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The Agawam Veterans Council was present

to support the Brat

July 18, 2024 Vol. 46, No. 21 \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com



By Quinn Suomala Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Brat Pack came to School Street Park to perform several of the 80s classics for Agawam community members.

They performed "Walking on Sunshine", "Video Killed the Radio Star", "Girls Just Want to Have Fun", "Jessie's Girl" and many more famous 80s songs.

The crowd at the show greatly enjoyed their performance, with many dancing along through the concert. Agawam Rotary Club and Aga-

BRAT PACK | page 6



The Brat Pack performed a variety of 80s songs at their concert for Agawam's SummerFest.

Bard chosen as mayor's new chief of staff

By Quinn Suomala Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Administrative Assistant to the City Council Barbara Bard has now taken the position of Chief of Staff for Mayor Christopher Johnson.

Bard has been the clerk for the city council for 17 years and she has now taken up this additional position, without stopping her work as the clerk.

"Chris Johnson and I have worked so well together over at least 10 years and it just made sense," Bard said.

Johnson was delighted to take Bard on for this new position.

"Barbara seemed to be the perfect fit," Johnson said. "She not only has knowledge about the town because she grew up and raised her family in Agawam but she also has an intimate working relationship with most of the department heads

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Holyoke Rows offering kayaking lessons

By Quinn Suomala Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Rows is offering summer evening programs for people throughout the region.

This program offers free kayaking and fishing from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Monday throughout the summer.

Additionally, they have free kayaking and dragon boating on July 10, 17 and 31.

"We provide the kayaks, the life jackets, the people to help you carry the kayaks, some instruction for people, kayaking isn't hard to pick up so it is usually pretty easy," Outreach Coordinator Sarah Wedaman said.

Kids and adults are welcome to come and try out this pro-

gram. There are single and double kayaks available, as well as tow ropes for adults to use if a kid wants to be in their own kayak but is nervous about rowing on their own.

Holyoke Rows hopes that through this program they will be able to help people who may not have been out on the water before a chance to give it a try.

"Kayaking is a really easy way to get on the water here, there's a lot of people that just don't have access to the Connecticut River or a chance to interact with it, so this is an easy way to get out there," Wedaman said.

Wedaman and others at Holyoke Rows also emphasized that anyone is welcome to come

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Fantasy bingo exercises imaginations, promotes creativity

By Quinn Suomala Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam Public LIbrary held a fantasy bingo event for kids in kindergarten through second grade.

During this program kids were given bingo cards with different fantasy characters and creatures on them. Youth Associate Isabell Malvezzi would pick up and call out the different characters for the kids to find on their cards.

The kids played several different rounds of bingo, with Malvezzi sometimes challenging them to get different patterns on their boards in order to win bingo.

Throughout the game, they had

to make an "x", a "+" and they had to completely fill their bingo boards. Additionally, kids even traded bingo

cards at one point in the game, to try to mix up what characters they had. When kids got bingo they were able to select from either a book as a prize or a rubber duck. All of the kids went home with at least one prize in their hands, much to their pleasure.

Malvezzi selected this program as she thought it would be a simple and fun program to get kids into the library.

"I feel like this is a program where it is hard for people to not enjoy it... and it is kind of a relaxed setting," Malvezzi said.

She also thought this would be a good opportunity to introduce kids

to new fantasy creatures, including pegasi, phoenixes and griffins.

"Maybe it will inspire them to check out some of our fairytale books and learn a little bit about them," Malvezzi said.

Malvezzi was inspired to do this program thanks to bingo nights she would do at her college.

"Bingo nights were huge for us so I kind of took the idea of that and modified it to match our [summer reading] theme of adventure," Malvezzi said.

This was Malvezzi's first time doing bingo with pictures rather than numbers, but she thought it suited the summer reading program well.

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

Agawam library hosted a fantasy bingo game for kids in kindergarten through second grade.



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Cooper's Gifts hosts to benefit Westover families

AGAWAM— Cooper's Gifts will collect non-perishable food items, books, games, school supplies and toiletries for the Westover Galaxy Community Council. The Westover GCC is a 501(c)3 charitable organization; comprised of veterans, local business owners and community members. Their goal is to support the military men, women, families and the mission of Westover ARB. They support team-building and morale-boosting activities for our Airmen, Soldiers and Marines. The WGCC works with and contributes to on base activities such as the Family Readiness Center, the Westover Young Marines, the Civil Air Patrol & Youth Out-Reach Day and Back-To-School Drive. Donations go to our military reservists in need. All donations stay local.

Cooper's has supported the Westover families for many years, through the stores charity Round Up Program.

"We worked with our closest USA-made vendors to curate wonderful raffle items that would entice people to donate more items to benefit the good folks over at the Westover GCC," said Kate Gourde, owner of Cooper's Gifts Apparel Home.

In exchange, Cooper's will swap entry tickets for the raffle prizes. Entries are also available for purchase at \$1 each, or 6

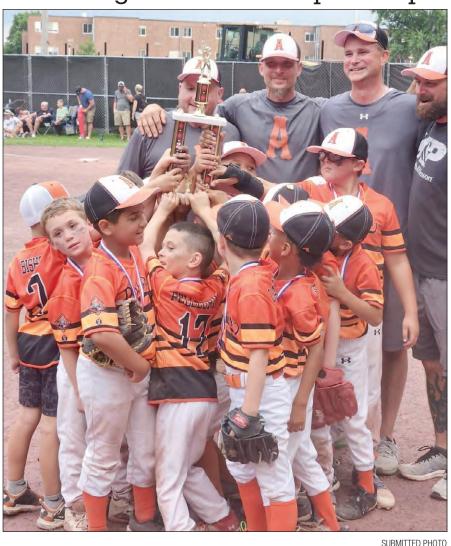
for \$5. All monies collected will go to the Westover Galaxy Community Council. Raffle prize winners will be notified in early August.

Each month Gourde chooses a local charity to receive the profits of the store's Round Up program, through which customers are invited to round up their purchase total to the next dollar amount. Gourde will then match 50% of the total collected. The program has donated over \$50,000 to local organizations since its inception in 2014.

"Our customers have been so supportive of Cooper's Round Up Program. We are so grateful and wanted to pay it forward; to help the men and women who serve selflessly, and their families. With your help ... the WGCC strengthens our local military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country throughout their service to our nation." Gourde said.

Cooper's is located at 161 Main St. and is open 7 days a week. Weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays noon to 4 p.m.. More information on the Round Up program and how to nominate a charity, may be found on Cooper's website www.coopersgifts.com/round-up/.

Dirt Dogs win U8 championship



The Agawam Dirt Dogs captured the U8 Championship late last month with a defeat of Batters Box of Westfield.

Tincknell, 7Roads to perform at Summer Concert Series

AGAWAM – Roger Tincknell and 7Roads will be the performers in the KidsFest and Summer Concert Series Wednesday, July 24. Tincknell will perform at 10 a.m. for local children and 7Roads will be part of the Wednesday night series at 7 p.m. Both performances will be held at School Street Park.

Tincknell has been performing for children, families, and seniors in the U.S., Canada and Europe for over 45 years. His strong, expressive vocal styles, show stopping yodeling and masterful instrumental skills bring a warmth and versatility to his performances. With a background as a classroom teacher and music specialist, Tincknell has pioneered programs in multicultural, environmental and special needs education and curriculum development.

Tincknell is a two-time Parents' Choice Award winning recording artist with numerous albums for children and adults. His extensive repertoire includes original, traditional and contemporary songs presented in a variety of musical styles. Ballads, swing, country blues, bluegrass, and cowboy yodeling are interspersed with American and international folksongs. Roger accompanies himself on guitar, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, Irish bouzouki, Bodhran (Celtic drum), mountain dulcimer, harmonica, Venezuelan and Puerto Rican cuatros, South American charango, Zamponia (pan flute), Native American flute, Latin percussion and African drums.

7Roads brings together the enthusiastic talent of four experienced musicians from Western Massachusetts. The central focus of their high energy performance sing-along covers have gotten audiences off their feet and onto the dance-floor at venues not only across America, but around the globe. You can expect a wide variety of music spanning multiple decades to appeal to anyone's musical taste, old and young.

With experience performing in New England, California, Spain, UK and military bases in Iraq, members of 7Roads have shared the stage with artists such as Stephen Kellogg, Jon Mclaughlin and many local artists and bands from all over New England. They bring you professional quality sound backed by two thrilling guitar players, a groovy back beat, and killer harmonies to keep the party going all night long.

7Roads is always striving to keep a modern touch while not forgetting the classics that have captivated audiences time and time again. It doesn't matter the genre, decade, or artist; if a song will get a crowd going wild, it has a place on their set list.

New Faces 2024 performances

SUFFIELD, CT — The Suffield Players are thrilled to invite the community to witness the vibrant talents of the newcomers at the New Faces 2024 Performances. The event will take place on Aug. 17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Mapleton Hall, located at 1305 Mapleton Ave.

New Faces, established in 2012, has been instrumental in providing a platform for individuals new to the stage, fostering their growth and nurturing their talents. Over the years, the program has expanded to encompass all facets of theatrical production, including actors, directors, writers, designers, and technicians.

Open to individuals aged 16 and above, New Faces is designed to be inclusive and educational, irrespective of prior experience. The program aligns with the mission of the Suffield Players, aiming to craft exceptional theatrical experiences for our members, patrons, and the wider community. Participants in New Faces are immersed in an environment that not only teaches professional standards but also inspires creativity and fosters personal development. Under the guidance of seasoned professionals, participants learn the intricacies of theater production while enjoying the process.

"We are excited to showcase the talents of our emerging performers and theater enthusiasts at the New Faces 2024 Performances," said Mary Fernandez-Sierra, board member of the Suffield Players. "This event embodies our commitment to providing a welcoming and educational space for individuals to explore and cultivate their passion for theater."

For more information about the New Faces program and the Suffield Players, please visit https://www.suffieldplayers.org/ or contact thesuffieldplayers@gmail.com.

Field Hockey coaches needed

AGAWAM – The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department is looking for youth field hockey coaches for bantams (grade 3 and 4) and juniors (grade 5 and 6). Youth field hockey runs mid-August through early October. Anyone interested in coaching or assisting should contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 821-0513.

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KAYAKING from page 1

to the program.

"You don't have to know a lot, you don't have to have any experience, you can just come down," Wedaman said. "Anybody is welcome, no limitations."

For those interested in the program, all they have to do is arrive at Holyoke Rows, which is located at 25 Jones Ferry Road in Holyoke, at the time of the program. They do not need to bring anything but themselves.

"All they have to do is show up and we'll get them in the water," Wedaman said. Holyoke Rows has the kayaks and life vests for people, and they also have bathrooms and picnic areas for families to use while at the program.

Wedaman hopes that members of the community come down and try out this program.

"This is a beautiful spot of Holyoke and it [the program] gives people a chance to interact with Holyoke in a different way," she said. "It's such an asset, it's so wonderful that we have the Connecticut River right here, so people should have access to that and should feel like this is part of their community."

Wedaman has seen families come down to this program many times over the years, and everytime the families have enjoyed and grown from it.

"They just have fun, they get out there, they're doing their own thing, we're not telling them what to do, they're just out there experiencing this together," she said.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation provided a grant to Holyoke Rows that allows them to provide free youth recreation. They decided to use that grant for this program.

On top of this free summer program there is a half day program for kids. The program is for ages seven and up and runs from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. daily.

There is also lunch provided by the Summer Eats program from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

"It is no experience necessary, kids have a great time, it is full of adventure, it's in the morning so it's not too hot, they learn something new and often kids who learn kayaking keep coming back," Wedaman said. "Kids do a couple hours in the morning and their whole day is different."

Additionally, there is a family kayaking pass for the whole summer that allows families to come by and use the kayaks at Holyoke Rows any time.

"It is months of kayaking access," Wedaman said.

There are also opportunities for people to get into more competitive racing. Holyoke Rows has an adult team that goes to different competitions and there are youth rowing programs.

To learn more about the summer programs, go to the Holyoke Rows website at https://www.holyokerows.org/

BARD from page 1

already as well as with the council."

In this new position Bard will be helping the mayor, working with different department heads and acting as a liaison to the mayor.

"The biggest responsibility I would say is to have as broad a knowledge as possible about what's going on in the town, as well as listening and responding to our residents," Bard said.

She plans to combine this work with

thanks to the advice and guidance she offers to the councilors, and she did not want to leave her councilors behind as she moved to this new position.

"If my councilors needed me, I have always been there for them and it will be the same now," Bard said. "I've been there for so many years, I've worked with so many councilors...and I would just hate to leave my 'peeps' behind."

Johnson also agreed that combining these positions would make sense.

"We both had the same concept," John-

Stanley Park's 75th Anniversary celebration

AGAWAM— Stanley Park is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this August with a big day long celebration and are in need of unique vehicles take part in our "Touch a Truck" program taking place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have a cool vehicle that the kids will love that you don't mind them touching we'd love to have you. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per vehicle.

There will also be a classic car show taking place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day which more cars, trucks and motorcycles are needed for. There is a \$10 donation per vehicle entered and we ask that you register in advance.

Please call the Development Office at 413-568-9312 x108 or x 112 or email development@stanleypark.org to register.

For further information on the 75th Anniversary Celebration or to be a sponsor of the event please go to www.stanleypark. org, our Facebook page or call the park office at 413-568-9312.

Community cookout fundraiser

AGAWAM— The historic Thomas Smith House, 251 North West St., will be the site of a Community cookout fundraiser hosted by the Agawam Historical Association on Saturday, July 27, from noon to 4 p.m. Hamburgers and hotdogs, served by the Agawam Lions Club, will be offered from noon to 2 p.m., with all proceeds benefiting the Agawam Historical Association's preservation efforts at the c. 1757 National Register-listed building.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic blanket and/or chairs to be able to enjoy their meals in the shade of the property's black walnut and maple trees. A raffle will also be held for an original artwork depicting historic Agawam by a member of the Agawam Community Artists & Artisans. Details regarding the artwork can be found on the historical association's Facebook page.

Members of the 25th Continental Regiment will return to the Thomas Smith House to present facets of civilian and military life during the American Revolutionary War era, including a blacksmithing demonstration by Master Blacksmith John Richard on his portable forge, cooking and baking, and marching and musket drill by the soldiers of the regiment. The house and its recently preserved 1920s garage will also be open for tours.

Yoga classes

HOLYOKE-NAMI Massachusetts Western would like to announce Mindfulness Yoga with Kateri's third anniversary yoga series. This class is designed as a gentle, therapeutic yoga class with beginners in mind. It is easypaced, helps reduce stress and anxiety, and aids in the management of mental health symptoms. Kateri is a certified yoga instructor and is vice president of our board of directors. This series will be 4 weeks starting on Monday July 29 and continuing August 5, August 12, and concluding on August 19. Come celebrate Kateri's Third Anniversary, July 29, with a free yoga class. The remaining three classes are available for just \$30. Partial proceeds go to NAMI-WM. Pre-registration is required. To Register email Kateri mindfulnessyogawat: ithkateri721@gmail.com



Lawrence University's dean's list

APPLETON, WI— Congratulations to **Megan Smith** of Agawam for making the 2023-24 dean's list at Lawrence University.

What is the NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program?

AGAWAM— NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 9-session educational program for family, significant others, and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program. This means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition. NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by NAMI-trained family members who have been there and includes presentations, discussions, and interactive exercises.

her work as the city council clerk.

Bard feels that combining these positions will give her a more holistic view of everything going on in the town, on both the legislative and executive sides. She feels her work in the city council will help her to have a better understanding of legislative items that come to the mayor's office.

"I can now see both sides and provide valuable insight," Bard said. "I want to make this a successfully rounded position with the merging of the chief of staff and the clerk of the city council."

Additionally, Bard felt that combining these positions would help to eliminate the amount of channels councilors and community members have to go through to communicate with the council and the mayor.

"It's a more direct line to help the town," Bard said.

She also decided to make the decision to combine these positions as she could not imagine leaving the city council behind after working with them for so long. Many call her the city council "mom" son said. So we spoke with the council president and we all agree that we were going to give it a shot to have her hold both positions."

Bard not only has a lot of experience working in Agawam, but she also has been a lifelong Agawam resident, and thus has knowledge about how different parts of the community function, and she has connections with many residents.

"It just gives me an overall knowledge that helps with this position," Bard said.

Overall, Bard hopes that she can act as a helping hand to Johnson and the councilors throughout her time in this position.

"I'm hoping I can help Mayor Johnson by being an ear to his department heads and employees while also maintaining my work as a council clerk and to my councilors," Bard said. "I'm hoping to just merge it all and keep everybody happy."

She also looks forward to learning more about the town through her work.

"I'm learning so much about the entire town, instead of just the legislative end of it, so it is very exciting," Bard said.



Opinion

Guest Column



Grieving husband asks about his survivor benefits

Dear Rusty:

My wife died May 4, 2024. I notified Social Security, and they have removed the direct deposit made to my joint checking account on May 8, 2024. What are my options now for obtaining any benefits from my wife's Social Security account? Signed: Grieving Husband

Dear Grieving Husband:

Please accept our sincere condolences for the loss of your wife. Rest assured that we're here to assist with any Social Security questions you may have at this difficult time.

FYI, a person must live the entire month to be eligible for SS benefits for that month. Social Security benefits aren't paid for the month a person dies. For this reason and as a matter of standard protocol, Social Security instructed the bank to return any payments received for your wife after her death. This is often referred to as the "claw back" rule.

In some circumstances, however, Social Security "claws back" money, which rightfully belongs to the deceased, as they did in this case. Your wife's Social Security payment received on May 8 was her payment for the month of April, and she was fully entitled to that payment because she lived for the entire month of April. I suggest that you download, fill out, and submit Form SSA-1724 to your local Social Security office to recover that May 8 payment, which rightfully belongs to your wife's estate. Note that the bank will automatically return any future SS payments received for your wife.

As your wife's surviving spouse, you are also entitled to a one-time lump sum "death benefit" of \$255, which you can request by calling your local SS field office (get the number at www.ssa. gov/locator), or by calling 1.800.772.1213. During that call you can also explore whether you are entitled to any additional SS benefit as a surviving spouse.

If your wife's monthly SS retirement benefit was more than your current monthly SS benefit, you will be entitled to receive her higher monthly amount instead of your own smaller amount (FYI, if you haven't yet reached your own full retirement age your survivor benefit will be reduced). And if you are not yet collecting your own SS benefit, you have the option to claim your survivor benefit from your wife first while allowing your personal SS retirement benefit to continue to grow, up to maximum at age 70 if you like.

Just be aware that if you haven't yet reached your Full Retirement Age and you are still working, any SS benefit you take before your FRA will be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much can be earned before they take away some of your SS benefits. The 2024 annual earnings limit is \$22,320 (changes annually) for those who claim prior to the year they attain full retirement age, and SS will take away \$1 of benefits for every \$2 over the annual limit. The "earnings test" no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age. 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 or email us at ssadvisor@ amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



Zucchini days of summer

In the last three days I have picked 10 zucchini. The seeds were sown around Memorial Day and I ended up with six plants total.

I am thrilled that the harvest is starting to come it. I just wish I had air conditioning in my kitchen so I'd feel like baking!

Zucchini is the brunt of many jokes due to its prolific nature. Some years, though, the harvest isn't so great. Either borers take out the plants or powdery mildew slows them down until the inevitable comes.

Anyhow, I'll count my blessings this year and try my best to preserve

and prolong the harvest as much as possible. If you are blessed with your own supply of zucchini or you have been gifted a few, read on, straight from the archives, as to how to make the best use of your bounty.

Store it

Zucchini will keep in the refrigerator for at least one week. Smaller squashes are more flavorful, and less seedy than their overgrown counterparts.

Harvest when the fruits are six inches long or less, and still narrow. It is likely that baseball bat-sized squashes will develop now and then, especially if you are away from the garden for a few days.

Don't worry; they can be used in most recipes that call for zucchini, although you may wish to remove the largest seeds first; they have a tendency to get tough and chewy.

Freeze it

Simply shred whole zucchinis, skin and all. Drain in a colander to remove excess liquid and pack in containers or freezer bags.

Nothing beats zucchini bread in the middle of winter. It is helpful to freeze in amounts compatible with your recipe; in other words if you need two cups to make bread, freeze in two cup portions.



Who likes soggy zucchini? No one. Cut in slices one quarter of an inch thick and steam for a mere two or three minutes.

Sprinkle with dill or lemon juice and thyme for a wonderful summer side dish.

Stuff it

Here is the perfect use for the aforementioned baseball bat sized quash. Making zucchini boats are my sister-in-law Janice's favorite way to utilize the vegetable. I can always count on her to take a few biggies off my hands.

With a spoon hollow out the seed cavity. Stuff it with a mixture of cooked rice, sauce and ground beef or turkey. Top with shredded cheese and bake until it bubbles. Yummy!

Put a Mexican spin on this recipe by using black beans, salsa and taco cheese along with brown rice in place of the other

ingredients. Freeze individual portions of this dish for a quick dinner.

Bake with it

Zucchini bread and muffins are one thing, but double chocolate zucchini cake? Yes, and there are more enticing dessert recipes where that came from.

Consult your local library or the internet for other mouth-watering selections.

One pointer: drain shredded zucchini well before using in any recipe. Place it in a colander and apply pressure with clean hands or a large mixing spoon. Squeeze all the liquid right out of it.

This way your desserts will be moist but not soggy.

Be creative and experiment to find your own St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone favorite ways of cooking with this vegetable. (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. Zucchini pickles, perhaps? How about zucchini POSTMASTER: Send address pancakes? Zucchini wedges in place of cucumchanges to Turley Publications, Inc., bers with dip? 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.



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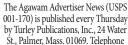
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If fried veggies are a favorite treat, you can freeze raw, peeled zucchini sections after coating them with bread crumbs.

First, prefreeze on a plate or cookie sheet, then, pack in freezer bags with as much air removed as possible. Fry up at a later date.

I have never been very successful freezing blanched zucchini slices. Experiment yourself and maybe you will have better luck.

The list is endless!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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 subiect line.



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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 newspaper 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.



Community members gathered at School Street Park to watch the Brat Pack perform.



People ran up and danced throughout the Brat Pack's performance at the Agawam SummerFest.



Kids came in on the fun and showed off their moves on the "dance floor" at the Brat Pack concert.



People enjoyed dancing to "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" at the Brat Pack's performance.



The Agawam Lions club helped to cook different food for concert attendees.



BRAT PACK from page 1

wam Lions Club were also present to cook and give out food to the concert attendees.

To check out the Brat Pack, go to their website at www.thebratpack80s.com.

The Brat Pack gave kids red balloons after they performed the song "99 Red Balloons" at their concert.



Announce Your Wedding or Engagement





Both the Agawam Lions club and the Agawam Rotary Club served food and snacks at the Brat Pack's concert.



Families came up and danced along to the Brat Pack's songs at the SummerFest concert.

 Your wedding or engagement

 announcement will be included in our

 Bridal Guide, out September 30, 2024 for FREE!

 Be sure to include the following with photograph. Deadline September 4, 2024:

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 Wedding Date:

 Wedding Location:

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Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.



Youth Associate Isabell Malvezzi ran the fantasy bingo game.



Kids focused on finding the different fantasy characters on their bingo cards.



The kids had fun playing fantasy bingo at Agawam Library.



The kids were eager to pick out their different prizes after they won a round of bingo.



Throughout the bingo game, Youth Associate Isabell Malvezzi called out different fantasy characters for the kids to cross off on their bingo sheets.



Kids were able to select from either rubber ducks or books when they won a round of bingo.



Cassidy Davis was the first winner of a round of bingo and goto to pick from the prizes of books and rubber ducks.



Kids showed off their prizes to one another after winning rounds of bingo.

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BINGO from page 1

She created the bingo and the call cards herself to stick with the fantasy theme and make sure that the cards were all different.

All of the kids had a good time playing the different rounds of bingo. Many got rather invested in the game and were rather excited when they got to call out bingo.

Malvezzi was delighted that they all seemed to be having a good time.

"I think it went super well," she said.

Malvezzi certainly hopes to do more bingo programs in the future.

"Bingo is popular here," Malvezzi said. "It's one of those programs you know that no matter what people are going to sign up and enjoy it...and it's a good way to get people in a room and talking to each other."

The library has many more fun programs planned throughout the summer, including an opportunity to make popsicle stick catapults with Malvezzi on July 24 at 6 p.m.

Malvezzi and the other librarians encourage all community members to come to the library for their different programs, and to sign up for summer reading for a chance to win some prizes.

To learn more about upcoming programs at the library, go to their website at https://www.agawamlibrary.org/.

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SOCCER **Brownies edged by Belchertown**

BELCHERTOWN - Last Wednesday evening, Agawam boys B summer soccer was shut out in a close match with Belchertown. The two schools are league rivals during the high school season. With the defeat, Agawam is still looking to climb in the playoff hunt at 2-4-1. A win would propel Agawam into the top 8 in the B Division.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI Benjamine Grechka looks to clear the ball past midfield.





Collin Ferreira fights to take possession.



Nathan Bassette passes ahead of pressure.



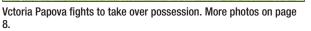
Nicholas Ghareeb gets the touch.



Agawam B takes tough defeat

LUDLOW - Last Thursday night,
Agawam girls B summer soccer was
defeated by host Ludlow 9-0. TheBrownies 2-1-1 in summer action and
are tied for a spot in the B Division
playoffs heading into the final twoweeks of the regular season. Agawam
has several games to play over that
time period.







TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM Kayleen Sullivan goes for the ball in goal.

Sports

Mutiny successful in league semifinals



Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, fights to get the ball by the goalie.

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW-Entering last Friday night's United Women's Soccer East Conference semifinal match, the New England Mutiny had outscored their previous five opponents, 35-3.

After a scoreless first 45 minutes of the contest, Steel City FC took a 1-0 lead by scoring an own goal in the 53rd minute. The Mutiny quickly tied the score by converting a penalty kick.

The score remained tied until the 68th minute. That's when Emma Pedolzky, who lives in Westfield, became the hero for the home team. She scored a corner kick goal giving the Mutiny a 2-1 victory at historic Lusitano Stadium.

"Scoring the game winning goal is really exciting," Pedolzky said. "I'm glad that we were able to win tonight's game. We're now looking forward to playing in the finals on Sunday."

Emma Pedolzky, who began her



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM Alexis Legowski, of South Hadley, moves up the field.

collegiate soccer career at Bryant University transferred to UMass-Amherst last year. One of Emma's teammates at UMass is her twin sister, Chandler, who also plays for the Mutiny. They'll be seniors on this year's squad.

"It has really fun playing on the same college soccer team with my sister," Emma Pedolzky added. "I'm looking forward to playing with her for one more season.

The semifinal victory improved the Mutiny's overall record to a perfect 9-0-0. It was also their first playoff win in five years.

Steel City FC (5-1-3) also didn't lose a match during the regular season.

"We didn't know very much about Steel City, but they were organized and played well in the first half," said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. "I thought we dominated in the second half after allowing a goal. It was very important for us to score the tying goal right away."

The Mutiny were awarded a pen-

alty kick in the 55th minute after Jess Mazo was fouled hard in the box. She was forced to leave the match with a right shoulder injury. Abbey Jones stepped up to the line and booted a low shot into the right corner of the net.

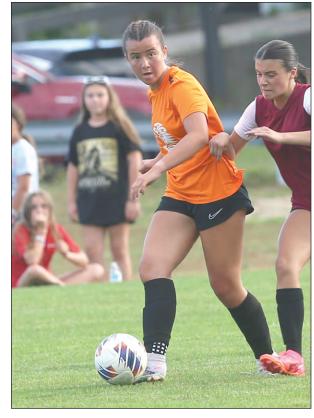
"I've been taking a lot of PK's at practice," Jones said. "It was the first time that I've taken a penalty shot during a game this season. I wasn't very nervous before making the shot."

Jones, who plays college soccer at UConn, also assisted on Emma Pedolzky's game winning goal.

"Abbey is a very good technical soccer player," Molinari said. "She understands the game very well."

The Mutiny had an opportunity to take a 3-0 lead at the end of regulation, but a breakaway shot attempt by Palmer's Maddy Theriault was saved by Steel City goalie Payton O'Mallev.

Highlights from the Mutiny's appearance in the finals will be in next week's edition.



Olivia Polevoy tries to avoid losing possession.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM Marissa Fusco looks to clear the ball.

Valley Blue Sox return home to get win

HOLYOKE - After not being home for seven days, the Valley Blue Sox played host to the Upper Valley Nighthawks. On a beautiful early Sunday afternoon, the players came out energized and bats hot, as the offensive later proved. The stage was set for a great game of summer baseball in Holyoke Massachusetts.

With Ethan Lyke starting on

er great showing from the home team. With this win, Valley broke even once again with a 0.500 record at 15-15.

Martha's Vineyard 10, Blue Sox 3 The Blue Sox were plagued once again by one bad inning against the Martha's Vineyard Sharks.

Last Friday night's game featured a similar outcome to Wednesday afternoon's game: One bad inning. Valley gave up five runs in the first inning en route to a 10-3 loss. Blue Sox starter Gregory Shaw had a rough bottom of the first inning. He started off by giving up three straight singles. The inning was highlighted by a Reese Robinett grand slam to put the Sharks ahead 5-0. Valley added two in the top of the third to make it a 5-2 game. But Vineyard responded with three in the bottom of the fourth to make it 8-2. Robinett hit another home run. his seventh of the season, in the bottom of the fifth to make it 9-2. Derek Williams hit an RBI single in the top of the sixth to make it 9-3. Tryston Mccladdie hit a solo home run in the bottom of the eighth to make it 10-3. Out of the 10 runs Valley allowed, only seven of them were earned.

T-Birds win community service award

SPRINGFIELD The Springfield Thunderbirds received more recognition from the American Hockey League on Thursday night during the Awards Gala at the Board of Governors' Annual Meeting at Hilton Head Island, S.C.

The franchise was presented with the Eastern Conference Award of Excellence for Community Service following a record-setting year in the community. During the 2023-24 eason, the Thunderbirds raised more than \$128,000 for local charities, while players and mascot Boomer combined to

Baseball League is looking to

start an eight-game fall program

for the over-28 population. The

league, which plays a spring/

summer regular season with six

teams for 15 games followed by

playoffs, is hoping to continue

the fun into the fall with a short

eight-game schedule for inter-

being worked on, but the league

is looking to have four teams

with six "regular season" games

followed by a semifinal in the

seventh week, and a final/con-

solation game in the eighth

Preliminary details are still

ested players.

make over 300 visits in the area for various charitable causes.

"Being ingrained in the community has been among the top priorities for our franchise since the day we were established," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "We take immense pride in this award and are honored to be recognized by our peers, but ultimately, we want to continue to do right by the wonderful Springfield community in any way we can.

birds' marquee game nights in 2023-24 had distinct tie-ins to the community, from the annual Pink in the Rink to benefit the Rays of Hope Foundation to the return of the annual Sensory-Friendly Sunday game in conjunction with the Center for Human Development (CHD). The organization is currently planning the 2023-24 promotional schedule, which will feature many returning events to benefit the local community around Springfield. A complete list of such promotions will be available later this summer.

the mound for the Blue Sox, pitching was off to a good start. In six innings, Lyke gave up three runs, off five hits, with four additional strikeouts. While it was not the best day for the pitching crew, the offense picked up the slack.

Led by a monster Jonathon Hogart home run in the third inning, nine total runs over three innings. From the third to the fifth, it was an absolute clinic put on from the Blue Sox offense to take a strangle hold of this game as the lead bloomed to 9-1 at one point.

The Blue Sox biggest issue in today's game seemed to be fielding. With two errors notched in the stat sheet, the Blue Sox also gave up ten total runs in this game, as well four runs over the last four innings. This may seem like a simple stat, but with under a month left in the season, every game is crucial and an opportunity to touch up these smaller issues that can show up against tougher competition. At the end of the day, it was anoth-

Vineyard starter Harry Deliyannis went 3 innings and allowed just two runs on four hits. He walked one and struck out four.

As with everything else in our business, we want to raise the bar even higher."

A number of the Thunder-

Quabbin League seeking to start fall league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 week.

> The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on or trying out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.

Health & Safety

Summer spurs increased rate of lawn mower injuries

American Family Care physician offers tips to safely navigate your lawn

SPRINGFIELD -- The hum of lawn mowers is a common sound of summer, making it easy to forget that these machines can cause serious harm if proper safety protocol isn't followed. In fact, approximately 80,000 lawn mower accidents occur annually in the United States, including over 6,300 among children under the age of 18. The medical experts at American Family Care, with locations in Springfield and West Springfield, are reminding local residents to use caution when operating this equipment.

"While mowing the lawn is a routine chore for many, lawn mowers can be dangerous and using them improperly can lead to devastating consequences," said Dr. Andrew Koslow, associate medical director of AFC for Massachusetts. "A lawn mower blade is extremely sharp and revolves rapidly, making it easy for someone to get critically hurt in the blink of an eye."

The most common lawn mower-related accidents are linked to cuts, often caused by debris that is kicked out from under the mower. Injuries also happen when replacing mower blades or removing debris from the blades, touching a hot surface on the mower or falling on a slippery surface while mowing.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children be at least 12 years old to safely operate a walk-behind mower, and 16 to operate a riding mower," said Koslow. "However, parents should consider the individual child's coordination, maturity level and good judgment."

Koslow offered the following safety tips to help prevent lawn mower injuries:

Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes, rather than flip-flops or sandals. Cover your eyes with goggles

or sunglasses. Opt for long pants to protect your legs from flying debris.

Before mowing, walk the lawn and pick up large sticks, stones or other items that could jam the mower or become a projectile.

Turn the mower completely off before removing debris from blades. If doing repairs or maintenance, disconnect the spark plug first. Normally this is done by removing the rubber boot that connects the spark plug to the wire and turning it around, so the back of the boot faces the spark plug.

Never stick anything into the blade area while the lawn mower is powered on.

Avoid touching the area around the mower's engine until it has time to cool down. Minor abrasions and burns can be cared for at home but seek medical care for more serious burns or cuts that may require stitches. Amputations, deep cuts, eye injuries or severe burns require prompt emergency care.

The medical providers at AFC Springfield and AFC West Springfield offer convenient, walk-in care seven days a week for patients of all ages. Services include urgent care for illnesses, sprains and strains; stitches for minor cuts and lacerations; diagnostic rapid tests and antigen tests for COVID-19; physicals and on-site x-rays.

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 6:00PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, Ma. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Afonso on property located at 61 Hemlock Ridge.

By Order of:

Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

07/18/2024

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on **Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 6:05PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St, Agawam, Ma. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Cahillane on property located at 174 Edgewater Road. By Order of:

Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION 07/18/2024

of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA., on Monday, August 12,2024 at 6:30PM for all parties interested in the request of Viktor Savonin, who is requesting a Variance from the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances. Ch.180, Section 41 to allow for the construction of a residential dwelling on a lot with less than the required lot size at the premises identified as 131 Coronet Circle (formerly known as 71 Maynard St.). Doreen A. Prouty

Chairperson, ZBA 07/18, 07/25/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and **Family Court 50 State Street** Springfield MA, 01103 Docket No. HD20P0692PM In the matter of: **Robert R Devins** of Feeding Hills, MA Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent **CITATION GIVING** NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Amended First** account(s) of **Paul Jenney**

object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 08/06/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The abovenamed person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 02, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 07/18/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court **50 State Street** Springfield MA, 01103 Docket No. HD20P0692PM In the matter of: **Robert R Devins** of Feeding Hills, MA **Protected Person/Disabled** Person/Respondent CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF **CONSERVATOR'S** ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Second and Third** account(s) of Paul Jenney of Feeding Hills, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and obje this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 08/06/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which y to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in thi: without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Public Notices

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The abovenamed person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court. Date: July 02, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani Register of Probate 07/18/2024

LECAL NOTICE

M.G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on **July 29, 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. 2000 Buick Century VIN:2G4WY55J0Y1156519 No Plates w/ vehicle Last known reg. owner: Adam Pro 1191 E. 92nd St. Brooklyn, NY 11236 07/11, 07/18, 07/25/2024

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 August 12, 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 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. 7/18, 7/25, 08/01/2024

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board

of Feeding Hills, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to

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

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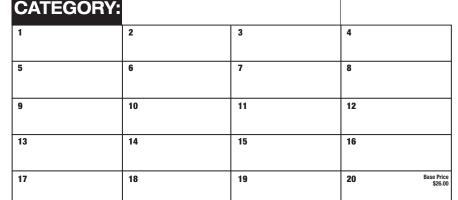
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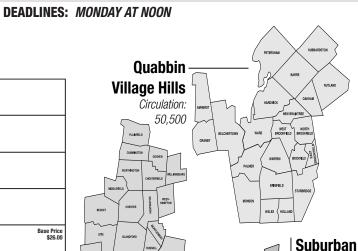
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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

New date announced for Chicopee Fireworks Celebration

CHICOPEE - Chicopee Parks and Recreation is thrilled to announce the rescheduled date for the highly anticipated Chicopee Fireworks Celebration. The event will now take place on Friday, July 19 at Szot Park, with a rain date scheduled for July 20 and 21.

This spectacular fireworks display promises to be a highlight of the summer, offering a festive way to celebrate America's birthday

with friends, family, and the entire Chicopee community.

"We are excited to bring this cherished tradition back to Chicopee," said Ben Strepka, Superintendent of Chicopee Parks and Recreation. "We invite everyone to join us for an evening of patriotic spirit and community camaraderie?

The fireworks will commence at dusk, and attendees are encouraged to arrive early to secure a good viewing spot. Food vendors will be on-site to provide refreshments throughout the evening.

Tips offered for safe electrical vehicle charging at home

As electric vehicles enter our roadways, the National Fire Protection Association* has introduced a series of free resources, guidelines, and information to help raise awareness about EV fires and safe EV charging practices at home.

According to the International Energy Agency, global sales of electric vehicles exceeded 10 million in 2022 and are expected to grow in the coming years. At the same time, consumer concerns about the fire safety risk of EVs are increasing. Lithium-ion batteries, the most widely used and reliable source of energy for electric vehicles, are central to questions about safety.

"It is widely known that electric vehicles provide environmental and cost-effective benefits," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA in a press release. "However, as fires involving EVs are reported in the news, concerns about the risks they pose persist. Through advocacy efforts that highlight our new online resources and information, NFPA is working to better educate the public about the risks associated with EVs and other devices that use lithium-ion batteries, along with ways to use them safely."

The new online resources from NFPA feature more detailed information about lithium-ion batteries, EV maintenance, and what tips consumers can follow to stay safe when charging their electric vehicle at home.

Resources for safety educators and consumers, including a safety tip sheet and social media cards, are all free and downloadable. A free training course is also available to the public that helps address some of the common concerns and myths about owning an electrical vehicle, including safety features, charge types, and battery life.

NFPA recommends these tips when charging electric vehicles at home to help prevent fires:

Before charging an electric vehicle at home, have a qualified electrician check your electrical system to see if it can handle charging.

Install charging equipment in safe locations. Keep away from busy areas and things that could catch fire.

Use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.

Read and follow all manufacturer directions.

Check chargers and cords for damage before using. Never use if damaged.

Do not use more than one plug or extension cords with the charger.

Keep charging items out of reach of children and animals when not in use.

Cover charging station outlet to keep water out.

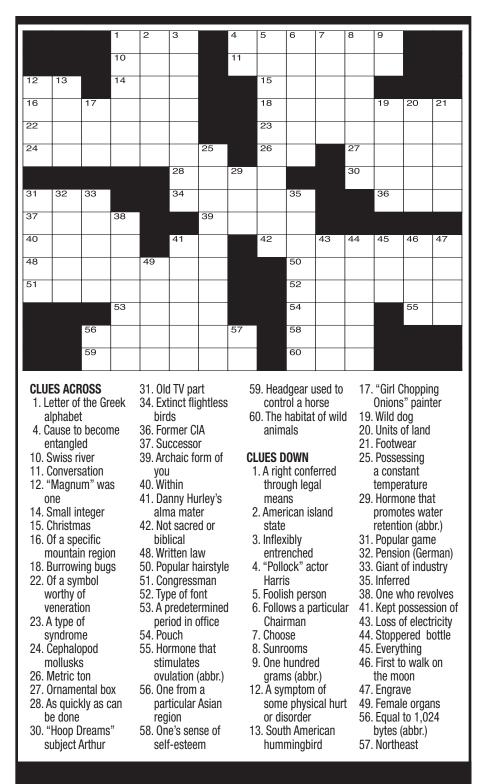
Learn more about electric vehicle fire safety, find training information, and download the free safety tip sheet at nfpa. org/evsafetvinfo.

Information on the safe use of smaller devices that use lithium-ion batteries such as computers, smart phones, e-bikes and e-scooters, can be found at nfpa.org/lithiumionsafety and nfpa.org/ebikes.

About the NFPA

Founded in 1896, NFPA* is a global, self-funded, nonprofit organization devoted to eliminating death, injury, property and economic loss due to fire, electrical and related hazards. The association delivers information and knowledge through more than 300 consensus codes and standards, research, training, education, outreach and advocacy; and by partnering with others who share an interest in furthering the NFPA mission.

For more information, visit www.nfpa. org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed online for free at www.nfpa.org/ freeaccess.





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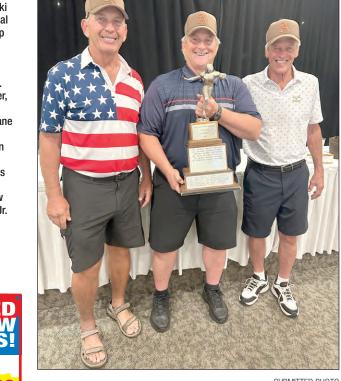


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Hank Drewnowski Sr. Memorial Scholarship Awards: from left to right: Mike Drew. Quinn Miller, Matthew Dilullo, Shane Typrowicz, Coach John Benjamin, **Coach Chris** Benjamin, Steve Drew and Hank Jr.



Hank Jr., Steve and Mike Drew.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Scholarship awards

AGAWAM— The 33rd Annual Hank Drewnowski Sr. Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament was held at Oak Ridge G.C. on June 23. The golf outing had 220 players, BBQ cookout, raffles and prizes. Three AHS senior football players were chosen for the scholarship awards.

This year's student-athletes chosen were; Quinn Miller, Matthew Dilullo, Shane Typrowicz.

Winner of Hammerin' Hank's Guest 2024-25 parking spot was Brandon Fleming.

The Drewnowski Family has awarded 89 student-athletes with scholarships. Thank you everyone for the support.

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