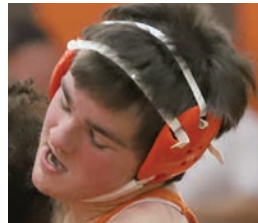




LOCAL
Agawam Day
PAGE 2



CULTURE
Historian featured
PAGE 3



SPORTS
Tomkiel Tournament
PAGE 7

AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

January 2, 2025 | Vol. 46, No. 45 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Still Brook, new park in town

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Still Brook Park project was finally completed this year with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

This park used to be the Tuckahoe Turf Farm and has been undergoing construction throughout the past year.

The town first bought the Tuckahoe Turf property back in the 1990s, when Mayor Christopher Johnson was in his first

term as the mayor. Due to this, the opening of the project was a big day for Johnson.

“It was a special day for myself and Councilor Bitzas, who

PARK | page 3



Agawam High School's performance of Once Upon a Mattress took place in early May.

FILE PHOTO

Johnson reflects on first year back

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Mayor Christopher Johnson has already accomplished many things in his first year in office.

He has helped to see the Still Brook Park project come to fruition and he is working to do the same with the police department project.

The largest project he has worked on, and the one he is most proud of, is the Agawam High School project.

Johnson has dedicated hours of work to helping to plan out the details of the project and ensure that it will be the best building it can be for Agawam.

“This is a once in a generation investment for Agawam,” Johnson said. “We’re trying our damndest to end up with the best facility that we can end up with, not only from an educational standpoint



Mayor Christopher Johnson is sworn in back in January 2024.

FILE PHOTO

JOHNSON | page 11

As calendar turns, ground will soon break on a new high school

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam public schools were officially granted funding by the Massachusetts School Building Authority to build a new high school in June.

Since then, the town has been working hard to plan out all the details of this huge project.

Prior to even the MSBA funding approval, the town and APS staff were working hard to begin fleshing out the project, including deciding on a general construction plan and creating their proposal for the MSBA.

Superintendent Sheila Hoffman, Agawam High School Principal Jim Blain and other invested parties held a series of community forums throughout the fall of 2023.

During these meetings they discussed how the high school project could impact the town and what the different options for construction were.

The final community forum was held in November of 2023 and the high school project group then submitted their proposal to the MSBA.

The MSBA then approved the project at their meeting on Dec. 13, 2023 so Agawam was able to move forward with their work.

Following this, the project group had several other meetings to continue to figure out the general plan for the building.

Mayor Christopher Johnson also dedicated time to sending out information to the community, as they needed to vote to approve the project.

Johnson made it clear that no matter how people would vote, money would still have to be put toward the high school.

“It’s really a question of where do you want to make your investment, do you want to invest in a new modern high school with a new early childhood center and have an

SCHOOL | page 11

A look back at 2024



The year 2024 brought forth a lot of change in Agawam. The town swore in a new mayor, new members to the city council, and a new city council president and vice president. It also marked the start of new beginning for Agawam High School as a new project was passed by a vote of the town and funding from the state. Here is a look back at more happenings in the town in 2024.



Agawam High School's performance of Once Upon a Mattress took place in early May. See more photos on page 12. FILE PHOTO





Join us for our

GRAND OPENING

in Feeding Hills, MA!



Call our new location to schedule a

FREE* Hearing Evaluation

from one of our trained Hearing Specialists!

1-888-387-3068

Your Evaluation May Reveal Such Common Problems As:

- Excessive Wax Build-Up
- Damage To Your Eardrum
- Other Conditions Which May Make It Difficult To Hear Clearly



- 100% Satisfaction Guarantee**
- 3-Year Limited Warranty†
- FREE** Lifetime Service
- Over 75 Years in Business
- Over 1,500 Locations Nationwide



Complete your
FREE* Hearing Evaluation
and get a
FREE \$20 GIFT CARD!**

FEEDING HILLS

12 Southwick Street
meoffer.me/feedinghills

*Hearing tests are always free. Hearing test is an audiometric test to determine proper amplification needs only, not a medical exam. **If you are not completely satisfied, the aids may be returned for a full refund within 30 days from the completion of fitting, in satisfactory condition. Fitting fee may apply. Valid at participating locations only. See store for details. †Limited warranty, see store or miracle-ear.com/warranty for details. Not valid on Level 1 Solutions. ‡Cleanings and in-office service are always free. Miracle-Ear® lifetime aftercare not included with hearing aids purchased utilizing some insurance benefits or OTC hearing aids. See store for details. §See store for details on available financing and benefits options. ¶This gift card is an eGift Card. Once you complete your hearing test, you will receive your eGift Card via email from our third-party supplier. Limit one eGift Card per customer. Must be 55 or older. Must not have been tested or made a purchase in the last 6 months. Value not redeemable for cash. Cannot be combined with other promotions. Some conditions apply, see store for details. Hearing test must be performed. Valid at participating Miracle-Ear locations only.

CODE: E1514638

Free Girl Scout event Jan. 14

AGAWAM – Girls and their guardians are invited to a free Embrace Possibility event on Tuesday, Jan. 14, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Agawam Congregational Church. Girls will sample Girl Scout badge projects, and take home their first Girl Scout patch. Local Girl Scout troops will be selling Girl Scout Cookies and answering any questions. Adults will discuss volunteering to form a new Girl Scout troop. Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts seeks volunteers to form a new leadership team (3-4 volunteers) so that the troop responsibilities are fun and can be shared. No previous Girl Scout experience is necessary. This event is for girls entering grades K and 1, who are not currently Girl Scouts. RSVP by Jan. 10 <https://go.gscwm.org/EmbraceAgawam>. For information contact Angiee at Arodriguez@gscwm.org or call 413-584-2602 x4028.

Arillotta and Bradley kick off author visits

AGAWAM – Attention fans of the True Crime book genre! Join us for a book talk and signing for the book *South End Syndicate: How I Took Over the Genovese Springfield Crew* by Anthony Arillotta and Joe Bradley at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025.

The book tells the story of Mr. Arillotta and his rise to power as a Mafia boss in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Brimming with local landmarks, wealth, power, and seductive allure, the depiction of his rise and eventual fall from grace will keep you on the edge of your seat. Come hear from the authors and purchase a copy of the book. Register early for this program, as it will surely be well attended.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church hosting community dinner

WESTFIELD – St. Joseph's National Catholic Church at 73 Main Street in Westfield is hosting a Community Dinner on Sunday, Jan. 19 at 12 noon. This community dinner will feature Baked Fish with Crumb Topping, Rice Pilaf, and Glazed Carrots. Dessert served will be Lemon Surprise. Coffee and Bottled Water will also be available. Everyone is welcome.

Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under. To purchase tickets

and reserve your place, text or telephone Cliff at (413) 977-2007 and if leaving a message, provide your name and telephone number.

Take-Out Meals-To-Go will be available for pick-up at 12:30pm. When ordering tickets, indicate if dinners are To-Go. Deadline for purchasing tickets is January 16th. All community members are welcome. Please join us for a delicious Sunday dinner and fun raffle.

Feline Friends drive continues

FEEDING HILLS – Feline Friends Inc will be holding two monthly donation drives at Smithland Pet & Garden Center on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. as well as Jan. 4. Volunteers will be collecting food, litter and monetary donations for the kitties. Opened bags/boxes will be accepted.

Smithland, a valued sponsor, is stocked with Friskies Pate or Shreds canned food (single flavor cases are preferred), many Fancy Feast varieties and unscented, clumping cat litter.

Feline Friends would also appreciate jars of baby food (meat/poultry varieties), paper towels, puppy peepads and gift cards to Smithland or Costco. Checks or cash are

always gratefully accepted at Feline Friends, P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Just a reminder that there is a donation bin at Smithland near the registers and at the Agawam Public Library. Please add contact information with donations if donors would like an acknowledgment.

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, nonprofit sanctuary that does not discriminate against any cat based on age, gender or disability.

More information about our sanctuary may be found on our website at felinefriendsinc.org or our Facebook page at Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary. Contact us with questions at info@felinefriendsinc.org or by phone at 413-786-5019.

Agawam Day to be celebrated in Florida

AGAWAM – The 44th annual “Agawam Day in Florida” will be held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 from 10 a.m. to p.m. Former Agawam residents, old friends, classmates and relatives will meet at Fort DeSoto

National Park, St. Petersburg, FL. for a reunion, picnic, raffles, hugs and to share old memories. For more information, contact: Hank Drewnowski call/text at 860-462-7273 or email hdrew2452@gmail.com.

BBB Scam Alert: Watch out for phony personalized products on social media

Paula Fleming, CMSO & Chief Spokesperson
pfleming@boston.bbb.org

A personalized item might seem perfect; however, last-minute shoppers should look out for misleading ads on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok promoting customized gifts.

BBB Scam Tracker has gotten numerous reports from people whose purchases were far different from what they thought - if they arrived.

How the scam works

While scrolling through social media, an ad comes up for the cutest personalized product. It could be a clothing item with a loved one's name on it, a keychain with a favorite pet's face, or a paint-by-numbers kit made from a provided photograph. Whatever the case, you click the link to the com-

pany's website. Everything looks legitimate, so you purchase with great anticipation.

However, when the order arrives (if it arrives at all), it's not the expected or imagined quality. The personalization might contain errors, or the product may differ completely from the website's description.

The contact for customer service doesn't respond, or if you speak with someone via phone or email, they assure you they will fix the issue-but never do. Ultimately, you are left with an undesirable product or no way to get your money back.

In a recent BBB Scam Tracker report, one consumer reported, “I saw an ad on Facebook advertising GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE for Big Lots. I placed an order on biglotsonsaling.com on my bank debit card and a separate order on my cred-

Scholar Willuam Hosley featured at Historical Association

AGAWAM – Historian and scholar Willuam Hosley will be the featured speaker at the Agawam Historical Association's Winter Meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main St.

Hosley will present "Making History, Celebrating Massachusetts' Local Historical Museums." Hosley said "Massachusetts has 351 towns and as many community-based historical museums. Most are small. Many are run by volunteers. No two are alike. They preserve and present local artifacts and stories. They collect. They

offer public programs. They advocate for preservation. They serve schools and greet tourists." Hosley considers them a civic miracle, and he will tell their story and why they matter.

Hosley is an independent scholar, historian, writer, and photographer who retired from a long career as a museum curator and director. He is passionate about art, local history and historic preservation. He was formerly Director of the New Haven Museum and Connecticut Landmarks, where he cared for a chain of historic attractions. Prior to that, as a

curator and exhibition developer at the Wadsworth Atheneum, Bill organized major exhibitions including The Great River: Art and Society of the Connecticut Valley, The Japan Idea: Art and Life in Victorian America, and Sam & Elizabeth: Legend and Legacy of Colt's Empire, an exhibition that that spawned the Coltsville National Historical Park in Hartford, Connecticut.

The Agawam Historical Association is a private, non-profit organization working to preserve historic materials, documents, and landmarks pertaining to the Town of Agawam and to provide educational

opportunities concerning Agawam's history. The association operates the c. 1757 Thomas Smith House at 251 North West St., in Feeding Hills, and the Agawam Historical and Fire House Museum at 35 Elm Street in Agawam. The Smith House is preserved in largely original, unrestored condition. The museum occupies the former Elm Street Fire Station, and houses artifacts pertaining to the town and the Agawam Fire Department. New members are always welcome. For additional information regarding the Agawam Historical Association.

DPW collects used lights

AGAWAM – Frustrated with broken holiday lights, or just have a bunch that no longer suits the needs? No matter what the reason, resist the urge to throw old holiday lights in the curbside trash or recycling collection cart. Holiday light strings are known as "tanglers" in the recycling industry.

Tanglers are things like plastic bags, ropes, cords, hoses, wires, and light strings that jam sorting machinery by wrapping around the equipment, which is dangerous for workers.

Light strings may be delivered to the Department of Public Works front office through Jan. 31. This program is for light strings only: incandescent, LED and icicle light strings with wires and attached bulbs. Boxes, bags, and packaging must be removed before placing lights in the recycling container.

Alternative options for recycling light strings would include mail back programs such as HolidayLEDs.com or Christmas-light-source.com.

Town announces residential Christmas Tree and bulk collection services for January

AGAWAM – The Department of Public Works is pleased to announce, in addition to weekly trash and recycling services, Republic Services will be providing Christmas Tree and Bulk Collection services during the month of January.

Christmas Tree collections will take place the week of Jan. 6 to 10.

*Christmas trees will be collected on the same day as scheduled trash collection. Please be aware that the regular trash truck will not be collecting trees, a separate truck will be running for the collection of trees.

*Christmas trees 7' or larger must be cut in half and placed on the tree belt no earlier than 7 a.m. of the collection day listed above.

*Trees in plastic bags will NOT be collected.

*It is not the responsibility of the hauler to dig out trees buried in the snow due to plowing or excessive snowfall prior to the scheduled collection days.



*In the event of a snow delay during the scheduled collection week, residents should make alternative arrangements to recycle their trees at the Bondi's Island Landfill. Collection routes for trees will not be re-scheduled.

*Residents may dispose of trees prior to or after the scheduled collection days at the Bondi's Island Landfill.

January Bulk Collection – By appointment only.

Residents who receive curbside trash and recycling services from the town and are in need of a bulk pick up in January should contact Republic Services at 413-557-6700 to schedule a date for collection.

Bulk pick-ups will take place between Jan. 13 and 24, by appointment only. Any items left on the curb without an appointment will be the responsibility of the home owner to remove and dispose of.

For more information on bulk collection services visit the DPW page of the town website at www.agawam.ma.us

Should you have any questions regarding either service, please contact the DPW at 413-821-0600.

HCC set to hold Registration Express event Saturday, Jan. 11

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will hold a special "Registration Express" event for the spring 2025 semester on Saturday, Jan. 11, when prospective students can apply for admission, take the college placement test, meet with an academic adviser, register for classes, and set up financial aid – all in one day.

HCC's Saturday Registration Express event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and takes place on the first floor of the Campus Center on the main campus at 303 Home-

stead Ave. and virtually over Zoom.

The spring 2025 semester begins Tuesday, Jan 21. HCC also has Flex Start dates on Feb. 3 (Spring Start II) and March 24 (Spring Start III). Full-term spring classes run for 14 weeks. Spring Start II classes run for 12 weeks. Spring Start III classes run for seven.

Registration Express will also be an opportunity for prospective students to learn about the state's new program for free community college, MassEducate.

"Registration Express at Holyoke Com-

munity College provides an opportunity for students to complete the admissions and registration process all in one day and all in one place," said Mark Hudgik, dean of strategic recruitment initiatives, admissions, and financial aid. "Admissions, Financial Aid, and Advising counselors will be available to help students get ready for the spring semester."

Those who can't make it in person on Jan. 11 can still participate on those days virtually over Zoom.

The Registration Express Zoom link can be accessed through a link on the Registration Express page on the HCC website: hcc.edu/regexpress

Also, HCC offices will be open for extended hours, according to the following schedule: Jan. 6-9, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Jan. 10, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Jan. 13-14, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; (College offices closed Jan. 15 for Professional Day); Jan. 16, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Jan. 17, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Jan. 21-23, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 24, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PARK ■ from page 1

was on the council that purchased the Tuckahoe Turf property. It kind of felt full circle for us to be there and for us to see what we had started many decades ago come to fruition with a beautiful park for the residents in Agawam," Johnson said.

For a long time, the town deliberated on what to do with the property. It totals 290 acres and had the potential to be a great asset for the town.

"It is the second largest single track of land in Agawam after Robinson State Park," Johnson said.

Finally, former Mayor William Sapelli decided that it could be turned into a passive recreation park for the town.

"A few years back Mayor Sapelli and I were having the conversation again and so with his leadership we were able to put together a package," Johnson said.

Sapelli was informed of this decision by an ad-hoc committee he created which looked into different potential uses of the property.

From there the Tuckahoe Master Plan was created and turned into a schematic design plan in 2020.

The town contracted with Woodard and Curran, the engineer on the project, and designed the project over the course of about a year and a half.

From there the town began to work on transforming the property into the beauti-

ful park it is today.

One of the biggest challenges in this process was working to preserve the wetland area while still making the park accessible.

"There was a lot of work that was done removing invasive species in the areas around the pond and trying to get to the point where we could get onto the property," Johnson said. "There were significant wetland challenges...there was a lot of infrastructure work that went into protecting the wetlands, protecting the pond and being able to provide the access road."

Specifically, the town wanted to preserve the pond on the property, but they faced some challenges in doing so.

"We wanted to preserve the pond," Johnson said. "The project reconstructed the dam so we wouldn't lose the pond off of the property."

Sapelli also worked hard to find funding for the project that did not come out of taxpayer dollars. He applied for a variety of grants, used CPA funding and got a contribution from a local business to help pay for the project.

"We have a major commercial solar array on part of the property that generates an annual income stream that helped offset some of the work that was done to create the park," Johnson said.

This project was estimated to cost about \$6.1 million. Thankfully, thanks to Sapelli, the town secured a variety of grants

and other funding—including \$500,000 from the Tennessee Gas Mitigation Fund, \$400,000 from the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant and \$50,000 from the MA Trails Grant—to help pay for this project.

The town did have to borrow about \$2.9 million to finish covering the costs but this is supported through the solar lease payment.

Moving forward, while the project is technically complete, Johnson doesn't want this to stop the town from continuing to add improvements to it.

He hopes that in the next year or so, the town will add some amenities to the park so people can have more activities to do while walking around.

In the meantime, Johnson strongly encourages community members to go out and explore the park.

"I hope anyone who hasn't seen it takes the time to go," Johnson said. "It is a beautiful piece of property."

The park has multi-use pathways, pedestrian and bike access on Pine Street, a canoe/kayak launch at the pond, a footbridge to view the wetland meadow and a walkway and platform at the dam for viewing and fishing.

There are also open field activities in the "West Meadow," ADA access to all major site improvement areas and educational signs at stormwater management locations.

Suffield Players present staged reading of Kimberly Akimbo

SUFFIELD, CT – The Suffield Players are thrilled to announce a special staged reading of the award-winning play Kimberly Akimbo on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Kent Memorial Library in Suffield. Directed by the talented Lisa Parker, this one-night-only event promises an evening of humor, heart, and unforgettable performances.

Kimberly Akimbo, by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Lindsay-Abaire, is a darkly comedic tale centered on Kimberly Levaco, a teenager whose rare aging condition forces her to confront life's challenges at a breakneck pace. As she navigates her eccentric family, unexpected friendships, and the chaos around her, Kimberly's story delivers equal parts laughter and poignancy.

The Suffield Players invite audiences to experience this intimate reading in the cozy atmosphere of the Kent Memorial Library. This performance is free and open to the public, providing an accessible opportunity to enjoy an engaging theatrical production.

Opinion

Guest Column



Can my wife claim her SS now and get half my SS benefit later?

Dear Rusty:

My wife will reach her full Social Security benefit at 66.5 years of age which is just under 2 years away for her now.

If she were to begin to get her monthly check now (i.e. early), would that prevent her from being eligible for the spousal benefit to receive half of what I am currently drawing?

Signed: Curious Husband

Dear Curious:

If your wife claims her own SS retirement benefit now (e.g., at 64.5 years) and you are already collecting your own SS benefit, then she will be automatically deemed to be filing for her spousal benefit immediately when she claims her own benefit. She does not have the option to defer claiming her spousal benefit until later.

This is a change made by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, which requires all those first claiming SS to file for all benefits they are eligible for when they claim. What that would mean is that your wife's benefit now, including her spousal boost from you, would be actuarially reduced by the number of months early she claimed.

Her own SS retirement benefit would be permanently reduced by about 15% and her "spousal boost," the additional amount she would get as your spouse, would be reduced by about 19%, yielding a combined benefit which is roughly 42% of your Full Retirement Age SS benefit.

The only way your wife can get half 50% of your FRA benefit entitlement is by waiting until her own full retirement age (66 years and 10 months) to claim. Note too that your wife's spousal benefit will be based on your FRA entitlement, so if you claimed earlier or later than your own full retirement age, her spousal benefit will still be based on your FRA entitlement.

Also, your wife should be aware that anyone, who claims early, is subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much can be earned while collecting early benefits. Thus, if your wife is working, she will be restricted on how much she can earn before Social Security takes away some of her benefits.

FYI, the earnings limit changes annually, but for 2025 it is \$23,420 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit. And, FYI, the earnings limit goes up a lot during the year FRA is attained and the earnings test no longer applies once full retirement age is reached.

I hope this answers your question, but if you have need additional information, please feel free to contact us directly at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org, or

SECURITY | page 5

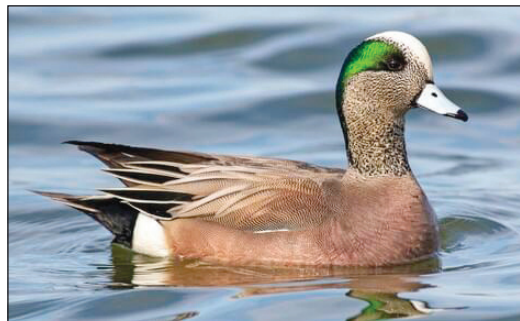
Air traffic controller shortage & holiday travel...



Guest Column



By Ellenor Downer



American wigeon

Hooded mergansers

I received an email from a woman on Dec. 14. She said, "The ponds on Brook Road in West Warren have more treasures. Two days ago I saw a pair of hooded mergansers. I sat and watched for several minutes and they spent most of the time under water."

Bird at feeder

I received an email from a woman on Dec. 20. She wrote, "I have spotted a bird I believe to be a yellow warbler coming to my feeder. My knowledge of the bird is that it migrates south or the winter." She sent a photo, but the bird was eating so the beak and head were not visible. It had two white wing bars, olive color and some yellow. It may be a male American goldfinch in winter plumage. They do spend the winter here and retain some of their yellow feathers.

Loon fact

Most of the fish loons catch are small enough to be swallowed whole when they're still underwater. However, when a loon captures a larger fish, it may need to return to the surface to subdue it before it is able to consume it. Loons may slap a fish against the surface of the water or repeatedly drop and recapture it until the fish stops struggling and is manageable enough to be swallowed.

Loons swallow fish whole, headfirst. When a loon starts to swallow a large fish, it will first ensure that it is oriented properly, sometimes dropping the fish and picking it up several times until it is properly positioned. Once the fish is aligned so that it is headfirst in the loon's mouth, the loon begins the process of swallowing. Loons have sharp, rear-facing projections along the roof of their mouths and on their tongues. These projections, called denticles, interlock with the fish's scales, ensuring that the fish is not able to escape back into the water. Loons then press their tongue into the fish and begin to inch it

BACKYARD | page 5

Election letters to the editor welcome

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 Friday'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 news-

paper 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.



PHONE

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

Editor

Gregory Scibelli
aan@turley.com

Subscriptions

www.turley.com

\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand \$1.00

WEB

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

@Agawam Advertiser News

The Agawam Advertiser News is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

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.

AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS TEAM



EDITOR/SPORTS
Greg Scibelli
aan@turley.com
sports@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

The Agawam Advertiser News (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



@AgawamAdvertiserNews

WEB

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Opinion



I spent last night curled up on the couch with a seed catalog in hand. It was a nostalgic few hours for me, in which I was transported back decades, to when gardening was new and my time and energy were boundless.

Regardless of it being the present day, I began circling this and that, and even curled a few pages too. All the fruit and vegetables I could grow, and store, and preserve, and eat, all year long.

Could my homesteading nature be bubbling back up to the surface? Perhaps. And wouldn't that wonderful if it could be a reality? It surely would.

Talk about an admirable ambition for the New Year.

I started to think about what my family eats on a regular basis and what I would

A New Year of possibilities

have to do to grow enough food to last throughout the year or at least seriously supplement what we typically buy. The most important considerations are taste and productivity.

If a variety is productive, but doesn't taste great, then what is the point?

I have "plugged" Fedco Seeds a number of times through the years. The newsprint catalog is full of such great information; follow up by looking online (fedcoseeds.com) to get a color picture of what you will grow. I specifically enjoy reading the personal recommendations from the trialers in many of the descriptions!

The biggest problem I have growing tomatoes is with early blight. Last night I found a great disease resistant paste tomato called Plum Regal that will suit my needs well, hopefully yielding many quarts of sauce for the cupboards.

And what about that Little Dipper Butternut Squash? Disease resistance reigns true here, with taste and productivity ranking high too. Twenty-two fruits from three plants? I'll take it.

Succession planting is paramount if I

want to grow lots of food consistently. This planting method is defined as "planting more than once."

It can be planting lettuce, for example, every two weeks throughout the growing season or planting beets in the spot the peas vacated. Reading the catalog reminded me that not every variety is suited for successional sowing.

In other words, the lettuce I sow for an early spring sowing might not be best for planting in the summer, and summer lettuce definitely won't be the best to extend my growing from fall into winter. I will definitely plan accordingly.

Likewise, I may love "Jade" green beans, but they wouldn't be the best for my first sowing because they are white seeded and typically white seeded beans rot in cool soil. I'll start with a dark seeded bean.

I am really looking forward to trying to grow a few new things this year, watermelon and cantaloupe to be exact. Less fruit to buy is a good thing, right?

I learned some tips from the catalog. Namely, to start the melons indoors, then transplant at two or three weeks old, be-

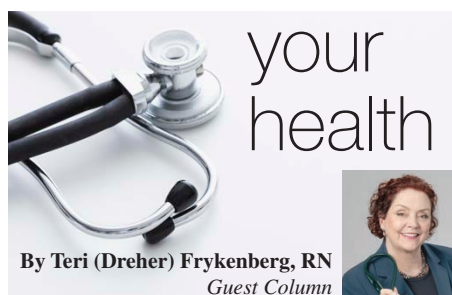
fore the roots tangle, into soil that has been amended with lots of aged manure or compost and prewarmed with black plastic mulch.

Using row covers over the plants until flowers appear will keep off the cucumber beetles and provide additional heat. The catalog also provided some interesting tips on how to harvest ripe melons.

When I did manage to grow a plant to maturity, there is absolutely nothing worse than cutting into a melon notoriously unripe with no way to ripen it. Best to call it chicken food at that point.

So this year I will grow ripe melons, lots of lettuce and butternut squash along with gallons of tomato sauce. And more. A New Year of possibilities.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

As we embark on 2025, the health-care industry, providers and patients should be prepared for a lot of innovation, and not a little bit of uncertainty. Here are some of the trends people are talking about.

Wellness

Millennials, those born between 1981 and 1996, are entering middle age with a focus on wellness, which they are passing along to their children. Wellness is a daily, active pursuit for millennials. They are eating healthier and exercising more than previous generations. They smoke less. Almost half consider healthy eating a lifestyle choice as opposed to a goal-driven diet. They value family and togetherness.

Besides healthy eating and exercise, wellness involves activities like digital detoxing, sleeping better, using mindfulness practices, purposeful travel and work-life balance.

The technological revolution continues

Wearables (fitness trackers, sleep monitors and the like) help us track our wellness activities, and they will remain popular in the coming year, but there's so much more to health-care technology.

For example, artificial intelligence (AI) is being improved in order to deliver pinpoint treatments, more accurately read test results and diagnose illnesses. Innovations in 3D printing will let clinicians "print" customized joint replacements and implants for patients.

Telehealth and virtual health-care assis-

The outlook for health in 2025

tants are making care more accessible to more people. Companies like Target provide virtual health care to all their employees, regardless of whether they are eligible for health insurance.

More weight-loss drugs and coverage

Health-care costs are expected to rise about 8 percent in 2025, driven largely by wider use of GLP-1 drugs (such as Mounjaro, Wegovy and Ozempic) to treat obesity and diabetes. One report by financial research companies Morningstar and PitchBook predicted that the GLP-1 market will hit \$200 billion by 2031 and that 16 new obesity drugs could emerge within the next five years.

While some insurers are dropping coverage for GLP-1 drugs when prescribed for obesity, more than a quarter of employers are considering adding coverage in 2025 or 2026, according to a national survey conducted by Mercer, the human resources consulting firm.

If your employer is one of those, you can expect your insurance premiums to increase. On the other hand, losing weight and controlling diabetes is likely to improve your overall health, so it might be a good investment.

Changes on the pharma front

Drug prices are expected to increase by nearly 4 percent in 2025. However, the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act brought several welcome changes for people on Medicare.

Starting in 2025, all Medicare Part D prescription drug plans will have an annual out-of-pocket cap of \$2,000. After reaching this cap, members will not have to pay additional costs for the rest of the year. The act also capped covered insulin products at \$35 a month and provides free recommended vaccines, such as for shingles and RSV.

Meanwhile, the pharmaceutical industry

is expected to launch nearly 70 new therapeutics in 2025, many of which are expected to improve treatments for particular cancers and autoimmune diseases, as well as some rare conditions.

Changes in U.S. health administration

With a new administration in charge, questions abound about health care.

If Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is confirmed as secretary of Health and Human Services, how might that change U.S. public health policies? Under the Inflation Reduction Act, Medicare was authorized to negotiate the

prices of 10 popular but expensive drugs with manufacturers. Will that process continue or be curtailed under a new administration? Happy New Year to All.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NShore). She is also founder and CEO of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

down the throat, into the esophagus. Depending on the size of the fish a loon is trying to eat, it may take a few seconds to several minutes for the loon to swallow. Once in the esophagus, the fish moves down into the gizzard. A loon may open its mouth and repeatedly extend its neck upward and then contract it back towards its body to help move particularly large fish through the esophagus to the gizzard.

SECURITY ■ from page 4

call us at 1-888-750-2622.

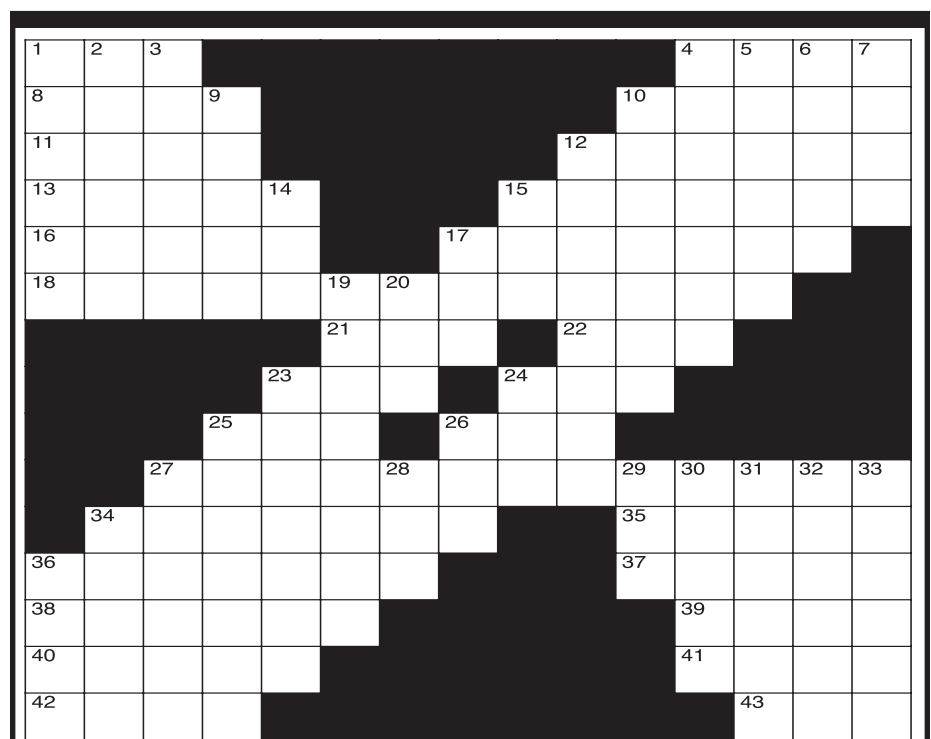
The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial

American crow

I saw about five or six American crows foraging on a lawn on my way to church this cold Sunday morning. With the temperature registering 8 degrees F, the crows had their feathers all puffed up for warmth.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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 ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Americans' "uncle"
- 4. Chair
- 8. Ancient kingdom
- 10. Egyptian city
- 11. Alaskan glacier
- 12. One from Somalia
- 13. Ancient alphabets
- 15. Relating to vocabulary
- 16. Small mongrels
- 17. Natural settings
- 18. Weekend entertainments
- 21. Line from which light seemingly streams
- 22. Your own private code
- 23. Swiss river
- 24. Satisfaction
- 25. A person's brother or sister
- 26. Folk singer DiFranco
- 27. The Blonde Bombshell project
- 34. Kids' school project
- 35. Bluish greens
- 36. Classifying
- 37. Cube-shaped
- 38. Choo-choos
- 39. Indian religious god of dissolution
- 40. French department
- 41. Leak into gradually
- 42. Foundation

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Counterbalancing debt
- 2. In slow tempo
- 3. Glamorous city
- 4. Japanese lute
- 5. Makes law
- 6. Informative book
- 7. Animal's body part
- 9. American playwright
- 10. Blood poisoning
- 12. Angels
- 14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 15. Written account
- 17. Unwelcome pest
- 19. Saddle horses
- 20. Type of gibbon
- 23. Delta is one
- 24. NE Massachusetts cape
- 25. Soup cracker
- 26. Yes vote
- 27. Muddy ground
- 28. Physics apparatus (abbr.)
- 29. Type of drug
- 30. German city
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martini ingredients
- 33. Get away
- 34. Spanish municipality
- 36. Thrust a knife into

Agawam Community Artists and Artisans to host Debra Dunphy

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans will present notable artist Debra Dunphy from Dunphy Arts Studio in Holyoke at their Wednesday January 8, 2025 meeting.

Debra Dunphy is an accomplished artist and art instructor who works in many styles and media including oil, colored pencil, acrylics and pastels. She is particularly well known for her work in portraiture. Dunphy has created hundreds of commis-

sioned works and has exhibited her paintings in museums and galleries throughout New England.

A gifted instructor, Dunphy has taught at the Holyoke Creative Arts Center and holds classes in her studio at the Paper City Studios in Holyoke, MA. She is also a landscape artist and took part in the restoration project for the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round as the commissioned muralist, painting several panels depicting Holyoke's histor-

ical landmarks. She also helped organize and participated in the MassBench project.

In recent years, the scenic winter ski painting Dunphy has created in her Vermont home are in high demand and she has cemented her reputation as one of the premier artists in southern Vermont.

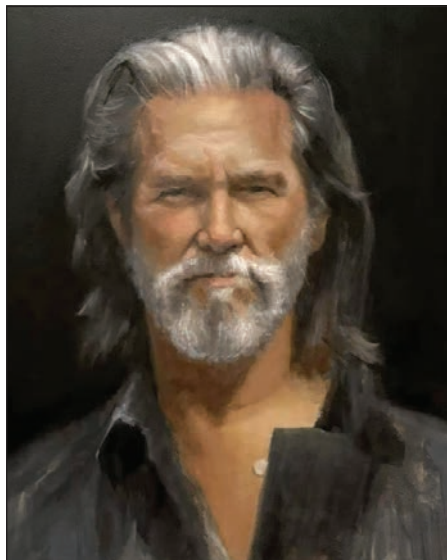
She is a member of the Holyoke Cultural Council and the Holyoke League of Arts and Crafts where she has served as president and is a member of the Academic Art-

ists Society.

Debra will present her program beginning at 6:00pm at the meeting of the ACAA at the Agawam Public Library 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on Wednesday January 8, 2025.

Debra's presentation is open and free to all, light refreshments will be served.

Please contact Ceil Rossi at 413 207-1247, email tocarefree2@hotmail.com for information.



Kurt Russell By Debra Dunphy.



Debra Dunphy.



Mount Snow Vermont By Debra Dunphy.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

INFLATION

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS..... **\$1.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST..... **\$2.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.. **\$2.44** lb

SLICED IN OUR DELI CORNED BEEF COOKED..... **\$6.99** lb

SLICED IN OUR DELI MUIENSTER CHEESE..... **\$5.99** lb

TAILGATE TIME!

USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST..... **\$2.99** lb

USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS..... **\$3.35** lb

PRICE BUSTERS

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIP LOIN CUT. FREE **\$6.11** lb WHOLE OR HALF

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS **\$6.29** lb

USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF **\$4.99** 5 LB BAG

PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN STEAKS..... **\$5.99** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... **\$1.91** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG **77¢** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN FRENCH TOAST STICKS 2 LB BAG **\$5.49** ea

USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN 51/60 COUNT PEELED & DEVEINED RAW SHRIMP 2 LB BAG..... **\$7.99** ea

90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

NE WASTE INC.

ALL SIZE TEMPORARY CONTAINERS BULK PICK UP OR COMPLETE CLEAN-OUT DEMOLITION SERVICE AVAILABLE

28 Moylan Lane, Agawam, MA 01001
Phone 413-786-2449 • Fax 413-789-3738
www.jrsweeping.com
"No Haul is Too Big or Too Small"

Go Ductless!

Let us design a system that works for your environment.

Looking for an AC solution for your home or office?

Carrier
Turn to the experts

AC Tune-Ups & New Installations

STATE LINE

PROPANE • OIL
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATIONS

StateLinePropaneOil.com
Lic. St: 303179 • Pt: 204150 • HOD: 737 • 478

OIL • HVAC
413-998-0090

PROPANE
413-998-0080

500•514 Salmon Brook St. Granby, CT

JENKS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS THE 35TH ANNUAL SPRINGFIELD WEDDING &

BRIDAL EXPO

Massachusetts's LARGEST & Most Complete Wedding Show with Exhibits, Live Entertainment, & Dazzling Fashion Shows!

JAN 11 & 12

Better Living Center "Home of The Big E"
1305 Memorial Avenue • West Springfield, MA
SATURDAY 11AM - 4PM
SUNDAY 11AM - 4PM
ADMISSION \$10

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:
Bridal Shops • Formal Wear • Invitations • Health & Wellness • Photographers • Videographers • Florists • Caterers • Jewelers • Disc Jockeys
Entertainment • Make-Up & Hair Stylists • Travel Agents • Banquet Facilities • Wedding Consultants • Hotels • Gifts & Much More!

SIGN UP TO WIN OUR 2025 GRAND PRIZE PACKAGE!

- Tuxedo Package (4) Courtesy of The Men's Wearhouse
- Cookies & Cocktails – Private Class - Courtesy Pete's Sweets
- Painting - Courtesy of Event Painting by Erin
- Gift Certificate Courtesy of Brunnell Photography
- MNE Events Gift Certificate & DJ Package

RESTRICTIONS APPLY

JENKSPRODUCTIONS.COM
800-955-7469

SPONSORED BY:

SEND US YOUR EVENT PHOTOS

Scan QR Code

Email items to aan@turley.com

As a free service for our readers we accept and will print when space allows community event photos and announcements. Just scan the QR code above and send us your photos and any information.

SPORTS

Agawam put up big showing at Tomkiel

AGAWAM – The Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament is a mainstay in Western Mass. wrestling as well as Agawam High School's yearly schedule. Named after Agawam's legendary former wrestling coach, the tournament tradition continues, and has evolved into including a girls tournament thanks to evolution of girls wrestling in the past few years. Agawam, with 92 points, captured the girls tournament win. The Brownies, as a whole, took second place in the main tournament,

with 190.5 points. Natick took the tournament with a whopping 302 points and six champions. Agawam's Mason Radtke and Cole Ingham took first place. Jordin Agosto had a second place finish. Stella Christopher won her weight class in the girls tournament. Agawam's B team took 14th place with 52 points. Quabbin Regional finished with 56 points and a runner-up in Davis Burch at 98 pounds. Granby finished eighth with 78.5 points. Chicopee had 49.5 points and finished 15th.



Devon Griffin has a match during the Phil Tomkiel Tournament.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Riley Cross gets the leverage during a heavyweight match.



Gabriella Ramos gets a takedown en route to a pinfall victory.



Domenick Pisano wrestles for Agawam's B team.

Brownies' hockey team rebounds with win

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Last week, Agawam had a pair of games surrounding the Christmas holiday. Last Tuesday, Agawam had a rare Christmas Eve

matchup with Taconic at Amelia Park in Westfield. The game was held there due to lack of ice time at Olympia, Agawam's usual home ice. At Amelia, Agawam's 2-1 lead

in the second period did not hold up as they fell 5-3. Following the defeat, Agawam rebounded with a 4-2 win over Southwick. In that matchup, AJ Robbins, Vinny

Montagna, Evan Connery, and Anthony Barbarini scored the goals while goalie Frankie DiSanti had 18 saves. The Brownies are 4-2 heading into 2025.



Anthony Barbarini makes a check.



Landon Ashford uses his stick to create a barrier with his opponent.



Aiden Pisano looks to flick the puck up the ice.



Goalie Frankie DiSanti fields the puck.



Angelo Robbins comes around the net.



Trevor Del Barba chases down the loose puck.

Longtime ref Lavoie wins MIAA award

LUDLOW – Last month, long-time referee Joe Lavoie was recognized as the MIAA Football Official of the Year. According to information provided, Lavoie joined the Western Mass Football Officials Association (WMFOA) in 1974 (51 years) as a junior at AIC in Springfield, MA.



Joe Lavoie

Lavoie was a 3-year starter for Milt Piepul's 8-1 ('75) AIC Yellowjackets. He was selected All-New England Honorable Mention by the AP and Boston Herald ('75), and selected to the ECAC team of the week versus Northeastern University.

After college, Lavoie taught and coached football in Ludlow for Steve Marino and subsequently in Agawam for Roger LeClerc, before joining private industry as a computer systems programmer/analyst. Retired from MassMutual with 30-plus years of service.

Sports

Islanders outlast Thunderbirds in 7-5 track meet

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-13-2-1) could not escape a furious push by the Bridgeport Islanders (7-19-2-2) in a high-flying 7-5 contest on Saturday night inside the MassMutual Center.

The Islanders tried to spoil the T-Birds debut for rookie netminder Will Cranley when Liam Foudy opened the scoring on a rebound to the goaltender's right at 7:36.

Springfield would be tested after the Islanders went to a power play at the 13:04 mark, but captain Matthew Peca took matters into his own hands to change the tide. After skating out of his zone with possession, he challenged a forward wide on the left side before surprising Henrik Tikkanen with a short-side snapper to tie the score, 1-1, on Springfield's second shorthanded tally of the season. Peca's tally was his team-leading 12th of the campaign and second in as many nights.

Peca was in the middle of things again just 5:04 later, weaving into the offensive end to create a 2-on-1 outnumbered attack. This time, Peca played the role of playmaker, laying a perfect pass to the blade of Matt Luff in the right

circle. With no wasted movement, Luff one-timed it past a sliding Tikkanen, giving Springfield the 2-1 lead with just 1:26 left in the frame. Peca's assist was his 100th as a member of the T-Birds, making him the first player in club history to hit the 100-assist plateau.

The Islanders gave a glimpse of what was to follow in the middle period when Tyce Thompson one-timed a slapper off the post and off Cranley to tie the game, 2-2, at 3:15 of the second period, as the T-Birds were scrambling to get back into position.

The T-Birds' special teams had the next notable moment just 2:09 later, as Marcus Sylvegard beautifully spotted Luff on a pass from the left corner to the top of the crease, allowing the veteran winger a tap-in for his second of the night to restore the Springfield lead, 3-2, at 5:24.

After a rare stretch of scoreless hockey on this evening, the Islanders found their way to a tie score again when Matt Maggio surprised Cranley with a quick wrister from the left circle off a setup from Grant Hutton, evening the game, 3-3, at 14:20.

Before the T-Birds could escape the onslaught, the Islanders got their second lead of the night at 19:06, when a poor Springfield line change set up a 3-on-2 for Bridgeport. Gemel Smith neatly left a puck for Foudy near the crease, and the veteran winger had an open net for his second of the night and a 4-3 Islanders lead after 40 minutes.

Midway through what had been a quiet third period, the T-Birds power play connected for a second time as Sylvegard deflected an attempt from Aleksanteri Kaskimaki over Tikkanen's shoulder, and the game was tied again, 4-4, at 10:04 of the third.

Despite their scrappiness to get back even, the T-Birds could not salvage a point on this night, and Maggio capped his four-point night with a corner-picking wrister at 16:20, which gave Bridgeport a 5-4 lead. Cole Bardreau added an empty-net tally at 18:45 to push the lead to 6-4.

That Bardreau tally proved pivotal when Hunter Skinner found the net from the right side with 25 seconds to play, trimming the margin back to 6-5. Ultimately, however, the T-Birds ran out of time, and with the clock about to expire, Marc Gatcomb flung a clearing effort into the empty cage to round out the scoring. Cranley finished his T-Birds debut with 35 saves, while Tikkanen escaped with his first win in six tries with 31 stops.



Community newspapers championed "mobile-friendly"

And to keep up with current trends, our newspaper web sites are mobile-friendly too!

Easily connect with your community news, find quick links to our facebook feeds, browse newspaper archives and submit your own news items by visiting www.newspapers.turley.com



Referee Joe Lavoie (center) officiates with his crew on a rainy Thanksgiving morning at Agawam High School this year. TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

LAVOIE ■ from page 7

He was a 1971 graduate of Ludlow High School playing football for Chick Patullo and baseball for Bill Mullins.

In high school, he was selected All-Suburban League and All-Western-Mass as a tri-captain for Chick Patullo, Jim Cavallo, Dave Dzuira, and Joe Andreis, who instilled the love of football, hard work, and fair play into their teams.

As an official, he was elected president of the WMFOA in 1993, and started and taught a first, second, third-year official's training class, and game sign-in requirement for new officials to attend pre-games and work the chains in varsity games. That process is still in effect today. In 1994, amended the training classes to have a separate class for first-year officials and started instructing the second and

third-year officials' class, and still instruct that class today.

Among his many accomplishments, he officiated numerous MIAA playoff and championship games around the state and at Gillette Stadium. He joined the Western Mass Basketball Officials Association in 1980, was elected board President in 2013, subsequently elected sec-treasurer from 2015-2017. He still officiates basketball games.

Lavoie earned a CAGS from Springfield College, an MS in management from RPI Hartford, and an MBA from Western New England College. He has taught business and computer systems courses at HCC for over 25 years.

Lavoie has been married to high school sweetheart, Edna (Robertson) Lavoie, for over 45 years, and has three wonderful sons. Two sons live and work in Boston, and one son lives in Longmeadow and is an attorney in Springfield.

AUTO REPAIR & SERVICE EXPERTS

SERVICE & REPAIR

OIL CHANGE

TIRE SERVICE

MAINTENANCE

413-789-2181
www.vfauto.com
443 Springfield Street, Agawam

Adventure tours of Warren Share the Adventure with us!

3 Day Hampton Beach Getaway

March 15.....**8-Night Bahamas Cruise**..... from \$1499
May 23**7-Night Bermuda Cruise**..... from \$1699
June 10-12....**Hampton Beach Getaway** \$529
June 28.....**Boston Harbor Lunch Cruise**..... \$175
Sept 12-26....**Portugal & The Azores** \$6549

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

Sports

Worcester Railers fall to Thunder in first half home finale

WORCESTER – The Railers lost 7-3 loss to the Adirondack Thunder on Sunday afternoon to close out the first half of the 2024-25 home schedule.

Worcester went into the second period with the scored tied, 1-1. The Railers then allowed four goals in a little less than seven minutes starting at 3:53 and their afternoon was over.

Coach Nick Tuzzolino refused to place the blame for the defeat on Bullion's shoulders when asked if it was his fault.

"I would never say that in that light," Tuzzolino said. "We've got to be good in front of him and could have been better. Could have blocked a couple of those shots. I'm sure he has his own thoughts on those goals but we're a team."

Worcester got two goals from Jordan Kaplan and one from Griffin Loughlan. Anthony Repaci assisted on all three goals. Repaci's historic season continues unabated. He extended his points streak to seven straight games. He is 3-10-13 during the streak.

The game was his 193rd for Worcester, passing Barry Almeida as the all-time franchise leader in that category. The assists give him 90 in a Worcester uniform,

tied with Almeida on that list. They are tied for fourth among all Worcester pro players with Tom Cavanagh of the Sharks next at 92.

The Railers were 2 for 5 on the power play and are among the league leaders in that category. They have at least one power play goal in seven straight games. That ties a team record set in February of 2022.

"That's probably the most frustrating thing," Tuzzolino said. "It's all those little pieces. We just have to find the right piece."

Loughran gave Worcester an early lead at just 2:36 of the first period. Repaci found his linemate all alone at the bottom of the left circle and Loughran made no mistake burying a 15-footer.

It was 1-1 after 20 minutes, then the Railers hit an iceberg.

"I think we got confidence early," Tuzzolino said, "then some of those goals they scored killed our confidence, and confidence is the easiest thing to lose and the hardest to get back."

Ryan Francis was 2-3-5 to pace the Adirondack offense. Josh Filmon, Ryan Wheeler, Alex Young, Grant Loven and Dylan Wendt had the other Thunder goals.

High school coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

- The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending an MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

- The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

- Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

- All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are on-line components to the course once the classroom portion is completed.

Region

SCAM ■ from page 2

it card. Then learned it's a scam. Big Lots knows about it. My roommate looked it up. I wish I had more more info but that's all I know."

Another shopper reported this experience buying a custom hoodie online: "After 5 days, I hadn't received a shipping notification and got curious. Returning to the site, I used their tracking option, but there was no result. I called the phone number on the site, which connected to a garage door company."

How to avoid social media ad scams

- Research the company before making a purchase. Before entering any personal information into a website, research the company thoroughly. Examine the website. Poor quality images, images found on other websites, and spelling and grammatical errors are all red flags. A real business should have valid contact information (i.e., a working phone number and customer service email address). If the business has a physical address, research it on Google or Apple Maps. Look to see if they have a profile on BBB.org.

- Be skeptical of too-good-to-be-true ads. Ads promising extreme discounts, free products, or "limited-time offers" may be bait to lure you into a scam.

- Inspect the ad and website. Look for red flags. Poor grammar, blurry images, or generic product descriptions can indicate a scam. You should also verify the URL. Scammers often create fake websites with slightly misspelled domain names. Also, check for HTTPS. Ensure the website URL starts with "https://" for secure transactions.

- Look up reviews on other websites. Read as many reviews as possible from websites besides the company selling the product. Keep a close eye out for customer complaints. Search the business name in a trusted search engine along with the word "scam" to see if others have reported the business as a fake.

- Beware of "sponsored" ads. Just because an ad is labeled "sponsored" doesn't mean it's legitimate. Social media platforms don't always verify the authenticity of advertisers.

- Pay with a credit card. Ideally, use a credit card instead of a debit card since it's easier to dispute fraudulent charges with a credit card, and there is a better chance of getting a refund.

Baystate Medical Center is nationally recognized

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Medical Center (BMC) has received the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Gold Plus quality achievement award for its commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines, ultimately leading to more lives saved and reduced disability.

Stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the U.S. A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood and oxygen it needs, so brain cells die. Early stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability and accelerating recovery times.

Get With The Guidelines puts the expertise of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association to work for hospitals nationwide, helping ensure

patient care is aligned with the latest research- and evidence-based guidelines. Get With The Guidelines - Stroke is an in-hospital program for improving stroke care by promoting consistent adherence to these guidelines, which can minimize the long-term effects of a stroke and even prevent death.

"Baystate Medical Center is committed to improving patient care by adhering to the latest treatment guidelines," Sam Skura, president, Baystate Medical Center, and senior vice president, hospital operations, Baystate Health. "Get With The Guidelines makes it easier for our teams to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis, which studies show can help patients recover better. The end goal is to ensure more people in Springfield can experience longer, healthier lives."

Each year, program participants qualify for the award by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality care for stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines,

Get With The Guidelines participants also educate patients to help them manage their health and recovery at home.

"We are incredibly pleased to recognize Baystate Medical Center for its commitment to caring for patients with stroke," said Steven Messe, M.D., volunteer chairperson of the American Heart Association Stroke System of Care Advisory Group and professor of neurology and director of fellowships of neurology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. "Participation in Get With The Guidelines is associated with improved patient outcomes, fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates - a win for health care systems, families and communities."

In addition, BMC also received the American Heart Association's Target: Type 2 Diabetes™ Honor Roll award. Target: Type 2 Diabetes aims to ensure patients with Type 2 diabetes, who might be at higher risk for complications, receive the most up-to-date, evidence-based care when hospitalized due to stroke.

19 artists to exhibit at Northampton Center for Arts

NORTHAMPTON – The Quabbin Art Association is hosting its first ever New Artists, New Perspectives exhibit at the Northampton Center for the Arts, featuring nineteen emerging artists from nine Pioneer-Valley Universities, Colleges, and Community Colleges. The exhibit runs Dec. 4, through Jan. 3, 2025, at NOHO Arts, 33 Hawley St.

Northampton Center for the Arts and the Quabbin Art Association will also host a Meet the Artists Reception at the exhibit on Dec. 13, from 5 to 8 p.m. This

new initiative is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council Festivals and Projects grant and awards a \$250 cash stipend and 2-year QAA membership to each participating artist. Projects like this one reflect the Quabbin Art Association's mission to support the arts in Pioneer Valley. Congratulations to all of the new student artists that will be featured in the up-coming exhibit: Rhaymi Porter—American International College; Caly Van Leeuwen and Eads Fouche—Amherst College; Elms College—Sar-

ah Paradee and Catalyna Alexopoulos; Valentina Ccaj, Mari Champagne and Erin Shabunin—Greenfield Community College; Emma Aiken and Malyna Dansereau—Holyoke Community College; Lize Brown, Sophia Jakobson and AJ Treat—Mount Holyoke College; Christopher Sanabria and Nhu Truong—Springfield College; Jenezy Ortiz and Heeju Yoon—The University of Massachusetts; Ariana Masterjohn—Western NewEngland University; and Maddison Deboise Wetherell—Montserrat College.

Markey, Paul urge Biden to extend TikTok divestment deadline

WASHINGTON – Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.), sent a letter to President Joe Biden urging him to provide TikTok owner ByteDance with a 90-day extension to either sell TikTok or face a ban in the United States, as authorized by the Protecting Americans Data from Foreign Adversaries Act.

The lawmakers urged the Biden administration to trigger the 90-day extension before Jan. 19, the deadline by which ByteDance must either divest TikTok or face a ban. On Jan. 10, the U.S. Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments to consider whether the law violates the First Amendment.

Earlier this month, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the legislation that bans TikTok.

In the letter, the senators wrote, "The stakes here are high: As a practical matter, even if the Court rules that the law is constitutional by the January deadline, ByteDance cannot divest TikTok in that limited time. Consequently, absent a judicial injunction, decision overturning the law, or action by you, TikTok will soon be banned in the United States, causing its creators and users serious hardship."

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320**.

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178**

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising signs, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860) 874-8396**

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

DRYWALL AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. **(413)563-0487**.

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?
Look no further!
PJ's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business. Call now for a FREE estimate!
(413) 366-1703
LICENSED & INSURED

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HANDYMAN RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS. Powerwashing, home repairs, interior/exterior painting, ceiling/wall repairs and chimney repairs. Fully licensed/insured. Lic. #105950CSL. Call **413-566-5596/413-433-5073**.

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. RE-MODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. **(413)246-2783** Ron.

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call **(413)569-1611, (413)374-5377**

PAINTING

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING
Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

SERVICES

KEN'S PAINTING SERVICES. Interior painting/staining, wallpaper removal, wall/ceiling resurfacing, cabinet painting. Quality workmanship, fully insured. Free estimates. Call **413-896-8264**.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

ROOFING

JENKINS ROOFING specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - **413-566-5596/413-433-5073**. Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 **(413)537-5090**

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call **413-283-6374**.

SERVICES

DL & G TREE SERVICE - Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave **413-478-4212**.

AUTO

AUTO FOR SALE

2010 HYUNDAI SONATA
138,400 miles. Well-cared for and in good condition.
\$2,500/OBO - MUST SELL.
Please call **(541) 654-6007**, leave message.

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

Read your local newspaper online at www.newspapers.turley.com

PETS

ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL MALE, liver tri-colored. current on shots, soft temperament. \$100. **413-596-8190**.

HELP WANTED

The **Town of Oakham** is seeking an experienced municipal **Treasurer/Collector**. 15 hours a week, negotiable pay based on experience. Please send resumes to admin@oakham-ma.gov.

TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills. Please visit our website TownOfBlandford.com or email Administrator@TownofBlandford.com for more information.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT




EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

BEDROOMS(s) AVAILABLE NOW:
4BR/2BA house in peaceful Palmer neighborhood, flexible terms. \$925 including utilities/parking. Pets/420 ok. Friendly live-in landlady. Women/NBs only. Email your situation/preferences: deirdre@mit.edu

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!** Call **413-283-8393**



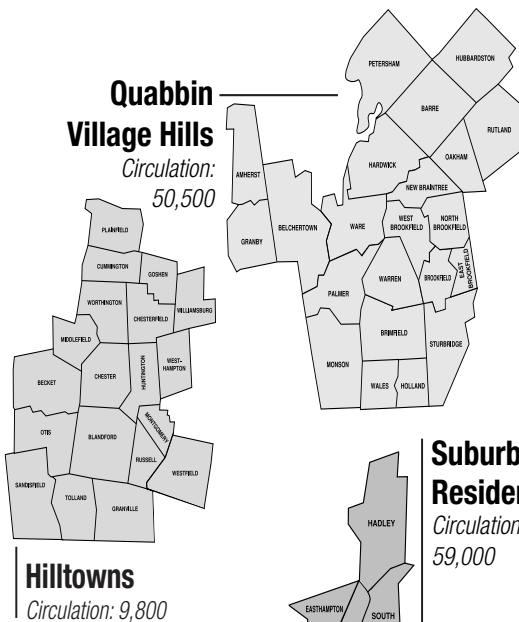
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

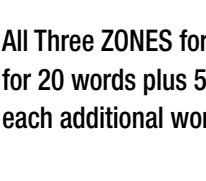
CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500



Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800



Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

JOHNSON ■ from page 1

but from an aesthetic standpoint and from a functionality standpoint.”

He also dedicated many hours to putting together all the information about the project so that he could inform community members of how the project would impact them.

“I put a lot of time and effort into putting together the information and making the presentations and was very, very happy with the strong support from the voters in town,” Johnson said.

On top of this work toward the high school project, Johnson has also worked to improve the day-to-day processes in the town.

“We are in the process of taking a very hard look at our entire bill payment processing and payroll systems,” Johnson said. “We are implementing a module of our software that deals with human resources and seeing how that will impact the payroll process...trying to get our bill payment and processing systems more efficient and more user-friendly for the departments so they can free up time to do other work.”

He hopes this will improve the convenience of the daily lives for many people in the town.

Johnson has transitioned well back into the role of mayor since he last had the position over 20 years ago. He is grateful to former Mayor William Sapelli for his support during the transition.

“Mayor Sapelli did a fantastic job in the transition,” Johnson said.

Johnson is also grateful for all of the public officials who have worked with him throughout his transition and his first year as mayor.

“I want to thank all of the public officials,” Johnson said. “Jim Blain, the high school principal, has been fantastic...in my office I couldn’t ask for two better staff members. Nadine, who is my administra-

tive assistant, has a calming influence on the office and Barbara has been wonderful.”

He is particularly impressed by how well the city council and the school committee have been working together to make Agawam a better place.

“I have been around in politics in Agawam for a long time, the group that represents Agawam now, I am impressed by number one how much they care and how much they want to move Agawam forward and how they are willing to work together and not choose to be divided,” Johnson said. “They are always willing to compromise to move forward.”

During his time as mayor, Johnson has tried to continue many of the efforts that Sapelli had put forward. One such concept is ensuring that there is consistent, thorough communication with the city council.

“He kept the council informed of all the day to day operations of the town and I continued that, trying to keep the council as informed as I can,” Johnson said.

As Johnson moves into his next year in the office, he hopes to continue many of the efforts he began in his first year.

One of his main priorities will be ensuring that the high school project remains consistent with its timeline so the building can be available to the community as soon as possible.

Beyond that, he hopes to continue to look into how he can make more positive change for the Agawam community.

“Trying to look at where there is opportunity to make positive change,” Johnson said. “As we see people retire and leave, evaluate the need for positions and really determine whether positions can be reimagined to better fit our needs going forward.”

He is beyond grateful for all of the community support he has received throughout this past year and he looks forward to seeing how everyone can continue to work together to improve Agawam for all who live in it.

SCHOOL ■ from page 1

estimated useful life of 50 plus years?” Johnson said. “Or do you want to invest \$73 million to keep our building going for another 20 years?”

The vote entailed approving the project as a whole as well as a debt exclusion override for the project budget.

“The debt exclusion simply means that the payments on that bond will not count toward the town’s levy limit, it doesn’t mean that it costs any more, it doesn’t mean that it affects the taxes any more, it just means that in the calculation of the levy limit for the town, the bond payment will not count towards that number,” Johnson had said.

The debt exclusion would ensure that the town would have more room in their budget before they hit the levy limit should the town need the funds for any emergency expense.

With this information in mind, 71% of the town voted in favor of the project.

The MSBA then granted the town funding to continue forward with the project, about \$130 million, leaving the town’s share at \$132 million and the total project cost at an estimated \$231.5 million.

The project will help to truly improve the education of all students who attend the high school.

The new building will have two floors and two main wings. One wing

will be the community wing, which will contain the two gyms (one collegiate sized and the other high school sized), the auditorium and the cafeteria.

In the academic wing there will be academic pods to allow for across subject collaboration.

The first steps of construction of the building are expected to begin in April of 2025. Just after students go on April break the construction company will begin to lay down the construction materials.

“When that happens, we are going to lose close to 100 parking spaces and there is no direct route now from the building to the stadium,” Blain said. “It will be fine for spring sports.”

That phase of construction, which will build the community wing of the building, is expected to last until December of 2026.

Following this is the second construction phase, which will go from January of 2027 until June of 2028.

For this phase of construction, they will focus on building the academic wing of the building.

Finally, from June of 2028 until November of 2028 they will put on the final touches, such as furniture, with the goal of moving students in for January.

During this time there will be no disruptions to the functioning of the high school, which was a crucial aspect in the design of this plan.



Send Us Your Photos!
Email: aan@turley.com

Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P2407EA
Estate of:
Francis Edward Blanchard
Also Known As:
Francis E. Blanchard
Date of Death:
September 22, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Francis L. Blanchard of Agawam, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Francis L. Blanchard of Agawam, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
01/02/2025

**Legal Ad
AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:00 PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Notice of Intent Application of Western Massachusetts Electric Company dba Eversource Energy for work to be performed at 180 South West St subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski,
Chairman
AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
01/02/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P2609EA
Estate of:
Dorothy Adella Lobik
Date of Death: 08/25/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lauren L Josefek of Granby, CT** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Lauren L Josefek of Granby, CT** be appointed as

Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/14/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 17, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
01/02/2025

**LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Agawam City Council Administrative Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025 at 6:30PM**, at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on a Verizon petition for permission to lay and maintain underground conduits, with the wires and cables to be placed therein, under the surface of North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. with permission to lay and maintain underground conduits, manholes, cables, and wires in the above way for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as it may desire for distributing purposes. Public Hearings will also be conducted on Eversource petitions to install poles on Barn Road, Agawam and also on Barry Street, Feeding Hills. These petitions are available by contacting the City Council Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing bbard@agawam.ma.us.

Robert E. Rossi, Chair
Administrative Committee
01/02, 01/09/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0400CA**

In the matter of:
Kyle Robert Widmer
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Kyle Robert Widmer of Agawam, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Kyle Edward Fitzgerald
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/17/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which

you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 20, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/02/2025

Agawam Advertiser News
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

S	A	M						S	E	A	T						
E	D	O	M					T	A	N	T	A					
T	A	N	A					S	O	M	A	L	I				
O	G	A	M	S				L	E	X	I	C	A	L			
F	I	C	E	S				F	O	R	E	S	T	S			
F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	G	A	M	E	S					
					R	A	Y		P	I	N						
					A	A	R		A	H	A						
					S	I	B		A	N	I						
					M	A	R	I	L	Y	N	M	O	N	R	O	E
					C	O	L	L	A	G	E		T	E	A	L	S
					S	O	R	T	I	N	G		C	U	B	I	C
					T	R	A	I	N	S			S	I	V	A	
					A	I	S	N	E				S	E	E	P	
					B	A	S	E						S	S	E	



Teens worked together at Agawam Public Library to solve different clues in the Halloween escape room.



One of the concerts held during the Summer Concert Series at School Street Park.



City council members and Linda and Leo Edelman gathered around to see new cardiac equipment the fire department was able to purchase thanks to the Edelmans' donation in honor of Linda's sister, Carol Taylor in early September.

Year in REVIEW



A paper airplane race is held at Agawam Library with elementary school students.



Two new pickleball courts were opened in late June for public use. They are the fifth and sixth courts installed at Borgatti Park.



The 2024 Colleen and court: Giana Smith, Destiny Bullock and Sabrina McBride and the 2024 Colleen Rachel Sills. The coronation was held in February.



The Agawam High School Senior Prom was held at The Log Cabin in Holyoke in May.



It poured rain on this year's Thanksgiving Day game between Agawam and West Springfield. Agawam lost at home 51-0.



Members of Agawam High School's Rosie Robotics compete in January.



Peyton Fleagle stands with a plaque after completing a restoration project of the bridge that goes over Veronica Brook in Robinson State Park.



Agawam is represented in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade held in March in Holyoke.