol or a mascot that should concern people, but what we have to realize is that it does

concern the indigenous people.”

Three years ago, the Agawam City Council held a vote on whether or not they should change the mascot of Agawam. The council decided against the change, voting unanimously to keep the mascot and the orange and brown colors of Agawam.

Mayor William Sapelli is in agreement with the council on this decision.

“People in our community by and large feel that it is appropriate,” he said.

Sapelli believes that the town of Agawam is not being disrespectful to indigenous peoples through their mascot.

“We are not being disrespectful,” he said. “When you pick a mascot, you pick something that is very strong, very coura-

geous, very respected, you don’t pick something weak, incompetent, goofy, you don’t do that.”

Sapelli claims that if he believed the mascot was being disrespectful towards indigenous peoples, he would change it in an instant. Until then, however, he feels that the mascot should be left alone.

While Sapelli and other members of Agawam feel that the mascot is not disrespectful or harmful, others disagree.

Comerford respects that the members of Agawam do not see any harm in the mascot, she emphasizes that this is not what is important in the long run.

“What we have to realize is that it does concern the indigenous folks who are orga-

nizing around a ban of mascots,” Comerford said. “So, the intention is not to concern or not to disrespect, but the impact is one of concern and feelings of disrespect and I think that’s a really important distinction.”

The American Psychological Association put out a call in 2005 for the retirement of Native American mascots by schools, organizations and universities (for more information on this, go to <https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots>). The reasoning for this was that the APA found that the use of such mascots has a negative effect on all students, not just Native Americans.

3

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