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Members of the CARES Coalition distribute gift bags at the Senior Center.

Submitted photos

CARES Coalition distributes Valentine's Day bags to Senior Center

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
 mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – This month, the CARES Coalition will be distributing gift bags to the senior center for Valentine's Day, as part of its overall mission to bring the community together. The CARES Coalition is made up of volunteers dedicated to providing educational

support and improving mental health for members of the community. It's made up of volunteers from various local organizations, including the library, the fire and police departments, the school administration, students at the middle and high school, the 250th Committee and Our Lady of Fatima Parish. "We continue to see more and more members of the community and other organizations participate," said spokesperson Peter Leonczyk. The Valentine's Day gift bags were designed to lift the spirits of local seniors during the COVID-19 lockdowns to help to improve their mental health during a dark and lonely time. "The whole idea is to try to

Please see **VALENTINE'S DAY BAGS**, Page 8

Selectmen appoint new police sergeant

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – At last week's Board of Selectmen meeting, Police Chief Dan Valadas recommended two candidates for the new position of sergeant, which was awarded to Jhon Wielblad.

Wielblad was born and raised in town, where he currently resides. He started his career at the police department as an intern in 2013 and has worked in records, dispatch and special police.

"At the police academy, the cadre recognized me and put me in a leadership role as a squad leader," Wielblad said. "I try to excel at everything I do."

"Jhon's reputation with us started a long time ago as a young student," Valadas said. "Right away, all the staff felt that he was such a good-natured young man, and he just got along with everybody. He's very easy-going."

While working for the Sheriff's Department, Wielblad developed a passion for community relations, which led to him becoming involved in DARE, as well as the CARES Coalition and the Boys & Girls Club. He also spoke of getting a master's degree and his Emergency Medical Technician certification at the same time.

"Both schoolings are not easy by any means," Wielblad said. "With the support of my family and good time management, I was able to accomplish all of that."

“My biggest enjoyment out of working is our relationships with the community, so I think I can make that grow.”

Jhon Wielblad.

In his interview, Wielblad described himself as passionate about the town he grew up in and that he became a police officer to give back to the community. He spoke about how the new role would give him an opportunity to have a larger impact on the functions of the department.

"My biggest enjoyment out of working is our relationships with the community, so I think I can make that grow," Wielblad said.

"He's always been a person you could put in front of people," Valadas said. "He's not challenged at all by speaking to someone, being in front of

Please see **NEW POLICE SERGEANT**, Page 8

Celebration for firefighter retiring after 41 years

Editor's note: Last week, this story ran with Rene Dubois's name misspelled. We apologize for the error, and congratulate Dubois on his retirement.

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – This Friday, Rene Dubois will be celebrating his retirement from the fire department at the Polish American Citizen's Club.

Dubois, who started working for the fire department in January of 1982, grew up in Ludlow and now lives in Monson. His family has had a long history with the department in town.

"My grandfather was the Fire Chief, my father was the Fire Chief, then I became a firefighter," Dubois said, adding that his son, Ethan Dubois, has joined the department as well.

Dubois estimated that he will be retiring after 41 years and 10 months. He has spent his career active on the front lines of emergency services, choosing not to pursue managerial positions like his father and grandfather did before him.

"I like driving the firetruck and being involved in putting the fire out, instead of being in control of making sure everything goes properly," Dubois said. "I don't like politics and all that stuff, so I decided to stay with what I'm good at."

Chief Ryan Pease thanked Dubois for his years of dedicated service to the Fire Department and the town.

"He will leave an everlasting legacy behind him, and his positive influence will live on at the LFD," Pease said. "He will be missed by the Department and we wish him many years of happiness and good health during his retirement."

Dubois said that the department has changed a lot over the nearly 42 years that he's worked there, noting that it was "tough for an older guy, but I caught on pretty quick to most of that stuff."

The department's technology has come a long way since Dubois started. Back then, he said the trucks had no air conditioning, there were still trucks with no roofs being used in all kinds of weather and firefighters would have to gear up for

snow and rain in the event of an emergency.

"The older trucks are all standard transmission, so you had to know how to drive a standard," Dubois said. "Now they're all automatic."

Dubois said that modern fire trucks, instead of just using water, are now equipped with CAFS systems, which mix air, foam and water together in the hose to put out fires quicker and with less water.

"The foam sticks to everything, and it smothers the fire," Dubois said. "They're really fast; it's very impressive how that works."

Another improvement the department has made is that all the valves on the fire trucks are color-coordinated for easy recognition.

"Before, there were no colors, so you had to know where it was," Dubois said. "In pitch black, in the snow and rain, you had to know where the valves were. Now it's hands-on, but they're color-coordinated, so the front line's yellow, etc."

Dubois has always enjoyed

Please see **DUBOIS**, Page 8



Submitted photo

"Rene will leave an everlasting legacy behind him. His positive influence will live on at the LFD," said Chief Ryan Pease.

LUDLOW

Exit 7 celebrates 40 years of community theatre

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – This year, Exit 7 is celebrating its 40th anniversary of bringing community theatre to town.

Exit 7 opened this season in the fall with “Footloose”, and then followed up with “White Christmas”. For their winter production, they’re showing “Almost Maine”, and then in the spring they will put on the musical, “The Prom”, followed by “The Last Five Years”, and then the youth show in the summer, “James and the Giant Peach”.

“We finished our very first 48-hour play festival, and we had open mic nights and a Latin dance class this past fall,” said Adam Malborg, president of the board at Exit 7. “We also have a summer theatre program for kids, so we do a lot.”

Malborg has been on the board for the past five years and has been with the production since 2016.

Malborg said that he discovered Exit 7 through friends when he was with another theatre group in East Longmeadow.

“I went to a production of ‘Young Frankenstein’ and fell in love,” Malborg said. “I decided why not, let’s go for it. I love every aspect of it. I love the sense of community; I love what the directors we hire put up. There are times I can just sit in the seats and think, ‘This place is awesome.’ Looking at the stage with the ghost light on is a magical experience. It’s just a great atmosphere.”

Exit 7 has held many productions since it first opened in 1984 as the Chestnut Street Players.

“They originally changed it to Exit 7 because of the Mass Pike,” Malborg said. “Now, even though we’re no longer Exit



Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Exit 7 has renewed its lease on Chestnut Street for 25 years.

7, we decided we still love the name.”

Malborg shared that Exit 7 recently acquired a lease from the Housing Authority that grants them 25 years in the same building. Malborg said that the theatre is hoping to raise money this year for several improvements, including getting brand new seats, repainting the theatre and getting new carpeting.

“We’re doing a lot of refurbishments,” Malborg said. “We were able to acquire the basement, which opens up new storage space, prop room, a giant cafeteria and kitchen, more rehearsal

space for dance practice and other activities like get togethers. There are so many ideas and discussions regarding having craft fairs down there, parties, murder mysteries and game night. We’re trying to meet all aspects.”

The theatre does a lot of fundraising through raffles, including raffling off television sets, paintings and gift certificates. Besides going to upkeep of the theatre, Malborg said that the directors of each production choose a charity to donate the money they make from ticket sales to.

“Every director has an important cause for them to donate,” Malborg said. “‘Almost Maine’ is donating to the Alzheimer’s Foundation, ‘The Prom’ went to the Trevor Foundation, etc. When we did ‘The Wedding Singer’ a couple years ago, they donated to a food pantry. We do things like that because we want to give back to the community.”

“Because this year is our 40th anniversary, we’re looking into having a giant 40th anniversary gala. We’re trying to put together an adult prom in a different venue from the theatre, where adults can come in wearing tuxes and dresses for a great night of dancing and possibly dinner.”

Beyond just holding their regular productions, Exit 7 also periodically offers workshops and classes.

“Last year, we had a Broadway actor from Newsies come in and do a dance class,” Malborg said. “We had another Broadway actor from Book of Mormon who used to be Exit 7 alumni. There are several alumni currently on Broadway year-round.”

Malborg said that people who would like to use the theatre space for private activities would have to approach the board with a proposal that they can discuss, and the board would then vote for or against the use, provided it followed the theatre’s bylaws and procedures.

“We recently just refurbished the basement, so we’re always looking for new ideas and ways to use that space,” Malborg said. “Anyone interested would just need to come to one of our board meetings, and we can go for there. We’d be happy to speak with them.”

The Exit 7 players will be performing “Almost Maine” on Feb. 9-10, 16-17, and 23-24 at 8 p.m., and on Feb. 11, 18, and 25 at 2 p.m.

Ludlow High School presents “Clue” this weekend

LUDLOW – The High School Drama Club is excited to present “Clue” onstage this weekend, from Feb. 2-4.

Students will perform “Clue” on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 2-3, at 7 p.m., and on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 2 p.m.

In addition to performing Clue, the High School is also offering a “dinner and a show” option for \$45, to be served on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 5 p.m.

“Mr. Boddy invites you to the dinner...of your life,” reads the invitation for the dinner.

The meal will start with a serving of Professor Plum’s plum tomato bruschetta, along with Mr. Green’s mixed green salad with a choice of Yvette’s vinaigrette or Mrs. White’s creamy dressing. The main

dish will be Mrs. Peacock’s poultry, a.k.a. roast chicken, Colonel Mustard’s mustard roasted potatoes, and Mr. Green’s garlic green beans, with Miss Scarlett’s red velvet delight Death by Chocolate for dessert.

This performance was made possible thanks to Caitlyn Day, the Club President who restarted the Drama Club last year, the club’s Advisor Adelei Benard, and Emily Conroy, who joined this year to help the club organize.

For more information, send an email to a_bernard@ludlowps.org. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the 7 p.m. show on Friday and Saturday, and at 1:30 p.m. for the 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. General admission is \$15, with VIP seating for \$20.

Middle Schools raise over \$800 for First Night

LUDLOW -- On Friday, Jan. 26, there was a fundraiser held at the East Street and Harris Brook Schools. The goal was to raise money to help cover the cost of the fireworks for Ludlow’s First Night on Feb. 24.

It was a one-day fundraiser and together, these two elementary schools raised \$827.

They had decorated the donation cans and competed for a prize within their school. The classroom in each school who raised the most money wins a prize.

Classroom 111 at East Street School, and Classroom 121 at Harris Brook were the winners.

“Hats off to Big Y and Randall’s Farm for saving the containers used for the donations, and Luso for the use of their coin counting machine,” said Roz Sousa. “The children did an awesome job.”



Submitted photo

Middle school classes decorated their donation cans to compete for a prize within their school.

The Exit 7 Players Presents

Almost MAINE

February 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24 at 8pm
February 11, 18, 25 at 2pm

Directed by Eleanor Tynan
Stage Managed by Caroline Trudell
Produced by Krystle Bernier, Adam Malmborg, Kathy Malmborg

EXIT 7 THEATER
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e-Cyclist now offering rentals for electric bikes

By **Marcelo Gusmão**
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – If you’ve ever had an interest in purchasing an electric bike, a new rental shop has opened in town to help you make an informed purchase.

e-Cyclist opened on East Street in late December. Tammy Darling, one of the owners, said this is their only location so far.

“We are an electric bike showroom where people can come down and take a free test ride on the bikes, so people can try it before they buy it,” Darling said.

The store currently offers eight different models of electric bikes for people to try. Darling said that people often buy electric bikes online without knowing what they’ll get until they receive it, which can leave customers dissatisfied with their purchase.

“Electric bikes are not for everyone,” Darling said. “Not every style is for everyone, so we’re trying to give people an opportunity to try them out.”

Darling said that e-Cyclist is partnered with Electric Bike Company, which is based out of California and builds all their bikes within the United States. The bikes e-Cyclist offers are described as com-

pletely customizable,

“You come in and test ride,” Darling said. “If you’re interested in purchasing, we go through the design process for color, components you want, style of frame and if you want to add accessories. It’s ordered directly from the manufacturer and ships to our customers fully built.”

Darling said there were two reasons why she was inspired to open a store for people to try electric bicycles.

“My business partner is very much into electric vehicles – bikes, longboards, cars – so he had wanted to get into working with them,” Darling said.

Darling was also inspired by her son’s hesitancy to drive a car, which made her realize that there was a demand for electric vehicles.

“There’s a gap with people who are either afraid to or can’t drive,” Darling observed. “I feel is a solution for that gap; they can still get around and have the freedom they need without having to drive.”

Through her research and becoming more involved with the community of electric vehicle drivers, Darling realized that there were still more reasons to invest in electric cycling.

“For people who never thought they’d get on a bike again, this gives them an opportunity to ride

again,” Darling said, adding that the vehicles can overcome challenges that come with physical ailment and age.

“People who are afraid to ride a bike because they have to go up hills or can’t go on long rides, this gives them the opportunity to ride again and get some exercise,” Darling said.

Darling also mentioned the environmental benefits of having an electric bike.

“Your carbon footprint is a little less because you don’t need to take car everywhere you’re going,” she said. “For a short trip to the store, you can utilize your electric bike. It serves same purpose but with way less of a carbon footprint.”

Prices for the electric bikes are set by the manufacturer, with a five-year warranty on the battery, and a 10-year warranty on the motor and frame. Darling said that e-Cyclist does not add any service fees thanks to their partnership with the manufacturer.

“We do give discount of \$100 off bikes, plus any deals that the manufacturer offers,” Darling said. “We keep track of their deals to maximize people’s savings.”

e-Cyclist is located at 71 East St., across from the Walgreens Plaza, and can be reached by phone at 413-544-1908.

Wilbraham Women’s Club to meet Feb. 8

WILBRAHAM – The February 2024 meeting of the Wilbraham Women’s Club will be held on Thursday, Feb. 8 at Noon at the St. Cecilia Parish Center on Main Street. The luncheon will be a Quiche Party, which will include Salad, Rolls, and Dessert. Reservations are required. Please call: Michelle Axtmann at 596-3325. The cost is \$12.

The speaker for the day will be David Bourcier, retired fire chief, a local historian from Wilbraham, who has a deep passion for the history of his town. With a keen eye for detail and a love of storytelling, Bourcier has become known for his engaging and informative short stories about the people and events that have shaped Wilbraham over the years.

PET OF THE WEEK SHEAMUS



Sheamus is an eight-year-old golden retriever who lives in Ludlow with Tammy Hudyka.

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Cutting seven teachers at High School under consideration

By Jim Russell
Correspondent

LUDLOW – The local school district is considering cutting seven teaching positions at Ludlow High School for the fiscal year that begins on July 1, Superintendent Frank Tiano told the School Committee at last week’s meeting.

He said two more staff positions are also under consideration for elimination – for combined savings of nearly \$600,000; and, in the current academic year, “we reduced three elementary [school] teachers without impacting class size,” Tiano said at the Jan. 23 meeting.

Even with seven less teaching at the high school during the next school year,

he said class size would remain at about 21 students per class.

“72% of our budget is people. If you can make reductions and still have your class size at 20 to 21, that’s something for us to consider,” Tiano said at the meeting. “We’re talking about our staff’s lives; I’m fully cognizant of that,” he said.

Comparing 2021 with 2024, according to data he provided the committee, showed 119 staff at the high school in both those years; in contrast, Paul R. Baird Middle School declined from 103 in 2021 to 80 staff this school year.

Tiano said declining enrollment is a factor, with nearly 100 less students attending high school in town, compared to four years ago.

In 2014 there were 2,802 enrolled in

the pre-K through grade 12 in the district in Ludlow, according to Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s data. The current enrollment is 2,258; about 80% of the total compared to a decade ago.

Preliminary budget data Tiano shared with the School Committee showed the estimated fiscal 2025 budget of \$41 million, a 3.2% increase from current amount.

He said the district will convene a budget hearing next month, when the public can ask questions and make suggestions to the draft spending plan. Town meeting will decide the school and municipal budgets later this year, prior to July 1.

“Nothing is final” on the budget at this point, Tiano said.

Besides angst of more teachers potentially losing their jobs, the specter of two federal civil rights lawsuits filed against the School Committee, former administrators and the town was evident during last week’s meeting. The complaints accuse the former academic administrators of abusing their authority – in asserting Ludlow school district has legal right and duty to withhold information about a student’s sexual identity from the parents of their own children.

For the fourth time in recent months, a majority of School Committee members rejected a proposed “Parental Notification” policy brought forward by board member Joao Dias.

A draft of the proposal said the purpose is to support “the fundamental rights of parent(s)/guardian(s) to direct the care and upbringing of their children, including the right to be informed of and involved in all aspects of their child’s education to promote the best outcomes.”

Ronald G. Saloio joined Dias in favor of bringing the matter to the table for discussion again on Jan. 23.

Voting against consideration of the parental notification policy proposal was Chairman Jeffery A. Laing, vice chair Sarah F. Bowler and the board’s secretary, Jeffrey Stratton.

This policy proposal states in part, “This parental notification policy requires the following: 1. Principal/designee, certificated staff, and school counselors, shall notify the parent(s)/guardian(s), in writing, within three days from the date any District employee, administrator, or certificated staff, becomes aware that a student is: (a) Requesting to be identified or treated, as a gender other than the student’s biological sex or gender listed on the student’s birth certificate or any other official records. This includes any request by the student to use a name that differs from their legal name (other than a commonly recognized diminutive of the child’s legal name) or to use pronouns that do not align with the student’s biological sex or gender listed on the student’s birth certificate or other official re-

ords.”

The proposal says parents must be told whenever any student is “Accessing sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, or using bathroom or changing facilities that do not align with the student’s biological sex or gender listed on the birth certificate or other official records.”

During discussion on policy agenda items, Dias said he disagrees with “not allowing the parents to have any of their policies adopted.” He then moved to refer the parental notification proposal to the subcommittee for vetting purposes and a recommendation.

“Do you have a second other than Mr. Saoio, or are we going to continue to do this every meeting?” Laing said, adding that this was rejected three previous times.

“The policy that you’re talking about is actually part of a court case at this very moment. So why would we vote on any such policy when a judge is going to decide that very shortly. Whatever that decision is, it will either force us to say we need it, or force us to say nothing was wrong and we don’t need it,” Laing said.

“We’ve had parents ask for the policy,” Dias responded. The committee should “discuss it with the public.”

During discussion on “school choice” students opting to enroll in Ludlow, Bowler said it would be preferable if the district was not facing litigation.

“Not having potential lawsuits over your head – have to have a desirable school department – and right now, we have a lot going against our school department that makes it not shine like it used to shine,” Bowler said.

“We’re still really good,” Tiano responded.

“We’re still really good,” she agreed, adding: “I’m not saying we’re not, but it’s when you have, year after year. . . budget cuts and losing teachers and staff, year after year. It puts some darkness that used to not be there.”

“I don’t disagree,” Tiano said. Bonnie Manchester, who was a middle school teacher more than 20 years in Ludlow was fired in 2021 for telling the father of an 11-year old girl that his child had chosen to identify as male. Manchester filed a \$10 million lawsuit against the district alleging wrongful termination, noting there is no written policy formulated by the school system indicating her action breached any district rules; and, that the child wanted her to disclose this to her parents.

The parents of this child filed a lawsuit alleging the district abused their discretion by trying to hide from them their child’s sexual orientation information. In this case, state attorney general’s representing about 70% of the states in the United States filed amicus briefs with the court.



Our First Big Event of 2024!

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Incorporation Day
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 • 6pm
 Ludlow High School, 500 Chapin St.
 Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the town’s incorporation. Reading of the proclamation and patriotic music by the Ludlow High School Choir.

Follow us on Facebook [ludlowma250](https://www.facebook.com/ludlowma250)

Big Art Show of Small Works

A Scantic River Artisans exhibit Feb. 10, 11 at Hampden Senior Center

The two-day event will occur Feb. 10 from noon to 5 p.m. and Feb. 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The reception will be held on Feb. 11 from noon to 2 p.m.

All will occur in the Community Room at the Hampden Senior Center, located at 104 Allen St. in Hampden.

Visit the Scantic River Artisans at: www.scanticriverartisans.com. For additional information about the Artisans and exhibiting opportunities, please email: info@scanticriverartisans.com.

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Ludlow Lions donate to charity



Submitted Photo

Pictured are Sabra Ramsdell, Joyce Reilly, Ludlow Lions Club President and Keven Ramsdell. Photo by Lion Pat Baker.

LUDLOW— The Ludlow Lions club welcomed the Executive Director of the Springfield Rescue Mission, Kevin Ramsdell, to speak at the monthly meeting. The Springfield Rescue Mission has been offering emergency shelter for men for 130 years.

They also offer Addiction Recovery Services, Mobile food service, Workforce development, job readiness, food, clothing and so much more.

For more information, or to donate food or clothing, contact The Springfield Rescue Mission, 10 Mill St., Springfield.

City of Chicopee to Celebrate Black History Month with Flag Raising Ceremony Feb. 2

CHICOPEE – The City of Chicopee is proud to announce a special event to kickstart the celebration of Black History Month.

On Feb. 2, at 11 a.m., a flag-raising ceremony will take place at the City Hall Flag Plaza, located at 17 Springfield St. The public is warmly invited to attend and show their support for this festive occasion.

Black History Month, recognized nationwide in February, is a time to honor the profound contributions and enduring legacy of African Americans throughout American history. The flag raising ceremony at Chicopee City Hall marks the beginning of a month-long series of events dedicated to celebrating the rich heritage and cultural significance of African Americans in our city, our nation, and the world.

Event Details:

Date: Feb. 2

Time: 11 a.m.

Location: City Hall Flag Plaza, 17 Springfield St., Chicopee

The raising of the flag signifies Chicopee's commitment to recognizing the importance of African American history and culture. It serves as a symbol of unity, diversity, and the shared values that bring our community together.

Mayor John Vieau will preside over the ceremony, accompanied by Ayanna

Crawford, CEOAC Consulting, community leaders, and residents. The event will feature remarks highlighting the significance of Black History Month and the impact of African Americans on our city and nation.

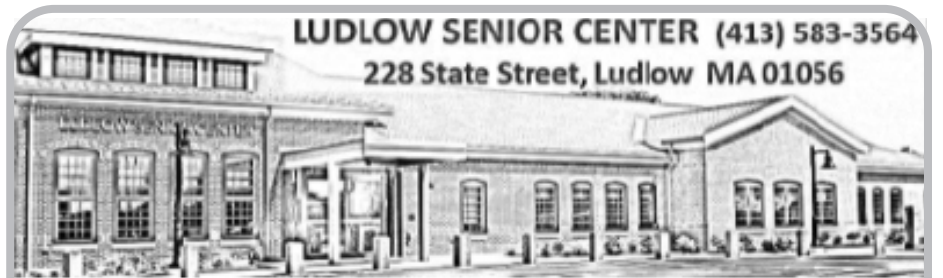
This celebration is an excellent opportunity for all members of our community to come together, show their support, and gain a deeper appreciation of the contributions made by African Americans to the fabric of our society.

The City of Chicopee encourages all residents, students, and community organizations to attend this momentous event and join in the celebration of African American history.

For more information about the flag raising ceremony and other Black History Month events in Chicopee, please contact Chloe Soto, 413-594-1500.

The City of Chicopee is a diverse and vibrant community in Western Massachusetts, known for its rich history and commitment to inclusivity and diversity. The city is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the contributions of all its residents, including the African American community.

Join us on Feb. 2, as we raise the flag in unity and celebration, marking the beginning of a month dedicated to honoring African American history.



Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

LUDLOW— The calendar is packed with many fitness programs, entertainment, education sessions, and more. Reserve a lunch in the Center's beautiful dining room complete with coffee, tea, and dessert by calling a day in advance at 413-583-3564 (call Friday for lunch on Monday).

For full program and activity descriptions and general information about what a senior center is and does go to: Ludlow.ma.us. Seniors can also "like" the Ludlow Senior Center on Facebook. A paper copy of the Senior Scene newsletter is available at the Center.

Activities Calendar:

Please register in advance for items with*

Thursday, Feb. 1

8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10:30 a.m. Helping Hands Agency visit
1 p.m. Mahjong
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

Friday, Feb. 2

8:00 a.m. Wear Red Day
8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
9 a.m. Reiki*
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
10:30 a.m. Trivia
1 p.m. Ceramics
1 p.m. Health Bones & Balance Class*
1 p.m. Magic Class

Monday, Feb. 5

9 a.m. Knitting
9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
1 p.m. Better Together
1 p.m. Scrabble
1:15 p.m. Pitch
2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

Tuesday, Feb. 6

9 a.m. Quilting
9 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Cribbage
10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga
12:30 p.m. Blood Pressure Checks
1 p.m. Western Dance Lessons
1:30 p.m. Bingo
4:45 p.m. Movie: Enter the Dragon
5:30 p.m. Power Pump Class

5:30 p.m. Volleyball at East Street School

Wednesday, Feb. 7

9 a.m. Ceramics
9 a.m. Zumba Gold
10 a.m. Opera
10 a.m. Tea with the Town Administrator
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
12 p.m. Lunch & Learn*
12:45 p.m. Movie: Enter the Dragon
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*

Thursday, Feb. 8

8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10:30 a.m. Friends Meeting
1 p.m. Mahjong
1:30 p.m. Year of the Dragon performance
2 p.m. Writers Block*
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

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

Daily Events:

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, Feb. 1: Chicken Patty Sandwich
Friday, Feb. 2: Beef Stew/Biscuit
Monday, Feb. 5: Kielbasa/Lazy Pierogi
Tuesday, Feb. 6: Reuben Casserole/Roasted Pot
Wednesday, Feb. 7: BLT Grinder/Chips/Pickle
Thursday, Feb. 8: Sweet & Sour Chicken/Rice/Veggies

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

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

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



By Ellenor Downer

Bluebirds

I received an email from a West Brookfield resident, who included two photos of bluebirds at her feeder.



Courtesy photo by Jane Higgins

She took the photos on New Year's Day and had six or seven of them. She said last year she had bluebirds visit regularly in late winter arriving on Valentine's Day.

She said in the email, "We built a meal-worm feeder (thanks to Mark Blazis instructions) and the outcome was a pair nesting in one of our nesting boxes and bringing their pair of fledglings to the feeder."

Bluebirds are migratory, but some stay around all winter just like some of the Canada geese and robins do. Bluebirds, along with other small birds, will use nesting boxes for shelter during storms or at night. The boxes provide a dry place and protection from the wind and cold.

The bluebird is about 6 1/2 inches long. The male has a brilliant blue head, back, wings and tail with a brick red throat and breast. The female has a rich, buffy throat and breast. She has a grayish blue head and back with light blue wings and tail and a white eye ring.

Bluebirds may come to feeders for peanut butter mixes, berries, meal worms and raisins. The female lays three to six pale blue eggs in a nest in a tree cavity, abandoned woodpecker hole or birdhouse. The nest consists of grasses, plant stems, pine needles and is lined with hair, feathers and fine grasses.

They inhabit farmlands, open woodlands and rural yards.

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident said in an email, "Yesterday (Jan. 6) there were about a dozen robins in the yard feasting on the crab apples and they were joined by a few cedar waxwings."

He said, "Today we awoke to about eight inches of snow and all of the trees were covered with snow that was stuck to the branches. The crab apple trees were full of robins. One tree near the front of the

house had over a dozen robins in the tree eating apples along with a wax-wing or two."

The robins and wax wings also finished off the last of the fruit from the mountain ash and gleaned a bush with red berries. He said there were about three dozen robins and a half dozen cedar wax-wings in his yard as well as the "regulars" and two white-throated sparrows.

Grackles

I received an email from a woman, who had grackles at her feeder on Jan. 12. She also reported seeing some robins and a flock of about 30 to 40 juncos. She said she usually doesn't see grackles until spring.

Christmas bird count

Results for some Christmas Bird Counts that took place in our area are now available by visiting the website at <http://www.wararivernatureclub.org/announcements.html>. Many new records were set, and many old ones broken, with high numbers of species and individuals recorded.

An open, ice/snow-free landscape, unfrozen waterways, and an abundant wild food crop were combined factors that encouraged many species to linger longer than usual.

Please see **BACKYARD**, Page 7



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

GUEST COLUMN



Will withdrawing from 401(k) affect my Social Security?

Dear Rusty

My full retirement age (FRA) is 66 and 8 months, which I'll reach in September 2024. I'm still working three days a week. I want to cash in my 401K and want to know if I have to wait until my FRA for IRS purposes or can cash it in anytime in 2024. I don't want to affect my Social Security or end up paying taxes on my benefits.

Signed: Seeking to Avoid Taxes

Dear Seeking

We're not experts on IRS matters here at the AMAC Foundation so I can't address 401(k) questions, but we can provide information on your Social Security circumstances and how 401(k) withdrawals may affect your SS. I assume from your question that you are now receiving early Social Security and wish to avoid any tax consequences thereto by cashing in your 401(k), as well as from working. Here's what you need to know:

Since you will reach your Full Retirement Age in 2024, your 2024 work earnings limit will be \$59,520 up to the month you reach FRA. If you were born in January 1958, you'll attain FRA in September 2024. After you have reached your FRA there is no longer a Social Security limit to how much you can earn from working, so your work earnings thereafter will not affect your monthly Social Security benefit regardless of how much you earn. If your part time work between January and August 2024 won't put you over the \$59,520 limit, your work earnings will not negatively affect your gross monthly Social Security benefit.

Assuming you are on Medicare, the premium for which is deducted from your Social Security payment, withdrawals from your 401(k) might affect your net monthly Social Security payment in two years hence. Medicare premiums are based upon your combined income from all sources, including 50% of the SS benefits you received during the tax year. If your 401(k) withdrawal(s) put you over an income threshold for your tax filing status, you may be required to pay an Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount on top of the standard Medicare premium.

That IRMAA supplement would be deducted from your Social Security, which would affect the net amount of your Social Security payment. Your Medicare premium for each coming year is determined by your combined income from two years prior, so if you "cash in" your 401(K) in 2024, it would affect your net Social Security payments in 2026.

Whether you will pay income tax on your Social Security benefits is determined by your combined income from everywhere, which the IRS calls your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income." MAGI is your income from all sources except ROTH IRA withdrawals and includes half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year.

If you file your taxes as a single, and your MAGI is over \$25,000 or if you file your taxes as "married-jointly" and your MAGI is over \$32,000 then 50% of the Social Security benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS (at your normal IRS tax rate). But if your MAGI as a single filer is more than \$34,000 – or as a married/jointly filer over \$44,000 – then up to 85% of the SS benefits received during the tax year becomes part of your overall income taxed by the IRS.

So, to recap:

Your part time work earnings in 2024 won't affect your monthly Social Security benefit, unless your 2024 work earnings prior to September 2024 exceed \$59,520.

Depending on the amount of your 401(k) withdrawals, your 2026 net Social Security payments may be impacted by Medicare's IRMAA provision. But your 401(k) withdrawals will not affect your gross Social Security payments.

Depending on the amount of your 401(k) withdrawals, some of the Social Security benefits received during the 2024 tax year will likely be subject to income tax. That is, if your annual total income, including your 401(k) withdrawals, exceeds the MAGI thresholds described above.

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

The REGISTER

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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.

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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 mharrison@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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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.

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What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library?

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

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

FOR ALL AGES

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

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

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

FOR ADULTS

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

information and to sign up, please visit massbook.org/readingchallenge.

Chair Volleyball for Seniors, every Thursday starting January 18 until March 28, 1:30 p.m. Have some fun this winter by joining us for chair volleyball! No running or jumping required. There will be no chair volleyball on February 22. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408. Walk-ins are welcome.

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

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

"Who picked this book?" Book Club, first Thursday of the month (2/1), 3:30-5:00 p.m. This month's book is "Other Birds" by Sarah Addison Allen. "Other Birds" is a heartwarming and gentle read perfect for winter. Pick up a copy of the book at the Circulation Desk. New members are welcome!

History Talk: The Amistad Trials, Tuesday, February 6, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Honorable Dennis J. Curran, retired Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court, will be discussing the first civil rights trial in American history that occurred more than two decades before the Civil War. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

Computer Basics, Thursday, February 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m. In this class, you'll learn computer skills like using a mouse as well as computer terms and definitions. This class is meant for computer beginners. Space is limited. Please sign up by calling Olivia at 413-

583-3408 x114

FOR TEENS

Nintendo Switch Night, every other Tuesday (2/6/24 & 2/24/24) 6:00-7:45 p.m. Play Mario Kart, Smash Bros, or other Nintendo Switch games. For 6th-12th graders, space is limited to 16 people, please register.

The 'Fellowship of the Pages' Tween Graphic Novel Book Discussion Group, Every Thursday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Meet each week to discuss graphic novels, eat snacks, play games, and make friends. Please register.

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

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

FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

Blind Date with a Book, All Month For upper elementary through high school. Choose a wrapped book from our display in the Youth Room from reading a little blurb on the cover or select one online from our website.

Pokemon Club, Mondays 3:30-5:00 p.m. For 8 & up. Trading, dueling, & gaming on handhelds, phones, or Nintendo Switch. Please have your name on everything you bring to the club. Please register.

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

Massachusetts Children's Book Award Book Group for 4th-6th Grade, Thursday, February 8th & March 14, 6:00pm - 6:45pm. 4th-6th graders across the state are the ones to decide who wins this award after reading at least 5 of the nominated books. Meet with Youth Services Librarian July each month for 45 fun minutes to discuss, decide, play games, and share snacks. Everyone who has read at least

5 of the books by April 15th will cast their vote, celebrate with an ice cream party, and be featured in an article in the Register! Please register.

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

Groundhog Day Scavenger Hunt, Friday, February 2, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. All Ages. Find all the places the groundhog is hiding in the Youth Room and win a prize. Drop in.

Pom-Pom Ice Cream Cone Necklaces, Saturday, February 3, 9:19 a.m. -12:45 p.m. Preschool and up. Celebrate Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day by making a cute, tasty-looking necklace. Drop in.

Edible Slime, Saturday, February 10, 10:00 a.m. For ages 5 & up. Slime that you can eat? yep, we're doing it! Please register.

FOR CHILDREN

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

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

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

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

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

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

BACKYARD from Page 6

Feeder activity

Birds at my feeder before the Jan. 7 storm consisted mainly of a few juncos, a white-throated sparrow or two and a few chickadees and downy woodpeckers. That all changed on Sunday, Jan. 7. I saw my cardinal pair, bluejays, lots of chickadees and tufted titmice. I also had

mourning doves, white-breasted nuthatches, a downy woodpecker and a few goldfinches.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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CARES Coalition distributes Valentine's Day bags to Senior Center

VALENTINE'S DAY BAGS

from Page 1

reach senior citizens, just to kind of provide a boost in the middle of the winter and in recognition of Valentine's Day," Bill Rooney said. "With the CARES Coalition, we try to reach out to different constituencies in town, one of those being our seniors."

"This Valentine's Day project is designed to lift spirits and send a message to the community as a whole that we think of everyone at CARES and not just the youth," said Leonczyk.

"We started this during COVID when so many seniors were homebound," Rooney said. "The response from seniors has been fantastic, so we decided to keep doing it. I think it's a good partnership between seniors and CARES."

The bags were hand-delivered to seniors who were isolated and didn't have the luxury of attending lunch at the center. Included in the gift bags were a small box of Valentine's Day chocolates, a copy of the Register and information from the Health Department and the library.

Leonczyk mentioned that the members' unanimous favorite part are the handmade cards made on construction paper with markers by kids at the Boys and Girls Club.

CARES has "sort of a unique way of obtaining (the list) with the relationships we have," according to Leonczyk, with the senior center



Submitted photos

Jhon Wielblad and his family helped to distribute gift bags.

and Health Department providing a lot of names.

"They have more of a handle on members that used to participate at the senior center that can no longer get there, whether it be due to health or transportation," Leon-

czyk said. "And the Health Department has a handle on some of our more isolated seniors."

For more information about what the CARES Coalition has to offer, visit their website at ludlowcarescoalition.org.



Students hand-made all the Valentines that were distributed by the CARES Coalition.



Peter Leonczyk distributed Valentine's bags to the Senior Center.

NEW POLICE SERGEANT from Page 1

people and showing who he is. For a rather introverted, good-natured, quiet young man, he speaks pretty well, as you can tell."

"I like working with patrolmen, guiding them in the directions they want to take their careers, and answering any questions that need to be answered or facilitated," Wielblad said. "I think that's what makes me a good fit for this role."

Also interviewing for the role was Derek Smolinski. Valadas and the Selectmen were also impressed with his credentials.

"My journey towards a career in law enforcement was inspired by my grandfather, Chester Hawkis, who served as a police officer in Ludlow," Smolinski said. "Although I didn't have the opportunity to know him well, the stories shared by former officers about his dedication deeply influenced my decision to pursue this profession."

The Selectmen had questions prepared for the candidates, asking about where they would like their careers to go and the particular challenges facing police officers.

"I think the biggest challenge at the police department is retaining police officers," Smolinski said. "The second one would be mental health issues, like PTSD and that area that we should be more focusing on."

Wielblad agreed that mental health is one of the department's biggest challenges and mentioned the work he's done with the CARES Coalition to address it.

"We have a clinician that comes out weekly now and does follow-ups with residents in town which is, I think, crucial with mental health cases," Wielblad said. "Even though we're doing all this, I still think it's one of the bigger issues that the town is currently facing."

Selectman Derek DeBarge brought up the recent shooting of an officer in Wilbraham and asked the candidates how they would respond to such an incident.

"That's one of the most common calls that we go to," Wielblad said. "You never know which one is going to be out of the norm, so it's something to keep in the back of your mind."

"If that happened in Ludlow, and I'm working the next shift, we definitely want to have a conversation for starters. Then I also want to offer the officers resources that they could use for responding to an incident like that because that's going to have a huge impact on your mental health and mental wellbeing," Wielblad said.

Both candidates were described as assets to the department, and the Selectmen voted unanimously to appoint Wielblad as a sergeant.

DUBOIS from Page 1

working with the younger members of the department.

"For some of them, you have to teach them a lot," Dubois said. "They just came out of college and didn't have any hands-on experience. You have to show what hand-on means on the fire scene. Some who were more medically inclined, they could save people's lives real easily, so they're mostly in the ambulance and they know that perfectly."

About the department he's leaving behind, Dubois was able to say with confidence, "I wouldn't worry if something happens to you in Ludlow. You're 'gonna be safe."

Dubois said that now that he's retired, he is going to spend time working on and riding his motorcycles, and "enjoying life for a change."

"I have a couple of Harleys," Dubois said. "I'm rebuilding one right now from 1976 that I bought when I was 19 years old. I took it apart, and me and my buddy are rebuilding it, riding motorcycles and enjoying life for a change."

Dubois's celebration will be held at the Polish American Citizen's Club this Friday, Jan. 26, starting at 6 p.m.

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USDA INSP. FROZEN COUNTRYSTYLE PORK RIBS	\$1.49 lb	CUT FREE		USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF EYE ROUND	\$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG	67¢ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS	\$2.44 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF EYE ROUND	\$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STUFFED CHICKEN W/ BROCCOLI & CHEESE.....	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN BATTER & BREADED SHRIMP ..	\$2.99 lb
SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF EYE ROUND	\$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STUFFED CHICKEN W/ BROCCOLI & CHEESE.....	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STUFFED CHICKEN W/ BROCCOLI & CHEESE.....	\$3.99 lb
SOUP'S ON!		USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF EYE ROUND	\$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STUFFED CHICKEN W/ BROCCOLI & CHEESE.....	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STUFFED CHICKEN W/ BROCCOLI & CHEESE.....	\$3.99 lb
USDA INSP. BEEF SHANK MEAT	\$3.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF EYE ROUND	\$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STUFFED CHICKEN W/ BROCCOLI & CHEESE.....	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STUFFED CHICKEN W/ BROCCOLI & CHEESE.....	\$3.99 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH SOUP CHICKENS "FOWL"	\$1.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF EYE ROUND	\$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STUFFED CHICKEN W/ BROCCOLI & CHEESE.....	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STUFFED CHICKEN W/ BROCCOLI & CHEESE.....	\$3.99 lb
USDA INSP. GOAT MEAT	\$6.69 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF EYE ROUND	\$4.44 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STUFFED CHICKEN W/ BROCCOLI & CHEESE.....	\$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN STUFFED CHICKEN W/ BROCCOLI & CHEESE.....	\$3.99 lb
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Lions fall to Saint Paul

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Unless something drastic happens during the final two weeks of the regular season, the Lud-

low hockey team should be one of the four teams competing in the Western Mass. Class B tournament at the Olympia Ice Center during the February school vacation week.

The odds of the Lions qual-

ifying for the Division 3 state tournament for the third consecutive year are a little bit longer following a 5-2 loss to the Saint Paul Diocesan Knights at Olympia, last Saturday afternoon.

“We’ve played a lot tougher schedule this year,” said Ludlow head coach Paul Rivest. “We haven’t been outworked in very many games, but today’s opponent was much better than us. We just made a couple of costly mistakes.”

The Lions, who lost their third consecutive game, had a 5-8-2 overall record following their first ever match-up against the Knights (10-2-1), who locked up a berth in the Division 3 state tournament.

Ludlow was ranked 42nd in the MIAA power rankings. They’ll need to win at least four of their remaining games to qualify for the state tournament.

“We’ll need to finish the regular season with a .500 record to make the states,” Rivest said. “That’s something that we’re



Brice Pereira looks to keep the puck away from an opponent.



Luke Martin heads up the ice.



Owen Kumiega crosses into the offensive zone.

trying to do. We lost to Westfield the other night, but we dominated the game.”

The Lions, who are currently the top team in the Western Mass. Class B power rankings, are scheduled to face Easthampton in a make-up game on Friday night. They’re also slated to face Fay Division rivals Amherst and Chicopee next week

before wrapping up the regular season with a date against West Springfield on Valentine’s Day. The start time of that contest is 3:30 at Olympia.

The Lions first game of the Western Mass. tournament also counts towards the state tournament rankings.

Please see **HOCKEY**, Page 10

Lions fall behind early, lose to St. Mary’s



LUDLOW – Last Tuesday night, Ludlow boys basketball gave up a 14-5 run to St. Mary’s and lost to the Saints 57-43. While Ludlow’s offense was better in the second half, they were not able to overcome the early deficit. Ludlow was led by Daniel McKenney with 16 points. Giovanni Acevedo had 13 points.

Stephen Goodreau dribbles near the hoop with pressure on him.



Daniel McKenney rushes for the hoop.



Giovanni Acevedo gets the layup.



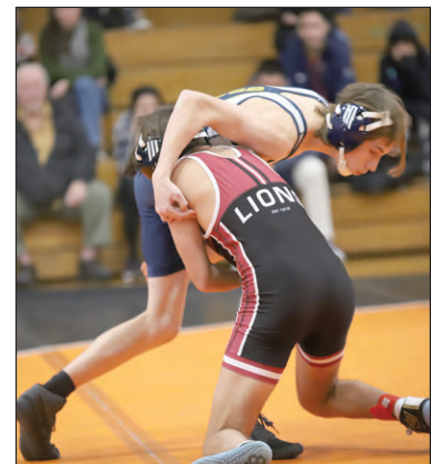
Jackson Mateus shoots from short range.



Cameron Lyman attempts a three-pointer.

Lions on the mat

GRANBY – Last Saturday, Ludlow wrestling continued its work toward the Western Mass. and state championship meets. The Lions wrestled at Granby in several dual meets. The meets gave several wrestlers an opportunity to wrestle multiple matches against teams throughout the region.



Chris Goncalves tries to flip his opponent.



Samantha Bertini starts a match at 106 pounds.



Ryan Gomes attempts to turn over his opponent.



Riley Morals tries to get leverage.

Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

T-Birds offense scores big over Checkers

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (20-17-3-2) dominated for much of the night in a 6-1 win over the Charlotte Checkers (20-17-4-0) on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 at the MassMutual Center.

The T-Birds jumped to a first-period lead for a second straight evening, this time just 3:37 into game action. Mathias Laferriere spun away from a defender to gain entry on the right-wing side. Mikhail Abramov raced up the middle of the ice, catching a perfect pass from Laferriere and lifting a shot into the top shelf behind Charlotte netminder Ludovic Waeber, making it 1-0 on his eighth goal of the season.

After not facing much action in the opening half of the period, Springfield goaltender Malcolm Subban got infinitely busier in the closing minutes, as the T-Birds killed off two Charlotte power

plays, including 28 seconds' worth of 5-on-3 time. Subban shined, with point-blank saves off Gerry Mayhew and Rasmus Asplund sticking out in a 10-save opening frame.

After the goal by Abramov, Waeber also settled in, and the Checkers' third-ranked penalty kill also denied Springfield on two power plays as the two clubs' man-advantage units continued to scuffle.

For a second consecutive evening, Charlotte got an equalizer in the early stages of period two. Patrick Khodorenko approached the net and bashed home a rebound through Subban's legs after Patrick Giles had his initial try denied by the goaltender. The goal came just 44 seconds into the period to tie the score, 1-1.

However, like Friday night, the tie score would be short-lived. A Matt Kierstedt penalty sent Springfield's power

play back to work, and just 32 seconds after the Khodorenko tally, Hugh McGing got his first goal since Nov. 24, ramming home a wide shot from Laferriere that skipped off the end boards right in front of the goal on the left side.

With the lead back in their possession, the T-Birds would not relinquish it. Subban made a crucial 2-on-1 save on Checkers captain Zac Dalpe, and moments after another Springfield penalty kill, at 10:22 of the period, Hunter Skinner stepped into a one-time drop pass from Zach Bolduc and saw it ricochet off a Charlotte stick and behind Waeber to make it 3-1. It was Skinner's first goal as a Thunderbird.

Laferriere's night was far from over, as he stepped over the left-wing side and roofed a heavy snap shot through Waeber at 14:00, and in less than four minutes, the lead grew to 4-1.

Things would not get any better for the Checkers in the third. Ryan Suzuki pounced on a loose puck in the slot after a Jakub Vrana pass to Bolduc caromed off Waeber's pad right into the slot area. Suzuki also found the top corner, advancing the lead to 5-1 on his third goal of the season.

Will Bitten would round out the scoring with his second point of the night, cashing in on a 2-on-1 after an initial shot from Bolduc bounced off Waeber's left pad and right onto Bitten's tape. Subban got himself back into the win column, making 29 saves in securing his ninth win of the year.

Including the postseason, Springfield is now 10-1-0-0 in its last 11 games against Charlotte inside the Thunderdome, and with the two-game sweep, the T-Birds leaped ahead of Charlotte in the Atlantic Division standings.

Western Mass. Baseball Hall announces new class

HOLYOKE – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame has announced the 11th annual class to be inducted on March 7, 2024 at Twin Hills Country Club:

Jeff Reardon: Reardon is a 16-year MLB relief pitcher, four-time All-Star, and 1987 World Series champion (Twins). He notched 367 saves over the course of his career, ranking 12th on the MLB all-time saves list. He pitched for five different teams during his big league career (Mets, Expos, Twins, Red Sox, and Yankees). Reardon grew up in Western Massachusetts, graduating from Wahconah High School in Dalton.

Mark Simeone: Entering his 28th season as Head Coach of Springfield College's baseball team, Simeone has

compiled 484 victories during his tenure. He grew up in Northampton, graduating from Northampton High School in 1982. In addition to coaching at Springfield College, Simeone played outfield from 1982-87 under Charles Roys (Class of 2022 Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame inductee).

Bob Taylor: A current and longtime resident of Springfield, Taylor played 16 professional baseball seasons. He reached the major leagues in 1970, where he appeared in 63 games for the San Francisco Giants alongside Willie Mays and Willie McCovey. Taylor played for San Francisco's Double-A affiliate, the Springfield Giants, in 1965.

Don Strange: Strange, a Springfield native, played college baseball at UMA-

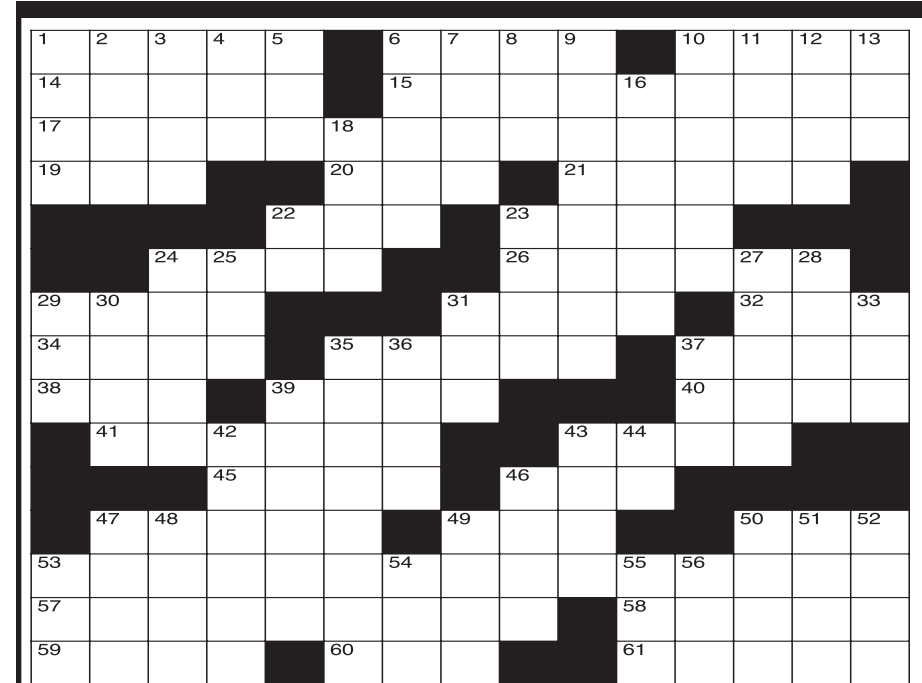
ss Amherst from 1987-89. He then enjoyed an eight-year professional baseball career, reaching Triple-A while with the Atlanta Braves system. Don joins his brother, Pat (Class of 2021) in the Western Massachusetts Baseball Hall of Fame.

Earl Lorden: Lorden served as Head Coach at Turners Falls before taking the helm as Head Coach at UMass Amherst from 1948-1966. He won 189 games during this span, ranking third on UMass's all-time wins list. Lorden was a continuous supporter of UMass baseball until his passing in 1984 at the age of 87.

1942 Turners Falls State Championship Team: A true underdog team of 15 players that won the 1942 Massachu-

setts State Championship well before population-based divisions were instituted. Their undefeated regular season was shortened by gas rationing during World War II before defeating Arlington in the championship game at Fenway Park by a score of 5-4. The team induction coincides with the individual induction of their head coach, Earl Lorden.

Ron Chimelis (Garry Brown Sports Media Award): A long time columnist and sports reporter for the Springfield Republican, Chimelis served as Red Sox beat reporter during their 2004, 2007, and 2013 World Series championship seasons. He will be the second recipient of the Garry Brown Award, the first of which was posthumously awarded to Garry Brown in 2023.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Become less intense
- 6. Variety of pear
- 10. Religion native to China
- 14. Type of tooth
- 15. Fitted out
- 17. Make every effort
- 19. Autonomic nervous system
- 20. Complete
- 21. Alternate name
- 22. River in France and Belgium
- 23. Miami's mascot is one
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Most cognizant of reality
- 29. Broad volcanic crater
- 31. Canadian surname
- 32. Satisfaction
- 34. Traitorous Greek mythological prince
- 35. Collide
- 37. Immune response
- 38. Feline
- 39. High opinion of one's own appearance
- 40. Thin strip to align parts
- 41. Containers
- 43. Convicted American spy
- 45. Breathe noisily
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. I.M., architect
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Dutch and German surname
- 59. Square measures
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Degrade someone
- 7. Gemstone
- 8. A place ships dock (abbr.)
- 9. Evergreen tropical tree
- 10. Reality TV star
- 11. Nonflowering aquatic plant
- 12. Stakes
- 13. Antidiuretic hormone
- 16. Make warm again
- 18. Light beams
- 22. Lethal dose
- 23. Terrorist group
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Naturally occurring solid
- 27. German surname meaning "man from Saxony"
- 28. Popular cuisine
- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Type of horse
- 31. ___ Diego
- 33. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 35. Most shrewd
- 36. It may be for shopping
- 37. Midway between south and southeast
- 39. A stock of foods
- 42. The bindings of books
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. Sammy ___, songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Clare Booth ___, American writer
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Popular type of bread
- 51. Transfers of money (abbr.)
- 52. Association of engineering professionals
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. City
- 55. Niger-Congo branch of languages
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Siberian river
- 2. Blessing
- 3. Substitutes (abbr.)
- 4. Principle underlying the universe
- 5. Work unit
- 6. Yellow edible fruits

HOCKEY from Page 9

Ludlow hasn't had very much success against Central Mass. opponents so far this season. Their only win came against Oakmont Regional, 4-2, at Olympia on December 30. They also lost on the road to Blackstone Valley (4-3), and Lunenburg (4-2).

St. Paul, which is a catholic school, was formed in 2020 after the merger of St. Peter Marian and Holy Name Central Catholic.

The visitors from Worcester built a 2-0 lead during the first six minutes of the opening period.

Their first goal was scored by freshman Jack Coleman at the 3:31 mark.

Two minutes later, junior Curtis Patrick poked a shot into the net past Ludlow freshman goalie Peter LeBorgne (25 saves).

The Lions nearly scored a short-handed goal with 4:55 remaining in the first period on a breakaway opportunity by senior Ryan Kurtz, but his shot attempt was deflected away by St. Paul senior goalie Chris Palmero. Kurtz had another shot attempt less than a minute later, but Palmero made the save.

LeBorgne made several saves during



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Tanner Severyn gets ready to shoot.

the first ten minutes of the second, which kept the Lions within striking distance.

With 1:58 remaining in the period, an unassisted goal by senior Luke Martin sliced the deficit in half.

The Knights entered the final 15 minutes of the non-league match holding a 3-1 lead.

After receiving a long pass, junior Colin Kreuz scored a breakaway goal for the visiting team with 15.1 seconds left in the second.

A little more than a minute into the final period, Ludlow freshman Evan Dias knocked home a rebound shot. The junior duo of Nick Staeb and Ryan Goodwin were credited with the assists on the Lions second goal.

Just like he did at the end of the second period, Kreuz scored his second goal of the match less than a minute later.

Freshman Evan Waden, who assisted on Kreuz's second goal, sealed the Knights victory with an unassisted breakaway goal in the middle of the third period.

Late in the game, a shot taken by Ludlow sophomore Nicholas Deroin rattled off the post. Another shot by sophomore Tanner Severyn was saved by Palmero, who was credited with a total of 16 saves.



Peter LeBorgne holds steady in net watching the action.

OBITUARIES

Robert "Bob" Johnston

NEW SALEM - Robert "Bob" Johnston of New Salem passed away in his sleep at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton in the early morning of Tuesday Jan. 23, his wife Paula at his side.



He is survived by his wife, Paula (Daniels) Johnston of New Salem; his son, Kyle Johnston of Pownal, Maine; his sister, Janis Santos of Ludlow, and her children Mark Santos of Ludlow and his wife Alice, Jeff Santos of Ludlow and his wife Mary, and Kim Santos of Greensboro, North Carolina; and his two step-daughters and their children: Stacey Read of Amherst and her children Christopher, Cassidi, and Matthew, and Lindsay Read of Amherst and her children Lola and Read. He was predeceased by his brother Richard.

Born in 1947, Robbie, as he was called by his sister Janis, was the youngest child of Grace Premo and Norman Johnston, and spent his youth in a house built by his father on Haviland Pond in Ludlow. Together, he and Janis would hunt bullfrogs, catch fish, and swim from their beach to the island in the middle of the pond. They spent summers on the Maine coast. He loved sports and would play hockey, baseball, and football with his friends. He would go on to play football for Ludlow High School. His first car was a 1965 Mustang. He was drafted into the Army in 1967 and served in Vietnam with the Army Signal Corps before being stationed in Germany.

He was honorably discharged in 1970, having achieved the rank of Sergeant. From his time in the Army, he learned teamwork, discipline, and how to fall asleep quickly, eat quickly, and appreciate Bavarian lager. Upon leaving the Army, Bob attended Westfield State College. After graduating with a degree in biology, he began a long career in education, working first for Head Start in Chicopee and then Job Corps at Westover Air Reserve Base, where he would found and direct Prime Time, an evening program to help young mothers earn their G.E.D. He would go on to teach biology at West Springfield High School and later AP biology at his alma mater, Ludlow High School. While teaching at Ludlow High School, he was the faculty advisor to Students Against Destructive Decisions, and was nominated for and received the 2011 Harvard Club Excellence in Teaching Award. He was an Assistant Coach for his son's team with the Ludlow Hockey Association.

In 2011, Bob retired with his wife Paula to a peaceful country home in New Salem. Bob was a warm, kind, quiet man, a devoted husband, a caring father, grandfather, and brother, and a friend to many. He loved animals and nature and enjoyed watching the Yankees, Giants, and Bruins, cooking, tending to the wood stove, and taking walks around the Quabbin. In his retirement, he and Paula traveled up and down the east coast, from Tampa to Ogunquit. His father, Norman, had immigrated to Ludlow from Montrose, Scotland, and Bob felt connected to and proud of his Scottish ancestry: on special occasions, including his wedding, he would array himself in kilt, sporran, and sgian-dubh, and he was known to be an occasional connoisseur of a wee glass of the nation's eponymous libation. He passed these traditions on to his son. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Calling hours will be held on Wed. Jan. 31 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Ludlow Funeral Home, 432 East Street, Ludlow. A private burial service at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Agawam will follow at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Robert J. Johnston Memorial Scholarship Fund at LUSO Credit Union, 599 East Street, Ludlow, MA 01056.

For addition information please visit ludlowfuneralhome.com

Idalina "Lena" (Santos) Oliveira, 98

LUDLOW — Idalina "Lena" (Santos) Oliveira, 98, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully at home on Jan. 22, 2024.

Born in Ludlow, one of nine children of Anibel and Anna (De Fonseca) Santos, she was a 1943 graduate of Ludlow High School and was a member of the former Our Lady of Fatima Women's Guild.

During and after WWII, Lena was employed at Sickles, Corp. in Chicopee and later at the former Convenient Corner in Ludlow at the corner of Holyoke and Cady Streets, but her greatest accomplishment was raising her 3 sons. She was happiest when spending time with her family and friends and especially when playing cards with her sisters.

Lena was the beloved wife of the late Alvaro Oliveira who predeceased her in 1967; a devoted mother to Richard Oliveira and wife Carol of Ludlow, Robert Oliveira and husband Rodney of



FL, and Russell Oliveira of Ludlow; a loving grandmother to Jacob and Georgina Oliveira; a dear sister to Sid Tarbox, and the late Carlos "Charlie" Santos, Mickey Silva, Morris Santos, Simon Santos, Terry Harasik, Julia Gajewski, and Hilda Belisle; and also leaves behind her sister-in-law Virginia Cretella, many loved nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends including Christine Bastek.

Funeral services for Lena will be held on Sat., Jan. 27. Visiting hours are from 9:30-11:00am in Ludlow Funeral Home followed by procession to St. Aloysius Cemetery for burial.

Due to allergy and health concerns, Lena's family has requested that no flowers be sent for the services. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in her memory to Friends of the Ludlow Senior Center.

State Rep. Carey to run for Clerk of Courts

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

EASTHAMPTON — State Rep. Dan Carey (D-2nd Hampshire) announced his intention to run to be the next Hampshire County Clerk of Courts after the incumbent, Harry Jekanowski, Jr., decided not to seek a sixth term.

Carey, who has served in the state legislature since 2018, will formally announce his candidacy at an event at the Hotel Northampton at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17, according to a press release from his campaign.

Clerks of Courts are county-level elected officials that serve six-year terms as the administrative head of their county's Superior Court, overseeing tasks such as the scheduling of cases and the handling of evidence.

Carey said of Jekanowski, "Harry's been there a long time and done such an amazing job." Jekanowski, also a Democrat, has served as Hampshire County Clerk of Courts since 1994.

Carey announced his campaign event soon after word of Jekanowski's retirement became public. He said his decision to pursue the seat came after a number of individuals in the county encouraged him to do so ahead of Jekanowski's announcement.

Carey added that he has already received positive feedback from the community since announcing his intention to run. "I've really been humbled by all the support already," he said.

Looking back over his six

years on Beacon Hill, Carey highlighted the opportunity to work directly with his constituents as the most rewarding part of the job. "It has been a tremendous privilege for me to serve as State Representative serving the people of Easthampton, South Hadley, Hadley, and Granby," he said in his campaign's press release.

Nevertheless, he made clear that he was still focused on finishing his term strong, saying that there was plenty to do this year and that he was excited about it.

A move to the Hampshire County Superior Court would be something of a homecoming for Carey, who previously served as an Assistant District Attorney and a District Court Administrator, and who currently serves on the House Judiciary Committee.

"I used to work in that courthouse, so I'm very familiar," he said.

Drawing from his firsthand experience, Carey said he intended to make modernization an important part of his work as Clerk of Courts should he be elected. Echoing comments from Governor Maura Healey in her recent State of the Commonwealth address, Carey said that "government should make things easier for people, not harder."

"I see across government and the judiciary the move towards electronic and digital services," he said. He went on to say that he wanted to make sure that the Hampshire County Superior Court was keeping up with these changes and remaining accessible.

Please see **CAREY**, Page 15

DEATH NOTICES

Robert "Bob" Johnston
Died Jan. 23, 2024
Services
Jan. 31, 2024
Ludlow Funeral Home

Idalina "Lena" (Santos) Oliveira
Died on
Jan. 22, 2024
Services
Jan. 27, 2024
Ludlow Funeral Home

The Ludlow Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

Wilbraham Men's Glee Club to begin rehearsals

WILBRAHAM — The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club began rehearsals for the 2024 concert season at Christ The King Lutheran/Episcopal Church, Wilbraham at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will continue each Monday thereafter at Christ The King Lutheran/Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. until local performances in late April.

The chorus is conducted by

Ray Drury and accompanied by Marcia Jackson. Drury has selected a varied program for Men's voices consisting of contemporary works, folksongs, pop tunes and sea shanties.

Interested singers should be able to "carry a tune" and be willing to pay a nominal fee for sheet music. No audition is required. Hope to see you there!

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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

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.

UPCOMING

LUDLOW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3535 will show the Catholic movie "Bernadette", a two hour film, on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2 p.m. at St. Elizabeth's Parish Hall. Our Lady of Lourdes appears to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 in Lourdes, France. Come see why this town of 15,000 receives 3 million visitors each year. All are welcome. Bring the family. Admission, popcorn, and soft drinks are free.

Life Is meant to be shared

Consider adding becoming an organ donor to your list of New Year's resolutions

SPRINGFIELD – Consider adding becoming an organ donor to your list of New Year's resolutions.

"Every nine minutes a new person is added to the national transplant wait list, which is already overcrowded with more than 100,000 men, women and children waiting for a lifesaving organ. Over 40,000 transplants were performed in 2022, a record year for transplants in the United States, but many more people could benefit from a lifesaving organ transplant," said Dr. Kenneth McPartland, medical director, Transplant Division, Baystate Health.

Making your wishes known is easy. If you would like to become a donor, your wishes can be indicated on your driver's license, or you can register online at www.donatelife.net/register.

While doing so, let your family know about your decision to become an organ donor so that they along with friends know and understand your wishes in advance.

There are many common misconceptions about donation that persist today.

Donate Life America offers the following facts to help you better understand organ, eye and tissue donation:

Fact: Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, race, or medical history.

Fact: All major religions in the United States support organ, eye and tissue donation and see it as the final act of love and generosity toward others.

Fact: If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life. Organ, eye and tissue donation can only be considered after you are deceased.

Fact: When you are on the waiting list for an organ, what really counts is the severity of your illness, time spent waiting, blood type, and other important medical information, not your financial status or social status.

Fact: An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.

Fact: There is no cost to the donor or their family for organ or tissue donation.

Fact: Information about an organ donor is only released to the recipient if the family of the donor requests or agrees to it.

"Deceased donors leave a legacy by giving the gift of life after they pass, but did you know that this gift can be given during your lifetime? As a living kidney donor, an individual can live a long and healthy life with one kidney while giving someone else a second chance at life," said Nancy Dias, BSN, RN, Living Donor Coordinator, Baystate Medical Center.

Baystate Medical Center offers many options in living kidney donation. The transplant program works closely with the National Kidney Registry as a Donor Care Center of Excellence to facilitate national exchanges or kidney swaps, as well as voucher donations. Compatible and incompatible pairs can donate and receive kidneys with one of the many options available. Visit the NKR website for more information <https://www.kidneyregistry.org/>.

Baystate Transplant Program offers the only Transplant Services in Western Massachusetts for adult patients requiring kidney transplantation. In 2023, Baystate has performed close to 70 kidney transplants, the most ever performed in a single year since the program started over 30 years ago. The program has over 150 patients on the national transplant waiting list and is continuing to find ways to increase access to kidney transplantation.

Today, more and more people are making a difference in someone's life by becoming a living kidney donor to a pa-

Please see **ORGAN DONORS**, Page 15

Church DIRECTORY

FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL
A Church of the Nazarene
485 East St. Ludlow, MA 01056 413-583-7875
Email: faithcommunitychapel8@gmail.com
faith-communitychapel.org
Lead Pastor: Reverend Lisa Morrison
Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs
Sunday Services:
Discipline Groups 9:45 a.m. WorshipService11 a.m. and Facebook Live Stream
OTHER PROGRAMS

MONDAYS at 6:30 p.m. H.O.P.E. Meeting Recovery meetings for those with addictions, anxiety, and grief SMC. Call 413-519-4591

TUESDAYS at 7 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study WEDNESDAYS at 7 p.m. Ludlow Christian Fellowship Meeting Hank Bastos, Leader, 413-348-6487

SMC and Facebook Live Stream ludlowfellowship.org

FRIDAYS Children's After School Club (pre K through teens) 5-6:30 p.m. Church Fellowship Hall

SATURDAYS at 10 a.m. Ecumenical Prayer Meeting

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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

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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.

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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.

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Wednesday, Oct. 4, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Eucharistic Adoration - 8:15 a.m. (C), Youth Group - 3:30 p.m. (JR), Holy Mother Choir - 5:15 p.m. (C), Confirmation Class - 5:30 p.m. (JR), Scouts - 6 p.m. (FLBH), High School Pizza & Prayer - 6:30 p.m. (ER), Scouts - 7 p.m. (JR), Meat pie Orders - 8:30 a.m. - 4p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 5, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Knights of Columbus - 6 p.m. (JR), Liturgy Committee - 6:30 p.m. (ZR), Knights of Columbus Honor Guard - 7 p.m. (FLBH), Meat pie Orders - 8:30 a.m. - 4p.m.

Friday, Oct. 6, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Meat pie Orders - 8:30 a.m. - 4p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 7, - Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C), Mass - 4 p.m. (C), Eucharistic Adoration - 2 p.m. (C)

Sunday, - Oct. 8, - Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C), Mass - 11 a.m. (C), Mass - 5 p.m. (C),

Monday, Oct. 9, - Daily Mass -7:30 a.m. (C), Ladies Auxiliary of the K of C - 1 p.m. (ER), Meat pie Orders - 8:30 a.m. - 4p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 10, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Spaghetti Supper - 4:30 p.m. (FLBH), Bereavement Support Group - 6:30 p.m. - (ER), St. Rita Choir - 6:30 p.m. (C), Meat pie Orders - 8:30 a.m. - 4p.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.

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.

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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.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Ludlow Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

The Ludlow Conservation Commission has scheduled a Public Meeting under W.P.A. (M.G.L. Ch. 131, § 40) in Ludlow Town Hall, 3rd floor, Selectmen's Conference Room, for **Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 6:55 p.m.** for the **Request for Determination of Applicability** application of Western Mass Relics Senior Softball League, Inc., for the property located at **0 Sportsmen's Road (Assessors' Map 26, Parcel 1A)**. The subject of the meeting is: **Occasionally drawing water from Higher Brook to irrigate adjacent softball field.**

Angela Tierney
Chair

01/31/2024

LUDLOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Ludlow Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing under W.P.A. (M.G.L. Ch. 131, § 40) and Town of Ludlow Bylaws, Chapter XV, in Ludlow Town Hall, 3rd floor, Selectmen's Conference Room, on **Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.** on the **Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation** application of Gerald Renaud, CA Real Estate Holding LLC, for the property located at **40 Westover Road (Assessors' Map 3, Parcel 110)**. The subject of the hearing is: to review the wetland delineation presented and determine if said boundaries are correct.

Angela Tierney
Chair

01/31/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23C0294CA

In the matter of: **Sophia Marie Clark CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Sophia Marie Clark of Indian Orchard, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Ashton Gabriel LaCroix
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/28/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: January 25, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate

01/31/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD24P0087EA

Estate of: **Robert Blake Tutty**
Also known as:

Robert G Tutty, Robert Tutty Date of Death: 03/27/2006 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Determination of Heirs** has been filed by **Joanne M Cebula of West Springfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/20/2024.**

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 23, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate

01/31/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103

Docket No. HD24P0152GD

In the interests of **Ezekiel Angel Rodriguez of Indian Orchard, MA**
Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **01/23/2024** by **Vilma Vazquez** of Indian Orchard, MA will be held **02/15/2024 10:00 AM** Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located: **50 State St., 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103.**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the

hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: January 23, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate

01/31/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD24P0150EA

Estate of: **Donna Jean Hamm**
Also known as: **Donna Jean Harrington**
Date of Death: **09/15/2005**
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Laurie J. Hamm of Springfield, 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: **Laurie J. Hamm of Springfield, 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 02/21/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a writ-

ten 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 23, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate

01/31/2024

Town of Ludlow LEGAL NOTICE

The Board of Selectmen opened the Warrant on January 23, 2024 for the May 13, 2024 Annual Town Meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. at Ludlow High School. All Articles should be submitted to the Board of Selectmen's Office, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA no later than Tuesday, March 5th at 5:30 p.m. The Board of Selectmen will close the Warrant on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at their regular meeting.

James Gennette,
Chairman
Board of Selectmen

01/31/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103

Docket No. HD24P0153GD

In the interests of **Sapphire Rodriguez of Indian Orchard, MA**
Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **01/23/2024** by **Vilma Vazquez** of Indian Orchard, MA will be held **02/15/2024 10:00 AM** Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located:

Hampden Probate & Family Court, 50 State Street, 4th FL, Springfield MA 01103.

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests. Date: January 23, 2024

Rosemary Saccomani
Register of Probate

01/31/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield MA, 01103

Docket No. HD23P0887PM

In the matter of: **Elsie Soltys**
Of: **Indian Orchard, MA**
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of are the Probate & Family Court, that the **First and Final** account(s) of **Lisa Judkins of Sutton, MA** as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on

or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **02/16/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 28, 2023

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate

01/31/2024



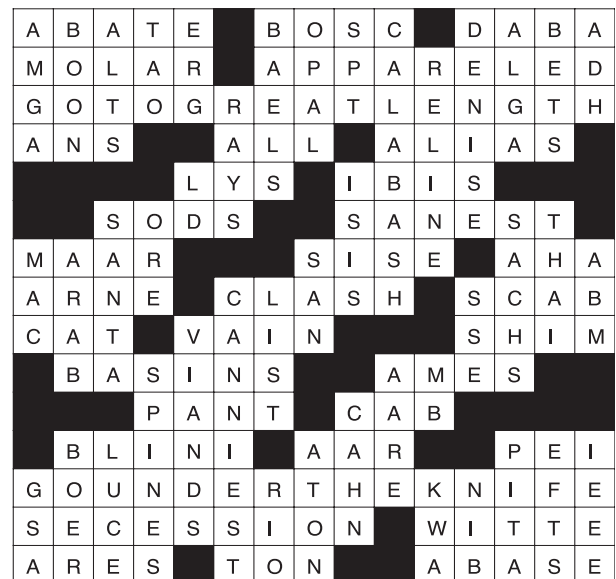
Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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- Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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State awards HCC \$1.46 million to build nursing workforce training program

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

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

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

The grants, funded through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund distributed by the Commonwealth Corporation, aim to increase sustainable wage career pathways for Massachusetts residents facing employment barriers and improve the competitiveness of Massachusetts businesses by enhancing worker skills and productivity.

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

"We are delighted about the Commonwealth Corporation's award to HCC and our many partners in this unique and innovative career pathway in nursing," said HCC President George Timmons. "Healthcare is one of the largest industry sectors in our region, and it continues to grow. We hope that this pathway for licensed practical nurses will help create more family sustainable incomes for nursing assistants looking to advance in this exciting and rewarding career."

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

"Every individual in Massachusetts should have access to quality job training, and our employers should have access to the skilled talent they need to do

business," said Governor Maura Healey. "Our workforce is our greatest competitive strength. The latest round of Workforce Success Grants is another example of our administration's commitment to expanding opportunities and expanding our lead."

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

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

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

According to the Healey-Driscoll Administration, the grants are part of a strategic investment in the Massachusetts workforce to develop programs that support individuals facing barriers to employment, such as lack of formal schooling, language literacy, or past involvement with the criminal justice system.

"Investing in our workforce and our businesses is investing in the Massachusetts economy and puts the state in a position to succeed," said Lieutenant Governor Driscoll. "These grants help organizations attract workers who may be unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing barriers to employment and provide the necessary skills they need to thrive. These grants will help us achieve our workforce development goals, expand our skilled talent pool, and strengthen our competitiveness."

The group is partnering with the Northampton Brewery, Granny's Baking Table, River Valley Market, Tandem Bagel Company, and Puerto Rico Bakery II.

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

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CAREY, from Page 11

ble for everyone who walks through the door of the courthouse — "folks walking in usually on their worst day," he added.

His time on Beacon Hill already saw the passage of a bill that saw that Wi-Fi access was provided in all courthouses

across the state.

"That's the type of area where there's room to add to the good work that Harry and his staff have been doing," he said.

Carey planned to make community input an important part of his campaign and, he hoped, his work as Clerk of Courts. "I want to learn from the folks of Hampshire County what they want," he said.

ORGAN DONOR, from Page 12

tient on the Baystate Health waiting list, an alternative to waiting for a kidney from a deceased donor. More information about the process of living donation is available on the Baystate Health Transplant Program website at baystatehealth.org/transplant.

Transplant surgeons use the latest techniques, including minimally invasive surgery, so that patients experience a faster recovery and spend less time in the hospital. In addition to experienced surgeons, the Baystate Transplant Team includes nephrologists, nurse transplant coordinators, dietitians, pharmacists, so-

cial workers, financial counselors, as well as administrative and clinical assistants to help guide patients through the process. Living or deceased donor renal transplant is offered as treatment of end-stage renal disease.

Life is meant to be shared. It takes only five minutes to sign up as an organ donor at www.organdonor.gov/sign-up.

To learn more about becoming a living kidney donor, call Baystate Medical Center's Transplant Program at 413-794-2321 Option 2 and speak with the living donor coordinator or sign on to the Baystate Transplant website at baystatehealth.org/transplant for a confidential screening process.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Register, please email register@turley.com.

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The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and

local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become

more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders.



Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

12 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities

Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal • Journal Register • Quaboag Current • The Register Sentinel • The Holyoke Sun • Town Reminder • Ware River News • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

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