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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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# Cold day, warm smiles at parade

HOLYOKE – Last Sunday on a crisp morning, Agawam representatives made their way to the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade, one of the richest traditions in the region.

Agawam's contingent marched in the parade, which was held on a sun-splashed beautiful day in Holyoke.

Agawam's contingent did not include the marching band for second straight year, but the cheerleaders, elected officials, and the Colleen and Court represented the town this year.



Mayor Christopher Johnson is bundled up and makes his way down Northampton St.



Agawam Colleen Julia Nicosia waves to the crowd.



Fire Chief Alan Sirois marches in the parade.



The Manchester Pipe Band performs. See more photos on page 10.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

# Alcohol licenses up for grabs

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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AGAWAM – Any business in town looking to have alcohol license of some kind could apply for one of six licenses that are now available, according to an announcement from the Agawam License Commission.

The License Commission announced Monday that the Town of Agawam has six alcohol licenses available for businesses to apply to. According to the announcement: there are two off-premise wine and malt licenses. These two licenses are available for places which sell sealed alcoholic beverages for customers to take out. They are common for package stores which sell beer, wine, and malt beverages. They are commonly used by businesses where alcohol sales are auxiliary where as full package stores have beer, wine, malt, and liquor.

The town has four on-premises alcohol licenses. Two are wine and malt,

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# Town officials prepare for start of school project

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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AGAWAM – Phase 1 of the Agawam High School project is nearly ready to begin.

At the Feb. 25 meeting of the Agawam School Committee, Mayor Christopher Johnson, who also chairs the committee, gave his members an update on the impacts that will be happening once the school becomes a construction site.

The are multiple phases of the project. New construction will be taking place first, which once completed, will allow replacement of the existing building, which will also be done in phases.

One major thing to be affected will be parking as well as access to the school's sports stadium, Harmon A. Smith Field.

Johnson said the school will lose more about 100 parking spaces once the construction begins following April's spring vacation.

For students, there will be less access for approximately 50 spaces, leading to student representative Christina Ritter questioning if parking at the Agawam Methodist Church across the street would

be accessible. The church parking lot is often used by parents and fans going to games at the stadium as well as the tennis courts.

Johnson told Ritter while the lot could be available, the school is concerned about safety because students would have to cross the street at the school.

The town did recently pass an ordinance establishing a school zone on Mill St. near the high school. The speed limit is 20 mph during arrival and dismissal times. However, the school is near the Mill St. access to the highway portion of Rte. 57, and motorists can travel fast through that area.

With limited parking, Johnson said passes will be prioritized to elder students in the building, saying seniors would have the first priority. Johnson acknowledged the demand for students parking increases as the school year goes on. Students are obtaining their driver's licenses as the school year progresses, especially in the second half of the year.

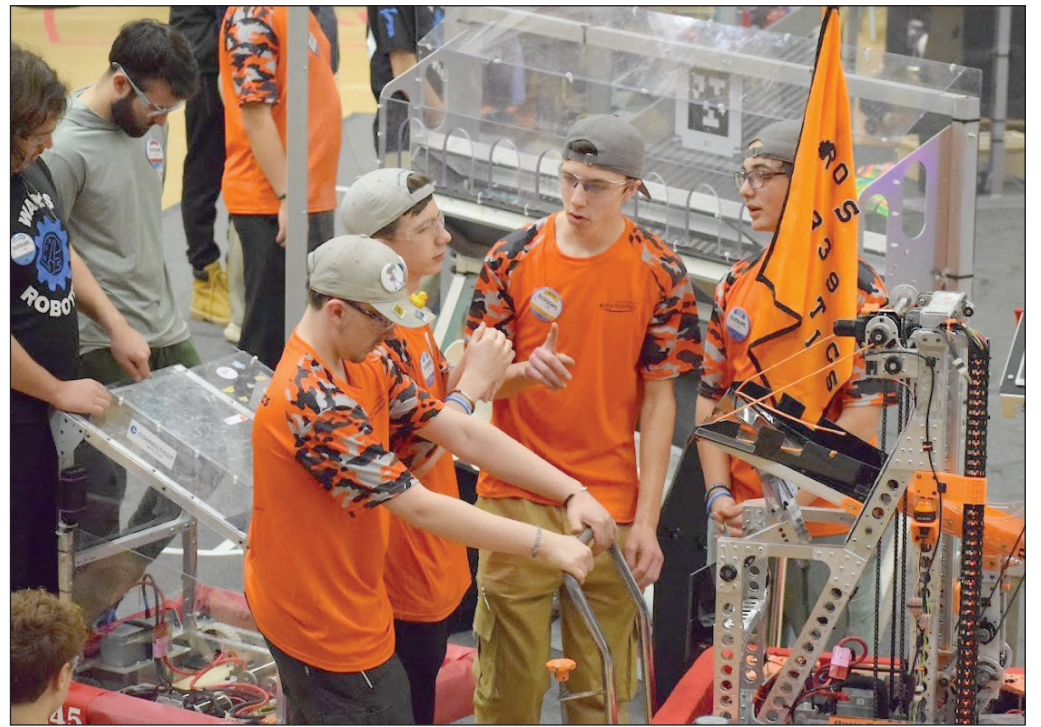
Johnson said all construction updates and the changes to traffic patterns and other safety issues will

be communicated to students and parents as the changes occur.

Johnson said more students will be encouraged to take buses to and from school during the construction.

Information about parking and student drop-off/pick-up times will be distributed to families before the construction begins, allowing families to have time to make decisions about how to adjust to the changes.

Also inaccessible will be the varsity softball field, moving games to Borgatti Field according to the schedule, something that occurred years back when the stadium and turf field were construction and surrounding fields were also renovated. As of now, it does not appear the other spring sports will be affected by the construction. Baseball games are still scheduled for Gerry Smith Field, located behind the school building. Lacrosse games are held inside the stadium on the turf field, tennis is held on the courts along Mill St. Boys volleyball is held inside the gymnasium, though parking access at that part of the school will be limited.



The Rosie Robotics team competes in Waterbury, CT a few weeks ago.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Robotics team competes in CT

WATERBURY, CT – Rosie Robotics competed in Waterbury, CT on March 8 and 9 and started out strong. The team was the No. 1 seed for about 12 minutes. Most of the event on Saturday we were bouncing around third to fifth place.

After a couple of close, really close losses to the top teams on Sunday morning, Rosie finished the Qualification Matches seeded 9th. Our Offensive Power Rating (OPR) was only a couple of tenths off the top OPR team, Aces High from Suffield, CT. During the Alliance selection Rosie was

chosen as the first pick by the #4 Alliance, The MechaRams (FRC 999) from Cheshire, CT. Unfortunately, elimination came in three matches, with a playoff record of 1-2.

Rosie hit another high, for the first time in its 24-year history, the team came home with the Innovation in Control Award for the electronic "Button Box". This was the idea of the electrical sub-team and is to automate the scoring of the game elements and make that system consistent. The Box is attached to the Driver's Laptop to control scoring functions with presets

activated by pushing a button corresponding to that function. The electrical sub-team did all the design work, soldered all the wires, 3D printed and assembled the box, with minimal direction from the mentors, a really great job and huge undertaking.

The programming sub-team had to program all the items, a five-position rotary dial, six different buttons, two sliders (acting as manual override), a toggle switch and LEDs. They also have a plan to add more functionality before our next event at University of Vermont in two weeks.





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# SPORTS



## Brownies represent at Senior All-Star Game

SPRINGFIELD – Last Thursday evening, two Agawam High School basketball players, Elijah Maldonado and Mia Canavan, represented the school in the High School Senior All-Star Games held at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Elijah Maldonado plays in last Friday's Senior All-Star Game.



Maldonado achieved 1,000 career points this season. TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Canavan was one of Agawam's top scorers this season.

Mia Canavan also represented Agawam at the game.

## Suburban League starts new award

In honor of late coach Eileen Monaghan

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The Pioneer Valley Girls Suburban Basketball League was always very special to Eileen Monaghan.

Growing up in Chicopee, Monaghan played for a Suburban League basketball team. She then coached her daughter's Suburban League teams. In recent years, Monaghan was one of the referees in the league.

Monaghan most likely would've been back on the basketball court refereeing Suburban League games this winter, but she was tragically killed last April.

Suburban League Commissioner Joe Ciejka, who's from Ware, couldn't recall another person who played, coached and was a referee in the Suburban League during the past 40 years.

"I believe Eileen is the first person to play, coach, and has been a referee in the Suburban league," Ciejka said. "Eileen brought an incredible spirit to the Suburban League and the kindness of hearts. Even though her heart has been silenced, we're not going to let her spirit ever die."

The inaugural Eileen Monaghan Sportsmanship Award was given to the Gateway 5/6th grade basketball team prior to the start of the 5/6th grade Division 2 championship game between Easthampton and Hampshire, which took place at Chicopee Comp on March 9.

## Sun shines bright on 48th St. Patrick's Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
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HOLYOKE – For the first time in several years, it was gorgeous weather for the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race last Saturday afternoon through the city streets.

More than 6,000 people participated in this year's

event, with nearly 5,000 participants finishing the 10K, or 6.2-mile course.

This year, it was Samuel Whittaker of Salem, CT, who finished the race in 31:24. Alex Corbett, who placed second in last year's race, came in 23 seconds later at 31:47.

The top female finisher

was Angelia Rafter at 34:13 and she placed 12th overall. Rafter is from Glastonbury, CT.

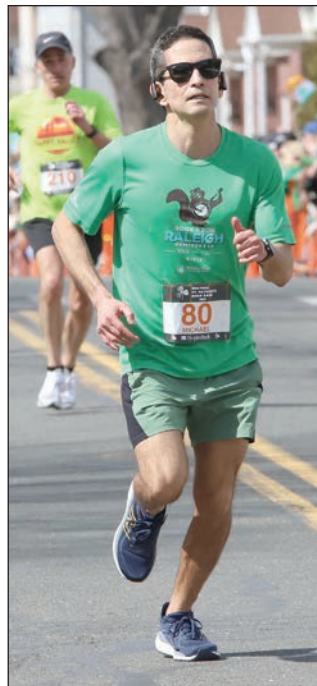
Among local finishers, Matt Provost of Monson was 19th overall at 35:09. Ryan Davis of South Hadley was a close 20th at 35:10. Lindsay Smith of South Hadley finished 22nd at 35:12.

While the race course, commonly known as a "hilly" course throughout downtown Holyoke ending with a turn off Beech St. and up the hill on Hampden St. toward the finish line remained largely the same, there was one noticeable change in this year's event. Presidential Timing took

over the official timing duties after 4RUN3 went out of business last year. Those looking for more results from the events can go to www.presidentialtiming.com to look at more specific results from the race. Like previous timers, you can look up people by name and



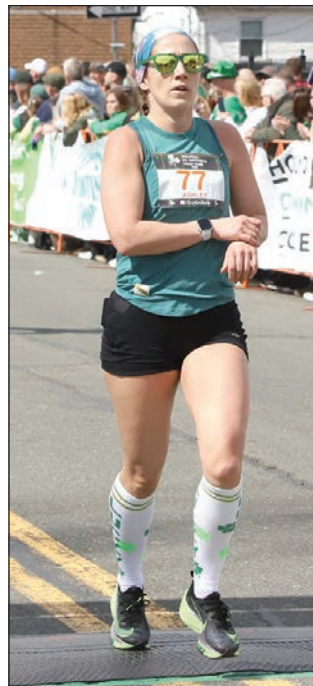
Brett Abbot comes across the finish line at 39:01.



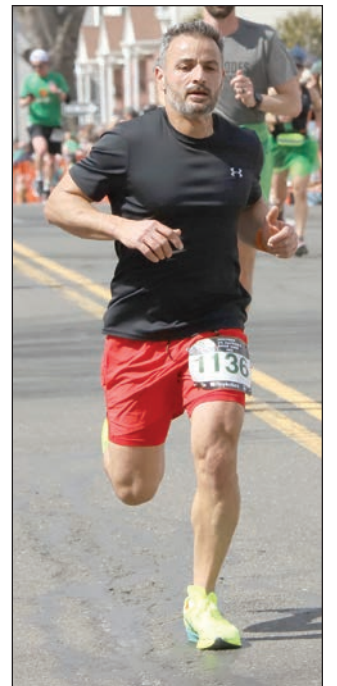
Michael Johansen, of Feeding Hills, comes in at 42:32.



Kevin Pfeffler completed the course in 42:40.



Ashley Veilleux finished at 43:59.



Sandro Scirocco finishes the race at 45:13.



The participants are off in the 48th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race.