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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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Library hosts Solar Eclipse event

Students learn about the scientific phenomena

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Public Library hosted an eclipse information and craft session for kids in kindergarten through fourth grade.

With the solar eclipse on Apr. 8, Librarian Evan Delano wanted to give children a chance to learn more about this exciting event, and to allow them the chance to get the glasses they need to view the eclipse.

“The eclipse is something that people get really excited about,” Delano said. “I remember all the buzz around it in 2017 and how people were scrambling to get the eclipse glasses...there are very few things that so many people are interested in.”

In order to keep the event fun



At the end of the event, some of the children showed off their completed eclipse glasses.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

ECLIPSE | page 5

Council passes zone change for Shield Hotels

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The city council voted unanimously at their Apr. 1 meeting to pass a zone change for Shield Hotel’s proposed hotel, Opal Inn & Suites, located at 1422 Main Street.

This zone change was targeted at a small area of land near the property, changing it from a Classification Residence A-2 to Business A. It will allow for a contiguous zone across the property.

The purpose of this was to ease the hotel building process of the company owners, though they clarified that it would not affect their likelihood of building the hotel in that location.

ZONE | page 3

Poetry contests challenges students to get creative

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam Library is celebrating National Poetry Month.

Children in first through 12th grade and any adults are welcome to submit their poetry to the library in order to be a part of a poetry chapbook.

There will be three separate books put out. One featuring submissions in grades one through four, one for grades five through twelve and one for adults.

For children in grades one through four, they can either fill out a form available at the library or they can email their poem(s) to edelano@agawamlibrary.org. For grades five through twelve, they can also email their poem(s) edelano@agawamlibrary.org.

For adults, they can either fill out a form available at the library, or they can send their submissions to cpope@agawamlibrary.org.

All submissions should include the name and age of the author as well as the title of the poem.

Poems will be displayed at the library from Apr. 15 to Apr. 30, and the chapbook will be available to checkout from the library starting after April.

This will allow for kids and adults to see their writing available at the library for anyone to read.

Additionally, all those who submit a poem will get a free edition of the chapbook.

Submissions for poems are accepted through Apr. 16.

The library is excited to be putting on this event.

“In previous years we’ve done poetry contests, but I think this year we wanted to try something

POETRY | page 3

New police officers sworn in



New police officers were recently sworn in to the Town of Agawam. Pictured are: Police Chief Eric Gillis, Officer Michael Reed, Officer Matthew Rogalski, Officer Jeremy Lungarski, Officer Jack Lucia, Lt. Blancette and Mayor Chris Johnson.

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New England Mosaic kits now available

AGAWAM – The New England Mosaic invites the Western MA creative community to create and display visual art representing a favorite aspect of New England. This year's Mosaic theme is "I love New England". Canvas kits will be available in partner libraries across the Pioneer Valley beginning March 11.

The New England Mosaic was organized in 2022 by the ACAA as a community art project to give individuals in Western MA an opportunity to creatively express their love of New England via painting, photography, fabric art, pouring, or any other media. Professional artists, hobbyist, and

any member of our Pioneer Valley creative community are invited to create a canvas tile and see their work become a part of this unique wall of art. Tiles created for the Mosaic are donated to the Mosaic and sold to help fund art scholarships for local students.

The New England Mosaic invites individuals to create a canvas tile, which when displayed with others, becomes part of a 24-foot fine art Mosaic wall that captures the beauty and diversity of New England life. Free tile kits are available at the following libraries: Agawam, Southwick, Westfield, West Springfield and at three Spring-

field branch libraries, Central, East Forest Park, and East Springfield, by March 11. Completed tiles must be returned to these libraries by May 15. Supplies at each library are limited so stop by and pick a kit up.

The New England Mosaic will be unveiled at a Mosaic grand opening at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course, Club, 128 Southwick St., on July 11.

All Mosaic artists and the public are invited to the unveiling. The Mosaic will also be showcased at the Agawam Community Artists and Artisans' Pioneer Valley Art Festival on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 24-25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Polish



American Club, 139 Southwick St. The Mosaic will also be on display at the Scantic River Art Exhibit on Sept. 14 and 15. Please visit our website at www.agawamarts.com or Scantic River's website at www.scanticriverartisans.com for more information.

Historical Association planning tag sale

AGAWAM – The Agawam Historical Association is planning a community tag sale on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Thomas Smith House, 251 North West St. and is seeking vendors and craftspeople to participate. Crafters and vendors are also welcome.

This is the first time the historical association has organized such an event and is relying on community participation to make it a success for everyone involved. Local historical societies and community organizations have also been invited to attend to promote their organizations.

12' x 12' spaces are available for \$25 and vendors must provide their own tables and/or tents. Space availability is first come, first served. All proceeds from the space rental will benefit the Agawam Historical Association's efforts to preserve the town's history at the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum and the Thomas Smith House.

The National Register-listed Smith House and recently preserved 1920s garage will also be open for tours, and newly planted daffodils may still be in bloom on the one-acre property, which is the re-

maining parcel of an original land grant to Mathew Noble in 1715. The house remains in near-original condition, with no central plumbing or central heat and can be visited virtually at <https://mls.kuu.la/share/collection/7Jq2q?fs=1&vr=1&initload=0&thumbs=1>.

Limited space is available. For more information, or to reserve your space, please contact David Cecchi at (413) 786-3236 or cecco@davidcecchi.com before April 12. In the event of rain, the tag sale will be held the following day, Sunday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Grange holding bake, tag sales

FEEDING HILLS – Community Grange #382 of Feeding Hills located at 47 North West Street will hold an indoor Tag and Bake Sale on Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The tag sale will include furniture, bakeware, craft supplies, household items, etc. Proceeds will benefit upcoming Grange activities.

Yard waste collection starts recycling weeks in April

AGAWAM – On Monday, April 15, Spring Yard Waste Collection will begin. Yard Waste Collection will take place on recycling weeks as identified on the 2024 Waste Collection Schedule.

A Week Streets will be collected on their recycling collection day on the following weeks: April 15-19; May 13-17; June 10-14; August 19-23;

B Week Streets will be collected on their recycling collection day on the following weeks: April 22-26; May 20-24; June 17-21; August 12-16;

Residents must have their yard waste out by 7 a.m. of their scheduled collection day.

Yard Waste is defined as grass clippings, leaves, weeds, shrub trimmings,

and brush or limbs under 3" in diameter.

Acceptable Yard Waste preparation: 30-gallon biodegradable brown bags. (Bags left out all winter will not be picked up and will need to be re-bagged by the resident); Bundled branches and brush up to 3 inches in diameter and up to 3' in length, no heavier than 40 lbs bundled with organic twine; Barrels no heavier than 40 lbs marked as Yard Waste; please be sure containers are empty of any rain-water.

Not acceptable: Bundles tied with wire, nylon or plastic (these items harm grinding equipment); Bundles heavier than 40 lbs; Brush and limbs greater than 3" in diameter; Yard waste bags contaminated with rocks, soil, or wood chips.

Retail liquor license available

AGAWAM – The Agawam License Commission announces the availability of a retail Liquor License. Commonly referred to as a Package Store License, this license is under MGL Part 1 Title XX Chapter 138 Section 15 and this is an all alcoholic beverages (wine, malt beverages, and distilled spirits) license. Licenses under § 15 (Off-Premises) can be used in various types of businesses (e.g. package stores, supermarkets and convenience stores).

All applications must be submitted to The Agawam Clerks Office by April 19, no later than 3 p.m.

Any applications received after that date and time will not be considered. Any applications received incomplete or missing required information may not be considered.

It is the ALC intention to review all applications for this license on the agenda for Wednesday, May 22, at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Agawam Senior Center.

Interested parties must submit the required application (ABCC website <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/alcoholic-beverages-control-commission>) and contact the Agawam Clerks Office (413.786.0400 x 8745) for additional information regarding your responsibilities for a Public Hearing and any questions you may have regarding the process.

The Secretary to the ALC will require up to 10 business days, after the deadline date, to review the entire application and accompanying documents prior to the scheduled hearing (i.e. lease agreements, financing information, and/or additional background information).

The ALC may require additional information from an applicant and/or town

body. The ALC will notify eligible applicants of date of meeting for presentation to the Commission a public hearing will take place on the date of the scheduled meeting. Applicants must follow the public meeting notice requirements.

In the event there are multiple applicants, any applicant that fails to satisfy all application submissions and public hearing requirements will not be considered for the license at that time.

If applicant is in possession of a liquor license, and applying to upgrade their license, they must provide their intentions of disposition of the currently held license as part of their presentation.

Applicants will be given up to 15 minutes for their presentation. Commissioners will have the opportunity to undertake a Q&A between each presenter.

Public input will be received after all applicants have presented. Each speaker will be allotted 5 minutes. No virtual options are available at this time. Written statements submitted in lieu of an in person statement will be provided to each Commission member and included as part of the record, but need not be spoken into the record.

All applications must be submitted to The Agawam Clerks Office by April 19th no later than 3PM.

Any applications received after that date and time will not be considered. Any applications received incomplete or missing required information may not be considered.

It is the ALC intention to review all applications for this license on the agenda for Wednesday, May 22nd 2024 at 5PM. The meeting will be held at the Agawam Senior Center.

Thousand Cranes returns to APL

AGAWAM – The Agawam Public Library is proud to welcome back Thousand Cranes Art Studio during the month of April. Across both levels of the library, visitors will also enjoy the colorful and creative



artwork of the students from Thousand Cranes Studio.

The artwork consists of drawings, sketches, and paintings from students as young as 4 years old. Thousand Cranes Studio is run by Stan and Sheila Coly and is located in Feeding Hills. For more information, please visit www.thousandcranes-studio.com.

Visitors are welcome at the Agawam Public Library during regular open hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please contact Adult Services Library Associate, Erica LeFebvre at (413) 789-1550 x8858 or elefebvre@agawamlibrary.org if you are interested in displaying artwork at the library.

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Southwick Cultural Council 23rd Annual Fine Art Exhibition Show & Sale

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Southwick Town Hall
454 College Highway, RTS 10 and 202
www.southwickma.org/cultural-council




Keynote speaker announced for WSU graduation

WESTFIELD – Mary Louise McDonald, president of Ireland’s Sinn Féin political party and Leader of the Opposition will serve as keynote speaker at the University’s 2024 undergraduate commencement ceremony on Friday, May 17, at noon at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.

McDonald is also Teachta Dála for the Dublin Central constituency, was a member of the European Parliament and prior to becoming leader of Sinn Féin in February 2018, was Deputy Leader of the party. She was also a prominent member of the Public Accounts Committee from 2011 to 2017. McDonald also has served on the

Joint Oireachtas Committees for Public Expenditure and Reform and the Future of Mental Health. During her time in the European Parliament McDonald was a member of the Employment and Social Affairs committee and Civil Liberties committee.

Westfield State University President Linda Thompson said, “President McDonald’s practice of supporting and encouraging social justice, democracy, equity, fairness, and inclusion are not unlike the principles of Horace Mann, the founder of our institution. President McDonald has demonstrated her belief in the qual-

ity and importance of higher education and her devotion to lifelong learning and volunteer service will complement our commencement ceremony. We all look forward to her visit and her presentation to our campus community.”

McDonald received a bachelor’s degree in English from Trinity College Dublin, and later studied industrial relations at Dublin City University. She received a Master of Arts degree in European Integration Studies from the University of Limerick.

For more information, visit <https://www.westfield.ma.edu/commencement>.

Stanley Park wedding reunion

AGAWAM – As part of the 75 anniversary celebration this year there will be a Stanley Park wedding reunion on Sunday, May 5, at 10:30 a.m. Please join in front of the Carillon Tower for a group picture and to share wedding stories and pictures. Feel free to wear a wedding dress or tuxedo and relive your special day as we celebrate 75 years of love and weddings in Stanley Park.



Garden club to meet April 9

AGAWAM – The next meeting of the Agawam Garden Club will be held Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. After a short business meeting club member Ken Guerin will present a program about “Gardening in Small Spaces”. Included will be information on bonsai. Club meetings are open to the public and not restricted to Agawam residents. Visit agawamgardenclub.com or follow on facebook.

FHCC hosting tag sale this weekend

AGAWAM – The Feeding Hills Congregational Church is having a tag sale Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A variety of items will be offered. In the event of rain the sale will be moved inside.

CWC hosting fashion show April 18

AGAWAM – Members of The Catholic Women’s Club of Agawam will present A Night of Fashion at the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center on Thursday, April 18 located at 833 Main St., Agawam, MA.

Doors will open at 6:15 p.m., and models will wear fashions from Chico’s and J.Jill.

POETRY ■ from page 1

a little bit less competitive and more in the spirit of poetry being for everyone,” Librarian Evan Delano said.

Poetry, Delano thinks, can feel intimidating for kids. So they are glad kids will have this opportunity to explore poetry in a non-competitive environment.

“I just want them to find joy in it rather than worry if it is better than someone else’s,” Delano said. “So I am excited about the idea of getting them excited about poetry. I want them to feel excited instead of scared.”

To try to get some kids excited about this event, Delano visited various third grade classes at Clark School and taught them about poetry. Due to this event, they already have some submissions for the kids poetry chapbook.

Delano also reached out to other teachers in the district to let them know of this event and to encourage them to tell their students to submit.

Delano looks forward to seeing all of the submissions from the children as they come in.

“I’m excited to see the variety and to see all of these very, very different poems the kids put together,” Delano said.

Delano also looks forward to the reactions of all the kids as they get to see their poems in print.

“I’m excited about the idea of giving the kids a chance to see their poems printed in a book,” Delano said. “I can’t wait to see them come to pick up their books and find their poems in it.”

To learn more about this event, or other events at the library, go to <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/>.

ZONE ■ from page 1

“This would be the last piece to the puzzle, so to speak, where we would be combining all of these properties to have one contiguous zone,” Rob Levesque of R. Levesque Associates said. “It’s not required specifically for the hotel, we can work around it, but we would prefer not to. This would give us wiggle room to adjust, ever so slightly, the hotel.”

The zone change allows for a better flow in the construction and layout of the hotel.

The hotel itself is planned to be a boutique style, 42 unit hotel. Currently Levesque and the other members of the project are working on planning out the proposed hotel.

They hope that this hotel will be beneficial for the people of Agawam. Levesque mentioned that people come to the town for Six Flags, the Veterans’ Cemetery, sporting events and potential meetings, so the hotel would provide those people with a place to stay.

Several residents spoke in favor of the zone change.

“There was a time when Agawam I well remember, and I think many of you do, when Agawam was known as a very unfriendly, unwelcoming place for business,” Resident Corine Wingard said. “Thankfully those days are long gone, we don’t want them back.”

Additionally, many of these residents were in favor of the idea of the hotel as a whole.

“I think this proposed hotel will be a great asset for our town,” Wingard said.

“I would love to have their hotel and all of the immediate area more conducive to people coming into town,” President of the Clinical Research Management Group Stephen Cincotta said.

Cincotta’s group often consults with pharmaceutical companies and biotech companies from around the country and the world. Having a convenient location for these visitors to stay would be beneficial for their business.

“They [the visitors] are always having to travel into Springfield and stay at hotels and motels,” Cincotta said. “So the potential for this project moving forward would be a great benefit to us and I think also to the town.”

Cincotta also mentioned that people who come in to visit the CRMG’s property would also likely benefit the town’s economy by eat-

ing out or shopping during their stay.

Some residents raised their concerns over the idea of a hotel being built in Agawam in the first place. They were concerned that it would become a shelter for immigrants or for homeless people, especially during slower times of the year.

“Kenny Patel from Shield’s Hotels said that he didn’t want to ban migrants or homeless people from staying at the Opal Inns and Suites,” Linda Galarneau said. “With states subsidizing hotels or motels as emergency shelters for homeless and migrants, hotels and motels in the facilities have been opening up their facilities to the population to help pay the bills. Who is to say that Shield’s Hotels would not be the same?”

They pointed out that Six Flags closes down for the winter, which greatly slows the amount of people who come to the town. They also pointed out that many who come to visit the Veterans cemetery do not stay overnight.

“Empty rooms means finding another source of income in order to pay the bills,” Galarneau said. “There are too many unanswered questions, gray areas and contradictory statements made by Shield Hotels’ executives and as far as I’m concerned their reasons for building in Agawam do not hold water.”

The council clarified further that this vote would not affect whether or not Shield Hotel would be built, only that it would help ease part of the process.

“Our vote tonight doesn’t determine whether or not they’re going to build a hotel in town,” Councilor Anthony Suffriti said. “The only thing that we’re voting on is changing that little piece of red area from red to yellow. Regardless if we change that or not, they still are going to build the hotel. So we can either be people friendly with them and just make the change and that way we have a better oversight of what’s going on and maybe do a local lodge tax later down the road, but tonight is only for the zoning. It is not a yes or no.”

“This has got to go through a whole lot of other processes to put a hotel there,” Councilor Dino Mercadante said. “Zoning that strip there makes no difference in regards to whether or not this hotel is going to be built.”

In the end, the council voted unanimously to approve this zone change.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Island nation
7. Platforms
13. Project plan
14. French fishing port
16. South Dakota
17. Oakland’s baseball team
19. Military policeman
20. Ornamental stone
22. Garland
23. Process that produces ammonia
25. Mousses
26. Music notation “dal _”
28. Fail to win
29. Peyton’s little brother
30. Not near
31. Some cars still need it
33. Lizard genus
34. An idiot (Brit.)
36. Postponed
38. African country
40. Gazes unpleasantly

41. In a way, traveled
43. Ukraine’s capital
44. Appropriate
45. Dash
47. Twitch
48. Swiss river
51. Data file with computer animations
53. City in S. Korea
55. Particular region
56. They have eyes and noses
58. Tear
59. Large Madagascan lemur
60. Not out
61. Ornamental saddle covering
64. A driver’s license is one
65. Latin term for charity
67. Rechristens
69. Objects from an earlier time
70. Hindu male religious teachers

CLUES DOWN

1. Used as a weapon
2. Yukon Territory
3. Makes a map of
4. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion
5. Unnilhexium
6. Merchant
7. Playing the field
8. Folk singer DiFranco
9. Something to scratch
10. Mexican agave
11. Equal to one quintillion bytes
12. Session
13. North American people
15. Ranches
18. Electroencephalograph
21. A type of compound
24. Avenue
26. High schoolers’ test
27. A type of meal
30. Gradually disappeared
32. Ancient Frankish law code

35. Popular pickup truck
37. Buzzing insect
38. Deal illegally
39. Lying in the same plane
42. Obstruct
43. Related
46. Challenge aggressively
47. Nocturnal hoofed animals
49. Bird’s nests
50. Forays
52. _ B. de Mille, filmmaker
54. Title of respect
55. One-time name of Vietnam
57. Self-immolation by fire ritual
59. Private school in New York
62. Political action committee
63. A way to fashion
66. Email reply
68. “The Great Lake State”

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 9

Opinion

Guest Column



Transplanting your homegrown seedlings

I bet there are a few garden enthusiasts out there with seedlings up and growing indoors.

My tomatoes are just poking through, but my peppers are ready for transplanting. Why transplant you ask? It's important that we give our young plants room to spread out!

If seeds were sown in rows, chances are that several seedlings have sprouted and are now growing within a close proximity to one another. They are competing for nutrients and moisture.

Even if two seeds were sown in a single cell of a six-pack and both germinated, they too are competing with one another in that tiny of a space. So, if we want garden center quality seedlings, we must transplant them to their own cell or small pot.

You know a seedling is ready for transplant when it has its "true leaves," not the cotyledon leaves that were first to sprout from the seed, but those that come right after. At this point in growth plant roots aren't tangled up and therefore transplant shock can be kept to a minimum.

Although the seedlings may be tiny and appear fragile, transplanting them is quite simple.

First, take a wooden plant label or dull butter knife and "cut" into the row of seedlings. Then, use your implement "spatula-style" to remove a small cluster of plants from the bottom up.

I always tell folks to "think brownies!" Be careful to get as many roots as you can.

Once you've done this it is time to separate them from one another. Gently pull on a leaf, not the stem, to pry them apart.

Think of it this way: the plant has two leaves but only one stem. If it should snap, that's it! Leaves on the other hand, can and will be replaced if accidentally torn off.

Individual seedlings can be planted in small containers or cell packs filled with soilless growing medium. We steer clear of garden soil because of the pathogens and weed seeds it may contain as well as its tendency not to drain very well.

Soilless mix is sterile, and has the ability to retain moisture yet drain freely—just what the young seedling needs as it grows additional roots and top growth.

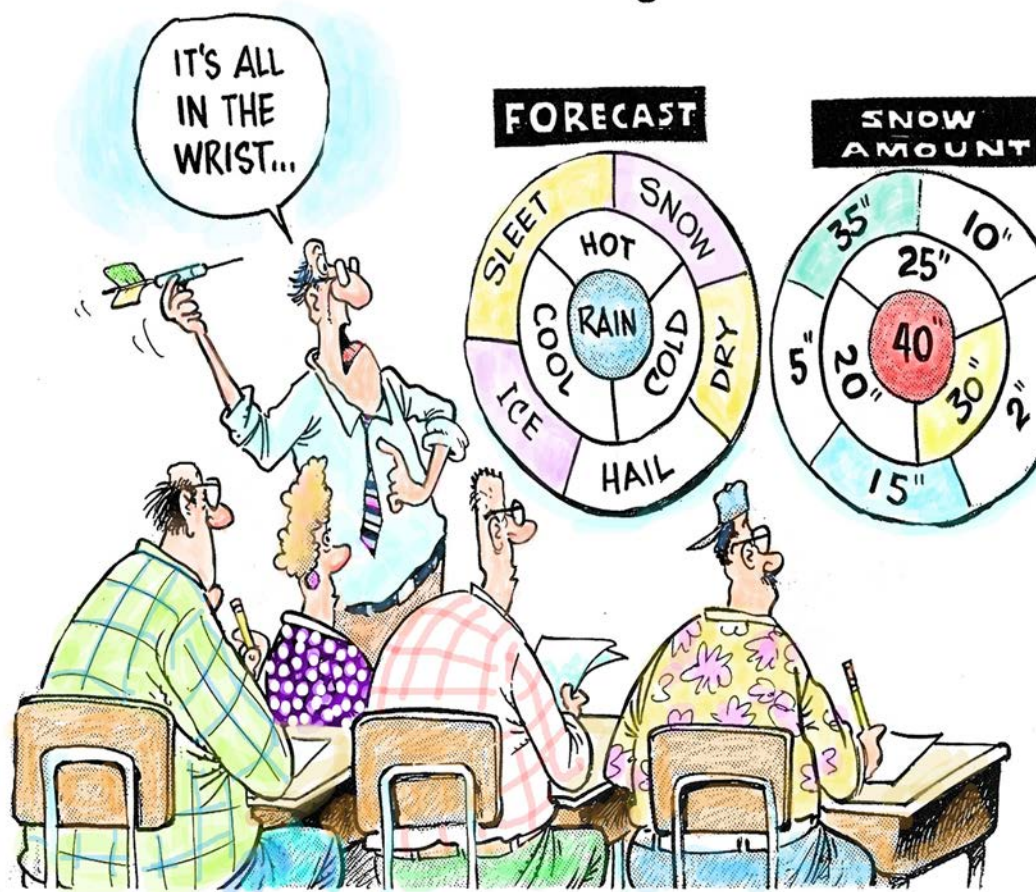
Make a hole in the moistened growing medium with your finger, a pencil or wooden dibble. Insert the seedling to the correct depth then firm around it with your fingers.

Most are transplanted to the same depth they were growing in the pack.

One exception is tomatoes; they can

GARDEN | page 11

Refresher course for meteorologists...



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Guest Column

When should my wife claim her Social Security benefit?



Dear Rusty

I just saw an article which said that certain spousal options were going away, but there are still good options for when a spouse can claim. I am filing for my Social Security to start in October when I turn 70. My wife's Full Retirement Age is in December, and she now plans to file then for half of what my FRA benefit would have been (our original plan was for both to file in August). My wife's main reason for delaying until her FRA is to lock her into my maximum benefit if she has to someday change to Survivor's Benefit. Will this be gone for us? Neither of us was born before Jan. 1, 1954. Please advise.

Signed: Planning for Both

Dear Planning

I expect that the article you refer to was speaking of the option to claim only a spousal benefit first and allow one's personal SS retirement benefit to grow. That option was available only to those who were born before 1954 and had reached full retirement age. As you now know that option is not available to you.

Assuming your wife's highest benefit entitlement will be as your spouse, your current strategy – you claim your maximum benefit to start in October at age 70 and your wife starts her benefit in December at her FRA – is a good one which will yield the maximum possible monthly benefit for both of you. But for clarity, your wife's survivor benefit as your widow has nothing to do with when she claims her spouse benefits now.

The only thing which will affect your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse is her age when she claims the survivor benefit. If she has already reached her FRA of 66 years and 8 months when you pass, she will get 100% of the amount you were receiving when you died, instead of the smaller spousal amount she was receiving while you were living. Her survivor benefit would only be less than 100% of yours if she claimed it before reaching her full retirement age (which, of course, we hope would not to be the case).

Just so you have the complete picture, your wife could, if desired, claim her Social Security to start at the same time as you in October but, since that would be earlier than her FRA, the amount she would get would be less than 50% of your FRA entitlement. Her spouse benefit would be reduced by 0.694% for each month earlier than her FRA it starts.

For example, if your wife starts her spousal benefit in October when your benefit starts, she will get about 98.6% of the amount she would get if she waited until December to start her benefits. That's a permanent reduction, so if your wife's life expectancy is at least average about 87, it's likely still wisest for her to wait until her FRA to start benefits. But in any case, when your wife claims her spousal benefit now will have no effect on the survivor benefit she will get as your future widow.

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 informational purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and length. The deadline is Monday at noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, or e-mail aan@turley.com.

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ECLIPSE ■ from page 1

for the children, they decided to add an arts and crafts aspect, allowing them to decorate their eclipse glasses.

Children were provided with paper, paint sticks, gems, markers and colored pencils to use as they decorated.

"I always go to arts and crafts when I am planning things because I feel like it is where I am most comfortable," Delano said. "I wanted to bring together the eclipse and arts and crafts."

To start off the event, Delano taught the kids about how a solar eclipse works and a few facts about the sun, moon and Earth.

They explained how the Earth rotates around the sun, and the moon around the Earth, as well as how the Earth's rotation allows for us to have night and day.

To keep the kids engaged, Delano had them physically act out the different rotations of these astronomical bodies. Kids rotated in place around the "sun" Delano had made so they could understand how Earth's rotation creates night and day.

They also walked in a circle around the



Librarian Evan Delano showed off their own decorated solar eclipse glasses.



To kick off the event, Librarian Evan Delano set up a demonstration of how an eclipse works.

"sun" so they could understand how the Earth rotates around the sun.

Additionally, Each kid was given a small ping pong ball to be their "moon" and they used the "moon" to block out the light of the sun, to show how the eclipse works.

"I didn't want it to feel too much like school for kids," Delano said. "So I think doing an interactive demonstration followed by a very hands-on arts and crafts activity would be fun and engaging"

The event was a hit, with 13 kids in attendance as well as their parents and guardians.

"I think it went well overall," Delano said. "It seemed like the kids were engaged and I think the craft part was really fun."

Delano enjoyed seeing the kids' creativity with the glasses.

"It was a lot of fun to see all the different ways the kids decorated their eclipse viewers," Delano said. "And it was nice to have a good number of people."

Children bedazzled their glasses, created space-themed designs out of paper and paint and even made themselves cat ears.

Additionally, some kids got creative with the ping-pong moons Delano had provided.

"Kids always surprise me with their creativity," Delano said. "Once they finished their eclipse viewers they started decorating their moons."

There was a kid who, at the beginning of the event, pointed out that the moons didn't look like moons because they didn't have craters. At the end, he decorated his moon with craters so it would be more accurate.

Other kids bedazzled their moons, enjoying how the gems glittered and how they changed the way the ping-pong ball bounced on the floor.

All of the kids had fun at this event, and came away with a better understanding of how space and the eclipse function.

To learn more about event at APL, go to <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/>.



The children were hard at work to decorate their eclipse glasses.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



The event was a lot of fun, with children and their guardians working together to create the eclipse glasses.



The children were quite creative when it came to designing the decorations for their eclipse glasses.



Children paired up as Earths and moons so they could see how the moon rotated around the Earth.



Librarian Evan Delano had the children rotate in place so they could gain a better understanding of the rotation of the Earth.



During the event children were able to decorate their eclipse glasses using a variety of materials.



Each child got a "moon" so they could see how the moon blocks out the sun during an eclipse.

Rep. Saunders speaks about need for Quabbin bill

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – State Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) spoke at a meeting of the Friends of Quabbin on April 7, to promote a bill that aims to improve regional equity for the communities that host the Quabbin Reservoir.

House Bill 897, also known as An Act Relative to the Quabbin Watershed and Regional Equity, would create a trust fund to benefit Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Communities, which would be funded by a fee based on the amount of water used by supplied municipalities.

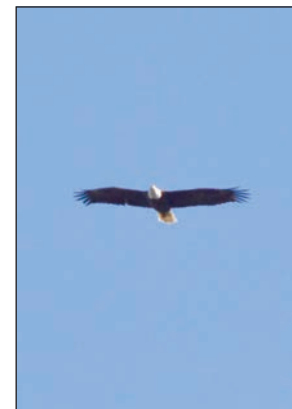
The fee proposed by the bill would be set at five cents per 1,000 gallons drawn, and would be expected to raise \$3.5 million for the fund, according to a summary document for the bill provided by Saunders. The bill also proposes to adjust how communities would be paid from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, basing payments on total state land acreage as opposed to acreage above the high water mark as is currently mandated.

Additionally, the bill would ensure that three members on the MWRA Board of Directors were residents of Connecticut River Basin communities. Currently, Monson Town Administrator Jennifer Wolowicz is the only one of the board's 11 members representing a community outside of the I-495 corridor.

Saunders explained that this bill, the first of its kind to be introduced in the House, was one that he proposed with a focus on the future of the region, rather



A view of the Quabbin Reservoir from atop Winsor Dam.



A bald eagle is shown flying over the Quabbin Reservoir.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY NICK BOONSTRA

than its past. However, he made clear that it was the history of the region and its stewardship of the reservoir that made a bill like this necessary.

“When the Quabbin was built, when the four towns were taken from us, there were a number of communities that were also impacted forever,” he said.

Saunders went on to detail how many of the towns that contain the reservoir are left to rely primarily on property taxes over commercial development for raising municipal revenues, leading to both buildings and



State Rep. Aaron Saunders

services that were beginning to degrade as a result of those lower figures. He said that this state of affairs was directly a result of the fact that these communities host the reservoir for other parts of the state.

“The lands that we protect for the Quabbin have foreclosed the ability for these communities to do anything else that may generate the type of revenue that funds public safety, that funds basic services that we expect from our communities,” he said.

Providing one example of suffering public facilities, Saunders said, “There is one usable room in the New Salem Town Hall; it’s in the basement. The rest of the building is not fit for human consumption.”

He said that this bill was not concerned with seeking repayment for these impacts historically, but rather was merely an attempt to recognize the worth of the region’s protection of the reservoir, as well as to assure that the region will continue to be able to protect it going forward.

“The water provides such innumerable value to the people and the businesses and the communities of eastern Mass that there ought to be some consideration given to the communities that steward this resource,” he said. He added that this consideration would come at a minimal cost to MWRA ratepayers, providing an estimated figure of an additional six cents per month for the average Boston water and sewer customer.

Saunders also said this proposed bill was coming at a time when the burden placed on the Quabbin Reservoir may soon be increasing.

“There are a great number of communities in the eastern part of the state who are dealing with very serious water quality issues,” he said. “These are communities that need a reliable source of water, and they are looking to us to provide that.”

He later added that he also wanted to make sure there would still be water left should communities in western Massachusetts also show an interest in joining the MWRA system.

Saunders admitted that he had encountered difficulty in trying to help those from different parts of the state understand why a bill like this would be so important.

“Oftentimes, the initial response I get back is, ‘Yes, it’s sad that four towns were drowned, but it was a necessary step in the Commonwealth’s future’ – so on and so forth,” Saunders said.

However, he stated that it was possible to push back against this line of thinking. “The way this is combatted is through the voice of the folks who live here in the region,” he said. “Not only recounting the past, but talking about what life is like in western Mass now.”

For this reason, Saunders emphasized the importance of individuals to speak out about the matter of regional equity as well as related topics such as water quality and public access to natural resources.

“The more that we can have these voices heard outside of just rooms like this, the more effective it is,” he said.

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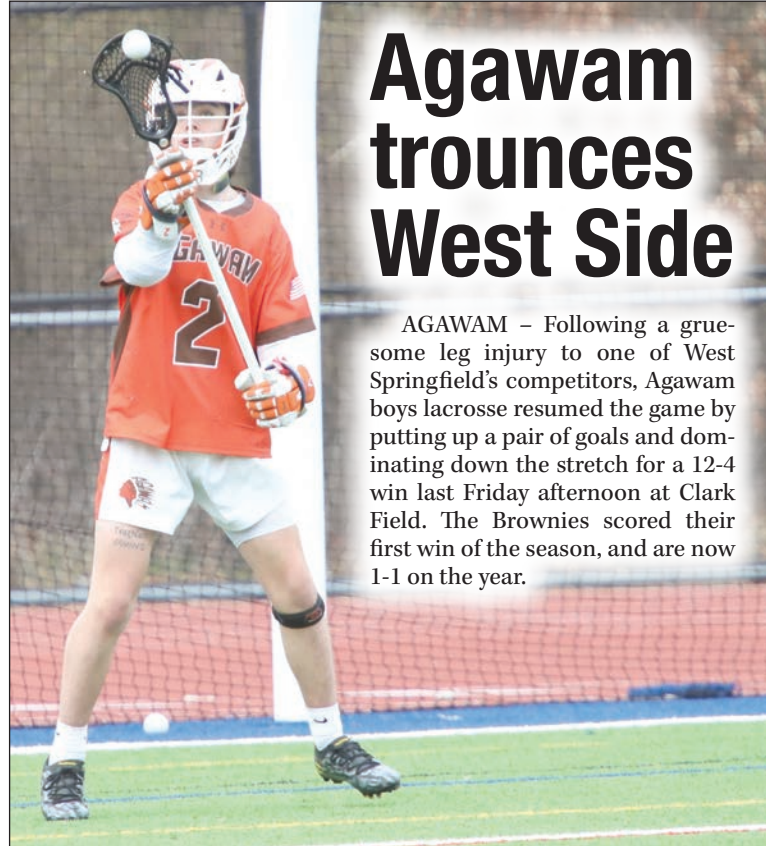
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SPORTS



Brayden Federico makes a pass.



Casey Thomas catches the ball behind the net.

Agawam trounces West Side

AGAWAM – Following a gruesome leg injury to one of West Springfield's competitors, Agawam boys lacrosse resumed the game by putting up a pair of goals and dominating down the stretch for a 12-4 win last Friday afternoon at Clark Field. The Brownies scored their first win of the season, and are now 1-1 on the year.



Liam Grealis goes after a ground ball following a faceoff.



Jordin Agosto makes a low save for the Brownies.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Brownies score sweep of Colts

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – After capturing the Western Mass. Class B and the Division 2 state championship titles a year ago, the opponents listed on the Agawam's boys varsity volleyball schedule will be looking to celebrate a win against them this spring.

The Chicopee Comp players, who had lost the previous four matchups against their North Division rivals, were hoping to accomplish that feat last Friday night.

Each of the sets were close, but the Brownies managed to post a 3-0 (25-23, 25-18, 25-22) victory over the Colts at Clifford P. Kibbe Gymnasium.

"All of the teams in our league are very good and we always try to play our brand of volleyball against them," said Agawam head coach Kevin Pender. "We also won a big league match the other night."

Two nights earlier, the Brownies made the short trip to Westfield High School where they squeaked out a 3-2 victory over the Bombers. It was a rematch of the 2023 Division 2 state finals, which the Brownies won in three sets at Worcester State University.

Westfield was the only team to defeat the Brownies on their home court during the 2023 regular season.

The Brownies home win against the Colts improved their overall season record to 4-1. They also had a 2-0 league record.

The Brownies only setback this season was at Needham, 3-1,



Joe Culhane extends for a bump.



Kyle Ghareeb gets a bump.



Ben Tokarev goes for a set.



Tim Karcha looks for the spike.



Dennis Nesen tries to advance the ball by an opponent.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Brownies overcome Tigers comeback for first win

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – Following a disappointing end to the 2023 regular season, the members of this year's Agawam girls' varsity lacrosse team were looking to begin this season with a victory.

Senior tri-captain Emma Murray contributed offensively with a hat-trick and four other players scored two goals, as the Brownies posted a 12-7 season opening non-league victory over South Hadley on a damp and chilly afternoon at Harmon A. Smith Field, last Tuesday.

"It wasn't a pleasant day weather-wise, but this is a very nice way for us to start the regular season," said longtime Agawam head coach Carla Lemnah-Warner. "We graduated five starters, who were all key players for us last year. We do have some big shoes to fill. Our three captains have stepped up so far this season."

Agawam's other two senior captains are Angelina Kozhenevsky, who scored a pair of goals, and Alexis Hurley.

The Brownies, who lost their final six games a year ago, has now won the last six matchups against South Hadley (0-2). The last time that the two squads faced each other was in 2021.

The Lady Tigers, who lost at West Springfield in their season opener on March 29, played a

Sports

Eclipse leads to sports schedule reshuffling

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Several games and contests being held outdoors on Monday, April 8 had their start times delayed or have had the games moved off the date completely due to the upcoming solar eclipse set for the late afternoon hours that day.

Agawam High School Athletic Director Karen Gomez said she moved a softball game to later in the afternoon after she and other athletic directors received guidance from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association urging them to move

events away from the time the eclipse is scheduled for.

According to the email from the MIAA: "On Monday, April 8, Massachusetts will be experiencing a solar eclipse from 2 to 4:30 p.m. You may already be aware of the danger of looking at the sun during the eclipse. Outdoor activity, practices, and games should be approached with extreme caution as unavoidable exposure to the harmful intensity could happen accidentally with extreme harm to athletes."

The email did not specifically bar events from happening during that time period, but most of the rescheduled games out-

doors were moved to the 5 p.m. hour to avoid the eclipse, which is supposed to result in more than 80% coverage of the sun in Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education also issued guidance to all schools, directing education officials not to allow students to look directly into the eclipse while it is happening.

"A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes directly between the Earth and the sun," the DESE guidance states. "The moon is much smaller than the sun, but because it is so close to the Earth, it can appear to

partially or completely block the image of the sun."

South Hadley High School Athletic Director Eric Castonguay confirmed he had to move some events scheduled Monday, including a track meet due to the eclipse's timeline.

"I didn't really have an issue with it," Castonguay said. "I don't really know a lot about it, but I certainly would not want to expose the kids to anything that could be harmful to them."

The forecasted weather for Monday, April 8 was actually supposed to be ideal for the eclipse.

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN - Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 - July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports.

From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June.

These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete

against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

LACROSSE ■ from page 7

game at Smith Field last May. They captured the Western Mass. Class B championship title for the first time in school history with a 13-5 win over Belchertown.

"It was nice playing another game on this field against a very good Agawam team," said South Hadley head coach Danielle Miele. "I'm happy with the way that we played, but we just made a couple of mistakes that we'll need to fix. We also got a little bit tired in the second half."

Prior to this season, a varsity girls' lacrosse match consisted of two 25 minute halves. There are now four 12-minute quarters.

"It's probably going to take a couple of games for us to adjust to playing four quarters," Lemnah-Warner said. "I think the next thing they'll add is a shot clock. It'll prevent the stalling and it'll keep the game moving."

Following a turnover on the opening possession, South Hadley junior Margaret Watkins scored the first of her game-high four goals. It gave the visiting team a 1-0 lead with 10:32 remaining in the first period.

The Brownies responded with back-to-back goals by junior Gabby Cosentini and Murray, who recorded a hat-trick in a varsity game for the first time.

With 37.1 seconds left in the first period, Kozhenevsky scored a free position goal giving her team a 3-1 lead.

While Agawam sophomore goalie Kaylin Barna didn't make any saves during the first twelve minutes, South Hadley freshman goalie Riley Nestor made five saves. She finished her second varsity start with ten saves.

"Riley is only a freshman, but she made some big saves for us," Miele said. "It was an awesome performance by her."

After stealing a pass, Murray netted her second goal with 4:41 remaining in the first half.

The Lady Tigers was trailing, 4-1, before storming back.

Their comeback began with a goal from senior Elliana Britton, which was assisted by junior Ava Asselin with 2:26 on the scoreboard clock.

Less than a minute later, Britton netted a free position goal closing the gap to 4-3.

The Lady Tigers won the ensuing draw and a shot attempt by Asselin was deflected away by Barna, who was credited with a total of five saves. She was replaced by freshman Paytyn Burke (6 saves) early in the fourth quarter.

With 47.3 seconds left in the first half, the Lady Tigers tied the score for the second time when Watkins fired a bounce shot into the cage.

A little more than three minutes into the second half, it looked like the Lady Tigers had taken a 5-4 lead, but the go-ahead goal was disallowed by the official because of a crease violation.

The Brownies entered the final period holding an 8-5 lead. Senior Isabella Castro scored two goals in the third period, while junior Isabella Spaulding and Murray added the other two goals for the home team. South Hadley's only goal of third period was scored by senior Rachel Yabra.

While Watkins scored a pair of goals during the final quarter, goals by the trio of Kozhenevsky, Spaulding and sophomore Sarah Kriebel helped the home team keep the lead.

VOLLEYBALL ■ from page 7

in the season opener. Needham, who's the defending Division 1 state champion, entered this week's action riding a 75 match winning streak.

Eleven Agawam players had at least one kill against Comp. Sophomore Joe Culhane led the way with seven kills.

It was also a memorable night for Agawam sophomores Michael Lukomiski, Aiden Therrien, Elijah Ramos, and Chase Gerani, who played in a varsity volleyball match for the first time.

"Those four guys were pretty excited to play in their first varsity match tonight," Pender said. "They've been working very hard at practice all season long. I thought tonight's match would be a very good opportunity for them to see some playing time."

The two seniors listed on the Agawam varsity roster are Emil Zhmaidziak, and Ezekiel Nguessan, who are co-captains. The Brownies also have four other returning varsity players.

The Colts, who are a young squad, had a 2-2 overall record and a 0-2 league record following last Friday's match.

"We do have a very young squad and every match that we'll play this year will be challenging for us," said Comp head coach Brittany Dussault. "I thought we played very well in tonight's match. We still have some things that we need to work on."

The two seniors listed on the Colts varsity roster are Pavel Kiriukhin and Edrien Roman, who's one of the captains. Sophomore Daniel Gauthier is the other captain.

Comp sophomore Chace Murphy,

who had a team-high five kills, along with sophomore Alex Rivera, sophomore Josue Hernandez, and Gauthier, were members of a club volleyball team coached by Pender this past winter.

"Comp is a much better team than their record shows," Pender said. "Four of their players played on my club team during the winter. I've built a good relationship with those guys, but I was a little bit nervous facing them in tonight's match."

The Brownies held the lead for almost the entire opening set. A combined block by junior Dominik Wurszt and sophomore Noah Johnson gave the visiting team the lead for the first time at 16-15, which forced Pender to call a timeout.

Agawam responded by scoring the next five points with junior David Dzhenezherukha handling the serving duties. Junior Dennis Nessen contributed with a kill and a block during that stretch.

The Brownies capped off the first set with a kill by Zhmaidziak, who didn't play in the state finals because of an injury.

"Emil has returned with a lot of passion," Pender said. "He's one of our leaders this year."

There were a couple of lead changes at the start of the second set before Agawam built a 12-7 with the help of a 7-2 run.

The Colts closed the gap to 15-14 before the Brownies pulled away down the stretch.

There were seven ties in the third set, but the Brownies managed to win the final three points of the contest. Two of them were kills by junior Eric Nazarets.

The Colts will be trying to even the season series when they host the Brownies on May 1.

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Springfield, MA 01103
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Docket No. HD24C0111CA
In the matter of:
Alexander James Marino
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Alexander James Marino of Feeding Hills, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Alex J Marino
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 04/24/2024.

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: March 27, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/11/2024

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. HD24P0589EA
Estate of:
Mary T. Pineo
Date of Death: 03/13/2008
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy has been filed by Craig V. Pineo of Chester, VT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 05/03/2024.

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: April 03, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/11/2024

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. HD20P1097EA
Estate of:
Lea Scibelli
Date of Death: 05/18/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by John Michael Discenza of Holyoke, MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

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 05/03/2024.

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.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 01, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/11/2024

Legal Notice of Private Sale
Notice is hereby given by USA Towing, 71 Garden St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030, sale of a motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on April 22, 2024 at 8:00 a.m., at USA Towing, said motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien for towing, storage and costs of sale.

2017 Dodge Journey
VIN: 3C4PDCBG0HT523077
No plates w/vehicle
Last known reg. owner:
Robert Nobriga Jr.
93 Reynolds St., Apt. A
Danielson, CT 06239
04/04, 04/11, 04/18/2024

Obituary

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 \$225, 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.

DEATH NOTICE

FOGG, JAMES D.
Died March 21, 2024
Celebration of Life
April 13, 12 p.m.
Storowtown
West Springfield
City Cremations, Inc.

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Agawam Advertiser

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Grandparents
& Friends
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wdelcamp@turley.com

MAIL YOUR AD WITH PAYMENT TO:
Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

Pay by check or credit card: Checks Payable to
Turley Publications, Credit Cards be sure to include: Paper, Name,
Address, Phone, Credit Card Number, Exp. Date & CVV

2 x 3 Advertisement

Congratulations
Carrie Smith
We are so
very proud of
you and your
accomplishments.
Good luck
at Springfield
College.



Love Dad. Mom & John

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Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

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2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
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The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

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

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Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

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COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

GARDEN ■ from page 4

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Local, Beautiful, Calm and Adorable Bernedoodle puppies. Raised in our family setting and ready to come bless your home! Parents are DNA tested for health and good genetics. Puppies guaranteed healthy. Their Hypoallergenic coats make them ideal indoor/outdoor pets. Call/text Melvin 413-265-6737 to set up your visit.

HELP WANTED

BROOKFIELD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT seeks two additional full-time employees to fill **Operator/Laborer** vacancies (Operator II). Full-time 40 hours per week. This is a fully benefited position. For questions, or to submit letter of interest and resume, please email Lindsey at Highway@brookfieldma.us. *Applications will be accepted until positions have been filled.*

CLASS A DRIVER. Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

HELP WANTED

GRANT WRITER/FACILITATOR
The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time (15 hours per week) Grant Writer/Facilitator. See job description at brookfieldma.us. Salary is commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$30.28 per hour. Please submit a resume and cover letter to selectmen@brookfieldma.us Open until filled. *Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer*

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC. Construction equipment and trucks. Experience required, full time. **RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.**

PART-TIME, 15 to 20 hours per week. Must be dependable and have flexible schedule. Podiatry office. Portuguese or Spanish speaking helpful. If interested send CV to podbill@aol.com or pickup application at **77 Winsor St., Ludlow, MA; 413-589-7287.**

TOWN TREASURER:

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time (40-hour week) position of Town Treasurer. Full job description at brookfieldma.us. Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation is \$80,498.62. Submit cover letter and resume to: selectmen@brookfieldma.us. Reviews begin week of April 15th. Open until filled. *The Town of Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer.*

HELP WANTED

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.

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 advertised 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.

be buried deeper than they started out. This is because tomatoes have the ability to make roots along the length of their stem.

Another exception are marigolds. More roots mean healthier shoots!

Water the transplants well with a gentle spray. They can now be put back under the artificial lights you've rigged up.

Continue to keep the lights within inches of the plants for the stockiest growth. Or, if you're lucky enough to have a sunroom or hobby greenhouse, the seedlings will thrive there!

Shade them from direct sun for a few days after transplant to prevent wilting. Soon the roots will recover from the shock of transplant and will again be able to sustain the plant.

Night time temperatures can dip as low as 50 degrees for most plants. In fact, lower night temps will help to ensure the stocky specimen we desire.

Fertilize with half-strength liquid plant food every 10 days to two weeks. Begin to "harden-off" your transplants a couple of weeks prior to putting in the ground.

Thus far they have been kept in a carefully controlled environment. Planting them without a period of acclimatization may mean disaster!

Place them outdoors in a shady spot protected from the wind for only a few hours each day. As the days progress keep them out longer and increase their exposure to bright sun and wind.

Don't forget to water during this process, but forgo all fertilizer.

With less than two months to go until the danger of frost is officially passed, our home grown seedlings won't have long to wait, and neither will we!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

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.

Send Us Your Summer Event Information

Turley Publications will print your summer calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our SUMMERFEST Supplement which publishes May 22.

Deadline for submissions is April 22.

Community Summer Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

CLIP OUT AND MAIL TO:
Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email* them to: jamie@turley.com
*Be sure to indicate "Summer" in the subject line of your email.

Artists needed for 'Pay-it-forward' campaign

EASTHAMPTON – CitySpace is thrilled to announce the launch of its 2024 Pay It Forward program, aimed at supporting artists and organizations across Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties. This initiative provides free access to CitySpace's Blue Room, a dynamic performance and incubator space situated in the historic Old Town Hall of Easthampton.

Interested applicants can submit their proposals via cityspaceeasthampton.org/pif until May 6, at 11:59 p.m.

Pay It Forward offers artists short-term residencies and access to the venue for public performances and rehearsals between July and December 2024. Selected artists will receive a stipend of up to \$1,000, along with proceeds from ticket sales generated by their public performances. Moreover, recipients will benefit from workshops, peer-learning cohorts, and personalized coaching sessions aimed at enhancing their artistic practice, fostering new skills, connections, and innovative ideas.

Open to performers of all disciplines. Pay It Forward seeks to empower the vibrant artistic community within Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties. While open to all artists and creative organizations in the three counties, Pay It Forward focuses on supporting under-resourced artists and encourages BIPOC artists, LGBTQ+ artists, artists living with disabilities, and organizations that serve such artists, to apply.

Having piloted the Pay It Forward program alongside the unveiling of the Blue Room, CitySpace has witnessed the impact of the program firsthand. Kim Chin-Gibbons, a 2022 pilot program recipient with her progressive rock band Sunset Mission, and recently appointed CitySpace Artist Advisory committee member said, "This program allowed us the time to really develop everything, not just to our liking but the necessary whole of what we are trying to do. We got to have rehearsals all day long, run tech, and shoot a music video. It was wonderful."



Grupo Mambique, 2023 Pay It Forward Recipient.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Alex Paquin, Falling in Love During a Pandemic and Waking Up to Reality, 2023 Pay It Forward Recipient.

Officially launching the program in 2023, Pay It Forward offered over 1250 complementary hours last year to artists for theater performances, concerts, rehearsals and more. Queer Community Theatre founders and 2023 Pay It Forward recipients, Emily Fuller and Erin F., attest to its significance to their sold out production of Bar Dykes, stating, "Without the Pay It Forward program, we absolutely would not have been able to make this production the success that it was."

Pay It Forward 2024 is made possible by the generous funding from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts' Valley Creates, Greenfield Saving Bank, Peak Performance Roofing, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Delap Real Estate, Finck and Perras, and Tandem Bagel.


Golf outing in July

WEST SPRINGFIELD – The Parish Cupboard, a food pantry and hot lunch program located in West Springfield will be holding a fundraiser on Saturday June 1 with it's annual golf outing.

This event brings together golfers of all levels to raise money for the Cupboards mission. The tournament is a noon shot gun start Scramble event. Registration begins at 11 a.m. Lunch, dinner, a swag bag, contests, prizes and raffles are all part of the event.

Golf is \$125 per person. To attend the dinner only is \$30. Sponsors and prize donors are also needed to make the event successful.

A tournament sponsor is available for \$1500, which includes a foursome. Silver Tee sponsors are available for \$125 and Gold Tee sponsors are available for \$250. For more information contact Bob at the Parish Cupboard at 413-794-7969 or email parishcupboard@aol.com.



DDS
Department of
Developmental Services


**The Department of
Developmental Services
is looking for Direct Care Workers
and Licensed Practical Nurses
to join their team in
Central & Western Massachusetts.**



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Direct Care & LPN HIRING EVENT

**Tuesday 4/9/24
10:30am-2pm**

**Palmer Public Library
1455 N Main Street
Palmer, MA 01069**

**RSVP
RECOMMENDED:**
<https://tinyurl.com/u3tacaay>



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Rates do not include potential differentials of \$1.25-\$4.00/hr.

*Must be at least 18 years old and possess a valid driver's license to qualify.

DDS is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive, and accessible work environment. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin, veteran status, or any other basis covered by protected law. To ensure an inclusive and accessible experience for all participants, we are fully committed to providing reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. Further information and details will be communicated to applicants through our registration correspondence.