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ADVERTISER NEWS

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Festival allows *artists to shine*

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Last Friday and Saturday, Aug. 21 and 22, the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans hosted their annual Art Festival. It was held on the grounds of the Polish-American Club in Feeding Hills.

The event included vendors selling their artwork as well as live demonstrations of art forms such as pottery making and alcohol-based paintings.

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA
Barb Sawyer and Peyton Rierad pose at Barb Sawyer Arts and Crafts.

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High school project impacts school year

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM – The high school project continues to make great progress, but with it comes some impacts to students and the community.

Currently the construction is impacting parking at the high school in the front lot.

Once phase one of the project (which is the community wing) is complete, more parking will open up

to the left of the community wing, on the west side of the school.

However, the construction will then take up even more of the front lot.

Approximately 75 parking spots will be lost in January. As a result, student parking will be limited to mainly seniors, rather than seniors and juniors.

“I realize the joy of getting a license and driving to school and driving with your friends, but unfortunately that is the price of progress

right now,” Principal Jim Blain said.

Blain recommends that students and families keep construction in mind as they are planning arrival and drop-off at the school, especially as phase two begins.

Furthermore, as the year continues, students can expect to begin having to commute between the two buildings.

The community wing and the old high school will be

PROJECT | page 6

Sacred Heart Church hosts 14th annual ‘Faith on Fire’ event

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Aug. 20 and 21, Sacred Heart Parish held their 14th Annual Faith on Fire rally. Admission into the event was free. This event included different vendors such as The Knights of Columbus, Diocese of Springfield Vocations, and Chester-ton Acad-

emy of Divine Mercy.

At the event were two speakers, Fr. Bassam M. Saade and Fr. Chris Alar. Saade, a priest from Lebanon who was a banker, spoke on Thursday. He shared his story about leaving the war in Lebanon and becoming a priest. Alar spoke Friday; his talk included information in his book “After Suicide: There’s Hope for Them and for You.” St. Martha’s Guild of Sacred Heart Parish helped run the event and made food for attendees.

Linda Bathel is this year’s

Fr. Chris Alar is all smiles at Faith on Fire at Sacred Heart Church.

event organizer. Bathel is a member at Sacred Heart Parish and has participated in St. Martha’s Guild in the past. Bathel shares she’s been organizing Faith on Fire for five years and attending for 14 years.

“I just get great pleasure out of it. It’s fulfilling,” Bathel said. “When you see people feel better, walk lighter, you’ll just, you know they’re different. They arrive one way, and it doesn’t matter where they’re at. They leave in a better place. What a privilege to be apart of that, I just love it.”

Bathel feels it’s important to bring different speak-

FAITH | page 6

Local seniors educated on setting up Medicare

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – Agawam Senior Center hosted Brian Guagnini, a Medicare Field Outreach Consultant, last Tuesday.

Guagnini gave a presentation about all the information people need to know to get set up with Medicare. This educational presentation was free of charge to attend. Guagnini was open to questions throughout the presentation, encouraging attendees to speak up if they needed any clarification.

Guagnini has presented

at Agawam Senior Center before.

“I started working with Kristina many years ago when I was working with one of Blue Cross Blue Shield’s competitors, probably around 2012 or so,” Guagnini said. “She allowed me to come in once a month and set up an informational table for an hour or two to answer questions and to be available for anyone who needed plan information. Kristina has always been a big supporter of mine and we’ve become friends through the years. I’m grateful for the professional relationship Blue Cross Blue

Shield of Massachusetts has developed and nurtured with Kristina and the Agawam Senior Center.”

Guagnini enjoys giving these presentations and making this information accessible

“One of the responsibilities in my role as Medicare Field Outreach Consultant with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts is to provide accurate, up-to-date Medicare information and the types of plans available to those who qualify for a

SENIORS | page 9



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA
Charlotte Lee, Rose Ayotte and Ellen Paleologopoulos attend Faith on Fire.



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APS health records to be destroyed

AGAWAM – Agawam Public School Health Records for former students that either graduated or left the school system between Sept 2017 and June 2021 will have their school health records destroyed as permitted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Anyone wishing a copy of their health records must contact the nurse within the school they last attended before September 30, 2026.

Club’s first meeting of fall scheduled

AGAWAM – The first meeting of the year for the Catholic Women’s Club will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 13. We will be praying the rosary at 6:30 p.m.

More information will be published closer to the meeting. Members are also reminded to call Betty for any Friendship & Sick requests.

Multi-class reunion set for Sept. 12

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School Reunion Committee is planning a multi class reunion including the classes of 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, and 1972. All are welcome on Saturday, Sept 12, beginning at 2 p.m. at The Polish American Club in Feeding Hills.

Tickets are \$35.00 which includes a buffet and musical entertainment. All checks need to be received no later than Sept. 1.

Chamber holding next ‘Lunch with the Legislators’

AGAWAM – The West of the River Chamber of Commerce has announced it will hold it’s next “Lunch with the Legislators” on Tuesday, Oct. 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event will be held at Latitude Restaurant at 1338 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Join us for lunch with our local senators and representatives for informative updates and a Q&A session.

‘Great Reads from Great Places’ event on Sept. 29

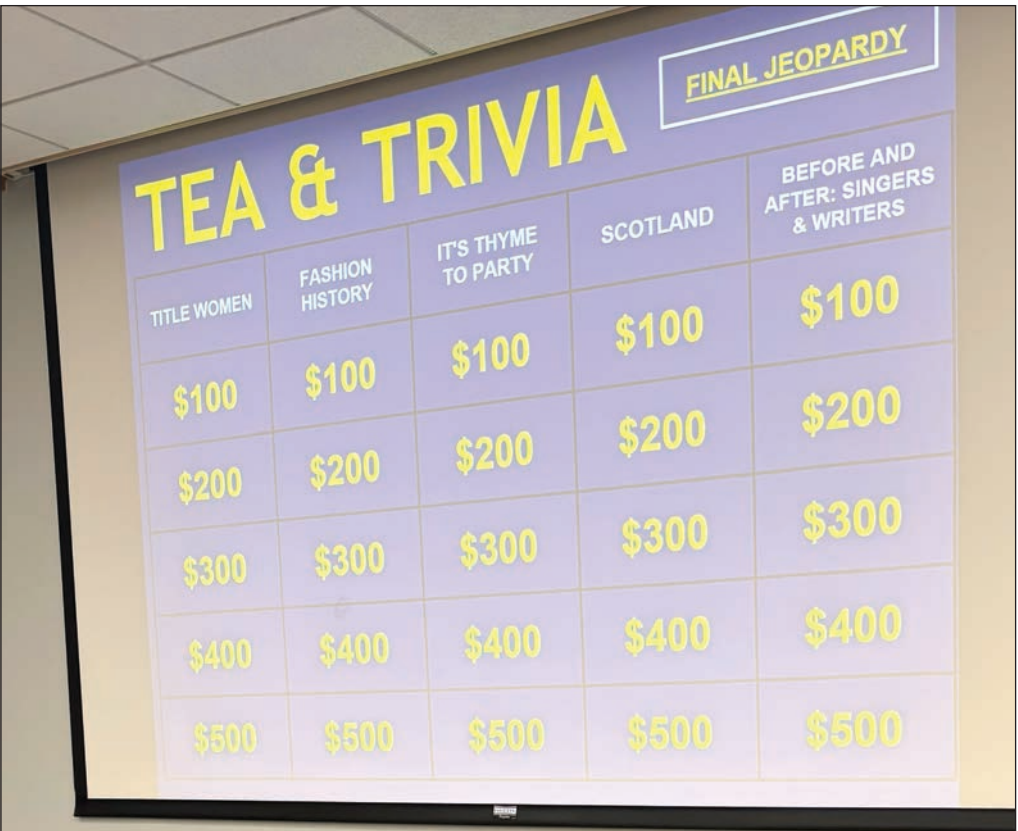
AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library is pleased to announce its selection as a partnering library with the Massachusetts Center for the Book for the “Great Reads from Great Places” initiative. Each year the Massachusetts Center for the Book selects a title to represent the Commonwealth at the annual Library of Congress National Book Festival and provides free copies of the book to area libraries for use in discussion groups and community programming. This year’s title is Nothing More of This Land: Community, Power and the Search for Indigenous Identity by Joseph Lee. The Agawam Public Library will host a book discussion and virtual Q & A watch party with the author on Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. in the Cline Community Room. Anyone interested in registering for this book discussion and event is encouraged to stop by the library information desk to pick up a free copy of the book and discussion guide (while supplies last).

Registered participants will be invited to participate in an exclusive Q&A with Joseph Lee on September 29th at 6pm. This discussion series is part of the 2026 Great Reads MA program, sponsored by the Massachusetts Center for the Book.

Library hosts Tea and Trivia

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Tuesday, Aug. 18 Agawam Public Library hosted their monthly Tea and Trivia night. The program is run by Assistant Director and Head of Adult Services Cher Collins and Adult Services Library Associate Charlie Pope. The evening started off with attendees choosing their teams for the two trivia games. The first game was a Jeopardy style game including trivia categories such as Scotland, fashion and movies and music. Pope heard the teams answers and read the questions and Collins kept tally of the scores. The second game was an open-ended answers game including different categories for each section. Refreshments were provided for this free event. Prizes for winning the games included books, tote bags and more.



The board is all set up for trivia.



Debbie Ejesi and Joan Prez are ready for action.



Assistant Director and Head of Adult Services Cher Collins and Adult Services Library Associate Charlie Pope at Tea and Trivia Aug. 18.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA
Trivia enthusiasts Joyce, Paul, Catilin, and Kathy.



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We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Ronald Pahl's son

Dr. Drew Pahl

has joined

AGAWAM DENTAL CARE

Dr. Drew is a recent graduate of Tufts School of Dental Medicine. He is also a graduate of Agawam High School and Westfield State University. As the son of Dr. Ronald Pahl, who has proudly served the Agawam community since 1992, Dr. Drew continues a family tradition of providing gentle, high quality dental care you can trust.

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Opinion

Guest Column



We were bitten by Medicare's RMAA this year; What should I do?

Dear Rusty:

My wife and I file our taxes jointly.

In 2024, I took an IRA Required Minimum Distribution, which was significantly more than I was required to take.

My Medicare premiums were not affected in 2025 and our Social Security payments were not reduced. Then, our joint filing in 2025 kept us below the IRS' "Modified Adjusted Gross Income level. Yet in 2026 our Medicare payments increased and our Social Security payments were reduced.

If my MAGI is below the maximum for 2025, will my regular SS payments/Medicare reductions be restored in 2027? Is there any action I need to take to ensure this will happen or will our Medicare payments and reduced SS payments be our new norm?

Signed: Worried Retiree

Dear Worried Retiree:

FYI, your Medicare premiums in 2026 were affected by the large RMD you took in 2024, which caused a Medicare provision known as the "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount" to apply for 2026.

When determining the Medicare Part B premium for next year (each fall), Medicare uses the income you reported to the IRS two years prior to calculate your Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium for upcoming year.

If you exceed the base "IRMAA" income threshold two years ago, then your Medicare premiums for the next year will include a supplemental amount on top of the "standard" Medicare premium for that year.

The amount of the supplement depends on how much you exceed the base IRMAA threshold by (FYI, the base IRMAA threshold for 2026 for a married couple filing jointly was \$218,000). If your 2024 income exceeded that initial IRMAA threshold, you paid a higher Medicare premium, which also reduced your SS monthly payment because Medicare is deducted from your SS benefit.

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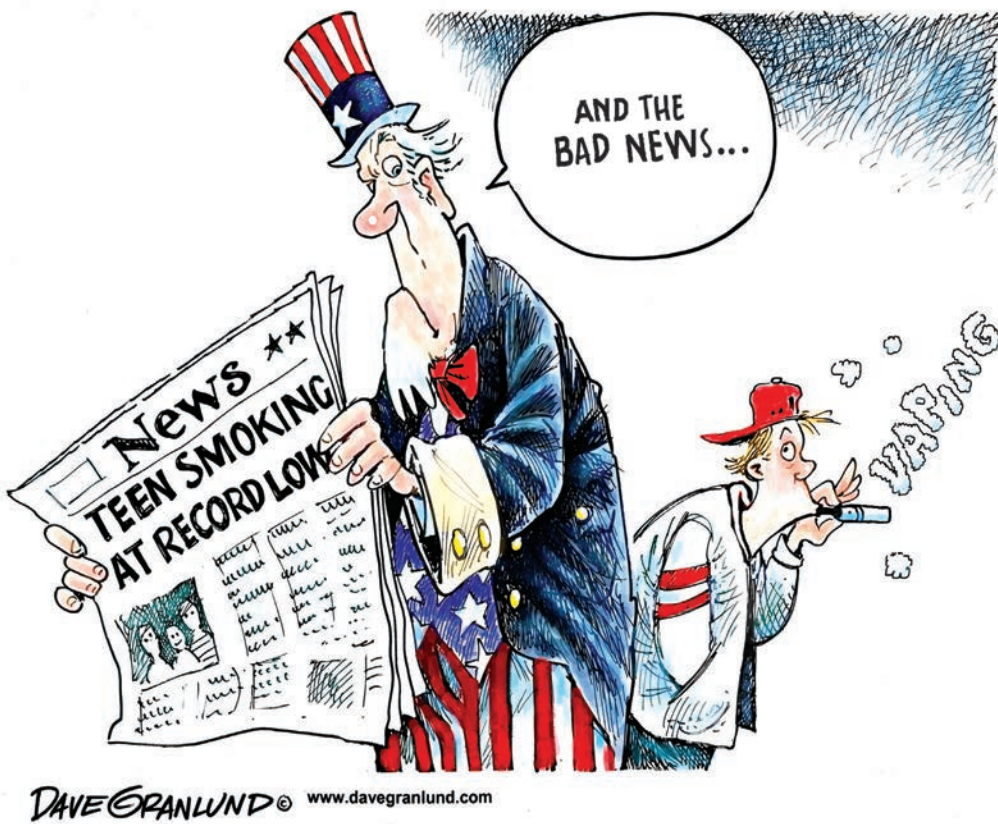
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et. IRMAA uses a sliding scale to determine how much more than the standard Medicare premium you will pay.

However, that will all automatically correct itself going forward. In other words, when determining your premiums for 2027, Medicare will look at your 2025 income. If your 2025 MAGI is less than the base IRMAA threshold, you and your wife will both automatically revert to paying the standard 2027 Medicare Part B and Part D premiums.

You don't need to take any action for that to happen; it will all be automatic.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Guest Column

Preservation questions are popular this time of year

Dawn, who gardens in Tolland, asked a few questions of the Garden Lady this past week.

You see, this is the first year in three years that Dawn has a had a productive garden. Her former garden was too far from the house to be tended. It was tricky to irrigate and animals often found their way through or under the fence.

Dawn's hard work ended up being a hearty meal for woodchucks and more. Now, with raised beds close to her house, she is grateful for a bountiful harvest.

First, she wanted to be reminded how to roast tomatoes.

I enjoy roasting my cherry tomatoes; it's a great way to

use them up when they produce like gangbusters.

Depending on the size, I either cut them in half or quarters and put them no more than two rows deep in a roasting pan. I sprinkle a teaspoon or two of extra virgin olive oil over the tomatoes and then I add half an onion and two-three cloves of garlic.

After mixing all the ingredients together, I bake at 400 degrees for about an hour, stirring midway. You know when it is done when

the skins pucker and there is very little liquid left.

Now you can either eat it this way, say over pasta or rice, or you can zip it up with a few basil leaves and you have made your own sauce.

No need to de-seed or remove the skins. Just think, all that added fiber and goodness, with less work to boot!

You can tailor your roasting to suite your own taste buds as well. Some folks add chopped peppers or eggplant.

Certainly you can use any type of tomato, too and add additional herbs or spices.

Speaking of peppers, Dawn also wanted to know how to roast peppers. It's a

GARDEN I page 5



I received an email from a Hampden resident, who sent two photos of Eastern bluebirds – one adult male and a fledgling.

She states, "I live in Hampden, for the past several years we have been blessed to have a pair of bluebird's nest in our yard. They have had three broods of babies each year including this year."

The fledgling in the above photo is a male. The photo was taken shortly after fledging. Wing feathers, wing coverts and tail feathers are essential in determining the sex of young bluebirds.

By day ten to eleven days after hatching, feather colors are noticeable. The blue tail in males and gray in females become apparent. In the male, the short tail at fledging is bright blue. Times may vary but by day 13 the tail color is apparent.

Both sexes have a gray



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH FREDERICK
This adult male Eastern bluebird is seen at the entrance of a bluebird house checking on his brood.

spotted back and chest. They also have a white eye ring.

By the time a bluebird is 19 to 24 days old, the male has blue wing coverts and the female gray ones.

At five weeks old the young male has blue wing feathers and a bright blue tail. The female's primary wing feathers are blue, but



The fledgling male Eastern bluebird blends in with the ground cover. Blue feathers are visible.

concealed. The base of her tail is blue and the rest bluish gray. Spots are still present on back and breast.

Young bluebirds continue to depend on their parents for food until six weeks old. Siblings tend to forage nearby until they join flocks of young birds. Some first brood birds even help raise their parents next brood if their parents have a double brood season.

Between July and October young birds begin to replace their juvenile plumage. Blue and brick red feathers begin to appear. By mid to late October all juveniles finish molting into their first adult plumage.

Leucistic crow

I met a New Braintree resident at the Oakham Post Of-

fice this week. He said he saw a crow with one white wing. Leucistic birds are birds that have abnormal plumage coloration due to a genetic mutation that causes a partial loss of pigmentation.

They may have washed out feathers or blotches of white feathers. While rare, they are found in many bird species around the world.

Whippoorwills

A Brimfield resident emailed, "I thought you'd be interested to learn that I still have several whippoorwills calling at dusk in the lower Haynes Hill/Paige Hill area of Brimfield."

She stated, "I've only lived here four years, but they are here every year! They start calling about 8:30 p.m."

She stated, "My grandparents owned a house that bordered Reedy Meadow in Lynnfield. We heard Whippoorwills there. So cool to have them calling from my front and back yards at the same time."

While on vacation as a child on Lake Winnisquam, my dad, brother and I would hear them calling while fishing for horn pout at night.

BIRDS I page 5

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters.

All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail aan@turley.com.

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Agawam Advertiser News welcomes letters to the editor

The Agawam Advertiser News welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to aan@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for

that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper

plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in the Agawam Advertiser News.

Opinion



By Julie Midura
Guest Columnist

We recently brought our 1-year-old grandson, Dustin, to a local woodland area. After carrying him for miles, we lifted him out of the child carrier so that he could stretch his legs. Not yet walking independently, he grasped each of my index fingers, then carefully moved along the trail on unsteady feet.

A white birch tree just off trail caught his eye, and he steered me towards it. Once we reached it, he let go of my fingers and leaned his hands against the tree. His tiny fingers fell upon a loose piece of dry bark.

His eyes widened and a look of surprise came upon his face when the bark slipped from the tree into his hand.

Dustin looked at it, examining it with curiosity. Then, with all the seriousness a 1-year-old can muster, he reached up and pressed the fragment back against the

Nature through the eyes of a child

gnarled tree.

He held his hand over the bark for a moment, like someone gluing one object to another. Once he seemed certain he had mended the trunk, he pulled his hand away.

Unsurprisingly, the piece of bark fluttered to the ground.

Dustin bent down, picked up the wayward piece of tree, and once again pressed it back against the trunk.

This time, he patted it carefully. But when he withdrew his hand, down went the scrap of wood once again.

Undeterred, Dustin repeated the process over and over and over again, certain that if he just kept trying, he could reattach the broken scrap of tree skin back onto the birch tree. But in spite of his tenderness and quiet determination, gravity won every time.

I stood beside him and watched. Half amused and half contemplative.

There was a lesson here, I was certain. Not for Dustin, but for me.

Dustin displayed no frustration. He was not aggravated or impatient. He just kept trying. With an open heart and a beautiful spirit. And a determination that somehow, he could fix the world around him.

I don't know how long Dustin would have spent trying to reattach the bark to that birch tree. I finally scooped him up and settled him on the dirt path.

He immediately reached for a nearby stick. He picked



Dustin explored nature with his grandparents.

it up. Turned it. Stretched out his arm to show it to me – looking up at me with wonder in his wide eyes. Smiling as though he had discovered the greatest treasure on earth.

He poked a dry leaf. Drew lines in the dirt. Stirred the pine needles.

Absent of batteries, on-off switches, flashing lights and instructions – he held the stick as though it was a prized possession.

I felt an urgency to continue moving. There were trails waiting to be explored. Miles waiting to be walked. A time frame to be adhered to.

Instead, I lowered myself cross-legged and settled on the pine needle path next to Dustin. And there we remained, lingering in a place where time has forgotten what it means to rush.

Years from now, my grandson won't remember this day. He won't remember the rough texture of the twig he held. The beautiful white



Dustin, age 1, held a piece of birch bark in his hand.

birch tree he attempted to mend.

He won't recall the day sunlight streamed through the trees above him, as the grandparents who love him sat beside him while he discovered the natural world around him.

Regardless, perhaps he would leave the forest carrying something with him that would remain. Perhaps the forest was filling something inside of him that would not come from actual recollection, but was being planted nonetheless, before he could even form a sentence.

The twig came home with Dustin – a treasure he refused to let go of when I placed him back in the child carrier. The wayward scrap of bark, however, remained on the forest floor, where it would eventually return to the earth.

But long after the bark has dried, the unspoken lessons will remain.



The author's grandson picked up sticks off the forest floor.

GARDEN ■ from page 4

little different from tomatoes.

Peppers roast best when they are fully ripe – i.e., when they have changed color. I have mentioned it before, but my favorite roasting pepper is “Carmen,” a long bell pepper with thick walls.

Simply wash the fruits and position them whole in a single layer under the broiler, turning frequently until they bubble up and char slightly. This can also be accomplished on a gas grill or as my husband will attest, over the flame of your kitchen gas stove.

Once charred, place them in a paper bag or covered container. The steam will soften the skin to the point it can be rubbed off, revealing yummy, thick flesh.

Pull off the stem and remove the seeds and voila! Roasted red peppers are yours to freeze.

I just blot mine dry and put them in single servings in plastic freezer bags. The fruit is easily thawed by placing the bag into a shallow basin

of water; likewise, you can pop the pepper popsicle on to a plate and let it thaw in the fridge.

Roasted peppers are fantastic on homemade pizza or blended into hummus.

I shared with Dawn that I was making pickles. She went on to say that hers never turn out well, so I texted her a copy of a recipe given to me by a dear coworker over 20 years ago. I am still making them.

I'm not sure who originally gave Ron the recipe, but here it is for anyone wanting to use up an abundance of cucumbers. I've made it with full size cukes as well as picklers.

I would recommend that you fill your canning jars, be it quart or half gallon, with the cucumbers first. They can be packed tightly.

Then, add plain water to the jar all the way to the rim. Dump the water out into a large measuring cup to see just how much liquid you need.

Then you can adjust the other ingredients to the ratio in the recipe. I learned this trick the hard way after

wasting ingredients because I didn't need quite a double recipe.

Ron's Pickle Recipe

Ingredients:

14-16 cucumbers
8 teaspoons pickling spice
6 dill tops
6 cloves garlic
2 teaspoons sugar
4 tablespoons Kosher salt
1 cup vinegar
5 cups water

Instructions:

Combine all ingredients into canning jars. Shake and leave on counter for 36 hours. Refrigerate for two days before eating. Will keep in the fridge for a few months although the flavor will intensify with storage.

Enjoy the harvest as much as Dawn is!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

BIRDS ■ from page 4

I used to hear them in Oakham, but I not heard one in years.

Owls hooting

I do hear barred owls hooting back and forth at night. Sometimes they are

quite loud and can be heard even with the windows closed.

Juvenile red-tailed hawk

I received an email from a reader who saw a juvenile red-tailed hawk in her front yard. She stated, “It

was quite beautiful. It had a small rodent for its dinner. It was really close to my front door, I've never seen a hawk so close to me.”

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowne@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

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10. Type of phone

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13. One who renounces a religious belief

14. Warren and Monroe are two

15. Wild ox

16. Dismounted a horse

17. Cave dweller

18. Where infants sleep

19. Popular type of shoe

21. Clumsy large person

22. Evil-like

27. Integrated circuit

28. Austin-based athlete

33. Postscript

34. Follows 18

36. People of Gambia

37. Popular actor

38. Platform for a lectern

39. Taxi

40. American songwriter Sammy

41. Iranian city

44. Heavy clubs

45. One who is expelled

48. In bed

49. Lifelessness

50. Former CIA

51. Most slick

3.hovels

4. Pie ____ mode

5. Subway rodent

6. They ____

7. Indigenous S. American people

8. Fine sand

9. Central nervous system

10. Nightclub entertainment

11. The perfect example of something

12. Supreme Islamic leader

14. Pain

17. Binary-coded decimal

18. Projecting corner of an angle

20. “Succession” actor Brian

23. Dinner table decor

24. Ancient settlement in modern Turkey

25. You can call Paul Simon this

26. Opposite of a pro

29. Atomic #28

30. Type of drug (abbr.)

31. Arrives at

32. Nullifies

35. Bird’s beak

36. Partner to “oohed”

38. Ray-finned fishes

40. Taxis

41. Sat on and controlled

42. Sea eagles

43. Remain as-is

44. Chinese revolutionary

45. Tooth caregiver

46. Snake-like fish

47. Compensate

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FAITH ■ from page 1

ers each year to share their stories.

"I think, number one, that they need to know that a priest is also a person first," Bathel said. "They walked in the same shoes that you walk in. They've gone through growing up and everything, and they've met the challenges that must of us meet growing up, and I think hearing that sometimes that even some of them had doubts about things. Some of them did not make great choices as they were growing up as teenagers into adulthood. And just kind of saying, 'Listen, if it can happen for me. It can happen for you.' But, I love hearing the different stories, the different angles on everything. We all can look at the same picture and see five different perspectives on things."

A member of St. Martha's Guild, Joyce Cappuccilli believes this cherished community event is so important to keep alive and provide for the community each year.

"It's kind of an inspiration to reinforce your fate. If you make some doubts about things, or if you need to strengthen it a little bit, it's going to happen here," says Cappuccilli.

Fr. Bassam M. Saade shared a little about his journey from being a banker to becoming a priest. "My dad wanted to be a priest, that didn't happen," he said. "So, I went and I started pre-med, then I did my business degree, I got my MBA, and I work in the bank. My life was beautiful. But the war in Lebanon, then I came here to visit my brother and I wasn't expecting, I'm going to stay here. So, I stayed here because of the war, it wasn't my intention." Saade shares with us, "So, when I was in Lebanon, as I said, a lot of times, the war, there was bombing, a sniper almost hit me. I heard our homes were burnt, our property was taken. So, I had to leave from one place to another, and every time I said, 'God save me for a reason'.

Faith on Fire had an amazing turnout from the community with people gathering to support their parish or attend this community event for the first time. Attendees enjoyed the two speakers each day, live music, the vendors offering free rosaries and books as well as the refreshments provided by St. Martha's Guild.



Fr. David Aufiero with the Diocese of Springfield Vocations at Faith on Fire on Aug. 21.



Members of St. Martha's Guild.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA GIOSCIA



Linda Bathel with Fr. Bassam M. Saade.



Alexandra Laflamme, Linda Fish, Jean Raczkowski, Rosemarie Morin, and Linda Bathel at Faith on Fire on Aug. 21.



James Roberts Manning, Luke Hollwedel and Victoria Stuetzel with Chesterton Academy of the Divine Mercy.



Bob Sass with the Knights of Columbus at Faith on Fire.

PROJECT ■ from page 1

connected by a covered traveling path that students will use to move between the buildings.

Once this path is open the school will run evacuation drills to ensure that students know how evacuation has been altered by the new building and the path.

Additionally, given that it will be an active

construction zone, students, faculty and staff can expect noise throughout the day.

"The construction has been going on since last school year, so I think it's become white noise situation for most," Blain said.

However, Blain does expect that noise will increase as January hits and the demolition of the existing building begins.

The community will also continue to see an impact on athletics due to the construction.

Much of the impacts will remain the same from last year, with most non-varsity teams practicing and competing off-campus.

"It's our sub-varsity teams that don't get as much turf time because it is very limited," Athletic Director Karen Gomez said. "For soccer—if they're lucky—they will have one junior varsity game on

the turf for each program, if I can fit it in."

Furthermore, softball will continue to practice and have games entirely off campus. Gomez has worked hard to ensure that the impacts are as minimized as possible.

"I make sure to schedule only one home game at a time, so it can get a little creative," Gomez said.

Gomez is grateful for the work the Agawam Department of Public Works does to keep all the fields around town in great condition, allowing high school teams to still have quality games even when playing or practicing off campus.

Gomez and Blain ask that the Agawam community remain respectful of the church and funeral home across the street from the high school and do not park in their lot.

"We ask our fans to not

park there because otherwise they don't have enough room for their clients and visitors," Gomez said.

Furthermore, Gomez is working hard to get a live streaming connection up and running for off-site games so that families who live further away can still tune in to watch games.

As construction moves into phase two, Gomez will keep the community up to date on what changes will occur.

Gomez is grateful for the understanding and support the community has shown so far with the construction impacts.

She knows it is inconvenient to have to walk more to get to games, especially ones in the stadium, and she appreciates everyone's understanding.

"The student athletes and coaches have been very respectful and we appreciate the fans," Gomez said. "We know it's been a struggle because of the construction."

However, even with these impacts, students can also make learning opportunities out of the construction.

"Several classes during the spring semester went out and toured the construction site to get ideas of what was going on and to learn about the process," Johnson said.

The welding class got to tour the site as they were putting in steel, the environmental science classes went out to the well field while the well was being dug and some of the design classes got to look at the blueprints of the site.

"The construction managers have been really great about giving different groups a tour," Blain said.

Blain and Gomez are excited for the community to continue to see the project as it comes to life.

"Construction is going smoothly," Blain said. "They're doing a great job and everything looks fantastic. It's everything that the community dreamed of."

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SPORTS

SOCCKER

Boys take silver in 2026 Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG – A year ago, Chicopee’s Griffen Wrisley and Minnechaug’s Tyler Supczak were starters for the West soccer team which captured the Gold medal at the annual Bay State Summer games.

The duo were the only returning starters on this year’s West squad.

The West team took home the Silver medal at the Bay State Summer Games following a 2-1 loss to Central in this year’s Gold medal match, which took place at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg on July 11.

“I was lucky enough to be a member of the Gold medal team last year,” Wrisley said. “We have a bunch of new players on this year’s team and were hoping to win the Gold Medal again. It’s a lot of fun being a leader of this team.”

The other members of the West team, who live in the Turley Publications coverage area, are John Carra (Agawam), Zacharia Yarovoy (Chicopee), Antonio Maurico (Chicopee), Aidan Monaghan (Agawam), Kayson Gauthier (South Hadley), Spencer Parsons (South Hadley), and Braeden Fitzgerald (Agawam).

The West team finished pool play with a perfect 4-0

record.

They posted a pair of one sided matches against Northeast 6-2, and Southeast, 8-0. They also pulled out two matches by 2-1 results against Central and Metro.

“Central was the best team we played in pool play,” Wrisley said. “I scored a goal and had an assist in that game.”

BOYS | page 8



Aidan Monaghan, of Agawam, tries to play the ball off his chest.



Above, Lucas Cruz hustles past mid-field. Right, Spencer Parsons, of South Hadley, eyes an open teammate.



Linus Dandurand attempts to make a stop.



Tyler Supczak, of Wilbraham, makes the easy trap.



Kayson Gauthier, of South Hadley, looks to make a free kick.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Girls represented by two squads at Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG – While the other sections of the state only had one girls’ soccer team competing in this year’s Bay State Summer Games, Western Mass. was represented by two teams for the first time.

The West Red team was coached by Matt Mosher, while Eric Woods guided the West Yellow team.

The two squads faced each other in the final pool game on July 11 at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg.

After building a 3-0 lead, the Red team withstood a late comeback by the Yellow team for a 3-2 victory.

“We had more than 40 girls’ try out for the two soccer teams, which shows how popular the sport is in Western Mass.,” said Mosher. “Eric and I have a very good relationship. We try our best to make the teams equal. It’s has been a lot of fun coaching this team.”

It was the sixth consecutive year that Mosher coached a Western Mass. girls’ soccer team at the Bay State Summers Games. His previous teams won two Silver Medals and three Bronze Medals.

Mosher was assisted by Laura Wray-Ramos, who’s the longtime girls’ varsity soccer coach at Agawam High School.

The members of the Red team, who live in the region, are Filomena Stellato (Agawam), Kalli White (Granby), Aaliyah Hall (South Hadley), and Taylor Bartosz (Wilbraham).



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Kaileena Smith, of Granby, advances up the field.



Margaret Healey, of Granby, looks to get around an opponent.



Above, Taylor Bartosz, of Wilbraham, looks to clear the ball on defense. Left, Kelsey Morrisette, of Chicopee, starts her way up the field.



Above, Kalli White, of Granby, is pressured as she heads through the middle of the field. Left, Aaliyah Hall, of South Hadley, chases after a loose ball.

GIRLS | page 8

Sports

Teddy Bear Pools takes playoff title in Tri-County

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE – For the first time since 2012, the TriCounty League championship title belongs to a baseball team other than PeoplesBank.

The third-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas ended the secondseeded PeoplesBank twelve year dynasty after sweeping the best of three semifinal series. Teddy Bear then captured the championship trophy for the first time since the 1980's with an 8-4 victory over the top-seeded St. Joseph's Saints in last Sunday's night decisive game three held at St. Joe's Park in Thorndike.

"Before the start of the regular season, I thought we had the most talented team in this league," said Teddy Bear player/manager Ryan Magni. "We have a couple of outstanding college baseball players on our roster, which made the biggest difference. It does feel great to win the championship title, but I do have a lot of respect for St. Joe's."

Ryan Magni played for St. Joe's for eight years before switching sides a couple of years ago. His younger brother, Brandon, was the St. Joe's starting first baseman in game three.

Ryan Magni started the game in centerfield before replacing righthander Brendan Fournier on the mound in the bottom of the seventh inning.

St. Joe's scored two runs against the righthander in their final at-bats. The game came to an end when Brandon Magni hit a ground ball to the second baseman against his older brother.

"I've faced my brother many times over the years," Ryan Magni said. "I didn't have my best stuff tonight, but I didn't make it very easy for him."

St. Joe's, who lost to Peoplesbank in last year's championship series, was looking to win the TCL title for the



Alex Gochinski takes a swing.



Nate Carrill makes a throw down to second.

first time since 2006.

"They just capitalized on our mistakes in tonight's game," said St. Joe's manager Paul Marcinek. "It would've been nice if we could've scored a few more runs. We did win the regular season championship with a 16-4 record, and we have nothing to be disappointed about."

Marcinek was assisted by Brian Hayes this season.

With one-out in the top of the first inning, Teddy Bear had runners on first and third when right fielder Willie Landman hit a ground ball up the middle. St. Joe's

shortstop Jacob Hayes made an outstanding diving stop before tagging second base and throwing a strike to Magni completing the inning ending double play.

Jacob Hayes, who's a member of the UMass Dartmouth baseball team along with his brother Jackson, belted a double to right center leading off the bottom half of the opening frame. Brandon Magni followed with a groundball single into left field putting runners at the corners. St. Joe's took a 1-0 lead when centerfielder Pat Fitzgibbons hit a blooper just



Above, Teddy Bear Pools becomes the first new playoff champions in more than a decade. Top left, Joey DeMichele makes a play for St. Joe's. Left, Brendan Fournier fires a pitch home.



Matt Drobiak slides safely back to first.

out of the second baseman's reach which scored Hayes. Magni also crossed the plate following a throwing error by the catcher.

Fournier, who graduated from Chicopee High School in 2017, retired 17 of the final 18 St. Joe's batters that he faced. St. Joe's only base runner during that stretch was Fitzgibbons, who hit a triple to right field with one-out in the sixth inning.

"I struggled in the first inning, but I started throwing more off speed pitches that kept them off balance. My teammates also made the plays behind me," said Fournier, who was the winning pitcher. "I've been playing in this league for almost ten years, and it feels great to finally win a championship."

Teddy Bear cut the deficit in half against righty Jack Feltovic in the third inning.

With one-out, catcher Mike Toth, who graduated from Granby High School, was hit-by-a-pitch. Second baseman Ramon Jimenez singled to right field putting runners at first and third. Then Landman hit a sacrifice fly to right.

Jimenez graduated from Chicopee High School before playing Division 1 college baseball at Boston College and Central Connecticut. He was intentionally walked in his other three plate appearances.

The visiting team took the lead for the first time two innings later.

Ryan Magni and Jimenez reached base via walks, which was sandwiched between a Mike Toth flyball single, which loaded the bases with one out. Left fielder Josh Frometa (2-for-3) blasted a triple to center giving his team a 4-2 lead.

"The bases were loaded and I was looking for a pitch to drive," said Frometa, who played baseball at Chicopee High and A.I.C. "It was a huge hit at that point of the game, and it feels great to win the championship title."

After scoring an unearned run in the sixth, Teddy Bear scored three more runs in the top of the seventh against lefthander relief pitcher Jackson Hayes. The key hit during that frame was a bases loaded double by first baseman Will Kennedy, who played for St. Joe's several years ago.

Teddy Bear entered the bottom of the seventh inning holding an 8-2 advantage.

St. Joe's DH Adam Zebian drew a walk against Ryan Magni leading off the final frame. Zebian was replaced at first base by pinch runner Adam Przybycien. Left fielder Ryan O'Leary followed with a triple to center scoring Przybycien. O'Leary scored on an infield hit by catcher Nate Carillon, who graduated from South Hadley High School.

Ryan Magni settled down and got out of the jam by retiring the next three batters, including his younger brother.

Teddy Bear Pools & Spas will be looking to defend their championship title in the summer of 2027, but challengers like St. Joe's and People'sBank will be looking to knock them off the top of the mountain.

BOYS ■ from page 7

The West team was coached by Josh Wietecha, who's the boys' varsity soccer coach at Hampshire Regional. He graduated from Chicopee Comp in 2021 and helped the West team win the Gold medal at the 2019 Bay State Games.

Wietecha enjoyed coaching Wrisley at this year's Bay State Games.

"Griffen is one of the best soccer players that I've coached," Wietecha said. "He's an outstanding forward and takes control of every game."

This fall, Wrisley will be one of the few return-

ing players on the Chicopee Pacers varsity team.

"We graduated twelve players from last year's varsity team," Wrisley said. "We only have a couple of varsity players returning."

Wrisley never thought about transferring to a different high school.

"Chicopee High School is a very special place for me and my family," Wrisley added. "We won the Western Mass. title for the first time in 43 years last year. It was very special."

Wrisley is the All-Time leading goal scorer for the Pacers boys' soccer team. He needs only three more goals to reach the 100 goal

milestone. He currently has 116 career points.

Hugo Destapado, who coached the West team at the Bay State Summer games last year, is returning as the Pacers varsity boys' soccer coach.

"I wouldn't be a successful soccer player without the help of my coaches," Wrisley said. "I'm looking to playing soccer for one final season at Chicopee High School."

The Pacers are scheduled to host Northampton in the season opener on Labor Day. They're also scheduled to play another match against Frontier Regional at historic Szot Park two nights later.

GIRLS ■ from page 7

wam), Hannah Haesaert (South Hadley), Kyra Lipmann (Holyoke), Gabriella Ramos (Agawam), Riley Platt (South Hadley), Audrey Afonso (Ludlow), Olivia Izzo (Agawam), Bridget Benoit (Belchertown), and Bri-Anne Kraus (Granby).

"All of the players on my soccer team have been playing with and against each other for years," Mosher said. "They know each other very well."

After finishing pool play at 2-1-1, the Red team surged to a 3-0 win over Northeast in the Gold medal game. It marked the first time that a West girls soccer team won

the Gold medal at the Bay State Games since 2016.

"It's very exciting being a member of this soccer team," Haesaert said. "There are a lot talented soccer players in the west."

The Red team began pool play with a 2-1 loss to Northeast. The following day, they tied Central, 1-1, before celebrating a 3-0 shutout win against Southeast/Coastal.

During the past couple of years, Woods, who coaches the girls' soccer team at the MacDuffie School in Granby, coached the Central/West team at the Bay State Games. His team won the Gold medal in 2024.

"The Central team had a mixture of players from Central and Western Mass. during the past couple of years," Woods said. "It's nice to coach a team with only players from the West. Soccer is a very popular sport in Western Mass."

The Yellow team lost to Central, 5-0, in the Bronze medal game.

The members of the Yellow team, who attend a high school in the region, are Taylor Bartosz (Min-

nechaug Reg.), Kelsey Morrisette (Chicopee Comp), Grace Sherman (South Hadley), Sofia Marsh (Granby), Cecelia Litz (Agawam), Kalli White (Granby), Margaret Healey (Granby), Grace Curto (Agawam), Mackenzie Lynch (Agawam), Sydney Germain (Chicopee), Cayla Ribeiro (Chicopee), Eleanor Szlosek (Granby), and Jordyn Szado (Monson).

The Yellow team (0-3-1) began pool play with a pair of 4-1 losses to both Central and Northeast. They managed to tie Southeast/Coastal, 1-1 the following afternoon.

In the West vs. West match-up, Healey scored a penalty kick goal and added a corner kick goal.

"It was really a lot fun playing in the Bay State games for the first time," said Healey, who's a rising sophomore. "I enjoyed competing against the other players from the West."

It was an enjoyable three days in Northern Worcester County for the two girls' soccer teams from Western Massachusetts.

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Agawam Senior Center announces upcoming activities

AGAWAM – Here are some upcoming activities happening at the Agawam Senior Center. Some require registration or confirmation. Information in the details below:

Beautiful Bones
Tuesday, Sept. 1 at 5 p.m. in Veterans Hall

Beautiful Bones goal is to increase muscle mass, bone density, and flexibility, through weight training, resistance training, ending with stretching. Class begins standing then descends to the floor. Chairs are optional for those who choose not to use the floor. Bring a yoga mat for your use. Starts Sept. 1 in Veterans Hall at 5 p.m.

Caregivers Connect – Dementia Caregiver Support Group
Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Garden Room
Laurie Cecchi, OT, OTR, CAPS (Certified Aging-in-

Place Specialist), CDCS (Certified Dementia Care Specialist) will be running our caregiver support group. Join us to feel heard, supported, and uplifted as you navigate the complexities of caregiving and celebrate the moments of joy and connection with your loved ones. Caregivers Connect meets the first Tuesday of the month.

Diabetes Support Group
Wednesday, Sept. 2 from 1 to 2 p.m.

We are excited to welcome our guest speaker on Sept. 2. Sean Collins, FNP, Specialist in Endocrinology. Please join us for an informative and engaging discussion on diabetes management and care. We look forward to seeing you there.

New England Wound Care
Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. in the Dining Room
Enjoy some delicious snacks and meet with mem-

bers from NEWCare, New England Wound and Ostomy Care. As you age, you become more susceptible to wounds. Learn about how to prevent and manage different common wounds like diabetic wounds, pressure wounds, and more. You'll also learn about ostomy care. Bring your questions.

Hearing checks with Gary
Thursday, Sept. 17

The next New Ears hearing clinic will take place on Thursday, Sept. 17. Gary Winn a licensed Hearing Instrument Specialist, and owner of New Ears Hearing Care, will conduct a free hearing clinic. He will check ears for wax build-up, perform hearing screenings, and counsel people about hearing loss. Hearing aids will be cleaned and adjusted, if possible. Call (413) 821-0604 to make an appointment. Hearing checks will take place in Seminar Hall.

Applications open for wreath bazaar

AGAWAM – Agawam Congregational Church is now accepting applications for the Holly Wreath Christmas Bazaar to be held on Saturday, Nov. 21

at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you are interested in participating contact the church office at 786-7111 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for an application.

You may pick one up at the church office or request one be sent to you by email. The church email is office@agawamcong.com.

SENIORS ■ from page 1

Medicare plan in the Commonwealth,” Guagnini said. “I enjoy being visible to the public and helping people understand the finer details of Medicare, because as we all know it can be very confusing! Medicare is always changing and evolving and I enjoy helping people understand how it works and what they need to know about choosing a plan that works for them. People love those two words, free and simple.

“The Medicare information I provide never costs anything and having been in this field for 16 plus years now, I feel that I can help break everything down in simple terms for people because that in itself can be very helpful. At the beginning of my presentations, I always introduce myself and make sure everyone knows I’m not there to sell them anything; that my job is to educate them on the topic I’m presenting on that day. I remind them that if they can walk out of that room knowing something they didn’t know when they walked in, I’ve done my job. I’m grateful for the people who choose to spend an hour or two with me, especially on a sunny, beautiful day and in return I feel like they deserve to learn something about Medicare in the easiest to understand way possible.”

Guagnini shared the steps people can take to being looking into getting Medicare

“If you’re approaching age 65 and don’t currently have health insurance through an employer for

whom you or your spouse works, contact Social Security three months prior to your 65th birthday to ensure you are registered for Parts A and B on the first of your birthday month,” he said. “Educate yourself on the different Medicare plans that are available to you and ultimately choose the plan you feel is best for you. Make an appointment with a SHINE counselor at your local Senior Center as they are very helpful and can help you through the entire enrollment process. It’s important to know that you are not required to enroll on Medicare Part B if you are age 65 or old-

er and actively enrolled on a health insurance plan through an employer, yours or your spouses, and can defer Part B as long as you are enrolled on that plan. Second, the presentation I hosted today provided an overview of Medicare and the two types of plans, Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage, that are available.”

Guagnini adds, “If you missed this presentation, please check with Kristina at the Agawam Senior Center to see when I’ll be there next, I’m always happy to help anyone understand and or navigate the Medicare world as best I can.”

Obituary

Concetta “Connie” Bruno

1941-2026

Being a mother and a grandmother brings a unique journey of love. Concetta “Connie” Bruno devoted mother, grandmother, companion, sister, aunt and friend passed away unexpectedly on July 29, 2026. She was born in Ludlow on February 2, 1941, to the late Ralph and Ann (Kopysinski) Sibilia and spent her youth and was educated in Springfield graduating from Commerce High School. Connie became a proud mother of three children and devoted herself to raising them in a loving, nurturing home where she could instill the important values of life and ensure they knew they were unconditionally loved. Her family was the center of her world and as her grandchild began to arrive, she continued to open her heart and provide them with her love and support. Her generous and giving ways knew no bounds. She was always there for her family and her friends never expecting anything in return. It was evident to anyone who met her that she was genuine and her trust was unwavering. There was never a grandmother

who outsold her when it came to selling candy to support her granddaughter’s gymnastic team. There was not a way to say no to her enthusiasm. She was affectionately known

to all of her granddaughter’s friends as Nana. Connie was also a very successful Avon “lady”. And never did Connie miss an opportunity to send a card for whatever the occasion and she found great joy in her efforts. Connie was meticulous in how she kept her vehicles and her Honda Accord and Mustang were dear to her. She loved the excitement of going to the Casino or buying lottery tickets, always hopeful she had the winning number. She was a devoted companion to Marty Radewick for forty-two years, being a partner not only in business but in life. Marty was a modified race car driver for many years, and Connie was by his side. One of her proudest moments was being chosen as Mrs. Schlitz at the Big E. She lived life to the fullest, making sure all in her life knew her love for them was endless. Connie



left suddenly but her memory will live in the hearts of her loved ones forever.

Surviving Connie is her devoted companion Marty Radewick and her beloved daughter Kristine Bruno

Forry (she was predeceased by her cherished son-in-law Robert Forry) and daughter Terri Cavanaugh. She also leaves her cherished granddaughters, Gia, Farrah and Tiffany and step grandsons Mark and Mike Forry and step great granddaughter Isabella Forry. She will be greatly missed by her loving brother Jerry Sibilia, extended family and countless friends. Sadly, she was predeceased by her beloved son Robert Bruno Jr. and her former husband Robert Bruno Sr.

Visitation with her family was held Saturday, Aug. 8 at 8:30 a.m. at the Agawam Funeral Home 184 Main Street concluding at 10:15 a.m. and was followed by a liturgy of Christian Burial at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in West Springfield at 11 a.m. Committal to follow at Springfield Street Cemetery.



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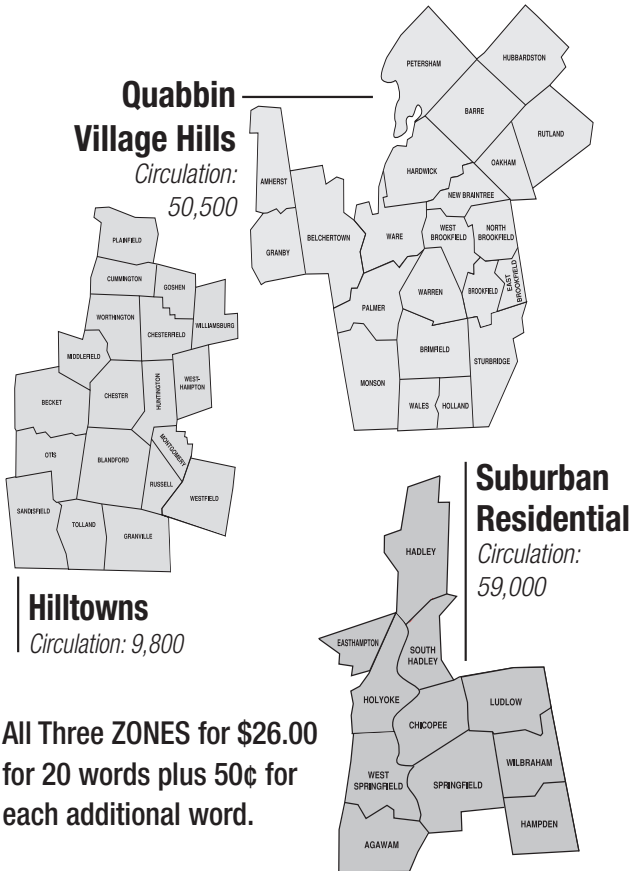
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ARTISTS ■ from page 1

Event organizer Ceil Rossi expressed her love for the event.

“I just love people,” Rossi said. “And I love making people happy. I love selling art.” Rossi also shared with us that at the art festival was a mosaic of small canvases painted by community members, as well as an auction.

Karen Conkey talked about the New England Mosaic, which was recently unveiled and then on display at the festiva.

It is the fifth year the mosaic has been featured at the art show.

“We show it here, as well as we do an unveiling at the beginning of August,” Conkey said. “So, we actually show this two different times. And what we do is, all these canvases have been given out through local libraries. People take them, they do whatever art they want on them and they return them to their libraries. We start in March, get them back, we out them on here, and then we sell them for \$25 each. And the net proceeds go to scholarships. So, we’ve given out four scholarships this year. Four \$1,000 scholarships.”

Conkey enjoys bringing art to the community.

“Well, I think it’s sort of the idea, one of our missions is to bring our artwork into the community,” Conkey said. “So, we have a lot of artists that we support, within our group. But then we want to sort of radiate out art into the community, get people who never do art to try it. And then we think it’s really great for someone to see their art displayed somewhere, cause like, you can draw something at home or whatever, but it stays at your house.”

Robin Jenson, who helps organize the auction, reflected on the scholarships that are awarded. “So, this particular scholarship is actually in the name of Karen and my mom,” Jenson said. “And every year, we donate one of her paintings. So, all



Christina Nasuti with Creations by Christina at the ACAA Art Festival last weekend.

the money collected goes into the scholarship fund, that’s for students going into post high school education in the arts of some sort, or if they’re already in college, they can also apply. And so, we’ve gradually increased the amount, and the amount of people we were able to help out.”

Jenson shared the name if the scholarship is, the Gloria McLellan Scholarship for the Arts.

Jenson then shares why she believes this scholarship is so important for the community.

“I think one of our, one of my mother’s missions, and our mission as a group, is to really involve the community in what we do. And for us to become involved in the community, so going both ways. So, this really involves us in the community by putting on this festival of really fine artists. We’re able to give back to the community.”

There were many artists who use many different mediums displaying their work



Peg and Rick Hurteau with their hand made banks.



Travis Kuffel promotes his book “Unleashed.” at the event.

“It’s relaxing and just working with your hands. They’ve done studies where they’ve attached stuff to the brain, you know, to the scalp and the reaction that the brain has when you’re creating, it actually releases the dopamine,” said potter Patti Bessette.

Barb Sawyer, a painter, enjoys the exchanges she has with visitors.

“It gives me an opportunity to get a little feedback, like family sees art but its, you know, family and friends are always nice. But, I’ve learned a lot. I’ve talked to other artists, I love their work and they give me tips. So, it’s been very educational for me,” Sawyer said.



Diane Boglisch displays her wire crafted trees.



Amber and Laura Bendiksen with their many crafts.



Robin Jenson and Wyatt Smith show off donated photographs.



Hayley Hunton shows off her drawings.



Artist Noreen Acconcio shows off her various works.



Gail Cortis doing an alcohol painting demonstration.



Carolyn S. Maloney doing a painting presentation.



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Karen Conkey and Cindy Bouley, co-chairs of the New England Mosaic project.



Auction items at the Art Festival on Aug. 22.



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