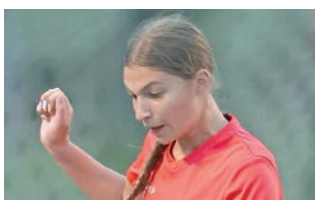




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AGAWAM

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Mayor, council president propose moratorium on data center projects

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – A little more than a month after the City of Holyoke placed a limit on the size of a data center, the Town of Agawam, like several other communities, is seeking to place a moratorium on them as they seek time to develop regulations to handle their potential impact on the community.

Data Centers, which are a huge draw of energy from the power grid, have been the most recent subject of controversies, much similar to Battery Energy Storage Systems. Agawam is familiar with the latter as a proposal to install a BESS is ongoing, though the town's stringent local regulations are hopefully going to keep the facilities safe and under control while also generating a very high amount of tax dollars for the town.

Holyoke recently contended with a large data center coming into the city. Holyoke has been especially welcoming to any type of business that has helped re-vitalization dilapidated

buildings, or generate more tax revenue, such as marijuana growing facilities and dispensaries.

Mayor Christopher Johnson, in a memo to the city council, said the town needs to time prepare if they are to have to welcome a data center to the community.

"Based upon published reports, the state is experiencing a data center boom, which is being driven by the expansion of the artificial intelligence industry," Johnson stated. "The Commonwealth is actively courting AI developers with tax incentives in an effort to bring their well-paying, high tech jobs to Massachusetts.

"Our town code contains no specific provisions which determine the appropriate location or regulation of data centers."

A proposed ordinance sponsored by Johnson and City Council President Anthony Russo will put a 270-day moratorium on applications for data centers so the town can research and

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David Cecchi stands with contributions made to a time capsule that will be soon buried for the next 100 years. On Saturday, July 4, Agawam Community Artists and Artisans presented a written record of the history of the group to David Cecchi, President of the Agawam Historical Association. ACAA was formed in 1992 with about 30 members. Today the ACAA is a non-profit with 107 members. We are a group brought together not by profession, status or background, but by a shared love of creativity and artistic expression that we hope will last for 100 years. This time capsule document was prepared in 2026 to be opened on July 4, 2126. The document will give future generations a glimpse of our world when the time capsule was sealed. We thank the Agawam Historical Association for giving us the opportunity to participate in this event.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Keeping seniors safe in the heat

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

With summer time in full swing, already communities have been facing record temperatures. It is important to keep in mind key safety tips to keep seniors safe in the heat.

High temperatures lead to an increased risk for conditions like heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

Seniors are especially at risk for heat stroke due to a decrease in the body's ability to regulate temperature as they age.

Signs to watch out for for heat stroke include: a body temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit, a change in mental state (including confusion, delirium, or irritability), a change in sweating pattern, nausea, flushed skin, rapid heart rate or breathing, and a headache.

If you notice any of these signs, call for medical assistance and then get the person inside or into shade, remove excess clothes and take action to cool them down immediately.

Senior centers do their best to remind elders of steps to take for prevention.

"We encourage them to turn their air conditioners on, even despite the costs, and to drink lots of water," Executive Director of the Agawam Senior Center Cynthia Sullivan said.

Senior centers like Agawam's also have people on staff who keep an eye on seniors who are visiting.

"We're always checking up on people to see how they're doing," Sullivan said. "We see many of the people here quite often, so we know when they don't look okay."

If people do want to get outside in the heat, it is best they do so in the early morning or later in the evening.

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U.S. Senate race candidates Markey, Moulton campaign locally



Incumbent Sen. Ed Markey



Rep. Seth Moulton

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The race for the Senate is on, and last Wednesday, July 8, 79-year-old incumbent Sen. Ed Markey (D) took the stage in the first televised debate against challenger 47-year-old Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA-06), right here in Western Mass.

This was the 1st official debate between the candidates, as the state primary election fast approaches, on Sept. 1, with early voting beginning on Aug. 22.

The debate was included panelist from multiple local media outlets.

Markey, the incumbent, is seeking another six-year term. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1976 and has served in the Senate since 2013. If victorious, Markey confessed this would be his last year running for re-election.

"I need one more term to finish the agenda, this progressive agenda," Markey stated. "And then I will step down. But we need to complete the agenda. We need Medicare for all, we need a green new deal, we need to make sure that we are fighting for every family who is out there who justifiably feels that they have been left

behind."

Moulton argued it's time for a new generation of Democratic leadership.

"A lot of people in Massachusetts feel like they don't have a voice in politics, and they're struggling to afford basic needs, and we need a fighter," Moulton said. "We need someone who's going to change the playbook, invest in a new generation of the years, and start making Democrats win again."

Rallies for both candidates took place prior to the debate.

Moulton first arrived and

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SPORTS

Brownies, Tigers end in scoreless draw

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Monday evening at South Hadley High School’s turf field, Agawam and South Hadley battled it out in A Division action. The game ended with neither team scoring a goal. South Hadley is now 4-3-1 and in line for a playoff spot while Agawam is just 1-5-2 and is unlikely to squeeze into the top eight.



Victoria Papova socks a free kick away.



Julianna Castro tries to break away from the pack.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Kaelynn Paquette nearly collides with an opponent for the ball.



Taeva Brogan fights for possession of the ball.



Bella Santaniello hustles to meet the ball.

St. Joe’s grabs win over PeoplesBank

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE – Since 1995, the PeoplesBank baseball team has built a dynasty in the Tri-County League, capturing 21 championship titles, including each of the last 13 seasons. The St. Joseph’s Saints, who are looking to win the TCL championship title for the first time in two decades, are determined to knock PeoplesBank from its perch this summer. In a span of 48 hours last week, the Saints celebrated two victories in the rivalry series. St. Joseph’s traveled to Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke last Wednesday night and defeated PeoplesBank, 10-5, which kept them in first place in the league standings. “We’ve faced Peoples in the championship series the past couple of years, and they’ve gotten the best of us,” said St. Joe’s short-stop Devin Slattery, who had a base hit and scored three runs in last Wednesday’s game. “We beat them in a regular season game last year and they’re a great team. We’re also outstanding team this year and

Here for Beer shuts out Monson Mustangs

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Thursday evening, Here for Beer scored a big win over Monson Mustangs 5-0 in Women’s summer soccer action. The two teams were in a key matchup with both

teams near the top of the Women’s Division in the PVSSL. Here for Beer is now alone in second place at 6-1 while Monson is now 5-2 heading into the final weeks of the regular season.



Martine Worrall-Turgeon eyes a teammate up the field.



Gwen Duggan makes a pass toward midfield.



Left, Rachel McKenna rushes for the ball.

Right, Shean Smith socks a free kick away.



Cassie Ashwell sends a pass away.



Taryn Carriveau turns play around taking possession.