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Year In Review

A look back on the events and stories of 2024

By Marcelo Gusmão
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REGION – This New Year’s Day, *The Register* invites our readers to take a stroll down memory lane and reflect on the events and celebrations throughout 2024.

This year was marked by a number of big celebrations and projects as dedicated members of our community have worked to improve this town, including upgrades to the Hubbard Memorial Library and pursuing improvements to the local parks. Chief among these projects has been the restoration of the Ludlow Mills, which has been ongoing for most of the year and has resulted in a newly refurbished and functioning clocktower.

The town also put together a Charter Committee to draft a new town charter in order to better structure the municipal government for its growing population. Though the charter was rejected at Town Meeting, the work done by the committee of volunteers will help the town forge a new direction in the modern day.

In addition to beloved annual traditions like the Josh-



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Michael Rondeau held an ice carving demonstration on the lawn in front of the school.



Well over 250 people took off when the announcers signaled the beginning of the race at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning.

ua DesForges Race, Festa, the town’s inclusivity festival, Color Ludlow with Love, the Boys & Girls’ Club’s Rag Shag, and the tree-lighting at Town Hall, this was also the year that the town celebrated the 250th anniversary of its incorporation. Huge celebrations were held on First Night and surrounding the 250th Celebration’s parade and block party, and new traditions like the Santa

Breakfast are expected to endure in the coming years.

The neighborhood of Indian Orchard has also seen some great success with its annual events, like the Food Truck Festival. Meet-and-Greets with local legislators and school superintendents have provided members of the community with the opportunity to learn about changes to their local resources,

and a chance to make their voices heard and advocate for the changes they hope to see going forward.

This year was not without its share of controversies, however. While an election year tends to bring out the ugliness in people as they feel increasingly divided from their peers, our community is full of passionate and knowledgeable officials who share with

the residents one goal above all others; we all want what’s best for Ludlow, and are working to achieve it.

As editor of *The Ludlow Register*, it has been an honor and a privilege to attend these events and work with our local organizers and politicians. I look forward to a ton more exciting projects and celebrations in 2025!

JAN. 10



Submitted photo

Brady Fisher and Elizabeth Richter dropped trees off at Lupa Zoo.

JAN. 17



Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Organizers of the dinner gathered at the front of the room in the Lucitano Club.

Ludlow teacher’s firing results in \$10M lawsuit

Teacher sues administrators, School Committee and town

By Jim Russell
 Correspondent

LUDLOW – The School Committee, school administrators and the town became defendants in a \$10 million employee rights violation and discrimination lawsuit in November over the firing of a veteran middle school teacher.

Bonnie Manchester, 49, who taught for more than two decades at Ludlow public schools, told the father of an 11-year-old student that the child wished to be referred to as male. The lawsuit alleges the child requested that Manchester inform the father of the gender preference.

This matter mainly transpired in winter 2020/2021, when public K-12 districts across the state operated via remote learning and hybrid models, to try and teach, during the World Health Organization-declared COVID-19 pandemic.

The principal of Paul R. Baird Middle School at the time, Stacy Monette, accused Manchester of “conduct unbecoming of a teacher,” according to a copy of Monette’s May 19, 2021

termination letter, telling Manchester: “you took it upon yourself to inform the parent.” Then Superintendent Todd Gazda approved this. Gazda and Monette were named defendants, along with a former guidance counselor and former librarian Jordan Funke. Current superintendent Frank Tiano, hired in 2022, was also a defendant.

Attorneys Frank McNamara and Ryan McLane filed Manchester’s 65-page civil rights and wrongful termination complaint in U.S. District Court in Springfield.

In it, the attorneys alleged that “there was no articulated school rule, policy, or guideline, written or oral, prohibiting the kind of teacher-parent communication and association in which Manchester engaged, and that was seized upon as grounds for her termination.”

In a related matter, the parents of the child had already sued the district in U.S. District Court in Springfield, claiming the Ludlow school system’s decision against notifying them of their child’s sexual orientation issues was an abuse of power.

Judge Mark Mastroianni dismissed the case, saying that the prosecution’s claims fail to rise to the level of “shocking” and constituted no actionable violation of law.

The attorney generals of 16 states and the District of Columbia filed amicus briefs last year on behalf of Ludlow school board and the other defendants, involving the parents’ appeal. Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell led this effort.

“Schools should be safe for all students, and policies like Ludlow’s protect and support transgender students regardless of their home life. Especially as LGBTQ+ youth face escalating attacks on their rights and safety, we have a duty to protect the privacy of transgender students when they have the courage to share their identity with a trusted adult,” Campbell wrote in a press release.

JAN. 31

Exit 7 celebrates 40 years of community theatre

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – This year, Exit 7 is celebrating its 40th anniversary of bringing community the-

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YEAR IN REVIEW

YIR from Page 1

atre to town.

Exit 7 opened its fall season with “Footloose”, and then followed up with “White Christmas”. For their winter production, they’re showing “Almost Maine”, and then in the spring they will put on the musical, “The Prom”, followed by “The Last Five Years”, and then the youth show in the summer, “James and the Giant Peach”.

“We finished our very first 48-hour play festival, and we had open mic nights and a Latin dance class this past fall,” said Adam Malborg, president

of the board at Exit 7. “We also have a summer theatre program for kids, so we do a lot.”

Malborg said that people who would like to use the theatre space for private activities would have to approach the board with a proposal that they can discuss, and the board would then vote for or against the use, provided it followed the theatre’s bylaws and procedures.

“We recently just refurbished the basement, so we’re always looking for new ideas and ways to use that space,” Malborg said. “Anyone interested would just need to come to one of our board meetings, and we can go for there. We’d be happy to speak with them.”

FEB. 7

State legislators disapprove of rent increase at West Street Village Mobile Homes

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – Senator Jake Oliveira and State Representative Aaron Saunders visited the West Street Village Mobile Home Community to hear residents express concerns about the price increases on their property.

Tom Lennon purchased the West Street property two years ago and says that he invested a lot of his own money into the property.

“I’ve been losing money for two and a half years,” Lennon said. “I could have petitioned to raise the rent back in July of 2021 and I didn’t. I said, ‘I’m not going to make this about money, I’m going to put my money where my mouth is and fix the park up for us.’”

When Lennon approached the Mobile Home Rent Control Board over the summer, he said that the rent had not been

raised for nearly 20 years. Speaking with residents at the mobile home park, many of them said that they were prepared to see the rents rise; what they were not prepared for was the 150% jump from \$203 per month to \$503.06.

Oliveira and Saunders were both adamant about their disapproval of the price hike, with Oliveira describing it as “nauseating” and both using the word “unconscionable.”

Saunders expressed his disapproval that Lennon would take action to raise prices and threaten eviction to residents in the middle of winter.

“It’s really inspiring to see the community organize to have their stories told,” said Saunders. “The thing about organizing is it’s a whole lot easier to bully people individually.”

The residents took action against Lennon and are coordinating with Attorney Joel Feldman, who said that at this point, the matter will be dealt with in court.

FEB. 28

Happy 250th birthday to the Town of Ludlow

Residents gathered at the high school to celebrate First Night

By Marcelo Gusmão
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LUDLOW – On Feb. 24, the town celebrated its 250th birthday with a huge celebration at the high school, which was put together by the 250th Semi-Quincentennial Committee.

To mark the 250th anniversary of the town’s incorporation in 1774, residents of Ludlow as well as surrounding towns commemorated this momentous occasion with a huge community event that involved food, performances, ice-sculpting

and woodcarving, history and supporting local businesses.

Birthday cake provided by Chmura’s Bakery was served in the entrance of the high school by volunteers from the 250th Committee. Out on the lawn, Michael Rondeau carved an ice sculpture, while Cody Stosz from Kodiak Carving unveiled a woodcarving he made to commemorate the town’s 250th birthday.

The celebration made great use of the high school auditorium, where there were presentations about the town’s history made by Brian Bylicki, Martin Fanning, John Moll, Olivia Eberli and Paul Meagher. In between the presentations was a performance by dancers from the local dance studio, Alegria Dance and Fitness.

There were numerous craft tables and vendors set up in the parking lot and the halls of the school, providing food and souvenirs for attendees. One particularly popular table handed out chili from the winner of the Faith Community Chapel contest, which was sold

out by the afternoon.

At 2:50 p.m., churches all over town rang their bells to commemorate the event, though you couldn’t hear them from inside the building. The festivities ended with a fireworks show at 6 p.m.

MARCH 6



Senator Jake Oliveira and State Representative Aaron Saunders thanked Co-Chair Linda Collette for her work with the 250th Committee.

MARCH 20

LHS Senior Show



Niko Coelho’s Henry Winklebottom hosted a game of “Family Feud” between teachers and administration.

MARCH 27

Community Center announces Sip Into Spring Fundraiser

LUDLOW – The Boys & Girls Club / Randall’s Community Center announced an adult-oriented fundraiser to be held at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

Usually, the club holds a FallFest event later in the year, but had moved the fundraiser to the spring and changed its name. Sip Into Spring promised to be a fun night out of food, as well as a tasting for wine, beer, and other spirits.

“We stopped doing FallFest with COVID,” said Cristina Jardine, the Office Manager for the Community Center. “After the pandemic, we brought this event in the spring. It’s similar to the event that had been done; we did it last year with a Cinco de Mayo theme, now it’s a Kentucky Derby theme.”

The fundraiser included raffles, games, and music, as well as an award for the most festively-dressed person. Jardine said that the event would provide

a great opportunity to get adults involved in the center.

“Our club is a Boys & Girls Club, so we offer licensed programs for childcare, preschool, and before and after school,” Jardine said. “But we’re also a Community Center, so we work with the town to offer programs for adults like fitness opportunities and social recreation programs.”

The Community Center has served the town for over 70 years. The club’s website says that it “provides a broad range of programs in five core program areas,” including character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation and “several specialized initiatives, based on community need.”

“Programs are designed to drive positive outcomes for youth and reinforce critical life skills,” the website reads.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

APRIL 3

Easter at Whitney Park



A refreshment table was laid out for the attendees in the Whitney Park building.

Library embraces new format for annual Easter Egg Hunt

LUDLOW – The Hubbard Memorial Library held its annual Easter Egg Hunt on a sunny, albeit blustery, Saturday morning. Kids and families lined up to participate in the library’s revamped Easter Egg Hunt.

After over 500 people attended last year’s hunt, the library’s Youth Services Department decided to revamp the format, to ensure that all the kids who attend get to go home with candy and prizes.

“Last year close to 500 people attended, and if you’ve ever been to an egg hunt it’s a mad dash melee for about four and a half minutes, and that’s about it,” said Youth Services As-

sistant Kristin Santos. This year, the event was turned into a scavenger hunt for pictures of eggs submitted by residents and extended to two hours.

“We had an egg coloring contest and the kids did an amazing job,” Santos said. “We got 98 submissions total and they were so good. We’re going to use the eggs that the kids colored for a scavenger hunt, so instead of looking for plastic eggs, they’ll be searching for pictures that they colored.”

The Friends of the Library had tables set up to hand out the game boards and prizes.

APRIL 10

Local doctor adopts ‘longest stay’ from shelter

LUDLOW - The Ludlow Animal Control had a reason to celebrate recently, with Ludlow Animal Clinic member Dr. Stephanie Bacon adopting one of its longest time stays, a loving beagle.

The dog was given the name, Delilah, and Bacon has since changed it to Maple.

“So Maple came in pretty much the same day she was found,” Bacon said. “And my other dogs name is Echo and she is very picky about who she likes. So

when I met this dog, I kind of looked at her and was like ‘honestly, if I were to get another dog, I would pick this one. Then she did her 7 day stay at the shelter and I became her foster parent and after welcoming her into the house, she basically, I was like ‘you could never leave. You have to stay here forever.’”

Bacon really appreciates the amount of support she has seen for Maple online.

“Oh, we love seeing the support,” Bacon said. “Having it and seeing it all happen on Facebook and stuff has just been such a blessing to have all of that support. The names of people that pop up that we see I know that those are names of clients and we really know them. So it is such a beautiful thing to see them come out and not only help support us financially, because a lot of them do donate to the Animal Control bills, but they support us with just emotions and work can be hard sometimes so it is such a nice thing to see that we do have the support of the community.”

Maple has been doing well since moving into Bacon’s home. She recently had a procedure and also was spayed.



Maple, a former long term stay, is happy to be in her new comfortable home.

APRIL 17

Library hosts event to vote in Children’s Book Awards



Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Celebrating their vote for the competition, (from left) Masa Ghanem, age 10, Emily Fontaine, age 10, Jeffrey Therrien, age 8, Jessica Korzeniowski, age 11, Head of Youth Services July Siebecker, and Ava Walker, age 10.

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – Local children were able to vote in the statewide Children’s Book Awards competition, thanks to a club hosted by the Hubbard Memorial Library.

Head of Youth Services July Siebecker explained the basics of the program, saying that children from fourth through sixth grade get to vote for the award so long as they read at least five of the titles nominated.

“This is our first time doing it,” Siebecker said. “Many years ago, the school systems used to run a Massachusetts Children’s Book Award program which involved, but unfortunately the librarians have been eliminated so they cannot do that program.”

To fill this gap, Siebecker decided to run a book group at the library, starting it in October and running for five months

so the kids could have one month for each book they needed to read. Siebecker described the group as “small, but dedicated,” with several members that stuck through with the entire program, meeting once a month to play games relating to the books, share their thoughts and opinions, and learn how to review books, with snacks provided for participants.

In addition to the kids who have attended the club over the last few months, some of their parents also attended, and were able to share how their children have responded to the club.

“Teachers at school want the kids reading 15-20 minutes a night, and when you have something that’s structured, you’re more likely to do it,” said Sue Therrien. “Signing up for this, they picked their own book based on the ones here, and then they were like, ‘this is our reading time, we have to do this because we’re going to be in the competition,’ so they had to make sure they read at least a couple of books.”

APRIL 24

Safety Complex provides dispatchers with updated technology

By Marcelo Gusmão
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LUDLOW – The police and fire departments held an event at the Safety Complex to highlight the updated central dispatch system, and to commend dispatchers for their work.

The departments’ dispatchers received commendations for their work during an incident where a Wilbraham police officer was injured. The department described it as a welcome opportunity during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week to highlight the work that dispatchers and call takers perform behind the scenes every day.

Police Chief Dan Valadas and Deputy Fire Chief Jeffrey Lavoie invited members of the media to the town’s Safety Complex to learn about the centralized dispatch, the daily operations, and the


importance of public safety infrastructure.

Over the past five years, the town has invested approximately \$4.8 million to update its radio systems and dispatch center. In his speech to the assembled audience, Lavoie described the upgrades made to the call center’s technology.

At the event, three dispatchers were given commendations for their work, including Samantha Jordan, Linda Zina, and Shaun Andre. Chief Valadas presented certificates to each of the dispatchers present, and described their work.

“It is a safety net that benefits the Town’s residents and visitors,” the department said in a press release. “The town’s leadership and public safety management decided to centralize its dispatch operation and combine the previously separate fire and police dispatchers into one cohesive unit.”

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YEAR IN REVIEW

MAY 1



Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Well over 250 people took off when the announcers signaled the beginning of the race at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning.

MAY 8

Commission on Disability updates on ongoing projects and upcoming concerns

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – People with disabilities in town have an advocacy group in the form of an appointed volunteer commission, which meets every month at Town Hall.

The Commission on Disability was established to advocate for the needs of people with disabilities in our community. The committee is made up of town residents who volunteer for the appointed positions.

Through its authority as granted by the town, the commission works within the town's bylaws to make sure the town as a whole is compliant with the regulations put forth by the Americans with Disabilities Association.

Jenny Wright and Chris Harkins are two of the members of the commission, who said that there are no titles for their positions. The commission's main duties are to make sure that the town's municipi-

pal services are accessible to people with disabilities, such as schools, town buildings, and libraries, as well as businesses and other agencies and organizations that operate in town.

The commission is also involved in ensuring that the schools have adequate accommodations for students with disabilities, and that there is adequate mobility for people with handicaps.

Traditionally, the town has an ADA Agent in the form of the Building Inspector, but since the departure of Leslie Ward, the commission has been patiently awaiting the appointment of a new agent to work with them on ADA compliance.

In the meantime, the commission continues to work with the town by appearing at fundraisers and supporting local events. Wright mentioned that the commission has been involved with the 250th Committee's upcoming picnic.

The Commission meets once a month at Town Hall, on the fourth Thursday of every month, at 6 p.m.

MAY 15



Submitted Photo

The Ludlow Fire Department responded to a three-alarm house fire on May 8 on Poole Street.

MAY 22

Town narrowly votes to approve budget for Fiscal Year 2025

By Marcelo Gusmão
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LUDLOW – The town held its annual Town Meeting last week on Monday, May 13, where the general operating budget passed with a margin of only two votes.

The meeting opened with a quorum of 67, with Noelle Dion and Niko Coelho attending the meeting as Pages.

There were 35 articles on the warrant to be voted on, including the town budget of \$84,151,656 for Fiscal Year 2025. The total General Fund budget came in at \$80,774,185.

When the budget was presented, Select Board Member Tony Goncalves read out how the budget would be allocated to town employees and departments, including dollar amounts for many of the positions. The salaries and compensation of

all town officials is required, according to Chapter 41, Section 108 of the state's General Laws, to be decided by a Town Meeting vote.

Goncalves also read that \$176,242 is to be transferred from Free Cash to fund the operating budget, and that \$964,788 was appropriated from the golf course revenues to apply to the fund for the Westover Metropolitan Course budget.

The School Department was allotted \$37,028,442 in the town budget. One precinct member took the opportunity to ask if repairs to the school's back wall, which he estimated would cost close to

\$500,000, would come out of the school's budget or be part of a public building repair fund.

"There's \$500,000 in the capital Improvement Plan for fiscal '25, so that \$500,000 would not be coming out of the operating budget," Town Administrator Marc Strange said.

For the most part, there was no discussion on the budgets for the other individual departments, which the moderator read item by item to allow for discussion from the public. A standing vote was then called, with 33 in favor and 31 opposed.



Submitted photo

The 250th Semi-Quincentennial Celebration Parade Committee announced that Louis Casagrande would be honored as the Grand Marshal for the 250th Parade.

MAY 29

Memorial Banners along East Street immortalize local veterans

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – The Department of Veterans Services decorated one of the town's main streets with a tribute to past and present residents who have served in the military.

If you've driven down East Street in the last year, you may have noticed a series of banners along the street depicting the names and pictures of veterans from wars going back several decades. These banners were created and raised as part of an effort by Director of Veterans Services Eric Segundo, in collaboration with

the town and the Board of Selectmen.

Segundo said the project was inspired by visiting other communities and seeing how they honored their veterans by hanging banners.

"We said, 'why can't we do this here in Ludlow?'" Segundo said. "We started the wheels rolling and got quotes from companies who make them. East Street was the perfect corridor for it," Segundo said.

All the banners depict veterans from town, and are made from photos submitted by residents who filled out the registration form. The banners will hang for one year, and then will be replaced next year, sometime in the spring.

JUNE 5

Codding chosen to replace Dias on school committee

Replacement appointee splits committee

By Marcelo Gusmão
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LUDLOW – At the joint Select Board and School Committee meeting last Tuesday, the boards voted to appoint Amanda Codding as an interim member of the School Committee.

Following the sudden resignation of Joao Dias in April, the town solicited resumes for an appointment to the vacant position. On May 28, the Board and Committee held a joint meeting to interview and vote to appoint one of the six applicants.

The applicants were Amanda Codding, James Elliot, Michael Engel, Chad Mullin, Emma Sawtelle, Isabel Soares, and Jenny Wright. The final tally of the vote was five to four in favor of Codding.

"Codding stood out to me," said Selectman Tony Goncalves, citing her life skills and describing herself as a 21st

century learner. "She didn't seem to be on any side of the fence, just really concerned about the kids and what the future is, not what we've gone through and fighting battles from last month, last week, last year, or picking sides. No preconceived notions."

School Committee members favored Mullin, citing his experience. The Selectmen, however, were against appointing someone who would not seek re-election next year.

There was some confusion at the end of the meeting as to whether the "majority" quoted in the town bylaw referred to the voting members, or the majority out of the candidates, as four people, including one School Committee member and three of the Selectmen, voted to appoint Soares, who recently ran against Chair Sarah Bowler in the town election.

"This is an elected position," said School Committee member Ron Saloio. "Our town is pretty conservative when you look at the demographic. For whatever reason, Mr. Dias left his spot, but when

Please see Y1R, Page 5

YEAR IN REVIEW

YIR from Page 4

he's leaving that spot, he's leaving a lot of voices unheard on the conservative side."

"The voters in the past election gave Isabel Soares, as everybody said, 1,200 votes," said Select Board Chair Derek DeBarge. "My vote is for (Soares) because she put money in, she ran, she has been coming to the meetings, she's putting the time in, and if the people of Ludlow don't want a certain person in a seat, they're going to do that in March and I think that is where we need to be, as ev-

erybody says, a democracy."

Though there was some confusion as to whether Soares's initial plurality counted as a majority for the purposes of the joint-board vote, it was determined by town counsel that Coddling's five-to-four majority stood as the official appointment.

"I'm really excited that it ended up this way, because I thought it was going to be one vote, really quick, one way, so it's kind of exciting that we bounced around as much as we did," Goncalves said. "Democracy at its finest, right?"

JUNE 12

LHS Graduation



Theryn Pelletier talked about the difficulties of studying during the COVID-19 pandemic.

JUNE 19

Ludlow celebrates 250th



The Dance Studio's float had a bubble blower and music, and was followed by a group of dancers performing a choreographed routine. See more photos 12.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão



Joaquim Pedro took a picture in front of the big 250th anniversary sign in Memorial Park.

JULY 10



Submitted Photo

Ludlow Police Chief Daniel Valadas showing the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award surrounded by officers who recently graduated from the program. From left to right: Sergeant Brian Shameklis, Lieutenant David Irwin, Detective Lieutenant David Kornacki, Chief Daniel Valadas, Lieutenant Michael Brennan, Detective Sergeant Stephen Ricardi, Sergeant Sean Knox.

JULY 17

Color Ludlow with Love approved at Memorial Park

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – After some discussion over a proposed policy pertaining to use of public spaces, Color Ludlow with Love was approved to be held at Memorial Park.

The town's inclusivity event, Color Ludlow with Love, applied for use of the park, but approval was tabled in order to discuss a proposed policy on the use of the town's public spaces. The proposed policy was to limit non-town-sponsored functions to Cady Street Park and Whitney Park, and to save Veterans Memorial Park for events that were put on by town committees.

"Individuals, groups, and associations involved in educational, cultural, civic, and/or recreational activities will be permitted the use of Cady Street Park and/or Whitney Park on a space-available basis, provided these do not interfere with town operations," said Select Board Chair Derek DeBarge.

When asked why the board was lim-

iting the use of Veterans Memorial Park specifically, they said they wanted to keep the park "sacred."

"We have the Veterans Monument down there, it's what you see when you come into the town of Ludlow, and we want to just keep that for special things," said Selectman Tony Goncalves.

"I just think that down at the gazebo, that should be almost sacred to me, quite honestly," said Selectman Manuel Silva. "There should only be certain things allowed there."

Members of the community disagreed with this statement, and advocated that the park, which is right across from the bridge from Springfield, is a perfect place to showcase the vibrancy of the town.

The board voted to approve the event as it appears on the application, and it was approved with a two-to-one vote, with one abstention. DeGobbi shared that the event would feature the same attractions as last year, including music by Junior Marques, community information tables, a kids' play space, and a snack table to benefit the Ludlow High GSA club.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



By Ellenor Downer



American wigeon

I received an email from a Brimfield resident on Dec. 15.

He said he checked out a pond in Ludlow in preparation for doing the Christmas Bird Count with the Allen Bird Club. He said, "My wife and I have been covering the town of Ludlow since 1989 and did my first count with the club in the late 1970s."

He saw four American Wigeons. He said, "Males with white crown/forehead and female with gray head brown body was swimming with the males. The male's white spot was very visible even to the unaided eye."

The American wigeon is 21 inches long. The male has a white forehead and crown, gray head and a green iridescent patch through the eye. The male has a white spot before the tail, which the Brimfield mentioned in his email.

The female has brownish sides, grayish head and sides, a dark eyespot and light gray bill with black tip. The female wigeon lays six to 12 white eggs in a grassy nest. The nest is concealed in rushes, sedge or under tree clumps.

American wigeons feed on pond weeds, milfoil, wigeon grass, wild celery and eelgrass. They may eat vexation stirred up by diving ducks such as canvasbacks. They summer on lakes and marshes and winter on wet meadows, lakes and protected coastal waters. They are usually found in small flocks. During courtship competing males give whistling calls and lift folded wings nearly vertical above their back. Males give soft descending three syllable whistles.

Other birds

Other birds seen by the Brimfield resident at the Ludlow Reservoir were 63 Canada geese, six mallards, 83 hooded mergansers, 161 common mergansers, one ring-billed gull, three common loons and one bald eagle flew directly overhead just above the tree tops. Other birds were two American crows, two tufted titmice and two dark-eyed juncos.

Hooded mergansers

I received an email from a woman on Dec. 14. She said, "The ponds on Brook Road in West Warren have more treasures. Two days ago I saw a pair of hooded mergansers. I sat and watched for several minutes and they spent most of the time under water."

Bird at feeder

I received an email from a woman on Dec. 20. She wrote, "I have spotted a bird I believe to be a yellow warbler coming to my feeder. My knowledge of the bird is that it migrates south or the winter." She sent a photo, but the bird was eating so the beak and head were not visible. It had two white wing bars, olive color and some yellow. It may be a male American goldfinch in winter plumage. They do spend the winter here and retain some of their yellow feathers.

Loon fact

Most of the fish loons catch are small enough to be swallowed whole when they're still underwater. However, when a loon captures a larger fish, it may need to return to the surface to subdue it before it is able to consume it. Loons may slap a fish against the surface of the water or repeatedly drop

Please see **BACKYARD**, Page 13

Air traffic controller shortage & holiday travel...



GUEST COLUMN



by Roberta McQuaid

A Christmas card gardening question

My long-time friend Jane sent a column request via her Christmas card!

"I still read your columns, Roberta. I like the folksy way you write! Can you please provide some tips on keeping my Poinsettia healthy?"

So, out of the archives comes this column, devoted to Jane and you guessed it, the poinsettia.

Every Christmas the poinsettia takes the stage, front and center, in grocery and box store displays. The deep red bracts lure buyers to make them part of their holiday decorating.

Pretty? For sure, but without proper care, the plant won't have a chance past New Year's Day.

Let's learn what we can do to keep this favorite looking its best throughout the holiday season and then some.

It's important that you start off with a healthy plant. Choose a poinsettia with dark green foliage all the way to the soil line. Color should completely cover the bracts on the upper portion of the plant.

Avoid plants whose flowers (located in the center of the bracts) show pollen. If pollen is evident, the plant is old.

Be wary of those that are displayed in plastic or paper sleeves or even those that are elbow to elbow. Poinsettias need room to spread out, and the longer they are cramped, the more likely it is that their quality will be impacted.

Wilted plants are also best avoided, as this may indicate more than dry soil alone.

Poinsettias are cold sensitive. I was aghast when an out of town florist delivered these to me without a proper covering!

Temperatures under 50 degrees for even

a few minutes can damage the plant. Therefore, insert into a bag or protective sleeve for the ride home from the store and do not leave in an unheated car while you run other errands!

Once home, position the poinsettia in a location where it will receive indirect light for at least six hours a day. Avoid drafts, warm or cold, and place far enough away from windows to prevent the foliage from touching cold glass.

Chances are if you are comfortable inside, your poinsettia will be as well. Temperatures from 65-70 degrees during the day to around 55 at night will extend its life.

Check the plant often to see if it needs water. If the soil is dry, water until droplets leak through the drainage holes in the pot. Saucers shouldn't accumulate water. Dump the excess out after each watering so the plant won't reabsorb it and become waterlogged.

Soil that remains soaking wet is likely to cause root rot. A visual indication of this irreversible disease is curled, wilting foliage and bracts. Hold off on fertilizing the plant while it is in bloom.

It's unfortunate that few people keep their poinsettias past the holiday season. My mom tries for repeat bloom each year with varying degrees of success. This year, some bracts are just starting to turn red!

Here's what to do if you'd like to try it: In early April cut back the plant to eight inches. Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month.

New growth should appear by the end of May. After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks.

Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. At this time you may also wish to repot the poinsettia. Select a pot one size larger, filling around the root ball with a good potting soil.

Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness en-

Please see **GARDEN**, Page 13

Election letters policy

The Register 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 Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to theregister@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 Thursday'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 the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the

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

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

The REGISTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language.

All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email theregister@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Readers, local merchants, institutions, municipalities, non-profit groups, and civic organizations are strongly encouraged to send The Register your hometown news and photos. News items and press releases should be sent via email to mharrison@turley.com as an attachment AND pasted directly into the email message screen.

Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in your image(s) from left to right.

We need first and last name, hometown, title if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo. Email uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution directly off your camera to mharrison@turley.com.

Publicity chairpersons are encouraged to send in news about upcoming fundraising or other calendar events at least three weeks before the event.

If you are having difficulty with a press release or need help, please call (413) 283-8393.

To send submissions by regular post, mail to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 31



Photo by Emilia Alves

The Oakland Stroke Band entertained the community with their melodies.

AUG. 14



by Marcelo Gusmão

Lia Warrick (right), pictured with Jaeda Haskoor, said the backpack giveaway has “gotten bigger and bigger.”

Ludlow native returns to meet fans

By Tessa Quinn
Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD - Soap opera fans were busy on August 11 at Zombie Hide-out in Springfield. The comic book store on Cooley Street held a meet and greet with Ludlow native actress Maura West. She graduated from Ludlow High

School before attending Boston University and landing a job as a series regular on the CBS Soap Opera, *As the World Turns*.

A multiple Daytime Emmy winner, West currently plays Ava Jerome on ABC's *General Hospital*. She also worked on *The Young and the Restless*.

AUG. 28

Local graduate selected for US Coaches High School Scholar All-American Team

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – A local athlete was awarded a prestigious award to recognize his accomplishments in both academics and athletics.

Cole Bamford is a lifelong resident of Ludlow, who graduated from the high school earlier this year from. Recently, Bamford was selected for the United Soccer Coaches High School Scholar All-America Team, one of only 43 selections in the country this year.

The Lions describe this selection as a testament to Bamford's talent as an athlete as well as his dedication to academic excellence. The Scholar All-American Award recognizes students and athletes who excel in both their academics and in the sport of their choosing, and is de-

scribed as one of the more challenging and prestigious awards to earn at the high school level.

Bamford's father said that Cole has been playing soccer at Memorial Park since he was five years old with the town's Youth Soccer Association. He added that his son was part of the Bay-state Games West team that won gold in both 2022 and 2023. Cole intends to follow his father and sister's footsteps by pursuing an engineering degree in college.

"I'm going to Western New England University for engineering," Cole said. "My sister and my dad do it, so I'm interested in that. They have all types of engineering majors, but I haven't decided which one I want to go into yet."

The town is very proud of its dedicated graduates, and the many organizations that support their successful futures.

The theme of the ceremony was the importance of remembrance, with each speaker urging the attendees not to let the events of the 2001 terror attack be lost to time, but to encourage future generations to acknowledge the loss and sacrifice of that date. The first speaker called up was the town's Director of Veterans Services, Eric Segundo.

"The memories of the infamous events of that day are just as clear today as they were 23 years ago," Segundo said. "Although years, and even decades, may pass, the memories of Sept. 11 will stay with us. None of us will forget where they were and what they were doing when our world came to a screeching halt."

Segundo was followed by State Representative Aaron Saunders, who reflected on where he was at 9:03 a.m. when

the first tower was hit during the attack in 2001. Saunders was followed by Senator Jake Oliveira, who commended the town for its long-standing World Trade Center memorial, which was installed in front of the Safety Complex around 2011.

After Oliveira thanked the town and its first responders for its work in enshrining this date in the community's memories, Select Board Chair Derek DeBarge praised the first responders that were on the scene during the attacks.

Following DeBarge's comments, there was the ceremonial ringing of the bells, a prayer by the fire department's chaplain, Reverend Homer Gosselin, a reading of the fireman's prayer, and a reading of the policeman's prayer, ending with a performance of "Taps" by Segundo.

SEPT. 18

Town remembers the loss suffered 23 years ago at World Trade Center memorial

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – The town's annual Sept. 11 memorial ceremony was held at the Safety Complex last Wednesday.

The ceremony began with Fire Chief Ryan Pease thanking the members of the public, town employees, first responders, selectmen, and state legislators who had gathered at the Safety Complex on Wednesday morning.

"We want to remember the 343 fire-

fighters that died that day," Pease said, "60 police officers, and over 3,000 innocent lives that were lost."

Pease mentioned Nicholas Humber, a town native and graduate of the high school, who lost his life during the World Trade Center attacks, and Sergeant Joshua DesForges, who was killed in action during the War in Afghanistan.

"I ask you all to take time to educate your youth, like I did this morning," Pease said. "I have kids, aged five, nine, and 10, and they know exactly what day it is."

SEPT. 25



Sényia Ralls played on the field with the staff as part of the Day for Kids event.

OCT. 2

School staff recognized with Employers Support for the Guard and Reserve Award

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – On Sept. 27, three staff members at Harris Brook Elementary School were recognized for their work in supporting a co-worker serving as a member of the National Guard.

Adam Lyon is the music teacher at Harris Brook, and also serves in the National Guard. This year, he nominated three local school staff members for Employers Support for the Guard and Reserve Award; Principal Nikki Reed, Assistant Principal Mary Dobek, and Meghan Provost, the Music Curriculum Director.

"They make sure that I get a sub when I'm out, they're supportive, they make sure my job is safe if I were to get called up," Lyon said. "It's a good place to work for somebody in the National Guard like myself."

Provost has been teaching in the district for 14 years, and previously won the Harold Grinspoon Pioneer Valley of Excellence Award in her third year. As Chair of the Music Department, Provost has been working to instill a sense of camaraderie within the department.

"We're doing our best to make the music department more of a community," Provost said, "supporting each other as much as we can, especially when we have a new staff member."

YEAR IN REVIEW

OCT. 9

Fall into Fun



Submitted photo

Kingdom of Jones performed from the gazebo in Memorial Park on Sunday.

NOV. 20

250th Book



Submitted Photo

250th Book Committee members, (from left) Sandra Stanek, Martin Fanning, Mary Beth Silva, Brian Bylicki, Town Clerk Kim Batista, 250th Committee Co-Chair Linda Collette, and Bruce Fenney.

NOV. 6



Submitted photo

Tony Hoffman, a motivational speaker and Olympic-level cyclist, spoke at the high school on Oct. 28.

DEC. 4



Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Santa Claus took a picture surrounded by his helpers, (from left) Julia Liszka, Brooklyn Rosas, and Chloe Liszka.

DEC. 11



Submitted photo

Karen Robison leads carolers in singing Christmas songs before the tree-lighting.

DEC. 19

Police Department holds third successful Toy Drive

By Marcelo Gusmão
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LUDLOW – The Police Department kicked off this holiday season with a toy drive that raised up to \$4,000 in toys for the Toys for Tots campaign.

For the past three years, the department has arranged Stuff-the-Cruiser toy drives every year to benefit Toys for Tots. Officer Isaac Santana and Sergeant Jhon Wielblad arranged this year's drive with PlayNow Toy Store, joined by two members from the marines, as well as dispatcher Mike Lynch and David Krok.

The officers played Christmas music and set out donuts and coffee to

provide for free for people who donated, which was provided by Dunkin' Donuts on Center Street, who Santana said has been a supporter of the drive every year.

"We do other events throughout the year, but this seems a little more special," Santana said. "As a child, I was raised in a Jehova's Witness home, and they don't celebrate Xmas, so I wasn't given that opportunity as a child. During Christmastime, I get really invested, and take it personally that the toy drives are so successful."

Santana thanked PlayNow for hosting the toy drive, the marines for supporting and sending members to the event, and the community for its support, "and not only for the toy drive."

NOV. 13

Citizens Council welcomes Superintendent for Q&A with local parents

INDIAN ORCHARD – On Saturday, Nov. 9, Superintendent Dr. Sonia Dinnall visited the Citizens Council to discuss the concerns of the community with local parents.

The new superintendent was on-site with support from the administration to talk to parents and students alike. The event was designed as an introduction for the community, and a chance for a Q&A on what she can do to improve the schools in the neighborhood and throughout Springfield.

Parents raised numerous important issues, such as mental health, technology, community engagement, and how the ballot question to abolish the MCAS as a graduation requirement will affect students.

Through the Q&A with Dinnall, mental health was identified as one of the primary concerns of the parents from the neighborhood.

Dinnall said that the school system has been working with its partners to make sure students can access this curriculum and that the schools reach out to community-based organizations

that provide after-school care, and that there are school counselors in the building that visit the classrooms to provide "tier 1 support" for students to learn how to develop skills to recognize if they're dysregulated and figure out self-care.

Parents also expressed an interest in expanding art programs for the schools, noting that since before the pandemic, schools have been cutting their art and music programs.

Dinnall said that the schools have been holding several events to meet with parents, including Super Saturdays, and Q&As in different neighborhoods like the one being held through the Citizens Council.

The discussion turned to the need for engagement with parents and the community, and the importance of participating in school events. One speaker said that participating in events at the school is how parents can get to know the school staff.

"When the schools win, the community wins," said Citizens Council President Zaida Govan.

SPORTS

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Falcons get revenge on Lions in rematch

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD— After beginning the regular season with an overtime loss to Berry Division rival Ludlow on Dec. 14, the Minnechaug Regional hockey players had a little bit of extra motivation when they faced the Lions again a week later.

The Falcons, who never trailed in the second match-up, escaped with a 3-2 victory at the Olympic Ice Center in West Springfield on Dec. 21.

“This is a huge win for us because we just earned two points towards qualifying for the Western Mass. tournament,” said Minnechaug senior alternate captain Ben Daniels, who scored what turned out to be the game winning goal at the end of the second period. “We dominated last week’s game, and it killed us losing to them in overtime. We used it as a little bit of extra motivation coming into today’s game.”

The state power rankings have been used to determine which hockey teams qualified for the Western Mass. Class A



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Evan Dias sends the puck up the ice.

tournament during the past couple of years.

The qualifications for the 2025 Western Mass. tournament have been changed.

The top four hockey teams in the Berry Division standings will qualify for the Western

Mass. Class A tournament. A team earns two points for a win and one point for a tie.

“Because of the way the Western Mass. Class A playoffs is now set up our Berry Division games are now a little bit more important,” said Minnechaug



Charlie Fijal tries to grab the loose puck.

head coach Kyle Bousquet. “The seedings are now determined by points instead of the power rankings. We did get a point in last week’s game because we lost to Ludlow in overtime. This week, we earned two points with the win, and they

didn’t get any points.”

While the Falcons evened their overall and league record at 1-1, the Lions had a 2-2 overall record and a 1-2 league mark.

Please see **HOCKEY**, Page 10

Lions start out 1-2

LUDLOW – The Ludlow High School boys swimming team had just three meets in the close of 2024. The Lions started out with a loss against Chicopee Comprehensive. They followed that with a win against Agawam, then lost on Dec. 19 against East Longmeadow. Coming up, the Lions’ first meet of 2025 will be on Tuesday, Jan. 7 against Chicopee High School at 4 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



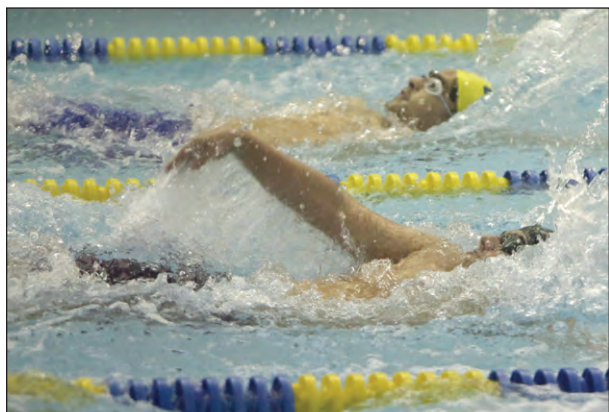
Marcus Goncalves does his part in the 200 medley relay.



Adam Riley heads down the lane in the 100 fly.



Devlin Murphy swims the 100 freestyle.



Jasper Pacheco swims a leg of the 200 medley relay.



Joe Keroack does one lap of the 500 freestyle.

Longtime referee Lavoie wins MIAA award



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Referee Joe Lavoie (center) officiates with his crew on a rainy Thanksgiving morning at Agawam High School this year.

LUDLOW – Last month, long-time referee Joe Lavoie was recognized as the MIAA Football Official of the Year. According to information provided, Lavoie joined the Western Mass Football Officials Association (WMFOA) in 1974 (51 years) as a junior at AIC in Springfield, MA.

Lavoie was a 3-year starter for Milt Piepul’s 8-1 (‘75) AIC Yellowjackets. He was selected All-New England Honorable Mention by the AP and Boston Herald (‘75), and selected to the ECAC team of the week versus Northeastern University.

After college, Lavoie taught

and coached football in Ludlow for Steve Marino and subsequently in Agawam for Roger LeClerc, before joining private industry as a computer systems programmer/analyst. Retired from MassMutual with 30-plus years of service.

He was a 1971 graduate of Ludlow High School playing football for Chick Patullo and baseball for Bill Mullins.

In high school, he was selected All-Suburban League and All-Western-Mass as a tri-captain for Chick Patullo, Jim Cavallo, Dave Dzuira, and

Please see **LAVOIE**, Page 12

Isles outlast T-Birds in 7-5 track meet

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-13-2-1) could not escape a furious push by the Bridgeport Islanders (7-19-2-2) in a high-flying 7-5 contest on Saturday night inside the MassMutual Center.

The Islanders tried to spoil the T-Birds debut for rookie netminder Will Cranley when Liam Foudy opened the scoring on a rebound to the goaltender's right at 7:36.

Springfield would be tested after the Islanders went to a power play at the 13:04 mark, but captain Matthew Peca took matters into his own hands to change the tide. After skating out of his zone with possession, he challenged a forward wide on the left side before surprising Henrik Tikkanen with a short-side snapper to tie the score, 1-1, on Springfield's second short-handed tally of the season. Peca's tally was his team-leading 12th of the campaign and second in as many nights.

Peca was in the middle of things again just 5:04 later, weaving into the offensive end to create a 2-on-1 outnumbered attack. This time, Peca played the role of playmaker, laying a perfect pass to the blade of Matt Luff in the right circle. With no wasted movement, Luff one-

timed it past a sliding Tikkanen, giving Springfield the 2-1 lead with just 1:26 left in the frame. Peca's assist was his 100th as a member of the T-Birds, making him the first player in club history to hit the 100-assist plateau.

The Islanders gave a glimpse of what was to follow in the middle period when Tyce Thompson one-timed a slapper off the post and off Cranley to tie the game, 2-2, at 3:15 of the second period, as the T-Birds were scrambling to get back into position.

The T-Birds' special teams had the next notable moment just 2:09 later, as Marcus Sylvegard beautifully spotted Luff on a pass from the left corner to the top of the crease, allowing the veteran winger a tap-in for his second of the night to restore the Springfield lead, 3-2, at 5:24.

After a rare stretch of scoreless hockey on this evening, the Islanders found their way to a tie score again when Matt Maggio surprised Cranley with a quick wrister from the left circle off a setup from Grant Hutton, evening the game, 3-3, at 14:20.

Before the T-Birds could escape the onslaught, the Islanders got their second lead of the night at 19:06, when a poor Springfield line change set up a 3-on-2 for Bridgeport. Gemel Smith

neatly left a puck for Foudy near the crease, and the veteran winger had an open net for his second of the night and a 4-3 Islanders lead after 40 minutes.

Midway through what had been a quiet third period, the T-Birds power play connected for a second time as Sylvegard deflected an attempt from Aleksanteri Kaskimaki over Tikkanen's shoulder, and the game was tied again, 4-4, at 10:04 of the third.

Despite their scrappiness to get back even, the T-Birds could not salvage a point on this night, and Maggio capped his four-point night with a corner-picking wrister at 16:20, which gave Bridgeport a 5-4 lead. Cole Bardreau added an empty-net tally at 18:45 to push the lead to 6-4.

That Bardreau tally proved pivotal when Hunter Skinner found the net from the right side with 25 seconds to play, trimming the margin back to 6-5. Ultimately, however, the T-Birds ran out of time, and with the clock about to expire, Marc Gatcomb flung a clearing effort into the empty cage to round out the scoring. Cranley finished his T-Birds debut with 35 saves, while Tikkanen escaped with his first win in six tries with 31 stops.

Coaching classes available

Coaches hired after Aug. 1, 1998 are required to take a coaching course to be eligible to coach high school sports in Massachusetts.

According to the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association, all coaches hired prior to Aug. 1, 1998 are exempt from taking the Fundamentals of Coaching Course. Coaches hired after that and before July 1, 2005 must have completed the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course with the exception of Certified MA teachers.

All coaches (stipend or volunteer) first serving as an interscholastic coach after July 1, 2005 must complete the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course, and an approved Sports First Aid course.

The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course requirement must be met through attending a MIAA sponsored Fundamentals of Coaching Class with MIAA Certified Instructors. Must be completed and passed prior to coaching a second year.

The NFHS Sports First Aid may be met by completing on-line courses with the NFHS www.nfhslearn.com. Must be passed prior to coaching a third year.

Additional requirements for all coaches:

Massachusetts requires coaches to be certified in CPR per Section 1. Section 47A of chapter 71 of the General Laws. Additionally, AED training is required and will most likely be done in conjunction with the existing mandated CPR training.

All MIAA member school coaches (stipend or volunteer) are required to take annually the on-line National Federation Concussion Course, or other MA Department of Public Health recognized education program, prior to the start of their season. Rugby Coaches must see Rule 76.2 for additional coaches' education information.

Any questions, please call Donna Harrington at 508-541-9804 or email dharrington@miaa.net.

Fundamentals of coaching classes are being offered on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Classes are open until capacity is reached and then a waiting list is established. There are online components to the course once the classroom portion is completed.



Ryan Goodwin guides the puck up the ice



William Mitus receives a pass.



Jack Mandeville emerges from a scrum with the puck.

HOCKEY from Page 9

After defeating Agawam and Minnechaug in their first two regular season matches by a goal, the Lions, who co-op with Belchertown High School, suffered back-to-back one goal losses to East Longmeadow and Minnechaug.

"We didn't play very well in the first two periods of today's game," said Ludlow head coach Paul Rivest. "We just weren't

ready to play hockey, and we allowed them to dictate the pace of the game. This is another frustrating loss."

Neither team had very many scoring chances during the first ten minutes of the opening period.

The Falcons took a 1-0 lead at the 11:12 mark following a goal from junior Dom Fiorentino, which was assisted by sophomore Nick O'Sullivan, who's earned his first varsity point.

With ten seconds remaining in the first period, Daniels had a breakaway opportunity, but he couldn't get a shot attempt off.

Ludlow also had two breakaway chances during the first minute of the second period.

After stealing a pass less than ten seconds into the period, senior Charlie Fijal, who's one of the Belchertown players listed on the Lions hockey roster, fired a shot that deflected off Minnechaug freshman goalie Chase

Folli (10 saves), who made his first varsity start.

Freshman Matt Lafley was the Falcons starting goalie in the season opener.

"This is the first time that I've had two freshmen starting goalies during my coaching career," Bousquet said. "Chase played very well in today's game and earned his first varsity win. Matt played well in last week's game. Both of them are solid goalies."

Another breakaway chance by junior Nick Deroin sailed wide of the net.

The third time was a charm for the Lions, as junior A.J. Stupak put the puck into the net which tied the score 55 seconds into the period. Junior captain Sean Kefalas was credited with the assist.

The score remained deadlocked at 1-1 for the next nine minutes.

The Falcons retook the lead when sophomore Liam Faneuff put a shot into the net past Ludlow sophomore goalie Peter LeBorgne (15 saves) for a power-play goal with 5:32 left in the second period.

Minnechaug's sec-

ond goal was assisted by the duo of senior captain Brayden O'Sullivan and Fiorentino.

A little more than two minutes later, O'Sullivan assisted on Daniels goal which gave the Falcons a 3-1 lead entering the final 15 minutes of regulation.

"That was my first goal of the season," said Daniels, who's a school choice student from Monson. "I saw the puck bounce off the goalie and I was able to finish it off."

Daniels, who also plays golf and baseball, has been a member of the Falcons varsity hockey team since he was a sophomore.

"I love going to school at Minnechaug," Daniels added. "It has also been a lot of fun being a member of this hockey team the past couple of years."

The Ludlow faithful supporters thought their team had scored a goal less than three minutes into the final period, but the referee blew his whistle halting the play.

Kefalas blasted a shot into the net at the 10:10 mark, which closed the gap to 3-2. That goal was assisted by sophomore Evan Dias.

The Falcons had a power-play for the final two minutes of regulation, but they couldn't score another goal, but Folli didn't allow the tying goal down at the other end of the ice.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$1.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST \$2.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.. \$2.44 lb</p> <p>SLICED IN OUR DELI CORNED BEEF COOKED \$6.99 lb</p> <p>SLICED IN OUR DELI MUEENSTER CHEESE..... \$5.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST \$2.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS \$3.35 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIP LOIN CUT FREE \$6.11 lb OR HALF</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS \$6.29 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF \$4.99 5 LB BAG</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN STEAKS \$5.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... \$1.91 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG 77c lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN FRENCH TOAST STICKS 2 LB BAG \$5.49 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN 51/60 COUNT PEELED & DEVEINED RAW SHRIMP 2 LB BAG \$7.99 ea</p>
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90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

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Happy New Year!

DL&G TREE

Tree Removal

■
Structural Pruning

■
Crane
Service

■
Storm
Damage

■
Stump
Grinding

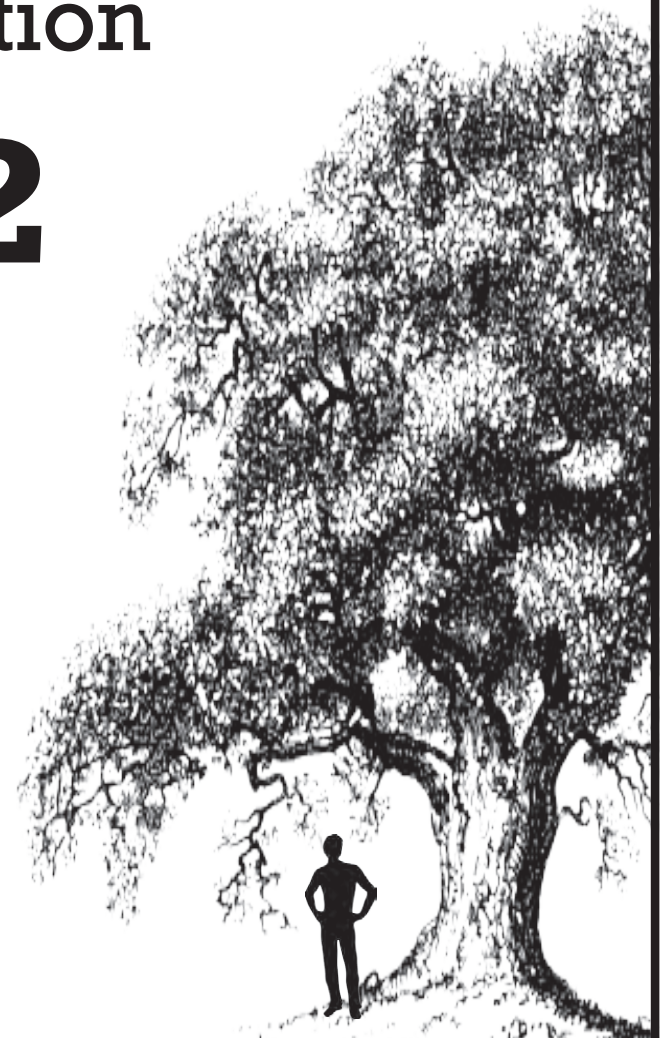
■
Lot Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate
and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



INSURED AND CERTIFIED

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

REGION – A look back through history at the momentous anniversaries this week.

On Jan. 1, in 1902, the first college football bowl game was held as the University of Michigan defeated Stanford in what became known as the Rose Bowl.

On Jan. 2, in 1492, Granada, the final stronghold of the Moorish kingdom in Spain, was surrendered to the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand

II and Isabella I.

On Jan. 3, in 1521, Pope Leo X issued the papal bull *Decret Romanum Pontificem*, excommunicating Martin Luther, the German priest whose criticism of the Roman Catholic Church started the Protestant Reformation.

On Jan. 4, in 1853, Solomon Northrup legally obtained his freedom, later writing about his experiences in his memoir, *Twelve Years a Slave*.

On Jan. 5, in 2005, the dwarf planet Eris was discovered in images taken by Palomar Observatory in California.

On Jan. 6, in 1941, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt outlined his Four Freedoms in his State of the Union message to Congress.

Finally, on Jan. 7, in 1610, Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei made the then-controversial discovery of four moons orbiting Jupiter, and that the telescope can reveal more stars than are visible to the naked eye.

An illustration of Solomon Norhup by Frederick M. Coffin and engraved by Nathaniel Orr, from the 1855 edition of *Twelve Years a Slave*.



Proposed changes to Ludlow tobacco regulations

LUDLOW— Convenience store owners are condemning the Ludlow Board of Health's proposal to ban the sale of products often used by adult smokers to gradually reduce nicotine consumption over time. The Board of Health held a public hearing on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

The hearing was about a plan to cap nicotine levels of nicotine pouches sold in Ludlow. If adopted, this ban would stop adult consumers from being able to legally purchase nicotine pouches with nicotine levels above 6 mg per pouch. If approved, the change in local tobacco regulations would prohibit local stores from selling these products to their adult customers who often purchase the less harmful nicotine pouches to curb or stop their use of traditional cigarettes. Anyone who opposes the local prohibition is encouraged to speak out at the public hearing.

The retail community and NECSE-MA, which represents thousands of con-

venience stores across New England, oppose the measure for several reasons, including: Oral nicotine pouches are considered less risky products than many other tobacco products, and adult consumers are adopting them to replace, in whole or in part, their use of tobacco products higher on the continuum of risk recognized by the FDA.; A cap on nicotine levels is an infringement on personal choice.

Many adults use nicotine pouches at varying levels as a safer alternative to smoking, and capping the nicotine level could discourage adults from moving away from cigarettes to a less harmful product.; It does nothing to address under-age youth use of nicotine and tobacco products.; Fewer than two out of 100 (1.8%) youth nationwide report using a nicotine pouch in the last 30 days. More than three times (6.3%) that number report using marijuana. This plan proposes to fix a problem that doesn't exist.

Baystate Wing Auxiliary selling January Lotto calendars

PALMER—The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is currently selling their January 2025 Lotto Calendars. The one-month calendar, which costs \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Drawings will begin on Feb. 3.

For over 65 years the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has been actively supporting local healthcare through its sponsorship of special events and sales from the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop located on the first floor of the hospital.

The calendars are on sale at the Baystate Wing Hospital gift shop. Funds raised by

the annual Lotto Calendars support the Auxiliary's scholarship program and their philanthropic efforts that benefit Baystate Wing Hospital.

Whether looking for something special for a patient, a gift for a special occasion, or an item for the home, the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop offers many unique, hand-selected items.

For more information about the Lotto Calendar visit the gift shop located on the first floor of the hospital or call 413-370-8169.

First Responders Dinner Jan. 9

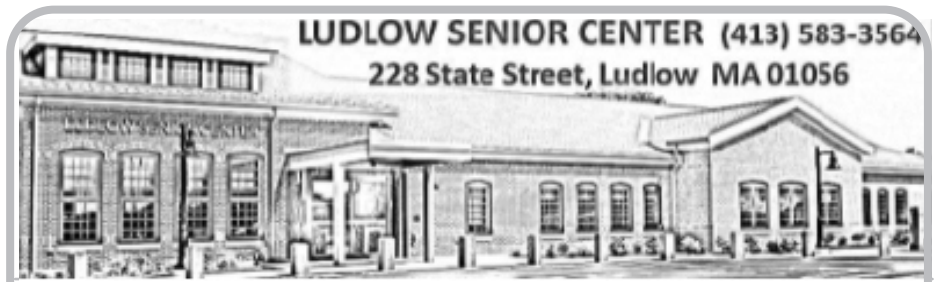
LUDLOW—Pioneer Valley Financial Group & Ludlow Veterans of Foreign Affairs' hosts its 7th Annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner. The event will be held on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Gremio Lusitano Club in Ludlow.

The event is held as a way of recognizing the dedication of our local first responders. It's a night of food, fun, games and prizes. Annual chief games will be hosted; a friendly competition between departments, toys for all the children attending and raffle prizes!

This event is for local first responders and their families who live or work in Ludlow, Wilbraham & Hampden, including Police, Fire, EMTs, Hampden Country Sheriff's Dept., State Police, Emergency Dispatchers and all departments' retirees.

There is no registration or charge to attend this event.

If you have any questions, feel free to connect with our Community Outreach Manager, Katherine Ferri, at 413-589-1500.



Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

LUDLOW— The calendar is packed with many fitness programs, entertainment, education sessions, and more. Reserve your lunch in the Center's beautiful dining room complete with coffee, tea, and dessert by calling a day in advance at 413-583-3564 (call Friday for lunch on Monday).

For the full program and activity descriptions and general information about what a senior center is and does go to: Ludlow.ma.us. Seniors can also "like" the Ludlow Senior Center on Facebook. A paper copy of the Senior Scene newsletter is available at the Center.

Activities Calendar:

Please register in advance for items with*

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Center Closed for Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 26

9 a.m. Tai Chi

9:30 a.m. Dominos

10 a.m. SHINE Benefits Counseling*

10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation*

1 p.m. Mahjong

2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

*PLEASE register for Boomer Boot Camp, Healthy Bones & Balance, Foot Care, and other programs as noted by calling 583-3564

Daily Events:

Café: Monday – Friday 8-11 a.m.

Exercise Room: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Open until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Walking Club: Monday – Friday 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., leaving from the parking lot.

Menu:

Thursday, Dec. 19: Shrimp Scampi/Linguini/Peas

Friday, Dec. 20: Chicken Patty Sand/Lettuce & Tom/Chips/Pickle

Monday, Dec. 23: Christmas Lunch, Pot Roast/Mashed Pot/Glazed Carrots (sorry, sold out)

Tuesday, Dec. 24: No lunch. Center Closes at 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 25: Center Closed for Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 26: BBQ Riblet/Sweet Pot. Fries/3 Bean Salad

Reserve a delicious \$2 lunch by calling a day ahead. Call on Friday to reserve lunch on Monday.

For allergy concerns, call the Senior Center to ask about ingredients at 413-583-3564.

Proposed changes to Ludlow tobacco regulations

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LAVOIE from Page 9

Joe Andreis, who instilled the love of football, hard work, and fair play into their teams.

As an official, he was elected president of the WMFOA in 1993, and started and taught a first, second, third-year official's training class, and game sign-in requirement for new officials to attend pre-games and work the chains in varsity games. That process is still in effect today. In 1994, amended the training classes to have a separate class for first-year officials and started instructing the second and third-year officials' class, and still instruct that class today.

Among his many accomplishments, he officiated numerous MIAA playoff and championship games around the

state and at Gillette Stadium. He joined the Western Mass Basketball Officials Association in 1980, was elected board President in 2013, subsequently elected sec-treasurer from 2015-2017. He still officiates basketball games.

Lavoie earned a CAGS from Springfield College, an MS in management from RPI Hartford, and an MBA from Western New England College. He has taught business and computer systems courses at HCC for over 25 years.

Lavoie has been married to high school sweetheart, Edna (Robertson) Lavoie, for over 45 years, and has three wonderful sons. Two sons live and work in Boston, and one son lives in Longmeadow and is an attorney in Springfield.

Family LEGO Challenge Build Day

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library will be holding a Family LEGO Challenge Build Day on Saturday, Dec. 28 at 10 a.m.

Residents are invited to work with their family to recreate LEGO designs. There will be both LEGO Challenge Cards available to build with, as well as LEGO "Free Build".

Finished LEGO designs will be photographed for display in the children's department following the program.

This program is for children aged five and up, with adult supervision. Adults are required to remain with their children at all times.

Call the library at 413-596-6141 or visit www.WilbrahamLibrary.org to register.

BACKYARD from Page 6

and recapture it until the fish stops struggling and is manageable enough to be swallowed.

Loons swallow fish whole, headfirst. When a loon starts to swallow a large fish, it will first ensure that it is oriented properly, sometimes dropping the fish and picking it up several times until it is properly positioned. Once the fish is aligned so that it is headfirst in the loon's mouth, the loon begins the process of swallowing. Loons have sharp, rear-facing projections along the roof of their mouths and on their tongues. These projections, called denticles, interlock with the fish's scales, ensuring that the fish is not able to escape back into the water. Loons then press their tongue into the fish and begin to inch it down the throat, into the esophagus. Depending on the size of the fish a loon is trying to eat, it may take a few seconds to several minutes for the loon to swallow. Once in the esophagus, the fish moves down into the gizzard. A loon may open its mouth and repeatedly extend its neck upward and then contract it back towards its body to help move particularly large fish through the esophagus to the gizzard.

American crow

I saw about five or six American crows foraging on a lawn on my way to church this cold Sunday morning. With the temperature registering 8 degrees F, the crows had their feathers all puffed up for warmth.

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.

GARDEN from Page 6

courage it to bloom. In greenhouses, growers go to great lengths to withhold light, as even small amounts can delay or stop the plant from setting bud.

At home, putting the plant in the closet for 14 hours each night is your best bet. Most people get on a 5p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts.

Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

Regardless of whether you enjoy the poinsettia for the season or longer, may its colorful bracts brighten your holiday!

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.

DATEBOOK

Do you have a local event or activity to publicize? Please send the information as either a Word doc or plain (no bold text or other formatting) email text (no PDFs, please and do not use all uppercase (i.e. UPPER CASE) by 5 p.m. Friday. At least two weeks prior to the event is encouraged. Send your community events to pressreleases@turley.com.

ONGOING

FOOD DRIVE BI-MONTHLY. On the first Saturday of each even month (December, February, April, June, August, October) First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St, collects non-perishable foods. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., drive through the back parking lot. Donations will be taken out of the car and brought to the Community Survival Center to be distributed to those in need. Save your extra food items to drop off at our next Food Drive on Dec. 7.

FREE CLOTHING. Every Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m., in the school building located behind Crossway Christian Church, 2230 Main St., Three Rivers. Clothing from baby through adult. Current, seasonal clothes in all sizes. Bags are provided for easy shopping. For more information call Donna, (413)478-0768.

SENIOR BINGO: Hosted by the Indian Orchard Citizens Council 3:30-5 p.m. every Monday. Free to play with great prizes. For more information, call 413-209-8240.

THRIFT SHOP: Now open at St. Gregory Armenian Church, 135 Goodwin Street, Indian Orchard, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every Saturday offering quality items at affordable prices. Gently-used clothing and accessories, household items, books, children's items, collectors' items and more are available. For more information, call the church office at 413-543-4763.

CHESS CLUB: Open to residents of all surrounding communities 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Indian Orchard Citizens Council, 117 Main St. For more information, contact the IOCC at 413-209-8240 or indianorchardcitizenscouncil@gmail.com or stop in during operating hours. Follow the IOCC on Facebook and Instagram.

LUDLOW SENIOR CENTER 55 AND OVER CO-ED VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE: At East Street School on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m. the cost to take part is \$5 per year. For more information contact Maria Ardolino, activities director at activity@ludlow.ma.us or call 413-583-3564.

AQUACISE AT THE CLUB: The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club, at 91 Claudias Way, continues to offer Aquacise throughout the week. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength. Classes are open to all members with pool-inclusive memberships and do not require prior registration. Classes are held 8:30-9:15 a.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For questions, call 413-583-2072, ext. 124.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS: The Michael J. Dias Support Group meets 6-7:15 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Center. Education, resources, peer support, and hope for parents and family members coping with a loved one with a substance use disorder. Anyone needing help is welcome to attend. Masks are required and we will be seated six feet apart. For more information, call Maureen at 413-563-6226.

H.O.P.E. RECOVERY GROUP: Having Our Pathways Encouraged meetings are for those

who have experience with addictions, grief, anxiety and depression, (including anxiety and depression due to COVID-19) and for loved ones who might need help in their recovery. This group is also for those who can help lead others in their recovery by example. This meeting in no way replaces professional therapies. It is a time for sharing strength, encouragement and hope. No fees. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Pre-packaged snacks are available. Small group structure based on basic Christian principles, concept, purposes and confidentiality. COVID-19 guidelines are observed. Masks required. 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at Fellowship Hall in Faith Community Chapel, 485 East Street in Ludlow. Parking lot behind Chapel. Fellowship Hall entrance at back of Chapel. Seating is limited. To reserve yours, call 413-519-4591.

QUABBIN VALLEY TWIRLERS If you missed the first lessons in the fall, now is the time to give yourself a gift of dancing enjoyment for the coming holiday time. Do you want some exercise, mental acuity, and lots of fun with great people? Try our national folk dance, square dancing with the Quabbin Valley Twirlers. They dance in Belchertown and Ludlow with Sunday and Wednesday evenings available. For more information, call Gloria or Fran at 413-467-3352.

BIBLE STUDY: A weekly Bible study led by Ludlow resident Hank Bastos takes place at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays at 485 East St., Ludlow. Call 413-348-6487 for more information.

SHARE YOUR SIGHT: Volunteer to read, shop or walk with a blind or vision impaired person in your community. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired at 1-888-613-2777 for details.

Church DIRECTORY

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

584 West St., Ludlow
413-583-8454

S Sunday services

Sacrament Meeting 10- 11 A.M.

Sunday school for adults, Young single adults(18-30) and teens (11-18)- 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon

Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon

Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon

Classes for Single Adults(18-30)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -11- 12 noon

Classes for Young Men(11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon

Classes for Young Women (11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month - 11-12 noon

Children's classes: Sunday school & singing time every Sunday(3-10) 11- 12 noon

Nursery providedfor ages 18 month- 3 yr

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

41 Warsaw Ave., Ludlow
413-583-2630

Pastor Rev. Raymond A. Soltys

Saturday Vigil Masses – 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Sunday Masses – 7:30 a.m.; 8:45 a.m. (Polish);

10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Sunday Evening Mass – 5:30 p.m.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

25 Parker St, Indian Orchard,
413-543-3627

Very Rev. Piotr Calik

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday, 9 a.m. —1 p.m.

CLOSED FRIDAY

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:15 p.m.

Sunday Mass; 8:45 a.m. (English), 10 a.m. (Polish)

Weekday Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thurs-

day – 7:45 a.m. (English)

First Friday Mass: 5:30 p.m. (Polish/English)

First Saturday Mass: 9 a.m. (Polish/English)

Confessions: Saturday - 3:15-4 p.m.

ST. ELIZABETH PARISH

191 Hubbard St., Ludlow
413-583-3467

Pastor – Rev. Msgr. Homer P. Gosselin

In Residence – Rev. Norman Bolton

Deacons: Normand Grondin, Thomas Rickson,

Keith Davies

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

stelizabethludlow.org

Like us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram

Check out our Parish App

Wednesday, Sept. 25, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C),

Beacon of Faith General Receptions 1pm & 6pm (FLBH),

Holy Mother Choir - 5:15p.m. (C), Scouts 7 p.m. (JR)

Thursday, Sept. 26, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C),

Adoration 6:30 pm (C)

Friday, Sept. 27, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C),

Saturday, Sept. 28, Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C), Satur-

day Mass - 4 p.m. (C)

Sunday, Sept. 29 - Sunday Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), 8 am

Confirmation Class(ZR), Sunday Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C),

10:15 am Faith Formation(All Rooms), Sunday Mass -

11 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 5 p.m. (C),6:00 pm Youth

Ministry/Lifeteen (JR)

Monday Sept. 30, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C),6 pm

Faith Formation (Z&J), 6:15 p.m. Ladies Bible Study (ER)

Tuesday, Oct. 1, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C) St. Rita

Choir – 2:30 p.m. (C),3:30 pm Middle School Youth

Ministry,6:30 pm (JR), 6:30 pm Bereavement Support

Group (ZR) & Eucharist Revival (FLBH)

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

438 Winsor St., Ludlow
413-583-2312

Father Pedro DeOlivera

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m.

to 5:00 p.m., closed 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Sunday Masses – 9 a.m. (Portuguese);

11 a.m. (English)

Monday and Wednesday Morning

Masses – 8:30 a.m. (Portuguese)

Tuesday and Friday Masses – 5:30 p.m. (Portuguese)

Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m. (English)

First Saturday of the Month – 8:30 a.m.

For more information, visit

ourladyoffatimaparish.org.

FIRST CHURCH IN LUDLOW

859 Center St. Ludlow
413-583-3339

Reverend Darcy Borden, Pastor

Office hours Monday & Wednesday 10 am to 2 pm

Available by appointment at other times

Sunday worship at 10 am alternating weekly with

Grace Union Church, Wilbraham

Call or check Facebook or the website for the

schedule of worship and events

Service live-streamed at 10 am on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow>

Website: www.ludlowfirst.com

ORCHARD COVENANT CHURCH

95 Berkshire Street
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

413-543-4204

Revs. Karen and Nick Munn, pastors

Sunday School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.

Worship in person, 11 a.m.

Or watch our livestream.

See our website for more information:

orchardcovenant.org.

FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL

A Church of the Nazarene

485 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 413-583-7875

Email: FCCLudlow@GMail.com

Lead Pastor: Reverend Lisa Morrison

Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs

Discipleship Groups 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m.

OTHER PROGRAMS

MONDAYS at 6:30 p.m. H.O.P.E. Meeting Recovery

Meetings for those with addictions, anxiety, and grief

SMC. Call 413-519-4591

TUESDAYS at 7 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study

RIDAYS Children's After School Club (pre K through

teens) 5-6:30 p.m.

STS. PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN

CATHOLIC CHURCH

45 Newbury St.

Ludlow, MA 01056

Phone: 413-583-2140

Pastor: Father Andriy Krip

Liturgy schedule:

Wednesday 9 a.m., Friday 9 a.m.

Rosary for Peace in Ukraine

on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

OBITUARIES

PUBLIC NOTICES

DEATH NOTICES

Paul C. Agostinho
Died Dec. 22, 2024
Services Jan. 4, 2025
Kapinos Mazur
Funeral Home

Mary C. Cleary
Services Jan. 3, 2025
Ludlow Funeral
Home

The Ludlow Register
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 \$275, 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.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Paul C. Agostinho, 73

CHICOPEE—Paul C. Agostinho, 73, of Chicopee passed away on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2024. Born in Holyoke on November 13, 1951, he was the son of the late Joaquim and Maria (Rainha) Agostinho. A graduate of Chicopee High School, Paul worked at the former Uniroyal Co and later at Milton Bradley. Paul had a friendly and outgoing personality and was an outstanding pool player. He was a member of the Unity AC in Ludlow and enjoyed spending time with family and friends.



Paul is survived by siblings Linda Joao, Acacio (Ace) Agostinho and his wife Trinda and James Agostinho and his wife Lili along with several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brothers Joseph and Leonel.

Funeral services for Paul will be held Saturday, Jan. 4, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. in Our Lady of Fatima Church, Winsor St. Ludlow, MA. Please meet directly at church. Burial will be in Island Pond Cemetery. There are no calling hours. For more information, please go to www.kapinosmazurfh.com.

Mary C. Cleary

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Mary C. Cleary of Ludlow, MA. She was predeceased by her long-time companion of over 45 years, John Clarke, also of Ludlow. Mary worked at Leo Burnett Advertising Agency in Chicago where she aided in the production of many iconic characters such as the Marlboro Man, the Keebler Elves, and the Jolly Green Giant. Mary can best be remembered by her warm and generous spirit as evidenced by her many charitable donations. She was an avid animal lover spending many hours preparing her dogs, Cappy and Cricket, to compete in dog shows. She was also dedicated to her two cats, Darlene and Jimmy. One of her most defined characteristics was her indomitable wit and her love of word play. Her creative spirit and empowered voice left an indelible mark on the world. She will be missed by her sister-in-law, Virginia Simpson, her nieces Ann Marie and husband Rob, Cindy, Annemarie, Neige, her nephew Ricky, and by all who knew her.



Funeral services for Mary will be held on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025. Family and friends may gather directly at Christ the King Church in Ludlow for a Liturgy of Christina Burial beginning at 10 a.m. followed by burial in St. Michael the Archangel Mausoleum in St. Michael's Cemetery, Springfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Dakin Humane Society in Springfield or the Ludlow Police Department.

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The Register

RFP 2025-10 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE FOOD & DRINK CONCESSION WESTOVER GOLF COURSE

The Town of Ludlow/Westover Municipal Golf Commission, through the Chief Procurement Officer for the Town of Ludlow, will receive sealed proposals for the operation of the Food & Drink Concession at Westover Municipal Golf Course, by lease, as detailed in the Request for Proposals (RFP) documents. The lease agreement being offered is for a period of three (3) consecutive seasons or years for golf operations.

This solicitation is being conducted in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30B, Uniform Procurement Act, Section 16, and all contracts must be strictly awarded in accordance with the requirements of this Act.

The RFP documents may be requested electronically from the Chief Procurement Officer, Jaime Morrow, by email at jmorrow@ludlow.ma.us, starting on December 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Hard copies of the RFP documents will be available for pick up at the Procurement Office, 488 Chapin Street, 2nd Floor, Ludlow, MA 01056.

Sealed proposals in the required format will be accepted by mail or hand delivery until **2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025**, at the Procurement Office, 488 Chapin Street, 2nd Floor, Ludlow, MA 01056, at which time they will be recorded into record and reviewed by a committee for the most Advantageous Proposal.

Sealed non-price proposals must be clearly marked "Technical Proposal RFP 2025-10 Golf Concession" and must enclose three (3) hard copies of the non-price proposal. Proposers MUST submit a price proposal SEPARATELY in a sealed envelope marked "Price Proposal RFP 2025-10 Golf Concession". The Price Proposal and Non-Price Proposal must be submitted at the same time, but in SEPARATE SEALED ENVELOPES. Proposers are fully responsible for ensuring the timely receipt of their completed response to this RFP at the location noted above. The proposals will be opened immediately following the closing time. The lease agreement will be awarded within 60 days.

The Town reserves the right to cancel this RFP or reject in whole or in part any and all proposals when cancellation or rejection serves the best interests of the Town. 01/01, 01/08/2025

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LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SITE SKETCH

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** on the application of Matthew Nichols, Eversource Gas of Massachusetts for the property located at **76 Ravenwood Drive, Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 29, Parcel 41)** for the purpose of: **Construct a new below grade station within the limits of subsidiary company property.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 23, 2025.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
12/25/2024, 01/01/2025

LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SPECIAL PERMIT ESTATE LOT

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 7:15 p.m.** on the application of Muhammad Ali Saleem for the property located at **0 Sunset Ridge Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 25, Parcel 27C)** for: **estate lot.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 23, 2025.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
12/25/2024, 01/01/2025

LUDLOW ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

The Ludlow Zoning

Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing in the Ludlow Town Hall, 488 Chapin Street, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** on the application of **Eversource Gas of Massachusetts** for the property located at **76 Ravenwood Drive/ 6 Miller Street, Ludlow MA (Assessors' Map 29, Parcel 41, Zoning: Industrial A)** The subject of the hearing is for a Variance for a Below Grade Natural Gas Regulator Station. Based on existing site topography and tree growth, any other location on this property would likely involve a substantial amount of earthwork and/or tree removal. Additionally, in regard to the fence height, the additional fence height provides greater security to the Facility per code of Federal Regulations Title 29, Subtitle B, Chapter XVII, Part 1926, Subpart K, Section J.2. The applicant is seeking relief from the Town of Ludlow Zoning Bylaw Table 2-Table of Dimensional Regulations and Section 3.0.04

Manny Lopes, Chairman
12/25/2024, 01/01/2025

Town of Ludlow LEGAL NOTICE

You are hereby notified that a **PUBLIC HEARING** will be held at the Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA 01056 on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 5:35 p.m.**

Upon petition of: **EVERSOURCE ENERGY** requests permission to locate a line of poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along and across the following public way:

44 Riverside Drive: Install one (1) fully owned pole along Riverside Drive. This pole to be labeled 97/76M-1. The purpose for this work is to provide service to lights in the parking lot. Pole to be located 75' SE from pole 97/76M and 19' from the center of the road. Actual dimensions above and pole is marked in the field.

Derek DeBarge, Chairman
Manuel D. Silva
James Gennette
William Rosenblum
Antonio Goncalves
Ludlow Board of Selectmen
12/25/2024, 01/01/2025



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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.

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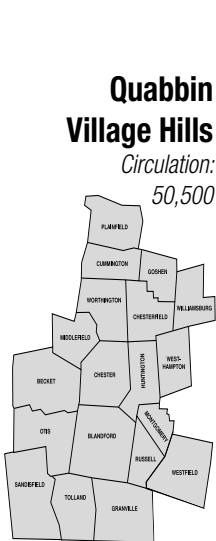
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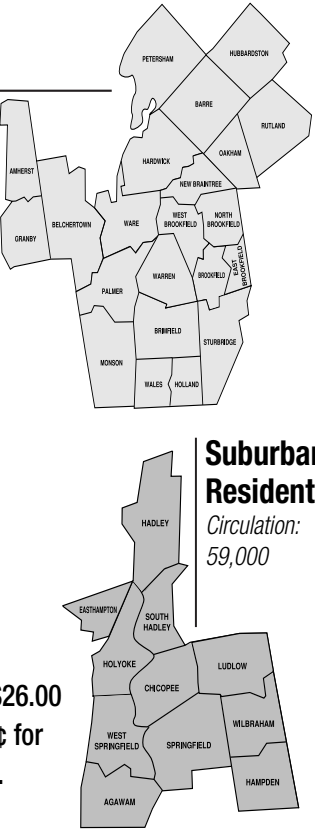
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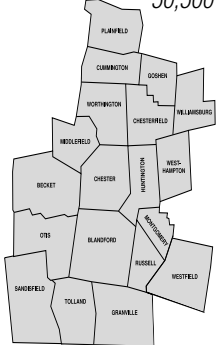
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