SENIORS

New activities

PAGE 2

LOCAL

Smith House event

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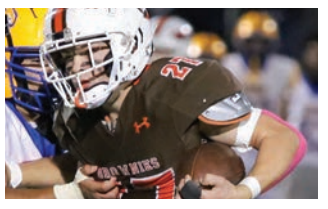

SPORTS

Football gets win

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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

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Out of the Darkness Walk for suicide prevention

800-plus show their support

Members of the Elms College cheerleading team from Chicopee held signs and cheered on walkers along the course.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

The message "HOPE" was on full display at the walk to remind attendees they are not alone.

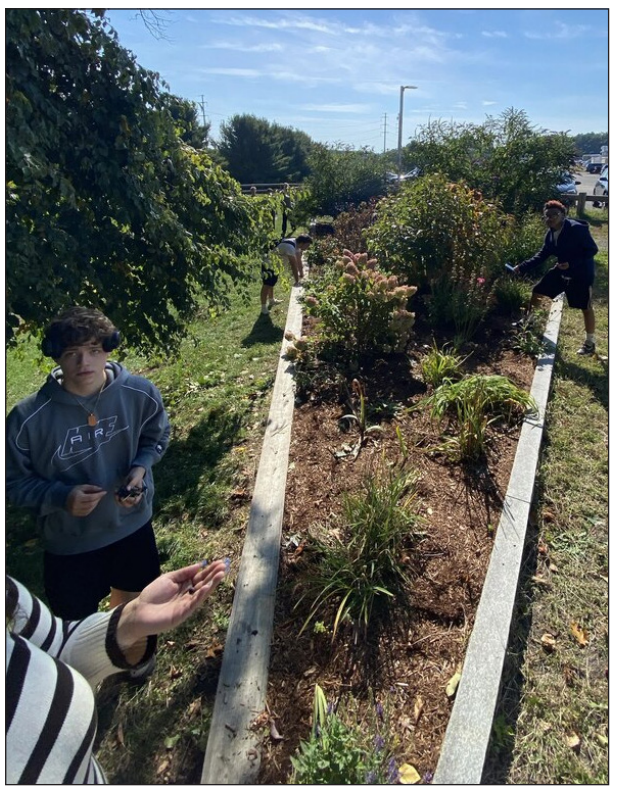
AGAWAM – Over 800 people gathered in School Street Park in Agawam on Oct. 24 for the 2026 Greater Springfield Out of the Darkness Community Walk.

The annual event raises awareness for suicide prevention and gathers community members, residents, family members and friends and more together to share their stories, remember those lost to suicide and raise their voice for education, research and resources to help those who are struggling.

In 2025, 648 people died by suicide in the state of Massachusetts.

The event featured a Honor Bead Ceremony with attendees wearing a color sharing their connection to the cause whether the loss of a child or spouse, military or the LGBTQIA + community to a personal struggle or attempt, AFSP bandanas to recognize the pets who support those who are struggling, remarks from American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Massachusetts Chapter Event Co-Chairs

WALK ❙ page 6



Clubs work together to make pollinator garden

In collaboration with the Agawam Rotary Club, AHS agriculture classes have created a pollinator garden in the back of the AHS. The garden has seen some frequent visitors from mother nature which the students have had the opportunity to study. The collaboration is a great example of community outreach and conservation awareness.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

High school project nearing completion of first phase

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – At a recent meeting of the Agawam School Committee, Mayor Christopher Johnson, who also chairs the committee, informed the body the first phase of the Agawam High School project is on schedule to reach substantial completion in December.

The completion of what is known as the "community wing" of the school will be ready to go when students and staff return to school following the Christmas and New Year's holiday break.

Johnson shared multiple photographs of the new school building. There will be a plaza and a new main entrance for the community wing.

That wing will include a new gymnasium where it is likely Agawam's sports teams will be able to begin having contests in once the school has been moved in to.

One thing that will not be happening will be the Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament. The traditional wrestling tournament that has occurred during the holiday break at Agawam High School. The event will take a one-year hiatus while moving is taking place to

SCHOOL ❙ page 11

McLaughlin honored for more than 60 years with scouts

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – A longtime volunteer with the Agawam Boys Scouts was recently honored.

Scout Leader Mark McLaughlin was recently honored by the Western Massachusetts Council for Boy Scouts of America.

According to a press release submitted to the Agawam Advertiser News, McLaughlin was honored an awards picnic in August.

McLaughlin was recognized by the Council because of his remarkable 60 years of devoted service as a Scout and Scout leader. In addition, he received the prestigious James E. West Fellowship Award from the National Boy Scout Office in acknowledgment of his continued contributions to the Boy Scouts of America.

McLaughin's history with the scouts dates back to his time joining the scouts as a child. He began his scouting journey in 1966 when he joined the Agawam Boy Scout Troop 82 alongside his cousin, Chris Pennock, and his close friend, Chris Muldrew. He went through the various ranks and merit badges over the next several years. Eventually, he achieved his God and Country award and earned the esteemed Eagle Scout rank in 1971.

McLaughlin would participate in a two-week hiking expedition at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, NM at the age of 17, he earned the National Camping School Training award as a Waterfront Director and continues to be an active member as an Honor Camper with the Order of the Arrow.

McLaughlin, after becoming an Eagle Scout, then began a long history of leadership positions for Trop 82, the group he joined as a child. He became a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Advancement Chairman, Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster, a role he held for five years. He earned the Wood Badge award which represents the highest level of training available for Scout leaders. He proudly completed additional training from the University of Scouting in Commissioner Science and earned a Bachelor certificate. Currently, he provides mentorship to all Scouts as they progress, including guidance and coach-

SCOUT ❙ page 11

Troop 82 Scout Leader Mark McLaughlin was recently honored for his service to the scouting community.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

turleysports www.turleysports.com

SPORTS

Agawam football gets big win over Comp

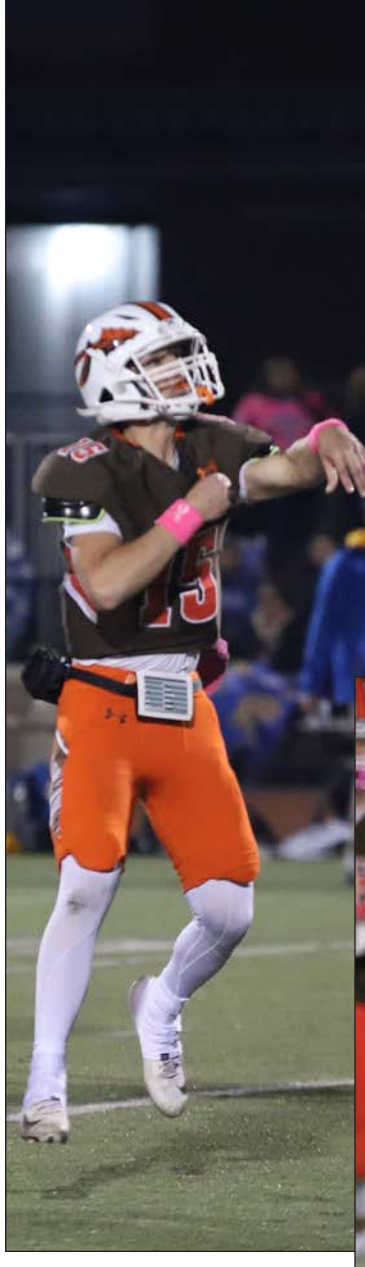
AGAWAM – Last Friday evening, Agawam High School football defeated Chicopee Comprehensive 41-14.

The Brownies got three rushing touchdowns from Quentin Scafuri. He rushed 11 times for 76 yards. Domenick Pisano had two touchdown passes and 124 yards in the air. Comp's Mateus Ferriera threw for 268 yards and two touchdowns, but also threw two interceptions.

Agawam closes out its regular season with a matchup on the road at Wahconah Regional on Friday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m.

The Brownies are likely going to be in nonplayoff action during Weeks 9 and 10.

Paul Gaynor makes a block.



Above: Domenick Pisano goes for a pass.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Right: Ryan Sexton is grabbed by an opponent as he takes a run to the left side.

Far right: Joseph Cravo kicks off for the Brownies.

Jacob Roy tries to make a play on the defensive line.

Quentin Scafuri tries to power through a tackler.