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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

October 9, 2025 | Vol. 47, No. 32 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Town receives \$125K earmark to help with roof replacements



By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Last week, State Sen. John Velis, D-Westfield, hosted a check presentation at William Sapelli Elementary School to award a \$125,000 earmark to the Town of Agawam for the Agawam Public Schools.

The funds will be used toward Agawam's pursuit of replacing roofs at not only Sapelli School, but at the town's other three elementary schools, Granger, Phelps, and Clark.

Velis secured the funding from the Fair Share Supplemental Budget this past spring. The money will be a big help as the town pursues other sources of funding for the roof projects.

"I think it is really, really important," said Velis. "I think this is the type of stuff that I really prioritize when it goes down to Boston and trying to track these funds that aren't as prevalent and widespread as they were, but to be able to get them and bring them back

to the district."

Earlier this year, Mayor Christopher Johnson informed the school committee that roof replacements were needed at the schools.

All four schools have flat roofs with membrane sections. All of the roofs are starting to have issues. Various weather events have likely contributed to some of the issues in the past few years. The year 2023 had an unusually large amount of rain. The year 2024 had several strange weather events related to high winds, remnants of hurricanes and tropical storms, and the past winter has been plagued with combinations of winter weather, including some significant ice storms.

Johnson told the school committee he will pursue funding through the Massachusetts School Building Authority. The MSBA is providing about 60% of the funding for the high school project. But it also has an accelerated repair programs that is

ROOF | page 8

School Committee highlights first-year teachers' journey

By Amanda Munson
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AGAWAM – On Sept. 23, the School Committee at AJHS began by introducing the new first-year teachers in the Agawam Public Schools, with the principal and director of each respective school. Superintendent Sheila Martin introduced them and began with the Early Childhood Center Director Andrea Pauly, who introduced Preschool Teacher Michele Sullivan and Speech and Language Pathologist Erin Smith.

"I am a speech and language pathologist in the Early Childhood Center. I live in East Longmeadow with my husband, son, and daughter. I came from a family of educators, my mother a middle school math teacher and my father was an educational administrator. Having had my father as an administrator, he was involved with local collaborative programs and

he often found me summer work; this is where my interest in special education and speech therapy began. I received my degree in communication disorders at UMASS Amherst and obtained my master's at SNHU; my mission here in Agawam is to empower every child to find their voice no matter the platform and to provide them with the tools that will express themselves to be understood," Smith said.

Sullivan followed by introducing herself that she earned her master's in teaching from Elms College, and has taught preschool, kindergarten, and worked in special education intervention in Chiscopee. "Deciding to leave my previous district was not an easy choice but looking back, I can confidently say that joining the Agawam team has been one of the best decisions

TEACHERS | page 8

New golf carts needed at course

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam City Council will be asked next week to approve the purchase of a fleet of new golf carts, though this time, it will not be the taxpayers footing the bill.

About a decade ago, the Agawam Municipal Golf Course was struggling to make ends meet, with their budget shrinking year after year. Many times, the town had to use taxpayer funds to supplement the basic needs of the course, as well as several capital needs like a fleet of golf carts.

Now, new carts are needed at the course, that since employing new management and better strategies in recent years, the course is now thriving with surpluses in its budget year after year.

The town established a stabilization fund for the course to address future capital needs and now, \$258,7000 is being requested to purchase new carts, which will most likely be in place for the beginning of next season, in early 2026.

CARTS | page 8

Brownie pride braves the weather



AGAWAM – On Wednesday, Sept. 24 at the Big E, representatives from Agawam were well-represented on Salute to Agawam at the yearly fair in neighboring West Springfield. The day was highlighted by the parade, which was unfortunately held in some rain. Elected officials, students, and band members were featured in the event.

Top photo, the Agawam High School band appears in the rainy weather. Bottom photos, the floats featuring bead throwers head down the route. See more photos on page 10.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



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Library announces October photo exhibit

AGWAM – The Agawam Public Library is excited to share works from the Springfield Photographic Society during the month of October. Pieces from the exhibit, titled The Towns of Franklin County, will be displayed on the main floor gallery walls.

This exhibit will feature pictures from each of the 26 towns in Franklin County. The images have been provided by 26 members of the Springfield Photo-

graphic Society, capturing the uniqueness of the communities, and illustrating their history, culture, public spaces, and natural beauty. Each photographer chose one perspective that they felt was important to understanding their town. One of the strengths of the exhibit is the large number of contributing photographers - providing a wider range of perspective than what could have been achieved with one or two

contributors. Those photographers with a passion for nature found the natural beauty in their assignment. Other photographers wanted to feature historical sites or local businesses. The Towns of Franklin County is the final installment of a long-term project undertaken by the club to capture images from all 101 towns in the four counties of Western Massachusetts.

Visitors are welcomed to explore these art exhib-

its throughout October during the regular hours of the library. The library will be closed Monday, Oct. 13 for Columbus Day. Any questions about the exhibits can be routed to the Information Desk at 413-789-1550 x4. Please contact Adult Services Library Associate, Erica LeFebvre at (413) 789-1550 x8858 or elefebvre@agawamlibrary.org if you are interested in displaying artwork at the library.

Bake Sale set for Oct. 25

AGAWAM – Community Grange #382 located at 47 North West St. in Feedings Hills will have a Halloween-themed bake sale on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, breads, candy and more for purchase. Proceeds will benefit Wreaths Across America.

At the same time there will be a small tag sale. Come check out our stuff. There will be household items, lots

of fabric and more. Also, the Grange will host Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, for a collection of supplies. Supplies needed include clumping, unscented cat litter, Purina indoor cat dry food in the green bag (15/20 pound bag), Kirkland purple bag dry cat food, Churu lickables, corrugated cardboard cat scratchers, paper towels, extra-large puppy pads. Also accepted are Costco or BJ's gift cards.

Agawam Congregational Church announces 'Trunk-or-Treat' event

AGAWAM – Agawam Congregation Church will hold its annual Trunk-or-Treat event in the parking lot of the church on Sunday, Oct. 26 from 4 to 6 p.m. Please bring a box of elbow macaroni or a jar of spaghetti sauce to benefit our loaves and fishes ministry to be entered in a special raffle prize.

Vehicles interested in distributing candy must preregister as there is a limited number of spaces available. To register your trunk contact ACC at 413-

786-7111 or email office@agawamcong.com with your name, email, phone number, and trunk theme.

*All candy donations are welcome to be dropped off at the church by Oct. 25.

*There is no access to electricity and generators are prohibited.

*Jumper cables will be available for graveyard batteries.

*Only vehicles participating will be allowed to park in the lot. All others must park along Elbert or Monroe Streets.

ACC welcomes members to playgroup

AGAWAM – Come join the Agawam Congregational Church Family Playgroup - where we will play, learn and grow together.

Every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. starting on Tuesday, Sept. 16, Agawam Congregational Church at 745 Main St. Agawam.

The group is for all children from birth to five-years-old.

School Street Park to host 'Out of the Darkness' suicide prevention walk

AGAWAM – Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States and the 16th leading cause of death in Massachusetts. It is also the second-leading cause of death for individuals age 15-34, yet suicide can often be prevented.

Volunteers from western Massachusetts are joining the thousands of people who are gathering this season in towns across the United States to promote suicide prevention. The annual Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk, hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Foundation - Massachusetts Chapter will

be held on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 10 a.m. (registration begins at 9 a.m. at School Street Park, Agawam, MA.

This gathering will support the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's education, research and support for survivors of suicide loss. In addition to raising awareness and funds to fight suicide, the walks give those who attend a chance to connect with others and know they are not alone, whether they walk in memory or in support of a loved one or in honor of their own mental health journey.

"Suicide touches one in five families in the United States. We hope that by connect-

ing with one another, we will draw attention to this issue and keep other families from experiencing a suicide loss. Our goal is to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide," said Lyndsey Nunes, Greater Springfield co-chair and AFSP Massachusetts Board Member.

The Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk is one of the hundreds of events being held nationwide this year. Speakers at the Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Walk will include local legislators and Western Mass community members who have been personally affected by suicide.

Volunteers wanted Oct. 25 to flag graves

AGAWAM – The Agawam Veterans' Council is seeking volunteers for flagging veteran graves at local cemeteries in preparation of veteran's Day on Saturday, Oct. 25.

Anyone interested in participating, please meet at 8 a.m. in the Springfield Street Cemetery (across from Sacred Heart Church) in Feeding Hills.

Catholic Women's Club members to pray the Rosary

AGAWAM – Everyone is invited to join the members of the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam on Tuesday, Oct. 14, in St. John the Evangelist Church at 833 Main St., Agawam, MA, to pray the ROSARY to our Blessed Mother.

Members and guests are asked to arrive by 6:15 p.m. to be able to start promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Refreshments will follow in the parish center, behind the church, after which the club's monthly business meeting will be held.

Harvest Fair set for Oct. 18

AGAWAM – The Agawam Rotary Club will present its annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at School Street Park.

The event is free and will include live music, a car show, food and craft vendors, and activities for children and adults. Rain date is the following day, Sunday, Oct. 19.

St. Joseph's Church holding Polish fare dinner

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph's National Catholic Church at 73 Main Street in Westfield is hosting a Community Dinner featuring authentic Polish Fare on Sunday, Oct. 19 at 12 noon.

This community feast will feature delicious Cheese Pierogi, Kielbasa, Galumpki, Lazy Cabbage Pierogi, Pickled Beets, Rye Bread, and Apple Crisp with Vanilla Ice Cream for Dessert. Coffee, Apple Cider, and Bottled Water will also be available.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. For tickets, phone or text Cliff at (413) 977-2007. Deadline for purchasing all tickets is Oct. 16.

A limited number of Meals-To-Go will be available at 12:30 p.m. (when buying your tickets, please indicate if you are dining with us or planning take-out).

All are welcome. Please join us for an authentic, traditional Polish dinner.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29TH at 1:00 P.M.

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Historical Society announces Autumn meeting to be held Oct. 16

AGAWAM – The Agawam Historical Association will hold its Autumn Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam.

The featured speaker will be scholar Peter Thomas, who will present "World of Pocumtuck and Other Native Villages in the Middle Connecticut River Valley."

Native peoples lived in the middle Connecticut River valley 400 centuries before English settlers arrived, and during the first forty years of colonial contact. The complex, and largely ignored Indian world, with its political, economic and social inter-connections, is a significant element of the historical and cultural context within which English settlement occurred. Thomas will present a fresh view of this world and discuss three main topics: The time depth of Native American occupations in the Connecticut Valley; The nature of Indian daily and seasonal lifeways, and The significance of inter-tribal relationships before and during the early years of European colonization.

Signed copies of the association's new Images of America title, Around Agawam and Feeding Hills will also be available for purchase. Published in May, 2026, the book features more than 200 historic photos depicting Agawam and Feeding Hills' rich history. Proceeds from the sales of the book will benefit the Agawam Historical Association.

This meeting is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

The private, non-profit, all-volunteer Agawam Historical Association preserves and presents Agawam and Feeding Hills history at its two locations and provides educational opportunities at its quarterly meetings. The association archives and displays artifacts pertaining to the Town of Agawam and its Fire Department in the Marilyn P. Curry History Room and Chief Russell "Rusty" Jenks Apparatus Room of the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum, located in the former Elm Street Fire Station at 35 Elm Street in Agawam Center. The association has preserved the ca. 1757 Thomas Smith House, at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills, in largely original, unrestored condition; the property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005. The association also offers an annual scholarship to an Agawam senior pursuing higher education in a history-related field. For more information, please visit agawamhistory.org or follow the Agawam Historical Association on Instagram and Facebook. Volunteers and new members are always welcome!

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Senior Center announces upcoming news and events

AGAWAM – Here are some of the upcoming activities and events being held at the Agawam Senior Center.

Tuesday Night Live Event Tuesday, Oct. 14

Get ready to laugh your socks off with comedian ~ Maverick Prasad Maverick Prasad's on a roll, bringing laughter and good vibes to the Senior Center with his open mic comedy night! With seven plus years of comedy experience and a hit open mic night in Springfield, WorkOut Wednesdays, under his belt, Maverick's ready to bring the funny to the Agawam Senior Center on Oct. 14. He's got DJ Nyce Jones spinning the tunes and a lineup of ridiculously talented comedians from all over New England. So grab your friends, get ready to laugh 'til it hurts, and who

knows, you might just find yourself inspired to take the mic and show off your own comedy skills - you'll get a full five minutes to make the crowd go wild!

My Night at the Movies: Play with Steve Henderson Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 1 p.m.

An Interactive Tale of Cinematic Proportions by Steve Henderson. Welcome to the story of Drew's night at the movies. And movies it is! As in not one movie, not two movies, but four movies all in one night. You won't want to miss this hectic tale as Drew tells you all about how she ended up at the Cowboy Movie, the War Movie, The Spooky Movie and the outer Space Movie at the same time. It may even seem like you are watching the characters right in front of you. The fun, no pressure, group-in-

teractive nature of this performance will guarantee a delightful, fun packed experience. Free and open to the public. Coming on Oct. 15 at 1 p.m. join the Agawam Senior Center at 954 Main Street Agawam, MA Call 413-821-0604 to reserve your spot. This program is supported in part by the Agawam Cultural Council a city agency which is supported in turn by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Country Line Dance ~ Just For Kicks Lynn and Kevin

Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Veterans Halls
Join us Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Veterans Hall, \$3 single and \$5 couple

Reverse Mortgage with Terry Olbrych, Fairway

Mortgage Company Thursday, Oct. 16 at 1 p.m. in Seminar Hall

Are you a homeowner 62 or older curious about how your home can help support your retirement? Join me for an informative seminar on reverse mortgages designed specifically for seniors. I'll break down how these loans work, who qualifies, dispel rumors and how they can provide financial flexibility without giving up your home. Whether you're exploring options for future planning or just want to learn more, this relaxed, no-pressure session is a great place to start.

Annual Health Expo Friday, Oct. 17 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in Veteran's Hall

Friday, Oct. 17 the Senior Center will once again host the Annual Health Expo with over 30 vendors from the sur-

rounding community to offer you their knowledge and expertise.

Continuing Sessions with Glenn Olsen Friday, Oct. 24 at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room

A little about me, I was a long term successful Physical Science Special Educator. In January of 2010 I had a severely disabling stroke. For the past 15 years I have focused on rehabilitation from my injuries with both traditional and non traditional methods. We have discussed topics essential to living a healthy life style such as foods, nutrition, and vitamins. We will continue to talk about fascinating topics such as muscle testing, energy levels, orbs, the significance of color and more. I look forward to having you a part of our discussion.

Garden Club's next meeting Oct. 14

AGAWAM – The next meeting of the Agawam Garden Club will be Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library located at 750 Cooper Street. After a short business meeting Matthew Flatow, owner of Flowers Flowers, will create Fall arrangements while sharing tips and advice on how to work with and care for the plant materials. All meetings are open to the public and not restricted to Agawam residents.

Bonsai Society hosting show

AGAWAM – On Oct. 11 and 12, the Pioneer Valley Bonsai Society will have a free two-day bonsai show at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam. The show hours are Saturday, Oct. 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The show will feature trees from around the world, as well as those from the New England region. Our club members will be there to demystify the Bonsai hobby and explain the bonsai process. If you have ever wanted to learn more about this intriguing hobby.

For additional information, please get in touch with the club's Vice President, Joe Polaski, at 860-680-8748 or via email at joe.striper@gmail.com.

Annual 'Trunk or Treat' event returns to HCC on Oct. 24

HOLYOKE – Visitors to Holyoke Community College on Friday, Oct. 24, can expect to see witches, ghouls, ghosts and an assortment of characters from popular children's movies, games, books, and TV shows as the college celebrates Halloween with its eighth annual Trunk or Treat event.

Every year, the event draws thousands of children and their parents to the HCC campus for a fun, safe, and early Halloween celebration as dozens of HCC departments, programs, and student clubs, as well as community groups and area businesses, decorate their cars and trucks with a wide assortment of themes.

Trunk or Treat runs from 5 to 7 p.m. in Parking Lot M by the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation on

the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

Last year's trunk themes included Charlotte's Web, the Wizard of Oz, Minions, mummies, Dr. Seuss, pirates, enchanted forest, haunted vet clinic, aliens, Rata-touille, monsters, Jurassic Park, Shrek, the zoo, STEM, Fairly Odd Parents, castles, Wednesday Adams, spiders, skeletons, scarecrows, witches, sharks, and the Justice League.

In the past, trunk sponsors from HCC have included the Early Education program, Student Engagement, Veterinary and Animal Science, Dance Club, ASL Club, Japanese Anime Club, C.A.M.O. (military club), Radiologic Technology, El Centro, Student Records, Early Childhood Grants Initiative, Culinary Club, Business department, President's Cabinet, Disney Club, Nursing program, Student Senate, STEM Club, Latinx Empowerment Association, Psychology Club, Radio Club, Animation Club, and Dungeons & Dragons Club.

Community groups and businesses sponsoring vehicles last year included Jan's Flowers, the Girl Scouts of America, Holyoke Chicopee



The HCC Trunk or Treat event will return this year.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Springfield Head Start, Elms College Teachers Lounge, Holyoke High School North Campus, Western MA Furs, Agawam Women Club, and Holyoke High School Class of 2025.

Prizes are awarded to vehicle sponsors in various categories including best executed theme, scariest trunk, best costumes, and most original. Each vehicle will be

handing out free Halloween treats and also have non-food items for children with dietary restrictions.

Trunk or Treat at HCC started in 2017 as a safe, fun, and early alternative to traditional trick-or-treating on Halloween night. Rather than going door to door seeking Halloween treats, children go "trunk to trunk" to collect their candy, visiting cars dec-

orated with seasonal themes and familiar stories and characters.

The event is free and open to the public and will be held outdoors, rain or shine. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

To sponsor a vehicle, please contact Student Engagement at studentengagement@hcc.edu. The deadline is Monday, Oct. 20.

Lions Club hosting breakfast

AGAWAM – That Agawam Lions Club will host its annual Harvest Pancake Breakfast. The event will be held on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Agawam Lions Den located on the grounds of the Big E.

Parking will be free and can be found at Gate 1. You can buy tickets at the event or from any member of the Agawam Lions Club.

The cost is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children age 10 and under.

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS Statement of Ownership Management and Circulation (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Date of Filing: Monday, October 6, 2025
Title of Publication: Agawam Advertiser News
Publication Number: 001-170
Frequency of Issue: Weekly
Annual Subscription Price: \$35 1 year

Location of known office of publication:
Agawam Advertiser News
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
Hampden County

Location of headquarters of publishers:
Turley Publications
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
Hampden County

Interim Editor: Gregory Scibelli
Agawam Advertiser News
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Publisher and Owner:
Patrick H. Turley, CEO, Turley Publications
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

Issue date for circulation data 10/02/2025. Total number of copies (net press run): 2,000; mailed outside county paid subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541: 12; mailed in-county paid subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541: 800; paid distribution outside the mails including sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales and other paid distribution outside USPS: 1,000; paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail) 10, total paid distribution, 1,822; free or nominal rate outside county copies included on PS Form 3541: 0; free or nominal rate in-county copies included on PS Form 3541: 40; free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail): 10; free or nominal rate distribution outside the mail (carriers or other means): 10; total free or nominal rate distribution: 60; total distribution: 1,882 copies not distributed: 118; total: 2,000, percent paid: 96.81%.

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Opinion

Guest Column

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

When will my disability become my regular Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I hope you can answer this question.

I'm currently receiving Social Security Disability benefits, and I will be turning 65 in February 2026. I'm confused as to how Social Security Disability transitions to regular Social Security, and when. I assume it's age 65, but maybe it's my retirement date?

Also, does the amount remain the same or will it change? I'm not working. I've been on SSDI for about 15 years. Thank you.

Signed: Disabled Senior

when you applied for SSDI, even though you hadn't yet reached your FRA when you went on SSDI. Thus, the monthly benefit amount will not change because it is based on your lifetime earnings record, from before you became disabled.

FYI, although age 65 was once Social Security's "retirement age," full retirement age for Social Security today is based on the year you were born. So, your SSDI benefit will automatically switch to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit as soon as you reach age 67. Essentially, the only thing that will change is the Social Security Trust Fund from which your benefits will be paid.

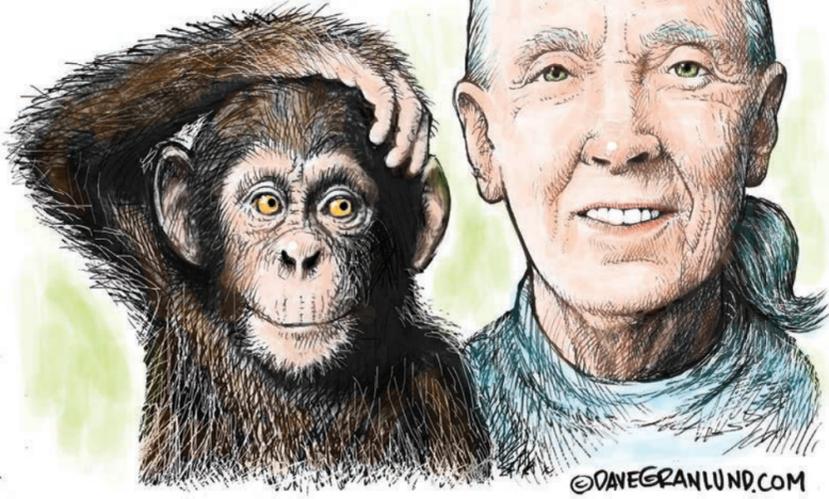
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Dear Disabled Senior:

If you are collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, those SSDI benefits will automatically convert to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit when you reach your SS Full Retirement Age, which, in your case, is age 67. For information, FRA today is somewhere between age 66 and 67, depending on your year of birth, and the full retirement age for everyone born in 1960 or later is age 67.

The change from SSDI to your regular Social Security benefit will be transparent to you because your monthly benefit amount will remain the same. SSDI benefits were originally awarded to you based upon your full retirement age entitlement

Jane Goodall 1934 - 2025



Guest Column

Unique question on a unique plant

Sue, who gardens in Gilbertville called the Garden Lady with a question about Stinging Nettle. Apparently, she has it growing in numerous places on her four-acre property and wants to eradicate it.

"Roberta, are you familiar with this plant?" All I could say, was "Ah, yes," and then I began the story.

Not too long ago I was grabbing weeds by the handful, stuffing them into a bucket. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye I saw the familiar saw-tooth shaped leaf and distinctive hairy stems within my clutches. As soon as my brain registered what I had just plucked, my hand started to sting...burn, really.

Yup, I was fooled again by

reaction. Another giveaway to the plant's identity is its elongated, heart-shaped, saw-tooth-edged leaves that form opposite one another and then alternate back and forth up the stem.

From July through October, the plant sports greenish white flowers, upright at the top of the plant, but drooping from the leaf axils. If these three characteristics don't make it unique enough to spot, look for height and girth! Nettles can grow as tall as five feet, maybe more, and make large colonies easily, thanks to a tangled web of underground runners that sprout new stems every few inches.

Once it has gotten a foot-

stinging nettle. Ice helps a little, but usually the burn has to run its course.

Once you have identified stinging nettle, it won't be hard to miss. *Urtica dioica* and other members of the Urticaceae family have in common one particular trait: hairs on the undersides of their leaves as well as on their stems.

It is the hairs, that when brushed upon or grabbed, release formic acid into the skin causing a stinging, burning and a just plain painful



by Roberta McQuaid



Red-bellied woodpecker

On Sept. 30, I saw two red-bellied woodpeckers fly from one tree to another.

Since I do not feed the birds suet or seeds until winter due to bears, I had not noticed them before. The red-bellied woodpecker has a black and white barred back and a pale belly. Males have a red crown and nape and the females have just a red nape, but no crown.

These woodpeckers cling to tree bark and use their stiff tail feathers for support while they probe into the bark for insects. White is visible on their wings in flight. They are about nine inches long, the same size as the hairy woodpecker.

Like other woodpeckers, they have an undulating flight. They pick at the bark rather than drill into it like many other woodpeckers.

They inhabit woodlands and forests from old stands of oak and hickory to young hardwoods and pines. They also appear at backyard feeders especially for suet.

They nest in a cavity excavated in dead wood. Males may begin cavity excavation with the female selecting one of the holes and completing it. The female lays two to six eggs. There most common call is a shrill rolling "kwirr" or "churr" given by both sexes. They also make a "cha cha cha" sound.

Helping birds

Another way to help birds is to plant native trees, shrubs and plants in ones yard. Many provide a food source and others become a nesting site or shelter. Leaving a section of yard not mowed and letting it "run wild" also attracts birds, but provides food, nesting sites and shelter. Putting out bird feeders and water sources also bring birds to one's yard, but they also attract black bears and other unwanted visitors.

Blue jays

I heard blue jays squawking away on Sept. 30. I looked toward the noise and saw



Blue jay

four blue jays flitting about among the trees. They were near a winter feeding spot. In winter, I put out shelled peanuts, which is a favorite of blue jays and tufted titmice to name a few. The first year I fed peanuts, I put out unshelled peanuts. They make a mess with the peanut husks, but I enjoyed watching them fly off with a whole peanut and opening it to get the peanuts inside.

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield birder, who emails regularly said, "In the yard most summer visitors have headed south but catbirds are still around and a couple of male towhees were seen last week. Also a male and female common yellowthroat visited the bird bath."

He said, "I filled the hummingbird feeders last week

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Catbird

but haven't seen a hummingbird in several days and the feeders haven't been used much because they are still almost full."

He reported he had to take down my feeders because bear were visiting during the day. He had planted a couple dozen sunflowers in the yard and last week he cut the seed heads off and hung them in the garage to dry. He attached a few of the seed heads to the poles where he

hangs his bird feeders. A pair of cardinals, at least three titmice and a black capped chickadee came for the seeds.

Norwottuck Rail Trail

The Brimfield resident in his email of Sept. 30 said, "Last Saturday a friend and I spent a couple of hours walking on the Norwottuck Rail Trail, Station Road in Amherst. It was a beautiful day to be out and about. We didn't see song birds but a few ducks, a couple of great blue herons, three green herons (good looks at one quite close) and one horned grebe. A pair of beaver were out enjoying the nice day and we got good looks at them. A few people walking the trail had never seen beavers before

BIRDS | page 7

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Subscriptions
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\$35 per year pre-paid (\$40 out of state)
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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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Agawam Advertiser News welcomes letters to the editor

The Agawam Advertiser News welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to aan@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that

Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper

plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in the Agawam Advertiser News.

Election

New candidate Uduak Enyiema looks for seat on Agawam's city council

AGAWAM – Uduak Enyiema, a new candidate for Agawam City Council, issued a statement:

As a first-time candidate for Agawam City Council, I enter this race not as a politician but as a neighbor, a working mother, and someone who believes deeply in the power of community. My decision to run is rooted in a simple truth: Agawam deserves leadership that reflects the lives, hopes, and challenges of the people who call this town home.

Like many of you, I know what it means to balance the demands of family, work, and rising costs while still

striving to give back. As a single mother of three boys, I understand firsthand how decisions made at Town Hall ripple through our daily lives, from the quality of our schools and safety of our neighborhoods to the affordability of living in the place we love. Too often, voices like ours, families working hard to make ends meet, are underrepresented. I am running to change that.

My campaign is guided by the belief that we are stronger together. This means protecting taxpayers while making sure our investments strengthen Agawam's future. It means en-

sureing our schools remain well-resourced so that every child has the chance to succeed. It means supporting local businesses, repairing infrastructure, and keeping Agawam safe and welcoming for families, seniors, and young people alike.

Professionally, I serve as Vice President of Development and Community Relations at Gándara Center, a mid-size community-based organization that provides essential services across western Massachusetts. In this role, I work to meet people where they are, advocate for those whose voices are too often overlooked,

and create space for people to live as their most authentic selves. My work involves strategic fundraising, developing community partnerships, and leading initiatives that show success not just in numbers, but in human impact.

Before my current role, I served as Executive Director and CEO of Thames River Community Service, Inc. There, I oversaw programs for families and young people, secured funding through grant writing, and participated in legislative discussions to ensure that critical services were protected and expanded. I

have a deep understanding of how funding contracts work, how to advocate effectively at the state level, and how to align resources with the needs of real people. These experiences have taught me how to collaborate strategically, remain accountable to the community, and deliver results through both creativity and focus.

What sets me apart is not just what I have done but how I lead, with empathy, transparency, and a determination to listen. I want to hear from you: the parent concerned about classroom resources, the retiree man-

aging a fixed income, the small business owner working to stay competitive, the young person looking for opportunity. Your voices are the foundation of this campaign, and they will guide my decisions if I earn the privilege to serve.

Agawam is a town with a proud history and a bright future. Together, we can protect its small-town character while ensuring it grows in ways that benefit everyone. I am asking for your trust, your partnership, and your vote, not just for me, but for a vision of Agawam where every family has a fair chance to thrive.

Council Vice President Anthony Russo seeks re-election to another term

AGAWAM – Agawam City Council Vice President Anthony Russo issued his statement regarding his candidacy in this year's election:

It has been an honor to serve the residents of Agawam for the past two terms. During this time, I have worked hard to advance initiatives that improve the quality of life for our community.

I have proudly co-sponsored legislation to help lower energy rates and supported small businesses by making outdoor dining a permanent option for local restaurants. I have also been deeply committed to assisting our veterans-working alongside our Veteran Service Office and State Senator to secure benefits for disabled veterans, and co-sponsoring an ordinance to provide a cost-of-living adjustment for their benefits.

Supporting Agawam's senior citizens has been another top priority. I partnered with the Sheriff's De-

partment to launch the Sand for Seniors Program, ensuring seniors have safe access to slip-prevention materials during the winter months. In addition to organizing pickup days at the Senior Center, I personally delivered sand buckets throughout the season to those unable to collect them.

I have consistently advocated for residents' concerns, successfully addressing road repairs, street lighting issues, drainage problems, and more. To remain accessible and accountable, I have held monthly office hours since taking office. I have also donated my entire City Council salary back to the community-supporting the Senior Center, Veterans Council, Beautification Committee, Friends of the Agawam Veterans Cemetery, youth sports organizations, families in need, and many others.

Looking ahead, I am committed to continuing this service. Some of my goals include:

- Establishing a recreation center for Agawam's youth by repurposing the current Early Childhood Center once the new high school and ECC are completed-pursuing state and federal grants to minimize local costs.

- Creating affordable senior housing to ensure our seniors can continue living with dignity in the community they helped build.

- Expanding support for our veterans, beyond the COLA increase, to ensure they receive the full care and recognition they deserve. As the son of a disabled Vietnam veteran, I saw firsthand the struggles and sacrifices due to their service to our great nation.

To the residents of Agawam: I promise to always put you first. I will remain accessible, responsive, and dedicated to serving your needs.

I humbly ask for your vote and the opportunity to continue working on your behalf as your City Councilor.

Edward Borgatti looks for second term

AGAWAM – Agawam City Councilor Edward Borgatti issued his statement regarding his candidacy in this year's election:

I'm proud to announce my candidacy for re-election to the Agawam City Council. I'm running to ensure Agawam continues to have an independent voice that listens, leads, and delivers results.

As I embark on my second term, I will continue to make quality of life for Agawam residents a top priority, with public safety being most important. We must prioritize resources to police and fire so residents can feel safe in their neighborhoods. With a new high school on the way, Agawam will attract new families; we must ensure their safety while ensuring quality infrastructure that includes timely maintenance of roads and sidewalks. As I have publicly stated, we must develop a strategy

to ensure our town fields and playgrounds are maintained, keeping them safe for all.

We must continually strive to make government more accessible to our residents by improving the towns' ability to communicate with our citizens. We must ensure and provide resources and programs that directly affect and benefit our families and seniors, while continuing to always attract more economic development to our community. We must also be mindful that our homeowners, especially our seniors and those on fixed incomes, cannot afford significant increases in their real estate taxes. Raising property taxes and fees must not be the only solution to balancing our budget.



Edward Borgatti

I love Agawam and I am excited to serve our community. With a degree in business, a Master's in Public Administration and the owner of E. B's Restaurant for nearly 40 years, I know the pressures and responsibilities that come with running a successful business. If I am fortunate enough to be re-elected, I will be a watchdog for your tax dollars, making sure our town is moving in the right direction.

As a life-long resident and a long-time community activist and public servant, it has been a privilege to serve the town I love and I hope to continue serving the residents of this great community. I humbly ask for your continued support as I seek a second term as your city councilor.

Borgatti-Reed seeks to continue tenure on school committee

AGAWAM – Shelley Borgatti-Reed, a longtime school committee member, issued her statement for re-election:

I would like to announce my candidacy for re-election to the Agawam School Committee. I am a life-long resident of Agawam, graduating from Agawam High School in 1978. I received an Associate's Degree from Holyoke Community College in Legal Secretarial Science and I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management from Ashford University. I have worked for the Department of Defense for 38 years, retiring in 2018. I served as a board member on the CT Federal Executive Association and the Combined Federal Campaign. I also served on the Board of Directors for

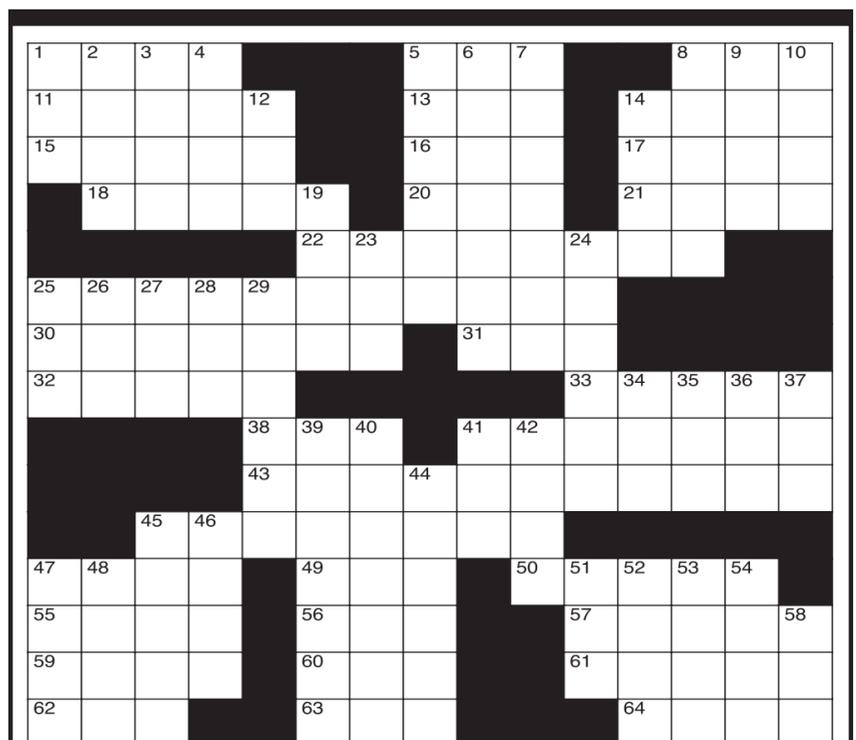
the East Hartford Federal Credit Union.

Serving on the Agawam School Committee has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I am very passionate about serving and am proud to say that during my tenure I have only missed one School Committee meeting. I truly love this work because it gives me the opportunity to support our students, teachers, and families while helping to shape the future of our schools. Every decision we make has a direct impact on the quality of education and the opportunities available to our children, and I am proud to contribute to that important responsibility.

I have a daughter who graduated from Agawam High School in 2020 and is now pursuing her Master's

in Clinical Psychology; and a son who is a 2015 graduate from Agawam High School and a graduate from Worcester State University. He has dedicated his career to serving and protecting the Agawam community. My volunteer work includes Parent Teacher Organizations, Agawam High School Cheerleading/Football programs, Sacred Heart Church, Granger School, and Agawam Youth Cheerleading.

I am committed to continuing this work with integrity, transparency, and dedication. My goal is always to ensure that every child in Agawam receives the best education possible in a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment. I look forward to continuing to serve our community with pride.



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- Satisfy
- Partly digested food
- Dictator
- Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

CLUES DOWN

- A major division of geological time
- Angry
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- Go quickly
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- Canadian city
- One who slices
- Perform perfectly
- Nest of pheasants
- Tactile sensations
- Sword
- Climactic
- Adrenocorticotrophin
- Fisherman's tool
- Swiss river
- Plant that makes gum
- A French abbot
- One point east of northeast
- Get free of

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SPORTS

Brownies pick up four-set win

CHICOPEE – Last Friday evening, Agawam High School girls volleyball picked up a 3-1 win at Chicopee Comprehensive.

The Brownies are still trying to get enough wins to qualify for the state tournament.

The Brownies improved to 5-8, having won the first two sets before losing the third

one 25-23. Agawam rebound to take the match with a 26-24 win in the final set.

Laliah Thee had 13 kills and 20 digs. Sophia Laprise had a huge game from the service line with 18 aces.

Comp fell to 8-5 on the season led by Olivia Warren with 17 kills. Brielle Bennett had five aces and Keishalee Guzman turned in 30 assists.



Emily Scott goes for a score.



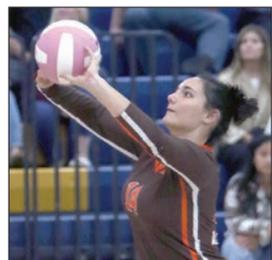
Laliah Thee spikes the ball over the net.



Toni Vassallo gets the set up against the net.



Mia Atkins goes low for a bump off the serve.



Hannah Jock squares up a set off the back line.



Megan Fitzgerald takes a corner kick.



Mia Oyler heads for the center of the field.

Girls soccer wins second game

CHICOPEE – For the second time this season, Agawam High School girls soccer scored a shutout over league rival Chicopee Comprehensive, this time on the road with a 3-0 score. Kylie War-

ner, Makayla Rosario, and Mia Oyler had the goals for the Brownies while Kayleen Sullivan made four saves for the shutout. Agawam will face South Hadley on Thursday, Oct. 9 at 4 p.m. at home.



Kylie Warner looks to defend the ball.



Samantha Eisenbeiser goes for the ball near the sideline.



Makayla Rosario clashes with an opponent.

Westfield State Owls suffer defeat to Anna Maria

WESTFIELD – Anna Maria QB Nikolay Boyce threw for 297 yards and five touchdowns to lead the AmCats to a 41-14 win over Westfield State University in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football game at Alumni Field in Saturday afternoon.

Boyce's big day offset a 100-yard receiving game for Owls' senior WR Casey Tang, and 95 yards on the ground from first year FB Manny Mengata.

Anna Maria improves to 3-2 overall and 3-1 in the MASCAC, while Westfield is now 2-3 overall and 2-2 in the conference.

Westfield turned the ball over eight times on the afternoon, which led to three AMC TD's.

Westfield jumped out to a 7-0 lead on its first possession of the game, capping a 3-play, 53-yard drive with an 8-yard touchdown run from Aidan Patterson.

Anna Maria stacked up a 35-7 lead by the half as Boyce tossed TD's of 13, 67, 38 and 30 yards around a 22-yard interception return for a touchdown from Mar-Zhon Brinson.

Westfield trimmed the lead to 35-14 on the Owls first drive of the second half, as

QB Miles Foerster found Teng deep downfield for a 54-yard scoring strike.

Boyce tacked on a 3-yard pass to Tyler Garretson, for Garretson's second TD catch of the day, early in the fourth quarter to cap the scoring.

Boyce finished 18-30 for 297 yards with five TD's and two interceptions. He spread the ball around to five different receivers, four of whom had 60-plus yards, led by Jeremiah Cadet's 67 yards

on a screen pass for a TD, and Garretson had six grabs for 64 yards. Cadet finished with nine carries for 61 yards on the ground as well.

Westfield's Foerster completed 6 of 19 passes for 130 yards, with one TD and five interceptions. Mengata carried 25 times for 95 yards, with Patterson adding seven carries for 58 yards. Teng led the Owls with three catches for an even 100 yards.

Defensively, Westfield got

a pair of interceptions from senior CB Zach Allen. Tafari Proctor led the Owls with eight tackles.

Brinson had a pair of interceptions for the AmCats, who were led by seven tackles from Charles DiMartino.

Anna Maria finished with 21 first downs t the Owls 20. Westfield was 7-11 in third down efficiency compared to 2-8 for the AmCats. Anna Maria outgained the Owls 396-349, while Westfield held a sight 31-29 advantage in time of possession.

Both teams will be idle next weekend before returning to action on Oct. 18.



How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete?

Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: sports@turley.com or call, 1-413-283-8393.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Sports

Agawam football one TD better

AGAWAM – Through the Brownies did not score any extra points or two-point conversions, their three touchdowns were enough to defeat Amherst Regional in their first conference game of the season last Friday night

at home. Agawam notched a pair of second half scores for an 18-14 win. It was Agawam's second straight win to improve to an even 2-2 for the season. Coming up, the Brownies will host Pittsfield at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10.



Joseph Duffy tries to get through the middle of the field.



Cole Ingham attempts to avoid a tackle as he heads for the left side line.



Owen Angelini avoids a tackle on a carry.



Tyler Grevais and Jeremiah Bass-Dixon take down an Amherst runner.



Gavin Cruz and Jonathan Chechile go for a tackle.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Railers roster taking shape

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders), and Head Coach & General Manager Nick Tuzzolino, announced today that goaltenders Henrik Tikkanen and Tristan Lennox were assigned to the Worcester Railers from the Bridgeport Islanders by the New York Islanders.

Tikkanen, 25, arrives in Worcester in second all-time in franchise history in wins (31), shutouts (4), minutes played (3794), and saves (1889), while being third in games played (65). The 6'9", 223 lb goaltender spent the 2024-25 season largely with the Bridgeport Islanders of the American Hockey League, playing in 30 games with a 4.12 goals against average and a .865 save percentage. All-time in the AHL, Tik-

kanen has a 14-24-6 record with a .332 GAA and a .890 SV%.

With Worcester, the Lohja, Finland native has a 3.02 GAA, a .908 SV%, and a 31-28-4 record across three seasons with the club. Tikkanen (31) is 13 wins behind Mitch Gillam (44) as of the start of the 2025-26 season for first all-time in team history. Tikkanen is the first goaltender in franchise history to play parts of four seasons with the Railers.

Lennox, 22, comes to Worcester for the first time since the 2023-24 season, where he appeared in 13 games for the club. Across his time with Worcester, the 6'4", 196 lb goaltender owned a 2.94 goals against average with a .909 save percentage and a 5-6-1 record. The former 93rd overall selection from the 3rd round of the 2021 NHL entry draft

made his National Hockey League debut for the New York Islanders on Thursday, April 10th against the New York Rangers. He is the third ever Railer to debut in the NHL following time spent in Worcester.

Prior to professional hockey, the Ottawa, ON native played in 121 games for the Saginaw Spirit of the Ontario Hockey League. At the junior level, Lennox owned a 3.26 GAA, a .887 SV%, and a 59-45-7 record.

Worcester Regional Airport is the official airport of the Worcester Railers HC and presenting partner of all Railers transactions.

The Worcester Railers HC 2025-26 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Saturday, Oct. 18 and Sunday, Oct. 19 against the Maine Mariners and Adirondack Thunder. The 508 Club is now on sale for the 2025-26 season.

Thunderbirds score preseason win over Providence Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds picked up a 2-1 overtime victory on Sunday over the Providence Bruins inside the MassMutual Center to close their preseason slate.

The Bruins picked up the first goal of the afternoon on a power play with 1:08 remaining in the first, as Lynden McCallum lifted a one-timer over the right shoulder of Vadim Zherenko to give Providence the 1-0 lead at intermission. That came less than a minute after Hugh McGing was awarded a penalty shot, but could not get the puck past Simon Zajicek in the Bruins goal crease.

Springfield had an answer from one of their veterans at 3:53 of the second when Corey Schuene-man lifted a point wri-

through traffic and past Zajicek to tie the score. McGing had what appeared to be the go-ahead goal on a power play at 14:07 of the period, but after replay, the officials waved it off, saying that the T-Birds forward had directed the puck in with a kicking motion.

Zherenko's night was complete after 40 minutes and 20 saves on 21 shots. Gage Alexander came on for the third period and overtime and stopped all nine shots he faced.

After neither team could break the ice in the third period, the T-Birds picked up the triumph in the extra frame as Nikita Alexandrov fed a saucer pass to McGing's blade at 3:32, and McGing got enough of it to beat Za-

jicek upstairs to finish the game.

The T-Birds now prepare themselves for the regular season slate, beginning with MGM Springfield Opening Night on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 6:05 p.m. against the Charlotte Checkers inside Thunderdome. The action starts with the Community Bank N.A. Block Party from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Plaza at MGM Springfield, featuring live music from Moonlight Saints. Fans are encouraged to arrive at the MassMutual Center early for pregame ceremonies, including full team introductions, which will begin promptly at 6 p.m. - all fans in attendance will receive a T-Birds 10th Anniversary Banner and a magnet schedule.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

hold it can be difficult to eradicate – think mint but on a larger, pickier scale! Expect to find it growing in rich soil along the forest's edge, in moist woodlands and even flood plains.

If you shuddered at my suggestion of eradicating stinging nettles, chances are you are aware of some of its reported health benefits. Some herbalists even go as far as to plant it on purpose!

I'll admit I even bought some dried leaves once to use along with other herbs in a spring tonic rich in vitamins and minerals. Although it grows wild all over my property I was afraid to harvest it! Since then, I have learned that once cooked or dried, the sting disappears.

Nettles have been used to treat all kinds of ailments over the years. Urtication was a common, albeit curious, practice in ancient times. It involved slapping inflicted body parts with bunches of stinging nettles to impart a

cure of a particular ailment.

Slapping below a man's navel was thought to improve his virility. If a paralyzed limb was slapped it was hoped feeling would be renewed.

There are other bizarre accounts of the application of this herb. I read one case of crushed leaves being packed into the nose to stop a nose-bleed. Ouch! Or used in juice form to make hair grow. Grow? Maybe, but stand on end a definite!

All kidding aside, there are other benefits of nettles that go beyond folklore. Studies are being conducted for its use in treating prostate problems, asthma, allergies and arthritis.

Whether or not nettles are part of your apothecary chest, be sure to handle them with kid gloves! Although the stinging and burning sensation may last for only a few minutes, it very well could last for hours!

That brings me back to Sue's question. There are multiple ways to try and eradicate the plant. You can suit up and

hand pull or get the mower out and mow the area as you would the lawn. Repeated mowings during active growth will eventually kill it.

You can also take a soil test and make the necessary recommendations to improve the soil to a point that the grasses in your field will thrive and choke out the stinging nettle. Small areas can be covered in black plastic –again, you would do this when the plant is in active growth. Usually a month or more is necessary for this route to be successful.

Spot spraying with weed killers in another option but one that I only use as a very last resort. Good luck!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.

BIRDS ■ from page 4

and were quite excited and asked lots of questions. Do they eat fish?"

Warren ponds

The Brimfield resident frequently visits ponds in Warren. He saw a bald eagle one day and yesterday (Sept. 29) in addition to three great blue herons I

saw a northern harrier and two male turkeys.

Trail camera

The Brimfield resident said in his email, "The trail camera near the bird bath captured a visit by a bear one night. Three days later a bear visited again and chewed open a pumpkin and ate the seeds and then went to one of the poles

with sunflower seed heads and knocked the pole down. It didn't bother another pole with seed heads."

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.

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TEACHERS ■ from page 1

I've made. From the moment I stepped into the ECC, I felt an immediate connection. The past few weeks in school have only reinforced that this is the right place for me. The warmth and support I received from the school administration, my colleagues, the families and of course my beautiful students have made me feel incredibly welcome and truly at home here. I genuinely am excited about the opportunity of growing alongside a dedicated team," Sullivan said.

ABA Teacher Karen Carrier who wasn't present had Principal Mithcell Taylor of James Clark Elementary School speak on her behalf. Taylor began, "Carrier has strong connections within the Clark School, her mom was a teacher there named

Donna taught third grade and Carrier remembers coming to visit her mom when she worked at the school. She officially began working at the school in 1993 as a one-to-one paraprofessional, later serving as a classroom paraprofessional until 1998. Currently works in the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program and I've been able to bring her on as the ABA teacher this year. Very fortunate to have Karen," stated Taylor.

At the Clifford Granger Elementary School, three new staff members were introduced by Principal Stephanie Gendron who stated that although they are new their presence was immediately felt by all. Special Education Teachers in the Therapeutic Learning Classroom (TLC) program Katelyn Lentes and Christine Samuelsen, and

Math Coach and Interventionist Amanda Treon.

Lentes began, "I am originally from Holyoke and currently live in Chicopee. I have worked in education for the past 15 years, this is my twelfth year as either a teacher and or Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). I received my bachelor's of education from Westfield State and received my master's in severe special education from Bay Path University, as well as my educational specialist degree. Coming to Granger has been a great experience, the welcome here has been amazing and I look forward to working with the staff, students, and parents here in Agawam," Lentes said.

Samuelsen followed, "I live here in Agawam with my husband and three children. Before working at Granger, I worked at the Junior High

in the connections program as a paraprofessional, where I gained a lot of valuable experience and had hands-on learning while I completed my bachelor's degree at Bay Path in Child Psychology. Everyone at Granger has been amazing and so helpful, any questions I've had I've been welcome with open arms. I couldn't have asked for a better staff and I look forward to getting to know everybody," said Samuelsen.

Treon followed by introducing herself and sharing it is her 22 year working in education. "I am originally from Central Pennsylvania, I came to Western Massachusetts in 2006 after teaching overseas for two years. I'm a licensed elementary and English as a Second Education (ESL) teacher, my experience includes being a classroom and ESL teacher, and coach. I be-

lieve in building conceptual understanding for students in math, as well as a love for math," said Treon.

Benjamin Phelps Elementary School has five new staff members who were introduced by Principal Andy Villamaino, only one could attend in-person.

The four introduced by Villamaino were First Grade Teacher Riley Kelley, Second Grade Teacher Anna Boucher, Special Education Teacher in the Connections Program Teah Garibian, and Second Grade Teacher Caitlin Brown. Present at the meeting was Adjustment Counselor Natasha Martin, "I am an Agawam resident and it fills me with great purpose to know that I have the opportunity to support the students that are living within my community. My children also attend the Agawam Public Schools

and as a parent, I've been impressed with the dedication and support my daughter received at the ECC and my son at the James Clark Elementary School. I worked in the mental health field for over 10 years; we have a really strong team and I feel very lucky," stated Martin.

Roberta G. Doering Middle School introduced Teacher Lisa Albert and the Agawam Junior High School introduced Intensive Math Teacher Roman Tsipenyuk, School Adjustment Counselor Alexis Glynn, Science Teacher Alissa Himmelright, and Tom McCall. Agawam High School introduced four new staff members Technology Educator Matthew Boucher, English Teacher Kristin Faulkner, Special Education and Inclusion Teachers Emma Thompson and Vanessa Galluzzo.

CARTS ■ from page 1

According to the funding proposal made by Mayor Christopher Johnson, \$158,700 of the funds needed would come from the golf course's stabilization fund, while the remaining \$100,000 will come from the town's Capital Stabilization Fund. However, that funding will be a loan which will be paid back by the Municipal Golf Course's Revolving Fund at 4% interest. Payments are scheduled to take place with payments made

in the next two fiscal year budgets.

Johnson said in a memo to the city council the \$100,000 loan allows \$200,000 to remain in the golf course's stabilization fund while also making sure the town benefits from the loan to the golf course. The golf course would also save substantial funds from not having to pay a traditional bond for the carts.

Previously, the golf cart fleet was done as more of a lease situation. Johnson stated commercial lease

rates have exceeded what is reasonable and it is more cost effective to purchase carts, which Johnson said are a substantial source of revenue for the course when users rent the carts for their rounds.

The funding request appeared as new business at the Monday, Oct. 6 meeting will be directed to the Finance Sub-committee for a recommendation. The soonest it could be voted on will at the next meeting, scheduled for Monday, Oct. 20.

ROOF ■ from page 1

geared toward smaller projects. Among projects funded by the program are roofs and HVAC systems.

"The plan is to try and do a roof a year over the next four or five years for the elementary schools," the mayor said. "But they're unfortunately not going to be considered as one project."

As a result, the town will have to submit separate applications for each of the four roofs, meaning they may not all receive funding from the state.

According to Johnson, the smaller roofs at Clark and Sapelli schools will cost an estimated \$800,000. The larger roofs at Phelps and Granger could cost about \$1.2 million. It is not clear what order the roofs would be repaired in.

According to Johnson, Phelps is the oldest building among the elementary schools, constructed in 1939. The latest built among them was Sapelli in 1959. It opened as Robinson Park School before being renamed in 2023 when the school committee agreed to change the name in

honor of the former principal, superintendent of schools, and former mayor.

The school committee voted unanimously to have Superintendent Sheila Martin submit the statements of interest to the MSBA. The deadline for this year's round of funding was Friday, March 21.

There is not currently a specific timeline for the roof projects to take place. A major project in the school district is already underway as Phase I construction of a new Agawam High School is about six months into the process.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P2002EA
Estate of:
Andre Alexander Cobham
Date of Death: 03/16/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Hyacinth Jennifer Cobham of Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Hyacinth Jennifer Cobham of Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection

at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/27/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 29, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
10/09/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD25P1892GD
In the interests of
Lindsey Renee Kluiko of Agawam, MA
Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 09/12/2025 by Allison F Vosburgh of Agawam, MA

Alanna J D'Angelis of Agawam, MA will be held 10/20/2025 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located: 50 State St. 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103.

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and
Mail a copy to all interested

parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: September 12, 2025

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/09/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court

50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD25P2032EA
Estate of:
Linda Marie Sypek
Date of Death: 01/11/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by William Sypek of Agawam, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: William Sypek of Agawam, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/31/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and

objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 02, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
10/09/2025

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Agawam Advertiser News

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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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SNOWBLOWER & LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR A&M TUNE-UPS
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Work done at your home.
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AUTO

2007 FORD E150 VAN, 86655 mileage includes: steel partition door, shelving, cabinets, bins/racks, roof racks. Call for info **413-658-8535**.

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS
FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

PETS

AKC CHOCOLATE LABRADOR puppies ready for loving homes. Must see! Contact/text Pam **413-388-1866** for details.

HELP WANTED

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT DIESEL MECHANIC - In charge of daily repairs & maintenance on trucks as well as keeping equipment records/ordering parts. Health insurance/vacation. Mon-Fri. Come & meet with us!
RB Enterprises Ludlow, MA 413-583-8393

PART TIME SNOWPLOW DRIVERS NEEDED

Part time snowplow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2025-2026 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL License.
If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at **(508) 867-2451** or email **hwyssecretary@newbraintree.org**.

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FOR RENT


EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

GREEN STREET, PALMER
Newly renovated 1 bedroom apt. porch, off-street parking, coin-op laundry, \$1,500/ mo includes heat. No Pets.
Call Tom **413-896-1555**

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**
Call **413-283-8393**



FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

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or call: 413-283-8393

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31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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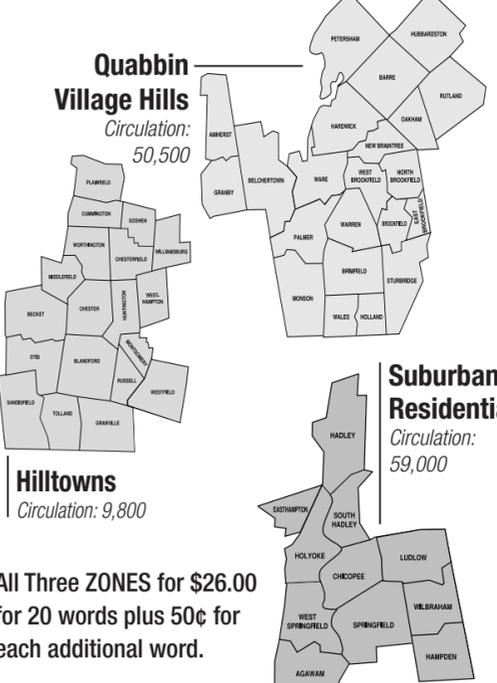
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Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.



OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!



A farm tractor carries more floats.



The small farm vehicles were featured in the parade.



Antique vehicles were piloted by locals.



Band members were prepared for the weather with their orange rain gear.



An Agawam police cruiser leads the way.



The poor weather did not discourage Agawam's band from the event.



The mardi gras performers were also part of the event.

Send Us Your Community Dazzler Events

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar events **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Dazzler Supplement** which will be published November 19, 2025. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. *Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public*

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 20.

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

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With the rain, the St. Patrick's Day float was unoccupied.