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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

December 5, 2024 | Vol. 46, No. 41 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

# AHS stuns with performance of *The Addams Family*

By Quinn Suomala  
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam High School put on a performance of *The Addams Family* for the community to enjoy.

The high school has been working on this production since the first few weeks of September and they were excited to be finally sharing it.

“Opening night watching the audience’s reaction...that was so cool,” Musical Director Amanda Johnson said.

“Spending hours a day perfecting a production you care about, then having hundreds of people come to watch is the most rewarding and encouraging feeling ever,” Iraj Ahmed, who played an ensemble ancestor, said.

“Some highlights for me have been the electric feeling of the audience during the performances, but also the fun we have backstage,” Abigail Drumm, who played Alice Beineke, said.

The cast, crew and directors put hours of work into putting this performance together.

“We have spent from the end of September all the way until the weekend before Thanksgiving rehearsing usually 3 to 4 days a week,” Samuel Beckwith, who played Gomez Addams, said. “The week before the show we were at the school for 5 days until about

8:30-9p.m.”

“Outside rehearsals I would probably estimate that I spent around 24 hours practicing the dances, singing songs, reading the script, researching ideas for my costume and watching the recordings to remember what I was supposed to do,” Maddy Elwell, who played an ensemble ancestor, said.

Johnson and the Director Johanna Jaeger worked together to make sure the kids were prepared for the show.

Johnson would have the kids work on the different songs right after school and Jaeger would take them after to focus on acting scenes



Above, the cast of the *Addams Family* performed the song “One Normal Night”. Left, the cast of the *Addams Family* began the show with the song “When You’re an Addams”.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



“We tried to make it so we were working the music of what they were staging that day so it was fresh in their minds,” Johnson said.

Pit Orchestra Director Bill Hueglin in the meantime worked to prepare the pit orchestra, which was made of professional musicians.

Everyone in the show loved the moment when the cast finally got to sing with the orchestra.

“The highlight would be watching it all come together,” Hugelin said. “Seeing it come to-

gether and click between the orchestra and the actors on stage was really something special.”

All of the cast and crew truly enjoyed the time they spent putting together this show.

“I feel like I got several new friends out of this experience as well as a really fun time and many fun memories that I will remember forever,” Maddy Elwell, who played an ensemble ancestor, said.

“After this being my second

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## Blain pitches new high school courses

By Quinn Suomala  
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – The principal of Agawam High School Jim Blain came before the school committee at their meeting on Nov. 26 to discuss the course list for next school year.

Blain proposed three new courses to be added to the course listing for next year.

The new courses are: AP music theory, biology essentials and mindfulness and yoga.

The goal of biology essentials is to help students who may not do well on the biology MCAS so they can continue to improve on the subject even after they have taken biology in their freshman year.

“If you are going to take a rest in biology, you are going to need some supports if you have already finished the course so we need an essentials course to fit

*“I think the more opportunities we have to give our students chances to explore music in more detail, I think is really wonderful.”*

– School Committee Member Catherine McDougal

the bill, to help the students be successful,” Blain said.

Additionally, Blain and the other AHS staff hope that mindfulness and yoga will help expand the different options for physical education.

They are adding the AP music theory to give students wider options in the field of music. The students are reportedly excited for this new option.

“Our students in the music program who are seniors are seriously jealous,” Blain said.

The school committee agreed that adding this music theory

course will help improve students’ opportunities as they go out into the world.

“I think the more opportunities we have to give our students chances to explore music in more detail, I think is really wonderful,” School Committee Member Catherine McDougal said.

Over the past few years AHS added several courses to their course lists. Blain is pleased with how well each course is doing in the school.

“Three years ago you AP hu-

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## Model enthusiast displays ship at library

By Quinn Suomala  
 Staff Writer

AGAWAM – Agawam resident Bob McCollum built a model of the HMS Victory that is now on display at the Agawam Public Library.

McCollum has been working on this ship for the last 12 and a half years.

McCollum particularly enjoyed this ship due to the history behind it.

“It is such a major part of world history,” McCollum said. “The thing that really struck me is that someone could build a ship with 100 cannons on it and at the time that must have been one of our finest battleships.”

The ship itself is on display in Portsmouth for anyone to see. McCollum’s children vis-

ited the HMS Victory and sent him photos.

McCollum used the photos to help him make his model ship as accurate as possible to the real thing.

“When you look at every bit of it, it is really according to the plans,” McCollum said.

The only thing he made different from the real ship is the metal of the poles.

“I was using real copper metal on parts of the ship, such as the bands on the mast,” McCollum said.

He found the hardest part of building the ship to be working on the rigging.

“The rigging that holds the ship together, the sanding rigging, they are all different sizes

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# Open burning ban rescinded

AGAWAM – To all residents, property owners, and businesses within the jurisdiction of Agawam: This notice serves to formally rescind the Temporary Ban on Open Burning that was issued on Nov. 4, 2024, due to hazardous fire conditions. Effective Nov. 26, 2024, all restrictions on open burning as outlined in the original order are lifted.

Reason for rescission upon ongoing monitoring and analysis of weather and environmental conditions, the following improvements have been observed: Recent rainfall has reduced combustibility of ground fuels; Seasonal temperatures have returned to normal ranges. Given these factors, the immediate threat of uncontrolled fire spread has substantially diminished, and open burning may now safely resume

within the Town of Agawam.

Scope of Rescission The rescission applies to all previously restricted activities. Residents and businesses are reminded to comply with all applicable Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code regulations and local ordinances regarding safe burning practices. Outside Fires, Code Requirements Burning of yard waste is only allowed with a permit between Jan. 15 and May 1. Residents are permitted to start and maintain a reasonably sized cooking fire at any time without a permit provided that conditions are safe and the following requirements are met; The fire is contained in a non-flammable enclosure; It is located away from combustible materials; It is not creating a smoke condition that is a nuisance; It is tended

at all times by someone who is 18 years of age or older Page 1 of 2 Be aware that you are never allowed to burn the following materials: Leaves; Combustibles from commercial or industrial land clearing; Grass, hay, stumps, pallets or tires; Construction material or demolition debris; Trash Please visit the MA Department of Fire Services Open Burning Safety page for more information: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/open-burning-safety>. The Agawam Fire Department thanks the community for its cooperation and adherence to the ban during this period. Your efforts have significantly contributed to the safety and wellbeing of our community. For any questions or additional information, please contact the Agawam Fire Department at (413) 786-0657.

## FHCC hosts Blue Christmas

FEEDING HILLS – Feeling blue this holiday season? It's ok to not be merry. Feeding Hills Congregational Church invites the community to a Blue Christmas on Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. Maybe this is the first holiday season after a loss or perhaps just feeling lonely. Whatever the reason for struggling, all are welcome to join in, as FHCC seeks out hope and peace in a supportive worship service. Come as you are, to join us for prayer, music, scripture and a special tree ceremony and reflection.

## Holiday Bazaar

FEEDING HILLS – Community Grange #382 will hold their annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Grange Hall located at 47 North West St. in Feeding Hills. Featured will be a bake sale, soup and baked beans to go, ornaments, wreaths, décor, crocheted items, S & S Hand-made Soap, Trudi's Sewing Creations, Joelle and Pat's knitted hats, mittens, scarves, Paws-a-tively Delectable and Tastefully Simple. There will be a basket raffle and the fair is open to the public.

## Sobel to speak at CWC meeting

AGAWAM – Dr. Steven Sobel will be the guest speaker at the Dec. 9, meeting of The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam at 7 p.m.. It will take place in the St. John the Evangelist Parish Center located at 833 Main St. His topic will be "You're a Piece of Work, Celebrate Joy, Happiness and Humor." Sobel is a nationally recognized motivational speaker, humorist and author.

Sobel's presentation will inspire par-

ticipants to live fully and how to keep a very positive perspective on life's challenges. You are sure to experience bouts of laughter throughout the presentation. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the club's monthly business meeting will be held after Sobel's inspiration message. All Catholic women from the region are welcome to join the club members for this joyful meeting.

## Notice of open position

AGAWAM – Please be advised that there is an opening on the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals effective January 2025. The opening is for a regular position. Interested parties should contact Barbara Bard in the City Council Office at 413-726-9716 or send in a letter of interest to [bbard@agawam.ma.us](mailto:bbard@agawam.ma.us) as soon as possible.

Subscribe online: [www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com](http://www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com)

## December adult programs available at Agawam Public Library

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library has a lot to offer. It's not too late to submit a tree for the Festival of Trees. Create a tree using unusual materials. Think egg cartons, balloons, or soda cans-and work together with your family, team, classroom or troop. The trees will be on display on the library's lower level throughout December. Join us for a festival opening on Monday, Dec. 9 between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.; enjoy some light refreshments and live music from the Blaney Brothers. Please register for this event.

The Buck-a-Bag Book Sale returns. Browse the book sale shelves and fill the bag with books, CD's and DVD's for only \$1. Bags will be available at the Information Desk. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Agawam Library.

Adult Game Night returns Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community

Room. Celebrate the joys of a good old game night with board games and snacks. There will be games on hand like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, Munchkin, and more. This is drop-in event for ages 18 and older.

Join in for a festive night on Thursday, Dec. 5 for Holiday Music Bingo. Get in the holiday mood as we play musical Bingo and enjoy a hot cocoa bar. Fun holiday prizes will be awarded to those with winning Bingo cards. Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Please register for this event.

On Thursday, Dec.12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., drop in throughout the day to catch a holiday movie marathon. And while you are watching, participate in making some holiday cards and/or gift tags. This is a perfect drop-in program to relax and finish up the flourishes before the holiday.

Adult Craft Night will take place on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. in the Clini Community Room. Join us for a craft night featuring paper folding to create beautiful Nordic Stars. These stars are sure to enhance your holiday décor. Participants are asked to please bring a ruler with them if possible. Please register for this event. Our Writers Group will also meet on Thursday, Dec.19 at 6 p.m. in the Peirce Conference Room.

There are two great authors lined up in our virtual author talk series for the month of December. Dr. Jeffrey Post from the Smithsonian Institute will present *Unearthed: Exploring the Smithsonian National Gem Collection* on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. And bestselling author Laura Dave will discuss *Pulse-Pounding, Family Driven Mysteries* on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. Please note that these are virtual author talks. Please

visit <https://library.org/agawamlibrary/> upcoming for more information and to register.

Registration for adult programs is open now. Please visit our online calendar [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org) to register, or call the Information Desk at (413) 789-1550 X4. A few reminders about holiday hours this month. The Agawam Library will be open 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 and remain closed on Christmas Day. The library will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31 and remain closed on New Year's Day. During the winter months, any closings or late openings will be reported to local TV stations 22 and 40, as well as their websites. Inclement weather closings or delays will also be posted on our social media platforms. Please visit the website for more information [www.agawamlibrary.org](http://www.agawamlibrary.org).

## Donation drive for the Da'Monique's Homeless Resource Initiative Closet

FEEDING HILLS – Da'Monique's Homeless Resource Initiative will be hosting a donation drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 7, at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church.

Donations will benefit the low income individuals and families in Western MA. Donations accepted include gently used clothing for adults and children, person-

al hygiene items, non-perishable food items, menstrual items, books, and baby items such as diapers and wipes.

Monetary donations are accepted in person or checks made payable to Da'Monique's Homeless Resource Initiative.

Please email [djacobswilliams](mailto:djacobswilliams) for more information or to volunteer.

## Holiday celebration dinner to be held at Storrowton Carriage House

WEST SPRINGFIELD – On Friday evening, Dec.13, Michelle Brooks-Thompson from TV's *The Voice* will be performing a Holidays Celebration Dinner Show at the Storrowton Carriage House.

A donation to Samaritan's Purse, a non-profit organization assisting those who are experiencing challenges from the destruction of hurricane Helene will be made. A water filtration system is in development by Samaritan's Purse for the area in

North Carolina.

Brooks-Thompson will be performing popular winter and holiday songs of the season with a few surprises. She was a Grand Champion Winner of New York's Apollo Theater as well as a finalist on *The Voice*. A memento will be given to all.

For more information about reservations of \$67 to include dinner and the show, contact 413-279-4567 or [PageOneConcerts@gmail.com](mailto:PageOneConcerts@gmail.com).

## Holyoke Mall partners with Salvation Army campaign

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Mall is proud to partner with The Salvation Army for their annual Red Kettle Campaign Kick Off event. This event signals the start of an initiative which funds programs and services for thousands of families, youth, and senior citizens in our community and across Massachusetts each year.

Bell ringers will be accepting donations at various exterior entrances and interior locations across the shopping center until Dec. 24. The event will also feature a performance from the Holyoke High School Madrigal Choir.

To complement the Red Kettle Cam-

paign, The Salvation Army is set to host another annual tradition, the Angel Tree. This program provides clothing and toys for children in need. According to The Salvation Army, each Angel Tree is decorated with numbered paper angel tags with the first name, age, and gender of a child who is in need of a gift. Contributors remove one, or more, tags from the tree and purchase appropriate gifts for the child or children described on the tags. Guests are encouraged to visit the Angel Tree Thursday through Saturday from 3 to 6 p.m. beginning on Friday, Nov.15 and until Tuesday, Dec. 24.

## Festival of trees hosted at library

AGAWAM – The Agawam Library is hosting a community-wide holiday gallery of hand-made trees throughout the library. The trees will be designed and created by participants and placed on display.

Who can participate in the Festival of Trees?

Anyone. Individuals, teams, families, friends, classes groups, and co-workers are encouraged to collaborate and make trees out of unusual materials. All ages

are welcome.

We challenge you to come up with fun and creative ways to make a tree from scratch. Think of any kind of material (soda cans, Styrofoam, egg cartons, etc.) that you can fashion into a tree of some sort. Be creative and think of something unique.

You may drop off your completed tree any time between now and Dec. 6.

There will be an opening reception for the Festival of Trees on Monday, Dec. 8 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.



# Agawam Senior Center announces upcoming news, events

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

Important update of the Agawam Senior center hours of operation. The Agawam Senior Center will be closing at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The Agawam Senior Center will remain open on Tuesday evenings until 7:30 p.m. We hope this will give you a chance to access more of what we have to offer. The Billiards Hall, Computer Room, Fitness Room and more. ZUMBA Gold will offer classes on Tuesday evenings starting at 5:30 p.m.

## Richie Mitnick & Friends Holiday Show

Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m.

Richie Mitnick and Friends are thrilled to present their annual Holiday Concert at the Agawam Senior Center. This concert is

sponsored by the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center. Donation of \$3 per person will get you into this fabulous show. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. We hope you will join us.

## Jewelry Making With Sandy Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Dining Room

We here at the Agawam Senior Center are so excited to offer Jewelry Making with Sandy!! Sandy will bring all the materials you need, and you bring your creativity. The cost for the class is \$3 per person plus the cost of your supplies. Call Kristina at 413.726.2836

## Manicures With Jane Monday, Dec. 16

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.

## Choral Group From Phelps School Tuesday, Dec. 17 at noon

The Fourth-Grade class from Phelps Elementary under the direction of music teacher Paul Sawyer is pleased to announce the return of our Annual Holiday Concert and Senior Luncheon, happening on Dec. 17 at noon. If you know any children that attend Phelps and are in the 4th grade, please feel free to reach out to them and plan to eat lunch with them that day. We are excited to present to you a holiday concert full of joy, holiday spirit and whimsy.

Please be sure to mark it on calendars to be at this holiday concert event. The Agawam Senior Center is super excited to have Paul and the students back as it is always a

fun time for everyone.

Please remember to make your lunch reservation 24 hours in advance by calling the Senior Center at 413-821-0604.

## Holiday Nutrition Seminar Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. in the Seminar Hall

Give yourself, family and friends the gift of healthy eating. Learn simple steps to modify favorite recipes, develop strategies to manage eating behavior around the holidays and discover ideas for healthy snacks and gifts.

## Free Screening Balance Clinic Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. in the Garden Room

Powerback Rehabilitation will be at the Agawam Senior Center offering free screenings that include Balance/Strength. These are 15-minute appointments. Call Kristina at 726.2836 to schedule one.

## Open house to be held at Charles Leonard House

AGAWAM – For the first time since 2019, Agawam's historic Captain Charles Leonard House will open to the public for a free open house in celebration of the season. The event will take place on Friday evening, December 6, 2024, from 6 to 8 p.m. and will feature tours of the house and seasonal refreshments.

Each room of the 1805 stage tavern, located at 663 Main St., in the Agawam Center National Register Historic District, will be decorated for the season. The exterior of the house and the Minerva Davis Meeting Room will be decorated by the Agawam Garden Club with the theme of Christmas at the Captain Leonard Stage Tavern. Prominent among the decorations is a tavern sign painted by Garden Club member Rosemarie White.

Keyboardist Andrew Metz will provide seasonal and classical music during the event, supported in part by a grant from the Agawam Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council,

a state agency.

The trustees of the Captain Charles Leonard House wish to thank the Agawam Garden Club and the club's Yuletide Committee for their generosity, creativity and hard work and hope this year's effort will become an annual collaboration.

The Captain Charles Leonard House, considered Agawam's finest Federal-era building, was built in 1805 as a stage tavern to service travelers on the Hartford/Boston/Albany route. The house was restored in the late 1930s by Mrs. Minerva Davis, who established a Board of Trustees to oversee the operation of the house as Agawam's Community House, the role it has served since 1939. The Captain Charles Leonard House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

The Captain Charles Leonard House is available to rent for business functions and social events. For rental information, please call 413-786-9421. Follow us on Facebook.com/captainleonardhouse.

## Toys now being collected for annual holiday exchange

AGAWAM – The Agawam Zero Waste Club, Agawam High School SAVE Club and National Honor Society are hosting the Ninth Annual Holiday Used Toy Exchange. This event was created to become a source of holiday gifts for residents on tight budgets, as well as increase the lifespan of consumer goods which are discarded long before their usefulness is waned.

Gently used, clean, working toys may be dropped off at the Agawam Public Library on Friday, Dec. 6, from 12 noon to 4:30 p.m. Gently used toys wanted include musical instruments, action figures, dolls, sports equipment, books, bicycles, electronics, video games, DVDs, stuffed animals, model kits, art supplies, building toys, creative learning toys, outdoor toys and structures, games, puzzles and baby toys. No dirty, broken or incomplete toys

will be accepted. All donations should be inspected before being dropped off.

General public free shopping of these gently used toys will be on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. In order to share with as many families as possible, families will be limited to an amount they are able to carry in one trip to their vehicle. Shoppers are asked to bring their own reusable shopping bags, as this is a zero-waste event. Any toys remaining will be donated to local charities. Children should not be brought into the shopping area, so that each toy will be an exciting surprise. An activity will be available to children while adults shop. For more information, visit [www.agawam.ma.us](http://www.agawam.ma.us) under the events column or email Nancy Bobskill at [AgawamZeroWaste@gmail.com](mailto:AgawamZeroWaste@gmail.com) The Agawam Public Library is located at 750 Cooper St.

## Colleen applications now available

AGAWAM – Applications are open for the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee 2025 Colleen Coronation.

The purpose of the Agawam St. Patrick's Colleen Pageant is to promote a sense of spirit in the Irish community and Irish awareness to all. The Colleen must be present at: The Colleen Gathering, the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Agawam Memorial Day Parade. She will also attend events and functions throughout the "Irish Season." It is a fun and exciting experience, as well as a great honor for the Colleen and her Court. Commitment to your Irish heritage is an important factor in the section

process. Applications are due on Dec. 20. Abbie Fiore, President and Colleen Mom, will contact you to let you know that we have received your application as well as any updates that we will have.

The application is now available at a link located on Agawam St. Patrick's Committee's Facebook page.

According to the application, potential contestants must fill out the application, and include a photo of themselves and answer several questions. An informational meeting for contestants will be held on Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025 at 11 a.m. at the Agawam Public Library.

## Agawam DPW collects used lights

AGAWAM – Frustrated with broken holiday lights, or just have a bunch that no longer suits the needs? No matter what the reason, resist the urge to throw old holiday lights in the curbside trash or recycling collection cart. Holiday light strings are known as "tangles" in the recycling industry. Tangles are things like plastic bags, ropes, cords, hoses, wires, and light strings that jam sorting machinery by wrapping around the equipment, which is dangerous for workers.

Light strings may be delivered to the Department of Public Works front office through Jan. 31. This program is for light strings only: incandescent, LED and icicle light strings with wires and attached bulbs. Boxes, bags, and packaging must be removed before placing lights in the recycling container. Alternative options for recycling light strings would include mail back programs such as [HolidayLEDs.com](http://HolidayLEDs.com) or [Christmas-light-source.com](http://Christmas-light-source.com).

## WSU launches Paramedic program

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University is excited to announce the launch of its new Paramedic Program, beginning January 2025. Developed in collaboration with key healthcare providers and emergency management organizations-including Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Holyoke Medical Center, Mercy Medical Center; Fire Departments from East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Southwick, and Westfield; and EMS providers from Chapin Ambulance, Northern Berkshire EMS, and Cataldo Ambulance - this program addresses the critical regional demand for highly skilled emergency medical professionals.

The program is designed to support workforce development by establishing a direct career pathway for Emergency Medical Technicians to advance to Paramedics. Through strong partnerships with employers in the field, Westfield State ensures the

curriculum reflects industry standards, equipping students with the skills and expertise needed for immediate employment in emergency medical services.

Students will benefit from a comprehensive curriculum, expert faculty, and state-of-the-art training facilities. The program includes one year of classroom instruction followed by clinical, field, and capstone internships, and can be completed in two years or through an accelerated 12-18-month track. To meet the diverse needs of working students, the program offers hybrid live lectures enabling remote participation with the in-person classes. Hands on skills labs are held in-person.

Applications are now open for the inaugural class starting Jan. 7, 2025. Prospective students can visit [www.westfield.ma.edu/paramedic](http://www.westfield.ma.edu/paramedic) for detailed admission requirements and program specifics.

## Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary in need of more donations, supplies

AGAWAM – To all of our wonderful friends and supporters: Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary is running short on supplies this month. Could you please help out with an extra boost? Money always helps, but supplies help too.

We need: Unscented clumping cat litter, Kirkland dry cat food (purple bag), cases of Friskies canned food, baby food (meat/poultry varieties), extra large pee pads, paper towels, gift cards to Smithland and/or Costco.

Donations can be made through PayPal, Venmo, @Feline-Friends, or U.S. Mail at P.O. Box 174, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

Donation bins are located at Smithland in Agawam and the Agawam Library.

Local pick-up is optional. Contact us at [info@felinefriendsinc.org](mailto:info@felinefriendsinc.org) or 786-5019.

We will be holding our next monthly donation drive at Smithland Pet & Garden Center on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will be collecting food, litter & monetary donations for

our kitties. Opened bags/boxes will be accepted.

Smithland, a valued sponsor, is stocked with Friskies Pate or Shreds canned food (single flavor cases are preferred), many Fancy Feast varieties and unscented, clumping cat litter.

Thanks to community members who generously donated at our Nov. 2 event including Joanne L, Carl and Cheryl K, Terry and Lucky, Katie H, Crystal M. and Ken K. We are also grateful to our monthly do-

nors and everyone who has supported our sanctuary.

Feline Friends Inc. is a community-based, nonprofit sanctuary that does not discriminate against any cat based on age, gender or disability.

More information about our sanctuary may be found on our website at [felinefriendsinc.org](http://felinefriendsinc.org) or our Facebook page at Feline Friends Cat Sanctuary. Contact us with questions at [info@felinefriendsinc.org](mailto:info@felinefriendsinc.org) or by phone at 413-786-5019.

# Opinion

## Guest Column



### Am I entitled to more Social Security from my ex-husbands?

Dear Rusty:

I am 76 years old and a retired high school counselor/teacher. I was married to my first husband from 1968 until 1981. He is still living and he remarried two more times and, I believe, he is currently divorced. He is 77 years old. His income was always much higher than mine. I was married to my second husband from May 1989 until we divorced in April 2017. My second husband died in June 2023. What I wonder is if I am entitled to receive Social Security benefits based upon the income of either of my ex-husbands?

Signed: Twice Divorced Spouse

Dear Twice Divorced:

Divorced spouses are entitled to the same benefits as a current spouse if their marriage lasted at least 10 years which, in both cases, yours did. The other caveat is whether your own SS retirement benefit is less than you are entitled to from either of your ex-husbands. If your own SS retirement benefit is less, then you will get an incremental amount on top of your own SS retirement to bring your total monthly benefit up to your spousal or surviving spouse) entitlement.

Since your first husband is still living, it is likely that your best financial option is to claim a surviving ex-spouse benefit from your deceased second husband. The reason is that survivor benefits from husband # 2 are based on his actual benefit at his death, whereas benefits from a living ex-spouse, husband #1, are based upon his full retirement amount. In other words, it is likely that 100% of deceased husband #2's benefit at his death is more than 50% of living husband #1's current benefit at his Full Retirement Age.

It is, of course, possible that 50% of your first husband's FRA entitlement is more than 100% of your second husband's benefit at death, in which case your ex-spouse benefit from your first husband could be more. The only way to sort this out is to contact Social Security at -800-772-1213 to make an appointment to apply for surviving ex-spouse benefits from your deceased second husband. Explain that your first ex-husband is still living and that you are unsure of what your benefits are as your first husband's ex-spouse.

Social Security will be able to determine from their records, which one provides you with a higher benefit amount, provide each husband's Social Security number when you call. As I said, your best financial option will likely be to take your survivor benefit from your deceased second ex-husband note, however, if your first ex-husband also dies before you, you can subsequently file for

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## Guest Column

### Live tabletop Christmas trees become houseplants



Norfolk Island pines are nearly as popular as poinsettias this time of year, gracing chain store and supermarket shelves just after the Thanksgiving holiday, or perhaps soon after Halloween, these days!

Not sure exactly what they look like? Think mini Christmas tree.

These cute conifers come table top ready, pre-decorated with tiny little ornaments and a festive foil sleeve. Most stand less than a foot tall, yet the amount of holiday cheer they bring to someone who otherwise wouldn't have a Christmas tree is immeasurable.

Unlike cut Christmas trees, potted Norfolk Island Pines need not be discarded once the holidays have passed. Simply take their decorations off and they become an easy to maintain houseplant.

Although they look as if they would be hardy to our area, they are not, so don't plan on giving them a spot outdoors come springtime, or you'll lose them with the first hard frost of fall. Norfolk Island, from which the plant hails, is situated in the southern Pacific Ocean, northeast of Sydney, Australia – a much warmer climate indeed!

The only locations within the United States that the Norfolk Island pine is hardy are Hawaii, and parts of Florida and California. Southern Florida is home to many commercial growers of the plant.

It is interesting to note that the Norfolk Island pine isn't a true pine at all. Rather it is an evergreen plant with needle-like leaves.

Side branches rise from the main stem at wide angles, giving it a symmetrical, triangular outline, especially when young. In the wild, heights can top off around 200 feet, with diameters between 9 and 10 feet. As a houseplant, it is very slow growing.

To keep your Norfolk Island pine looking its best for seasons to come, provide it with good quality light – a few feet from a south or west facing window is ideal. Give it a quarter turn at each watering and you will be rewarded with a nice straight stem.

If window space is out of the question, it will do

okay in a well-lit room as well, providing the lights are on for most of the day. Temperatures should range between 60-70 degrees during the day; slightly cooler at night.

It is important that the Norfolk Island pine be kept from temps below 50 degrees for any length of time or injury may occur. Therefore, be sure it is in a bag or protective sleeve when you bring it home from the store in chilly winter weather.

Keep its soil moist but not soaking wet.

Sometimes lower limbs may brown and then drop. Age, as well as erratic watering can cause this problem. Repot and check watering practices.

Fertilize in the spring, once active growth resumes.

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*), the herb of remembrance. Its needle like leaves and fragrant foliage make it a wonderful candidate for use as a table top Christmas tree!

One of the more common questions when people toured Old Sturbridge Village's greenhouse in the off-season, was "How do you manage to overwinter your rosemaries? They are some of the biggest I've ever seen!"

In a controlled setting such as a greenhouse, it's really not that difficult. Tender plants can be given as much sun as Mother Nature provides, but with the use of thermostats and vents, temperatures can be kept to a minimum.

We set the thermostat at 55 degree night temperatures, and vents opened when daytime heat reaches seventy. Low temperatures like these won't push the plants into growth when winter day length and daylight can't support it. Because of this the plants are stocky, not lanky.

We watered when the soil is dry to the touch – sometimes this might be as infrequently as twice a week during an overcast stretch, or as often as every day if the sun is out. For home culture, a sunny but cool locale is best.

For me, it's my "mudroom!"

One treat that many gardeners don't get to appreciate is the beautiful blue flowers that are borne on the plant in the short days of winter. Legend ties the plant to the Virgin Mary, saying that flowers that were originally white were turned to blue when she spread her cloak on its branches.

Yet another reason that makes it a great choice for a mini Christmas tree!

With any luck, a Norfolk Island pine and Rose-

GARDEN | page 5



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Subscriptions  
www.turley.com

\$35 per year pre-paid  
(\$40 out of state)  
Newsstand \$1.00

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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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The Agawam Advertiser News (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

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## Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the news-

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

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

# Opinion

## Guest Column



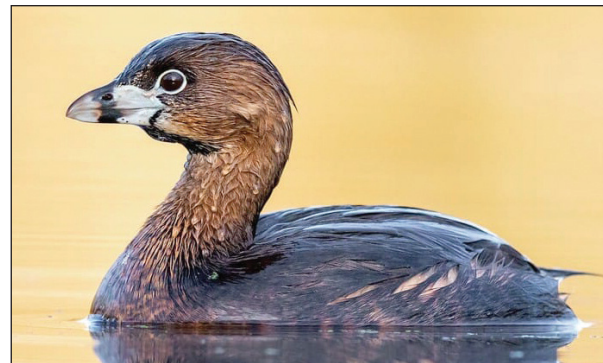
By Ellenor Downer

**A** Brimfield resident, who frequently emails about bird sighting saw a pied bill grebe in Warren on Nov. 6. The pied-bill grebe is about 12 inches long. It is stocky and brown with a short stout bill. During the summer months, the grebe has a black ring around a white bill

with a black chin. In winter the bill either shows a faint ring or no ring at all and the chin is light.

This grebe feeds by diving underwater and catching fish, aquatic insects, frogs and crayfish. The pied-bill grebe is one of the earliest migrant grebes to return and often arrives on ponds before the ice is all melted. They summer on lakes and ponds and winter in sheltered saltwater bays.

The female lays six to seven bluish green eggs in a platform nest of decaying vegetation, attached to growing vegetation in shallow water. In territorial skirmishes, males come together and tilt their heads up while calling. Parents may do a distraction display of flapping their wings



Pied-bill grebe

BACKYARD | page 12

### GARDEN | from page 4

mary can go from being great Christmas decorations to wonderful year round houseplants.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.*

### SECURITY | from page 4

a survivor benefit from him, if that is more than you are getting from your second husband's record.

*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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**Deadline for photos and forms is Monday, December 16, 2024**

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62					63					64		

**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Bar bills  
5. Recipe measurement (abbr.)  
8. Swiss river  
11. Czech Republic capital  
13. "Officially known as"  
14. A French abbot  
15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste  
16. Local area network  
17. Data transmission speed measure  
18. Embarrass  
20. When you hope to get there  
21. This (Spanish)  
22. Gives up  
25. Churchgoer  
30. Current  
31. Slang for gun  
32. Small drum  
33. Vanished union bigwig

38. Rocker's tool of the trade  
41. Dearth  
43. 2024 Olympics host (abbr.)  
45. Excess blood in the vessels  
48. Afrikaans  
49. Agreement between provider and customer  
50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation  
55. Ancient Syrian city  
56. Witch  
57. Celebrations  
59. Long period of time  
60. A team's best pitcher  
61. Current unit  
62. One-time aerospace company  
63. French/Belgian river  
64. Swedish rock group

**CLUES DOWN**

1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)  
2. Genus of clams  
3. Remark  
4. Actor LaBeouf  
5. Ohio town  
6. Olympic sport  
7. Cure  
8. Behave in a way that belittles  
9. Shares a boundary with  
10. Give advice  
12. Promotional materials  
14. Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing  
19. "Agatha All Along" actress Kathryn  
23. Small piece  
24. King of Camelot  
25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)  
26. Small Milky Way constellation  
27. One who challenges authority (abbr.)  
28. Equal (prefix)

29. Shawl  
34. S. American wood sorrel relative  
35. The end  
36. Supervises interstate commerce  
37. Yes vote  
39. Officer of high rank  
40. Church office  
41. Tire pressure measurement  
42. From a distance  
44. Photographs  
45. Industrial process  
46. Nobel Prize-winning physicist  
47. Map out  
48. Mammary gland part of female mammal  
51. Honorable title (Turkish)  
52. Spongelike cake leavened with yeast  
53. Speak incessantly  
54. Poetry term  
58. Relaxing space

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION ON PAGE 11**



The Addams family raise the dead at the opening of the play.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY QUINN SUOMALA



Agawam High School's performance of the Addams Family opened with the iconic music and snapping.



The pit orchestra prepared for accompanying Agawam High School's performance of the Addams Family.

# The Addams Family



Gomez Addams, played by Samuel Beckwith, and Lurch, played by Lio Mansur, had a conversation.



Wednesday Addams, played by Chelsea Casamento, asked her father, Gomez Addams (played by Samuel Beckwith) if he would keep a secret about her being engaged.



Gomez Addams, played by Samuel Beckwith, Morticia Addams, played by Sofia Calvanese, and Lurch, played by Lio Mansur discussed the flowers that arrived at the house.



Chelsea Casamento, who played Wednesday Addams, performed the song "Honor Roll/Pulled" with Ash Deforge, who played Pugsley Addams.



Gomez Addams, played by Samuel Beckwith and Morticia Addams, played by Sofia Calvanese had a tense conversation about Wednesday Addam's behavior.



The Addams family tried to prepare for the upcoming dinner with the Beineke family.



Lucas Beineke, played by Nick Fontaine, Mal Beineke, played by Caleb White, and Alice Beineke, played by Abby Drumm, tried to find the Addams family home.



Uncle Fester, played by Jack Lovely, tried to get the dead ready to help him pull off the dinner for Wednesday Addams.



The Beineke family arrived at the Addams family residence.



The Addams family greeted the Beineke family.



Alice Beineke, played by Abby Drumm, met Morticia Addams, played by Sofia Calvanese.



Wednesday Addams, played by Chelsea Casamento, and Lucas Beineke, played by Nick Fontaine, tried to figure out how they were going to make the dinner with their two families go well.



Wednesday Addams, played by Chelsea Casamento, Lucas Beineke, played by Nick Fontaine, and Gomez Addams, played by Samuel Beckwith, tried to plan how to make the family dinner go smoothly.



Abby Drumm, who played Alive Beineke, performed the song "Waiting".



Puglsey Addams, played by Ash Deforge, tried to plan how to get his sister to stay nearby, and ran into Grandma Addams, played by Emily Gonzalez.



Gomez Addams, played by Samuel Beckwith, and Mal Beineke, played by Caleb White, tried to get to know one another.



The Addams Family cast performed the song "Full Disclosure".

**ADDAMS ■ from page 1**

show stage managing, I feel as though I have grown a lot closer with all members of the drama club, and I have gained lots of people skills and a love for leadership," Stage Manager Ave Elias said.

"It was so much fun working with everyone and I'm really impressed with how it turned out," Emily Gonzalez, who played Grandma, said.

The cast and crew also agreed that they would encourage anyone who was interested to try out for the drama club.

"It is a very enjoyable experience and it is a great way to make new friends," Anahi Alvarado, who played an ensemble ancestor, said.

"I would encourage other people to try theater if they are interested because it's an opportunity to make friends, find a new sense of confidence, and it's genuinely so much fun," Chelsea Casamento, who played Wednesday Addams, said.

Johnson and Jaeger selected The Addams Family for this year's musical performance after careful consideration.

"All of the other high school programs who had done it all said it was incredible," Johnson said. "So it has been on my short list."

Jaeger hadn't known as much about the show at first, but once she learned more about it she agreed with Johnson that it would be perfect to do for this year.

"We just really have the perfect storm of talent to make the Addams family come to

life on stage," Jaeger said.

They were both so proud of how well all of the kids did with the performance.

"They just were rockstars, they really impressed us," Jaeger said.

The cast and crew were grateful in turn for the effort and support that Jaeger and Johnson put into helping them to put on this show.

"I would like to shout out to all of my friends in drama, as well as our advisors, Ms. Jaeger, and Mrs. Johnson for being there for me, and supporting me through this all," Jackson Lovely, who played Uncle Fester, said.

"I would like to shout out Jaeger and Johnson for being amazing," Katherine Dahm, who played an ensemble ancestor, said.

Jaeger and Johnson also wanted to thank the community volunteers and other community supporters who helped to put on this performance.

They were especially grateful for Pamela Vallon-Jackson and Crystal Garner for their efforts in supporting this performance.

Finally, all involved with the performance would like to show their gratitude to the community for coming out to support this show.

"I was thrilled with the community response to this production, we had far more people attend this year than we did for our last show," Johnson said.

They hope to continue to impress the community as they continue forward with performing musicals each year.

# SPORTS

## Tough holiday for Brownies football



Caleb Phillips heads off on a run. TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

AGAWAM – Last Thursday morning, the rain, and West Springfield's offense, poured down on Agawam



Rian Villareal begins a return for the Brownies.

High School football.

The Brownies were shut out in their Thanksgiving morning matchup with the Terriers 51-0.

Agawam struggled on offense to get any momentum going, and the Brownies also attempted to convert on fourth down twice early in the game.

Both attempts were unsuccessful, and the Terriers gained a short field, helping them add to their early lead.

Combined with a safety, the Terriers put up four very early touchdowns quickly and led 30-0 in the second quarter.

Agawam's season ends with a 4-7 record.



As the rain pours down, Dominic Rodriguez fields a kickoff.



William Olson blocks on the line.



Joe Duffy drops back to pass to an open Ryan Litz.



Domenick Pisano takes the snap.

## All-Star volleyball match

HOLYOKE – Last Tuesday evening, The International Volleyball Hall of Fame hosted the Western Mass. All-Star Game, featuring some of the best players from throughout Western Massachusetts. Agawam was represented in the game by Hannah Jock and Isabella Spaulding. The event was held at Holyoke Community College.



Hannah Jock and Isabella Spaulding were all-stars for girls volleyball. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Hannah Jock sends down a spike.



Isabella Spaulding gets a short hit over the net.



# Sports

## Thunderbirds climb back above .500 with win over Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (10-9-1-0) got off to a quick start en route to a 3-2 win over the Providence Bruins (8-10-2-0) on Sunday afternoon at Amica Mutual Pavilion on a day when the two teams sported throwback jerseys. Springfield donned the Indians jerseys circa 1979, while the Bruins wore their late 1990s gold “Pooh Bear” logo jerseys.

The T-Birds jumped ahead on the scoreboard for a sixth consecutive game, this time just 3:51 into the contest. Scott Harrington settled a puck at the right point and fired it toward the net mouth with two teammates setting up screens. Aleksanteri Kaskimaki showed terrific hand-eye coordination, successfully spiking it down to

the ice between the legs of Bruins goalie Michael DiPietro, giving the T-Birds a 1-0 lead. Harrington picked up his first point as a T-Bird, and Dalibor Dvorsky earned the secondary assist to extend his point streak to five games.

Colten Ellis drew the net for a second consecutive start, looking to extend a five-game streak without a regulation loss, making nine stops in the opening period. The Bruins’ first and only power play of the period, though, got the game evened when Patrick Brown cleaned up his own rebound following a splendid Ellis save at 13:49, evening the slate, 1-1.

Springfield failed to connect on its first power play, but the T-Birds took advantage with 1:56 of man-up time to begin the

second. Samuel Johannesson got the play started from the right point, whipping a pass in the left circle to Marcus Sylvegard. The winger uncorked a shot that DiPietro deflected but could not cover. The rebound sat in the blue paint, where Matt Luff swooped in to backhand the puck across the goal line to give the T-Birds the 2-1 lead just 38 seconds into the middle period.

The Bruins attack could not get anything going in the T-Birds end, registering just four shots on Ellis for the duration of the second. Springfield’s offense remained opportunistic and extended the lead at 13:04 when Dylan Peterson flipped a puck toward the net, allowing Reece Newkirk to slip it into the blue paint and Drew Callin

to bury the loose change to make it a 3-1 score.

Providence did not go down easily as defenseman Mason Millman connected for his first goal as a Bruin with a slap shot just 1:36 into the final period to make it a 3-2 game. The Bruins had the bulk of the offensive chances in the final period, but Ellis and the Springfield defense did enough to prevent the home side from finding an equalizer. Ellis, who is now 5-0-1 in his last six starts, had 25 saves in the victory.

The T-Birds, who now sit above the .500 plateau for the first time since they won their season opener, rest up before welcoming the Bridgeport Islanders on Friday night at the MassMutual Center, with puck drop set for 7:05 p.m.

## Worcester Railers takes two of three on the road

WITCHITA, KS — The Worcester Railers HC (8-10-0-1 17pts) fell to the Wichita Thunder (10-9-1-0, 21pts), on Saturday night by the final score of 6-2 in front of a crowd of 4,009 at the INTRUST Bank Arena. The Railers are back on the ice next at the Cool Insuring Arena taking on the Adirondack Thunder on Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. EST.

It was Wichita who tallied the first goal on the board as they took an early 1-0 lead 1:08 into the first period, with a goal from Jeremie Bucheler (1-1-2). Joe Carroll (1-0-1) extended the lead to 2-0 6:01 into the first. Colin Jacobs (1-0-1) then netted one for Worcester making it a 2-1 game. Wichita then scored two unanswered to finish the first period coming from Nolan Kneen (1-0-1) and Nolan Burke (1-0-1) making it a 4-1 Wichita lead headed into the second period. Anthony Repaci (1-0-1) scored the

only second period goal with his power play goal with under a second remaining in the period. Wichita closed the game out with two third period goals, the first coming from Michal Stinil (1-1-2) on the power play while Braden Hache (1-1-2) was able to score on the empty net to close out the scoring, leaving the game with a 6-2 final score.

The scoring came early from Wichita through the first 20 minutes of play. Wichita got started with a goal from Jeremie Bucheler (4th) just 1:08 into the game. Joe Carrol (7th) extended the Wichita lead to 2-0 6:01 into the first. The Railers answered back with a goal from Colin Jacobs (2nd) with just over eight minutes to go in the first. Wichita finished the period by pushing their lead to 4-1 with goals from Nolan Kneen (1st) and Nolan Burke (3rd). Shots favored Worcester in the first 22-12.

Despite the five total goals in the first both teams scoring slowed down in the second period. It looked as if the second period would go without a score until Anthony Repaci (14th) scored a power play goal with under a second to go in the period making it a 4-2 game heading into the third period. Shots Favored Worcester 12-8 in the second.

The third period was another low scoring period on both ends. The stalemate was broken when the Thunder got on the power play and cashed in with a goal from Michal Stinil (10th) 16:15 into the third period. The Railers went with an empty net late in the third trying to make the comeback, but the Braden Hache (1st) of the Thunder was able to get the puck all the way down the ice and score on the empty net making the final score 6-2. Shots favored Worcester 16-12 in the third and 50-32 in the game.

## Volleyball Hall mourns Diener loss

HOLYOKE — The International Volleyball Hall of Fame announced the passing of Board of Directors member Charlie Diener on Oct. 29. He was a dedicated and long-time member of the IVHF Board of Directors. Charlie’s passion for volleyball and his unwavering commitment to the Hall of Fame were exemplified through his leadership as past Chair of the Events Committee and his many years of service to our mission.

“Charlie’s legacy will live on in every event that we host, in every inductee that we honor, and in the many lives that he influenced while on the IVHF Board,” said IVHF President Steve Bishop. “Back in 2017 we honored Charlie (and Rick Barry) with the inaugural IVHF President’s Award for their longtime service. They set the standard for future recipients of this award.”

“Charlie’s contributions went far beyond the planning and execution of events,” said George Mulry, IVHF Executive Director. “He brought energy, creativity, and a collaborative spirit that inspired those around him. His tireless work and genuine love for the sport have left an indelible mark on our organization, and his efforts have played a significant role in shaping the IVHF’s legacy.”

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## Hall of Fame hosting pair of college matchups

SPRINGFIELD — The MGM Springfield Basketball Hall of Fame Classic, presented by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, takes place on “World Basketball Day,” Saturday, Dec. 21, at the MassMutual Center and will be televised nationally on CBS Sports Network.

“We are proud to work with local stakeholders to bring local businesses in as sponsors of the Basketball Hall of Fame Classic,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “Thank you to MGM Springfield and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism for supporting the Hall of Fame

Classic and helping us fulfill our mission of celebrating and promoting basketball’s history and bringing four great teams to the ‘Birthplace of Basketball.’”

“This iconic event in the birthplace of basketball is a hoop dream realized for many of the sports’ up and coming stars,” said Louis Therios, MGM Springfield President and COO. “MGM Springfield is incredibly proud to support and celebrate the Classic, honoring basketball’s rich legacy, inspiring future generations, bringing visitors to downtown, and shining a light on the City of Firsts.”

“The Basketball Hall of Fame Classic is a

slam dunk for Massachusetts tourism,” said Kate Fox, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism. “By celebrating World Basketball Day in the sport’s birthplace, we’re inviting visitors from across the country to experience the excitement of the game and explore our state’s diverse offerings.”

Tickets for the 2024 Basketball Hall of Fame Classic are on sale now via [massmutualcenter.com](http://massmutualcenter.com) and the MassMutual Center Box Office. For more information, please visit [hoophall.com](http://hoophall.com). Group ticket pricing and hospitality opportunities are also available.

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## SERVICES

### PLUMBING

**GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING** Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

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**JENKINS ROOFING** specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - 413-566-5596/413-433-5073. Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

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## HELP WANTED

### TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills.  
Please visit our website [TownOfBlandford.com](http://TownOfBlandford.com) or email [Administrator@TownofBlandford.com](mailto:Administrator@TownofBlandford.com) for more information.

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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE**, shared with consultant. Artistically designed and decorated. Includes utilities, conference room, and kitchen. 3333 Boston Road, Wilbraham. 617-209-4882.

## FOR RENT



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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

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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
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27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
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33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

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# Public Notices

**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. HD24P1784EA  
**Estate of:**  
Thomas J. Bonavita  
**Date of Death: 05/18/2016**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Andrea Tarpey of Longmeadow, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/30/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a 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: November 25, 2024  
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate  
12/05/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
Docket No. HD24P1280EA**  
**Estate of:**  
Richard R Durant  
**Date of Death:**  
March 16, 2024  
**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Robert L Durant of Canastota NY**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal

Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
12/05/2024

**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. HD15P1977EA  
**Estate of:**  
Claire Helena Goldsmith  
**Date of Death: 11/01/2014**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **S/A - Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Sandra L Goldsmith of Los Angeles, CA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Sandra L Goldsmith of Los Angeles, CA** 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 12/18/2024.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a 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: November 20, 2024  
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate  
12/05/2024

**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. HD23P0770EA  
**Estate of:**  
Brenda Lee Larsen  
**Also known as:**  
Brenda L Larsen  
**Date of Death: 01/21/2023**  
**CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT**

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Mary Lou Elliott of Alburg, VT** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account 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 12/27/2024.**

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: November 25, 2024  
Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate  
12/05/2024

**LEGAL NOTICE  
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Agawam City Council Administrative Committee will conduct a Public Hearing on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025 at 6:30PM**, at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA, on a Verizon petition for permission to lay and maintain underground conduits, with the wires and cables to be placed therein, under the surface of North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA with permission to lay and maintain underground conduits, man-holes, cables, and wires in the above way for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as it may desire for distributing purposes. This petition is available by contacting the City Council Office, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA or by emailing [bbard@agawam.ma.us](mailto:bbard@agawam.ma.us).

Robert E. Rossi, Chair  
Administrative Committee  
12/05, 12/12/2024

# Obituary

## James Peter Cichetti

November 5, 1971 – November 23, 2024



Jimmy Cichetti, of Agawam, passed away November 23, far too soon. He was beloved by all who knew him. He had an extraordinary ability to make everyone feel valued and cared for, always going out of his way to lend a helping hand or a listening ear and making an unwavering impact on everyone he encountered. Jimmy graduated from Agawam High and attended HCC. He worked as a realtor for almost 20 years, most recently with LaMacchia Realty/Sears Real Estate. Jimmy spent 8 years on Agawam City Council serving 2 years as Council President. Jimmy shared many interests, such as golfing, as a member of Springfield Country Club as well as having many fun times at Latitude Restaurant. Jimmy is survived by his mother, Dolores (Luccardi) Cichetti; his siblings, Anthony Cichetti & wife Kelly; Andrea Cichetti & partner Kevin Brevelleri & son Luca; and his niece & nephew, Anthony and Alexandra Cichetti & her fiancé Dylan Buscemi. Jimmy is also survived by countless friends whose lives

were enriched just by knowing him. Jimmy is preceded in death by his father, Louis Cichetti and his aunt, Norma Luccardi. Calling hours for Jimmy were held Sunday, Dec. 1 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Colonial Forastiere Funeral & Cremation, 985 Main St., Agawam, MA. A funeral service took place Monday, Dec. 2 at 10:30 a.m. from the funeral home, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial, celebrated at 12 p.m., at Sacred Heart Church in Springfield. Burial will follow in St. Michael's Cemetery, Springfield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the "Smile like Jack" Memorial Fund directly to <https://smilelikejack.com/> or to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital directly to <https://www.stjude.org> in honor of Jimmy's giving spirit. Forever loved and missed, he left our world a little brighter. The family respectfully requests that you carry on all memories you share with Jimmy and may he never be forgotten. For online condolences please visit [www.forastiere.com](http://www.forastiere.com).

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

*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](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

**Early Deadlines**  
for all LEGAL NOTICES...

**All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 19 at Noon for Publication Dec. 23-27**

**Happy New Year!**

**All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 27 at Noon for Publication Dec. 30-Jan. 3**

**Happy Holidays!**

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

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**COURSES** ■ from page 1

man geography, targeted toward ninth graders, but it is starting to expand into the tenth, eleventh and twelfth,” Blain said. “Ap psychology, 3 full sections this year, it is a very popular course.”

On top of AP human geography and AP psychology, they have also added drawing and painting two and learn to jam.

Drawing and painting two have helped to support students who want to go into AP studio art.

Learn to jam is a drumming class that allows the students to explore new ways to make music.

“At the concert some of the students performed on the buckets, the Home Depot buckets,” Blain said. “It is a new way

of introducing students to music without having to get into the investment of lessons and music.”

They have also added a personal finance class to help support students in learning crucial financial skills that they will need in their daily lives.

This class is required for the current sophomore class to take so that they can graduate from AHS.

Blain feels that overall these recently added courses show the effort the school is putting in to making sure students have courses available to them that they want and that will help them in the future.

“We need to look at our students, meet them with the courses they deserve and want and empower the teachers to bring these to us,” Blain said.

**SHIP** ■ from page 1

and all have to be built in a certain order,” McCollum said. “The running rigging...that allows them to run the ship, I think that was the most challenging because every rope that went up was different sizes.”

More than anything he wanted to be able to share this ship with other people. He didn't want the ship to just sit hidden away somewhere, he wanted other people, kids especially, to be able to see it.

“The kids were looking at this ship... and when you see that with kids and they enjoy it, there is no finer payment for what you're doing,” McCollum said. “They're inspired, they enjoy it and they see it and there is this wonder about it.”

McCollum hoped that kids and families who come in to see the ship would enjoy it and maybe even want to build a model ship themselves.

“Maybe they would get inspired and start to read about it, try and build a ship on their own or study how it is involved in the world,” McCollum said. “It's a great educational opportunity.”

When McCollum was younger he was interested in different kinds of ships, es-

pecially the older ones with square sails. Then, as he got into building things and other kinds of crafts, he tried model building with ships.

“I was always into the detailed stuff... and it is nice to have a hobby,” McCollum said.

He has worked on a variety of ships throughout his lifetime and he was excited to have this one completed.

Once he was done, one of the first things he did was want to put it on display. He reached out to the library and asked if they wanted it on loan.

Library Director Nancy Siegel was happy to take the ship and help him display it on one of the bookshelves in the library.

“Nancy tells me people will stand there and they look at it,” McCollum said.

By the display in the library McCollum also has included two journals that he created that detail his process of building the ship.

“There are two journals that are laminated...so that when people go there they can see how I made the ship and there is information on the history,” McCollum said.

**BACKYARD** ■ from page 5

between dives when their young are in danger. Their white rear feathers may be flashed when alarmed.

During breeding, calls are a “cow cow cow cow,” a loud “keck keck” in alarm and a softer “cuk cuk cuk.” The grebe generally remains quiet in winter.

**Wild turkeys**

I continue to see either one to three Tom turkeys or larger flocks of hens in my travels around Central Massachusetts. Although wild turkeys are now a common site, I never tire of spotting them.

**Low flying geese**

A few days a low flying flock of geese flew over my yard just above tree top level. They honked as they went. I assume they landed in one of the beaver ponds near my home.

**Birds at feeders**

I put out shelled peanuts and sunflower mix seeds in the morning in my tray feeders. I have black-capped chickadees, tufted titmice, white breasted nuthatches, an occasional downy woodpecker, mourning doves and squawking blue jays.

I have not put out suet cakes yet as I want to be sure the black bears are hibernating. Last year, I bought a new suet holder for this winter. I don't want to put it out to early in case a bear shows up and walks off with it. Somewhere in the woods around my home, there must be a large pile of suet feeders taken by bears. If I was lucky enough to find them, I think most would be

smashed and unusable.

**Common raven**

I continue to hear the common raven and sometimes see them flying overhead. They are much larger than the crow and make a low gronking sound.

**Mass Audubon bird sightings**

Cape Cod weekly wildlife sightings are sponsored by the Bird Watchers General Store in Orleans and Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. The following sightings were reported between Nov. 13 and Nov. 19. Cape Cod's second-ever record of a spotted towhee was found at the Provincetown Airport on Nov. 16. A very rare pine grosbeak, two white-winged crossbills and a late prairie warbler were also seen there. A snowy owl was seen in Provincetown. Along Race Point Road a western tanager and two evening grosbeaks were seen.

Birds from Race Point in Provincetown this week included a pacific loon, 400 long-tailed ducks, 1,300 white-winged scoters, 1,500 red-breasted mergansers, 500 sand-erlings, 400 dunlin, five Pomarine jaegers, 1,080 razorbills, a common murre, two dovekies, 85 black-legged kittiwakes, 70 Cory's shearwater, 215 great shearwaters, four sooty shearwaters, two Manx shearwaters, 3,200 northern gannets, two Lapland longspurs and 24 snow buntings.

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.

**EARLY DEADLINE For All Advertising & CLASSIFIEDS**

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 19 at Noon for Publication Dec. 23 - 27

All Papers Will Deadline Friday, Dec. 27 at Noon for Publication Dec. 30 - Jan. 3

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN ROAST RIB END or LOIN END .....	<b>\$1.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF	<b>\$4.99</b> 5 LB BAG	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK .....	<b>\$1.33</b> lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI HORMEL SMOKED HAM.....	<b>\$2.99</b> lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN 31/40 COUNT COOKED SHRIMP 2 LB BAG.....	<b>\$14.99</b> ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN EDWARDS TURTLE CREAM PIE 25.1 OZ.....	<b>\$5.99</b> ea
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