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# The REGISTER

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## Four students head to All-State music competition

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Editor  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – Four students from the school’s music department are headed to audition for the All-State music competition next weekend.

Music Director Kevin McAvoy has been a teacher for the district since 2008 and took over teaching band and chorus at the High School about two years ago. He reflected on the music program’s performances over the last month, as well as looking ahead to shows and accolades coming this semester.

The band and chorus held its annual Holiday Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 18, as a free concert for the public in the high school auditorium.

“The holiday concert was a lot of fun,” McAvoy said. “The band and chorus do a combined number at the end that they really had fun with. They always



Submitted photos

Members of the High School Band will compete to qualify for the all-state district festival.

look forward to this concert.”

McAvoy praised the “really great solos” from the holiday concert, which were performed by Peyton Brennan, Caitlin Day, Madison Koske, and Jade

Scheafer-Cunha.

Preparation for the annual concert involves balancing rehearsals with other performances the department does, such as the annual Tree-Lighting at

Town Hall. McAvoy said that his students started preparing for the concert as far back as November.

“I try not to start it too early because it’s holiday music and it’s hard to get into holiday spirit

in October,” McAvoy said.

This year’s concert included some more challenging per-

Please see **MUSIC COMPETITION**, Page 7

## BOH schedules hearing on tobacco sale regulations

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Editor  
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LUDLOW – The Board of Health has scheduled a public hearing on Thursday, Jan. 16, to discuss updates to tobacco regulations.

The town’s current regulations for the retail sale of tobacco products have not been updated since 2018. Health Director Paulina Matusik said that the board has met to discuss these updates twice last year, on March 16 and Nov. 19 of 2024.

“There’s a little bit of change,” Matusik said. “A couple of those changes are changing the maximum number of tobacco product sales.”

Matusik said that the town currently allows 20 retail establishments to sell tobacco, and that the proposed regulations would drop to a maximum of 16.

“We’re also looking to ban smoking bars, and possibly proposing a limit on oral nicotine products to six milligrams,” Matusik said.

Other changes would affect the suspension and violation period and finding other ways to align with state regulations.

“The last major change is regarding retail density,” Matusik said. “For example, no

tobacco sale permits would be issued to applicants within 1,000 feet of an existing retailer, and no tobacco product sales permits would be issued to a retail location within 500 feet of a public or private elementary or secondary school.”

Matusik said that these regulations would not affect existing businesses, and would only apply to new permits being issued. The full 14-page draft of the regulation is available on the board’s website, where the changes are highlighted in yellow for changes to the state law and green for other proposed changes.

The draft with the relevant changes was emailed to all tobacco retailers ahead of the previously scheduled meeting. Matusik said that she has received some correspondence from citizens concerned that there wouldn’t be an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes.

“The correspondence we received seemed as though they thought these regulations are set in stone and would affect their business,” Matusik said. “The board would like to hear everyone’s input and will take that into account be-

Please see **BOH**, Page 5



Submitted photo

250th Committee Co-Chair Kathy Quimette (left) and 250th Book Committee Chair Brian Bylicki (right) donated a copy of the history book to Big Y employees Samantha Wilkerson, Maria Gamache, and Lauren Ducey.

## The 250th Committee announces where the history book can be purchased

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Editor  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – The 250th Committee’s history book is now available for purchase at the local Big Y.

The 250th Book Committee spent over two years compiling a book of the town’s history through collaborations with local historians and institutions. The committee has donated copies of the book to

the Hubbard Memorial Library, the school libraries, and to the Town Clerk’s office, where they are available for \$32 each.

The book includes the history of the town’s founding and specific buildings, including the mills, the Town Meeting House, the library, Randall’s Farm, Exit 7 theatre, the Boys & Girls’ Club, and several others. Also included are historic photos that were taken across the 250 years since the town was established.

Supplies of the 250th book are limited, so the committee encourages people interested in getting a copy to pick one up from the places where it’s being sold as soon as possible.

To close out its year, the 250th Celebration Committee will be holding a Last Night on Feb. 22, 2025. The event is expected to have a bonfire, crafters, face-painting, a historical presentation, live music, train rides, and to end with fireworks.

# LUDLOW

## MMWEC Receives \$2.3 Million in Federal Tax Credits for Solar Project through IRA

LUDLOW – Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, the Commonwealth’s designated joint action agency for municipal utilities, is pleased to announce it has received a direct payment from the Internal Revenue Service for \$2.34 million under the Inflation Reduction Act.

MMWEC applied for the tax credit under the IRA for the MMWEC/Master Sergeant Alexander Cotton Memorial Solar Project, a 6.9 megawatt solar array located on the MMWEC site in town.

It is believed MMWEC is one of the first public power joint action agencies to benefit from this clean energy tax credit direct payment under the IRA. MMWEC’s success story sets a powerful example of how public power utilities, with the help of joint action, can leverage federal support to advance sustainability and reduce costs for their communities.

Six municipal utilities, located in Boylston, Ipswich, Mansfield, Marblehead, Peabody and Wakefield, participate in the Cotton Solar Project. Project development and the permitting process began in 2021, and the solar array was energized in 2023.

The IRA, signed into law in August 2022, brought with it a new investment tax credit for clean energy projects. Since then, there have been a series of guidance documents and updates issued by the IRS and other federal agencies to implement the applicable section of the law applying to these projects.

MMWEC staff worked with tax professionals to ensure all documentation was complete and in order over many months before filing the required return in November 2024. MMWEC received the direct payment for the full amount of the project qualified for of \$2.34 million in mid-December 2024.

MMWEC is working to determine the best way to maximize the positive impact the IRA funds will have on the project and its participating municipal utilities.

There is potential to eliminate ap-



Submitted photos

The IRS has provided \$2.34 million in Inflation Reduction Act funds to the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company.

proximately three and a half years of debt service costs for project participants. This direct payment not only strengthens the Cotton Solar Project, but also reaffirms the immense value and potential of public power, showcasing how collaboration, innovation and federal support can work together to make clean energy more affordable, accessible and beneficial for the communities that need it most.

“We are incredibly proud of how the Cotton Solar Project continues to demonstrate the strength and benefits of public power,” said Haley Pedruczny, Treasurer of MMWEC. “This direct payment under the Inflation Reduction Act not only boosts the Project’s success but also ensures that our Project Participants’ communities will continue to benefit from affordable, sustainable energy. We are committed to making the most of these

funds to further reduce costs for our Cotton Solar Project Participants, and this is just one more example of how public



power can deliver lasting positive impacts.”

“This achievement underscores the role that public power plays in the clean energy landscape, proving that public power utilities are not only leaders in providing reliable, affordable power but are also pivotal in advancing the transition to a sustainable future,” said Joseph Kowalik, General Manager, Marblehead Municipal Light Department, and project participant. “Having MMWEC as a joint action agency, with its breadth of expertise and cost saving solutions, offers the municipal utilities a unique advantage in our decarbonized tomorrow.”

MMWEC is a not-for-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts created by an Act of the General Court in 1975 and authorized to issue tax-exempt debt to finance a wide range of energy facilities. MMWEC provides a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state’s consumer-owned, municipal utilities. It is the largest provider of asset-owned generation for municipal light departments in New England.

The MMWEC is one of the first public power joint action agencies to benefit from the clean energy tax credit under the Inflation Reduction Act.



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**“This achievement underscores the role that public power plays in the clean energy landscape, proving that public power utilities are not only leaders in providing reliable, affordable power, but are also pivotal in advancing the transition to a sustainable future,” said Joseph Kowalik, General Manager.**

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Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**



Submitted photo

Members of the Knights of Columbus invited the community to enjoy a meatloaf dinner at the St. Elizabeth's Pastoral Center.

## Knights of Columbus Meatloaf Dinner

LUDLOW – The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Meatloaf Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 5:30 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth's Pastoral Center.

All proceeds will benefit the Community Survival Center.

Chef Mike from Randall's will

prepare a delicious homemade meatloaf with French onion gravy, roasted vegetables and creamy mashed potatoes. The meal will also include a vegetarian option, along with dessert, coffee, tea, and lemonade.

Tickets are \$20 each, \$60 for a

family of 4 or more, if purchased by Jan. 13, or \$25 at the door and can be purchased by contacting: Jim Meehan (547-8822), Dave Bergeron (427-6584), Jonathan Wood (834-2341), or Tony Silva (364-6518). Take-out dinners will also be available.

## Nomination papers available for the March 2025 Annual Town Election

LUDLOW - Nomination papers for the March 24, 2025, Annual Town Election are available through January 31, 2025.

Two openings for Board of Selectmen, three year terms

One opening for Board of Assessors, three year term

One opening for Board of Health, three year term

One opening for Housing Authority, five year term

One opening for Library Trustee, three year term

One opening for Planning Board, five year term

One opening for Planning Board,

two year unexpired term

One opening for Recreation Commission, three year term

One opening for Recreation Commission, two year unexpired term

Two openings for School Committee, three year terms

One opening for School Committee, one year unexpired 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.

Nomination papers for all the above offices must be filed at the Town Clerk's office by 5 p.m. on Jan. 31, 2025.

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.



### MAVERICK

This is Maverick, a one-year-old mini Bernedoodle from Ludlow who loves to play fetch with his two best friends, Adriana and Cristiano.

We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mgusmao@turley.com.



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### January is National Soup Month Fresh "Homemade" Soups ~ 2 Each Day



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## Oliveira sworn in for second term

BOSTON — State Sen. Jake Oliveira (Ludlow, D) officially began his second term in the Massachusetts State Senate today, taking the oath of office during a formal swearing-in ceremony at the Massachusetts State House. Surrounded by family, friends, and supporters, Oliveira reaffirmed his commitment to the residents of the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District, vowing to continue his work to strengthen communities, advocate for regional equity, and build a brighter future for all in his district.

“It has been my sincere honor and an incredible privilege to serve the people of the Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District,” said Oliveira. “As we enter this new legislative session, I remain committed to fighting for regional equity for Western Mass and the priorities that matter most to our communities: ensuring access to quality education, addressing the housing crisis, creating pathways for economic opportunity, and safeguarding our environment for future generations.”

First elected in 2022, Oliveira has established himself as a tireless advocate for his district. He



Submitted Photo

### Oliveira Sworn in for Second Term Representing the Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester District.

joined his colleagues in the Senate to champion key initiatives such as free community college through MassReconnect and Universal School Meals for All. Oliveira also secured funding for investments in local infrastructure and critical support for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. During his first term, he also worked to secure increased

funding for public education, strengthen healthcare accessibility, and support local workforce development programs.

Looking ahead, Oliveira plans to build on this momentum by advancing legislation that addresses the unique challenges faced by the district. He emphasized his commitment to working collaboratively with Legislators, community leaders, and constituents to ensure that everyone’s voice is heard on Beacon Hill.

“Over the last two years, we’ve worked collaboratively to secure more than 2 million dollars in additional funds that directly impacted the residents of the district, supporting our veterans, our seniors, and initiatives impacting workforce development, providing mental health services, and growing our region’s economy,” said Oliveira.

“The Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District is more than just a collection of communities. It’s my home. I’m incredibly grateful for the opportunity to represent it in the Legislature and for the trust the residents of the district have placed in me by electing me to a second term.”

## Murder mystery dinner

BELCHERTOWN — The Belchertown Historical Association is holding its annual murder mystery dinner on Saturday, Feb. 1 at Tony and Penny’s Restaurant in Ludlow. The show will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. Guests can arrive as early as 5:30 p.m.

This year’s show, written by Paula Hilton, is entitled Pirates, Lies and Mail-order brides. Look forward to the hilarious antics of the BUCC Players from the Belchertown United Church of Christ, as they portray Red Leg the Dreaded and his trusty side-kick Pillage Ann Freebooty and others characters in this fun look at pirates who have left the glamorous life of pirating and joined the real world in real world jobs.

Plan a night out of dinner and entertainment while supporting our historical association, the church and a local restaurant business. The tickets are \$47 and include the show, dinner and dessert. There will be a cash bar. Tickets are available at Cold Spring Discount Liquors (on the Belchertown Common) or by contacting Sally Shattuck 413-230-2022 or sallyshattuck54@gmail.com.

## Wilbraham Public Library invites families to Storytime Fun

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library is thrilled to announce a special storytime event designed for families with young children. Join us for a morning of delightful stories, engaging songs, and fun activities on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 10 a.m.

This interactive Storytime session will feature:

Captivating stories: Enjoy a selection of engaging picture books that spark imagination and foster a love of reading.

Sing-alongs: Join in on lively songs and rhymes that encourage movement and interaction.

This event is free and open to the public, but registration is encouraged to ensure adequate space for all attendees. To register, please visit the Wilbraham Public Library website or contact the library directly at (413) 596-6141.

Contact: Lisa Berezin lberezin@wilbraham-ma.gov

## Boy Scout spaghetti dinner

BELCHERTOWN— A spaghetti dinner, sponsored by Belchertown Boy Scout Troop 507, will be held on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 4 to 7 p.m., at the Swift River Sportsman’s Club. To help with food planning, please buy tickets ahead of time, from a Boy Scout or by contacting Jenn at 802-735-4938. Tickets will be available at the door. Simultaneously, there will be a gift basket raffle, sponsored by the Belchertown Lion’s Club, to support Boy Scout Troop 507.

All proceeds from this event will support our Boy Scouts attending Florida National High Adventure Sea Base, in Islamorada, FL. The Sea Base program offers the Scouts the opportunity to live on a sailboat for 5 days, where they will swim, sail, snorkel, kayak and fish, making memories that will last a lifetime while practicing and honing their survival skills learned throughout scouting. Please plan to attend.

## Stay off the ice this winter

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - How thick is safe ice? Ice on moving waters in rivers, streams and brooks is generally not safe.

The thickness of ice on ponds depends on factors such as water currents, depth and natural objects like stumps or rocks. Daily changes in temperature can cause ice to expand and contract, which affects its stability.

Because of these factors, no one can declare the ice to be safe. The only safe ice is at a skating rink.

A message from fire and life safety educators of Wilbraham and Hampden.

## Baystate Wing Auxiliary selling Lotto calendars

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

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

The calendars are on sale at the Baystate Wing Hospital gift

shop. Funds raised by the annual Lotto Calendars support the Auxiliary’s scholarship program and their philanthropic efforts that benefit Baystate Wing Hospital.

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

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

## WPD seeking owner of found cell phone

WILBRAHAM – The police department is asking for the public’s help in finding the owner of a found cell phone, sharing this bulletin to their Facebook page on Dec. 31:

“An Android cell phone was recently found at Fountain Park. If it’s yours, it will be at the Wilbraham Police Department, 2780 Boston Road.

You will need to provide proof of ownership. It appears to be functional and is currently charging.”

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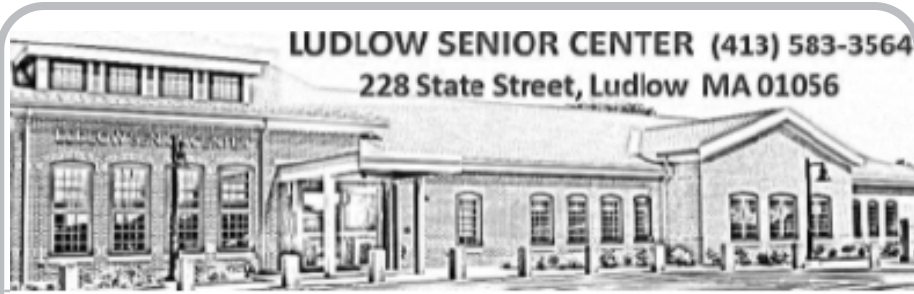
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## Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

LUDLOW— The calendar is packed with many fitness programs, entertainment, education sessions, and more. 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. 9

- 8:45 a.m. Foot Care by Appointment\*
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Dominos
- 10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation\*
- 10:30 a.m. Senator Oliveira Office Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Friends of Senior Center Meeting
- 1 p.m. Mahjong
- 1 p.m. Tie-Dye Tote Bag Craft\*
- 2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

#### Friday, Jan. 10

- 8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*
- 9 a.m. Fitness Advisor Appointment\*
- 9 a.m. Reiki Appointments\*
- 10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*
- 10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
- 10:30 a.m. Trivia
- 1 p.m. Ceramics
- 1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class\*
- 1 p.m. Magic Class

#### Monday, Jan. 13

- 8:45 p.m. Foot Care by Appointment\*
- 9:00 a.m. Knitting
- 9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*
- 10 a.m. Computer Help
- 10:30 a.m. Music Class\*
- 1 p.m. Scrabble
- 1:15 p.m. Pitch
- 2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

#### Tuesday, Jan. 14

- 9 a.m. Quilting
- 9 a.m. Line Dancing
- 9:30 a.m. Walmart Trip\*
- 10 a.m. Cribbage
- 10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga
- 1 p.m. Western Dance Class

- 1:30 p.m. Bingo
- 4:30 p.m. Power Pump Exercise Class
- 4:45 p.m. Movie: It Ends With Us (2024)
- 5:45 p.m. Guidance by Li Grief Support\*

#### Wednesday, Jan. 15

- 9 a.m. Ceramics
- 9 a.m. Zumba Gold
- 10 a.m. Opera Appreciation
- 10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*
- 12 p.m. Lunch & Learn\*
- 12:50 p.m. Movie: It Ends With Us (2024)
- 1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*
- 4:30 p.m. COA Board Meeting

#### Thursday, Jan. 16

- 8:45 a.m. Foot Care by Appointment\*
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Dominos
- 10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation\*
- 1 p.m. Mahjong
- 2 p.m. Writer's Block\*
- 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, Jan. 9: Cobb Salad
- Friday, Jan. 10: American Chop Suey/Side Salad
- Monday, Jan. 13: Sloppy Joe/Tater Tots/Carrot-Raisin Salad
- Tuesday, Jan. 14: Corn Chowder/Chicken Salad Finger Sandwich/Chips
- Wednesday, Jan. 15: Lunch & Learn, Lazy Turkey Pot Pie/Biscuit
- Thursday, Jan. 16: Birthday Lunch! Salisbury Steak/Mashed Pot/Carrots

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

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

# Markey celebrates passage of Social Security Fairness Act

## Markey celebrates passage of Social Security Fairness Act

WASHINGTON— Sen. Edward J. Markey, Chair of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security, released the following statement after the Senate voted to pass the Social Security Fairness Act, legislation which would restore full Social Security benefits for nearly three million retired public servants.

"Last night, Congress passed the Social Security Fairness Act. Once signed by the president, we will finally repeal the Draconian laws that robbed an entire generation of teachers, firefighters, postal workers, and public servants of all stripes of the benefits they earned. By passing the Social Security Fairness Act, we will right this historic wrong; restore Social Security benefits to millions of Americans, includ-

ing 130,000 in Massachusetts, and finally deliver for the workers who have delivered for their communities. To the nearly 3 million public servants and their families who will finally receive the retirement benefits they deserve: thank you for your service to your communities and your unwavering advocacy. I will always fight for public servants and retirees."

The Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset reduce the Social Security benefits of public servants and their surviving family members who receive a public pension. Those impacted paid into Social Security but are unable to receive the full benefits they earned. The Social Security Fairness Act would repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset, which currently impact nearly 3 million public servants. Following passage in the House, the bill passed the Senate with a vote of 76-20.

## Winter Visual Arts showcase at PVPA

SOUTH HADLEY— PVPA welcomed the public to a Winter Visual Arts Showcase, featuring first semester works of the Visual Arts and Technical Theater department, before their winter break.

PVPA's Mainstage Theatre was transformed into a Pop-up Art Gallery where hundreds of visitors viewed the work of the budding artists, as well as works by PVPA Visual Arts instructors. Featured works included puppetry, painting, drawing, ceramics, fiber arts, and digital media, with students on hand to discuss their work.

The Visual Arts Showcase was one of more than a dozen Main Stage productions that occur annually at the school,

spanning the four Arts Departments: Visual Arts/Technical Theater, Music, Dance and Theater. The next production will be the Music Department Showcase, Winter Grooves, on Jan. 10 and Jan. 11, followed by a Middle School Theater Cabaret on Jan. 17. For more information about upcoming shows [www.pvpa.org/shows](http://www.pvpa.org/shows).

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts is a free, regional public charter school serving 400 students in grades 7-12, from over 50 towns throughout Western Massachusetts. The school seeks to connect the creative process with critical thinking to inspire a love of learning. Currently accepting applications for the 2025/2026 school year at [www.pvpa.org/admissions](http://www.pvpa.org/admissions).



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BOH from Page 1

fore they make any changes."

"We want a response, we want feedback, and we want to make sure the policy changes being made don't negatively affect businesses in town," Matusik said. "We want to work with businesses to make sure we're making the correct updates."

After being rescheduled from its previous session due to "unforeseen

circumstances," the hearing regarding these updates is now scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 16, at 5 p.m. In case of another rescheduling, a backup date has been set for Feb. 6.

Matusik invited local business owners with an interest in tobacco sale regulations to attend the meeting and share their thoughts and concerns.

"We want to hear what businesses have to say, and we want to work together in order to update regulations," Matusik said.

### HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Send your stories and photos to [mgusmao@turley.com](mailto:mgusmao@turley.com)

# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### I use only VA healthcare; can I get back Medicare taxes paid?

Dear Rusty

I'm 72 years old with 20 years of military service. I am retired collecting Social Security, my military pension and State retirement benefits. According to my SSA statement, over my working lifetime I paid \$14,302 into Medicare, but I never used that medical plan. I only bring in \$33,000 in annual income. Can I get those Medicare taxes back somehow? I've run into dead ends at SSA, Medicare and IRS websites.

Signed Veteran Seeking Answers

Dear Veteran Seeking Answers

First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. You may find the "For Veterans" section of our [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org) website of interest.

Regarding the contributions you have made over the years to federal Medicare, I'm afraid you cannot get any of those taxes back even though you have never used Medicare healthcare services. That's because Medicare, like Social Security, is a "pay as you go" program where all contributions received from workers are used to pay for benefits for current beneficiaries; contributions aren't put into a separate account to pay for your coverage.

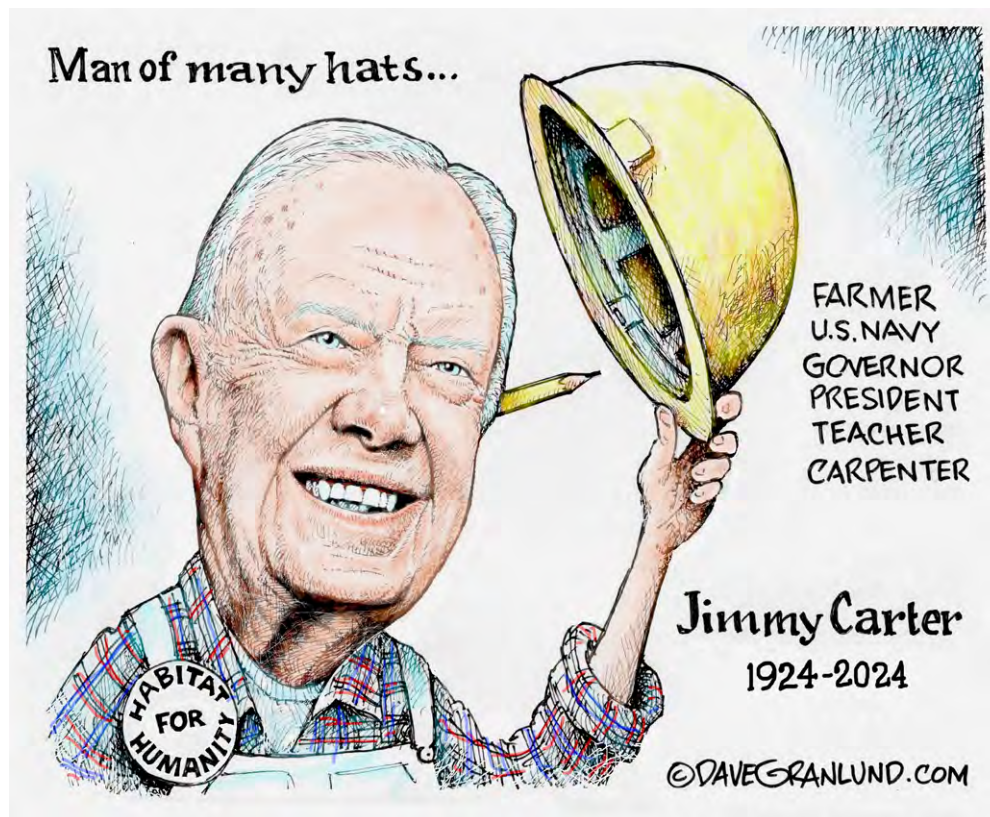
It's also important to know that your Medicare taxes were used only to fund Medicare Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services. Those contributions via payroll taxes did not entitle you to outpatient healthcare services, as provided by Medicare Part B, for which there is a monthly premium.

FYI, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A to collect Social Security benefits after age 65. Medicare Part B isn't mandatory to collect Social Security, but assuming that, as a retired military veteran, you now receive healthcare benefits under the military's TriCare-for-Life program for retired veterans, you must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B to maintain your TriCare-for-Life coverage.

Your military TriCare coverage coordinates with Medicare to pay for your healthcare costs. Thus, even though it may not be transparent to you, you may be benefiting from your current enrollment in Medicare.

Note that some non-career veterans can use VA healthcare services based on their service years instead of TriCare-for-Life for retired military veterans. Non-career recipients of standard VA healthcare services are not required to be enrolled in Medicare but, in any case, cannot receive their past Medicare Part A contributions back if they choose to decline Medicare. You may have interest in this article I previously published on the topic of VA benefits versus Medicare: [www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-i-have-va-coverage-should-i-get-medicare-part-b/](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-i-have-va-coverage-should-i-get-medicare-part-b/)

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



## GUEST COLUMN



### A New Year of possibilities

I spent last night curled up on the couch with a seed catalog in hand. It was a nostalgic few hours for me, in which I was transported back decades, to when gardening was new and my time and energy were boundless.

Regardless of it being the present day, I began circling this and that, and even curled a few pages too. All the fruit and vegetables I could grow, and store, and preserve, and eat, all year long.

Could my homesteading nature be bubbling back up to the surface? Perhaps. And wouldn't that wonderful if it could be a reality? It surely would.

Talk about an admirable ambition for the New Year.

I started to think about what my family eats on a regular basis and what I would have to do to grow enough food to last throughout the year or at least seriously supplement what we typically buy. The most important considerations are taste and productivity.

If a variety is productive, but doesn't taste great, then what is the point?

I have "plugged" Fedco Seeds a number of times through the years. The newsprint catalog is full of such great information; follow up by looking online ([fedcoseeds.com](http://fedcoseeds.com)) to get a color picture of what you will grow. I specifically enjoy reading the personal recommendations from the trialers in many of the descriptions!

The biggest problem I have growing

tomatoes is with early blight. Last night I found a great disease resistant paste tomato called Plum Regal that will suit my needs well, hopefully yielding many quarts of sauce for the cupboards.

And what about that Little Dipper Butternut Squash? Disease resistance reigns true here, with taste and productivity ranking high too. Twenty-two fruits from three plants? I'll take it.

Succession planting is paramount if I want to grow lots of food consistently. This planting method is defined as "planting more than once."

It can be planting lettuce, for example, every two weeks throughout the growing season or planting beets in the spot the peas vacated. Reading the catalog reminded me that not every variety is suited for succession sowing.

In other words, the lettuce I sow for an early spring sowing might not be best for planting in the summer, and summer lettuce definitely won't be the best to extend my growing from fall into winter. I will definitely plan accordingly.

Likewise, I may love "Jade" green beans, but they wouldn't be the best for my first sowing because they are white seeded and typically white seeded beans rot in cool soil. I'll start with a dark seeded bean.

I am really looking forward to trying to grow a few new things this year, watermelon and cantaloupe to be exact. Less fruit to buy is a good thing, right?

I learned some tips from the catalog. Namely, to start the melons indoors, then transplant at two or three weeks old, before the roots tangle, into soil that has been amended with lots of aged manure or compost and prewarmed with black plastic mulch.

Using row covers over the plants until flowers appear will keep off the cucumber beetles and provide additional heat. The catalog also provided some interesting tips on how to harvest ripe melons.

When I did manage to grow a plant to maturity, there is absolutely nothing worse than cutting into a melon notoriously un-

Please see **GARDEN**, Page 7

### 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](mailto:theregister@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered

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

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

#### Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the

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

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

## The REGISTER

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

### SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Readers, local merchants, institutions, municipalities, non-profit groups, and civic organizations are strongly encouraged to send The Register your hometown news and photos. News items and press releases should be sent via email to [mharrison@turley.com](mailto: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](mailto: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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# What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library?

To register for programs or find out more information, visit [ludlow.cwmars.org](http://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 9-1. Closed Sundays and holidays.

## FOR ALL AGES

**Social Services Drop-In,** Wednesday, January 15, 11:00 a.m. Come meet with our Social Worker for assistance with getting connected to food pantries and applying for food stamps, health insurance questions, referrals to treatment and support groups, supporting those with mental health concerns, free fentanyl test strips and condoms AND MORE! This program is made possible through the Mill Town Public Health Coalition.

**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.

## FOR ADULTS

**Monday Craft - Mosaic Coasters, Monday, January 6, 10:00 a.m.** This Monday we'll be making mosaic coasters! All materials provided. Register online, space is limited.

**Financial Wellness: How to Reduce Your Spending, Thursday, January 9, 6:00 p.m.** Whether you are looking to save money, reduce spending, or fulfill a New Year's resolution, this program will offer tools and tips to help you get financially fit! Join us with a local expert as we help you on your financial journey! Register online.

**Jewelry Making, Tuesday, January 14, 6:00 p.m.** We are excited to welcome back Sandy, who is returning for another hands-on jewelry making session! Get out of the cold and warm up with us as we make something truly unique and beautiful. Register online.

**Mysterious Massachusetts, Thursday, January 23, 6:00 pm.** Every state has its ghost stories, but no other state has the Dover Demon or the Salem Witch Trials. From seaside ghosts to UFO's over the Berkshires, we have a look at some of the most famous Massachusetts paranormal history. Presented by GeekGal. Middle & high schoolers are welcome. Register online.

**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](http://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

**Chess Club, every other Monday (January 13 and January 27) 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.** All experience levels are welcome for an hour of chess, some instruction provided. For ages 9-17, please register.

**"Sun and Snow" Beaded Beauties for YAs, Tuesday (January 14) 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.** For tweens and teens. Sandy brings a HUGE selection of beads and will teach how to make beaded snowflakes and sparkling suncatchers. Please register.

**Youth Crochet Club, every other Tuesday (January 14 and January 28) 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.** For ages 10-17. For beginners up to experienced crocheters, supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

**Nintendo Switch Night for YAs, Tuesday (January 21) 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.** For middle and high school. Play Mario Kart, Smash Bros, or other Switch games while munching on free pizza and drinks! 16 person limit. Please register.

**Magic the Gathering Club, Monthly, Thursday (February 6) 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.** For middle and high school. Bring your cards or use our decks. Please register.

**"Read Between the Lines" High School Book Group, once a month, Friday (January 24) 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.** Monthly book chat for ages 14-17. For January the group is reading *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros. Copies will be available in the Youth Room. Registration preferred.

**Open Sew Saturday (January 18) 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** For tweens, teens, and adults. Extra help for the Sewing Club project or bring your own project, with expert seamstress Janet Foy on hand to provide advice and support. Drop-in.

## FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

**Ice Cream Read-A-Thon! Monday (January 27) to Saturday (February 1)** For kids. We're making HUGE sundaes of reading! Get a paper scoop of ice cream for every book you check out this week. Write the titles of the books on the scoops and bring them back by Saturday, February 1. Add them to the super-sundaes on the wall. Go home with a sweet ice cream shaped treat! Drop in.

**Pokemon Club, every oth-**

**er Wednesday (January 22 and February 5) 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.** For 8-14. Trading, dueling, and gaming on your own handhelds, phones, or Nintendo Switch. Please have your name on everything you bring to the club. Please register.

**Tween Graphic Novel Book Group, Thursday (January 23) 5:00 p.m.-5:45 p.m.** For ages 9-13. Meet each month with other graphic novel lovers to discuss and share books, play games, make crafts, and eat snacks. For January the group will be reading *The Witch Boy* by Molly Ostertag. Copies of the book are available in the Youth Room. Please register.

**Mass. Children's Book Award Book Group, second Thursday of the month (January 9 and February 13) 6:00 p.m.-6:45 p.m.** For 4th-6th graders. Kids decide who wins this award after reading at least 5 nominated books. For January the club is reading "The One Thing You'd Save" by Linda Sue Park. Copies are available in the youth room. Meet each month to share opinions, play games, enjoy free snacks, and talk about what you read and which book you think should be the winner. Please register.

**Third Thursday Sewing Club for YAs: Make iPad/Tablet Cases, Thursday (January 16) 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.** For ages 9-17. Learn how to sew a cool, protective case for a tablet, all materials provided. Please register.

**Friday Online Club, previously Roblox Club, every Friday, 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.** Play Roblox, Minecraft or other online group games. Meet new friends or play with old ones. Feel free to use one of the library Minecraft accounts: please sign up for your own Roblox or other accounts. For ages 8-15. Please register.

**Make Peace Stickers, Friday (January 17) 12:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.** All ages. This is an early release day for Ludlow Public Schools and Monday is the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Come make peace stickers to celebrate Dr. King's message of peace! Drop in.

**Saturday Online Club, previously Minecraft Club, every Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m.** Play Minecraft, Roblox, or other online group games. Use the library's Minecraft accounts but please register for your own Roblox or other accounts. For grades 3-8. Please register.

**Winnie the Pooh Scavenger Hunt, Saturday (January 18) 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** All ages. Celebrate the birth of A.A.Milne, the author of the Winnie the Pooh books, by searching the youth room for pictures of classic moments from the stories, and win a prize! Drop in.

## FOR CHILDREN

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

**Storytime for 3-5s: Time, Time for Storytime, Mondays 10:00 a.m., through (February 24)** No storytime January 20 or February 17. Stories, songs, games and crafts about different times of the day, with a snack at the end. Please register.

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

**Lego Build Challenge, every Wednesday, 12:00 p.m.-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.

**Storytime for 2-3s: Time, Time for Storytime, Wednesdays 10:00 a.m., through (February 12)** Six weeks of stories, songs, games and crafts about different times of the day tailored for 2-3 year olds, with free play at the beginning and craft and snack at the end. Please register.

**"True Tales" Storytime for Home-schoolers, Wednesdays 12:30 p.m.-1:15 p.m., through (February 12)** For 5-8 year olds. A fun, gently educational storytime about real people and historical events. Please register.

**Grow, Play and Learn for ages 0-2, every Thursday, 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.** Stories, songs and skill building, led by Early Childhood Developmental specialist Jane Christian of Pathways for Parents, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. Program includes a curriculum, "Ages and Stages" questionnaire, and resources to fit your child's individual needs. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

**Grow, Play and Learn for ages 2-5, every Thursday, 10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m.** Stories, songs and skill building, led by Early Childhood Developmental specialist Jane Christian of Pathways for Parents, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. Program includes a curriculum, "Ages and Stages" questionnaire, and resources to fit your child's individual needs. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

**January PreK Pals, every Friday, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.** This playgroup supports children ages 2-5 and their families. Each week we focus on an area of development and provide fun activities to support your child's learning through play. Areas explored include early literacy, fine motor development, science, math, cognitive and social emotional skills. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register for the month.

**Bluey Trivia, Saturday (January 11) 11:00 a.m.** For children and families. If you're a Bluey fan come show it, with questions ranging from super-easy to expert - win prizes! Please register.

## MUSIC COMPETITION

from Page 1

performances, including a piece with jazz voicings that McAvoy said the students weren't familiar with.

"When singers sing in choir, sometimes they're singing harmonies that have more consonants with easier to hear intervals between voices," McAvoy explained. "With jazz voicing, there are a lot of close harmonies, so it's a lot harder to sing because the notes are closer together. In parts from soprano to alto, the voicings are closer so it makes it harder to hear."

McAvoy said that though there is always room for improvement, "they did a fantastic job at the concert."

"The band had done their Thanksgiving Day Field Show, so they had two and a half weeks to get most of their music together," McAvoy said.

Many of the students from the school's music department were also accepted into the District Festival. Of the nine students that were accepted, four received scores high enough to audition for the All-State competition.

McAvoy described the audition as a similar process to the District Festival, where the students prepare a piece of music and perform for adjudicators that then score them, and then higher scores get accepted to move on in the competition.

"Say they want 50 singers in soprano," McAvoy said. "They take the top 50 scores, whatever those scores are, and that's what gets in."

The students participating in the District Festival and All-State auditions include: chorus students Caitlyn Day, Celine Johnson, Jade Schaefer-Cunha and Madison Koske; band students Mason Gunther, Brady Ouellette, Josh Ridolfi, Beatrice Chelo and Michaela Murphy.

Chelo, Day, Koske, and Murphy will be auditioning for All-State on Jan. 25.

"I'm so proud of all of these students for having the courage to audition," McAvoy said, adding that, "even if they aren't accepted, the process is still very rewarding."

McAvoy added that one student, Day, was accepted to the All-Eastern Music Festival, which takes students based on prior musical experience.

"They didn't have the festival for a

number of years because of COVID, but they're finally bringing it back," McAvoy said. "Caitlin definitely deserves to go for a fourth year."

Auditions for the All-State competition will be held at Minnechaug High School on Saturday, Jan. 25, with rehearsals being held this weekend.

For more information about the school's music department, you can visit their page on Facebook or send an email to [K\\_McAvoy@LudlowPS.org](mailto:K_McAvoy@LudlowPS.org).

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## Lions take pair of losses



Filipe Fernandez shoots through the defense.

LUDLOW – The Ludlow High School boys basketball team suffered two losses last week. One of them was last Monday night against East Longmeadow. Ludlow got behind early 15-4 after a frame, and fell 56-37. Jackson Mateus and Kobe McKay were limited to just nine points each. Ludlow also fell to Smith Academy last Friday and are 3-3 as they begin 2025. The Lions next face Duggan on Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.



Mason Morace shoots in traffic.



Giovanni Acevedo winds up for a long pass.



Kobe McKay drives for the hoop.



Cameron Lyman takes the layup.



Tyler Tatro takes a shot from the free throw line.



Shaun Musambai tries to work out of trouble after starting in the down position.



Brady Trahan tries to avoid a takedown.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Lucas Alvans takes control in his match.

## Ludlow wrestling in action

LUDLOW – Last Saturday morning, Ludlow High School wrestling went to the Super Ram Duals at Southwick Regional Schools. The Lions were able to participate in multiple duals meets, including a dominating win in their meet with host Southwick. Among the winners in that meet with pins by Brady Trahan, Lucas Alvan, Eamon DiVenuto, and Tristin Stephens. Ludlow hosts Longmeadow on Jan. 15.



Eamon DiVenuto locks up in a match at 190 pounds.

## Lions open 2025 with draw

LUDLOW – Last Saturday night, the Ludlow High School ice hockey team, which now co-ops with Belchertown, battled with a 3-3 draw with Greenfield.

Playing on the road, Ludlow was not able to get the go-ahead goal late in the game. Prior to the new year, Ludlow had lost three straight games.

Ludlow is now 2-3-1 and hopes to get back in the win column this week with matchups against Amherst Regional, Longmeadow, and this Saturday, Jan. 11, at Northbridge at 8 p.m.

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# T-Birds suffer loss against Rochester

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-15-2-1) felt the brunt of the top team in the North Division as the Rochester Americans (20-9-3-0) skated away 5-2 winners on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center.

The opening minutes would not go auspiciously for the T-Birds, as the North Division's top team flexed their offensive muscle early. Just 3:02 into the action, rookie Riley Fiddler-Schultz used a defender as a screen and ripped a wrist shot through Vadim Zherenko's blocker arm to give Rochester a 1-0 advantage.

Things got no better for Springfield at 6:13 as Graham Slaggert threw a shot on goal from the right circle, generating a Zherenko rebound and a second-chance finish from Brendan Warren to extend the lead to 2-0.

Unlike Tuesday night, though, the T-Birds offense had a rebuttal,

and just 2:45 after Warren's tally, Drew Callin took a feed at the offensive line from Simon Robertson and bull-rushed the net from the right wing before deking to the backhand and beating Devon Levi to cut the lead in half, 2-1.

Both teams were liberal with their shooting opportunities in the opening 20 minutes, as each club launched 16 attempts at the opposition net.

Rochester's potent offense did not let off the throttle in the middle stanza. On their second power play in the frame, Brett Murray deflected home his league-leading ninth man-advantage tally to make it a 3-1 score at 6:28. Fiddler-Schultz piggybacked that goal with his second of the game at 7:36, which spelled the end of the night for Zherenko. Colten Ellis came on in relief and stopped the next seven Amerks' shots to close the period.



The 4-1 score held into the dying minutes of the third before a Tanner Dickinson power play marker got Springfield back within two, 4-2, with 5:01 remaining. That's as close as the T-Birds would get, though, as Lukas Rousek ended the goal-scoring with an empty-netter just over a minute later.

The T-Birds conclude their five-game homestand next Saturday when they host the Providence Bruins at 7:05 p.m. on Jan. 11 for the annual Throwback Night contest.

# Railers prevail over Reading Royals

WORCESTER — The Railers played, and won, a biblical hockey game Saturday night.

They went fourth and multi-

ple. In front of the sixth largest crowd in team history, on IceCats Night, Worcester built a 2-0 lead thanks to goals by fourth line forwards Kolby Johnson and Ryan Mahshie and prevailed for a 3-1 victory over the Reading Royals.

Attendance was 8,056. It was the sixth time ever the team has broken the 8,000 mark and the Railers are a perfect 6-0-0 in those games. The triumph extended Worcester's points streak to three games. That includes two wins and a shootout loss. It is just the second time this season the Railers have picked up points in three straight games, the first time since the last week of November.

The night marked the impressive Worcester debut of rookie goaltender Hugo Ollas. He stopped 31 shots. The saves were not just quantity, they were quality. Ollas never gave up the lead during several Reading surges after the Royals had reduced their deficit to 2-1 in the second period.

"When we got loose (defensively) in the second period," coach Nick Tuzzolino said, "I thought he bailed us out well. Then we got a



little hesitant on the penalty kill and allowed that soft tip, but other than that he was big and reliable.

"We're not a perfect team. We'll have breakdowns, and when we did he was there."

John Muse's retirement left Worcester scrambling for a replacement. The Railers got Ollas on loan from Hartford, an AHL team they have worked well with on occasion through the years. Ollas had been in Bloomington. Plans are to keep him here, close to Hartford, and work closely on his development.

The game was scoreless after one, but Johnson gave Worcester the lead 21 seconds into the second period. He got his second of the season from in very close. Mahshie made it 2-0 at 6:29 with a power play goal, his first for the Railers.

"To be honest," Tuzzolino confessed, "I was pretty mad at myself last night. The (bench) penalty I took, and my use of the fourth line.

Because of the game, because of the penalty, I really gripped it tight and wound up not playing them at all in the third and late in the second.

"So at the pre-game skate this morning I told (Johnson) that it was my fault and you're gonna get a regular shift tonight."

Matt Miller scored the Reading goal at 13:26 of the second period. It came on the power play, less than two minutes after a huge momentum swing. Griffin Loughran had a breakthrough for Worcester that Keith Petruzzelli stopped at 12:52, then Loughran was penalized for slashing.

The Railers had a 26-6 edge in shots on goal going into the penalty and were outshot by 26-5 the rest of the way.

Worcester's last goal was an empty netter by Anthony Callin, a flip from deep in the defensive zone at 18:12 — cue the overture.

Potential All-Star Connor Welsh had two assists to extend his points streak to six games. He is 1-8-9 during the streak. Callin is 8-4-12 in his last 12 games.

The victory allowed Worcester to retain sole possession of fourth place in the North Division. If Reading had won, the teams would be tied with 28 points, so the win was a four-point swing.

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# HoopHall 2025 candidates announced

SPRINGFIELD — The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the list of eligible candidates for the Class of 2025, featuring several high-profile first-time nominees.

Candidates for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2025 include Carmelo Anthony, Sue Bird, Maya Moore, Dwight Howard, Doc Rivers, Billy Donovan, Sylvia Fowles, Chamique Holdsclaw, Mark Few, Lisa Bluder, Marc Gasol, and Micky Arison.

"The nominees on the official ballot for the Class of 2025 represent a broad cross-section of our game," said John L. Doleva, Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame President and CEO. "From Olympic Gold Medals to NBA and WNBA titles to collegiate championships, these nominees epitomize the career of a Hall of Famer."

The first look at the list of eligible nominees was provided by "NBA Today" on ESPN, hosted by Malika Andrews, with Brian Windhorst, Chiney Ogwumike, and Tim MacMahon. A complete list of eligible candidates can be found below.

Finalists chosen from the applicable Category Screening Committees for the Class of 2025 will be announced on Friday, Feb. 14, in San Francisco as part of NBA All-Star Weekend.

The entire Class of 2025 will be unveiled during a nationally televised broadcast at the NCAA Final Four in San Antonio on Saturday, April 5.

The announcement time and broadcast network for both the Finalist and the Class Announcement will be announced in the near future.

The Hall also unveiled an update to its eligibility requirements, reducing the waiting period for Player candidates from three full seasons out of the game to two seasons. The change was unanimously approved by the Hall of Fame's Board of Governors.

"Previously, our Guidelines for Nomination and Election required an individual to be retired from the game for three full seasons, which effectively equated to a four-year wait due to our internal process," said Jerry Colangelo, Chairman of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "To better recognize the distinguished careers of potential first-ballot nominees in a more timely manner, the Board has appropriately shortened the waiting period. We are excited about this change and believe that honoring individuals while their contributions are still fresh in people's minds is both meaningful and impactful."

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, Sept. 5, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, followed by the Enshrinement Ceremony the next day at Springfield's historic Symphony Hall.

VIP Packages for the Hall of Fame Enshrinement Weekend will go on sale on Friday, Feb. 14. All single-event tickets to the Ceremony, Tip-Off Celebration, and Awards Gala, as well as other ancillary events, will go on sale on Saturday, April 5, at 12 noon. All packages and tickets will be available for purchase at [hoophall.com](http://hoophall.com).

The complete listing of events and pricing will be released on Monday, Feb. 3.

# Coaching classes available

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

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

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

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

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

Additional requirements for all coaches:

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

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



# 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](mailto:jwalker@turley.com). Please include your name and your pet's name.



### PET OF THE MONTH Meet McKenna!

She is a beautiful girl who is very photogenic! She lives in Wilbraham with her family the O'Connors.



### Finding a Good Dog Groomer

Choosing the right dog groomer is more than just picking the closest or cheapest option. It's about ensuring your pet feels comfortable and safe while receiving top-notch grooming services. Here are some things to keep in mind while finding the ideal groomer:

**Start with recommendations.** Ask friends, family, neighbors, or even your vet for their recommendations.

**Check for qualifications and experience.** A qualified groomer will have gone through proper training and might hold certifications from recognized grooming schools or professional organizations.

**Visit the grooming salon and observe the environment.** Is it clean? Do the dogs seem happy and well-treated? Is the equipment sanitized? A good grooming salon should feel welcoming, organized, and clean. Trust your gut feeling — if something feels off, it probably is.

**Ask the right questions:**

- What kind of grooming services do you offer?
- Do you have experience with my dog's breed?
- How do you handle dogs with anxiety, disabilities, or any other special needs?
- What products do you use, and are they safe for all skin types?
- How do you ensure the safety and comfort of the dogs during grooming?
- What is your procedure in case of an emergency?

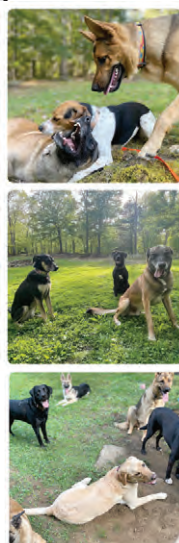
**Discuss your dog's specific needs.** Every dog is unique, and so are their grooming needs. Whether your dog has sensitive skin, anxiety, or special haircut requirements, make sure the groomer is equipped to handle them.

**Observe their interaction with your dog.** Pay close attention to how the groomer interacts with your pet during the initial meet and greet. Are they patient and gentle? Do they take the time to let your dog get comfortable with them? First impressions matter.

**Read reviews.** In this digital age, online reviews can be incredibly telling. Look up the groomers on social media.

**Understand their services and pricing.** Grooming services can vary widely in terms of what's included and how much it costs. Make sure you understand what's covered in a basic grooming package and what services might cost extra. On average, most dog groomers charge between \$30 and \$90 for a standard grooming session. Specialized services like de-shedding treatments, teeth cleaning, or flea treatments can add an extra \$10 to \$30 to your bill.

**Book a trial session.** Before committing to a long-term grooming relationship, consider scheduling a trial session. This can help you assess how well the groomer handles your dog and how your dog reacts to the grooming process. It's also a good opportunity to see if the groomer follows your instructions and preferences.



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## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

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

On Jan. 8, in 1918, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson announced his Fourteen Points, an outline for peace following World War I.

On Jan. 9, in 2005, Mahmoud Abbas was elected president of the Palestinian Authority.

On Jan. 10, in 1776, Thomas Paine published *Common Sense*, a 50-page pamphlet that called for the American Revolution.



On Jan. 11, in 1935, Amelia Earhart began the first successful solo flight from Hawaii to California.

On Jan. 12, in 2010, a magnitude-7.0 earthquake devastated Haiti, killing more than 200,000 people and leaving more than 1,000,000 homeless.

On Jan. 13, in 2021, Donald Trump became the first U.S. president to be impeached twice after the House of Representatives approved an article of impeachment that accused him of “incitement of insurrection” for allegedly encouraging his supporters to storm the Capitol in an effort to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, in which Trump was defeated by Joe Biden.

Finally, on Jan. 14, in 1526, the Treaty of Madrid was signed by the Habsburg emperor Charles V (Charles I of Spain) and his prisoner Francis I, King of France, who was captured during the Battle of Pavia and held prisoner until the conclusion of the treaty.

**Amelia Earhart made the first successful solo flight from Hawaii to California on Jan. 11, 1935.**

## Senator Oliveira applauds passage of the PACT Act

BOSTON – Last Monday, State Senator Jake Oliveira and his colleagues in the Massachusetts State Legislature celebrated the successful passage of the PACT Act, or An Act Relative to Pharmaceutical Access, Costs, and Transparency, landmark legislation aimed at improving the affordability and accessibility of prescription medications for residents of the Commonwealth. Sponsored by Senator Cindy Friedman (4th Middlesex District) and Representative John Lawn, Jr. (10th Middlesex District), this transformative bill reflects a unified effort to combat rising drug costs and ensure transparency in the pharmaceutical industry.

“This legislation marks a critical step forward in making life-saving medications affordable and accessible to everyone in Massachusetts,” said Senator Oliveira. “The people of the Commonwealth should not have to choose between their essential prescriptions and the other necessities needed to live a healthy and fulfilling life. With these reforms, we are holding pharmaceutical companies accountable while protecting the health and well-being of our communities.”

Approximately nine percent of Massachusetts residents have been diagnosed with diabetes, and 6.2 percent of adults over 35 live with heart disease. In 2015, more than 10 percent of residents lived with asthma. Black residents face these conditions at even higher rates—over 12 percent live with diabetes, and nearly 14 percent of Black adults live with asthma.

The legislation is designed to address these disparities, ensuring access to life-saving medications for communities disproportionately impacted by chronic illnesses.

Key provisions of the bill include:

Cost-sharing caps for chronic illnesses: Insulin co-payments are capped at \$25 for a 30-day supply, with coverage guaranteed for one generic and one

brand-name drug for diabetes, asthma, and chronic heart conditions.

Equity in cost sharing: The bill ensures that out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs do not exceed retail prices, offering immediate financial relief to patients at the pharmacy counter.

Creation of the Office for Pharmaceutical Policy and Analysis: This new office within the Health Policy Commission will monitor pharmaceutical trends, spending, and affordability. It will also publish annual reports with recommendations for mitigating pharmaceutical spending growth and promoting accessibility.

Expanded oversight of Pharmacy Benefit Managers: PBMs will now be licensed and regulated by the Division of Insurance. They must also report cost data and are prohibited from engaging in practices that inflate drug prices or harm consumers and independent pharmacies.

MassHealth and GIC Reforms: These reforms aim to reduce financial barriers to vital medications for low-income residents and state employees.

Transparency through hearings and reporting: The Center for Health Information and Analysis will collect detailed drug cost data, while pharmaceutical manufacturers and PBMs will participate in the Health Policy Commission’s Annual Health Care Cost Trends Hearing. Public testimony will illuminate factors influencing drug costs.

The legislation also addresses broader systemic issues in the pharmaceutical industry, such as the influence of Pharmacy Benefit Managers, and empowers agencies like the Division of Insurance and the Center for Health Information and Analysis to regulate, audit, and analyze data.

Implementation timelines for the various sections of the bill ensure a phased approach. Cost-sharing caps will take effect on July 1, 2025, and PBM licensing will begin in January 2026.

*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.*

**GARDEN** from Page 6

ripe with no way to ripen it. Best to call it chicken food at that point.

So this year I will grow ripe melons, lots of lettuce and butternut squash along with gallons of tomato sauce. And more. A New Year of possibilities.

# OBITUARIES

## Marilyn June (Kane) Peczka

Marilyn June (Kane) Peczka, 88, passed away Dec. 31, 2024 at Care One at Redstone in East Longmeadow. She was born in Springfield on June 24, 1936 to the late John and Mary (Riley) Kane and was a 1954 graduate of Commerce High School. A member of the Daughters of Isabella and a member of the Wilbraham Democratic Club; she took pride in contributing to causes she believed in. She was also an avid reader. For many years, Marilyn was co-owner of the Wilbraham Flower Shop, where her warm personality left a lasting impression on those she met. She was always ready with a kind word or a compliment for anyone she encountered. Marilyn expressed her love and affection for her family and friends through the simple yet meaningful gesture of sending greeting cards for every special occasion.



She is survived by her beloved husband of 69 years, Stanley Peczka; her sister, Gloria Kane of Kissimmee, FL; her loving children, Michael Peczka and his wife Karen of Springfield, Stephen Peczka of Palmer and Kathleen Nelen and her husband Timothy of West Palm Beach, FL; a cherished granddaughter, Amanda Warren and her husband Kevin of Cranston, RI; two great-grandchildren, Jack and Brian Warren and an adopted grandson, Wil Aldrich. She also leaves other extended family members and many friends.

Calling hours were held on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Nowak Funeral & Cremation Services, 15 Ludlow Ave., Springfield. Funeral services were held on Monday, Jan. 6 assembling at 10 a.m. at the funeral and proceeding to Christ the King Church, 44 Warsaw Ave., Ludlow for a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m.. Burial will follow at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Springfield. To offer online condolences to the family, please visit [www.nowakfuneral.com](http://www.nowakfuneral.com).

## Dolores Hirt-Supernaw

LUDLOW—Our beloved Mom, Nana, Vovo and Veva, Dolores (Rodrigues) Hirt-Supernaw, gained her angel wings on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025. Born in Ludlow on Nov. 23, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Manuel and Conceicao Rodrigues. A graduate of Ludlow High School, Dolores was employed by Dr. Walter Pacosa for many years as well as Kings and KMart Department Stores. She was a member of the Wilbraham and Ludlow Senior Centers and the Golden Agers. Dolores was a member of the former St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and later St. Elizabeth’s Parish and a member of their Woman’s Club.



Dolores is survived by her children Richard Hirt (Kathy) of Chicopee, Bonnie Harder (Peter) of Ware, Debbie Dias (Joey) of Ludlow and Claudia Balderelli of Southbridge as well as her 10 beloved grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. She also leaves many nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends. Sadly, she was predeceased by her first husband Arthur Hirt Jr. in 1970; her second husband Kenneth Supernaw in 2008 and her siblings Catilda, Joseph, Jesse, Armenio, Larry and Limpio Rodrigues.

Dolores was a most caring, kind and compassionate person to not only her family, but to everyone. Remember to Keep Smiling.

Funeral services for Dolores will be Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home, 64 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in St. Elizabeth’s Parish, 181 Hubbard St, Ludlow, MA. Burial will be in St. Aloysius Cemetery, Berkshire Ave, Springfield, MA. Visiting hours at the funeral home will be Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025 from 4 to 7 p.m. Donations in Dolores’ memory may be made to the Friends of the Ludlow Senior Center, 228 State St., Ludlow, MA 01056. For more information, please go to [www.kapinosmazurfh.com](http://www.kapinosmazurfh.com).

## DEATH NOTICES

**Marilyn June (Kane) Peczka**  
Died Dec. 31, 2024  
Services  
Jan. 5, 2025  
Nowak Funeral Home

**Dolores Hirt-Supernaw**  
Died Jan. 3, 2025  
Services Jan. 9, 2025  
Kapinos Mazur Funeral Home

## The Ludlow Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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# Museums à la Carte continues Milestone Season with Lecture by Tiffany Glass Expert

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Museums’ lecture series Museums à la Carte continues its 45th anniversary season on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 12:15 pm with a deep dive into the inspiration and process behind Tiffany Studios’ iconic Favrite glass with Lindsay Parrott, Executive Director and Curator of the Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass.

The lecture is a complement to Tiffany’s Gardens in Glass, a special exhibition currently on view at the D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts.

Parrott will discuss how Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933), together with designers, artists, and artisans who shared his passion for nature’s beauty, translated natural forms faithfully into glass windows and lamps: velvety or paper-thin petals, waxy or veined leaves, dappled sunlight or shadow, and much more. Parrott will present virtually from her office in New York. Attendees can tune in via Zoom or view her talk in the Museums’ Davis Auditorium.

During her twenty-year tenure at The Neustadt, Parrott has conducted ground-breaking research on the manufacture and use of Tiffany’s opalescent flat glass, which has been published in numerous journal articles and exhibition catalogues.

Parrott has curated traveling exhibitions exploring a variety of Tiffany topics. She is a member of numerous professional glass and decorative arts organizations, and in 2014 was elected

as a Fellow of the Corning Museum of Glass.

“This winter’s slate of lectures will continue to highlight new and interesting topics for our community,” says Emma Lewis, Museum School and Lecture Coordinator. “We are especially excited for lectures like Lindsay Parrott’s that will offer our audience new perspectives and insights into our exhibits.”

Lectures continue each Thursday at 12:15 p.m. In-person tickets are available at the Museums’ Welcome Center on the day of the lecture; advance virtual registration at [SpringfieldMuseums.org/programs](http://SpringfieldMuseums.org/programs).

Admission to the lecture is free for Springfield Museums members; non-members are just \$4-museum admission not required. For more information, call 413-263-6800, ext. 488.

Beginning in 1979 as “Art à la Carte” with just a few dozen attendees, Museums à la Carte has reached thousands of people over the years and expanded its reach beyond the walls of the Museums when it began offering lectures digitally via Zoom in 2020.

Full Museums a la Carte Schedule for Winter 2025

Jan. 9: An Exploration of Tiffany’s Gardens in Glass; Lindsay R. Parrott, Executive Director and Curator, The Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass

Jan. 16: The Ladders Fish Climb; Caroline Appel, marine biologist and environmental educator

Jan. 23: Gilded Echoes: A Conversation with Artist Josh Simpson; Josh Simpson, glass artist

Jan. 30: The Mystery of Suffering in Art; Dr. Simon Sibelman, Professor Emeritus, French and Holocaust Studies, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Feb. 6: Sweethearts at Sea: A Love Story from the Age of Whaling; Dr. Amanda Goodheart Parks, historian and educator

Feb. 13: Women of the Night Sky; Jenny Powers, director, Springfield Science Museum

Feb. 27: 1000 Hands of the Guru; documentary film, Tobias Reeuwijk, director, 66 minutes

March 6: Tales from the Science Museum: A Taxidermist, an Oil Company, the World’s Fair & a T-Rex; Joel Cummings, science docent and planetarium instructor, Springfield Science Museum

March 13: A Conversation with Scott Strong Hawk Foster and ‘the Why’ Behind His Work as an Indigenous Artist; Scott Strong Hawk Foster, photographer and artist

March 20: Handed Down in Song; New England History & Culture; Band of Steady Habits

March 27: Designing Downtown: How Springfield Took Shape; Zoë Cheek, Curator of Library and Archives, Wood Museum of Springfield History

MassMutual is the season sponsor of the Springfield Museums.

# Wilbraham Public Library’s Winter Reading Kicks Off

WILBRAHAM - Get a head start on your 2025 reading resolutions with our annual Winter Reading Challenge!

Starting Jan. 1, record your reading for a chance to win gift cards, books, and other cool prizes. If you’ve participated in our seasonal Reading Challenges in the past, get started by logging into your Beanstack account and selecting the challenge for your age group.

First-time participants can create an account by visiting [wilbrahamlibrary.beanstack.com](http://wilbrahamlibrary.beanstack.com), or by downloading the Beanstack Tracker app. Paper logs and review forms will also be available in the library. Teens and adults will receive one raffle ticket for each book read. Participants must log and review each book to earn a ticket.

Children through Grade Five will earn raffle tickets by tracking the minutes they read each day. All reading and reviews must be submitted by Feb. 28.

Kids and teens can pick up participation rewards starting March 3. Raffle winners will be notified starting March 4. Questions? Give the library a call at 413-596-6141 for more info.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
Docket No. HD24P2562EA  
Estate of:  
Emily C. Thompson  
Also Known As:  
Emily Thompson  
Date of Death: May 3, 2021  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Derrick K. Thompson of Palatka, FL** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Derrick K. Thompson of Palatka, FL** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

01/08/2025

Ludlow  
Special Town Meeting of  
October 7, 2024  
Case #11577  
Warrant Articles 2, 7,  
8 and 11 were approved

**by the Attorney General’s office accordingly.**

\*\*see full context of text in Town Clerk’s office.

Posted in all 6 polling locations and at the Ludlow Town Hall.

Precinct 1: Harris Brook Elementary School

Precinct 2: Paul R. Baird Middle School

Precinct 3: Ludlow High School

Precinct 4: East Street School

Precinct 5: First Church in Ludlow

Precinct 6: Paul R. Baird Middle School

01/08, 01/15, 01/22/2025

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

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

a period of three (3) consecutive seasons or years for golf operations.

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

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

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

Sealed non-price proposals must be clearly marked “Technical Proposal RFP 2025-10 Golf Concession” and must enclose three (3) hard copies of the non-

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

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

01/01, 01/08/2025

**NOTICE OF  
PLANNING BOARD  
HEARING  
Relative to  
PROPOSED  
ZONING BYLAW  
AMENDMENTS  
Pursuant to G.L. c. 40A, § 5  
LEGAL NOTICE –  
ZONING BYLAW**

The Planning Board of the Town of Ludlow will hold a public hearing to discuss proposed amendments to the town’s zoning bylaw. The public hearing will be held as follows:

Place:  
Ludlow Town Hall,  
Selectmen’s Conference  
Room, 3rd fl.

Date:  
Thursday, January 23, 2025 \*

Time:  
7:00 PM

Applicant: Planning Board  
Location: 488 Chapin Street,  
Ludlow, MA

\*If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to the Thursday, February 13, 2025 Planning Board meeting, as the last

hearing.

The subject matter of the proposed amendments is as indicated below. The complete text relative to the proposed amendments is available for inspection on the Planning Board web site: <https://www.ludlow.ma.us/243/Documents-for-Review> and in the Planning Department Office and Town Clerk’s Office during regular business hours. Proposed zoning bylaw revisions are in draft form and are subject to change.

Proposed zoning bylaw revisions to include the following:

**SECTION VI:  
SPECIAL LAND USE  
REGULATIONS:** by removing Section 6.6 Accessory Apartment Bylaw in its entirety and adding in its place Section 6.6 Accessory Dwelling Unit with associated texts.

**SECTION VII: LAND  
USE REVIEW METHODS  
7.1 SITE PLAN APPROVAL  
7.1.2 Projects Requiring  
Site Plan Approval;** by adding (d.) A single Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) . (An additional Accessory Dwelling Unit ADU will require both site plan and special permit approval from the Planning Board.) And 7.1.3 Exemptions From Site Plan Approval adding to (a.) (unless an Accessory Dwelling ADU is included)

**SECTION III: GENERAL  
USE REGULATIONS 3.0  
GENERAL REGULATIONS.  
SECTION 3.2.2 TABLE  
1 LUDLOW TABLE OF  
PRINCIPLE USES.** Remove Accessory Apartment and replace with Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU). Add Accessory Dwelling Units over 900 SQ FT and Additional Accessory Dwelling Units.

Raymond Phoenix  
Chairman  
01/08, 01/15/2025

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

### TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills.

Please visit our website [TownOfBlandford.com](http://TownOfBlandford.com) or email [Administrator@TownOfBlandford.com](mailto:Administrator@TownOfBlandford.com) for more information.

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33	Base Price \$32.50	Base Price \$33.00	Base Price \$33.50
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