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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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AFD holds open house

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The Agawam Fire Department held an open house at the Fire Headquarters, welcoming the community to see what it had to offer.

This event included the firefighter chili cook off, simulated fire response, fire apparatus tours and fire safety education.

“The main goal of the event is to not only meet and interact with the public but also to pass on fire safety education to not only kids but also adults,” Fire Chief Alan Sirois said.

Sirois hopes that people will come out to this event and enjoy themselves, but also be educated on fire safety.

“Fire prevention is a big mission for the Agawam Fire Department so any opportunity we have to interact with the public and pass on a little bit of information about fire safety and step they can take in their homes to keep their families safe, is important to us,” Sirois said.

He also believes that this is a good opportunity for the community to see where their tax dollars are going and so that they can meet the firefighters who work to serve and protect them.

This year Sirois found that the firefighter chili cook off

OPEN HOUSE | page 6



Amadilce Lopes, Hailey Lopes, Sara Lopes and Carter Lopes had fun as a family at the Agawam Fire Department's open house. TURLEY PHOTO BY QUINN SUOMALA

Residents bring election concerns

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – A gathering of volunteers from United Sovereign Americans came before the Agawam City Council to report concerns they had about the legitimacy of the 2022 election.

They believed that there had been fraudulent votes and inaccuracy in the voting collection during this election.

“Today I come to you as a concerned citizen sharing alarming information about our state's voter database, uncovered through thousands of hours of research uncovered by our highly qualified and credentialed data team,” Rosemary Santaniello said.

This group came forward as volunteers, not as spokespeople for United Sovereign Americans. Additionally, they claimed to present this information not to say that one official should have one over another, but rather to draw attention to lack of security in the voting system.

The group presented a resolution that asked for the council and other bodies to help them put an end to election uncertainties.

They claimed that the 2022 election violated several laws.

They felt that the voter rolls were not accurate, that there were too many votes counted for the number of voters and that not all voters were eligible to vote.

This group claimed that their data team found a variety of inaccuracies in the 2022 election by looking through official state voting records.

“Has uncovered massive inaccuracies that violate both federal and state law,” Melissa Hensen said. “751 ineligible/uncertain registration violations were found within Massachusetts state voter rolls. 265,000 cast by ineligible/uncertain registrants. 87,000 more votes counted than voters in the 2022 general election, no one knows who cast them.”

According to Hensen and the rest of the group, this number of violations go against state law and should make the election illegitimate.

Given these statements, the group called upon elected officials to take action on this matter.

“The 2022 election appears to be invalid, depriving us of our natural rights under a government duly chosen by us, the

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Community set to celebrate 100th anniversary of local football



Agawam High School takes part in the 100th season of football. The Brownies are currently 2-3, looking for their first conference win of the season. FILE PHOTO

By Quinn Suomala
Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The town of Agawam is celebrating their 100th anniversary of football this year, and so a group came together to hold a reunion.

This reunion will take place at Oak Ridge Golf Club on Friday Oct. 18 from 6 to 10 p.m.

“There is going to be hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, some raffles and all of that good stuff,” Committee Head Domenick Pisano said. “It's going to be very similar to a class reunion, with good stories and camaraderie.”

Former members of Agawam High School football will be speaking, as well as Mayor Christopher Johnson. There will also be memorabilia and a video montage.

Pisano put this event together with the help of his fellow committee members, Vin Curto, Head AHS Football Coach John Benjamin, Greg Norman, Dawn DeMatteo, Dave DeMatteo, Mike DiLullo

and Brian Burbank.

Pisano's family has long been involved with AHS football, with his son being a fourth-generation player.

Therefore, when Benjamin reached out to him asking if he'd like to do something to honor the anniversary, Pisano was happy to do it.

“He had the idea of doing something, we didn't know what it was going to be, so we brainstormed and came up with the idea of doing the reunion,” Pisano said.

Since then, Pisano and the others have been working hard to reach out to hold AHS football players so that they can join in on this event.

They also worked on designing the merchandise they wanted to sell around the event and doing some fundraising so they could get the event up and running.

“I'm looking forward to seeing some of the oldtimers, the guys who played in the 60s, and listening to their stories,”

– Domenick Pisano

Pisano hopes this will be a good chance for people to honor AHS football and to reconnect with others from when they were a part of the group.

“I'm looking forward to seeing some of the oldtimers, the guys who played in the 60s, and listening to their stories,” Pisano said. “My grandfather played in the 40s and we've had a lot of people reach out to us who watched him when they were young.”

He believes that this event will be a good opportunity to highlight

how special a group Agawam football is.

Agawam was known as a football town, especially in the early years of its team. Pisano admires the fact that the team has stayed strong and maintained their camaraderie, even in seasons that didn't go as well as others.

“It is still a real, strong community, we have good crowds at the games, especially on Thanksgiving,” Pisano said. “Everybody gets together, everyone is sharing stories, it's really unique being a part of Agawam because the tradition is so rich.”

People are welcome to make donations to this project, as all proceeds will go to AHS football. Anyone who makes a donation will be thanked with their name included on a donations banner.

They can also make donations in the name of loved ones, and these names will be included on a separate banner highlighting all donations made in honor of others.

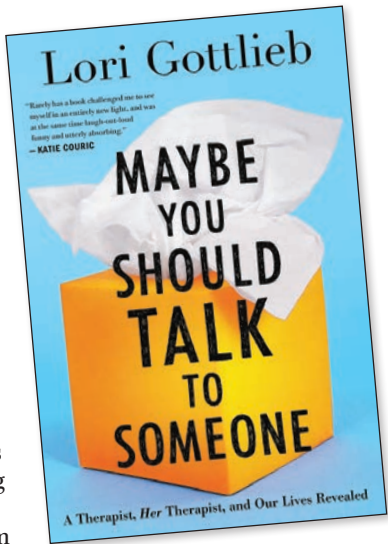


Lori Gottlieb to discuss new book

AGAWAM – Every year, nearly 30 million Americans sit on a therapist’s couch—and some of these patients are therapists. In her remarkable book *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone*, Lori Gottlieb tells us that despite her license and rigorous training, her most significant credential is that she’s a card-carrying member of the human race. “I know what it’s like to be a person,” she writes, as a crisis causes her world to come crashing down.

Gottlieb will visit Agawam Public Library on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 2 p.m.

Enter Wendell, the quirky but seasoned therapist in whose office she suddenly lands. With his balding head, cardigan, and khakis, he seems to have come straight



Lori Gottlieb

from Therapist Central Casting. Yet he will turn out to be anything but. In her book, Lori explores the inner chambers of her

patients’ lives—a self-absorbed Hollywood producer, a young newlywed diagnosed with a terminal illness, a senior citizen threatening to end her life on her birthday if nothing gets better, and a twenty-something who can’t stop hooking up with the

wrong guys (even one from the waiting room)—she finds that the questions they are struggling with are the very ones she is now bringing to Wendell.

With startling wisdom and humor, Gottlieb reveals our blind spots, examining the truths and fictions we tell ourselves and others as we teeter on the tightrope between love and desire, meaning and mortality, guilt and redemption, terror and courage, hope and change.

Maybe You Should Talk to Someone is revolutionary in its candor, offering a deeply personal yet universal tour of our hearts and minds and providing the rarest of gifts: a boldly revealing portrait of what it means to be human, and a disarmingly funny and illuminating account of our own mysterious lives and our power to transform them.

We invite you to join us as Gottlieb shares her wisdom on examining the truths and fictions we tell ourselves to help us breakthrough what is holding us back and getting in the way of living the life we desire. Register now to start your journey.

AHA Autumn meeting to be held Oct. 24

AGAWAM – The Autumn Meeting of the Agawam Historical Association will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24 at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main St.

The featured speakers will be The Graveyard Girls, who will present “Welcome to the Graveyard”, about New England cemetery art, history and symbolism, from colonial burial grounds, through the rural cemetery movement of the 19th century and into 21st century locations. This event is free and open to the public.

Basketball program now registering

AGAWAM – The In-Town Basketball Program is for children currently in Agawam Schools grades 3-8. Practices will be held once a week beginning in November. Games will begin in December. Registration has begun in person and online. Online registration will be available through Oct. 7.

The cost is for Grades 3-8, \$90.00 per person through Oct. 7 and \$115 per person effective Oct. 8.

Please contact the Agawam Parks and Recreation Department at 413-821-0513 for more information.



Library offers escape room experience

AGAWAM – Agawam Public Library will host a Halloween Escape Room for school students in grades 7 to 12 on Wednesday, Oct. 23 from 7 to 8 p.m. You and your friends are trapped in a haunted house. Solve puzzles, break codes, and try to escape before time runs out. Please note: the escape room will take place in partial darkness. The program will be spooky, but there will be no jump scares and no gore. Registration is required for the event, and there are limited seats remaining as of press time.

ACAA to hold public reception

AGAWAM – Agawam Community Artists and Artisans will hold a public reception for its newly installed “Art In Motion” art exhibit. The exhibit will take place at Cooper’s Commons, 159 Main St., on Sunday, Oct. 27 from 1 to 3 p.m.

The art will be exhibited on all floors of the main building. Light refreshments will be served. Agawam Community Artists and Artisans is a local art group that is very active in the region. Many are professional artists participating in quality juried shows and galleries.

The group conducts the Pioneer Valley Art Festival each year attracting visitors from surrounding cities. ACAA offers scholarships each year to high school students seeking a degree in the visual arts, with its

annual New England Mosaic Project combined with the Pioneer Valley Art Festival silent auction. A new initiative, called “Art With A Heart”, encourages community participation by offering art classes.

The net proceeds from these art classes fund local community food banks. In keeping with its mission of promoting and encouraging community participation in and developing an awareness and appreciation of the arts, the group offers community events to the public such as its “Art In Motion” exhibit that will be taking place this month. The art offered for sale in the exhibit includes watercolor, acrylic, oils, photography and mixed media. Please contact Ceil Rossi at (413) 207-1247 or the artist for further information.

Writer’s group, paranormal presentation at Agawam Library

AGAWAM – At the Agawam Library adults are invited to check out the fun events that are going on all month long. Registration for adult programs is open now. Please visit the website to register www.agawamlibrary.org or call the Information Desk (413) 789-1550 X4.

The Writer’s Group will meet on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. Author Katherine Anderson hosts this in-person workshop that is open to writers of all levels and genres. Writers meet in the Peirce Conference Room and registration is required.

Agawam Paranormal for a special treat just before Halloween. Join in for an intriguing evening of local paranormal

activity. Hear about three area locations that have been investigated for unexplained happenings. Learn the spine-tingling details of presences detected at the South Hadley Firehouse Museum, Josiah Day House in West Springfield and in the Storowton Tavern. On Monday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Judith Clini Community Room. Registration is required.

Visitors are welcome Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration for adult programs is open now. Please visit our website to register www.agawamlibrary.org or call the Information Desk (413) 789-1550 X4.

Veterans concert set for Nov. 10

WEST SPRINGFIELD – On Sunday, Nov. 10, A special Salute To Veterans Concert will be held at 3 p.m. at Red Oak Church in West Springfield.

The concert will feature songs of Americana and Inspiration performed by TV’s The Voice Michelle Brooks-Thompson and her full band, including back-up singers. The performance will include special guest Ryan Bradley, accomplished guitarist, vocalist, and pastor of Red Oak Church performing “God Bless The USA”.

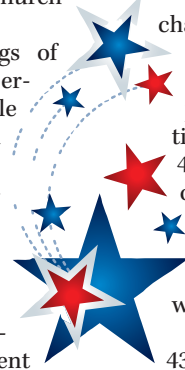
The concert, initiated and coordinated by West Springfield resident Roberta Page, will have proceeds support one of the free, monthly Veterans’ luncheons in West Springfield as well as

hurricane Helene efforts in North Carolina through Samaritan’s Purse.

“So many Veterans, still, experience challenges and difficulties,” Page said. This will be a good opportunity to remember all of them, past and present, she continued. Reservations are \$20 by contacting 413-279-4567, PageOneProductions@att.net or PageOneConcerts@gmail.com.

The church is located at 337 Piper Road. Reservations, also, may be taken at the door which will open at 2:30 p.m.

“Westover Air Reserve Base (the 439th Air Lift Wing) and Barnes Air National Guard Base (104th Fighter Wing) have been invited to participate,” Page revealed.



DA warns residents of Facebook marketing scam: Protect accounts, finances

SPRINGFIELD – Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni is issuing a warning to residents about a recent Facebook scam where hackers gain control of someone’s account and falsely claim that a loved one has entered a long-term health care facility, prompting them to sell the loved one’s possessions. D.A. Gulluni urges all residents to remain vigilant and take necessary precautions to protect themselves from falling victim to this scam.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni stated, “My office has recently become aware of this Facebook scam that looks to exploit your emotions and preys upon your relationships and friendships. Don’t be fooled, always verify where you are sending money beforehand, and be preventative, make sure you are securing your accounts adequately to deter a security breach. switch your passwords regularly on your high priority accounts in the event your credentials were exposed in a data breach.”

Description of the Scam: Hackers target

Facebook and email accounts to obtain your personal information and take control of them by stealing login credentials. Once in control, they post messages pretending to be the account owner, claiming a loved one has had to enter a long-term health care facility and that their possessions need to be sold urgently. The scammer then asks for money to be sent electronically, often for items that do not exist, preying on the emotions and trust of friends and family.

Strengthen Your Passwords:

Use a unique, strong password for your Facebook account that includes a combination of letters, numbers, and special characters. Avoid using easily guessed passwords such as birthdays, names, or common words.

Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):

Activate 2FA on your Facebook account to add an extra layer of security. This feature requires a second form of verification,

such as a code sent to your phone, in addition to your password.

Be Cautious with Friend Requests:

Do not accept friend requests from people you do not know personally. Scammers often create fake profiles to gain access to your personal information.

Monitor Account Activity:

Regularly review your account activity and privacy settings. Look out for any unfamiliar logins or changes that you did not make.

Educate Yourself and Others:

Stay informed about common online scams and share this information with friends and family to prevent them from becoming victims.

Verify Claims Independently:

If you receive a message from someone claiming to sell possessions due to a loved one’s health situation, contact the person

directly through a trusted means (e.g., a phone call) to verify the claim.

Be Skeptical of Urgent Requests:

Scammers often create a sense of urgency to pressure victims into sending money quickly. Take your time to verify the authenticity of the request.

Do Not Share Personal Information:

Avoid sharing personal or financial information through social media or messaging apps. Scammers can use this information to further exploit you.

Report Suspicious Activity:

If you suspect you have been contacted by a scammer, report the message to Facebook and local authorities. Additionally, inform the person whose account has been compromised.

If you find yourself being a victim of hacking be sure to contact your local police department and make a report it to protect yourself.

Senior Center announces upcoming news, events

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

Flu Clinic

Thursday Oct. 17, from 1 to 3 p.m.
at Agawam Senior Center Auditorium
Agawam Senior Center will host a Flu Clinic for Agawam and Feeding Hills residents in collaboration with the Board of Health. Instructions: Pre-registration paperwork and a copy of your insurance card is required in order to make an appoint-

ment to receive a flu shot. We have the forms and will make a copy of your card for you. Please come to the Senior Center and we can assist you. All paperwork must be filled out by Oct. 10.

Jewelry making with Sandy

Friday, Oct. 18 at 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
in the Dining Room
Here at the Agawam Senior Center are excited to offer Jewelry Making with Sandy. Sandy will bring all the materials needed and bring creativity. Cost for the class is \$3 per person plus the cost of your supplies. Call Kristina at 413-726-2836.

Manicures with Jane

Monday, Oct. 21
Jane is a licensed nail specialist, who will give your fingernails that extra special attention and love they deserve. She is offering simple manicures that include clipping, filing, soak, massage of the hands and your choice of color. These appointments are 15 minutes each. The cost is \$15 per person. Call Kristina at 413-726-2836 to book.

What trees teach us about letting go – Bereavement group

Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 1 p.m.
in the conference room

The October session exploring Grief takes its cue from the changing colors and falling leaves of Autumn trees. What does it mean to “let go” of someone who has died? We talk about “healing” and “closure” when someone or something we love dies, but perhaps “integration” is a more accurate way to describe what happens with grief over time. If you love trees, join us. If you are carrying grief, join us. Trees will be our teachers for the hour. Facilitated by Susannah Crolius, M. Div, a grief counselor at Baystate Hospice. Call Kristina at 413-726-2836 to register.



Food Fest West set for Nov. 20

AGAWAM – The Food Fest West will be taking place on Wednesday, Nov. 20, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Crestview Country Club, Shoemake Ln. For more information and tickets visit westoftheriverchamber.com.

Fall festival on Oct. 26

HOLYOKE – Our Lady of the Cross Church will hold their Fall Festival the weekend of Oct. 26 and Oct. 27 at 67 St. Kolbe Dr. The Oct. 26 hours will be from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the Oct. 27 hours will be from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be musical entertainment on Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. Magic Al the Magician will perform his magic on Sunday from noon to 12:45 p.m. Polish and American food will be sold and there will be various booths, games and vendors. For more information, please call (413) 532-5661.

Crafters needed for upcoming holiday bazaar

AGAWAM – The Agawam Congregational Church is seeking crafters and vendors for our Christmas Holly Wreath bazaar to be held on Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To register pick up an application at the church, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For more details call the church at (413) 786-7111 or email at office@agawamcong.com

Yard waste collections begin

AGAWAM – Residential fall yard waste collections will take place on the following weeks as noted on the 2024 route collection schedule.

- Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, weeds, shrub trimmings, and brush or limbs under 3” in diameter
- Limbs under 3” in diameter must be tied in bundles, no greater than 3’ in length, weighing no more than 40 lbs
- Yard waste may be placed in a 30 gallon 2-ply kraft paper bag
- Yard waste may be placed in trash containers, no larger than 32 gallon, with handles. Containers must be labeled as Yard Waste to be collected
- Yard waste should not be disposed of in town trash or recycling carts. Any carts found with yard waste will be left behind.
- Bags and barrels may not exceed 40 lbs in weight for collection. Bags or barrels in excess of 40 lbs or too heavy to be lifted by one person will be left behind
- Wet broken bags, due to the weather, are not the responsibility of the hauler to clean up. It is encouraged that residents cover bags during rain events to

prevent broken bags

A week streets will be collected on their recycling collection day during the following weeks: Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, Nov. 11 to 15, and Nov. 25-30 with a one-day delay for Thanksgiving. B week streets will be collected on their recycling collection day on the following weeks: Oct. 21 to 25, Nov. 4 to 8, and Nov. 18 to 22



ACC to hold Trunk or Treat

AGAWAM – Agawam Congregational Church will host their annual family friendly Trunk or Treat, on Sunday, Oct. 27, at 745 Main St. This event will take place from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. There will be candy, trunks to judge and more.

Please bring a box of elbow macaroni or a jar of pasta sauce to support the Loaves & Fishes ministry and be entered into a special raffle. If interested in having a trunk at this event, please email office@agawamcong.com or call 413-786-7111.

New peer-led opioid treatment program offered

HOLYOKE – “Life In Recovery,” a new peer-led support group for clients of MiraVista’s Opioid Treatment Program, is launching at MiraVista Behavioral Health Center this fall. Together with a Master’s Level clinician, the group will be led by Crystal Grzelak who has shared her recovery experience at MiraVista, including in a video about OTP on the hospital’s website, in recent years.

“The integration of individuals in recovery into substance use treatment programs as peer-to-peer support has been shown to help sustain recovery,” said Kimberley Lee, chief of Creative Strategy and Development for MiraVista. “It allows individuals in long-term recovery to share their lived experience to help others, especially those early in recovery, build confidence in navigating their own path of recovery.”

“Life In Recovery” provides a space to share experiences of those in recovery, talk about challenges and exchange ideas and practices to support and help its members.

Participants will explore ways to overcome difficult situations and learn to experience all that life has to offer without substances. Through conversation, arts and crafts and other activities, while building friendships, the group’s focus is to prevent the feeling of being alone in recovery.

OTP provides Medication-Assisted Treatment with methadone through its clinic and counseling for the medical condition of Opioid Use Disorder in those 18 years and older and is part of the psychiatric hospital’s addiction treatment services.

“I never expected this was the path my life was going to take,” Grzelak has said of her own use of substances. “When you first start doing these things, you think it is just a good time or makes you feel better. You don’t expect this is actually going to make you very, very sick. I started the clinic because I didn’t want to be sick anymore.”

She has said this eventually turned into “enjoying life and wanting to be clean” and has described OTP’s clinicians as listeners who “nudge you in the right direction

without telling you what to do” and its peer support groups as where members “can learn from each other.”

Other recovery services at MiraVista include the Intensive Outpatient Program for individuals who do not require medical detoxification for substance use but who want more therapeutic services than

outpatient counseling. Its sessions follow a four-week curriculum. Free transportation is offered for both IOP and OTP.

MiraVista has a program conducted over 16 weeks for referrals from Mass Courts as part of the Massachusetts Impaired Driver Program. Second and Multiple Offenders Aftercare Services for referrals from Mass Courts are also available.

Grzelak’s video may be viewed at <https://www.miravistabhc.care/i-have-stayed-committed-i-want-to-live-without-drugs/>.

For additional information on “Life in Recovery” or any of MiraVista’s treatment options, please contact Kim Lee at klee@miravistabhc.care or 413-264-3042.

Lions hosting pancake breakfast

AGAWAM – On Sunday, Oct. 27 from 8 to 11 a.m., Agawam Lions Club will hold its annual Harvest Pancake Breakfast. The event will be held at the Agawam Lions Dean on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield.

For free parking to the event, please enter through Gate 1. The cost to attend fore breakfast is \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under.

You can buy tickets in advance from any Agawam Lions Club member, or get them at the event.

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Opinion

Guest Column



How to move privets and grapes

Joe wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "Hello and thanks, as I am a fan of your column! I want to transplant both some privet hedges and grape vines from my childhood home. They are each at least 70+ years old. They have been mostly well maintained over the years and look fairly healthy; I think. Could you offer any advice on how to do this successfully?"

Thank you, Joe, for your compliments on the column! I am happy to try and help.

I don't know if you have any time constraints with the move. If you don't, I would wait until early spring to do the transplanting, that way it will cause the least amount of distress on the plants.

Both privet and grape are quite hardy, but it may be challenging to dig them up, especially because of their age and the size of the rootball that you can expect with the privet for sure. The picture you sent does show that both are quite healthy.

As soon as the ground can be worked in spring - maybe in late March or in very early April, I would dig around the drip line of the privet, pointing your shovel straight down. Try to go as deep as you can.

It may help to have a friend or two on the other sides of the bush and together you can lift out the rootball. You might have to use a pair of loppers or a saw to cut some of the larger, main roots.

Without being there, it is hard to say what you will encounter. But, as you know, it will be important to get as many of the roots as you can, leaving the soil attached as much as possible.

If you don't have a pot big enough to encompass the roots, then I'd recommend using a construction grade trash bag, a tarp or even double layers of a bed sheet to keep the root ball together during transport. Getting them a few towns over, as you mentioned, might be tricky in a car.

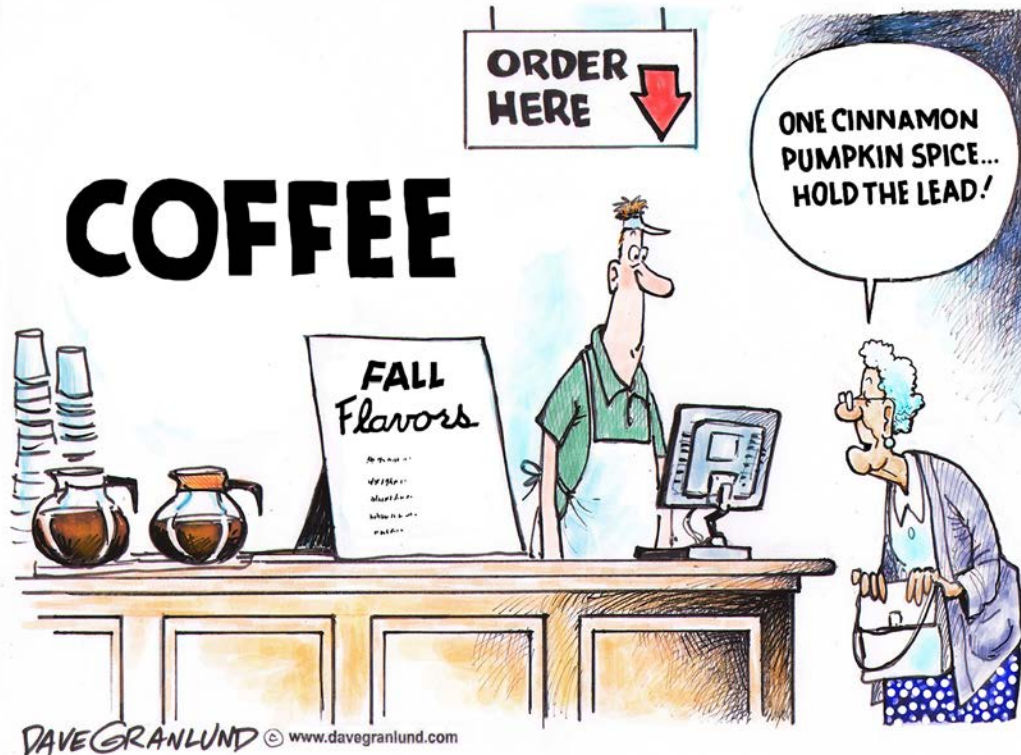
I'd probably recommend laying the privet down in a truck, braced so that it won't roll around.

Transplant it in a similar exposure in the new yard, cutting back the branches to make accommodations for a new and smaller root ball. Water it well, deeply, at least two times a week for the first couple of months.

Grape vines can be handled in a similar fashion. By the pictures you sent, they appear so lush and beautiful.

I certainly have to compliment whoever the tender is in your family. The first order of business would be to ease them off of the fence that they are growing on.

GARDEN | page 5



Guest Column

Husband asks about retroactive Social Security benefits



Dear Rusty:

Both my wife and I are 67 1/2, i.e., past our Full Retirement Age of 66 years and 6 months.

Neither of us have yet filed for SS retirement benefits. My wife is entitled to about \$1,000/month based on her work history, and I plan to wait until age 70 to file. I was entitled to \$3,700 at my full retirement age date and am eligible to receive \$4,800 at age 70. Thus, my wife's spousal benefit, which she can get when I start taking my SS, is another \$850, a total of \$1,850, which is 50% of my full retirement age amount.

We just recently became aware that my wife should have claimed her own smaller benefit earlier and taken her higher spousal benefit later when I claim. But has she lost Social Security benefits because she waited until now to claim?

Signed: Trying Hard to Understand

Dear Trying:

Yes, I am afraid your wife has lost some of her SS retirement benefit by waiting too long to claim. In your specific circumstances (where your wife is eligible for a higher monthly amount as your spouse) it is important to know that her spousal benefit amount reached maximum when she attained her FRA of age 66 and 6 months.

Even though she cannot collect as your spouse until you later claim, her eventual spousal amount does not increase because she is now past her FRA. Thus, waiting the extra year after her FRA did not enhance her spousal benefit amount, meaning she could have been collecting her own smaller SS retirement benefit starting

at her FRA. The good news, however, is not all those past benefits are lost.

Once someone has passed their full retirement age, it is possible to claim up to six months of retroactive benefits. Full retirement age is the cutoff point because your wife cannot get retroactive benefits before her FRA but, since she is about a year past, she can claim her full six months of retroactive benefits. Thus, she will lose only about six months of her SS retirement benefit by claiming her benefits to start at age 67 vs. now at 67 1/2, which at least mitigates the loss.

And instead of her FRA amount of \$1,000, her initial SS retirement benefit will be about 3% higher because she is claiming past her FRA. But, nevertheless, your wife's eventual spousal amount when you claim will still be limited to 50% of your full retirement age entitlement.

The important thing to keep in mind is that retroactive benefits can only be claimed after someone has reached their full retirement age and only up to six months of retroactive benefits can normally be claimed. So, in your wife's case, her eventual spousal benefit from you will still be limited to 50% of your FRA amount even though she waited for a year past her own FRA to claim. But she can claim six months of retroactive SS retirement benefits now to soften the financial blow.

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.

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Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

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

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



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Opinion

Guest Column

GARDEN | from page 4

Prune back the tops to a manageable height and then dig them up. It will likely be a challenge to tell “what goes where.”

That’s why cutting the tops back will be helpful. If you can put several of the stems in one large pot for transport, that would make sense. Individual pots would also work fine.

It would be important for both of these plants that you have the new areas prepped and ready to go, so digging up and replanting can happen in a quick turnaround time.

Speaking of timing, if you absolutely must dig this fall, then do so, and water as mentioned until the ground freezes. Be careful that the plants don’t heave – remember the roots won’t have much grow time to anchor your plants, so check on them often throughout the winter months and stomp on the rootball should they start protruding from the ground.

It may take a couple of years for the grapes to be as productive as they were, but never fear, because of the hardiness of these plants both should do fine once they adjust to their new surroundings. Good luck to you! I commend you for wanting to save a part of your history!

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 subject line.



The beginning of this week I heard Canada geese honking as they flew over my house. Often they land in nearby beaver ponds.

The Canada goose is 25 to 45 inches long and is the most widespread and commonly seen goose. It has a black head and neck with a white chinstrap. The body is brownish gray except for a whitish rump.

They vary widely in size, with the smallest forms living farthest north. These geese feed on the ground and in the water. They eat submerged vegetation, grasses, winter wheat, clovers and other grain especially corn.

Canada geese nest at edges of ponds, lakes or swamps on rocks or grass hummocks out in the water. The female lays four to seven white eggs in a nest made of sticks, moss and grasses.



Canada geese in flight

Some Canada geese that used to migrate now overwinter because food is provided for them by people at local ponds. This creates problems in many parks, golf courses and public lands where the geese fowl lawns, overgraze and become aggressive during breeding season. The male gives “ahonk” and the female has a higher “hink” call.

Northern harrier

I received an email on Oct. 5 from a Warren resident, who said, “My husband and I saw a hawk kill a squirrel in our yard last week. It was large and impressive. We had no idea what it was and no Google searches of hawks in Massachusetts mentioned the northern harrier. But now, after looking at many pictures, we believe that’s what it was. Very exciting to identify another bird.” She lives near the pond where a Brimfield resident saw a northern harrier. She said New Reed Street is now called Brook Road.

She plans to visit the pond in hopes of seeing the kingfisher the Brimfield resident mentioned

Brimfield resident

The Brimfield resident reported seeing a dark eyed junco on Oct. 1 in his yard. He related a story of a trip to Alaska. “In 2003 my wife and I signed up for a Alaska tour with the American Birding Association. Since we were going to Alaska and might never get back we did a mini pre-tour visit to Nome on our own. The flight to Nome was via Kotzebue and about a third of the passengers were trying to return to Kotzebue. They had been trying to get there for three days, but the planes couldn’t land because a river near town was creating ground fog and the planes had to abort their landings. Our

flight began its decent and the pilot announced the situation and he would try to land. Suddenly the pilot applied full power and began to climb, no landing at Kotzebue that day. My wife and I heard a nearby native woman say ‘we are going to have to kill a raven to get home.’ We flew on to Nome, not sure when or if the folks ever go back to Kotzebue.”

After returning from his Alaska trip, he did some research about birding in and around Nome. One thing I came upon was a report of a Christmas Count for Nome. I don’t recall the year of the report but the folks braved harsh condition and their total for the day was two ravens.

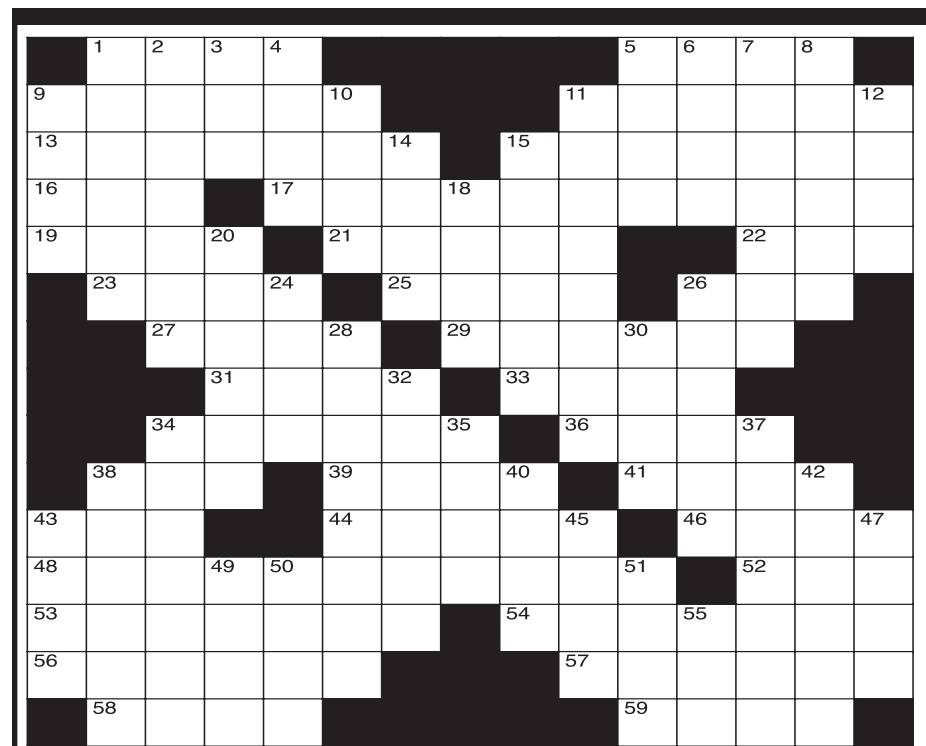
Other birds

The Brimfield resident reported great egrets, great blue herons and Eastern bluebirds at the Warren Ponds. He also saw two common ravens, nine mallards, 10 rock doves, six yellow-rumped warblers and a northern flicker.

He had white-throated sparrows show up in his yard; they are the most common migrating sparrow he sees there. The other day a male Eastern Towhee and four white-throated sparrows taking baths

together. He saw 52 Canada geese and 2 wood duck at Wheeler. There were also lots of turtles taking advantage of a warm sunny day. While sitting in his yard for about an hour he saw a male common yellowthroat, a black-throated blue warbler, two blackpoll warblers and a catbird.

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



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tall, upright post on a boat
- 5. Basics
- 9. Used to refer to cited works
- 11. Folds
- 13. Former UK PM May
- 15. Cold region of Russia
- 16. Standard operating procedure
- 17. Separating
- 19. Particles
- 21. A way to map out
- 22. Referee declares
- 23. Beginner
- 25. Water (Spanish)
- 26. Gov’t lawyers
- 27. Non-reproductive parts of an organism
- 29. Spanish friends
- 31. A type of tree

- 33. Walk heavily
- 34. About a wood
- 36. Free-swimming marine invertebrate
- 38. Political action committee
- 39. SB19 hit song
- 41. Scorch the surface of
- 43. Moved quickly on foot
- 44. Sacred state for a Muslim
- 46. Growl
- 48. Pearl Jam frontman
- 52. Irritating person
- 53. Something requiring a solution
- 54. Firing
- 56. Hazards
- 57. Taiwan capital
- 58. Impudence
- 59. Rock frontman

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One who rides an elephant
- 2. Absence of bacteria
- 3. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 4. Men’s fashion accessories
- 5. “Honey” actress Jessica
- 6. Round red root vegetable
- 7. Latin term for “charity”
- 8. Doesn’t smell good
- 9. Mental health issue
- 10. Millisecond
- 11. Hairstyle
- 12. Edible starch
- 14. Middle Eastern military title
- 15. Protein-rich liquids
- 18. Indian musical pattern
- 20. Cancer and Capricorn
- 24. Country along the Arabian peninsula
- 26. A bend
- 28. Fishes of the herring family
- 30. Antelopes
- 32. Chaos
- 34. Popular music app
- 35. Cooking material
- 37. Musical instrument
- 38. San Diego ballplayers
- 40. Small amounts
- 42. Poured
- 43. Fabric
- 45. Food option
- 47. Finger millet
- 49. The U. of Miami mascot is one
- 50. Alberta, Canada river
- 51. Canadian flyers
- 55. Dry white wine drink

CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

Enrich your life. Explore new things. (And, invite your friends.)

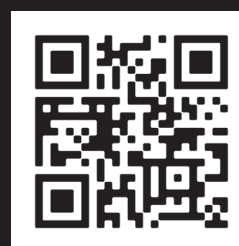
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The Agawam Fire Department allowed those attending their open house to look at their fire engines.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



Those who attended the Agawam Fire Department's open house were able to go inside the different vehicles the department has.



People gathered at the Agawam Fire Department to enjoy their open house.



The firefighters demonstrated some of the equipment they use in their ambulance.

Fire Chief Alan Sirois, Deputy Chief Frank Matuszczak and Fire Mechanic Shawn Kosnicki all enjoyed the open house.

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Fire Instructor Dereck Myers and Firefighter Joel Barlor each entered chili in the chili contest.



OPEN HOUSE ■ from page 1

was a big hit. There were nine different chili entries, all made by the firefighters, and both the firefighters and the public had fun with it.

"There is some pretty stiff competition on who is going to take the trophy home," Sirois said. "There is a lot of trash talking going on, everyone wants to be the best."

The department has done this chili cook off for the past five or so years, and Sirois has found people enjoy it every year.

"It is always a big hit," he said. "Everyone likes the chili and the firefighters enjoy competing against each other, so it's a good time."

On top of the chili contest, the department also put on a fire suppression demonstration using the training building.

"We'll demonstrate what an initial fire attack looks like and the deputy chief will describe to the observers the actions we're taking and why we're doing certain steps," Sirois said. "It's a great little demo so people can kind of see the equipment at work."

Additionally, people were given tours

of the different equipment the fire department has, including the ambulances, the engines and the squad truck.

"If it is here then people are more than welcome to get in and get on and take a look at all the equipment that we carry," Sirois said.

The fire department has been doing this event for years, and Sirois enjoys it each time.

"[A highlight] is seeing so many people here enjoying the day and interacting with the firefighters," Sirois said.

Sirois was grateful to everyone who came out to support the event.

"I'm glad that my staff came out to help out for this important event and I hope that the public enjoys their time here," he said.

He also would like to remind the public that there is always someone at the station, unless everyone is out on a call.

Additionally, if people have questions regarding fire safety or fire prevention, they are welcome to call the front office which is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on holidays.

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SPORTS



Kyra Benard guides the ball through midfield.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Alexina Lentes eyes a teammate up the field.



Samantha Matland clears the ball away with a free hit.



Teagan Fullam goes after the loose ball.



Finnola Mahoney tries to keep an offensive sequence alive.



Thomas Poulin passes away from pressure.



Joseph Culhane eyes a teammate as he looks to pass up the field.



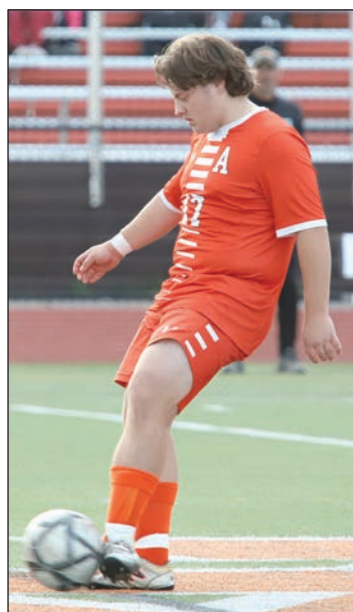
Lucas Ritson clears the ball away.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Pair of losses hurt Agawam

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School boys soccer team is looking to secure its spot in the Division 2 state tournament, as well as qualify again for the Western Mass. Last week, the Brownies suffered a 1-0 loss to Hampshire, and a 3-0 loss against Pope Francis. Agawam is now 5-4-3 for the season and needs a win and a tie or two wins to get a tournament berth.



Eric Nazarets sprints upfield with the ball.



Vincent Montagna makes a pass back on a kickoff.

Brownies field hockey team scores shutout

AGAWAM – Last Monday evening, the Agawam High School field hockey team picked up a win over Holyoke. In the win, Agawam got goals from Alyssa Dasilva, Kyra Benard, and Lili Atkins. The Brownies are now 5-5 on the regular season following a

loss at Longmeadow. The Brownies had a tough week with four games scheduled.

It concludes with a matchup at Tantasqua at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18. Their final regular season game is on Monday, Oct. 21 at East Longmeadow.



Laura Parolo takes possession and moves up the field.



Madalynn Fleury guides a pass forward.



Julianna Warner sends pass back ahead of pressure.



Katelyn Cleavall reaches out to keep possession of the ball.

Two wins lift Brownies

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School girls soccer team went above .500 for the first time this season with consecutive 4-0 wins over Hampshire Regional and Pittsfield. The Brownies are now 6-5-1 heading into the final 10 days of the regular season. Agawam needs a pair of wins or a win and a tie in order to qualify for the state tournament. Their power ranking will determine if they make Western Mass.



Kylie Warner makes her way up the field.
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Sports

New members added to Board of Governors at HoopHall

SPRINGFIELD - The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced its newly elected Board of Governors, a group of leaders dedicated to preserving the legacy and promoting the future of basketball. Among the outstanding Governors elected at the Board's September 2024 annual meeting is basketball legend Julius "Dr. J" Erving, who will serve as Vice Chairman of the Board.

Celebrated as one of the most electrifying and influential players in basketball history, Erving transformed the sport with his graceful, high-flying style, culminating in his induction into the Hall of Fame in 1993. His position on the Board reinforces his long-standing commitment to basketball's premier institution, having an annual college basketball award named in his honor to recognize the top men's collegiate small forward, and most recently, serving as the host of the Jerry Colangelo Golf Classic at the Biltmore Golf Club in Phoenix this past

September.

"We are thrilled to have such distinguished leaders on our Board of Governors," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "Each of these individuals brings a unique perspective, and their combined expertise will be invaluable as we continue to honor the game's rich history while also shaping its future."

In addition to Erving, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame is honored to acknowledge the leadership of the following elected officers:

- Jerry Colangelo, Chairman - Partner, JDM Partners, Inc.; Hall of Fame Class of 2004
- James Vinick, Treasurer - Managing Director - Investments, Moors & Cabot, Inc.
- Kathy Behrens, Secretary - President, Social Responsibility & Player Programs, NBA

"I'm honored to continue my role as Chairman of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, working alongside such esteemed individuals," said Jerry Colangelo, Chairman of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "Julius Erving's election as Vice Chairman is a testament to his exceptional contributions to the game. Dr. J's legendary career and deep understanding of basketball will be invaluable as we attempt to honor the sport's history and inspire the next generation of players and fans."

Other Board members include Bob Beaudine, President & CEO of Eastman & Beaudine; Greg Butler, Executive Vice President & General Counsel of Eversource Energy; Alvin Chun, President of Counterpointe Solutions, Inc.; Frank Colaccino, Founder & CEO of The Colvest Group, Ltd.; Cathy Engelbert, Commissioner of the WNBA; Dan Gavitt, Senior Vice President of Basketball for the NCAA; Rick Kelleher, Chairman and

Former President & CEO of Pyramid Global Hospitality; and Bill Koenig, President of Global Content & Media Distribution for the NBA.

Also serving on the Board are Jim Puhala, Head of Product Solutions & Regulatory Compliance at MassMutual; Byron Spruell, President of League Operations for the NBA; Mark Tatum, Deputy Commissioner & Chief Operating Officer for the NBA; Jim Taubenfeld, President of Me Salve, Inc.; Thomas Tull, Managing Partner of TWG Global; and Rick Welts, Principal at 7Rings Consulting and Private Equity Advisor at Sixth Street Group, as well as a Hall of Fame Class of 2018 inductee.

Ex Officio members include John L. Doleva, President & CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, and Robert Naismith, great-grandson of Dr. James P. Naismith, the inventor of the game of basketball.

Bonsignore scores win at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, Conn. - Justin Bonsignore was in Thompson Speedway victory lane again on Sunday afternoon. For the 14th time in his career, Bonsignore captured victory on the high-banks in Connecticut - leading the most laps and taking the lead back late after a pit road miscue to rocket to another win.

The victory was Bonsignore's 43rd career on the Whelen Modified Tour, giving him sole possession of third place all-time. His 14th career Thompson win also put him just one off Mike Stefanik's record of 15.

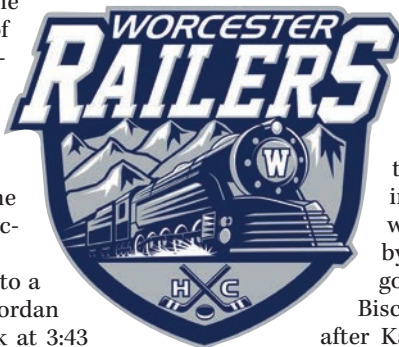
"We worked hard all summer, but haven't had the best car," Bonsignore said. "We brought back 'Old Faithful'. This car has been sitting bare bones since the last Martinsville race and we finally got it back together. It got us back into Victory Lane at Thompson and the guys did a great job today with the quick turnaround. It's humbling to be around Reggie and Teddy and to have your name mentioned with them is really special. Obviously we try not to think about that stuff while we're still racing, but it is really awesome to have that much success in this series over the 15 years that we've been here. Hopefully we've got another 14 or 15 years in us if we can stay competitive."

With the win, Bonsignore closed within five points of Ron Silk in the championship battle with two races remaining. The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour will return to the track at North Wilkesboro Speedway on Sunday, October 20. The series will then visit Martinsville Speedway on Saturday, October 26, for the season-finale.

Worcester Railers scored win over Mariners

WORCESTER - The Worcester Railers HC (1-1-0-0) beat the Maine Mariners (1-1-0-0) on Saturday night by the final score of 4-0 in front of a crowd of 700 at the Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center. The Railers open the regular season next weekend when they take on the Reading Royals at the DCU center on Saturday, October 19th at 6:05 p.m.

Worcester jumped out to a 2-0 lead with goals from Jordan Kaplan (1-1-2) who struck at 3:43 and Justin Gill (1-0-1) scoring just a minute later in the first period. Worcester continued their scoring in the second. Connor Welsh (1-0-1) scored at 13:55 to make the score 3-0 Worcester. Worcester finished the scoring off by notching one more in



the third. Joey Cipollone (1-0-1) scored the final goal of the night, which made it 4-0 when the final buzzer sounded.

Worcester wasted no time striking first tonight as Jordan Kaplan (1st) found the back of the net 3:43 into the first period. He was shortly followed up by Justin Gill (1st) who got one by Maine's Ryan Bischel just under a minute after Kaplan got a dish from Matt DeMelis. Worcester had an opportunity to score on the power play following a tripping penalty with just under 5 minutes in the period, but couldn't find the back of the net. Worcester went into the first intermission with the 2-0

lead. Shots favored the Railers 14-5.

Worcester's penalty kill got to work early killing off two penalties. The first on Anthony Repaci 30 seconds into the second followed by Jordan Kaplan at the 12-minute mark. The Railers got their own opportunity on the power play with 6:20 to go in the second and Connor Welsh (1st) cashed in on passes from Jordan Kaplan and Anthony Callin to make it 3-0 going into the third. Worcester outshot Maine 14-7.

Worcester wasn't done yet as Joey Cipollone (1st) scored on a redirected shot 6:08 into the third. The penalty kill would continue their perfect weekend after shutting down two Maine power plays. The Railers went eight-for-eight on the penalty kill against Maine in the preseason. Cipollone's goal would be the final score of the night, cementing the Railers 4-0 shutout victory.

T-Birds settle for split on opening weekend

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds (1-1-0-0) could not get their offensive rhythm going on Sunday afternoon and dropped a 4-1 decision to the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (1-1-0-0) at the MassMutual Center.

The visiting Penguins came out with a purpose less than 24 hours after dropping a 7-6 barnburner to Charlotte in their home opener. In outshooting the T-Birds 8-0 in the opening nine minutes, they also chipped in the first goal of the contest at the 5:00 mark when defenseman Nate Clurman was gifted with an open net after a Jimmy Huntington shot ricocheted off the end boards and back in front of Colten Ellis' net.

The T-Birds responded with much better pressure in the back half of the period, but rookie Penguins netminder Sergei Murashov made all 12 saves he needed to make in his first AHL period of play.

It was a similar story in the second, as the Penguins went right to work in the offensive end, causing chaos around the Springfield net.

Sam Poulin eventually extended the lead as he received a centering pass from Emil Bemstrom and elevated it over the blocker of Ellis to make it 2-0 at 3:21 of the period.

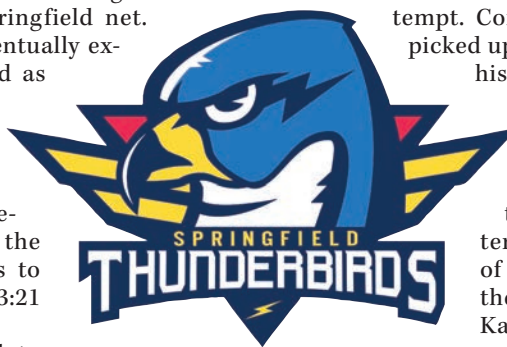
Just 2:05 later, Avery Hayes added his second goal in as many games, arriving at the far post to chip a rebound into the top shelf after an initial bid by Joona Koppanen. The lead ballooned to 3-0 for the visitors.

MacKenzie MacEachern finally got

Springfield on the board at 12:00, thanks to a fortuitous bounce off the end boards from a Hunter Skinner shot attempt. Corey Schueneman also picked up an assist on the play, his first point as a Thunderbird.

The T-Birds never could get back in rhythm, though, as they mustered a scarce amount of scoring chances in the final period. Boris Katchouk put the game away with a power play goal at 15:47 of the third to close out the scoring, and Murashov picked up his first AHL win with 27 saves.

The T-Birds take to the road for the first time this season on Friday night as they visit the Hartford Wolf Pack at the XL Center for a 7 p.m. puck drop.



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Old Sturbridge Village to host Phantoms by Firelight

STURBRIDGE – Sturbridge Village will transform into a realm of haunted history and spellbinding performances this October with the opening of ‘Phantoms by Firelight’ on October 4. Running every weekend until Oct. 27, the spooktacular Halloween event brings twelve nights of enchanting entertainment, thrilling new attractions and a lineup of distinguished performers.

Guests can expect a stunning array of live performances, featuring hand balancing, fire breathing, breathtaking aerial acrobatics, and Cyr wheel acts. New attractions this year include a labyrinth winding through the dark countryside, eerie carnival games, and haunting tales of historical tragedies.

In addition to the performances, attendees can engage with Halloween traditions through activities such as coffin-making demonstrations and reenactments of early American mourning rituals, including an authentic 1830s wake. Popular activities returning this year include “Clues and Candy” and spooky ghost stories around the bonfire, accompanied by a seasonal menu featuring themed food and drinks.

“Phantoms by Firelight’ is an unforgettable Halloween experience, allowing guests to explore the Village at their own pace by the flickering glow of firelight,” said Rhys Simmons, Director of Interpretation at Old Sturbridge Village. “We’ve crafted an immersive experience that weaves together mesmerizing performances and historical tales that bring the spirit of Halloween to life. We invite families and friends to join us this October for an experience like no other!”

Presented by ClockJack Productions in association with American Circus Theatre, ‘Phantoms by Firelight’ showcases the talents of Cyrkus Vampyr, with performances from acclaimed artists including viral sensation Ashlee Montague from ‘Ameri-

ca’s Got Talent,’ Richard Hanke, Joel Herzfeld, Eleanor Parker, Joseph Kerr, Samantha Bergman, Brian Klimowski, and Andre Sguerra.

“A mysterious troupe of gravity-defying performers returns to Old Sturbridge Village this October, setting up their mysterious, death-defying acts in the most unexpected of places as the sun goes down,” said P.J. Griffith, director of Cyrkus Vampyr.

The event will be open from 4:30 to 9 p.m. on event nights. Discounted tickets are available for members (\$28 Adult / \$14 Youth) and the public (\$34 Adult / \$16 Youth) until Oct. 3. After opening night, tickets will be available at the door for \$40 Adult / \$20 Youth or can be purchased online in advance for \$36 Adult / \$18 Youth.



Old Sturbridge Village will be hosting Phantoms by Firelight until Oct. 27. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Milford to join virtual library chat

AGAWAM – You are welcome to join us in a virtual conversation with Navajo Ranger, Stanley Milford, Jr. as he chats about the chilling and clear-eyed memoir of his investigations into bizarre cases of the paranormal and the unexplained in Navajoland. The chat will take place on Thursday, Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

As a Native American with parents of both Navajo and Cherokee descent, Stanley Milford, Jr. grew up in a world where the supernatural was both expected and

taboo, where shapeshifters roamed, witchcraft was a thing to be feared, and children were taught not to whistle at night.

In his youth, Milford never went looking for the paranormal, but it always seemed to find him. When he joined the fabled Navajo Rangers—a law enforcement branch of the Navajo Nation who are equal parts police officers, archeological conservationists, and historians—the paranormal became part of his job.

Wistariahurst holds spooky tour

HOLYOKE – As the night grows long and a chill lingers in the air, Wistariahurst Museum is delighted to announce a new, frightfully fantastic character tour: Skeletal Secrets with the Skinner Servants. Join a ghostly guide as former residents of this historic house manifest to speak of eerie events and strange happenings that occurred during their mortal lives. Discover dark tales of death, loss, and spirits that are said to still roam our halls to this day as you wander through the home. This unique character tour of Wistariahurst Museum includes standing, walking, and transitioning between the first and second floors using our Grand Staircase in dim lighting. This tour may include loud noises, challenging subjects, and possible jump scares. Parents are advised to consider these factors before purchasing tickets. If any guest has a question about accessibility and how to fully enjoy this immersive tour, we ask that you email us with your inquiries.

“Our volunteers are eager to reveal these tales to our community,” Penni Martorell, City History, comments. “This tour is the best way to learn some of the secrets hidden beneath our walls.”

This new, spine-tingling tour offers a unique way to experience a guided tour of the historic house with our volunteers as they portray the spirits guests will en-



Skeletal Secrets with the Skinner Servants Tour set to take place Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. SUBMITTED PHOTO

counter. Join us for a memorable journey through the ghastly tales of Wistariahurst. Venture into where history intersects with the supernatural this fall with general admission tickets selling at \$18. Museum Members can use their discount for \$15 tickets. Our specialized character tours are beloved by our community and sell fast, so make sure you secure your tickets before they are gone!

For registration, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/skeletal-secrets-with-the-skinner-specters-tour-tickets-1004653915907?aff=ebdssbdstsearch>.

BBB Business Tips - How to protect your verified social media account

Paula Fleming
pfleming@boston.bbb.org

X (formerly known as Twitter) and Meta both offer programs that allow users to pay for a “verified account.” Social media has long been a favorite haunt of scammers. In light of those two facts, businesses and consumers should be alert to how the scammers will use this latest twist to benefit themselves.

In recent phishing scams, con artists have been going after businesses and individuals with verified accounts - a measure that was supposed to help prevent scams.

How this scam works

You receive a direct message or email

that appears to come directly from X, Instagram, or another social media platform. It states that your verified account has been flagged, and you must re-verify it. You could allegedly lose your verified account badge if you don't respond. For example, some X users have reported receiving direct messages or emails stating that their blue verified badge has been marked as spam and, if they don't appeal the decision, it will be deleted.

The scam message asks you to click on a link or download a form to start the appeal process and re-verify your account. You may download malware onto your laptop or mobile device if you click. This can collect your personal data without your knowledge. If you fill out forms or reply with the requested information, scam-

mers may be able to hack your account or use your personal information to commit identity theft.

How to avoid similar scams

Understand how social media platforms work. Get to know a social media platform's policies before using it. For example, X never sends emails requesting login credentials, nor do they send emails with attachments. If you are clear on the platform's policies and procedures, you'll be less likely to fall for correspondence from a scammer - even if it looks legit.

Be wary of unsolicited messages. Be skeptical about out-of-the-blue messages, whether it's a DM, an email, or a message on a messaging app, especially if they ask you to click on links or open attachments.

Instead, go straight to the source - the platform's official customer service center - to determine if the message is real. Read more about this Facebook phishing scam targeting business pages.

Look for the signs of a scam. Poor spelling, bad grammar, pressure to act now, demand for payment, and scare tactics are all red flags that indicate a scam.

Always protect your personal information. Never give a stranger your login credentials or other personal information without verifying their request's legitimacy. Most reputable companies won't ask you for your login information.

Monitor your accounts. Make a point to monitor your social media accounts and do a search for your name or brand, making sure there are no impostors.

BBB Scam Alert: Emergency scams instill fear via fake texts, mugshots

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

Emergency scams, sometimes called “grandparent scams,” prey on the willingness of an unsuspecting, worried individual to help friends and family in need. Often, they will impersonate their targets' loved ones, make up an urgent situation, and plead for help... and money. Social media sites allow scammers to look up information and offer plausible stories. They may even incorporate nicknames and real travel plans into the con to convince their targets.

How the scam works:

Emergency scams are about a family member or friend in a dire situation. You get a call, email, or social media message from someone claiming to be a distressed family member. They may say they've been arrested or there was an accident, medical emergency, or other calamity. They provide convincing details, such as family names

and school details.

A twist to this scam targets parents of college students. The scammer calls the family member and claims their child has been arrested and needs bail money sent immediately via a payment app like Venmo or PayPal. They may even text pictures of a mugshot and say that the child is headed to jail with dangerous criminals. Terrified parents send the money, only to find out later that the story wasn't true- and the money is gone.

A common version is the “grandparent scam,” where the con artist contacts a grandparent claiming to be their grandchild and asking for money. The plea is so persuasive that the grandparent wires money to the scammer, only to find out their family member was safe and sound later. This scam can also work in reverse, where the “grandparent” calls their grandchild, pleading for help.

The scammer may also tell the victim

that someone will arrive at your house to pick up the money.

The FTC has warned that scammers are using voice cloning techniques to imitate the voices of loved ones. The technology enables con artists to copy the voices of persons close to you from videos they may find on social media or other sources. They can then use tools to imitate the voice of your loved one and have it appear to say whatever they wish in a call. Some voice cloning efforts may be crude, and others very sophisticated - either way, this adds to this scam's confusing and frightening aspect.

Tips to spot this scam:

Resist the urge to act immediately, no matter how dramatic the story is. Check out the story with other family and friends, but hang up or close the message and call your loved one directly. Don't call the phone number provided by the caller or

caller ID. Ask questions that would be hard for an impostor to answer correctly.

Know what your family members are sharing online. You may not have control over your family's social media accounts but familiarize yourself with what they share online and what photos they may have posted. Make sure they're aware of this type of scam and advise them to use privacy options to keep other people from seeing and stealing their images.

Don't send money if you are unsure about the call. If the caller asks you to send money via a payment app or a gift card, do your homework to ensure that it's not a scam. If you wire money and later realize it is a fraud, the police must be alerted.

If you are told that someone will come to your home to pick up the money, do not answer your door and call the police immediately. This action could be part of the scam, and the driver may not be aware they are part of the fraud.

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121 Oakwood Drive, East Brookfield.
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JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER WANTED.
Excellent pay & benefits. Must be licensed in MA. Pioneer Plumbing **413-623-5911** or **pioneerinoffice@gmail.com**.

WARREN WATER DISTRICT is hiring for part-time office help. Please apply in person at **988 Main St., Warren 413-436-9819**. EOE.

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HELP WANTED

PART TIME SNOW PLOW DRIVERS NEEDED

Part time snow plow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2024-2025 season. Positions available for both CDL (\$30/hr) and non-CDL License (\$25/hr). If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at (508) 867-2451 or email hwy-secretary@newbraintree.org.

SHORT ORDER COOK, breakfast/lunch. John's Corner in Ludlow. Call John 413-537-2455.

The Town of Huntington is seeking a part-time **HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** for 16 hours per week. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook. Hours are flexible, but must be worked during the regular highway department hours of Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to assist the Highway Superintendent. Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us. Position is open until filled. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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

Enrollment now open for Massachusetts Home Energy Assistance Program

Eligible households can now apply for financial assistance for the 2024-2025 heating season

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities today announced that the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) enrollment period for the 2024-2025 winter heating season will open on October 1. This critical program provides financial relief to eligible households to help them pay their winter heating bills, ensuring they can keep their homes safe and warm during the colder months.

HEAP is a free, statewide resource that assists eligible renters and homeowners by paying a portion of their winter heating bills directly to their heating companies. Starting Oct.1, homeowners and renters can apply online or through local administering agencies across the state. The assistance period runs from Nov. 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025. HEAP offers grants that do not need to be repaid; however, households must meet specific eligibility requirements to qualify.

"No resident should have to worry about heating their home during the winter," said Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities Ed Augustus. "With high costs continuing to strain household finances, the Home Energy Assistance Program is more critical than ever. We urge anyone in need of heating assistance to explore their eligibility by applying online or visiting the nearest administering agency. Please share this valuable information with loved ones or neighbors who could benefit from this support during the colder months."

Eligibility is determined by several factors, including household size and the combined gross annual income of residents 18 and older. Qualifying households, including those with the cost of heat included in the rent, can receive assistance for all heating sources, including oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood and coal. Households do not need to be on public assistance or have unpaid heating bills to qualify.

For more information find your local HEAP agency at <https://hedfuel.azurewebsites.net/>

Public Notices

Legal Ad AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA.** The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Notice of Intent Application of Ekstrom & Hoyle for work to be performed at 250 Suffield Street, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

10/17/2024

AGAWAM COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will hold its annual public hearing at the Agawam Senior Center Veterans Hall, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA on **Wednesday, October 23, 2020 at 6:00PM.** The Committee will provide an overview of the financial performance of the CPA fund as well share recent

accomplishments. The CPC will also welcomes input on goals, activities, procedures and spending. The CPC is encouraging residents, town boards, committees and commissions to attend and discuss the needs and possibilities of projects that may qualify for Community Preservation Act funds. Please be advised that the CPA Committee is required by M.G.L. Ch. 44B to consult with existing municipal boards to study the needs the needs, possibilities and resources of the city regarding community preservation.
10/10, 10/17/2024

**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. HD24C0230CA
In the matter of:
Samantha Brynn Harvey
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change
Name of Adult has been filed
by Samantha Brynn Harvey
of Agawam, MA requesting
that the court enter a Decree
changing their name to:
Samantha Brynn
Deljanovan
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 11/05/2024.**

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: October 08, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
10/17/2024

AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 6:10PM 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 Cascio & Metz for property located at 409, 411, 421, & 427 Southwick Street.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
10/17/2024



ELECTION | from page 1

American people," Gary Montano said. "We therefore call upon our representatives to provide relief to the people and assurance of domestic tranquility by joining us in demanding a valid 2024 general election."

Based on their research, the group has requested that voters need more concrete proof of citizenship, identity and eligibility when registering to vote and that voter rolls should be accurate and available for public review and challenge 30 days before the start of early voting.

The group encouraged people who would like to learn more about their research to go to their website at <https://unite4freedom.com/>.

Corinne Wingard spoke out as well, and said she had reached out to the secretary of state's office about the groups' report following their appearance at the West Springfield City Council.

According to Wingard, the office re-

sponded claiming that the group's statements were false.

"They totally debunked what was said here," Wingard said.

She also mentioned that the city council was not the proper body to bring this issue to, as they are not in charge of voting.

"This is simply disinformation trying to make people lose faith in our electoral system," Wingard said. "I suggest anyone with any questions about this directly contact the office of the secretary of state."

A conversation with the secretary of state's office confirmed that this group does not have access to the official state voter records and that they do not have proper understanding of election laws.

The state office also confirmed that there were no more votes than voters in the election.

The office encouraged people to check the department's official election website to find voting details for themselves.

Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon,
Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com



Thursday Night Lights



The northern lights made an appearance in the Western Massachusetts area on Thursday night to the delight of many stargazers. TURLEY PHOTO BY KARA WALSH-VEY

HCC to host Trunk or Treat

HOLYOKE — Visitors to Holyoke Community College on Friday, Oct. 25, can expect to see ghosts, witches, and ghouls, along with an assortment of characters from their favorite children's movies, games, and TV shows as the college celebrates Halloween with its annual Trunk or Treat event.

Dozens of HCC departments, programs, and student clubs, as well as community groups and area businesses decorate vehicles every year for this event.

Trunk or Treat runs from 5 to 7 p.m. in Parking Lot M by the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

In the past, trunk sponsors from HCC have included the Early Education program, Student Engagement, Veterinary and Animal Science, Dance Club, ASL Club, Japanese Anime Club, C.A.M.O. (military club), Radiologic Technology, El Centro, Student Records, Early Childhood Grants Initiative, Culinary Club, Business department, President's Cabinet, Disney Club, Nursing program, Student Senate, STEM Club, Latinx Empowerment Association, Psychology Club, Radio Club, Animation Club, and Dungeons & Dragons Club.

And from the community: Dean Technical High School, Holyoke Police Dept., Berkshire Hathaway, Valley Opportunity Council, YWCA, Mass. Dept. for Children and Families Holyoke, Positive Regard Network/Center School, NexGen Roofing, Elms College: The Teachers' Lounge, Holy-

oke Credit Union, Y Kids Learning Center, Girls Inc. of the Valley, and Holyoke Public Schools-Early Childhood program.

Past year's trunk themes have included crayons, rubber ducks, happy clowns, a witch's house, a haunted house, Jurassic Park, The Nightmare Before Christmas, Hungry Hungry Hippos, construction, Hocus Pocus, Paw Patrol, bones, Encanto, Star Wars, spooky fun prom, M&M's, Frozen, Ratatouille, Disney villains, Muppets, Mary Poppins, Spiderman and other Marvel superheroes, outer space, a pumpkin patch, Alice in Wonderland, the Multiverse, and Ghostbusters.

Prizes are awarded to vehicle sponsors in various categories including best executed theme, scariest trunk, best costumes, and most original. Each vehicle will be handing out free Halloween treats and also have non-food items for children with dietary restrictions.

Trunk or Treat at HCC started in 2017 as a safe, fun, and early alternative to traditional trick-or-treating on Halloween night. Rather than going door to door seeking Halloween treats, children go trunk to trunk to collect their candy, visiting cars decorated with seasonal themes and familiar stories and characters. The event is free and open to the public and will be held outdoors, rain or shine. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

To sponsor a vehicle, please contact organizers Lindsey Pare at lpare@hcc.edu. The deadline is Monday, Oct. 21.



ACC holding Holly Wreath Bazaar

AGAWAM – On Saturday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Agawam Congregational Church will host its Holly Wreath Bazaar. Our vendors and crafters are in place for a variety of your Christmas shopping needs. Don't forget we have cards for sale (sports and famous people). Again, we will have our bakery at the country store featuring sumptuous homemade pies, cakes, cookies, bars, and candy.

There will be something for everyone

at Santa's seconds. Also, you can participate in two raffles (grand raffle and our church raffle with numerous choices). Stay for lunch at our cafe for our deliciously prepared grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and cheeseburgers. Popcorn will also be available for that festive feeling.

We look forward to your visit to our church located in the historic district of Agawam at 745 Main Street on Saturday, Nov. 23.

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.. \$2.58 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER ROAST or STEAKS \$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOIN 10 LB BAG \$1.88 lb
USDA INSP. SMOKED PORK SHOULDER PICNIC \$1.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER ROAST or STEAKS \$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN WINGS 10 LB BAG \$2.47 lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST \$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. PASQUIER BAKERY BRIOCHE TO GO FILLED W/STRAWBERRY 7.9 OZ. 99c ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN MAHI MAHI FILLETS \$4.99 lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI SWISS CHEESE \$4.88 lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN \$2.99 lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS SWEET BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS \$3.35 lb

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