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# The REGISTER

LOCAL NEWS | LOCAL STORIES | LOCAL ADVERTISERS

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## Superintendent Tiano updates School Committee on FY27 budget process

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – On Jan. 13, Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano shared the Fiscal Year 2027 budget update with the School Committee and reviewed the vision, mission, and core values of Ludlow Public Schools. Tiano said, “The general fund is a combination of the Town share and Chapter 70 State Aid that flows through the Town. From the general fund, our operational budget for FY26 is \$38,065,240. Our average in terms of percentage increase over that time period is 2.86%. Our state aid has gone up roughly 1.5% and when the state is not going up as much, the burden shifts to our Town. The operating budget is what we call alternative funding, this is our grants, our revolving accounts and these are supplemental and baked into our



Turley photo by Amanda Munson

One of the external budgetary pressures that impacts the Ludlow Public Schools are the changes in graduation requirements that affect the budget every year.

operating budget,” said Tiano. The LPS total operating cost of FY26 was \$42,486,286 and the FY26 revenue sources comprised three sections, alternative funding at 10.4%, Ch. 70

Aid at 35%, and Town Share at 54.6%. Tiano continued, “We are a service organization and don’t generate a lot of revenue.” Tiano went on to review the LPS spending category percentages pie chart, with

preliminary FY26 budget by spending category, which lists discretionary non-salary at 5.3%, utilities and other mandatory at 3.9%, and

Please see **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**, Page 3

## LPVEC causing standstill on transportation revisions

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – During the School Committee meeting held on Jan. 13, Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano shared an update on the ongoing transportation improvements on the bus routes for next year. Tiano said, “We are at a standstill for our routes because in order for them to design, draft, and revise them, the work has to be done inside LPVEC’s software and database. LPVEC is not comfortable having people from the outside working on the routes, so they’re not comfortable with that and it is what it is,” said Tiano.

Questions from Chairman Jeffrey A. Laing revolved around the options of purchasing their own software to test the bus routes then having to go through LPVEC’s requirements and Director of Operations and School Busi-

ness Manager Mickey Buhl shared over a couple of years ago in another district, the price was about \$20,000 for one user subscription. Buhl shared that through a past bid process in another area, not in Ludlow, that process allowed Buhl and others to be in charge of creating routes. Buhl explained that it would be complicated since the LPS District intersects with other LPVEC bus routes. “We couldn’t do it independent of LPVEC because buses sometimes are crossing,” said Buhl. Laing said, “That shouldn’t matter, it should be our geo-fence for our district and if we have 19 buses, if you had access to that, you could create your own routes and figure out how to do it,” said Laing. Buhl stated that he doesn’t feel confident to get clear enough routing data through the sandbox app. Please see **LPVEC**, Page 6

## James Gennette gives updates on Superintendent Search Committee

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – At the Jan. 6 Select Board meeting, Member James Gennette was nominated to the Superintendent Search Committee and gave a brief update on how the process is going. Beginning by sharing that the committee has since met, “We meet every Thurs. and we had our first organizational meeting, the committee is set. It’s a good group and I am very happy with where we’re at. We should do it very well. We have the information that we used three years ago, so we can kind of adopt a lot of that and move it forward and adjust and improve it. I think it’s going to be quite an effective search,” said Gennette. The Register reached out to Chairman Jeffery

A. Laing of the Ludlow School Committee, who’s part of the Superintendent Search Committee, and shared the ongoing process of selecting a new superintendent. Laing began by explaining who is on the committee, “The committee is large, consisting of a mix of stakeholders: two school committee members, a select board member, a student representative, a faculty member from each of the four schools, two members of the Ludlow Public Schools administration, a principal, two parents, a member of Ludlow Cares Coalition, and a representative of the Ludlow Education Association. The position has been



Current Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano

posted, and we’ll be accepting applications through Jan. 30. At that point, the committee will down select a set of about 10 candidates for an interview. Interviews will take place in Feb. and at the end of the month, the search committee will submit a list of three finalists to the school committee. From there, the school committee will take over. Finalists will visit Ludlow in Mar., and school committee members will also visit the home districts of the finalists. There will be a final round of interviews with the school committee, followed by a school

Please see **GENNETTE**, Page 3

## Ludlow High School offers college application day for interested students

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – On Jan. 14, Ludlow High School welcomed Springfield Technical Community College and Holyoke Community College for College Decision Day and had more than 50 students walk away with college acceptances. Speaking with LHS Counselor Nathan Zucco who was in attendance at the event, shared it’s one of his favorite events of the year and why it’s important to continue to offer this event year after year. Zucco said, “Each year, LHS offers STCC and HCC decision day, where students are able to meet with a representative from each college and review their transcript and supporting documents, and receive an admissions decision on the spot! Decision day began at 8:30 a.m.

and was hosted in the library. Students received passes to come down during their designated meeting time and were able to have that conversation and receive their admissions decision. We had over 50 students participate and walk away on Tues. from LHS with a college acceptance,” said Zucco. On the mass.gov website, the Healey-Driscoll Administration and state Legislature made public community college free for students of any age and income in Massachusetts. Free community college covers the full cost of tuition and fees for eligible students, meaning LHS students who will be earning their high school diplomas in a couple of months can benefit from this opportunity. Zucco said, “This event is so important for a variety of reasons. Students are able to speak with the admissions

representative about the different programs offered, though they usually apply into one ahead of time if they already know. Either way, during this meeting they are able to change a major, ask further questions, and get an idea of what the enrollment process would look like once they are accepted. With community college also being free now, it is a great start for many students looking to cut costs while earning a degree and there is definitely an increased interest across our student population. I think this event helped motivate students in working hard in their current coursework knowing that they already have one option after high school open to them and overall was just something different to add to their school day. They walked out of LHS with one more acceptance than when they walked in,” said Zucco.

## Hubbard Memorial hosts peace sticker workshop for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – Following the early release day from Ludlow Public Schools on

Jan. 16, students and patrons were invited to join the Hubbard Youth Room in making peace stickers to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.’s message of peace. The drop-in work-

shop had a variety of designs printed ready to go, and patrons could color in what they wanted and take it home afterwards. Following the MLK peace sticker making work-

shop and catching up with adult programming, looking ahead into the month of Feb. and Mar., mark your calendars for the beaded jewelry heart craft on Feb. 12, clay gnomes’ pottery

workshop on Feb. 19, watercolor poppies painting class on Mar. 12. Ongoing programs that offer something new to patrons is the sound energy healing series occurring

one Saturday per month and begins Jan. 31, chair volleyball for seniors that occurs every Thursday at 1:30 p.m., and book club meetings that cover a book a month.



Turley photos by Amanda Munson

For new and upcoming programs in the Hubbard Youth Room, flyers can be found on the stairway door with programs that may peak your interest.



Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech was originally published on Aug. 28, 1963.



In honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, the Hubbard Youth Room had a variety of printouts ready for students and young patrons to create stickers.

# LUDLOW



Members of the Senior Center are pictured eating their lunch and listening to the ERC5 presentation.



Each panel contestant watched and chimed in when a question arose based on their work expertise.

## ERC5 Senior Alliance Team presents 'Steady on your feet' at Senior Center

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – Last Wednesday, the ERC5 Senior Alliance Team, East of the River Five Town Chamber of Commerce covering Ludlow, Hampden, and Wilbraham hosted an informative presentation on fall prevention during the members lunch hour. The event provided valuable insights into keeping seniors safe at home, understanding and explaining insurance coverage for falls, and showing available resources for rehabilitation and exercise.

With Executive Director Grace Barone of the ERC5, the panel consisted of Atty. David Carlson, Louis and Clark Pharmacy Dr. Kara James, Assisted Living Locators Katie Krupka, Brookhaven Hospice Kimberly O'Connor, Kind Hands Care at Home Liz Davila, JGS Lifecare Mary-Anne Schelb, and Nurse Advocates Registered Nurse Maura Lessard. The panel covered safety measures at home, next steps after a fall, home assessments and effects of medications on stability, and what's needed for each individual to enhance safety and overall well-being.

Walking into the center, members at the lunch and learn presentation were eating their lunches while the panel went up and discussed



Executive Director Grace Barone of the ERC5 speaks about the local resources seniors have around them in the area.

the topics within their field of expertise. Members were given a bag of goodies that most importantly had information covered at the meeting, whilst also given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on similar situations members have experienced in the past. For example, what happened when they fell at the house or had issues with nursing homes with family members.

This event was unique since it gave members at the Ludlow Senior Center an opportunity for one-on-one conversations to speak about a variety of concerns, what they're currently dealing with, and suggestions on the next steps. The panel gave out their business cards and ample information in brochures and flyers to make sure that although the event



The panel was all excited to present the 'Steady on your feet' presentation at the center.

ended, the opportunity for resources and information is an ongoing relationship, with many taking up the offer to set up a better life for their loved ones or themselves.

One of the topics that kept coming back in conversations was how to pick out a good-rated nursing home and Berone suggested the website mass.gov and search 'nursing home ratings' which is the first step to finding a nursing home that's the right fit for members. Addressing concerns of low staffing and improper ratios of staff to patients, Berone suggested to members that if they're thinking about a specific nursing home, visit unprompted without notifying the establishments of the visit.

This tactic helps weed out potential places since members can actually see what

it's like to live and be cared for within the nursing homes. Lessard explained to the group, after a member shared their past fall experience and the lessons learnt from that, how to ensure safety before a fall can take place. With consideration that no matter how

many preventative matters that are in place, falls are unpredictable and can happen at any time.

Lessard explained that when members get up in the morning, consider blood pressure changes from different positions like laying

down, sitting, standing up, moving around, and taking a few minutes to evaluate how you are feeling in the moment. For example, if a member just wakes up in the morning and sits up on the bed, if they feel dizzy or uneasy, then do not stand up and take a few moments to rest and listen to the body.

The panel also suggested Tai-Chi and balance programs to help with fall prevention efforts, making sure that members always have their phones, lanyards, Apple watches, and other fall notifying/emergency devices on themselves at all times, and ensuring that every member was able to leave the presentation feeling supported and satisfied.

For more information on the ERC5, visit business.erc5.com



The ERC5 Senior Alliance Team was proud to help the senior center members of Ludlow.

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

### Ludlow Fire Dept. reminds residents to register for the 2026 Ambulance Subscription Program

LUDLOW - Chief Ryan Pease and the Ludlow Fire Department would like to remind residents of the ambulance subscription program for 2026.

Ludlow Fire will be mailing the 2026 Ambulance Subscription form to all households in Ludlow by the start of November. The annual ambulance subscription fee is \$50 per residence. All residents living in the same residence will be covered under one subscription payment.

The subscription fees will cover any remaining balances for emergency ambulance services provided by Ludlow Fire that insurance does not cover.

Residents should be aware that 2025 subscriptions expired on Wednesday, Dec. 31. To ensure continued coverage for 2026, current subscribers should pay online.

The fee may be used as a tax deduction to the extent of the law. All donations from this program are used to help purchase the necessary supplies and equipment for the Ludlow Ambulance Service.

The department also offers online sign-up on our town website. Residents who do not receive a form by mail can print one online or call the Ludlow Fire Department to request one. New members are also wel-

come to participate.

Those who wish to drop off payment at the station should deposit it in one of the secure drop boxes located outside the Fire Dispatch Area on the Center Street side or inside the main vestibule of the Public Safety Complex on the Chapin Street side. Cash and checks will be accepted.

For more information about the ambulance subscription program click here.

For questions or assistance, please call the Ludlow Fire Department at 413-583-8332, ext. 2309, Monday thru Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m.

### Baystate Wing Lotto calendars now available

PALMER—Baystate Wing Gift Shop Annual January Lotto Calendars are now available through Jan. 30, 2026. The drawing will be held Feb. 3, 2026.

The price is \$5 for one calendar with 31 chances to win and \$10 for three calendars with 93 chance to win. The winner need not be present.

Funds are used for scholarship awards for seven local high school graduates and towards the gift shop's pledge of \$200,000 (in installments) to Baystate Wing to a specific department.

These make great stocking stuffers/gifts or recognition of someone in your daily life.

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## Nomination papers available for Annual Town Election

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

Assessor, 1 seat; 3-year term  
Board of Health, 1 seat; 3-year term  
Housing Authority, 1 seat; 5-year term  
Library Trustee, 1 seat; 3-year term

Planning Board, 1 seat; 5-year term  
Planning Board, 1 seat; 4-year unexpired term  
Recreation Commission, 1 seat; 3-year term  
Select Board, 1 seat; 3-year terms  
Town Clerk, 1 seat; 3-year term  
Town Moderator, 1 seat; 3-year term

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

Town meeting member nomination papers must be signed by at least ten registered voters of the precinct

in which the candidate resides.

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

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

## PV Partners with Rachel's Table of Western Mass

REGION—Pioneer Valley Financial Group is proud to partner with Rachel's Table of Western Massachusetts, donating \$10,000 in support of the organization's mission to alleviate hunger and reduce food waste throughout the region.

Rachel's Table works to address food insecurity by rescuing surplus food and redistributing it to those in need, while also offering

programs that educate and empower the community. Through food rescue, gleaning initiatives, gardening, and cooking education, the organization helps individuals and families build skills, resilience, and access to nutritious food.

"Support like this helps ensure our neighbors can grow food, build resilience, and nourish their communities for years to come," says Jodi Falk, Executive Direc-

tor of Rachel's Table.

PV Financial is excited to be part of Rachel's Table's journey through both learning and hands-on volunteerism. The two organizations have already begun working closely together to identify meaningful ways to support the mission based on team members' skills and interests. Early discussions have focused on the various locations Rachel's Table serves and how PV

Financial can best contribute to their ongoing efforts.

"Their story is so compelling, and they give back to the community in a truly unique way," says Karen Nogueira, Partner and Director of Client Relations at PV Financial Group. "Both PV Financial Group and Rachel's Table have come so far since their beginnings, and there really is no better feeling than doing good for those around us."

## Reminder to return your 2026 Annual Town Census form

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

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

result in removal from the voter registration rolls.

Please return the annual town census form as soon as possible to the Office of the Town Clerk. Annual Town Census forms can be mailed to the Office of the Town Clerk, 488 Chapin St, Ludlow, MA 01056 or returned in the Town Clerk drop box located behind Town Hall.

## Death by Cupcake murder mystery dinner on Feb. 7

BELCHERTOWN—The Belchertown Historical Association is holding its annual murder mystery dinner on Saturday, Feb. 7 at Tony and Penny's Restaurant in Ludlow. The show will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the dinner buffet at 7 p.m. Guests can arrive as early as 6 p.m.

This year's show, written by Paula Hilton, is entitled: Death by Cupcake. We look forward, as always, to the hilarious antics of the BUCC Players from the Belchertown United Church of Christ.

Plan a night out of dinner and entertainment while supporting our historical association, the United Church of Christ, Belchertown and a favorite local restaurant business.

The tickets are \$47 each 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.

## Women's Club January Meeting

WILBRAHAM - St. Cecilia Women's Club next meeting is on Thursday, Jan. 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It's our annual Card & Game Party Luncheon! Join us for an afternoon of lively fun, warm connections and friendship!

Enjoy card games and

board games after a delicious lunch and dessert; then take part in our exciting raffle filled with fantastic prizes. It's a delightful way to spend your day while supporting our charitable contributions!

Everyone is welcome! Bring a friend and be part of the fun!

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE

from Page 1

of district tuition at 10.8%, transportation at 6.5%, and salaries at 73.5%. Tiano stated, "Areas that if we were to reduce without looking at salaries, utilities and other mandatory at 3.9% is one of the smallest pieces of the pie, and the largest spending out of those is maintenance, curriculum, and instruction."

The presentation reviewed external budgetary pressures every year, with key cost drivers consistently outpacing available revenue streams. Chapter 70 caps inflation at 4.5%, state aid does not keep pace with the true rising costs of running LPS and continues to force the community to cover the dif-

ference or make cuts.

Out of district, OOD, placements for students with intensive needs are increasing and stated that the Circuit Breaker program provides only partial reimbursement. Declining federal support and grant uncertainty, with proposals at the federal level including substantial cuts or elimination of K-12 formula grant programs.

Rising health insurance costs from projections from the Town may reduce the money available for operation of town departments and inflation impacts every line item in the school budget. Lastly, unfunded mandates like changes in graduation requirements that impact Ludlow High School.

### GENNETTE

from Page 1

committee vote to select the finalist to appoint. This is planned to take place in late Mar.," said Laing.

Laing also highlighted that the committee mem-

bers are all volunteers, stating that it's not a small undertaking, and the school superintendent impacts many lives within the community. "I appreciate their contribution to such an important effort."

### NOTICE

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

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### Big Game Sunday, Feb. 8th BIG GAME MENU

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### Protein: The big food craze of 2026

First it was low-calorie. Then it was fat-free. Then high fiber and low carb. Then gluten-free and zero sugar. And now, it's protein. Walk down the aisle of your favorite store and you'll see shelves packed with protein powders, shakes, chips, bars, coffee, cereal, even protein soft drinks, alcoholic drinks and ice cream. Food giants such as PepsiCo, Kellogg and Pop-Tarts maker Kellanova have rolled out protein-boosted versions of their products. Starbucks and Kroger are offering protein-fortified coffees and French toast sticks. The global market for protein-fortified foods is projected to hit \$100 billion by 2030, according to Grand View Research. What's going on? These companies hope to profit off a key concern of consumers: Getting more protein in their diets. According to a 2025 survey from the International Food Information Council, 70 percent of Americans said they're trying to eat more protein, up from 59% just three years ago. We've always known that our bodies need protein to build and maintain lean muscle, hair, bones, connective tissues and general health. But what's driving the current fad, and how much protein do we need anyway? The protein push seems to be partly the result of the boom in semaglutide (GLP-1) medications, such as Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro and the like. They are helping people lose weight and maintain it, but users are also losing muscle because "every pound is water, fat and muscle," registered dietitian Kim Shapira said in an interview. "This has just boomed an entire industry of protein," she said. The problem is that a good deal of these protein-packed foods may not be good for us. A 2024 survey by Spanish researchers, posted on the National Institutes of Health website, that found 91% of foods with "protein" marketing claims (PCs) were less healthy overall because they are ultra-processed and often have added sugar, fat and sodium. "The perception that foods with PCs are healthy is incorrect, and consuming them may pose an additional health risk," the researchers wrote. The protein we need everyday varies with age, weight, level of activity and other factors. To estimate your minimum recommended daily allowance (RDA), multiply your weight in pounds by 0.36 grams. For a 140-pound sedentary woman, that comes to about 50 grams a day. Pregnant women and active adults benefit from more protein, but researchers really don't know how much is too much. (The USDA has a nutrition calculator on its website at [myplate.gov](http://myplate.gov).) They do recommend spacing out protein consumption throughout the day rather than consuming most of it at dinner, as most Americans do. Jumping on the protein bandwagon takes careful consideration. It's not just a question of jacking up protein consumption, but doing it in the context of healthy eating. In other words, eating six protein bars a day is not likely to help your overall health. If you're ready to boost your protein intake, here are some tips: Turn to protein-rich unprocessed or lightly processed foods, which you may have in your pantry and fridge. According to the USDA, some of the best are:

- Tuna: 21 grams of protein in 3 ounces
- Cooked chicken or turkey: 19 grams in 3 ounces
- Plain Greek yogurt: 17 grams in 3 ounces
- Cottage cheese: 14 grams in 1/4 cup

Other good sources are beans, nuts, low-fat dairy and eggs. Don't translate "eat more protein" as "eat more beef and cheese." The saturated fats in these foods are not good for cardiovascular health. To avoid weight gain, cut back on other foods. If you're consuming more calories as protein, reduce the

Please see **YOUR HEALTH** Page 6



## GUEST COLUMN

### Winter sowing is a fun experiment

"Winter sowing" always comes up as a hot topic on social media this time of year. The basic premise of winter sowing is to plant your seeds in mini greenhouses (gallon jugs), place the jugs outside and simply let nature take over. The advantage being that no heat mats or lights are needed. No window sills full of seedlings, either. While I don't think it is as simple as it sounds, I do think trying it would be a fun experiment. Read on this week and next to consider some of the pros and possible cons of this seed starting technique. Years ago I read a blog where a master gardener was encouraging folks to start native perennials in milk jugs outside. The seeds of many of these plants require a period of cold and moist stratification to break seed dormancy. In simple terms, they need to go through winter in order to sprout. Think of it as nature's safety mechanism; seeds germinate at the right time to survive and thrive! You may ask, then, why not just sow the seeds outdoors in the garden? In theory it sounds good, but in reality "the wild" is not the best seed bed. From hungry birds and rodents, to wind and drenching rains, success is hit or miss. Safely inside the milk jug, but at the same time outside in the elements to freeze and thaw, freeze and thaw, tricky seeds are coaxing into germinating. Success at your fingertips! Here are the nuts and bolts! Start with clean gallon containers, the see-through kind that water or milk come in. About four inches up, just below the handle, safely cut around the jug, leaving an inch or so on either side of the handle as a "hinge." You should be able to seal it with duct tape. Be sure to label the jug with the plant name via a paint pen, really the only writing utensil that won't smear, fade or wash away when exposed to the elements. Place the jugs in full exposure outdoors and with the cap off, so that heat can escape and small amounts of moisture can penetrate. When the temperature outdoors heats up past 60 degrees, be sure to take the duct tape off and vent your seedlings. Check often and water as needed. The pros recommend to cover with a blanket if frost threatens or even move heat lovers inside on cold nights so that the seedlings won't freeze. To prevent tip-over by four-legged friends or playful kids, pros also suggest putting the jugs in trays or bins. As you can see, this method is not maintenance-free, but certainly worthy of a try especially for gardeners who are short on indoor space or in the mood to get their hands dirty earlier in the season than normal! January and February is the perfect time to start seeds that need a cold treatment. Look for key terms on the seed packet, such as "stratification needed," "sow in the fall," etc. You can also use this technique to sow cold hardy annuals in March- think chard, spinach, kale, snapdragons, bachelor button and the like. 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line. Close the container and



## The REGISTER

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email [theregister@turley.com](mailto:theregister@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

### SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Readers, local merchants, institutions, municipalities, non-profit groups, and civic organizations are strongly encouraged to send The Register your hometown news and photos. News items and press releases should be sent via email to [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com) as an attachment AND pasted directly into the email message screen. Please send photo captions identifying all subjects in your image(s) from left to right. We need first and last name, hometown, title if applicable, and a brief description of what subjects are doing in the photo. Email uncorrected, raw, RGB color digital photos at highest resolution directly off your camera to [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@turley.com). Publicity chairpersons are encouraged to send in news about upcoming fundraising or other calendar events at least three weeks before the event. If you are having difficulty with a press release or need help, please call (413) 283-8393. To send submissions by regular post, mail to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

## The REGISTER TEAM

### EDITORIAL

[theregister@turley.com](mailto:theregister@turley.com)

- STAFF WRITER**  
Amanda Munson  
[amunson@turley.com](mailto:amunson@turley.com)
- STAFF WRITER**  
Abigail McCoy  
[amccoy@turley.com](mailto:amccoy@turley.com)
- ADVERTISING SALES**  
Jocelyn Walker  
[jwalker@turley.com](mailto:jwalker@turley.com)
- SPORTS EDITOR**  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

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[www.register.turley.com](http://www.register.turley.com)

### PATRICK H. TURLEY CEO

### KEITH TURLEY President

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### ELECTION LETTERS POLICY

The Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to [theregister@turley.com](mailto:theregister@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393. Campaign news As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers. Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Register.

## I'm divorced; can I get benefits from my ex-husband?

Dear Rusty: After 16 years of marriage, we were divorced. I have never remarried, but he has. When he starts collecting Social Security (he is 64 now and still working), is it true that I can claim ex-spousal benefits or does that go to the current wife? How would I find this info? Signed: A Divorced Spouse

Dear Divorced Spouse: The fact that your ex-husband has remarried has no influence on your ability to collect benefits based on his record. If you are eligible for ex-spouse benefits (because you did not remarry), you can get those benefits regard-

less of whether his current wife collects benefits on his record. In other words, both you and his current wife can both collect spousal benefits from your ex-husband's earnings record. Your eligibility for an ex-spouse benefit is determined by comparing your own SS retirement benefit amount at full retirement age (FRA) to his - if your own SS benefit at your FRA is less than 50% of your ex's FRA benefit entitlement, and you were married to your ex for more than 10 years, are not currently married and are at least 62 years old, then you can get a



"spousal boost" (an amount added to your own Social Security retirement amount). In fact, if you have been divorced for over two years, you can get an ex-spouse benefit even though he is not yet receiving his own SS retirement benefit. Be aware, however, if you claim any Social Security benefit (both your own SS retirement amount and your ex-spouse "spousal boost") before you reach your full retirement age, the monthly amount you get will be reduced according to how

much before your full retirement age you claim. Spouse and ex-spouse benefits reach maximum at your full retirement age but are reduced if claimed earlier than your full retirement age. Claiming your benefits as an ex-spouse will also result in you receiving your own SS retirement benefit (reduced if you haven't yet reached FRA). I suggest you contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make a telephone appointment to evaluate whether you are entitled benefits as an ex-spouse. If your own SS retirement benefit at your FRA is less than half of

your ex's FRA entitlement, you will be. To apply for those benefits you will need a copy of your divorce decree (and perhaps your marriage certificate), and your ex-husband's Social Security number (if you do not have his SSN, you can provide his date and place of birth and his parents' names, and SSA will likely be able to locate your ex's SS record). SSA will be able to tell you what your total monthly benefit as an ex-spouse will be when you meet with them, at which point you can decide whether to claim your benefits early or wait until your FRA to achieve your maximum amount as an ex-spouse.

# 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 [theregister@turley.com](mailto:theregister@turley.com)

## ONGOING

**VOLLEYBALL** at E Street School began Sept. 16th at 5:30 p.m. They play Tuesday and Thursdays.

Call the Ludlow Senior Center for more information 413-583-3564.

**FOOD DRIVE.** 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.

**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.

**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](mailto:indianorchardcitizenscouncil@gmail.com) or stop in during operating hours. Follow the IOCC on Facebook and Instagram.

**AQUACISE AT THE CLUB:** The Ludlow Com-

munity 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.

**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.

## What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library

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

**Library Hours:** M, W, F 9-5, TU, TH, 9-8, S 10-2. Closed Saturdays during the summer, Sundays and holidays.

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

### FOR ALL AGES

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

### FOR ADULTS

**The Dangers of Online Family Trees Thursday, January 15 16-7:30 PM** Join us for a talk by Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy discussing with you the dangers of depending on online family trees. He will go over how to tread lightly, what you should and should not trust and how to verify. He will also give you tools to avoid the temptation to believe everything that is so easily at your fingertips while giving you strategies to allow the use of potentially bad or even dangerous information in the right way. Will also be available on Zoom for those who can not attend in person. Please register on our website or by calling 583-3408 x0.

**Sound Energy Healing Series One Saturday per month 10:30 AM.** Sound healing brings individuals into a state of relaxation and rest. Enjoy an hour of peace and calm while sitting or laying on a yoga mat, absorbing the healing vibrations from instruments such as the quartz crystal bowls lead by Julia

Nadolny. Bring a yoga mat or towel, something to lay on during the program and a blanket to cover yourself up in. Dates: 1/31, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23, 6/13.

Please register on our website or by calling the circulation desk. Sign-ups are for the individual session, not the entire series.

**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 tote bag full of books! For more information and to sign up, please visit <https://www.massbook.org/readingchallenge-2> (Note to editor, this has been updated.)

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

**Who picked this book? Book Club**

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

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

### FOR TEENS

**Anime Club, (biweekly) Tuesday, January 27, 3:30-5:00 pm.** For middle and high schoolers. Registration recommended.

**Read Between the Lines High School Book Group, (monthly) January 30, 3:00-4:00 pm.** Book available in the Youth Room. Please register.

**Nintendo Switch Night, (monthly) Tuesday, February 17, 6 - 8:00 pm.** For

Please see **HUBBARD**, Page 6

FREE WORKSHOP!

WHERE DO I START?

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY STUFF?



# DECLUTTER & DOWNSIZE

LEARN FROM THE EXPERT, CHRISTINA MARQUES FROM CARING TRANSITIONS, ON HOW TO DECLUTTER THE START OF YOUR 2026! THIS FREE WORKSHOP WILL WALK THROUGH EACH STEP OF THE DOWNSIZING PROCESS AND ALLOW FOR A Q&A SESSION!

**ALL GUESTS WILL ALSO BE ENTERED IN FOR GIFT CARD TO HELP WITH YOUR DECLUTTERING GOALS!**

January 29
5:30p
RSVP

TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT!



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## Tech Help available at Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM— Need help setting up an email account, updating your phone, or figuring out a new device?

Students from the Wilbraham & Monson Academy (WMA) Community Service

Team will be at the library to assist with technology-related questions. Assistance is available on a first come, first served basis on Fridays from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Please bring any rele-

vant devices and/or log-in and password information. Contact the library at 413-596-6141 or visit [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org) for more information about upcoming dates.

### LPVEC from Page 1

proach to have the task force and eventually the school committee make significant decisions like start times, policies, and buses. "It's an unusual time to deal with our routes that can't run on time that if we can do this work live now, we could determine

how many buses we need, and do it in a way that makes sure every route runs on time without the overlapping bus routes that have been part of the routing for a number of years. I don't think it's possible to deal without a full collaborative approach," said Buhl.

Tiano presented that all

19 buses are filled with drivers and the special education transportation have all routes covered. "As we know with the design of the bus routes, it's not where we need them to be but we'll work with LPVEC on getting the number of buses we need; we still have some questions there," said Tiano.

### YOUR HEALTH from Page 4

calories you get from breads, sweets and alcohol. Rather, up your intake of fruits, vegetables and legumes.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advo-

cate, is the founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself

& Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at [Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com) to set up a free phone consultation.



— THE —  
**LOCAL**  
Table-n-Tap



**WEDNESDAY**  
All Pastas \$20!  
Try one in our House Made Bread Bowls



**THURSDAY**  
Prime Rib Night  
served with potato, veg

### Our Famous Brunch! Saturday & Sunday 9:00am-Noon

SUN 9:00am - 9:00pm  
Mon-WED 11:00am - 9:00pm  
THURS-SAT 11:00am - 10:00pm  
Bar Open Late



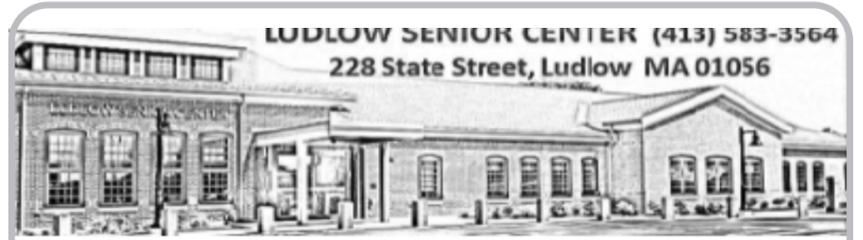
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## Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

LUDLOW—Don't let winter keep you away from the Ludlow Senior Center! Gather with friends in the Center's beautiful dining room and enjoy a delicious lunch complete with coffee, tea, and dessert. To join us, just call 413-583-3564 a day in advance to reserve your \$2 lunch (Call Friday for Monday lunch).

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

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

**Activities Calendar:**  
Please register in advance for items with\*

**Thursday, January 22**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
9 a.m. Foot Care by Appointment\*  
9:30 a.m. Dominos  
10:15 a.m. Mindful Mediation  
12:45 pm. Mahjong  
2 p.m. Writers Block  
2 p.m. Book Club: *The Berry Pickers!* Amanda Peters  
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga  
**Friday, January 23**  
8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
9 a.m. Reiki by Appointment\*  
10 a.m. Living with Hip & Knee Arthritis\*  
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks  
1 p.m. Ceramics  
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*  
**Monday, January 26**  
9 a.m. Knitting  
9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
10 a.m. Computer Help\*  
10:30 a.m. Rep. Saunders Office Hour  
11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch: The Local Table N Tap\*  
1 p.m. Limitless Legends with Li\*  
1 p.m. Scrabble  
1:15 p.m. Pitch  
1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencils Class\*  
2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

**Tuesday, January 27**  
9 a.m. Quilting  
9 a.m. Line Dancing  
9 a.m. Foot Care by Appointment\*  
10 a.m. Cribbage  
10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga  
1 p.m. Western Dance Class  
1 p.m. Paraffin Wax Hand Treatment by Appt.\*  
1:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Evening Activities Return in February**

**Wednesday, January 28**  
8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold  
9 a.m. Ceramics  
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*  
1 p.m. Dominos  
1 p.m. Movie: *Some Like it Hot* (1959)  
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*  
1 p.m. Dominos  
1 p.m. TED Talk  
**Thursday, January 29**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
9:30 a.m. Dominos  
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation  
12:45 pm. Mahjong  
1 p.m. The Art of Card Making\*  
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

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

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

**Menu:**  
Thursday, January 22: Birthday Lunch! Chicken Louisa/Rice/Carrots  
Friday, January 23: Blueberry French Toast Casserole/Bkfst. Sausage  
Monday, January 26: KFC Bowl Popcorn Chicken/Pot/Corn/Gravy/Cheese  
Tuesday, January 27: Seafood Newberg/Rice/Mixed Veggies  
Wednesday, January 28: Loaded Baked Potato/Must-Go Soup  
Thursday, January 29: Sausage Grind-er/Onions & Peppers/Mac Salad

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

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

### HUBBARD from Page 5

middle and high schoolers. There's pizza! Please register.

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

### FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

**Pokemon Club, Wednesday, (biweekly) January 21 and February 4, 3:30 - 4:45 pm.** For grades 3-8. Please register.

**Tween Graphic Novel Book Club, (monthly) Thursday, January 22, 5:00 - 5:45 p.m.** For ages 9-13. Book available in the Youth Room. Please register.

**Make Paper Squishmallows, Saturday, January 24, 11:00 - 12:00pm.** Ages 7 and up. Please register.

**Ice Cream Readathon, Monday, January 26 - Saturday, February 7.** For kids. Get a paper scoop of ice cream for every book you check out. Write titles on scoops, and bring back by 2/7. Read 5 books and win a free ice cream generously donated by Cindy's Drive In.

**Youth Chess Club, Monday, January 26 (biweekly), 3:30-4:30 pm.** Ages 9-17. All experience levels welcome. Please register.

**Youth Crochet Club, Tuesday, January 27 (biweekly), 5:30-6:30 pm.** For ages 10-17. Beginners welcome. Supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

**Chaos Boardgame Club, (biweekly) Friday, January 30, 3:15 - 4:45 pm.** For ages 10-14. Please register.

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

### FOR CHILDREN

**Storytime Series for ages 3-5; There's Magic in the Library, Mondays, through Feb-**

ruary 24 (not Feb. 16) 10:00 am. Space is limited, please register.

**True Tales Storytime for Homeschooled 5-8 year olds, Wednesdays, through February 12, 1:00 pm.** Please register.

**Storytime Series for ages 2-3; There's Magic in the Library, Fridays, through February 14, 10:00 am.** Space is limited, please register.

**Massachusetts Children's Book Award Book Group (MCBA), monthly, Thursdays, February 12, 6:00 - 6:45 pm.** Read 5 nominated books and vote! Celebration with ice cream and photos in the Register in April! Please register.

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

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

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

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

**LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!**

**INFLATION PRICE BUSTERS**

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# SPORTS

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## Consistent offense leads Chaug over Ludlow



Liam White sends a wrist shot away.

**WEST SPRINGFIELD** – Last Thursday night, Minnechaug High School scored three goals in each period to lead it to a 9-4 win over Ludlow. Minnechaug got goals from nine different players, including Nicholas O’Sullivan, Laim Faneuff, Enzo Hrycay, and Jason Abied. Tannar Severyn had a pair of goals for Ludlow while Connor Kokosa had two assists. Minnechaug is now 9-2 on the season while Ludlow is 6-5.

Turley photos by David Henry  
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Nick Deroin tries to make a stop.



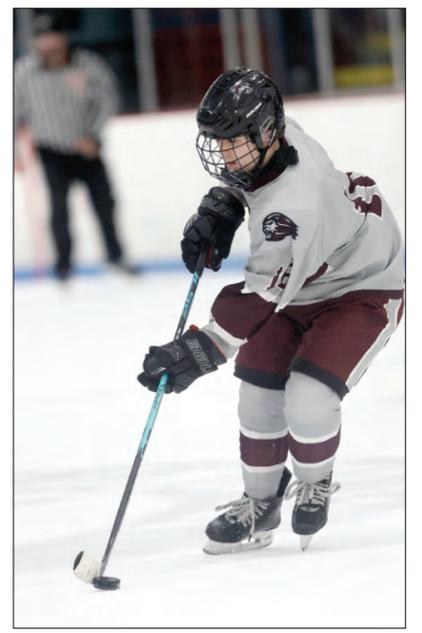
Evan Dias eyes his opponent while also controlling the puck.



Teddy Iwasinski tries to settle a bouncing puck.



William Mitus sails the puck to the center.



AJ Stupak keeps the puck on the backhand side of the stick.

## Lions move toward state tournament berth

**LUDLOW** – Last Friday night, Ludlow defeated Hampden Charter School of Science 61-32. The Lions are now 8-3 on the season and need just one more win to get an automatic berth in the Division 3 state tournament. Ludlow was led by Filipe Fernandes

with 15 points while Cameron Lyman notched 11 points for the Lions. The Lions have won three of their last four and they took on Chicopee earlier this week. Coming up, Ludlow is at West Springfield on Friday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m.

## Lions suffer loss to Tigers

**LLUDLOW** – Last Wednesday evening, it was dual meet action for Ludlow and South Hadley wrestling. The Tigers defeated the Li-

ons 58-23. Ludlow next takes on Belchertown on Jan. 28 while South Hadley is taking on Hampden Charter School of Science.



Andrew Rey takes on an opponent in the heavyweight match.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Andrew Beany gets ready to lock up.



Noah Simard is in control in the 157-pound match.



Aydan Sanchez gets the takedown.



Ella Libiszewski holds the leverage and looks to turn over her opponent.

## T-Birds offense dries up in loss to Bridgeport

**BRIDGEPORT, Conn.** – The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-18-4-2) continued to have a tough time location offense, falling 4-1 to the Bridgeport Islanders (16-17-2-1) on Saturday night inside Total Mortgage Arena.

A bad break for T-Birds netminder Vadim Zherenko resulted in Bridgeport’s game-opening tally at 6:37 of the opening period, as Zherenko lost his balance and fell in his blue paint, allowing Daylan Kuefler to carry the puck around the net and wrap it past the fallen goaltender to make it 1-0 Bridgeport.

Aside from that unfortunate break, the T-Birds and Islanders played a mostly defensive-minded first period, as Zherenko’s nine saves and Henrik Tikkanen’s eight stops in the Bridgeport crease accounted for much of the action on the scoresheet.

Matthew Peca quickly got his troops back on track, as the T-Birds captain slipped a wrister through Tikkanen just 49

seconds into period two, tying the score, 1-1, and extending his point streak to five consecutive games. Matt Luff also extended his season-long point streak to seven games with the primary assist on Springfield’s first marker of the evening.

However, that potential momentum-changer was quickly washed out when Cam Berg connected on a wrister from the left circle just 2:08 later, restoring a one-goal Bridgeport lead, 2-1.

Shots and chances continued to come at a premium for both teams, as the clubs combined for only 43 shots all evening, including just 25 in the final 40 minutes of play.

The T-Birds never did receive a power play in this one, and the club’s last-minute efforts with Zherenko on the bench proved fruitless, as Adam Beckman and Eetu Liukas each connected on empty-netters to give Bridgeport the final goals of the night.

# OBITUARIES

## Daniel D. Bator 1956-2026

LUDLOW — Daniel D. Bator, 69, of Ludlow, passed away on Thursday, January 8, 2026. Son of the late Walter and Marion (Grabowski) Bator, he was born in Ludlow on May 19, 1956. A lifelong resident, Danny was a 1974 graduate of Ludlow High School. He worked for several area construction companies. Danny was always proud of his Polish heritage and was a member of the Polish American Citizen's Club. He loved fishing, golfing, playing poker with his buddies and listening to music. He grew up a NY Yankees

and Giants fan and loved the Bruins and Patriots.

Danny is survived by his sister Janice Bator of Ludlow, several cousins and countless lifelong friends, as well as his beloved cats Cleo and Boozer.

Visiting hours for Danny will be Friday, Jan. 23, 2026 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home, 64 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA, followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. in Christ the King Church,



Warsaw Avenue, Ludlow. Burial will be in St. Aloysius Cemetery, Berkshire Ave, Springfield, MA.

In lieu of flowers donations in Danny's memory may be made to Veteran's Dragon Boat USA, 1984 Memorial Drive, #115, Chicopee, MA 01020, in honor of his father's WWII service or to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital at [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org). For more information, please go to [www.kapinosmazurfh.com](http://www.kapinosmazurfh.com).

## Patricia (Halleron) Faulds

Patricia (Halleron) Faulds, 81, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully on January 12, 2026 surrounded by love. Born in

Desilets and wife Amanda, Corey Meyrick and wife Stephanie, and Derek Meyrick and partner Samantha; cherished great-grand-



Scotland, she immigrated to America in 1962 with her husband Robert and daughter Pamela and has lived in Ludlow for the past 55 years. Patricia worked for many years for Sears and in her free time, she enjoyed shopping, reading, traveling, and attending the Ludlow Senior Center for zumba gold; but above all, she loved spending time with her grandsons and great-grandchildren.

Patricia was the beloved wife of the late Robert "Scotty" Faulds, who predeceased her in 2010; a loving mother to Pamela Desilets and husband Steven of Ludlow, and the late Robert "Robbie" Faulds and his partner Ann Fortier; a devoted grandmother to Casey Desilets, Keith

mother to Silus, Jackson, Lucas, Derek, and Wyatt Meyrick, and Della Desilets; a dear sister to Peter Halleron and wife Joy of Australia, Joanna Breen of Scotland, Geraldine Burtelli and husband Ian of Scotland, and the late Gerald Halleron; and also leaves her sister-in-law Marion Martin of Cape Cod, several nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Funeral services for Patricia will be held on Saturday, Jan. 24. Visitation is from 10 to 11 a.m. at Ludlow Funeral Home concluding with a funeral home chapel service at 11 a.m. followed by burial in Island Pond Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Patricia's memory to Friends of the Ludlow Senior Center.

## DEATH NOTICES

**Daniel D. Bator**  
Died Jan. 8, 2026  
Services  
Jan. 23, 2026  
Kapinos-Mazur  
Funeral Home

**Patricia (Halleron) Faulds,**  
Died Jan. 12, 2026  
Services Jan. 24, 2026  
Ludlow Funeral Home

**Irene M. Smith**  
Died Jan. 15, 2026  
Visit hours:  
Jan. 24, 2026, 10-11 a.m.; service 11 a.m.  
Kapinos-Mazur  
Funeral Home  
Ludlow, MA

## LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD26P0072EA  
Estate of:  
Rudolph H. Cira  
Date of Death: 11/20/2025  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

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  
1/14, 1/21, 1/28/2026

**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.**

## Irene M. Smith 1928-2026

LUDLOW — Irene M. (Borgatti) Smith, 97, formerly of Ludlow, passed away on Thursday, January 15, 2026.

Born in Springfield on July 13, 1928, she was the daughter of the late Gelindo and Mary (Respighi) Borgatti. Educated in local schools, Irene worked for many years as a bookkeeper for the former Reopell Chevrolet. She was an active volunteer for the American Red Cross and the former Ludlow Hospital La-



dies Auxiliary.

Irene is survived by her daughters Donna Fitzgerald (Jeff) and Darlene Anderson, as well as her son-in-law John Dusza. She also leaves her 8 beloved grandchildren Bryan Dusza (Janna), Matthew Dusza (Crystal), Bethaney Dusza (James), Adam Dusza (Jill), Rachel Anderson (Josh), Brady Anderson, Kyle Fitzgerald (Sara) and Caitlin Fitzgerald as well as 9 great-grandchildren. Sad-

ly, she was predeceased by her husband Donald Smith, her son Michael Smith, her daughter Deborah Dusza and her brother Walter Borgatti.

Visiting hours for Irene will be Saturday, January 24, 2026 from 10:00-11:00 AM at the Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home, 64 Sewall St., Ludlow, MA. A funeral home service will follow at 11:00 AM. Burial will be private. Donations in Irene's memory may be made to the charity of one's choice. For more information, please go to [www.kapinosmazurfh.com](http://www.kapinosmazurfh.com).

**RFP 2026-1: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE FOOD & DRINK CONCESSION WESTOVER GOLF COURSE**  
The Town of Ludlow/Westover Municipal Golf Commission, through the Chief Procurement Officer for the Town of Ludlow, will receive sealed proposals for the operation of the Food & Drink Concession at Westover Municipal Golf Course, by lease, as detailed in the Request for Proposals (RFP) documents. The lease agreement being offered is for a period of three (3) consecutive seasons or years for golf operations.

This solicitation is being conducted in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30B, Uniform Procurement Act, Section 16, and all contracts must be strictly awarded in accordance with the requirements of this Act. The Town has no discretion under the law to consider proposals that fail to comply with those requirements, except for minor informalities as permitted by MGL Chapter 30B Section 16. If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP or otherwise provide additional information, an addendum will be issued to all prospective proposers who received copies of the original request.

The RFP documents may be requested electronically from the Project Coordinator, Brittany Beaumier, by email at [bbeaumi@ludlow.ma.us](mailto:bbeaumi@ludlow.ma.us), starting on January 20, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Hard copies of the RFP documents will be available for pick up at the Select Board's Office, 488 Chapin Street, 3rd Floor, Ludlow, MA 01056.

Sealed proposals in the required format will be accepted by mail or hand delivery until **February 10, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Select Board's Office, 488 Chapin Street, 3rd Floor, Ludlow, MA 01056, at which time they will be recorded into record and reviewed by a committee for the most Advantageous Proposal.

Sealed non-price proposals must be clearly marked "Technical Proposal RFP 2026-1 Golf Concession" and must enclose **three (3) hard copies** of the non-price proposal. Proposers MUST submit a price proposal **SEPARATELY** in a sealed envelope marked "Price Proposal RFP 2026-11 Golf Concession". The Price Proposal and Non-Price Proposal must be submitted at the same time, but in **SEPARATE SEALED ENVELOPES**. Proposers are fully responsible for ensuring the timely receipt of their completed response to this RFP at the location noted above. The proposals will be opened immediately following the closing time. The lease agreement will be awarded within 60 days.

The Town reserves the right to cancel this RFP or reject in whole or in part any and all proposals when cancellation or rejection serves the best interests of the Town  
01/21/2026

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **John D. Cira 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 D. Cira 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 02/11/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised 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.

### Ludlow Public Schools Budget Hearing

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 71, Section 38N, the Ludlow School Committee will hold a Public Hearing on the Ludlow Public Schools proposed budget for July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 on **Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**, in the Harris Brook E.S. Library, 209 Fuller St., Ludlow, MA 01056. (Snow Date - Tuesday, February 24, 2026) 01/21/2026

WITNESS, Hon. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 14, 2026

**Rosemary A Saccomani**,  
Register of Probate  
01/21/2026

### Legal Notice Town of Ludlow

Ludlow Special Town Meeting of October 6, 2025—Case #12032 Warrant Articles 4 and 8 (General) and 10 and 11 (Zoning) were approved by the Attorney General's office. "Such Bylaws have been posted according to the Bylaws and copies are available at the Town Clerk's Office".  
\*\*see full context of text in

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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  
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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**  
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CLOSED FRIDAY  
MASS SCHEDULE  
Monday 8:00am  
Tuesday 8:00am  
Wednesday No Mass  
Thursday 6:00pm  
Friday 6:00pm  
Saturday 4:00pm  
Sunday 8:30am (English) 10:15am ( Polish)  
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, Keith Davies**  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Visit our website at [www.stelizabethludlow.org](http://www.stelizabethludlow.org)  
Like us on Facebook Check out our Parish App  
**Wednesday, Jan. 21** — Daily Mass — 7:30 AM (C), Holy Mother Choir — 4:30 (C), Scouts — 6 PM (ER), Cub Scouts — 6 PM (FLBH)  
Scripture Enrichment — 6:30 PM (JR)  
**Thursday, Jan. 22** — Daily Mass — 7:30 AM (C)  
**Friday, Jan. 23** — Daily Mass — 7:30 AM (C)  
**Saturday, Jan. 24** — Confessions — 2:30 PM (C)  
Saturday Vigil Mass — 4 PM (C)  
**Sunday, Jan. 25** — Daily Masses at 7:30 AM 9:15 AM, 11 AM and 5 PM (C), Take & Eat — 8 AM (FLBH & K), Faith Formation — 10:15 AM (FLBH/ST), Lifeteen — 6 PM (JR)

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413-583-2312  
Father **Pedro DeOlivera**  
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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](http://ourladyoffatimaparish.org).

**FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL**  
A Church of the Nazarene  
485 East Street, Ludlow  
(413) 583-7875  
Email: [FCCPastorLisa@gmail.com](mailto:FCCPastorLisa@gmail.com)  
Lead Pastor: **Rev. Lisa Morrison**  
Associate Pastor: **Gary Coombs**  
Sunday Morning Discipleship Groups meet at 9:45am  
Worship service meets at 11am  
OTHER MEETINGS  
Tuesdays: Zoom Bible Study 7pm  
Fridays: After School Club for Children 5pm  
AA Group 7pm

**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.



## 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 (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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**WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH** is hiring a part-time, experienced **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER.** Apply to **Wilbraham United Church, Attention: Alesia; 500 Main Street; Wilbraham, MA 01095.** More information at **www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/**

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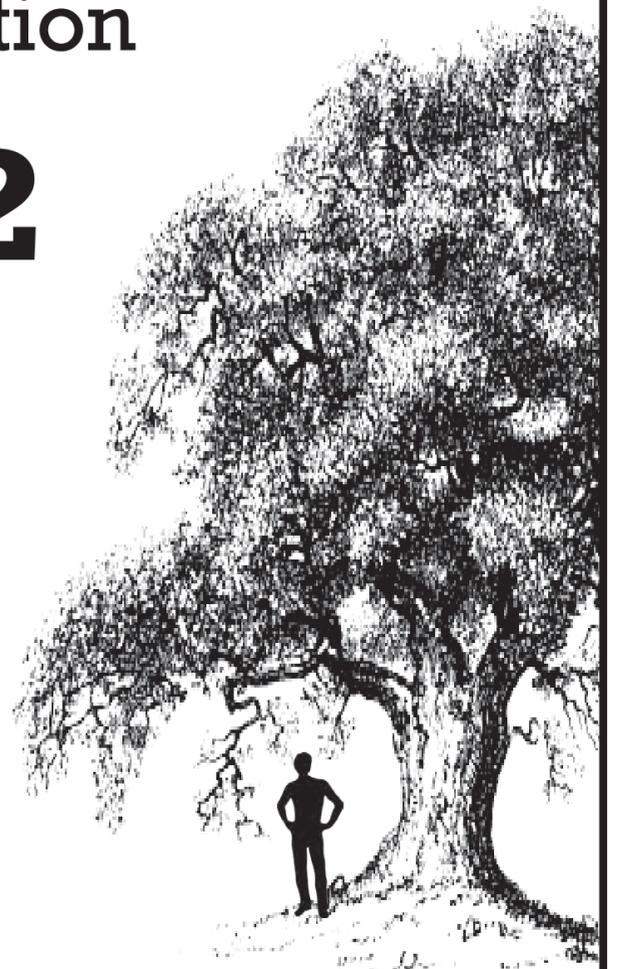
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