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Seventh Annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner

Pioneer Valley Financial Group and Veterans Affairs Department host appreciation dinner for first responders from Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Hampden.

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Editor
 mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – This past weekend, Pioneer Valley Financial Group and the town’s Veterans of Foreign Affairs department hosted the seventh annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

For the last seven years, PV Financial and Veterans Services have held this event to recognize the dedication of local first responders. On Thursday, Jan. 9, the community was invited to share food, games, and prizes with first responders from Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Hampden.

“It was a collective effort between myself and our employees,” said Karen Nogueira, Director of Client Relations at PV Financial. “It’s something we’ve been doing for last seven years, and a really great event that we get to do every year for our First



Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Members of the Fire Department stood by the sign thanking the sponsors for this weekend’s First Responders Appreciation Dinner.

Responders.”

Nogueira said that the First Responders Appreciation Dinner began as a partnership with the VFW, crediting Director of Veterans Affairs Aeric Segundo.

“It’s a partnership we’ve had with them over the last seven years. We enjoy doing it

with them and hope to continue with the shared continued mission of serving our community,” Nogueira said. “They do so much for the community, so this falls in line with who we are and our philosophy here at PV Financial.”

Nogueira said that PV Finan-

cial coordinated with the venue and caterers to service the over 300 first responders and their families who attend the event. Mill’s Tavern donated food and staff for the event, and PV Financial covered the costs.

“We gather in the fall and start planning for the event,

which is usually the first Thursday in January,” Nogueira said. “We put it on and soak up all of the cost. We donate to the VFW and do this event for the first responders.”

Please see **FIRST RESPONDERS**, Page 9

Selectmen interview candidates for Police Department and Treasurer/Collector

By Marcelo Gusmão
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LUDLOW – At last week’s Board of Selectmen meeting, the town interviewed candidates for the Treasurer/Collector position, and for a police officer.

Police Interviews

Four candidates interviewed for an opening at the Police Department, including Antonio Valazquez-Budlong, Angela Tobiasz, Christopher Clarke, and Cory Rodrigues. Though the Selectmen and Chief of Police Dan Valadas praised all the applicants, Rodrigues was identified as the standout.

Born and raised in town, Rodrigues said that he has been a Special Police Officer for the town for approximately 10 years. After the birth of his daughter, Rodrigues described taking a leave of absence from Springfield Technical Community College where he was attending college in order to join an EMT program.

“I’ve had my EMT going on almost 17 years now, I’m re-certifying again in April,” Rodrigues said.

While working full-time for American Medical Response in Springfield, Rodrigues was

appointed to the Disaster Relief Team, which he described as “a deployable unit that goes to man-made and natural disasters and provides medical aid in those situations.”

Rodrigues was recommended by law enforcement officers to go back to school with a major of Criminal Justice and self-sponsoring to through the Reserve Academy to become a part-time police officer, which he did.

“In January 2015, I was appointed as a Special Police Officer here in town,” Rodrigues said. “I’ve been here ever since, so I just hit my 10-year anniversary with the department.”

“When I got on, very quickly I knew that it was the right move. This is the place I wanted to be; this is the career I wanted to have. I took every opportunity I could to be the best Special Police Officer I absolutely could be,” Rodrigues said.

Rodrigues said that in addition to going above and beyond to work volunteer hours and attend community events such as the Open House. The Selectmen asked him questions about his preparedness for the position, the department’s Use of Force policy, and about cultural shifts in re-

gard to policing.

“When you go into a career like this, you need to have the mindset that you’re going to go in and on that day, whoever you encounter, whoever it might be, maybe you can change their mind if there’s a negative connotation with police,” Rodrigues said. “You have to go in with that mindset that you’re going to do the best you can and help the community that you’re there to serve despite what they might think of you, and give them a reason to think better of us as a whole, and represent the town in the best way possible.”

Rodrigues asked the board if there was anything he could do to make himself a more desirable candidate, which impressed the Selectmen.

“What I would like is preparedness, which you showed,” said Select Board Chair Derek DeBarge. “I appreciate when candidates come in prepared and know a little information about the department.”

After the candidates left, Valadas asked that the board also vote on an alternate.

“I only make recommendations if you have a standout

Please see **SELECTMEN**, Page 10



Submitted photo

1st Place was awarded to 434 Moore St., (from left) Amanda, Theo, and Alexandra Bryant, Linda Collette, M.B. Silva as Santa, Regina Stanek, and Lucy Palmeira.

Three houses placed in this season’s Christmas Decorating Contest

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Editor
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LUDLOW – The town has announced the winners for the 2024 Christmas Decorating Contest.

Judges for this year’s contest included Lucy Palmeira, Mary Beth Silva, and Regina Stanek. Each of the winners was presented with a sign declaring their placement, as well as gift cards totalling upwards of \$50 and merchandise provided by the 250th Committee.

First place was awarded to

the Bryant family of Moore Street. Second place went to the Cust family at Cislak Drive, and third place went to the Dominique family on Edison Drive.

“I was so impressed by the creativity and enthusiasm of the contest participants, some of whom even gave us tours,” Stanek said. “Decisions were difficult for the judging team, all the participants put a lot of time and effort into their displays. I want to thank them for sharing their super holiday spirit with

Please see **DECORATING CONTEST**, Page 10

LUDLOW

Fire Department extinguished house fire on Sunday afternoon



Submitted Photos

The Ludlow Fire Department extinguished a house fire at 284 Ventura St. on Sunday afternoon.

LUDLOW – Fire Chief Ryan Pease reports that the Ludlow Fire Department extinguished a house fire on Sunday afternoon.

On Sunday, Jan. 12, at about 1 p.m., the fire department responded to 284 Ventura St. for reports of flames coming from the garage of a home. Crews arrived to find heavy fire spreading from the garage to the rest of the home.

Due to a lack of hydrants in the area, firefighters used tanker trucks to put out the flames. Tanker trucks from Ludlow, Granby, Palmer, Westover, and Bondsville responded to the scene to provide additional water sources to crews.

The fire was brought under control within 25 minutes of crews arriving on scene. There were no injuries, but one resident was displaced as a result of the fire.

The Westover Fire Department also provided on-scene mutual aid and Wilbraham Fire provided station coverage. Off-duty Ludlow firefighters also responded to the scene, and Ludlow Po-



Crews were able to extinguish the fire in about 25 minutes, preventing it from causing further damage to the residence.

lice and Ludlow Central Dispatch assisted during the incident.

The Ludlow Fire Department determined that the cause of the fire was accidental.

“This was great work by our crews and our mutual aid part-

ners in responding to and acting quickly in an effort to prevent this fire from causing more damage,” said Chief Pease. “As always, we are extremely fortunate to have our mutual aid partners working with us.”

Pet Week



JACK

This is Jack. He thinks he's a human and likes to be included in everything.

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.

Nomination papers available for 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

One 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.

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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.

Town of Ludlow Shares Information on Delay of 2025 Property Tax Bills

LUDLOW - Town Administrator Marc Strange announced that the 2025 Property tax bills for quarters 3 and 4 have been delayed.

Property tax bills are typically mailed by Dec. 31, with Q3 bills being due on Feb. 1 and Q4 bills on May 1. Due to a technical issue with

the town's billing system, the bills will be delayed. As a result, both Q3 and Q4 bills will be due on May 1. The bills will be distributed as soon as the town rectifies this issue.

Additionally, due to the billing delay, the application deadline for tax abatement requests will also be

May 1.

The Town of Ludlow will provide updates and additional messaging to residents as the mailing date for these bills becomes available.

The Town thanks residents for their patience and understanding.

Knights of Columbus Meatloaf Dinner Jan. 8

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.

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."

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.

Gomez attends Three Kings Day celebration

SPRINGFIELD - Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) joined State Rep. Orlando Ramos, School Committee Member Joeshiah Gonzalez and community members for The Hispanic-American Library's annual Three Kings Day celebration at Union Station. Three Kings Day or Día de los Reyes Magos, commemorates the visit that the Three Wise Men paid to Jesus after his birth.

The holiday is of particular significance in Puerto Rico, Latin America and many other countries

across the world. Tonight's celebration at Union Station marks the 4th year of The Hispanic-American Library inviting members of the community to enjoy live music and gifts for children. "Tonight's celebration is a befitting culmination of the Christmas season where the community comes together to celebrate the Three Kings' visit of Baby Jesus," said Gomez. "In the spirit of the

gift bearing Kings, this annual celebration is another opportunity to be grateful for our friends, families and loved ones, while also giving back to our community. I commend The Hispanic-American Library and the dedicated volunteers who made this magical night possible."

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- Fresh Blackberries 6oz Size.. 2 For \$7.00
- California Navel Oranges..... 8 For \$2.99
- Grape Tomatoes Pint Size..... 2 For \$4.00
- Romaine Lettuce Hearts 3 Pack..... \$2.99
- Hot House Seedless Cucumbers 2 For \$3.00
- Green Peppers Extra Large \$1.49 lb
- Boar's Head Cracked Pepper Turkey \$11.99 lb
- Boar's Head Asiago Cheese \$7.99 lb

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This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

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

Make Some Memories on a train at the Railroad Hobby Show

PALMER – The Amherst Railway Society and CTrail are working together to provide train rides as part of the upcoming Railroad Hobby Show weekend, on Saturday, Jan. 25 and Sunday, Jan. 26.

Nicknamed the Railroad Hobby Show Rail-Pass, adults can ride all day on any CTrail trains between Springfield, Massachusetts and New Haven, Connecticut for just \$10 on either Saturday or Sunday. For children 12 and under, the pass is only \$5. Kids 2 and under, ride free.

The Rail-Pass can be purchased at the CTrail exhibit at the Railroad Hobby Show, located in the Better Living Center, section 15, or at Customer Service in either New Haven Union Station or Hartford Union Station.

In addition, the Railroad Hobby Show offers a FREE shuttle service between Springfield Union Station and the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 25-26.

Please note that Railroad Hobby Show special tickets are not valid on Amtrak trains.

The Amherst Railway Society is a community of people who share a fascination with railroads.

The society sponsors the annual Railroad Hobby Show, a model railroad club,



Submitted photo

and a philanthropy program that has donated \$830,000 to railroad preservation and restoration projects all over the country.

The society started in the mid-1950s on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and is currently based in Palmer.

The CTrail Hartford Line is a regional rail service operating between New Haven, Connecticut and Springfield, Massachusetts. The Hartford Line connects with the New Haven Line, operated by Metro-North, at New Haven Union Station for travel to southwestern Connecticut and Grand Central Terminal in New York City.

Murder mystery dinner will be held on Feb. 1

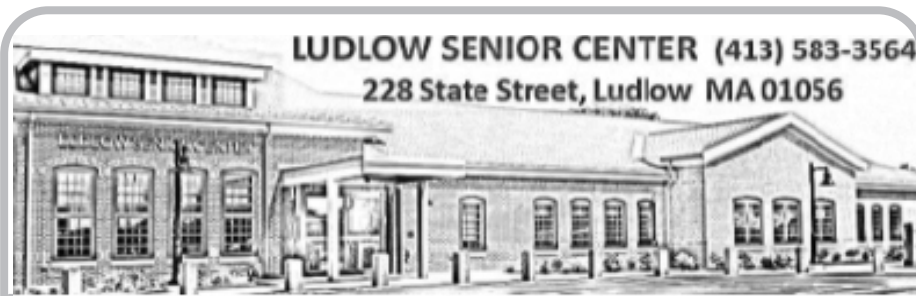
BELCHERTOWN — The Belchertown Historical Association is holding its annual murder mystery dinner on Saturday, Feb. 1 at Tony and Penny's Restaurant in Ludlow. The show will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the dinner buffet at 6:30 p.m. Guests can arrive as early as 5:30 p.m.

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.



Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

LUDLOW— Try one (or more) of the 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. 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

Friday, Jan. 17
8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
9 a.m. Fitness Advisor Appointments*
9 a.m. Reiki Appointments*
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
1 p.m. Guidance by Li Grief Support*

1 p.m. Ceramics
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
1 p.m. Magic Class

Monday, Jan. 20
Center Closed for Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, Jan. 21
9 a.m. Quilting
9 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Cribbage
10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga
1 p.m. Western Dance Class
1 p.m. Brown Bag Pick Up*
1:30 p.m. Bingo
4:30 p.m. Power Pump Exercise Class

5 p.m. Movie: Hillbilly Elegy (2020)

Wednesday, Jan. 22

9 a.m. Facials by Appointment*
9 a.m. Ceramics
9 a.m. Zumba Gold
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*
1 p.m. Movie: Movie: Hillbilly Elegy (2020)
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*
1:30 p.m. Performance by Singer Ashly Cruz

Thursday, Jan. 23

8:45 a.m. Foot Care by Appointment*
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10 a.m. Sunshine Painting Class*
10 a.m. SHINE Health Insurance Info Appointments*
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation*
1 p.m. Mahjong
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

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

Daily Events:

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

Menu:

Thursday, Jan. 16: Birthday Lunch, Salisbury Steak/Mashed Pot/Carrots
Friday, Jan. 17: Chicken Parm/Pasta/Side Salad
Monday, Jan. 20: Center Closed for Martin Luther King Day
Tuesday, Jan. 21: Vegetable Lasagna/Ceasar Salad
Wednesday, Jan. 22: Asian Chicken Salad
Thursday, Jan. 23: Ham & Broccoli Casserole/Roll

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.

Knights of Columbus Council 3535 Communion Breakfast

LUDLOW – The Knights of Columbus Council 3535 will hold a Communion Breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 8 a.m.

The Divine Liturgy of Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church at 46 Newbury St. will hold a 9:30a.m. breakfast in the church hall downstairs.

Join the Knights for Divine Liturgy and for breakfast afterwards, for food and fellowship with the town's Knights of Columbus.

The Knights of Columbus will provide Quiche and Finger Sandwiches. Feel free to bring your favorite potluck dish.

Purse Bingo is back!

Purses for a Purpose!

Friday, February 7
5:00pm
Gremio Lusitano Club

Tickets \$50

Each ticket includes food, dessert, and 10 games with 10 chances to win a designer handbag.

Arrive at 5pm to eat, drink, and pick your seat. Games start at 6pm. Full tables can be reserved by purchasing 8 tickets. Cash bar, daubers, and extra games available!

Scan the QR code to buy tickets or go to: bit.ly/PurseBingo2025

www.ludlowbgc.org

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Giant robot animals at the Springfield Museums

SPRINGFIELD— The Springfield Museums is excited to announce the upcoming arrival of The Robot Zoo at the Springfield Science Museum. On view Jan. 18 through May 4, this special exhibition features three enormous robot animals that illustrate fascinating real-life animal characteristics, revealing the magic of nature as a master engineer.

“Natural science and technology are the perfect combination to bring in new kinds of learning and delight visitors of all ages,” says Science Museum Director Jenny Powers. “The Robot Zoo will be as fun and popular as it is educational.”

The larger-than-life-size animated robots include a chameleon, a platypus, and a house fly with a 3-foot wingspread. Machinery in the robots simulates the body parts of their real-life counterparts. In these robot animals, muscles become pistons, intestines become filtering pipes and brains become computers. By comparing anatomy, environments, and size of the actual creatures to their mechanical counterparts, The Robot Zoo provides fantastic new insights into how animals work.

Hands-on sensory activities include

“Swat the Fly,” a test of visitor reaction time (one-twelfth as fast as a house fly’s), and “Sticky Feet,” where visitors using special hand pads can try to stick like flies to a sloped surface. Triggering the “Tongue Gun” demonstrates how a real chameleon shoots out its long, sticky-tipped tongue to reel in a meal.

At the exhibit opening celebration on Saturday, Jan. 18, visitors can practice beginner coding skills, learn about animal adaptations with museum educators, create animal masks, and see demonstrations by a FIRST Lego League team. Opening day activities are presented free with museum admission.

“We are excited to welcome families and school groups to The Robot Zoo,” says Director of Educator Larissa Murray. “The comparisons made between biology and engineering provide many engaging learning opportunities.”

The exhibit is based on the book “The Robot Zoo” which was conceived, edited, and designed by Marshall Editions of London, England; and toured by Evergreen Exhibitions. MassMutual is the season supporter of the Springfield Museums.

HMC welcomes new chief medical officer

HOLYOKE— Spiros Hatiras, President and CEO of Holyoke Medical Center and Valley Health Systems, has announced Vishal Tiwari, MD as the new chief medical officer at Holyoke Medical Center. “I am excited to have joined this team, working with and leading many well respected physicians and colleagues,” said Tiwari. “I have had working relationships with several members of the HMC medical staff in the past. I look forward to further incorporating best practices to continue delivering the highest quality of care to the patients we serve in the Greater Holyoke community.” Before joining Holyoke Medical Center, Tiwari was most recently with Steward Health in the suburbs of Boston. There he oversaw several hospitals as the Vice President of Medical Affairs and Regional Medical Director. In addition, Tiwari served more than a decade at Baystate Health and Health New England as their Medical Director and Senior Medical Director. He also served as the Market Medical Director at Curana Health, a nationwide post rehab company. Tiwari received his medical degree from S. N. Medical College with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery de-



Vishal Tiwari, MD

gree in India. He completed a postgraduate residency training at Unity Health System in Rochester, New York. Dr. Tiwari then went on to receive a Masters in Health Care Delivery Science from The Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth and the Geisel School of Medicine, a joint program at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Tiwari’s focus has been building a strong, cross-functional, collaborative team with exceptional leadership skills to enhance working relationships with hospital staff, while ensuring the highest standards of service quality for patients. “We are very excited to have Dr. Tiwari join Valley Health Systems,” said Hatiras. “His experience and commitment to high quality patient care have already made him a valuable member of our leadership team.” Tiwari lives in West Springfield with his wife and two children.

Wistariahurst kid art classes

HOLYOKE— Every first Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. Wistariahurst will be hosting kid art classes, starting Feb. 2.

This series of art classes is geared towards children in grades K-12 to spark creativity and inspire a love for art history. Joycelin Raho, the talented instructor guiding these classes, will help children explore different mediums and artistic techniques to unlock their imaginations. These engaging activities will help kids create their own masterpieces through a hands-on approach to learning.

To make these classes accessible and available for all kids in the community, Wistariahurst offers a sliding scale for admission. Parents and/or guardians can choose admission pricing from \$10, \$15, or \$20, which will help cover the cost of materials and ensure a rewarding experience for everyone who participates. Go to one class or go to all to get the most

out of these sessions: Feb. 2: Mixed media collage inspiration by artist Romare Bearden; March 2: Color, Pattern and building a mural using inspiration by artist Yayoi Kusama; April 6: Art with Recycled Materials and found objects (Earth Day inspired); May 4: Exploring Still Life dawning with pastels inspiration by artist Georgia O’Keeffe; June 1: Drawing from Nature Outdoors inspiration by artist Claude Monet.

If a child has an art appreciation, a desire to learn a new skill, or wants to try something new, Wistariahurst Kid’s Art Classes are a fantastic way for them to explore, discover, and engage. Don’t hesitate to join the fun!. Visit the Eventbrite to learn more and sign up for these amazing classes.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wistariahurst-kids-art-classes-tickets-1104573572289?aff=oddtcreator>

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

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

On Jan. 15, in 2001, Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger founded Wikipedia.

On Jan. 16, in 1547, Ivan the Terrible was crowned “tsar and grand prince of all Russia.”

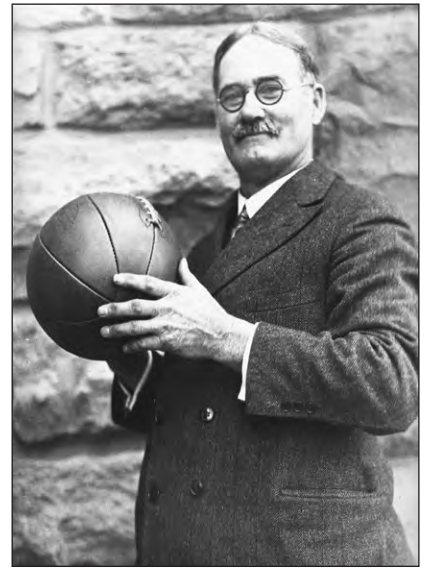
On Jan. 17, in 1929, the cartoon character Popeye made his debut in the newspaper comic strip Thimble Theatre.

On Jan. 18, in 1871, the German Empire was founded by Otto von Bismarck in the aftermath of three successful wars by the state of Prussia.

On Jan. 19, in 1955, U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower held the first-ever televised presidential press conference.

On Jan. 20, in 1892, the first official basketball game was played in Springfield by YMCA students of the game’s inventor, James Naismith.

Finally, on Jan. 21, in 1793, Louis XVI, the last Bourbon king of



James Naismith invented basketball in Springfield, and the first game was held on Jan. 20, 1892.

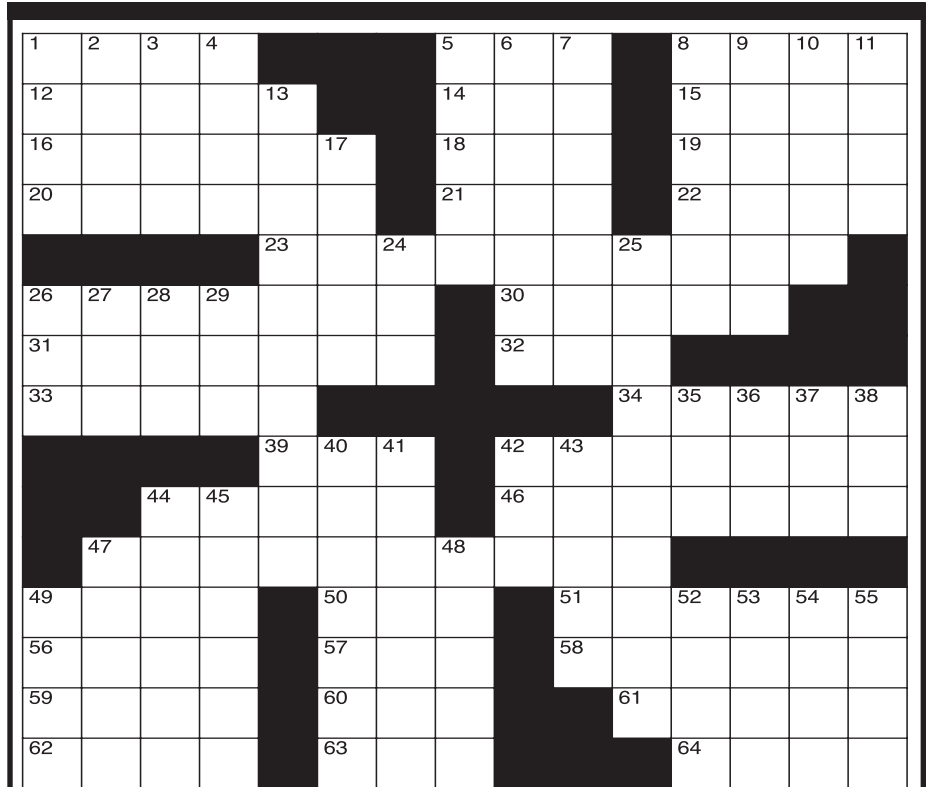
France, was executed by guillotine in Paris during the French Revolution.

Wilbraham Men’s Glee Club begins rehearsals

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Men’s Glee Club, accompanied by Marcia Jackson and conducted by Ray Drury began rehearsals for the 2025 concert season on Monday evening, Jan. 6, at Christ the King Lutheran/Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will contin-

ue each Monday thereafter until 2 concerts in late April/early May.

While no audition is required, all interested should be able to “carry a tune” attend the majority of rehearsals, and be able to pay a nominal fee at the first rehearsal to cover the cost of sheet music.



CLUES ACROSS

1. This regulates cortisol production (abbr.)
5. People of northern Vietnam
8. Employee stock ownership plan
12. Regions
14. The center of a city
15. Hindu serpentine deity
16. Roared
18. Sun up in New York
19. “Sir” in Malaysian
20. Shrimp dish
21. Muckraker Tarbell
22. Apex
23. Harmonic effects
26. One of Babe Ruth’s nicknames
30. Groups in organic chemistry
31. More pleasant-tasting
32. Spring forward
33. Noted writer
34. Building occupied by monks
39. “The world’s most famous arena”
42. Colorless liquid hydrocarbon
44. Long or fast speech
46. Things you can eat
47. Substance in which magnetic moments are not aligned
49. Actor Idris
50. I (German)
51. Taxes
56. Indonesian island
57. Nuisance (slang)
58. Shawl
59. Digits
60. Moved on foot quickly
61. “For goodness —”
62. Facial body part
63. Russian river
64. Urinates

CLUES DOWN

1. Partner to “oohs”
2. Scaly water dweller
3. Pueblo people of New Mexico
4. Music producer Teo
5. Greek mythological goddess
6. Got together to discuss
7. Acquires
8. Involve
9. Some are tomato-based
10. Old Irish alphabets
11. A sheet of glass in a window or door
13. Blood poisoning
17. A moon of Saturn
24. Neither
25. Sums
26. They follow “A”
27. Satisfaction
28. People of southeastern Burma
29. Small amount
35. Guy (slang)
36. Sound unit
37. Midway between northeast and east
38. Affirmative
40. Almost at the top
41. Extremely slow
42. Pearl Jam’s debut album
43. Influential mid-century playwright
44. Martens
45. Approval
47. Dallas-adjacent Texas city
48. African nation
49. Dark brown or black
52. A place to get caught
53. Large-headed, elongated fish
54. Type of sword
55. Scottish tax or levy

OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Prepping for this year's big garden

Last week I wrote about the desire to go back to my roots, so to speak, and embrace my homesteading self this New Year.

It's funny how when you are young and inexperienced you just "have at it" without much thought or planning. Sure, I had a general idea when it was best to sow my seeds indoors so that my transplants would be a good size come Memorial Day, but beyond that I sort of gardened when and how I felt like it.

These days I find it's good to have a plan of action. Here is where I will start in the coming weeks.

The first thing on the agenda is to go through my seed stash and decide what to keep and what to chuck. I usually throw out any seed that is older than three years, except for maybe tomatoes. I have had 5 or even 7-year-old tomato seeds germinate.

The three year rule does not apply to hybrid onions, carrots or parsnips. Those I get rid of at the two year mark.

If you are into growing herbs, I rarely have luck with lovage, dill or valerian after the first year. After I've whittled down my stash based on age, I will then look at what I have left in the envelopes and if I like that particular variety enough to buy more, or if I'd better start off with a new type altogether.

If it didn't work last year, why grow it again? I feel this way especially as I get older.

I used to have a friend who was a bit morbid as he aged, and he'd say, "if I'm lucky I'll get another 10 gardens." While that used to depress me to hear that, I guess it's a good point to make.

Once I've got the seed package pile figured out, the fun begins. I'll get my seed orders in early, to beat the rush, especially if I want to grow transplants that take a lot of time to size up.

Onions are best started indoors around Valentine's Day. For flower lovers among us the fun starts earlier.

Wax begonias can be sown now! Yes, now! Coleus and petunia are not long after.

While many decades of growing have approximate dates burned into my brain on some things, others I will have to look up, especially since I am trying to grow more of our food with vegetables coming in as soon as possible and without gaps.

There are some fantastic resources out there for custom tailoring your growing/sowing schedule. Seed catalogs are just one. I love Johnny's Selected Seed (www.johnny-seeds.com) for this reason. Because they cater market growers as well as home gardeners, this catalog is packed with useful tips.

Online you will find a treasure trove of topics that will get you excited and well-equipped.

Speaking of equipped, it's also a great time to take inventory of your supplies. Do I have enough seed starting mix on hand, and did I like it enough to use again?

One year I bought germinating medium that had such little fertility. My plants were on the yellow side and stunted.

I try to grow organically as much as possible, and this soil nearly made me run for the blue water. I ended up mixing that lousy soil with some good soil, and added some fertilizer to the whole batch before using it in bigger container plantings.

Many soil bags will actually state that supplemental fertilizer is necessary af-

Please see **GARDEN**, Page 16



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GUEST COLUMN

Final Hike of 2024



Watching the sunrise from the summit of Mt. Jackson, NH.

By Julie Midura
Correspondent

This was our final hike of 2024. It was 5:15am, and we were lying on our backs staring up at the stars, cocooned in our bright green two-person down sleeping bag atop several feet of snow on the wide open summit of Mt. Jackson in NH. The sun was still 2 hours from cresting the distant horizon. It was dead calm, but bitterly cold.

In spite of donning every layer in my winter arsenal, I shivered and snuggled closer to Tom as I gathered the excess fabric of the bag as close to my body as I could.

We had arrived at the trailhead parking lot almost 3 hours before. It was 0 degrees when we stepped out of our SUV and opened the back hatch to retrieve our backpacks. In a split second of hesitation, I questioned our sanity. "Who in their right mind climbs a mountain in the pitch black of night in these ungodly temperatures just to see the sun rise?" Then I immediately thought, "Too late now. We dropped the motel key in the drop box a half hour ago in the dead of night, so we'll be climbing this mountain whether I want to or not."

As we moved upward along the snak-



Snuggled in our sleeping bags on our snowy perch.

ing path, the beams of light from our headlamps danced between the snow covered trees, creating an aura of mystery as the long shadows stretched deep into the blackened forest. Our headlamps ignited the untouched snow on the sides of the trail, giving the illusion of walking on a smooth white carpet of infinite shimmering diamonds.

When we finally broke tree line, the crescent moon and twinkling stars welcomed us to a dark and windless summit. I

Please see **HIKING**, Page 15

Election letters policy

The Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to theregister@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered

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

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

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the

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

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

The REGISTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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 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.

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

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.

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 27 and February 10) 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.

Youth Crochet Club, every other Tuesday (January 28 and February 11) 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 are available in the Youth Room. Registration preferred.

Open Sew Saturday (January 18 and February 22) 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 other 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 (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. 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 and February 20) 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 at the library. 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.

Ice Cream Scavenger Hunt, Friday (January 31) 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. All ages. Get ready to celebrate National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (on 2/1) with a scavenger hunt for pictures of all your favorite flavors of ice cream, win a prize for finding them all! 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 at the library. 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 Homeschoolers, 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.

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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.

Saturday STEM: Candy DNA and Atoms, Saturday (January 18) 11:00 a.m. Kids will learn about the structure of DNA and atomic molecules and how they affect us in a surprisingly easy and tasty way! Please register.

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WNEU Fall 2024 Semester Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD—Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 750 students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester. Students are named to the Dean's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher.

The following local students were named to the Dean's List:

LUDLOW

Adam Krutka, Aiden Carmona, Andrew Provost, Christian Roche, Christo-

pher Fogg,

Cody Sanderson, Cole Bamford, Daniel Gesualdi, Emma Hall, Felicia Pacheco, Gavin Berube, Jade Bamford, Jetta Albright, John McClintock, Jonathan Dubour, Keely Smyth, Kylie Hua, Lance Tomlinson, Malina Dinis, Nolan Ayers, Sophia Dobek, Timothy Del Negro, Trevor Dowd,

INDIAN ORCHARD

Cameron Touchette, Isaac Rodriguez, Jenna Branco, Robert Beyette, Rukia Masesa,

Psychic medium night on Feb. 27

STURBRIDGE—Join the Chamber of Central Mass South and guests at The Barn at Wight Farm in Sturbridge for an inspiring night with Gary McKinstry, the Psychic Medium Entertainer, on Feb. 27, from 7 to 9 p.m.

Internationally known Psychic Medium Entertainer, McKinstry, will share his gift to connect with the spirit world and bring intuitive messages to guests of the Chamber's Medium Night. McKinstry's work as a psychic medium for over 30 years not only includes clients in the USA, but also Brazil, France, Australia, Germany and Canada. Whether one on one or in a large arena, McKinstry is dedicated to helping people in all walks of life and death and will deliver messages with style.

In this gallery reading, Gary ran-

domly selects individuals from the audience to deliver messages, guided by spirits. Messages may be from the afterlife or pertain to the present. While not everyone gets a reading, all are encouraged to listen as the messages hold collective meaning. A psychic gallery reading elevates the group's consciousness, offering deep and transformative experiences, providing hope and inspiration.

Tickets are \$60 for CMS Chamber members and their employees, or \$65 for non-Members. Cash bar.

This intimate and enlightening evening with Gary is limited to 100 attendees, so get tickets now.

For Medium Night tickets and information give the Chamber a call at 508-347-2761 or email info@cms-chamber.

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



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Seventh Annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner



Seated together to enjoy dessert, (from left) Ryan Collette, Dr. Jill and Pete Gallagher, and Detective Dave Karnacki.



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

First Responders pictured together from Wilbraham, Anthony Cerini and Patrick Farrow, and from Hampden, Joseph Borowiec and John Fitzgerald.

FIRST RESPONDERS from Page 1

“It’s a lot of planning, but we partner with local organizations and people are kind enough to come back every year to coordinate with us and donate,” Nogueira said.

The event included a visit from Boomer from the Thunderbirds, and toys and gifts for all kids that attended with their families. There was also a game for departments to compete for a \$1,000 donation to their department, which was awarded to the State Police this year.

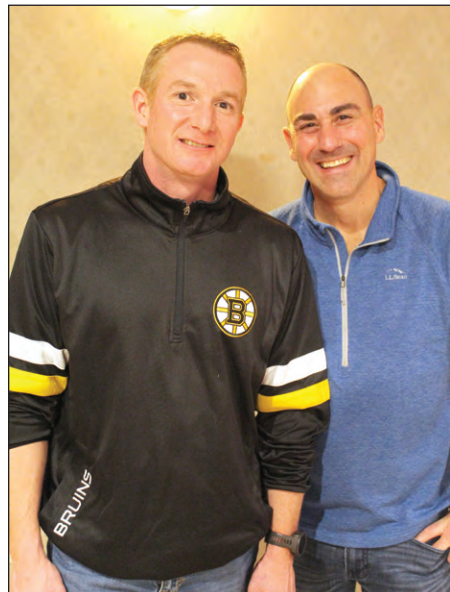
“We think it’s important to support our local first responders,” Nogueira said. “They dedicate their lives and their family’s lives to support and take care of the community. They’re the first people we call when we need help, and we (at PV Financial) feel they should be honored some way. We want to celebrate them and their families, and we feel it’s important to give back.”

The event brought together first responders and their families from Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Hampden, including police, firefighters, EMTs, state police, emergency dispatchers, the Hampden County Sheriff’s Department, and retirees from all departments.

“We really think highly of our men and women in uniform and we really appreciate that they do,” Nogueira said. “This is just one small way to continue to honor them. We truly enjoy hosting it, and plan to do so for years to come.”

“It just seems like the right thing to do, and it’s something we really enjoy doing. They give up so much every day, so in essence it’s one small token for what they give up, which is so much larger,” Nogueira said.

PV Financial also sponsors the Slide Into Summer event that is held near the last day of school. This



Ludlow Fire Chief Ryan Pease and State Trooper Dan Askew chatted together.

year will be the 10th anniversary of the Ludlow celebration that is regularly held at the Boys and Girls’ Club, while Wilbraham will hold its third annual Slide Into Summer at Spec Pond in Post Office Park.

If you’d like to learn more about PV Financial Group, you can visit their website at PVFinancial.com.



Officer Mark Shlosser (right) and his daughter Rachel enjoyed the appreciation dinner at the Gremio Lusitano Club.



Bruce Marshall, Paul Chrzan, and Eric Segundo announced the festivities for the evening.



Rick Askew (back) joined (from left) Clara, Al, and Troy Witkowsky at their table for dinner.



Alan and Linda Kipetz had fun with Gregory Pietras at the annual appreciation dinner.



Andrew McCormic (left) hung out with Boomer of the Thunderbirds at the appreciation dinner.



Matt Niles and John Luc Lavoie socialized at the event.



Director of Veteran Affairs Eric Segundo emceed the Thursday night dinner.



Ethan DuBois (right) brought one-year-old Rene to attend the annual Appreciation Dinner.

DECORATING CONTEST from Page 1

me and their neighbors.”

The Dominique family, who placed second in last year’s competition and has also gotten first place in the Halloween decorating contest, said they were happy to participate.

“It was very competitive,” said Ross Dominique. “Our main goal is just to provide something for entire comm to view and enjoy throughout the season.”

Mary Beth Silva thanked her fellow judges, as well as Alesia Barbaro, Linda Collette, Michael Cortina, Kathy Ouimette, David Sady, and Christina Yacono for their continued collaboration with the contest.

“I had a blast,” Silva said. “I had even more fun this year than last year.”

The Bryant Family’s house on Moore Street was lit up with fantastic decorations, for which it earned first place in the contest.



2nd Place was awarded to 46 Cislak Drive, (from left) Dave Sady, Mike and Stephanie Cust, M.B. Silva as Santa, Regina Stanek, and Lucy Palmeira.



A collection of light-up statuettes glowed from the lawn on Cislak Drive, earning second place in the annual competition.



3rd Place was awarded to 74 Edison Drive, (from left) Michele Dominique as Mrs. Claus, Ross Dominique as Santa Claus, M.B. Silva also as Santa, Linda Collette, Lucy Palmeira, and Regina Stanek.



A snow machine can be seen blowing snow from the roof of the Edison Drive property, which was awarded third place.

SELECTMEN from Page 1

candidate, and you have a standout candidate,” Valadas said.

Valadas compared Rodrigues to an officer who interviewed previously that had already been through police academy and was certified in another state.

“Mr. Rodrigues is even better than

that, because of the fact that he’s already certified in our state,” Valadas said. “Officer Rodrigues is a fine family man, and I would be honored to have him.”

“I think the other candidates have a bright future, especially since the fact that they have ties to Ludlow,” Valadas said, identifying the three other

applicants by name as “all good candidates.”

The board voted unanimously to appoint Rodrigues based on his experience, post certification, ability to start immediately, and his questions and answers during the interview.

Treasurer/Collector

The board also interviewed Sharon Bittner-Willes for the Treasurer/Collector position. Bittner-Willes identified herself as a 30-year resident of the Pioneer Valley, with background as an office manager at a chiropractic facility for 17 years and at an assisted living facility.

“I ended up in the city of Holyoke about three and a half years ago,” Bittner-Willes said. “Municipal government was brand new to me; I loved it. It’s challenging, it’s exciting, no two days are the same.”

Bittner-Willes said she is an accountant in the Auditor’s office, which she described as “the last line of defense in the city for anything that goes through, money-wise.”

The board noted Bittner-Willes’s familiarity with the Munis software as a benefit, and asked about her ex-

perience managing a department. Bittner-Willes said she was undaunted by the prospect of applying for certification while working.

There was some concern among members of the board about the challenges of the merged department and previous attempts to appoint a department head. Town Administrator Marc Strange said these reservations were understandable, but recommended hiring Bittner-Willes.

“When you’re sitting in the chair, there’s going to be an avalanche of challenge,” said Strange. “The question is, will that person rise to the challenge? Will that person stay late and come in on weekends until the wave crashes and there’s more of an even keel to the job. If that person can get through that, we’re going to be good to go.”

Strange said that, through his conversations with Bittner-Willes, he found that she seemed up to the challenge.

“She seems like she’s gritty and has a good work ethic,” Strange said.

The board voted unanimously to appoint Bittner-Willes to the position.

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Early goals hold up as Lions win two straight

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD—The Ludlow hockey team was able to post back-to-back shutout victories in a span of 48 hours last week.

Sophomore goalie Peter LeBorgne only had to make five saves in Ludlow's 1-0 non-conference victory against the Amherst Hurricanes at Orr Rink located on the Amherst College campus on January 7.

Junior goalie Donald Rogers was the starting goalie in the Lions first meeting of the regular season against Berry Division rival Longmeadow last Thursday night. He was credited with a total of 24 saves as the Lions defeated the Lancers, 3-0, at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

"Peter is a very good goalie and we've been sharing the starting duties so far this season," said Rogers, who recorded the second shutout of his varsity hockey career against the Lancers. "The defensemen really helped me out a lot in tonight's game by pushing everything off to the side so I could see the puck better."

Rogers, who's a student at



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Tannar Severyn heads up the ice.

Belchertown High School, joined the Ludlow hockey team this winter as part of a first year cop between the two neighboring high schools.

"It has been a lot of fun playing hockey for this team," Rodgers added. "The Belchertown guys always talk with the Ludlow players about the games that we played against them in the past."

When Rogers was a freshman, he posted a 2-0 shutout against Amherst in the Western

Mass. Class B semifinals. The Orioles then lost to the Lions in the Western Mass. finals.

The other Belchertown students listed on this year's Ludlow hockey roster are freshman Andrew Lambert, senior Charlie Fijal, sophomore William Mitus, senior Owen Hess, sophomore Gavin Harrington, and senior Jack Mandeville.

Lambert, and Mandeville are defensemen, along with senior

Please see **HOCKEY**, Page 12



Nicholas Deroin breaks away from a defender with the puck.



Owen Kumiega eyes an open teammate as he crosses into the offensive zone.

Home loss brings Lions down to .500

LUDLOW – Last Thursday night, a powerful Duggan team offense was too much for Ludlow in 69-52 decision. Ludlow was led by Jackson Mateus with 22 points while Tyler Tatro added 10 points in the defeat. Ludlow struggled in the early part

of the game, falling behind by double digits. While their offense was better in the second half, the deficit was too much to overcome. Ludlow is 4-4 this season. The Lions host Pathfinder on Friday night, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Cameron Lyman dribbles away from his opponent.



Kobe McKay attempts a free throw.



Jackson Mateus fires a shot up.



Tyler Tatro makes an off-balance bank shot.

Lions swimming swept by Westfield

LUDLOW – Last Wednesday, Ludlow hosted Westfield in swimming at the Ludlow boys and girls club.

According to coach Jacob Wingfield, there were many great swims and best times, including two team records in back-to-back races as Joe Keroack rebroke his own 50 free record from 2023 leading off the 200 free relay in 22.56 (previous record 22.59) and then shattering his 100 backstroke record from 2024 of 59.31 by 2.5 seconds with his 56.85.

Unfortunately, the fast swims couldn't make up the difference in points as our boys lost a close meet 75-69 and the girls were overwhelmed 130-21.

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T-Birds reach .500 with road win

HARTFORD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (15-15-2-1) rode spectacular performances by Simon Robertsson and Colten Ellis to a 3-1 win over the Hartford Wolf Pack (16-16-2-1) on Sunday inside the XL Center.

The opening period yielded a scarce amount of chances for the two squads, as Ellis and Dylan Garand were each a perfect 8-for-8 in save opportunities. Dalibor Dvorsky came the closest of the two teams to breaking the scoreless tie when he wristed a forehand off the post on the stick side.

The Wolf Pack, which scored only once in their last three games on home ice, broke the ice at 3:37 of the second as Ryder Korczak cashed a 3-on-2 rush with his third

of the season to give the visitors a 1-0 advantage. That Hartford lead lasted less than three minutes as Robertsson evened the slate at 6:20 with a backhand rebound after Garand denied an initial shot from Corey Schueneman.

With the 1-1 score carrying into the period's final minute, Springfield got a tie-breaking goal from a rookie for the second straight evening. Robertsson was nearing the end of a shift but gutted it out with an incredible individual effort to split between two Wolf Pack defenseman before drubbing a forehand shot through Garand's legs at 19:08. The rookie's first career multi-goal game in the AHL gave the T-Birds the 2-1 lead heading into the third.

Ellis was the star of the show

in a final period that saw the Wolf Pack relentlessly attack the Springfield goal. Time after time, the young backstop had an answer, racking up 19 third period saves, with a little help from his post along the way on a near-tying goal from Jaroslav Chmelar.

With Garand at the bench with just under two minutes remaining, Hugh McGing darted up the ice to cancel an icing and pound a loose puck into an empty net to end a 29-game goal-scoring drought.

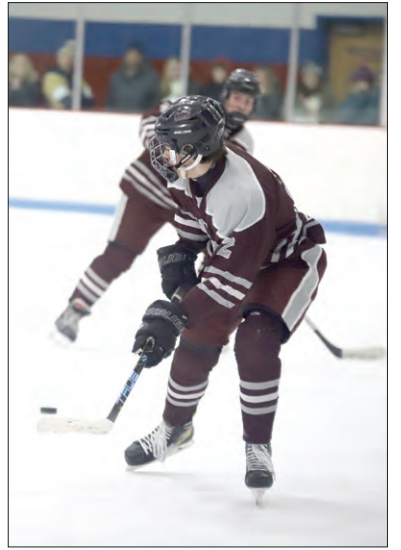
With four points in their pockets out of the weekend, the T-Birds look to build on their momentum on Wednesday night as they make their first visit to Bridgeport to take on the Islanders at 7 p.m. at Total Mortgage Arena.

HOCKEY from Page 11

Ryan Goodwin, senior Nick Staeb, and junior Sean Kefalas.

"The Belchertown hockey team struggled a little bit defensively last year and I would get peppered with a lot of shots in every game," said Rogers, who has always been a goalie. "It does feel very nice to have a strong defense playing in front of you this season."

Rogers shared the starting duties with Curtis Wojnas a year ago at Belchertown. Wojnas is currently a member of the hockey team at Wilbraham & Monson Academy.



Evan Dias looks to receive a pass from behind.

The Ludlow hockey team celebrated a victory against Longmeadow for the first time in several years.

"I think we haven't beaten Longmeadow in about five years," said Ludlow head coach Paul Rivest. "This is a huge win for us because it was against a Berry Division opponent. It'll also help us in the power rankings. These kids have worked very hard, and I think we're capable of competing against any team in our Division."

The back-to-back shutout victories pushed the Lions overall season record to 4-3-1. They also had a 2-3-1 record against Berry Division opponents. Only the top four teams in the Berry Division standings will qualify for this year's Western Mass. Class A tournament.

The Lions took a 1-0 lead against the Lancers (2-5-2, 1-5-1) three minutes into the opening period.

The scoring play began with junior Tannar Severyn delivering a pass to classmate AJ Stupak, who fired a shot past Longmeadow sophomore goalie Jackson Blais (21 saves) for his second goal of the season.

Stupak scored his first goal of the 2024-25 campaign during the third period of the Amherst game two days earlier.

The Lions managed to hold onto the 1-0 lead against Longmeadow until late in the third period.

Rogers didn't have to make very many outstanding saves, but there was still a lot of pressure on him.

"We've been falling behind early in most of our games this season, so it did feel nice to take an early lead for a change," Rogers said. "There was a lot of pressure on me because my teammates and the fans are expecting me to keep the 1-0 lead."

Ludlow managed to kill a penalty in each period.

The Lions defense didn't allow any shot attempts during the Lancers first power-play late in the opening period.

The Lancers had another 5-on-4 opportunity in the middle of the second period and only had one shot on goal.

With 1:40 left in the second period, Fijal fired a shot from inside the left circle that deflected off the post, which kept the score 1-0 a little bit longer.

Ludlow, who didn't have any power-plays during the match, managed to take a 2-0 lead when sophomore Evan Dias scored a goal with 4:49 remaining in regulation.

"Evan's goal late in the third period definitely took a lot of the pressure off of me," Rogers said. "It was a very nice goal by him. Then we scored an open net goal which made it a lot easier for me."

The duo of Severyn and Stupak assisted on the Lions second goal.

After another Ludlow player was sent to the penalty box, Severyn scored an open net shorthanded goal following a shot from his own blue line, which sealed the Lions second consecutive shutout victory.

The Lions and Lancers are scheduled to face each other again at Olympia at 4:30pm on February 8.



Sean Kefalas plays the puck on the defensive end.

Railers scored win over Wheeling Nailers

WORCESTER — The Worcester Railers HC (14-17-1-4 33pts) took down the Wheeling Nailers (25-7-2-0, 52pts), on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 2-1 in front of a crowd of 1,875 at WesBanco Arena. The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center taking on the Adirondack Thunder on Friday, January 17th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

It was the Railers who struck first tonight as Justin Gill (1-1-2) scored 10:18 into the first period giving Worcester the 1-0 lead. The Railers extended their lead to 2-0 in the second period with a goal from Anthony Callin (1-0-1). Wheeling notched their first goal of the night 40 seconds into

the third period as Logan Pietila (1-0-1) cut the Wheeling deficit to one. The Railers held off Wheeling for the remainder of the third period, leading to a 2-1 final score.

Worcester logged the first goal of the night as Justin Gill (3rd) scored on a wraparound goal 10:18 into the first period giving Worcester the 1-0 lead. Gill would be the only goal scorer through the first 20 minutes. Shots favored Wichita 13-9 in the first period.

Worcester extended their lead in the second period when Anthony Callin (9th) tapped Justin Gill's pass into the back of the net extended the Worcester lead to 2-0. Wheeling got the first power play opportunity of the game follow-

ing a slashing call on Worcester's Anthony Repaci, but the Railers penalty kill successfully killed the penalty off and kept the score at 2-0 heading into the third period. Shots favored Worcester in the second 17-10.

It didn't take long in the third period for Wheeling to cut into the Worcester lead, as Logan Pietila (4th) scored just 40 seconds into the third period. The Railers held Wheeling off the scoreboard for the remainder of the third period, including a late barrage of shots in which Michael Bullion made a flurry of saves to give Worcester the 2-1 win in regulation. Shots favored Wheeling in the third 11-3 and 34-29 in the game.





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PAID ADVERTORIAL



POP Ortho has a welcoming reception area.



A consultation space and private clinic space inside POP Orthodontics.



A wide shot of the clinic spaces to work on patients at POP Orthodontics in Wilbraham.

POP Orthodontics opens its doors in Post Office Park

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - POP Orthodontics has officially opened its doors in Post Office Park, providing orthodontic care to the community.

Stepping inside the space at 75 Post Office Park #7507, you will find a waiting room space, art curated by local artist Kim Carlino, clinic and consultation rooms, office space for staff and more.

Their services include comprehensive treatment through traditional braces or Invisalign and a range of specialty appliances for limited treatment.

POP Orthodontics is open most evenings and several days during the week, with some Saturdays open as well. They accept most insurances and provide flexible payment options for patients.

Anyone interested can visit mypoportho.com to schedule a complimentary consultation.

Ana Serrenho, the orthodontist and owner of POP Orthodontics, has an extensive background in dentistry. She worked locally as a dental hygienist before attending Boston University for her dental and orthodontic degrees. She practiced orthodontics in Lawrence before moving back to Wilbraham. Dr. Serrenho is also Faculty at the NYU Langone program at the Holyoke Health Center, where she teaches orthodontics to pediatric dental residents.

Dr. Serrenho is active in local and state dental organizations. She was selected for the Massachusetts Dental Society 10 Under Ten in 2017 and received the Massachusetts Association of Orthodontists Anthony Gianelly Award in 2018.

Serrenho has been working in the



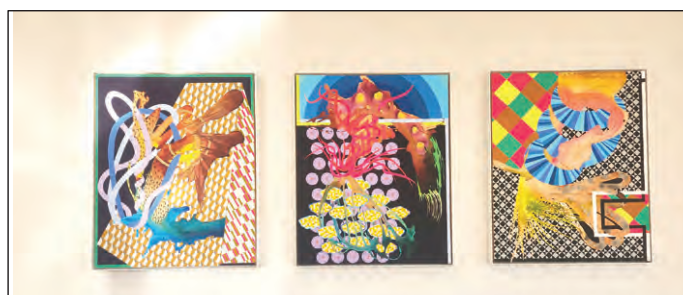
Ana Serrenho

dental field since she was 16 years old, receiving a lot of exposure to the positive impacts an orthodontist can have on the well-being of their patients.

“Our mission is to provide high-quality, convenient and comfortable orthodontic care. We have the latest in technology and use cloud software systems to streamline scheduling, billing and patient communication,” Serrenho said.

Serrenho shared that she always wanted orthodontics, as she had spacing on her front teeth growing up and “was

An exterior shot of POP Orthodontics in Post Office Park in Wilbraham.



A shot of art painted by local artist Kim Carlino inside the waiting room space at POP Orthodontics in Wilbraham.

Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

very self-conscious of it.”

“(I) would not smile for photos,” Serrenho said. “Psychosocial effects of a less-than-perfect smile can be long-lasting, such as decreased self-esteem, social anxiety, feelings of embarrassment, etc. and I really enjoy making a difference in kids’ lives.”

When asked what she enjoys most about her work, Serrenho said the patients.

“I love that each patient is unique. There’s no one-size-fits-all to orthodontics! I specialize in working with children,” Serrenho said. “It’s so rewarding to help kids overcome their concerns and help them achieve beautiful and functional smiles.”

She also stressed the importance of continuity.

“Continuity is not only important for the kids, but parents also want the same orthodontist overseeing the entire treatment for the whole family. That’s something you are much more likely to get with a locally-owned ortho office versus a corporate ortho practice,” Serrenho said. “I also live in the community I practice in, which creates an added sense of responsibility.”

Michael Nordstrom, a practice administrator at Pediatric Services of Springfield in Post Office Park, expressed excitement at Serrenho’s practice moving into the area.

“We are excited to welcome POP Orthodontics as our newest neighbor! Dr. Serrenho’s practice is a wonderful addition to Post Office Park, perfectly complementing the other services we



Photos courtesy of Ana Serrenho

A “POP Star,” known as one of the young patients at POP Orthodontics, Bradley Ball, dropping off his letter to Santa during his visit to POP Orthodontics.

offer in our shared mission to meet the healthcare needs of the community,” Nordstrom said.

Glen Garvey, the owner and developer of Post Office Park, was also thrilled to have another local business move in.

“The feedback, first and foremost from the patients, has been outstanding. She lives here in town,” Garvey said. “She’s very involved in the community and she’s available for people when they want to get together, doesn’t really matter what time the appointment is...so it makes it very, very convenient for her to have an office here and be a resident of the town to meet with her patients and the parents when it works for them.”

Garvey said Serrenho has already left a positive impact on the community by meeting with and supporting the other businesses, along with her work with the patients.

“She’s super high-energy, very social, very genuine,” Garvey said. “Which I know resonates with her patients.”

Garvey encouraged residents to reach out to Serrenho for their orthodontic needs.

“With her work ethic and her drive and her skill as an orthodontist, going to be great. Going to be very successful in all of her endeavors,” Garvey said.

Serrenho thanked the community for their support and looks forward to serving them.

“As someone who grew up in Ludlow and moved back to Wilbraham from Boston in 2017, I am thrilled to be able to provide services to the local community,” Serrenho said.

To learn more, check out their Facebook and Instagram pages at @mypoportho, visit mypoportho.com or call 413-675-7570.



OBITUARIES

PUBLIC NOTICES

DEATH NOTICES

Aurelia L. Batista
Died Jan. 11, 2025
Services
Jan. 17, 2025
Kapinos Mazur
Funeral Home

Arlene M. Langton
Died Jan. 5, 2025
Services
Jan. 21, 2025
Ratell Funeral Home
Funeral Home

Aurelia L. Batista, 93

LUDLOW—Aurelia L. (Cucchi) Batista, 93, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025. Daughter of the late Adriano and Adimera (Ciaschini) Cucchi, she was born in Springfield on Feb. 26, 1931. A graduate of the former Springfield Technical High School, Lil worked as a supervisor at Mass Mutual Insurance for many years and later as a waitress at several area restaurants. She was communicant of St Elizabeth's Parish in Ludlow. Along with her late husband Nundy, she was a founding member and board member of the Lusitano Alumni and Fans and a member of the Ludlow Senior Center. Lil was also an accomplished candlepin bowler, avid shopper and loved all of the dogs who shared her life over the years.



Lil is survived by her son Kenneth Batista and his wife Kim of Ludlow and her daughter Tina DeLullo and her husband Ralph of Hampden. She also leaves her sister-in-law Claire Cucchi and her nieces Julie and Patty. Sadly, she was predeceased by her husband Fernando "Nundy" Batista in 2017 and her siblings Eva Collina, Mary Turney and Ercole Cucchi.

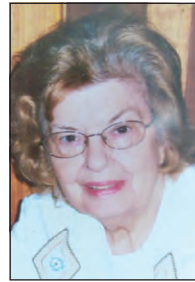
Lil's family would like to thank her longtime friend and caregiver Diane Busiere as well as the staff at the Arbors Westfield for their care and compassion.

Funeral services for Lil will be Friday, Jan. 17, 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. Burial will be in Island Pond Cemetery. Visiting hours at the funeral home will be Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025 from 4 to 7 p.m. Donations in Lil's memory may be made to The Arbors at Westfield, Reflections Unit, 40 Court St, Westfield, MA 01085. For more information, please go to www.kapinosmazurfh.com.

Arlene M. Langton

LUDLOW - Arlene M. Langton, 92 passed away peacefully on Jan. 5, 2025, at her home in Ludlow.

She was born June 15, 1932, in Ludlow to the late Joseph and Beatrice (Bousquet) Goodreau. She was a longtime resident of Ludlow. She enjoyed birdwatching, reading, going to local parks and traveling throughout the country to visit her children. She was a wonderful card player and thoroughly enjoyed her weekly card games with her brother and sisters.



Arlene was predeceased by her husband of 68 years, Carl M. Langton, and is survived by her five children: son Carl J. Langton and wife Doreen, daughter Holly A. Yordy and husband Glennard; daughter Deborah M. Langton; daughter Lynn M. Langton and daughter Susan M. Nurse and husband Clifford. She leaves seven grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren. Arlene was the oldest of fifteen and is survived by seven sisters and one brother: Joanne, Janice, Judy, Carol, Donna, Gail, Renee, and Wayne. Sadly, she was predeceased by Richard, Robert, Joyce, Ronald, Sharon and Dennis.

Family and friends are invited to gather on Tuesday, Jan. 21 for visitation from 9 to 11 a.m. at Ratell Funeral Home, 200 Main Street, Indian Orchard, followed by a service at 11am celebrating Arlene's life. Burial will follow immediately at Hillcrest Park Cemetery in Springfield. The family would like to thank Beacon Hospice caretakers and the Ludlow paramedics. In lieu of flowers, donations in Arlene's name may be made to Beacon Hospice, 815 Worcester St., Springfield, MA 01151 or Ludlow Ambulance Service, 574 Center St., Ludlow MA 01056.

Please visit www.ratellfuneralhome.com to leave remembrances and words of sympathy for the family.

The Ludlow Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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The Register

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. HD24P2578EA Estate of: Brian Keith Rodrigues Also known as: Brian K Rodrigues Date of Death: 10/07/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **John Campbell of Ludlow, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **John Campbell of Ludlow, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

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 02/03/2025. 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 CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration 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: January 06, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
01/15/2025

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

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

Storytime at the Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM - Registration is now open for the winter session of Storytime at the Wilbraham Public Library. Join Mrs. B for a fun collection of stories, songs, and fingerplays geared for children ages three to six.

Kids must come in independently and

parents/ caretaker must wait in the library. Sessions run for six weeks.

Winter session dates: Thursday January 9, 2025 to February 13, 2025 at 10 a.m. Call the library at (413) 596-6141 or visit www.wilbrahamlibrary.org to register.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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

Haluch's MEMORIALS
Cemetery Memorials + Markers
Granite Benches
Religious Statuary + Outdoor Display
RAY HALUCH INC.
1014 Center St | Ludlow, MA | 583-6508

LUDLOW MEMORIAL COMPANY INC.
Celebrating over 60 Years in Business ~ The Trusz Family
♦ Benches ♦ Statues ♦ Monuments ♦ Custom Design Work
♦ Plot Maintenance ♦ Bronze Plaques ♦ Cleaning ♦ Markers ♦ Vases
♦ On-Site Lettering ♦ Restorations ♦ Cemetery Signage ♦ Granite Signs
201 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 ♦ www.ludlowmemorialcompany.com
413-589-7564 Office ♦ 413-589-7588 Fax ♦ 413-531-5360

Wilbraham Hiking Club January Hikes

WILBRAHAM - Here are the January hikes for the Wilbraham Hiking Club and for the Wilbraham Senior Center Hiking Club. All hikes are "weather permitting".

•Th., Jan. 16 - Easy - Horse Mountain, Haydenville

•Mon., Jan. 20 - Easy - Laughing Brook, Hampden

•Sun., Jan. 26 - Easy -Thayer Brook, Wilbraham

•Sun. Jan. 26 - a tentative high-moderate hike, location TBD

For more info on the hikes above (and possibly additional hikes), use the club's TeamReach App or write to wilbrahamJen at 596-8379.



A visit from the infamous Grey Jays, with Mt Washington in the distance.

HIKING from Page 6

stood, unmoving, serenaded by the whisper of starlight in the heavens above me.

Eight years of hiking in every season. Numerous hiking lists. Thousands of miles. Climbing the second tallest mountain in the continental United States. Section hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Every hike. Every backpacking trip. Every footprint left on every mountain.

Each one propelling us forward to the next... eventually leading us to this singular unforgettable moment.

A moment of being suspended in time, somewhere between our very first hike and what will someday be our very last. Suspended between the valley below and the heavens above while basking under the brilliance of a million twinkling stars against the backdrop of a black velvet sky, while waiting for the sun to awaken the earth in a blaze of fiery brilliance.

And although we hope that we'll have the opportunity to experience a moment like this again, we've learned the hard way that there are no guarantees in this life.

So we settle in for however long it takes. We inhale the clean mountain air. We feel the cold kiss our cheeks and the silence fill our ears. We wait for the sun to silence the stars and breathe life onto the earth.

We remain snuggled in our lofty bright green sleeping bag on a snowy perch atop a 4,000-foot mountain for over four hours, unwilling to leave lest we miss one single minute of the magic that is unfolding in front of us.

And as we watch the black of night turn into the blazing red of dawn, we know that for the rest of our lives, for as long as there is breath in our lungs and blood running through our veins...

WE. WILL. NEVER. FORGET. THIS. MOMENT. See you in the wild places, my friends!

To read more about our hiking adventures, follow us on Instagram @more-thanthemountain.

DATEBOOK

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

ONGOING

FOOD DRIVE BI-MONTHLY. On the first Saturday of each EVEN month (February, April, June, August, October, December) First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St, collects non-perishable foods. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., drive through the back parking lot. We will take your donations out of your car & bring them to the Community Survival Center to be distributed to those in need. Bring all food items to drop off at our next Food Drive on Feb. 1. Thanks for your generosity.

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

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

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

call the church office at 413-543-4763.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church DIRECTORY

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

584 West St., Ludlow
413-583-8454
S Sunday services
Sacrament Meeting 10- 11 A.M.
Sunday school for adults, Young single adults (18-30) and teens (11-18) - 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Classes for Single Adults(18-30)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -11- 12 noon
Classes for Young Men (11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon
Classes for Young Women (11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon
Children's classes: Sunday school & singing time every Sunday(3-10) 11- 12 noon
Nursery provided for ages 18 months- 3 yr

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

41 Warsaw Ave., Ludlow
413-583-2630
Pastor Rev. Raymond A. Soltys
Saturday Vigil Masses - 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Masses - 7:30 a.m.; 8:45 a.m. (Polish); 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Sunday Evening Mass - 5:30 p.m.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

25 Parker St, Indian Orchard,
413-543-3627
Very Rev. Piotr Calik
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m. -1 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAY
MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:15 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8:45 a.m. (English), 10 a.m. (Polish)
Weekday Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 7:45 a.m. (English)
First Friday Mass: 5:30 p.m. (Polish/English)
First Saturday Mass: 9 a.m. (Polish/English)
Confessions: Saturday - 3:15-4 p.m.

ST. ELIZABETH PARISH

191 Hubbard St., Ludlow
413-583-3467
Pastor - Rev. Msgr. Homer P. Gosselin
In Residence - Rev. Norman Bolton
Deacons: Normand Grondin, Thomas Rickson, Keith Davies
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
stelizabethludlow.org
Like us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram
Check out our Parish App
Wednesday, Jan. 15, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Women's Bible Study - 9:30 a.m. (JR), Holy Mother Choir 5:15 p.m. (C), Scouts 6:30 p.m. (JR/FLBH)
Thursday, Jan. 16, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C)
Friday, Jan. 17, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m.(C)
Saturday, Jan. 18, - Confessions - 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. (C), Saturday Mass - 4 p.m. (C), K of C Meat-loaf Dinner 5:30 p.m. - (FLBH)
Sunday Jan. 19, - Sunday Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 11 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 5 p.m. (C), Take & Eat Program - 8:00 a.m. (FLBH), - Confirmation Class - 8 a.m.(ZR), Lifeteen - 6 p.m. (JR)
Monday Jan. 20, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Trip Informational Meeting w/Jim Martin 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21, - Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Friends of St. Elizabeth 10 a.m. (ZR), St. Rita's Choir, 2:30 p.m. (C), Middle School Youth Ministry - 3 p.m. (JR), Bereavement Support Group 6:30 p.m. (ZR), Pastoral Council 6:30 p.m. (JR)

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH

438 Winsor St., Ludlow
413-583-2312
Father Pedro DeOlivera
Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses - 9 a.m. (Portuguese); 11 a.m. (English)
Monday and Wednesday Morning Masses - 8:30 a.m. (Portuguese)
Tuesday and Friday Masses - 5:30 p.m. (Portuguese)
Saturday Vigil Mass - 4 p.m. (English)
First Saturday of the Month - 8:30 a.m.
For more information, visit ourladyoffatimaparish.org.

FIRST CHURCH IN LUDLOW

859 Center St. Ludlow
413-583-3339
Reverend Darcy Borden, Pastor
Office hours Monday & Wednesday 10 am to 2 pm
Available by appointment at other times
Sunday worship at 10 am alternating weekly with Grace Union Church, Wilbraham
Call or check Facebook or the website for the schedule of worship and events
Service live-streamed at 10 am on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow>
Website: www.ludlowfirst.com

ORCHARD COVENANT CHURCH

95 Berkshire Street
Indian Orchard, MA 01151
413-543-4204
Revs. Karen and Nick Munn, pastors
Sunday School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.
Worship in person, 11 a.m.
Or watch our livestream.
See our website for more information:
orchardcovenant.org.

FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL

A Church of the Nazarene
485 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 413-583-7875
Email: FCCludlow@GMail.com
Lead Pastor: Reverend Lisa Morrison
Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs
Discipleship Groups 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m.
OTHER PROGRAMS
MONDAYS at 6:30 p.m. H.O.P.E. Meeting Recovery Meetings for those with addictions, anxiety, and grief SMC. Call 413-519-4591
TUESDAYS at 7 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study
RIDAYS Children's After School Club (pre K through teens) 5-6:30 p.m.

STS. PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

45 Newbury St.
Ludlow, MA 01056
Phone: 413-583-2140
Pastor: Father Andriy Krip
Liturgy schedule:
Wednesday 9 a.m., Friday 9 a.m.
Rosary for Peace in Ukraine on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

NAMI to host annual meeting Jan. 19

HOLYOKE— The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 19, beginning at 1 p.m. The special guest speaker will be Cristianna Borelli. Recently, she was invited to and competed at the National US/Woman of Achievement Pageant in Irvine, California this past November. She returned home with the national title of Ms US 2025, the first woman from New England to do so in

the 10-year history of the pageant. She will present her dual platform of mental health advocacy, and suicide prevention to help, support, and empower people from all walks of life who have struggled with a mental health issue. Now, she is using her crown as a symbol and a tool to help others who struggle in silence regarding their mental health. Hear her inspiring words of hope.

This event is open to the public. Absentee ballots will be mailed

only to NAMI-WM members who are eligible to vote. If the ballot has not been received by Jan. 13 please call the office. The ballots must be received in the office by Friday, Jan. 17. To register please go to namiwm.org/events and click on the registration link or go directly to Eventbrite.com and search for NAMI Western Mass. A Zoom link will be provided to those who are registered. For more information contact the office.

GARDEN from Page 6

ter three-four weeks. And I should say that I do find it worth the investment to buy potting soil that is geared specifically to seed sowing, ie the germinating medium or seed-starting mix I speak of. It is milled finer for tiny seeds and will not stay too damp, or too dry, leading to a higher success rate.

In addition to assessing your soil, take a look at your stash of containers and labels. If you are re-using, make sure to wash both well, so that any diseases or pathogens won't infect this years' efforts.

You really don't need fancy, purchased containers. The plastic boxes that mushrooms come in work great as sowing packs; just drill holes in the bottom. Cut up yogurt tubs make wonderful labels, and clear lidded salad boxes are perfect to place the seed packs in until germination occurs.

Low budget and earth friendly!
Next week we'll look at the role heat and light play in indoor seed starting.

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.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?
Send your stories and photos to mgusmao@turley.com

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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS..	\$2.17 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN HOWELLS JAMMY JOEYS CAKES 6.7 OZ.....	99c ea	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG	77c lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST.....	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SALMON FILLETS.....	\$6.99 lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ MARINATED PORK BUTT STRIPS.....	\$3.35 lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI MUEENSTER CHEESE.....	\$5.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS SHAVED STEAK.....	\$7.99 lb	90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com We reserve the right to limit quantities.	

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Winter Wonderland Open House

Learn about all that Assisted Living has to offer at our Open House! All are welcome to join us at the Arbors of Chicopee for appetizers and information.

January 23rd
3:00 pm
The Arbors at Chicopee

Please RSVP with Allyson at (413) 530-5916



Hampden Charter School of Science: Empowering Students for a Brighter Future

Are you searching for a school where academic excellence meets a supportive community? Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS) is a top-ranked, tuition-free public charter school serving grades 6-12 in Western Massachusetts. Since its founding in 2009, HCSS has been dedicated to preparing students for college, careers, and a lifetime of success.

Why Choose HCSS?

HCSS stands out as a premier choice for families because of its unique combination of academic rigor, personalized attention, and community spirit. Our two campuses—the Middle School in West Springfield (Grades 6-8) and the High School in Chicopee (Grades 9-12)—offer students a seamless transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Here's what makes HCSS truly exceptional:

Academic Excellence: Our rigorous curriculum is guided by College Board AP standards and Common Core. With honors courses beginning in 7th grade, 14 AP offerings in high school, and innovative programs like Project Lead The Way

(PLTW), students are challenged to reach their full potential.

Comprehensive College and Career Preparation: HCSS begins college and career readiness as early as 6th grade, including early SAT/PSAT prep, dual enrollment opportunities, and experiential college campus visits. With a 100% college acceptance rate and over \$51M in scholarships awarded since 2013, our graduates are set for success.

State-of-the-Art Technology: Students benefit from one-to-one Chromebook access, SMART Interactive Displays, and hands-on science labs, preparing them for a tech-driven world.

Award-Winning Extracurriculars: From robotics and science clubs to competitive athletics and social activities, students thrive outside the classroom as well.

Join Us for an Open House!

Explore what HCSS has to offer during our upcoming Welcome Saturday Open House events! Meet our dedicated staff, tour our campuses, and learn how HCSS can help your child achieve their dreams. Interested families can also join

a Virtual Information Session for an in-depth look at our programs from the comfort of home.

What Parents and Students Love About HCSS

Parents and students consistently praise HCSS for its nurturing environment, where every student feels valued and supported. The school's commitment to diversity and inclusion fosters a vibrant community that celebrates different perspectives and cultures. Families also appreciate the convenience of free transportation and extensive tutoring services, ensuring all students have the tools they need to succeed.

Student Success Stories

HCSS alumni have gone on to attend prestigious universities, including Ivy League institutions like Harvard, Columbia, and Dartmouth. Our students' achievements are a testament to the school's dedication to academic and personal growth. With a consistent college matriculation rate of over 95%, HCSS prepares students not just to attend col-

lege but to excel once they get there.

How to Apply

Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are now open! Rising 6th-10th graders should apply no later than March 2, 2025, to secure a spot in our admission lottery. Visit www.hampdencharter.org to apply and take the first step toward a brighter future.

At Hampden Charter School of Science, we believe every student deserves a world-class education. Join our community of learners, achievers, and leaders today—because your child's future begins here!

Agawam, Holyoke, Westfield, West Springfield Chicopee, Ludlow, Springfield

HCSS High School

20 Johnson Rd. Chicopee, MA 01022
Tel. 413-593-9090, Fax. 413-294-2648

HCSS Middle School

511 Main Street West Springfield, MA 01089, Tel.413-278-5450



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GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT INVITES YOU TO JOIN US!

WWW.GRSD.ORG



Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshires, Gateway Regional School District offers a caring and supportive small school environment. With support from the Barr Foundation, Gateway is engaging in transformative work to reinvent the school experience to make learning joyful for every student. Each GRSD school has a focus that aligns with the district's vision of emphasizing real-world learning, collaboration, and innovation.



Littleville Elementary School incorporates engaging, hands-on projects and events:

- Hartford Wolf Pack School Learning Day
- Springfield Symphony Orchestra string instrument workshop
- Holiday Craft fair
- Interactive "Author's Experience" with writer Daryl Cobb.

Gateway Regional School's (grades 6-12) pilot program will equip student for success after high school through:

- Fun team-building activities
- College tours
- Career exploration with experts
- Life-skills workshops
- Community projects



Chester Elementary School focuses on sustainability, creativity, and environmental awareness:

- Teaching with Trout (raising brook trout from eggs to adulthood)
- School-wide composting initiative
- Student Media Club
- School-wide production of Willy Wonka Jr.
- Visit from the Whalemobile

WE ARE EXCITED TO MEET YOU!



CAREER Education

Gateway Raises the Bar(r) for Students

The Gateway Regional School District is making significant advancements in student engagement and staff development, thanks to funding from the Barr Foundation and enthusiastic commitment from students and staff. These funds are being used to support a variety of initiatives that align with the district's instructional vision, emphasizing real-world learning, collaboration, and innovation.

At Gateway Regional, a comprehensive plan has been developed for grades 6-12 to help students prepare for life beyond high school. This plan includes tailored learning experiences for each grade level, such as team-building activities for sixth graders, community exploration in seventh grade, and visits to community colleges for eighth graders. Ninth-grade students will engage in career exploration workshops led by industry experts, while tenth graders will visit four-year colleges. Eleventh-grade students will attend a local college fair and participate in life skills workshops, and seniors will celebrate their achievements with a banquet and lead activities for younger students. While some of these initiatives will be piloted this year, others will launch in the next school year, ensuring students are equipped with knowledge and skills for future success. The high school offers two Chapter 74 programs for students interested in welding and early childhood education. Graduates of these programs will complete a full comprehensive internship and be equipped to enter the workforce with the skills obtained.

Littleville Elementary is incorporating the Barr Foundation funds into engaging, hands-on projects and school-wide events. For example, students in grades three through five recently attended the Hartford Wolf Pack School Learning Day, where they applied physical science concepts like force and motion to a live hockey game. Kindergarten students participated in a String Instrument Workshop led by members of the Springfield Orchestra, while all grade levels are eagerly anticipating an interactive "Author's Experience" with writer Daryl Cobb in March.

Plans are in the works to create a Schoolyard Habitat for Monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Littleville is also planning a mentoring program that will pair high school students with elementary students for long-term support. The school recently hosted a successful Holiday Craft Fair, showcasing student-made goods and fostering creativity.

At Chester Elementary, the focus is on sustainability, creativity, and environmental awareness. For the third year in a row, students are engaged with hydroponic agriculture, growing healthy food for their own school lunches and community. Students are participating in the Teaching with Trout program, where they raise brook trout from eggs to adulthood while learning about ecology and conservation. A composting initiative led by fifth graders is teaching students how to sort waste and reduce their environmental impact. The Student Media Club provides third graders with opportunities to develop and produce their own videos, promoting teamwork and innovation. Chester is also preparing for a school-wide production of Willy Wonka Jr., with fifth graders in lead roles and younger students in supporting roles. Additionally, an in-school field trip featured the Whalemobile, a life-sized inflatable whale that taught students about marine biology and conservation.

District-wide, the Barr Foundation funds are also being used to enhance staff development and collaboration. Teachers are participating in study tours to locations such as Kentucky, Maine, Providence, Boston, and New York City to explore innovative educational practices. An internal instructional vision board encourages staff members to share ideas for projects that utilize the funds to further educational transformation.

Through these initiatives, the Gateway Regional School District is fostering creativity, collaboration, and real-world learning for students while empowering educators with new ideas and strategies. These efforts are preparing students for success both in school and beyond while creating a culture of innovation and engagement throughout the district.

A New Year a New Career

A new year is upon us and as we declare resolutions, a new job might be in order. The first 5 years of a child's life are so important and since 1965, HCS Head Start has helped thousands of children and families prepare for school and life. We know that it takes a big heart to help shape growing minds and if you want to work with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in your community, Head Start might be the place for you.

The Head Start approach offers both families and their children, birth to five, an extraordinary school readiness experience. Educators who decide to teach in a comprehensive early learning setting have the opportunity to work collaboratively with other specialty areas like health, nutrition, mental health, and family and community engagement, that are designed to prepare vulnerable children for future educational success.

Data shows that when children are enrolled in a high-quality Head Start

program they are better prepared for kindergarten and beyond. Staff and parents work together, learning from one another, to create the best early educational experience both at home and at preschool. This is possible because when parents are involved and engaged in their child's education, children have better outcomes.

In addition to teaching, Head Start also has various career opportunities in the areas of health, nutrition, human services, administration, mental health, and special education. Professional development opportunities and career ladders are built within the Head Start model to promote growth and advancement.

Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start, Inc. offers programs in several cities and towns in Western Massachusetts working with over 1,000 children each year. If you are interested in a rewarding Head Start career please visit www.hcsheadstart.org/employment/ or call 413-788-6522.

HCS Head Start is Hiring

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CAREER Education

HCC gearing up for spring semester

Registration is open for spring 2025 semester classes at Holyoke Community College.

The HCC spring 2025 semester begins Tuesday, Jan. 21, for full 15-week spring semester classes begin. HCC will also be running three accelerated spring flex start sessions: Flex Start I classes begin Jan. 21 and run for seven weeks. Flex Start II classes begin Monday, Feb. 3, and run for 12 weeks; Flex Start III classes begin Monday, March 24, and run for seven weeks.

Thanks to the state-funded MassEducate program, a community college education is now free for all Massachusetts residents who have yet to earn a bachelor's degree.

"MassEducate provides an exciting opportunity for eligible students to attend college without the concern or weight of how to pay for it," said Mark Hudgik, HCC dean of strategic recruitment initiatives, admissions, and financial aid. "There has never been a better time to enroll.

Eligible students who want to earn a certificate or degree need only to complete the standard HCC application, complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the 2024-2025 school year, and register for at least six credits (typically two classes).

"Our admissions counselors, academic advisers, and financial aid staff are available to make sure prospective students get all the assistance they need," said Hudgik.

Class schedules and information about MassEducate can be found on the HCC website: hcc.edu.

Enroll today hcc.edu/admissions.

The MacDuffie School more than just a school, a community

At The MacDuffie School, we believe education is more than academics—it's the foundation for a lifetime of achievement. Our vibrant community fosters creativity, leadership, and excellence while instilling respect and integrity in everything we do.

At MacDuffie, you're not just a student—you're part of a community that celebrates your individuality and supports your growth. Our small class sizes and dedicated teachers ensure you're seen, heard, and challenged to reach your full potential. Here, students don't just prepare for college—they prepare for life.

Choosing the right school is a big decision. That's why we invite you to learn more about MacDuffie and how it can shape your future. Visit our website, schedule a tour, or attend our April 5th open house to see for yourself what makes us different.

Your journey starts here. Define your future at MacDuffie—apply today! admissions@macduffie.org

Come and see what's new at St. Joan of Arc School

Physical Education Teacher Larry Moore and SJA students are enjoying a new basketball hoop funded by generous donations from our Annual Campaign.

A schoolyard basketball hoop is so important in creating not only a healthy environment, but helps with critical thinking, resilience, perseverance & teamwork.

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation recently awarded St. Joan of Arc School a \$500 grant to support its youth literacy program. A Book Club was formed for third and fourth grade students to encourage reading and literacy at a young age. This Book Club helps our students gain a deeper understanding of their reading, of other people through conversations, and provides an opportunity to safely fail and celebrate success. The club meets monthly to discuss the book, work on a fun activity, and share their findings.

The school will be holding

an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 9 a.m. to noon (no appointment needed). Appointment only tours for families will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 28 and Thursday, Jan. 30 from 3 to 7 p.m. Please call Chris or Janine in the Business Office at 413-276-4608 for registration information or to make an appointment.

St. Joan of Arc School is a welcoming, safe & secure school community providing social, physical, spiritual & intellectual wellness for students in Pre-K 3 to Grade 8. SJA has innovative offerings that include affordable tuition and extended care, free breakfast and lunch, extracurricular programs, technology, music, library, and Duolingo language classes. Easy access to I391 & I90. Financial Aid and tuition assistance is available. To learn more visit www.sjachicopee.org.

We look forward to meeting you!

Explore Your Passions. Be a Leader. Choose MacDuffie.






OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 5, 2025 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



The MacDuffie School is a special place, and it all begins with our mission:
To foster in all students the intellectual habits of mind, high ethical standards, and respect for diversity required for becoming effective individuals in their personal and work lives, and moral and responsible participants in the world beyond.

There's no better way to get a feel for The MacDuffie School than spending time with us!

Please register for our Open House at www.macduffie.org or contact the Admissions Office at (413) 255-0000 to reserve your spot.

Come Be A Part Of Our Community!

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Saturday, Jan 25th 9am-12 noon ~ No Appointment Needed
Jan 28th & Jan 30th 3pm-7pm ~ By Appointment Only



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Social, Physical, Spiritual & Intellectual Wellness
Easy Access to I391 & I90 ~ Tuition Assistance Available



CAREER Education

Come and see what great things are happening at St. Stanislaus School in Chicopee

This year the school's theme is "Many Gifts, One Spirit", which is our belief that every student has gifts to share with others towards the goal of making our world a better place. Our school encourages our students to focus on a different Corporal Work of Mercy to help our greater community. Some of the outreach programs we have participated in this year were: collection of canned goods for Lorraine's Soup Kitchen, for which our students collected 3,800 canned goods; and recently we collected toiletries, diapers, and other personal items to support the wish lists of both The Gray House and Christina's House in Springfield. The Works of Mercy which have been covered are – Feeding the Hungry and Working for Peace.

Service projects are done throughout the year to help teach students the value of giving back.

The school will be holding an Open House on Sunday, Feb. 2 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (no appointment needed). If you would like to schedule a private tour for

another time, please call the school to schedule an appointment at (413) 592-5135.

St. Stanislaus School is a Roman Catholic, Franciscan, co-educational Pre-K through 8th grade school. Students are assisted in developing their potential spiritually, physically, and socially within a safe and diverse community. A foundation of academic excellence is created to prepare students to become contributing members of a global society. The school has a welcoming Franciscan environment, modern air-conditioned facility, strong core curriculum, enrichment classes, certified faculty, full-day preschool (PreK3 & 4) and Kindergarten, free breakfast and hot lunch, before & after school program, and one to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum. Financial Aid is available. Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us". To learn more please visit www.saintstansschool.org.

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Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (PVPA) has a 25+ year history of providing an excellent, arts-focused, college-prep education to students in Grades 7-12.

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Sat, Jan 25 & Feb 1
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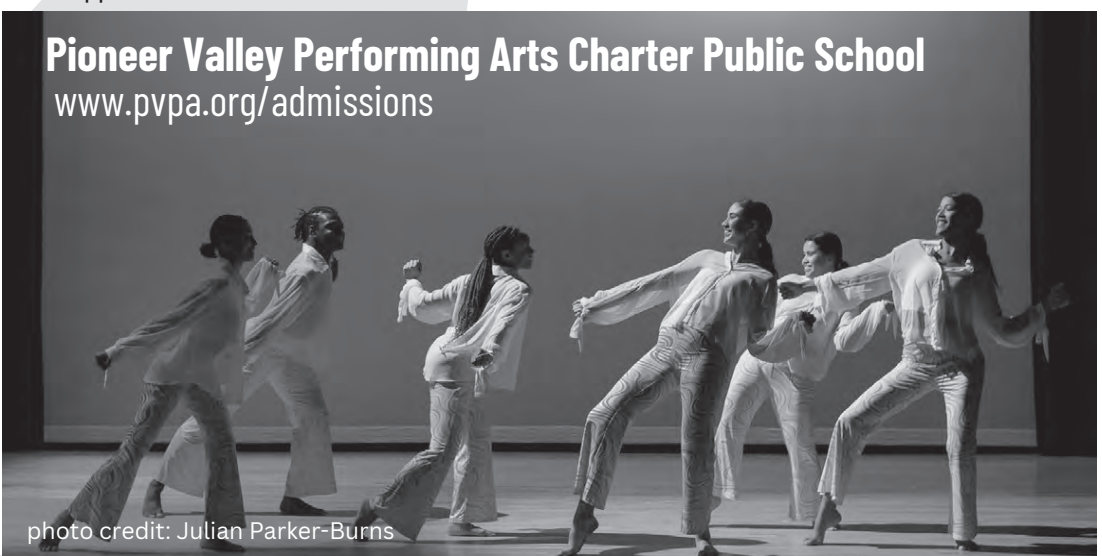


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 Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

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GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg **(413)592-1505**

ROOFING
JENKINS ROOFING specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - **413-566-5596/413-433-5073**. Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

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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** or email **Administrator@TownofBlandford.com** for more information.

HELP WANTED
TOWN OF WILBRAHAM
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT BUILDING & CONSERVATION P/T EMERGENCY DISPATCHER
 The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill multiple vacancies.
 Application deadline 1/27/25.
 For application and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov**.
 EOE

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM
POLICE OFFICER
 For application and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov**. Review of applications begins immediately. Open until filled. EOE

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH is hiring a sexton three evenings, 7-10 hours per week, \$16 per hour. Additional compensation for hours needed for weddings and funerals. Please send resume to **admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org**
 More information found at **www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/**

REAL ESTATE
FOR RENT



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

GREEN STREET, PALMER Newly renovated 1 bedroom apt. porch, off-street parking, coin-op laundry, \$1,500/ mo includes heat. No Pets. Call Tom **413-896-1555**

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 This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

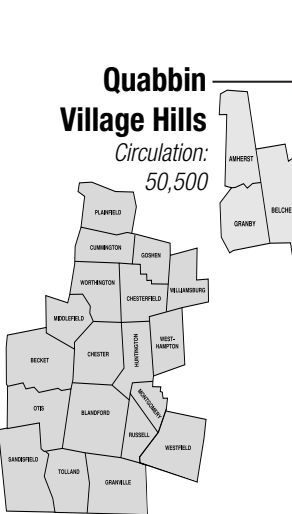
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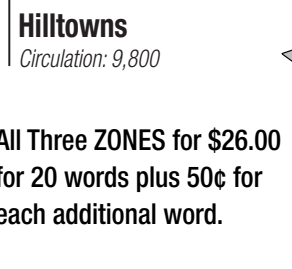
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33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
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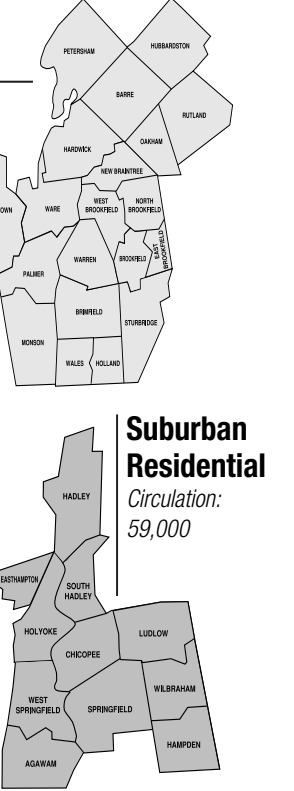
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