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250th Committee thanks subcommittee members



The 250th Parade Committee. Front row, (from left) Isabel Martins, Bruce Durand, and Michael Cortina. Second row, Linda Belisle, Cynthia Saleh, and Marybeth Silva. Third row, Lucy Palmeira, Aleisia Barbaro, David Sady, Regina Stanek, and John Diotalevi. Fourth row, Linda Collette, Bill Koss, Michael White, and Tony Curto. Not pictured: Eric Segundo, Mark Caplette, and Ron Saloio.



The Picnic Committee, front row (from left) Kathy Ouimette, Denise Zrakas, Kathy Houle, Cindy Salah, Regina Stanek, Roz Sousa, Jackie Doyle, and Bruce Durand. Second row: Linda Collette, Peter Ostrowski, Lorri Ostrowski, Jill Krystofik, Sue Corjay, Lee Ann Hebert, and Christina Yacono. Third row, Terry Krystofik and Christine Bastek. Fourth row: Sue Padgett, Lisa Morrison, Mia Alves, and Kenny Batista. Back row: Elaine Hodgman and Lisa Martin. Not pictured: Maureen Beauregard, Janet Foy, Darlene Kennedy, Carolyn Kolodziej-Parker, Michelle LaRocque, Bob Radowski, Dave Sady, and Ruth Saunders.

LUDLOW – The 250th Semi-Quincentennial Committee is commemorating the many volunteers who have helped to make this year’s celebrations possible.

“It takes an army to pull off these exciting events for all to enjoy,” said Committee member Kathy Ouimette.

Several events have been planned for this year, including First Night on Feb. 28 to celebrate the town’s Incorporation Day, the Cabin Fever Dinner Dance Fundraiser on March 9, a Golf Tournament on May 18, and the parade and picnic on June 15.

The Committee took a se-



The History Book Committee, (from left) Kathy Ouimette, Marty Fanning, Mary-Beth Silva, and Linda Collette. Second row: Sandra Stanek and Brian Bylicki. Not pictured: Bruce Fenney and Bill Koscher.

ries of photos at the High School their meetings.

of the members present at one of

“We really appreciate these



The 250th Committee thanks (from left) Michael Tarby, Linda Belisle, and John Diotalevi. Not pictured: Celeste Chenier



The main Committee (from left) Front row: Bruce Durand and Linda Collette. Second row: Kathy Ouimette, Dave Sady, Christina Yacono, and Regina Stanek. Third row: Elaine Hodgman, Denise Zrakas, and Tony Curto. Not pictured: Derek DeBarge and Paul Chzran.

Submitted photos

folks, and we want the town to planning for the upcoming 250th know that they’re a big part of celebration,” Ouimette said.

Selectmen, School Committee discuss funding challenges

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – At the quarterly meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee, there was a tension over how the town will fund the schools in the upcoming year.

The Committee provided data compiled by the Department of Early and Secondary Education that compared the town’s expenditures with other towns in the state. The Selectmen observed that the data indicates that the town funds the school at comparable rates to surrounding communities.

“47% is the average of all these communities,” said Selectman Derek DeBarge. “You’re saying you’re cutting down to bare bones at 47%, which is the average of the communities that you provided us.”

Selectman Tony Goncalves said, “We’re spending a couple \$1,000 more per kid than most of the communities around us, we’re getting a lot more mon-

ey from Chapter 70, (...) we have a better student to teacher ratio than everybody around us, and the money is not enough. Is it one of those things? Is it all of them together?”

“There are districts out there that, the first thing that the Board funds is their School Department,” School Committee Vice Chair Sarah Bowler said. “They give the School what they need, and then they work around the rest of their budget.”

The School Committee indicated that the data cannot be compared geographically, and instead has to be compared to towns of similar population size and income.

“When you’re looking at those numbers, you have to look at what the districts are that are the most comparable to Ludlow,” Bowler said. “The most comparable to Ludlow is Agawam.”

Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano described a tool on the DESE website that shows which districts across the state are

Please see **SELECTBOARD**, Page 7

“Go Time” for 250th Committee celebrations

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – The 250th Committee met last week to discuss the upcoming events that will celebrate the town’s 250th anniversary.

Ludlow broke away from Springfield and was incorporated on Feb. 28, 1774. The Celebration Committee chose to celebrate “First Night” in front of the High School on Feb. 24, with a rain date of Feb. 25, to kick off the year’s 250th anniversary celebrations.

The Committee met last Wednesday, with residents taking time out of their holiday celebrations to discuss plans for First Night and beyond.

“I appreciate the time people took to come out to the meeting, especially around the holidays,” Committee Chair Linda Collette said. “It means a lot to

me.”

“It’s go-time,” Collette said. “I’ve been doing this for three years, so now it’s exciting to see things coming to fruition.”

The Committee has already scheduled a number of attractions for First Night. Local historians Brian Bylicki and Martin Fanning, both former history teachers at the High School, will hold a historical presentation about the town in the auditorium, with a collection of photos of the mills that were donated by WestMass and the Hubbard Memorial Library.

Roaming Railroad will provide train rides to families and children at no charge. Local artist Cody Stosz from Kodiak Carving will hold a wood carving demonstration.

“He does a lot of bears and things

Please see **250TH COMMITTEE**, Page 4



LUDLOW

Selectmen discuss funding new town positions

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – The recent Board of Selectmen meeting was structured around visitations from representatives of several town departments, to ask for funding for new positions in the coming Fiscal Year.

Department of Public Works
The first visitation was from Jamie Tomas, the Director of the Department of Public Works, who requested two new positions to respond to an increased workload and rapid growth of the town.

“With the rapidly increasing developments and subdivisions, infrastructure maintenance has drastically increased,” Tomas said. “Extra staff would be great.”

Tomas said that 20 years ago, the Department had roughly 25 employees, and that in the last 10 years, the Department has gone down from 18 to 16 employees. Tomas said that the lack of staffing means the Department can’t be proactive to fix issues around town, as they are stretched thin to uphold reactive maintenance.

“The parks are being neglected because, on a daily basis, we only have an

average of two employees in our parks, and we should, realistically, probably have four,” Tomas said.

Tomas told the Board that there are two unfilled positions that would bring the employees up to 18, but that 20 employees would be more beneficial to the town.

Hubbard Memorial Library

From the Hubbard Memorial Library, Interim Director Melissa Rickson and Youth Services Department Head July Siebecker requested funding for a full-time Library Technician to replace the part-time Youth Services Assistant position.

“The numbers for how severely understaffed we are definitely speak for themselves in the graph,” Siebecker said.

Rickson told the Selectmen that the library is understaffed compared to other libraries of similar size in the area. Siebecker said that program attendance is at a record high, with hundreds of attendees.

“Since recovering from the shutdown, the Ludlow community has shown up in record and unprecedented numbers,” Siebecker said.

“There is a limit to what only one-and-a-half people can do,” Siebecker said. “The high-quality standards we’re known for are in jeopardy. Something has to give, and we would like it to not be the programming services that our community really loves.”

Police and Fire

Chief Dan Valadas and Detective Lieutenant David Kornacki approached the Board to request funding for the Police Department to hire a Detective Sergeant and a Dispatch Supervisor.

Valadas said that the Dispatch Supervisor would be in charge of grant-writing, scheduling, processing time, personnel issues, and any logistical issues that have to do with the Dispatch stations. However,

Valadas said that the “most impactful single position” that he was request-

ing would be for a Detective Sergeant.

“As part of the growth of the Detective Bureau, we’ve talked about adding responsibilities that we’ve never handled before,” Kornacki said. “We’ve taken on a number of responsibilities since the position of Lieutenant has been added to the Bureau.”

Chief Ryan Pease requested funding for a Paramedic and a Dispatch Clerk for the Fire Department.

“Call volume keeps rising,” Pease said. “We operate three transporting ambulances, which if you take the six gentlemen that are on duty and put them all on an ambulance at the same time – which, believe it or not, happens quite often now – we’re left with two at the station if we started with eight.”

Pease recommended that the Board consider funding the Dispatch Supervisor position that the Police Department requested, as it would impact both departments.

Other visitations

Town Clerk Kim Batista approached the Board to request funding to promote the Administrative Assistant to Assistant Town Clerk, as Massachusetts General Law limits what the current position is authorized to do.

Assistant Town Administrator Carrie Ribeiro approached the Board to request a reclassification for the Human Resources Specialist.

The Building Department requested a full-time Inspector position to alleviate the workload on the part-time Inspector.

Veteran Affairs Director Eric Segundo asked the Board to fund a full-time administrative position to assist him at the Veterans Center.

The Director of the Council on Aging, Jodi Zepke, approached the Board to request two positions, including one for an Administrative Assistant, and one for a Clerk and Dispatcher. Zepke also requested to defund the Program Coordinator position in order to replace it with an Assistant Director position.

The Board of Selectmen did not vote on the new positions at the meeting.



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First Night
Saturday, February 24, 2024
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This is Zander, a 10 year old rescue from the south. He is the sweetest boy. He lives with his rescue sister kitty Mama and his Mom, Lisa Margree-Bourcier.

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2024 Census forms have been sent out

LUDLOW - State law requires that you be sent an annual street listing/census form. Update the information for all individuals who reside in your household, including children, and respond within ten days, even if no changes are necessary.

Warning: Failure to respond to this mailing may result in removal from the active voting list.

LUDLOW

BMS Travel Club hits a homerun

Offers Red Sox fundraiser to support student travel

By Anne Marie Corrieri
Special correspondent

LUDLOW -- Since 2012, the Baird Middle School Travel Club has been planning trips that allow seventh and eighth-grade students to travel domestically and internationally. These trips create lasting memories and provide students with a broader perspective on various cultures and experiences.

Past travel club adventures include trips to Washington, D.C., most notably the 2017 Presidential Inauguration, London, Iceland and, most recently, Montreal and Quebec, Canada, in 2019. Additionally, a tour to Rome and Pompeii with 26 travelers was scheduled to depart in April 2020 "before COVID shut the world down."

BMS geography teacher and travel club advisor Anna Baboval said the club has yet to travel since 2019 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The School Committee recently approved the club to "again plan new adventures of a lifetime for Baird students, bringing them closer to the world around them."

With the planning phase well underway,

Baboval is excited to announce a unique upcoming fundraising opportunity with the Boston Red Sox.

Friday, June 2, will be Baird Middle School Night at Fenway Park when the Red Sox face the Tampa Bay Rays at 7:20 p.m. The ticket location is Right Field Box 92 or Bleachers 35, for \$42 or \$62 per person. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://fevogn.com/event/Baird2023>. This event is open to the community and is on a first-come, first-serve basis through April 7 at 11:59 p.m.

The money raised will assist in defraying the cost of the forthcoming trips, to Washington, D.C., in April 2023 and London, England, in April 2024. The money will also provide scholarships to students who would benefit from financial support.

Scholarships offer families assistance with financing the cost of a trip in situations where just fundraising may not be enough. Twenty percent of the money raised from fundraising is earmarked for student scholarships. The Travel Club has awarded \$1,500 in total scholarships for this year's trip to Washington, DC, and next year's trip to London, England.

"I want our students to reflect on their middle school years and have some unique experiences, and without the support of our fundraisers, it just wouldn't be possible for

many," said Baboval.

Some of Baboval's fondest memories while she was a middle and high school student were the opportunities to travel with classmates. These vivid memories, which she fondly shared, drive her passion for providing the same experience for BMS students.

In 1994, as a sixth-grader at Chestnut TAG Middle School in Springfield, Baboval went on her first school trip to Quebec, Canada, and her memories of it still evokes a smile is visiting the sugar shack.

"It was so fun playing the wooden spoons, the food was delicious, and it was definitely my favorite," said Baboval. "When the Baird Travel Club went to Canada for the first time, I was excited to see a sugar shack night on the itinerary!"

"In 10th grade, I went to London and France. I have a clear memory of touring the Palace at Versailles and being awestruck by the glamour and opulence of everything," shared Baboval. "It was so different from anything I had ever seen."

Always mindful of a school trip's financial burden for some families, Baboval strives to plan various fundraisers throughout the school year to lessen that burden.

In addition to the partnership with the Red Sox, the Travel Club planned a variety

of fundraisers throughout the school year, including "Taco Tuesday" at Chipotle, and partnerships with the Springfield Thunderbirds and Bounce! Trampoline Park, and sold Munson's Chocolates and items from Boon Supply Co.

The following excerpt from a recent Travel Club scholarship application explains the positive impact of the fundraising efforts.

"As a one-income family, I do my best to provide daily as well as save for special things when I can, like this trip. Of course, budgeting for a trip this expensive has been trying. I'm thankful that we have over a year to make it work. I plan to participate in the fundraisers and get donations from family and friends along the way. I am so happy our school has funds set aside to help families who may be struggling but still want to give their kids the same chance to experience the world."

"The Travel Club would not be possible without the support of the Baird family and the Ludlow community," said Baboval. "I'm grateful for the continued support that allows us to provide opportunities to kids in this increasingly globalized world. It's amazing to expose them to places beyond the classroom and open a world of possibilities."

HCC receives \$600k grant to expand free child watch program

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College has been awarded a \$600,000 grant from the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation to expand its Itsy Bitsy Child Watch program to serve more student-parents.

Itsy Bitsy Child Watch is a free center on HCC's main campus for parents in need of short-term childcare while they attend class, study, or meet with tutors and advisors. It opened as a pilot program for the fall 2022 semester with a \$100,000 state allocation. At the time, HCC was only the second community college in Massachusetts, and the only one in western Massachusetts, to offer a free campus child watch service.

The center is open to HCC student-parents with children three months to 12 years old.

Since its launch, the program has proven to be widely popular and transformational for many HCC students.

Without it, "I could not come to school," said biology major Alondra Serano, of Holyoke, one of the first HCC student-parents to sign up for the Itsy Bitsy Child Watch program last year for her daughter, Anna, now 3.

"Our first semester, we had 19 students

enrolled," said Kimm Quinlan, director of HCC's Early Childhood Initiatives, which includes the Itsy Bitsy Child Watch. "Now we have more than 40. After just one year, it has become clear that there is a demonstrable need and demand for expansion."

The \$600,000 grant will enable HCC to relocate the center to a larger, fully renovated new space, hire additional staff, and extend its hours of operation to accommodate more children, especially during public school vacations, which do not always align with the college calendar.

"HCC remains at the forefront of pioneering innovative pathways to enhance educational accessibility for every student," said Paul Belsito, executive director of the Davis Foundation. "At HCC, the concept of community is a verb in action, and the success of The Itsy Bitsy Child Watch is a testament to this commitment. Here at the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation, we are honored to be able to contribute to the growth of this vibrant and impactful program, which not only offers the highest quality childcare support to student-parents but also positions HCC as a proactive leader in early education and care as well as higher education."

Sometime in 2024, the Itsy Bitsy Child

Watch center, now located on the first floor of the Marieb Science building, will move to a renovated space on the second floor of the Frost Building, closer to other student service and support programs, such as the Thrive Student Resource Center and Food Pantry; Homestead Market, which accepts SNAP benefits; CHD Mental Health Services; Financial Aid; and the new Elaine Marieb Adult Learner Success Center (also scheduled to open in 2024).

"This investment will enable our early childhood team to provide high-quality early learning experiences for more children," said President George Timmons. "The remodeled space will provide the youngest members of our campus commu-

nity with ample opportunities to explore, play, and learn. Dozens more HCC student-parents will be able to attend classes and access campus-based student resources without having to worry about childcare."

Based on one year of data, the Itsy Bitsy Child Watch has already proven to be having a positive impact on student retention, course completion, and success, said Quinlan. Fall 2022 to spring 2023 retention rates for students who used the child watch center were 86 percent, "which is a really great number," while 82 percent completed all their courses, and on average saw their grade point averages increase by more than 1 point.

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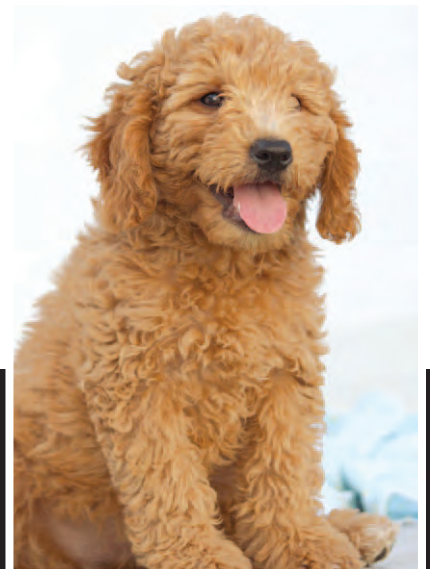
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Grit 24 Fitness unveils Grand Opening with Ribbon Cutting

LUDLOW —Grit 24 Fitness, Ludlow’s highly anticipated fitness community, proudly announces the grand opening of its state-of-the-art fitness facility on Jan. 2.

The highlight of the celebration will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the esteemed presence of MA State Senator Jacob Oliveira, State Representative Aaron Saunders, Vice Chairman Derek DeBarge, former State Representative Tom Petrolati, and various other distinguished state and town officials.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for 12 p.m. at the Grit 24 Fitness location at 56 East St. Following this ceremonial moment, an open house

and guided tours will commence, allowing attendees to explore the cutting-edge amenities and facilities of Grit 24 Fitness, sample the various protein shakes Grit 24 will be offering, as well as enter in a raffle to win a free month of unlimited access to the gym.

Grit 24 Fitness is not just a fitness facility; it’s a community-driven space committed to fostering well-being, empowerment, and a healthy lifestyle.

The grand opening event signifies the beginning of an exciting fitness journey for residents of Ludlow and the surrounding towns, and the management is thrilled to welcome the community to experience the Grit 24 Fitness difference.

Foster care information meeting

LUDLOW— Children who are removed from their birth family due to neglect or abuse can be in multiple foster situations for a long time before being reunited or adopted by another family. Due to a severe shortage of foster homes and volunteer advocates, many of these youth are placed in any home with the space, whether or not it is the best match.

While the experiences of foster children vary widely, some common themes emerge during this critical, formative stage of their lives: trauma, instability and uncertainty, emotional and psychological challenges, and educational disruptions.

We can’t protect foster children, or any child, from challenges in life, but we can equip them with resilience and prepare them for those hardships. Children need structure, responsibility, and opportunities to see that they can do and learn new things. There is something every one of us can do to help. Details and Resources: zontaqv.org/foster

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley will hold a panel discussion and dinner on Monday, Feb. 12 at the Ludlow Country Club for anyone interested in learning more about the realities and opportunities in the Foster Care system in Western MA.

The program will be facilitated by Andrea Bordenca, founder of Lead Yourself Youth and will include representatives from Family Justice Advocates, Department of Children and Family Volunteer Case Review Program and Family Resources, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and other organizations that provide services to foster children and families.

Ludlow Country Club on Monday, Feb. 12. At 5:30 p.m. Socialize, 6 p.m. Buffet Dinner, followed by the Program. Dinner \$28 is payable by cash, check, or credit card the night of the event, but RSVP to info@zontaqv.org by 2/7 for the caterers. Contact info@zontaqv.org for information on sliding scale fee.



JOIN NOW AND GET YOUR FIRST MONTH FREE!



SCANTIC VALLEY YMCA
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www.springfieldy.org



Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

LUDLOW— Check out the calendar; it is packed with many fitness programs, entertainment, education sessions, and more for the new year. Reserve a 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 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*

Thursday, Jan. 4
 8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 9:30 a.m. Dominos
 1 p.m. Mahjong
 2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

Friday, Jan. 5
 8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
 9 a.m. Reiki*
 10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
 10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
 1 p.m. Ceramics
 1 p.m. Health Bones & Balance Class*
 1 p.m. Magic Class

Monday, Jan. 8
 9 a.m. Knitting
 10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
 1 p.m. Scrabble
 1:15 p.m. Pitch
 1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencil Class*
 2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

Tuesday, Jan. 9
 9 a.m. Quilting
 9 a.m. Line Dancing
 10 a.m. Cribbage
 10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga
 12:30 p.m. Blood Pressure Checks
 1 p.m. Western Dance Lessons
 1:30 p.m. Bingo
 5 p.m. Movie: Stagecoach (1939)
 5:30 p.m. Power Pump Class
 5:30 p.m. Volleyball at East Street School

Wednesday, Jan. 10
 9 a.m. Ceramics
 9 a.m. Zumba Gold
 10 a.m. Opera Appreciation
 10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
 1 p.m. Movie: Stagecoach (1939)
 1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*

Thursday, Jan. 11
 8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 9:30 a.m. Dominos
 10 a.m. Sunshine Painting Class*
 10:30 p.m. Friends Meeting
 10:30 a.m. Veterans Agent*
 10:30 a.m. Sen. Oliveira Office Hour
 1 p.m. Mahjong
 2 p.m. Writers Block*
 2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

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

Daily Events:
 1. Café: Monday – Friday 8-11 a.m.
 2. Exercise Room: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Open until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday
 3. Walking Club: Monday – Friday 7 a.m. and 8 a.m., leaving from the parking lot.

Menu:
 Thursday, Jan. 4: Baked Cod/Rice Pilaf/Mixed Veggies
 Friday, Jan. 5: Loaded Baked Potato/Must Go Soup
 Monday, Jan. 8: Chicken Fajita Salad
 Tuesday, Jan. 9: Eggplant Parm/Pasta/Roll
 Wednesday, Jan. 10: Seafood Salad Croissant/Chips & Pickle
 Thursday, Jan. 11: Breaded Pork Chop/Scalloped Potatoes/Green Beans
 Friday, Jan. 12: Mac & Cheese/Stewed Tomatoes

Reserve a delicious \$2 lunch by calling a day ahead. Call Friday to reserve lunch on Monday.
 For allergy concerns, call the Senior Center to ask about ingredients at 413-583-3564.

250TH COMMITTEE from page 1

like that,” Colette said. “People love those climbing bears, he’s really good.” Michael Rondeau of Rondeau’s Dairy Bar in Palmer will create an ice sculpture as well.

Elsa and Anna from Disney’s Frozen will be present for a meet-and-greet, which will include autographs and photo opportunities. There will be a craft corner for kids, as well as food such as hot dogs, hamburgers, chili, sausage grinders, chicken soup, baked potatoes, kettle corn, and more.

There is also talk of a Snowman Making Contest, though this will depend on how much snow we have by the end of February. In the case that there is no snow, there are plans to turn it into a “Toilet Paper Snowman Challenge,” involving wrapping a friend up in toilet paper to make them into a snowman.

The town’s Animal Control Officer, Octavia Anderson, has partnered up with

Smithland Pet Center and Paws 4 K-9’s to hold a “Smooch the Pooch” photo-booth, where people will be able to take pictures with their pets.

“We’re partnering up with her because I’d really like to see her get her dream to have a shelter come to fruition,” Collette said. “We want it to be pet-friendly, outdoor event, so we made a little kissing booth where people can come with their pets, take their picture, and make a donation.”

Collette mentioned many organizations that are partnering with the 250th Committee to make this event happen, including the Knights of Columbus, the Masonic Temple, the Ludlow Elks, the Rotary Club, and the Scouts.

Ludlow’s First Night will be held on Feb. 24 at the High School, starting at 11 a.m. and ending with a fireworks display at 6 p.m.

Food Bank of Western Mass debuts new facility



Turley photo by Tedy Makuch, CHS senior.
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts officially opened on Dec. 14.



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski.
A variety of activities and programs will be held out of the Food Bank's teaching kitchen.



Photo courtesy of the Food Bank.
(L to R) State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), Food Bank Executive Director Andrew Morehouse and State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), pictured on Dec. 14.



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski.
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts' new 62,000 square foot facility includes this state-of-the-art warehouse.



Photo courtesy of the Mayor's Office.
Local and state officials, and members of the community, visited the Food Bank on Dec. 14.



Photo courtesy of the Mayor's Office.
Local and state officials gathered at the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts on Dec. 14.



Photo courtesy of the Mayor's Office.
Tours of the Food Bank were offered on Dec. 14.



Photo courtesy of the Mayor's Office.
State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), left, next to Chicopee Mayor John Vieau.



Photo courtesy of the Mayor's Office.
Mayor John Vieau, left, speaks with Tom Bernard on Dec. 14.

By Dalton Zbierski
 Editor
 dzbierski@turley.com

CHICOPEE – Dec. 14, 2023 was a banner day for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, as its newly constructed, state-of-the-art food distribution facility on Carew Street officially opened.

Food Bank employees showcased the 62,000 square-foot building during an evening ceremony attended by elected officials, donors, partners and invested residents from Chicopee and neighboring communities.

Since 1982, the Food Bank has been feeding neighbors in need in Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties, and the strategically located warehouse and office space will allow the operation to further pursue its mission of ending hunger.

"It's at the crossroads of the major interstates of Western Massachusetts, so we selected this location because it will really enable us to provide healthy food to anyone and everyone who needs it, when they need it, across all four counties in Western Massachusetts," Food Bank Executive Director Andrew Morehouse said.

The new structure is far larger than the food bank's previous home in Hatfield, enabling it to serve more people than ever. Last year, the Food Bank distributed the equivalent of 11 million meals to about 107,000 people monthly, and Morehouse expects the number to rise, as residents battle inflation and the end of federal pandemic benefits.

"So, they turn to the Food Bank and our 175 partners, the local, frontline food pantries, meal sites and shelters, to seek food assistance so they can carry on with their lives and get ahead in life," Morehouse said.

The Food Bank employs 64 people, but that number could rise as management capitalizes on the facility's "incredible" capacity. Morehouse said the staff is currently in a "learning mode," getting accustomed to the space and repeatedly rearranging inventory to maximize efficiencies and food flow.

Statistics are already proving the larger warehouse to be more effective than the previous site.

"In the last three months, we've provided 25% more healthy food than the same period last year, and we're confident we'll be able to sustain that growth moving forward," Morehouse said.

Being able to serve the community better than before is fantastic, said Director of Programs Christine Maxwell. She described the building's teaching kitchen.

"We'll be using that for community programming, for food demonstrations and for cooking classes and nutrition workshops. We weren't able to do that in our old building, so we're excited about that," Maxwell said.

Director of Development Jillian Morgan said moving into a facility that allows the Food Bank to serve its communities at a higher clip is significant. She said the staff is dedicated to making sure food is delivered to as many people as possible who are facing food insecurity, and the larger warehouse pays dividends.

"This was a really important move for the food bank to be able to increase our capacity and efficiency," she said. "We already have distributed more food in this building, so we know that it's going to serve us for decades to come until we end hunger."

Farm Manager Lee Gadway estimated that the new warehouse can store twice as much food as the old one. He said even the parking lot is twice the size.

"This is amazing," Gadway said. "Just being able to warehouse this much food and being able to think of it as a hub and spoke system on a bicycle. Everything's brought in on the spokes to the hub, and then we deliver it back out."

Gadway said the larger space makes the operation more efficient, as the Food Bank delivers food to places that smaller farms are unable to reach.

Morehouse said people are blown away when they enter the building and see its size and magnitude. He said the Food Bank looks to leverage the power of community to create a hunger free Western Massachusetts.

"The way we're going to do that is by talking to one another and cooking up new ideas, so this new facility and food distribution center has a lot of space for us to invite community groups in, whether they want to volunteer or just collaborate and plan how we can work better together to get more done," Morehouse said.

Morehouse pointed out that the dream could not have become a reality without the assistance of state and federal legislators. The Food Bank raised \$30 million to build its new home, and about half of the money came from state and federal government.

He also expressed gratitude for private donors, as 246 businesses and individuals invested in the food distribution center.

"We couldn't have done it without them, large and small," he said.

Morgan said she is humbled by the amount that was raised, noting that it displays the community's investment in addressing the underlying causes of hunger and making sure that the operation can help alleviate hunger in the community or get rid of it entirely.

"(The \$30 million raised) is a real testament to how much people in this area care about addressing the needs of people who are facing hunger," she said.

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OPINION



Rick Hendra of Oakham took this photo of sandhill cranes foraging in a field on Stone's Road in Oakham.

In his email, he wrote, "I took this picture this morning (Sunday, Dec. 17) about halfway up Stone Road. Their call was so loud it startled me from 50 yards away. And they were large, but odd-colored."

The sandhill crane is a tall bird about 45 inches, gray colored with a dark red patch on the forehead and a black bill. They have staining of feathers on their back and tail caused by the iron rich soil on its beak when it preens feathers. The immature crane lacks the red patch and has an orange bill. It also may have more rust colored feathers on the back and tail.

The sandhill crane summers on prairies and tundra and during winter feed on agricultural fields and roost in shallow water. For several years now, Hardwick had a pair of nesting sandhill cranes, who successfully raised chicks.

The female lays one to three olive eggs with dark marks in a mound like nest of marsh plants, grasses and weeds either placed on the ground or shallow water. Courtship displays are seen during migration and involve graceful jumps off the ground in a dancing manner.

Many years ago, Richard Jankauskas, saw some in a field on South Street in Barre. He commented about a pair jumping up and down and dancing.

Their voice is a low pitched "karoo, karoo, karoo." Rick Hendra mentioned their call in his email printed above.

Bird count

A Brimfield resident, who visits ponds in Warren, Brimfield, Holland and Sturbridge with his wife listed birds seen on Dec. 8. They included 210 Canada geese, 93 mallards, 70 hooded mergansers, three black ducks, two pied-billed grebes, one great blue heron, one bald eagle, two crows, one white-breasted nuthatch, two black-capped chickadees, three bluebirds, four house finches, one goldfinch, six white-throated sparrows, six dark-eyed juncos and three cardinals.

He also emailed in late November, "I checked the ponds in Warren and there were 14 hooded mergansers very actively feeding and a very cold looking great blue heron that looked like it was not enjoying the 36 degree temperature."

Christmas bird count

For over 120 years the Audubon Society has been doing a Christmas bird count and this year is no different. People can participate in an organized count or just do one on their own in their backyard.

Decline in bird numbers

I received an email on Wednesday, Nov. 29 from a long time birder. He said, "[I] regularly feed them but have noticed a steep drop off of the number and type of birds since around September. Right now we have a loyal troop of blue jays and that's about it. Usually we have copious amounts of starlings, chickadees, grackles, crows, titmice, cardinals, juncos, etc."

He said he asked many people about this phenomena and "they have noticed the same thing but can't explain it either. We are all aware of some birds heading South but the sheer volume has dropped dramatically."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing my-backyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



Pre-planning this year's vegetable garden

It's so exciting to think about planning my vegetable garden; all kinds of possibilities await.

Right after Christmas is usually when I get started. There are less paper catalogs arriving in the mail lately, but it is still my preferred method of shopping.

I like to peruse the pages, "starring" items and bending the corners of the pages so that I know to come back and consider whatever vegetable variety I think I must have. It's here in the early stages that I dream big.

I save the tailoring to later, once I've inventoried my seed stash and know exactly what I need.

But before I even get out the blue container that contains all of my seeds, I have some thinking to do. What did I have too much of last year? Too little? What consistently performs well in my garden? What doesn't do well? Am I ready to simplify by paring back or do I like the challenge of a big garden?

So many things to consider.

What did I have too much of? Roasting peppers come to mind.

I roasted and roasted and roasted some more. In between roasting I was giving them away.

"Carmen" is grown specifically for that purpose, and last year I grew eight plants more than normal. Maybe I'll cut back this year.

My "Picnic" peppers did well, too. They were great to eat right from your hand, and in yellow, orange and red, they certainly made my husband's salads colorful.

I was pretty well spot on with 12 total plants.

Sadly, I struggled with tomatoes last year. I didn't have anywhere near enough!

This was the year that the girls grew to love my roasted tomato sauce, too. I couldn't make very much of it because the tomatoes petered out early.

Oddly enough, I enjoyed tomatoes that self-sowed in different spots of my yard much later into the season. It gave me an idea that I ought to make a couple of indoor sowings. One the third week of March as always, and maybe another two weeks later.

Regardless, now that the sauce is a hit, I'm going to increase the number of transplants I grow, and definitely improve the soil where the tomatoes are planted. Something that probably went unthought of is that the buckets of rain we had last summer likely leached nitrogen from the soil.

I had best remember to fertilize at planting then supplement after the first month or so.



Another area where low nitrogen may have been a factor is with my winter squash. My harvest wasn't just disappointing, it was embarrassing!

The Garden Lady better figure this one out, especially with the squash habit she has.

Soups, breads, lasagna, and more all require that amazing orange flesh; and if you don't grow your own it can certainly get expensive.

I definitely want to grow butternuts in abundance again.

On the flip side, I didn't need as many cabbage or broccoli plants. The sauerkraut is taking up lots of space in the fridge, but hasn't made its way into our bellies for some reason, and as far as broccoli goes, I just can't seem to freeze it in a way that is palatable.

Someone told me to give up blanching it. Just cut it up and throw it in bags in the freezer. After all, it worked well for kale, and they are cousins, right?

I tried a stalk that way, then thawed it out and ate it the next day. I thought it worked great, so I froze the rest of my harvest that way.

A month or so later I steamed some up and it was the most inedible thing that ever popped out of my freezer. Silly me, if this was the preferred preservation method it would have been touted as such long before I hit the gardening scene.

Maybe I should grow three or four different varieties of broccoli with different days to harvest, so that the majority of the harvest can be enjoyed fresh over a longer period.

I always analyze if my vegetable garden is too big for my lifestyle these days. I really don't want to pare back because it is important that I grow a good amount of our family's food.

What I have to accept is that it may become a jungle. I will keep up until I can't anymore. Someday there will be time for more order, but these are not the days, at least for me, and that's okay.

As you begin planning this year's garden there are a lot of things to consider. But maybe for now, make a lot of "stars" and bend those corners.

Enjoy dreaming! Reality doesn't really have to play a part until the order is placed.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

The REGISTER

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

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SELECTBOARD from page 1

comparable to the Ludlow School District, which he said was based on income.

“Per pupil expenditure has nothing to do with the income,” Goncalves said. “It’s how much you’re spending to educate each kid. Take the communities that are in or around us, and we’re a little bit more than most of them, a couple \$1000 a kid, but with 2200-2300 kids, whatever it is, it’s a lot of money. Maybe we can get a feel for what’s costing us that much more than everybody else around us.”

Members of the School Committee said that the cuts to funding are leaving the schools with a bare-bones budget, with little room for important programs.

“Ludlow is known for their Special Education programs,” said Bowler. “We keep a lot of our kids in-district. (...) The parents that talk to me are really concerned about the lack of programming we have within our schools.”

Bowler mentioned languages and special programming as opportunities to broaden the minds of the students, and that parents she’d spoken with have found Ludlow’s offerings of those programs to be lacking.

“We don’t know where to cut, if we’re cutting,” Bowler said. “We built the Special Education Department to keep kids in-district. When you start not educating kids within the district, you’re sending kids out-of-district.”

“Now it’s cheaper to educate your kids in your district because you’re hiring a teacher and a para to educate a group of kids as opposed to sending that one student to a separate school where you’re paying tuition to that school,” Bowler said.

Bowler said that in addition to transportation fees and tuition, the cost of sending kids out of the district would outweigh the benefits.

Select Board Chair James Gennette said that part of the problem is the town’s tax rate, which the Board has been trying to remedy.

“With the economic cycle that we’re in right now, we have the Baby Boomers that are retired,” Gennette said. “If we keep hitting them as hard as we are, there’s a mass exodus.”

Gennette expressed concerns that this would push seniors out of the town and create a mass influx of new residents.

“It’s not that we don’t want the turnover for people to come in and a younger generation to participate in what’s going on, but if you have a mass influx of that, we turn it around,” Gennette said. “If you look at the cost of it per child and you match that up to property taxes, it doesn’t even equate.”

“We need to figure out a comfortable balance along this Board to try and figure out what isn’t going to be detrimental to our seniors,” Gennette said. “There will be a time when the Baby Boomers have moved on and there’s not as big a population that’s retired and maybe at that point, it will be in the better interest to fully fund schools and really push the agenda, but right now, we’re trying to keep seniors in their homes.”

“I’m not against the schools in any way, shape, or form, I would love to have the best schools on the planet,” Gennette said, “but I have to take care of seniors right now.”

Zonta Service Grants available for 2024

WESTERN MA— In keeping with Zonta’s more-than-100-year tradition of improving the lives of women and girls, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is currently soliciting proposals from local non-profit organizations for projects that benefit women and/or youth. Since its inception in 1991, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley has contributed over \$150 thousand in cash and in-kind donations to local non-profits.

The Zonta Service Grant Form application can be downloaded at www.zontaqv.org/service-grant/ or requested by contacting info@zontaqv.org. 2024 Grants ranging from \$100 to \$2000 will be awarded biannually, in May with a April 1 deadline and November with a Oct. 1 deadline. Proposals must include specific details of the project including the need that will be addressed with the funds. In reviewing completed applications the committee will give preference for a hands-on component that can in-

volve Zontians and supporters, if appropriate.

The club’s efforts to raise funds for these grants included a Calendar Raffle, Golf Tournament and Poinsettia sales. Two-thirds of all profits are used to fund local initiatives; one-third goes to the Zonta Foundation for Women to fund global projects with partners including UNFPA, UNICEF USA, Girls Not Brides, Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally and Women’s Empowerment Principles.

2022-23 grant recipients included:

Girl’s Inc of the Valley received a grant to help build new programs at their new Holyoke location.

YWCA of Western MA received a grant to purchase gift cards for individuals in their network to purchase essentials.

Safe Passage of Northampton to offset printing of a program booklet for Say Something - 8-hour

skills-focused training program grounded in effective strategies of bystander intervention and empowerment self-defense.

Food Share in Palmer in support of stocking personal hygiene products and other items in short supply for women and girls.

Second Time’s a Charm in Palmer received a grant toward the purchase of different-sized gowns in short supply for teens in need.

Alianza DV Services, Inc. (formerly Womanshelter/Companieros) in support of a fall showing of the Clothesline Project, a visual display of violence statistics that often go ignored. Each shirt is made by a survivor of violence or by someone who has lost a loved one to violence.

Inquiries can be directed to the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley, Mary Knight the Communications Chair at info@zontaqv.org or 413-219-8260.



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State awards HCC \$1.46 million to create a CNA and LPN training program

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College and its partners have been awarded a state grant worth nearly \$1.46 million to create a CNA to LPN training program to help area hospitals meet their workforce needs.

Earlier this month, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced a total of \$3.9 million in Senator Kenneth J. Donnelly Workforce Success grants for six initiatives representing employers and collaborative organizations across the Commonwealth.

The lion's share of that money - \$1,457,143 - will go to an HCC led training program to assist 86 unemployed or underemployed individuals transition from jobs as nursing aides to positions as licensed practical nurses.

The grants, funded through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund and distributed by

the Commonwealth Corporation, aim to increase sustainable wage career pathways for Massachusetts residents facing employment barriers and improve the competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses by enhancing worker skills and productivity.

HCC's partners in the grant include Baystate Medical Center, Baystate Wing Hospital, MassHire Hampden County, Springfield Works, and the National Fund for Workforce Solutions.

"We are delighted about the Commonwealth Corporation's award to HCC and our many partners in this unique and innovative career pathway in nursing," said HCC President George Timmons. "Healthcare is one of the largest industry sectors in our region, and it continues to grow. We hope that this pathway for licensed practical

nurses will help create more family sustainable incomes for nursing assistants looking to advance in this exciting and rewarding career."

The multi-stage program will first train individuals as nursing aides, then help them obtain jobs at area hospitals while they continue their training in HCC's LPN program, all the while providing them with wrap-around support services. HCC already has an existing framework for CNA training through its Jump Start program, which is designed for individuals receiving public assistance.

The grants were announced Dec. 18 by Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Lauren Jones during a graduation event at the Boston-area African Bridge Network, which received \$498,655.

To help leverage the state grant for the HCC-led project, the National Fund for Workforce Solutions invested \$200,000 to incorporate the voices and lived experiences of participants in the design of the program to advance equitable employment outcomes.

"This is an amazing achievement," said Anne Kandilis, director of Springfield WORKS/Working Cities Challenge. "Sometimes we focus on the grant itself, but the 18 months of hard collaborative work that goes into proposing something this big is important to lift up too."

According to the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the grants are part of a strategic investment in the Massachusetts workforce to develop programs that support individuals facing barriers to employment, such as lack of formal schooling, lan-

guage literacy, or past involvement with the criminal justice system.

The six grant-funded initiatives aim to train and hire 384 individuals over three years. The Springfield-based Entrepreneurial & Business Collaborative also received a grant worth \$630,998 to prepare 90 individuals for jobs in the hospitality industry. The group is partnering with the Northampton Brewery, Granny's Baking Table, River Valley Market, Tandem Bagel Company, and Puerto Rico Bakery II.

Other grant recipients include the Training and Upgrading Fund in Quincy (\$717,220), Cambridge College, Inc., in Boston (\$436,062), and Cape Cod Regional Technical High School District in Harwich (\$225,425).

PET OF THE MONTH Meet Brady!



He is a 14-year-old beagle. He was sent in by the Kelley family who love him very much! Brady is super sweet and kind. He loves fruit & veggies along with his treats. Being a Beagle, he loves the outdoors.

PET PAGE

READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our "Pet of the Month" and receive a free weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care. Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet's name.



How to Welcome a New Adult Dog into Your Family

When welcoming a new adult dog into your household, remember the rule of threes.

For the first three days, dogs are often in a bit of shock, and don't show their personalities until they've been there a few days. After three weeks, many dogs have settled and behave as though they feel like they are home now, but they really don't fit into your routine until about three months have gone by."

Establish and stick to a daily routine. Dogs are creatures of habit, and they're most relaxed when they know what to expect of you and what you expect of them.

- Keep the dog on the same diet for at least two weeks. If you want to switch foods, do it gradually, mixing the old food with the new one.

- Reinforce positive behaviors. When your new dog does something you approve of, reward it with praise and treats.

- Be patient with housetraining, and treat the dog the way you would a puppy - keeping an eye on him whenever he's not confined and giving him frequent walks outside.

- Visit your veterinarian. The first visit should be a greet and treat to make him comfortable.

Stay calm and patient, warm and welcoming. A dog who's anxious and insecure in a new environment can take months to show trust and affection.

- Introduce your new dog to your other pets gradually. Take them on a walk together. Keep their food dishes, toys, and treats separate.

- Don't take your dog to other outside places until he's had a chance to adjust to his new surroundings. If you have to go out, leave and return calmly to prevent separation anxiety.

- If the dog displays behavior issues you're not sure how to deal with, check with your vet.

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Lions fall to Ware

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — Ware senior center Emily McGrail entered last Wednesday night's road contest versus Ludlow averaging 14.4 points in the first five games of the regular season.

Led by McGrail, who posted a double-double, the Lady Indians ended a three-game losing skid with a 42-26 victory over the Lady Lions at Mullins Gymnasium.

"It was the first time that I played a varsity basketball game in this gym, and I was a little bit nervous at the start," said McGrail, who's one of the two seniors listed on the Lady Indians varsity roster. "Once I made a few shots in the first quarter, I gained a lot more confidence. I'm very excited that we were able to win tonight's game."

McGrail, who joined the varsity squad as a sophomore, scored 16 of her game-high and career-high 22 points in the first half. She also pulled down 13 rebounds and blocked six shots.

"Emily McGrail does a lot of things for us, and she plays every game very hard," said Ware head coach Dan Orszulak. "We also had several other players helping her, which made things easier for us."

Freshman forward Reese McKeever and sophomore guard Madi Slattery each scored six



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Ava Friese makes an inbound pass.

points.

McKeever contributed with eight rebounds and Slattery had four assists.

The other Lady Indians points were scored by eighth grade guard Amelia Orszulak (4



Abigail Toomey drives toward the hoop.

points), junior forward Kaylee Gardner-Carreau (2 points), and junior guard Tory Finocchio (2 points).

The only other Ware senior is Mia DiRienzo, who's a forward.

Holyoke Community College is one of the schools that McGrail is interested in attending next year. Joseph Paige, who's the women's basketball coach at H.C.C., watched Mc-

Please see **LIONS**, Page 11



Madelyn makes her way up the court.



Kayliana Moret makes a pass toward the top of the arc.

Lions grab pair of wins

WEST SPRINGFIELD — After going without wins in the first four games of the season, Ludlow ice hockey has put it together and rounded off two straight wins, defeating East Longmeadow 3-1 on Dec. 23 followed by a big win last Saturday, Dec. 30 4-2 against Oakmont. In the win, Benji Steele, Thomas Deroin, Luke Martin, and Sean Kefalas scored the goals. Martin also had a pair of assists for the Lions. Goalie Peter LeBorgne had 14 saves for the Lions. Ludlow faced Chicopee earlier this week, and is next in action on Saturday afternoon against Amherst at 4 p.m. at Olympia Ice Center.



Thomas Deroin gets ready to flick a wrist shot at the goal.



A.J. Stupak goes for a shot on goal



Luke Martin looks to break away from the boards.

Krutka's 17 points paces Lions to win

LUDLOW — In one of their final games before the holiday week, Ludlow boys basketball defeated Westfield Technical 62-31. In the victory, Daniel Krutka had a big game with 17 points to lead all scorers. Daniel McKenney added 12 points in the win for the Lions.

Ludlow also defeated the Hampden Charter School of Science on Dec. 19 62-56 and is now 3-2 for the regular season.

The Lions had 12 days off before returning to action this week against Westfield High School. The Lions are now headed on the road for a matchup at Mt. Everett on Jan. 5 at 6:30 p.m. They then host McCann Tech on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

T-Birds fall hard against Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (16-10-3-1) had few answers for a confident opposing attack, falling 8-2 to the Providence Bruins (17-12-2-2) on Saturday night in front of a sold-out MassMutual Center crowd of 6,793.

The Bruins were opportunistic off a self-inflicted T-Birds mistake to jump to a 1-0 lead at 3:44 of the opening period. Will Bitten directed a pass back toward the Springfield bench, where a pair of defenders were in the process of a line change. Out of the confusion, Anthony Richard jumped on the loose puck and quickly snapped a wrist shot through Vadim Zherenko to give Providence the game's opening goal.

Rookie Bruins blueliner Ethan Ritchie would add his first career AHL

goal just 60 seconds later, jumping up into a 3-on-2 rush and ripping a shot through Zherenko at 4:44 off a drop pass from Jesper Boqvist. Providence also made life difficult on the T-Birds' offense, as the Springfield attack mustered only five shots in the opening 20 minutes.

After going unsuccessful on a power play early in the second, the T-Birds saw a familiar bout of adversity when Justin Brazeau whipped a turnaround wrist shot through Zherenko at 6:21 to make it 3-0 for Providence.

The T-Birds gave the sellout crowd a glimpse of another comeback bid when



Jakub Vrana extended his point streak to four games with a beautiful wrist shot under the crossbar behind Brandon Bussi, cutting the lead to 3-1 just 18 seconds after the Brazeau goal.

The two-goal deficit proved only temporary, though, as Jesper Boqvist scored on the front end of a four-minute power play, one of his three points on the night, at 8:40 to make it 4-1.

Zach Bolduc had the opportunity to give the T-Birds another jolt when he was awarded a penalty shot with Springfield down a man at the 10:46 mark. However, Bussi had the answer with the

leg pad, shutting the rookie's bid down and keeping Providence ahead by three.

The Bruins rewarded their goalie in kind with back-to-back power-play goals from John Farinacci at 11:31 and Trevor Kuntar at 15:11, upping the margin to 6-1 before Bitten finally got Springfield on the board again with a power-play tip-in at 19:27 of period two.

Patrick Brown would add to the Providence lead with a rush up the left side at 7:17 of the third, and Jayson Megna capped off the scoring by netting the first shorthanded goal against Springfield all season at 18:00.

The T-Birds finish up the homestand as they begin a 3-in-3 weekend against the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins on Friday at 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.

Railers edged in one-goal loss to Reading

READING, PA – The Worcester Railers HC (12-11-3-2, 29pts) lost in a close one against the Reading Royals (11-13-1-1, 23pts), on Saturday night, Dec. 30 by the final score of 4-3 in front of 3,233 fans at the Santander Arena.



The game started right where they left off last night: physical. The Royals would do most of the heavy lifting in this department as they committed their 8th and 9th penalty of the weekend with a tripping minor penalty by Royals Forward Kenny Johnson (0-0-0) and a bench minor by Forward Tag Bertuzzi (1-0-1) committed while he was on the bench. The Railers offense would make them pay on the Bertuzzi minor penalty. Joey Cipollone entered the offensive zone with the puck in the middle of the ice where he found Zach White open on the right wing of their offensive zone. White quickly sent a cross-ice pass to an open Daylan Kuefler on the left side dot and sniped it past Royals goaltender Parker Gahagen's blocker side. Bertuzzi came back the other way three minutes later for Reading and tied the game 1-1 going into the second period. The Railers led the period in shots on goal 13-11.

The Railers struggled to find many scoring chances in the second but relied on their defense and goaltending

to get them through the period and deny the Royals from scoring. The Railers were disciplined and managed spacing well throughout the period until they would get a power play opportunity late in the second period. Towards the end of the

power play, Copeland drove the puck past Gahagen in net for the Royals to put Worcester back ahead, 2-1. The Royals answered back not much later with a power play goal by Forward Shane Sellar to beat Fulcher and tie it 2-2. The Royals led shots on goal in the period, 12-5.

Reading grabbed their first lead of the night when Matt Brown shot one blocker side to beat Fulcher and make it a 3-2 game. Late in the third, the Railers got another power play and did a great job keeping the puck in the zone and battling down low. Jenkins quickly fired the puck past Gahagen's low blocker side to tie the game up once again. Both sides would get chances on the net but nothing came out of it in the box score where this game would head into overtime. The Railers led the period in shots on goal, 14-13.

In overtime, the Royals worked their way down ice in a 2-on-1 3:18 into the frame with Brown and Bertuzzi to score and give the Royals the 4-3 win at home.

New modifieds event announced for early February

AUBURNDALE – After discussion with race teams, competitors and fans, Showdown Series officials have decided to update the schedule for the upcoming events at Auburndale Speedway in February during Speedweeks. With the new adjustments, the 602 Modifieds and Tour-Type Modifieds will compete in racing action at Auburndale on Thursday, Feb. 8 and Friday, Feb. 9 only.

The Tour-Type Modifieds will run two feature races - one Thursday and one Friday. Tour Modified events pay \$2,000 to win, \$1,000 for second and \$750 for third. The 602 Modified division will pay \$500 for the winner of each race, \$350 for second and \$300 for third. The 602 division will run double-feature events on Thursday and one on Friday. The 602 Modified features will be 30 laps and the Tour-Type Modifieds 50 laps.

"We're getting more and more phone calls and momentum is building surrounding these Modified races and we wanted to do everything possible to avoid conflicts with the New Smyrna Speedway Modified events," Brad Hockaday, owner of Professional Motorsports Solutions, said. "Seeing Modifieds on Auburndale Speedway is going to be something special that fans and competitors are not going to want to miss. Extending Speedweeks a few days earlier is a great opportunity for everyone to enjoy some more time in the sunshine state."

For the 602 Modified division, unlike some other events, there is no age limit on the races. Teams are asked to be responsible with their drivers age and experience level to compete in this event. No NASCAR licenses are required for either division.

New Smyrna Speedway has also adjusted the times for their parking times

for Modified teams. No Modified teams (excluding the Whelen Modified Tour) will be able to park until early on Sunday morning. This means that teams can compete in the Auburndale Speedway events and have plenty of time to make it across the state, which is just over a two-hour ride. The Tour-Type Modifieds have been adjusted to go out early in the schedule for Friday and will be able to exit the track by approximately 9 p.m. The 602 Modifieds will race earlier in the night.

The tire rule for the event is posted online. The rule will be six race tires for the 602 Modifieds with the F45 by Hoosier, and eight race tires for the Tour-Type Modifieds running the M20 & M30. Practice tires allotment is unlimited for the event, but teams need to let the management know in order for Hoosier to have a proper amount on site for the event.

Race teams with questions about the event are encouraged to email wntshowdown@gmail.com. There are practice nights available on Tuesday and Wednesday. Each night has a session from 4-7 p.m. and another from 7-10 p.m. Each session is \$50 per car running.

Teams are also encouraged to register as soon as possible so the promoters can prepare for the race. For more information on the Showdown Series events at Auburndale Speedway, everyone is encouraged to visit <https://linktr.ee/series-howdown>.

There, you can find the event tickets, registration forms, event schedule, event flyers, technical rules, general information and more. Auburndale Speedway will see the rumble and roar of Modifieds in February for the first time in the history of the Florida oval.

ludlowregister.turley.com

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Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
rdrago@turley.com

Thursday Night Mixed League

PALMER – The Thursday Night Mixed League met for their final league night of 2023.

The standings as of Dec. 14 have Team Six as the #1 seed at 34-22. In second place, Team One has a record of 31.5 wins and 24.5 losses. Team Three is in third place with a record of 30.5 wins and 25.5 losses. Team Two is in fourth at 27-29, Team Five in

fifth (23-33) and Team Four at 22-34.

Every bowler was ready to finish off strong heading into the new year.

One match featured Team Five bowling against Team One. In game one, Team Five was victorious over Team One by a score of 433-398. Joe Danek of Team Five began the night with an opening game of 104.

In game two, Team One was the winner of the game by a score of 404-378. In game three, Team Five won the last game 409-383. Team Five won total pinfall with a final score of 1220-1185.

Another match took place between

Team Three and Team Six. In game one, Team Three was the winner by a score of 401-398. In game two, Team Three won 419-389. In game three, Team Three won the third and final game 422-401.

Team Three won total pinfall by a final score of 1242-1188.

Team Two bowled against Team Four. In game one, Team Four won the first game by a score of 430-401. The final two bowlers on Team Four, John and Nick started off their night strong with 108 and 100.

In game two, Team Four won again by a score of 389-374. In game

three, Team Four went for the clean sweep and won the last game 417-387.

Team Four won total pinfall by a final score of 1236-1162.

The Thursday night Mixed League will continue their season into the new year and will return to Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes on the first Thursday of 2024.

Visit Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes at 1446 N. Main St. Reach the alleys by calling 413-289-0013.

LIONS from Page 9

Grail's outstanding performance against Ludlow from the front row of the wooden bleachers.

"I'm really hoping to go to H.C.C. next year," McGrail said. "My older sister, Olivia, also went to school there. I just want to follow in her footsteps."

The road victory evened the Lady Indians overall record at 3-3. It was also their final game of 2023.

The Lady Lions, who had a 1-5 overall record, were led offensively by junior guard Ryleigh Remillard. She scored eight of her 10 points during the second half. Junior forward Kayliana Moret scored seven points, and sophomore guard Eliana Garcia chipped in with four points.

It was the first meeting on the hardwood between the two teams since the 2020-21 campaign, which was shortened due to the COVID 19 pandemic. They faced each other three times in a span of twenty days in February of 2021. Ware won all three games, but the last two meetings were decided by one and two points.

"This is the first time that we've played Ludlow since the pandemic season," Orszulak said. "They have a new head coach and are a young team this year. I think they'll be a team to be reckoned with in a couple of years."

A Moret 3-pointer from the right side gave the home team a 5-2 advantage with 6:45 left in the first quarter. A minute later, a steal by Remillard led to a Garcia lay-up making the score 7-4.

"That was probably the best first quarter that we've played so far this season, which was nice to see" said first-year Ludlow head coach Ava Adamopoulos. "Then we struggled to score in the second quarter."

Adamopoulos, who graduated from Ludlow High School ten years ago, replaced Tim Brillo as the girls' varsity basketball coach. Brillo, who's also the Ludlow Athletic Director, began coaching the basketball team in 1997.

The Lady Lions only scored two more points during the rest of the first half.

Ware took the lead for the first time at 8-7 following a McGrail inside basket with 2:45 remaining in the opening quarter.

With 51 seconds left, McGrail was fouled while making another inside hoop. She missed the bonus foul shot, but a put-back basket by Gardner-Carreau gave the Lady Indians a 14-7 advantage.

Remillard hit a jumper shot at the buzzer.

McGrail, who scored eight points in the first quarter, added eight more points during the second quarter, as the Lady Indians outscored the Lady Lions, 14-0.

"We played well in the second quarter, and we were able to increase our lead," Orszulak said.



Ryleigh Remillard passes on the run.



Nora Adams goes after a loose ball.

"We handled their press a lot better."

Ware's other six points in the second stanza were scored by McKeever, Slatery, and Orszulak.

McGrail scored her team's first six points of the third quarter, which increased the lead to 34-11.

The Lady Lions ended their scoring drought with a Remillard lay-up with 4:15 left in the third quarter.

Ware led 38-15 following an Orszulak base-line jumper at the start of the final quarter.

The Lady Lions, who defeated McCann Tech, 44-23, on December 19, managed to close the gap a little bit with the help of an 11-4 run in the fourth quarter.

It was the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads.

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

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

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ONGOING

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.

Applications open for young women award

WESTERN MA —Applications for the 2024 Young Women in Public Affairs Award are available from the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley. Applications can be obtained from the high school guidance counselors in local towns and on its website: ZontaQV.org/scholarships/.

A local recipient will receive a \$1000 award, funded by the Zonta Club of the Quaboag Valley and will be entered for the District YWPA award. The District recipient will be eligible for a \$5,000 award from Zonta International.

According to Zonta Club President Dana Burton, the goal of the award is to encourage young women to participate in public and political life by recognizing a young woman's involvement in government, policy-making, and volunteerism. "The YWPA program looks to the young women of today for leaders of tomorrow and advocates the Zonta International's mission of advancing the status of women worldwide," noted Burton.

To be eligible for this award, applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 19, have an active commitment to volunteerism, leadership achievements, and experience in local or student government. Applicants must be pre-university or pre-college students.

Completed application and supporting documentation are due to the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley by March 8.

Church DIRECTORY

FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL
A Church of the Nazarene
485 East St. Ludlow, MA 01056 413-583-7875
Email: faithcommunitychapel8@gmail.com
faith-communitychapel.org
Lead Pastor: Reverend Lisa Morrison
Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs
Sunday Services:
Discipline Groups 9:45 a.m. WorshipService11 a.m. and Facebook Live Stream
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 WEDNESDAYS at 7 p.m. Ludlow Christian Fellowship Meeting Hank Bastos, Leader, 413-348-6487
SMC and Facebook Live Stream ludlowfellowship.org
FRIDAYS Children's After School Club (pre K through teens) 5-6:30 p.m. Church Fellowship Hall
SATURDAYS at 10 a.m. Ecumenical Prayer Meeting

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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
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Wednesday, Dec. 27, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Youth Group - 3:30 p.m. (JR), Scouts - 6 p.m. (FLBH), Scouts - 7 p.m. (JR)
Thursday, Dec. 28, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Eucharistic Adoration - 6:30 p.m. (C)
Friday, Dec. 29, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C)
Saturday, Dec.30, - Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C), Mass - 4 p.m. (C),
Sunday, Dec. 31, - Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C), Mass - 11 a.m. (C), Mass - 5 p.m. (C)
Monday, Jan. 1, - Daily Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C)
Tuesday, Jan. 2, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), St. Rita Choir - 6:30 p.m. (C), Eucharistic Revival - 6:30 p.m. (FLBH)

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Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:15 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8:45 a.m. (English), 10 a.m. (Polish)
Weekday Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 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.

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Sunday Masses - 9 a.m. (Portuguese); 11 a.m. (English)
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Tuesday and Friday Masses - 5:30 p.m. (Portuguese)
Saturday Vigil Mass - 4 p.m. (English)
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For more information, visit ourladyoffatimaparish.org.

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See our website for more information: orchardcovenant.org.

Foundation surpasses Goal on Giving Tuesday

Funds raised for purchase of therapeutic laser to benefit animals at the TJO Animal Control & Adoption Center

SPRINGFIELD -- The Foundation for TJO Animals participated in Giving Tuesday in 2023 with a hefty goal to raise \$25,000 for the purchase of a special therapeutic laser for the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center vet clinic.

This vital piece of equipment promotes healing, helps with cell regeneration, reduces inflammation and much more. More importantly, it decreases recovery time and discomfort for the animals in the care of the adoption center. The laser is not limited to surgical patients; animals with chronic conditions including skin and ear infections, allergies, arthritis and wounds will benefit as well.

The Foundation for TJO Animals, the nonprofit organization that provides fundraising and granting support for animals in the care of the Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center, proudly surpassed its goal. With the support of generous donations from the community, more than \$25,000 was raised to make that effort a reality. Hundreds of animals will benefit each year from laser therapy via the therapeutic laser.

Lori Swanson, executive director of the animal control and adoption center said, "This year, the Foundation for TJO Animals' goals was quite lofty. With a goal of \$25,000, the community once again rose to the occasion to improve the lives of animals. We are grateful for each, and every donation made to the Foundation on Giving Tuesday."

What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library?

To register for programs or find out more information, visit hubbardlibrary.org, or call (413) 583-3408. Weather-related announcements for outdoor events will be made on the library's Facebook page the morning of the program.

Library Hours: M, W, F 9-5, TU, TH, 9-8, S 9-1. Closed Sundays and holidays.

FOR ALL AGES

Calling artists and more! The Hubbard Memorial Library in Ludlow is seeking local artists, craftspeople and collectors who would like to display their wares in the library's display case. Exhibits remain in place for one month. The display case measures 70 inches long by 42 inches high by 11 inches deep, and has shelves which can be adjusted or removed to fit different sized items. For more information, or to arrange a showing, please contact the library at 583-3408 Ext. 114 during normal library hours.

Free Tech Help Call us at 413-583-3408x114 to book an hour long appointment. We can help you with your laptop, smartphone, or tablet. By appointment only, please no drop-ins.

Free Streaming Services Available! Use your Hubbard Memorial Library library card to access our streaming services, Hoopla & Kanopy. They're compatible with Android, Apple, Roku, AppleTV, Chromecast, and more. If you are a Ludlow resident with a Hubbard Memorial Library library card and the Libby app, you've already got access to Kanopy in the app! Hoopla provides movies, TV shows, music, eAudiobooks & eBooks, while Kanopy focuses on films, TV shows, and documentaries. Both have a version for kids. Why pay for a streaming service when you can get two for free with your library card?

FOR ADULTS

Mass Center for the Book Monthly Reading Challenge. Each month, you'll be challenged to read a book based on a chosen theme. January's challenge is a book you read years ago that you may feel differently about now. Those who participate will be entered to win a free book! For more information and to sign up, please visit massbook.org/readingchallenge.

Who picked this book? Book Club, first Thursday of the month (1/4), 3:30-5:00 p.m. This month's pick is *Other Birds* by Sarah Addison Allen. Fans of Alice Hoffman and Lauren Groff will enjoy this read. Pick up a copy at the circulation desk!

Digitizing Our Past, Thursday, January 25, 6:30-7:30 p.m. In 2022,

the Hubbard Memorial Library and the Ludlow Historical Commission worked with the developers of the Ludlow Mills, Westmass, to secure hundreds of glass plate negatives. This presentation will feature the history of glass plate negatives, details about the negatives found in the Mills, as well as a demonstration of how we digitize them. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

A Tree of Life: The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting, Tuesday, January 30, 6:00-7:30 p.m. A Tree of Life is "the first film to document the survivor's stories and the only documentary with this level of personal access to the survivors and families of the victims, viewers will experience first-hand how the lives of those directly affected have profoundly changed and how the Pittsburgh community and the congregations set out on a path towards healing." Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

Happy Hour Book Club, last Thursday of the month (1/25), 6:30-7:45 p.m. This month's book is "A Fall of Marigolds" by Susan Meissner. This engaging historical fiction novel explores a connection between two women, one from 1911 and the other from 2001. Pick up a copy of the book at the Circulation Desk. New members are welcome!

FOR TEENS

Nintendo Switch Night, every other Tuesday (1/9/24 & 1/23/24), 6:00-7:45 p.m. Play Mario Kart, Smash Bros, or other Nintendo Switch games. For 6th-12th graders, space is limited to 16 people, please register.

The 'Fellowship of the Pages' Tween Graphic Novel Book Discussion Group, Every Thursday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Meet each week to discuss wgraphic novels, eat snacks, play games, and make friends. This month the group is reading "Awkward" by Svetlana Chmukova, copies of which are available in the Youth Room. Please register.

Dungeons & Dragons High School Adventure Ensemble, Fridays 2:30-4:30 p.m. This group is for experienced high school players and currently has room for 2 more players. Please register.

"Read Between the Lines" High School Book Group, Last Friday of the month, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Book chat and snacks for ages 14 & up. January's book is "This Time Next Year" by Sophie Couzens; copies of the book are available in the Youth Room. Registration preferred.

FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

Pokemon Club, Mondays 3:30-5:00 p.m. For 7 & up. Trading, dueling, & gaming on handhelds, phones, or Nintendo Switch. Please have your name on everything you bring to the club. Please register.

Minecraft Club, Wednesdays, 3:00-4:45 p.m. Minecraft players of all skill levels can bring their own devices, or may use one of the library's eight computers to build, play & create. For upper elementary & up. Drop-in.

Massachusetts Children's Book Award Book Group for 4th-6th Grade, Thursday January 11th, 6:00pm - 6:45pm. 4th-6th graders across the state are the ones to decide who wins this award after reading at least 5 of the nominated books. Meet with Youth Services Librarian July each month for 45 fun minutes to discuss, decide, play games, and share snacks. Everyone who has read at least 5 of the books by April 15th will cast their vote, celebrate with an ice cream party, and be featured in an article in the Register! Please register.

Roblox Club, Fridays 3:30-4:45 p.m. Meet new friends or play with old ones while playing Roblox. For ages 8+.

Sock Snowmen Craft, Thursday, January 4, 6:00-7:45 p.m. Make a cute and cuddly beanie snowman out of a sock and other simple ingredients.

Winter Scavenger Hunt, Friday, January 5, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. All ages. search the Youth Room for pictures from classic winter books and win a prize. Drop in.

Make Peace Stickers, Friday, January 12, 1:00-3:00 p.m. All ages. To-

day is an early release day from Ludlow Public Schools, and Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, come make peace stickers to celebrate Dr. King's message of peace. Drop in.

FOR CHILDREN

Daily Drop-In Crafts, All ages. DIY crafts available in the Youth Room Daily. New craft each week.

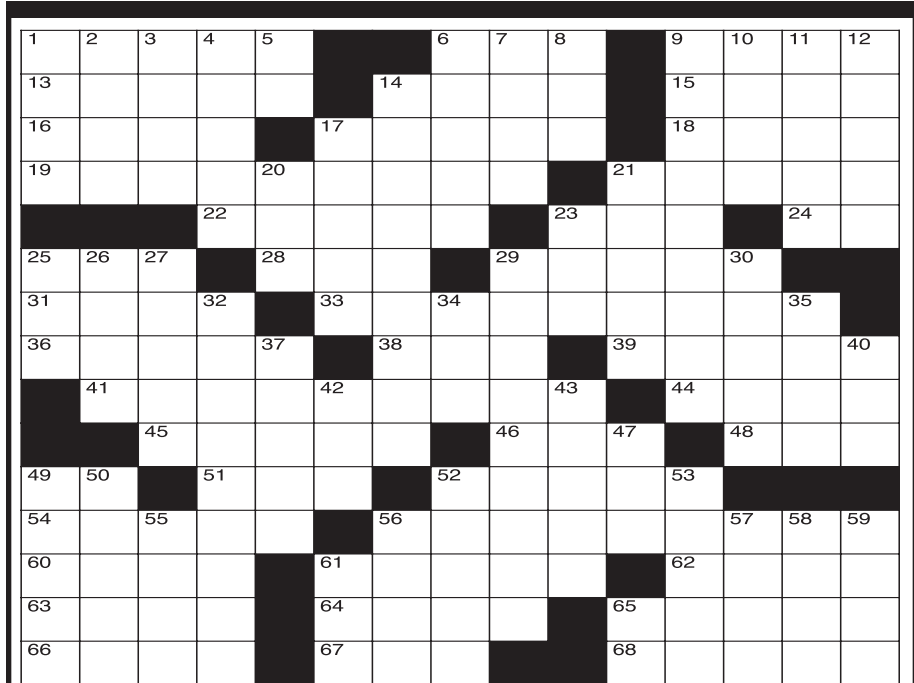
Winter Storytime Session: Going Places, Mondays 10:00 a.m. (starting 1/08/24) Ages 3-5. Stories, songs and games featuring far away places with a craft and snack at the end. Please register.

Sing With Me, Tuesdays 10:30-11:00 a.m. For ages 0-5. Join Youth Services Librarian July for 30 minutes of favorite children's songs & movement. Drop-in.

Winter Storytime Session: Going Places, Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. (Starting 1/10/24) Ages 2-3. Stories, songs and games featuring far away places with a craft and snack at the end. Please register.

Lego Build Challenge, Wednesdays 12:00-5:00 p.m. Pull a Lego Build Challenge Card and try to build it with the library's Legos, or free build just for fun. All creations will be put on display in the Youth Room for the week. Drop-in.

Grow, Play and Learn, Thursdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. For ages 0-5. Come join us for stories, songs and skill building, led by Kelly Castor, Early Childhood Developmental specialist, who will guide caregivers in strengthening interactions with their children. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated
6. Snakelike fish
9. Database management system
13. Russian-American violinist
14. Wendy's founder Thomas
15. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
16. Negatives
17. Rescued
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks to
21. Island nation native
22. Trade
23. Detergent brand
24. Famed NY Giant
25. Before
28. Split pulses
29. Extremely angry; highly incensed
31. Body part
33. American state
36. David __, US playwright
38. Move one's head slightly
39. Secret rendezvous
41. Improved
44. A place to exercise
45. 18-year astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. You can take it
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of an animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless and undisguised
60. Horizontal passage into a mine
61. Adult males
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. City in north-central Utah
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Oxygen
68. Make law

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment in L.A.
2. Wings
3. From pentane (Chemistry)
4. Gradually gets into
5. Commercial document (abbr.)
6. Overhang
7. Christmas and New Year's have them
8. Type of bulb
9. Lacking a plan
10. Tattle
11. Rockers like it "heavy"
12. One who's been canonized
14. Indicate time and place
17. Nobel Prize winner in physics
20. The voice of Olaf
21. Fragmented rock
23. They __
25. Master of Philosophy
26. Backside
27. Landmark house
29. An act of undue intimacy
30. From which a later word is derived
32. Equal to 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Computer language
37. Sacred book of Judaism
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. A way to dedicate
43. Challenges
47. British Air Aces
49. Large, influential bank
50. Portended
52. Cavalry-sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Napoleonic Wars general
56. Italian Seaport
57. Hip joint
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Insect repellent
61. Decorative scarf
65. Delaware

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Baystate Health's Mobile Blood Donation Team is coming to Palmer in 2024

PALMER – The Baystate Health Blood Donation team will host a blood drives at Baystate Wing Hospital in 2024, beginning on Feb. 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Additionally, Blood Drives will be held every other month on Wednesday throughout the year at Baystate Wing on April 10, June 5, Aug. 7, Oct. 9 and Dec. 11.

“There continues to be an urgent need for blood, when you donate blood to Baystate Health, your precious gift remains in our local communities,” said Nicole VanZandt, MLT III, supervisor, BRL Blood Donor Services. “Please help us to ensure a safe and adequate blood supply is available by donating blood with the Baystate Health Blood Donor Program.

“There is no substitute for human blood,” VanZandt said. “Blood donations take approximately one hour to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old; weigh at least 110 pounds have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, or sore throat); and have not donated blood within the past eight weeks.”

Blood drives will be held at Baystate Wing Hospital, 40 Wright St., Palmer, in Snow Conference Room C. In appreciation, all eligible donors will receive a \$10 Gift card.

For more information or to book an appointment to donate blood, please call the Blood Donor Center at 413-794-4600. Please be sure to note the Baystate Health hospital location you would like to make your donation at when you make your appointment.

Baystate Wing Hospital employees donate gifts to children in need

PALMER - Early in December, employees from all areas of the Baystate Health system collectively donated a variety of toys and other greatly needed items for the 2023 holiday toy drives.

It was no different for the Baystate Wing Hospital team. For many years, team members have helped brighten the holidays for many families in need.

“Our Baystate Wing team looks forward to donating toys and gifts each year,” said Karli Barrett, vice president, chief nursing officer and chief administrative officer for Baystate Wing Hospital. “The holiday season can be particularly challenging for families facing hardships. We are so happy to be able to provide some holiday cheer to families in our own community. Giving not only lifts the spirits of the children we sponsor, but it also fosters a sense of community for us all.”

Baystate Wing Hospital team members generously gave to 107 children from families living in Ware, Palmer, Belchertown, Brookfield, Brimfield, Warren, and other surrounding areas served by



From the left, Luis Rivera and John Mancini, Baystate Wing engineering team, Paul Kuc, Recreation Department Director at Valley Human Services, and Baystate Wing team members Susan Wiktor, Nicole Apostle and Mary Biron.

Behavioral Health Network. The children of various ages, who remained anonymous, shared their wish list with caregivers from Behavioral Health Network and the Baystate Wing ‘elves’ did the rest, resulting in a total number of gifts donated at well over 1500.

“We are very grateful to have Baystate Wing as a partner during

the holiday season,” said Ashely Brooks, clinical manager of BHN Valley Human Services in Ware. “Their team makes it possible for us to go above and beyond for our BHN families and communities. Our partnership has had a great impact on our clients, and we are all appreciative of the support we are able to provide during this time.”

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Ludlow Register, please email ludlowregister@turley.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SITE PLAN

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** on the application of Marco Vieira – V & V Properties LLC for the property located at **20-56 East Street, Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 13C, Parcel 58)** for the purpose of: **update site plan for gym and café.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
12/27/2023, 01/03/2024

LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE WAIVER OF FRONTAGE

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7:45 p.m.** on the application of David Beauregard, for a Waiver of Frontage from the Subdivision Rules & Regulations MGL Chapter 41, 81R for the property

located at **601 Center Street, Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 16B, Parcel 96)** for the purpose of: **Divide an existing parcel into two new lots, each containing an existing residential structure, as per submitted plans. Lot 11-2 will require a waiver of frontage from 140 feet to 93.90 feet, and Lot 11-1 will require a waiver of frontage from 140 feet to 12.50 feet.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
12/27/2023, 01/03/2024

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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