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Progress continues on first phase of high school project

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The high school project is both on time and on budget according to Mayor Chirstopher Johnson.

Currently construction is in the middle of the first phase, where the community wing for the new building is underway.

This wing should be completed by December and ready to be occupied in January, should everything remain on time.

Johnson has been impressed by the construction



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

With classes out of session the past two months, much progress has been made on the new construction at the school.

A message from the Turleys

Dear Reader,

Every week a team of reporters, editors and people who assemble the paper work hard to bring readers information they need to know about their community. It's hard work and we love it.

Our goal is to provide a clear reflection of the community, and share stories about issues and events in your town as well as those about your neighbors, family and friends; in essence, a clear reflection of the community. We provide news that is difficult to find anywhere else.

Turley Publications has been doing so for over 60 years now, and enjoys being an integral part of the community.

Every year we invite residents to join those who already subscribe to the *Agawam Advertiser*, so they too can be informed and join their neighbors in keeping up-to-date on so many aspects of the community. We do that by mailing an issue of *Agawam Advertiser* to everyone in Agawam, on us, so you can see for yourself what types of information we provide.

If you want to know when and why your taxes go up, who is running for election, what successes and challenges are in your school system, what others are doing to make your community a better place, and so much more, we hope you will consider subscribing.

We also value your opinions and ideas. Please let us know what's important to you by picking up the phone and calling us. Let us know if we're meeting your expectations.

You can also call us to let us know about an important event in your family's life. That's why we're here.

We love being a part of this community and maybe even, in a small way, a part of your family.

We hope to be arriving each week at your home holding up that mirror, the *Agawam Advertiser News*.

Patrick Turley, CEO
Turley Publications, Inc.

Adult game night entertains at APL

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Wednesday, Aug. 5, Agawam Public Library hosted their Adult Board Game Night. This event is free to attend. Attendees are welcome to come as a group or make new friends during the program. Attendees are also welcome to bring board games of their own to try out

and share or use the ones provided by the library. This program is facilitated by APL Adult Services Library Associate Erica LeFebvre. At the program refreshments are provided as well as plenty of space for different groups to have multiple games going at once.

LeFebvre says, "I love trying out new games. Everyone plays board games a little bit differently, and

it's great to see the games people bring in and learn which games are important to them. Some folks thrive with more social, party-type games, and some folks prefer the quieter, more logistics-based games, and I love them all."

LeFebvre hopes participants will jump out of their comfort zone and try new games.

"I hope that attendees try some new games," she said. "But really, I want people to have a good time playing games with folks they may or may not have known before they came in, and maybe make some new friends. I grew up playing board games with my family and friends, and game nights were my version of a party. Meeting people today can be really hard, and creating that sense of community and opportunity to find folks with similar interests can help make the process



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA

APL Adult Services Library Associate Erica LeFebvre and attendee Kyle Miller at Adult Board Game Night on August 5.

GAME | page 10

Fire dept. receives grant funds

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam was recently informed the Agawam Fire Department would be receiving funding from a block grant Massachusetts Gaming Commission.

The funding will come from the Community Mitigation Fund, which was created to compensate communities surrounding towns or cities with casinos or other gaming facilities.

The funding will be used to purchase mutual aid radios, according to information submitted to the Agawam City Council earlier this month. The council is

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APS officials prepare for new school year

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Preparations for the 2026-2027 school year are in full swing.

Superintendent Sheila Martin is optimistic for the start of the year. Preparations have been going well and she is excited for people to see the program changes the district has made.

One of the main adjustments the district has been working on is changed to how they provide special education.

Many of the programs

the district utilized were designed years ago, so Martin and the other faculty have wanted to change things to match with the students of today.

"It's about being more flexible with individual schedules and including students when it is best for them to access the curriculum," Martin said.

The district wants to make sure each students' schedule is really personalized to match what they need while also allowing them to access general education whenever possible.

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SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Youth teams prepares for new season

AGAWAM – Next to the baseball fields at Memorial Park, are the fields of Kirk Parker Field where Agawam’s youth football programs have been practicing for the past few weeks. The teams get going in early August in order to prepare for a month to compete in their regular season openers on Sunday, Sept. 6. Agawam will be hosting Wilbraham in their season opener.



Players work on drills for blocking.



Players get instructions on the sidelines.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



A pair of players work with the blocking pads.



A pair of older players run a blocking drill.



Members of Agawam youth football observe other players from the sideline during practice last week.

BASEBALL

Forge Baseball Clinic returns

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – One of the last sports camps of the summer of 2026 was held at Spec Pond in Wilbraham from August 10-13.

A total of 57 baseball and softball players between the ages of 6-16 from Wilbraham and the surrounding communities attended the four day clinic.

“This is our fourth year conducting the baseball clinics, and this is probably the best one yet,” said camp director Dustin Brisson “We have almost 60 kids, including a couple of softball players for the first time, this week. It’s the most campers we’ve ever had at this clinic and I’m very pleased.”

Brisson, who is the owner of Forge Athletics, was born in Florida and played college baseball at the University of Central Florida from 1997-2000. The first baseman was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the 15th round of the 2000 MLB draft.

Brisson, who played 345 minor league games, advanced to Double A Portland. His baseball career came to an end due to an injury.

“I was blessed to have the opportunity to play professional baseball,” Brisson said. “I’m doing what I can to give back to these kids.”

Some of the camp instructors were Lindsay Beer, David Wendt, Ace Adams Chade Shade, who’s the head coach of the Springfield College baseball team, Pat Strange, who’s the pitching coach at Westfield State University, Dan Gomez, who’s the head baseball coach at Western New England University, and Terry Doyle, who’s the the baseball coach at New En-



Liliana Ekstrom shoots on target.



Kaylen Craig gets the layup.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
Molly Hutchison struggles to make a layup.



Olivia Curto tries to grab a rebound.



Hannah Podworski eyes the short-range shot.



Brokke Cruz is covered close as she enters the paint.

BASKETBALL

Youth basketball wraps up

WILBRAHAM – The Spec Pond Summer Basketball League held playoff held the first week of August, utilizing a few sites in addition to the courts at Spec Pond. Agawam, a 7-8 team, were involved in a match-up held in Wilbraham at Minnechaug Regional High School.