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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Town remembers 9/11 attacks on 25th anniversary



The September 11 Memorial, showing the World Trade Center buildings.

TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last Friday morning, Sept. 11, the Agawam Fire Department Headquarters held a Remembrance Ceremony. Speaking at the ceremony was Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois, Rev. Stephen Thee with Bethany Assembly of God, Mayor Christopher Johnson, and Pastor Tim Sheranko with First Baptist Church.

This year's ceremony marked the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

During Sirois's speech he

highlighted the bravery shown by the men and women who were police officers, firefighters, or civilians that ran to help save lives that day. Sirois called on the audience to be inspired by such bravery and help others throughout life.

During Johnson's speech he recognized the courage shown by veterans, police officers, firefighters and everyone who fights and works everyday to keep people safe.

A major point multiple speakers mentioned at the ceremony was the choice to remember. It is important that each

and every year we remember what happened on 9/11 and reflect on the lives lost and also how the world changes because of the tragic events that day. Several speakers highlighted the importance of educating the younger generations and ensuring that they realize the true impact that 9/11 still has on the world today.

"I mean this day 25 years ago sculpted the country that we live in today," Sirois said. "Make no doubt about it, it was the events of 9/11 that crafted our current government, our policy, our current economy, everything that

we do day to day; our levels of security. The level of security that we feel on a personal basis. It's a generational moment, our nation was never attacked like that before. To have almost a thousand people killed in a matter of minutes, it was unheard of. Unless you've experienced it, it's hard to describe. But the stories that people tell are moving."

Sirois said first responders knew what they were doing and entered the buildings without any reluctance.

"I mean, the men and wom-

9/11 | page 10

Library screens 9/11 film, discusses impact

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam Public Library had two viewings of a 25th Anniversary of 9/11 Commemorative Film, and a discussion about the film and tragic events after. This event was in collaboration with the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. The thirty-minute film highlighted the stories of different people who were at the World Trade Center that day or lost family members on Sept. 11, 2001.

Frost shared how on 9/11 firefighters, police officers and regular civilians were able to band together to help each other as much as possible, "We were just all talking about, you

know, our experiences, and I certainly was not there that day but it was a frightening day. But seeing the first responders and the bravery that they executed on that day, I think it was just overwhelming for all of us to know that those courageous people put themselves in harm's way like that; knowing that something really tragic could and was probably going to happen. I think people just wanted to be helpful and do what they could. And I feel like this major tragedy, in some ways, brought people together in the country, in a really important way. So, I think everyone wanted to help in the best way they could. And those would be the stories, I guess, that we may nit know all



Books for all ages reflecting on 9/11 set out in the community room for attendees to check out at the film viewings.

TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

of them ever."

Frost says it's important to remember the events of 9/11 and teach the younger generations about it.

"I don't think the younger folks in the country realize what an unbelievable event

this was for those of us who were witnessing it that day, in whatever capacity, whether you were watching it on TV or you were there," Frost said.

"I think schools try to present

LIBRARY | page 10

Increase in e-bike violation fines passes first reading

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The city council discussed increasing the fines for violating the E-Bike Ordinance at their meeting on Sept. 8.

The council unanimously agreed that this was needed in order to keep E-Bike riders safe.

"We've seen an influx [of modified E-Bikes], creating a hazard to not only the people

riding them but people on sidewalks," Councilor Dino Mercadante said.

This was the first reading of the amendment. The second reading will take place at an upcoming meeting and, should it be passed, the amendment will go into place.

The fines would change to \$50 for the first violation, \$100 for the second and \$300 for the third. Additionally, people who violated the ordi-

nance could have their bikes impounded for up to 15 days.

The goal of this increase in fines is to spread awareness of the dangers of modification of E-Bikes.

"Ultimately the purpose of this is to save lives, and if that is how you get people's attention, by fining them, so be it," Mercadante said.

"The town of Agawam is not looking for another revenue stream, the town of Agawam is looking to be proactive to

save your kids' lives."

The ordinance itself focuses on banning modifications on the speed of the bikes and on exceeding the passenger limit of the bikes.

Many of those riding E-Bikes are younger children, and the council does not want to see anyone injured due to improper use of E-Bikes.

E-BIKES | page 10

Majority of city council supports reducing taxes on overtime, tips

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The city council had an intense discussion about a resolution supporting the reduction of income tax on overtime pay and tips.

The resolution passed 8-3, with Councilors Robert Rossi, Rosemary Sandlin and Tom Hendrickson voting against it.

Since it passed, the resolution will be sent to state legislators showing that Agawam is in support of a reduction on income tax on overtime pay and tips.

The majority of the council felt that this resolution would support workers who need the extra income in the current

TIPS | page 10



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The Agawam Knights of Columbus are holding its annual Tootsie Roll Drive.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Agawam Knights of Columbus holding annual Tootsie Roll Drive

AGAWAM – The Agawam Council 5585 Knights of Columbus will once again conduct its annual Tootsie Roll Drive to benefit Helping God’s Children with Physical and Intellectual Disabilities.

Council members will be collecting donations at several local locations throughout the community and at the Big E, on the bridge during the fair.

Residents are encouraged to look for the Knights wearing their blue shirts and yellow vests and to support this important charitable effort. Every donation, large or small, helps provide assistance and opportunities for children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities.

“The brothers of Agawam Council 5585 always appreciate the friendly response and generosity shown by the community,” said council representatives. “We sincerely thank everyone who supports the Tootsie Roll Drive and helps us continue this meaningful work.”

William Bathel, Grand Knight, Agawam K of C Council 5585, “I am proud of our Agawam KofC members who volunteer their time and effort with the national fundraising event and over the past year led the Commonwealth in donations.”

The Agawam Council 5585 Knights of Columbus welcomes all Catholic men age 18 and older who are interested in putting their

faith into action. Members help plan and host community events, support local charitable organizations, and address important needs throughout the area. Through service, fellowship, and commitment, the Knights continue to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Catholic men who are interested in learning more about joining Agawam Council 5585 are invited to visit agawamknightsforcolumbus.org or contact Jack Cappuccilli at 413-222-5999**.

The council encourages everyone to support the 2026 Tootsie Roll Drive and help make a difference for God’s children with physical and intellectual disabilities.

New galleries come to Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library is excited to host two sets of returning faces, featuring competition winners from Dracut Arts on the walls and gourds from Ceil Rossi in the main floor display cases. Hanging on the main floor gallery walls, visitors will be able to see pieces from past winners of Dracut Arts’ Annual Children’s Art Competition, open to all children 6 to 18 years old. Dracut Arts also features New England Artists in their Arts Saturdays virtual events, happening four times a month. All previous Arts Saturdays, Artist Interviews and “Why is Art Important?”, as well as the Neighborhood Talks series

are available on YouTube at [@dracutarts](https://www.youtube.com/@dracutarts). All programs have ASL and closed captions whenever possible. Submissions for the 7th Children’s Art Competition are open. All art mediums are accepted; original works only. This year’s theme is “Industry” and the deadline is Oct. 3 at midnight. There is no entry fee. More information on programs and the competition can be found at dracutarts.com.

Gourds by Ceil Rossi will also be exhibited in the cases on the main floor. The gourd is a 3-dimensional art form that can be carved, wood burned and painted. The paints that Rossi uses are transparent ink dyes,

allowing the mottled skin of the gourds to show. Rossi learned the art form of gourds from her time living in Arizona, and has found that gourds have perpetuated her love for art over the years. Beyond working on gourd sculptures, Rossi also teaches from her home studio and exhibits in galleries in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and has won awards in several fine art shows. Rossi is president of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans and can be found on Facebook at [CareFreeGourdGallery](https://www.facebook.com/CareFreeGourdGallery).

Visitors are welcome to view the gallery at the Agawam Public Library during regular open hours

Agawam Cultural Council opens FY27 grant cycle

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council is accepting applications for its Fiscal Year 2027 grant cycle. Local artists, educators, organizations, schools, and community groups are encouraged to apply for funding to support public programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences.

The grant cycle opened last week. Applications must be submitted online by Oct. 15 at 11:59 p.m.

“We are excited to

support programs that bring people together and strengthen arts and culture throughout Agawam,” said Uduak Enyiema, Chair of the Agawam Cultural Council. “We encourage anyone with a creative idea benefiting our community to review the guidelines and apply.”

Applicants must include a letter approving the use of the proposed location and a separate letter explaining how the project will benefit the general public. Projects

receiving funding must be open or available to the public.

For application instructions and local requirements, visit www.agawamcc.org and select “Apply for Grants.”

The Agawam Cultural Council is a local partner of the Mass Cultural Council. The cultural council regular funds programs every year that can be seen at places like Agawam Public Library and the Agawam Senior Center.

Thrills and chills at historic mansion

AGAWAM – Join bestselling author D.M. Pulley and Granby author Dana McSwain for an evening of literary thrills at the Revival Wheeler Mansion in Orange, Massachusetts on Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. Meet Me At the Mansion: D.M. Pulley in Conversation with Dana McSwain is sponsored by The Alchemist Society bookshop in Feeding Hills and celebrates the much-anticipated release of Pulley’s fifth novel, Stone Mad.

Pulley, winner of the 2014 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award, has penned five dark thrillers, including The Dead Key and Nobody’s Home. A former Professional Engineer by trade, Pulley rehabbed historic structures and conducted forensic investigations into building failures before becoming a full-time author. Her mysteries shine a light into the darker side of the abandoned buildings and buried past of the Midwest. Stone Mad, a

Gothic thriller set in an infamous Gilded Age mansion, will be released Oct. 13.

Joining Pulley for this special event is Granby author Dana McSwain, four-time award winning bestseller of the supernatural Gothic thriller, Roseneath, and 2025 Pushcart Prize nominee for her short story, The Perfect Stranger. A social hour and author signing will follow.

Meet Me at the Mansion, D.M. Pulley in Conversation with Dana McSwain is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit the event page at <https://revivalwheelermansion.com/calendar/stone-mad/>

Class of 1976 planning reunion

AGAWAM – Join us as we gather to celebrate the Bicentennial once again! Reunite with friends from the Agawam HS Class of 1976 and relive your favorite memories as a Brownie at our 50th Reunion, which will take place on Saturday, Oct. 17 at Tansey’s Catered Table from 6 to 10 p.m.

Please RSVP by Oct. 1. Tickets are \$60 per person.

Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Please Venmo the amount to @Caroline-White-72. Last four digits of phone number: 0323. If you do not have a Venmo, you can mail a check or cash to Caroline White, 17 Pineknoll, Southwick MA 01077.

There will be a cash bar. Please inform us of any

food allergies or dietary restrictions when you purchase your ticket.

Please note that this event is intended for members of the Class of ‘76 and their spouses. Space is limited, but if you are from another class and would like to attend, please reach out to one of the organizers.

We hope to see you there.

Vendors needed for fundraising event

AGAWAM – Agawam Junior High School is currently seeking vendors & crafters for an upcoming fundraising event.

AJHS Washington DC 2027 - Club will be hosting a Community Craft and Vendor Fair. This fundraising event is to help defer the

cost of travel for students travelling to Washington DC in June of 2027. The fair will be Thursday, Nov. 12 from 5 to 8 p.m. in our cafeteria.

If you are a crafter or vendor please consider joining us. Please see Agawam Junior High School

webpage for details and registration form!

If you are a shopper - please save the date to kick off your holiday shopping and supporting local businesses.

This event is open to the community so please share with friends and family.

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USDA INSP. FROZEN ST. LOUIS PORK RIBS.....	\$2.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK or ROAST.....	\$7.77 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN JAJU FAMILY RECIPE PIEROGIS ASSORTED VARIETIES 14 OZ BAG.....	\$1.99 ea
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Pies sought for contest

AGAWAM – Pie season is underway, and the Agawam Historical Association is seeking the apple variety for its annual contest, to be held as part of Old Home Day at the historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills, on Saturday, Oct. 10. The contest is open to the public and all (amateur) bakers are encouraged to enter. Whether you prefer Cortland, Macoun, or a secret mix of varieties, the association's judges will have the final say. If you don't have a secret family recipe, perhaps you could follow Janine Fisk's "Blue Ribbon Apple Pie" recipe (First Place, 2018 Topsfield Fair) featured in the September/October 2026 issue of Yankee magazine and see how it fares in these parts. This year's judges are Agawam Historical Association Board Member Emeritus Don Anderson; Agawam Mayor Christopher Johnson; and 2025 AHA Apple Pie

Contest First Place Winner Liz Johnson, who will judge entries on flavor, filling, crust & overall appearance, and creativity. In addition to bragging rights, the first place winner will receive a blue ribbon, an apron hand-sewn by AHA board member Charlotte Fields, and a place at next year's apple pie contest judges' table. Participating bakers do need to adhere to some requirements: pies only (no tarts or crisps); must be full top and bottom, double (rolled) crust; fresh apples only—no store-bought fillings or crusts; 9" or 10" disposable pie plates must be used; pie must be at room temperature at time of judging; and no identification is allowed on pie tin. The decision of the judges's is final, and pies will not be returned. Participants must register on or before Wednesday, Oct. 7 by texting (413) 297-4967 or emailing 1855@agawamhistory.org. Pies must be dropped off by

12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10 at: Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. Judging will begin at 1:30 p.m. The ca. 1757 Thomas Smith House and 1920 Delmore Hawthorne Garage will be open for tours that afternoon. On display will be items to be included in a time capsule the association will seal later this year, not to be opened again for another century. Visitors are encouraged to provide letters to future Agawam residents describing 21st century life for inclusion in the time capsule. Brochures and business cards from local businesses are also wanted. Agawam history books, and new, hand-crafted Cats Meow Village keepsakes depicting the Thomas Smith House and the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum will be available for sale to benefit the Agawam Historical Association. This event is free and open to the public.

Craft beer and wine tasting to benefit Captain Leonard House

AGAWAM – An autumn returns to Agawam's historic Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam, on Friday evening, Oct. 16, with a benefit craft beer and wine tasting sponsored by Agawam businesses McCarthy's Liquors, Phipps Discount Liquors, Cheers Liquors, Allied Flooring & Paint, and Budget Cabinet Sales. The event will take place rain or shine from 6 to 9 p.m., and raise funds to aid in the preservation of the National Register listed landmark. A variety of wines and craft beers, including new and popular offerings representing a range of price points will be featured. Distributor's representatives will be on hand to present

the selections and answer questions. The evening will also include live music, raffles, and food prepared by Joey's Deli & Market. Advance tickets are \$50 per person, available at McCarthy's Liquors, 430 Main Street, Agawam; Phipps Discount Liquors, 1350 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills; and Cheers Liquors, 416 Springfield Street, Agawam. Ticket price includes beer, wine, food and live music. Tickets will be available at the door for \$55 per person. Guests must be at least 21 years old with a valid ID to attend this event. The Captain Charles Leonard House was built in 1805 as a stage tavern to service travelers on the Hartford/Boston route. The house

was restored in the late 1930s by Mrs. Minerva Davis, who established a Board of Trustees to oversee the operation of the Captain Charles Leonard House as Agawam's Community House, the role it has served since 1939. The house is available to rent for business functions and social events. For more information, please call (413) 786-9421. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a State agency. More information about the Captain Charles Leonard House can be found at Facebook.com/captainleonardhouse.

Hibernians holding food drive

HOLYOKE – The Hibernians of Hampden/Hampshire Counties, in partnership with the Polish National Credit Union, are conducting a food drive September-December 1for Providence Ministries. The drop-off location is Rush Insurance [previously PNCU Insurance] at 270 Westfield Rd. in Holyoke.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts estimated that approximately 61,000 people are food insecure in Western Massachusetts. Providence Ministries needs food supplies as the winter months approaches. Suggested drop-off items include Chef Boyardee, pasta, mac and cheese, tuna, soup, rice baked beans, and cere-

al. In addition to the food drive efforts, every six weeks the Ladies Order of Hibernians and the Holy Cross Cursillo Group of Springfield make sandwiches for Kate's Kitchen. Anyone interested in supporting the sandwich program, may call Rosalie Pratt at 413-532-1677.

Grange holding fall tag sale Oct. 3

AGAWAM – Community Grange #382 of Feeding Hills located at 47 North West Street will hold a multi-family indoor Fall Tag and Bake Sale on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 2

p.m. The tag sale will include furniture, household items, crafts, lots of fleece fabric priced at \$1.50 per yard, cotton fabric, etc. and the bake sale will include seasonal items.

Proceeds will benefit the building fund. Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary Inc. will have a table for the collection of supplies and donations.

Chamber holding 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.

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Regular septic system maintenance can save homeowners thousands of dollars and protect public health. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.



SepticSmart Week is bringing awareness to those who have septic tanks.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

SepticSmart Week is bringing awareness to those who have septic tanks

AGAWAM – SepticSmart Week is here Sept. 14 to 18. The Agawam Health Department is sharing information with residents about the importance of caring for and maintaining septic systems. A well-maintained septic system protects you, your home, and the environment. SepticSmart week is a great reminder to schedule a pumping of your septic tank if it has been 3 or more years since your last pump.

If you are not sure where the septic system is located on your property or whether your home is on septic, the Agawam Health Department can help! The Health Department can check if there is a file for your property and provide you with a copy in person or by email. Please contact the Health Department at 413-786-0400

ext 8207 or email health@agawam.ma.us.

Visit the Health Department page on the Town of Agawam website for more information about septic systems and financial resources for repair/replacement of your system.

The EPA's SepticSmart tips below help to extend the life of the system by keeping the sewage & wastewater running smoothly through the system and protecting the soil absorption area (ex. Leaching pits, leach field) that is connected to your septic tank.

For more SepticSmart tips, visit www.epa.gov/septicmart

Have your septic tank pumped every three to five years

Avoid pouring harsh products (e.g., food waste,

oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications) down the drain

Discard non-degradable products in the trash (e.g., feminine hygiene products, floss, disposable wipes & diapers, cat litter) instead of flushing them

Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from the drainfield and tank

Follow the system manufacturer's directions when using septic tank cleaners and additives

Repair leaks and use water efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system

Maintain plants and vegetation near the system to ensure roots do not block drains

Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, biodegradable, and low-or phosphate-free

ACAA fall art classes set to begin

AGAWAM – Ready for fall and learning something new? The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans (ACAA) are kicking off their fall art classes on Saturday, Sept 12. They offer a variety of different art forms, from Dot Art and Gel Printing to Felt Sculpture and Holiday Card creation.

Classes are designed to welcome the beginner artist but also challenge the more seasoned artist. They are held at the Daily Grind in Southwick. All classes are on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Instructors are members of ACAA who are experienced artists and artisans and who enjoy sharing their expertise.

On Saturday, Sept. 12 is our kickoff class, on Dot Art. Using acrylic paint and dotting tools, you will learn dotting techniques and how to create texture and dimension, bringing home your version of a tree.

On Saturday, Sept. 26, join us to learn how to make Gelli Prints with botanicals. Using acrylic paint and foliage, you will create beautiful designs, while learning the fundamentals of using a Gel

Pad printing. Fall classes have been scheduled through November. The cost of each class is \$30. You can sign up for a class by visiting www.agawamarts.com



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Opinion

Guest Column



Must I Enroll in Medicare at Age 65?

Dear Rusty:

I will be turning 65 next month, I am currently retired and I am not on Social Security.

My question is; Is there anything I have to do, if I don't want Medicare? I am on my wife's employer plan and she works for the Postal Service as a Rural Carrier.

She doesn't plan on retiring for another eight years. Also, I would like to wait till my Full Retirement Age before I draw Social Security at 67. Do I have to draw Medicare at that point?

Signed:
Retired but Curious

Dear Retired but Curious:

As long as you are covered by a "creditable" healthcare plan such as that from your wife's US Postal Service employer, you can defer enrolling in Medicare until your Postal Service Health Benefit coverage from your wife's employer ends.

When that happens, you and your wife will enter a Medicare "Special Enrollment Period" during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty. Thus, in your specific circumstances, you don't need to do anything about enrolling in Medicare when you turn 65.

That is still true, regardless of when you claim your Social Security benefits. If you claim Social Security at age 67 and before your wife retires from the USPS, you will be required to take Medicare Part A coverage for inpatient hospitaliza-

tion services, but Medicare Part A is premium-free for those also eligible for Social Security.

However, enrollment in Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient healthcare services) is always optional because there is a premium associated with it and you can continue to defer enrollment in Medicare Part B as long as you have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your wife's employer even while you are collecting Social Security.

When you apply for Social Security, you can inform SS that you are declining Medicare Part B because you are still covered by your wife's USPS employer healthcare plan.

Then, when your wife retires and you lose your USPS healthcare coverage, you can enroll in Medicare Part B at that time without a late enrollment penalty.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Back to School refresher course ... for drivers...



A fall blooming vine worthy of merit

On my drive home from work this morning, I happened to notice the flowers of a familiar vine climbing up a lamppost.

It brought me right back to my old house and landscape. It is easy to miss the simplicity of that time in my life and wonder the age-old question of "Where did time go?" When we moved some years back we left behind numerous plants (the obvious outcome when you sell your house with two feet of snow on the ground). One of my very favorites was the sweet autumn clematis.

Each year, right about now, the vine would explode into clouds of white blossoms. And because the vine grew up a trellis on the gable end of my house, it made a beautiful, tall backdrop for the annuals and perennials still in flower.

I hadn't really thought about this plant recently, until my drive earlier today. The white blossoms were abundant and beautiful.

Let's take this opportunity to learn more about a fall plant that is used not nearly

your pruning attempts will sacrifice flowers.

This rule is not absolute with all clematis species, though, so do your homework before tackling other varieties you may have.

Culture, however, is similar: Plant in a location where the plant's roots will stay cool but where top growth receives ample sunshine. You can accomplish this situation by providing a thick layer of mulch at the base of the vine.

Autumn clematis will tolerate all but the worst of soils and is hardy in zones 4-10.

Panicles of one inch flowers delight the eye and the nose for about six weeks beginning in late summer. Some liken the sweet fragrance to vanilla; others call it the smell of "springtime."

After blooms have passed, silvery seed heads add another short season of interest to the garden before the leaves fall.

Admittedly, a brown vine is not the most attractive thing to look at during the winter months, but it is a

enough.

Clematis ternifolia (aka paniculata) is a fast-growing vine that if left to its own devices, can cover several yards in a single season. It does not climb by use of tendrils, rather it has long leaf petioles that bend around neighboring objects for support.

Sturdy trellises are in order here; another option would be to let it sprawl over a fence or large rock.

Leaves are medium green in color; stems are green as well, but turn brown with age. New growth emerges in late spring.

Most experts recommend cutting autumn clematis back to a foot or so tall early in the season to rejuvenate the plant and initiate branching. Flowers buds form on the present season's growth, so don't worry that



GARDEN | page 5

Getting hip to joint replacement surgery

A few weeks ago, I underwent my second total hip replacement. I had already replaced my left hip, and now it was time for the right one.

About 10 years ago, I also had both of my knees replaced. After nearly four decades as an ICU nurse, the physical toll of caring for patients, some weighing up to 300 or 400 pounds, had caught up with me. This is a common story among nurses: We prioritize others' needs and often ignore our own warning signs.

Obviously, I'm not alone. Around 7 million Americans are living with hip or knee replacements, allowing them to maintain mobility despite severe arthritis. Annually in the U.S., there are about 700,000 knee and 400,000 hip replacements, with studies showing many replacements lasting 25 years or more.

We're just not as healthy as we used to be. Arthritis inflammation in the joints can actually destroy the cartilage, and when you hit bone-on-bone, it causes not only significant pain but also disability. The increase in hip replacements is attributed to the aging baby boomer population, rising life expectancies and the obesity epidemic. Sports injuries and accidents are additional factors.

I've learned a lot about joint replacement, as a nurse, a patient advocate and a patient. If you're facing a joint replacement, here are some considerations:

Hospital or surgery center?

All four of my joint replacements took place at outpatient surgery centers, which I consider much cleaner environments than hospitals. After early morning surgery, I was home by noon and received home health care, so I never went to rehab.

A 2023 study by University of Pennsylvania researchers found that the rates of revisits and complications for surgery center patients were lower than for similar patients who had surgery in a hospital. However, that could have something to do with healthier patients choosing surgery centers and those with other health conditions, heart failure for example, going to hospitals.

That said, this is a topic for you and your doctor to discuss. In the end, you will decide where to have your joint replacement, so go where you are most comfortable.

Choosing a doctor

Look for a surgeon who is affiliated with professional organizations and has completed fellowships in

the surgery you're having. You should also prioritize their experience, asking how many times they've performed this particular surgery.

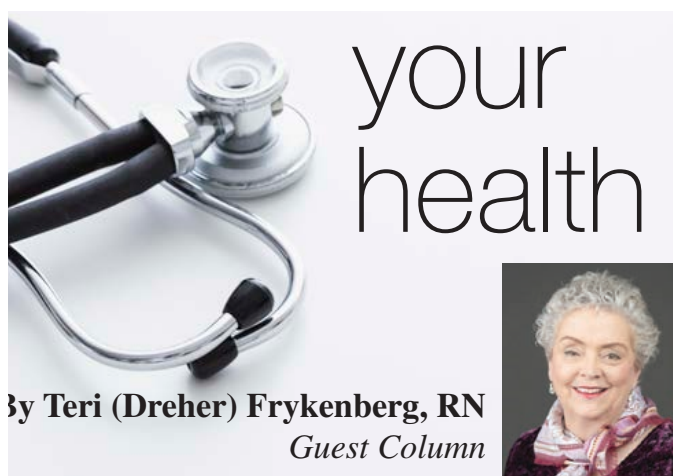
Studies have found that surgeons who have performed more than 50 procedures have lower rates of complication and revision. You can ask the doctor directly how many times they've performed the surgery and what their complication rate is. Also ask whether you can speak with other patients the doctor has treated.

Second opinions

Joint replacement is a major medical undertaking, so if you're feeling at all unsure about it - or the doctor isn't all you had hoped - Medicare covers second opinions subject to the 20% co-insurance. Medicare Advantage plans also generally cover second opinions, but check with your plan for details.

Robots or no robots?

Robot-assisted joint replacement is becoming more common. A study published in the Journal of Arthroplasty reported an increase in surgeons who have adopted robotics, from 10% in 2018 to 35% in 2023. Nearly half of partial knee replacements were robotically assisted. Fewer total knee and hip re-



by Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

placements were reported.

The study noted that further research is needed on outcomes, but surgeons who use robotic assisted systems say that the robot is simply the navigation system while the doctor is in the driver's seat.

Rehab in a facility or at home?

With my surgeries, I wanted to avoid a rehab facility because that's another name for nursing home, where there are a lot of germs, more patients with compromised immune systems and generally higher infection rates.

Today, in fact, most joint replacement patients do recuperate at home. A project by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services found that patients who can safely recover at home heal faster, have fewer complications and have a greater sense of

ownership in their own recovery.

Not everyone can come home immediately, though, if they lack family support or access to home health care. Be sure to have this conversation with your doctor before your surgery.

Chances are your joint replacement will get you back to doing the things you enjoy, especially with a little bit of education and preparation.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a Monson resident, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate. She is the author of several books on advocacy and founder of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which equips medical professionals with the knowledge and skills to start their own advocacy businesses. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

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

Public invited to come celebrate Quabbin Days

BELCHERTOWN – Quabbin Days (www.QuabbinDays.org) returns for its second year over the October holiday weekend, Oct. 9 to 12, with a growing lineup of events and activities celebrating the communities, history, culture, businesses and natural beauty of the Quabbin Region.

Organized by the Friends of Quabbin, Quabbin Days is a regional celebration encompassing the 12 towns that make up the Quabbin Region. The goal is to encourage residents and visitors alike to explore the region, learn more about its history and natural resources, support local businesses and organizations, and experience the communities surrounding one of Massachusetts’ most important natural and cultural resources.

This year’s celebration is continuing to grow as businesses, libraries, historical organizations, museums,

community groups and state agencies come on board with special programs and activities.

Among the new partnerships this year, Dean’s Beans Organic Coffee Company in Orange will produce a special Quabbin Coffee blend for the month of October. The limited-edition coffee will be available only at participating stores within the Quabbin Region, providing another way for residents and visitors to support local businesses while celebrating the region.

Several libraries in the Quabbin Region will also participate in a Quabbin Photo Contest, open to residents of all 12 Quabbin Region towns. The contest will invite residents to share their own views of the landscapes, wildlife, communities and character that make the region distinctive.

Quabbin Days will also receive statewide recognition this year, with Governor

Maura Healey signing a resolution recognizing Quabbin Days and the importance of the Quabbin Region to Massachusetts.

Throughout the four-day weekend, visitors will find a wide variety of events spread across the region.

Historical societies will open their doors for special programs and open housing, providing opportunities to explore the stories of the communities that surround the Quabbin Reservoir as well as those that were transformed by its creation. On Sunday, October 11, the Swift River Valley Historical Society will host a presentation on the “Rabbit Railroad,” the historic rail line that once ran through the Swift River Valley and served communities that existed before the construction of the reservoir.

The weekend will also include established community events such as Stone Cow Brewery’s Harvest Fest (Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10 and 11), giving visitors another reason to make a day, or an entire weekend, of exploring the Quabbin Region during one of the most colorful times of the year.

Art and culture will be part of the celebration as well. The New Salem Museum of Fine Arts will offer free admission on Sunday during Quabbin Days, providing visitors an opportunity to explore the museum as part of their travels through the region.

For those who want to experience the landscape itself, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will offer a series of guided walks at Quabbin Reservoir during the weekend. The programs will provide opportunities to learn more about the reservoir, watershed, wildlife, natural environment and history of the Quabbin.

These activities are just part of a growing calendar of

programs planned throughout the 12-town region. Additional events and participating organizations and businesses will continue to be added as Quabbin Days approaches.

Quabbin Days was launched in 2025 as a project of the Friends of Quabbin, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the natural, cultural and historical significance of the Quabbin Region. The inaugural celebration included more than a dozen events and participating organizations and was officially launched at the Quabbin Reservoir’s Les and Terry Campbell Visitor Center with members of the region’s state legislative delegation.

The concept behind Quabbin Days is intentionally regional. Rather than creating a single festival in one location, the Friends of Quabbin encourages towns, businesses, historical societies, museums, libraries, conservation

organizations, arts groups and other community organizations throughout the region to hold events and activities during the weekend. Those events are then brought together and promoted through a central Quabbin Days calendar.

The Oct. 9 to 12 weekend also coincides with what is traditionally one of the prime fall foliage periods in the Quabbin Region, making it an ideal time for visitors to explore its scenic roads, trails, small towns, historic sites, local businesses and cultural attractions.

Residents and visitors can find detailed information about Quabbin Days events, participating organizations and activities on the continually updated calendar at www.QuabbinDays.org. Businesses and organizations interested in participating in Quabbin Days can also find information through the website.

Activity heats up in September at Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month. Everyone who stops by the library to sign up for a new library card, renews their existing card, or gets a replacement card will receive a small prize and will have the chance to add leaf to our library tree. Visit the Circulation Desk today to get started.

Focus on your fitness at the library! Our series **Qigong for Autumn** will take place every Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Clini Community Room through Dec. 14. Similar to tai chi, qigong is a standing practice that combines dynamic movements, breathing techniques, and flowing meditations to ground and balance our energy for health and healing. Attendees are encouraged to bring a yoga mat and water bottle to class. No registration is required. Our **Walking Kripst** returns! Join librarian Kristen Frost on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 9 a.m. at Still Brook Park in Feeding Hills for a morning session of movement and motion. Registration is required so we know how many walkers to expect. Please note that this group will meet monthly through December.

Unleash your inner pirate with some swashbuckling sword fighting at the library. Led by instructor Martin Lee, **SwordFit Health** is full-body fitness through functional swordsmanship. Participants will practice guard positions, offensive and defensive movements, followed by a cool down with stretching. Padded and wooden swords are used for the exercise with light contact for demonstration. The fitness movements will be done with wooden, polypropylene, or lighter foam swords. Experience is

not needed, just an eagerness and enthusiasm to embrace this unique fitness offering! This event will take place on Monday, Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room and registration is required.

Join us on Friday, Sept. 11 for **The 25th Anniversary of 9/11: A Commemorative Film & Discussion**. Held in collaboration with the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, this program includes a 30-minute film highlighting first-person accounts of the attacks and their aftermath, and a live chat with Museum staff throughout the day. We will show the commemorative film at two different times – 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. – in the Clini Community Room, and each screening will be followed by a discussion, allowing attendees to reflect upon the tragic events that took place. Please register to attend.

Are you interested in trying your hand at embroidery but aren’t sure how to begin? Why not give it a try at the library? Join us on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room for our **Adult Craft Night: Hand-Embroidered Canvas Pouches**. Using an online tutorial, we will work on embroidering a canvas zipped pouch, perfect to use as a back to school pencil case or as a small carrying pouch for make up or other necessities. The library will provide the materials for this craft as we work together to learn the various hand embroidering techniques. Registration required as supplies are limited.

Are you looking to get out on the trail, but aren’t certain where to begin? We’ve got you covered! Register to attend **New England Hiking with**

Jeff Romano on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room and learn about hiking opportunities throughout New England! This program will cover destinations in all six states with a focus on itineraries featured in Jeff’s latest guidebook, an updated edition to *100 Classic Hikes New England*. Jeff will share advice, provide insights, and answer questions on how and where to plan your next hiking adventure. The presentation will also include information on New England wildflowers, birds, wildlife, history, and conservation success stories. Please register to attend.

Come on out and meet your neighbors here at the library on national **Good Neighbor Day**. Drop by the Clini Community Room between 6 and 8 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 28 for a host of fun activities and the chance to meet and mingle with other members of our community. We will have games, refreshments, Agawam history and memories, photo ops, letter writing with PeopleChange-People.org, and more! Whether you have lived in Agawam for many years or are new to the area, this is your chance to meet new people and get to know your neighborhood a little better. Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for the community food pantry, Church Cupboard (of the Feeding Hills Congregational Church), another way to be a good neighbor. Drop in and get to know your community!

Join us for an **Author Presentation Watch Party & Book Discussion** about the 2026 Massachusetts Great Reads title *Nothing More of This Land: Community, Power,*

and the Search for Indigenous Identity by Joseph Lee. Participants will receive a free copy of the book (while supplies last) and we’ll be hosting a watch party for a virtual Q&A with the author. To receive a free book, please visit the library Information Desk. The watch party and book discussion will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 5:45 to 7:30 p.m.; please register to attend.

Our new semester for **ESOL Classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages)** will run every Wednesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Peirce Conference Room from through Dec. 30 (excluding 11/11 and 11/25). This class is open to adult learners who are looking to improve their English in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. This course will cover grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and various aspects of conversational English and is led by Instructor Giselle Rose-Burroughs, a former Berlitz Languages Instructor with extensive experience as an American English Language Coach. The fee for the semester is \$20, and participants who attend 13 of the 15 classes will be refunded their tuition. To register, please contact Library Director Nancy Siegel at 413-789-1550 x8855 or nsiegel@agawamlibrary.org.

Our regular programs are a great way for folks to pursue their interests or try out something new! Drop in for weekly **Chair Yoga** at 9:05 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Clini Community Room. **Tea & Trivia** returns on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 2:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. We’ll have a couple of rounds of both Jeopardy and pub-style trivia; the questions are the same for both sessions, so register for the time you prefer and join us for some fun! Are you a writer looking to connect with other writers? Register to attend our **Writers Group** hosted by author Katherine Anderson on Thursday, September 17th

at 6PM in the Peirce Conference Room.

This month’s **Virtual Author Talk Series** will have a riveting discussion on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. with master storyteller Daniel Kraus, winner of the 2026 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, to celebrate the release of his breathtaking new science fiction novel, *The Sixth Nik*. World-renowned master facilitator Priya Parker will discuss her groundbreaking new book, *The Art of Fighting: The Transformative Power of Conflict*, on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 4 p.m. Join us for an energetic conversation on Thursday, Sept. 24 as we celebrate the joy of community and summer fun with Latin Grammy-winning musician Lucky Diaz, author of the sensational bilingual picture book, *Paletero Man*. There will be two sessions with Diaz: one in English at 7 p.m., and one in Spanish at 8 p.m. To register to attend any or all of these virtual talks, please call the library or visit libraryc.org/agawamlibrary.

Senior-friendly trips offered

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 ■ from page 4

small price to pay for the abundance of flowers you get at a time of year when most other plants are winding down.

I enjoy reminiscing, but I can’t think about it for very

long or I’ll miss what is right in front of me; there is plenty blooming here, too.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horti-

culturist 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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CLUES ACROSS

- Egyptian bull god
- A young canine
- North Carolina university
- “Oddbod” actor Tom
- Midway between northeast and east
- A place to shop
- Mysterious “Severance” family
- Single Lens Reflex
- Malaria
- Informal loan organizations
- Twitching
- Holm oak
- Willing to consent
- In an early way
- Stuck it out
- Language in Ghana
- Obtain
- Ancient Greek currency

CLUES DOWN

- Bridge-building degree
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Lizard species
- Turkish leader title
- A way to bother
- Blank
- A fine, closely woven cotton fabric
- Sports broadcaster Ian
- Popular whodunit board game
- Alkali flats mineral
- Large African antelope
- It’s delivered most days
- Satisfy
- Water soaked soil
- Of a past era
- Chest muscle (slang)
- Ribonucleic acid
- Doctor of Education
- Coffee receptacle

- Where rockstars work
- International airport in Connecticut
- Russian river
- It’s used to make cabins
- OJ trial judge Lance
- A means to persuade
- Short poem
- A way to begin hostilities with
- Multi-function radar (abbr.)
- Joints
- Blatted
- Swedish rock group
- Millisecond
- ___ podrida: Spanish stew
- Doctors’ group
- Trunk of a tree
- Tattle
- Metrical foot
- ___ Angeles

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 8

SPORTS

Brownies girls soccer splits opening week



Bella Santaniello advances up the field for the Brownies.

AGAWAM – Last week, Agawam High School girls soccer got their season off to a fair start with a win and a loss in their first two games.

In their season opener at Chicopee Comprehensive, the Brownies shut out the Colts 2-0. Mena Stellato and Nawra Ahmed scored the goals for the Brownies while

Kayleen Sullivan made 10 saves for the shutout.

Agawam was shut out by South Hadley 1-0 last Thursday at home to fall to 1-1.

Coming up, Agawam faces rival Ludlow on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 4 p.m. The Brownies are back home against Northampton at 4 p.m. Tuesday afternoon.



Samantha Izzo goes after a 50/50 ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



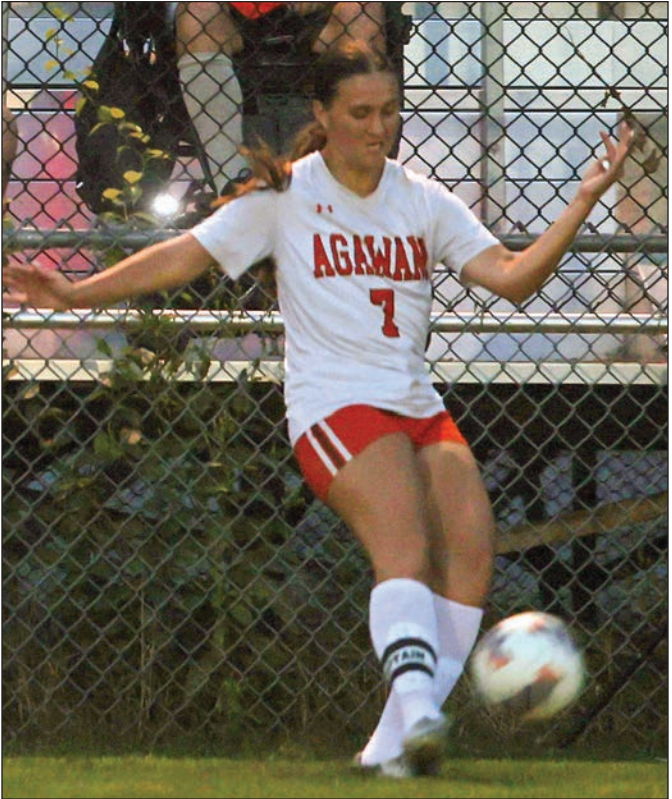
Alyssa Rondinelli looks to pass.



Gabriella Ramos gets ready to shoot.



Mena Stellato moves the ball to her left.



Victoria Papova clears the ball away.

Sports

Offensive struggles in season-opening loss

AGAWAM – Last Friday night, Agawam High School football suffered a loss in its season opener to East Longmeadow 34-7.

The Brownies had trouble

getting any major offense going during the first half, with East Longmeadow picking up steam in the second quarter and jumping out to a 27-0 lead.

Agawam's lone touchdown was scored by Gavin Cruz in the second half. Agawam hosts South Hadley in Week 2 on Friday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m.



Clockwise from above:
Quentin Scafuri looks for an opening to run through.
Gavin Cardoza and Ronan Cullen try to pressure the East Longmeadow quarterback.
Domenick Pisano makes a pass attempt on the run.
Jeremiah Luckett heads to the left on a carry.
Gavin Cruz attempts a reception.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY
GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Sports

Patnode grabs Modifieds win

WINCHESTER, NH - Bouncing back from injury, rebounding from a wreck that destroyed his primary car, back in the championship form that has defined his more than three decades of action on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway, Todd Patnode won the Modified main event Saturday on Sept. 5 at New England's fastest quarter-mile oval.

It's been a long time since Patnode entered the month of September still winless on the year but now he is back in form. Setting fast time in practice - 12.135 seconds - and again in time trials - 12.319 this time - he led the last dozen laps of the night's main event to park his Swanzey Oil open-wheeler in victory lane.

Limited Late Model star JD Stockwell, locked in a points battle with Robert Hagar, held off his championship rival to score his ninth win of the summer, and Pure Stock ace Michael Yeaton, who got a late start on the season so won't figure in his division's title chase, won for his sixth time.

Matt Robinson became the Pro V8 Sportsman's first three-time winner of the 2026 campaign Saturday, and Young Gun Dylan Stati continued to put up numbers unseen here since four-holer star Gordon Farnum went wild on the high banks half a decade gap.

Rookie Kyle Kenny sat on the pole as the All States Material Group 604 Modifieds began their 40-lap main

event. Kimmy Rivet was his row-one dancing partner.

Kenny led the first two laps, then giving way to Rivet, who set a fast pace through two restarts and ten laps before dropping out of the lead on lap 13. Tyler Leary, who'd surrendered the points lead on his wedding day a week earlier, then took over, with Andrew Brousseau glued to his bumper and the potent duo of Eddie Gomarlo and Todd Patnode close behind.

Patnode stormed into third on lap 19, second on lap 25, and then to the top spot three laps later. Once in front, he would not be denied. Leary finished two lengths back in second, and Brousseau was third. A late-race charge brought Ben Byrne up to fourth, and Ty LeClerc raced home fifth.

Erik Smith was the early leader in the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model feature, but the Hagar-Stockwell Express was coming fast. Hagar took charge on lap four, with Stockwell up to second the next time around.

The two raced nose-to-tail the next dozen laps until Stockwell lined to the front and held strong to win his ninth race of the season. With Hagar a close second, steady Hillary Renaud was third on the night, Smith raced home fourth, and Chris Lindquist rebounded from a trip to the pits for fifth.

Firing from row two, Michael Yeaton exploded into the lead on lap two of the Brattleboro Towing and Re-

covery Pure Stock feature and never looked back en route to his division-high sixth win of the season. Kyle Begos kept Yeaton in sight for most of the race but could never reel him in.

Hatfield, MA rookie Maya Bell ran strong all night to score her first career top three finish. Points leader Jimmy Zellman was fourth, and Markus O'Neil finished fifth. Rookie star Josh Brigham, victorious a week earlier, was driven into the backstretch wall on the final lap while running fourth, his car heavily damaged and his championship hopes taking a point hit.

Hot shoe Matt Robinson took the lead on lap ten of the Beck's Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman feature and never looked back en route to his division-high third win of the summer. Aaron Thompson came from the back to the front twice to finish second and stay atop the points parade.

Previous winner Chris Kingsley stayed in the hunt all night to race home third. Chris Emerson finished fourth, and Mikey Wolinger was fifth.

Pre-teen Dylan Stati continued his mastery of the Doug's Auto Young Guns Saturday, leading all the way as he stayed perfect on the summer with his 13th win in as many tries. Eli Elliott, in his second career race, was second, Maeve Barry earned the third-place hardware, and newcomer Colton Pond was fourth.

Owls football falls in season opener

WESTFIELD — Bridge-water State first-year QB Jayden Barber (Harwich, Mass./Dennis-Yarmouth) threw for 208 yards and three TD's and ran for 97 more yards to lead the Bears to a 34-28 win over Westfield State in the Owls home opener and the MASCAC opener for both schools at Alumni Field on Saturday afternoon.

Bridgewater improves to 2-0 on the season and 1-0 in the MASCAC, while Westfield is now 0-2 and 0-1 in the league.

Barber's big day offset a strong performance from Westfield State first-year WR Malachi Hymes (Hartford, Conn./East Hartford) who caught three passes for 72 yards and a pair of TD's, ran the ball twice for 52 yards, and returned three kickoffs for a total of 103 yards.

The two teams traded scores in the first half, with Barber throwing a pair of TD passes (36 and 20 yards) to Jay Comeau. Westfield responded with a 1-yard run from Manny Mengata (Tewksbury, Mass.) that tied the game 7-7, then Owls QB Quinn Sumner (Dayville, Conn./Killingly) lofted a 33-yard scoring strike to Hymes to tie the game 14-14 after Andrew Currier's (Attleboro, Mass./Foxboro) point after kick with 1:12

left in the first half.

The Bears snatched the lead back from the Owls with a quick scoring drive, boosted by a pass interference penalty. Barber found Emanuel Pope (S. Berwick, Me./Portsmouth) with a 39-yard TD toss with 24 seconds left in the half to lead 21-14 at the break. Bridgewater doubled up on the lead with a 2-yard TD plunge from Oscar Weah (East Providence, RI) midway through the third quarter to lead 27-14 after Cooper Harvey's (Schenectady, NY/Niskayuna) PAT try was wide.

Westfield got a short field to work with late in the third quarter after a Bears fumble was recovered by Westfield LB Nick Gauger (Westfield, Mass.) at the BSU 35-yard line. Sumner capped the 5-play drive with a 5-yard TD run after a fake handoff that fooled everyone in the stadium, allowing him to scamper into the endzone on the right side.

Bridgewater boosted the lead back to 13 on their first drive of the fourth quarter, cashing in on an inside handoff to Andrew Cloutman (Hanson, Mass./Whitman Hanson) for a four-yard TD run off the left end, and led 34-21 after Harvey's kick.

The two teams traded series before Westfield an-

swered with a nine-play, 99-yard scoring drive, with Sumner hitting Hymes over the middle with Hymes darting into the endzone at the left pylon to trim the lead back to 34-28 with 2:59 left, but the Bears were able to grind out the clock to end the game.

Sumner finished 7-18 passing for 149 yards and two TD's for the Owls. Mengata led the Owls ground game with 61 yards rushing. Andrew Lovell (Barnstable, Mass.) made 15 tackles to lead Westfield, with Aydan Verba (Albany, NY/Colonie Central) making 14 stops, and Josh Marino (Ludlow, Mass.) 11. Tedi Hunt (Littleton, Mass.) had four tackles and an interception.

Barber led the Bears rushing game, with Poe snaring five catches for 85 yards and a TD. Jorge Aquino (Bergenfield, NJ) led Bridgewater with 12 tackles, with Mathew Piper (Townsend, Mass./N. Mid-dexes) adding eight.

Bridgewater outgained Westfield, 497-317 on the afternoon. Westfield stays home to host Dean College next Saturday, Sept. 19 with a 2 p.m. kickoff as part of Family and Champions Weekend. The Bears travel to Plymouth State the same day for a noon start.

Brownies grab shutout in opener

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School field hockey team scored a 1-0 shutout in the season opener on the road at Westfield High School. The Brownies got the lone goal of the game in the third quarter as Bridget Loughlin took a touch from

Olivia Govoni. The score held up as Stella Christopher made three saves to pick up the shutout win.

Agawam followed with a 3-0 loss at Frontier Regional High School to go to 1-1. The Brownies had one last road game earlier this week at ri-

val Longmeadow before finally having its home opener.

Their home opener is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 17 against Southwick at 4 p.m. The Brownies also host East Longmeadow on Monday, Sept. 21 at 4 p.m.

Worcester Railers announce new signings

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the St. Louis Blues (@StLouisBlues), and Head Coach & General Manager Nick Tuzzolino, announced today that the club has signed forwards Cole Donhauser and JC Campagna to ECHL contracts for the 2026-27 season.

Donhauser, 26, comes to Worcester for his third professional season. The Railers first signed Donhauser to his first full rookie season in 2024-25 following 21 games split between the Idaho Steelheads and Greenville Swamp Rabbits of the

ECHL, and Coventry Blaze of the EIHL in 2023-24.

During the 2025-26 season with the Railers, Donhauser recorded 27 points in 68 games played, finishing tied for third in games played for the team. As a rookie during the 2024-25 campaign, the 6'0", 190lb forward played in 71 games for Worcester, which was tied for third-most on the team. He had 29 points (10G, 19A) in the 2024-25 season along with a -6 rating and 92 penalty minutes. Donhauser led all rookies in the ECHL in shorthanded points with five (2G, 3A). His three assists were first among rookies as well.

Campagna, 33, signs in Worcester for his 10th professional season. The Dallas, TX native appeared at Worcester Railers training camp ahead of the 2025-26 season before playing in three games for the Utah Grizzlies, where he recorded one assist.

The 6'4", 205lb forward played in 214 games in the ECHL across nine seasons with ten different teams, notching 147 points (77G, 70A) along with 151 penalty minutes. Campagna spent parts of the past two seasons in Europe, playing for HC Presov of Slovakia, EHC Freiburg of DEL2, and HC 19 Humenné of Slovakia2.

Public Notices

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.
HD26P1896EA
Estate of:
Jean A Gendreau
Also known as:
Jean Albertha Gendreau
Date of Death: 05/29/2026
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 Joseph P Gendreau of Feeding Hills, MA and Bernadine L Ruell of Chicopee, 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 Joseph P Gendreau of Feeding Hills, MA and Bernadine L Ruell of Chicopee, 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 10/02/2026. 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.

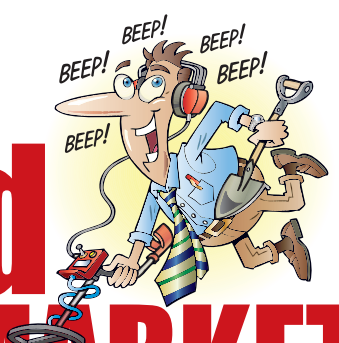
WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 03, 2026

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate

09/17/2026

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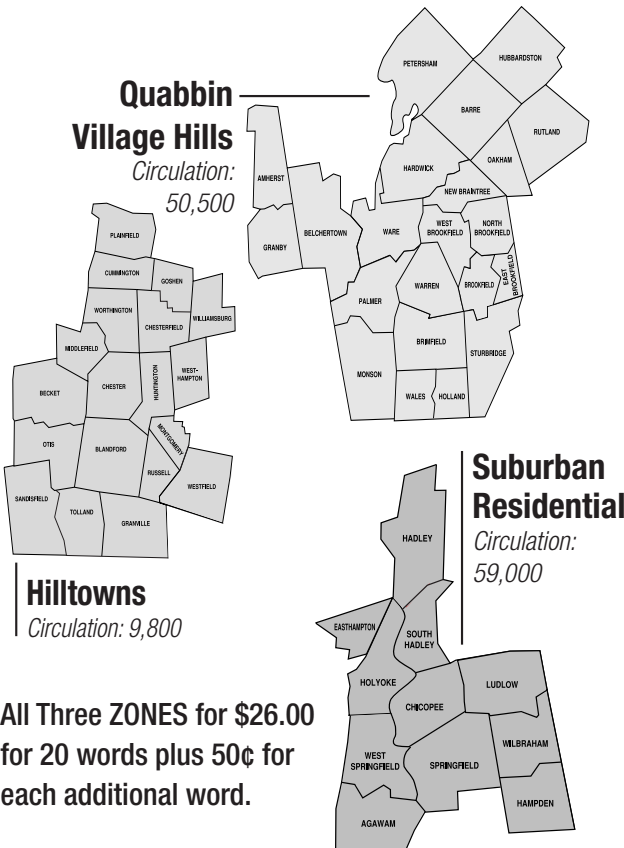
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25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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Left: The raising of the flag during the ceremony.

Above: Mayor Christopher Johnson and Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois.

Right: The September 11 memorial, showing the pentagon building at the base of the flag pole.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

9/11 ■ from page 1

en who serve in this profession know the cost, and they know their duty. And they knew their duty that day, and they performed it without question, without hesitation. Not everyone's like that. It's important to recognize, remember and honor the people that lost their lives and their work to save so many," Sirois shares with us.

Mayor Christopher Johnson explained why remembering what happened September 11 is so important.

"Because if one forgets history, you're doomed to repeat it," Johnson said. "It's important that young people that weren't here and didn't experience what happened on 9/11, not only the bad, but the good that happened as a result, get, you know, get taught by those that were how important it was and how important it is to everyday life."

The memorial was installed in 2002 in front of the Agawam Fire Department headquarters on Main St. Since then, Agawam, like many cities and towns, has

held a remembrance ceremony every year on Sept. 11 to honor those who sacrificed and lost their lives in the attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C. and the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania that did not reach its intended target.

"People lost their lives working there peacefully and people lost their lives trying to save other peoples lives," said City Councilor George Bitzas, who designed the monument. "We should appreciate what the firefighters and the police do.



LIBRARY ■ from page 1

what they can in a way that is not going to shell shock students. Because there's a lot of graphicness to what happened that day. Having events like this, you know, you hope that it will bring younger people in to who might be curious about it. I think maybe not until they're older and they're learning more recent history."

The library is a great place to present things like this film and refer to such a major event in history.

"One thing that I feel strongly of is that the library is an extension to the community of information," Frost said. "And when I found out that the 9/11 Museum and Memorial was offering this pro-

gram option, it's a way for us to bring the museum to the people of Agawam, in a sense. Because many people who were here today have never been to that museum. So, this is an entry point where they can kind of ask questions or see a little bit about the kind of information the museum collects and then presents as part of the visitor's experience. And if we can partner with museums around the world to bring it to the community of Agawam, I'm willing to do that. I think that's a wonderful way for people to experience their library and beyond."

At each viewing, there were books for all ages set out in the community room for attendance to check out.

TIPS ■ from page 1

economy.

The council discussed how high taxes are in Massachusetts and they felt that this resolution could help support a change in this taxation.

However, Hendrickson, Rossi and Sandlin raised concerns about the tip aspect of this resolution. They did not feel it was fair that tipped workers who make the same as salaried workers would wind up with more funds in their pockets due to this tax cut.

er on anything that operates here is a fantasy land."

Hendrickson, Sandlin and Rossi were all concerned that the cut would result in a loss of local aid, which could lead to problems in schools and public services.

Other councilors argued that the state could make up for the revenue elsewhere.

"Two people making the exact same amount of income should not be taxed differently just because one of it is tips and one is salaries," Hendrickson said.

Councilor Anthony Russo agreed with this point, he did not feel that the tax on tips should be altered. He did, however, agree that overtime wages do not deserve the level of taxation they receive.

"Once you hit eight hours of overtime, your check drastically drops," Russo said. "So now you are away from your family for hours [...] for a small amount."

The councilors raised concerns about the loss of revenue for the state this cut on tax would create.

According to Rossi, Beacon Hill estimates that the tax cut will result in a loss of about \$660 million for the state.

"I have a real issue with cutting \$660 million in tax revenue," Hendrickson said. "We're talking about 1% of the entire state budget that we would be cutting with this. The idea that we can cut \$600 million and have no repercussions whatsoever."

Moreover, some councilors raised concerns about the loss of revenue for the state this cut on tax would create.

According to Rossi, Beacon Hill estimates that the tax cut will result in a loss of about \$660 million for the state.

"I have a real issue with cutting \$660 million in tax revenue," Hendrickson said. "We're talking about 1% of the entire state budget that we would be cutting with this. The idea that we can cut \$600 million and have no repercussions whatsoever."

With this in mind, the council voted and passed the resolution 8-3.

Ultimately, this resolution is merely a statement of the council's support of this idea. The final decision will come down to state legislators.

"More than 20 states have introduced legislation to eliminate or reduce state taxes on tips, overtime or both," said Councilor George Bitzas.

E-BIKES ■ from page 1

They also encouraged parents to have discussions with their children around E-Bike safety as an additional preventative measure.

They emphasized that the police cannot be everywhere at once enforcing E-Bike safety. To keep children safe, the parents have to do their part as well.

"It's up to the parents themselves to sit down and talk to their little one and tell them the consequences of speeding and riding on sidewalks," Councilor Robert Rossi said. "Someone is going to get hurt or worse."

The council wants to ensure that parents are also informed on this issue so they can accurately watch out for danger with E-Bikes. Therefore, they discussed forming an education committee to get word out.

"I think part of the issue is a public education issue[...] we should create a committee to get the education to the parents and to the students," Councilor Christine Rickmon said.

Rickmon suggested utilizing PowerSchools or other communication to

ensure that as many families as possible in Agawam would be informed of E-Bike safety.

The councilors agreed that part of the issue is that parents may simply be unaware of how easy it can be to modify E-Bikes to a dangerous degree, which allows their children to make these changes without raising parental concern.

"We need to get that education out so the parents understand these certain triggers that will make red flags come up," Councilor Anthony Suffriti said. "We need to get them some education for sure."

Suffriti mentioned that it can cost as little as \$30 to modify an E-Bike so it can reach dangerous speeds. He hopes that if parents are better informed, they can take action to stop their children from risking their lives with E-Bike modifications.

If the order gets passed, the council plans to send information on the ordinance and E-Bike safety over to Superintendent Sheila Martin so she can distribute it to all families of Agawam Public Schools.

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