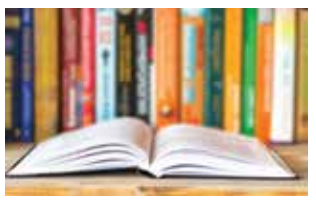


LOCAL
Food Fest West
PAGE 3



LIBRARY
Kid and teen activities
PAGE 6



SPORTS
Soccer tournament action
PAGE 7

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Neal defeats Milleron in election rematch race

By Brendan Rooney
Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD — U.S. Rep. Richard Neal is officially on his way back to the House in Washington for a 20th term representing Massachusetts' 1st Congressional District, after defeating Independent Candidate Nadia Milleron in a rematch of their 2024 contest this past Tuesday.

By 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, 24% of ballots had been counted; early returns showed Neal winning 68%, or 52,037 votes; Milleron had 31%, or 24,356 votes. As of Wednesday morning, various reports stated Neal's lead jumped mightily as he garnered 149,322 votes or 65.4%, compared with Milleron's 78,944 or 34.6%—a 70,378-vote margin that sealed a landslide victory.

Earlier that night, Neal's supporters—including family, friends, and local and state elected officials—gathered inside Nathan Bill's Irish Bar & Restaurant in Springfield to await the Congressman's arrival.

Neal entered just after 9:30 p.m., exchanging pleasantries and shaking hands as Queen's "We Are the Champions" echoed throughout the venue, signifying victory achieved.

Minutes later, Neal's daughter, Maura Fitzpatrick, took the stage to offer an ode of gratitude to her father, allowing the congressman a moment of reflection as he embraced his grandchildren. Fitzpatrick revealed this

NEAL ❙ page 12



U.S. Rep Richard Neal addresses his supporters upon victory as his grandchildren watch on.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BRENDAN ROONEY

City council establishes affordable housing trust

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

AGAWAM -- The city council voted 6-5 to establish an affordable housing trust fund at their meeting on Nov. 4.

Councilor Rosemary Sandlin and Mayor Christopher Johnson had sponsored the resolution in an attempt to assist with Agawam's control over affordable housing in the area.

"We really want to have another tool in our toolbox for the future," Sandlin said. "We want to be in the driver's seat on this."

Sandlin and several other councilors believed that this trust would help Agawam to have a greater sway over where and how affordable housing is developed in the town.

Currently Agawam is subject to 40B development, as they are under the affordable housing limit.

Chapter 40B is a Massachusetts law that allows certain affordable housing developments to receive relief from local zoning requirements from communities that have not met affordable housing benchmarks.

"If a contractor wants to come in here and use 40B, they can override our laws with state laws for permitting reasons," Council President Anthony Russo said.

Therefore, the state is able to come in and develop affordable housing in the area.

"We are ripe for 40B development," Sandlin said. "They could come in here, buy a piece of land, get state

HOUSING ❙ page 11



Filmmaker Geno McGahee and his team members are shown at the premiere of "Blood Harvest: Night of the Scarecrows."

TURLEY PHOTO BY RICHARD MURPHY

Filmmaker McGahee brings 'Blood Harvest' to Agawam Cinemas

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Oct. 24, Western Massachusetts filmmaker Geno McGahee came out with his latest work of film horror.

"Blood Harvest: Night of the Scarecrows" is, what one could say, a story from the dark side of life's street.

The event took place at Agawam Cinemas, obviously in the town of that name. These theaters are an intimate venue and an asset to town and region.

Theaters, once ubiquitous, are vanishing, so a place to watch films with others is a pleasure.

Around 7 p.m. fans arrived and the discussions among them were lively.

One of the scarecrows was there to shake the hand of your correspondent. Rick Caride, one of the movie's team set us up for a picture.

The genre is where McGahee has more than a little expertise. "Blood Harvest: Night of the Scarecrows" is also not

FILM ❙ page 11

Brothers educate residents on wellness utilizing hemp

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM - On Monday Nov. 2, Agawam Public Library hosted an adult programing event in relation to their latest wellness events. "Using Hemp for Wellness," was presented in the Judith Clini Community Room by brothers Micheal and Brian Lupario. Brain and Micheal are the owners of Western MA Hemp. The event included an educational presentation, tastings of some of their products, and products were also available for purchase at the end of the event.

After the presentation. Brian Lupario explained the controversy of their journey.

"I came from a very conservative household where cannabis was still very much the devil's lettuce and if you were going to use it you were going to get kicked out," Brian Lupario said. "So, my mom was very much an antagonist in that process. She really the impetus to try and break through the stigma and bring the therapeutic effects to someone."

Brian Lupario then shared how the idea for hemp to be used for wellness started, "Again, I was somewhat naive of the benefits it was having for me. But when you see your mom suffering, it's like, well, I might get in trouble but let me try. That broke down this like, all these decades of household controversy. Because we could actually make a difference and that's what I think, if society can have that same aha moment. Those same walls will go down. Now, I worry the preventative factors are like, glorification of intoxication and a race to the bottom line, economically, and that's what I think is going to hinder this industry for the time to come. Chaotic and controversial, those would be the words I would use to describe the early days."

Brian Lupario was an Environmental science major with a social chemistry focus in college.

"I worked in soil chemistry labs, my final years, I did research when I was out of college," said Brian Lupario. "But, I didn't want, I got so caught up in the lab, I just needed to get out. The understanding of the science of it came from dealing with the skepticism. I used to be fairly reserved about talking about our illnesses, and childhood and all of that stuff. So like, a lot of the times people come to you and they're like, 'Yeah, I've heard of hemp, I've tried it, and it didn't work. Like, I've wasted so much money, I don't know why I did it.'" And so there was this necessity to cut through the stigma in a way that was nonpolitical, so it wasn't saying, 'Dude, it's been around for thousands of years, like the Romans used it,' right." Although, that's nice and compelling. And especially, like, it's awesome from a history standpoint. It doesn't necessarily make me want to spend a hundred dollars on it. And it doesn't necessarily convince me that its any good for me."

Brian Lupario highlights the most effective way of explaining how hemp can be

WELLNESS ❙ page 12

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SPORTS

Brownies reach WMass soccer finals

AGAWAM – It was an eventful week for the Agawam High School boys soccer, which is hoping for an impressive playoff run for the second year in a row. This year, Agawam so far, has made it all the way to the Western Mass. finals. The Brownies would upset Ludlow in the semifinals with a 1-0 win, but fell by the same score in the finals against Northampton last Monday night in a very physical game held at Central High School. Agawam was scheduled to take part in the Division 2 State Tournament. Their first matchup was held Monday evening as Agawam hosted Melrose High School. Agawam, which this year ranked No. 9 in the division, would possibly have to travel to No. 8 Reading unless No. 25 Duxbury can prevail. That matchup will likely be held later this week.





Above: John Carra looks to block an opposing goal kick.
Left: Jack Chivers attempts to keep the ball from going out of bounds.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Nathan Bassette sends a free kick away.



Cayden Quinby watches a pass away.



Dylan Jorgensen lifts a long, high shot.



Leon Privedenyuk moves past midfield.