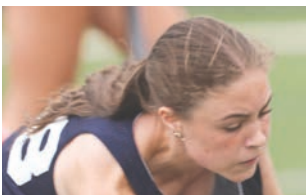




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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Marven Hart, Dan Florian and Kathleen Duquette with Friends of Agawam Veterans Cemetery participate in the Agawam Night Out celebration.
TURLEY PHOTO BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

Community comes out big at Agawam Night Out 2026

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last Friday, July 24 at School Street Park, Agawam hosted its annual Agawam Night Out celebration. This free event was open for everyone of all ages to enjoy. Agawam police

and firefighters were there providing information. Agawam High Rosie Robotics students were at the event showing off the robots, including one that shoots bouncy balls and their latest competing robot, Zulu. King Gray Coach Lines handed out free popcorn and pro-

vided tours of a bus made in 1927. Food trucks lined the paths around School Street Park. Sacred Heart Parish handed out free homemade cookies, made by the volunteers of St. Martha's Guild. The event also featured a small train ride around the park and bouncy house ob-

stacle courses for children. Agawam Night Out has been an event that has grown in size through the last several years.

The completion of the second phase of School Street Park has also been

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New England Mosaic project to be unveiled

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans announced this week the 2026 New England Mosaic Project is being unveiled on Wednesday, Aug. 5 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course.

The mosaic has become a beautiful tradition of unique art coming from all over the region for the past few years. Each year since it began, it has drawn interest from various artists representing all types of different mediums to take part. It takes several months to collect and organize the work, and next week's unveiling event will be the culmination of the hard work put into the work.

According to a press release from the ACAA, approximately 200 community members from all over Western Mass. created art on a 6"x6" canvases. Those canvases will be part of 24-foot display at the unveiling. The Mosaic Artists range from first timers that have never created a canvas to seasoned artists who regularly create

art and all the canvases are themed around what the artist loves about New England. The range of artists and their experience level add to the intrigue of the different canvases as well as the unique things that are displayed throughout the 24-foot work of beauty.

The other part of the unveiling will be the sale of the different small works of art with proceeds from the sale going to help graduating students.

The canvases will be sold that evening with net proceeds going to fund the Gloria McLellan Memorial Scholarship for Visual Arts. This year, two students from Southwick, one for Wilbraham and one from Westfield each received \$1000 scholarships toward their tuition. Learn more about this scholarship at www.agawamarts.com.

Donations toward the scholarship funds are appreciated by the ACAA.

The ACAA thanks the following libraries that helped

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Jukebox Hero'z performs for SummerFest Concert Series

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last week, Jukebox Hero'z performed at

School Street Park as part of this year's SummerFest concert series. Jukebox Hero'z is a Foreigner Tribute Band, featuring George Vertucci on

keyboard, Rich Donelly as lead singer, Jeff Burke on drums, Francesco Tata on lead guitar, Bill Wallace as second guitarist, and Chris Petriccione

on bass. There was a large turnout of community members who gathered at School Street Park to enjoy some rock music, socialize, and buy

food from the Agawam Lion's Club concessions. All proceeds from the concessions go towards the Agawam Lion's Club's activities and programs.

Upcoming shows Retro Floyd on Aug. 5, KIX 100.0 Country Show, Lindsey LaBelle and Jacob Hackworth on Aug. 12 and General Gist on Aug. 19.



Attendees Mary Gontczaruk and Darlene Cloutiex



Attendees Ann Rivers and Tom Lingenberg at the SummerFest concert last week.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA



Agawam Veterans Council President Patrick Astaferrero and Dennis King at the SummerFest concert on July 22.

Hot car safety: tips on making sure nothing is left behind

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

One of the largest heat-related safety threats of the summer is hot cars.

In 2025 there were 31 children who died nationwide due to being left in a car during the summer heat. So far in 2026, there have already been 12.

It is crucial to maintain awareness of how quickly a car's internal temperature can rise in the heat.

"It could reach up to 120 degrees and north of that within five to ten minutes of sitting

in the sun," Agawam's Deputy Fire Chief Frank Matuszczak said.

Due to these dangerous temperatures, if a person sees a child or an animal within a car in the heat and they are unsure if the car is running or not, they need to call 911 immediately.

"It is a true emergency at that point," Matuszczak said.

Children's internal body temperatures rise faster than adults, making it even more dangerous for them to be left in a hot car.

Heatstroke begins when

a person's internal body temperature reaches 104 degrees. Death occurs at a body temperature of 107 or higher.

With car temperatures reaching over 120 degrees, these dangerous internal temperatures can happen quickly.

Matuszczak advises people to never leave children or pets in the car in the heat, even if they think it will be a quick trip. Sometimes even a five minute trip can result in heat related injury or even death.

When getting out of the car, always do a sweep to ensure no one is left in the back seat.

Over 50% of pediatric vehicular heatstroke deaths are the result of a parent or caregiver forgetting the child in the car.

The National Highway Safety Administration recommends leaving an important item in the backseat with a child to serve as a reminder to look in the back.

It is also important to teach children that cars and vehicles are not play areas and to leave car keys out of their reach.

This will help prevent children from accidentally locking themselves in a vehicle when their caregiver is not paying

attention.

Many modern cars are made to be more air tight to help retain air conditioning or heating in all weathers. While this has a benefit, it also means they hold heat in the summer for longer than many older models.

"If you are going somewhere, you should leave [your kid] at home, if you can, or take the child with you," Matuszczak said.

With the hot temperatures cars can reach, it is also important to be conscientious as a person gets into a hot car.

Many modern cars have ways of lowering the windows using a key fob, which Matuszczak recommends using to help lower internal temperatures before getting inside the car.

This is especially important as metal surfaces, such as seatbelts, can reach temperatures over 180 degrees, which can result in burns.

If a person's car does not have the ability to lower the windows using the key fob, it will be best for them to open the car doors for a few minutes before getting inside.



SPORTS

Blue Sox nearing end of regular season

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox went 1-for-2 in a doubleheader against the Mystic Schooners on Saturday. Entering Saturday's doubleheader against the Schooners (22-17) Valley sat at 16-18-1, sixth in the South Division and outside the playoff picture, trailing both Danbury and Bristol for one of the division's postseason spots. The Blue Sox (17-19-1) responded with a convincing 10-3 victory in Game 2 to split the twin bill and remain in the postseason hunt.

Mystic struck first in the first game and opened the inning when Bryce Detwiler lifted a sacrifice fly to right field after consecutive singles from Jack Harley and Anthony Belisario put runners on the corners.

The Schooners added another run in the fourth as Chris Walsh lined a two-out single before Adam Troch followed with an RBI double down the left-field line, giving

ing Mystic a 2-0 advantage. Valley answered immediately in the bottom half; however, Chris Cancel launched a solo home run to left field to cut the deficit in half.

Andrew Oppenheimer kept the Blue Sox within striking distance throughout his six-inning start, allowing three runs, only two earned, while striking out four. But Mystic manufactured what proved to be the decisive run in the sixth after a hit batter, a walk and a Valley error loaded the bases. Walsh singled to center to score Detwiler and extend the lead to 3-1.

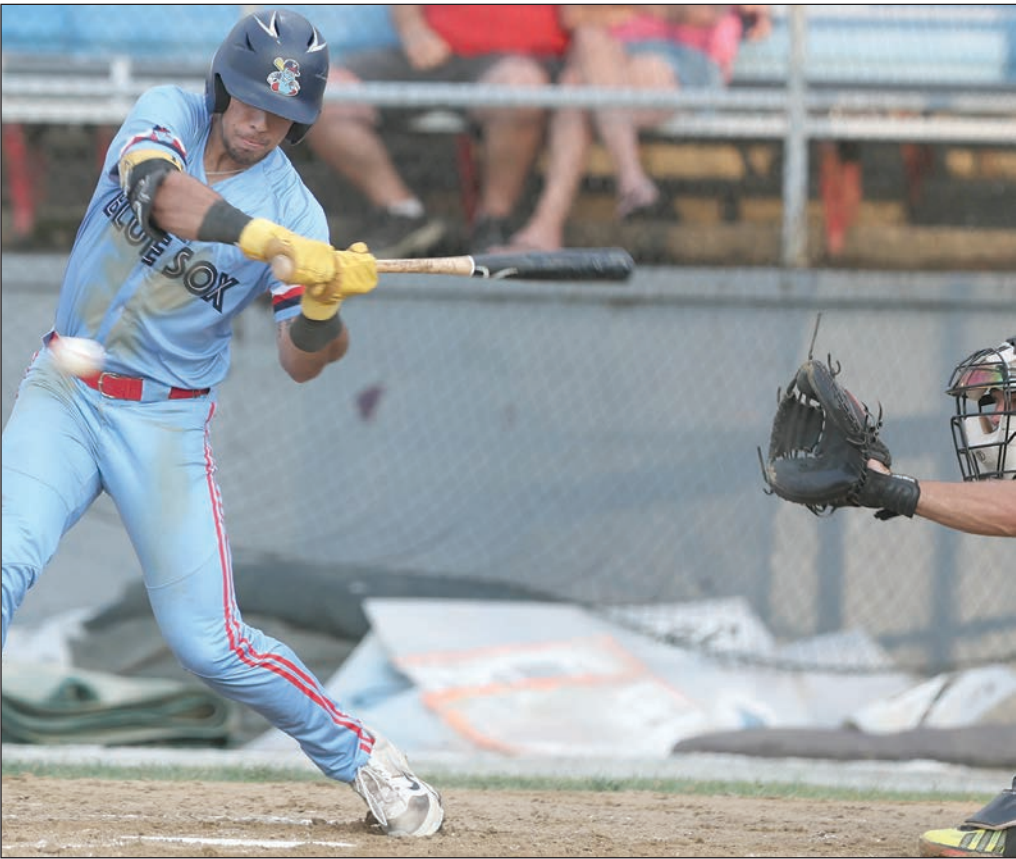
Valley mounted one final rally in the seventh. Chris Carson doubled to center before pinch-hitter Alex Hill delivered an RBI single to trim the deficit to one. With the tying run aboard, Mystic closer MJ Bollinger recorded the final two outs to preserve the 3-2 victory. Despite matching the Schooners with seven hits, the Blue Sox came

up just short.

The Blue Sox wasted little time putting the loss behind them in the nightcap.

Nick Tomasetto ignited the offense with a solo home run in the first inning before Michael Iannazzo added a sacrifice fly later in the frame to give Valley a 2-0 lead. Tomasetto drove in another run with an RBI single in the second, and after Mystic answered with one of its own, Valley broke the game open in the third.

Nick Spaventa blasted a solo home run to center before Chris Carson added an RBI single. A wild pitch later scored Michael Iannazzo to cap a three-run inning and extend the Blue Sox's lead to 6-1. Valley continued to add insurance the rest of the way, highlighted by Tomasetto's two-run single in the fifth, an RBI single from Iannazzo in the sixth and Nico Soul's



Estaban Garcia has his eyes on the ball as he swings.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



Above: Sophia Dibella pushes a pass away.
Right: Caitlin Cauley passes ahead of pressure.
Far right: Amelia Dibella makes her way up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



Above: Gianna Battiste plays a ball off her stick.
Right: Alyssa Dasilva sends a free hit away.



Field hockey bonanza

SOUTH HADLEY – This summer, the turf at South Hadley High School takes a break from summer soccer and has been the host recently of a summer field hockey league, helping many young high school field hockey players have an opportunity

to get repetitions and experience with small mini-games. Teams representing several area high schools take part in one or two games each Wednesday night. The league runs through mid-August and precedes the fall preseason.