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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Griffin's Friends bring **COLOR** to AHS

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Griffin's Friends, a charity group dedicated to helping children with cancer and their families, held a color run at Agawam High School on Saturday, Sept. 16.

Griffin's Friends is an organization dedicated to serving families in the area who have a child with cancer. It started in 1998 in honor of Griffin Kelleher and has only continued to grow since then.

They try to bring ease and moments of joy to families that otherwise may not get them.

"The tagline is bringin moments of joy to courageous kids, that's always been our mission," Agawam High School Principal James Blain said.

They have a play deck at Bay-state Medical Center, which families there have access to, as well as gift certificates to games like the Thunderbirds or the Yard Goats, or to places in Boston if they need treatment there. Parents can get messages or their nails done.

They also hold different events throughout the year, such as providing families with holiday dinners.

"For Thanksgiving we provide



Samantha Izzo, Maya Gingeruha, Victoria Papova and Talia Oliveira ready for the run.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



Volunteers from Agawam coated the students in color as they ran the color run.



Even as participants began one of the final corners of the run, they were still being coated in colors.

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Mayoral candidates to appear at meet and greet before primary

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Candidates for public office will be available to meet and greet residents at an event hosted by the Agawam Public Library.

The first meet and greet is an opportunity to meet the candidates for mayor and city council. This event will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 26 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

The second meet and greet will be for the candidates of the school committee. This event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 5 from 5 to 7 p.m.

So far, several candidates have confirmed their attendance. For the city council, George Bitzas, Susan Dawson, Thomas Hendrickson, Dino

Mercadante, Gerald Smith, Peter Smus and Anthony Suffriti are expected to attend. Mayoral candidates Cecilia Calabrese, William Clark and Christopher Johnson are also planning to attend on the event.

For the school committee, Catherine McDougal and Michael Perry have confirmed their attendance as of press time.

These events will be held in the style of an open forum. Each candidate will get their own table for them to display their signs and put out any other items or information they want attendees to have access to.

"Each candidate will have their own table where they will be able to talk to anyone who comes into the event," Library

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Water main break did not affect town

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Many residents of Agawam received an alert on Sept. 12 warning them about their drinking water and telling them to boil any water before use. However, this issue did not affect the area of Agawam.

A major water main break occurred off of St. James Avenue in Springfield, causing a temporary pressure loss to some parts of the distribution system. This resulted in insufficient water to maintain safe water pressure and reliable service in parts of the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission distribution system.

The concern was that this loss of pressure could result in bacterial contamination of the water.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Association sent out an alert to communities that buy water from the Commission so they would be aware of the issue.

However, while the alert did inform the communities in danger of contamination, it also alerted several communities that were not in danger, Agawam included.

DPW Superintendent Mario Mazza assured residents that their water was not in any danger.

"Where we are in the system, we were not affected as we are close to where it is generated from the mountain and the break was on the other side of Springfield, so I think they ruled out that there could be any kind of contamination this far from where the break was," he said.

Mazza believes that the reason residents received the alert, despite not being affected, was simply because parts of Agawam do purchase water from the Commission and that MEMA had alerted everyone in their system.

"I believe MEMA was notified of this and they were the ones who issued the call to everyone's phones and I think

anybody who buys water from the Commission was notified," Mazza said. "Agawam buys water from the Commission, so Agawam was notified."

Mazza also stated that if Agawam water was in danger, they would be sure to alert residents through any means necessary.

"There would be media coverage specific to Agawam, we have that internal reverse 911 call, we would reach out on our website, we would reach out through a robocall, we would reach out on social media—every which way we could get the message out we would get the message out and be specific to who is affected," Mazza said.

If any Agawam resident is not signed up for Agawam's emergency notification system, they should go to <https://www.agawam.ma.us/145/Sign-Up-For> and sign up immediately.

For any Agawam residents who work or know someone

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Pictured is Sue Scantlen, President Agawam Historical Association, Ceil Rossi, President Agawam Community Artists and Artisans and Kathy Krause, Treasurer Agawam Historical Association.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

ACAA makes donation to Agawam Historical Society

AGAWAM – Ceil Rossi, President of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans, presented Agawam Historical Association, President Sue Scantlen and Treasurer Kathy Krause a donation for the Thomas Smith House in Feeding Hills.

The donation was from a workshop that

was conducted by instructor Loretta Medeiros. Members of the group each painted a picture in acrylic of the famous Thomas Smith House in Feeding Hills.

For further information please email Ceil Rossi at tocarefree2@hotmail.com or call (413) 207-1247.

Catholic Women's Club will pray the Rosary at St. John's Oct. 10

AGAWAM – Members of the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will pray the Rosary on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St.

The living rosary will begin at 6 p.m. Members should arrive by 5:30 pm. Re-

freshments and the club's monthly business meeting will follow in the parish center.

All Catholic women living in the Agawam/Feeding Hills or who are members of the town's Catholic parishes are welcome to attend this special devotion of the Rosary.

Agawam Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sacred Heart Parish 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 con-

tact 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.

Author O'Boyle is leading a retreat

AGAWAM – Author, international speaker, and EWTN television Host, Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, will lead a half day retreat at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Saturday, Oct. 28, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event will take place in the parish center at 833 Main St.

O'Boyle will present eucharistic history and teaching, and share secrets from

many devoted saints. O'Boyle's books and DVDs will be available for purchase and autographing.

The cost is \$35 per person if registered and paid by Sept. 28, or \$45 per person from Sept. 29 through Oct. 28. Register online at StJohnAgawam.com, or call the parish office Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 413-786-8105.

Clean energy incentives forum hosted at Westfield State University Sept. 24

WESTFIELD – The Pioneer Valley Library Collaborative and Voices for Climate are pleased to announce the keynote event for Climate Preparedness Week, Sept. 24 to 30. On Wednesday, September 27, the public is invited to the Clean Energy Incentives For All Forum at Westfield State University. The Forum's goal is to highlight state and federal incentives for homeowners, renters, businesses, municipalities, nonprofits and individuals to cut costs by shifting to clean energy sources, move away from fossil fuel use and thus assist Massachusetts in the

transition to a greener, low-carbon economy.

Clean energy financial incentives exist in the form of rebates and tax credits for individual consumers, businesses and communities. Everyone can reduce long-term energy costs while benefiting, in the short term, from rebates, tax credits and other incentives, as they install solar panels, purchase new or used electric vehicles, buy energy efficient appliances or otherwise reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. The Forum is designed to educate the general

public on how to access these federal and state tax-based incentives that are available for implementing cleaner means of heating and cooling, transportation, energy efficient appliances, and whole-building energy efficiency.

This September 27th free forum will take place in Wilson Hall at Westfield State University. There will be a reception with light refreshments beginning at 5:45 p.m. during which clean energy resources and information will be exhibited. The forum presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m., fol-

lowed by a Q&A segment.

Registration is required for this event. The registration link can be found on the websites of each of the member libraries. Interested members of the public who are unable to attend may watch the forum over livestream on Facebook, or through the recorded video available approximately two weeks after the event through member libraries' websites.

Any questions about the event may be directed to John Meiklejohn at jmiserve183@gmail.com or call 413-348-2848.



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Please call **Tony** at (413) 575-8545 or **Tanya** at (413) 588-8831 with questions or to apply.

Westfield State University presents conversations

WESTFIELD – On Wednesday, Sept. 27, Westfield State University will host a “Conversation with Values Practitioners,” an evening dedicated to celebrating the work and life stories of individuals who, through the practice of values, build inclusive communities, inspire more equitable institutions, and contribute to a more just world.

Featured speakers include Janine Fondon, Chair of Undergraduate Communications at Bay Path University, and exhibit curator; Rhonda Anderson, an Iñupiaq-Athabascan woman from Alaska and

Commissioner on Indian Affairs in Western Massachusetts; and Ben Boyd, Senior Vice President of Global Communications at Peloton.

In bringing together community members across the diversity spectrum, including identity, thought, talent, and lived experience, the program will recognize and appreciate that identities are interconnected, celebrate the equity and inclusion efforts by faculty, staff, and students, and encourage opportunities for continued action.

Following the speaking program, the “Voices of Resilience” exhibit will be launched at Westfield State’s Arno Maris Gallery. The display panels will showcase the stories of women and men who have worked to create change as well as untold narratives that reframe history. The exhibit will represent these achievements both visually and through inclusive storytelling. A panel is dedicated to Dr. Linda Thompson, the president of the University.

The speaking program will run from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. and take place in the

Scanlon Banquet Hall followed by the exhibit opening and its reception in the Arno Maris Gallery, which runs from 6 to 7 p.m. and is located on the second floor of the Ely building. Both are free and open to the public.

Sponsors include the University’s Office of Human Resources, the Office of the President, the Values Working Group, the Ethnic and Gender Studies Department, and numerous collaborators throughout campus. External sponsors include the Mass Cultural Council and Peloton.

WSU Foundation to hold auction

WESTFIELD – As part of the Westfield State University’s four-day Homecoming Celebration, “Lights, Camera, Homecoming!” which takes place Oct. 12 – 15, the Westfield State University Foundation will be hosting its first ever online auction to support scholarships, programs, and other direct student needs.

The auction will run Oct. 11 through Oct. 16 and will feature items including Westfield State University experiences, concert and sports tickets, arts and crafts, and more.

Heather Witalisz, Westfield State Foundation Fundraising Committee chair said “This auction is a great opportunity to highlight the tremendous assets of Westfield State University with auction items from its talented faculty and staff. Our community has been incredibly generous, and we hope this first annual online auction will be a fun and exciting way for the community to support the needs of Westfield State students.”

For more information, please visit westfieldalumni.org.

Girl Scouts to welcome hundreds of girls to Ninth Annual ‘Geek Is Glam’ event

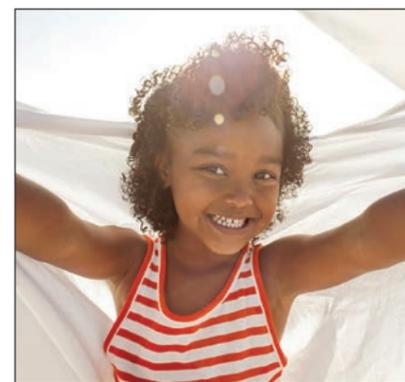
HOLYOKE – Hundreds of middle school girls and dozens of high school girls will convene at Worcester Polytechnic Institute Saturday, Oct. 14, to celebrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts Geek Is Glam STEM Event and it’s not too late 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, drawstring backpack, and an exclusive Geek is Glam patch. Financial assistance is available. No previous Girl Scout experience necessary to attend. Registration closes Sept. 18.



New legislation introduced to help prevent pipeline disasters

WASHINGTON – Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety and a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, today introduced the Penalyzing and Improving Prevention of Emergencies Act. This legislation would close loopholes and lift barriers so the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration can better protect communities from pipeline accidents and disasters and ensure companies are held accountable for wrongdoing. The introduction falls on the anniversary of the Merrimack Valley gas explosions on Sept. 13, 2018, which resulted in the death of 18-year-old Leonel Rondon, dozens of injuries, damage to more than 100 structures, and thousands of homes left without natural gas service for months.

“It’s been five years since the Columbia Gas explosions devastated the communi-

ties of Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover. The Merrimack Valley is still healing. The family of Leonel Rondon is still grieving,” said Markey. “We must continue making progress by delivering stronger protections and allowing our federal regulators to make swift, effective safety standards. Federal regulators should have all the tools they need to hold bad actors accountable-not be held hostage by industry interests.”

Last month, Markey applauded PHM-SA’s announcement of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to improve safety requirements for natural gas distribution pipelines. In 2020, Markey’s Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act, which was co-sponsored by Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and led by Rep. Lori Trahan (MA-03) and Rep. Seth Moulton (MA-08 in the House, became law and strengthened emergency response and safety standards for natural gas distribution pipelines.

BREAK ■ from page 1

who lives in Springfield or Ludlow, the Commission has since retracted their alert. Residents no longer need to boil

their water as the water main break has since been isolated and pressure to the system was restored. The Commission tested the water and confirmed that there was no bacterial contamination.

CANDIDATES ■ from page 1

Director Nancy Siegel said. “They will be there representing themselves and speaking to the members of the public that come.”

Attendees will be able to go up to each candidate and ask any questions they have.

There are no scheduled formal question and answer sessions or speeches, so anyone interested in attending can drop by at any point during the events and not have to worry about missing anything.

Additionally, light refreshments will be provided for anyone in attendance.

This is not the first time the library has held an event like this. They held something similar back in 2017, according to Siegel.

They are hosting these events again due to the large number of candidates for the upcoming election.

“With so many candidates and so many openings for the ballot we thought it would be a good idea to have the public come in, meet all the candidates and have

a chance to speak with them,” Siegel said.

The library looks forward to hosting these events. They give the community a chance to come out and get to know their candidates before they have to vote.

“We live in a democracy, people need the opportunity to fully participate and this gives the public a chance to meet all the candidates in one place at a convenient time and location,” Siegel said.

Additionally, at the first event on Sept. 26, residents will also be able to register to vote. The deadline to register to vote in the preliminary election, which is scheduled for Oct. 10 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., is Sept. 29.

The library staff encourages everyone in the community to come to these events. The hope is that by hosting them at the library, the events will be easily accessible to anyone interested.

“We [the library] are a place that most people know in the community,” Siegel said. “People know where we are, we have evening hours, we’re accessible and it seems like an ideal place to be able to host an event like this.”

Holyoke Community College fall session II classes to start

HOLYOKE – Prospective students have two more chances to sign up for classes at Holyoke Community College for the fall 2023 semester.

Fall session II classes begin Monday, Sept. 25, and run for 12 weeks.

Fall session III classes begin Monday, Oct. 30, and run for seven weeks.

Full fall semester classes at HCC (14 weeks) began Tues., Sept. 5. All fall semester classes conclude by Dec. 21.

Students who enroll for HCC’s flexible fall start dates have the opportunity to take a variety of courses both on campus and online in anthropology, biology, business administration, com-

munication, culinary arts, economics, English, English as a Second Language, geography, human services, Latinx Studies, law, management, marketing, math, nutrition, music, psychology, sociology, Spanish, and veterinary and animal science.

The HCC Admissions and Advising offices are located on the first floor of the HCC Campus Center and are open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. (4:30 p.m. on Fridays).

For more information, please contact HCC Admissions at 413-552-2321 / admissions@hcc.edu or visit online at hcc.edu.

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Opinion

Guest Column



Will opening a joint account affect my disabled father's "SSI?"

Dear Rusty

I live in Michigan and my senior disabled father lives in rural Kentucky. His income is part Social Security and part disability. I talked to a local credit union near his home and explained I would like to open a joint account. They said as long as he comes in with his ID it's possible.

My question is will adding money to our joint account affect his SSI and disability?

Signed: Caring Daughter

Dear Caring Daughter

First, I need to clarify that there are two types of disability programs administered by the Social Security Administration – Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income. The acronym "SSI" normally refers to "Supplemental Security Income," which is a benefit for disabled senior adults and children, who have very little income and very few assets.

"SSI" is not Social Security income; rather it is a general benefit program jointly administered by the Social Security Administration and the State in which your father lives. In contrast, Social Security Disability benefits are earned from working and are not affected by the recipient's assets, as are "SSI" benefits.

From what you've written, I assume that your father may have a small Social Security retirement benefit (because he has reached his full retirement age and SSDI isn't available after full retirement age) and he is also receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits.

If this is the case, although your father's Social Security retirement benefit would not be affected by opening a joint account at the credit union, his Supplemental Security Income disability benefit likely will be.

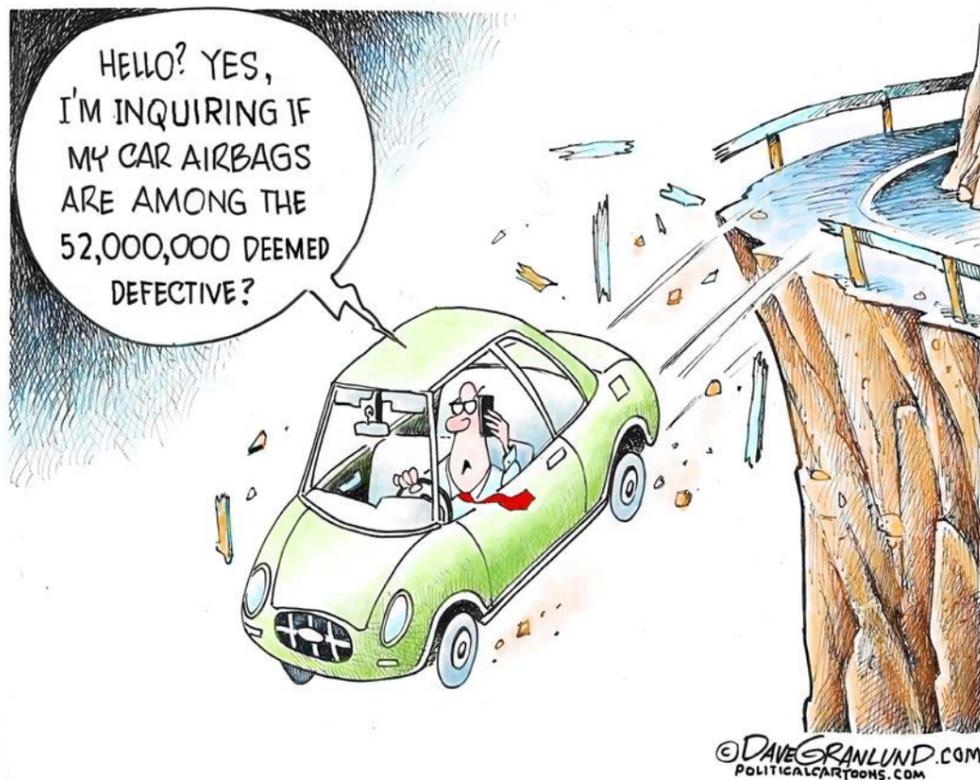
As co-owner of the joint account, your assets would count towards your father's "SSI" asset limit and your assets, as well as any "in kind" assistance you otherwise provide, would likely put your father over the SSI income/asset eligibility limit and result in his SSI benefits being terminated.

So, although the credit union may be willing to open a joint account for you and your father, I'm afraid that would result in your father losing his SSI benefits, leaving him with only his small Social Security retirement benefit.

You may wish to review the SSI eligibility information at this link: www.ssa.gov/ssi/eligibility or you could contact the Social Security Administration and ask to speak with someone experienced with Supplemental Security Income matters.

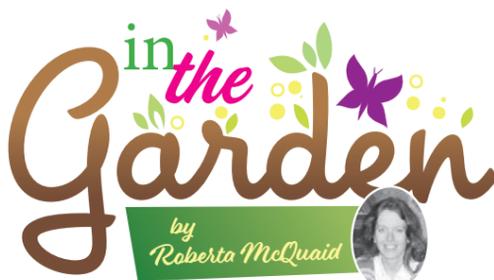
For clarity, "SSI" assistance is jointly administered by the Social Security Administration and each State's Human Services department, and assistance available varies somewhat depending on the recipient's state of residence. Thus, since your father lives in Kentucky, you might also contact that state's human services agency to discuss your options for providing remote assistance to your father without jeopardizing his Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit: www.chfs.ky.gov/Pages/contact.aspx.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliat-



Guest Column

Helpful friends in the garden



For the last couple of weeks, I have been eagerly observing a garden spider in one of my flower beds. It is so beautiful.

Spider foes might balk at that particular choice of words. But if the shoe fits, wear it!

This spider is indeed a beauty. Over an inch long, yellow and black in color and attached to an intricately woven web, the spider on guard, waiting for unsuspecting prey.

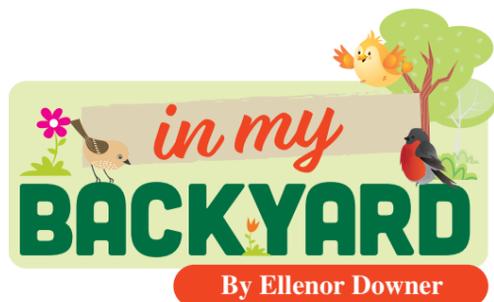
Many years ago, when I grew flowers that were members of the Celosia genus in a big cut flower garden, it seemed this particular spider was a frequent visitor. I haven't seen one like it in a few years.

Lo and behold, she's attached to some plumed celosia, doing her thing. Read on to learn more about a real hero, garden style!

GARDEN | page 5



This garden spider, an Agriope, is a helpful friend to gardeners. SUBMITTED PHOTO



The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported a rare sighting of an American white pelican at Big Pond in Otis.

The white pelican winters along the Florida and Gulf Coast. It breeds in the western part of Canada and the United States. It is 62 inches long, white



American white pelican

with a large orange-yellow bill and throat pouch. In flight, the trailing half of the wings are black.

The immature is similar to the adult, but the bill and throat pouch are gray and the wing markings are brown not black. The immature plumage is kept for three to four years.

These pelicans feed while swimming, dipping the bill into the water to catch fish in its pouch. They often feed in small groups where they herd fish toward shallow water to make facilitate catching the fish.

The female lays one to three white eggs in a nest that is a slight depression on bare ground or on a mound of earth, brush stems and debris. They often nest colonially on large inland lakes.

The American white pelican is one of the largest birds in North America. It can soar for long distance and often flies in line or V formation. During breeding season, they may do flights involving soaring and diving. They are generally quiet away from their breeding grounds. The young in the nest can give loud whines or grunts.

Bald eagle

An Oakham couple camped with family members at Lake Dennison over the Labor Day weekend. They spotted a bald eagle while kayaking. Upon returning to shore, their son was looking at a bird perched in a tree and said it was a bald eagle. They took turns watching the eagle through the binoculars.

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Watch for money-flipping scams

Money-flipping cons have long been popular on Instagram and Twitter. But as TikTok's popularity grows, so do the con artists. Watch out for this TikTok scam, which promises to turn a few hundred dollars worth of cryptocurrency into thousands in no time. BBB is seeing many new reports in BBB Scam Tracker related to this money-flipping scam. Here's what you need to know.

How the scam works

You are scrolling through TikTok when you see a video showing a pile of cash. The creator says they earned the stack of money by investing in cryptocurrency in just a few days. You may not know much about cryptocurrency, but this "investor" can help you get the same kind of return for a modest fee. Better yet, they have a 100% guarantee they can triple your money in less than a week.

They will be polite and professional when you contact the supposed investor, likely through WhatsApp, Telegram, or an-

other messaging app. They will ask you to send money – usually a few hundred dollars – through a digital wallet service like PayPal, Zelle, or Venmo. They may even ask you to purchase the cryptocurrency and send it to them. Then, they "invest" their money in the stock market, which allegedly starts multiplying immediately.

As always, the scam isn't what it seems. When you try to get your money back, the scammer will claim you must pay fees. At first, these amounts may seem harmless. Since you few hundred dollars now turned into a few thousand, what's the harm in spending a couple hundred in fees, right?

Scammers try to extend this con for as long as possible to get as much money as possible. They may ask for fees several times, always promising you will get much more back than you spend. If you question them, they may resort to scare tactics, telling you that if you don't pay, you'll miss out on the giant return or that they can take legal action. Unfortunately, any money you send will end up in the scammer's pockets.

You won't be getting a return on your investment, and you won't be getting your initial deposit back either.

How to avoid money-flipping scams

- **Use good judgment.** Get-rich-quick schemes and investments guaranteed to give you a huge return are nearly always scams. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

- **Do your research.** Before you contact someone through TikTok or another social media platform, look up their name, phone number, and company name (if they have one) online. You'll likely find complaints online about it if they have conned others.

- **Don't give into scare tactics.** If an "investor" contacts you, they may try to convince you the investment will only work if you act right now. Or, if you've already sent them funds, they may threaten you with legal action if you don't pay their fees. In any case, don't give in to scare tactics. Recognize them as the hallmarks of a scam.



- **Understand how digital wallet services work.** Treat any money you send through a digital wallet service like cash. Once you send the money, there will be little you can do to get it back if you were scammed. Using these apps only with people you know and trust is best.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

This particular garden spider goes by the name of Argiope (rhymes with calliope). Besides its brilliant color, other distinguishing characteristics include a large, egg-shaped abdomen, three claws on each foot, and a foot wide (or larger) web that has a zig zag band of silk called "stabilimenta" running through its center.

The argiope makes its home in most of the lower 48 states, Mexico and Central America as far south as Costa Rica. It prefers sunny areas among flowers, shrubs and other tall plants to construct its web.

If weather permits, the female spider will construct and repair her web both day and

night and will remain there unless food is scarce, or disturbances are frequent. Males generally roam in search of a mate, and when they find one will sometimes build a small web nearby to begin courtship.

Although their vision is rather poor, males get their intentions across by plucking and vibrating the females' web.

Once mating is complete, it is presumed that males die. Females produce up to three brown egg sacks, each one containing 300-1,400 eggs.

The sacks are positioned close to mom, nearby her resting position in the center of the web.

Unfortunately, she will die prior to or as a result of the first hard frost, and although

her eggs will hatch within the sack they do not emerge until spring. In warmer climates the female argiope may live for several years.

As with all spiders, the black and yellow garden spider is carnivorous. Its orb-shaped web will capture all sorts of flying insects, including aphids, flies, grasshoppers, and even wasps and bees.

Amazingly, she can bring down prey nearly twice her size thanks to a venomous bite that immobilizes its victims. We need not worry about this spider.

Although it is large, it bites only when harassed, and reportedly, its venom poses no threat to humans. In fact, the argiope is a valued predator of grasshoppers in Amer-

ican rangelands.

The spider will be fun to watch as the season progresses.

I have to admit I am a little sad that she won't survive the winter. I will have to be on the look out for her egg sacks.

Nature is just amazing. Be sure to stop and admire the spiders every now and then and smell the roses, too!

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.

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

Lots of wild turkeys

Seeing wild turkeys along the side of the road or even having to stop while they cross the road is a common occurrence in my travels around the area. This Monday, I stopped and watched a flock of six or so Tom turkeys. The three largest ones displayed their tail feathers in what looked like a competition between them.

Although wild turkeys are a common sighting now, I enjoy watching them. I also see flocks of several hens with their poults in various stages of growth.



Ruby throated hummingbird

Hummingbirds

The ruby throated hummingbirds are now migrating. Many people keep their nectar feeders out until later this month for a food source for the stragglers. Soon, it will be time to take in the nectar feeders, clean them and put them away until next May when the ruby throated hummingbirds return.

Audubon society sightings

In addition to the American white pelican in Otis, the Massachusetts Audubon Society reported another rare sighting a masked booby at the edge of the continental shelf near Hydrographer Canyon. The

booby was one of only three or four sightings ever recorded in Massachusetts.

Other sightings included red crossbills



Red crossbill

at Montague Plains Wildlife Management area, eight red crossbills at the Birch Hill Wildlife Management Area in Winchendon, four sandhill cranes Meadows Conservation Area near Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Northampton, and upland sandpiper, a whimbrel, a Baird's sandpiper, a short-billed dowitcher, a dickcissel and two lark sparrows in Northampton. Also reported were a Bonaparte's gull and a common tern at the Quabbin Reservoir Visitor Center in Belchertown and three black vultures over Mount Wachusett in Princeton.

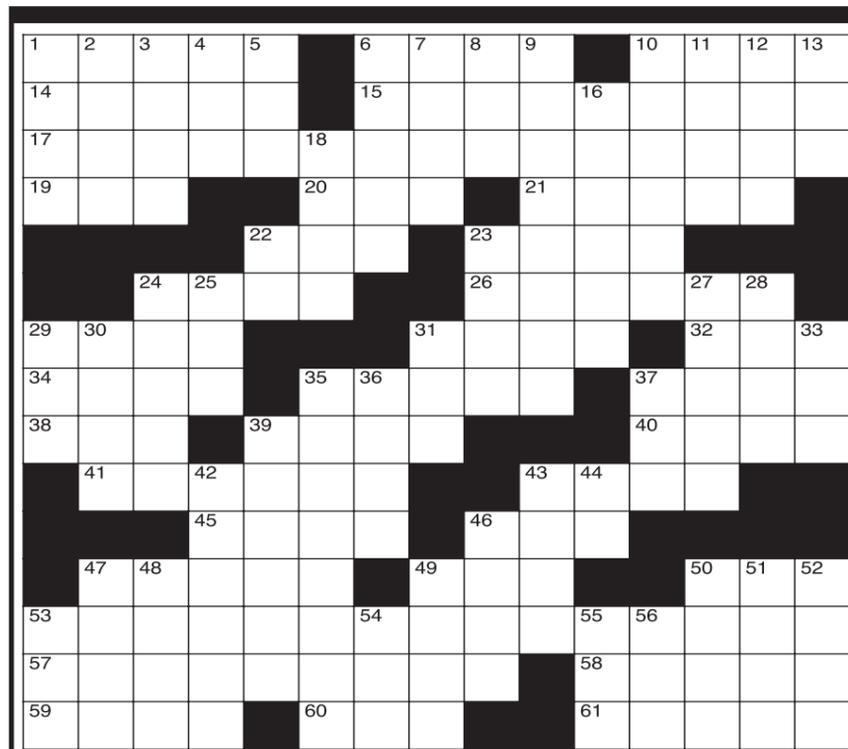
People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

SECURITY ■ from page 4

ed with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association

Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of cat
- 6. Weaponry
- 10. Western Christian Church service
- 14. Significant eruption of pustules
- 15. Baltic nation
- 17. Start of American holiday season
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Maintains possession of
- 21. Metrical foot of one long and three short syllables
- 22. Mountain pass
- 23. Vestments
- 24. Type of dish
- 26. Escaped quickly
- 29. Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- 31. Wings
- 32. Political action committee
- 34. Touches lightly
- 35. Stood back from
- 37. Philippine Island
- 38. Popular winter activity
- 39. Type of amine
- 40. Small freshwater duck
- 41. Filled with love
- 43. Without (French)
- 45. Vetch
- 46. Swiss river
- 47. Describes a sound
- 49. Sign language
- 50. Hair product
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Quality of being imaginary
- 58. Far-right German party
- 59. Drove
- 60. Former French coin of low value
- 61. Hard, durable timbers
- 3. Actor Pitt
- 4. Container
- 5. Speak incessantly
- 6. Relating to algae
- 7. Jacob __, journalist
- 8. Rock TV channel
- 9. Boat's cargo
- 10. Most wise
- 11. Within
- 12. Chinese industrial city
- 13. Scotland's longest river
- 16. Not capable
- 18. Footwear
- 22. Savings account
- 23. Capable
- 24. Vaccine developer
- 25. Tax collector
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. Native religion in China
- 29. Promotional materials
- 30. A shot in a film production
- 31. Afflict in mind or body
- 33. A passage with access only at one end
- 35. Breathing devices
- 36. Employ for wages
- 37. Kids' TV channel (abbr.)
- 39. Popular Boston song
- 42. Made amends
- 43. Selling at specially reduced prices
- 44. Atomic #18
- 46. With fireplace residue
- 47. Unleavened cornbread
- 48. Draw out
- 49. Southwestern Alaska island
- 50. Where the Pyramids are
- 51. People of Nigeria
- 52. Smaller quantity
- 53. Destroy the inside of
- 54. City
- 55. Chivalrous figure (abbr.)
- 56. No (Scottish)



Boomer and Ruth Gillan.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Boomer and Bingo Winner Joan Presz



Boomer and Assistant Director Kristina Lynch.

Bingo with Boomer at senior center

AGAWAM – In celebration of Grandparents day the Senior center had Bingo with Boomer from the Thunder birds. Boomer brought special prizes and smiles to everyone.

TJO craft fair to be held Sept. 30

SPRINGFIELD – The annual Pawzaar Craft Fair is a signature event for the Foundation for TJO Animals. The event will be held in the parking lot of the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

It is a local craft fair that attracts some of the Pioneer Valley's

finest crafters, along with hundreds of animal loving patrons.

Proceeds go directly to the medical care and treatment for Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center animals in need. More information is available on www.tjofoundation.org, by emailing info@tjofoundation.org or by calling 413-306-5161.



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22nd - Murphy's Law 7-10pm
29th - Faith Rheault Acoustic 7-10pm
Saturday - Open
Sunday - Starting 9/10 for Football 1-6pm

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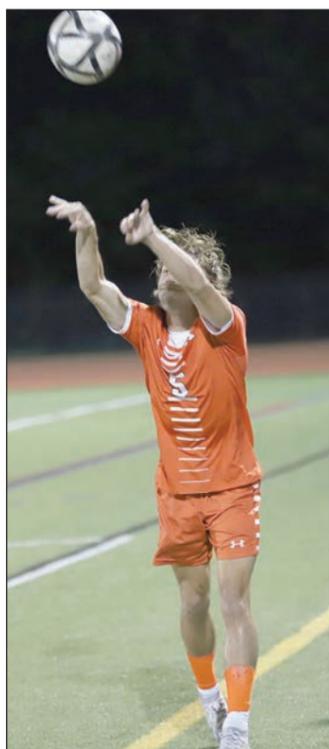
SPORTS



Patrick Keating looks to make a pass.

Brownies take care of Mt. Greylock

AGAWAM – Andrew Regnier and Dawwood Atanane each scored for Agawam in a 2-0 win over Mt. Greylock last Monday night. Ben Lang made six saves in picking up the shutout for Agawam. Agawam is out to a 2-1-1 start.



Vinny Rodier follows through on a throw-in.



Andrew Regnier goes for the header.



Zach Sarrazin tries to head off his opponent to the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Brooke Dwyer winds up for a long pass.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Kyra Benard tries to force the ball up the middle.



Sarah Kriebel focuses on making the play on a loose ball.



Alexina Lentes makes her way up the field after recovering the ball on defense.



Tessa Ebreo fights to gain possession of the ball.

Brownies draw with Lancers

AGAWAM – Last Thursday afternoon, Agawam field hockey battled Longmeadow to a 0-0 tie. The Brownies are 1-0-2 to start the season. Agawam defeated West Springfield 3-0 in the season

opener and tied Frontier Regional 0-0 early last week.

The Brownies had a big game with Minnechaug earlier this week then face Greenfield on the road on Sept. 22 at 4 p.m.

Football team out to 2-0 start

AGAWAM – Last Friday night, Agawam football made an impact, scoring early and often in a 38-6 win.

A rarity in high school foot-

ball, Agawam's scoring opened with a field goal by Benjamin Tokarev. They were able to then stop Holyoke's offense and kept their momentum going with an-

other score.

Holyoke's offense struggled for a second straight week as they dropped to 0-2. Agawam improved to 2-0 for the season.



Benjamin Tokarev kicks off for the Brownies.



Three Brownies combine for a tackle.



The Agawam offensive lines makes their blocks.



Cole Ingham tries to avoid a tackle.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Caleb Phillips makes a tackle.

Sports

Westfield State University girls get big win

WESTFIELD – Westfield State junior forward Delaney Parker (Orange, Mass./Mahar HS) notched her 52nd career goal to set the Owls' career goals record in a 5-0 win over Massachusetts Maritime Academy in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference women's soccer match at Alumni Field on Saturday afternoon.

Westfield, the defending conference champs and picked first in the league's pre-season poll, looked the part as they outshot Buccaneers 28-0 in the first half, and 37-1 in the match. The Owls improve to 3-3, 1-0 MASCAC. Mass Maritime is now 0-4, and 0-1 in the league.

Parker's record-setter was the Owls fifth goal of the first half, as she scored on PK after the Owls Ryan Moran was taken down from behind while attacking the

goal in the 42nd minute.

Parker's shot was just off the left side of Buccaneers starting goalkeeper Brady Deschamps (Brewster, Mass./Nauset).

It feels great," said Parker. "I could tell the shots I was taking earlier were just me in my head. I was thinking 'I need to get it' but I was just off."

The crowd surged with excitement for each Owls scoring chance for Parker, but she delivered a couple of shots high over the cross bar in the early going.

"Even the PK wasn't great," she said, throwing up her hands. "But it went in, and now it's over with."

Westfield made sure the game was over by the half.

Tia Tollis (East Longmeadow, Mass.) put the Owls on the board in the eighth minute with a nice header off of a corner

kick from Jaida Cochran (Middleboro, Mass.). Kiana Maratsuka (Mililani, Hawaii) delivered a pair of goals, both on feeds from Parker, and Kiana Patel (Nairobi, Kenya) tallied her first collegiate goal with an assist from Maratsuka as the Owls got out to the big early lead.

The Owls peppered Deschamps with 28 total shots as she made 11 saves in the first half. Reagan Kerecz (Tolland, Conn./Ethel Walker School) played between the pipes for the Bucs in the second half and came up with six saves to keep the Owls off the board in the second frame.

Westfield used 26 players including two goalkeepers. Kayla Santucci (Agawam, Mass.) didn't face a single shot in the first half in getting the win, and Michaella Monchecchi (Winsdor, Mass./

Wahconah) came out of the net to play a wide shot from Deschamps, who played in the field in the second half, late in the game on the only serious incursion into Owls territory for the Buccaneers.

Parker now has 52 goals, one more than Owls hall of famer Sandy (Pinto) Graham '97. Parker shares the team lead with Maratsuka with five goals each this season. Parker led NCAA D3 in goals with 31 as a freshman and added 16 in her sophomore season.

Westfield State was playing its first home game of the season after starting with four straight on the road. The Owls travels took them from Gorham, Maine to Cortland, N.Y. while playing schools from Maine, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania. Westfield traversed 1,114 miles in facing those four foes.

Bonsignore adds Riverhead Raceway win at crucial time

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. – Saturday night's NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour race at Riverhead Raceway came down to the final five laps, with the two championship contenders battling it out to the finish.

At the checkered flag, Justin Bonsignore scored his 11th career Riverhead Raceway victory, tying Mike Ewanitsko for the most all-time at the New York bullring. The win was also his 40th career in NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour competition and fifth of the 2023 season.

Bonsignore is one of just four drivers in the history of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour to win 40 events. He is currently just two wins behind tying Ted Christopher for third on the all-time list.

With the win, Bonsignore took over the points lead over Ron Silk with just three races remaining in the season. Silk finished third on Saturday after the two battled down the stretch.

"Tying Mike Ewanitsko has been a goal of mine since I was fortunate enough to start winning races here on the Whelen Modified Tour," Bonsignore said. "I wish he was here tonight, but I'm sure I will get something funny in texts later tonight. It was a heavyweight fight for sure tonight. This is an awesome event that everyone here puts together to keep racing going on Long Island and honor Ed Partridge. The momentum has been on our side lately - onto North Wilkesboro in two weeks."

The next event on the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour schedule is set for Saturday, Sept. 30, as the series heads to North Wilkesboro Speedway, one of the most historic tracks in NASCAR history. For more information on three-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore, visit JustinBonsignore.com and follow his Athlete page on Facebook for the latest news and updates from the track.

Springfield Thunderbirds start hockey season Oct. 14

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds, the proud AHL affiliate of the St. Louis Blues, today announced their slate of promotions and theme nights for the 2023-24 season, presented by MGM Springfield. The T-Birds will host 36 home games from October to April inside the MassMutual Center.

The Calder Cup quest begins on Saturday, Oct. 14 for Opening Night presented by MGM Springfield. In the team's annual tradition, fans will be treated to a pre-game Block Party on the property of MGM Springfield from 4:00 - 6:00 PM presented by Community Bank N.A. with the support of the Springfield Business Improvement District (BID). The outdoor bash will feature live music, food, and drink. Thunderbirds fans will have the opportunity to get their hands on a plethora of giveaway souvenir items this season, beginning on Opening Night with jersey-shaped rally towels on each and every seat at the MassMutual Center.

"On the heels of a record 15 sellouts last season, we are continuing to aim higher to ensure the Thunderdome remains a definitive home-ice advantage for our team," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "Our fans will always remain our number one priority, and this year's promotions and theme nights reflect that, as there truly is something in it for everybody. We cannot wait to get another unforgettable season underway."

Fans interested in attending Opening Night can take advantage of a value offer with the purchase of a Dunkin' Opening Night Pack, which starts at \$100 in the Defense Zone, \$115 in the Attack Zone sections and \$130 in the Center Value Zone sections. Fans who purchase a pack will receive: two (2) tickets to Opening Night on Oct. 14; four (4) vouchers redeemable at any regular season game in 2023-24 (subject to availability); one (1) T-Birds hat; a Dunkin' gift card; and one (1) Single Day Big E admission*.

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Wistariahurst Museum announces upcoming Halloween events

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst is an educational and cultural center owned and operated by Holyoke and supported by The Wistariahurst Foundation. Wistariahurst is hosting several Halloween events including:

Cemetery tours at Forestdale

Oct. 14 tours start at 3, 3:20, 3:40, and 4 p.m.

Embark on a captivating journey with Wistariahurst as volunteers embody the souls of Holyoke's ancestors, guiding people along the winding pathways of Forestdale Cemetery. Amidst the solemn beauty of this resting ground, participants can immerse themselves in the captivating tales of those departed, who once infused life into the heart of the city.

Darkened Hallway tours

Oct. 18, 19, 25, and 26, tours are at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Participants can step into the unknown as they wander through the shadowy corridors and rooms of the Wistariahurst Mansion by the flickering light of

candles. Immerse yourself in an evening of spine-tingling discovery, feeling the lingering energy of past inhabitants and workers that once occupied these haunted halls. Uncover the captivating history of the Skinner family and the mansion's journey to Holyoke. Learn how silk, wisteria and antique musical instruments wove their enchantment into the very fabric of this historic building. Listen to chilling tales of the mansion's history, guaranteed to send shivers down your spine.

Spirits speak

Oct. 27 session begins at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

As Halloween draws near and the ethereal veil thins, prepare to delve into the eerie mysteries of Wistariahurst Museum alongside the Spirit Sisters. Join in a spine-tingling night of paranormal exploration where participants will step into the world of ghost hunting, uncover the secrets of essential equipment and shiver in anticipation that perhaps those who never left Wistariahurst may still be heard.

Trinity United Pumpkin Patch Festival to be held Oct. 14

SPRINGFIELD – Trinity United Methodist Church will hold its first annual Pumpkin Patch Festival on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the front lawn at 361 Sumner Ave. This fall Festival hopes to unite Springfield and surrounding towns as a go-to event for family fun and community engagement. Guests can look forward to purchasing the perfect jack-o'-lantern from an amazing display of over 400 pumpkins grown locally in nearby farms. Music will fill the air at this event as children find their way to a

favorite activity while adults enjoy browsing among the various craft vendors.

Youngsters will have the chance to paint their own pumpkin, have their picture taken with Mr. Scarecrow, and purchase tickets to win a cake, fish for prizes and line up for a turn or two in the bounce house. Guests can select from an assortment of themed gift baskets to bid on at a silent auction. There will be a variety of food truck vendors and the opportunity to purchase a dish of freshly-baked apple crisp for dessert.

HMC holds overdose prevention training

HOLYOKE – In advance of Overdose Awareness Day, Aug. 31, Holyoke Medical Center invites the community to join recovery support experts for an overdose prevention training event on how to respond to an opioid overdose, including the use and distribution of Naloxone (Narcan: a medication that quickly reverses an opioid overdose).

The training will be held Wednesday, Aug. 23, at 5:30 p.m. at the Holyoke Medical Center Auxiliary Conference Center, 575 Beech St.

Holyoke Medical Center is partnering with Tapestry Health to provide this training. Representatives from Learn 2 Cope and SADOD will also be available to provide additional resources.

Public Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA on **Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of Christina & Nathaniel Ehle, who are seeking a Special Permit from Chapter 180-23 (K) of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, to allow for the keeping of chickens at the premises identified as 82 Northwood Street.

Doreen A. Prouty
Chairperson
Agawam Zoning
Board of Appeals

09/21, 09/28/2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Hampden, s.s.

TRIAL COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH SUPERIOR COURT CASE NO. 2379CV-00383

CHARLENE DEGRAY and TOD A. DEGRAY, Plaintiffs

vs.
ETHEL E. (SMITH) SLATER, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest
KENNETH EARL SMITH, deceased, his heirs, assigns and successors in interest
ELEANOR GERTRUDE ROGERS SMITH, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest

LEWIS E. SMITH, deceased, his heirs, assigns and successors in interest

SHERILEE SMITH WHITMAN, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest,
ELLIS SHANE BRAGDON, deceased, his heirs, assigns, GERALDINE ELLA SMITH HERSOM, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest,
ANITA LOUISE SMITH EVERETT, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest,
JEAN D. EVERETT RICH JOHNSON, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest,
Defendants

ORDER OF NOTICE

This case came on to be heard upon the motion of the Plaintiffs, praying for an Order of Notice and thereupon consideration thereof it is

Ordered and Adjudged that an order of notice issue to said Defendants, ETHEL E. (SMITH) SLATER, deceased, KENNETH EARL SMITH, deceased, ELEANOR GERTRUDE ROGERS SMITH, deceased, LEWIS E. SMITH, deceased, SHERILEE SMITH WHITMAN, deceased, ELLIS SHANE BRAGDON, deceased, GERALDINE ELLA SMITH HERSOM, deceased, ANITA LOUISE SMITH EVERETT, deceased, JEAN D. EVERETT RICH JOHNSON, deceased, their heirs, devisees, assigns and

successors in interest, by publishing an attested copy of this order once each week for three consecutive weeks in the Agawam Advertiser, a newspaper published in the Town of Agawam at least fourteen (14) days before the 19th day of October next, and that said defendants deceased, their heirs, assigns, legal representatives and successors in interest do cause their written appearance to be entered and their written answers or other lawful pleadings to be filed in the office of the Clerk of said Court at Springfield in said County of Hampden on or before the 19th day of October next.

If ETHEL E. (SMITH) SLATER, deceased, KENNETH EARL SMITH, deceased, ELEANOR GERTRUDE ROGERS SMITH, deceased, LEWIS E. SMITH, deceased, SHERILEE SMITH WHITMAN, deceased, ELLIS SHANE BRAGDON, deceased, GERALDINE ELLA SMITH HERSOM, deceased, ANITA LOUISE SMITH EVERETT, deceased, JEAN D. EVERETT RICH JOHNSON, deceased, their heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest, fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13 (a) your answers must state as a counterclaim any claim you have against the Plaintiffs,

Charlene DeGray and Tod A. DeGray, which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the Plaintiffs' claim or you will thereafter be barred from making any such claim in any other action.

By the Court:

Jane Mulqueen, Esq.
Entered: September 6, 2023
Attest:
William Walsh
Asst. Clerk/Magistrate
09/21, 09/28, 10/05/2023

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 Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD23P1929GD

In the matter of: Phyllis J Pearson 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 Daniel Gibbs of Feeding Hills, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that Phyllis J Pearson is in need of a Guardian and requesting that Daniel Gibbs of Feeding Hills, 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 10/13/2023.

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 15, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 09/21/2023

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Crowds gathered at the start line to wait for the signal to start the run.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



Griffin's Friends, an organization that supports children with cancer and their families, put on a color run at Agawam High School.



Volunteer students from Agawam High School were stationed around the run to continue to throw colors at the participants.



Agawam High School students waited to throw their colors when the run began.



Clouds of colors burst into the air as the signal for the run went off and the run began.

COLOR ■ from page 1

families dinners when they're not able or in the mood to cook and we do a lot of Christmas gifts and bags for our families who are in treatment," Blain said. "It's just a group that gives back."

The color run on Sept. 16 was the first of its kind. For years Griffin's Friends ran the Boston Marathon as a major fundraiser, but as the group continues to grow and many of the original members get older, they wanted to create more fun, innovative ways to continue the legacy, and so the color run was born.

Blain hopes that events like these will help inspire youth to join the Griffin's Friends.

"The reason we're having it [the color run] here at Agawam High School is we're trying to pass the torch to the next generation of

kids that can be givers and difference makers for the future," Blain said.

At the color run there was a variety of things for attendees to enjoy. From a dunk tank, to the robotics team, to ice cream, everyone was able to come together and enjoy the day while also supporting such an important charity.

One table that was present was "William's Geo Science", which was in place to honor Maria and Jim's son, William who passed from cancer. They chose the table Geo Science as William had always loved cracked minerals and rocks and they wanted to give everyone at the run a chance to enjoy what William once did.

"We just want to share his love with everyone," Maria said.

They truly did get to share William's love

to a wide variety of people. There were hundreds of people who attended the run, and not just people from Agawam. Also present at the event were students and community members from Springfield, Longmeadow and Wilbraham.

"It's not an Agawam only event," Blain said. "We have students here from Central High School, Minnechaug High School and Longmeadow High School. We're lucky to get their groups out here."

The day overall was a huge success, and Blain is sure it will help the charity greatly. However, he also wanted to emphasize that the color run isn't truly about raising money, but about raising awareness of what Griffin's Friends is and what they do for the community.

"It has never been about the amount of money raised, although we always want

to raise as much as we can, to us it's about spreading the word about Griffin's Friends and that there are some families that are hurting and it is up to us to share their message and share support for them."

The Griffin's Friends legacy is already a good one. Many of the people in attendance of the run were cancer survivors themselves who had been supported by Griffin's Friends and were now bringing their kids to enjoy the day of fun.

"What's special today is that many of the families are cancer survivors, and now they're here today with their children," Blain said. "We haven't seen them in several years and it's just a wonderful community."

It was a great first year for the color run, and Blain says they are already looking forward to making the event even better for next year.

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Thomas Plume, Aidan Monaghan and Jaden Holloway were already covered in color before the run even began.



Samantha and Anabelle Boyden participated in the color run together.