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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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AHS holds **band camp**

By **Quinn Suomala**
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam public schools held their annual band camp the week of Aug. 12

This camp is run by Director of Agawam High School Bands William Hueglin and Assistant Marching Band Director Antonia Moore. It ran from during the day Aug. 12 through Aug. 16.

The purpose of this camp is to prepare the marching band and the color guard for their performances ahead.

“Band camp is the single largest block of time that we have for the marching band to learn both the skills necessary for playing and moving outside as well as learning the material for not just our half-time show but pregame and the music that we play in the stands,” Hueglin said.

Throughout the week the students participate in a variety of different activities including team building exercises, marching fundamental drills and dance and movement exercises.

For some activities students will be broken into groups, so the percussionist, those who play wind instruments and the color

guard can practice their specific skills.

Hueglin and Moore love seeing the students develop their skills throughout the week of the camp.

“The highlight is seeing the growth and the progression that happens over the course of just one week,” Hueglin said. “You take



The students at the marching band camp participated in a team building exercise. TURLEY PHOTO BY QUINN SUOMALA

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A message from the Turleys

Dear Reader,

Every week a team of reporters, editors and people who assemble the paper work hard to bring readers information they need to know about their community. It's hard work and we love it.

Our goal is to provide a clear reflection of the community, and share stories about issues and events in your town as well as those about your neighbors, family and friends; in essence, a clear reflection of the community. We provide news that is difficult to find anywhere else.

Turley Publications has been doing so for 60 years now, and enjoys being an integral part of the community.

Every year we invite residents to join those who already subscribe to the Agawam Advertiser, so they too can be informed and join their neighbors in keeping up-to-date on so many aspects of the community. We do that by mailing an issue of Agawam Advertiser to everyone in Agawam, on us, so you can see for

yourself what types of information we provide.

If you want to know when and why your taxes go up, who is running for election, what successes and challenges are in your school system, what others are doing to make your community a better place, and so much more, we hope you will consider subscribing.

We also value your opinions and ideas. Please let us know what's important to you by picking up the phone and calling us. Let us know if we're meeting your expectations.

You can also call us to let us know about an important event in your family's life. That's why we're here.

We love being a part of this community and maybe even, in a small way, a part of your family.

We hope to be arriving each week at your home holding up that mirror, The Agawam Advertiser News.

Patrick Turley, CEO
Keith Turley, President
Turley Publications, Palmer

Johnson brought music to School Street Park

By **Quinn Suomala**
Staff Writer



Musician Riff Johnson performed a variety of songs at School Street Park as a part of the summer concert series.

AGAWAM – Riff Johnson came as the performer for the Kix 100.9 show at School Street Park.

He performed a variety of well-known songs including “Ring of Fire” by Johnny Cash, “Stand by Me” by Ben King, “Iris” by the Go Go Girls. He also performed some of his own songs, including “Harder to Heal” and “All the Way Home”.

The performance was fun and drew a large crowd of community members.

This was the second to last performance in Agawam's summer concert series. The final performance is scheduled for Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. and the band Enter the Hags will be rocking the stage.



Community members gathered at School Street Park to enjoy a performance by Riff Johnson. TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

Summer reading finishes off at APL

By **Quinn Suomala**
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Agawam public library hosted an end of summer reading party for kids in kindergarten through fourth grade.

Kids were able to play a round of bingo, do a jellyfish craft and do various puzzle games.

At the beginning of the party the kids were given an image with a pattern on it with a blank matching photo and some popsicle sticks. Using those, they were asked to replicate the pattern.

Additionally, as they played bingo the kids were able to earn rubber duck prizes.

After playing bingo the kids got to do the jellyfish craft and they received popsicles as they finished the craft.

“I liked seeing all the different ways that the kids made their jellyfish,” Children's Librarian Pamela Weingart said.

Each kid was quite content to go home with a rubber duck, a popsicle and a surprise bubble wand.

This party was a good way to wrap up the summer reading program.

“It was great to reward the kids for all of their hard work reading throughout the summer,” Weingart said.

The summer reading program was a huge success for the library this year. They had * sign ups in the childrens' program alone throughout the summer.



The kids lined up in order to select their bubble wand.

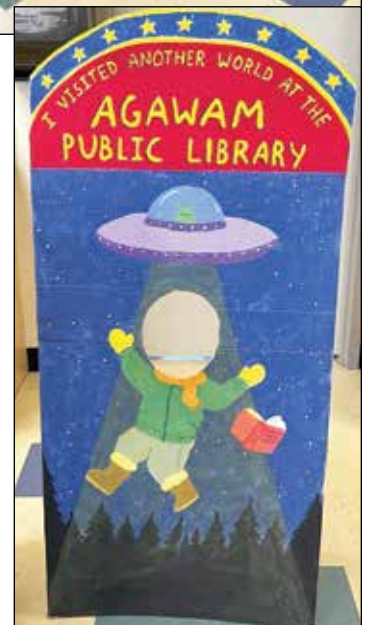
“This year's summer reading was outstanding, I mean really outstanding,” Weingart said. “It feels rejuvenating, it feels good [to be this busy].”

Weingart felt that this year the library was finally back for the first time since COVID.

During the pandemic the library had to close down and even as it reopened attendance was still down. Then the library had to close for several months due to construction.

While they did temporarily relocate to the senior center, it was a less convenient area for patrons to attend.

Last year they were fully open for the first time in a while, and



Kids could take photos in the photo booth at Agawam public library. TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA

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Pet of the Week

Suki

Suki is a Shiba Inu, a Japanese breed. Purchased from an ethical breeder, she is everything that a Shiba should be. Well socialized, she loves people and children, but she is a Daddy's girl for sure! She used to love going for walks and hikes in the woods and her car rides with her Dad every weekend to Dunkin Donuts and a trip around the lake and visiting Nana and Papa. Although at this age, 17+, she's just happy walking around the house.

AHS to hold freshmen orientation

AGAWAM – Agawam High School's Grade 9 and new student orientation will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 28 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. All students new to AHS are encouraged to attend.

This is a student-only event, and is an opportunity for students to meet new friends, school administrators, current AHS student leaders, and school staff. Chrome-books will be distributed and students will tour the building, and access their schedule through the Powerschool App.

Our Student Leaders are called "Chiefs",

and will bring them on a tour around the building where they will have time to learn and meet with students who participate in a wide variety of extracurricular clubs and sports.

Transportation will be available for students. There will be a bus picking up and returning students from the Feeding Hills section and another from the Agawam section. The bus schedules are posted on the Agawam High School website and are attached below. We look forward to seeing freshmen on Wednesday, Aug. 28.

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Beautiful bouquet-making



Rebecca Sadlowski, owner of Rooted Flower Farm, spoke to the Agawam Garden Club on the farms origin and also demonstrated making her bouquets.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Attention Advertisers!

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THE PLACE TO GATHER, CELEBRATE & REMEMBER WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS & COLLEAGUES

Velis, Boldyga both running for re-election

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

HAMPDEN DISTRICT – The 2024 election is approaching and many candidates are intending to run for re-election.

State Sen. John Velis will be on the ballot in the fall and does not have any opponents.

The same goes for Representative of the Third Hampden District Nicholas Boldyga.

The primary election will be on Tuesday, Sept. 3. The voter registration deadline is Aug. 24 and the vote by mail application deadline is Aug. 26.

The state election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 5. The voter registration deadline is Oct. 26 and the vote by mail application deadline is Oct. 29.

Polling hours for both elections will go from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To find detailed information on where you go to vote, go to the state website at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote>.

Velis has been the Senator for the Hampden and Hampshire district since he was elected in a special election in May of 2020.

Since then he has been consistently re-elected to the position and throughout his career he has pushed for an increased focus on mental health needs as well as improved support for veterans.

Velis is the chairman of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use & Recovery.

He has helped to usher Mental Health ABC 2.0 into law, which called for men-



Nicholas Boldyga



John Velis

tal health supports including that emergency rooms to have a behavioral health clinic and that insurers need to cover an annual mental health wellness exam.

Additionally, he has served as the Chairman on the Joint Committee on Veteran and Federal Affairs.

As part of his work to help veterans he helped to push for the \$400 million bond bill to help with the construction of a new Soldiers' Home in Holyoke.

He also authored the SPEED act, which helped veterans and their families in many ways.

One major component was that it created a new 30-day expedited licensing process for military spouses to receive licenses issued by the Division of Occupational Licensure and the Department of Public Health if they are licensed in another state and meet necessary requirements.

This act is hailed as one of the most impactful bills for veterans and their families in a generation.

Velis has also consistently voted to fully fund the Student Opportunity Act.

Boldyga has been a representative since January of 2011. He was a recipient of the Professional Policing Award.

He is currently on the Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Joint Committee on Financial Services.

AFD to host 9/11 ceremony

AGAWAM – The Town of Agawam will be conducting a brief September 11th remembrance ceremony on Wednesday, Sept. 11 at 9:30 a.m. in front of Agawam Fire Department Headquarters, 800 Main Street, Agawam.

The ceremony will honor those who lost their lives in the attacks of Septem-

ber 11th 2001.

Speaking in remembrance at the ceremony will be: Agawam Fire Chief Alan Sirois, Agawam Mayor Christopher Johnson Father Bill Hamilton, Agawam Fire Department Chaplain, and Reverend Dr. Harvey Hill, St. David's Episcopal Church.

Hazardous Waste Collection Day scheduled for Sept. 7

AGAWAM – The Agawam Department of Public Works is planning to hold its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, Sept. 7 at the DPW Annex, 1000 Suffield Street between 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Although this event is free to Agawam residents, pre-registration is required. Appointments may be scheduled by calling the DPW at 821-0600 ext.4 or 821-0624 beginning Monday, Aug. 19.

Participants should remain in their ve-

hicle and place all waste in the trunk, rear cargo area, or truck bed.

This program offers residents a safe, economical way to dispose of household items that are flammable, reactive, corrosive or toxic. Solvents, pesticides, caustic cleaners, and oil-based paints are some examples of the different types of items that will be accepted. Latex paint will not be accepted at this event. For a more detailed list of acceptable materials visit the town website at www.agawam.ma.us.

COLLEGE NOTES

Pettazzoni welcomed into the Honors College at the College of Charleston

CHARLESTON, SC – Gianna Pettazzoni, of Feeding Hills, will attend the Honors College at the College of Charleston starting this fall.

Pettazzoni joins an inspired learning community within the Honors College. Honors students enjoy personalized mentorship, unique opportunities, and small, seminar-style classes. They also engage in impactful activities like faculty-led research, internships, and community en-

gagement to prepare them to become transformative leaders.

Pettazzoni is a graduate of Agawam High School and plans to major in Exercise Science at the College of Charleston.

The Honors College at the College of Charleston was recently recognized as one of the 50 best honors colleges in the nation by College Transitions. Learn more about the Honors College experience at charleston.edu/honors-college.

Grange to hold next tag sale

AGAWAM – Community Grange #382 located at 47 North West St. in Feeding Hills will hold a tag and bake sale on Saturday, Sept. 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will also be a few crafters and vendors. The bake sale will include baked beans and homemade soups to go. Proceeds will be used for our community service projects.

Parish Cupboard seeks players and sponsors

AGAWAM – The West Springfield Agawam Parish Cupboard, a food pantry and hot lunch center serving the needy in West Springfield, Agawam and Feeding Hills, is holding its second annual Pickleball Fundraiser Saturday, Sept. 7 at Mit-tineague Park in West Springfield.

They are seeking sponsors for the event, as well as players to raise funds to continue their mission of easing food insecurity in the communities they serve. Play is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

on Saturday. Rain date will be Sunday the 8 with a noon start.

The field will be limited to 32 participants in two player brackets. Recreational (beginner to intermediate) and Competitive (intermediate to advanced). Entry fee is \$40 per person if paying by check mailed to The Cupboard and \$45 if paying by credit card via the Cupboard's website.

Registrations can be mailed to: The Parish Cupboard, 738 Main Street, West

Springfield, MA 01089. Online registrations can be made through www.theparishcupboard.org following the "Donate" option. Registrants should include their name, phone number, email address and preferred playing bracket. The event will include lunch, prizes and a raffle.

For more information on playing or sponsorship opportunities call Bob Fastie at 413-734-7969 or Chip Arnold at 413-265-8446, or email parishcupboard@aol.com.

ACAA to hold art festival this weekend

AGAWAM – The Agawam Community Artists and Artisans will be holding their 4th annual pioneer valley art festival on Saturday, Aug. 24 and Sunday Aug. 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Festival will be held at the Agawam Polish American Club 139 Southwick St.

There will be over 70 artists and artisans. ACAA encourages visitors to enjoy the demonstrations of the various artists and artisans during their visit. ACAA will be featuring

the Gloria McLellan Scholarship silent auction, that will benefit area high school seniors seeking a career in visual arts.

ACAA are especially proud to introduce the New England Mosaic Project, a 24 ft wall of art created by 250 participants from the community. There will be "Art With A Heart" painting workshops and the "Agawam Rocks" group with free rock painting for all ages. Please visit our website for further information: www.agawamarts.com

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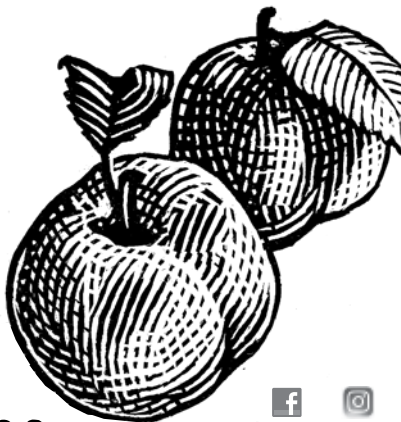
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Opinion

Letter to Editor

Library reminds parents not to use parking lot for pick-up/drop-off

Dear Editor:

The Agawam Public Library extends a warm welcome back to students across the district. This is a particularly exciting year for the high school with the new building project starting this year.

In the spirit of our mutual interest in being good neighbors, the library would like to remind parents, grandparents and guardians who are dropping off and picking up their high school students that the library parking lot may not be used for this purpose. Anyone picking up a student must join the pickup line at the high school if they are driving their children to and from school. The high school resource officer and library staff will be overseeing this process and directing parents back to the high school.

The library would like to provide a safe environment for all members of our community. Preventing the rush of vehicles in our parking lot allows a safe and fair experience for students, their families, and our library patrons.

This is the fourth year that we've been asking parents and guardians to use the high school as their primary drop off and pickup spot. We appreciate the efforts made over the past three years and ask for your continued cooperation as this year gets under way.

Students of all ages are welcome to use the library and must follow the behavior policies of the library. Loitering at the library or on the library property is not allowed. Again, the safety of all of our visitors is our top priority.

Thank you for working with us to help make this a great school year for students, parents and library patrons alike.

Agawam Public Library

Guest Column



I received an email from a Brimfield resident who said, "On Aug. 1 at the no named pond in Warren on New Reed Street there were three great egrets near the far shore. The birds would sometimes be out of sight in the vegetation near the shore." He also saw two great blue herons and a belted kingfisher.

The great egret is a large, 39 inches, white heron with a yellow bill and black legs. In breeding season, both males and females have long white plumes on their backs. Like other herons, the great egret feeds by slowly walking, head erect and then striking its prey. It forages in shallow water for small fish and amphibians. It also feeds on land for insects, reptiles

BACKYARD | page 5



Guest Column

Does some of my Social Security payment include repayment of my contributions?



Dear Rusty

I have a question about my Social Security benefits. Would I be correct to assume that part of the monthly Social Security income I get is a repayment of what I contributed to the fund while I was working? If so, how much of my monthly benefit payment is my own money coming back to me?

Signed: Curious Beneficiary

Dear Curious

I'm afraid that is not how Social Security works. The money you contribute to Social Security during your working years does not go into a special account to be repaid to you. Rather, the Social Security taxes you pay while working are used to pay benefits to all those currently receiving Social Security benefits.

The system is, in effect, a "pay as you go" program where all those currently contributing help pay benefits for all those now receiving. What your contributions do, however, is earn you "quarter credits" and, when you have enough credits, you become eligible for Social Security retirement benefits for life. Generally, someone must have about 40 quarters, about 10 years, contributing to Social Security to be eligible for SS retirement benefits.

How much you receive monthly is determined not by how much you contributed but, rather, by how much your work earnings were over your lifetime. You will get a percentage of your average pre-retirement work income as your monthly Social Security payment, but that is also affected by your age when you claim benefits.

It is your average lifetime earnings adjusted for inflation, which determines your "Primary Insurance Amount." Your PIA is what you get at your So-

cial Security Full Retirement Age, but your age when you claim benefits determines if you get more or less than your PIA.

Claiming SS before your FRA means a smaller monthly benefit, while waiting longer than your FRA means a benefit higher than your PIA. SS benefits reach maximum at age 70. FYI, each person's FRA is different based on the year they were born, but full retirement age today is between age 66 and 67. When you claim benefits relative to your FRA determines how much of your PIA you will receive each month.

So, your contributions to Social Security aren't used to determine your monthly benefit amount, but your average lifetime work earnings and age when you claim are. Nevertheless, you may be interested to know that most people get back everything they have personally contributed to Social Security within about three to five years of collecting their benefits. In that sense, Social Security is an exceptionally good deal, since most Americans now collect benefits for about two decades.

And therein lies much of Social Security's financial dilemma; people are now collecting benefits for many more years than the current program is designed to support. And that is what Congress needs to fix as soon as possible. The Social Security trust funds, which now provide supplemental money to pay benefits, are projected to be depleted around 2033, which will mean a cut in everyone's monthly Social Security payment, unless Congress acts soon to reform the program and restore it to fiscal solvency.

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.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Agawam Advertiser News welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Agawam Advertiser News, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to aan@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered

for that Friday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

paper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Agawam Advertiser News.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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Opinion

BACKYARD ■ from page 4

and small mammals.

Great egrets nest in colonies with other herons, ibises and cormorants or they nest singly. The female lays one to six pale bluish eggs in a flimsy platform nest of sticks, twigs and reeds placed in a tree from eight to 40 feet above ground or in cattails. They inhabit marshes, swamps, seashores and lake margins.



Great egret

In the past, they were hunted for the plumes used in the feather trade. Since the ban on hunting and on the use of DDT, which caused fragile eggshells, their population increased.

Eagle sighting and more

My daughter, Paula, saw a belted kingfisher at Tully Lake in Royalston on Aug. 3. She saw two cormorants, two female mallards and a juvenile bald eagle at Hardwick Pond on Aug. 10. The bald eagle was diving, unsuccessfully, for fish not too far from her canoe. She said, "[It] was really cool to see."

Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident, who saw the great egrets, said, "I have a bird bath with a drip. On a recent hot afternoon the birdbath got a workout; catbird, blue jay, titmouse, house finch, Baltimore oriole, rose-breasted

grosbeak, song sparrow and chipping sparrow all took a bath and goldfinch were getting a drink from the drip."

He also said, "In the yard yesterday (Aug. 2) I saw two Carolina wrens. I've seen two Carolina wrens in the yard infrequently since spring but I don't think they have nested nearby because I've never heard them singing. And at the very top of a dead tree (where else) I saw a male scarlet tanager." He said the male ruby-throated hummingbirds are still around and there is more activity at the feeders now that the recently fledged young are out and about.

He also reported at the pond on South Street the four great blue herons nests are all empty, the twelve chicks have all fledged and the three osprey chicks are out of the nest and flying around the pond.

Bird bath

I wish I had the activity at my birdbath this Brimfield resident has. I have yet to see a bird use it. My daughter's dog drinks from it whenever he visits.

Hovering hummingbird

Recently, I let my daughter Jenny's dogs out. While I watched them from the window in the door a ruby-throated female hummingbird came name the door and hovered as if looking in the window at me. Ironically, I was wearing a tee shirt with hummingbirds and bee balm. Maybe it was attracted to the red bee balm.

Hummingbirds and more

The Brimfield resident said in response to my email telling him about my hummingbird experience, "I've had hummingbirds hover in front of me a couple of times, pretty cool. Also yesterday I saw some motion out of a window and when I looked it was a hummingbird and a female common yellowthroat having a 'discussion.' The hummingbird was upset I believe because the

warbler was near where it perches between visits to a nearby feeder."

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 edown-er@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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READING ■ from page 1

people started to come back in. This year Weingart felt it was their true comeback.

"This summer it is very clear that the word has gotten out and we have been so busy, our programs have been full, our drop-in activities, like the weekly crafts, the scavenger hunts and the riddles have been busy," Weingart said. "We have given out a lot of prizes for reading, it really truly feels like 2019, in a good way."

Weingart and the other library staff loved seeing all the people coming in and out of the library throughout the summer and participating in their different programs and activities.

"When the patrons come in excited, it makes the staff excited," Weingart said. "For instance we have the joke days on

Wednesdays and Fridays...and to see the enthusiasm is just awesome and has just kept us laughing from open to close."

Weingart was grateful for all the community support throughout the summer, not only the people who attended programs but also those who donated their funds to the library.

"We were so lucky this year to be able to give out so many prizes," Weingart said. "Part of the reason we were able to do that is because in May we asked for donations from the public and we got a bunch. It was because of that generosity that we were able to give out so many."

Weingart was also grateful for all of the teen volunteers who helped throughout the summer. She felt that many of the programs would not have been as successful without their help.

Now that summer reading is coming to a close the library is preparing for a lot of fun activities throughout the month of September.

There will be a return of stuffed animal library cards and there will even be a stuffed animal show, complete with agility tests.

To keep updated on the different programs at the library, go to their website at <https://www.agawamlibrary.org/>.



Children's Librarian Pamela Weingart called out the different items for the bingo game.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



The summer paint by sticker collaborative mural was finally completed at the library.



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SPORTS



Agawam tries to guard against Flamingo on defense.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Cyclones fall to Flamingo

WILBRAHAM – On Aug. 6, the Agawam Cyclones lost in the 5-6 girls playoffs against Flamingo Motorsports 14-3. The loss eliminated Agawam from the playoffs. Agawam won its regular season finale against Hampden Snap Fitness.



Agawam Cyclones face Flamingo Motorsports in the Spec Pond playoffs.



The Cyclones look to pressure and get the ball back.



The girls had a tough time getting baskets in the playoff game.

Pioneers, Mutiny wrap up great seasons

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – The soccer aficionados from Ludlow and the surrounding communities had a lot of fun watching the New England Mutiny and the Western Mass. Pioneers play their home matches at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow this summer.

“You really never know how things are going to go prior to the start of the regular season,” said Joe Ferrara during a recent interview. “Both teams had a great season.”

Ferrara has several different titles, and he doesn’t have very much free time during the soccer season.

He’s the commissioner of the United Women’s Soccer League and is the owner and Managing Director of the Mutiny, who have been playing their home matches at the 106 year old soccer stadium in Ludlow since 2019. He’s also the General Manager of the Pioneers, who were founded in 1998.



Players from the league now await the winter season.



Agawam plays against West Side in the playoffs earlier this month.



The defense bunches up on West Side.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



The Spec Pond league concluded on Aug. 13.



Agawam had a good regular season in the outdoor league.

Agawam falls to West Side in playoffs

WILBRAHAM – Agawam was defeated by West Side in the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League playoffs earlier this month. Agawam had several entrants in the outdoor basketball league this summer.

Sports

SOCCER ■ from page 7

Another person who didn't have very much free time this summer is Federico Molinari, who has been the Pioneers head coach for more than ten years. He was also the head coach of the Mutiny for the first time.

"I've watched Federico coach the Pioneers for the past several years, and he has a passion for the game of soccer," Ferrara said. "He's one of the best soccer coaches that I've seen particularly on gamedays. He always makes the right tactical adjustments. He also runs a very good training session. I've received tremendous feedback from the players on both sides about him. I'm hoping that Federico can coach both teams again next year."

The Mutiny finished the 2024 regular season with a perfect 8-0 record, while the Pioneers posted an 11-2-1 record.

The Mutiny began the U.W.S. playoffs with a 2-1 home win over Steel City FC on July 12. Two days later, they celebrated an exciting 1-0 victory against Sporting CT in the East Conference championship match. It was their final home match of the season.

The following weekend, the Mutiny played in the U.W.S. National semifinals and championship match, which were held at All-High Stadium in Buffalo, New York.

The Mutiny didn't have very much trouble dispatching the Michigan Jaguars, who captured the U.W.S. Nationals title a year ago, in the semifinals. The final score of that match was 5-0.

"We performed very well in the semifinals," Ferrara said. "We were able to score a couple of early goals, which took the pressure off of us."

On that same night, Molinari and the Pioneers players were in Virginia playing Lionsbridge FC in a USL-Two play-off match. Unfortunately, the Pioneers season came to an end following a 2-1 loss.

Alec Hughes, who's a post-grad student listed on the UMass men's soccer team, led the Pioneers this summer with 17 goals. He's the USL-Two Golden Boot winner and was also named as the Player of the Year. He'll most likely be drafted by an MLS team next year.

"Alec has really improved a lot in the two years that he's been playing for the Mutiny," Ferrara said. "He was a key player for us this year. I'm hoping he signs with a Pro team next year."

Scott Testori, who plays college soccer at UConn,

The Pioneers assistant coaches are Dennis Gomes, Jay Willis, and Thomas Duben.

Molinari, along with Duben, coached the Mutiny in the championship match the following night.

The Mutiny, who played in the U.W.S. finals for the first time, faced the Santa Clarita Blue Heat, who lost to the Jaguar in the 2023 championship match.

The score was tied 1-1 at the end of the first 45 minutes.

Mila Dillard, who lives in Chicopee and is a sophomore on the Pope Francis girls' soccer team, netted the Mutiny's goal during the 43rd minute. It was assisted by South Hadley's Alexis Legowski.

The Mutiny took a 2-1 lead 25 minutes into the second following a goal by Chioma Okafor, which was also assisted by Legowski, who played college soccer at Northeastern University.

Okafor was one of the UConn women's soccer players listed on the Mutiny roster.

The Blue Heat scored the equalizer late in the second half and they wound up winning the title, 6-5, in a penalty shootout.

Following the championship match, Legowski, who signed with a professional team in Poland, was selected as the MVP of the U.W.S. National Tournament finals. The M.V.P. award was the trophy of a Buffalo.

"Alexis is now playing for a pro team in Poland, which is awesome," Ferrara said. "She played very well in the tournament and was selected as the M.V.P. of the championship game."

Legowski and Dillard were two of the players from Western Mass. listed on the Mutiny roster. The other local players were Maddie Theriault (Palmer), Hope Santaniello (Agawam), Sam Breton (Chicopee) Avery Klingensmith (Belchertown), Chandler Pedolzky (Westfield), and Emma Pedolzky (Westfield).

"I always want the best local high school soccer players to play for the Mutiny," Ferrara said. "It builds excitement and fanfare within the local community. The local players have been the core of our team during the past several years."

Santaniello, who plays college soccer at UMass-Lowell, is the only remaining Mutiny player from the 2019 squad.

Okafor, who's from Blantyre, Malawi, is listed as a junior on the UConn women's soccer roster. Several of her college teammates also played for the Mutiny this summer.



Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, performs during the Mutiny's conference final. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

"Margaret and Carey played soccer for me, and we've built a very good relationship over the years," Ferrara said. "We're allowed to have five players from a Division 1 school on our soccer roster. We are going to try our best to get the best players from UConn to play for us again next year. I'm looking forward to going to watch the UConn women's soccer team play this fall."

Okafor is only a junior, but she'll most likely be playing for a professional soccer team next year.

Cat Berry, who plays soccer at the University of South Carolina, only played in a couple of matches for the Mutiny at the beginning of the regular season, but she was also a fan favorite.

Before heading back to Ludlow from Buffalo, the Mutiny players and coaches visited Niagara Falls.

"The long bus ride home gave us the chance to reflect on the outstanding season," Ferrara said. "When we got back to the stadium, nobody wanted to say goodbye because they knew it would be their last time together as a team. It was a fantastic season."

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ipped in with 12 goals, Jared Smith led the way with nine assists.

One of the Pioneers local players was Mamadi Jiani, who graduated from Chicopee High School. He scored four goals this season.

The UConn women's soccer coach is Margaret Rodriguez, who's a former Mutiny player.

Carey (Don) O'Brien, who's currently the associate head coach at UConn, played for the team when they were known as the Springfield Sirens.

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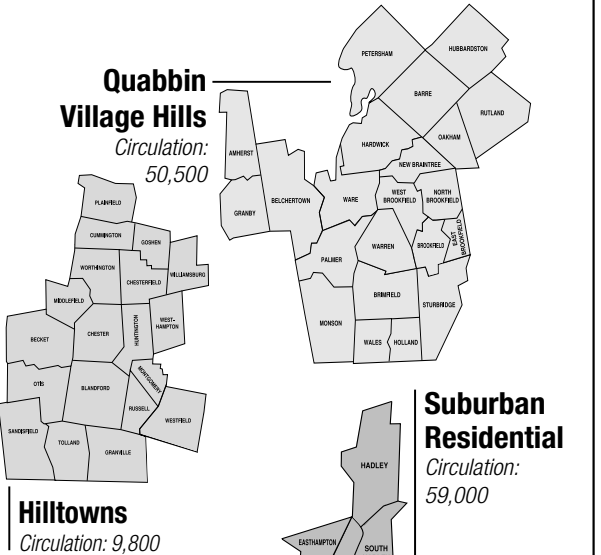
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Obituary

Harriet Berger

Harriet Berger, known to friends and family as Kitty, died peacefully on August 13, 2024. The only child of Charles and Dorothy (Nusinoff) Katz, she was born in Springfield, MA in 1931. As a girl and young woman, she overcame the twin challenges of The Great Depression and early childhood illness to gain a scholarship to American International College. She graduated in 1952 with a degree in teaching, then taught first grade, spending most of her career at Indian Orchard Elementary. Just before graduation, she met her loving husband of 67 years, Jason (Jay). They were married in 1954 and raised three children. After retirement, she volunteered at the Zoo in Forest Park, where she created and ran the Zoo on the Go program, bringing small zoo animals to local schools to enhance science education.

Kitty loved nature and camping, opera, and theater, and was politically active in Agawam, MA, where she and Jay moved after retirement. She participated in many senior theater productions in Agawam and in Langhorne, PA where she moved after Jay's passing.

She was pre-deceased by Jay in 2018. She is survived by daughter Cynthia (Bill Carlsen), sons Scott (Janice) and Joe (Valerie), grandchildren Anna (Pete) Roth, Ben (Bee-Seon Keum) Carlsen, Margot (Kevin) Pagano, Ally (Fred Dvorsky) Berger, Emma (Blair) Sheade, and Amelia Berger, and great-grandchildren Jacob, Sonia, Adler, and Colbie.

Donations in Kitty's memory can be made to the Sjogren's Syndrome Foundation, the Zoo in Forest Park (Springfield, MA), or the environmental charity of your choice. She would also be pleased with whatever you could do to help defeat Donald Trump.

Public Notices

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Docket No. HD24P1722EA

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To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Jason J Eisenbeiser of Feeding Hills, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Jason J Eisenbeiser of Feeding Hills, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/12/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written

appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 14, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 08/22/2024

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given by Langanet Towing pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on September 2, 2024 at 63 Ramah Cir S, Agawam the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

2006 Mazda 3
VIN: JM1BK344161530126
Juan Manuel Rucci-Lopez

31 Dwight Street, Apt. 1
New Britain, CT 06051
08/15, 08/22, 08/29/2024

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. HD24C0262CA
In the matter of:
Eric Michael Mahaney
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

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

Eric Michael Escalante
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 09/13/2024.

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: August 15, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 08/22/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103

(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD21P0961EA
Estate of:
Arthur Clayton Mallory, Jr.
Also known as:
Arthur C. Mallory
Date of Death: 01/09/2021
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/16/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M. Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 13, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate 08/22/2023

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Hampden Charter School of Science prepares students for college and beyond through AP, PLTW, and CLEP programs

Hampden Charter School of Science is a college preparatory tuition-free charter school serving students in Agawam, Chicopee, Ludlow, Holyoke, Springfield, Westfield, and West Springfield. To fulfill its mission, Hampden Charter School of Science offers AP (Advanced Placement) courses as early as 9th grade in high school. By taking an AP course and passing the exam in May, students get the opportunity to earn college credits. During the 2024-2025 school year, Hampden Charter School of Science will be offering 16 different AP courses. A few AP courses to name: AP Psychology, AP PreCalculus, AP Calculus, AP Human Geography, AP US History, AP Physics, AP World History, AP Statistics, AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature and Composition, AP Biology, AP Environmental Science.

Each year, 78 % or more of the students at Hampden Charter School of Science graduate with at least one AP course on their high school transcript. During the 2023-2024 school year, based on the 2024 AP results, 74% of the students who took AP exams scored a 3 or higher. Hampden Charter School of Science has been recognized as the AP Honor Roll Gold medal recognition based on College Culture, College Credit, and College Optimization criteria. Hampden Charter School of Science is also a College Board AP Capstone school. AP Capstone program offers an additional diploma to high school students when they enroll in at least six AP courses. Two of these AP courses must be AP Seminar and AP Research.

Hampden Charter School of Science has added PLTW (Project Lead the Way) Computer Science Pathways into its program during the 2023-2024 school year. PLTW courses are recognized as advanced courses by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. PLTW courses provide a hands-on, problem-based curriculum that helps students to be more college and career-bound. Hampden Charter School of Science was also one of the few schools that received a grant from the Massachusetts Life Science Center to implement the program. Hampden Charter School of Science will be offering three PLTW courses during the 2024-2025 school year. A few PLTW courses to name: Computer Science Essentials, Computer Science Principles, and Computer Science A.

Hampden Charter School of Science will be also starting the College Board's CLEP program which allows students to test out certain subjects and earn college credits. CLEP exams are offered year-round and there are 34 exams from multiple disciplines. Hampden Charter School of Science designed some of the courses to be aligned with the CLEP content to allow students to take the exam and earn college credits. More than 2900 colleges and universities. A few CLEP courses to name: College Composition, Introductory Business Law, and Western Civilization.

Hampden Charter School of Science will open its doors to students on Monday, August 26th. The new student orientation will take place on Friday, August 23rd. Hampden Charter School of Science is a tuition free public charter school and provides free transportation to students from its sending districts.

To learn more about Hampden Charter School of Science, visit www.hampdencharter.org



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A WORLD REPORT
US News
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students who are veterans, who have done marching band before and watch them blossom into leadership positions...and watching new students really develop a strong skill set and buy-in to being a part of this group that is larger than any one person."

"I personally look forward to seeing younger people in general finding strengths that they didn't realize they have," Moore said. "You're seeing kids who are great helpers, kids who are great leaders, kids who are good at boosting morale, they all have these skills that they can't always demonstrate and by the end of the week they're all so close from recognizing those skills and strengths in each other."

One thing Hueglin and Moore make sure to emphasize throughout the course of the camp is that it is a chance for everyone to learn and grow, and that part of learning is being allowed to make mistakes along the way.

They both encouraged students to just take pride in the skills they had developed throughout the week.

"Being better today than we were yesterday means that we're a success," Hueglin said.

"The kids have already come so far in just a few days," Moore said. "They really rose to the occasion and they succeeded beyond some of the things we had planned for."

Preparation for the camp and the shows begins in January when Hueglin and the other band instructors meet to go over ideas for music and themes for the upcoming year. They also begin their recruitment planning at that time.

Then at the end of the school year students are able to start signing up for the camp.

"It's a lot of planning on the front end that helps make it successful when we actually get to this point," Hueglin said.

This beginning planning is important as the band instructors work hard to ensure that every marching band season is unique.

"The music is different, the group of children and the leaders are different and every year there is an opportunity to adapt to the modern student and bring them up to be the very best learners that they can be," Moore said.

They also pre-plan so they can be aware of what students to expect at the camp ahead of time, which is helpful for planning out drill formations and so they can ensure they tailor the camp experience to the group of students present.

Moore and Hueglin were excited to see the band camp more full than it has been in several years due to COVID.

This year they were able to add a marching battery, meaning there are students who wear and play drums in addition to those who play from the pit.

They were also glad to see so many students continuing band from elementary school up through high school, as they were able to develop institutional knowledge through those experiences.

The pandemic caused many students to be unable to participate in marching band in the usual way, and so some of that institutional knowledge was lost. Now, Moore and Hueglin are seeing it reappear.

"We've been really thrilled with the progress that's been made," Hueglin said.

Band camp has long been a tradition on APS and Hueglin and Moore were glad to continue the tradition and ensure that their students were ready for all of their performances ahead.

"It's a great feeling and something that I take pride in, helping to carry that on and give this opportunity for the students," Hueglin said.



The band prepared to run through their song "Eye of the Tiger".

TURLEY PHOTO BY QUINN SUOMALA

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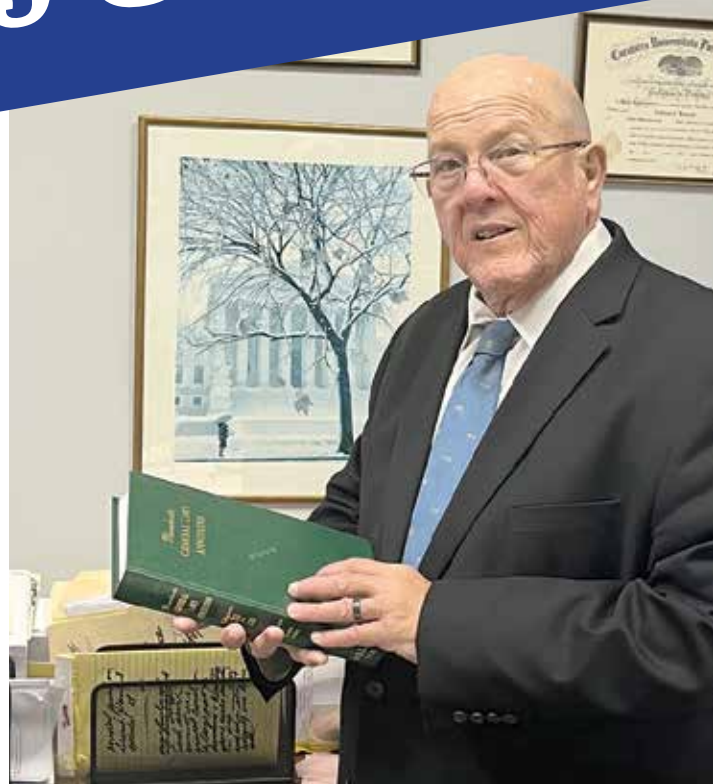
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JUSTICE



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Over 46 Years of Trial Experience