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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

October 5, 2023 | Vol. 45, No. 32 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com



Agawam Day was held at the Big E last Wednesday. The Agawam High School band starts marching down the parade route. See more photos on page 12.

TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Candidates, public get chance to interact

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam Public Library hosted a Meet the Candidates event for the city council and mayoral candidates on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

According to Corinne Wingard, who helped to organize the event, it was a huge success.

“The atmosphere was terrific - one candidate told me they were having a blast!” Wingard said. “It was very relaxed and cordial. People were able to walk around and talk with whomever they wished and that worked out well. Many people said on their way out how much they enjoyed it and how glad they were that we had done it.”

The candidates in attendance agreed that the event was a success, and one they were happy to support.

“I think it’s important for elected officials to engage with the public and give constituents the opportunity to hear where the candidates stand on the issues, so the event was a good opportunity to do that,” City Councilor Thomas Hendrickson said. “We had many people come in and I was able to talk about my work on the council and where I stand on the issues.”

The event was also helpful for challengers for city council seats to try to get their names out or back out into the community.

INTERACT | page 10

Primary election change on next month’s ballot

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The governor signed off on the bill regarding the changing the town charter in regards to the timing of Agawam’s municipal preliminary elections on Wednesday, Sept. 27.

Agawam sent legislation to the state requesting permission to put a question on this year’s ballot that would allow them to change the timing of Agawam’s municipal preliminary elections.

Currently, the preliminary municipal elections are held four weeks prior to the municipal general elections. The ballot question would allow voters to decide if they want to change the timing to eight weeks prior to the municipal general election.

Eight weeks prior to the municipal general election is the schedule all federal elections follow.

Moving this vote earlier would allow the town sufficient time to allow early voting by mail for the municipal general election.

With the current four-week gap between the municipal preliminary election and the municipal general election there is not enough time to allow early voting by mail.

“Once they mail the ballots back in, to count them, to

check them off, to set up the ballots for the official ballot for the general election, you just don’t have time,” Mayor William Sapelli said in a recent interview.

The town is aware that the lack of early voting by mail inconveniences many residents with busier lifestyles or with barriers to getting to in-person voting.

With this in mind, the town sent the legislation to the state so they could place this question on the ballot. Representative Nicholas Boldyga and Representative Michael Finn filed this legislation and, according to Legislative Director and Adviser in the Office of State Representative Nicholas Boldyga Joel Dusoe, they worked hard to ensure it would get through the state government in time for Agawam to have the question on their ballot this year.

The legislation had to be voted on by the House, then the Senate, then signed by the governor. Thankfully, all of this was completed in time for Agawam to put the question on this year’s general election ballot.

The deadline to register to vote in the preliminary election was Friday, Sept. 29. The preliminary election itself will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

BALLOT | page 10

Forager teaches how to ‘feed from the land’

By Quinn Suomala
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Expert Forager Russ Cohen presented at Agawam Public Library about edible native plants in the area that Agawam residents can plant to enjoy for themselves and to help the environment.

“There’s edible wild plants all over the place, so it’s really fun

to know all the stuff,” Cohen said. “Just to see these plants as you walk around, it’s like having old friends come and greet you as you go along.”

Planting native plants can help to support the ecosystem in the area, giving the animals in the area further access to plants that they know how to eat and can even use as habitats.

Planting plants that are not

native to the area can disrupt the ecosystem, but even just planting one native plant in your backyard can help to benefit all the living beings in the area.

“The plants and insects are in a dynamic equilibrium...this is why we need to be planting native.”

Cohen said. Cohen also emphasized that planting native can be beneficial for the people planting them, as the plants can be eaten in a variety of ways and can add some beauty to their backyards.

Throughout his presentation, Cohen mentioned wild leek, common milkweed, wild strawberries, junberries, shagbark hickory and black birch as just a few of the native plants people can plant around here.

He brought some black birch and black walnut honey squares for people in attendance of the event to enjoy.

“I made a dessert, black walnut honey squares, that I will be sharing with people,” Cohen said.

He truly wanted to give people a chance to see how many ways these native plants can be enjoyed.

Cohen says he has always enjoyed exploring the outdoors and feeding off the land.

“I’ve been connecting to the outdoors through my taste buds since I was a kid,” he said.

Inspired by this draw to nature, Cohen has been leading walks since 1974 and has been doing outdoor walks and presentations like these full-time since 2015.

FEEDING | page 10



Expert Forager Russ Cohen presents on native plants that the Agawam community can plant and enjoy from their own backyard.



He drew a large crowd at Agawam Public Library for his presentation on edible native plants in the area.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 3 1 7 6 2

October Programs for Kids and Teens at library

AGAWAM – The best way to stay up-to-date with all the fun events going on at the library is to sign up for our monthly e-newsletters. To sign-up please email Pamela Weingart at pweingart@agawamlibrary.org and let us know if you'd like to be on the Children's email list or the Teen email list.

Upcoming October events below:
 After School Drop-In – For Grades 7-12
 Every Tuesday during the school year, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Stop by the library after school and visit the Children's Activity Room. Play board games, use our art supplies, or just hang out. No registration necessary.

Apple Themed Scavenger Hunt and Riddle – For all ages

All Day during week of Oct. 2 – 7
 Stop by any time to do our Apples themed Scavenger Hunt and Riddle. Winners will be chosen and will each get a sheet of Marvel stickers.

Baby Story Time- For birth – 18 mo.
 Thurs. Oct. 5, & 19 at 10 a.m. drop-in.
 Join us as we learn a little American Sign Language, read stories, sing fun songs, and play together.

Creepy Crafts – For Grades 7-12
 Friday, Oct. 13, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Lean into the vibe of Friday the 13th by creating something creepy. Registration is suggested; if we run out of materials, priority will be given to registered participants.

To register, visit our calendar of events

at agawamlibrary.org.

Dino-Time – For grades 3-4
 Wed. Oct. 18 at 6 p.m.

Registration is required.
 Join us as we read a story about our prehistoric friends, then make a leaf dinosaur of your very own. You can bring your own leaves or use library provided ones.

Family Take and Make Crafts
 Monday, Oct. 2 – Foam Smile Face Leaves Wreath Craft

Tuesday, Oct. 10 – Fall Leaves Glitter Mosaic Craft

Monday, Oct. 16 – Fall Leafy Hedgehog Magnet Craft

Monday, Oct. 23 – Monster Paper Cone Craft

Monday, Oct. 30 – Halloween 3D Pump-

kin Craft

The Great Halloween Parade – For All Ages (teen/tween volunteers are needed)
 Monday, October 30, 4 p.m.-5 p.m.

Kids of all ages and their families are invited to parade around the library in costume. Cider donuts, stories, and songs on the library lawn will follow. (Rain location: Children's Activity Room.) Teen and tween volunteers are needed to help with set-up, clean-up, parade leading, and Halloween prize distribution. Email Evan at edelano@agawamlibrary.org if you are interested in volunteering.

If you would like more information about any of our programs please visit our website at agawamlibrary.org or call 413-789-1550 ext. 3.

'Arsenic and Old Lace' has a 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 law-

yer 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 show-times, please visit suffieldplayers.org.

Library announces bookmark design contest winners

AGAWAM – During the month of September the Agawam Public Library held a bookmark design contest for kids. The library received 9 entries from elementary school students. The entries were then separated by grade division. The grade divisions were grades 1-2, and grades 3-4.

Everyone who participated will receive 3 laminated copies of their bookmark and 3 cardstock copies of their bookmark, so they can give copies to family or friends.

A winner was chosen from each of the grade divisions. The winner for grades 1-2

was Henley, grade 2. The winner for grades 3-4 was Pola, grade 3. Each of the winners of the contest will receive the 6 copies of their bookmark & also a \$5 gift certificate to Michaels.

There will be copies of the winning bookmarks available in the Children's Room for the public.

Stop by and pick one up when you get a chance. Check out our website at agawamlibrary.org to learn about other fun activities happening at the Agawam Public Library.

Garden club meeting on Oct. 10

AGAWAM – On Oct. 10 the Agawam Garden Club is having their meeting. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and is held at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. After a brief business meeting Christine Brown will present the program "Cooking With Herbs". Learn how easy it is to grow most herbs whether they are annuals or perennials. Once participants learn how easy it is, then they can use these herbs with in your culinary recipes.

Brown is a retired nutritionist who loves to garden and cook. She lives in Montgomery and has many gardens that keep her busy during the growing season. After growing a herb garden, Brown decided to learn more about using these herbs in her recipes.

Interested members are asked to purchase their banquet tickets at this time. All meetings are open to the public and not restricted to Agawam residents.



Flu clinic to be held on Oct. 19

AGAWAM – The Agawam Health Department will be offering flu clinic on Thursday, Oct. 19, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St.

Bring your insurance cards and photo id. No "Out of State" Insurance plans will be accepted. Appointments in the Health Department are also available by calling Nurse Pam at 413-726-9722.

Volunteers needed to place flags

AGAWAM – The Agawam veterans council are seeking volunteers to help place flags on the graves of veterans on Saturday, Oct. 14. Anyone wanting to participate is to meet at 8 a.m. at Springfield Street Cemetery, 1078 Springfield St. If there is inclement weather the rain date will be on Sunday Oct. 15.

Free seminar hosted at 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.

Property tax exemption seminar on Oct. 11

AGAWAM – Carolyn Reed, Agawam's Town Assessor will do a presentation on property tax exemptions on Wednesday, Oct. 11, at 1 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Senior Center, 954 Main St.

The presentation will highlight Tax Ex-

emptions available in Agawam for seniors age 70 and older who meet income asset requirements.

More information on exemptions is also available on the town website or contact the Assessors office at 786-0400 ext. 8700.

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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.

Big Y Market locations to hold vaccine clinic

SPRINGFIELD – From Oct. 1 until Oct. 7, every Big Y Market location will hold an on-site multi vaccine clinic for all customers, employees and their families (check local stores for specific dates and times).

All stores will offer seasonal flu, high dose flu and COVID-19 vaccines including the updated COVID-19 booster. Stores with an on-site pharmacy also offer a variety of additional vaccines including the newly approved Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine, Pneumococcal (pneumonia) Shingrix (shingles), Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis), Hepatitis A and B, Meningococcal (Meningitis), MMR (Measles, Mumps & Rubella), and Gardasil (HPV).

Vaccines are administered to eligible adults and children ages 5 and older

based upon product availability. Further details are available on bigy.com where each location's specific times are listed. No appointments are necessary.

This third community wide event spans every one of Big Y's locations throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. Patients who receive a seasonal flu or COVID-19 vaccine from their pharmacist or trained pharmacy technician at any one of the clinics or pharmacy locations will receive a Big Y Coupon for \$5 off of a \$25 grocery purchase. Each location will have other giveaways as well.

Big Y's vaccination program continues to grow. Over the past year alone, they've administered nearly 100,000 doses of various vaccines. For those who might be interested, CDC guidance states that it is acceptable to receive 2 or

more of these different vaccines at the same time making it more convenient for all.

According to Big Y's president and CEO, Charles L. D'Amour, "The safety and health of everyone in our region is so vitally important to us that we are excited to offer our 3rd Big Y Big Vax Week to everyone; our customers, employees and their families. Our professional pharmacy staff has been working hard to be able to provide this essential service in each of our neighborhoods at every one of our locations throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. This week-long event provides a convenient way for anyone to receive one of many vaccines to keep our community healthy. Big Y's Big Vax Week is one more way we've been serving our community for over 87 years."

Baystate Health to hold free breast cancer lecture series

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health will hold a free breast health virtual lecture series during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October beginning with "The Mammogram Callback" on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 6 p.m.

The series continues Monday, Oct. 16, at 6 p.m. with "Lumpectomy vs Mastectomy."

The series will end on Monday, Oct. 30, at 6 p.m., with "Precision Medicine in Breast Cancer."

All lectures will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

Registration is required for each session by visiting: www.baystatehealth.org/breastcancerevents.

Feline Friends Inc. hosting food, supply fundraiser

FEEDING HILLS – Feline Friends Inc. cat sanctuary will be holding a food/supply drive at Smithland Pet and Garden Center on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will be accepting food, litter and monetary donations for the cats. Opened bags/boxes will also be accepted. Gift cards from various pet stores or Costco would be much appreciated.

Smithland, a valued sponsor, is stocked with Friskies Pate or Shreds canned food (single flavored cases preferred), some Fancy Feast varieties and unscented, clumping cat litter. The donation bin is located near the cash registers.

Other Wish List items include; disinfecting wipes, paper towels, puppy pee pads, dry cat or dog food for strays and colonies.

Special thanks to the monthly donors and everyone who donated in September

either at our events, bins, through the mail or Paypal/Venmo: Joanne L, Terry B, Carl & Cheryl K, Carolyn T, Team Taylor, Ken, Crystal M, Denise S, Joan W, John W, Victoria K, Heidi M.

Feline Friends are thankful to all of the community members for their support throughout the year. There are collection bins at the Agawam Public Library and the Agawam Senior Center as well as at Smithland center.

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, nonprofit sanctuary that does not euthanize or 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.

Harvest Craft Beer and Wine Tasting Fundraiser on 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.

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.

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.

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Opinion

Guest Column



Taxpayer asks about federal taxation of Social Security benefits

Dear Rusty

Why are my Social Security benefits being taxed at all? The Social Security FICA payroll taxes taken out of my paycheck while I was working were paid with taxable income.

Signed Disgruntled Taxpayer

Dear Disgruntled Taxpayer

Many Americans share your belief that federal taxation of Social Security benefits is unfair because we pay into the program through payroll taxes on our taxable earnings. Unfortunately, Congress took a different view in 1983 when taxation of Social Security benefits was first enacted at a time Social Security was having financial issues.

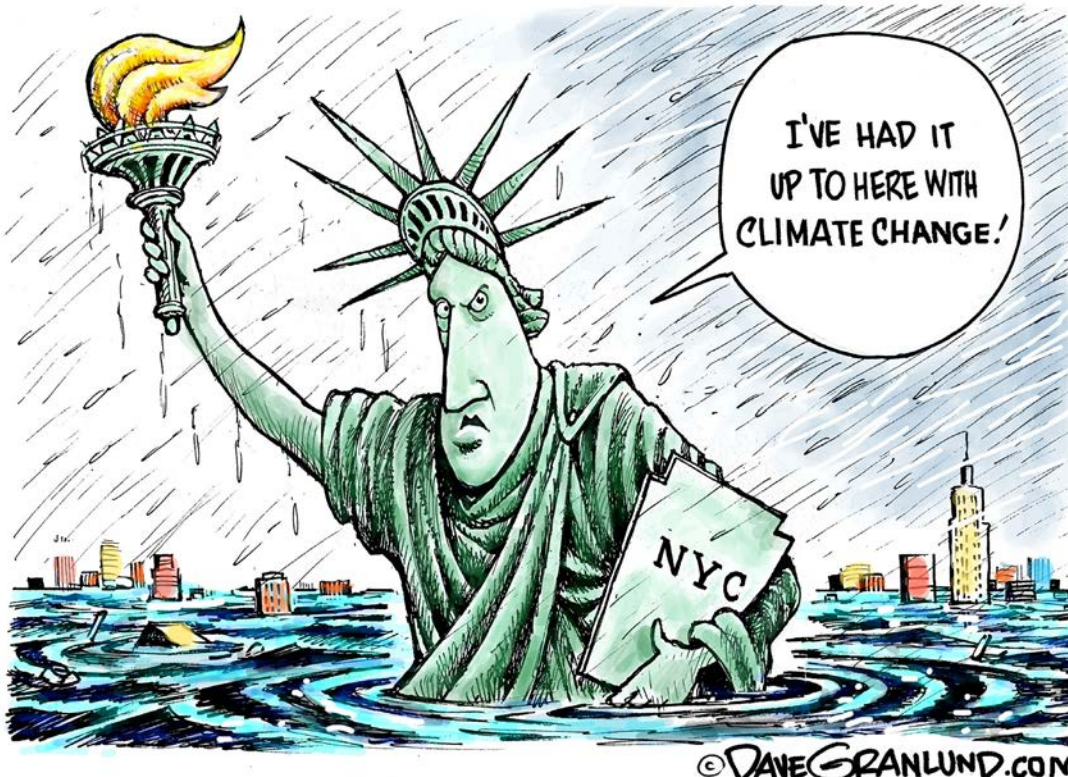
Congressional logic back then was that a beneficiary only personally pays 50% of the Social Security contributions made, the other half is paid by the employer, so, since your Social Security entitlement was only half paid for by you and the other half by your employer, the portion of your benefit attributable to your employer's contributions should be taxable. So, it's that other half, the portion of your benefit which resulted from employer contributions, which the 1983 Congress decided should be taxed. So, starting in 1984, if a beneficiary's overall annual income from all sources exceeded \$25,000 for a single filer or \$32,000 for those filing married-jointly, half of that person's Social Security benefits became part of their income taxable by the IRS.

That was how it worked until 1993 when a new and different Congress added another threshold which, if exceeded, resulted in up to 85% of Social Security benefits received during the tax year becoming taxable. The logic used for the 1993 law was that beneficiaries, on average, would only personally pay for about 15% of the lifetime benefits they would eventually receive, leading that Congress to conclude that if your combined income from all sources exceeded the higher threshold, \$34,000 for single filers and \$44,000 for those filing married/jointly, up to 85% of your benefits should be taxable.

Please understand that I'm not defending nor endorsing those historical Congressional views, but I have researched why Social Security benefits are taxable at all and the above is what I've learned from that research.

For information, the Association of Mature American Citizens has long advocated for eliminating federal taxation of Social Security benefits or, at the very least, raising the thresholds at which benefits become taxable. The income thresholds for taxing Social Security benefits were established in 1983 and 1993, but those thresholds have never been adjusted for inflation.

When taxation of Social Security started in 1984, less than 10% of beneficiaries paid income tax on their benefits, whereas today that percentage is over 50% and growing. If you want to add your voice to those who oppose federal taxation of Social Security benefits, you may wish to contact your Congressional Representative to do so. And it is worth noting that eleven U.S. states, to varying degrees, also levy income tax on Social Security benefits.



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Guest Column

What I know about Jumping Worms



I recently saw a comment on social media about a woman that had so many night crawlers in her yard she thought she'd go into the fishing bait business.

I question if she really had night crawlers or the Jumping, Dancing or Snake Worm.

This worm has been getting a lot of attention lately and for good reason. It is seemingly showing up everywhere!

Amyntas species are the worms that are a cause of concern. The common name of Jumping, Dancing or Snake Worm is logical due to the fact that these worms thrash about when disturbed; some would even call it violent slithering, hence the snake connotation.

But worms are a good thing, yes? Not in this case.

This particular type of worm differs from the European earthworms that we like to see in our garden, happily aerating the soil and leaving behind nutrient rich worm castings.

Invasive worms live in the first few inches of soil only and devour organic matter at an alarming rate, leaving behind large castings that look like coffee grounds or gravel but are devoid of nutrients and literally soil altering.

If you think about your tomato or marigold plant and the depth of their roots: what organic matter is left for the plant if the worm eats it all?

Likewise, what is left for other, less aggressive worms. Not much.

This time of year, Jumping Worms are easily identified. First and foremost, look for their crazy movements.

If you suspect you have them, pick one up and examine the ring (clitellum). If it is about one-third of the way down from the worm's head, is smooth, whitish and goes all the way around the body of the worm, you've got them.

Earlier in the season the ring will not completely encircle the worm; identification then is a little trickier. Worms tend to be reddish-purple in color with a slight iridescence.

GARDEN | page 5



I received an email about the sighting of a Northern harrier in Warren from a man who reports bird sighting for this column on a regular basis.

The Northern harriers is the only harrier in North America. Harriers are very distinctive hawks, with long wings and long tails. They are about 18 inches long. The male is gray above and white underneath and the female is larger than the male and brown above and streaked brown underneath.



Northern harrier

They are usually seen flying low over the ground in open country. At close range, the face of Northern harrier resembles an owl. Unlike most hawks it may rely on its hearing like an owl to help it locate prey as it courses low over the fields.

Males tend to fly lower and faster than females. The female lays four to six pale bluish-white eggs in a platform nest of sticks and grasses placed on the ground. The female remains with young most of time at first and the male brings food and delivers it to female, who feeds it to young. After the young are about two weeks old, the female does much of the hunting for them.

They feed mostly on small mammals and birds. They also eat large insects especially grasshoppers as well as snakes, lizards, toads and frogs. May feed on carrion, especially in winter.

Ruby throated hummingbirds

Ruby throated hummingbirds still being seen. Pittsfield and Williamstown, Gill, Longmeadow, Amherst, Princeton, Petersham reported sightings to Massachusetts Audubon Society on Sept. 25 and Sept. 26.

Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee provides loon facts in a newsletter. Loons usually sleep on the water unless they are incubating a nest and loon cams captured nesting loons sleeping while incubating. To sleep, a loon will turn its head and rest it on its back, tucking its bill into its scapular feathers.

The newsletter said, "If you see a loon sleeping during the daytime, don't worry. Loons sleep in short bursts that may happen at any time, day or night." Daytime sleeping bouts tend to be a little shorter,



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

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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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Schools & Youth

Resident inducted into Honor Society

BATON ROUGE, LA – Sierra Kruser, of Agawam, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Kruser was initiated at MCPHS University.

Residents graduate from the University of Hartford

WEST HARTFORD, CT – University of Hartford graduated two residents of Agawam, Alexandra Humphries and Gavin Zuschlag.

SECURITY ■ from page 4

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

GARDEN ■ from page 4

Unlike European earthworms, Jumping Worms do not survive the winter. Beginning in August and going into the fall months, they lay eggs (no mate needed!) in cocoons that do have the ability to overwinter.

The cocoons look like small, round soil aggregates. In a recent experiment where researchers looked at the effect of heat and cold on the cocoons, there is promise that heat will kill the eggs and young in the cocoon.

What does this mean for us? I think a lot about solarization and how to do that effectively. One research document I read indicated that cocoons die at 104 degrees; worms at 85 degrees.

The recommendation was to lay clear plastic (1 mil thickness for a home garden) on the soil for at least two-to-three weeks or until the soil temperature reaches 104 degrees for three days. This is thin plastic, mind you, but it should be OK in most garden settings free from animal visitors.

Weighting it with would prove helpful for windy situations. Clear is better than black for this purpose.

There is little else pesticide-wise that experts are recommending to combat these pests. Hand picking the adults is an option.

The best way to combat them is prevention. Too late for some of us, but for those of you who do not have them or have them in one part of your yard and not in another

I can make some recommendations.

Be careful about garden inputs. Plants you pick up at swaps or from a friend may unknowingly have cocoons in the pot.

Compost you bring in or move around your yard may affect areas that aren't infested. Make sure your compost pile gets hot, hot, hot!

Consider unused bait.

A friend thought she was doing a good thing by releasing bait into her garden. In the spring the worms looked like average night crawlers, but they were simply immature invasive worms...talk about wanting to cry.

Since cocoons are in the first few inches of soil, think about your tools, tillers, shoes or wheelbarrows and such. Although the worms are bad for the garden, they are not poisonous to pets or other animals.

It's hard to look at this subject optimistically, but we gardeners are an optimistic lot.

Otherwise, would we do it all over again year after year despite blights and infestations, floods and droughts, early frosts or scourging heat? Of course, we will!

Maybe with a little more caution, but we certainly will.

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

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

averaging 14 minutes than nighttime one, averaging 24 minutes. Loons spend more time sleeping at night than they do during the day. When sleeping, loons tend to prefer open water, further from the shoreline.

Sightings Warren and Brimfield

Besides seeing a Northern harrier, a birder reported in an email two great egrets at a no-named pond on New Reed Street. He said, "On South Street at the pond with an osprey nest one juvenile, who fledged a few weeks ago, was still visiting the nest and perching in the tree with the nest. A second osprey had fledged from the nest and had left the area around the pond over two weeks ago."

He also said, "I did see two osprey flying high over the pond on New Reed Street. The birds were quite high, well above tree top level with one bird following a couple of hundred yards behind the first. They were too far away to tell if it was an adult being followed by a juvenile."

In another email, he said, "There was a flock of hen turkeys with some young. We have not see many turkeys near out prop-

erty for a couple of years, probably because this area was had hit by sponge moths (used to be called gypsy moths) and we haven't had a decent acorn crop in several years."

He said there were about 20 birds in all with two different age groups based on the size of the young birds.

He said, "As I was watching a young gray fox appeared and that got the turkeys even more excited. I could see the fox moving around and the turkey were running back and forth, however it didn't seem as though the fox was stalking the turkeys. After several minutes a dozen of the turkeys flew away into the woods. I didn't see where the rest of the turkeys of the fox went."

The birder sent an email in mid-September and commented about how I like juncos. He said, "Juncos are harbingers of the coming change in seasons and my wife has the exact opposite reaction to their arrival that you do, 'oh no the juncos are back'"

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

Jacob Napolitan competes on ECSU's golf team

WILLIMANTIC, CT – Eastern Connecticut State University's men's golf team is ready to get the ball rolling in the fall 2023 season. The roster includes 11 golfers, welcoming two first-year players to the program.

Among the student-athletes is Jacob Napolitan of Feeding Hills, a first-year student who majors in Finance.

Second-year head coach Marc Senia looks to build on the team's success from last season, when they won their second straight Little East Conference (LEC)

Championship and represented the LEC at the NCAA Division III National Championship.

"We want that third title in a row and a chance to compete again at the national level," said Senia. "I believe there will be several golfers stepping up and contributing to our success this fall 2023 season."

The team began their season on Sept. 12 at the Mitchell College Invitational.

For more information on the team this season, visit: <https://gowarriorathletics.com/sports/mens-golf>.

WSU to host job fair 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.

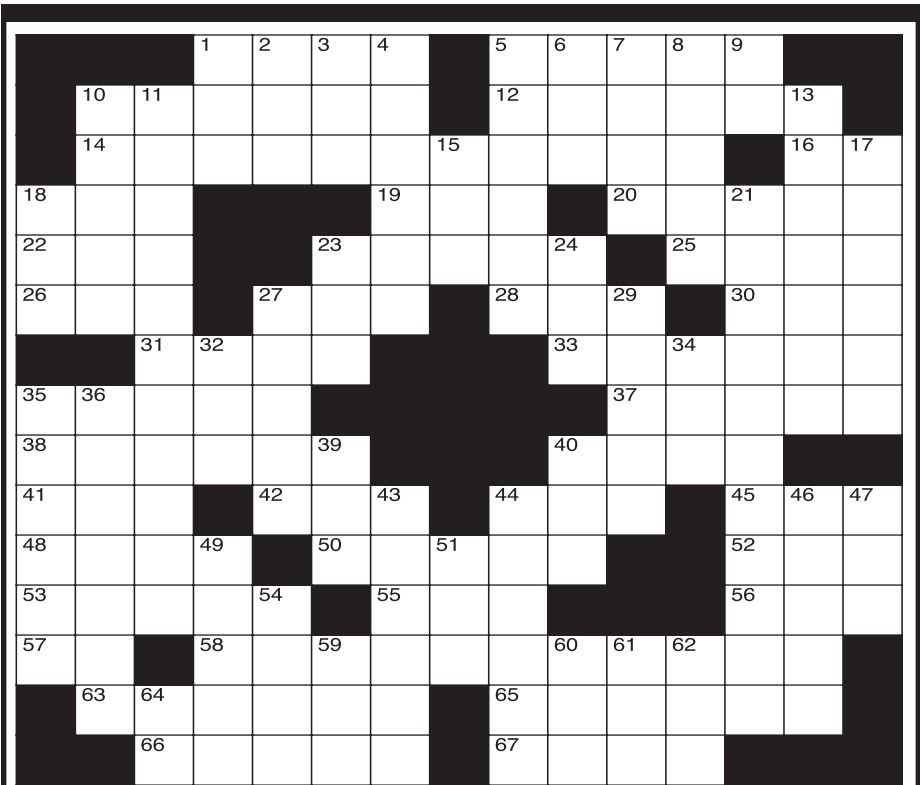
Representatives from police departments throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut and New Hampshire will be available to answer questions and showcase their agencies to prospective employees. Some of the registered city and town agencies include Amherst, Enfield,

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- Flat tableland with steep edges
- Unique skill
- Unembarrassed
- Where teenagers go
- Boxing's GOAT
- Used to anoint
- Reproductive structure found in rust fungi
- Auburn great Newton
- Some are for Christmas
- Dried, split pulses
- Self
- Where to get your mail
- High schoolers' test
- Flightless bird
- Expectorated
- Practice of misrepresenting the truth
- Type of patch
- French river
- Told on
- Hillside
- Peyton's little brother
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Progressive country musician
- Witness
- Brews
- Yellowish-brown Arctic explorers (abbr.)
- Mexican agave
- Type of "cast"
- Popular breakfast food
- Atomic #52
- Position north or south of the equator
- Gadget
- Another recording
- Irregular bulges in cell membranes
- Dark brown

CLUES DOWN

- Licensed for Wall Street
- Partner to flow
- A very large body of water
- Accumulate on the surface of
- Central cores of stems
- Angry
- Spanish stew: ___ podrida
- Fastened with a pin
- On your way: ___ route
- Soviet labor camp system
- Enmities
- B complex vitamin
- Go quickly
- Toast
- A team's best pitcher
- Philly culinary specialty
- Small child
- Unhappy
- Trims away
- Full of tears
- Touch softly
- Former OSS
- A person's chest
- Came from behind
- Fall back
- Nellie ___, journalist
- A part of a river where the current is very fast
- Weather
- Sports broadcaster lan
- Electroencephalograph
- Phenyl salicylate
- Web of Things
- Ship goods as cargo
- The bill in a restaurant
- Young female
- OJ trial judge
- One's grandmother
- West Siberian river

New firefighter sworn in



Last Tuesday, Sept. 26, there was a swearing-in ceremony held for new Firefighter Joshua Mitchell at Agawam Town Hall. SUBMITTED PHOTO



Granger School won the Summer Reading Challenge. Pictured are Agawam Public Library Youth Services Librarian Pamela Weingart, President of the Friends of Agawam Public Library Marcia Capuano, Granger School Library Paraprofessional Wendy Matys, and Friends Treasurer Kathy Arnold. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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Clifford Granger School wins summer reading challenge

AGAWAM – Clifford Granger Elementary School, had the highest percentage of their students complete the Agawam Public Library Summer Reading Challenge. Granger School received \$200 for their school library and each of the other three elementary schools in Agawam received \$100 for their school library from the Friends of the Agawam Public Library.

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library generously fund this contest in order to encourage students to read over the summer, to help enhance the school libraries, and to support the relationship of the local elementary schools and the public library.

A special thank you to all of the teachers and staff of the in the Agawam school district for supporting the Agawam Public Library Summer Reading Program. To stay up to date on other events happening at the Agawam Public Library sign up for our e-newsletter by emailing Pamela Weingart at pweingart@agawamlibrary.org.

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library is a not-for-profit membership organization. Since their inception in 2003, the Friends have donated over \$100,000 to the library. This has enabled the library to supplement their regular operating budget. If you'd like to support the Agawam Public Library and join the Friends please go to <http://agawamlibrary.org/about/friends/> to learn more and download the Membership Application.

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SLICED IN OUR DELI LAND O LAKES SHARP CHEDDAR AMERICAN CHEESE..... \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE BOURBON MARINATED BLADE STEAKS \$6.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN READY TO COOK PARMESAN BREADED TALAPIA 24 OZ \$6.99 ea
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SPORTS

Late goals lift Minnechaug over Agawam soccer

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – After scoring a goal 29 seconds into the opening half, it looked like the Minnechaug girls' varsity soccer team wouldn't have very much trouble dispatching Agawam for the second consecutive year.

The non-league match wound up being a little more difficult than longtime Minnechaug head coach Nundi Goncalves and his players thought it would be.

The Lady Falcons, who didn't score another goal until there was less than a minute remaining in regulation, walked away with a 2-0 victory at Harmon A. Smith Field, last Wednesday afternoon.

"Every time that we come here it's a hard-fought battle," Goncalves said. "Agawam is a well-organized and they're a well-coached team. They came



Kylie Warner pursues the loose ball.



Alivia Carrier makes the play on defense.



Angelina Kozhenevsky takes the ball up the middle of the field.

SOCCER | page 8

TURLEY PHOTOS BY SOFIA DIGRANDE

Brownies surge late

AGAWAM – Last Monday night, Agawam field hockey defeated visiting Westfield 3-0. The Brownies handed six-win Westfield just their second loss of the

season. Lili Atkins scored twice while Erin Mahoney had a goal. Amber Bates had a shutout with one save. Agawam is 2-2-3 for the regular season.



Samantha Matland cuts off the ball.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Kyra Benard gets ready to shoot.



Sarah Kriebel looks up field as she nearly catches up to the ball.



Lilah Carr reaches out to stop a ball from being cleared.

Boys soccer completes positive week

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School boys soccer team is out to a 2-1-1 mark in the competitive Churchill League, and the Brownies defeated Amherst while tying Monument Mountain last Thursday afternoon. Agawam held the lead 1-0 late in to the game when the Spartans managed to break through with a goal. Lucas Ritson had Agawam's lone goal earlier in the second half. Agawam is 3-2-3 overall.



Brandon Bourgeois tries to settle the ball and head down the left side.



Vincent Montagna sees a teammate as he looks to pass.



Frank Decaro looks to clear the ball out of Agawam's end.



Dennis Nesen is pursued as he tries to chase down a long pass.



Vincent Rodier winds up for a shot on goal.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Sports

Westfield State University Owls hold on for first victory

WESTFIELD – Westfield State's Max Margeson (Littleton, Colo./Mullen HS) and Alec Rodriguez (Westfield, Mass.) combined for a memorable interception return play for a touchdown to lift the Owls to a 17-10 win over Massachusetts Maritime Academy at Alumni Field on Saturday to bring a happy conclusion to Family and Champions Weekend.

Margeson delivered a perfectly timed hit on MMA wide receiver Andrew Brightman (Wareham, Mass./Upper Cape Tech) to jar loose the ball on a catch, with the ball pinging directly to Owls' linebacker Rodriguez for the interception at the MMA 32-yard line. Rodriguez returned the ball a couple of yards before Brightman snagged him by the ankle, and Rodriguez handed the ball off to Margeson, who rambled 30 yards through traffic for the touchdown to give Westfield a 17-10 lead with 9:07 left in the third quarter.

The Owls hung on down the stretch for the win, improving to 1-4 on the sea-

son and 1-2 in the MASCAC. MMA slips to 1-3 overall and 1-1 in the league.

The two teams traded salvos in the first half, with the Buccaneers getting on the board on their first drive of the game with a 7-play, 73-yard march that was capped by a 29-yard TD pass to Brightman on deep post route completion from quarterback Marc Murphy (Norwood, Mass.).

Westfield answered on their first drive, getting a big 52-yard kick return from Christian Julian (Hingham, Mass.) to set up the drive at the MMA 32. Seven plays later, Westfield's Jordan Smith (Coventry, Conn.) rumbled four yards up the middle for a game tying TD.

The two clubs traded field goals in the final 10 seconds of the half. MMA got a 24-yard TD from Logan Tsai (E. Freetown, Mass./Appoquonnet) to take a 10-7 lead with eight seconds left in the half.

Westfield got the ball back on the ensuing kickoff, and Owls QB Gabriel Fer-

nandez (Holyoke, Mass.) found Danny Farrell (Milford, Mass.) on a 25-yard completion and a personal foul on the Buccaneers gave the Owls the ball at the MMA 22 yardline with four seconds left in the half.

Westfield State first-year kicker Cooper Harvey (Niskayuna, N.Y.) booted a 39-yard field goal as time expired to tie the game 10-10 at the half.

Neither team particularly threatened the end zone after the big interception return by the Owls. MMA drove the ball as far as the Owls' 38-yard line with less than two minutes to play, but Tyler Cooley (Randolph, Mass./Arch. Williams) dropped Murphy for a loss on third down, and Murphy's long bomb try to Brightman on fourth down fell incomplete to end the threat, and Westfield knelt on the ball three times to run out the clock.

Fernandez finished 14-25 passing for 138 yards. Farrell finished with six catches for 65 yards, and Smith rushed for 77

yards on 25 carries.

For MMA, Murphy completed 12 of 23 passes for 206 yards with a TD and an interception. Daniel Molloy (Franklin, Mass.) led the rushing attack with seven carries for 22 yards, and Brightman finished with eight catches for 96 yards. Molloy added three catches for 54 yards.

Defensively, Cooley led the Owls with 13 tackles, and Cam Danahy (Kingston, Mass./Silve Lake) added nine. Dylan Clark (Bellows Falls, Vt./BFA) came up with two big plays with two tackles for losses of 12 yards.

Liam Hines (Quincy, Mass./North Quincy) led MMA with seven tackles. Owen Shea (Scituate, Mass./Norwell) made five tackles, 2.5 TFLs and a sack.

Westfield heads into its bye week, before returning to host its homecoming game against UMass-Dartmouth on Saturday, Oct. 14. MMA faces UMass Dartmouth next Saturday, Oct. 7 with a 4 p.m. kick off in North Dartmouth, Mass.

Justin Bonsignore heads for Thompson Speedway for big event

NORTH WILKESBORO, N.C. – After 150 laps at North Wilkesboro Speedway, Justin Bonsignore brought his No. 51 machine home in third-place on Saturday night. As the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour made their debut at the North Carolina oval in the Brushy Mountain Powersports 150, Bonsignore ran inside the top-five for much of the race.

A final green-white-checked finish where Bonsignore lined up in fifth was exactly what he needed in the Phoenix Communications entry. Bonsignore followed fellow championship contender Ron Silk up through the field to finish third, just behind Silk.

In the title battle, Bonsignore will hold a two-point lead heading for the final two races of the season.

"The green-white-checked restart

definitely helped get us back to the podium," Bonsignore said. "We got a good jump on the final restart. It was a good night for us. We were just a bit tight on the second set of tires. It's going to go down to the end. It's going to be a championship battle for the ages."

Bonsignore will move to Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park next on Sunday, Oct. 8 for the Sunoco World Series 150. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is part of a three-day event at Thompson next weekend.

For more information on three-time NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour champion Justin Bonsignore, visit JustinBonsignore.com and follow his Athlete page on Facebook for the latest news and updates, including from the track on race day.

Thunderbirds make roster moves ahead of opener

SPRINGFIELD – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today the team has assigned 12 players to its AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds, including forwards Mikhail Abramov, Drew Callin, Tanner Dickinson, Andre Heim, and Mitch Hoelscher, defensemen Jeremie Biakabutuka, Joseph Duszak, Marc-Andre Gaudet, Austin Osmanski, and Hunter Skinner, and goaltenders Will Cranley and Vadim Zherenko. In addition, the Blues released forward Nick Ritchie and defenseman Andy Welinski from their professional tryouts.



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

SOCCER ■ from page 7

to play today. It was a good high school soccer game."

The Lady Falcons, who also defeated Coombs Division rival Belchertown 1-0 last week, entered the first week of October with a 5-2 overall record. They were the top ranked team in the first MIAA Division 2 power rankings.

The Brownies, who fell to 3-5, are the 24th ranked team in Division 2. The top 32 teams in each of the five Divisions automatically qualify for the state tournament.

For the first time since 2019, Agawam head coach Laura Wray-Ramos faced Minnechaug without her daughter, Lilli,

wearing a Lady Falcons uniform.

Lilli Ramos, who was a four-year member of the Lady Falcons varsity soccer team, is currently a freshman member of the Elms College women's soccer team. After meeting with coach Goncalves and a few of her former teammates during the pregame warm-ups, Lilli Ramos watched last Wednesday's match from the Agawam bench.

"Lilli played soccer at Minnechaug for the last four years, and it was nice to have her sitting on my bench today," Wray-Ramos said. "I know a lot of the Minnechaug players, and I've been coaching against Nundi for the past 25 years. There is a lot of mutual respect between the two teams."

A year ago, Minnechaug celebrated a

4-0 win against Agawam on senior night.

During the fall of 2021, the Brownies posted a 1-0 home shutout versus the Lady Falcons.

With 39:31 remaining in the first half of last Wednesday's contest, Minnechaug sophomore midfielder Ava Kearney received a pass from senior forward Bianca Facchetti and put a shot into the back of the net giving the visiting team from Wilbraham a 1-0 lead.

"I really wasn't expecting us to score a goal 29 seconds into the game," Goncalves said. "I was hoping to score two or three more after that, but we just relaxed. We didn't score another goal until the final minute of the game."

Following the match, Goncalves con-

gratulated Agawam senior goalie Joann Schmuck, who made more than ten saves.

"She just did a great job," Goncalves said. "She gave her team a chance."

Following a corner kick in the fourth minute, a header by Minnechaug senior midfielder Zoey Cardano sailed over the crossbar.

About ten minutes later, Agawam senior midfielder Ella Wood sent a pass into the box towards senior forward Isabello Castro, but Minnechaug junior goalie Makenzi Pastreck (2 saves) made a diving save on the ball.

Castro also played defense during the match.

Pastreck's only other save was on a shot attempt by sophomore midfielder Kylie Warner in the middle of the opening half.

It was also Pastreck's fifth shutout of the regular season.

The Lady Falcons had a total of eight shots on goal during the first 40 minutes.

Three of them were from senior midfielder Kylie Ray. Senior midfielder Claire Poindexter also had two shots in the first half, while senior midfielder Paige Hebert, senior forward Gianna Sakowski, and Facchetti had one each.

The Lady Falcons had several more scoring chances during the second half.

With less than five minutes remaining, a wide open shot by Kearney was saved by Schmuck.

Kearney didn't miss her next wide open shot, as her goal with 40 seconds sealed the deal for the Lady Falcons. Cardano was credited with the assist.

It was the only meeting of the regular season between the two teams.



Mckenna Podworski tries to make a pass before an opponent intervenes.



Makayla Rosario dribbles up the field. TURLEY PHOTOS BY SOFIA DIGRANDE



Keira Murphy tries to keep possession of the ball.

CT River Conservatory announces new executive director

GREENFIELD – Connecticut River Conservancy a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the Connecticut River watershed in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut since 1952, is thrilled to announce Rebecca Todd as their next executive director, to formally begin on Oct. 9.

Todd has most recently served as the executive director of New Hampshire's Stonewall Farm, a non-profit working farm and education center, however it is her rich experience as an attorney that has shaped most of her career.

For over 30 years Todd has advised organizations, individuals, and businesses in matters related to environmental, educational, contractual, employment, and non-profit management. She served as General Counsel for Antioch University, as Associate Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General in Washington in the Education and Ecology divisions, and litigated cases for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Inc. (now Earthjustice) and the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. related to the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and hazardous waste laws. Rebecca also teaches environmental law, legal advocacy and other subjects nationally and internationally.

In addition to these professional accomplishments, Todd grew up in the Connecticut River watershed, has raised a family while stewarding farmland along the river



Rebecca Todd was named the new executive director of Connecticut River Conservancy.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

in New Hampshire, and is cultivating a new passion for the sport of rowing.

"After an incredibly thorough search and evaluation of the needs of our organization, we are thrilled to welcome Rebecca as the next executive director. Rebecca's robust experience, character, and passion for the Connecticut River and surrounding com-

munities will help implement a strategic and sustainable path in the years to come," said Bob Sproull, board chair of CRC.

"I look forward to supporting the incredibly collaborative network of partners, members, and community members who recreate on the Connecticut River, and to developing solutions dedicated to health-

ier rivers in our beautiful watershed," said Todd.

The Search Committee, including members of CRC's Board of Trustees, staff, and executive search firm Eos Transition Partners, received applications from many well-qualified individuals across the country over the last few months and after careful review have determined that Todd is the most qualified to become the next great leader of Connecticut River Conservancy.

CRC's previous Executive Director, Andy Fisk, departed in the fall of 2022 after 10 years with the organization and is now the Northeast regional director at American Rivers. During this transitional time, CRC has been capably led by interim Executive Director and Director of Restoration Programs, Ron Rhodes, who has been a member of CRC staff for over 12 years.

CRC has a robust 70-year history of environmental conservation and restoration. The organization was first formed as the Connecticut River Watershed Council in 1952 by a group of concerned citizens, rebranded to the Connecticut River Conservancy in 2017, and has been a voice for the Connecticut River since the beginning. Programs include healthy habitat restoration through tree planting and dam removal, advocacy to prevent pollution, invasive species removal, water quality monitoring, river recreation access, community science to support migratory fish, the annual Source to Sea Cleanup, and more.

Public Notices

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Hampden, s.s.
TRIAL COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH SUPERIOR COURT
CASE NO. 2379CV-00383
 CHARLENE DEGRAY and TOD A. DEGRAY, Plaintiffs
 vs.
 ETHEL E. (SMITH) SLATER, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest
 KENNETH EARL SMITH, deceased, his heirs, assigns and successors in interest
 ELEANOR GERTRUDE ROGERS SMITH, deceased, her heirs, assigns and successors in interest
 LEWIS E. SMITH, deceased, his heirs, assigns and successors in interest
 SHERRILEE 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, SHERRILEE 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, SHERRILEE SMITH WHITMAN, deceased, ELLIS SHANE BRAGDON, deceased, GERALDINE ELLA SMITH HERSOM, deceased, ANITA LOUISE SMITH EVERETT, deceased, JEAN D. EVERETT RICH JOHNSON, deceased, their heirs, devisees, assigns and successors in interest, fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

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

By the Court:
 Jane Mulqueen, Esq.

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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD23P1901EA
Estate of:
Louise A. Graham
Date of Death:
August 16, 2023
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
 To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **James J. Graham of Feeding Hills, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
James J. Graham of Feeding Hills, 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 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.
 10/05/2023

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.

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INTERACT ■ from page 1

Former Mayor Susan Dawson was grateful for the opportunity to get word spread about her return to politics.

"I've had many, many phone calls following that of people saying 'oh, drop off a sign' and just asking questions—it let people know that I'm back," she said.

The event was styled to be an open-quo-rum. The candidates were set up at different tables around the room, with the mayoral candidates in the center.

"I liked the actual physical setup, it was like a convention where attendees could start in one area and continue around in a loop without having any interference of

things in the way," City Councilor Anthony Suffriti said.

There were also light refreshments for attendees to enjoy as they went around the room and spoke with the candidates.

The candidates also agreed that the library itself was a great place to host the event, and they were grateful for the staff who helped to set it up and put it on.

"The library really is a wonderful resource for the community," Suffriti said. "It's very important to have open conversations with the community and this was a beautiful location and I thank all of them for putting it all on."

Throughout the event, the attendees had the opportunity to ask the candidates

their thoughts on a variety of issues. Some common subjects were the high school project, work with the sewers and general infrastructure questions.

"Infrastructure is always an issue... there was a numerous amount of subjects, there's always the issue of sewers in parts of our town, but everybody brings something to the table that is specific to them and then there's an overall view of what's more important to the entire community," City Councilor Dino Mercadante said. "The important things for people right now are infrastructure needs, sidewalks, what we're going to do at the high school and so on."

The candidates did hope to see an even better turnout when there was another

event like this in the future. While there were many people in attendance, they would like to see even more individuals in the room in the future.

"The people who ran this function did a really good job of getting the word out and we had a nice turnout...but I'd like to have more people out here so they can come in and convey what is important to them," Mercadante said.

"While we had a nice turnout, it would have been nice to see more," Dawson said.

The next meet the candidates event is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. The event will be held in the same style as this one, but with the school committee candidates in attendance.

FEEDING ■ from page 1

"I'm now playing the role of Johnny Appleseed for native edible plants," he said.

Cohen has his own edible plant nursery, with over 1,000 plants that are all native to the region.

Throughout the year he goes out and gives walking tours of native plants in the area, pointing out which plants people can enjoy and helping to educate. During the

off seasons, when the weather grows cooler, he gives indoor presentations like this one at the library.

He hopes by giving these presentations more people will learn about what is available around them in nature. He doesn't expect people to only forage or to stop purchasing the food they enjoy from the stores around them, he only wants to show them the other options that are available.

"I don't want to convert people in this

room, I just talk about the subject and if after my talk they say 'I like this and I think I want to try it in my own yard or I'll nibble on that berry or try that nut or whatever', that's great, but if they say 'Russ was entertaining but I'm really not comfortable doing that stuff...' that's okay too," Cohen said.

If interested in planting native or if you just want to learn more about what plants are native in the area, go to <https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/>.

BALLOT ■ from page 1

The deadline to register to vote in the general election is Friday, Oct. 27. The general election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 7.

To get further information on where to vote and to get the ballot summaries once they are available, go to <https://www.agawam.ma.us/231/Election-Information>.

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



www.turley.com

Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 15th.

Deadline for submissions is October 16th

Community Holiday Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

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Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
***Be sure to indicate "Holiday" in the subject line of your email.**

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FALL CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR
Pine Valley, 281 Chauncey Walker St., Belchertown (off Rte. 21). **Saturday, Oct. 16, 9-3.** One-of-a-kind crafts, your favorite vendors, 32 vendors, indoors and out. Rain or shine.

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TAG SALE

FAMILY TAG SALE! Fri., Sat., Sun., Oct. 6-7-8, 10am-5pm. 53 Autumn St. (off River Rd.). Agawam. Pilgrim glass, clothes, etc. Priced to sell. Rain/shine.

MOVING SALE/TAG SALE. 3 PEACH STREET, WILBRAHAM
Saturday, October 7 & 8, 9am-3pm. Rain or shine/indoors. Bedroom, living room furniture, rug, refrigerator, housewares, kitchenware, small appliances, pictures. Lots of holiday décor & gift items. Totes and racks.

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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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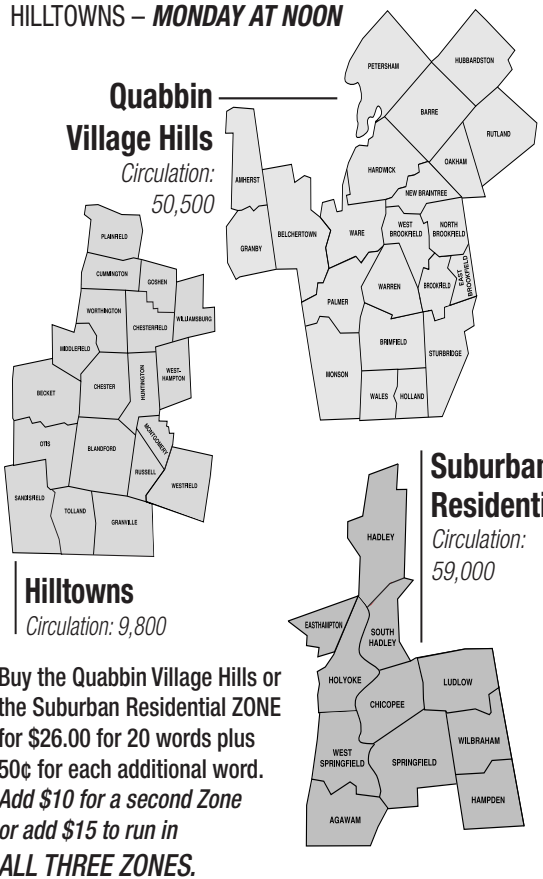
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Several of Agawam's elected officials wave from the trolley.



The Agawam Twirlers perform.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



A favorite among Big E fairgoers are the floats where Mardi Gras beads are thrown from.

Agawam shows pride at the Big E

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Last Wednesday, Agawam officials along with youth and families celebrated “Salute to Agawam” at the Big E. The event drew many local residents out to the large fair and included a parade featuring Agawam’s elected officials and the high school cheerleaders and marching bands.



Member of the band perform for the crowd watching the parade.



A pirate with a bubble machine attracted some wows from the younger audience.



Clydesdales make their way down the parade route.



Antique cars are a regular part of the parade.



The parade continues with little cars entertaining the crowd.