



LOCAL
Historical Association event
PAGE 2



SENIORS
Upcoming June activities
PAGE 3



SPORTS
Boys volleyball finishes
PAGE 9

AGAWAM

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Martin presents evaluation evidence

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Superintendent Sheila Martin presented evidence to the school committee for her evaluation.

The school committee conducts an annual evaluation of the superintendent to see how she has met her goals and improved the school community.

During her presentation Martin discussed her work on community engagement, student achievement, student attendance, and student engagement in learning.

Martin felt she had made progress towards many of these goals throughout this school year.

To improve community engagement and response, Martin and her team held several community events throughout the year including a discussion with families about the seal of biliteracy and a chance for community members to share qualities they wanted in new principals.

Additionally, she held several community listening sessions to give commu-

MARTIN | page 12



TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

Left, Salutatorian Keira Murphy was given her salutatorian medal by her family at Agawam High School's graduation. Right, Jason Albro shook hands with school committee members as he received his diploma at Springfield Symphony Hall last Saturday.

★ AHS graduates Class of 2026 ★

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam High School class of 2026 celebrated their graduation on June 13.

The graduates gathered in Symphony Hall for the ceremony. It was their last time together as a class.

Several community members came together to leave the class with some

advice before they set off into their next steps.

Mayor Christopher Johnson encouraged the seniors to do four key things: work hard, persevere, find the truth, and be kind.

He believed that the graduates could go out and improve the world if they stuck true to those pieces of advice.

"My generation is screwing up because we're start-

ing to villainize people that we disagree with," he said. "I'm hoping your generation will continue making the United States of America the greatest country on earth because you will be able to get in the same room, work together and come up with solutions to the problems we have."

Superintendent Sheila Martin also encouraged the graduates to make a differ-

ence in the world. She asked them to do so by questioning rules and traditions around them.

"Some rules need to be challenged," Martin said. "Look around and ask: why do we do it this way? Who does this help and who does it hurt?"

According to Martin, some rules need questioning, and she believes in the seniors' abilities to question

them with integrity, compassion and courage.

Both Johnson and Martin know that the graduates' time at AHS has taught them how to think critically, and they hope the students use those skills as they step into the next stage of their lives.

Additionally, Principal Jim Blain agreed with John-

AHS | page 6

Senior Center hosts Car Show

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On June 9, Agawam Senior Center hosted their second annual car show. The show took place in the parking lot of the senior center; spectator parking across the street at Colonial Forsatiere Funeral was available. The senior center

also provided an option of a free shuttle for spectators to and from the funeral home. The car show included antique cars and sports cars; about 80 cars were a part of the show in total. Registration to bring a car was necessary but not for spectators. Cousin Maine Lobster and The Butcher

Block had food trucks at the event; the band "Decades" played at the event.

Executive Director of Agawam Senior Center Cindy Sullivan said the event has evolved since last year and the registration process.

"As with any event, you always learn from one event to another," Sullivan said. "This year we advertised longer in

CAR SHOW | page 12



TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Cindy Sullivan, Kristina Lynch, Lori Arsenault, Payten Melanson, and Debbie Gibbons attend the car show.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Agawam Senior Center Executive Director Cindy Sullivan, Mayor Johnson, Housing Authority Chairperson Lori Stickles, Housing Authority Executive Director Maureen Cayer, Agawam Senior Center Deputy Director Kristina Lynch, and President of the Friends of Agawam Senior Center Joellen LeGrand.

Seniors receives golf cart to help with mobility

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – A golf cart was purchased in collaboration with Agawam Town Mayor Christopher Johnson leading the advocating for the Agawam Senior Center, and The Agawam Housing Authority. On Wednesday, June 3 the purchase was made official with the arrival of the golf cart at the senior center, in attendance that day was Agawam Senior Center Executive Director Cindy Sullivan, Mayor Johnson, Housing Authority Chairperson Lori Stickles, Housing Authority

Executive Director Maureen Cayer, Agawam Senior Center Deputy Director Kristina Lynch, and President of the Friends of Agawam Senior Center Joellen LeGrand.

Sullivan shared how the idea became a reality with the support of the Housing Authority, Friends Group, and Mayor Johnson.

"I believe the idea came from the mayor as a way to help the seniors, so they didn't have to walk a long distance due to parking issues. The collaboration on the golf cart came from the mayor trying to help the Senior Centers issue from lack of parking during high vol-

ume times. He helped collaborate with the Friends Group and Housing Authority to purchase a golf cart to move Seniors from overflow parking from behind the housing authority to the Senior Center building. The Housing Authority will use the golf cart to transport their clients when needed and for meetings they have on an annual basis. The golf cart is a wonderful addition to our vehicle fleet. The Mayor and our Friends Group are always extremely supportive of our Seniors in Agawam. Our seniors often

GOLF CART | page 12





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SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

Boys volleyball finishes season in quarterfinals

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
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Chase Gerani gets a lot of air during a serve.

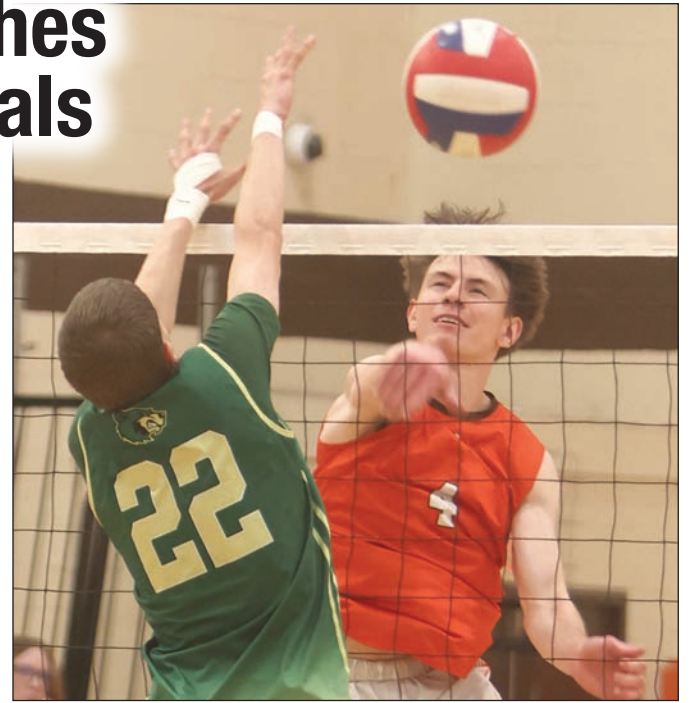


David Zhmaidziak gets the bump to his side.

Tim Karcha gets a set.

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School boys volleyball took on the challenge of entering the Division 1 State Tournament after a couple of wins in the Division 2 tournament in recent years. While rivals like Westfield and Comp stayed in Division 2, the Brownies took down Greater New Bedford and Methuen to open the state tournament this year. But the run for the Western Mass. champions came to an end this year as the Brownies were defeated on the road at Natick High School on Thursday, June 4 with a 3-1 decision. Overall, Agawam went 17-6 between the regular season, Western Mass. and state playoffs.

Left, Jacob Nesen sets the ball over the net.



Michael Lumkowski goes for a spike.



Jason Mihalicenco looks to tip the ball over the net.

BASEBALL

Teddy Bears Pools scores rare win over defending champs

SOUTH HADLEY – Teddy Bear Pools and Spas wasted no time last Monday evening at South Hadley High School, sending eight men to the plate in the bottom of the first and not looking back en route to a 15-0 blanking of PeoplesBank. The margin was never in question.

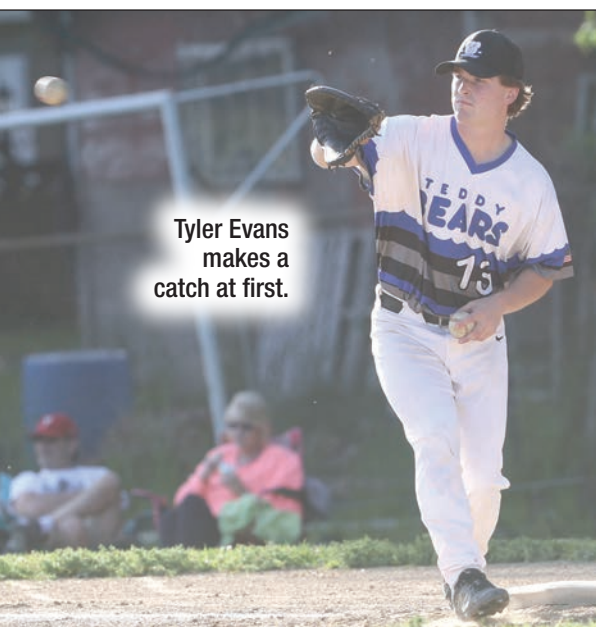
The first inning established the tone with swift and relentless efficiency. Bailey Griggs drew a walk that scored a run, Xavion Maldonado doubled to bring home two more, a PeoplesBank error allowed another pair to score, Sean Rosemond drew a walk to push across yet another, and Alex Gochinski grounded out with enough to score one more. Six runs — before PeoplesBank could exhale.

The scoring resumed in the second when Travis Kagan singled to plate one, and



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Danny Gaines pitches for the Bankers.

BASEBALL | page 10



Left, Dave Clark picks up a grounder for PeoplesBank.

SOCCER

Mutiny defeats Maine Footy

LUDLOW – Last Sunday afternoon, June 7, Maine Footy made their annual visit to Luistano Stadium. The New England Mutiny continued their success against the Footy, defeating Maine 4-0. The UWS win was followed by a win at the Worcester Wanderers 3-0. The Mutiny did suffer a USL-W loss against Hudson Valley 2-1 last Tuesday. The Mutiny will face Hudson Valley against on Saturday, June 20 at Luistano Stadium.



Valentina Molinari looks to get around an opposing player.



Gabby Williams goes after a loose ball.



Sophia Scyocurka tries to overcome an opponent.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
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Eva Blatz sends a free kick away.