



**LOCAL**  
**ACAA**  
**Mosaic**  
PAGE 3



**REGION**  
**Parade**  
**events**  
PAGE 5



**SPORTS**  
**Youth**  
**basketball**  
PAGE 8

# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

March 12, 2026 | Vol. 48, No.2 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com



Tanner Ogle shows his table with various artwork on the table.

## 'yWrite' Author Showcase displays local creatives at fun event

By **Brendan Rooney**  
Correspondent

AGAWAM — On Saturday, Feb. 28, 13 local authors and artists all gathered from inside the Agawam Congregational Church, which played host to the 1st ever 'yWrite' Author Showcase.

Reflecting on the overall success of the event were co-hosts Angela Grout, who is the creator and owner of 'yWrite' which a podcast and social media channel, recorded over 100 episodes offering a deep dive and closer look at the range of voices in the industry, along with Pastor Reverend Daniel Cohen, who is a published author just as well, and a main staple of the church.

"I feel we had a great turnout here today, espe-

cially with this being the first, which can be a bit nerve-wracking, but I can confirm everyone had a wonderful time. And I hope we get to continue this, because this event provided opportunities for authors to network, and to live the reality of being a published author, which includes the highs and lows of this profession," Grout said. "I want to add writing can be a lonely, passionate, and driven mission which requires an author to have confidence and humility to know they are producing/providing something that someone somewhere needs, and it's a point of yielding this desire of finding your audience and which genre you feel attracted towards."

Grout also added that some of her highlights from

the event included the live readings.

"I felt the reception towards the author spotlights was well received, and it was reinforced by the diversity of our authors, from some being graphic artists, to others who penned narratives of all genres such as memoirs, fantasy, fiction, and many more, and I feel that was truly our intent, and we couldn't be happier," Grout said.

Echoing similar thoughts to Grout's leadership of the event was Cohen, who also told the *Agawam Advertiser News* that even though he co-hosted, he bestows all credit to Grout, citing "it was her brainchild".

"I thought it was awesome, it's always great to meet so many people who have so many interesting

stories to tell come together, and I felt they all did a great job," Cohen said. "So it's a simple story, I got in touch with her through a couple of people from Ch 15, and I wound up on her show after asking if there were any opportunities to speak about my book," Cohen mentioned. "That's where she then discussed and floated the idea of this author showcase, and I want to add it was more of her idea than mine, and I felt this is a great partnership in effect."

Among those in attendance was graphic artist Tanner Ogle, who said events like these are always beneficial for all parties.

"Events like this are a great place to network, and discov-

AUTHORS | page 12

## Local man arrested after devices seized

AGAWAM — A Feeding Hills man has been arrested following an investigation into the possession of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni announced.

Nicholas E. Clark, 44, of Feeding Hills, was arrested on March 4, 2026, following an investigation conducted by State Police Troopers assigned to the Hampden District Attorney's Office Detective Unit.

The investigation began on Jan. 9, 2026, after the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) issued multiple CyberTipline reports related to Clark through the electronic service provider Synchronoss Technologies. Investigators subsequently obtained records associated with a Verizon Wireless cloud account linked to Clark.

Investigators reviewed the material and identified hundreds of files depicting underage children. Authorities confirmed that the content included child sexual abuse material.

On March 3, 2026, investigators applied for and were granted search and arrest warrants by the

Westfield District Court for Clark and his residence in Feeding Hills.

On the morning of March 4, investigators arrested Nicholas E. Clark without incident at his residence in Feeding Hills.

Investigators also executed a search warrant at Clark's residence. During the search, investigators seized several electronic devices including external hard drives, USB storage devices, a laptop computer, and a cellular phone. Investigators also located additional media files on one of the seized devices containing images and videos consistent with child sexual abuse material.

"The exploitation of children online is one of the most disturbing crimes investigators confront," said Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni. "I commend the State Police assigned to my office for their diligent work in identifying this material and taking swift action to protect children and hold offenders accountable."

The investigation remains ongoing. Clark is expected to be arraigned in Westfield District Court. He is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

## Agawam park not among those sold by Six Flags

By **Gregory A. Scibelli**  
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM — Late last week, Six Flags announced it was selling seven of its amusement parks. But Six Flags New England, located right here in Agawam, was not among the parks sold.

EPR properties are buying the seven parks for a combined \$331 million.

Six Flags, the nation's largest operator of regional amusement parks, said it is selling the seven parks in order to focus on the properties that they believe will generate the strongest returns and offer the greatest long-term upside, according to Six Flags President and CEO John Reilly said.

Six Flags is selling two parks in Missouri, one in New York, one in Minnesota, one in Michigan, one in Texas, and one in

Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

The sold parks will be re-branded as Enchanted Parks, though they will operate under the Six Flags name for the 2026 operating season.

Six Flags New England is one of Agawam's largest taxpayers in the community and has continued to thrive. It has a water park and multiple restaurants. It has expanded over the years and built new and exciting roller coasters and rides. It also includes Fright Fest during the Halloween season and has also had a holiday offering for visitors.

The park has also been a regularly large employer to teenagers and adults throughout the community and surrounding communities, with ride operations, security, and even character actors among the many season jobs offered by the park.

## Mayors give updates to chamber



Mayors Christopher Johnson of Agawam and William Reichelt of West Springfield spoke at the West of the River Chamber of Commerce Mayor's Breakfast last Wednesday morning.



Mayor William Reichelt and Mayor Christopher Johnson.

AGAWAM — On Wednesday, May 4, Tansey's Catered Table hosted the West of the River Chamber of Commerce's Mayor's Breakfast.

The event featured Mayor Christopher Johnson of Agawam and Mayor William Reichelt of West Springfield. Both mayors delivered updates to the chamber members and guests on the recent happenings in the neighboring communities.



Phone: 413.283.8393 • Facebook: @AgawamAdvertiserNews • Email: aan@turley.com

**AC Tune-Ups & New Installations**  
PROPANE: 413.998.0080  
OIL/AC: 413.998.0090  
500•514 Salmon Brook St., GRANBY, CT

**STATE LINE**

PROPANE • OIL  
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATIONS

StateLinePropaneOil.com

Lic. S1: 303179 • P1: 204150 • HOD: 737-478

Looking for an AC solution for your home or office?



Turn to the experts

**Go Ductless!**

Let us design a system that works for your environment.



# SPORTS

## Agawam 5/6 advances in playoffs

AGAWAM – Last Thursday evening, Agawam 5/6 Suburban boys basketball team played in a playoff matchup against Ware, scoring a 29-18

victory thanks to some good shooting in the first half that paced the Brownies to a big lead by halftime.

Ware had some good

shots in the second half, but was not able to overcome the deficit. Agawam was scheduled to play Gateway in the next round.



Agawam gets the rebound during first half action



The Brownies try to get the ball back on defense.



The Brownies try to get the ball back on defense.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



The Brownies beat Ware to advance in the playoffs

## Local high school seniors headed to All-Star Games

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2026 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Friday, Mar. 20, the Hall of Fame will host the 2026 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. Sixty of the region's top seniors were selected from different divisions to participate in the final high school contests of

their prep career.

"We are honored to welcome Western Massachusetts' top high school basketball players to the 15th annual All-Star celebration at the Basketball Hall of Fame," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "This event is a special opportunity to recognize the hard work and achievements of these outstanding seniors, and we invite the communi-

ty to join us as they take the court one final time in their high school careers."

A committee of local coaches and media members, representing each division on both the boys' and girls' sides, selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls' teams, two boys' teams of Class A and B players, and two boys' teams of Class C

and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters are on the next page.

For the 15th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award win-

ners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court as well as their sportsmanship and character off the court.

Participants in the Boys Class C and D game include: Ware's Jack Gaudreau and Brady Guimond, Palmer's Dylan Doherty, Gavin Smola, and Stephen Fredette, Mahar's Jayden Delgado, Granby's Zavien Fernandez, and Monson's Austin Meacham.

In the girls game, partici-

pants include: Minnechaug's Cailin O'Brien, Kelly Cronin, and Elizabeth Woytowicz, Mahar's Hayden Comeau, and Agawam's Isabella Laprise.

And in the Boys A and B game, participants include: Holyoke's Jordan King-Perilli, Chicopee's Dominic Garcia, Belchertown's Jake Pacunas, Minnechaug's Miles Fergus, Chicopee Comprehensive's Brody Fay, and South Hadley's Isiah James.

## Worcester Railers fall to Trois-River Lions in shootout

TROIS-RIVIÈRES, QC — The Worcester Railers HC (25-22-5-2, 57 pts) fell in a shootout to the Trois-Rivières Lions (26-24-1-3, 56 pts) on Sunday, Mar. 8, with a final score of 3-4 at the Colisée Vidéotron, in front of a crowd of 2,010. The Railers are back in action on Wednesday, March 11th against the Norfolk Admirals at the DCU Center for a 7:05 p.m. puck drop.

Trois-Rivières struck first on Sunday afternoon, as Jacob Dion (1-2-3) gave the Lions a 1-0 advantage just 0:59 seconds into the first off a redirect from a Railers defenseman's skate. The Lions grew their lead to 2-0 at 6:22 as Mathieu Bizier (1-0-1) sank a one-timer from

left circle. Riley Piercey (1-1-2) picked up the first goal for the Railers unassisted at 6:47 in the second on a rush from the defensive zone. Calle Odelius (1-0-1) tied the game for Worcester just shy of eight minutes later with a point shot through the pads of Benjamin Gaudreau. Trois-Rivières closed out the second with a late power play goal from Isaac Dufort (1-1-2), which regained the Lions' lead heading into the third (3-2). Worcester tied the game once more as MacAuley Carson (1-0-1) narrowly snuck the puck between the pads of Gaudreau (3-3). Carson's goal pushed the game into extra-time. Nicholas Girouard claimed the only goal scored in the five-round shootout for

the Lions' narrow 4-3 win.

Trois-Rivières picked up the game's first goal just 59 seconds into play. Jacob Dion (5th) capitalized on the Lions' first shot of the game, as a lucky bounce off Calle Odelius' skate put the puck in the back of the net. Another goal for Trois-Rivières at 6:22, this time a one-timer from Mathieu Bizier (2nd) along the inner edge of the left faceoff circle, put the Lions ahead by two. Cam McDonald and Anthony Poulin came to blows with just over a minute remaining on the clock. Both men headed to the box for roughing to serve their first half of the penalty. As the period came to a close, Worcester remained shut out by Trois-Rivières goaltender

Benjamin Gaudreau. Worcester outshot Trois-Rivières 10-9, and both teams finished the first period with one penalty apiece.

Worcester was eager to close the growing gap created by Trois-Rivières in the first. Riley Piercey (4th) fired a shot in the left corner over Gaudreau and shrunk Trois-Rivières' two-goal lead to one at 6:47. Piercey gained quick possession in Worcester's zone off the faceoff and made a 2-on-1 rush down the near boards alongside Max Dorrington. Calle Odelius (2nd) kept the scoring going for the Railers at 14:29. The puck remained loose in the Lions' zone after a quick initial save from Gaudreau. With a rebound that rico-

cheted off the right boards, Odelius stepped up to the puck and fired it between the legs of Gaudreau and evened the board at two apiece. The tie game didn't last long, however, as Isaac Dufort (9th) closed out the second with a slapshot to beat Gahagen with 16 seconds remaining on the Lions' power play and just 1:24 left in the frame. Worcester tied Trois-Rivières with shots on goal at 10 each. The two teams also tied in penalties with two each.

MacAuley Carson (3rd) kept the game alive for the Railers as he tucked the puck through Gaudreau's five-hole at 11:24. Max Dorrington set up the play as he entered the zone with just one hand on his stick and set Carson

up for the goal with a quick pass. Carson's goal was the only one scored in the third period and pushed the game into overtime. Shots on goal favored Worcester with 9 to Trois-Rivières' 8. Worcester and Trois-Rivières were even with penalties at two.

As overtime came and went, neither team found the back of the net for the extra frame of play, and both Worcester and Trois-Rivières were forced into a shootout. In the end, it was Nicolas Girouard for the Lions that came out on top and lit the lamp for a fourth and final time in the fifth round for a 4-3 final in favor of Trois-Rivières. Worcester trailed in total shots on goal by two, with 33 to Trois-Rivières' 35.