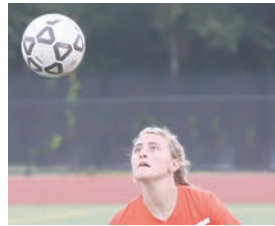




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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

September 14, 2023 | Vol. 45, No. 29 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Town looks for weather to cooperate to complete O'Brien's corner work

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM - The Agawam DPW is currently working on its milling and paving project at O'Brien's Corner and Springfield Street.

According to DPW Superintendent Mario Mazza, O'Brien's corner is mainly done and they are hoping to pave it and Springfield Street on Friday, Monday and Tuesday, depending on the weather.

"Fingers crossed the weather will cooperate and we will get it paved before the start of the Big E," Mazza said.

Following the completion of the paving, they will wait the re-

quired seven days before restriking the road, or adding back the needed pavement markings.

The workers will work on adding the paving markings overnight, once the Big E is closed.

"They're going to start after the Big E closes, around 11 p.m., and then work until 7 in the morning," Mazza said. "That's pretty typical to do as there's less traffic and less people to work around and so most of those line painting companies work those hours."

This milling and paving project is funded annually by the town to resurface roads. A ma-



The Agawam Department of Public Works is hoping O'Brien's Corner will be resurfaced and project work completed by the end of this week ahead of the start of The Big E.
TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

WORK | page 9

Teachers welcomed back to start new school year

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM - Agawam Public Schools held a convocation for the faculty and staff on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

The convocation provided encouragement for the faculty as they prepared for the new school year.

All the speakers made sure to emphasize the importance of the educators in the school district.

Mayor William Sapelli told the attendees a story about a teacher, Mrs. Thompson, and her student, Tommy. In this story, Tommy was a kid who was struggling in Mrs. Thompson's class, who Mrs. Thompson had originally written off as a child who did not care.

However, things change when Mrs. Thompson reads Tommy's past reports from other teachers and she learns that he just recently lost his mother. From

there, Mrs. Thompson dedicates herself to supporting Tommy and she sees him flourish.

Tommy eventually left Mrs. Thompson's class, but he kept writing letters to Mrs. Thompson, always grateful for what she had done for him. When Tommy eventually gets married, Mrs. Thompson is invited to the wedding to sit in the place reserved for the mother of the groom.

TEACHERS | page 9

Full activity resumes at library as fall begins

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM - Agawam Public Library has a busy month ahead of them, with a variety of events planned for kids, teens and adults to come and enjoy.

For the past few years, the library has dealt with the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by being shut down for major repairs. Now, with all that behind them and the fall season starting, the library will be buzzing with lots of activity.

September is National Library Card Sign-up month and, in honor of that, the library is putting on a fun event for children. Any child can bring their stuffed animal in and get them signed up for their own library card.

"The stuffed animal library cards are just play, but the kids get to come in, fill out a very simple application form and then we enter them into the computer and give the stuffed

animals their own library card," Children's Librarian Pamela Weingart said.

Weingart said this whole event was inspired by a fun moment between staff. Weingart had jokingly taken a stuffed dinosaur and went up to her coworker and asked for a library card for it. Her coworker had immediately went along with the idea and offered to make a fake card for the dinosaur. Weingart fell in love with the idea instantly.

"It was so, so very cute, the absolute cutest thing I've ever seen," she said.

From there, the idea only grew, and now they are excited to offer the opportunity to all the children who come into the library.

On top of this event, there will also be an ongoing bookmark design contest for grades one through twelve. People interested in entering the event

LIBRARY | page 9



Teachers make their way onto the turf at Harmon Smith Field for the convocation.

TURLEY PHOTO BY QUINN SUOMALA



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Doubles tournament to benefit Candlepins for Cancer

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – For fun competition and supporting a great cause, Agawam Bowl will be featuring a 90% Handicap Doubles Tournament to benefit Candlepins for Cancer on Sunday, Oct. 8.

Candlepins For Cancer is a registered 501(c)(3) charity that supports people suffering with cancer and helps pay for numerous needs while they go through their treatments. The charity sends donations to help with the expenses that are incurred after chemo and radiation treatments, time missed at work, food and pharmaceutical costs, and many other issues.

This charity was founded by and serves the candlepin bowling community. The sport of candlepin bowling is a variation of bowling that is played primarily in the Canadian Maritime Provinces and the New England region of the United States.

With the help of many members in the candlepin bowling world, Candlepins for Cancer has raised over \$35,000 for families.

Joining Agawam Bowl for this great event is one of the leading promoters of Candlepins for Cancer, Paul Grant.

Based out of Haverhill, Grant has put in thousands of commuting miles to livestream and broadcast candlepin bowling leagues, tournaments, fundraisers, exhibition matches, as well as tournaments run by the charity all over the New England States of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine while accepting generous donations for the charity.

Proud of his efforts to promote the game of candlepin and the charity, Grant brings a lot of excitement to any bowling center he appears in as he records many bowling events that are later uploaded to the YouTube channel, Candlepin Bowling Network.

The October doubles tournament will



be the second event Grant will be covering at Agawam Bowl. Back on Jan. 15, Paul Grant made his first appearance arriving at Agawam Bowl to broadcast their monthly King of the Hill tournament.

The tournament had outstanding results. Over 40 bowlers signed up for the tournament and participated in 50/50 raffles to raise money for the charity and purchasing WOW shirts.

The shirts were inspired by Grant's famous catchphrase, "Wow!" whenever amazing strikes and spares are made on the lanes. For every WOW shirt sold, \$10 goes to Candlepins for Cancer and Grant acknowledges how much of a difference they make in supporting the charity.

"In just over a year, over 600 WOW shirts sold, helping 12 families going through cancer treatments," said Grant.

The Agawam King of the Hill in January set a one-day record for the most money raised for Candlepins for Cancer. Raising a total of \$1,869, including a record breaking 40 WOW shirts sold. With the upcoming doubles tournament, Agawam Bowl intends to top that record and raise more

money.

Agawam Bowl is looking to fill their doubles tournament by adding 24 teams (total of 48 bowlers). Entry fee is \$200 per doubles team (\$100 per bowler).

There will be two qualifying shifts, one at noon, and the other at 2:30 p.m.

There will be six groups of four teams competing in a round robin format. Group winners advance to the bracket round.

Based off an entry of 24 teams, the tournament is hoping to reward a 1st place prize of \$1,200 to the winning team. Second place finishers will receive \$600, third and fourth place \$450 each, and fifth and sixth place \$350 each.

From the entry fees, \$1,000 will be directly donated to Candlepins for Cancer.

Other ways to support the charity during the tournament will consist of a 50/50 raffle during each shift. An additional raffle with Red Sox tickets as the prize is also supporting the charity.

The drawing for the tickets will be prior to the tournament on Sunday, Sept. 17. The game is Rays at Red Sox on Sept. 27.

WOW shirts will also be available for

purchase on the day of the tournament.

This year, Grant introduced a new 2.0 version of WOW shirts featuring candlepins surrounding his catchphrase. Both versions will be available during the tournament.

There is also a fun optional donation pool that bowlers can take part in. The pool is famously known in the candlepin community as the "Lemon Drop" pool where if a bowler were to punch out one pin on their first ball, that is either the one in the 4-pin or 6-pin position, it would be \$1.

If a bowler punches out any of those two pins when they're working on a spare or a strike, it's \$5 to Candlepins for Cancer. According to Grant, the Lemon Drop Pool donations have helped six more families in just over a year.

Direct donations are always accepted.

Manager of Agawam Bowl, Jim Feeley is running the tournament and is excited to get more participants involved to support the charity and the bowling tournament. With the tournament being a 90% handicap tournament, Feeley needs bowlers to provide their highest season ending average from the 2022-2023 fall bowling season to help determine the handicap for every doubles team, which is going to be 90% handicap from a team cap of 240.

If a bowler does not have a season ending average, then a high average with a 30 game minimum from the 2022-2023-summer league season will be accepted.

To enter, contact Feeley at Agawam Bowl, 413-786-4108. There is plenty of time to sign up and several spots are still open.

The first 24 paid entries will be accepted, and a waiting list will be set up in case of any dropouts.

For more information, you can visit Agawam Bowl at 359-363 Walnut St. Ext., or at agawambowl.com. For other tournaments, Agawam Bowl hosts a monthly king of the hill tournament.

Girl Scouts welcome hundreds of girls to 9th 'Geek Is Glam' event

HOLYOKE – Hundreds of middle school girls and dozens of high school girls will convene at Worcester Polytechnic Institute Saturday, Oct. 14, to celebrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts Geek Is Glam STEM Event and it's not too late to participate.

The day-long interactive STEM conference for girls in grades 4 through 12 is hosted by Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts and WPI with over 60 area education and adventure collaborators. Participants will be exposed to some of the area's top scientific and engineering minds as they engage in the hands-on aspect of exploration and discovery while they build, explore, assemble and imagine. The day kicks off at 9 a.m. with keynote speakers Daisha Ramos-Ortiz, WPI freshman and five-time Geek Is Glam participant and Ms. Massachusetts 2023 Chelsea Vuong.

Participants will spend the day in

interactive workshops, demonstrations, and hands-on exhibits presented by: Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, The Discovery Museums, New England Sci-Tech, UMass Amherst Polymer Science and Engineering, WCVB Channel 5 Boston, Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream, and New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill. From Mystic Aquarium to morse code, from rainbows to robots, girls will be engaged in interactive activities, games and displays.

For more information and to register go to <https://www.gscwm.org/en/discover/activities/special-events.html> or call 413-584-2602. The fee is \$45 per girl in grades 4-8 and \$50 per girl in grades 9-12 and includes lunch, snacks, a Geek is Glam t-shirt, drawing backpack, and an exclusive Geek is Glam patch. Financial assistance is available. No previous Girl Scout experience necessary to attend.

Registration closes Sept. 18.

Adoption fees 50% off through September at Dakin

SPRINGFIELD – Dakin Humane Society will be reducing adoption fees for all animals by 50% through Sept. 30 as part of its Summer of Love adoption event. Pets whose fees are eligible for this discount include cats, dogs, and a variety of other animals including guinea pigs, rabbits, ferrets, hamsters, birds, mice, gerbils, rats, and more.

"Dakin's busiest season is always summer, and months before, we knew this summer was going to be exceptionally demanding," stated Meg Talbert, Dakin's executive director. "For example, we anticipated taking in 500 kittens this summer, and that's a higher-than-average number. By the end of August, we helped 592 kittens. So far this year, we've taken in over sixty percent more animals than in the same time frame last year. We have lots of wonderful pets looking to connect with people and families, and we're glad to offer our Summer of Love event to help some great matches happen by reducing our fees."

Pet adoption fees as listed on Dakin's website (dakinhumane.org) will be cut in half through Sept. 30. Dakin is open for adopters to visit Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m., but

they are advised to visit the website first to see which animals they are most interested in to help minimize their waiting time onsite. Adopters may also apply to adopt pets online at dakinhumane.org.

Adoption fees at Dakin include a variety of services and treatments including a veterinary exam, spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, microchip and registration, deworming treatment, a rabies vaccine (if pet is over 12 weeks of age), a behavior evaluation, access to behavior support, a free post-adoption veterinary exam at participating clinics, and a food starter pack. Other features include a feline leukemia test, FIV test, flea and ear mite treatment (for cats), and a heartworm test, flea and tick treatment, and heartworm prevention (for dogs). According to Talbert, the pre-adoption cost of care for each adoptable animal that comes to Dakin averages \$705.

Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, visit www.dakinhumane.org.



Agawam Senior Center hosts crochet classes

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior center will be having beginner and intermediate crochet classes this fall.

Mark Mickey will be teaching classes in beginner crochet. This class is for those of you who have always wanted to learn to crochet but just haven't had the chance. This class will take you through holding the yarn and hook to making a slip knot, to learning the basic stitches. We will also create a very simple, useful

project. Class will be held at the Agawam Senior Center Garden room. Monday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Oct. 2 to Dec. 4. There is no fee for this class. Please contact Kristina Lynch at the Agawam Senior Center to register. 413-726-2836.

Mark Mickey will be teaching classes in intermediate crochet. This class is for those who know all of the basic crochet stitches and who have had some experi-

ence reading patterns and making projects. It will focus on common difficulties, new more advanced stitches, and project work.

The class will take place at the Agawam Senior Center Garden room, on Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Oct. 4 to Dec. 6. There is no fee for this class. Please contact Kristina Lynch at the Agawam Senior Center to register. 413-726-2836.

Volunteers needed for Westfield River clean up

WESTFIELD – Volunteers along the Westfield River and its streams will join cleanup crews across four states on Saturday, Sept. 30 and Saturday Oct. 7 in Agawam according to Mark Damon, president of the Westfield River Watershed Association and coordinator of the cleanup. “Our volunteers, like many other Source to Sea groups, take a Saturday morning and use it to make a significant difference in our watershed.”

There are thousands of people who live near the Westfield River and can access it for fishing, picnicking, walking, paddling and even swimming. “We’ll have small groups working at different sites along the river. When groups like families or teams volunteer, we keep them together. We’re glad to work with the community to keeping it clean and inviting,” said Damon, who teaches at Westfield State University and Holyoke Community College.

Damon invites his students to join in. “Young people from the area high schools and colleges and younger adults are especially helpful in providing the muscle that we need to move some of the bigger items we find.”

According to Sheryl Becker, the other WRWA clean-up coordinator. “We definitely make a difference. Decades ago, the river ran pink or yellow or green depending on the color of the dyes and chemicals being dumped into it. Now it’s swimmable. We are always pleased to find that sites we return to are now so clean that it only takes a couple of people an hour or so to pick up the area. If we could get rid of those nips bottles cleanups would go even more quickly.” She also notes, “Due to the



3 tons removed during a cleanup in 2023.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

traffic from Big E, the Agawam clean-up at Pynchon Point is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 7.”

The WRWA is part of the Connecticut River Conservancy which sponsors the annual Source to Sea Cleanup, a volunteer network spanning four states that cares for the Connecticut River and its tributaries. “It’s a great cause, keeping our environment clean and everyone is welcome,” adds Becker. “Mostly we just clean up along the banks of our rivers and streams. We find all kinds of garbage from old tires to plastic bottles and snack wrappers. The Westfield River always looks so good when we are done.”

WRWA welcomes people joining them for the morning on Saturday, Sept. 30 in Westfield or Saturday, Oct. 7 in Agawam, to pre-register by contacting the coordi-

nator for their area. Volunteers for the Fall 2023 Westfield River cleanup will gather at 9 a.m., meeting in Westfield in the public parking lot at the end of Meadow Street near the green bridge. In Agawam volunteers will meet at the Pynchon Point parking lot near the South End bridge circle on River Road. WRWA will distribute gloves and trash bags and offer safety tips, then send off site teams. Organizers target watershed sites in Westfield, Russell, Huntington, West Springfield and Agawam. Assignments are generally completed about noon or 1 p.m.

Everyone is welcome; children must be supervised by an adult. WRWA will arrange with local communities to pick up trash and debris recovered at each site. For questions, contact Mark Damon regarding Westfield locations at 413-977-1577,



232 nip bottles hauled out of the Westfield River Watershed in spring 2023

markjdamon@gmail.com or Sheryl Becker for Agawam area sites at 413-374-1921, sherlearth69@gmail.com.

The Westfield River Watershed Association was established in 1953 to protect and improve the natural resources of the watershed, as well as to expand recreational and other land use opportunities for people’s enjoyment and for sound ecology. To learn more, visit www.westfieldriver.org and www.ctriver.org/our-work/source-to-sea-cleanup.

Botsford appointed as State Ethics Commission chair

BOSTON – The Honorable Margot Botsford (ret.), formerly an Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, has been appointed by Gov. Maura Healey to the State Ethics Commission and designated by Healey as the Commission’s Chair. Botsford succeeds former Chair Maria J. Krokidas.

Chair Botsford was appointed to the Supreme Judicial Court in 2007 by Gov. Deval Patrick and served until her retirement in 2017. Previously, she served for 18 years as an Associate Justice of the Superior Court, a position to which Gov. Michael Dukakis appointed her to in 1989. Prior to her service on the bench, Botsford was an Assistant Attorney General under Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti, an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of Middlesex District Attorney Scott Harshbarger, and a Law Clerk to Supreme Judicial Court Justice Francis J. Quirico. Botsford also practiced law in the private sector.

Botsford, a magna cum laude graduate of Barnard College, received her law degree from Northeastern University School of Law and holds a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. Botsford is a trustee

emerita of Northeastern University, has taught at the Northeastern University School of Law, and has served on the university’s governing boards.

Among Botsford’s professional awards and honors are Judicial Excellence Awards from the Massachusetts Conference and the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys, the Haskell Cohn Distinguished Judicial Service Award from the Boston Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association President’s Award, the Barnard College Distinguished Alumna Award, and honorary degrees from Northeastern University School of Law and New England Law Boston.

The State Ethics Commission is a non-partisan, independent state agency which administers, provides advice and training concerning, and civilly enforces the conflict of interest and financial disclosure laws. There are five Commissioners: three, including the Commission Chair, are appointed by the Governor, one is appointed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and one is appointed by the Attorney General. No more than two of the Commissioners appointed by the Governor, and no more than three Commissioners overall, may be from the same political party.

Trip to Clark Art Museum

WESTFIELD – Come join fellow art lovers for a trip to the Clark Art Museum on Sept. 22. Bus transportation, lunch at the Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, entry into the museum, a docent tour of the Munch exhibit and all tips and fees are included in the price of \$125 per person. A bus lecture by Athenaeum Director Guy McLain will also be included in the day’s activities. The bus will depart from the Athenaeum at 11 a.m. and return at around 7 p.m. To get tickets in person at the Circulation desk or online at www.westath.org.

Food drive drop off at APL

AGAWAM – The GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s vclub is sponsoring a food for friends food drive with the help of Agawam Public Library.

Donations can be dropped off at the library starting now and ending Saturday, Sept. 30.

Help to end hunger by donating any of these much needed items: peanut butter and jelly, pasta and rice,

baking mixes (brownie, cookie), cereal, large cans of soup and macaroni & cheese. For more information please contact Sue Godfrey, Project Chair at 646-306-7255.

Agawam residents to participate in Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk

AGAWAM – Four residents from Agawam will participate in the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk on Sunday, Oct. 1.

James Paulin, Kathleen Paulin, Sue Smith, and Paul Weaver will participate in the iconic annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and cancer research at the nation’s premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$167 million for Dana-Farber Cancer in its 34-year history, raising a record-breaking more than \$8.8 million in 2022.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted on the famed Boston Marathon course and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: 5K walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s Longwood Medical Campus), 10K walk (from Newton), Half Marathon walk (from Wellesley), and Marathon walk (from Hopkinton).

Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be treated to 10 refueling stations as well as poster-sized photographs of patients, Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes, dis-

played at each mile and half-mile marker as inspiration. All four routes of the Jimmy Fund Walk will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric. Due to construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Fenway neighborhood for 2023. Walkers should know that distances may be slightly shorter. The finish line will include a celebration complete with food, music, and a speaking program.

If walkers wish to participate a bit closer to home, the Jimmy Fund Walk has flexible opportunities. Participants can also join the event virtually by “walking their way” from wherever they are most comfortable in their neighborhood, on a favorite hiking trail, or on a treadmill at home. Materials to support Virtual Walkers are available.

To register to walk or volunteer (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

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Opinion

Guest Column



Why is my age 70 benefit not higher than my January amount?

Dear Rusty

I plan to retire in 2025, the year I turn 70. Given that I'm still working, I'm delaying my Social Security until that year. I noticed on my Social Security statement that my payment in January of 2025 will not be much different than my age 70 amount in October of 2025.

If that is truly the case, would it not be better for me to start taking Social Security payments starting in January of 2025. Am I missing anything here?

Signed: Uncertain Senior

Dear Uncertain Senior

Your benefit in October 2025 at age 70 will be about 6% more than it will be in January 2025. If that isn't shown on your Statement of Estimated Benefits, it may be due to a particular nuance in Social Security's rules relating to Delayed Retirement Credits.

When benefits are claimed mid-year after full retirement age, the DRCs earned in that year aren't applied until the following January. Thus, someone who claims benefits to start mid-year will initially get the DRCs they've earned through the end of the previous year, but not immediately get credit for the additional DRCs earned during the claim-year. Those extra DRCs earned between January and the month benefits started will be applied the following January.

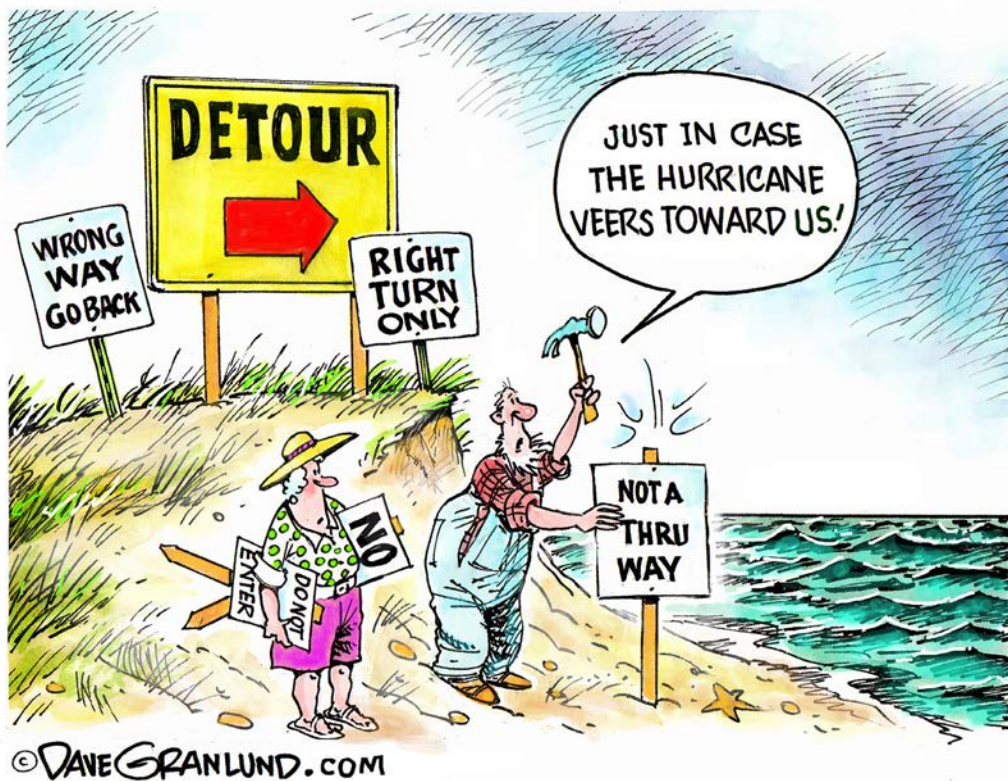
By way of example, if someone beyond FRA claims benefits to start in October 2024, their initial SS retirement benefit will be what they were entitled to at the end of 2023 and would not include DRCs earned between January 2024 and September 2024. They will collect that initial January 2024 benefit until January 2025 when the DRCs earned in 2024 are applied, at which point their benefit would increase by 6%.

There is, however, one exception to this rule, which is that all DRCs are immediately credited when benefits are claimed to start in the month age 70 is reached, so despite what your Statement of Estimated Benefits might reflect, if you claim for benefits to start in the month you turn 70 (October 2025) you will get your maximum age 70 benefit immediately and won't need to wait until January 2026 for those extra DRCs to be applied.

Unfortunately, Social Security's benefit estimator doesn't explain how this nuance works and may show someone claiming mid-year receiving the same benefit as for the preceding January, without further explanation.

That is, in my opinion, a flaw in the estimator which may result in people making a wrong decision on when to claim their Social Security benefit. Nevertheless, rest assured that your benefit in October 2025, the month you turn 70, will be your maximum amount - 6% more than it would be if you claimed benefits to start in January 2025 and you won't need to wait until the following January to get the DRCs earned earlier in 2025.

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



Guest Column

Things to consider when overwintering your favorite herbs



It's getting to be "that time," where we must concede that summer is winding down. What comes next? Frost and then a season of rest!

But there is much to do before then, especially if you have herbs that you'd like to dig up and overwinter inside.

At Old Sturbridge Village we dig up Rosemary, Bay, Lemon Verbena and many more tender plants. At home I am getting my own collection of plants that I too must dig up if I want to save my investment.

Over time, I have ended up with some very good sized specimens. Overwintering these biggies can prove to be challenging space-wise, but they make such a statement in the garden I look forward to the hassle of digging them up and keeping them alive during the off-season.

Before the interpreters dig up the plants, I al-

ways ask that they give the plants a good bath to cut down on the number of insects that will be brought into the greenhouse. For the home gardener this is equally important.

I say "bath" because my pesticide of choice is a natural and fairly benign one - made of potassium salts of fatty acids (soap) that weaken the insect's outer shell and cause dehydration. It is sprayed on leaves and stems until they are soaked, and can be reapplied every 7-10 days as needed.

This product is especially effective on insects that make their home on herbs and houseplants: whitefly, aphids and mealy bugs.

Once the insects have been eradicated, it is time to get out the shovel and get to work digging up and repotting the plants. As mentioned, it's amazing at how large some of them can become after only a few months in the ground.

It is important to salvage as much of the root ball as possible to minimize the shock of being potted up. To do this, position your shovel along the "drip line" of the plant and dig straight down, completely around its circumference.

After you've made your way around, get your shovel underneath and lift. Have a pot ready - one that is an inch or two bigger than the root ball is sufficient, and will allow for minimal winter

GARDEN | page 5

The woman who went over Niagara Falls in a Barrel

By J. Mark Powell
jmarkpowell.com

You're turning 63. How should you celebrate? With a cake with candles? A family get-together? Maybe a party?

How about crawling into a wooden barrel, having it screwed shut, then plunging 60-feet over one of the world's great natural wonders? Which, by the way, nobody else has ever lived to tell about.

A woman did that nearly 120 years ago, the crowning achievement in her quirky life. Here's what happened.

Annie Edson Taylor was a tomboy growing up. One of 11 children raised on a farm in upstate New York, she preferred outdoors and sports to dolls and dresses.

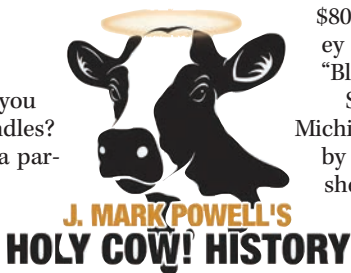
She was a dreamer whose imagination constantly sprouted new ideas.

She married at the age of 18. Annie quickly regretted it, but not for long.

Their only child died in infancy and her husband passed away soon afterward.

It was hard for a woman to support herself in the 19th Century. Annie bounced around the country from one job to another, with interesting experiences woven in between.

She survived a house fire in Chattanooga, a small earthquake in South Carolina, and even a stage-coach robbery out west. (Refusing to hand over the



\$800 hidden in her dress - all the money she had - Annie told the robbers, "Blow away!")

She eventually settled in Bay City, Michigan and scratched out a living by operating a charm school where she taught kids table manners and dance basics. But soon pupils dwindled, along with her bank account.

Annie began worrying how she would support herself in old age.

Then, as she later wrote, "the idea came to me like a flash of lightning. Go over Niagara Falls in a barrel." At an age when most people are contemplating retirement, she began contemplating a stunt the bravest daredevils wouldn't attempt.

Her rationale wasn't as crazy as it sounds. The Pan-American Exposition (a kind of World's Fair) was being held next door in Buffalo, New York. A large contingent of reporters was there.

If she survived, the news coverage would make Annie an instant celebrity. That could mean a book deal and lecture tours and enough money for her final years.

But there was a huge qualifier. "If." If she survived the plunge. If she didn't, she wouldn't have to worry about anything ever again.

So, Annie headed to Niagara Falls. She designed a special white oak barrel and had it built by a company that made beer kegs.



PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

Editor
Gregory Scibelli
aan@turley.com

Subscriptions
cgrijswold@turley.com

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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS TEAM

EDITOR/SPORTS
Greg Scibelli
aan@turley.com
sports@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Theresa Wegiel
twegiel@turley.com

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

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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
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Schools & Youth

Sen. Velis strongly opposes proposal to house migrants at Westfield State University

WESTFIELD – Following the release of a report from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency that Lammers Hall at Westfield State University is technically feasible to be an emergency shelter for migrants, Sen. Velis has continued to express his strong opposition to the proposal.

“I continue to have very serious reservations about the wisdom of attempting to solve one problem, the federal government’s inability to mitigate an immigration crisis, by exacerbating another problem, namely, requiring higher education to deviate from their core

mission of educating students,” said Velis “I’m hearing concerns from WSU parents about the fall semester, from local officials concerned about the impact to community resources, and from residents who agree that this proposal doesn’t make sense. I believe that we should exhaust every other option, including every hotel, in every community, before we consider Westfield State University.”

The recent report from MEMA comes after an end-of-August tour of Lammers Hall by state officials where Velis expressed initial concerns about the

proposal. The report notes that the dorm building faces ADA accessibility challenges, has potential asbestos tiling issues, and lacks access to medical clinics and kitchen services for families. Furthermore, the placement would impact the University’s Student Mental Health Counseling Services, which are housed in Lammers Hall.

Velis noted that while he continues to advocate with state officials to express his concerns, any decision is ultimately under the direction of the Administration and is not something that comes before the State Legislature for approval.

SNHU announces summer 2023 President’s list

MANCHESTER – Southern New Hampshire University announces the following students being named to the Summer 2023 President’s list. These students are from the Agawam area:

Kelly Connor, Timothy Lorenz, Marcel Miller, Cole Klafeta, Serena Croteau, Samantha Rubacha, Allyson Dubiel and Adam Gelinas.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

growth.

My container of choice is always plastic, but glazed pottery is fine, although it is heavy. I steer clear of clay; it dries out too quickly.

I usually put a couple of inches of moist potting soil into the container, set the plant and then fill in with more as needed before watering well. Oftentimes I leave the plants outside until a frost threatens, then I bring them in and back out until the weather turns decidedly cold.

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*), the herb of remembrance. The key to growing it successfully indoors is “cool but sunny.”

My new old house affords me many such microclimates. If you aren’t as lucky, try for a sunny window away from dry heat, in other words far from heat vents, etc.

My mudroom runs at about 50 degrees but has decent sunlight. Win-win!

Bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*) is another favorite and can be grown right through the winter with little or no coddling provided it is given medium to bright light and consistent watering. Do be on guard for the waxy-looking scale insect; one giveaway is leaves covered in a sticky, shiny sap called honey dew.

Try to “Q-tip” individual insects with rubbing alcohol or use insecticidal soap

or horticultural oil to smother larger infestations. If the bugs have been active for a while, sooty mold may have formed.

This thick, black coating will likely need to be scrubbed off leaf by leaf to allow the plant to photosynthesize properly.

To have success overwintering scented geraniums (*Pelargonium* spp.) indoors, situate them in bright light where daytime temperatures are 65-70 degrees, and night temps are in the 50s. Fertilize every other month during the fall and winter.

Smaller leaved varieties will be easier to manage; large leaved cultivars will get top-heavy quickly- take terminal or “tip” cuttings of these instead.

Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*) may start out looking great, but a month or so into indoor culture will likely begin to lose its leaves. Fear not, leaf drop is completely normal and to be expected!

You may be tempted to throw it out; instead, position in a sunny spot, water as needed and await new growth in the spring.

I hope this has provided you with the necessary information to extend the lifespan of your tender herbs.

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.

NIAGRA ■ from page 4

Three feet at its widest part with tapered ends and metal hoops to secure it, plus a small anvil to keep it weighted down. An old mattress was the only padding.

Word of what she was attempting spread. A crowd gathered as she crawled into the barrel late on Thursday afternoon - her 63rd birthday (although she adamantly insisted to reporters later she was in her 40s).

At 4:30 p.m. the barrel was screwed shut and dropped into the water. Inside, Annie clung to her lucky heart-shaped pillow; and probably prayed.

In about 15 minutes, it was all over. The barrel went over the Falls, briefly submerged, then bobbed to the surface. Boatmen hauled it onto their vessel and unscrewed the lid.

A rescuer peered inside and then shouted, “Good God! She’s alive!”

Annie had indeed survived the 167-foot fall. Her only injury was a cut on her forehead as she was removed from the barrel.

She then told reporters, “I would rather face a cannon than go over the Falls again.”

Annie got the fame she desired. Her photo and story were in newspapers from coast to coast.

One admirer even wrote a poem called “Goddess of Water”.

“This great heroine of our nation has won both fortune and fame. Now people all over creation will praise this illustrious dame.” (Ok, Shakespeare it’s not. But how many poems have been written about you?)

Then, as quickly as celebrity status ar-



Annie Edson Taylor posing next to her barrel.

rived, the public forgot Annie. Her fifteen minutes of fame didn’t even last fifteen minutes.

There was no fortune as she’d hoped. In a final insult, someone even stole her most prized possession: her special barrel.

Annie spent her last years selling a booklet she wrote about her adventure for a dime. She was impoverished when she died in 1921 at age 82.

So, when it comes time to turn 63, go with a birthday cake instead of a stunt. Trust me on this.

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

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 1,328 calls for service from Sept. 4 to Sept. 10 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Sept. 5

Bonnie Lee Millet, 33, of 717 River Rd., Agawam, was arrested on a straight warrant.

Thursday, Sept. 7

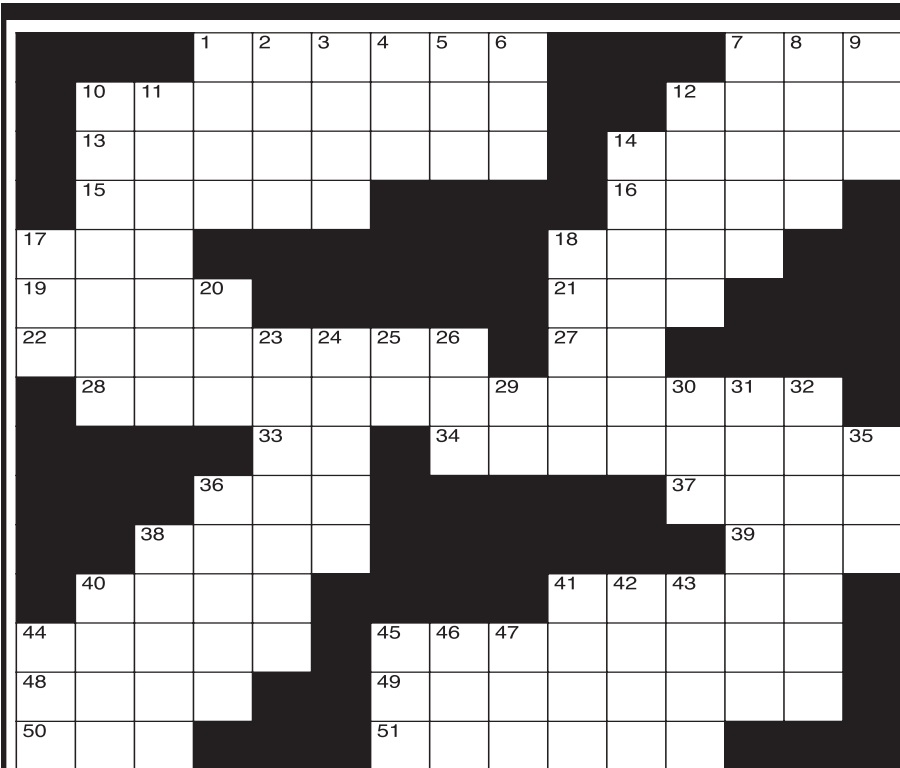
Ricky Lynn Sweeney, Jr., 48, of 29 Cranberry St., Granby, CT, was arrested at 1:34 p.m. on a straight warrant.

SECURITY ■ from page 4

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of crayon
- 7. Fashion accessory
- 10. Most cerebral
- 12. Incline from vertical
- 13. Dependent on
- 14. Broken in
- 15. Strongly desires
- 16. Mounted soldier
- 17. Ad ___ when necessary
- 18. Cattle
- 19. Ottoman military commanders
- 21. ___ student, learns healing
- 22. Composed in poetic meter
- 27. Promotional material
- 28. Where people live
- 33. Sodium
- 34. Embarrassing
- 36. Medical man
- 37. Mother of Hermes
- 38. One who saves the day
- 39. Tooth caregiver
- 40. Not clothed
- 41. Slope covered with loose stones
- 44. Used to cook
- 45. Praises enthusiastically
- 48. Rooney is a famous one
- 49. Beekeeper
- 50. Pigpen
- 51. Potato chip brand
- 5. Midway between east and southeast
- 6. Confined (abbr.)
- 7. Book of Esther antagonist
- 8. Port in Yemen
- 9. CNN’s founder
- 10. Type of bulb
- 11. Prepare
- 12. Promoted
- 14. Dinner jackets
- 17. Partner to cheese
- 18. Nebraska city
- 20. Human gene
- 23. Pays no attention to
- 24. Lowland South American plain
- 25. Blood group
- 26. Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano
- 29. Atomic #37
- 30. Unit of electrical resistance
- 31. Jeweled crowns
- 32. Nastiest
- 35. Traditional cars need it
- 36. Bowler hat
- 38. Robust
- 40. Not straight
- 41. Stony waste matter
- 42. Have an interest in
- 43. Jacob ___, journalist
- 44. Maintains possession of
- 45. Swiss river
- 46. Average cost of market goods
- 47. Spanish soldier: El ___

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

Wild and Scenic Westfield River announces upcoming events

The Wild and Scenic Westfield River committee will be hosting two upcoming events.

Wild and scenic Gobble Mountain Hike with Mammal specialist John McDonald will be held on Saturday Sept. 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Chester. Regis-

tering is mandatory to receive details of hiking location.

Hike up to one of the lookouts along the ridge and enjoy the stories written in tracks and signs that animals leave behind. Hear about the work being done to connect the hill towns along the High-

lands Footpath, which will eventually travel up and over Gobble Mountain to the Keystone Arch Bridge Trail.

The remarkable river potluck will take place Thursday Oct. 26 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Chesterfield.

Interns will present the projects that

inspired and challenged them. There will also be presentations on mapping invasive plants on Abbott Brook, how to suppressing Knotweed with the Karro Frost Method. what is Brine? how much salt and sand are we using on our roadways?

Plan your child's physical and immunizations

SPRINGFIELD – Well-child visits to the pediatrician, especially before going back to school each year, are intricately linked to being properly vaccinated.

Since the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends yearly well visits for children starting at age 3 through 18, scheduling a back-to-school physical each year is a good way to meet that goal, according to Dr. Amy Pelletier of Baystate General Pediatrics, Baystate Children's Hospital. Babies begin well-child visits several days after birth and continue these visits several times per year until they reach age 3.

Well-visits are an important opportunity to make sure all vaccinations are up-to-date.

"Children who are not vaccinated on schedule are at risk of getting sick and of spreading illnesses to others who are not protected. Vaccines are given on a schedule for the number one reason of protecting children from preventable disease. Experts designed the schedule so that children get protection when they need it, and the dos-

es are timed so the vaccine itself can have the best effect. Vaccines are mandatory for schools to maintain high vaccination coverage and low rates of vaccine-preventable diseases," said Pelletier.

"Many kids and adolescents missed recommended immunizations and wellness visits at the height of COVID-19. As health-care professionals we are encouraging parents and guardians, if they haven't already, to get their children back on track for annual vaccinations and wellness exams. It's not too late to get back on track," Pelletier added.

Vaccines work by training the immune system to recognize and fight viruses or bacteria. They develop immunity by imitating infections. Vaccinations have been protecting children and adults from diseases including smallpox, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), and chickenpox for a very long time. The reason some people aren't familiar with those illnesses is because of vaccines and their effectiveness.

Pelletier noted not only does not being

vaccinated affect the child, but it can also put others at risk, as well. When enough of the community is vaccinated, it makes disease less likely to spread.

Concerning babies, they are very vulnerable to disease, which is why they are given vaccines early in life.

"If the vaccine schedule is spread out or if babies miss well-child visits and do not receive vaccines on schedule, it will take longer for babies and children to be protected from diseases," she said.

Mass.gov offers a special page, "Preparing To Return To School," that offers full Massachusetts school immunization requirements as well as other helpful tips on physical exams, preschool vision screenings, lead screenings, and children with special health care needs. Visit the page at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/preparing-for-return-to-school>.

If your child is due, or overdue, for a well-child visit or vaccines, visit www.baystate-health.org/services/pediatrics to make an appointment for their school physical.

Family education program starting Sept. 19

HOLYOKE – National Alliance on Mental Illness Western Massachusetts is offering NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program in person, starting Tuesday, Sept. 19, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Greenfield.

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 9-session educational program for family, significant others, and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program. This means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition.

Pre-registration is required. For more information contact: Susan Sharbaugh at suesharbaugh@gmail.com or visit: namiwm.org/support.



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Sacred Heart Parish hosting events

FEEDING HILLS – The Blessing of the Animals will be hosted at Sacred Heart Parish on Saturday, Oct. 7 at 10 a.m., in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Please keep all pets on a leash or in crates so they do not disturb other animals. Children who are unable to have a live pet may bring their stuffed animals for a blessing also. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon

Brian Hunt at 413-786 8200.

The St. Martha's Guild is hosting it's a Junk in your trunk tag Sale on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish. This event will take place in the parking lot, rain or shine. The fee is \$25.00 per car or truck. For more information, please contact Joanne at 413.998.3454 or email at jjcappa@aol.com



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SPORTS

Brownies score late to close win over Comp

CHICOPEE – After thunderstorms caused a rare suspension of a game, Agawam and Chicopee Comprehensive football resumed their game last Saturday morning as Cole Ingham scored late in the fourth quarter to lead Agawam to

a 23-16 win over the Colts. Chicopee Comp would score in the third quarter to take a 16-15 lead, but the Brownies late rush from Ingham would put the Brownies on top for good as their defense did the rest of the work.



Cole Ingham starts a rush up the middle.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Quarterback Max Holloway goes on a rush.



Quinn Miller goes high as he blocks a Comp lineman.



Benjamin Tokarev punts the ball away.



The Agawam defensive line tries to get through.

Girls soccer shuts out Warriors

AGAWAM – After heat postponed their season opener, Agawam faced Wahconah Regional in their first game last Saturday morning, with the Brownie offense on display in a 4-0 win. Kylie Warner had two goals for Agawam with Marlee Montagna and Mia Oyler scoring single tallies. Agawam improved to 1-0 with a combined shutout from Joanne Schmuck and Christina Ritter. Each made three saves.



Marlee Montagna sends a pass up the field.



Keira Murphy looks to steal the ball away.



Christina Ritter steps between a passer.



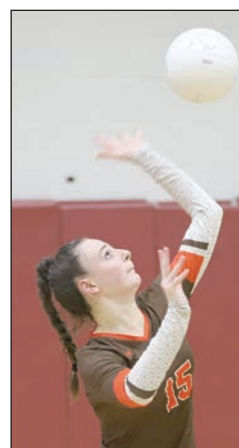
McKenna Podworski watches her shot head for the goal.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



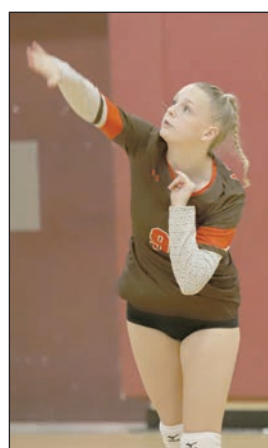
Isabella Castro watches for the high ball to come down so she can make a play.

Agawam sweeps Ludlow in opener



Abigail Polley serves.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Elizabeth St. Jean returns a hit from the back line.



Players from both teams vie to keep the ball out of their end.

LUDLOW – Agawam girls volleyball opened the regular season with a convincing shutout win over Ludlow. Agawam won straight sets 25-21, 25-15, and 25-18. Agawam got 20 assists from Ella Mickiewicz, while Isabella Spaulding had six kills and three aces. Ludlow got three kills each from Ava Peczka and Michele Winslow.

Sports

Griffin's Friends to host first ever Fun Color Run/Walk

AGAWAM -- Griffin's Friends Children's Cancer Fund is inviting the public to participate in the first-ever Color for the Kids Run/Walk, aimed at providing essential support to local families impacted by cancer. For 25 years, Griffin's Friends has been helping local families who have a child receiving cancer care at Baystate Children's Hospital.

Griffin's Friends was founded in 1994 and is named after Griffin D. Kelleher, who died from cancer after just 14 months of life. Since then, the Kelleher family has honored his memory by helping other families battling childhood cancer.

The Griffin's Friends Color for the Kids Run/Walk is scheduled to take place on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023, at Agawam High

School. The event will kick off with a vibrant burst of color at 11 a.m., with registration and check-in starting at 10 a.m. Participants and non-runners are invited to stay after the race to enjoy music, food, and entertainment.

This unique experience is open to all age groups, offering a two-mile color-filled course that perfect for both runner and walkers. Each registration, priced at \$25 for students, and \$35 for adults, includes a commemorative T-shirt and protective sunglasses, ensuring participants look stylish while contributing to a worthy cause.

To secure your spot and be a part of this unforgettable day, register now at www.GriffinsFriends.com.

Rick's Place Golf Classic tees off on Sept. 23

WILBRAHAM -- Registration is currently open for the Rick's Place Golf Classic. The Golf Classic will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23, at the Country Club of Wilbraham. The tournament is open to all golfers and is an 18-hole shotgun scramble starting at 12:30 pm.

The entry fee is \$175 per person or \$700 per foursome and includes green fees, cart rental, lunch and dinner. We also encourage those who do not golf to attend the dinner for \$40 per person. There will be a raffle and silent auction at the event. Consider becoming a sponsor or purchasing a tee&green sign.

The Rick's Place Golf Classic serves

as one of our primary fundraisers and proceeds will benefit Rick's Place grief support programs for youth and families who have had a death loss. We hope to see you there!

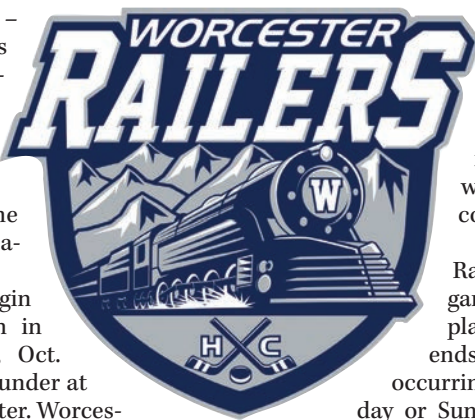
To register for the tournament, please visit ricksplacema.org. For more information, contact info@ricksplacema.org

Established in memory of Rick Thorpe, who died in Tower Two of the World Trade Center on 9/11, Rick's Place opened in March 2007. We are honored to offer young people and their families, from all over Western MA and Northern CT, our free grief support services.

Railers schedule released, first game Oct. 22

WORCESTER -- The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailerShC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) announced today the team's 2022-23 regular season schedule.

The Railers will begin their fifth ECHL season in Worcester on Saturday, Oct. 22 vs. the Adirondack Thunder at 7:05 p.m. at the DCU Center. Worcester is slated to play 36 regular season



home games at the DCU Center.

A printable schedule is available at www.railershc.com.

30 of the 36 Railers home games will be played on the weekends with 20 of the 30 occurring either Saturday or Sunday. The Railers will welcome nine different op-

ponents to the DCU Center during the seven-month regular season which runs Oct. 22 through April 16.

Worcester will host a season long five-game homestand (Dec. 9 to 18) and will embark on season long six-game road trip (Nov. 23 to Dec. 4). Worcester's 72-game regular season schedule comes to an end on April 16 with a 3 p.m. start vs. Adirondack in Glens Falls, NY at the Cool Insuring Arena.

The 2022-23 Worcester Railers HC promotional schedule will be released later this summer. Idaho will make their first trip to the DCU Center this season. Full breakdown of opponents this season:

Community Caravan postponed

SPRINGFIELD -- The Springfield Thunderbirds announced last Friday that the third installment of the T-Birds Community Caravan presented by Dunkin' has been postponed due to potential inclement weather this weekend. A rescheduled date will be announced in the future.

Fans can reserve their seats to be part of the Thunderbirds' hockey action for the 2023-24 season by calling (413) 739-GOAL (4625) or visiting www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Ninth annual Dragon Boat Festival rescheduled for Oct. 14

SPRINGFIELD -- A new date for the ninth annual Dragon Boat Festival has been set for Saturday, Oct. 14, on the Connecticut River. The event will feature Dragon Boat races, food trucks, and Asian-themed entertainment from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at North Riverfront Park, 121 West Street.

The festival was originally scheduled for July 29 but postponed due to unsafe water conditions resulting from recent flooding. Admission to the festival is free for spectators.

Twenty-four teams from throughout New England are registered to participate in this year's Dragon Boat races. Community teams include Behavioral Health Network, CRRC-MA (the rail car manufactur-

er), as well as the defending champions, Springfield Pharmacy First Responders. With the new date set, registration will be reopened at www.pvriverrfront.org for additional teams to sign up to race on Oct. 14.

The Springfield Dragon Boat Festival, which has been hosted by the Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club since 2013, attracts hundreds of participants and spectators to the banks of the Connecticut River for a day of competition, festivity, and community support. The Festival is an important fundraiser in support of Breast Cancer survivors and Community Programming at the Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club.

According to Ben Quick, executive director of PVRC, "We are happy to have

found an alternative date for the Dragon Boat Festival, which has become a staple of our offerings on the Riverfront. With the additional time, we are opening registration for teams and a fall dragon boat experience on the Connecticut with colleagues and friends can be spectacular. We look forward to welcoming Dragon Boaters and fans of this fun and exciting event."

Hundreds of paddlers from New England participate in the festival races. A dragon boat festival team is comprised of up to 20 paddlers who race against other teams in 200-meter races on the Connecticut River. Each race lasts about one minute, and each team races at least three times on the day of the festival. Dragon Boating orig-

inated in China 2,000 years ago and today is one of the world's fastest growing team water sports. The festival makes it easy for anyone to participate and spectate.

There is free parking available nearby at 77 West Street or along Avocado Street and on property abutting and behind the new Starbucks store adjacent to the Riverfront Club. The festival can also be reached by the Connecticut Riverwalk Bikeway. More information can be found at www.pvriverrfront.org or by calling (413) 736-1322.

The Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club has both adult and youth programming throughout the fall and winter months. For more information, visit www.pvriverrfront.org.

Coby, Tommy Baldwin Racing earn Granite crown at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. -- Doug Coby and Tommy Baldwin Racing returned to NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour competition on Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway and they were celebrating after 150 laps in New Hampshire.

Coby finished fifth in the Winchester Fair 150 in the Mayhew Tools 7NY, but the finish was enough for the team to capture the second annual Whelen Granite State

Short Track Cup championship crown.

The Cup, which included three races at Monadnock Speedway, Lee USA Speedway and back at Monadnock on Saturday night, saw Coby grab three finishes inside the top-six, including a win at Monadnock in May. By winning the Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup, the team collected at least \$5,000 in bonus awards.

Coby returned to action Saturday for

the first time since Thompson Speedway in August. Team owner Tommy Baldwin Jr. announced a cancer diagnosis and the team stepped back from full-time competition and missed the last two races. They couldn't pass up returning to chase the Granite State Short Track Cup crown.

"Just to be here with our family and Tommy battling cancer, I mean, he's a warrior," Coby said. "He told us from

the beginning that he was going to fight through this and he's been courageous enough to share his battle and everything on social media, which is uncommon. To be here as the Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup champions, it just means a lot. We've got a great group of guys and Tommy really wanted to be here to do this. This one is for Tommy Baldwin."

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www.turley.com

LIBRARY ■ from page 1

can either come into the library to get a form or download it online.

The contest runs from Sept. 1 through Sept. 23 and is split up into four categories: grades one and two, grades three and four, grades five through eight, and then grades nine through twelve.

After the contest is over and the winners are announced, the winning bookmarks will be made available to the public.

On top of these month-long events for children and teens, the library has a few events scheduled for specific days.

On Friday, Sept. 15 the library will be hosting an arts and crafts event for adolescents in grades five through twelve. This event will go from 3:30 until 4:30 p.m. and it is an opportunity for teens and tweens to come do some art projects that will then be used to decorate the teen space.

"We want teens and tweens to help us decorate the teen space," Weingart said.

Additionally, the read with pride book club for teens will be continuing to run throughout the fall. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. The club will be discussing Heartstopper Volume 1 by Alice Oseman.

This club is available for teens in grades nine through twelve and participants are welcome to come in person or on zoom. If someone does need to join on zoom, the library requests that they register ahead of time so that there is time to send them out a zoom link.

There will also be weekly events for children and teens to take part in. There is a weekly take and make craft for children, chess club for all ages every Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and a choose-your-own-adventure book club.

The choose-your-own-adventure book club will be on Wednesday, Sept. 20 at 6 p.m. for grades three to five. Children will read a Spy for Cleopatra, a choose-your-own-adventure book together and even get to take the book home to enjoy. Registration is required.

"We're going to read the book together and have some activities with it and the kids get a free copy of the book to keep," Weingart explained.

Children and teens are not the only

ones who get to enjoy some fun at the library. There will be a variety of events for adults throughout the month of September.

Andrew Lam, a local author, will be coming to give a talk on his new book The Masters of Medicine. He will be at the library at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 20. Registration is required.

"He usually draws a big crowd and we're excited to have him," Collins said.

Following this event, the library will be hosting a mindfulness outdoor experience with Colleen Mollica at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 25. It will be hosted at the outdoor classroom behind Agawam High School.

It will be a fun opportunity to get outside and enjoy nature.

"The event helps give people an awareness of nature and a chance to connect to the world around them," Adult Services Librarian Cher Collins said.

Continuing the nature theme, Russ Coben will be hosting a "Nibbling on Native Plants in Your Backyard and Beyond" event where he will walk attendees through some wild but edible plants that can be found in the area.

"He'll show edible flowers, foraging, mushrooms and things in our local area," Collins said. "He'll even have some samples of the goodies that he has."

For both of these nature-themed events, you can register online or by calling the library.

There will also be a library tech night held Thursday, Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m. It is an opportunity for people to learn more about what their library card can get for them

outside of just books.

"People can come in with their devices and get personalized help with installing libby, finding library materials, additional streaming services and things like that," Collins said.

Finally, there are weekly yoga classes held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Mondays, open to any adults who are interested.

The library is grateful to the Agawam Central Library Association, as it is their sponsorship that makes all of these events possible.

To register for any of the events or get more information about what is happening at the library, go to <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/>.

"The event helps give people an awareness of nature and a chance to connect to the world around them,"

— Adult Services Librarian
Cher Collins

Obituary

Michael David Canty

Michael David Canty, 50, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Saturday, September 2, 2023 at 1:11 p.m. Born in Springfield, son of the late Michael J. And Bonnie I. (Burko) Canty, he grew up in Feeding Hills and was a 1991 graduate of Agawam High School. Michael worked as a Master Auto Mechanic for twenty-four years at Parrotta's Auto in Agawam.



honeymoon with his wife Bobbie. He was an experienced snowboarder, surfer and in his younger years he lived on his skateboard. He had a passion for music, taught himself how to play guitar, and the drums. He loved concerts, Christmas, the Big E, and a good time.

The most important thing in Michael's life was family,

whether it was singing the loudest Happy Birthday song to doing cartwheels and splits, or jumping over anything he could find, he was always the life of the party. Michael was known for his timely wit and love of a good story, especially when it was about someone in his family or his best friends. He never let anyone he loved get too full of themselves, as he always kept you grounded. He was the first one at any gathering and the last one to leave. If you were not appreciating being together, he lovingly needled you until he got you to smile. Michael always left you feeling better about yourself. If you were lucky enough to know him you know he loved life and the time he spent with you. He lived life with loudness, laughter, jokes, and sarcasm, loving his people with his whole heart. Michael leaves us with the way he lived his life, GO BIG OR GO HOME!

Family and friends were invited to gather on Friday, Sept. 8, 2023 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Agawam Curran Jones Funeral Home, 745 Cooper Street. A celebration of life service was held at the funeral home on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023 at 10 a.m., the burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Cancer House of Hope, 1999 Westfield Street, West Springfield and For the Love of Labs Rescue, fortheLoveofLabs.com. For online condolences, please visit www.curranjones.com.

Left behind to cherish his memory, his wife, the love of his life, Bobbie (Wapner) Canty, and their beloved dog, Brandy Brown. He also leaves his sisters, Joanne and her husband Andrew Lyne, Christene and her husband Jeffrey Smith, his step father Eugene Fortier all of Feeding Hills, including several aunts, uncles, and cousins. Michael will especially miss his most important role in life as a "Funcle" to his nieces and nephews Hailey, McKenzie & Evan Lyne, Bodie and Cole Smith. He also sadly leaves the most amazing group of friends his "Agawam Boys" who have always been by his side and will miss him dearly.

Michael was gifted; there was nothing he could not fix, build, design or put back together. He was extremely clever and skillful. At 5 years old he took apart a clock and reconstructed it back together, and it worked to his parents' surprise. We knew he was something special. He designed and built from hand his dream outdoor patio from the ground up. He was so accomplished in everything he touched.

Michael had a love of travel, from summers spent on Block Island, to winters in Vail, Colorado, and many islands in between from Costa Rica to Barbados. His most favorite trip was to Nashville on his

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 NOTICE

**CANTY,
MICHAEL DAVID**

Died:
September 2, 2023

WORK ■ from page 1

chine called a miller will scrape the asphalt off the top of the road in order to get rid of the crumbling pieces. Following this, they repave the area.

"They take an inch and a half away and then they put an inch and a half back of new pavement and then it's good for, hopefully, 20 years," Mazza said.

Mazza said that they try to ensure they jump around to different areas that are the worst off and ensure that every neighborhood gets a section done every few years.

He also said they try to mix main and side streets done each year.

"We don't want to ignore one for the other," Mazza said.

On top of this project, there is another project being done by Morgan Sullivan Bridge to replace the gas main. The Agawam side had been completed and they were then working to connect it to the West Springfield side.

This project is not under the DPW, but according to Mazza it is making good progress.

"As best I know, the work is done, the road has been patched and after the Big E they will come back and mill and pave and then restrike—which means putting the pavement markings and crosswalks back," Mazza said.

The DPW is also currently working on a project on Meadow Street, which is interrupted by the Big E. This project is focused on replacing the water main and fixing the drainage on the street.

They have finished installing the new water main and now are testing it, chlorinating it and taking samples to ensure it is safe.

Once that is complete, they will start the services, which are the lines that connect the homes to the main.

"They are going to switch over from the old main, which was over 100 years old, to the new one that they just installed," Mazza said.

Mazza said this phase of the project is

expected to take about three weeks.

Following this stage, they will begin working on the drainage of the street. During this process they will increase the size of the pipes in the ground so that they can accommodate larger storms.

"That street has awful flooding when it rains, and not necessarily even a bad storm, so this is going to fix all of that," Mazza said.

Mazza anticipates that this process will take six to eight weeks, with the end of the project expected for late November.

They will then let that area sit over the winter months and then come back in the spring to mill and pave all of Meadow Street.

TEACHERS ■ from page 1

Sapelli told this story to remind the educators present that they have the power to impact the children they see in their classrooms each day in such a way.

"I think of this story and I think of the difference that you, as educators, the people in this audience, make every day," Sapelli said. "And I say educators because you're not just teachers and administrators, there's paras, there's office staff, there's nurses, there's bus drivers and every one of you touches students every day in some way, shape or form that has a very positive impact on their life."

Superintendent Sheila Hoffman also provided her own encouragement to the

gathered faculty and staff. With the rise of AI recently, Hoffman brought up that many questioned what jobs would be replaced. Hoffman emphasized that teachers could not be replaced by AI, not truly.

"You teach students empathy, compassion and interpersonal skills," Hoffman said. "Qualities that AI lacks and that are crucial for creating meaningful relationships."

To push forward with this message, Hoffman mentioned that the theme for this school year was "Agawam Innovation", a reclaiming of the acronym AI.

"As we move forward into this post-pandemic education, in a world that offers us tools to use to help us write and find answers, I have a new challenge for

you," Hoffman said. "I challenge you all to think about ways you can increase innovation in our educational approach."

To further demonstrate to the educators that their impact was a meaningful one, a few students also had the chance to speak.

Seventh grader Kaelynn Paquette was one of these students, and she mentioned that she has been inspired to become a teacher when she is older by all the teachers she has had in the past.

"My teachers have always been there for me, on my good days and on my bad days," Paquette said. "I hope one day I'll be able to make a child feel as loved as I always did, so when I grow up, I want to be a teacher."



Mayor William Sapelli welcomes the Agawam Public Schools faculty back to school for the 2023-2024 school year. Most students began classes last Thursday, Sept. 7. TURLEY PHOTO BY QUINN SUOMALA

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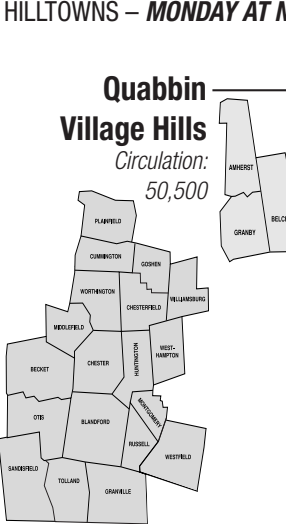
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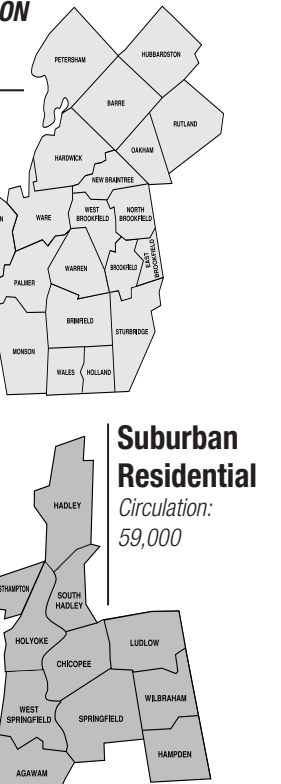
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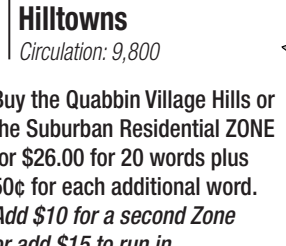
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Public Notices

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Agawam City Council Administrative Sub-Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023 at 6:30PM**, at the Agawam Senior Center Seminar Hall, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on an Eversource petition for permission to perform work on or near 788 South West Street, Feeding Hills, MA which could include installation of a new pole(s), manholes, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protect fixtures along and across the property. This petition is available by contacting the City Council Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing bbard@agawam.ma.us

Robert E. Rossi, Chair
Administrative
Sub-Committee
09/14, 09/21/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23C0263CA
In the matter of:
Lori Ann Johnson
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Lori Ann Johnson of Agawam, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Lori Woodruff Johnson
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/28/2023.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 31, 2023

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate

09/14/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P1890GD
In the matter of:
David J Keery, Jr.
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated**

**Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Rachel C Keery of Agawam, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **David J Keery, Jr.** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Rachel C Keery of Agawam, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **10/09/2023**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 08, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD23P1534EA
Estate of:**

**John Arthur Krause
Date of Death:
May 25, 2023
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **John J Krause of Agawam, MA.**

John J Krause 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.
09/14/2023

**NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Resignation
or Petition for Removal of
Guardianship of a Minor
DOCKET NO.
HD17P0366GD**

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
In the interests of
Oliver D Lamb
of Feeding Hills, MA
Minor**

**NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by Department of Children and Families on 08/21/2023 will be held **09/19/2023 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing located at 50 State St., 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103**

2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File

the original with the Court, and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice.

Date: August 22, 2023
Rosemary R. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/14/2023

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P1806GD
In the interests of
Kyree Jovon Askew
Of Agawam, MA
Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **08/25/2023** by **Andrea N Askew of Agawam, MA; Steven D Askew of Agawam, MA** will be held **09/27/2023 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing.** Located: **Probate and Family Court, 50 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103**

2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents:
If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if

you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: September 11, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/14/2023

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

OPPORTUNITY

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Turley Publications seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

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Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

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

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

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

Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



Rare but resilient: Endangered moth found in Hardwick

By Kimberly Palmucci
Staff Writer

HARDWICK – Wildlife experts say the recent discovery of an orange swallow moth at the Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area is an example of animals and plants responding favorably to habitat restoration work.

“About 75 plants, insects, and animals on the Massachusetts Endangered Species List depend on habitats that experience periodic fires,” the state’s Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) released in a press statement. “But natural wildland fires that support fire-dependent ecosystems have been suppressed for decades in the interest of public safety.”

However, wildlife experts said many of these specialized plants and animals are “incredibly resilient.”

“Plants can lie dormant as seeds in the ground for decades waiting for the right growing conditions to return,” MassWildlife said. “Mobile species, like birds, bees, and moths, can travel to restored areas to recolonize fire-influenced habitats.”

This plant and animal resilience is on full display at MassWildlife’s Muddy Brook Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Hardwick.

The greater Muddy Brook Valley contains “a collection of globally rare, fire-influenced habitats.”

“After 70 years of fire exclusion, most of these habitats were not able to support the specialized plant and animal species that once occurred there,” wildlife experts said, adding that MassWildlife began habitat restoration work at Muddy Brook WMA in 2014 after years of planning. “Restoration included tree canopy thinning and prescribed fire



A rare orange swallow moth has recently been found at Muddy Brook WMA.

COURTESY PHOTO, MASSWILDLIFE

treatments.”

Within a year of the first prescribed fire, an “abundance of native plants”—some that been absent for decades—began to emerge from the seedbank and become established, wildlife officials said.

“After a few growing seasons, long-absent insects and birds were observed making use of the restored habitat,” MassWildlife released.

The most recent marker of success was discovered in the summer of 2023, when MassWildlife biologists observed the orange swallow moth (*Pyrrha aurantiago*) at Muddy Brook WMA. This is the seventh MESA-listed moth species recorded in the valley since the habitat restoration work began.

The orange swallow moth is listed as a

“Species of Special Concern” in Massachusetts. The moth’s larva (caterpillar) feeds exclusively on the flowers, seeds, and leaves of false foxglove plants, according to reports.

“False foxglove grows in areas with occasional fire. Surveys show that false foxglove was not growing in the Muddy Brook Valley in the years leading up to the restoration work,” MassWildlife released. “Following initial canopy thinning and the introduction of prescribed fire, a small patch of fern-leaved foxglove emerged from the seedbank in 2019. By 2023, more than 1,000 foxglove plants were counted, and in August the orange swallow moth was discovered at this foxglove patch.”

The false foxglove plants at Muddy Brook likely originated from seed that

had been dormant since the late 1950s, wildlife officials added.

“Habitat restoration allowed sunlight to reach the soil and re-introduced fire where it had been absent for decades. The nearest orange swallow population is about five miles away,” wildlife experts said. “The moths detected the growing patch of foxgloves (likely signaled by the fragrant flowers) and set out to colonize this new habitat.”

In a press statement, MassWildlife described this orange swallow at Muddy Brook as “just one of many amazing examples of the resilience displayed by fire-adapted plants and animals.”

“Less than a decade after restoration work began, Muddy Brook WMA now supports over 20 MESA-listed species, including whip-poor-wills, rare bees, and Endangered plants. All of these have similar stories to the orange swallow that show how their highly specialized adaptations allow them to reemerge and flourish following long periods of time.”

Additionally, Muddy Brook WMA is showing what wildlife officials described as “an impressive ecological response to MassWildlife’s habitat restoration work,” including: the emergence of 28 fire-influenced plants not observed prior to restoration, including four Endangered, one Threatened, one Special Concern, and five Watchlist species; the return of the eastern whip-poor-will bird to the site following a documented 30-year absence; a significant increase in early successional breeding birds, including the American woodcock, prairie warbler, field sparrow, and eastern towhee; an increase in bee species from 36 to 150 species (including one Threatened); and a growing list of specialized moths and butterflies that includes several state-listed species.

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