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AGAWAM

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Mayor opposing economic development bill

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – Mayor Christopher Johnson is asking the Agawam City Council to join him in opposing an economic development bill currently in the state legislature.

The bill would allow duplexes (two-family homes) by right in all residential zones in the senate version. The House version would allow highly density multi-family housing by right on land owned by religious institutions.

Johnson's resolution says the bill would undermine current zoning ordinances that are on the books in Agawam.

"(It would) remove the voice of residents in the local zoning process," Johnson's resolution states.

Johnson also states infrastructure needs caused by such zoning would also be ignored, and it is not in Agawam's best interests to support the legislation.

The resolution from the mayor is symbolic in nature and, if passed by the council,

would only state the town, as represented by the city council's, position on the issue.

Resolutions like this typically have come from city councilors who are opposing bills at the state and federal level.

If passed, the resolution would be sent to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House along with Agawam's local legislators.

The council was scheduled to take up the issue at their last meeting.



Sunshine Village holds Third Annual 'Little E'

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE/AGAWAM - Sunshine Village held its Third Annual Little E event at its Litwin Lane location on Sept. 18.

The event featured a variety of activities, including a baked potato bar and

walking tacos, numerous traditional and non-traditional carnival games, a K-9 demonstration with the Chicopee Police Department, members of the Hampden County Sheriff's Office with their equine unit and information about Project Lifesaver, a photo booth with props, client artists, crafters and entrepreneurs showing off their creations for purchase, entertainment provided by the Just Go With It Band and more.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and Tevin Colon, aide for State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), also presented a special proclamation to celebrate the occasion.

Jennifer Guzman, client relations manager at Sunshine Village, explained the event was the organization's way of bringing their version of The Big E to their community to coincide with the fair's opening day. She is also one of the folks who help organize the event.

LITTLE E | page 6

Committee learns about summer updates to Agawam Public Schools

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam Public Schools went through a variety of updates over the summer to prepare for the new school year.

School Business Administrator Robert Clicksteine came before the school committee on Sept. 15 to present on the various updates APS went through over the summer.

All of the projects completed over the summer were funded by the Massachusetts School Building Authority, the town building maintenance budget and the Agawam after school program.

Each of the school buildings now has a carbon monoxide detector within it. Additionally, schools received various painting, plumbing, electrical and HVAC updates.

Benjamin J. Phelps school received some new landscaping updates, including a new parking lot.

Roberta G. Doering School had an upgrade to their media center, including new floors and chairs.

"Walking in there it looks a lot brighter and it feels

more homey," Clicksteine said.

Several schools also received updates to their gymnasiums. William P. Sapelli school was the proud recipient of a new climbing wall for all students to enjoy.

"Each of the [rock sections] on the wall can be adjusted for different heights and skill levels," Clicksteine said.

The rock wall includes color-coded holds for various difficulty levels so children can practice and improve at their own rate.

Clifford M. Granger, James Clark, Doering and Sapelli Schools also got new basketball hoops that are self-adjusting and have glass backs.

Additionally, Phelps was fitted with new padding within the gym.

These updates are all intended to help the schools run smoother and be more enjoyable for the community.

The school committee was grateful for all of the work Clicksteine and his team had put in over the summer.

"I don't think people realize all the little things that

SCHOOLS | page 12

Agawam librarians gearing up for busy fall, winter season with exciting programs

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM - Agawam Public Library has some new and returning exciting events and programs planned for this upcoming fall. Children's Librarian Pamela Weingart and Adult Services Library Associate Kristen Frost shared some of the many offerings.

"In terms of recurring events, the library has weekly chair yoga on Wednesday mornings. This is a very well attended class the people truly enjoy," Frost said. "We have a monthly writers group that meets the third Thursday of the month at 6 p.m., hosted by author Katherine Anderson where writers can share their work, learn about

publishing opportunities and give and receive feedback on their writing. We have 5 monthly book clubs available at the library, Page Turners, a daytime fiction book discussion, Nightbookers, an evening fiction discussion, the Non-Fiction Book Club, meets in the evening to discuss non-fiction books, the Read With the Pride, meets

in the evening to discuss books or films with a LGBTQ+ connection, and we recently added the Silent Book Club, gives people a place to come and read together without having to discuss. Folks can refer to our online calendar for all the monthly book discussion titles and dates. The library also offers a monthly Tea and Trivia program which

is offered once during day and once in the evening. Library technology classes and individual sessions also take place on a monthly basis, featuring different topics throughout the year. A monthly walking group is offered one Saturday a month in the fall and spring at various parks throughout Agawam and Feeding Hills. We also try to offer some

kind of craft on a regular basis as well as occasional escape room programs and music bingo. The library has been lucky to have a fall and a spring session of Qigong classes which meet on Tuesday mornings. We offer a class for ESOL, English for Speak-

LIBRARY | page 12

Marching band makes first performance

The Agawam High School marching band gathers after its first performance, which took place at the School Convocation event on September 1. Coming up, the band will perform at the Big E on Salute to Agawam Day on Wednesday, Sept. 30.



‘Old Home Day’ at one of town’s oldest

AGAWAM – In a nod to a longtime New England tradition, the Agawam Historical Association will hold an old-fashioned “Old Home Day” celebration at its historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West Street, Feeding Hills on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with all current and former residents of Agawam and surrounding town invited to attend this family friendly event. On the grounds of the National Register-listed property will be an 18th century encampment by the 25th Continental Regiment, with musket drills, cooking, and blacksmithing demonstrations. The Agawam High School marching band will perform stand tunes and selections from their 2026 field show at noon, with a celebration of Thomas Smith’s 301st birthday to follow. An archeological dig will also be held, with public participation encouraged. The Connecticut

Valley Working A’s Model A car club has been invited to again display their antique vehicles during the event. The association’s annual apple pie contest will also take place that day, with judging getting underway at 1:30 p.m. 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. Pie contest participants must register no later than Wednesday, Oct. 7 by texting (413) 297-4967 or emailing 1855@agawamhistory.org. 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. New, hand-crafted Cats Meow Village keepsakes depicting the Thomas Smith House and the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum have just arrived and will be available for sale to benefit the Agawam Historical Association. This event is free and open to the public. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



The Agawm High School marching band and Connecticut Valley Working A’s Model A car club will return to the historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West, as part of the Agawam Historical Association’s “Old Home Day” on Saturday, Oct. 10

SUBMITTED PHOTO

DPW offers tips on fall clean-ups

AGAWAM – Leaf-peeping season is almost here. While fall foliage is beautiful, once those leaves hit the ground, they can create problems when they end up in our streets and storm drains. Please never rake or blow leaves, grass clippings, or other yard waste into streets, ditches, or storm drains. Leaves can block storm drains and prevent rainwater from draining properly, increasing the risk of street and neighborhood flooding. As leaves break down, they can also release excess nutrients into local waterways. What should you do with your leaves? Residents can mulch or compost leaves at home, use the Town’s curbside yard waste collection, or bring yard waste to the Bondi’s Island Yard Waste Drop-Off Center. Residential fall yard waste collection will take place during the following weeks, as noted on the 2026–2027 route collection schedule. Yard waste is collected on your regular recycling collection day.

A Week Streets

- October 12–16
- October 26–30
- November 9–13
- November 23–28 (holiday week)

B Week Streets

- October 5–9
- October 19–23
- November 2–6
- November 16–20

Curbside Yard Waste Guidelines:

- Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, weeds, shrub trimmings, and brush or limbs under 3 inches in diameter.
- Leaves and yard waste may be placed in 30-gallon, 2-ply kraft paper yard waste bags. No plastic bags.
- Yard waste may also be placed in containers no larger than 32 gallons with handles. Containers must be clearly labeled YARD WASTE.
- Limbs under 3 inches in diameter must be tied in bundles no longer than 3 feet.
- Bags, barrels, and bundles may not exceed 40 pounds. Items that are too heavy for one person to safely lift will be left behind.

- Residents are encouraged to protect paper yard waste bags from rain. Wet or broken bags are not the responsibility of the hauler to clean up. Residents may also bring yard waste to the Bondi’s Island Yard Waste Drop-Off Center, located off Route 5 in Agawam. Hours: Monday–Friday: 7 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Saturday: 7 a.m. to 12 noon

- Yard waste may be delivered loose or in brown paper leaf and yard waste bags.
- No plastic bags.
- Brush and limbs may be up to 3 inches in diameter and no longer than 3 feet.
- Residents must provide a valid driver’s license and vehicle registration verifying Agawam residency.
- Dump trucks, commercial vehicles, and business vehicles are not permitted.

A little fall cleanup goes a long way. Keeping leaves and yard waste out of our streets and storm drains helps prevent flooding, protects local waterways, and keeps our neighborhoods clean. Thank you for doing your part.

Feline Friends holding donation drive at Community Grange event

AGAWAM – We are happy to announce that we will be holding a donation drive at the Community Grange #382 Fall Tag Sale and Bake Sale on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. They have kindly invited us to participate. The address is 47 North West Street in Feeding Hills. We are in need of Purina multipacks, Fancy Feast (for our finicky kitties or cats with special needs) pate or gravy canned food, Kirkland dry food, Purina Indoor dry food and unscented, clumping cat litter. We are incredibly grateful for the response to our appeal for help with supplies. We have received

packages at the professional office at 532 Springfield St. (at the corner of Cleveland St.) in Feeding Hills and at the Agawam Public Library. Please include your name and contact information for acknowledgment. Financial donations have arrived by check at P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills 01030 as well as PayPal and Venmo.

Thanks to those who donated in September: Judy Clini, Carol Roy, Jennifer Ross, Joanne Lamson, Patricia Chraplak, Heidi Malinowski, Christine Robarge, John Murphy, Amelia McMeans, Deborah Hasty, Linda McCarthy, residents of Laurel Park in Northamp-

ton, Louise and Steve Cavagac, Denise B, Ida and Bob Shultz, Victoria Kania, Ken Kurowski and Irene Fisher, Sue Borgatti and, as always, our wonderful monthly sponsors.

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

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

Stuffed animals celebrate National Library Card Sign-up Month

AGAWAM – September is almost over but there are still a few days left to get your stuffed animal a (pretend) library card from the Agawam Library. You can play Library at home.

Bring your stuffed animal into the Children’s Room at the Agawam Library during the month of September, then your stuffed animal gets to choose what design

they would like on their card. Your stuffed animal can choose an octopus, a shark, or a blowfish. You only get one card per day, but you could come in multiple days to collect all three designs.

While you’re at the library you might as well sign-up for (or renew) your own library card. A library card is the most important tool you can give your child as they start a new school year.

To sign up for a library card, Massachusetts residents age 18 and over must have a picture ID with their present address. If your picture ID does not have your present address, you may produce a piece of business

mail, a checkbook, or automobile registration to serve as proof of Massachusetts residency. Patrons who do not have proper proof may only borrow 2 books until proper proof is given. Patrons age 13-17 must have a parent/guardian with them or have a positive picture ID and verifiable address. Patrons age 12 and younger must have a parent/guardian signature. A child may have a card at any age if a parent desires, but must be present during the creation of the card.

Even though play library cards are only available in September you can sign up for your own library card any time of the year.

Catholic Women’s Club Meeting October 13th

AGAWAM – The Catholic Women’s Club of Agawam’s first meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 13. It will begin by praying the Rosary in St. John the Evangelist

Church at 833 Main St., Agawam, MA, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Doors to the church will open at 6 p.m. Following the service, refreshments and the club’s business meeting will

be held in the Fr. Joyce Room in the parish center located behind the church. Dues will be collected at this meeting. All area Catholic women are invited to attend.



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USDA INSP. 1/2 SMOKED PORK SHOULDER PICNIC.....	\$1⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN PEPPERIDGE FARMS CHOCOLATE FUDGE LAYER CAKE 19.6 OZ	\$3⁹⁹ ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN YANKEE TRADE CRAB BURGERS 16 OZ	\$3⁹⁹ ea
SLICED IN OUR DELI		USDA INSP. FROZEN SWORDFISH STEAKS 1 LB BAG	\$4⁹⁹ ea		
USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST	\$4⁹⁹ lb				
USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE.....	\$4⁴⁴ lb				
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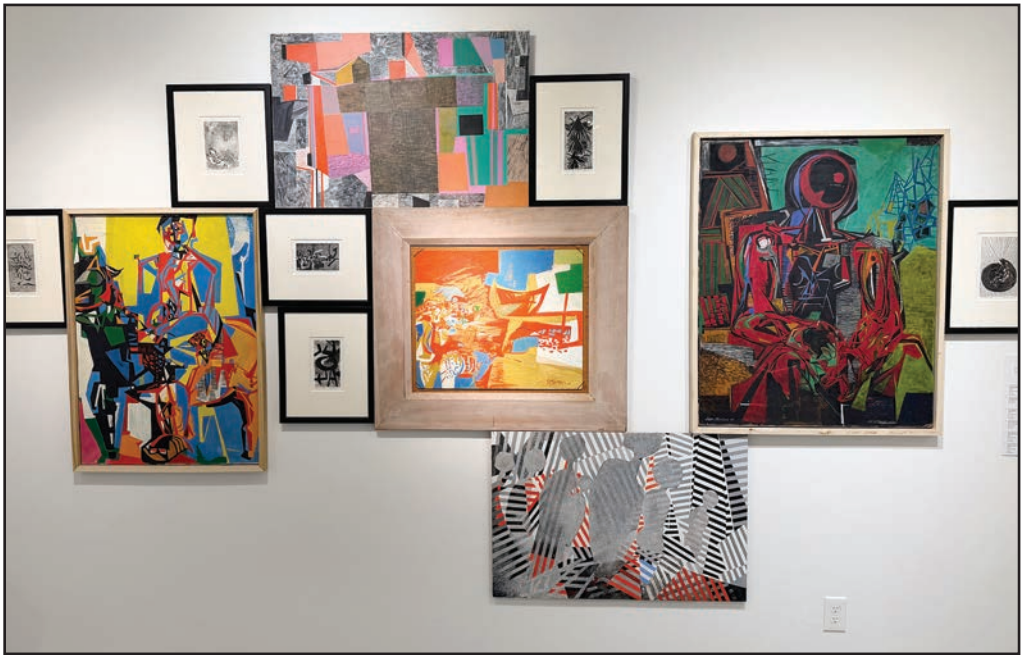
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A visitor explores the “Retro Active” exhibit in the Taber Art Gallery.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



A collection of etchings and paintings by late artists Fred Becker and Jean Morrison Becker.

Holyoke Community College art gallery presents ‘Retro Active’ exhibit

HOLYOKE – The Taber Art Gallery at Holyoke Community College is presenting “Retro Active,” an interactive retrospective of works from the HCC Permanent Collection, now through October 22.

The exhibit includes 26 pieces from the more than 300 the college owns and has been collecting since the 1960s, said Rachel Rushing, the Taber Art Gallery director.

“What’s on display is a

combination of contemporary art, pieces from artists living and working in their day, and historical pieces that were either donated or purchased by the college,” she said.

That’s the “Retro” part of the show.

Also included among the paintings, lithographs, prints, and other pieces are four stations where gallery visitors can offer their own interpretations and comments on individual works of art. Each of

the four stations has a different theme: Critique, Curate, Connect, and Create.

That’s the “Active” part of the show.

“I call the show a ‘collaborative review’ because I’m asking visitors to sit with each of these stations and really think about the collection itself,” Rushing said. “I’ve got prompts. They can write up their comments and pin them up to a bulletin board. It’s a way to get feedback.”

For instance, the “Create”

station features a desk with an antique Underwood manual typewriter focused on a woodcut by late American artist Fred Becker and asks visitors to offer a description of the piece or write a poem.

“Critique” invites people to offer their comments about two specific pieces some might find “contentious.” One is a color etching called “Jerusalem” by Amram Ebgi, who was born in Morocco in 1939 to Orthodox Jewish parents; the other is

“Lindy Hop,” a 1937 black and white etching by Fred Becker that depicts dancers at a Harlem jazz club in the early 20th century.

The show includes five pieces from the Taber Collection, which was donated to the college by the gallery’s namesake, the late Holyoke businessman Donald Taber. One of the pieces is a lithograph by Salvador Dali, signed by the artist.

Two of the larger pieces are holdovers from a sum-

mer exhibit featuring work by HCC alumni artists. One wall contains 19 paintings and etchings by Becker and his wife, artist Jean Morrison Becker, who both taught at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The Taber Art Gallery, located off the lobby of the HCC Library on the second floor of the HCC Donahue Building, is free and open to the public Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during regular school sessions.

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 se-

ries are available on YouTube at @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, allow-

ing 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.

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

Thrills and chills at historic mansion

AGAWAM – Join best-selling 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 spe-

cial 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/>

AHS 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 restric-

tions 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.

Grange holding fall tag sale

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.

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Opinion
Guest Column



I'm evaluating my retirement plan, what are my options?

Dear Rusty:

I am 69 1/2 years old now and applied for Social Security at the end of June.

I am still working and was planning to begin my retirement in September. A couple of factors arose for me to question if I made a hasty decision by applying for SS.

The employer I have been working for the last 29 years has asked if I would stay on a little longer, which would be good because we have some debt I want to lose before I retire.

I was reading about suspending Social Security and continuing to work. If I understand it right, if I suspend my SS, no payback will be required, and I can continue to work until I'm ready to retire. No spousal benefits taken yet.

Signed: Reevaluating my Retirement

Dear Reevaluating Retirement:

I'm assuming you asked for your Social Security benefits to start in September (when you originally planned to retire), but that you won't be 70 years old until March 2027.

If that is correct, be aware that you will not immediately get all of your earned Delayed Retirement Credits when your benefits start in September – you will only initially get the DRCs you have earned through the end of 2025.

That's because Social Security usually applies DRCs in January of each year. So, what will happen is that your September benefit amount will lack the 5.3% DRCs you earned in 2026, until January 2027 when they will apply the DRCs earned in 2026 to your monthly payment amount.

Said simply, your initial September benefit will not

include your full age 69.5 entitlement because it won't include the 5.3% extra you earned in 2026. That extra monthly amount will be awarded in January 2027.

FYI, if you were to, instead, claim for your SS benefits to start in the month you turn 70 (March 2027), you would get your full age 70 amount immediately (SS awards all earned DRCs if benefits are claimed to start in the month you turn 70).

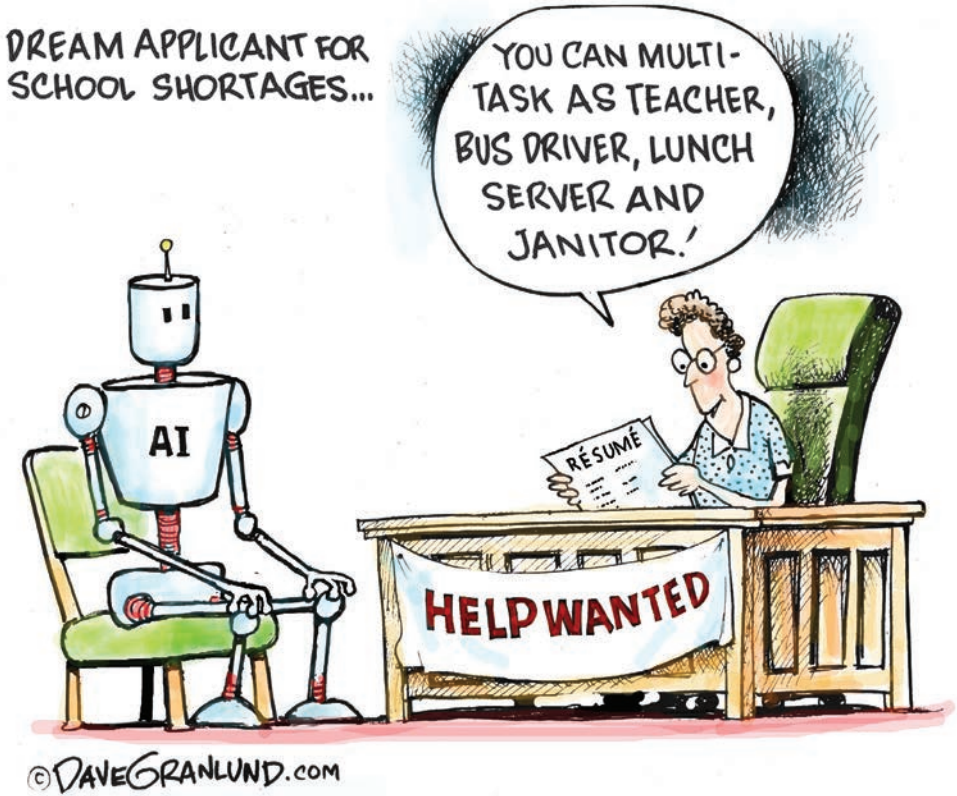
Now, on to your question: Yes, if you take your benefits effective with September 2026 you can suspend your benefits, but you can only suspend them until the month you turn 70. And if you are suspending your benefits, you will not need to repay Social Security for any benefits you happen to receive before you suspend.

As is obvious, you will not receive any SS payments while your benefits are suspended, and you will earn DRCs for the months your benefits are suspended, resulting in a higher monthly amount at age 70. Also, since you have already passed your SS Full Retirement Age, you can work and earn as much as you like, without your Social Security benefits being negatively affected.

Regarding your comment "No Spousal benefits taken yet." FYI, you cannot get spousal benefits while your benefits are suspended, nor can your wife get spousal benefits from you while you SS retirement benefits are suspended.

To be clear, spouse benefits are only paid when one spouse's benefit at their FRA is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA benefit. Spouse benefits are always based upon FRA entitlements, not

SOCIAL | page 5



Raised beds? Why not?

I have to say that today I am having a hard time thinking of something to write about.

As I scan my mind of all the seasonal gardening topics, I come up blank. Winter squash? Done it. Mums? Ditto. Seed saving. Yup.

So, on this rainy Sunday, I give you all the luck of the draw. I will grab a gardening book off of my shelf, twirl the pages, and where my finger lands, I will expound on the subject. It may not be autumnal, but it will be interesting, I guarantee that.

Here we go... The book I grabbed from the shelf was "The Dirt Cheap Green Thumb," by Rhonda Massingham Hart. My finger landed on page 189, with the heading "Raise Your Beds, Not Your Expenses."

I have some experience with raised beds. In my home garden I have four rock-edged beds. Prior to that I had beds edged in pine slabs.

My friend uses hemlock edged beds and is happy with them. I envy how neat and orderly they are. Another friend is using galvanized metal beds this year. They seem to be all the rage.

Her tomatoes and peppers continue to produce like gangbusters even late in the season. She has just gotten back into gar-

dening after a two year hiatus and I am proud of her and happy she has been so successful.

Let's begin our chat with some of the advantages of raised bed gardening.

The first one that comes to mind is that you can be selective about the soil you fill it with. I've enjoyed using the Coast of Maine Raised Bed Mix. Blending loam and aged manure or compost at a 2 to 1 ratio is another option. Additionally, raised beds make it easy to concentrate fertilizers where they are needed. In large garden plots we often broadcast fertilizers and other amendments throughout the bed. Some inevitably gets wasted in walkways or around hills of plants.

Raised beds can be constructed to suit your needs. I wanted to be able to reach into the middle of my beds from either side, so they are about four feet wide.

Some gardeners construct them 36 inches wide so there is less of a stretch. In my four beds, I have a pretty good crop rotation

system going. Each crop does a slide to the next bed each year. That way it is four years before onions are grown in the same space.

Another interesting thing I have set up is that onions, for example, follow melons in my rotation. I grow the melons on black plastic. All season long the black plastic is limiting weeds from germinating, so that hopefully next year, the onions, who hate weeds, will see less weed pressure.

Raised beds warm up quicker in the spring, and stay warmer later into the fall. Sometimes the edging material helps with that.

My rock beds, for example, hold heat. So does the metal to some degree.

In mid spring, prior to the frost-free date, raised beds can be easily fitted with hoops on which plastic or polyester row covers can be draped to offer even more frost protection. They can also be covered with the black plastic I mentioned to grow crops like melons or peppers, who appreciate the heat.

With raised beds you will likely never need your rototiller. Beds can effortlessly be turned over by hand from either side. Typically, unless you walk all over them, the soil in the raised beds stays nice and friable, as well.

If I need to get into my

GARDEN | page 5



Someone reported hearing as sandhill crane calling in New Braintree, but did not see it. Recently, someone saw a pair of sandhill cranes in a field on Pleasant Street in Barre. The cranes stayed about a week and then left.

Sandhill Cranes are large birds that live in open habitats, so they're fairly easy to spot. They are gray overall, have red foreheads, white cheeks, a long dark bill and dark legs.

Immature birds have reddish-brown upper parts and gray underparts and lack the red foreheads. This makes it easy to pick out the parents from the youngsters even when they are the same height.

Sandhill cranes make a loud trumpeting call that can be heard for long distances. They are mainly herbivores,

but feed on other foods depending on availability. They will feed on berries, small mammals, insects, snails, reptiles and amphibians.

These cranes raise one brood per year. The female lays one to three brownish eggs. Both sexes build the nest using plant material and both incubate and feed the young.

In summer cranes are often seen in small bogs, marshes and prairies across northern North America and the southeastern United States. In winter they form immense flocks in places like Bosque del Apache, New Mexico and Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Texas.

Sandhill crane's call is a loud, rolling, trumpeting sound whose unique tone is a product of anatomy. They have long tracheas that coil

into the sternum and help the sound develop a lower pitch and harmonics that add richness.

Sandhill cranes are also known for their dancing skills. Courting cranes stretch their wings, pump their heads, bow, and leap into the air in a graceful and energetic dance.

Many years ago, a Barre resident saw a pair dancing in a field. He said it was a "sight to behold."

Although some start breeding at two years of age, Sandhill cranes may reach the age of seven before breeding. They mate for life, which can mean two decades or more and stay with their mates year-round. Juveniles stick close by their parents for nine or ten months after hatching.

Sandhill crane chicks can leave the nest within 8 hours of hatching and are even capable of swimming.

The oldest sandhill crane on record was at least 37 years, 3 months old. Originally banded in Florida in 1982, it was found in Wisconsin in 2019.

Scarcity of birds I received an email from a woman who lives on Lake Lashaway.



Sandhill Crane

She said, "Since Sunday, Aug. 30, they had most days without birds...any type, large or small at our feeders or just in the shrubs or anywhere. All my neighbors have noticed their feeders are full too." One neighbor said he has seen a falcon. She wonders if the falcon has anything to do with the lack of birds.

Several people at the Oakham Senior Center reported, they see only a few birds and the feeders remain full of seeds.

Massachusetts Audubon sighting

This report to the Massachusetts Audubon Society supports the lack of birds.

Someone stated, "On Sept. 11 we birded around Hardwick and on Sept. 12 we birded around Warren. Both days were very poor for passerine migration." They also stated, "On both days we only saw 1 species of warbler: common yellowthroat. In general, song birds were in very low numbers and poor variety. And we went to spots that had proven good for migrants in years past. We really worked hard to turn up migrant warblers, and it just was not happening, at least where we were."

Migrating hawks

The Massachusetts Audubon Society listed migrating hawks spotted on Friday, Sept. 11 at Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham. They included 3 osprey, seven bald eagles, ten sharp-shinned hawks, 131 broad-winged hawks and one merlin.

Canada geese

On Friday, Sept. 4, I saw a large flock of over fifty Canada geese in a field in Spencer. On the same day, I also saw a small flock of wild turkeys and about six Canada geese in field in Barre.

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

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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Agawam Advertiser News

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Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be

submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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.

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.

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.

Craft beer and wine tasting to benefit historic home

AGAWAM – An autumn tradition 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.

Cooper's taking donations for TJO Animals

AGAWAM – For a limited time, Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home of Agawam, Mass., is accepting shelter supply donations for Foundation for TJO Animals, which is located at 237 Memorial Drive, Springfield, MA 01104. The Foundation for TJO Animals raises funds to provide resources and support for critical veterinary care and enrichment for the animals at the Thomas J O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center. The center serves Springfield, Chicopee, and Holyoke. They are a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations will be collected at Cooper's now through September 30. "We invite everyone to help out the animals at TJO and be entered to win a \$100 Cooper's Gift Card." said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's Gifts, Apparel, Home. Items to keep the shel-

ter clean and well stocked; paper towels, bleach, pet food, treats, toys and litter, are their current needs. "We hope that while people are out purchasing items for themselves, that they will consider picking up a few extras for the Foundation for TJO Animals. And, you'll be entered into our raffle!" said Gourde. "We will swap a raffle entry for every item donated to the Foundation for TJO Animals. One lucky winner of a \$100 Cooper's gift card will be notified on October 1st. Entry tickets can also be purchased at the store for \$1 each, or 6 tickets for \$5. All ticket sales will also be donated to the Foundation for TJO Animals. Especially for people outside the Greater Springfield area, it's easier for them to bring donations here." Gourde said. Items may be brought to the shop any-

time up until Sept. 30. Cooper's is located at 161 Main St., Agawam. "This drive coincides with Foundation for TJO Animals as our September Round-Up charity; so, it's the perfect time to spread the word about their mission and really help them out," Gourde said. Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round-Up Program through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the nearest dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated more than \$69,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity may be found on Cooper's website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/.

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.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

beds, say to separate crops, sometimes I will position a plank across the width of the bed, and step on that to disperse my weight, therefore avoiding compaction. Plants always grow better in loose soil. I almost forgot the obvious! Raised beds are easier to work with. Beds are typically a foot or so tall, sometimes a bit taller. Bring out a short stool to the garden and you can comfortably sit and work in the beds. No more long periods of stooping or crouching. Well, I hope you enjoyed reading this luck of the draw column as much as I did writing it! And if you haven't gardened in a couple of years, give raised beds a try and maybe you will be as fortunate as my friend, with six foot tomato plants still going strong at the end of September!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge

School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

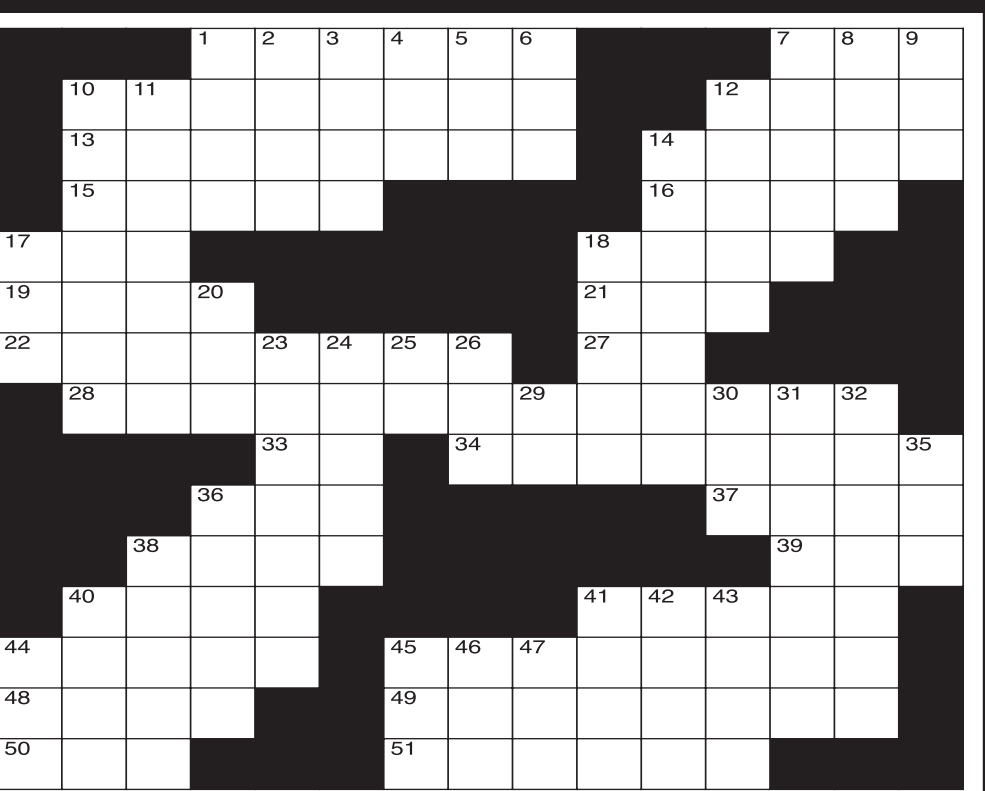
SUBMITTED PHOTO BY DAWN RUDNANSKY

SOCIAL ■ from page 4

on the larger amounts which will result from waiting longer to claim. In other words, your wife would only be eligible for a spousal benefit from you if her FRA entitlement was less than 50% of your FRA entitlement (not your age 70 SS entitlement). And she cannot get a spousal benefit while your benefits are suspended. To recap: Yes, you can suspend receipt of your SS retirement benefits until the month you turn 70 and get

credit for that delay (resulting in a higher benefit). And, yes, you can continue working as long as you wish and your benefits will not be negatively affected. And just for added information, you can also ask Social Security to withdraw your current application for SS benefits and then reapply in January 2027 for your benefits to start in March 2027, the month you turn 70. You have both options. The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with

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



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A place for worship
- 7. Referee declaration
- 10. Torsos
- 12. Used to introduce something
- 13. Healing method
- 14. Takes to the sea
- 15. Make law
- 16. French coastal city
- 17. Hawaiian dish
- 18. Young of domestic cattle
- 19. Women's undergarments
- 21. 60-minute intervals (abbr.)
- 22. One after another
- 27. It's a hot topic these days
- 28. Folk band frontman

- 33. They precede C
- 34. Heavenly
- 36. Fiddler crabs
- 37. Major Hindu deity
- 38. Hebrew given name
- 39. Cost per mile
- 40. ___ Romeo, car
- 41. Rural municipality in Manitoba
- 44. Narratives
- 45. "A tragedy had ___ him"
- 48. Iranian city
- 49. Praises publicly
- 50. Founding Father Franklin
- 51. Herbal tea

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Indian unit of mass

- 2. "Tears in Heaven" singer Clapton
- 3. Part of a sailing vessel
- 4. Part of (abbr.)
- 5. Polynesian garland of flowers
- 6. Keyboard key
- 7. One who steals
- 8. Large oven
- 9. Former CIA
- 10. Idea
- 11. Solomon Islands capital
- 12. Afrikaans
- 14. Remove thatch
- 17. Television network
- 18. Jalen Brunson is one
- 20. Title of respect
- 23. Flowering trees

- 24. Occurring in a tube
- 25. Exists
- 26. Woman (French)
- 29. Expression of doubt
- 30. NHL legend Bobby
- 31. Accomplished
- 32. Makes slightly wet
- 35. National Assn. of Manufacturers
- 36. Not sated
- 38. Poe's middle name
- 40. Swiss river
- 41. Rhythmic pattern in Indian music
- 42. "Shane" actor Ladd
- 43. Popular whodunit board game
- 44. Bar bill
- 45. Ballplayer's tool
- 46. Indicates near
- 47. Feet per second



The Sunshine Slots in full swing.

LITTLE E ■ from page 1

“We have a mother of one of our individuals who made a small donation for us to offer some type of event to our individuals and it was our vice president of Day Services who came up with the idea of why don’t we make a carnival event, patent it The Little E and make it all the great things that the Little E has to offer at Sunshine Village,” Guzman said.

Guzman said she enjoys “sharing what a great day is” through holding events like this, calling her work with the individuals her “sweet spot.”

“Something that we see every day here at Sunshine Village while their loved ones, our individuals, are participating in programming. So, it’s even better to be able to enjoy some of the local SPED department, school department, our stakeholders and community vendors to come as one big group and enjoy it together,” Guzman said.

President and CEO Michelle Theroux called the event “a way to celebrate the community” and bring everyone together to see more about their mission and opportunities, praising the staff for their work.

“It’s a beautiful day. Mother Nature certainly cooperated for this and you can see as you look around the smiling faces of our clients, community members, families,” Theroux said. “It’s really just a great day.”

Theroux also expressed appreciation for the community’s continued support of Sunshine Village, noting the annual Golf Tournament held last month.

“It’s super. One, we can’t do the work without the community support and also, it’s wonderful that the community continues to keep showing up for our events,” Theroux said.

She also reflected on her new role at the organization after succeeding Gina Kos, who retired earlier this year.

“It’s gone by super quick and, really, it’s been a lot of fun to meet and learn and get to know our clients, our staff, our supporters in the community, our donors, our community partners and it’s also been an opportunity to see what’s the next chapter will be for Sunshine Village,” Theroux said. “Because in 2027, we will be celebrating our 60th anniversary. So, we certainly will be highlighting our growth over 60 years, but also then looking towards the next chapter of Sunshine Village and the tremendous care we do as we serve over

400 clients on a daily basis and we got over 230 staff coming in to work, so what that looks like, what that means to the community.”

Agawam Mayor Christopher Johnson was happy to stop by and see everyone, including folks from Agawam and the smiles at the booths.

“Obviously, they understand how important Sunshine Village is and what a great job they do. Like I said, former Mayor Kos from Chicopee; his wife used to be the executive director and got involved when they were around,” Johnson said. “They have a facility over in Agawam, so I go there. I try to play every year in their charity Golf Tournament, so like I said, it’s fun to come and see the clients and see people enjoying themselves, having fun.”

Johnson also reflected on Direct Support Professionals Week, which recognizes those who support people with disabilities, emphasizing the importance of Sunshine Village and “seeing how much they help people, that’s what really matters.”

“They’re key. My wife is a social worker, she’s in the elder care area, but having organizations like Sunshine Village to be able to help people that they help, otherwise they might fall through the cracks. They provide a tremendous boost to the quality of life,” Johnson said. “They come by city hall a couple times a year to visit us and will bring other, different clients in. They’re phenomenal to talk to and we just saw one that was at city hall a few months ago and she’s like, ‘Oh, the mayor’s here!’ It’s great. It’s a lot of fun and like I said, I’m here to support Sunshine and all the residents and their clients and what they do and all the tremendous staff that provide the services.”

He encouraged everyone to continue supporting Sunshine Village whenever they have fundraiser events.

“They rely a lot on the funds that they raise privately to supplement what they get,” Johnson said. “It’s a great organization, so just trying to write them out a check when you can and support them by showing up to events like this.”

Theroux’s message was this.

“Thank you for showing up, thank you for coming, supporting us, having a good time, getting to learn a little bit about us and just realizing what individuals with disabilities really can do, the joy that they bring to all of us,” Theroux said.



A client poses for a photo with members of the Chicopee Fire Department.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS



Attendees meet the horses with the Hampden County Sheriff’s Office.



Tevin Colon, aide to State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Michelle Theroux, president and CEO of Sunshine Village, and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) with the proclamation.



Some waterslide fun on an inner tube at the Little E.



The Just Go With It Band gets attendees dancing and rocking out.



From the left, Corinne Dumont Jackson, community relations manager at Sunshine Village, State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Agawam Mayor Christopher Johnson and Michelle Theroux, president and CEO of Sunshine Village, in a group photo.



Another feature were clients showcasing their creative and entrepreneurial skills.



Time for a little ball pong.



The traditional and nontraditional carnival games included throwing a ball to knock over objects to win a prize.



A shot during the Chicopee Police Department's K9 demonstration.



Attendees line up to partake in the walking tacos.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS



Striking a pose with fun hats at the photobooth.



It wouldn't be the Little E without the dunk tank.

SPORTS

Girls soccer falls in Ludlow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Entering the third week of the regular season, the Ludlow girls' varsity soccer team had a 3-1 overall record and a 2-1 mark against Kurty/Fielding Division opponents.

Junior forward Geia Guzman, who's a second-year member of the varsity squad, played a key role in two of the three Lady Lions victories.

In the first meeting of the regular season against league rival Agawam, Guzman delivered a goal in each half, as the Lady Lions began their home slate with 2-1 victory, last Thursday afternoon.

"It feels really good to score two goals and help my team win a game," said Guzman, who scored only two goals for the varsity team as a sophomore. "I couldn't have done it without the help of my teammates."

Guzman also scored a pair of goals in Ludlow's season opening 2-0 win at South Hadley on September 8.

She was credited with an assist in a 3-2 road loss against Northampton, which was the Lady Lions only setback.

The Brownies (1-4, 1-2), who haven't beaten the Lady Lions since 2019, lost their fourth consecutive match after beginning the 2026 campaign with a 2-0 non-league victory at Chicopee Comp.

The home side was given a penalty kick by the referees a minute into the opening half following a foul in the box.

Guzman took the PK but Agawam junior goalie Kayleen Sullivan made the save.

"I was shocked when I made the save on the PK because goalies usually don't make them," said Sullivan, who made a total of nine saves in the road match. "Even though we lost, it was still a very competitive game."

After making the initial save on the PK, the ball slipped away from the Brownies keeper. Guzman pounced on the rebound and her shot attempt clanged off the right post leaving the contest scoreless.

The Lady Lions had a couple of other scoring chances during the first twenty minutes of the opening half.

Down at the other end of the field, Ludlow senior goalie Maddy Riley (10 saves) made a save on the Brownies first shot attempt taken by sophomore Grace Curto in the 27th minute.



Nawra Ahmed heads up the field.



Bella Santaniello competes to keep possession.

The Lady Lions took a 1-0 lead seven minutes later when a shot by Guzman slipped past Sullivan into the back of the net.

"I really didn't think I scored on that shot," Guzman said. "The ball just bounced into the net."

Senior Maeve Carter was credited with the assist on the Lady Lions first goal.

With a minute remain-

ing in the opening half, the Brownies tied the score following a free kick goal. The kick was taken by junior Gaby Ramos and sophomore Olivia Izzo put a shot into the net for her first goal of the season.

The match was tied 1-1 at halftime.

The Lady Lions retook the lead eight minutes into the second half.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

The scoring play began with a long punt by Riley. Guzman gained possession of the loose ball before lining a shot into the back of the net.

"Maddy always does a very good job punting the ball down the field," Guzman said. "I'm very glad that I was able to score another game winning goal."

Seconds after the field



Olivia Izzo brings in a pass.



Gabriella Ramos settles the ball after collecting a pass

lights clicked on during the 62nd minute, Agawam freshman Mackenzie Lynch lofted a shot from about 25 yards out. Riley managed to knock the ball over the crossbar resulting in a corner kick and keeping the one goal lead.

Ten minutes later, Agawam sophomore Mena Stelato fired a shot attempt from the right sideline that skipped wide of the net.

While the scoreboard clock ran for whole 40 minutes in the first half, the ref-

erees had the clock turned off with three minutes remaining in regulation.

Sullivan prefers the clock to keep running throughout the entire match.

"It was very stressful when they stopped the clock late in the second half," Sullivan said. "I like to breakdown the game in ten minute segments. I had no idea how much time was left when the turned off the clock."

Brownies boys soccer in search of first win

AGAWAM – Last Thursday afternoon, the Agawam High School boys soccer team battled to a 1-1 draw with host Pittsfield. The Brownies got their lone goal from Ben Gechka. In the tie, Jace Wayne made nine saves.

So far this fall, Agawam has a pair of losses and two ties. In addition to Pittsfield, the Brownies also tied

Amherst to go with losses against Northampton and West Springfield.

After facing Minnechaug earlier this week, Agawam comes home for its next three games, starting up first with Monument Mountain on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 24 at 4 p.m. They face Frontier Regional the next day, also at 4 p.m.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a

weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper.

Owls football rolls up 463 tards to gets first win

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University football rolled up 463 yards of offense and got a pair of long TD receptions from electric first-year receiver Malachi Hymes (E. Hartford, Conn./East Hartford) as the Owls downed Dean College, 26-8 at Alumni Field on Westfield State's Family and Champions Weekend.

Westfield improves its record to 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, while Dean is now 0-3 and 0-2 MASCAC.

Hymes finished with four catches for 166 yards and touchdowns of 61 and 46 yards. His day could have been bigger as a reverse that looked like a 89- yard score was called back by a penalty, and later he stepped out

of bounds while avoiding a tackle on 53-yard reception that initially looked like a 73-yard score.

Westfield opened the scoring with a 1-yard TD plunge from QB Quinn Sumner (Dayville, Conn./Killingly), who finished 6-11 passing for 180 yards and the two TD tosses to Hymes.

Hymes caught a go route down the left side for the 61 yarder, out sprinting the full defense, then out-leaped his defender around the five-yard line to with the ball on the 46-yard grab before waltzing into the endzone.

Westfield set up the big passing plays with the run as sophomore fullback Manny Mengata (Tewksbury, Mass.) battered the Bulldogs for 136 yards on 18 carries, and Cole Ingham (Agawam, Mass.)

added 69 yards on five carries.

Westfield senior PK Andrew Currier (Attleboro, Mass./Foxboro HS) booted a pair of 33-yard field goals and a pair of extra points to account for the final score.

Dean's lone TD of the game came midway through the second quarter on a 12-yard touchdown pass from Chris Donahue to Yasir Moses. The Bulldogs tried to feature a short passing attack with Donahue connecting on 32 of 45 attempts for 186 yards with one TD and one INT. His longest completion of the day went for 12 yards.

The Bulldogs totaled just 33 yards rushing. Tay Scholtz finished with nine catches for 75 yards and seven catches for 62 yards.

Westfield's defense bent but rarely broke, allowing 219 total yards on the day. The Owls sacked Donohue eight times for a loss of 61 yards.

LB Aydan Verba (Albany, NY/Colonie Central) led the Owls with eight tackles and 2.5 sacks. Tedi Hunt (Littleton, Mass.) made eight stops and had 2.5 TFLs. Eight different players had a hand in the sack column. First-year Caedan Burns (N. Grafton, Mass.) picked off the Bulldogs late to help seal the win.

Colin Brady and Herman Esquivel Menzdez led the Bulldogs with eight stops each.

Westfield State will travel to Worcester State for a conference matchup next Saturday, Sept. 26 with a 1 p.m. kickoff at Alumni Field.

Sports

Brownies girls volleyball suffers loss to Minnechaug



By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Both the Agawam and Minnechaug Regional girls’ varsity volleyball teams entered last Wednesday’s Northern Division matchup searching for their first victories of the 2026 regular season.

When the dust had settled, the Lady Falcons players were celebrating a 3-0 (25-15, 25-18, 25-20) home win over the Brownies.

“This is a very big win for us, especially by the final score of 3-0,” said Minnechaug senior co-captain Haley Powers. “We graduated eight seniors and we’re a little bit different team this year. We also have a very difficult schedule. All of us want to win every match and we always play for each other.”

The Lady Falcons other senior co-captain is Nehir Elcin.

Minnechaug (1-3) began the regular season with a

home loss to Amherst before suffering back-to-back road losses to Longmeadow and Blackstone Valley Voc./Tech.

“We only have five returning players from last year’s team,” Minnechaug head coach Mark Taylor. “We do have a few talented players, and we just want to keep improving.”

A year ago, the Lady Falcons squeaked out a 3-2 win over the Longmeadow Lancers in the Western Mass. Class A finals. They then advanced to the sweet 16 of the Division 2 state tournament.

Minnechaug has also won the last seven meetings on the volleyball court against Agawam.

The last time that the Brownies celebrated a win in the series was a 3-0 home victory on September 23, 2022. They began this season with losses against Amherst and Chicopee Comp.

“This was probably our most competitive match of the season,” said Agawam head coach Jess Colson. “I’m



Left: Chloey Fiermonte sets the ball back to a teammate.
Above: Kiley Ryan sends a hit over the net.
Right: Madeline Mahame starts play with a serve.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

proud of the way my players kept battling back against a very talented Minnechaug team. We’re still hoping to qualify for both the Western Mass. and state tournaments.”

Colson praised the performance of junior Madeline Maharne, who’s a co-captain along with senior Michelle Le.

“Madeline is our setter and I thought she played very well. She’s one of our captains,” Colson added. “Michelle Le is also a captain, but she didn’t play in today’s match.”

The Lady Falcons held a slim lead at the start of the opening set.

The score was tied 10-10

An unforced error then gave the visiting team an 11-10 advantage, which was their first lead.

Minnechaug responded with a 5-0 spurt with freshman Jenahia Monet handling the serving duty. Monet had a couple of aces during that

span.

“Jenahia is a very talented volleyball player,” Powers said. “She might be only a freshman, but she sees the game very well. She’s very mature for her age.”

Taylor didn’t know Monet until the first day of practice.

“I believe she plays volleyball for a club team,” Taylor said. “The defense that her club team uses is a little bit different than the one we use. She’s been picking it up very quickly.”

A kill by Elcin gave the Lady Falcons a 16-12 lead.

With sophomore Sireen Awaki doing the serving, the home team won the next five points.

The Lady Falcons continued to pull away in the first set as they built a double digit lead.

A kill by sophomore Reese Glynn gave the Brownies a 9-5 advantage early in the second set.

VOLLEYBALL | page 12



What to watch as Springfield Thunderbirds begin new season

SPRINGFIELD – On the heels of their remarkable run to within one game of the Eastern Conference Finals, the Springfield Thunderbirds have reason to believe the carryover effect from their postseason success is very real heading into the 2026-27 campaign.

Here are five things to watch at Opening Night inside the Thunderdome.

1: The Effect of Steve Ott for a Full Season

It is undeniable the impact that Steve Ott had on his team when he arrived in mid-January. A brand new leading voice in a dressing room does not always guarantee a turnaround in a team’s fortunes, but it was clear that Ott’s confidence in the group rubbed off on the T-Birds and their play in the back half of the regular season and into the postseason.

From the time Ott took over on Jan. 19, Springfield’s statistical metrics improved in just about every category, highlighted by more than half a goal per-game improvement both offensively (2.63 goals per game in 38 games before Ott took over vs. 3.15 goals per game after) and defensively (3.66 goals allowed per game before Ott vs. 2.97 after).

After signing his two-year contract extension in the offseason, Ott now has the opportunity to run his own training camp and install his systems and structures from the onset of an AHL season. After already proving him-

self as a motivator for young players and veterans alike, the continuity that will come from Ott having an extended period to implement his style – the “X’s and O’s” – on a new roster should provide the T-Birds a terrific opportunity to come out of the gates firing.

2: Confidence Carrying Over in Net

There may be no better case study in Ott’s belief and confidence in his group than the boost he received from his masked men between the pipes. After being thrust into a win-or-go-home Game 2 in Charlotte in the playoffs’ opening round, Georgii Romanov quickly showcased what made him an NHL netminder in his earlier days with the Sharks organization.

Romanov’s regular season was unpredictable, as the T-Birds backstop won just nine of his 24 decisions and posting a 3.29 goals-against average and .896 save percentage. He, in essence, was the T-Birds’ third goaltender on the depth chart heading into the postseason. But after an 8-1 loss that saw both Vadim Zherenko and Will Cranley put to pasture in Game 1 against the Checkers, Ott installed Romanov in Game 2, and the 26-year-old made good on his coach’s belief, stopping 29 of 31 shots to force a Game 3, where Romanov held Charlotte off the board for nearly 70 minutes after allowing an early goal en route to a 2-1 overtime triumph.

By the time the postseason dust settled, Romanov’s 11-game sample size was exemplary – nine starts of two goals allowed or fewer, a pair of shutouts, and a .939 save percentage to go along with a 7-4 record.

Romanov’s game elevated at the biggest moment, and the Blues rewarded the netminder’s work with a two-year contract extension, presumably penciling him in as the T-Birds’ top dog in the crease and insurance for St. Louis in the event of injury to Jordan Binnington or Joel Hofer.

Romanov was not the only goaltender to exhibit a boost in confidence under Ott’s guidance. Cranley also earned an extension from the Blues after he posted a 6-3-0 record after Ott’s appointment to head coach. Cranley led all T-Birds goalies in the second half of the season with a 2.67 goals-against average and .903 save percentage. With Romanov and Cranley, the T-Birds return a confident pair in the net who can share the load during the most concentrated portions of the schedule.

3: How High Can the Prospects Fly?

The Blues & Thunderbirds enter the 2026-27 season boasting perhaps the most highly-anticipated prospect class in the T-Birds’ 10-year AHL run. A pair of Blues’ first-round picks – forward Justin Carboneau and defenseman Adam Jiricek – are entering their first full seasons of

professional hockey, and the possibility exists that both players will begin the season in Springfield.

While neither 19-year-old posted points in their combined nine postseason games with Springfield, Ott went out of his way to compliment both players’ poise in their first taste of meaningful pro hockey. It may be unreasonable to expect stat sheets quite like their junior totals a season ago (51 goals for Carboneau w/ QMJHL Blainville, 59 points in 55 games for Jiricek w/ OHL Brantford), but given the insulation of veteran talent and leadership on both ends of the ice, it’s not far-fetched to think they can be impact players either.

Jiricek and Carboneau may be the future Blues at the top of fans’ watch lists, but there is no lack of talent to go around. Up front, Otto Stenberg and Alek Kaskimaki will both get extended looks in St. Louis training camp after strong showings a season ago at both the NHL and AHL levels. Theo Lindstein is a strong candidate to land a roster spot on the St. Louis blue line, but Quinton Burns, Marc-Andre Gaudet, Colin Ralph, and Michael Buchinger all figure to be on St. Louis’s scouting radar as well. In total, 15 St. Louis draft picks from Springfield’s post-season roster will be jockeying for spots in training camp, so a healthy competition will already be firmly in place.

Given the unpredictable

nature of injuries, roster moves, and call-ups, Ott and the Thunderbirds should have a healthy rolodex of depth options as the season evolves.

4: Leadership Group Growing & Contributing

One look at recent Calder Cup championship rosters proves that a healthy balance of youthful exuberance and veteran experience is the recipe AHL teams covet in pursuit of a title.

The Blues & Thunderbirds’ prospect pool is as deep as it has ever been, but Co-General Managers Ryan Miller and Tim Taylor – in collaboration with Blues General Manager Alexander Steen – also bolstered the depth of veterans when they signed TJ. Tynan to an AHL contract on July 2. Tynan is a two-time AHL MVP who has logged a staggering 579 career assists across 760 AHL games. He is a bonafide power play distributor who should offer a great table-setting option for Carboneau, Kaskimaki, and others.

Tynan joins an already experienced leadership group that returns captain Chris Wagner and alternate captain Calle Rosen, who will anchor the forward and defense units respectively. Between the trio, they combined for 131 points last season, so their leadership is not limited to the intangibles. Wagner is coming off his most prolific offensive season of his 14-year-career, as he posted personal bests in goals (24), assists (26), and

points (50).

5: The Thunderdome Advantage

You didn’t think I’d put a list of things I look forward to without including the fan-base, did you? Ott’s impact on the team was sizable, but the home-ice boost would not have been possible without T-Birds fans at their noisy best.

Before Ott took over, the T-Birds were just 6-7-2-1 in their first 16 home games of the season. Down the stretch, Springfield earned points in 14 of their final 20 home games (12-6-2-0) and added a 3-1 record across four home playoff games to reaffirm what Ott and his players already knew – the Thunderdome is truly one of the best home-ice advantages in the American Hockey League.

That advantage could be pivotal in 2026-27, as the T-Birds’ schedule boasts 17 of their 36 home games before New Year’s Day. Calder Cups are not won or lost in the opening weeks of the season, but a strong start on familiar soil could prove the difference between a first-round bye and a play-in series. Keep in mind, with the Hamilton Hammers joining the league’s North Division in place of the departing Bridgeport Islanders, the Atlantic Division will now be a 7-team division, meaning that 3 of the 5 qualifying playoff teams will get an automatic bye into the best-of-5 Division Semifinals.

Sports

Chaffee and Patnode get victories

WINCHESTER, NH - Todd Patnode won't win his seventh track championship this season at Monadnock Speedway, but the Swanzey star is going all out to leave his mark on the 2026 campaign.

Slowed by a sluggish start this summer and then sidelined by an injury, he has exploded back into his championship form, winning his second Modified feature in a row Saturday, Sept. 12, and setting himself up for a threepeat bid in next week's season finale.

Patnode wasn't the only big winner Saturday, as the speedway crowned 2026 Triple Crown champions in all divisions with the third and final leg of its three-race summer series. Ty LeClerc, a close second to Patnode in the Modified main event, celebrated his triple crown championship.

Other feature winners Saturday included Limited Late Model ace JD Stockwell,, Craig Chaffee, who won a thriller in the Mini Stocks, and Dylan Zullo, who scored his first win of the season aboard the CJ Johnson ride. Young Gun whiz Dylan Stati stayed undefeated on the season in events he entered.

Following an elaborate pre-race ceremony honoring the victims of the September 11 tragedy 25 years ago, a ceremony in which all of Saturday night's drivers participated, it was Dylan Stati time again, as the Palmer, MA pre-teen rocketed to victory atop a six-car field in the Doug's Auto Body youth division. Quinton Perkins raced to a career best in second, and Eli Elliott trophied in third.

Rookie Kyle Kenny and Ty LeClerc sat up front as the

50-lap All States Materials Group 604 Modified main event went green. LeClerc, a two-time winner a summer ago, was hungry for his first 2026 victory, and with Triple Crown points leader Eddie Gomarlo sidelined with engine issues, was in great position for that score too.

Andrew Brousseau and Todd Patnode had big plans of their own, leaning all over LeClerc in their bids for the top spot. Patnode charged into second on lap 16, but LeClerc held strong. They swapped the lead back and forth on laps 24-26, with Patnode then taking the top spot for good.

A Brousseau spin on lap 48 set up a classic in next week's Modified season finale. With Tyler Leary third on the night, just ahead of Brian Chapin and Kenny, Leary and Brousseau - sixth under the checkers Saturday, will enter the Championship Night final event only 2 points ahead in the 2026 points parade.

JD Stockwell has been the man at the front for much of the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model 2026 season, and Saturday was no exception, as the youthful Bernardston, MA star blasted to his tenth win of the summer and, with it, won his division's Triple Crown Series too.

Hillary Renaud took charge on lap two and held the top spot until Stockwell lowlined to the top spot on lap 20. Renaud kept it close the rest of the way, but Stockwell prevailed. A lap-34 pass brought Daniel Petrowicz home third, just ahead of Hagar, and Zach Zilinski completed the top five.

Tim O'Shea and Kevin Clayton were front row danc-

ing partners as Saturday's Keene Towing and Recovery Mini Stock feature went green. Clayton led the first trip around the high banks but then Craig Chaffee - from row two - took the lead.

Chaffee, gunning for his second win of the summer, had lots of company at the front, with past champions Jon Fultz and Louie Maher glued to his bumper every inch of the way. Fultz, the 2025 Mini Stock king, blasted to the top spot on lap 21, but Chaffee wasn't done yet.

Charging back to the front to lead lap 26 by a wheel, the second generation hot shoe then held strong to score the big Triple Crown Night win with Fultz at his bumper. Former Pure Stock champ Andrea St. Amour came on strong in the closing laps to earn her first Mini Stock trophy of the season in third, just ahead of Tim Paquette, who had a big night of his own.

Paquette didn't have the fastest car on this night, but ran a smart race to come home fourth, just enough to win the Triple Crown championship. One-man gang Pat Houle was fifth under the checkers in Saturday's 30-lapper.

Dylan Zullo led a star-stacked field of 25 to the green for Saturday's Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock feature. The speedway's 2025 Limited Late Model champ, Zullo had struggled through an uneven season in the Pure Stocks.

Saturday, though, the second-generation Claremont ace put it all together, leading all the way to score an easy win. Behind him, the battle was fast and furious, with both the Triple Crown

and Weekly Racing Series points very much up for grabs.

Rookie rocketman Josh Brigham, heavily wrecked a week earlier, got up for second early but had nothing for the speedy Zullo. His strong runner-up finish, though, put him back solidly into the hunt for the 2026 track championship. Coupled with top points man Jimmy Zellman's sixth-place finish Saturday, Brigham will enter the season finale only five markers shy of Zellman in their airtight battle for the Pure Stock title.

Kyle Begos, strong every week, finished third Saturday, just ahead of Maya Bell, who is surging in the final weeks of the season. Previous winner Linsey Wenzel impressed in fifth, holding off Zellman, who finished still atop the 2026 points parade but one spot shy of the Triple Crown championship.

Amherst, NH hot shoe Michael Yeaton - a six-time 2026 Pure Stock feature winner - entered Saturday's Triple Crown 30-lapper five points atop Zellman. Firing from way back in row eight, Yeaton's seventh place finish was all he needed to earn his first career Triple Crown title on the high banks.

In Saturday's Senior Tour Auto Racers Modified feature, John Jalbert of Gardner, MA drove his 1973 Pinto-bodied entry to first place. Gary Moore was second, and Chris Jarrett, aboard a 1940 Buick Coupe open-wheeler was third.

In the STAR Sportsman feature, Anthony Mendoza of Taunton, MA guided his 1936 Chevy Coupe to victory. John Mulcahy was second, and Ken Archambault raced home third.

Obituary

Richard Lavalette, Sr.

Richard Lavalette Sr., 77 of Mooresville, North Carolina, died Sept. 16, 2026, after a prolonged illness.

Known as Buddy to his family and friends, he was born Nov. 15, 1948, in Springfield, Massachusetts, and grew up in neighboring Agawam, where he graduated from high school in 1966. Following graduation, he enlisted and served in the U.S. Army. He then embarked on a three-decade career with the phone company, first as a technician for New England Telephone and then for AT&T before joining the "Baby Bells" as a telephone lineman. His aptitude for fixing things extended to home, where he was as capable of repairing a car or plumbing problem as he was doing woodworking or gardening. He spent years playing high-level competitive softball and then coached youth baseball, enjoying both the competition and teaching while passing down his love of the game to young players.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Charlotte (Cooley); three sons: Richard Jr. (Lindsay), of Mooresville,



North Carolina; Christopher (Melissa), of Denver, Colorado; and Cory (Barbara), of Raleigh, North Carolina; grandchildren Izzy, Brodie, Ryder and Trey; and two sisters, Genie Milillo (Nick), of Feeding Hills, Massachusetts, and Valerie Armitage, of West Springfield, Massachusetts. He was predeceased by his parents, Eugene and Josephine.

There will be a celebration of life at a future date in Agawam, MA.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to S. Mitchell Mack Hospice House, 1325 Mecklenburg Hwy, Mooresville, NC 28115.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the Lavalette family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

DEATH NOTICE

Lavalette, Richard Sr.
Born: Nov. 15, 1948
Died: Sept. 16, 2026
Cavin Cook Funeral Home & Crematory

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. Suggested drop-off items include Chef Boyardee, pasta, mac and cheese, tuna, soup, rice baked beans, and cereal.

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.

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.
HD26P2005EA
Estate of:
Elizabeth Ann Hammett
Date of Death: 06/17/2026
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 A Bonfitto of Palmer, 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 A Bonfitto of Palmer, 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 10/19/2026. 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 18, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
09/24/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P1980EA
Estate of:
Paul Anthony McDonough
Also known as:
Paul A McDonough
Date of Death: 06/23/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Daniel McDonough of Longmeadow, 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 Daniel McDonough of Longmeadow, 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 10/14/2026. 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 16, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
09/24/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD26P1981EA
Estate of:
Robert H. Yon
Also Known As:
Robert Henry Yon
Date of Death:
February 16, 2026
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Daniel R.

Yon of Belchertown, MA
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Daniel R. Yon of Belchertown, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
09/24/2026

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13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
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
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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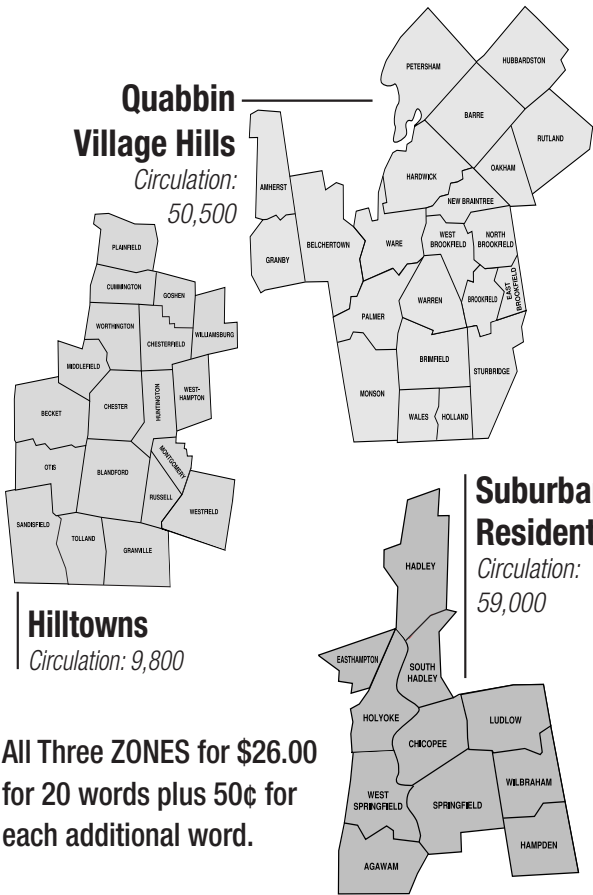
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VOLLEYBALL ■ from page 9

The Lady Falcons responded with an 8-2 run, which included back-to-back aces from Elcin.

Minnechaug's largest lead of the second set was 24-15.

Agawam managed to win the next three points before a Powers kill gave the Lady Falcons a commanding 2-0 overall lead in the match.

Just like they did in the second set, the Brownies held a 12-7 in the third set following a kill by sophomore Ella Mihalicenco.

The Lady Falcons battled back and never trailed again after retaking the lead at 16-15.

Minnechaug will be looking to sweep the season series when they travel to Agawam High School on Oct. 6. The varsity match is scheduled to start at 6:15 p.m.



Daniela Mozolevskiy sends a spike to the other side.



Lola Fluery goes for a set over the net.



Julianna Castro makes a play on defense.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Goalie Kayleen Sullivan scoops up the ball.

SOCCER ■ from page 8

Sullivan made a save during the final minutes, but her teammates couldn't score the tying goal.

The second meeting of the regular season between the two squads is scheduled to take place at Agawam High School at 6pm on October 8.

SCHOOLS ■ from page 1

get done during the summer time and how much work you have to put into it for the grants and all the money coming in and out," Committee Member Shelly Reed said. "It's a lot of work and we really appreciate it."

"I think you're one of the most underappreciated people in the school system," Committee Member Michael Perry said. "Thank you for all the work you do."

Clickstein also took a moment to shout out everyone else who helped the projects come together.

"All the projects that took place and are going to take place couldn't happen without Brian Pagella from building maintenance, our Procurement Officer Jen Bonfiglio, and the mayor," Clickstein said.

Clickstein is also planning several new projects for the fiscal year of 2027.

Agawam received the green communities grant which will fund the upgrade to the lighting system at Sapelli school.

Moreover, Clickstein

plans to replace the heating boiler system at Phelps school thanks to the funds from the Agawam after school program.

Furthermore, thanks to the high school building project, two bleachers from the high school will go to the Agawam Junior High School in December.

AJHS may also receive replacement of some of its epoxy flooring.

Clickstein also hopes to begin transitioning school safety systems including fire alarms, security, elevators and 911 emergency lines from traditional landlines to cellular communications.

This transition will make communication even more efficient in the case of emergencies.

Finally, Clickstein hopes to get MSBA funding to replace the roofs of the elementary schools, with the potential of also adding solar panels.

Clickstein will keep the school committee up to date about all of these projects as they continue to move forward.

LIBRARY ■ from page 1

ers of Other Languages, that meets Wednesday evenings. There is a fee for the ESOL classes and details can be found on our website. We always try to offer additional programs of interest each month, and coming up this fall we have programs featuring hiking, author talks, graveyards, Native American history, the Bizarre Bazaar, using hemp for wellness, a USO dance music program, sound healing and the annual Festival of Trees."

There is also a monthly adult board game night.

Weingart said there will be many great events for children and teens at the library.

"We have a number of fun reoccurring events throughout the year including, but not limited to: scavenger hunts, joke days, weekly crafts, a community mosaic poster, and monthly coloring pages that get displayed at the library," Weingart says. "We will also have some extra special programs coming up this fall including a Winnethe-Pooh Birthday Party, family movies, Lego-themed programs, and so much more."

There will also be a new reading challenge for patrons to enjoy.

"We will have a Winter Reading Challenge in January 2027," Weingart. "During the Winter Reading Challenge participants will be challenged to work together to reach a Reading Goal. Last year the goal was to have the community work together to log 1,500 hours of reading. We were able to do that, and more! For Winter Reading 2027 the goal

will be a bit higher and we'll all need to work together to reach this goal. During the Winter Reading Challenge there will also be chances to win prizes just for logging reading."

Frost reminds residents to sign up for a library card in September.

"September is Library Card Sign Up Month, and for the month anyone who comes in to get a new or renewed library card will get a prize," Frost said. "For anyone who hasn't been to the library in a number of years, this is a terrific time to get reacquainted with the library and all of the services offered here. Come explore what the Agawam Public Library has available for you."

Frost hopes people will come out to the library and see what is offered.

"Libraries are one of the few places where people can visit and not have to spend any money," Frost said. "With a library card, patrons can access books, dvds, audiobooks, online materials, magazines, newspapers, research databases, museum and park passes, puzzles, artwork and now our new library of things. Coming up on Sept. 28, the library is hosting Good Neighbor Day with a host of activities designed to bring out folks in our area to get to know one another."

Agawam Library is dedicated to bringing fun and educational events and programs to the community each season for free. For more information about upcoming events and programs, and to register for events visit the library's website.

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