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The REGISTER

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Entertainment license for Vanished Valley modified

Residents fight for noise-free neighborhood ongoing

By Amanda Munson
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LUDLOW – On Dec. 16, the Select Board approved a three-month extension for entertainment license at Vanished Valley Brewery located at 782 Center St.

The Select Board final decision was submitted to The Register by Town Administrator Marc Strange that stated, “The Select Board approved indoor entertainment for Vanished Valley until March 31, 2026. The application had requested “Live Entertainment, Radio, TV” with the live entertainment including outdoor live entertainment. For clarification, only indoor entertainment was approved. The stated allowed hours are “regular business hours,” which are filled out by the applicant at the bottom of the application, which include 12 noon to

9 p.m. most weekdays. During the public comment portion of the Dec. 16 Select Board meeting, residents living around Vanished Valley Brewery located at 782 Center St., voiced their concerns on the vote of approval of the entertainment license, which would ultimately grant the establishment permission for music and live entertainment.

Entertainment licenses are typically issued annually by calendar year and at the meeting, the board had a variety of establishments to go and look

through to approve/deny these licenses. The establishments included Polish American Citizens Club, Mill’s Tavern, Ludlow Fish & Game Club, Family United Methodist, and more.

During the public comment section of the meeting, residents wanting to voice their disapproval of the proposed grant of the entertainment license for Vanished Valley began with Resident Antonio Vale, who was in attendance on behalf of the neighbors abutting the brew-

ery. “This is an ongoing issue about noise, excessive noise coming from the live entertainment at Vanished Valley. I’ve approached the Town about this problem, I was told this wasn’t a problem and it was just my complaint. But when I did a little bit of research and actually talked to the neighbors, this has been going on for a long time. The Town has received complaints, the Ludlow Police Department has received complaints; in an email to the Town, back in July 2025, I stated that this was a con-

cern of the neighbors and one of the Town Selectmen said, “Your causes are unjustified because you’re the only one that’s complaining.” I am getting a little mixed messages here because if I’m the only one complaining, why do I have 52 signatures now from the abutters that are also complaining? I’m not alone here,” said Vale. “What I am not supportive of is businesses that disrupt my quality of life, I

Please see **SELECT BOARD**, Page 3



Turley photos by Amanda Munson
 Mass Conn-Fusion jazz duo performed in front of 200 people excited to kick off the new year.

More than 220 seniors sing in the new year

By Amanda Munson
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LUDLOW – Last year on Dec. 30, the Senior Center celebrated the new year with Mass Conn-Fusion jazz duo and followed with a lunch, serving a chicken dish with mouth-watering desserts. With parts of the event



Members and guests of the luncheon were given party hats, noise makers, and headbands for 2026.

Please see **SENIORS NEW YEAR**, Page 3

Department and School Budget summaries reviewed

By Amanda Munson
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LUDLOW – Last year in the Dec. 17, Finance Committee meeting, Member Susan Boyea shared her meeting with the School Department, reviewing the Fiscal Year 2025, at the beginning of the month. The school department plans to meet with the department heads before the next joint meeting in Feb., to talk about new numbers and what they’re looking for.

Member Michael Kelliher shared his experience meeting with department heads alongside Boyea and listed who they met, like accounting, Hubbard Memorial Library, Department of Public Works, building inspector, Ludlow Fire Department and stated the budget is tight.

Kelliher continued, “Essentially all these departments for the most part were just the contractual

obligations. A couple of them with employees moving up in steps, there were some minor increases from that. The LFD had an interesting idea; they had the Ambulance Enterprise Fund which runs a pretty good surplus and Chief Pease was talking about setting up an enterprise fund to pay for a couple of firefighter EMTs out of those funds. I think that’s a nice idea if we can get that done, that would have to go to Town Meeting to set that up. If there’s money there that we can utilize to fund a couple of positions and not have them burden the budget, that was a good idea. LFD did have \$60,000 in increased educational expenses which was part of their contract; that was the only significant increase out of all the departments,” said Kelliher.

Kelliher stated that all departments got the message that new positions or any increases similar to that

should be based in the contracts. Member Chad Mullin shared that Chairperson Tony Sanches met with the Ludlow Police Department, LCTV, assessor, planner, health, and the senior center earlier in the month of Dec. and shared a few points from those meetings.

Mullin began, “LCTV is essentially a passthrough, the money comes in through the cable and it’s not a carry on the Townside, the cable comes in and sends the money in to cover. I will say thanks to Town Administrator Marc Strange and Town Accountant Cheryl Allen; it was evident in their attempts to help people build their budgets. Referring to Allen and Strange, you guys helped them build it, and I appreciate the efforts both you and Cheryl are making. As Kelliher mentioned

Please see **FINANCE COMMITTEE**, Page 6

Town Administrator Marc Strange reflects on 2025, shares outlook on 2026

By Amanda Munson
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Marc Strange

LUDLOW – During the first week of 2026, The Register reached out to Town Administrator Marc Strange to ask questions revolving around the position, what the Town can expect in the new year, and addressing residents’ concerns over communication from the Town.

1. What do you wish residents knew about you before you became the Town administrator? Becoming the Town Administrator in Ludlow is the culmination of a journey and desire to serve the public, which started in law school, but was always a part of me. On the best days, I am helping make someone’s life better. It’s what I want to do.

2. In the past year, we’ve communicated about several ongoing issues and events regarding the Town. How can residents stay updated on these resolutions?

Communication with the public is a challenge that we think about quite a bit. The issue for many Towns

is that different segments of the Town get their information from different sources; The Register, The Reminder, social media, the Town’s website, and robocalls among other sources. Our goal is to coordinate a comprehensive communications program that incorporates the same messaging across all media types, so residents are getting their information directly from the Town. This is challenging, though, because (1) some information is more urgent requiring immediate distribution and not all sources support such immediacy, and (2) with budgets being so tight, we do not have capacity to staff a full-time communications person to coordinate various messages and media types. But, again, we are working on improving ways to communicate with all segments of the Town. For those who are so inclined, we suggest subscribing to the Town website’s “News & Updates” because we tend to

post timely updates on that part of the website and those who are subscribed receive an email notification. We also post updates to the Town’s Facebook page. Of course, anyone can review the Select Board agendas and meeting minutes via the Town’s website as well. And all their meetings are streamed live and then made available on the Ludlow Community TV website.

3. If you could summarize the year 2025 in a couple of sentences, what would you say?

We strive to do better every day. Hopefully we were better than the year before and we’ll be even better in 2026.

4. Residents have spoken about communication issues from the Town; how do you plan to address this in the future?

It depends on the situation

Please see **STRANGE**, Page 5

Fire Chief proposes lump reclassification request for LFD

By Amanda Munson
 Staff Writer
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – Last year on Dec. 16 at the Select Board meeting, Ludlow Fire Department Chief Pease visited the board to discuss a couple of requests for the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. Pease read aloud a letter stating the following, “I’m respectfully requesting funding for two additional firefighter paramedic positions for FY27. Since the

year 2000, the LFD has experienced a 195% increase in medical responses and 140% increase in total emergency responsive responses. While staffing has grown only by six firefighters in that same period of time. This limited gross and personnel has made it increasingly difficult to meet the community’s rising demand for services while maintaining the safety of both residents and first responders. As emergency calls have continued to climb,

driven by new housing developments, expanding senior population, additional medical facilities, our firefighters are handling more incidents per shift. This level of stress on limited personnel will impact both performance and safety. While staffing levels don’t keep up with call volume, fewer firefighters must manage a growing workload. This situation can lead to extended response times, increased strain during simultaneous incidents, reduced capacity to provide timely and effective care, and firefighter injuries. Balance staffing is essential to ensure that our crews can operate safely and efficiently while continuing to deliver the high standard of service our community deserves. It’s important to note that our ambulance revenue has risen from 95% over the past decade, now exceeding \$2.25 million annually. With those funds deposited into the Town’s general fund. This increase reflects both the community’s reliance on our services and continued productivity and dedication of



Turley photo by Amanda Munson

Chief Pease of the Ludlow Fire Department visits to propose the funding of two additional firefighter paramedic positions for FY27.

Please see **LFD**, Page 5

LUDLOW

Hubbard Memorial Youth Room creates gingerbread scented slime



Families and guardians were able to bring their kids in for a fun and messy activity, with no mess guaranteed at home.

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – Last year on Dec. 30, the Hubbard Youth Room offered an afternoon full of creating gingerbread scented slime that was a holiday hit! Families, friends, and neighbors were happy to get their hands messy and create a festive memory that they can bring into the new year.

Occurring in the month of Jan. and Feb. in the Hubbard Memorial Youth Room, located upstairs after passing the circulation desk, the winter 2026 events kick-off with something for everyone in the family. From making peace stickers to honor Martin Luther King Jr., creating paper squish malloes, making valentine heart jewelry for Ya's, valentine heart magnets, to secret stone painting, the youth room encourages everyone to drop-in and see what the library can offer.

A couple of notable ongoing events is the read-a-thon for kids, that revolves around everyone's favorite dessert...ice cream! The ice



By storing the slime into a gingerbread shaped container, kids were able to transport the slime easily and mess free!

cream read-a-thon that will begin on Jan. 26 to Feb. 7 and encourages kids to read books and with every title they read, they can write the titles onto the paper scoop of ice cream and add them to the super-sundaes in the youth room. Read five books, the kids can pick out a book prize to take home.



Submitted photos

This kid really knew how to create a slimy photograph!

A popular trend that's coming back to the library is blind date with a book occurring Feb. 2 through Valentine's Day, aimed for upper elementary through high schoolers. This event encourages readers to choose a wrapped book from the display in the youth room and with only a brief blurb of the blank cover, no title can be seen; readers can decide to check out the book and unwrap to unveil the mystery title.

Quaboag Regional Assistant Principal, Michael Lavelle, named MSAA Assistant Principal of the Year

Mr. Michael Lavelle, Assistant principal of Quaboag Regional Middle/High School in Warren, has been named the 2026 MSAA Assistant Principal of the Year. Mr. Lavelle has been the Assistant Principal at Quaboag for the past four years. Michael earned a bachelor's and master's degree from Westfield State University.

Prior to Quaboag, he taught history at the Baird Middle School in Ludlow and served as Assistant Principal in Belchertown, Auburn and Oxford.

As an administrator at Quaboag Mr. Lavelle has been a steady positive influence who has earned the admiration and trust of fellow administration, teachers and students. On the Assistant Teacher of the Year application form a teacher and an adminis-

trator made the following statements:

"Mr. Lavelle knows the students by name and has built positive relationships with them. He is always available for students and works with the staff to ensure their needs are met."

"Mr. Lavelle has brought calmness and professionalism to the role of the assistant principal at Quaboag Regional. When dealing with discipline issues, he actively listens to all students involved in the situation and provides them with tiered disciplinary measures to help curb the behavior so that it does not happen again. He helps to continually improve the safety of the school by

being present and visible throughout the school. He treats all students equally, not giving favor to any one student based on who they are in the school or who their parents are. Putting all students on the same playing field is essential to building trust amongst students with him and each other."

he likes best about Mr. Lavelle, "I like how he can relate to every student on a personal level. He is very understanding and forgiving too."

Another eighth grader Callie Hawk spoke about Mr. Lavelle's positive attitude. "He is always saying good morning to students

or asking them about their day. He is always attentive and gives great advice. He is very deserving of this award."

Michael grew up in the City of Chicopee and resides in the town of Ludlow with his wife Erica (a second grade teacher) and his dog Jameson. He is also the proud uncle of 13 nieces and nephews.

Outside of work, Michael enjoys visiting the ocean, watching his family grow and compete in all types of sporting events. Playing and listening to all sorts of music and attending live concerts. He is a big fan of the Celtics and Boston sports teams. Celebrating his Irish heritage, and serving his community as a Town Meeting member and serving at his local church as an eucharistic minister.



Michael Lavelle

Reminder to return your 2026 Annual Town Census form

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 shall result in removal from the active voting list and may result

in removal from the voter registration rolls.

Please return the annual town census form as soon as possible to the Office of the Town Clerk.

Annual Town Census forms can be mailed to the Office of the Town Clerk, 488 Chapin St, Ludlow, MA 01056 or returned in the Town Clerk drop box located behind Town Hall.

Nomination papers available

LUDLOW – Nomination papers for the March 23, 2026, Annual Town Election are available in the Town Clerk's office.

- Assessor, 1 seat; 3-year term
- Board of Health, 1 seat; 3-year term
- Housing Authority, 1 seat; 5-year term
- Library Trustee, 1 seat; 3-year term
- Planning Board, 1 seat; 5-year term
- Planning Board, 1 seat; 4-year unexpired term
- Recreation Commission, 1 seat; 3-year term
- Select Board, 1 seat; 3-year terms
- Town Clerk, 1 seat; 3-year term
- Town Moderator, 1 seat;

3-year term
Town-wide office nomination papers must be signed by at least 50 registered voters in Ludlow. Candidates are advised to collect more than 50 signatures to ensure the requisite number of certified signatures.

Town meeting member nomination papers must be signed by at least ten registered voters of the precinct in which the candidate resides.

Voters in each precinct will elect five town meeting members for three years and elect other members as necessary to fill existing vacancies.

Please call the Town Clerk's office with any questions (413) 583-5600 Ext. 1.

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SENIORS NEW YEAR
from Page 1

sponsored by the Friends of the Ludlow Senior Center and assistance with serving/preparing food and setting up the event from center staff, the afternoon was full of meeting new friends, creating memories, and reflecting on the past year 2025.

Speaking with Member and Ludlow resident Mary S., who was joined by her husband and new faces at the luncheon table, Mary shared why she likes to continue to visit the center.

"I continue to come to the senior center because it's such a wonderful place for everybody in town and out of town, it's just a nice place. It gets people out of the house and there's activities all day long, you go from one activity to the other all day. I first started coming because of all the activities, there's something for everybody here whether it's a physical activity or bingo. The staff here is amazing. I don't know how they do it; the staff are wonderful, all of them. They've been short-staffed, but they keep this place like a well-oiled machine," said Mary.

When Mary was asked what keeps her from coming back, she mentioned it was important to her to get out and see people, adding that she doesn't care who she sits with at lunch; she's happy to meet new people and have engaging conversations. With only a couple of days before 2026, Mary



Mary Masse celebrated her 85th birthday in Dec. 2025, Penny Nietupski celebrated her birthday on Christmas Eve, and Sylvia Pratt celebrated her 83rd birthday in Dec. 2025 as well.



Running up to the dance floor were members excited to dance the afternoon away.

shared what she's excited to do is to be with family and friends to ring in the new year; saying that the most important part is to spend time with each other and indulge in new experiences.

The next special lunch that members can look

forward to is the A-Ray of Elvis in Concert, an after-lunch concert that will occur on Jan. 8 at 1:30 p.m. that members can experience music whilst celebrating Elvis' birthday. Performer Ray Guillemette will provide a rocking afternoon; no registration

is necessary. On Jan. 14 at 12 noon, the Five Town Chamber of Commerce will provide a panel of experts for lunch and learn from the ERC5 Senior Alliance Team to be steady on your feet and empower you and your family to enhance safety and well-being.



The room was packed with family, friends, and members who were happy to spend an afternoon celebrating the new year, two days before the NYC ball dropped!

SELECT BOARD
from Page 1

cannot enjoy my backyard because of these guys."

Vale played music recorded from his house and explaining the entertainment begins in March until the end of Nov., where Vale in the video says the music played past 9 p.m.

"The police have documentation of all the police reports. Vanished Valley is disturbing my peace and quality of life," said Vale.

Chairperson Manuel Silva stated that he has received the recordings and said, "It can be loud, however..." before being interrupted by Vale who said, "It's 126 decibels." One of the neighbors who was not at the microphone said their window shakes.

Silva stated that the Select Board has to address this the right way, "Because of the way that this is done, you've, meaning Vale, spoke for three minutes so we're going to give anybody else that would like to speak for their three minutes," said Silva.

Following was Resident Jill Byrne who emphasized and stated to the board that outside music playing almost every Friday and Saturday from early spring to late fall in a residential neighborhood should not be permitted.

"I would hope ongoing conflicts and complaints surrounding the business should be taken into consideration. At a recent precinct Town meeting regarding the noise bylaw, one speaker suggest-

ed neighbors speak to each other and ask for cooperation when there is a disturbance in the neighborhood. That does not always work and is not always well received. I phoned Vanished Valley and politely requested the music level to be toned down in order for our residents to enjoy their backyard. When inquiring, the response shortly after my phone call was two police cruisers showing up, parking in front of my home and my neighbor's home. When inquiring with the officers asking if everything was okay, I was informed that they had received a call from Vanished Valley about contacting them and Vanished Valley considered it harassment. Instead of just turning down the music and being considerate of the neighborhood, it appears a false complaint called in regarding my next-door neighbor. Again, he did not make the call, I did. I was then informed politely by the officer that more than three calls can be considered harassment and I could be brought up on criminal charges if Vanished Valley chooses to do so. Why aren't we being protected in maintaining what many consider a peaceful, good quality of life?" said Bryne.

Two more residents spoke at the microphone within the allotted time with their concerns regarding the noise levels and the board was then questioned why only 15 minutes for public comment. A resident, not on the microphone, stated there were multiple people in attendance who have more

complaints to be heard and was frustrated with only a 15-minute time block for public comment.

The resident stated it doesn't give them a voice and questioned why they even showed up. Silva explained that since it's only a public comment, the board is only supposed to hear the residents out. "The reason we put in 15 minutes is because it's usually plenty of time and most of the time, we have nobody. We can't give a half hour and then sit here," said Silva.

The residents interjected asking for an extension and Silva said it can only happen if there's not a hearing, stating that hearings are mandatory to open at the time they're allotted for, which was scheduled to begin promptly at 5:45 p.m.

"We could extend it but there is someone here for the first hearing. Now with that said, you can certainly call the Selectmen's Office at any time and get on the agenda because agendas have to be posted accordingly," said Silva. A resident interjected asking if the board was going to address the issue and Silva said, "Yes. If you want to come in and speak to us at the office..."

He was interrupted by a resident who wanted to address it immediately at the meeting.

The residents began conversing, further interrupting the board for 10 minutes and creating a tense environment within the meeting room, with Silva ending trying to explain that he has to cut the

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column



The flu is lurking – can you avoid it?

The flu is lurking – can you avoid it?

I wouldn't go so far as to categorize the pandemic as the "good old days," but during the 2020-2021 flu season, only 1,316 positive flu cases were reported in the U.S. Why? Because most of us were wearing masks and staying away from one another.

Now, there are far more cases of flu than COVID-19. Just from October to December 2025, there were nearly 5 million diagnosed cases of the flu and 1,900 flu-related deaths, and that's just in the U.S.

You may have heard that the 2025-2026 strain of flu doesn't really care whether or not you had a flu shot. That's not quite true, but it does seem that the so-called "subclade K" variant is pretty good at evading whatever immunity you have, whether from a vaccine or from previous infections.

"This flu is just different than the strain that we saw last year," Dr. Santina Wheat of Northwestern Medicine told CBS News. "It's similar, but we are seeing that it is moving faster."

Recent holiday gatherings probably made it spread even faster. Illinois hasn't had the spikes that have been seen in New York, but doctors think the worst is yet to come.

Can you totally protect yourself and your family? Probably not. Can you reduce the risk of severe illness and hospitalization? Definitely.

These tips shouldn't come as a surprise – most of them are just common sense.

1. Get vaccinated.

Yes, it's already January. No, it's not too late to get a flu shot. While the optimum time to get a flu shot is October, the flu doesn't usually peak here until February. It takes a bit of time for the vaccine to reach its highest effectiveness, so getting a shot now will still provide protection.

Doctors emphasize that vaccination is not a surefire preventative. You may still get the flu, but you are more likely to avoid severe consequences if you have the vaccine on board.

2. Stay away.

What do I mean by that? If you're sick, stay away from other people. Don't go to work, don't go to school, and get your groceries delivered. If people around you are coughing and feverish, avoid them like, well, the plague. If you know you've been exposed to the flu, get a flu test from your doctor so you can get started on an antiviral medication.

Masks fell into political disrepute during the pandemic, but there's a reason medical professionals wear them. They are a kind of physical barrier that prevents both droplets being spread to others and droplets being breathed

in. They're more effective when it's the infected person wearing them.

3. Become a champion hand-washer

The best hand-washing practices include wetting your hands with clean, running water, applying soap, and scrubbing all surfaces of your hands and fingers for at least 20 seconds. Make sure to rinse well and dry your hands with a clean towel or air dryer to effectively remove germs.

Paper towel and disposable hand towels are a good idea this time of year.

4. Pay attention to touch surfaces.

When the flu is in your house, take special care to disinfect common touch surfaces, such as door-knobs and light switches, so it won't spread. Disinfectant sprays and wipes can be used, and if you want to avoid chemicals, warm soapy water is all it takes.

5. Remind everyone not to touch their faces

Observational studies have revealed that we touch our faces 15 to 23 times every hour while we're awake. The problem is that most of those touches are in the "T-zone," encompassing our eyes, nose and mouth, where mucous membranes can let in viruses and germs.

It's a hard habit to break, so it's another reason to keep your hands as clean as possible.

6. Keep up good health habits.

Hydrate like crazy. Winter dries out those mucous membranes, which makes them less effective at filtering out allergens, irritants – and viruses. Staying physically active boosts the immune system, as does good nutrition.

Most of us will get through the flu with some aches and pains, maybe a little nausea or diarrhea, and generally feeling like we've been hit by a bus, but serious complications can include pneumonia, heart attack and stroke – particularly for people over 65 and those whose immune systems are compromised.

No one wants to get the flu. It's good to know we can take steps to avoid the worst of it.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

GUEST COLUMN

TLC for overwintering plants

Have you taken a good look at your tender plants lately? Maybe you have a Gerber daisy, coleus, fuchsia or geranium that you are attempting to overwinter because you loved it so much this past summer.

Perhaps the flower color or leaf shade was perfect in a patio planter and you thought if you could get through the winter you wouldn't have to buy it new this spring. Or maybe you intend to use your overwintered plants as stock plants.

Soon you'll be taking cuttings and making your own new plants. Likewise, maybe you brought in some tender herbs in hopes of growing your own seasoning year round.

Whatever the case may be, closer examination of each plant at this point in the winter might be a smart idea.

What I have noticed almost across the board, especially with my Gerber daisy, fuchsia and geraniums is that there are a lot of older leaves turning yellow or showing discoloration. To me, that indicates that fertilizer is needed.

The fact that this coincides with the lengthening of the daylight hours is no accident. And all three plants have continued to bloom inside, which certainly has taxed their nutrient reserves.

I will start watering with half strength fertilizer twice a month now through mid March. I sure bet that old foliage will start to perk up and new growth won't be too far

behind.



Don't push growth by fertilizing more than what I recommended or growth could become lanky and weak – just what aphids are looking for.

Speaking of pests, if you notice distorted foliage, webbed areas or stippling on the leaves, take a closer look at your plants. There are many tiny bugs with mouthparts that suck plant juices. Even in your sunny window spider mite, mealy bugs, aphids or white fly might be becoming more active.

Spider mite cause webbing, and are usually indicative of hot, dry conditions. Dousing with cold water will really set them back.

Mealy bug show up as a cottony blob usually on growth tips or at the junction of leaves and stems. Rubbing alcohol on a swab applied directly to the blob will dissolve that protective layer and the insect underneath.

Aphids are usually green and congregate in clusters on stems or leaf ribs. White fly usually hang out on the underside of leaves. They fly around if disturbed.

Both insects are best stopped in their tracks by use of an insecticidal soap. Safer's Soap or M Pede as it's known commercially work well. I've even soaped up my

plants using a mild dish detergent and hosed them off in the shower.

One pest in particular attacks the herb rosemary and is especially troublesome. I noticed stippling on the leaf tips and clear winged insects flying away when I brushed by the plants. After placing sticky yellow monitoring cards nearby I learned it was leaf hoppers!

As carefully as I could I carried the lighter plants outside and gave them a good shake to dislodge any eggs or nymphs (and to make me feel better) then I doused them to the point of run-off with insecticidal soap. I will have to be careful here, because tiny 3 mm size, wedge-shaped (adult) insects can transmit viruses from plant to plant.

I'll put out new monitoring cards near the rosemary plants to check if the population is decreasing. Regardless, I am glad I caught this situation early.

With the pests under control and a proper fertilization regimen, these plants will be in great shape come springtime, and ready for new adventures in the landscape.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

GUEST COLUMN

My wife believes she can get a spouse benefit while I'm still alive; can she?

Dear Rusty:
A friend of my wife told her and she believes, she could receive a Social Security benefit based on my SS benefit that I'm currently receiving while I'm still alive. I told her she could only receive spouse survivor benefits. Is there any truth to what she now believes? Would you settle this issue for us please? Thank you.
Signed: Uncertain Husband

Dear Uncertain Husband:
Well, surely I don't want to get in the middle of your marital discussion, but I'll be happy to explain Social Security's rules about your wife's eligibility for spousal benefits while you are both still living. And just for awareness for both of you, the rules about spousal benefits are one of the most confusing areas of Social Se-



By Russell Gloor

curity.

Per Social Security's rules, a spouse (e.g., your wife) can receive a "spousal boost" from you – while you are still living – if the SS retirement benefit she is personally entitled to at her Full Retirement Age is less than 50% of the SS retirement benefit you are (were) entitled to at your FRA; full retirement age amounts are used to calculate living spouse benefits, regardless of when each of you actually claimed your Social Security.

So, if your FRA entitlement benefit amount is more than twice your wife's FRA entitlement benefit amount, she can, indeed, get a "spousal boost" from your record while you are both still living. The spousal

boost is added to her own SS retirement amount and will be based on the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of

your FRA entitlement. Thus, in this discussion, your wife may be correct - she may be able to get a spousal boost from you while both of you are living, depending on how your personal FRA retirement amounts compare. The best way for your wife to find out is to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to inquire and if she's eligible, also make an appointment to apply for her spousal benefit.

And to clarify your wife's options as your possible widow, a surviving spouse can also get a survivor benefit if their marital partner passes away, but only if the de-

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, Page 8

The REGISTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in your image(s) from left to right. We need first and last name, hometown, title if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo. Email uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution directly off your camera to mharrison@turley.com.

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

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

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

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ELECTION LETTERS POLICY

The Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to theregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

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

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

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

www.newspapers.turley.com

Ludlow travel club visits Austria



Submitted photo

Deb and Jim Ziembra celebrate the holidays early and *The Register* came along for the flight across the Atlantic. They traveled to the Christmas Markets in Innsbruck and Salzburg, Austria and Munich, Germany with the Ludlow Travel Club. They brought the Christmas spirit home with them just in time for the holidays.

STRANGE from Page 1

or event and the resident who experiences the lack of communication. The only form of communication that breaks through to most residents is robocall. We've tried to use them as often as possible, but we also recognize that some residents would consider them to be too intrusive. Otherwise, again, we try to use all forms of media available, but inevitably there will be residents who do not get the messages in a timely manner. For example, we recently closed Town Hall early due to inclement weather. We had been monitoring road conditions and weather reports, but travel conditions got worse than we expected; so, we closed Town Hall and notified the public as quickly as possible. But for a resident who was not online and/or traveling to Town Hall to conduct their business, they likely would not have received notification of the closing until getting to Town Hall. Again, a robocall may have provided the notification in time for those residents, and maybe we need to explore a robocall policy that's reasonably narrow and protects residents.

5. What are some of the biggest challenges facing the Town of Ludlow? How does the Town plan to combat these issues and plan accordingly?

We have a terrific team of department heads and staff who provide high-level, comprehensive services to Town residents every day. And we are so thankful for their work. However, there are some market forces outside of our control that create significant challenges for the Town—rising health insurance costs and shallow candidate pools.

Proposition 2.5 is a law that was passed in 1980 and purports to limit how much Towns can increase property taxes year over year. And

the law has worked to keep annual tax increases incremental and controlled for the benefit of residents. However, with such a limitation on how much additional revenue can be generated by Towns, when outside variable costs like health insurance premiums rise exponentially, it creates hardships.

We expect employee health insurance premiums to increase by 18% in FY27, which is on the heels of a 15% increase in FY26. And indications are that these double-digit increases are more likely to be the norm than the exception every year. We will worry about FY28 and beyond when they present themselves, but for FY27 we will need to present options for Town Meeting to consider, including (1) a Proposition 2.5 override, or (2) eliminating Town-provided trash service, or (3) cutting the school and Town budgets, plus increasing the trash and recycling fee again.

We encourage residents to attend or watch the February 11th budget forum being held at the Ludlow High School auditorium. There are too many details for this article, but we need resident feedback on their preferred FY27 budget options.

Additionally, in terms of staffing, the candidate pool to replace outgoing Town staff is typically very shallow; so, the Town needs to be flexible and offer competitive compensation packages to attract the best candidates on the market. So those are the two issues that keep us up at night—budget and staffing.

6. Looking ahead to May 2026, specifically for the Town Meeting, why should residents make sure to attend?

We have a Representative Town Meeting form of government; so only elected Town Meeting members can vote, but residents are able to voice their opinions at Town Meeting, and we encourage

them to do so. We will have an important vote on the annual FY27 budget plus other proposals to make the Town government more efficient. We are working on the Town Meeting warrant articles now and will be presenting them to the Select Board in the March/April timeframe.

7. Why should people live in Ludlow? What are aspects that you like while working in Town?

Ludlow is Town where you can live, work, and play. A place where you can feel and be safe. We also provide the highest quality services to various populations, including a fully programmed Senior Center, which still serves the best daily \$2 lunch around, a Vets Center that provides the gamut of services for Ludlow veterans and their families, the Hubbard Memorial Library provides extensive educational and cultural offerings for Ludlow families, the highly popular Westover Municipal Golf Course offers a scenic and serene getaway for area golfers, and so much more.

We also offer a lively commercial district on Center Street near the Pike entrance, which offers shopping choices and allows Ludlow residents easy access to points East and West for work commutes. We have strong schools that will educate, support, and care for your children. Our small business community is vibrant with the Ludlow Mills continuing to grow and expand our downtown corridor and regional destinations like Randall's Farm and others.

We encourage people to visit getlostinludlow.com for a community events calendar and a visual listing of some of the Town's amazing small businesses. There is so much to love about being in Ludlow and working for the Town, and these are just a few examples.

What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library

To register for programs or find out more information, visit ludlow.cwmars.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 10-2. Closed Saturdays during the summer, Sundays and holidays.

The library will be resuming regular operating hours on September 1. Please note a change in Saturday operating hours of 10-2 rather than 9-1.

FOR ALL AGES

Friends of the Hubbard Memorial Library, third Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m. Get involved! Join the Friends of the Library for their monthly meeting and learn how you can help support the library.

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. Those who participate will be entered to win a free book! For more information and to sign up, please visit massbook.org/readingchallenge.

Chair Volleyball for Seniors, every Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Have some fun and join us for chair volleyball! No running or jumping required. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408. Walk-ins are welcome.

Who picked this book? Book Club Meeting, first Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m. Join us for this month's Who picked this book? Book Club meeting! You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

Happy Hour Book Club Meeting, last Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. Join us for this month's Happy Hour Book Club meeting! You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

FOR TEENS

Anime Club, Tuesday, January 13 (biweekly), 3:30-5:00 pm. For middle and high schoolers. Registration recommended.

Online Gaming Club for YAs, every Thursday, 3:30 - 5:00 pm. For ages 10-15. We have Minecraft; for other games patrons need their own account. Please register.

FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

Sports Bingo, Friday, January 2, 9:30-10:30 am. All ages. Please register.

Cupcake Liner Fireworks Craft, Saturday, January 3, 10:30 - 12:30 am. All ages (scissor use required). Drop-in.

Tween Chaos Boardgame Club, Friday, January 2 (biweekly), 3:15-4:45 pm. Ages 10-14. Please register.

Pokemon Club, Wednesday, January 7 (biweekly), 3:30 - 4:45 pm. Grades 3-8. Please register.

Movie: Smurfs (2025), plus craft, Saturday, January 10, 11:00 - 12:30 pm. All

ages. Drop-in.

Youth Chess Club, Monday, January 12 (biweekly), 3:30-4:30 pm. Ages 9-17. All experience levels welcome. Please register.

Youth Crochet Club, Tuesday, January 13 (biweekly), 5:30-6:30 pm. For ages 10-17. Beginners welcome. Supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Sticker Making, Friday, January 16, Noon - 3:00 pm. All ages. Drop in.

Paper Patchwork Art, Saturday, January 17, 10:30 - 1:30 pm. All ages (scissor use required). Drop-in.

Lego Build Challenge, every Wednesday, 12:00 to 5:00 pm. 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.

FOR CHILDREN

Storytime Series for ages 3-5; There's Magic in the Library, Mondays, January 5 - February 24 (not Jan. 19 and Feb. 16) 10:00 am. Stories, songs, games and a craft about dragons, fairies, giants, and other magical beings. Space is limited, please register.

True Tales Storytime for Homeschooled 5-8 year olds, Wednesdays, January 7 - February 12, 1:00 pm. A gently educational storytime about real people and historical events with a craft or activity. Please register.

Mass Children's Book Award Book Group for 4th-6th Graders, Thursday, January 8, 6:00 - 6:45 pm. It's not too late to join! Kids decide who wins this award after reading 5 nominated books. Celebrate in April with a party sponsored by the Friends of the Library, and pose for photos for the newspaper! Please register.

Storytime Series for ages 2-3; There's Magic in the Library, Fridays, January 9 - February 14, 10:00 am. Stories, songs, games and a craft about dragons, fairies, giants, and other magical beings. Begins with 15 minutes of free play. Space is limited, please register.

Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup for 0-2 year olds, Thursdays, 9:45 - 10:30 am. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup for 2-5 year olds, Thursdays, 10:45 - 11:30 am. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

Sing With Me, every Tuesday, 10:30 to 11:00 a.m. For 0-5s. Drop-in.

Minecraft Club, every Saturday, noon to 1:50 pm. For ages 7-11. We have Minecraft accounts. Please register.

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

LFD from Page 1

our firefighter paramedics. Currently our four groups are staffed as follows, two crews with eight firefighters, two crews with nine, and my goal is to bring each crew to nine members creating consistent and balanced staffing across all shifts. The adjustment will improve response reliability, strengthen our ability to manage concurrent emergencies, and enhance overall safety for

both residents and firefighters. In 2001, I presented a staffing plan to the Board of Selectmen outlining this need and at that time, the board recognized and supported the department's concern resulting in two additional positions. I'm deeply appreciative of the support. However, despite this process our staffing levels have not increased enough to match the continued rise in emergency activity and community growth," ended Pease.

Pease went on to propose a plan to fund two new positions for the Town, which was the revolving fund discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on Dec. 17. Ongoing discussions and explanations are in this edition of *The Register*, covering the Finance Committee meeting that occurred last year. The board decided to have the Finance Committee take a look at this and have further discussions in future Town meetings.

Scan today to book a consult! 2026

POPO

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Free Fly Tying Classes

Sponsored by the Western Mass Fly Fishermen starting January 8th, 2026.

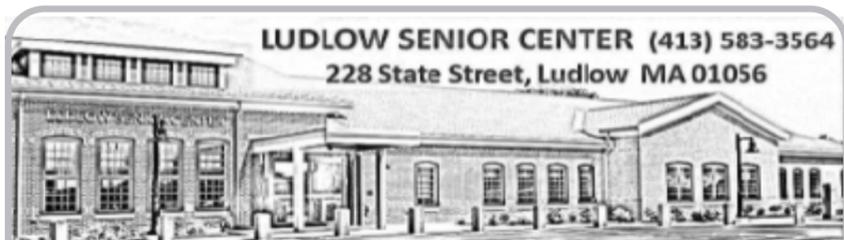
Held at the Ludlow Elks Lodge, 69 Chapin Street, Ludlow Mass. Thursday nights for 8 weeks from 7PM to 9PM.

The classes are open to the public with children 10 years and up being accompanied by an adult. Classes are geared to the beginner or novice. Course materials and tools will be supplied!

Space is limited and on a first come basis!

Please register online at <http://wmffclub.org> or Contact John Lawor at 413-579-1994.

OBITUARIES



LUDLOW SENIOR CENTER (413) 583-3564
228 State Street, Ludlow MA 01056

Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

Don't let winter keep you away from the Ludlow Senior Center! Gather with friends in the Center's beautiful dining room and enjoy a delicious lunch complete with coffee, tea, and dessert. To join us, just call 413-583-3564 a day in advance to reserve your spot (Call Friday for Monday lunch).

Don't miss out on what's happening. Pick up our monthly Newsletter at the Center or share your email with us to have it delivered straight to your inbox. You can also explore programs, find important forms, and learn more about what a Senior Center has to offer at ludlow.ma.us/coa/. And for the latest news and photos, be sure to "like" the Ludlow Senior Center on Facebook!

As the days grow colder, we look forward to sharing warm meals, great programs, and good company with you. Please note that if the Ludlow schools are closed or have a delay due to inclement weather, the Center will be closed or have a delayed opening. Be sure to check News 22 or 40 for delays or closings.

Activities Calendar:

Please register in advance for items with*

Thursday, January 8

9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation*
10:30 a.m. Friends of the Center Meeting

10:30 a.m. Sen. Oliveira Office Hour
12:45 pm. Mahjong
1:30 p.m. Ray of Elvis Concert
2 p.m. Writers Block
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

Friday, January 9

8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
9 a.m. Reiki by Appointment*
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
10 a.m. Shiloh Angels Home Care Info
1 p.m. Ceramics
1 p.m. Health Bones & Balance*
1 p.m. Decorating Committee Meeting

Monday, January 12

9 a.m. Knitting
9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
10 a.m. Computer Help
10 a.m. Post Crossing w/Michael Engel*
1 p.m. Scrabble
1:15 p.m. Pitch
1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencil Class*

2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold
Tuesday, January 13
9 a.m. Quilting
9 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Cribbage
10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga
10:30 a.m. National Pie Day Treats
1 p.m. Western Dance Class
1:30 p.m. Bingo
Evening Activities Return in Feb.

Wednesday, January 14
8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold
9 a.m. Ceramics
9 a.m. Mobile Dental Clinic by Appointment*
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*
12 p.m. Lunch & Learn*
1 p.m. Dominos
1 p.m. Movie: *King of the Wilderness* (2018)
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*

Thursday, January 15
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10 a.m. Life of MLK Talk*
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation
12:45 pm. Mahjong
1:30 p.m. Soap Making Fun*
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

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

Daily Events:

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

Menu:

Thursday, January 8: Lazy Pot Pie
Friday, January 9: Stuffed Cabbage/Buttered Egg Noodles
Monday, January 12: Hot Dog/Roll/Baked Beans/Cucumber Salad
Tuesday, January 13: Cobb Salad
Wednesday, January 14: Lasagna Rollette/Caesar Salad/Garlic Knot
Thursday, January 15: Taco Nachos
Friday, January 16: Shrimp Scampi/Linguini/Green Beans

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

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

James Almeida, 78

LUDLOW – James Almeida, 78, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home on Dec. 29, 2025 surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Ludlow on Nov. 16, 1947 to the late Antonio and Sophie (Pasierb) Almeida and was a graduate of Ludlow High School.



Jim was a Veteran of the United States Air Force with over 38 years of military service. He proudly served during the Vietnam and Iraq wars. He retired as a Chief Master Sergeant from the 104th Fighter Wing, Barnes Air National Guard Base, Westfield, Massachusetts. Jim was an active member of its Alumni Association. Jim worked as a Federal Quality Assurance Inspector with the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) until his retirement.

He will be remembered for his love of tinkering on anything mechanical, woodworking, target shooting, and collecting....; but above

all, his greatest enjoyment came from spending time with his family.

James was a devoted father to his four sons Jeffrey Almeida and his wife Kelly of Belchertown, Brian Almeida of Ludlow, David Almeida of Springfield, and Douglas Almeida and his wife Sheri of Westfield; the loving brother of Dorothy Davis and her husband Bill of Ludlow, Patti Beauregard and late husband Fred of Ludlow, and Mark Almeida and his wife Lonnie of Enfield; a cherished grandfather to Emma, Madison, Andrew, Tucker, and Christopher Almeida; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family members. Jim was also predeceased by his former wife Liz (Titus) Almeida.

Visiting hours for James will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 7 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Ludlow Funeral Home. Funeral services are on Thursday, Jan. 8 with visitation from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the funeral

DEATH NOTICES

James Almeida, 78
Died Dec. 29, 2025
Visitation: Jan. 7, 5 to 7 p.m.
Jan. 8, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Committal Mass. Veterans Cemetery, Jan. 8, 2 p.m.
Ludlow Funeral Home

Alice P. (Trett) Mannix
Died Dec. 28, 2025
Services Jan. 5, 2026
Ludlow Funeral Home

home concluding with a funeral home chapel service and followed by procession to Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery for a 2 p.m. committal with Military Honors.

In lieu of flowers, donations in James' memory can be made to the Ludlow Veterans' Assistance Fund c/o Ludlow Veterans' Services 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA 01056 or the Wounded Warrior Project.

Alice P. (Trett) Mannix, 78

LUDLOW – Alice P. (Trett) Mannix, 78, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully on Dec. 28, 2025 with her loving family by her side. Born in Dayton, OH, she was the beloved daughter of Charles and Florence (Gagnon) Trett. Alice lived most of her life in Ludlow where she worked as an educator for 28 years at Baird Middle School, from where she retired. She will be remembered as an avid line dancer, music lover, and collector of all things mermaid related, which was an extension of her love for the beach. Most of all, she will be remembered for her love and devotion to her family.

Alice was the beloved wife of Brian M. Mannix; a devoted mother to Michael B. Mannix and wife Eve of La Selva Beach, CA, and Shannon A. Mannix and spouse Tracey, of North Brookfield; a loving grandmother to Bayla Mae and Ashlyn; a dear sister to Charles Trett and wife Pamela, of Fryeburg, ME, Florence Ferraro and late husband Robert, of Lorain, OH, and the late Carlene Kulig; and also leaves many nieces, nephews, extended family members and dear



friends, including Michael Leigh Alves.

Visiting hours for Alice were held on Sunday, Jan. 4. Funeral services were on Monday, Jan. 5 from Ludlow Funeral Home with Liturgy of Christian Burial in St. Elizabeth Parish followed by burial in Island Pond Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Alice's memory to Baystate Home Health Hospice c/o Baystate Health Organization (www.baystatehealth.org).

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25P2684EA
Estate of:
Mildred C Zalewski
Date of Death: 12/10/2005
CITATION ON PETITION

FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will has been filed by Vincent F Stanek of Warren, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/27/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administra-

tion is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 30, 2025

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate

01/07/2026

Town of Ludlow Massachusetts LEGAL NOTICE

The Select Board opened the Warrant on December 16, 2025, for the May 11, 2026, Annual Town Meeting held at 7:30 p.m. at Ludlow High School. All Articles should be submitted to the Select Board's Office, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA no later than Friday, April 3, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. The Select Board will close the Warrant on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at their regular meeting.

Manuel Silva, Chairperson
Select Board

01/07, 01/14/2026

FINANCE COMMITTEE

from Page 1

earlier, the increases that we saw were related to contractual obligations. There were some non-wage expenses that increased over the last year, but the explanations were there, the departments and managers explained it was about dues, memberships, and other items that had to go up. We did see there were some attempts to right size

the staffing in the correct JDs and roles they were in; it was good dialogue back and forth. All in all, the budgets are lean, there's not a lot there that can be cut. But for those items that went up, there were explanations that were given by the department managers so certainly appreciate the time spent. I learned a lot and I certainly appreciated everybody putting up with all of our questions," ended Mullin.

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Lions pull out win over Longmeadow



Evan Dias reaches out to grab the loose puck near the wall.



Teddy Iwasinski recovers the puck



Rhett Ribeiro fights off a defender.



Will Mitus dekes with the puck as he heads up the ice.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD—The only high school sporting event in Western Massachusetts on the day after Christmas took place at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

The Berry Division match-up between the Longmeadow Lancers and the Ludlow Lions was an entertaining affair from start to finish.

The contest was tied five minutes into the third period when Ludlow senior captain Tannar Severyn netted an unassisted power-play. The Lions managed to hold onto the one-goal lead the rest of the way and celebrated a 4-3 come-from-behind victory before a large crowd.

“We fell behind 2-0 in the first period, but we were able to battle back,” said Ludlow head coach Paul Rivest. “We received some outstanding individual performances in tonight’s game. It’s also a very big win for us because the

Berry Division is very competitive this year.”

Following the one goal victory over the Lancers, the Lions had a 3-1 overall record and were in a four way tie for first place in the league standings with a 2-1 mark.

“We do have a very good culture on this year’s team,” Rivest added. “All of the players are friends and they’re always together. They have team dinners at different players’ houses. We also have a couple of outstanding team leaders. It’s a great group of kids.”

The Ludlow hockey team began a co-op with neighboring Belchertown High School a year ago.

The six Belchertown players listed on the Lions roster are sophomore Andrew Lambert, junior Will Mitus, junior Gavin Harrington, freshman Nolan Chianciola, freshman Luke DeStafano, and senior Donald Rogers.

Belchertown High School Principal Christine Vigneux attended Ludlow’s first meet-

ing of the regular season against Longmeadow as a fan.

The Lancers (2-2, 2-2) didn’t have very many chances to score during the final five minutes of regulation.

Rivest praised the performance of freshman Teddy Iwasinski.

“Teddy was on the ice for the last 1:45, which was a longer shift than I was expecting for him to be on the ice,” Rivest said. “He’s only five foot one, but he kept getting in the way of the Longmeadow players, which is something that doesn’t show up on the score sheet. Longmeadow couldn’t get the puck out of their own zone.”

Iwasinski plays on the same line as freshman Nathan Ribeiro and Severyn.

The game-winner was Severyn’s fourth goal of the season.

Things didn’t start out very well for the Lions, as the Lancers scored a pair of goals during the first ten minutes of the game.

Longmeadow took a 1-0

lead following a power-play goal from sophomore Anthony DiPietro four minutes into the opening period.

Seven minutes later, senior Alexander Hensch scored a breakaway goal giving the Lancers a two goal advantage.

Ludlow junior goalie Peter LeBorgne, who made his first start of the season, allowed just one more goal during the final 35 minutes of the match. He made a total of 14 saves.

The Lions clawed back with two goals during the final 1:38 of the first period, which tied the score.

Ten seconds after the Lions first power-play had ended, senior captain Nick Deroin scored a goal, cutting the deficit in half. Senior A.J. Stupek was credited with the assist.

With 5.1 seconds left in the period, senior captain Sean Kefalas, who’s been playing hockey for the past 13 years, received a pass from Ribeiro before firing a shot into the net past junior goalie Jackson Blais (7 saves) tying

the score at 2-2.

The Lions took the lead for the first time with 5:26 remaining in the second period when Deroin scored a short-handed goal. The duo of junior captain Evan Dias and Lambert were credited with assists on Deroin’s team-leading fifth goal of the season.

A little more than two minutes later, sophomore Alex DiNapoli poked a shot into the net, tying the score

once again at 3-3.

The score would remain tied until Severyn netted the game-winner a little more than five minutes into the final period.

The Lions will be looking to sweep the season series with the Lancers in the second meeting, which is scheduled to be held at Olympia at 8:30pm on February 12. The two squads split a year ago.

Ludlow girls wrestling places fourth at Tomkiel



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Andrew Ray gets a takedown for the Lions.

AGAWAM – Last Monday, Agawam High School hosted the Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament. The event included a boys and girls wrestling tournament.

Ludlow girls wrestling finished fourth overall with 93 points. The boys had a tough finish in their meet, with just 16 points in the meet. In the girls meet, Ella Libiszewski captured the win at 114 pounds while Samantha Bertini won at 120 pounds. Ludlow’s third champion in the girls meet was Riley Morais at 152 pounds.



Samantha Bertini locks up with an opponent in the girls tournament.



Hayden Del Rosario Rodriguez starts a match at 138 pounds.



Giovanni Perez scores the takedown.



Alex Winslow goes for a leg takedown.

Girls basketball finds offensive touch

MONSON – Last Tuesday evening, Ludlow High School girls basketball finished off the 2025 portion of its schedule with a 43-18 win over host Monson. Monson, which is struggling on offense, fell to just 0-6 on the season.

Monson was led by Cali Zielinski with eight points. Ludlow got 12 points from Aneysha Donais and eight points from Nora Adams in the win. Ludlow improved to 2-3 on the season.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Aneysha Donais one-hands a pass away.



Ellie Garcia fakes a move before passing.



Karley Roman eyes a teammate to her left.



Nora Adams looks around the offensive end of the court.



Reese Carroll gets the open shot ahead of pressure.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

from Page 4

ceased spouse's current benefit at death was more than the surviving spouse is already receiving. The surviving spouse receives the higher amount, instead of their own smaller Social Security retirement benefit.

But here is an important thing to know: Whenever any Social Security benefit (including a spousal or surviving spouse benefit) is claimed before the recipient's Full Retirement Age, the payment amount is permanently reduced, both spousal and survivor benefits do not reach maximum until the recipient's Full Retirement Age. And just to complete the picture for survivor benefits, a surviving spouse is also enti-

tled to a one-time, lump-sum death benefit of \$255 if their marital partner dies, in addition to any other benefit they are entitled to.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

PET PAGE



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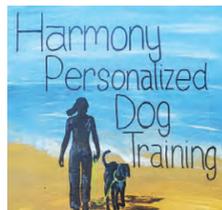
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Are Your Pets Bored?

When you think about how your pet spends their days, have you considered that they could actually be bored? Both dogs and cats can experience boredom, and they typically exhibit it through negative behavior.

Some signs of boredom to look for in your dog include destructive behavior like chewing, digging, and pawing, as well as whining, barking, and jumping. And although your cat spends a lot of the day napping, they will show repetitive behaviors such as overgrooming, chasing or fighting with other pets, and inactivity or seeming uninterested.

As a result, they tend to make their own stimulation by overeating or shredding fabric or toilet paper. It's important to keep your pets entertained, so here are some ways to prevent boredom in your pets.

For your dog:

Exercise- Most dogs love to go for walks. Try mixing up their routine every few days by changing the time of day and your route. Also, try running or hiking with your dog.

Toys- Longer-lasting chew toys, food puzzles or fillable toys are great options for a bored dog. Fill a food puzzle toy with your dog's favorite treats to keep them busy and

happy.

Mental Stimulation- Teach your pup some new, more complicated commands other than the basics like sit and stay. Play nose games with your dog and hide treats around the house for them to sniff out. You can also engage in more physical play such as fetch and tug-of-war to keep them mentally engaged and on their paws.

For your cat:

Toys- Interactive toys that cats can chase or chew, as well as scratching posts to provide them with an acceptable place to scratch. These toys can often double as

exercise for your cat, especially ones that they are chasing around the house.

Trees & Towers- Cats can be pretty nosy, so place tall cat trees and towers close to windows to keep your cats entertained with what's happening in the neighborhood and do some bird watching!

Mental Stimulation- Engage in treasure hunts with hidden treats around your home or begin training your cat to reinforce and encourage positive behavior.

The most important part of pet ownership is to spend quality time with them.

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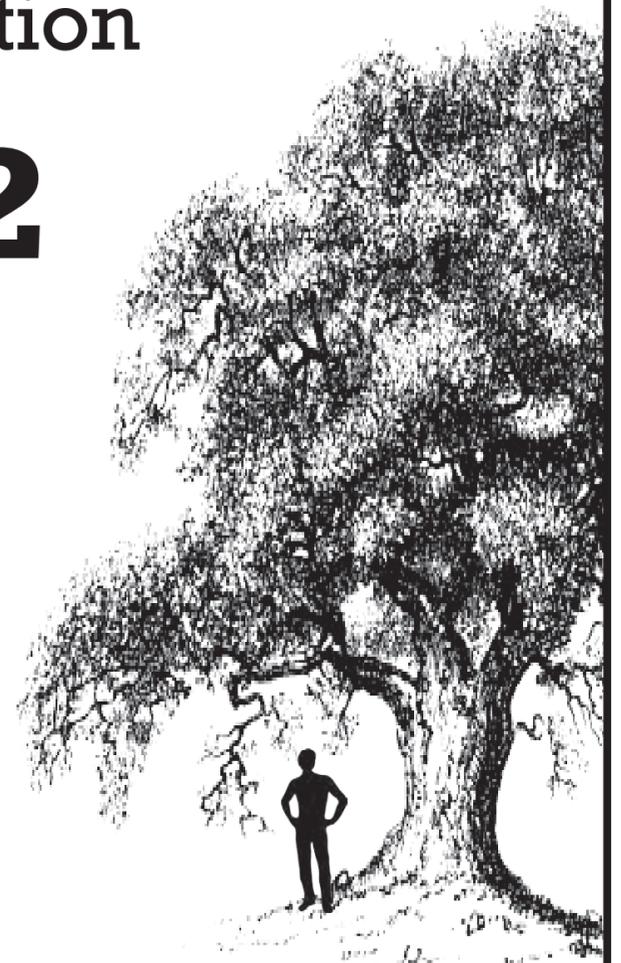
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