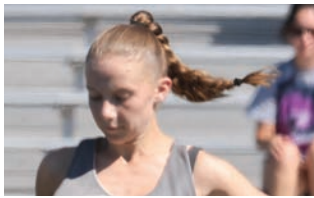




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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

September 3, 2026 | Vol. 48, No. 27 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com



Volunteers Bob Despang, Jill Strain, Shelia Langton with a couple of participants in the Wheelers group. TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Senior Center hosts Wheelers

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last Wednesday, the Western Mass Wheelers spent the morning at Agawam Senior Center providing accessible bike rides to seniors. The Western Mass Wheelers group is completely run by

volunteers. The bikes are fully run by the volunteers, and the seniors can simply sit back and enjoy the bike ride outside. The bike includes safety features ensuring a stress-free ride.

Participants are required to fill out a waiver before their ride. Additional safety measures put in place by

the Western Mass Wheelers include additional volunteer bikers going on each trip without a passenger. These extra bikers are there for safety purposes to help out. This group has been coming to Agawam Senior Center for around two weeks now

RIDE | page 10

History of beer in America

Golf course,
library team up
for presentation

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Monday Aug. 24, Agawam Public Library hosted an event in collaboration with the Agawam Municipal Golf Course. The event was free to attend, and it was held at the golf course. Em Sauter, founder of Pints and Panels, award-winning

cartoonist and international beer judge presented on the history of beer in America. This illustrated presentation went in timeline order going into detail about what type of beer people would have been drinking at different points in history, how they made and stored it, and how it influenced life. Sauter's presentation covered events like the Pilgrims landing in Plymouth and the founding of modern popular beer companies by immigrants. During the presentation attendees were offered small tastings of three

beers, the first was an English-style Pale Ale, then an American Lager, and lastly an India Pale Ale.

Sauter is fascinated by beer.

"It's such a great accessible drink, you know," Sauter said. "You can go to a bar; it's not expensive. It's like you can have one or two; it's not going to knock you out. There's so many different flavors and pines and then, beer people also are just the nicest people. It's such a wonderful, inviting community. So, it's really amazing that I can like marry the like art that I loved, I've been, you know, I've been drawing since I was four, to a thing that I really like admire and love and love to learn about in beer."

Sauter talks about how history ties into this.

"So, I was an American History Major in college," she said. "And I also just really like; I just also really love the history aspect. The thing about beer history though, is that there's a lot of like, I mentioned it in the presen-



Em Sauter makes a presentation at APL Aug. 24.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

BEER | page 10

Annual Sheriff Cocchi Community Cookout brings out huge crowd

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD — A record-breaking turnout marked Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi's ninth annual golf tournament and community cookout, with more than 3,000 people gathering under the Elks Lodge pavilion on Aug. 19.

The annual summer gathering traces its roots to a tradition established more than 40 years ago by Retired Hampden County Sheriff Michael J. Ashe Jr., who served 42 years in the role and was known for his clam bakes back in the day. Cocchi has remained steadfast in pre-

serving the longstanding tradition, hosting a morning golf tournament at various locations across Western Massachusetts before culminating in an afternoon and evening of camaraderie and celebration; serving as one of the region's premier political gatherings of the summer.

Elected officials and political hopefuls across the political spectrum attended and offered their views on how they would positively impact Western Massachusetts in the next couple of years, an element Cocchi highlighted.

"Today is about bringing Western Mass, not just Hampden County, together to show the rest of the com-

monwealth the electoral power and value we hold here, while also granting the opportunity for the public to speak with the individuals who are going to be on the ballot this year," Cocchi said. "And it's clear we have some contested races this year, which include Democrats, Republicans, and unenrolled folks. So this gathering is always special because it creates a moment of allowing the public to figure out where they will throw their support."

Additionally, months before the fundraiser, Cocchi and the HCSO faced significant financial challenges when approximately \$26.5

million was removed from the department's fiscal year 2026 budget allocation, prompting the department to scale back operations, per the request of the OIG (Office of the Inspector General).

"The sheriffs were very comfortable and strong in the services that we're providing our communities, and we're going to continue to fight," Cocchi said. "We're going to fight for our individual counties and the programs that we believe are instrumental in impacting not only jail programs, but also the programs that are on the out-



Agawam City Council President Anthony Russo with Sheriff Nick Cocchi and a supporter. TURLEY PHOTO BY BRENDAN ROONEY

COCCHI | page 10

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Second tag sale planned to benefit Dana-Farber

Local walkers Debbie Callahan and Steve Buoniconti continue fundraising efforts ahead of the Oct. 4 Jimmy Fund Walk for Dana-Farber

AGAWAM — After raising \$3,400 for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at their first community tag sale, Debbie Callahan and Steve Buoniconti are doing it again — this time in Agawam.

Their second fundraising tag sale will be held Sept. 25, 26 and 27, from 4 to 8 p.m. each day at 116 Katherine Drive in Agawam.

The first sale, held Aug. 7-9 at Callahan's West Springfield home during the citywide tag sale weekend, raised \$3,400 thanks to do-

nated merchandise, volunteers and an outpouring of support from shoppers and the community.

"We were amazed by the response to our first tag sale," Callahan said. "People donated items, came out to shop and supported us in so many ways. To see all of those donated items turn into \$3,400 for Dana-Farber was incredible, and we're hoping the community will help us do it again in Agawam."

Once again, all items offered for sale are being donat-

ed, and 100% of the proceeds will benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute as part of Callahan and Buoniconti's fundraising for the Jimmy Fund Walk for Dana-Farber on Sunday, Oct. 4.

For both walkers, the cause is deeply personal.

Buoniconti lost his wife to cancer in 2023. That same year, Callahan received a cancer diagnosis of her own. Their experiences have given them a firsthand understanding of how cancer affects not only patients, but

also families, caregivers and friends.

"Cancer has touched both of our lives in different ways," Callahan said. "We know what it means for a family to hear the word cancer. This is our way of taking those experiences and doing something positive — helping support the research and care that can make a difference for someone else."

On Oct. 4, Callahan and Buoniconti will join participants in the Jimmy Fund Walk for Dana-Farber along

the historic Boston Marathon course. Funds raised through the Walk support cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Dana-Farber brings scientists and clinicians together to advance the understanding and treatment of cancer. Its work includes laboratory and clinical research, innovative treatments and clinical trials, along with comprehensive care and support services for patients, survivors, caregivers and families.

Community Donations Needed

Organizers are currently accepting donations of items to sell at the September tag sale. Because the merchandise is donated and 100% of the sale proceeds benefit Dana-Farber, community donations are an important part of making the fundraiser successful.

Anyone interested in donating items can contact Debbie Callahan at 413-531-2261 or Steve Buoniconti at 413-222-3051.

Chamber hosting free Medicare seminar

SPRINGFIELD — The West of the River Chamber of Commerce, along with the East of the River Chamber, is pleased to announce a free educational morning coffee hour, "Medicare...the Countdown to 65," presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts on Wednesday, Sept 23 from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 1160 Dickinson St, Springfield.

Turning 65 is an important milestone, and navigating Medicare can sometimes feel overwhelming. This informative seminar is designed to help individuals approaching Medicare eligibility better understand the process, important enrollment consider-

ations, and the options available to them.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts representatives, ask questions, and receive helpful information in a relaxed and welcoming setting. Morning coffee will be provided.

"Medicare...the Countdown to 65" is ideal for individuals who are approaching age 65, as well as family members or caregivers who may be helping a loved one navigate Medicare.

"We are excited to partner with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts to bring this valuable educational opportunity to our community," said

Robin Wozniak of the West of the River Chamber of Commerce. "Turning 65 brings many important decisions, and this seminar provides an excellent opportunity to get informed, ask questions, and better understand the Medicare process."

The West of the River Chamber of Commerce encourages community members who are nearing Medicare eligibility to take advantage of this free informational seminar.

Advance registration is required.

For more information or to register, please contact the West of the River Chamber of Commerce.

ACAA to present Cactushead Puppets

AGAWAM — Agawam Community Artists and Artisans will present the CactusHead Puppets at the group's monthly meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 9.

CactusHead Puppets was started in 2010 by married couple John and Megan Regan. Since then, they have created several fun family shows, often based on favorite familiar folk tales, have toured throughout the Northeast, and are now affiliated artists with the Puppet Showplace Theater.

The Regans will be demonstrating their puppets at the ACAA meeting

at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m., with light refreshments. The public is invited to attend, free of charge.

Megan and John are both graduates of the University of Connecticut's Puppet Arts program. Megan is originally from the Kansas City area, where she worked with Paul Mesner Puppets, now known as What is Puppets. John is from Western Massachusetts, and is honored to be performing in the same venues where he saw puppet shows growing up. Me-

gan collects pop-up books, and John has a love for giant monster movies.

Why "CactusHead"? As a child playing on his family's computer, John created the image that he called CactusHeads. His parents liked it so much that they saved it and made him a CactusHead T-shirt as a gift for his 21st birthday. When it came time to pick a name for the company, they thought that CactusHead reflected the fun and creativity that they hope to express.

For further information please contact Ceil Rossi at (413) 207-1247.

Cooper's taking donations for TJO Animals

AGAWAM — For a limited time, Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home of Agawam, Mass., is accepting shelter supply donations for Foundation for TJO Animals, which is located at 237 Memorial Drive, Springfield, MA 01104.

The Foundation for TJO Animals raises funds to provide resources and support for critical veterinary care and enrichment for

the animals at the Thomas J O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center. The center serves Springfield, Chicopee, and Holyoke. They are a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations will be collected at Cooper's now through September 30. "We invite everyone to help out the animals at TJO and be entered to win a \$100 Cooper's Gift Card," said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home.

Items to keep the shelter clean and well stocked; paper towels, bleach, pet food, treats, toys and litter, are their current needs. "We hope that while people are out purchasing items for themselves, that they will consider picking up a few extras for the Foundation

for TJO Animals. And, you'll be entered into our raffle!" said Gourde.

"We will swap a raffle entry for every item donated to the Foundation for TJO Animals. One lucky winner of a \$100 Cooper's gift card will be notified on October 1st. Entry tickets can also be purchased at the store for \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5. All ticket sales will also be donated to the Foundation for TJO Animals. Especially for people outside the Greater Springfield area, it's easier for them to bring donations here," Gourde said. Items may be brought to the shop anytime up until Sept. 30. Cooper's is located at 161 Main St., Agawam.

"This drive coincides with Foundation for TJO

Animals as our September Round-Up charity; so, it's the perfect time to spread the word about their mission and really help them out," Gourde said. Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round-Up Program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the nearest dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated more than \$69,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity may be found on Cooper's website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/.

Senior-friendly trips

AGAWAM — Insider's Travel Agawam has an exciting lineup of upcoming adventures with a special focus on seniors.

Learn more or visit us every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center located at 954 Main Street, Agawam. Information about upcoming trips is also available on the Senior Center bulletin board and at insiderstravelagawam.com.

Upcoming trips:

- Sept. 16: Choose between Boston Encore Casino or the New England Aquarium.
- Oct. 7: Choose between Mystic Seaport or Mystic Aquarium plus shopping at "Old Mistick Village".
- Oct. 14: Almost Sold Out - The Great Fall Mystery Trip.
- Nov. 17: Enjoy New York Radio City Music Hall Rockettes Christmas Spectacular.
- Dec. 15: Celebrate the season with Christmas in Newport.

All ages welcome — but we cater to seniors.

Garden club meeting

AGAWAM — The next meeting of the Agawam Garden Club will be held Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library 750 Cooper Street. After a short business meeting club

member Pat Hayes will present a program on Papermaking using flowers and greens from the garden. All meetings are open to the public and not restricted to Agawam residents.

Town to remember Sept. 11

AGAWAM — The Town of Agawam will be conducting a brief September 11th remembrance ceremony on Friday Sept. 11 at 9:30 a.m. in front of Agawam Fire Department Headquarters, 800 Main Street, Agawam. The ceremony will honor those who lost their lives in the attacks of September 11th

2001.

Speaking in remembrance at the ceremony will be:

- Fire Chief Alan Sirois
- Mayor Christopher Johnson
- Pastor Tim Sheranko, Fire Department Chaplain Rev. Stephen Thee, Bethany Assembly of God

Fall brochure now available

AGAWAM — The Agawam Park and Recreation Fall Brochure is now available online at www.agawam.ma.us. Information about Youth Basketball, Fall Lacrosse, Pira-

nhas Swim Team, and Family Bingo Nights can all be found in the brochure. Please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 821-0514 for more information.

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USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB. BAG **\$1⁷⁵** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG **\$1⁸⁸** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN HEAT & EAT LATTICE TOP APPLE PIE 5 LB **\$6⁹⁹** ea

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Gold and silver winners, David DiGiovanni, Steve Lepow, Dan Arventos, Lino Mateus, Peggy Campbell, Anne Lyon, Susan Gove, Games Coordinator Joanie Simmons, Davis Johnson, Jim McNerney and Mark Lyon at the June 27 Massachusetts Senior Games Shuffleboard West Competition.

RESIDENTS QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL SENIOR GAMES

Residents qualify for National Senior Games

AGAWAM - On June 27 at St. John's Field, the Massachusetts Senior Games Shuffleboard West Competition was held. Athletes David DiGiovanni, Steve Lepow, Dan Arventos, Lino Mateus, Peggy Campbell, Anne Lyon, Susan Gove, Games Coordinator Joanie Simmons, Davis Johnson, Jim

McNerney and Mark Lyon are now able to compete in Tulsa Oklahoma in 2027 at the National Senior Games. The Massachusetts Senior Games are held annually, and include track, field, softball, basketball, swimming, ice hockey, archery, pickleball, table tennis and many more sports. Around 10,000

senior athletes will compete at the National Senior Games in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Nationals will take place from June 30 to July 11 in the upcoming summer. The goal of the Massachusetts Senior Games is to promote movement and connection while having fun competing in your chosen sport.

Senior Center hosts art class for public

AGAWAM – On Wednesday, Aug. 26 Agawam Senior Center hosted their weekly art class facilitated by Joe Potter. This class has been running for almost two years now and has become a beloved part of the Agawam community. Potter shared that the class began with one of the seniors hearing that he had a background in art and word reached Assistant Director Kristina Lynch. Lynch, Executive Director Cindy Sullivan and Potter then worked together to organize an art class at Agawam Senior Center.

Potter talked about his background in art.

“I suppose I always possessed an innate ability to draw and paint, or I would say more of an innate willingness to draw and paint,” Potter. “It was a fascinating way for me to sort of illustrate a story. But I didn’t honestly think very much of it other than just enjoying it. So, it wasn’t until I was in high school thinking to myself well, I’ve got about six or eight months left before I decide what it is I’m going to do with my life.”

Making art means a lot to Potter, and he enjoys the creative process.

“You know, one of the

things I think I learned, I think if I had to sort of roll this back, you know, when I was at Holyoke, I had a painting professor that inspired me in so many ways. I learned even about myself, that if you have a thought about an image or emotion about an image, you can take that from thought to thumb-nail to actual experience. And it’s important to say experience, because painting is an experience. And there’s a lot of things that you can do. And that is to set the atmosphere, listen to music, you know, have your pets around, whatever it is that makes you feel at home. I learned that from him. I also learned that you don’t necessarily have to start out thinking that it has to be something. It has to be beautiful. It has to be finished. It has to be likeable.”

Potter believes providing a space for artistic freedom is so important.

“What I guess I like most about this is that it provides me an opportunity to introduce the idea to anyone who’s willing, that they can make art, and there’s no secret formula,” Potter said. “You don’t have to be an artist to make good art. You know, art is nothing more than an expression of how

you are thinking and feeling. It’s an extension of your personality. And I think the opportunity to share that is what attracted me to it. The idea of saying, ‘Let’s just talk about the process of going from idea to canvas, or to whatever surface you want to paint on.’”

Potter highlighted the senior center’s art class has no rules or restrictions on what art can be.

“I think one of the biggest things is being able to offer the idea that it’s limitless. You can use whatever inspiration, whatever it is, whatever subject matter. None of it matters unless it matters to you. It should be something that resonates with you. It should be something that inspires you. I like that aspect. I like being able to present that.”

Some examples of what attendees were working on during Wednesday’s class included a vase of flowers, a deer and a landscape piece. Throughout the class Joe spend time each attendee to see if they wanted any advice and check in with how their art piece is going. For more information about upcoming events at Agawam Senior Center, visit the senior center’s website.



Attendees painting at Agawam Senior Center art class on Aug. 26.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Art festival coming to Mattoon St.

SPRINGFIELD – The 53rd annual Mattoon Street Arts Festival is right around the corner. Held in the city’s first historic district and surrounded by restored Victorian brick row houses, the festival is the oldest running arts and crafts festival in the Pioneer Valley. It features 100 exhibitors on Sept. 12 and 13 in downtown Springfield, running from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The free arts and crafts show will also include performances by strolling musicians.

The arts and crafts include paintings, photogra-

phy, glasswork, ceramics, specialty foods, jewelry, and more, made by crafters from the Greater Springfield area and beyond. Festival attendees will be serenaded by local entertainers while they shop, hearing the music of Joel Meginsky playing mandolin and clarinet, Andy Allen on the saxophone, Kayla Rae singing with the guitar, and William (Bill) Hart with the flute on Saturday and Violin Bone with the violin, Over Easy Jazz Band playing jazz, George David on the accordion, and AJ Jansen singing on Sunday.

While shopping, attendees can also enjoy food for

purchase from local vendors, including Citrus & Soiree, Crepes Nanou, Moe’s Dogs, Monsoon Roastery, Tayo Eatery, and Belmont Vegetarian, with Batch Ice Cream and The Lassi Lab on Saturday only and Thai Chili Food Truck and Ty’s Pies on Sunday only.

Mattoon Street is located off Chestnut Street, near the Springfield Museums. Festival goers can find free parking at the TD Bank lot off of Dwight Street and Harrison Avenue or with on-street parking, which is free on the weekends.

For more information, visit mattoontfestival.org.

Chamber hold next “Lunch with the Legislators”

AGAWAM – The West of the River Chamber of Commerce has announced it will hold it’s next “Lunch with the Legislators” on Tuesday, Oct. 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event

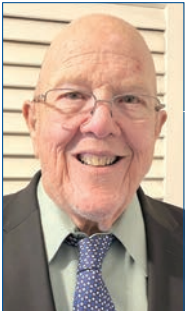
will be held at Latitude Restaurant at 1338 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Join us for lunch with our

local senators and representatives for informative updates and a Q&A session.



Anthony C. Bonavita, Esquire

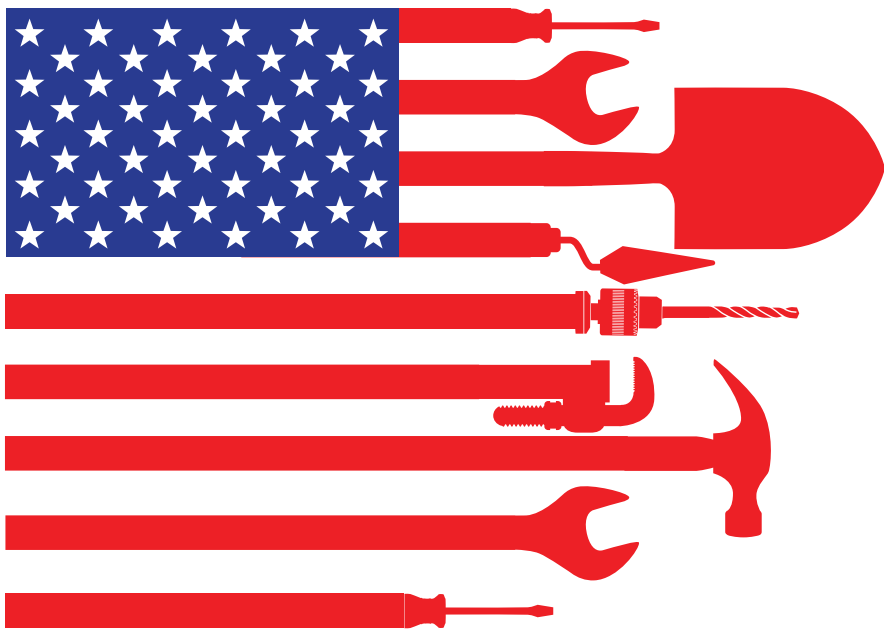
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Opinion

Guest Column



Will Social Security run out of money soon?

Dear Rusty:

I'm concerned about Social Security running out of funding, since I rely on it for my income and I'm at an age where my having to go back to work is not an option I can consider.

The job market for people my age is slim. I've been reading reports and it doesn't sound reassuring. Your thoughts?

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

Thanks for sharing your concerns. This topic is a fairly complicated one, but I'll do my best to explain it.

Social Security income from payroll taxes, interest on reserves, and income tax on SS benefits has been insufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since about 2020.

Since that time, SS has been drawing money from the Social Security Trust Fund reserves to pay full monthly benefits to everyone.

In 2020, there was nearly \$3 trillion in SS reserves held in the SS Trust Funds, but as of the end of 2025, those reserves have dwindled to about \$2.56 trillion because they are being used to pay full SS benefits to all.

Without program reform, the SS trust funds will be fully depleted in 2032, which would result in an across-the-board cut of about 22% to everyone's monthly SS payment. And that would be devastating to millions of Americans!

However, Congress is acutely aware of this issue; they have been for years but have largely ignored previous warnings. Now, however, those predicted benefit cuts are dangerously close to becoming a reality.

As a result, we are beginning to see serious, even bipartisan, discussions in Congress about reforming

Social Security to restore it to solvency to avoid future benefit cuts.

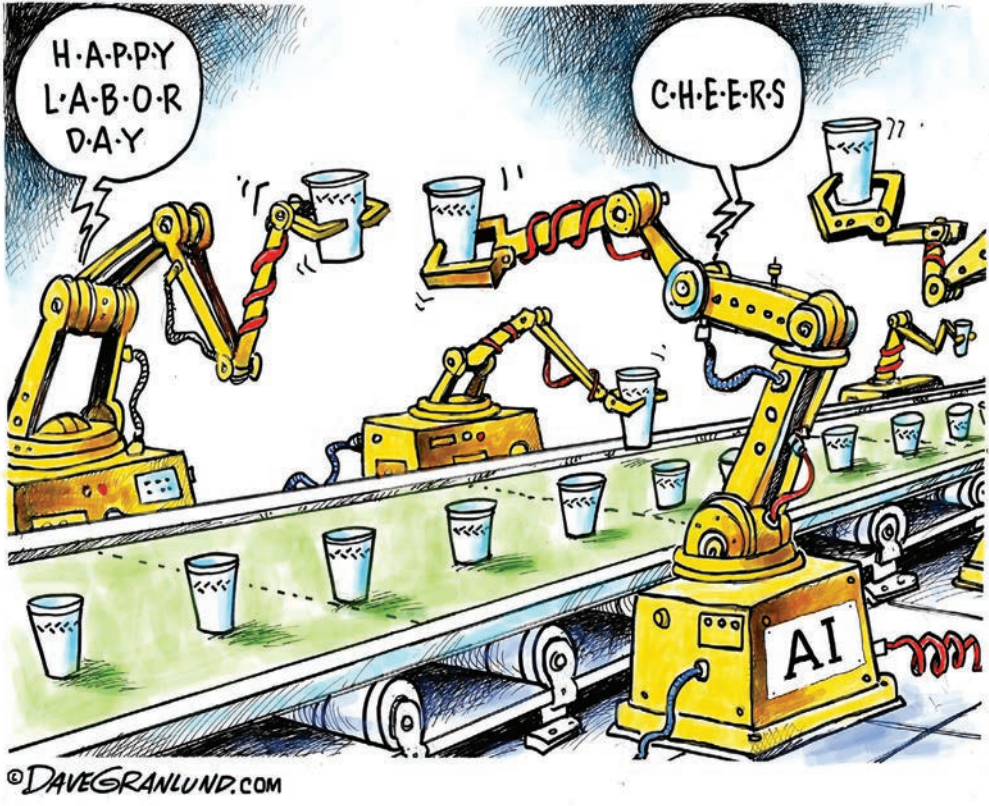
For our part, AMAC and the AMAC Foundation have been working on a proposal to restore SS to full solvency for generations and we have offered our proposal to various Congressional Representatives and to the SSA Commissioner and his executive staff.

The proposal has been well received, and we are very optimistic that Congress will finally take real action to restore SS to solvency to avoid any benefit cuts. Frankly, doing otherwise would amount to political suicide!

AMAC is closely monitoring this situation and are very proactive in Washington, D.C. to ensure that benefits are not cut in 2032 and they will continue their vigorous efforts and their vigilance to avoid Social Security insolvency.

They are confident that Congress will act in time to avoid any reduction in SS benefits, and they can stay informed of their efforts by watching the AMAC Social Security information website at www.socialsecurityreport.org.

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



Rooting cuttings is a great way to overwinter your favorite plants

Late summer is a great time to take cuttings of summer plants such as geranium, fuchsia, and coleus.

Oftentimes planters containing these beauties are too big to overwinter. Likewise, these plants may be growing in your yard and maybe you are fearful of trying to dig them up and move them inside before frost hits.

It's also fun to root herb plants like rosemary or mint, so that you can enjoy them as seasoning in your favorite dishes over the winter months.

Getting a piece of stem to form roots is relatively easy. Here are a few tips that will guarantee your success.

First, make sure that the plant you are taking the cuttings from, called the "stock plant," is insect and disease-free and well hydrated. Plan to take cuttings in the morning before the heat of the day has a chance to cause any wilting.

A clean, sharp pair of scissors or hand pruners is the best tool for the job. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season.

Spring is also a great time to take cuttings of plants that you've overwintered provided they are growing well.

Begin by examining your

Sand, perlite, and soilless potting mixes have all been used with success. Water is not recommended as "watery roots" will have a harder time adapting to potting soil later on. I have had good luck rooting cuttings in peat-based potting mixes that are formulated for seed starting. Moisten the material well and fill your clean container of choice up to the top and tamp it down.

Cut only a few cuttings at a time so that wilting doesn't occur while you prepare the stems for insertion into the growing medium. Strip off the bottom one-third of leaves from the cutting.

If you wish to shorten the amount of time it takes for rooting to occur a commercial rooting hormone can be used. These come in powder or liquid forms. Follow the directions on the container.

I have found that "less is more" when using these products. When you are ready to "stick" the cutting make an indentation into the growing medium with a pencil or dibble first- do not push in with the stem!

After the cutting is inserted firm around it well so that it stays in place. Put the container, cuttings and all in a

stock plant. Those stems with the closest placed nodes are the best choice for cutting material.

Nodes are the point on the stem from which the leaves grow. There is a strong accumulation of hormones in this area; for that reason stem cuttings are taken just after a node.

Terminal cuttings, (those from the growth tip) three-four inches long are desirable. It is tempting to take longer pieces, figuring that the end result will be a larger plant.

These are likely to wilt before they root or take a very long time to root because the stems are woodier the further down you go.

Play it safe with stout cuttings.

There are all kinds of potting mediums in which to place the cutting while it is grows roots. Ideally it should be able to hold enough moisture to keep the cutting turgid yet not hold so much that it rots the stem.

While on vacation as a child on Lake Winnisquam, my dad, brother and I would hear them calling while fishing for horn pout at night. I used to hear them in Oakham, but I not heard one in years.

Owls hooting

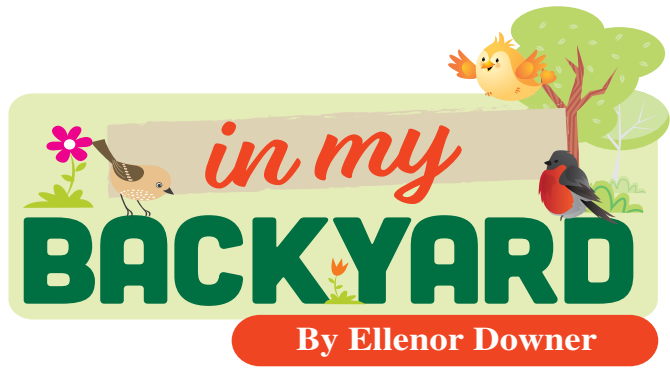
I do hear barred owls hooting back and forth at night. Sometimes they are quite loud and can be heard

even with the windows closed.

Juvenile red-tailed hawk

I received an email from a reader who saw a juvenile red-tailed hawk in her front yard. She stated, "It was quite beautiful. It had a small rodent for its dinner. It was really close to my front door, I've never seen a hawk so close to me."

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowne@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



I received an email from a Hampden resident, who sent two photos of Eastern bluebirds – one adult male and a fledgling.

She states, "I live in Hampden, for the past several years we have been blessed to have a pair of bluebird's nest in our yard. They have had three broods of babies each year including this year."

The fledgling in the above photo is a male. The photo was taken shortly after fledging. Wing feathers, wing coverts and tail feathers are essential in determining the sex of young bluebirds.

By day ten to eleven days after hatching, feather colors are noticeable. The blue tail in males and gray in females become apparent. In the male, the short tail at fledging is bright blue. Times may vary but by day 13 the tail

color is apparent.

Both sexes have a gray spotted back and chest. They also have a white eye ring.

By the time a bluebird is 19 to 24 days old, the male has blue wing coverts and the female gray ones.

At five weeks old the young male has blue wing feathers and a bright blue tail. The female's primary wing feathers are blue, but concealed. The base of her tail is blue and the rest bluish gray. Spots are still present on back and breast.

Young bluebirds continue to depend on their parents for food until six weeks old. Siblings tend to forage nearby until they join flocks of young birds. Some first brood birds even help raise their parents next brood if their parents have a double brood season.

Between July and October young birds begin to replace their juvenile plumage. Blue and brick red feathers begin to appear. By mid to late October all juveniles finish molting into their first adult plumage.

Leucistic crow

I met a New Braintree resident at the Oakham Post Office this week. He said he saw a crow with one white wing. Leucistic birds are birds that have abnormal plumage coloration due to a genetic mutation that causes a partial loss of pigmentation.

They may have washed out feathers or blotches of white feathers. While rare, they are found in many bird species around the world.

Whippoorwills

A Brimfield resident emailed, "I thought you'd be interested to learn that I still have several whippoorwills calling at dusk in the lower Haynes Hill/Paige Hill area of Brimfield."

She stated, "I've only lived here four years, but they are here every year! They start calling about 8:30 p.m."

She stated, "My grandparents owned a house that bordered Reedy Meadow in Lynnfield. We heard Whippoorwills there. So cool to

have them calling from my front and back yards at the same time."

While on vacation as a child on Lake Winnisquam, my dad, brother and I would hear them calling while fishing for horn pout at night. I used to hear them in Oakham, but I not heard one in years.

I do hear barred owls hooting back and forth at night. Sometimes they are quite loud and can be heard

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The fledgling male Eastern bluebird blends in with the ground cover. Blue feathers are visible.

PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH FREDERICK

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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The Agawam Advertiser News (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069.



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24 Water Street
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters.

All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail aan@turley.com.

Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice**

listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**,

costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

\$12.50 Each

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Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

HCC to celebrate 10th anniversary of 24-hour theater festival

HOLYOKE – This October, Holyoke Community College will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Phillips Festival, an evening of short plays written, directed, and staged in 24 hours.

The annual festival, first held in 2016, raises money for the Leslie Phillips Theater Fund for Arts and Education, honoring the legacy of Leslie Phillips, founder of the HCC theater program.

To produce the Phillips Festival, HCC alumni, students, faculty, and staff register to participate as writers, directors, actors, or members of the stage crew. Writers meet with the actors the night before the show – this year on Friday, Oct. 2 – to receive props, prompts, and character assignments. They have until 6 a.m. the next morning to write their plays. Two hours later, actors and directors gather for a full day of rehearsals.

The original plays will be performed Saturday, Oct. 3, starting at 7:30 p.m. in HCC’s Leslie Phillips Theater. The festivities, however, begin at 6 p.m. with a green carpet pre-show in the theater lobby.

“That’s our version of a red-carpet event,” said Natalia Castagno, HCC assistant director for alumni relations. “This is an opportunity for theater alumni and others to reconnect, grab some theater concessions, pose for the paparazzi by our photo wall, and soak in the excitement before the show begins.”

Funds raised from the festival enable the HCC Theater Department to hold master classes, make capital improvements, and hire guest artists. The festival was first organized in 2016 by HCC alumni as a tribute to Phillips, who died in 1988 after inspiring legions of HCC students.

“For our 10th anniversary, we’re trying something new,” said Castagno. “Every participant now gets their own personal fundraising page on GiveCampus that they can share friends and family members, who can learn about the show and donate directly to HCC, in support of them. At its heart, the Phillips Festival is about keeping the arts alive at HCC. Every dollar raised benefits the Leslie Phillips Fund for Arts and Education.”

To participate in the festival as a writer, actor, director, or stagehand, please register at hcc.edu/phillips-register

Festival tickets can be purchased in advance at hcc.edu/phillips-2026 or at the door on the night of the show.

Tickets are \$15 (general admission), \$10 (students and seniors), and free for HCC students with ID.

Agawam Senior Center announces upcoming activities

AGAWAM – Here are some upcoming activities happening at the Agawam Senior Center. Some require registration or confirmation. Information in the details below:

New England Wound Care
Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. in the Dining Room

Enjoy some delicious snacks and meet with members from NEWCare, New England Wound and Ostomy Care. As you age, you become more susceptible to wounds. Learn about how to prevent and manage different common wounds like diabetic wounds, pressure wounds, and more. You’ll also learn about ostomy care. Bring your questions.

Hearing checks with Gary
Thursday, Sept. 17

The next New Ears hearing clinic will take place on Thursday, Sept. 17. Gary Winn a licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist, and owner of New Ears Hearing Care, will conduct a free hearing clinic. He will check ears for wax build-up, perform hearing screenings, and counsel people about hearing loss. Hearing aids will be cleaned and adjusted, if possible. Call (413) 821-0604 to make an appointment. Hearing checks will take place in Seminar Hall.

Chamber to hold networking event, including Irish celebration

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Join the West of the River Chamber of Commerce for a special social event on Friday, Sept. 18 at West Springfield Town Hall, located at 26 Central St., West Springfield from 8 to 10 a.m. The September Morning Social will include mingling with mayors, city councilors, and economic development members from County Kerry, Ireland. There will be a celebration of Ireland with networking and fun all rolled into one. Registration is required through the chamber’s website or by contacting the chamber.

Agawam Public School announce health records to be destroyed

AGAWAM – Agawam Public School Health Records for former students that either graduated or left the school system between Sept 2017 and June 2021 will have their school health records destroyed as permitted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Anyone wishing a copy of their health records must contact the nurse within the school they last attended before September 30, 2026.



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.

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

To help make the dream of ending MS come true, call 1-800-FIGHT MS or visit us online at nationalmssociety.org.

MS
National Multiple Sclerosis Society



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Granby, CT

Indigenous Joyfest at Wistariahurst Museum

HOLYOKE — Wistariahurst Museum will be celebrating our 2026 Indigenous Joyfest, happening Sunday, Sept. 20, from 12 to 3 p.m. Join Andre Strongbearheart Gaines Jr., Founder of No Loose Braids, Sito Zapaktli, José Lugo, Tracey-Mae Chambers, and other indigenous presenters as they share indigenous history and culture through music, art, and informative talks. This event is geared towards learning and exploration, perfect for people of all ages.

No Loose Braids has led speaking engagements at educational centers and universities across Massachusetts, given presentations, and led social songs and dances at public events. As a Nipmuc-led organization, No Loose Braids will highlight this tribe, which is one of New England’s most historic and largest native communities. Founder of No Loose Braids Andre Strongbearheart Gaines Jr. will be leading this year’s Indigenous Joyfest. Andre has many roles, including being a father, public speaker, traditional dancer, and Indigenous Activist for Indigenous rights.

During this event, visual artist and a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario Tracey-Mae Chambers will have her fiber art installation “Hope and Healing Cross Border” on view in Wistariahurst’s Music Room. Chambers will discuss the inspiration behind this piece and how her large-scale fiber installations focus on “collective grief, care, decolonization, and remembrance within public and institutional space.”

Indigenous Joyfest is part of Wistariahurst’s Sensory Friendly event series. Need to take a break from the energy? A low-sensory area will be available to guests. This event will be free and open to the public. Make sure to come by Wistariahurst for this year’s Indigenous Joyfest.

DPW holding Household Hazardous Waste collection on Sept. 12

AGAWAM – The Agawam Department of Public Works is planning to hold its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, Sept. 12 at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street between 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Although this event is free to Agawam residents, pre-registration is required. Scheduling an arrival time is required as it helps keep the traffic moving, allowing less wait times for our residents. Appointments may be scheduled by calling the DPW at 821-0600 ext.4 or 821-0624 beginning Monday, Aug. 24.

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

GARDEN ■ from page 4

clear plastic bag and place in a shady location.

The humidity within the bag ought to prevent the stems from wilting.

Water well, only about once weekly. After a month or so roots will begin to form on the scented geraniums; rosemary may take six weeks or more.

Transplanting into individual pots can be done once the roots equal or surpass the size of the cutting. I like to start out with a small pot and transplant up a size or two at a time as the plant grows.

The Ware Grange will be hosting workshop on this timely topic on Friday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the hall on Route 9 in Ware. Bring a potted plant to share cutting material or use a selection of plants that I will bring to try your luck at this skill.

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

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59					60					61				

- CLUES ACROSS**

 - Manila hemp plant
 - Turkish river
 - Something to read
 - In a way, initiated
 - Popular Apple TV series
 - King Charles is part of it
 - Earlier
 - Foot (Latin)
 - Zodiac sign
 - A browning of the skin
 - Remain as is
 - Turfs
 - It’s used to slaughter animals
 - Volcanic crater
 - The mother of Jesus
 - One’s life story
 - One-time Liverpool coach Slot
 - Counterparts
 - Jacob __, American journalist
 - Digital audiotape
 - River in South Africa
 - Kimono sashes
 - Rooting somewhere
 - American spy Aldrich
 - A way to call for
 - Taxi
 - Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
 - Swiss river
 - Popular type of video game (abbr.)
 - Have surgery
 - Formal withdrawal from a union
 - Performs spoken improv
 - Greek war god
 - 2,000 lbs.
 - Helps to evade capture
 - Feline
 - Folk singer DiFranco
 - Ghastly pale from distress
 - Rapid eye movements
 - Monetary unit of Macao
 - Lawmakers
 - Colorless mineral
 - At some prior time
 - American protest singer
 - Opener
 - Seldom
 - Relaxing places
 - Touchdown
 - From end to end
 - Kids love him
 - Metal-bearing solid
 - Skin care product manufacturer
 - Thirteen
 - Angry
 - Member of a Semitic people
 - One-thousandth of an inch
 - Former CIA
 - Most lemony
 - Engage in
 - Mass of fish eggs
 - Food supplies
 - Backbones
 - American real estate investment firm
 - Megabyte
 - “Three Coins in the Fountain” songwriter
 - Dutch colonist
 - Full-grown pike fish
 - Emergency prep expert Edwards
 - Flute
 - Dismissive sound
 - Slang term for marijuana
 - Young women’s association
 - Cosmopolitan city
 - Narrow isthmus in Thailand
 - Pointed end of a pen

SPORTS



Above: Julianna Castro chases down a loose ball
Right: Olivia Izzo tips a pass away.



Girls soccer back on turf

SOUTH HADLEY – It was not their own home turf, but Agawam High School girls soccer was back on the field last Saturday afternoon. The Brownies participated in multiple short scrimmages in a play day at South Hadley High School. The Brownies are getting ready to open the regular season on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at Chicopee Comprehensive at 6 p.m. at Szot Park. The Brownies had scrimmages against Enfield and Granby earlier this week.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



Bay State Games inducts three to Hall of Fame

WALTHAM – Representative Patricia Haddad (legislative leadership), Representative John Barrett (legislative leadership), and Ryan McCarthy (baseball coach) have been selected for induction into the 2026 Bay State Games’ Hall of Fame. The inductees will receive their award at a pre-game ceremony at Fenway Park on Sunday, June 14 prior to the Red Sox game against Texas.

The Bay State Games Hall of Fame was created to recognize past participants who have gone on to prestigious and successful athletic careers, as well as former and current coaches, officials, sports organizers, and volunteers who have made significant contributions to the organization throughout its 38-year history. Past inductees among the over 60 previous honorees include the NBA’s Dana Barros (’06), Pat Connaughton (’25) and the late Reggie Lewis (’02); WNBA’s Rebecca Lobo (’03); Major League Baseball’s Rich Hill (’13); Olympians Nancy Kerrigan (’07), Ada Korkhin (’25) and Samantha Livingstone (’18) and US Paralympic Gold Medalist Joe Lemar (’15).

“The Bay State Games is proud of the many athletes who have participated in the program and gone on to achieve success at the collegiate, professional, and Olympic levels. We are equally proud of the coaches, sport organizers, community leaders, and supporters whose dedication, expertise, and generosity have helped make the Bay State Games possible.” Said Kevin Cummings, the Bay State Games Executive Director. “We are honored to recognize this year’s Hall of Fame class and celebrate the significant contributions each inductee has made to the Bay State Games. Their commitment, leadership, and lasting impact have strengthened the

organization and enriched the experience of countless athletes throughout the Commonwealth.”

Rep. Patricia Haddad - Legislative Leadership

Massachusetts State Representative Patricia Haddad championed state support for the Bay State Games for over two decades. She has supported the recreation, health, and education-based programs of the organization that benefit thousands of Massachusetts participants each year. A former teacher for 14 years, Rep. Haddad represented the 5th Bristol District for 25 years and served as Speaker Pro Tempore of the Massachusetts House of Representatives for ten years.

Rep. John Barrett - Legislative Leadership

Massachusetts State Representative John Barrett from Berkshire County has been a strong supporter of the Bay State Games since the mid-1980s. Rep. Barrett was instrumental in bringing the Winter Games to Berkshire County, where they have been held for over 35 years. He has served as State Representative for Berkshire County since 2017 and was formerly Mayor of North Adams for 26 years. Rep. Barrett is also a leading advocate of the statewide Summer Games.

Ryan McCarthy - Baseball Coach

Ryan McCarthy from Portsmouth has served as volunteer baseball coach at the Bay State Games for over two decades. He has led the Northeast team to numerous championship medals. Ryan has devoted more than 25 years to coaching high school student-athletes in both baseball and football at Triton Regional High School, Newburyport High School, and Dighton-Rehoboth High School. He has had a positive impact on countless Massachusetts high school student-athletes.

New event added to Thompson Speedway calendar

THOMPSON, CT – In an exciting addition to the Thompson Speedway calendar, the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series has been added to the 64th Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing to headline the Saturday portion of the three-day extravaganza!

2026 will mark the first time in series history that the Monaco Modifieds have visited Thompson Speedway three times, this coming at a crucial point in the championship chase! While the championship will certainly be on the forefront of the driver’s minds, the addition completes three-straight days of Tour-type Modified Racing at the Sunoco World Series.

It all starts Friday, Oct. 9 with the Modified Racing Series headlining the opening night with a 50-lap finale to crown their 2026 champion. The Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series now headlines the Saturday, Oct. 10 showcase while the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will

crown their 2026 champion following the World Series 150 on Sunday, Oct. 11.

“We are glad we got to add the Monaco Modifieds to this year’s Sunoco World Series,” said American-Canadian Tour managing partner Cris Michaud. “They always put on a great show at Thompson and the fans are sure to get their Modified fix before the snow starts to fall!”

Thompson Speedway roars back to life on Wednesday, September 16 for the Eden Raferty Attorneys Fall Showdown Late Model Special! The Late Models take center stage in their extra-distance showdown alongside the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds, SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Crown Vics with a 6:00pm Post Time.

The North East Short Track Network (NESTN) will stream Wednesday Night Racing at Thompson Speedway all season long, visit www.nestn.tv for more info including Pay-Per-View pricing and ways to subscribe!

Sports

Pre-season wraps up for Agawam Youth Football



AGAWAM – At Kirk Parker Fields this week, the Agawam youth football programs, which work to create the next generation of football at the high school level, complete practices in advance of their regular season opener. For Agawam, their regular season openers on Sunday, Sept. 6. Agawam will be hosting Wilbraham in their season opener. Their season continues through the end of October.



Clockwise from top left:

Tackle and blocking drills are a big part of preseason workouts;

A pair of youth players work on hand-offs;

A coach goes through a sequence with a group of older players. Agawam youth football has three divisions;

A coach leads his group to the line;

Agawam youth players work on blocking.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Sports

WSU girls volleyball ranked second in preseason poll

WESTFIELD – 2025 MAS-CAC Volleyball regular season and tournament champion Bridgewater State are the preseason favorites to win the 2026 crown as voted on by the coaches around the league.

The Bears received seven first place vote to land in the top spot. Back-to-back tournament MVP Lily Welch returns after she helped the Bears to their first MASCAC Regular Season title since 2008. Last season, she led the team in kills with 234, hitting percentage (.313) and digs (262). Welch was also second with 46 total blocks and fourth with 31 service aces.

Westfield State is up next in second. The Owls were 7-1 in league play and bring back All-Conference honoree Lauren Carnes who earned first team honors as an outside hitter, racking up 185 kills while playing in just 17 matches after missing nine games during the middle of the season. Carnes per set numbers reflect her impact on a match-by-match basis with her 2.89 kills per set ranking third in the MASCAC. The Owls lost three of their top four hitters to graduation, but return a steady back line with Erica Majka (Agawam, Mass.) (266 digs)

and Zurielys Rivera (264 digs) tops among the Owls’ defensive specialists a year ago.

Westfield will tip off the 2026 season with a non-conference match at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Sept. 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Sitting in third place is Framingham State with the final first place vote. Looking for her third straight MASCAC Offensive Player of the Year award is Natalie Reynolds. In 2025, she led the conference with 438 kills, 3.71 per set and 1,085 total attacks. She was second in hitting percentage at .279, fourth in solo blocks with 16 and fifth with 51 total blocks while adding 85 digs and 34 service aces. The Rams upset the Owls, 3-2 to eliminate Westfield from the conference tournament in 2025.

MCLA comes in fourth in this year’s poll. The Trailblazers were 5-3 with the help of reigning MASCAC Rookie of the Year Kaelynn Greeley who closed out her first year with the Trailblazers fourth in the conference with 221 kills, seventh in kills per set with 2.63 and 10th in hitting percentage with .217. She also tallied 36 service aces, 167 digs and nine total blocks over 25 matches.

Up next in fifth is Worces-

ter State. Last season, the Lancers were also 4-4 in league play. During the 2025 season, Katherine Crateau finished second in the MASCAC with 477 digs and 654 receptions with third-most digs per set at 4.54. She also recorded 95 assists and 36 service aces to earn MASCAC Defensive Player of the Year accolades.

Salem State is in the sixth spot. Returning for the Vikings is Celia Carbone who dished out a career-high 512 assists, averaged 6.10 assists per set, and set a new career-high in digs (222) last season.

Rounding out the 2026 poll is Fitchburg State in seventh and Mass. Maritime in eighth. For the Falcons, Madison Keohane returns after averaging 3.38 assists per set, 284 total assists, 171 digs and 25 service aces last season. For the Buccaneers, Holly Sanders is back after grabbing All-Conference honors in her first season. She led the MASCAC with 577 digs and 6.63 digs per set while tallying 25 kills, 89 assists, 48 service aces.

The volleyball season gets underway the first week of September with the MASCAC teams in non-conference action.



Umpires Association awards scholarship

Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association Board Member Chris Anderson awards a \$500 scholarship earlier this summer Sean Krol. The umpires’ association funds the scholarship through dues paid by its members. Anderson hopes in the future to fund more scholarships either through fundraising or donations, saying its important to give back to the sport they love, and promote education for high school seniors who play. Applications for next year’s scholarship will open up early in 2027.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD26P1813EA
Estate of:
Christine Cecil Girard
Date of Death: 08/10/2026
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Alyssa Y Girard of Agawam, MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Alyssa Y Girard of Agawam, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

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

09/03/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD13P1980EA
Estate of:
Elaine A Godin
Date of Death: 08/08/2013
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **JoAnn M Kupiec of Palmer, 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 09/11/2026.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice

to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 25, 2026

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate

09/03/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1857EA
Estate of:
Joseph A Lombardi, Sr.
Date of Death: 04/22/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Cheri Rogers of Agawam, MA** and **Sean Earnest of Denver, NC** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Cheri Rogers of Agawam, MA** and **Sean Earnest of Denver, NC** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this

proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/28/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 31, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate

09/03/2026

**Agawam
Conservation Commission
Legal Notice**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, September**

10, 2026 at 6:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the **Notice of Intent Application** of the Longbrook Condominium Association for work to be performed on 1485 Suffield Street, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission

09/03/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1826EA
Estate of:
Claire Aurelia Raymond
Also known as:
Claire A Raymond
Date of Death: 07/08/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Diane L Raymond of Agawam, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Diane L Raymond of Agawam, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/23/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 26, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate

09/03/2026

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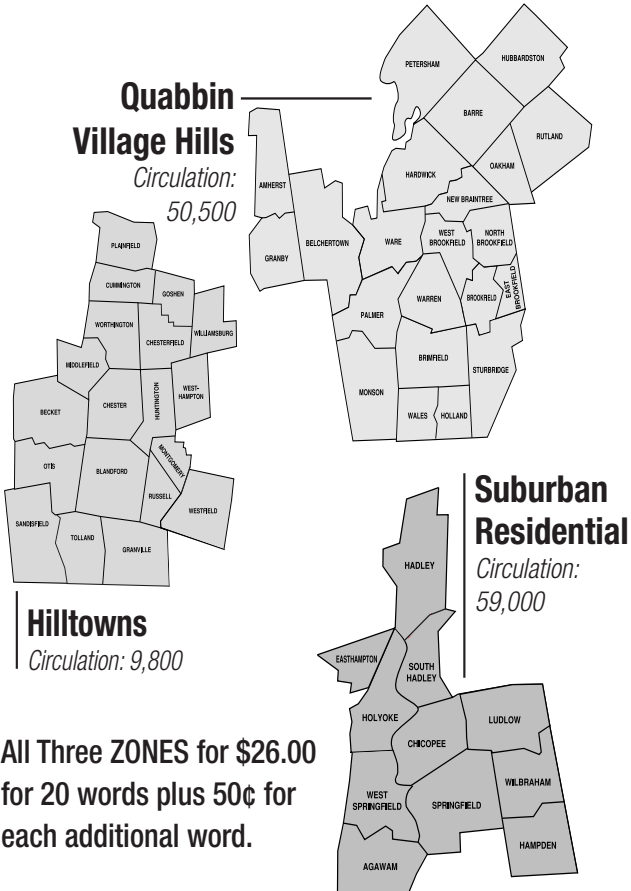
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Job applications can be found on the Town of Ware website <https://www.townof-ware.com> under Human Resources, at the Ware Town Hall, or e-mail your application or resume to resumes@townof-ware.com. AA/EOE

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Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi with the Holyoke connection, including Mayor Joshua Garcia and Holyoke Police Chief Brian Keenan.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

COCCHI ■ from page 1

side that are deterring people from hopefully coming here. So, that means working with youth, engaging with students and schools, and, obviously, working with those who are incarcerated to help them return to the community with a more constructive outlook and a greater opportunity to become productive, law-abiding citizens."

Lastly, Cocchi admitted he is ready to renew conversation after elections come and go.

"Well, I'm looking forward to a year of continued dialogue with the legislature and the administration to see if we can rectify this unsuccessful funding mechanism that has been given to the sheriffs over the past 25, 30 years, because the bottom line is the sheriffs of the commonwealth do good work, and we will continue to do so," Cocchi said.

Massachusetts State Auditor Diana DiZoglio used the event to highlight her efforts to promote greater transparency in state government, while calling on the administration to support a state audit approved by 72% of Commonwealth voters in the 2024 election.

"Unfortunately, our state legislators just voted to overturn that law, stripping away our right to have this matter adjudicated in court and giving the Speaker of the House full control over the audit," DiZoglio said. "So all we can do is continue to push forward, and let the citizens of the commonwealth know that we're still advocating and fighting for the official and public re-

lease of the 72% voter-mandated audit."

She then added, "Because the truth is the people have spoken, so my message is simple: Call your legislators. Call the governor. Ask the governor to veto this bill, because otherwise the legislature is getting ready to overturn the law you voted for. That reeks of authoritarianism, and it doesn't resemble the democratic nature of our state."

Holyoke Mayor Joshua A. Garcia and Chicopee Mayor John Vieau both touched upon the value that Cocchi's fundraiser offers.

"Today is a reflection of the deep-rooted leadership that Sheriff [Cocchi] embodies, and continues to deliver on," Garcia said. "He is extremely supportive and has been a main proponent of helping develop new relationships, while implementing a sense of innovation while keeping the public safe, and delivering an opportunity to all."

Vieau said, "This celebration is always a special day because it exemplifies the connections and level of trust that the Sheriff's Office has created, which in turn has been extremely beneficial to all of Western Mass." He also added, "It was great to see everyone here today, and I want it known that it wasn't just political leaders; it was business owners, stakeholders, and proud supporters of the Cocchi army."

All funds from the event went towards the Sheriff's election committee.

Voters now face upcoming deadlines ahead of the state primary on Tuesday, Sept 1.



Two volunteers having a great time, behind the grills.



Sheriff Nick Cocchi with one of his supporters and a longtime friend.



Sheriff Nick Cocchi, State Auditor Diana DiZoglio, and HCSO Director of Communications Robert Rizzuto.



Hampden County DA Anthony Gulluni, State Rep. Angelo Puppola Jr., Sheriff Nick Cocchi, and State Rep. Carlos Gonzalez.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY



Even Boomer from the Springfield Thunderbirds stopped by and danced on the center stage.

BEER ■ from page 1

tation, like a lot of error because there's a lot of like oral history that gets, you know, history, that's just how it is. But it's really there's just every beer has a story, and I really like that aspect of the history component of it."

Sauter's presentation showing the timeline of beers role in America ties into the 250 Anniversary of America she explains why this information matters.

"I think people need to

realize that there's good beer everywhere, and the fact that beer is so important to America, whether it's, you know, the pilgrims landing, because they were out of beer. It's an immigrant story," Sauter said. "It's people coming to this country looking for a better life, a new way of life, and making it and being successful. It's about tastes changing. It's about business. It's just come back around. There's nothing more American than like, cranking a few beers. And it's really cool

to show people how deep it goes. So, I think it's been a really fun presentation to do. I've been doing it all summer and it's just been it's been awesome."

Sauter has published four books and her fifth is in the making. She shared a little about her next book and what she's enjoyed about the process.

"So, my fifth book is a whiskey Book called Whiskey and Illustrated Primer," she said. "It's my first co-authorship, so I'm doing all

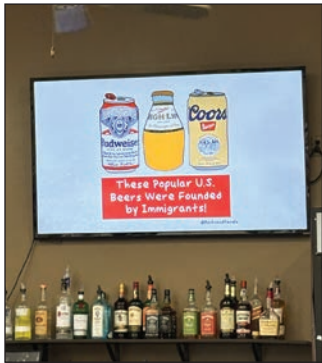


Above: The three beers attendees were offered to try at the event. Right: Em Sauter's presentation at APL Aug. 24.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

the illustrations, and it was written by a guy named Lou Bryson. So, it was really fun to learn a lot about whiskey

and then also just learn from the best and also get to draw like what he said. It's very simplistic, more so than nor-



mal for my style. It was a cool departure from having to do everything. But it was also really fun to do.

RIDE ■ from page 1

and it has been a hit with the seniors. The group is at the senior center each Wednesday, for more information regarding dates and times check the Agawam Senior Center newsletter.

Western Mass Wheelers volunteer Jill Strain shared how the group got started and how Agawam Senior Center Assistant Director Kristina Lynch got in touch so they could began running their program at the senior center.

"We started biking last August, without first bike, and now we have three bikes, and we go to about ten different locations in the area. She saw us on social media and wanted to add this program to what's offered here at the senior center. We can and did an intro for the folks here and then started doing bike rides, and now we're here every week."

Strain believes this program is so important for the community.

"We know that seniors are feeling isolated, maybe suffer-

ing from depression or social isolation. The senior centers do a wonderful job of keeping seniors connected. And then this is a program that can augment that, get people outside, get them experiencing nature and get them communicating and talking to volunteers. It's more than just a simple bike ride. They end up looking forward to it, talking to their family about it, going back into the facilities and talking about it over lunch. And it just becomes a great way to kind of give folks that opportunity to connect

and be outside. There aren't that many opportunities for seniors to be outside."

Strain enjoys volunteering with the group, and expressed how much she loves being outdoors.

"This is great, I love it," Strain said. "First of all, I think folks thoroughly enjoy being out on bikes. It is a remarkable experience to be a volunteer and to kind of give that joy to people and it's also, we're outside, we're having fun and giving back to the community. And it's just a real pleasure to meet so many different peo-

ple and being out there."

This group has gotten attention throughout Western Mass, Strain says it's important that people see programs like these are possible, "We're out in the community and people see what's possible; it really does redefine what healthy aging could look like. So, it just helps educate people on what's possible. This is really exciting for people. Because there isn't anything like this anywhere. But this shouldn't be the exception. We should expect that our seniors are out in nature, you

know, experiencing things. And this bike just helps us enable us to do that."

On Aug. 26, four seniors attended bright and early to go for a ride with the Western Mass Wheelers. Two of the seniors had done the ride before and returned with a friend. This shows how programs like these are something new and fun for seniors to try out alone or with a friend. The volunteers take safety measures to ensure participants can enjoy the ride without having any worries.