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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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### AHS team works hard to prepare for new building

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School Administrative team has been working hard in order to prepare for the new high school building.

Principal Jim Blain and Assistant Principal Timothy Karetka are on the leadership team of the high school project.

Therefore, they have been meeting regularly with the architect, the OPM and any other specialty group involved as consultants with the project.

In the background, the other assistant principals, Chad Joyal and Amanda Danek, have been working to keep the high school running when needed.

Superintendent Sheila Hoffman is grateful for all of the work they have put forward to help make this high school project possible.

“We have a lot of meetings, a lot of time that is spent in writing the educational plan that was submitted as part of this whole MSBA process, so they really work as a team to make sure everything is covered,” Hoffman said.

This team has been working to not only prepare for the new high school building, but they have also been working on evaluating the education at the current AHS so they can work to improve it for all students.

They call this project the meeting the moment movement.

“Now that we are going to have this brand-new state-of-the-art building, let’s think about the teaching and learning we’ve always dreamed about and how we are going to take the next few years to learn and experiment and adapt some of the things we’re doing so we’re really coming into a place where students are excited about being in school,” Hoffman said.

Hoffman and the AHS administrative team want to make sure that students have a voice in their education and can enjoy the work they are doing.

The school district has received funding from the BARR

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### Adult summer reading program kicks off

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The library kicked off their summer reading program on Monday, June 24.

The program will run from June 24 until Aug. 9, and anyone is welcome to join.

The summer will be packed with fun activities as well as opportunities for the reading program participants to win prizes.

Kids, teens and adults are invited to make an account on agawamlibrary.beanstack.com where they can log their reading.

“They can read anything they want,” Children’s Librarian Pamela Weingart said. “We don’t assign books and they don’t have to be books from the library. They don’t even have to be books, they can be magazines, they can be newspapers and they could be audiobooks.”

Kids and teens need to read for 15 minutes in order to learn a raffle ticket to enter into the weekly prizes. The weekly prizes will fit to certain age groups.

There are four age groups: ages zero to four, then kindergarten to fourth grade, fifth to eighth grade and ninth to twelfth grade.

The prizes include stuffed animals, t-shirts, dolls, gift cards and even a 3D printer pen.

They can also read for 25 or more days throughout the sum-



The attendees at the summer reading kick off could spin the wheel to earn prizes after completing a scavenger hunt. People could win books or CDs as prizes.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

mer in order to have a chance of winning the grand prize, which is a \$50 visa gift card.

Weingart and the other librarians hope this program will encourage children to keep reading throughout the summer.

“If kids and teens don’t read over the summer they often experience something called the summer slide where when they go back to school in the fall they will be months behind where they were when they finished the previous school year,” Weingart said.

Adults have to read for an hour in order to earn a raffle ticket to enter into one of the

several prizes the library has. They can also complete a book review or one of the suggested activities.

The activities include going for a walk, stargazing, visiting a national park and going to a library event.

These prizes include a bocce set for the backyard, a wicker picnic basket with a matching blanket, a hammock and a book lover’s reading basket.

The library offers this adult summer reading program as they feel that the fun of reading shouldn’t be kept to just the kids.

“Why should the kids have all the fun throughout the sum-

mer?” Adult Services Librarian Cher Collins said. “Why not offer incentivized reading for adults?”

On top of the reading program there will also be a variety of activities for people to participate in.

For kids and teens there is a scavenger hunt around the library that they can come in at any time the library is open and participate in.

There is also a Fantasy Bingo for grades k-2 on Thursday, July 11 at 4 and there are biweekly storywalks.

For storywalks there are pag-

LIBRARY | page 12

### City council supports paint stewardship legislation

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The city council unanimously voted to approve a resolution to support paint stewardship legislation in Massachusetts.

Their support will join 69 other communities in the state who have put forward their support for this legislation.

The support will be sent to the House Ways and Means Committee in the hopes that it shows them that this legislation is a priority.

This legislation will put a 75 cent to one dollar charge per gallon of paint when you purchase

paint. The charge will allow people to bring forward old paint to get it reprocessed at a participating paint retail store so that it can be resold.

Bringing forward the paint will not have a disposal cost, nor will it matter where the paint was purchased from.

This will prevent paint from getting improperly thrown out or from having to be disposed of through proper channels.

“It doesn’t have to go to hazardous waste day,” Agawam resident Susan Grossberg said.

This initiative is brought about by many residents’ desire for a better way to dispose of their waste.

Massachusetts resident Tom Irwin who has been raising awareness and gathering support for this legislation reported that 91% of 932 residents signed a petition saying that they wanted this legislation implemented.

Grossberg herself reported driving to Connecticut in order to recycle old paint she had found.

“The desire to recycle rather than discard results in 40-60% of the latex returned to the Enfield Connecticut Sherwin store each week coming from Massachusetts residents,” Irwin said.

This program has been implemented well in other states, as stated by Irwin.

“This program is working well in 11 states, including our neighboring states of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine and New York,” Irwin said.

Irwin came forward to give a presentation to the legislation committee. He mentioned that the Massachusetts DEP and the Massachusetts Municipal Association are supportive of this legislation as well.

The hope is that this legislation will also go toward the state achieving zero waste by 2050.

The committee voted 4-0 in favor of putting forward the legislation with a positive recom-

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# Library supports Pride Month with workshop

By Quinn Suomala  
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam Library hosted Gender and Sexuality 101 by Dr. Genny Beemyn, the Director of the UMass Stonewall Center earlier this month.

The library hosted this event as a way to kick off Pride Month, and to give those who may not know much about the LGBTQIA+ community the opportunity to learn more.

“June is pride month and we really want to celebrate that and provide the opportunity for people to learn,” Library Associate Charlie Pope said.

Beemyn gave an overview throughout their presentation of some of the basics of gender and sexuality labels, as well as the experiences of young LGBTQIA+ people, specifically those who are trans and non-binary.

Nonbinary people are those who do not identify as a man or as a woman, but rather as something in between or outside of the traditional gender binary.

Many people, including Beemyn, identify themselves this way, and Beemyn wanted to give attendees a chance to learn more about these identities in a safe space.

“We all are on a learning journey, we all have things that we need to know more about, and for a lot of folks learning more about the LGBTQIA+ community is something they need to do because it’s complicated,” Beemyn said. “I think it’s really important to raise awareness and increase education.”

According to a recent survey by the American College Health Association, 31% of college students identify as LGBTQIA+.

This number has increased significantly in the past ten years. Beemyn believes this is likely due to increased acceptance and awareness of LGBTQIA+ identities.

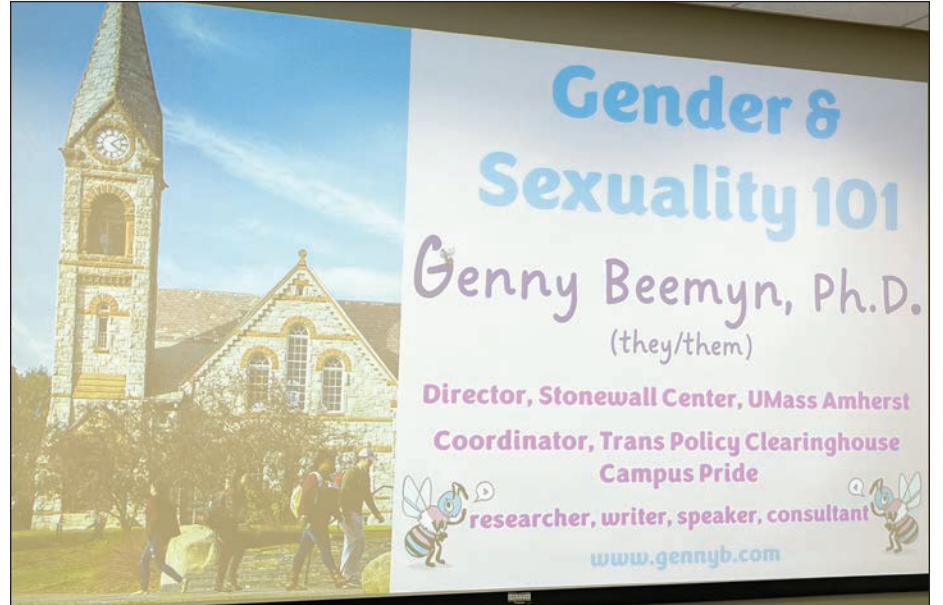
“What has changed is the society,” Beemyn said. “One, people are seeing it as a possibility that they didn’t see before. I think so many people in the past who might have identified didn’t because it wasn’t safe, you had people being persecuted, being killed.”

Due to this persecution, many people who were LGBTQIA+ hid it or repressed it, out of fear of what could happen to them.

Additionally, in recent years there have been more famous people coming out as LGBTQIA+. This has provided people with images, with representation of the labels that they may not have known about otherwise.

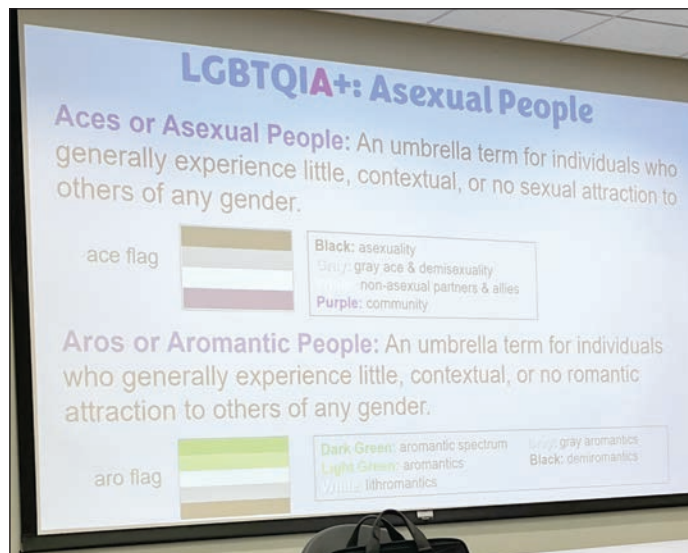


Dr. Genny Beemyn, the Director of the UMass Stonewall Center presented Gender and Sexuality 101 at the Agawam Public Library.



Agawam library hosted Gender and Sexuality 101.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



Dr. Genny Beemyn, the Director of the UMass Stonewall Center, broke down what asexual and aromantic are.

“You can say that’s me, that’s my community, I’m like them,” Beemyn said.

Beemyn also explained that there has been increase in people identifying as non-binary over recent years.

Currently 6.2% of college students identify as trans or nonbinary, according to the American College Health Association.

Many people who identify as nonbinary use they/them pronouns, meaning when referring to the person rather than saying, “she went to grab her bag,” you would say, “they went to grab their bag.”

Beemyn emphasized that the use of they/them pronouns is grammatically correct, and has been used for centuries to discuss a person of unknown gender.

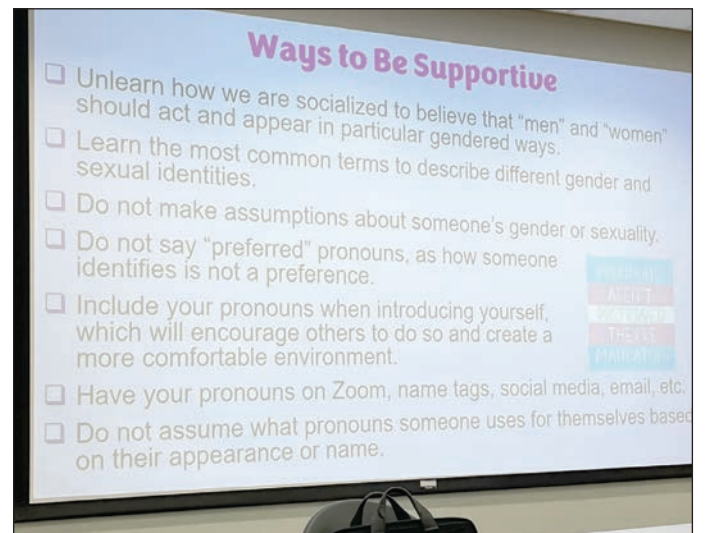
“It’s grammatically correct,” they said. “Any dictionary will indicate that they/them in the singular is perfectly okay language to use.”

Beemyn indicated that the best way to support trans and nonbinary people is to not make assumptions about gender, pronouns or sexuality and to use your own pronouns when introducing yourself.

They also emphasized the importance of being accepting when someone corrects the pronouns you use for a person, and to try to use gender-neutral language, such as “folks”, “everyone” or “person” rather than “guys”, “ladies” or “man”.

Above all, Beemyn said what is most important is to care and to continue to be open to learning about the LGBTQIA+ community.

“It’s really important for you to be here, but this can’t be a one and done, you have to keep learning,” they said.



Dr. Genny Beemyn, the Director of the UMass Stonewall Center, included in their presentation a breakdown of how people can be supportive to LGBTQIA+, specifically trans and nonbinary, people.

## Liquor Commission announces licenses available

AGAWAM – The Agawam License Commission announces the availability of several retail Liquor Licenses Commonly referred to as a “Package Store License”, these licenses are under MGL Part 1 Title XX Chapter 138 Section 15 are Wine & Malt beverages only license.

Licenses under § 15 (Off-Premises) can be used in various types of businesses (e.g. package stores, supermarkets and convenience stores).

Package Store Licenses are issued by the Agawam License Commission pursuant to and in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws c. 138, §§15, et seq.

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

The ALC shall consider the public need and common good in determining whether or not to grant a request for a new liquor license. In considering whether the public need and common good would be served by granting a new license, the ALC may consider the sort of operation proposed, the qualifications of the applicant and proposed manager, any impact on the community with respect to matters such as noise, traffic, congestion,

odors, sanitary and/or nuisance conditions, waste disposal requirements and facilities, parking, dust and fumes, the impact on the character of the neighborhood and the Town, public safety, and whether any articulable harm would follow from the granting of the license.

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.

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”.

The Commission reserves the right to table and or continue the hearing. Be advised that any applications received

and time stamped by the ALC prior to the deadline listed below will abide by the time lines & meeting dates identified below.

Should the Commission award the licenses, the remaining applicants are not considered as “being refused a license, and their application will be kept on file. Should another “new license” become available these applicants will be notified.

All applications must be submitted to The Agawam Clerks Office by July 12, no later than 3 p.m. The entire application must be physically in the hands of the Agawam Clerks office by this date and time. Mail or any other method of delivery received after posted date and time will not be accepted.

The ALC will review the entire application and accompanying documents by July 16. (i.e. lease agreements, financing information, and/or additional background information) . Any applications received incomplete or missing required information may not be considered. The review and e-mail communication to each applicant will be considered and accepted as an actionable event on their application, thus satisfying the 30 days as required by statute.

It is the ALC intention to conduct a public hearing and review all applications for this license on the agenda for Wednesday, July 31, at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Agawam Senior Center.

## GFWC hosts guest speaker

AGAWAM – May was Family Wellness Month, Mental Health Month, and Trauma Awareness Month, so on May 22, the GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club was excited to host Attorney Elizabeth Dineen, chief executive officer of the Western MA YWCA. She talked about their facility and help that is needed. She also incorporated information on the mental and physical health struggles of their clients.

The Agawam Juniors partnered with the Westfield Woman’s Club as a way of offering a unique venue for Dineen’s presentation to get the word out about these serious subjects.

The GFWC Agawam Junior Women’s Club secured a \$625.00 mental health grant from the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts, the Agawam Rotary Club donated \$250.00, and the Agawam Juniors added another \$125.00 to round out their total donation to \$1000.00.

The Agawam Juniors previously supported the Western Massachusetts YWCA with monetary donations, personal care items and toiletries, and fleece tied blankets as well as uplifting “you are worthy” books for children. Because of the increased focus on the mental health of domestic violence victims and their families, club members will continue their efforts in this area. Victims of domestic violence

# Agawam Senior Center announces upcoming news, events

AGAWAM – The Agawam Senior center, 954 Main St., has great events planned for the month of April. The Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information please call 413-821-0605.

## Manicures with Jane

Monday, July 1 and Aug. 5

Here at the Agawam Senior Center is are excited to be offering Manicures with Jane. Jane is a licensed nail specialist, who will give your fingernails that extra special attention and love they deserve. She is offering simple manicures that include clipping, filing, soak, and massage of the hands and a choice of color. These appointments are 20 minutes each. The cost is \$15 per person. Call Kristina at 413.726.2836 to book.

## Cardio Fusion dates for July and August

Cardio Fusion will now be offered every Tuesday, from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

It will also be offered on the Following Thursdays; July 18, July 25 and Aug. 8th, Aug. 15th, Aug. 22nd and Aug. 29th. Class is \$4 per student.

## Fraud Protection & Identity Theft Prevention with M & T Bank

Wednesday, July 10 at 10 a.m.

Join M & T Agawam Branch Manager,

Alyssa Tillotson as she discusses the importance of protecting oneself from fraud and identity theft. She will share expert tips and tricks. This seminar will take place in the Seminar Hall. Coffee and donut holes will be served. Call Kristina at 413- 726-2836 to register.

## Seminar with Dr. Matt Costanza from Resilience Physical Therapy

Wednesday, July 10 at 1 p.m.

My name is Dr. Matt Costanza, I am a Physical Therapist from Resilience Physical Therapy and Wellness. We have two locations, in Agawam and in Suffield where I am Clinic Director. I will be presenting on the importance of movement and exercise for the senior community and how physical therapy can help with that. I will also be discussing direct access, which allows patients to receive physical therapy without the need of a referral from a Doctor. This seminar will take in the Seminar Hall. Call Kristina at 726-2836 to register.

## Sharps Disposal Container Collection Day

Tuesday, July 16 between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Agawam Health Department will be holding a drive-thru event for Agawam Seniors by collecting approved Sharps Dis-

posal Containers. Receive a new 1.5 gallon container at no cost. Stop by the Agawam Senior Center on Tuesday, July 16 between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. If there are any questions contact the Health department at 413.786.0400 ext. 8207.

## Ice Cream Social & Rosie Robotics Demonstration

Wednesday, July 17 at 12:45 p.m. in the Dining Room

There is an exciting new program to announce: Rosie Robotics, the first Robotics team at Agawam High School is looking to team up with seniors that want to work with K-3 children in the first Lego League Discover program. Volunteers needed. Retired teacher? You qualify. Retired engineer? You qualify. Grandparent? You qualify. Regardless of your ability, we will teach you! Every year, First Lego League releases a new Challenge based on a real-world, scientific theme. Starting with Discover, children are introduced to the fundamentals of STEM while working together to solve fun challenges and building models using LEGO DUPLO bricks.

## The Reading Room Book Club

Friday, July 19 at 10 a.m. in the library  
A book club brings people together to

discuss books, share ideas, and create lasting friendships. Expect friendly discussion with fellow book lovers and the opportunity to explore a wide range of genres including fiction, non-fiction, fantasy, mystery, and more. The club meets in the Agawam Senior Center Library on the third Friday of the month at 10 a.m. To register, contact Kristina Lynch, Agawam Senior Center Assistant Director, at (413) 726-2836.

## Looking for a Fun Afternoon Out Come Solo or Bring Your Grandchildren

The Agawam Senior Center will be hosting the Forest Park Wildlife on Wheels program on Wednesday, July 31 at 1:30 p.m. The Agawam Senior Center will be welcoming an educator who will bring five animal ambassadors for a 45-minute education program. These animals may be mammals, reptiles, birds, or invertebrates. Animal ambassadors are always selected on the day of the program by the educator hosting the event. There will be a kid friendly meal this day. Call Kristina at 413- 726-2836 to register for this program and or lunch too. Lunch will be Macaroni & Cheese.

Please note Zumba Gold is on Summer Break. Class will resume Friday, Aug. 23 at 2 p.m.

## State Sales Tax holiday approved

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Legislature approved Aug. 10 and Aug. 11 as a sales tax holiday weekend for Massachusetts. On those days, the Massachusetts sales tax of 6.25% will be suspended for most items that retail for less than \$2,500.

The holiday welcomes Massachusetts residents to visit retailers and small businesses around the state. A spike in consumer activity routinely boosts indirect tax revenues. According to the Department of Revenue, during the 2023 sales tax holiday, indirect tax revenues due to increased economic activity were approximately \$3.54 million.

“I am glad to see the sales tax holiday be approved in the legislature today, giving our residents a great chance to get outside and embrace their local businesses and community at a little bit of a discount,” said Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). “This annual holiday gives a boost to our small business owners and consumers, and I am proud to support this measure annually.”

## Community dinner at ACC July 15-19

AGAWAM – VBS at Agawam Congregational Church is July 15 through July 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. A free community dinner will be served at 5:15 p.m. each night. We will have so much together. Please call 413- 786-711 or email office@agawamcong.com with questions or stop by for a registration form. Register online using the link below. <https://forms.gle/XJU8uo4LPEGL9cWH7>.

## YWCA ■ from page 2

experience diminished self-worth, anxiety, depression, and a general sense of helplessness that can take time and often professional help to overcome.

Together, the donations from the Agawam Juniors, the Rotarians' donations, and the monies awarded from this grant will have a great impact in assisting many victims.

## Summer programs heat up at library

AGAWAM— The Agawam Library welcomes visitors Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Library will be closed on Thursday, July 4. Adventure Begins at Your Library is a Massachusetts Statewide Summer Library Program and is funded by the Massachusetts Library System, the Collaborative Summer Library Program, the Boston Bruins, and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. Programs and crafts are sponsored in part by the Agawam Center Library Association.

The Agawam Library is happy to announce the annual summer reading program for adults. The program will run from June 24 to Aug. 9, adults 18 and older have the opportunity to earn raffle tickets for reading, completing activities, and writing book reviews. Readers can choose between logging their reading hours on Beanstack or following our Summer Reading Packet. Readers can earn up to 36 raffle tickets for reading throughout the summer; raffle tickets may be entered to win one of our grand prizes. This year's prizes include a Backyard Bocce Set; a Wicker Picnic Basket with blanket; a “Book Lovers Reading” Basket; a Coleman Rolling Cooler; A Bird Watching Kit; and an Outdoor Hammock.

In addition to the regular book clubs, game night, virtual author talks, tech help and trivia, the library will offer some special programs to celebrate summer. Please see the website for a complete calendar of events for July and August. [www.agawam-library.org](http://www.agawam-library.org).

All Summer long in the library, patrons can vote for their favorite ice cream flavor. In partnership with Scoops of Agawam, patrons can help us award Gold, Silver and Bronze at the end of summer. Summer reading participants can also earn a raffle ticket for voting 5 times.

Join in on Friday, June 28 for a morning

program on the Ten Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease. Mark Nutting from the Alzheimer's Association will be here to inform patrons how these warning signs differ from typical age-related memory and behavior issues. The program begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Judith Clini Community Room. Please register for this event.

The Library is pleased to offer the second annual Tiny Art Exhibition. This year, artists ages 18 and older are invited to submit their miniature masterpieces to be displayed in the Reference Area of the library. What qualifies as tiny art? Anything that can fit into the palm of a hand. Fiber art, paintings, mini sculpture, anything goes. Submissions will be accepted from July 1 to Aug. 1 and on display for the month of August. Not sure what to make? Pick up a Tiny Art Take and Make for adults at the Information Desk on July 1. The Tiny Art Take and Make will be available while supplies last and please only one kit per person.

Adult Craft Take and Makes continue throughout the Summer. While supplies last, crafters can pick up the materials needed for Sock Gnome Take and Make beginning July 15 and Needle Felted Chickens Take and Make beginning July 29. Please only one kit per person.

Join in on Thursday, July 11 at 6:30 p.m. for a special presentation by local historian, David Cecchi. Cecchi will present The History of Riverside. From its earliest days as a picnic grove to the major amusement park that it is today, Riverside is a unique part of Agawam history. This program will be held in the Judith Clini Community Room and registration is required.

Not All Who Wander are Lost: Letterboxing 101. Sarah Hodge-Weatherbe will discuss a hobby that combines the art of making rubber stamps, the challenge of hiding a secret treasure, and the adventure

of an afternoon quest, which all combine to make letterboxing. In this workshop, a brief history of the hobby will be given, how modern letterboxing works, and tips for the trail. Participants will get basic training on how to carve their stamps to use when they set out on their letterboxing journey and will get to choose a stamp to take home. This program will be held on Thursday, July 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Judith Clini Community Room. Please register for this event.

The Library is excited to offer its first adult escape room on Tuesday, July 30. The Museum Heist Escape Room will be offered at three different times: Session 1: 2 to 2:45 p.m. Session 2: 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.; Session 3: 7 to 7:45 p.m. Sign up with a group during a preferred time slot or join on your own to make some new friends. Please register for only one time slot. Players will take on the roles of art thieves tasked with stealing a famous painting. Solve puzzles, break codes, and get the painting before time runs out! Please register for this event.

The Library welcomes the Western Massachusetts Hilltown Hikers for a program called Great Discoveries. If patrons are looking to add more outdoor adventure to their summer, this program will feature information on the hidden gems right here in your backyard. Great Discoveries will be held on Thursday, Aug. 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Judith Clini Community Room. Please register for this event.

Stay tuned for details about the Summer Reading Wrap-Up Event on Monday, Aug. 12. Prizes will be awarded and participants will enjoy a fun evening of crafts, games and socializing.

Registration for Adult Programs begin June 24. Please register online [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org) or by calling (413) 789-1550 X4.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RECYCLE THIS PAPER

# EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE** To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, June 27**

– Thank you!

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# Opinion

## Guest Column



### Why is there a Social Security Earnings Limit?

Dear Rusty:

I try to read your article in the Carmichael Times each week and appreciate the information you provide. I am 62 and considering my retirement options and when I should do that to get the most benefit. I understand my full retirement age is 67, but what I don't understand and I hope you can answer, is why there is such a thing as the Social Security earnings limit? I know that if I was to retire before 67, my benefits would be reduced. But since I have been paying into SS for 45+ years and that money is technically money I have earned, why does SS care if I make more than the earnings limit? It doesn't affect them or my benefits. Can you tell me about the reasoning behind the earnings limit? I will, for many years after "retiring," continue working in my field.

Signed: Working American

Dear Working American:

This is a great question and, as a point of interest, our parent company, the Association of Mature American Citizens, advocates doing away with Social Security's earnings test which affects those collecting benefits before reaching their SS Full Retirement Age. In AMAC's view, it discourages people from working and, thus, paying Social Security taxes on their earnings. It is, after all, SS taxes from the earnings of working Americans, which largely pays for the benefits provided to Social Security beneficiaries. Eliminating the restriction would tend to improve Social Security revenue and help ease Social Security's current financial stress.

The reasoning behind the earnings test? Well, when Social Security was first enacted in the 1930s, the intent was that Social Security was for retired workers, meant to keep them from poverty in old age. The logic back then was that if a person worked they didn't need Social Security to sustain them, so those who worked could not collect Social Security at all. The current rule, after many adjustments over the years, says that annual earnings for those who collect early SS benefits are limited. If each year's earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024) is exceeded, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (FYI, the penalty is less severe in the year FRA is attained).

Historical accounts suggest that the reasoning behind the wording in the original Social Security Act - that "No person shall receive such old-age annuity unless he is not employed by another in a gainful occupation" - was quite controversial, except for the fundamental thought that if someone worked they didn't need Social Security. Over the en-

SECURITY | page 5



## Guest Column

### June companions worthy of admiration



I was chatting with a fellow gardener recently and she made a comment that really struck me. "Aren't the flowers just beautiful this year?" I had to agree.

Everything that is blooming is blooming in abundance, in terms of biennials, perennials and flowering shrubs. Even the \$65 hydrangea bush I got suckered into two years ago on Mother's Day weekend is loaded with flower buds.

I thought it would be fun to give you a few factoids about some of the plants in my yard that are blooming now. Ironically enough, they make a great companion planting. Here goes.

The apothecary's rose (*Rosa gallica officinalis*) is so laden with flowers that I need to get a good support system in place and fast! This rose in particular is an excellent choice for the beginner heirloom rose enthusiast.

Known as the oldest rose in cultivation, it is easy to grow, survives the winter without protection, and blooms effortlessly for about a month each June. Bright crimson flowers have two rows of petals and attractive yellow stamens; rose hips form as the flowers fade providing a bit of winter interest.

Its compatible color and short stature, about three feet, make this bush rose an ideal choice for the perennial border or hedge, keeping in mind though that it sends up new shoots pretty relentlessly, even invading a think mat of bearded iris in my landscape.

Another great spot for the apothecary's rose would be in a garden devoted to herbs. For centuries it has been used medicinally, as well as for a source of food and perfume.

Reportedly, it is also the only rose whose petals, when dried, retain their fragrance - some argue that it even increases! Potpourri anyone?

Another plant booming in abundance is the Pheasant Eye Pink (*Dianthus plumarius*).

*Dianthus* is the genus for a group of plants known as "pinks," not because of their color, which ironically are usually shades of pink, but for the fact that their petals are finely "pinked." Think of the funny scissors known as pinking shears.

Common names for this group of plants include Gilliflower and Sops in Wine, noting the age old use of steeping the clove scented flowers in cheap wine by tavern owners to end up with a drink that tasted far more expensive. The clove fragrance of these flowers is outstanding. Just a few of the two inch flowers will undoubtedly perfume a room.

The silver leaved plant prefers a dry, rock garden type situation in full sun. Soil must be well-drained and non-puddling over the winter months.

Do not mulch or the crown will rot. Few pests are known to bother it. The plant will stay in bloom up to three weeks. Deadheading spent blooms will help it to stay tidy.

I can honestly not say enough about my foxgloves this year. It's enjoyable just to stare at them in admiration.

Yes, I am serious. The spires are four-to-six feet tall with dozens of individual flowers lining the stems.

I cut one and brought it indoors and just asked my daughter to go count the flowers and buds yet to open; it's no joke when she came back with the amount. Seventy five, and that's just on one stem.

Native to Western Europe, the common foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) has had a place in North American gardens since its introduction during colonial times. There has always been a secretive side to foxgloves, due in part to an unusual name and the potent medicine that is obtained from the plant.

Legend has it that foxglove was derived from "folk's glove," folks referring to the elves and fairies of country lore. Another legend tells that the fox needed magical gloves to steal a chicken or two.

A less fanciful explanation traces glove to gleow in Old English; a gleow was an ancient musical instrument made of bells suspended from a curved frame. In 1785 William Withering, an English physician, published a decade's worth of studies devoted to the use of foxglove as a heart medicine.

Although far too dangerous to be used by amateur herbalists, the drug digitalis was studied at length in the early years of the 20th century and is

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## 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.

# Opinion



Eastern towhee

**A** Brimfield resident reported his wife saw an Eastern towhee in their driveway. It has been some time since I saw a towhee. I saw it hopping to get seeds on the ground under my feeder.

The towhee is eight inches long with a long tail. The male has a dark hood, beak and back with reddish brown flanks and white belly. The female is brown on top with the reddish flanks and white belly.

They hop backward, raking up leaf litter in search of insects and seeds. They eat insects, spiders, lizards, snakes and weed and grass seeds. They come to feeders for seeds on the ground.

The female lays two to six cream with brown spotted eggs in a nest of leaves, strips of bark and grasses lined with finer grasses. The female places the nest on the ground in a scratched depression

under brush. Towhees inhabit edges or open woods with shrub cover. Often towhees are heard rather than seen. The distinctive “chevink” or “chweee” call note of both sexes is a good clue to their presence. The noise from their “raking” of leaf litter is another clue they are nearby.

In the spring, the male sings and counter sings with neighboring males. He courts the female with song and by displaying with wings and tail spread. Their song is two whistles followed by a high trill like “drink your tee.”

During egg laying and incubation, the male rarely comes near the nest and the female is secretive. Both parents feed the young.

### Bobolinks

An Oakham resident sent an email, he said “In 1982, after graduating with my M.S. degree from Cornell, I worked as a field assistant on a bobolink study. We assembled staging in the fields to construct elevated observation platforms. Then we needed to capture and mark all the individuals. Several mist nets were set up.”

He said, “When a bird landed near one of the nets we would rush to it and try to scare the bird into a net, quite effective. With ‘bird-in-hand’ we needed to mark it to allow us to recognize it. So we painted the tails with different combinations of colors. Capturing the very last bird took a lot of time and effort.” He also said, “When females returned repeatedly to a particular spot, we searched there for the nests, which was very difficult, as the nests were well hidden. We could then monitor nest success.”

### Bluebirds

I received an email from a woman, who also sent photos of fledgling bluebirds, in her yard. She said, “At the end of winter the mated pair shooed off their offspring and got down to nesting. We now have

four fledglings visiting our mealworm feeder. They are too funny to watch, so hungry and they keep their parents very busy.” The bluebirds laid eggs for second time.

### More Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident, who sent the email about the towhee also said, “The other day I spent a couple of hours at the pond in South Street where the osprey nest is located. In addition to the osprey nest there are four great blue heron nests with at least eight chick, I can’t see the fourth nest very well but an adult is standing on the nest so I assume there are young chick there also. Young herons can’t stand for awhile so they probably wouldn’t be visible yet.”

He said he saw common grackles, chickadees and tree swallows at the pond as well phoebes, Eastern kingbirds and belted kingfishers.

*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.*

### SECURITY ■ from page 4

During decades the rule has been softened to provide that only those who collect benefits before their Full Retirement Age would have a portion of their SS benefits offset by their work earnings. In any case, the earnings test, in its mitigated form, still persists today. FYI, H.R. 5193 – The Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act was recently introduced in Congress proposing to repeal the SS earnings test, but has not advanced in the legislative process since introduced in August 2023.

In any case, under current rules, if you continue working after your FRA, the earnings test will not apply to you. And, if you lose any benefits before your FRA due to the earnings test, when you reach your FRA you’ll get time credit for any months that benefits were withheld, resulting in a somewhat higher monthly payment after your full retirement age.

One final point: if you continue to work after starting your Social Security benefits and your recent earnings are higher than any of those in the inflation-adjusted 35 years used to originally calculate your benefit, your entitlement will be recalculated to give you credit for those higher recent earnings.

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

### GARDEN ■ from page 4

still prescribed by doctors today for those suffering with certain types of heart disease. Caution should be taken when growing the plant in the company of young children as all parts are considered poisonous if ingested.

Foxglove are easy to grow in full sun or part shade as long as they are provided with fertile, well-drained soil rich in organic matter. Plant them as you would a hill of squash: with lots and lots of composted manure!

Most species tend to be biennials or short-lived perennials. In my garden all types self-sow; leave a few seed heads to

ripen if you appreciate volunteers as much as I do.

These three beauties are in the same border planting and what a show! Pay off for all of the “work” it is to garden. If you call it work at all. Enjoy your own flowers in abundance this June.

*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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.*

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Volunteer school groups
5. Cash machine
8. Title of various Muslim rulers
12. Indian hand clash cymbals
14. Scarf
15. Easily manageable
16. Cry
18. Financial term
19. Reactive structure in organic chemistry (abbr.)
20. Clean out a riverbed
21. Seaport (abbr.)
22. English seascape painter
23. Bring back again
26. Subtracted from
30. Related on the mother’s side
31. Mooches
32. Commotion
33. Boer War general
34. Silklike nylon fabric

39. CNN’s founder
42. Sarcastic in a bitter way
44. Minute reproductive unit
46. Nourishment
47. Large predatory tropical fish
49. Small, rich sponge cake
50. Drink a small amount
51. Golfer Rodriguez
56. Norse personification of old age
57. Large flightless bird
58. Capsized
59. Convicted American spy
60. Music genre
61. Makes tractors
62. Undergo cell disintegration
63. Patti Hearst’s captors
64. Selfs

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Post-traumatic stress disorder
2. Goat-like mammal
3. Swiss river
4. Slithered
5. Humiliate
6. Tumbled
7. Popular alcoholic drink
8. Small round hole in a leather cloth
9. Fertilizer
10. State of affairs that seems deliberately contrary
11. Count on
13. One who discriminates against
17. New Hampshire city
24. One who cares for teeth
25. Sent off
26. Mutual savings bank
27. Initial public offering

28. Denial
29. Northeastern institution of higher learning (abbr.)
35. A doctrine
36. Consumed
37. Trent Reznor’s band
38. Perform in a movie
40. Schoolhouse implements
41. Mathematical term
42. Man who behaves dishonorably
43. Expression of regret
44. Martens
45. Approval
47. Pleasantly warm
48. The Eurasian hoopoe
49. NBAer Bradley
52. Engineering organization
53. Horsefly
54. Type of sandwich
55. A day in the middle of the month

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 9

# Schools & Youth

## COLLEGE NOTES

### Dean's list at PSU

PLYMOUTH, NH – Michael Ellis of Agawam has been named to the Plymouth State University dean's list for the Spring 2024 semester. To be named to the dean's list, a student must achieve a grade point average between 3.50 and 3.69 during the Spring 2024 semester and must have completed at least 12 credit hours during the semester, at least nine of which must confer grade points, at the time the lists are finalized. Ellis is a Communication and Media Studies major.

### Univ. of Hartford congratulates 2024 graduates

WEST HARTFORD, CT – The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 964 students received graduate and undergraduate degrees as part of the class of 2024. The following students are from Agawam and Feeding Hills.

Brianna Benjamin, College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, Bachelor of Science.

Kristen Langevin, College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions, Bachelor of Science.

Kamer Nuhui, Barney School of Business, Master of Business Administration.

The University is proud to congratulate all the members of the graduating class and to wish them the best of luck.

### Emmanuel College spring dean's list

BOSTON – Emmanuel College in Boston has named Delaney Brown of Agawam to the dean's list for the Spring 2024 Semester. To earn a spot on the dean's list, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

## Gloria McLellan art scholarship awarded



Robin Jensen, Deniel Castellano

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans recently presented two deserving young artists with the 2024 Gloria McLellan Art Scholarship.

Zoe Holland from Springfield, just finished her freshman year at Framingham State College was awarded a

\$1,500 scholarship.

Deniel (Cruz) Castellano from Agawam High School was also awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. Deniel is from Agawam and his art teacher, Amber Waters, praised his accomplishments.

“Cruz is an incredible artist but above all he is an exceptional human being. His creative spirit shines through in everything he does. His unique artistic voice has made him a standout in every art class he has taken at the High School. Deniel has the drive to create and be successful which I know will continue as he works towards his next goals. He is one of the kindest, funniest people you will ever meet and I am so excited to see what his future holds.” Waters said.

On the ACAA Scholarship committee were members Robin Jensen, Karen Conkey, Cindy Bouley, Robin Fernandes, and Suzanne DiSessa.



Robin Jensen, Zoe Holland

## Heroine awardee Rosie Caracciolo honored

HOLYOKE – Sen. John C. Velis visited the William J. Dean Technical High School in Holyoke to honor Principal Roseanne Caracciolo of Agawam with an official Senate citation to celebrate her Commonwealth Heroine award.

The Commonwealth Heroine award is awarded to dedicated community partners that are doing remarkable work to protect vulnerable populations, who despite their critical work, often go unnoticed. Velis was proud to nominate Caracciolo for the 2024 Commonwealth Heroine award in recognition of her years of work, both in her professional and personal capacity, supporting youth across the Pioneer Valley.

“Rosie Caracciolo truly makes our commonwealth a better place. From being a foster parent to her many years in the Holyoke Public Schools, Rosie has impacted the lives of so many children in our region,” said Velis. “I was proud to have nominated, Rosie for all her incredible work to create environments where young people can flourish and develop. I am grateful that the Massachusetts Commission on Women selected her for the Commonwealth Heroine award.”

Caracciolo was raised in Holyoke and attended the Holyoke Public Schools. This past school year she was appointed principal of Dean Technical High School after serving in various roles with Holyoke Public Schools for many years and educating countless students. Caracciolo has specifically focused on

boosting student morale and bringing back many of the annual traditions of the high school that were lost during the pandemic.

In her personal capacity, Caracciolo has welcomed foster care children into her home and is an active member of the Agawam and Holyoke communities.



Sen. John C. Velis visited the William J. Dean Technical High School in Holyoke to honor Principal Roseanne Caracciolo of Agawam with an official Senate citation to celebrate her Commonwealth Heroine award. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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# SPORTS

## Pioneers keep playoff hunt alive

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Just like every other player listed on the Western Mass. Pioneers roster, Alec Hughes would like to play for a professional soccer team in the future.

Led by Hughes, who recorded a hat-trick in the first half, the Pioneers remained in the playoff hunt by defeating Boston City FC, 6-1, at Lusitano Stadium last Friday night.

“It’s always nice to get off to a fast start in every game,” said Hughes, who only played the first 45 minutes of last Friday’s home match. “The turf field was a little bit slick which helped us move the ball a little faster. It was very similar to playing on grass.”

While it rained prior to the start of last Friday’s match, the rain stopped sooner than it was expected to and it was a pleasant evening weatherwise.

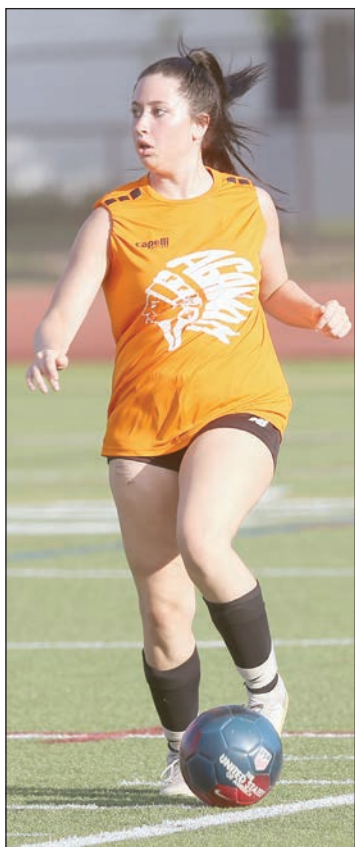
The Pioneers had a 7-1-1 overall record and they moved into second place behind first place Seacoast in the USL League Two Northeast Division standings.

Since losing to the Seacoast United Phantom, 3-2, at home on June 7, the Pioneers have gone 3-0-1 in their next four

PIONEERS | page 8

## Brownies pick up win over West Side

AGAWAM – Late last week, Agawam girls summer soccer picked up an A Division win over West Springfield 2-0. The Brownies would break up a two-game losing streak after one-goal losses to Monson followed by Northampton. The Brownies will take next week off for the Fourth of July Holiday.



Mia Oyler dribbles her way down the sideline.



Jordyn Rosario sends a free kick away.

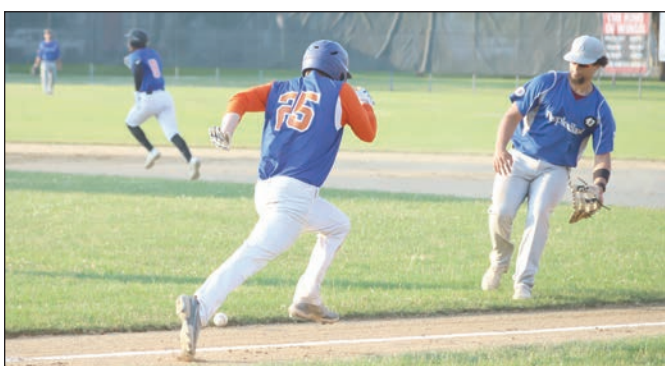
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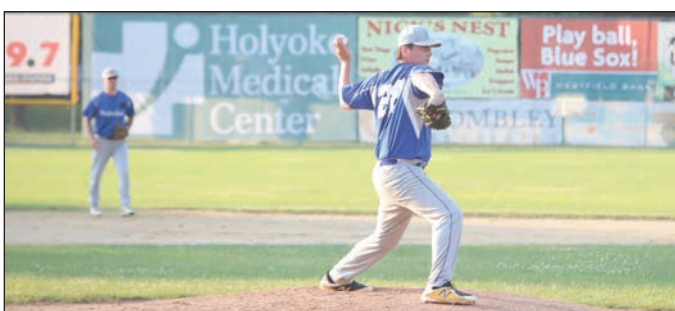
Julliet Johnson looks to settle the ball.



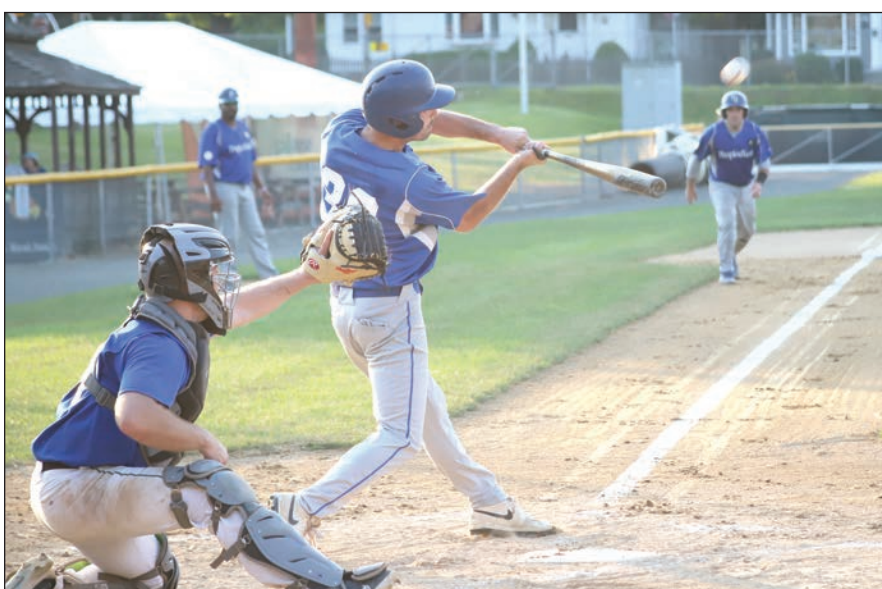
Kylie Warner heads up the field for Agawam during early summer season action.



First baseman Carlos Pena attempts to field a slow roller.



Pitcher Jimmy Flahive makes a pickoff throw to first.



Sam Allen connects to drive in a run.



Cam Rivest, of Agawam, leads off first base.

## Bankers out to 3-2 start

HOLYOKE – Last week, PeoplesBank was in action in the Tri-County Baseball League. The Bankers faced Chicopee and BankESB during the week. The Bankers narrowly defeated ESB to improved to 3-2 on the young season. The Bankers are in the middle of the pack currently with Hilltown Tents holding a 5-2 record for first place. Chicopee and Teddy Bear Pools have second place with four wins each.



Pete Hogan tries to get drilled by a pitch.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

# Sports

## Valley Blue Sox get big win over North Adams

HOLYOKE – Sunday was a statement game for the Valley Blue Sox against the North Adams Steeplecats.

Scoring in the first inning off a double hit by Chris Jans, the Blue Sox never trailed in this game.

However, the Steeplecats did not give up whatsoever.

With the Blue Sox holding onto that 1-0 lead, both teams were in a stalemate going into the fifth inning. Pitcher Jax Traegar took early care of the Steeplecat offense in the top of the inning, to give the bats back to the Blue Sox. It was just the momentum needed to deliver a shot to blow the game wide open.

The Blue Sox did just that, starting with Jonathon Hogart's RBI single bringing Chris Jans home and Michael O'Connor following it up with a highlight, two run home run. When it was all said and done, the Blue Sox scored

five total runs to extend their lead to 6-0.

The Steeplecats scored two runs over the last three innings, but the deficit was simply too large to overcome. The most intriguing aspect of this game was that both teams had eight total hits, yet the Blue Sox took advantage of far more to win the game.

In a game where early on it was clear hitting and scoring was going to be a deciding factor for the victor, the Blue Sox came together as a team to deliver just that. Throughout this season, it has been discussed that hitting was a "work in progress" for the Blue Sox, and that they leaned on their pitching for many of their wins. However, tonight they proved that when needed their hitting was also reliable. It's a major stepping stone for the Blue Sox offense, and it helps them advance to a 2-0 season record over the Steeplecats and 8-5 overall.



## Bonsignore wins Mohegan Sun 100 in New Hampshire

LOUDON, N.H. – Justin Bonsignore had a busy Saturday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway - one that ended with his 42nd career NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour victory - and a strong performance in his NASCAR Xfinity Series debut with Joe Gibbs Racing.

Bonsignore started the day early - as the Whelen Modified Tour hit the track for the Mohegan Sun 100 at 10 a.m. Bonsignore ran inside the top-three for the duration of the race after rolling off on the front row for the 100-lap event. In the final laps, he battled with his cousin, Kyle Bonsignore, for the win. Justin kept control of the race for the final restart, then drove away from Kyle on the backstretch and back to the start-finish line to rocket to Victory Lane.

The Whelen Modified Tour win was Justin's second of the season through seven events, and tied Ted Christopher for third all-time on the series wins list. Bonsignore now sits behind Reggie Ruggiero (44) and Mike Stefanik (74) on the wins list.

"We have 16 awesome races in a year, but this is our Daytona 500," Justin said. "Everyone wants to win this race. There's so much that goes into putting yourself in position and having a good car. It's mentally tough to control and understand what you need to do in these late restarts."

Bonsignore pulled within two points of leader Ron Silk in the championship standings as the series heads for the halfway point of the season in the next race, set for July 20 at Monadnock Speedway.

After the Whelen Modified Tour win, Bonsignore moved to his NASCAR Xfinity Series debut with Joe Gibbs Racing, competing in the SciAps 200. Driving the M3 Technology, USNE No. 19 Toyota GR Supra, Bonsignore started 25th in the field after qualifying was canceled on Friday due to rain. In the early part of the race, Bonsignore pitted and stayed out at the end of the first stage, taking the lead of the race. From there, he ran in the top-five for a large portion of the day.

After a late caution, contact in turn one sent Bonsignore spinning, pushing him to a finish of 23rd in his debut. However, the result didn't show the day the New York native had on NASCAR's National Series stage.

"You really couldn't have asked for a better day with Joe Gibbs Racing," Bonsignore said. "Our crew chief played some great strategy to get us up there. I was still learning even right to the end of the race. I was getting better and better all day long and we had a really good car. I can't thank M3 Technology, USNE and everyone else who made this possible enough for the opportunity."

### PIONEERS ■ from page 7

matches.

"It was another very good performance, especially since it was at home," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Everyone is playing very well."

Hughes entered last Friday's contest tied for the most goals in the USL-2 with eight. He finished the match with a total of 11 goals.

Hughes scored a team-leading 15 goals for the UMass men's soccer team last season.

He also attended the MLS combine in Arizona, but he wasn't selected in the MLS draft last December.



Leonel Vergara meets up with the ball.



Jared Smith corrals the ball.

Hughes will be wearing the Minutemen uniform again this fall.

"I wasn't drafted last year, but I was planning on going back to school," Hughes said. "I'm hoping to play for a professional soccer team in the future. It would be a great honor."

Molinari, who has watched several of his players turn pro during the past 15 years, is hoping Hughes is drafted.

"It's Alec's dream to play professional soccer and I really hope he makes it," Molinari said. "He's our leading goal scorer this year. I'm very happy for him."

Boston City (1-5-2) had a golden opportunity to take a 1-0 lead during the ninth minute of the opening half, but Western Mass. goalie Gianluca Cersosimo (2 saves) made a diving save.

Two minutes later, Laurie Goddard sent a crossing pass into the box from the right side and Hughes headed it into the right corner past Boston City goalie Sebastian Montoulieu.

"I always try to find a gap between the defenders," Hughes said. "It was a perfect pass from Laurie and all I needed to do was head the ball into the net."

The Pioneers took a 2-0 lead twenty minutes later.

This time, Aidan Kelly sent a long pass to Hughes, who controlled the ball with his chest before tapping it across the line.

Hughes capped off his hat-trick by firing a shot into the left corner of the net during

the 34th minute.

With about five remaining in the opening half, it looked like Oscar Sears had scored his first goal in a Pioneers uniform, but it was disallowed by referee Jonathan Luk because a Pioneers player was offside.

Sears, who has been on the Pioneers roster all season long, played in his first game at Pathfinder FC, which was a 2-0 win, last Tuesday night.

Sears was a member of the men's soccer team at Wake Forest. He'll be playing soccer at Bryant University this fall.

Holding a 3-0 halftime advantage, Hughes was replaced by Scott Testori at the start of the second half.

Testori, who's a member of the UConn men's soccer team, added his name to the score sheet with an unassisted goal during the 55th minute.

Goddard scored the Pioneers fifth goal two minutes later, which was assisted by Camilo Comi.

Josh Tubbs, who made his first appearance of the season for the Pioneers, replaced Cersosimo in goal during the 68th minute.

Boston City got on the scoreboard with a goal by Thiago Goes with 20 minutes remaining in regulation.

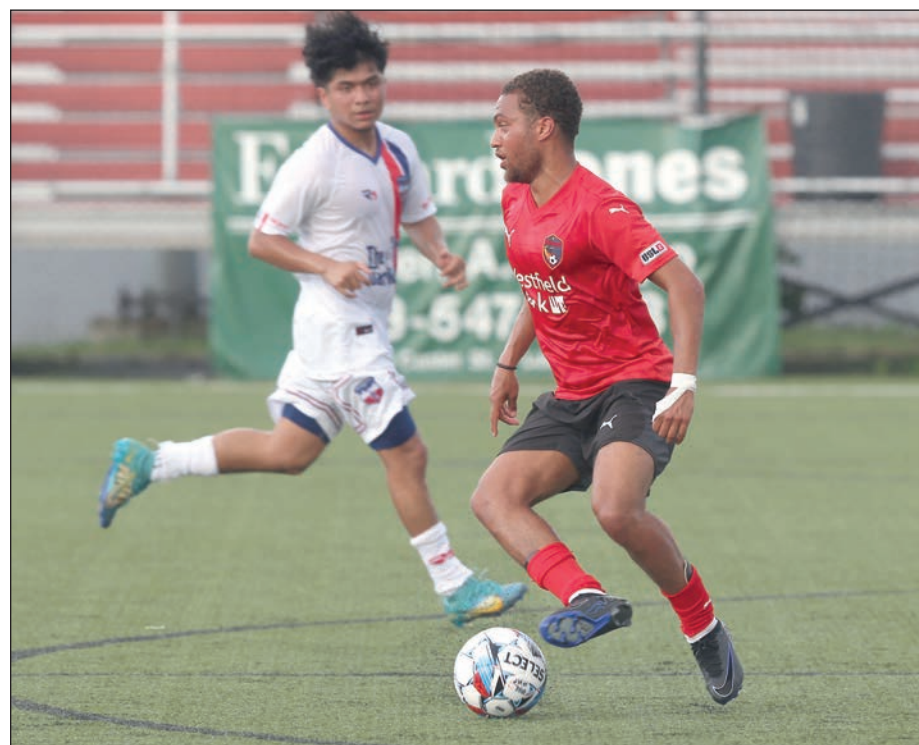
Ali Taleb capped off the scoring for the Pioneers with a breakaway goal in the 88th minute. Testori was credited with the assist.

The Pioneers are scheduled to host

the Albany Rush at 7pm on Friday night. They'll then play three road games before returning to Lusitano Stadium to face the Vermont Green on July 13 in the regular season finale.



Augustine Boadi fakes and heads up the field.



Oscar Sears changes the direction of play.



Abdel Talabi sends a pass up the field.



# MA Senate acts boost recycling and composting

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Senate passed legislation that builds on the state's climate and environmental leadership by banning single-use plastic bags, making straws and plasticware available by request only, and making it easier to recycle. The legislation passed by a vote of 38-2.

"In Massachusetts, we take pride in being a leader when it comes to protecting our environment and people's health, and this bill continues that leadership" said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "Limiting our plastics use means less trash in our water ways and on our streets, and giving our kids the green, clean planet they deserve to inherit. This is a crucial part of achieving the Commonwealth's climate goals, and I want to thank Senator Rausch for her leadership, Chair Rodrigues, our members, and every advocate who has spoken up on this issue, for their hard work."

"We're seeing more and more the impact that plastics have on our lives and world, our health and future generations," commented Senator Adam Gomez (D-Springfield). "Passing this bill is a step in the right direction towards transitioning these items out of our society, making them still

available for those in need while encouraging the use of items that are reusable, safe and sustainable."

OS.2830, An Act to reduce plastic would drastically reduce plastic waste that is too often found in streets and waterways-and too often fills landfills and disposal sites-ultimately harming the environment in Massachusetts communities and contributing to global climate change. Plastics are also made using fossil fuels.

The legislation will prohibit carry-out plastic bags at retail stores statewide and require stores to charge 10 cents for recycled paper bags, five cents of which will be allocated to environmental protection measures. The bill provides a limited exemption from the requirement to collect 10 cents for small local retailers. As of May

2023, 162 Massachusetts cities and towns, making up nearly 70 per cent of the state's population, already regulated single-use plastic bags.

The bill will also prevent plastic utensils and straws from automatically being given to consumers, prohibit single-use plastic bottle purchases by state agencies, and create a statewide program for recycling large plastic objects such as car seats. Further, it increases statewide bulk plastic recycling by creating a statewide program for the recycling of large plastic objects, such as car seats.

In an effort to reduce the \$10 million annually in avoidable costs directly caused by the flushing of non-flushable wipes, the bill will require non-flushable wipes to be clearly labeled with "Do Not Flush" warnings to prevent disruptions to the commonwealth's sewer system.

The bill would boost composting, the natural recycling of organic food scraps and materials, by directing the Department of Environmental Protection to submit a report on the commonwealth's progress toward expanding access to composting. It also establishes a new commission to make recommendations on ways in which the state can encourage or require businesses to support recycling of efforts for the products that they produce.

It is the second time the Massachusetts Senate has taken action to prohibit single-use plastic bags in the commonwealth.

Having passed the Senate, the legislation now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

*"Passing this bill is a step in the right direction towards transitioning these items out of our society, making them still available for those in need while encouraging the use of items that are reusable, safe and sustainable."*

– Senator Adam Gomez

## Public Notices

### AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA., on **Monday, July 22, 2024 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the request of Jeffrey Beaudette, who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with the Town of Agawam Zoning Ordinances Ch. 180, Section 37 (A) and Section 8.1 to allow for the keeping of chickens at the premises identified as 54 Colemore Street. Doreen A. Prouty Chairperson, ZBA 06/27, 07/04/2024

**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. HD24C0183CA In the matter of: Stewart LeFebvre CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME A Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by Paul Stewart LeFebvre of Feeding Hills, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Willow LeFebvre **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 07/12/2024.**

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: June 13, 2024 **Rosemary A Saccomani** Register of Probate 06/27/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD22P2170EA Estate of: Donal R Mason Date of Death: November 12, 2021 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jesse C Mason of Summerville SC.** **Jesse C Mason of Summerville SC** 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. 06/27/2024

### LEGAL NOTICE

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 July 08, 2024 at 8:00 am., 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 Infinity Q50 VIN:JN1EV7AR7HM839499 Plate: 5AXX69 - MA Last known reg. owner: Keshawn Vonte 45 E. Alvord St., Apt. #1 Springfield, MA 01108

2023 Honda Civic VIN: 2HGFE1E56PH474645 Plate: 2KJV81- MA Last known reg. owner: Ashley Estrada 16 Willow St., Apt. #3 Springfield, MA 01103. 06/20, 06/27, 07/04/2024

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*Agawam Advertiser News*

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## BUILDING | from page 1

foundation. The BARR foundation has also provided a group of teachers with training in the process of how they can start looking at their teaching and learning to try to make improvements to it.

They have looked into how to increase engagement, have common expectations within the school building and to make learning experiences relevant for students.

"With their help and with some extra funding we've been able to send teachers on site visits to best practice schools to see what they do in a lot of different ways," Hoffman said.

Throughout the summer and into next year AHS will create committees of teachers in order to discuss what the teachers would like to try in their classrooms.

"I feel like we have these two parallel lines moving forward that are some point are going to turn into this point where we have learned so much about how students want to learn, how they learn best, how we can create experiences that really engage them in the process of their learning and have them integrating 21 century skills," Hoffman said.

Blain and his assistant principals have also been pushing to ensure that there is a faculty voice throughout this process. They want to ensure that the whole staff is united as to how they want to improve the school.

On June 20, they had a meeting where teachers facilitated sessions with smaller groups of teachers where they discussed what they have learned either through research and site visits and how they could implement it at AHS.

"Every teacher in the building participated in a group and it was led by their peers," Hoffman said. "We're going to take all that information and put it together."

Hoffman and Blain are proud of all the work that has been put forward in this process in order to improve the education experience of the students of Agawam.

"The meeting the moment team has just been unbelievable in how they have stretched their thinking, how they have really just talked to their colleagues and listened to what people have to say and they have put hours and hours of time into this work," Hoffman said.

All involved look forward to seeing how their efforts will come to fruition over the next several years.

## LEGISLATION | from page 1

mendment to the full council.

Paint manufacturers and paint retailers also support this legislation, according to Irwin, and some of them even helped to create this law.

Agawam residents agree that this legislation could be beneficial for them and for the town.

"For me, that 75 cents?" Grossberg said. "Totally worth it not to have to drive across the state to go down to Enfield to take my paint there so I do not have to put it in the

trash but instead see it be reused again."

This legislation could help to save the town funds, as it will not have to fund the proper disposal of old paint, instead residents can bring their old paint to paint stores.

There will be no costs to municipalities for implementing this legislation and it will reduce household hazardous waste cost.

"It will serve to significantly reduce the toxic waste that is caused when oil based paint is discarded inappropriately," Irwin said.

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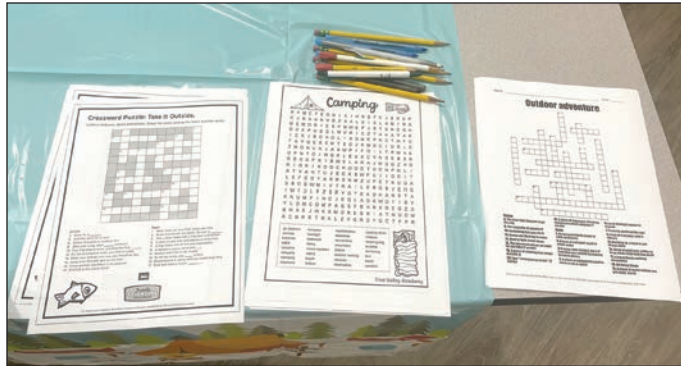


The librarians put out some suggested reading material for adults to check out for summer reading.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



Adult Services Librarian Cher Collins welcomed everyone to the adult summer reading kickoff.



Adults could complete different word puzzles while listening to music at the summer reading kickoff.



Bianca and Meghan Kerr painted their own flower pots at the adult summer reading kick off event.



People were invited to vote on their favorite ice cream flavor as part of Agawam Public Library's partnership with Scoops.



There was a variety of activities for adults to do at the event.



There was a variety of snacks available.



There are several different prizes available for summer reading.

**LIBRARY ■ from page 1**

es of books posted around the room at the library for children and their families to walk around and read together.

Every Wednesday and Friday there are joke days at the library for all ages. People can come into the Children's Room and tell one of the librarians a joke and get a prize.

"I love joke days so much," Weingart said. "It's delightful to hear the jokes that we hear, it's really just a joy. I also love them because it's a chance for patrons to talk with the librarians."

There are also a variety of programs available for adults throughout the summer.

On July 11 David Cecchi will be coming in to give a presentation on the history of Riverside.

"We're really looking forward to that program," Collins said.

Additionally, on July 18 there will be a program about letterboxing, which is similar to geocaching. There will also be an adult escape room on July 30.

Throughout the summer the library will be partnering with Scoops Ice Cream in Agawam. People will be able to vote on their favorite flavors from Scoops Ice Cream and at the end of summer Scoops will bring the top three flavors to the library.

Overall, the library has a fun filled summer planned for people of all ages. They welcome anyone and everyone to come in and check out their programs, even if they do not live in Agawam.

To stay updated on the summer reading events go to the website at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/>.

# Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 11, 2024**. Total circulation of **85,000** which reaches over **200,000** readers in the Pioneer Valley. **Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

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Event Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

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