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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

September 28, 2023 | Vol. 45, No.31 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Mosaic leaves impression at art show



A group photo of the team behind The New England Mosaic, the community art display featured in the "Fall into Art" Art Show at Hampden Senior Center.

SUBMITTED PHOTO CEIL ROSSI

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer

HAMPDEN – The community stopped by the senior center on Sept. 23 from 3 - 8 p.m. and Sept. 24 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. for the "Fall into Art" Art Show.

The art show was held in the community room, featuring photography, acrylic, pastel and oil paintings, ceramic pottery, jewelry and metal art.

This show also featured The New England Mosaic, a 24-inch mosaic wall with six by six canvas tiles designed by creative communities throughout Western Massachusetts, with attendees having the opportunity to purchase the tiles for \$25 and the proceeds supporting scholarships for local art students.

This year's theme was "New England's Seasons: Beauty, Bounty and Favorite Pastimes."

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Council approves reduction in COA membership

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The city council voted unanimously at their Sept. 12 meeting to approve reducing the number of members on the Council on Aging from 13 to seven.

The COA has been struggling recently to have enough members present at meetings to have a quorum. According to Executive Director of the COA Michael Squindo the council currently only has seven active members of the 13 supposedly on the council. At least seven members are needed to hold a quorum, making it difficult for them to conduct business regularly as if even one member is absent, their meeting cannot continue.

The issue was first presented to the city council at their meeting on Aug. 7 where they referred it to the legislative committee.

The Legislative Committee agreed that this change was in the best interests of the town and recommended it back to the city council.

"They would like to reduce it

down to seven due to the lack of interest to try to serve and get a quorum together to conduct the activity they need to legally and lawfully to have a quorum," City Councilor and Chair of the Legislative Committee Anthony Suffriti said. "The committee is sending a positive recommendation to the council."

The COA is an advisory board that works with the mayor and the executive director of the COA to recommend actions to support the senior population of the town. The COA voted unanimously on this change to send it to the city council.

"The board had recommended reducing the board to seven," Squindo said.

If the city council hadn't made this vote, Squindo and Mayor William Sapelli had been concerned over whether or not the COA would be able to continue their work.

"We have not had a COA board meeting regularly in a while, which impedes the ability of the advisory board to do their

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William P. Sapelli Elementary School goes through 'rebranding' process

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – William P. Sapelli Elementary School, formerly known as Robinson Park Elementary School, has been working on rebranding in honor of their new school name.

The school committee voted at their meeting on June 27 to change the name of Robinson Park Elementary School to William P. Sapelli Elementary School in honor of all Sapelli has done for the town.

Since that decision, the staff

SCHOOL | page 10



The newly renamed William P. Sapelli Elementary School is rebranding, coming up with new mottos and programs to go with their new name.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

AHS receives grant to study school structure

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam High School received a grant of \$100,000 from the Barr Foundation to be used throughout this upcoming school year to go toward improving the structure of the school system.

"It's called a dreamers grant... and a dreamers grant is not about buying materials or things, but reimagining a high school and being

given a year to just explore that," Agawam High School Principal Jim Blain said.

Blain was given this grant by Superintendent Sheila Hoffman and he said it was right up his alley. Blain, Hoffman and AHS Assistant Principal Tim Karetka wrote the grant, which was due in April, and go through a series of intensive interviews in order to receive the funds.

Finally, in June, they were awarded \$100,000 for the year, a

feat Blain was proud of.

"The application process was detailed, it had us examine our strengths and weaknesses, it had us examine our data," Blain said. "Superintendent Hoffman and Tim Karetka were great partners in writing a grant together."

A group has been pulled together, called the catalyst team, that will all be working throughout this school year to truly exam-

GRANT | page 10



Beer and Wine Tasting fundraiser to be held Oct. 13

AGAWAM – The Annual Harvest Craft Beer and Wine Tasting sponsored by McCarthy's Liquors of Agawam will take place rain or shine on Friday evening, Oct. 13, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main St. Proceeds from the event are being generously donated to the Captain Charles Leonard House by the McCarthy family to aid in the preservation of the historic structure, which was built in 1805 and has served as Agawam's Community House since 1939.

Tickets to the event are \$45 per person in advance and are available at McCarthy's Liquors, 430 Main Street, Agawam, and Nickey's Pizzeria, 1000 Main Street, Agawam. Guest must be at least 21 years old to attend this event. This event 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.

The event will feature a variety of wines and craft beers, including new and popular offerings. A range of price points will be represented, and beer and wine distributor's representatives will be on hand to present the selections and answer questions. Food will be prepared by Nicky's Pizzeria. All food and beverages are included in the \$45 ticket price. A selection of door prizes will be raffled the night of the tasting. Trustees of the Captain Leonard House will also be on hand to provide tours of the house, which is available to rent for business and social functions.



The Annual Harvest Craft Beer and Wine Tasting is set for Friday, Oct. 13 to benefit the Captain Charles Leonard House. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Agawam Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sacred Heart Parish announces upcoming events

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

at 413-786 8200.

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

Free wellness seminar hosted at Agawam Senior Center

AGAWAM – Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., is hosting a free seminar called Simple steps to a fun and easy life presented by Raymond Rose on Friday, Oct. 13, at 1 p.m. Rose will discuss having an "Intentional Life", the importance of daily routines, how to care less about

issues that bother you, learning how to Say NO, planning your future, and health habits.

Walk-Ins are welcome or register by calling Kristina Lynch at the Senior Center at 413.821.0604 or send her an email at Klynch@agawam.ma.us.

Catholic Women's Club invites residents to pray the Rosary

AGAWAM – Members of the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will pray the Rosary on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St. The living rosary will begin at 6 p.m. Members should arrive by 5:30 pm. Refreshments

and the club's monthly business meeting will follow in the parish center. All Catholic women living in the Agawam/Feeding Hills or who are members of the town's Catholic parishes are welcome to attend this special devotion of the Rosary.

TJO craft fair to be held Sept. 30

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

It is a local craft fair that attracts some of the Pioneer Valley's finest crafters, along with hundreds of animal loving patrons, all to benefit homeless animals in the community.

There will be 30 vendors, great raf-

fles, Jeannies Weenies and Fat City Kid food trucks, music provided by Visual Sound Productions, pet merchandise for sale, bake sale and more. Special guests Jonathan Hall and Toto the Tornado Kitten will be stopping by for the afternoon.

Proceeds go directly to the medical care and treatment for Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center animals in need.

More information is available on www.tjofoundation.org, by emailing info@tjofoundation.org or by calling 413.306.5161

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 1,334 calls for service from Sept. 18 to Sept. 24 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Sept. 19

Michael McGarr Mead, 32, of no known address, was arrested at 10:41 p.m. for possession of a class A drug, possession of a class C drug, possession of a class E drug, violation of an abuse prevention order, entering a dwelling at night to commit a felony, and malicious destruction of property over \$1,200.

Wednesday, Sept. 20

Joshua Russell Chouinard, 32, of 643 Suffield St., Agawam, was arrested at

1:48 a.m. for vandalizing property and malicious destruction of property under \$1,200.

Thursday, Sept. 21

Mark Roguz, 42, of 25 High St., Agawam, was arrested at 8:00 p.m. on two counts of failure to appear in court.

Saturday, Sept. 23

Bryce Booth Wallace, 45, of 14 Duda Dr., Easthampton, was arrested for operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and leaving the scene of a property damage incident.

Sunday, Sept. 24

Luis Enrique Agudelo, 47, of 914 S. Westfield St., was arrested on a straight warrant.

Everglades Ecology, Wildlife, and Birds presentation Oct. 2

SPRINGFIELD – On Monday, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. the Allen Bird Club of Springfield will host the presentation, "The Everglades: Before and After" in the Tolman Auditorium of the Springfield Science Museum, 21 Edwards St., Springfield.

In this program, presenter Tom Tynning will describe the Everglades' remarkable mix of physical and biological aspects as well efforts to restore the natural flow and quality of water to Everglades National Park, where a remarkable mix of subtropical organisms exists. Tynning, who is an environmental scientist, teacher, birder, and herpetologist, will describe the history and ecological importance of this enormous "river of grass" and the area's other amazing natural wonders.

The Allen Bird Club is a nonprofit organization that has been bringing Greater Springfield area birders together since 1912. This presentation is open to the public free of charge.



Author O'Boyle is leading a retreat

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

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

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

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

DPW wants batteries disposed of properly, offers tips

The Agawam Department of Public Works would like to remind the public of the dangers of throwing rechargeable batteries in the trash or recycling containers.

According to the Towns Environmental Project Coordinator Tracy DeMaio, there have been two reported incidents over the past six months. The town's trash hauler, Republic Services, has had to stop collection and call for Fire Department support due to improperly disposed items in the trash, one of which was clearly started from a discarded rechargeable battery.

Rechargeable batteries used in many household products contain a variety of heavy metals and other materials that can be harmful to human health and our environment, if not handled properly. When you put rechargeable batteries in your recycling or trash container, you're putting workers and facilities at risk. Taking these batteries to a drop off site may be an inconvenience, although the safer and required method of disposal.

Rechargeable batteries are often found in household items such as cell phones, lap tops, power tools, and small electronics. These batteries may be removed or permanently attached to the device. Recharge-



able battery types include lithium-ion (Li-ion), nickel cadmium (Ni-cd), nickel-metal hydride (Ni-MH), nickel-zinc (Ni-Zn) and small sealed lead batteries (Pb). These types of batteries contain reactive chemicals and metals that generate electrical energy and should never go in any trash or recycling bin.

Rechargeable batteries, along with Button-Cell and Lithium (Li), may be recycled at Home Depot, Staples, or at the office of

the Department of Public Works (DPW), 1000 Suffield Street. Batteries brought to the DPW must have terminals or ends of batteries taped and in a clear bag as to reduce the risk of fire.

Before storing and transporting batteries, residents should be particularly aware of any Lithium Ion batteries that are damaged, defective or recalled (DDR), as they are hazardous and can combust violently

without warning. "It only takes one DDR lithium-ion battery to cause a fire, placing residents, workers and fire crews at risk" said Fire Chief Alan Sirois.

Lithium Ion batteries are classified as DDR if they:

- Are known to be defective or recalled by the manufacturer.
- Have been exposed to heat in excess of 130 degrees Fahrenheit, including any exposure to fire.
- Are swollen, puffy, dented, punctured, deformed, or have sustained physical or mechanical damage.
- Have leaked or vented liquid or gas.
- Are discolored, corroded, or emit an odor.
- Have been submerged in water for an extended period of time.
- Are known to have short circuited, been over charged, or sustained other electrical abuse.

If a battery is damaged, defective or recalled, it cannot be dropped off at the DPW. Residents should call the DPW at 821-0624 for proper drop off and disposal options. For more information about the disposal of household batteries, visit www.agawam.ma.us.

State Democratic party passes veterans charter amendment

WESTFIELD – At the Massachusetts State Democratic party's convention yesterday in Lowell, delegates passed a measure championed by State Sen. John Velis and Rep. Seth Moulton that will give veterans a stronger role in state party decisions.

"Less than 1% of our country's population serves in our military today. This proposal will help ensure that our veterans have full representation at our state party conventions and have a voice in the important decisions that our party makes," said Velis, who is Senate Chair

of the State Legislature's Veterans' Committee and a veteran of the US Army Reserves. "I am grateful to Congressman Moulton for his partnership on this important initiative, and to all the delegates who advocated and supported this motion alongside us."

In addition to the minimum 2,500 delegates required for state conventions, the state party's charter allows "add-on" delegates to be selected to ensure diversity. The amendment passed yesterday updates the state party's charter to allow veterans to be named as "add-on"

delegates alongside other "marginalized communities", including underrepresented ethnic and racial groups, LGBTQ+ individuals, individuals with disabilities, and youth.

Velis, who was one of the first elected officials to publicly endorse the measure, communicated with many Western Massachusetts delegates about the measure ahead of yesterday's convention. He noted that delegates were overwhelmingly receptive to the proposal.

"Yesterday's convention underscores the strong commitment that our state

party, and our commonwealth, is making to support our veterans and service-members," said Velis. "Massachusetts veterans have selflessly and courageously served our nation and understood the importance of protecting our democracy. Their insight and experience are invaluable to the decisions our state party makes and I am glad to have played a role in getting this measure across the finish line."

With the charter amendment now adopted, veterans will now be eligible to be named as "add-on" delegates at future party conventions.

WSU Foundation to hold auction

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

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

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

For more information, please visit westfieldalumni.org.

Westfield State University to host job fair on Oct. 12

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University will be hosting its annual Government, Criminal Justice and Non-Profit Career Fair on Thursday, Oct. 12, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the Woodward Center, 395 Western Ave.

The fair offers a convenient opportunity for Westfield students and residents to network with employers and learn what it would be like to work for area non-profits and government agencies.

Representatives from police departments throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut and New Hampshire will be available to answer questions and showcase their agencies to prospective employees. Some of the registered city and town agencies include Amherst, Enfield,

CT., Holyoke, Northampton, and Westfield. Registered state police agencies include Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York.

Registered non-profits and government agencies include, May Institute, Center for Human Development, Gandara Center, Match Education, Peace Corps, SeviceNet, Wellpath and Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

The job fair is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the South Lot off Western Avenue. Shuttle service will run continually throughout the event.

For more information, contact the Career Center at Westfield State University, 413-572-5206.



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Opinion

Guest Column



Nonagenarian war veteran asks about extra credit for his service

Dear Rusty

I'm turning 95 this year and am caretaker for my wife in our 70th year of marriage. I served before 1968 (1951-53) during the Korean War. How do the "special extra credits for military service" work for me? Is it retro-active? My wife, who only worked a short time, gets half of my Social Security so would it affect hers, too?

Signed: Korean War Veteran

Dear War Veteran

First, I want to express my gratitude for your war-time service to our country and I also applaud your 70 years of marriage. Thank you, and congratulations.

Regarding the "special extra credit" for military service, Social Security FICA taxes weren't withheld from military pay prior to 1957 so you didn't pay Social Security payroll taxes from your military earnings during the years you served.

As a result, Social Security would have no record of your military earnings during those 1951-1953 service years. But when you claimed Social Security later in life, they would have asked if you served in the military and given you "special extra credit" in the form of presumed earnings for your service years.

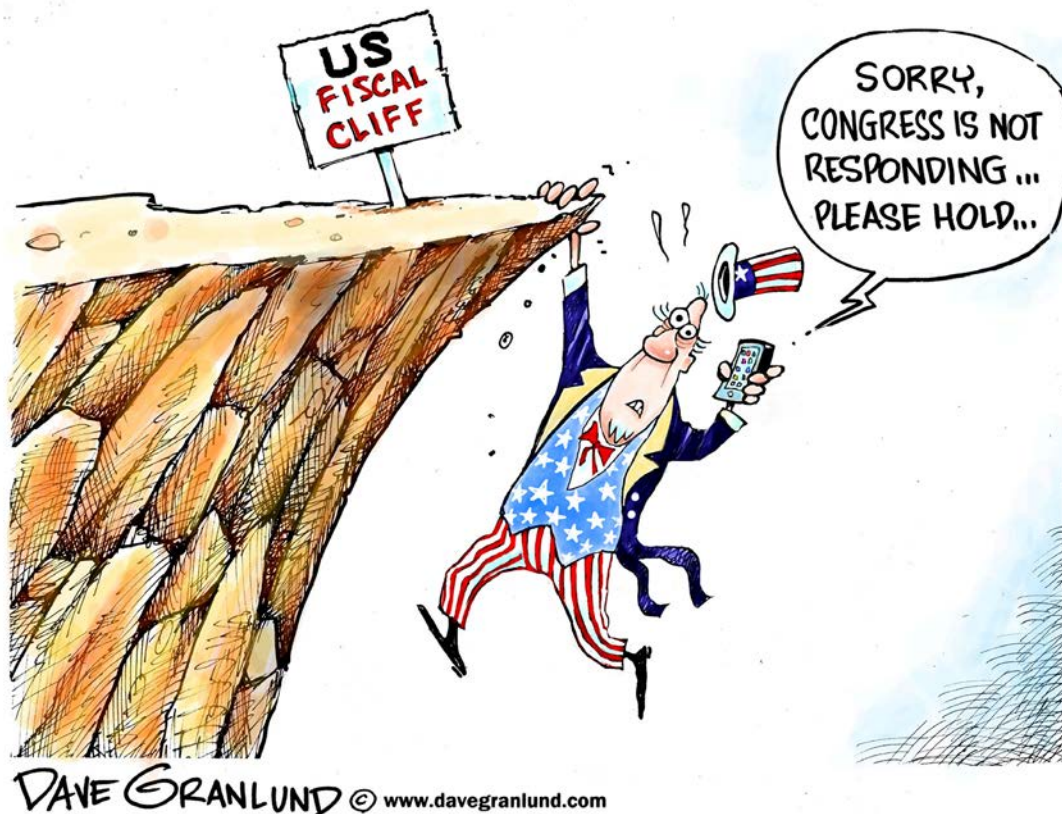
They likely would have asked for a copy of your DD-214 and would have added \$160 to your earnings record for each active duty month during those 1951-1953 years. Note they do not give you an extra amount of Social Security; rather, for benefit computation purposes, they reflect your earnings for those years a bit higher than are shown in your earnings record, which would likely show zero for your service years.

For example, if you served 12 months active duty in 1952, when your Social Security benefit was calculated they would consider your 1952 earnings as \$1,920 (\$160 x 12), instead of the zero shown in your record because you didn't actually pay FICA tax on your military pay. But whether those extra earnings credits would have any effect on your Social Security benefit is a separate item.

Assuming you had earnings from regular employment over your lifetime and paid into Social Security from those non-military earnings, you became eligible for Social Security benefits from earnings outside of your military service. If you worked and earned a decent salary for at least 35 years, then those special extra credits for your military service years would have no effect on your Social Security benefit.

If you had less than 35 years of regular non-military employment, then those extra earnings added for your military service years counted and provided you with a slightly higher Social Security benefit when you claimed.

So, the bottom line is this: if, over your lifetime, you worked for at least 35 years paying into Social Security via FICA payroll or self-employment tax, then the "special extra credits" for your military service years had no effect on your Social Security benefit. But if you worked less than 35 years in which SS taxes were withheld from your earnings, then those "special extra credits for military service" contributed to and increased your Social Security benefit when you claimed.



Letters to the Editor

Cleaning up and planning ahead



Let's just say that all the rain made vegetable gardening a real challenge this year. Why don't we call it a wrap and do what we can now to get ahead of the game for next year!

Most of my veggie plants have already called it quits. Other than a half row each of carrots and beets, and the last succession of green bean plants, there is pretty much nothing left to harvest in my main garden.

I still have some great peppers in the raised beds. Clean up will start in the main garden for now.

Where do I begin? First, I will haul off whatever I can to the compost pile, excluding as many weeds as possible. I will also leave out thick plant stalks such as broccoli; they will take too long to break down.

Diseased plants are also a no-no; they belong in the trash.

Think of the compost pile as an outdoor lasagna made of layers of brown and green plant parts. Brown, carbon rich ingredients (such as chopped leaves) can be layered with green, nitrogen rich ingredients (such as grass clippings, over grown vegetables and scraps, and those non-weedy plant parts) to get the pile cooking.

Add a shovel full of garden soil or finished compost per layer to inoculate it with microbes and water well. Let the pile sit for a year or turn it frequently for faster results.

Compost is a near neutral source of humus, a well-balanced fertilizer and soil tonic good for all types of gardens and even the lawn.

The garden plot is looking better, but I still have lots of weeds to deal with. I've been told that if you miss one year's seeding it's seven years weeding, so there is no way I am going to take the easy route and rototill them in.

As I pull up the weeds by hand, I vow to be a better weeder next year, or better yet, mulch more and weed less.

My chickens, however, are thrilled with my shortcomings! They gobble down those seed heads

GARDEN | page 5

Types of animal shelters



Did you know there are different types of animal shelters? Years ago, when I first started volunteering in the world of animal rescue, I learned the difference between open admission shelters, limited admission shelters, and local animal rescues.

All three serve a vital role, requiring equal amounts of care and support from us.

Municipal Shelters

Municipal animal shelters are run by a government, operating on a budget just like police departments, public health departments, and more. These shelters work as part of a city or county's animal control division, and are most often funded with taxpayer monies, aiming to assist animals within the shelter's authority while also protecting humans from the potential hazards posed by animals. As per certain regulations, municipal shelters are often contractually required to take in any animal, regardless of health, disposition, or age—including every single dog that's surrendered, every stray cat, animals that are sick, kittens too young for adop-

tion, animals taken from hoarding situations, and so much more. Because of this, municipal shelters are considered "open admission" and risk becoming overstrained. As part of a governmental body, the requirement that falls on these shelters is to serve the public as a whole.

Private Shelters

While some privately-run shelters do contract with one or more municipalities, most are independently-operated nonprofit facilities—not run by a government. Private shelters often have a Board of Directors establishing policies, procedures, operations, and bylaws within the shelter, and while private shelters can be open admission (if they're contracted with a municipality) they're most often considered "limited admission." This means that private shelters can choose which animals they take in, and they are able to turn animals away. Private shelters are typically funded through donations, as opposed to an operating budget.

Rescue Organizations

Nonprofit rescue groups are another alternative to consider when adopting a pet; these groups can have a physical location, but often do not and are "foster-based," relying on a network of foster homes instead. These organizations often take in animals from overburdened open admission shelters, and many function exclusively on donations and the efforts of volunteers.



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\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand \$1.00

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail aan@turley.com.

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

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Pumpkin Patch Festival to be held Oct. 14

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

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

Governor earmarks funding to help build East-West passenger train service

BOSTON – Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Rep. Jim McGovern (MA-02) and Rep. Richard Neal (MA-01) today joined the Healey administration in celebrating \$108 million from the Department of Transportation, under its Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grant program, for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to build capacity for eventual East-West passenger train service running through Boston, Worcester, and Western Massachusetts.

Specifically, the project will improve railway infrastructure, including tracks, signals, grade crossings, and bridges along the Inland Route Corridor. In addition, the project will increase Amtrak Lake Shore Limited's capacity to make daily round trips at higher speeds to enhance not only travel times but also connections between Eastern Massachusetts and Upstate New York.

"From Boston to Springfield to Pittsfield, railways serve as an essential and green mode of transportation-connecting our commonwealth and our communi-

ties," said Markey. "I applaud the Department of Transportation for heeding our calls to provide \$108 million in federal funding so that communities in central and western Massachusetts can have efficient, safe, and reliable rail service. As a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, I will continue to advocate for safer, more expansive railway infrastructure to make sure our Commonwealth's trains stay on track."

"I am thrilled we were able to secure this critical funding for central and western Massachusetts, which will lay the foundation for West-East Rail. From day one, we said our administration was going to compete for an unprecedented level of federal funding opportunities, and I'm proud to say we are delivering on that promise. We thank the Biden-Harris Administration for their continued historic investments in infrastructure and are grateful for the strong partnership of our federal delegation in promoting public transit and advancing priorities for economic competitiveness," said Healey.

"We are grateful to our congressio-

nal delegation for helping us secure this CRISI funding. Working with our elected leaders, municipal officials, Amtrak, CSX, and other partners we will be launching capital projects on this corridor which will have long-term positive economic impacts on the region, which will allow for additional corridor capacity, and which will decrease travel times between station destinations," said Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt.

Markey is a long-time advocate for comprehensive funding for the construction of the East-West passenger train service. In February, the Massachusetts congressional delegation celebrated more than \$550 million in federal funding through the Federal Transit Administration programs in the 2023 fiscal year to strengthen public transit across the commonwealth. In April 2022, Markey and Warren celebrated a \$537 million investment, through then Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, to provide Massachusetts with critical resources to upgrade the MBTA and regional transit systems, modernize fleets, cars and buses, and improve the resiliency of existing transit infrastructure.

SECURITY ■ from page 4

However, even if you worked for over 35 years outside of the military and the extra credits didn't matter for your Social Security benefit, your service to our country did, indeed, matter a great deal. From one veteran to another, thank you again for your service to our country.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administra-

tion 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.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

faster than their morning dose of carrot peelings.

At last, I have a clean slate. In preparation for sowing winter rye seed, I scuff up the soil surface.

If any Jumping Worms cross my path, I feed them to the chickens. Stay tuned for an entire article on the subject of these invasive worms next week.

Once prep is complete, I rake the soil smooth and broadcast the seed. At a rate of four pounds per one thousand square feet of garden, I use ten pounds.

It's a good idea to divide the seed in half and try to cover all the area you have once, then go back and fill in the light spots with the rest. After the seed has been sown, I'll drag the flat end of a steel rake over the soil surface to bury it ever so slightly.

My goal is to have the seed sprout now, so that its roots will hold the soil and its nutrients in place over the off season. Winter rye will put on an amazing amount of top growth by spring- weed whack or mow it first to make incorporating easier.

I am also contemplating "tarping" it to solarize the soil at the same time, then working in the dead plants by hand. Either way, if you do this for a few years in a row you'll watch the organic matter content of your soil soar, reportedly at a rate of three to four thousand pounds per acre!

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

SHELTERS ■ from page 4

Limited Admission vs. Open Admission Shelters

Open admission shelters will not, or cannot as per certain regulations, turn away an animal. This creates a problem when intake rates are high and resources are strained.

Limited admission shelters, on the other hand, are not obligated to accept every animal; they can say, "we're at capacity," or they can also accept only a specific group of animals, such as special needs pets or very young kittens, concentrating their resources and offering services that otherwise may not be available. These facilities are often considered "no-kill" as they will not euthanize animals regarded as healthy or adoptable.

Opinion: The Writer's Take

It's our duty to look beyond these labels to become part of the solution. I believe it's a mistake to criticize or vilify the open admission shelters that so urgently need our support. Without these facilities, the animals would have no place to go—these shelters must exist, and it's our job to help them, not decry them.

To be considered "no-kill," an organization must reach a 90 percent placement rate for the animals in their care, which

can include adoption, rescue transfers, and more. This is simply a more achievable standard for the limited admission shelters that can turn animals away, but the good news is that open admission shelters can also reach that "no-kill" status, although it requires a tremendous level of support from us, the community.

To help every open admission shelter get to this status, we must get involved. We must use our voices to spread truth and light, and we must contribute to the programming offered by these facilities. The goal of every animal shelter reaching this benchmark requires us to dig deep within ourselves, to identify where our help is needed, and to contribute our skills and efforts.

The employees and volunteers working in the world of animal rescue are some of the most compassionate and courageous souls I've met; they choose to do what they do because they love animals, and they often put every aspect of their own health on the line. Together, we can help.

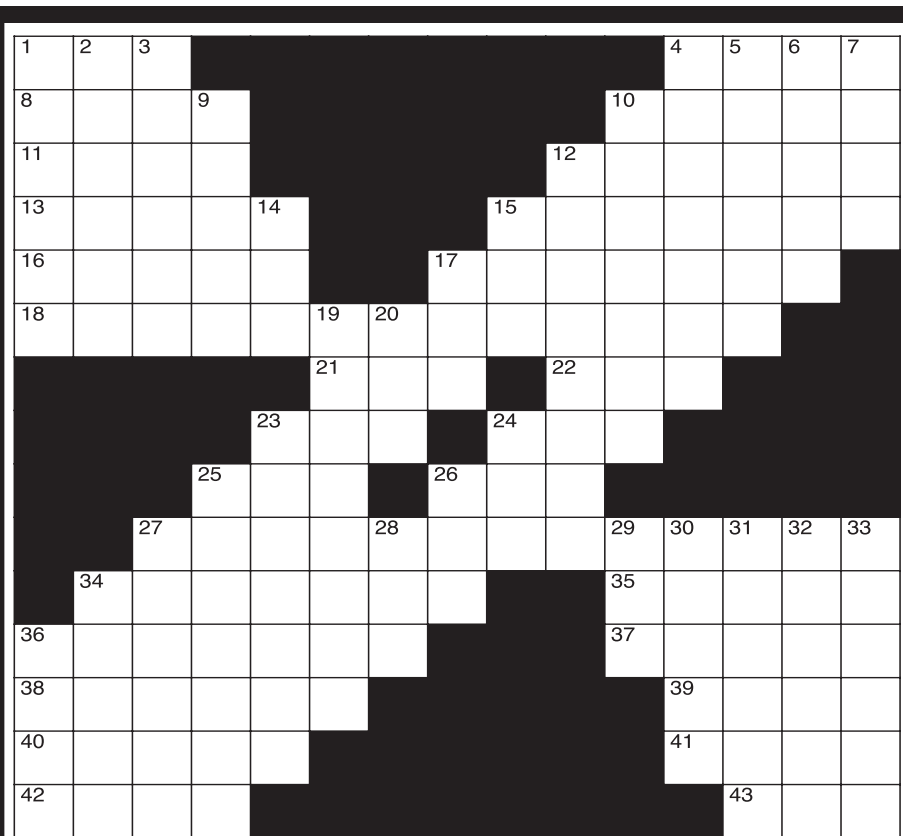
It's important that we focus our efforts not on labels but rather on what matters—the animals and the people working to help them.

Editor's Note: The following information was acquired over the course of my career as a journalist, through my work as an animal advocate, and through common knowledge.

NAMI Western MA looking for new board members

HOLYOKE – There is a growing need to help those who live with mental health conditions and their loved ones. NAMI Western Massachusetts is seeking individuals interested in joining our Board of Directors. NAMI Western Mass is an affiliate of NAMI Mass. NAMI-WM and its dedicated volunteers, members, and

leaders work tirelessly to raise awareness and provide essential education, advocacy, and support programs for people in our community living with mental health conditions and their loved ones. For more information please email information@namiwma.org or call the NAMI office at 413-786-9139.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Outsourcing (abbr.)
- 4. Post
- 8. German city on edge of Black Forest
- 10. "___, but goodie"
- 11. Spiced stew
- 12. Passionately
- 13. Monetary units
- 15. Group of living organisms
- 16. Organic compound derived from ammonia
- 17. High honors
- 18. 5-year-olds' classes
- 21. Swiss river
- 22. Old woman

- 23. Cash machine
- 24. A way to soak
- 25. Hair product
- 26. Deride
- 27. "The Blonde Bombshell"
- 34. Cause to become insane
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Supported with money
- 37. Type of equation
- 38. Court officials
- 39. Indian god
- 40. Rids
- 41. Leak slowly through
- 42. Units of ionizing radiation
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Native of Slovakia
- 2. Deli meat
- 3. Fibrous substance in fungi
- 4. Cutting
- 5. Vedder and Van Halen
- 6. Horror comic novelist
- 7. Rulers of Tunis
- 9. Shaped like a circle
- 10. Make a pig of oneself
- 12. Aphorism
- 14. Witness
- 15. Single Lens Reflex
- 17. Freshwater North American

- fish
- 19. Nautical ropes
- 20. Leg (slang)
- 23. Pokes holes in
- 24. Moved quickly on foot
- 25. Fix-it shops
- 26. Type of bread
- 27. Repaired
- 28. Synthetic diamond (abbr.)
- 29. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 30. German city along the Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini necessities
- 33. Get away from
- 34. Village in Mali
- 36. Djibouti franc



The Holyoke Community College Jazz Ensemble performs during the "Fall into Art" Art Show at Hampden Senior Center. The students from the ensemble served as the event's entertainment.



Chris Sterritt shows off her oil painting, "My Buddies" that was showcased at the "Fall into Art" Art Show at Hampden Senior Center. Sterritt's art piece was one of many on display during the show, some available for purchase.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

ART SHOW ■ from page 1

Danielle Desmarais, one of the many attendees, heard about the show from a targeted ad on Facebook.

"I usually like wine and cheese events, art events or anything art-related, so you get the targeted ads and it said 'recommended for you' and I just saved a little picture and put it in my phone as an event and here I am," Desmarais said.

Demarais enjoyed checking out the metal art, the mixed media and acrylic paintings and the tiles from The New England Mosaic, adding she used to be a printmaker and enjoys talking to other artists at events.

"I'm happy to see so many other artists here and people just browsing for art and just talking and hanging out," Desmarais said.

Susan Superson has been with the artisans for six years, showcasing her acrylic painting "Meditation in Black and Blue."

Superson was thrilled to see so many people, encouraging support to local artists and art given what was happening in the country.

"It's even more important than ever that we really showcase art and artists and take the time to talk with them and support them by being all together," Superson said.

Ceil Rossi of the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans, the organization behind The New England Mosaic, credited Judy Lever-Duffy and Karen Conkey, explaining the project, brought to the area from Lever-Duffy, originated from the Florida Keys, where their project was known as "The Keys Connection."

She stressed how there are many opportunities for artists to make a living through their art, encouraging students to pursue scholarships.

"We are having a hard time getting kids to sign for the art scholarship, all over, and the reason is because they don't think there isn't any money going into school for art, but art isn't just art. It's graphic art," Rossi said. "There's art therapy teaching, of course, there's school teaching. They could go on to museums, be curators. A number of things that the art can lead to and lead from."

Nan Hurlburt, president of The Scantic River Artisans, said it's the organization's second year featuring the mosaic, the youngest participant at six years old and the oldest being 90.

Hurlburt was ecstatic about the turnout, as the artisans are always reaching out to the community to help them "experience every type of art."

"We have every type of artist here, so outreaching into the community is really our mission statement, it's who we are, so anything that we can do to improve that and get the word out and have people come who might not have ever been to an art show or people who are frequent fliers we like them to come down too," Hurlburt said.

Hurlburt wants the community to know how appreciative she is of the community support for the organization and artists, noting she loves seeing how happy everyone is when they come to the art shows.

"Breathtaking is all I can say," Hurlburt said.

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USDA INSP. FROZEN TWIN PAK PORK SPARE RIBS..... \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS \$7.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG..... \$1.89 ea
USDA INSP. SLICED IN OUR DELI PEPPER JACK CHEESE..... \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS TRAY PAK CHICKEN TENDERLOINS... \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SALMON FILLETS FULLY COOKED W/ GRILL MARKS..... \$5.99 ea
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SPORTS



Gabriela Cosenti plays the ball off her shin.



Alivia Carrier gets to the ball and clears it away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Brownies suffer pair of defeats

AGAWAM – Last Thursday night, Agawam girls soccer suffered a defeat against visiting East Longmeadow, breaking up a two-game win streak with a 3-0 loss. Agawam struggled to move the ball up the field while East Longmeadow played the possession game for most of the first half.

The Spartans would lead 2-0 at halftime.

The following night, Agawam lost to Chicopee Comprehensive 3-2.

The Brownies are now even at 3-3 on the season.



McKenna Podworski moves up the field.



Marlee Montagna corrals the ball and heads up the left side.



Mikayla Rosario looks for the pass.

Pope Francis breaks streak for Brownies

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School boys soccer team did not take a loss for four consecutive games, winning two games and tying two others. But last Thursday afternoon, Pope Francis would hand the boys a loss, 3-0. Agawam was unable to break through to the goal for just the second time this season. Agawam lost its season opener to Monument 1-0. Last Tuesday in the rainy weather, Agawam battled to a 3-3 tie with Hampshire Regional.

Cooper Gabriel-Achorn scored twice and Andrew Regnier had the third goal for the Brownies.

Agawam is now 2-2-2 this season and will face Monument Mountain again on Thursday, Sept. 28 at 4 p.m.

Field hockey

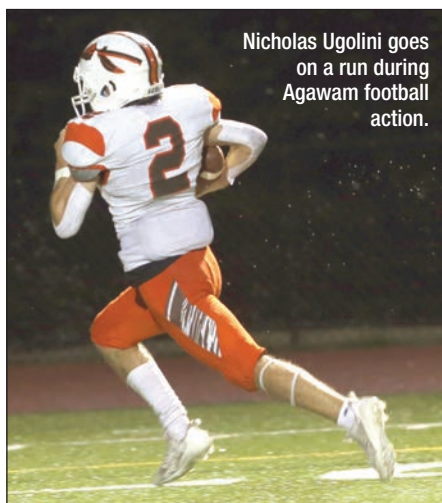
Minnechaug 2, Agawam 0

Last Wednesday afternoon, Agawam faced what could be the top team in Western Mass. this year in Minnechaug Regional. Agawam played tough, but could not score in the 2-0 loss, their first of the season.

Agawam is now 1-1-3 in the 2023 campaign. Agawam will face Frontier Regional on Thursday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at home.

Agawam football team suffers first loss

AGAWAM – After a nice pair of wins, Agawam football was defeated for the first time, losing to Westfield High School last Friday night. Agawam dropped to 2-1 on the season with the 41-6 loss. Westfield's offense dominated the early part of the game, scoring 33 points in the first half. Agawam did not score its only touchdown until the fourth quarter. Cole Ingham ran for 70 yards for the Brownies. Agawam could not answer Westfield's Kaevon Eddington, who ran for 216 yards. Agawam starts Suburban Conference action on Friday, Sept. 29 at home against West Springfield at 7 p.m.



Nicholas Ugolini goes on a run during Agawam football action.



Max Holloway heads off to running back Nicholas Ugolini.



Maxwell Holloway heads on a run.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

Sports

FSU edges WSU football

WESTFIELD – Framingham State's Jared Martino blocked a game-winning field goal attempt in the closing seconds as the Rams held on for a 9-8 win over Westfield State in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football game at Bowditch Field in Framingham on Saturday afternoon.

Both teams had to grind it out in rainy and windy conditions all day long, with the Rams taking a 3-0 lead late into the third quarter before Westfield seized the lead on a 22-yard Gabriel Fernandez touchdown pass to Michael Foley. On the ensuing point after try, the Owls came up with a two-point conversion when the kick attempt resulted in a broken play, and holder Owen Thompson was able to pitch the ball ahead to Blake Simpson in the endzone for the two point conversion. Thompson released the ball just as he was being brought down by the rush to give Westfield an 8-3 lead with less than a minute left in the third quarter.

Westfield had a chance to extend the lead in the fourth quarter, but a fumble gave Framingham possession at their own 5-yard line midway through the fourth quarter. The Rams mounted a seven-play, 95-yard scoring drive that was fueled by a bold 54-yard halfback option pass to Manny Lara out of the Framingham endzone, and capped by a 3-yard TD run from Devaun Ford to bring the score to give Framingham a 9-8 lead.

The two-point conversion failed when Westfield State's Cam Danahy dropped Kevin Leal in the backfield on the try.

The Owls got the ball back for a final scoring try with 3:57 left to play after a short punt gave Westfield 1st and 10 at their own 42. Westfield worked the ball into scoring possession with a methodical drive, getting a key fourth down conversion on a pass to Will Brewster and a pair of third down conversions to keep the drive alive.

Westfield set up for a 32-yard field goal try with seven seconds left, that could have won the game, but Martino flew in from the right side of the formation to block the attempt.

On a day where offense was hard to come by, Fernandez finished 12-29 passing for 162 yards, a touchdown and an interception. Brewster caught three balls for 62 yards, and Foley added five catches for 54 yards.

Ford led Framingham with 158 rushing yards on 27 carries, and the 54-yard pass that keyed the winning drive.

Tyler Cooley led Westfield with six tackles and a fumble recovery. Danahy picked off a pass for the Owls.

Westfield is now 0-4 overall and 0-2 in the MASCAC. Framingham is 1-2 overall and 1-1 in the conference.

The Owls will be home next Saturday, Sept. 30 to host Mass Maritime as part of Family and Champions weekend, with a noon kickoff at Alumni Field.

Worcester Railers signings round out 2023-2024 roster

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders), and General Manager and Head Coach Jordan Lavallee-Smotherman announced today that the club has signed defenseman Jake Schultz to an ECHL contract for the 2023-24 season.

Schultz, 27, signs in Worcester after winning the Federal Prospects Hockey League Defenseman of the Year award with the Binghamton Black Bears during the 2022-23 season. As captain in Binghamton, Schultz recorded 33 points (12G, 21A) in 41 games played to go with 136 penalty minutes. He notched career highs in goals, assists, and points last season. The 6'3", 209lb defenseman suited up in five road game for the Worcester Railers in 2022-23, recording two goals in a weekend series against the Newfoundland Growlers.

"Jake brings a toughness and size to our back end that we were missing last season," Lavallee-Smotherman said. "We noticed quickly in his brief time with us the positive impact he had on our locker room, and can't wait to have him embrace a leadership role for us this season."

The Rochester, NY native has made previous stops in the ECHL with the Indy Fuel, Wheeling Nailers, and Greenville Swamp Rabbits. In 48 career ECHL games, Schultz has recorded seven points (5G, 2A) and 127

penalty minutes. This will be the seventh season of his professional career.

"I'll do whatever it takes to earn the trust and respect of my teammates," Schultz said. "After last season, I'm hoping to put up some good numbers, too. I'm looking to bring that confidence that I had with me in Binghamton."

The Railers have announced twenty-three players officially signed for the 2023-24 season as Schultz joins Jack Quinn, Chris Ordoobadi, Connor Welsh, Myles Abbate, Todd Goehring, Ryan Verrier, Andrei Bakanov, John Copeland, Zach White, Quinn Ryan, Christian Evers, Brendan Robbins, Mike Higgins, Blake Christensen, Blade Jenkins, Max Johnson, Nick Fea, Artyom Kulakov, Anthony Callin, Keeghan Howdeshell, Adam Goodsir, and Anthony Repaci as the twenty-three signees. This concludes the Worcester Railers signings ahead of the 2023-24 season. The team's professional try-outs & full training camp roster are expected to be announced next week.

The Worcester Railers HC 2023-24 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Saturday, Oct. 21 and Sunday, Oct. 22 vs. the Adirondack Thunder and Trois-Rivieres Lions. Season memberships, mini-plans, and group packages for the 2023-24 season are on sale now by calling the Railers front office at 508-365-1750 or by visiting RailersHC.com.

Monadnock season concludes with championship races

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Five track champions were crowned last Saturday – Nate Wenzel and Michael Yeaton both first timers – as Monadnock Speedway closed out its 2023 racing season on Championship Day at the high-banked quarter-mile.

Late Model ace Tim Wenzel won his crown for the second season in row, Louie Maher is now a two-time king of the Mini Stocks, and then there's Chris Davis. Davis ran a conservative race Saturday to wrap up his fourth Pure Stock title, those along with a Mini Stock championship to boot.

Cole Littlewood and Geoff Rollins led the swarming 19-car NHSTRA Modified field to the green Saturday, with the 100-lapper not only deciding the 2023 track championship, but also contested as the third of four NHSTRA Quest For The Cup races.

Defending track champ Tyler Leary entered Saturday two points ahead of Nate Wenzel, while Wenzel sat atop the Quest leaderboard. Others, including Rollins, were in the Quest hunt too, a battle that will be decided at Lee.

Leary took the lead from Rollins on lap three but, seven circuits later, it was open-wheel rookie Scott Zilinski at the point, his mirror soon filled by Trevor Bleu's ride and, just behind that, JT Cloutier's.

Bleu took charge on lap 19 but his stay up front was brief, as Cloutier had the lead three laps later. In front, he'd open a huge lead until a lap 43 caution – one of a dozen on the afternoon – brought the pack back to his bumper, and Zilinski to his side.

Getting the jump, Zilinski began his second run at the head of the class on lap 44, again with some major thunder at his back bumper. Wenzel, his nostrils filled with the warm aroma of a pending championship, took over on lap 74, and he never looked back.

When Leary and Zilinski made contact in turn three five laps later, the title chase was over. Cloutier, who'd survived an unnecessary bouncing off the frontchute wall back on lap 59, got back up for second on the 80th go-round, then following Wenzel under the checkers to conclude his own successful season.

With Wenzel earning his first NHSTRA track Modified crown, and solidifying his point lead in the Quest chase, he joined his younger brother, Tim, in celebrating their 2023 sibling Monadnock championships. With Cloutier strong in second, Kimmy Rivet, who earlier this summer survived a horrific crash, ended her summer on the podium with a third-place finish.

Rollins, who struggled through a large-

ly forgettable Saturday afternoon, made masterful use of no fewer than four trips to the pits to stay on the lead lap and finish fourth, keeping his Quest hopes alive for the series' finale next month.

Tim Wenzel, as his brother Modified hot shoe Nate would do later in Saturday's event, closed out his championship summer with an exclamation point, romping to his track-high sixth victory of the summer in the Late Model main.

Taking the lead from Andrew Brousseau on lap 19, Wenzel never looked back. Brousseau, though, didn't fare as well. Picked off by a lapper with three to go, he finished fifth on the day. Hillary Renaud concluded her successful summer in second, and Claremont's Dylan Zullo used a last-lap pass to earn the third-place hardware.

Cameron Sontag rocketed to his third win in a row in the Mini Stock feature, taking the lead from Louie Maher with two laps to go. Maher, though, offered little resistance, riding his runner-up finish to the 2023 championship. Pat Houle, in his strongest run of the summer, came home third.

Colton Martin, trading rides for the day with Andrea St. Amour, blew the field away to win Saturday's Pure Stock feature. Chris Chambers, in St. Amour's team car, was second, and Zach Zilinski earned the first

of his two Championship Day trophies in third.

Chris Davis, who'd seen a title slip away from him in last year's season finale, stayed clear of trouble Saturday, cruising home in fifth to add another championship trophy to his large collection.

Zach Zilinski wired the Six Shooter feature to win his second in a row. Steve Miller Jr. stayed glued to the 16-year-old pilot's bumper to finish second, while Michael Yeaton's third-place run netted him the 2023 championship.

Markus O'Neil led all the way to score his second Young Gun victory of the year Saturday. He had four-time winner Owen Zilinski draped all over him for most of the way but never faltered en route to victory. Addison Brooks came home third.

Oval-tracker Cole Littlewood, aboard the family Honda, won Saturday's Spectator Race finale, stealing the win out of the last turn from Xander Stillwell.

Last Saturday's 2023 Championship Day event concluded Monadnock Speedway's 2023 racing season. The high-banked speedplant will take on a new and improved look in the coming weeks, as it receives an entirely new racing surface, its first since the initial paving was completed a half-century ago.

Rescheduled date of October 14 for Dragon Boat Festival

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hundreds of paddlers from New England participate in the festival races. A dragon boat festival team is comprised of up to 20 paddlers who race against other teams in 200-meter races on the Connecticut River. Each race lasts about one minute, and each team races at least three times on the day of the festival. Dragon Boating originated in China 2,000 years

ago and today is one of the world's fastest growing team water sports. The festival makes it easy for anyone to participate and spectate.

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

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

Public Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

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

Doreen A. Prouty
Chairperson
Agawam Zoning
Board of Appeals
09/21, 09/28/2023

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS Hampden, s.s.

TRIAL COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH SUPERIOR COURT

CASE NO. 2379CV-00383

CHARLENE DEGRAY and TODA A. DEGRAY, Plaintiffs

vs. ETHEL E. (SMITH) SLATER, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest

KENNETH EARL SMITH, deceased, his heirs, assigns and successors in interest

ELEANOR GERTRUDE ROGERS SMITH, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest

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

SHERILEE SMITH WHITMAN, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest,

ELLIS SHANE BRAGDON, deceased, his heirs, assigns, GERALDINE ELLA SMITH HERSOM, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest,

ANITA LOUISE SMITH EVERETT, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest,

JEAN D. EVERETT RICH JOHNSON, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest,

Defendants

ORDER OF NOTICE

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

Ordered and Adjudged that an order of notice issue to said Defendants, ETHEL E. (SMITH) SLATER deceased, KENNETH EARL SMITH, deceased, ELEANOR GERTRUDE ROGERS SMITH, deceased, LEWIS E. SMITH, deceased, SHERILEE SMITH

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

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

Unless otherwise provided by Rule 13 (a) your answers must state as a counterclaim any claim you have against the Plaintiffs, Charlene DeGray and Toda A. DeGray, which arises out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject matter of the Plaintiffs' claim or you will thereafter be barred from making any such claim in any other action.

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD15P0741EA
Estate of:
Ann H. McManus
Date of Death: 02/27/2015
CITATION ON

PETITION FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF SUCCESSOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed by: **Kelly Doktor of Westfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order that **Kelly Doktor of Westfield, MA** be appointed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 10/13/2023.

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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal 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 recipients 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.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/28/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23C0275CA
In the matter of:
John William McMordie
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **John William McMordie**

of Agawam, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

John Charles Reynolds
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/17/2023.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 19, 2023
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/28/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hamden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD23P1939PM
In the matter of:
Phyllis J Pearson
Of: Agawam, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/Minor)
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Daniel Gibbs of Feeding Hills, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Phyllis J Pearson** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Daniel Gibbs of Feeding Hills, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 10/13/2023. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further

notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
09/28/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23C0224CA

In the matter of:

Sommer A Zebian

CITATION ON PETITION

TO CHANGE NAME

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

Anyx Sommer-Rose

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/18/2023.**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 20, 2023

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate

09/28/2023

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

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Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to



Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
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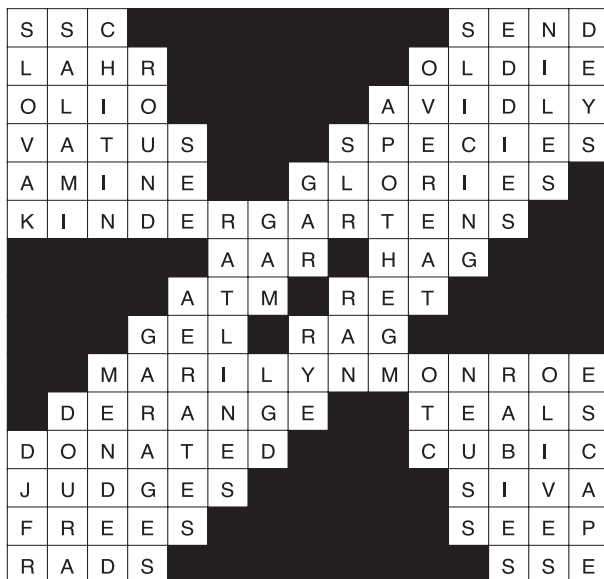
Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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



SCHOOL ■ from page 1

at Sapelli School have collaborated to ensure that the rebranding of the school reflects what they want to honor about Sapelli while still keeping true to what everyone loved about Robinson Park.

"At Robinson Park School students were taught to follow the RPS way," Sapelli School Principal Stephanie Harris said. "They were taught to be responsible, polite, safe people...so our task was to try to bridge the two, but rather than trying to make the RPS way work at William P. Sapelli School, we focused on who we were as educators and what we valued and then it came together."

From there, the staff at Sapelli School pulled together. They decided to keep the famous eagle mascot, Robbie, though he got a bit of a refresh, as they felt eagles truly represented the school spirit.

"We're eagles, no bird soars higher than we do...we have powerful vision, we're problem solvers, we're class acts just like Mayor Sapelli and, most importantly, we nurture our young," Harris said.

Inspired by the eagle mascot, they

came up with a new motto: SOAR.

"Show pride and respect...Own your actions...Act responsibly and Remember safety," Lead Teacher Kristin Dietz explained.

From there, they had to work to get the students involved and excited about the big change.

"We needed to get the kids excited, this is a change, change is hard for everybody and the RPS way was really engrained in everything we did, and so we know to bring about change all of us adults needed to be excited and we needed to have that excitement influence the students," Dietz said.

To help get the kids in the spirit, the staff at the school put on a large gathering, almost like a pep rally. Kids were brought down by grade level to have a chance to party with the staff as the new brand was introduced.

"We had orange and blue pom poms, we had music playing, we were dancing and even the students who were very much not sold on what we were trying to share with them left dancing, smiling and feeling excited about what we are doing at Sapelli school," Dietz said.

From there, they did a drum roll and unveiled the new Robbie.

"He got a little bit of a refresh, during the summer we surveyed staff to get their input on what they wanted to do, we talked about colors and whether they wanted to change that, so we presented everyone with something that had input from everyone," Dietz said.

They also walked the kids through the plan of rebranding, as they knew to do the rebranding well and get everyone into the new motto of SOAR, they had to ensure they were all informed on what it could look like.

Kids got a chance to brainstorm ways they could demonstrate SOAR in their daily lives.

"The students were, without even being coached, the examples they came up with everywhere from how we take care of the cafeteria to how we follow directions of our teachers to how we are kind to our students, it was amazing," Dietz said.

Dietz and Harris felt confident that this get-together helped everyone feel empowered and ready to truly soar as the year continues.

COUNCIL ■ from page 1

job," Squindo said.

The COA currently has several projects they are working to undertake, including creating a strategic plan and reviewing their mission statement. They also have to make day-to-day reports, record data and need to keep track of events and activities at the senior center.

Additionally, they make recommendations to Squindo on how to support the senior population in Agawam.

"Overall, receiving the consent of the advisory board is very helpful to myself and certainly when I have to bring something to Mayor Sapelli," Squindo said.

Their work is crucial to ensuring that the senior population of Agawam is properly represented and supported.

"It's a very valuable group, and something we lean on because they're out there in the field if you will, experiencing these issues...so it's good to have their input," Sapelli said.

Councilors agreed that the change was something that was needed, and voted affirmative for the change. With the new approval, the current seven active COA members will complete the rest of their term and replacements will be voted on as needed.

GRANT ■ from page 1

ine the processes of the school.

This group is made up of Blain, Hoffman, Karetka and Teachers Jen MacDonald, Scott Cassidy and Ryan Dunphy. More teachers and staff will also assist in the process throughout the year.

As the process continues, Blain explained that the team will be continually asking themselves the question: "if we were to start the high school from scratch without constraints—what would it look like?"

To help answer this question, the team will be making site visits to other schools to learn from them, conducting learning walks at AHS, hosting other schools at AHS and looking into AHS's own data to see what areas need the most improvement.

"We are going to use our data analysis," Blain said. "Our consultants are teaching

us how to really dive in, look at our data; what are our failure rates, what are our attendance rates, how are we performing on standardized tests, where are our growth patterns, how are our subgroups doing?"

The dive into data analysis is to ensure that the steps they take are the ones that are truly needed, not just the ones they think they need to take. They want to ensure that the steps they take are specific to helping AHS.

"This is all about us examining what we want to do, what we might want to do and what may stay at status quo," Blain said. "It's about our demographics, it's about our students, it's not a universal fix...everything is about our goals, what we want to accomplish."

The main goal of the grant they received is to help support this process, according to Blain.

"This is a planning grant where 90% of

the money goes to teachers and staff to explore ideas, to visit other schools, to have other schools visit us and to really just take a look at what's out in the world beyond the four walls of Agawam," Blain said.

The overarching theme of this project is engagement for all. This means engaging everyone in the community, both in the process itself and in the working of the school as a whole.

"We mean engagement of the community, we mean engagement of the teachers, we mean engagement of the parents and of course the students and the administration," Blain said.

As the team works through this process, they want to work the system to ensure that every student will be seen and supported by the school.

"We're reaching every student and the whole student, not just levels and different types," Blain said. "The question is how

can we engage the students at the top, the struggling students, and those that are in between."

As they move through this process, Blain anticipates that there may be programming changes and PD aligned to strengths and areas for growth as determined from their data analyses and site visits to other schools.

All of this will come from the visits to other schools, the support from outside partners, alignment with the educational plan for the new high school building, and, most importantly, inclusion from all stakeholders; students, teachers, parents and admin.

Blain is sure that this process will take Agawam to a new point and shape the high school for the next several decades.

"This is a great walkway and a parallel path to see what is going to be the next 30 to 40 years for Agawam," Blain said.

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'Arsenic and Old Lace' upcoming production has connection to local history

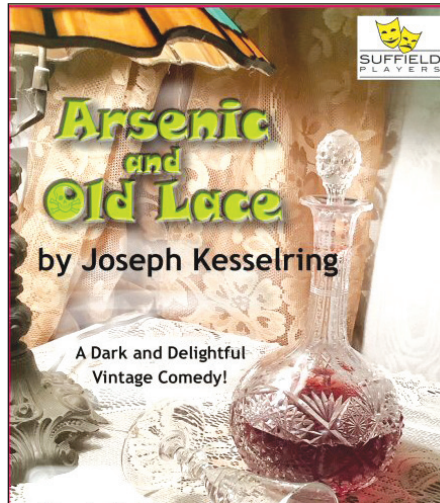
SUFFIELD, CT – The Suffield Players are announcing their upcoming production of "Arsenic and Old Lace," a darkly comedic masterpiece that has a connection to the town's history. The play is set to grace Mapleton Hall in October, promising audiences an unforgettable evening of suspense, humor, and an intriguing glimpse into Suffield's past.

Inspired by the real-life crimes of Amy Archer-Gilligan, who was convicted of up to 20 murders, including two of her husbands, "Arsenic and Old Lace" takes audience members on a journey through the twisted mind of a serial killer who preyed on elderly boarders. Promising them a peaceful haven in their twilight years, Gilligan instead poisoned them for their pensions, cunningly signing over to her prior to their tragic deaths.

Connecticut State Attorney Hugh Mead Alcorn played a pivotal role in prosecuting Gilligan. A prominent lawyer with an illustrious career, Attorney Alcorn resided in Suffield with his family, including his son, Robert Hayden Alcorn, who, as a child, witnessed the unfolding drama of the Gilligan trials from 1913 to 1916.

Robert Alcorn's life took a remarkable turn, leading to the founding of The Suffield Players in 1952. This community theater company has since become an integral part of Suffield's cultural landscape. In honor of Robert H. Alcorn, our Founder, one of our annual scholarships bears his name.

"Arsenic and Old Lace" is a play that is intimately connected to the Alcorn family's past and our community's present. This production is a celebration of The



Suffield Players enduring commitment to the arts, education, and the rich history that binds us together.

For ticket information and showtimes, please visit suffieldplayers.org.

Bright Nights 5k now sold out

SPRINGFIELD – The 2023 Bright Nights 5K Road Race is sold out. Registration opened at midnight on Monday, Sept. 18, and closed in less than 20 hours with 500 registered runners. At 12:15 a.m., 175 runners were registered. The first was from Plainfield, and the last runner to register was from Palmer.

The wait list is now accepting registrations. Those interested in a chance to run can register on the wait list at brightnights.org. Should spots become available, the Spirit of Springfield will reach out to the

The Bright Nights 5k Road Race is sponsored by Covestro, Siemens, Health New England, and Freedom Credit Union.

For more information about the Bright Night 5K Road Race, or to register on the wait list, visit brightnights.org, or contact the Spirit of Springfield at 413-733-3800 or staff@spiritofspringfield.org.

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Tuesday - Music Bingo 7-10pm
Wed. - Karaoke - Henry 7-11pm
Thursday - Karaoke - DJ PaPo 7-10pm
Friday 8th - Shovelhead 7-11pm
16th - Paul's Music Show 7-11pm
22nd - Murphy's Law 7-10pm
29th - Faith Rheault Acoustic 7-10pm
Saturday - Open
Sunday - Starting 9/10 for Football 1-6pm

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9-Month CD rates are effective as of 7/1/2023. Minimum CD opening deposit is \$1,000. Automatically renews at maturity for 9 months at the then current CD rate and term. Minimum balance to obtain APY is \$0.01. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal. Available for IRAs and business customers.

²\$300 ACCOUNT BONUS

Special offer is for opening a new Get Real CheckingSM account. Minimum balance to open Get Real CheckingSM is \$10. Bonuses are for new checking account customers and limited to one account per customer. Bonus payouts may be 1099 reportable. Account must be in good standing and have a positive balance at the time the bonus is paid. May not be combined with other promotional offers. Customers who have previously received a bonus on a checking account closed with the bank within the previous 12 months are not eligible. This is a limited time offer and subject to change without notice. \$200 promotional offer is for opening a Get Real CheckingSM account and activating direct deposit (of at least \$25) OR enrolling in Online Banking and conducting 5 debit card transactions using your debit card within the first 60 days of account opening (\$200 will be credited to the account by the last day of the statement cycle following the 60th day the account has been open). \$50 promotional offer is for making 5 bill payments using Online Banking OR enrolling in eStatements within 60 days of account opening (\$50 will be credited to the account by the last business day of the statement cycle following the 60th day the account has been open). Minors (anyone under the age of 18) are not eligible for Online Bill Pay. \$50 loyalty bonus will be paid after the account has been open for 12 months (\$50 will be credited to the account by the last day of the statement cycle following the 365th day the account has been open).