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# The REGISTER

LOCAL NEWS | LOCAL STORIES | LOCAL ADVERTISERS



Submitted photos

DPW clearing up East St. and showing the crazy height of snow needed to be cleared around Town.

## Town experiences over a foot of snow

Cleanup efforts continue throughout area

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – “We’re here for the community.” Beginning the weekend of Jan. 23, residents and neighbors brought out the shovels, snowblowers, and plows to bear the winter storm that left around 19 inches of snow around Town. Whilst many were inside enjoying the snowfall and the warmth indoors, DPW and emergency management teams were out clearing up the streets and ensuring that the Town’s streets and pathways were safe and clear once schools and businesses



Resident Piper Lanucha was all bundled up to play in the snow!

opened back up. Speaking with DPW Director Jamie Tomas who has been working nonstop with his staff this past week, Tomas



Resident Joseph Lanucha shows the beginnings of the snowstorm and bears the cold for the photo.

shared how the department has been and what he hopes residents take away from this recent snowstorm.

On average, Tomas said from the beginning of the storm, the DPW crew comes in to prepare for the storm like pre-treating the streets with salt, and the staff works

Please see **SNOW**, Page 3

## Sgt. Brian Shameklis retires from LPD after twenty years

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – On Jan. 29, the Ludlow Police Department held a gathering to honor and recognize Sgt. Brian Shameklis for serving twenty years at the LPD. Shameklis began his career as a graduate of the 41st MPTC, municipal police training committee, and served as a patrol officer and then promoted to the rank of sergeant in Mar. of 2015.

Serving as a member of the Special Response Team and having a vital role in the beginning of the Hamden County Special Response Team while serving as the commander, Shameklis also completed his FBI LEEDA, law enforcement executive development association training. Shameklis served in different po-

sitions within the LPD like field training officer, safety officer, internal safety committee, taser instructor, active shooter instructor and central dispatch supervisor; the Town of Ludlow and the LPD thanked him for the years of dedicated service and congratulated him on his retirement.

At the gathering, Shameklis was surrounded by family members, past co-workers and officers, and was presented a plaque with badges signifying his start of retirement by Police Chief Mike Brennan. Growing up in Agawam and graduating from AHS, Shameklis joined the military and did six and a half to seven years in the United States Air Force security policemen until the late 90s, where he moved to Ludlow.

Please see **SHAMEKLIS**, Page 5



Turley photo by Amanda Munson

From the left, Sgt. Brian Shameklis with Police Chief Mike Brennan, holding the plaque Brennan presented at the event.

## School Committee hosts joint budget meeting with Select Board and finance

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – Town Administrator Marc Strange began the Fiscal Year 2027 joint budget meeting on Jan. 27 speaking about the level one review and update, level two preview with options,

and following up with any questions from the committees and board. Addressing the finance committee and select board, Strange began by explaining the anticipated employee benefit cost increases for FY27 and stated the anticipated level service budget deficit was \$2,603,446.

The first update was discovered on Munis, an enterprise resource planning software product to manage financial transactions, in level one that showed a 33% increase in the school health insurance which unnecessarily inflated the increase and the total health insurance numbers that the

Town had discussed previously. Strange explained that the Town made those adjustments and changes on Jan. 27 and shows the actual number of 18%, instead of the 33%.

The updated level one budget deficit is \$1,392,289, as opposed to the previously stated \$2.6 million. The sec-

ond update for level one was the FY27 health insurance increase announced by the MIIA, Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, which was the health benefits trust average increase equaling 8.3%. This is after the anticipated 15 to 16% increase the Town was planning for.

Strange began, “As of this weekend, MIIA will no longer cover GLP-1s medications for non-diabetics effective July 1, 2026. That represented about a 30% reduction of their pharmacy costs and locally we have

Please see **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**, Page 6

## FY27 budget presented by Supt. Tiano

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – On Jan. 27, Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano presented ongoing steps that the district is doing to balance strategic budget reductions with student and district needs to the Select Board, school and finance committees. The ongoing steps began with the district and building administrators and listed the following: reduce expenses by 5% across district, plan for reducing/rightsizing five to 10 full-time equivalent positions district-wide, reassess budget estimates for larger expense lines (facilities, utilities, substitutes, special education staffing), and analyze use of one time funds to offset costs. Tiano stated that as the

school enrollment has gone down, there are options to strategically reduce full-time equivalent positions district-wide. For the analysis on the use of one time funds to offset costs, Tiano explained that currently they are using the revenue that comes in from school choice, which is roughly around \$500,000 stated Tiano.

Tiano began, “When I first got here, almost four years ago, our school choice balance was at a dangerously low level. Now that school choice is for special education and transportation needs so that we don’t have to come to the Town for a special Town meeting to allocate funds for us. For FY27, the line item ‘use additional funds from those balances’; for the last three years an ESSER helped us so that we

could utilize those funds so that we could build up our school choice, so it’s at a decent balance. So for the committee, when we bring them options, we’re going to work with our budget subcommittee the following weeks and I’ll be bringing a balanced budget to the committee; it’ll be a public hearing,” said Tiano.

In those meetings, Tiano stated that the choices the committee has to make is to balance reductions with an increase in use of revenue with school choice. The timeline as of Jan. 27 and The Register press time was Feb. 3, budget subcommittee meeting to review balances budget draft, Feb. 10, budget public hearing with a potential school committee budget vote, and Feb. 24, with a regular school committee meeting.

## East St. Elementary hosts family literacy night

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – “Thank you for being your child’s most important reading partner!” On Jan. 28, East St. Elementary School hosted a family literacy night for

families, guardians, and students to promote the joy of reading and learn how crucial it is for every child to grow up reading with their families. Walking into the school, every child was given a family literacy night passport that encouraged them to explore the school

and get stamps at each station.

Each station promoted reading in a unique way like learning about Pathway for Parents, sounds of reading with Ms. Renee in the library, family reading in the decorated gymnasium, do-it-yourself craft bookmarks, EL PAC and SEPAC tables, and the crowd favorite...the winter cafe. When students completed the passport with all the stamps, the student would earn a winter literacy star and could turn the pamphlet in for a book prize.

Speaking with Principal Christine Limoges, who began her time in Ludlow this past year in the summer, shared how the year has been for her and the school altogether. “It has been absolutely amazing, this staff has been wonderful, parents



Turley photo by Amanda Munson

Director of Food Services Kathleen Keady, Cafe Manager Dawn Ellard, with Alicia Garrity who served fresh cookies and hot cocoa.

Please see **LITERACY NIGHT**, Page 5

# LUDLOW

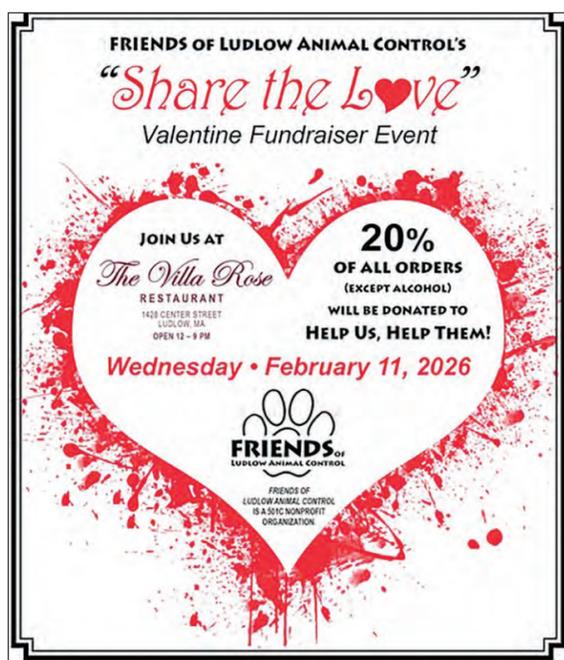
## Friends of Animal Control to host 'Share the Love' Valentine fundraiser event

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – On Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 12 to 8:30 p.m. join the Friends of Ludlow Animal Control at The Villa Rose restaurant to support the nonprofit organization that directly helps the ongoing efforts of Animal Control Officer and Animal Health Inspector Octavia Anderson. With 20% of all orders, including dine-in and take-out, this fundraiser will help fund Ludlow Animal Control continuous efforts in keeping the Town safe, pet friendly, and in the future hopefully purchase an animal shelter for the Town.

Dealing with a total of 98 animals in 2025, Anderson shared how much time and effort goes into her job and how beneficial this fundraiser will be if people come out and support. Sitting down with Anderson at Town Hall, she began by explaining she's been inundated with kittens.

"Kitten season used to fall around springtime, but this year has not been the case. I brought in four kittens on New Year's Eve that were found in the bushes and were all four weeks old. It hasn't really stopped and makes me



Submitted photo

Friends of Ludlow Animal Control hosting 'Share the Love' fundraiser at Villa Rose. All sales help support from 12noon to 9 p.m.

really worried about springtime because we're seeing our numbers already increasing. In the springtime, every other phone call is somebody seeing feral kittens. There's only so much I can do; I can't duplicate myself. I have three traps and when people try to help by catching a cat,

which is good in a sense, but bad because of the way we have to function with our veterinarians," said Anderson.

Anderson explained that the veterinarians Animal Control works with won't spay and neuter to release a feral cat, except if you have an appointment and the only

other vet around that does spay neuter and release is in South Brookfield. "Those are some of the challenges that I deal with and that's just cats. I took a hawk yesterday to Tufts because he looked like he ate a poisoned mouse or rat and in turn, poisoned the poor hawk. We haven't even gotten to the busy season. When I first started in 2021, the intake file was maybe 15 to 20 animals. The challenges are there, and I don't anticipate it getting any better anytime soon, but we really need a dog or animal shelter here. Which is why I started the whole nonprofit. There's only a couple of us running it, so I'm hoping to get more volunteers," said Anderson.

The volunteers mentioned are people comfortable and willing to trap-neuter and release, willing to foster, and those willing to man these fundraising events. Anderson stated it's been a struggle, and the money that's been raised has gone right back into the vet care.

For the fundraiser on Feb. 11, it's the first event of the year Animal Control is having, and Anderson hopes to do a fundraiser every other month. For more information, visit the Friends of Ludlow Animal Control Facebook.

## Reminder to return your 2026 Annual Town Census form

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

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

result in removal from the voter registration rolls.

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

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

## Nomination papers available

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

Assessor, 1 seat; 3-year term

Board of Health, 1 seat; 3-year term

Housing Authority, 1 seat; 5-year term

Library Trustee, 1 seat; 3-year term

Planning Board, 1 seat; 5-year term

Planning Board, 1 seat; 4-year unexpired term

Recreation Commission, 1 seat; 3-year term

Select Board, 1 seat; 3-year terms

Town Clerk, 1 seat; 3-year term

Town Moderator, 1 seat; 3-year term

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

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

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

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

## Fitch Ratings affirms Berkshire Wind Project Bonds

LUDLOW—Fitch Ratings, one of the three nationally recognized credit rating agencies, has affirmed its AA- rating on bonds associated with the Berkshire Wind Power Project.

Fitch affirmed the rating on \$20.9 million outstanding wind project revenue bonds series 2, which are classified as "Green Bonds." Fitch also stated that the Rating Outlook is "Stable." Green Bonds are specifically designated to finance environmentally-friendly projects.

The AA- rating largely reflects the credit quality of the utilities participating in Phase One of

the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative Corporation (BWPC), a 10-turbine, 15-megawatt (MW) project, located along the ridgeline of Brodie Mountain in the communities of Hancock and Lanesborough, Mass. Phase One of the project is owned by 14 municipal light plant (MLP) participants, and their joint action agency, the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC). MMWEC operates the project, along with Phase Two, which consists of two additional turbines totaling 4.6 MW.

Payments from the project participants are ultimately used to pay operating

expenses and debt service on the series 2 bonds. Payments from the project participants are made pursuant to identical take-or-pay power purchase agreements with MMWEC, while corresponding payments from MMWEC to BWPC are made pursuant to a separate power sales contract. The obligations of the purchasers to MMWEC, and MMWEC's corresponding obligation to BWPC, are absolute and unconditional.

The very strong credit quality of the project participants, particularly the largest, is supported by their monopolistic utility operations, autonomous rate making authority, low operating

costs and very low financial leverage, according to Fitch. The purchaser credit quality is determined by Fitch's evaluation of the aggregate credit quality of the project participants, and is capped by the credit quality of the light departments with the largest entitlements, which include the MLPs located in Peabody, Shrewsbury, Wakefield, Holden, Marblehead and Ipswich.

"Maintaining strong credit ratings and the resulting financing opportunities are of paramount importance to existing and future renewable projects," says MMWEC CEO Tom Barry. "It is the continued development of these regional

renewable projects that will allow MLPs to build on their early progress towards and eventual achievement of future net-zero carbon emission goals."

Fitch also identifies the operating risk as "a," stating that BWPC's operating risk assessment is low. The low operating risk reflects the project's small size and its small percentage of each participant's energy supply. Project costs account for an average of 25% or less of total electric system operating costs of the project participants.

Berkshire Wind Phase One participants also include the utilities located in Ashburnham, Boylston,

Groton, Hull, Paxton, Sterling, Templeton, and West Boylston.

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

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# Ludlow Select Board appoints provisional Chief Michael Brennan as new Ludlow Police Chief

LUDLOW - Select Board Chair Manuel Silva is pleased to share that the Town of Ludlow Select Board officially appointed Michael Brennan as the Ludlow Police Chief.

Chief Brennan was sworn in during a ceremony held on Jan. 22.

Chief Brennan previously served as the Provisional Chief of the department since August 2025, following the retirement of Chief Daniel Valadas.

Chief Brennan has been a member of the Ludlow Police Department for more than 20 years, starting his career in 2001. He rose to the rank of sergeant and was the department's Special Re-

sponse Team Coordinator.

Throughout his career with the Ludlow Police Department, Chief Brennan has been recognized on numerous occasions for his dedication to service and community, receiving many letters of recognition and commendations for his work within the department. He served as the department's accreditation manager, helping the department achieve its first certification award for accreditation through the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC).

Chief Brennan also takes pride in strengthening his education and knowledge, most recently achieving the high

honor of the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award in 2022 after successfully completing three advanced law enforcement leadership training courses.

Before joining the department, Brennan was a safety dispatcher in Monson and served as a captain in the United States Army Reserve.

"Throughout my career, I have always prioritized the safety and security of the community of Ludlow. As I step into this new role, I am committed to maintaining that level of dedication and professionalism," said Chief Brennan. "I would like to thank the Ludlow Select Board for appointing me to this position. I am excited to

continue in this role with the support of the men and women of our department, and I look forward to seeing what we as a can accomplish together."

"The Town of Ludlow is very fortunate to have such a devoted experienced well deserving, new Chief, Michael Brennan. There was never a doubt in my mind that we needed to appoint him," said Select Board Chair Silva. "I congratulate Chief Brennan and look forward to working with him, as I know he will always have the Town's best interest in mind and keep all the residence safe."



The Patriots are headed to the Super Bowl, but the jerseys may need to thaw out first; taken by Tony Egea.



St. Elizabeth Parish on Hubbard Street was frozen white, taken by Celeste Chenier.



East St. was cleared up by the DPW and showed Blue Water Sushi and the iconic clocktower in the distance.

## SNOW from Page 1

on average six to eight hours shifts to prepare for the storm. "Once the storm hits, on average we are here 12 hours to clean up a storm.

This last storm, I had guys who were here for 25 hours straight and it's kind of a normal thing for us. We really appreciate the efforts that our employees make throughout the storms and throughout the year to prepare for winter. It's definitely one of the more challenging parts of our job," explained Tomas.

"The equipment has been great, we spent a lot of time getting it ready for the winter, so we haven't had too many issues with that. Winter has been pretty challenging, just for the fact how cold it's been and the snowstorms we've been getting, and being short staffed at the department poses a challenge for a lot of it.

But, we have our contractors in Town that are always willing to help; we have our annual bid contractors that we hire every year for the snow plowing and removal, and

they're always ready to go. As far as removing the snow and the winter, it has been challenging but other than that, everything has been going very well!" Tomas said.

Town Administrator Marc Strange added a few words about the storm and highlighted the following departments, "First and foremost, I want to publicly acknowledge the work of our DPW and emergency management teams. They cleared roads and parking lots and kept residents safe in the face of a historic snowstorm. Most of our DPW people worked for 36 straight hours. I really can't thank them enough. On the flip side of the coin, we hope residents who like to get outdoors in the winter enjoy all of the fresh snow coverage. We haven't had a winter like this in some time," ended Strange.

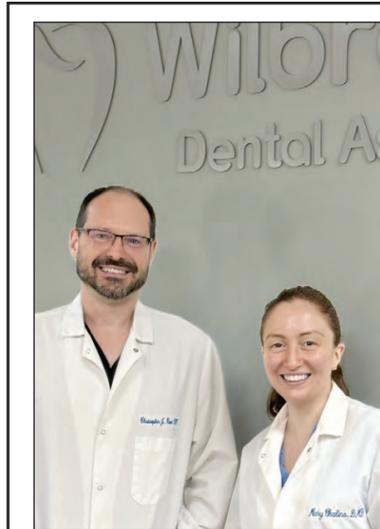
When asked about his memories as a child and enjoying a snowstorm like this past one, Tomas shared he remembers quite a few winters like this. "This does definitely bring back memories that I like to share now with

my own kids and with all the snow. When I was a kid, this was how it was. We've been very fortunate the last five years that the winters have been very mild and really no snow so in the grand scheme of things, it's actually nice to see!" said Tomas.

Going back to the Town, Tomas hopes people realize how much the DPW actually does and be patient, especially in the winter months and

ended with a few words. "We will get to your streets, your sidewalks, and if they have any further questions, you can always come to the DPW, and we will do more than we have to get the problem resolved.

I hope people realize what we do and how hard we try to keep the community safe, keep our roads passable during snowstorms, and that our employees really give it their all when needed."



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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### Sow onion seeds to get the season started

If you are sick and tired of winter, and want to get the gardening season going already, why not sow some onion seeds?

Onions are the first seeds I sow each year and I always welcome this task as a true harbinger of spring! Many gardeners only know of growing onions from sets, but you can indeed start them from seed, both indoors in the garden.

Read on for more information on growing onions from start to finish, right out of the archives.

First it's important that we "understand the onion," in other words, come to know its life cycle. Onions are biennial.

We are all familiar with biennial flowers like foxglove, hollyhock and Canterbury bells, who develop foliage the first year of their lives and bloom and set seed in the second, but few gardeners today ever experience a biennial vegetable. That wasn't always the case. Just visit the Freeman Farm at Old Sturbridge Village where in the summer you will see beets, parsnips, onions and more in year two of their life cycle, complete with seed heads.

As the seeds ripen, 19th century gardeners would have stored them away for use the following spring.

So then, if the onion is a biennial and its goal is to make seeds the second season of its life, what is it trying to accomplish in its first? Exactly what you and I want: a big bulb!

The bulb is the food storage unit for the plant during its dormancy period—the winter between years one and two. A big bulb gives the second year plant a good head start and almost always directly relates to increased seed production as compared to smaller bulbs.

For me, understanding this concept was one of those "ah ha" gardening moments. It all really came together when I recognized that big bulbs are a direct result of lush topgrowth.

Just imagine the green part of the plant photosynthesizing, drawing in all of that wonderful energy from the sun and turning it into a big, fat onion! Luckily, we gardeners can provide just the right conditions for lush top growth.

#### Get an early start

All onions have a built-in mechanism that triggers "bulbing up" in response to warmer temperatures and increased daylight hours. Likewise, as daylight begins to decrease, the onion is cued into dormancy.

If lush tops are our first goal, we have to get our onions in early, so that they achieve lots of top growth before being prompted to bulb up. Those of us who garden in the north choose "long day" onions, while southern gardeners opt to grow "short day" types.

Long day onions bulb up when day length reaches 14-16 hours per day; short day begin at 12-13 hours. If we plant short day in our locale we'd end up with fat scallions, but not much more, so choose accordingly.

Reputable seed companies will list the type of onion it is next to the variety name, or feature them under appropriate headings.

**Choose your method**  
There are three ways onions can be grown: by seeds sown directly in the garden, from transplants started indoors, or from sets, which are tiny onions. One huge advantage of utilizing seeds is the variety at your disposal as compared to sets.

They are also less expensive. Some folks even argue that onions sown from seed store longer. The rest of this article will be devoted to starting onion seeds indoors, which is best accomplished in late January through Valentine's Day—good news for those of you itching to get your hands "dirty!"

Onion seeds are sown indoors in small flats filled with moist soilless growing medium. Spacing can be a little closer than prescribed for outdoor germination, with sowing at 1/4" apart. The use of heat mats set at 72 degrees is helpful, but not entirely necessary; regular room temperatures will also encourage sprouting.

Supplemental lighting is vital, however, so that the onions grow straight and strong. Once onions are up, thin seedlings 1/2" to 1" apart from one another — onions hate competition, so this step is important!

I generally cut out the extras using scissors, right at the soil line so as not to dislodge the roots of those we are growing on. As the seedlings continue to grow, keep them trimmed at 3" tall; this will encourage strong roots and a straight, bulky plant.

About a month prior to the last frost, the transplants should be hardened off for a week by gradually acclimatizing them to outdoor conditions. When they are ready, seedlings are sunk into 1" furrows 3-4" apart and watered carefully; they can be protected from sun and wind off and on for the first week should it seem necessary; here a floating row cover supported by wire hoops would come in handy, but old pots or trays would work fine too. Additional rows should be one foot apart.

Stayed tuned for part two of this column next week, and extra-large onions will be yours come fall!

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



## GUEST COLUMN

### Have a heart: Tips for Valentine's Day

We seem to love Valentine's Day.

Americans are expected to spend \$27.7 billion on Valentine's Day this year, a tad more than last year, according to Capital One Shopping. The statistic I find most interesting is that 34% of that spending — \$9.5 billion — will be for gifts that are ultimately unwanted by their recipients.

So today, I will propose some Valentine's Day ideas that cost nothing and may well be more meaningful than candy, flowers or sappy cards. Have a heart, and try one of these "gifts" for yourself or a loved one.

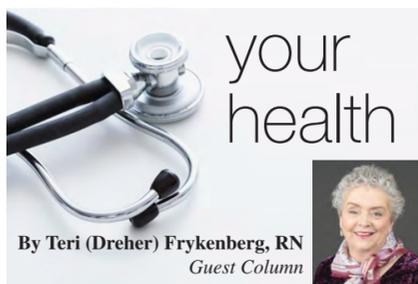
**Volunteer:** Volunteering contributes to your community and to your own well-being. Research has found that giving of yourself reduces stress and blood pressure; promotes physical activity; helps cultivate emotional well-being; and promotes mindfulness and an attitude of gratitude.

You get as much as you give, in other words. Find opportunities near you at idealist.org or search "volunteer opportunities near me" on your web browser.

**Listen:** Research shows that two out of every five people who have had a major cardiac episode experience symptoms of clinical depression, according to Northwestern University Medicine. The American Heart Association says 33% of patients who have had a heart attack experience depression.

The combination of depression and cardiac disease can lead to poor outcomes. If a friend or loved one is diagnosed with heart disease or has a heart attack, one of the kindest things you can do is listen carefully to them. If you detect signs of depression, you can suggest — gently — that they consider being screened by their doctor.

**Learn hands-only CPR:** Especially since the pandemic, people are hesitant to share germs with a stranger, and I can't blame them. The good news is that compression-only CPR — or hands-only CPR



February to celebrate friendships, check up on each other's health and well-being, share healthful recipes and swap health and fitness tips. Maybe share a glass of wine, too.

Thank a nurse: Nursing is my life's work, formerly as a criti-

cal care nurse and now as a patient advocate who trains nurses to become advocates.

I know how critical nursing is to good patient outcomes. According to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, though, more than 138,000 nurses have left the workforce since 2022 and almost 40% intend to leave by 2029.

Health-care consumers may not be able to do much about working conditions, pay and administrative problems, but we can help to make nurses' lives better. When you're in the hospital or doctor's office, thank your nurses for their time and care. You can also show your appreciation by nominating a nurse for the DAISY Award, a program that celebrates and recognizes nurses by collecting nominations from patients, families and co-workers. Learn more at daisyfoundation.org.

Valentine's Day began as a saint's feast day and now celebrates all forms of relationships. Make it yours.

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

and 1967, if you told Social Security of your military service when you applied for Social Security benefits or gave them a copy of your DD-214, they would have added up to \$1,200 per year to your military pay record. FYI, those who served after 1966 were automatically given earnings credit for their military service years. However, whether those special extra credits would affect your monthly Social Security

Here's how it works in your case:  
Serving between 1964

## The REGISTER

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

### SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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### ELECTION LETTERS POLICY

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

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

### Campaign news

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

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

### Am I entitled to more Social Security as a Veteran?

Dear Rusty:  
I served in the U.S. Army from July 1964 to July 1967. Am I eligible for a higher Social Security payment?

Thank you. Signed: Vietnam Era Army Vet

Dear Army Vet:  
Please accept my sincere thanks for your military service. I believe you are referring to the "Special Extra Credit for Military Service," which has been the subject of many published articles. That refers to a special Social Security accommodation available only to those who



served in the military during specific periods of time, but it does not add to your monthly Social Security payment. Rather, it adds to your military earnings record for the years you served, which may or may not result in a higher Social Security benefit when you later claim Social Security.

Here's how it works in your case:  
Serving between 1964

and 1967, if you told Social Security of your military service when you applied for Social Security benefits or gave them a copy of your DD-214, they would have added up to \$1,200 per year to your military pay record. FYI, those who served after 1966 were automatically given earnings credit for their military service years. However, whether those special extra credits would affect your monthly Social Security

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, Page 8

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# DATEBOOK



Sgt. Brian Shameklis with a couple of his family members at the Ludlow Police Department.

**SHAMEKLIS** from Page 1

"I was on active duty and I was stationed in several places and deployed a few times by Desert Storm, and then got out. I came back here and it seemed like a nice town, my grandparents grew up here and always talked fondly of Ludlow. After 9/11, I rejoined the military young reserves at Westover and took the test in policing and interviewed, was deployed to Germany, got the job, and started the academy.

I became a patrolman and was on midnights for a while, I was deployed to Iraq again and when I came back, I was part of the SRT team and retired from the reserves. I took the sergeant exam and passed it and was promoted in 2015, and from there I was given additional duties," explained Shameklis.

Mentioning the several titles and roles above, Shameklis felt by reaching 20 years that he wanted to retire and added that his wife has gotten a job at the Pentagon and the family will be moving down to Virginia in the summertime. When asked what



Sgt. Brian Shameklis recognition plaque that showcases his badges and career in a snapshot.

title he is most proud of, Shameklis couldn't help but smile and say being a father.

"My family is everything to me, I have a son and three daughters...my hands are full! Dad and husband are what I'm most proud of. For anyone just getting started in police work, be prepared to be dedicated.

This takes a lot of dedication, this profession takes a lot of time and takes a lot of your energy. Be prepared for that when you come in, takes more dedication than you would expect. It's a mar-

athon, not a sprint.

You can't come out of the gate at 100 miles an hour because you're going to be gassed in the first two years, be dedicated and learn everything as best you can, but remember this is a long term investment in your career," said Shameklis.

To the Town of Ludlow, Shameklis ended with a few words. "Thank you to the citizens for entrusting me to serve them for 20 years, it's been an honor and pleasure and I wish the town of Ludlow the best."



Surrounding Principal Christine Limoges of East St., staff were proud and excited to share this night with families and residents.

**LITERACY NIGHT**

from Page 1

and students, I've said it before, but I feel like I came home. For tonight, we are Title 1 funded, so this is a requirement for the government to hold a literacy night. I've done it in the past just to get and make parents aware of the importance of early foundational skills. East St. is the foundation for their lives; they become lifelong readers and also, I put out all the languages we have and how they can support their children at home when it comes to helping them with literacy.

One great thing that people don't know is if you speak Turkish at home or Haitian or French, it's so important to read books in that native language so they see what it is to be a good reader. So those foundational skills are so important for this age group.

I wanted to get family engaged tonight. This was a great opportunity for us to do this," said Limoges.

Limoges when planning this night was overwhelmed by the amount of people that wanted to be part of the event and shared the group met a couple of times, commenting that everyone was coming up with ideas in the winter wonderland theme and highlighted the crafty and creative minds at East St. "We had so many peo-



SEPAC, special education parent advisory council, helped families with resources and supporting students with disabilities.

ple come together, and it was such a great effort for everyone in our building. It was nice because we have community members from the pathway for parents, our district folks are here, our elementary staff coming and spending time to come out and do this...it's a huge community group effort and parents have thanked me for doing this. They said their children have been so excited and it's a great opportunity," ended Limoges.

Limoges added that she wanted to focus on the family engagement piece because they're all in this together, supporting each other and saying that parents are their number one teachers of their students, and by bringing it all together and supporting the kids is when you see that growth in them.



The father-daughter duo, Derek and student Sophia Pashko, were excited to explore the school and visit each station together.

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

**ONGOING**

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

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

**FOOD DRIVE BI-MONTHLY** On the first Saturday of each EVEN month (February, April, June, August, October, December) First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St, collects non-perishable foods. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., drive through the back parking lot. We will take your donations out of your car & bring them to the Community Survival Center to be distributed to those in need.

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

**SENIOR BINGO:**

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

**CHESS CLUB:** Open to r

esidents 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.

**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.

**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.

**NOTICE**

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

**THE LOCAL**  
Table-n-Tap

*Valentine's Day*  
Dinner

*Appetizers & Salads*

- Crab Cakes** ♥  
Sweet corn salsa & smoky chipotle aioli
- Bacon-Wrapped Sea Scallops** ♥  
Finished with a silky champagne Dijon cream
- Blackened Shrimp Crostini** ♥  
With gorgonzola chive butter
- Spinach & Strawberry Salad** ♥  
Fresh spinach, strawberries, candied walnuts, red onion & goat cheese with strawberry balsamic vinaigrette

*Entrées*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Herb-Crusted Rack of Lamb</b> ♥ Creamy mashed potatoes, tender asparagus Mint demi-glace</li> <li><b>Zuppa di Pesce</b> (for two) ♥ A romantic seafood stew featuring jumbo shrimp, sea scallops, mussels, haddock &amp; Lobster tail Served with garlic points</li> <li><b>His &amp; Hers Steaks</b> ♥ 6oz filet &amp; 12oz New York strip Served with fingerling potatoes &amp; asparagus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lobster Ravioli</b> ♥ In a rich cream sauce with Peruvian drop peppers, topped with Parmesan crisps</li> <li><b>Chicken Saltimbocca</b> ♥ Pan-seared chicken breast topped with prosciutto, sage &amp; fontina Kalamata olives, capers, White wine tomato broth</li> <li><b>Grilled Swordfish</b> ♥ Topped with mango salsa, Served with coconut rice &amp; cilantro oil drizzle</li> </ul>
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SUN 9:00am - 9:00pm  
Mon-WED 11:00am - 9:00pm  
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## Death by Cupcake murder mystery dinner Feb. 7

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

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

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

The tickets are \$47 each and include the show, dinner and dessert. There will be a cash bar.

Tickets are available at Cold Spring Discount Liquors (on the Belchertown Common) or by contacting Sally Shattuck 413-230-2022 or sallyshattuck54@gmail.com.

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE

from Page 1

about 110 subscribers who are on GLP-1s.

One of the other things they did was they renegotiated pharmaceutical contracts and I think they're going to tap into the Canadian market a little deeper, they didn't get into it but that's the reason for the significant reduction in the trust average increase. What does that mean for Ludlow? For Ludlow, we are budgeting an 11% increase now.

We will know our numbers in the next week or two; the 11% is down from the original 18%. Our high loss runs are a little bit higher than the trust average. We have added a 2.3% over

trust average, and we think 11% is a reasonable number. The 7% in savings is about \$794,783," explained Strange.

Select Board Member Anthony Alves clarified that the 11% is for the school and the Town. Strange followed by reviewing the level two preview which showed the updated level one, level service, budget deficit equaling a \$1,392,289.

The PowerPoint slide showed a list of line items, "These line items represent where we were going or where we are going in terms of finding line items to cut and additional revenue to balance our budget. The employee deductible increases we've been talking about is up to a \$2,000 maximum

deductible for single subscribers and single plus one, and \$4,000 for families.

That represents an 8.9% reduction in our percentage rounding it to 9%, which represents just about \$1 million in additional savings. The total reduction is around 1.8 million in health insurance cost increase," said Strange.

Additionally, Strange followed by the line items that showed the school increase reduced from 2.5 to 2%, representing \$190,326. It was announced the summer camp will not be open and because of that, the savings equal \$125,981; note that it's the Whitney Park summer camp that will not be open, but the pool will operate as normal. The trash

fee increase to \$275, note that seniors stay at \$150 and there will be no increase for seniors, all those cuts and additional revenue equal \$2.5 million.

The level two options slide was shown again with the same line of items but with an exemption, items in gray were shown to highlight that these items would be negotiable in the future. The line items in gray were the 9% health insurance cost savings, school increase, and the increase in the trash fee.

Strange stated that the finance committee proposed creating a health insurance stabilization fund, and conversations continued revolving the direct impact on young families in Town.

# PET PAGE



## PET OF THE MONTH Meet Tupper!



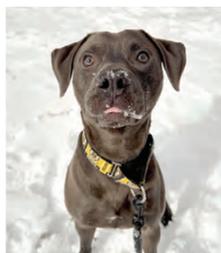
She is a 5-year-old Golden Retriever. According to her dad, Elliot Sylvester, "she is a really big goof who loves dog treats" and he wouldn't have it any other way! They live in Wilbraham.

### ATTENTION READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our "Pet of the Month" and receive a FREE weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care. Email your photos to: [jwalker@turley.com](mailto:jwalker@turley.com). Please include your name and your pet's name.

### WILBRAHAM Animal Hospital

Andrew R. Hersman, DVM  
Lynn Dgetluck, DVM  
William D. Anderson, DVM  
Hannah Belcher-Timme, DVM  
Denise Chiminiello, DVM  
Leah Guidry, DVM  
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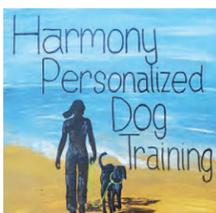
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### PACK WALKS

- Every Saturday in Post Office Park Wilbraham at Noon.  
- Every Sunday in Belchertown behind the Police Dept. at 10 a.m.  
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\$20 Each - Weather Permitting

### NEW FEBRUARY CLASSES

- AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZEN
  - LIFE MANNERS  
Correct bad manners like jumping on people, greeting people, waiting at the door, etc.
  - BASICS IN OBEDIENCE & SOCIALIZATION
- All classes at the Belchertown Rec Dept.  
Visit their website for details.

413-246-0859 • AKC Certified

## Winter Weather and Your Dog's Paws

Winter weather brings real risks to your dog's paws. Between icy surfaces, freezing temperatures, and harsh sidewalk chemicals, it's important to keep your dog protected each time you head outside. Here are some tips on what you can do to reduce irritation, prevent injury, and keep your dog comfortable during cold-weather walks.

Paw pads are tough, but they are still living tissue and can be damaged by repeated exposure to freezing temperatures, moisture, and chemicals. Dogs that walk on untreated snow, icy sidewalks, or salted pavement day after day may experience cumulative irritation that worsens over the course of the winter. Common issues include: dryness,

cracking, and chapping of paw pads. Snow and ice can build up between the toes and around the pads. Prolonged exposure to freezing temperatures can reduce blood flow to the paws, increasing the risk of frostbite. Chemical exposure to sidewalk salt and de-icing agents can burn paw pads, causing stinging and inflammation. Here are some solutions to avoid these issues.

1. **Dog Boots.** These are the most reliable way to keep paws safe from ice, salt, and extreme cold. Tips for success:
  - Let your dog practice wearing the boots indoors so they get used to the feeling.
  - Reward them with treats to build a positive association.

- Make sure the boots fit snugly but aren't so tight that they alter your dog's gait.

- If the boots stay on through walking or running and don't rub, they're the right fit.

2. **Paw Balms and Petroleum Jelly Barriers.** If your dog isn't a fan of boots, paw balms and petroleum jelly-based products provide a protective alternative. Paw balms such as Musher's Secret work by moisturizing a dog's paw pads and forming a protective barrier between them and harmful or rough surfaces like snow and ice. Apply a generous layer before walks and wipe off any residue afterward to keep your floors clean.

3. **Always Wipe Your Dog's Paws After Walk.** Even if your dog wears boots or balm, wiping their paws is an essential step after every winter outing. Even short walks or romps around the yard can expose paw pads to salt, ice melt chemicals, moisture, and grit that cling to the skin and fur between the toes. If left behind, these substances can dry out the pads, cause redness or cracking, and increase the risk of your dog licking their paws excessively, which may lead to digestive upset or skin infections. Using a towel to thoroughly dry each paw also helps reduce moisture buildup that can contribute to chapping or fungal growth.  
(Based on an article that first appeared at GeniusVets)

# SPORTS

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## Lions gets big win over Spartans

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD - The members of the Ludlow hockey team are probably very glad that the first month of 2026 has ended.

The Lions closed out January with a 3-1 defeat to the East Longmeadow Spartans in a Berry Division match-up held at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield, last Saturday afternoon.

"This was another tough loss for us, but I thought we competed very well," said Ludlow head coach Paul Rivest. "January was a very difficult month for us. We've been having a lot of trouble scoring goals this season."

Ludlow, who had a 4-2 record following a 4-1 win against West Springfield on New Year's Day, entered February with a 6-8 overall record.

The Lions, who co-op with Belchertown High School, only other victories in January came against Central Mass. foes. They posted a 4-1 victory over Hopedale, which took place at Olympia on January 10.



William Mitus runs into pressure.

A week later, the Lions pulled out a 3-2 overtime win versus Lunenburg at the Wallace Civic Center in Fitchburg.

The Lions lost their third game in a row against the Spartans (9-5), who are one of the teams trying to capture the Berry Division title.

Despite having a 3-6 league record, the Lions should be one of the six

teams competing in this year's Western Mass. Class A tournament, which is scheduled to take place during the February school vacation.

"I'm pretty sure that we'll qualify for the Western Mass. tournament this year," Rivest said. "Six of the seven Berry Division teams will be playing in that tournament."

The Lions were in sixth place in the league standings ahead of West Springfield, who defeated Ludlow 2-1 on January 19.

"The Berry Division is very close this year," Rivest added. "We're two or three goals away from being in second or third place in the league standings. We're also the only District in the state that still has a sectional tour-



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Evan Dias gets ready to send a wrist-shot toward the goal.

name."

Two years ago, the Lions lost to Taconic 3-2 in the Western Mass. Class B finals. They only qualified for the state tournament a year ago.

The Lions were the 32nd team in the MIAA Division 3 power rankings at the end

of last week.

The top 32 teams in each Division automatically qualify for the state tournament. A team can also qualify for the states with a .500 or better record.

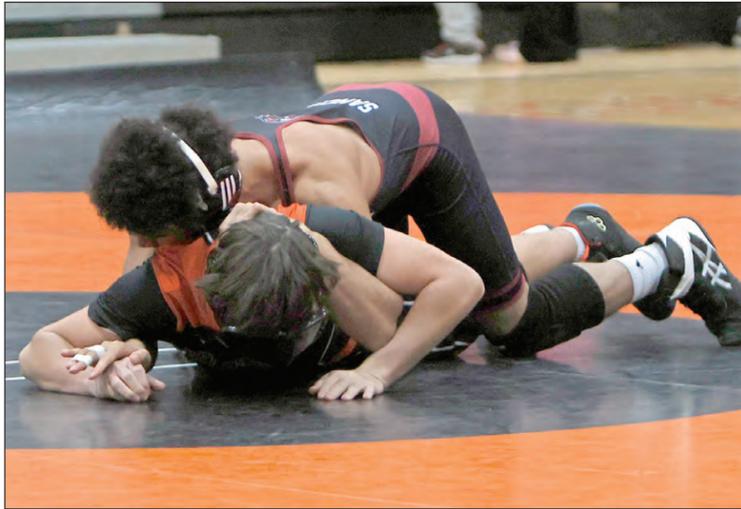
Please see **HOCKEY**, Page 8

## Ludlow wrestling loses at Belchertown

BELCHERTOWN - Last Wednesday night, in one of the final dual meets of the season for both teams, neighboring rivals Belchertown and Ludlow wrestled each other in league action. The Orioles were able to pick up the win over Ludlow. The final score of the meet was not reported. Both teams are gearing up for the sectional and state meets.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Ahliyas Sanchez holds the leverage in a 138-pound match.



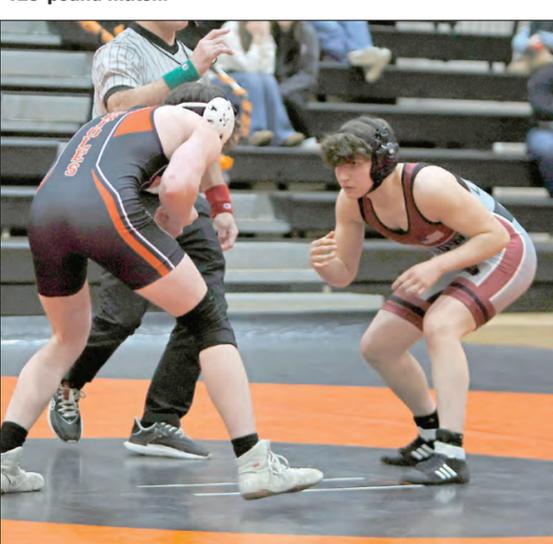
Andrew Ray tries to turn his opponent over for a win.



Tristan St. Onge locks his leg around his opponent in the 126-pound match.



Jayden Parker gets ready to lock up at 106 pounds



Riley Morais eyes an opponent in the 150-pound match.

## Lions fall at home

LUDLOW - It has been a tough stretch for Ludlow High School girls basketball, and last Thursday night, the Lions had another tough loss, falling to Palmer 51-35 to fall to 2-13 on the season. Palmer improved to 5-8 with the win. Aneysha Donais would lead Ludlow with 10 points while Harper Brouillette had a huge game with 18 points for Palmer. Aria Nompleggi finished with 11 points and Anabelle Ladue had 10 points.



Aneysha Donais tries to bring in a rebound under pressure.



Khloe Davis makes the long jump shot attempt.



Ava Friese gets ready to take a layup attempt.



Ellie Garcia goes for the three-pointer.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

# T-Birds get better of Wolf Pack

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (16-20-4-2) muscled their way past their I-91 rivals, the Hartford Wolf Pack (16-21-4-1), capturing a 4-1 win on Saturday night before a sell-out crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center.

For a second straight night, Steve Ott's team got off to a quick start as Marc-Andre Gaudet jumped up through the slot area, received a drop feed from Matthew Peca, and picked the glove side on Dylan Garand to give Springfield the 1-0 jump at 6:55 of the first.

After a 2-for-3 night on the power play on Friday, the

T-Birds man advantage did not get off to a strong beginning on Saturday, as back-to-back penalties brought an early end to a Springfield advantage and, instead, handed Hartford a 5-on-3. Brendan Brisson cashed in from there, one-timing a Justin Dowling pass through the wickets of Georgi Romanov at 13:20, equalizing the score, 1-1.

The T-Birds settled into the game as the second period began and, once again, a blueliner had the tone-setting goal for Springfield as Hunter Skinner glided down the left circle and snapped a bar-down wrist over Garand's glove at 3:38 of the second, restoring

the T-Birds lead, 2-1.

Just over four minutes later, Otto Stenberg made a savvy play, sneaking behind the net to steal a drop pass from Garand and setting up Dillon Dube for a wide-open net at the edge of the crease, extending Springfield's advantage to 3-1 at 8:13 of the period.

Like Friday night, the Springfield defense and goaltending locked things down in the final period, as the penalty kill successfully thwarted a pair of Hartford advantages, and Chris Wagner added his fourth goal in as many games played into an empty net with 3:00 remaining to seal the T-Birds' second straight win.

# Railers score weekend sweep over Wheeling

WORCESTER — The Railers are two points richer today thanks to a generous donation by Parker Gahagen.

He turned in one of the best goaltending performances in team history Sunday. Gahagen stopped 34 shots to blank the Wheeling Nailers, 1-0. The victory allowed Worcester to sweep a 3 in 3 weekend against the team with the best record in the North Division.

The Railers have won five straight games overall. It is their longest winning streak since they won the first nine games of the 2022-23 season.

The game's only goal was scored by Anthony Callin at 12:05 of the first period. He was set up nicely right in front by Riley Ginnell, who slid a pass to him from behind the goal line. All things considered, there seemed to be no way that 1-0 score would stand up for about 48 more minutes.

In fact, Wheeling dominated play for the next half hour. The Nailers had a 12-5 edge in shots after one period, then out-shot the home team by 15-2 in the second period. Gahagen's goaltending allowed Worcester to survive that onslaught.

It was his first Railers shut-out, the third this season by a Worcester goaltender. It was just the fourth Railers 1-0 victory of all time, the second ever at the DCU Center, the first here since Mitch Gillam beat Reading on Dec. 17, 2017.

Gahagen was in net for his team's 6-3 victory on Friday night, a match with an entirely different feel to it. Score almost doesn't matter, Gahagen said, although the shutout was very nice.

"My mindset is to keep them wherever they are, whether it's zero or two," he added. "Keep them there and keep the momentum in our favor."

The whitewash was his 14th pro shutout covering three leagues, the AHL, ECHL and SPHL. They don't count for any more points than a 6-5 game, but they are relatively unique.

"It doesn't happen that often," Gahagen said. "A lot of factors, a lot of pieces have to fall into place. So it is a little more special when it happens because it doesn't happen that often."

Gahagen has been good wherever he has played but there seems to be something about the DCU Center. He is perfect in seven starts here including six wins with the Railers and one against the Railers, with Reading in October of 2024.

"It takes a lot of patience and confidence in their game," coach Nick Tuzzolino said of the triumph, "and also understanding that their defense can win the game. I think that was the big lesson. I said to them after the game — did we have our best stuff all night, and the

answer was no.

"That's not gonna happen with a 3 in 3. But when it came to crunch time we were able to make the right plays and be smart and that's what we were able to do."

This was the third straight game in which the Railers scored first and they never trailed throughout the entire 180 — make that 182-plus — minutes of hockey. They got off to a strong start Sunday and given how tired both teams were, a wide-open game was a definite possibility.

Callin never thought his early one would be the only goal.

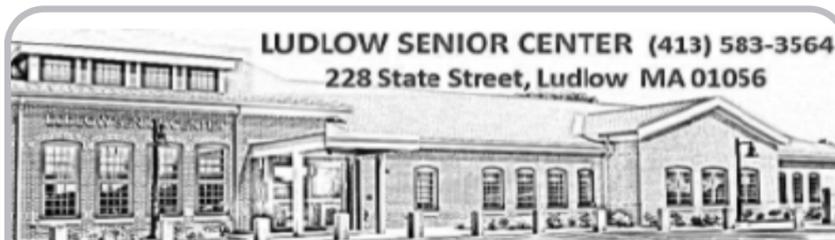
"I was hoping we'd get more of the same," he said.

Wheeling goaltender Taylor Gauthier was not as busy as Gahagen but as the Railers regained the momentum in the third period, Gauthier same excellent saves. He wound up with 17 for the day.

This a major step for the Railers in their push for a playoff berth but they are in a pack of teams that are in contention.

"It definitely makes us feel good," Tuzzolino said of the sweep, "but it is kind of short lived. If you look at our division, everybody's winning."

If they keep getting the goaltending they've been getting from Gahagen and Tristan Lennox, the Railers may not win every game, but they will have a chance to.



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

## Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

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

February is Heart Health month, and we have scheduled several events and programs to help you. Pick up our monthly Newsletter at the Center or share your email with us to have it delivered straight to your inbox. You can also explore programs, find important forms, and learn more about what a Senior Center has to offer at [ludlow.ma.us/coal/](http://ludlow.ma.us/coal/). For the latest news and photos, be sure to "like" the Ludlow Senior Center on Facebook!

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

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

### Thursday, February 5

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Dominos
- 10 a.m. MedMinder Information Table
- 10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation
- 12:45 pm. Mahjong
- 2 p.m. Writers Block
- 2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

### Friday, February 6

- 8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*
- 9 a.m. Reiki by Appointment\*
- 10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*
- 10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
- 10:30 a.m. Super Bowl Fun
- 1 p.m. Ceramics
- 1 p.m. Health Bones & Balance\*
- 1 p.m. Decorating Committee Meeting

### Monday, February 9

- 9 a.m. Knitting
- 9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*
- 10 a.m. Computer Help\*
- 10 a.m. Hospice Talk\*
- 1 p.m. Scrabble
- 1:15 p.m. Pitch
- 1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencils Class\*
- 2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

### Tuesday, February 10

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

- 1:30 p.m. Bingo
- 4:30 p.m. Power Pump
- 5 p.m. Movie: The Roses (2025)
- 5:45 p.m. Guidance by Li Grief Support\*

### Wednesday, February 11

- 8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold
- 8:30-9:30 a.m. Pancakes & Sausage Bkfst. \*
- 9 a.m. Mobile Dental Hygiene by Appointment\*
- 9 a.m. Ceramics
- 9 a.m. Jewelry Making Class\*
- 9:30 a.m. Shaker Bowl Trip\*
- 10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*
- 1 p.m. Dominos
- 1 p.m. Movie: The Roses (2025)
- 1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*

### Thursday, February 12

- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Dominos
- 9:30 a.m. Foot Care by Appointment\*
- 10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation
- 10:15 a.m. Craft with Kim\*
- 10:30 a.m. Sen. Oliveira Office Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Friends of the Center Mtg.
- 12:45 pm. Mahjong
- 1 p.m. Noodle Hockey
- 2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

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

### Daily Events:

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

### Menu:

- Thursday, February 5: BBQ Salmon/Rice Pilaf/Veggie
- Friday, February 6: Veggie Pizza/Pasta Salad
- Monday, February 9: Kielbasa/Sauerkraut/Potatoes
- Tuesday, February 10: Turkey Waldorf Salad Croissant/Tater Tots
- Wednesday, February 11: Ham & Broccoli Casserole/Biscuit
- Thursday, February 12: Vegetarian Chili/Corn Bread

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

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

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Tannar Severyn circles around and takes possession.



Rhett Ribeiro focuses as he brings in a pass.

### HOCKEY from Page 7

The Lions, who'll need four more win to finish the regular season with a .500 record, were looking to defeat the Spartans for the first time since celebrating a 3-1 victory on December 23, 2023.

In last Saturday's match, East Longmeadow took a 1-0 lead at the 3:18 mark of the opening period following a goal from junior Kevin Baker. The senior duo Joe Mazza and Cody Shaw were credited with assists on the game's first goal.

The Spartans, who out-

shot the Lions, 26-13, entered the second period still holding the 1-0 advantage.

Ludlow senior goalie Donald Rogers (24 saves) made a couple of saves on breakaway chances during the first seven minutes of the middle period, which kept the score 1-0.

Rogers, who attends Belchertown High School, has been sharing the starting duties with junior Peter LeBorgne this season.

A goal from senior captain Tannar Severyn, which was assisted by junior Gavin Harrington, knotted the score at 1-1 with 5:44 left in the second period.

The Spartans then had the first power-play opportunity of the match, which the Lions were able to kill.

The score remained tied until East Longmeadow junior Jack Rustico scored a breakaway goal with 3:24 left in regulation.

With 32 seconds left, an empty net goal by Mazza sealed the deal for the Spartans.

Ludlow is scheduled to have a week off before facing East Longmeadow for the second time at 4:50 p.m. on Saturday back at Olym-

pia.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

# OBITUARIES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD26P0162PM  
In the matter of:  
Jonathan A Bozbeckian  
Of: Indian Orchard, MA  
RESPONDENT  
(Person to be Protected/  
Minor)  
CITATION GIVING  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF  
CONSERVATOR OR OTHER  
PROTECTIVE ORDER  
PURSUANT TO**

**G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405**  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Angelina P Stafford** of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Jonathan A Bozbeckian** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Deborah A Raptopoulos** of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **With Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **02/23/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 23, 2026  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
02/04/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No.  
HD26P0161GD  
In the matter of:  
Jonathan A Bozbeckian  
Of: Indian Orchard, MA  
RESPONDENT  
Alleged Incapacitated Person  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE  
OF PETITION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN FOR  
INCAPACITATED  
PERSON PURSUANT TO**

**G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Angelina P Stafford** of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Jonathan A Bozbeckian** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Deborah A Raptopoulos** of Boston, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.

**You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **02/23/2026**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

**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. **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: January 23, 2026  
**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
02/04/2026

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Division  
Docket No.  
HD26P0128EA  
Estate of:  
Margaret Ann Lavoie-Fuller  
Date of Death: Oct. 3, 2025  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of  
**Kathleen E Lavoie of Ludlow, MA**  
**Thomas E Lavoie of Amherst, MA**  
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.  
**Kathleen E Lavoie of Ludlow, MA**  
**Thomas E Lavoie of Amherst, MA**

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
02/04/2026

**TOWN OF LUDLOW  
Public Hearing  
Tuesday, February 17, 2026  
6:15 PM  
Town Hall  
488 Chapin Street,  
Ludlow, Ma  
Performance/  
Re-Programming of the  
FY22/23 Ludlow**

**Community Block Development Grant and FY26 Application**  
The Ludlow Select Board will conduct a public hearing on **February 17, 2026, at 6:15 PM** at the Town Hall, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA and via cable television or live stream. Instructions are available on the town's website. You may also access the meeting by audio by calling 1-617-758-8793, attending via Uber conference.

The hearing will review the project funded through the town's FY22/23 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program including the Robert Street Neighborhood improvements and Housing Rehabilitation program. The hearing will involve open discussion regarding how the Town will re-program remaining funds in the grant post completion of construction. This activity received funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, Massachusetts CDBG program.

This hearing will also serve as the first public forum to solicit community input on activities to be included in a potential Ludlow FY26 Community Development Block Grant application. All community members and stakeholders are invited to share thoughts on potential CDBG-eligible activities to be included.

All persons with questions or comments regarding the grant application will have an opportunity to be heard. Those unable to attend can send written comments to the Ludlow Town Administrator, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, Ma 01056, Attn: Marc Strange. The Town Hall is mobility accessible. Persons who require accommodation should contact the town at least one week prior to the hearing date at (413)-583-5600 ext. 1200. For further information contact Sarah Maroney at PVPC at (413) 781-6045 or smaroney@pvpc.org. 01/28, 02/04/2026



## Dorothea N. Day

Dorothea N. Day passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026. She was born in Ludlow, on March 3, 1933 to the late Joaquina and Joseph Nunes. Dottie was born 8th in a family of 9 girls and was predeceased by all. After school she worked briefly in the insurance field. She spent the balance of her



career at Westvaco Corporation (formerly U.S. Envelope Company) retiring as an Executive Assistant after 39 years of service. For many years she served as Treasurer of the Campaign Committee of former State Senator Brian P. Lees. Dottie loved all sports, particularly ice hockey. She was an avid reader and enjoyed crossword puzzles. She and her husband travelled extensively throughout the USA. A favorite trip was a 3-month cross country motor trip where they visited

every Presidential Library. Leaving to cherish her memory is her devoted husband, Arthur W. Day, married November 13, 1954. They shared 72 happy years. She leaves her beloved daughter and best friend, Judith Day-Sanderson and her life long partner, David Burroughs of Basking Ridge, NJ. and her cherished grandchildren Cole Day Sanderson and Tory Day Sanderson both of Boston, MA. She also leaves an extended family of nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

The family would like to thank Dr. Linda Schoonover for the excellent and committed care given to Dottie over 30 years.

Funeral services for Dottie were held on Tuesday, Jan. 27. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dottie's memory to Dana Farber Cancer Care Institute and The Jimmy Fund (danafarber.org)

## DEATH NOTICES

**Dorothea N. Day**  
Died Jan. 20, 2026  
Services were Jan. 27.  
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 \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

## National Cribbage Day celebrated on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026.

INDIAN ORCHARD - Cribbage is one of the oldest regularly played card games. Created by Sir John Suckling in the early 17th century, the game evolved from the old English game "noddly". Although the exact date cribbage was invented is unknown, National Cribbage Day is celebrated yearly on Suckling's birthday, February 10.

Millions of Americans of all ages enjoy cribbage at home with family, at bars, senior centers and social clubs. The most common version is played with two players using a cribbage board with pegs and 121 holes. The American Cribbage Congress (ACC) is the governing body of cribbage in the United States, hosting tournaments and main-

taining a national ranking system. The ACC includes more than 5,000 players of all ages and over 500 grassroots cribbage clubs. In addition the ACC has an internet cribbage program giving members an opportunity to play in online tournaments.

Locally, the "Pegging Fools" (Club #72) Cribbage Club meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at St. Gregory Armenian Church, 135 Goodwin St., Indian Orchard. For more information about local cribbage activities or National Cribbage Day events, contact Peter Setian, 413-552-6336.

The ACC continues to promote and grow the game of cribbage nationwide and on the internet. More information is available at www.cribbage.org.

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## NOTICE

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**  
visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CUT FREE.....	\$1.88 lb	USDA INSP. SUPER STEAK FRESH BONE-IN BEEF TOMAHAWK RIB EYE STEAK.....	\$13.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN PARTY CUT CHICKEN WINGS 5 LB BAG.....	\$1.60 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SPARE RIBS TWIN PAK.....	\$2.66 lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE BEEF SHAVED STEAK.....	\$6.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED ROASTED CHICKEN WINGS.....	\$2.99 lb
USDA INSP. HARDWOOD SMOKED KAYEM BUDABALL WHOLE PIT HAM.....	\$3.66 lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE FROZEN HAMBURG PATTIES 80% LEAN 20 COUNT BOX.....	\$15.69 ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN SARA LEE CHOCOLATE CREAM PIE 19.6 OZ.....	\$4.99 ea
USDA INSP. COOKS 1/2 SPIRAL HAM.....	\$1.19 lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE FROZEN 80% LEAN 20 COUNT BOX.....	\$15.69 ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN HILLSHIRE FARM POLSKA KIELBASA TURKEY 13 OZ or REGULAR 14 OZ.....	\$3.49 ea
USDA INSP. STOREMADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE ALL VARIETIES.....	\$2.77 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH SLICED IN OUR DELI FULLY COOKED TEXAS BBQ SMOKED BEEF BRISKET.....	\$4.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 21/25 COUNT 2 LB BAG.....	\$16.99 ea

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# What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library

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

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

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

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

## FOR ADULTS

The Dangers of Online Family Trees Thursday, January 15 6:30 PM Join us for a talk by Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy discussing with you the dangers of depending on online family trees. He will go over how to tread lightly, what you should and should not trust and how to verify. He will also give you tools to avoid the temptation to believe everything that is so easily at your fingertips while giving you strategies to allow the use of potentially bad or even dangerous information in the right way. Will also be available on Zoom for those who can not attend in person. Please register on our website or by calling 583-3408 x0.

Sound Energy Healing Series One Saturday per month 10:30 AM. Sound healing brings individuals into a state of relaxation and rest. Enjoy an hour of peace and calm while sitting or laying on a yoga mat, absorbing the healing vibrations from instruments such as the quartz crystal bowls lead by Julia Nadolny. Bring a yoga mat or towel, something to lay on during the program and a blanket to cover yourself up in. Dates: 1/31, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23, 6/13.

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

Mass Center for the Book Monthly Reading Challenge Each month, you'll be challenged to read a book based on a chosen theme. Those who participate will be entered to win a free tote bag full of books! For more information and to sign up, please visit <https://www.massbook.org/readingchallenge-2> (Note to editor, this has been updated.)

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

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

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

## FOR YOUTH

Ice Cream Readathon, through Saturday, February 7. For kids. Read 5 books and win a free ice cream generously donated by Cindy's Drive In.

Blind Date with a Book, through February 14. For tweens and teens. Let us set you up with a great book! Drop-in.

Valentine Card Making, through February 14. For all ages of youth. Drop-in and make a unique Valentine card.

True Tales Storytime for Homeschooled 5-8 year olds, Wednesday, February 4 & 12,

1:00 pm. Please register. Pokemon Club, Wednesday, (biweekly) February 4 & 18, 3:30 - 4:45 pm. For grades 3-8. Please register.

Lego Build Challenge, every Wednesday, February 4, 11, 18, 25, 12:00 to 5:00 pm. Pull a Lego Build Challenge Card and try to build it with the library's Legos, or free build just for fun. All creations will be put on display in the Youth Room for the week. Drop-in.

Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup for 0-2 year olds, Thursdays, February 5, 12, 26, (not February 19) 9:45 - 10:30 am. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup for 2-5 year olds, Thursdays, February 5, 12, 26, (not on February 19) 10:45 - 11:30 am. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

Online Gaming Club for YAs, Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19, 26, 3:30 - 5:00 pm. For ages 10-15. We have Minecraft! Please register.

Storytime Series for ages 2-3; There's Magic in the Library, Fridays, February 6 & 13, 10:00 am. Space is limited, please register.

Ice Cream Scavenger Hunt, Saturday, February 7, all day. All ages. Find the pics, win a prize. Drop-in.

Minecraft Club, Saturdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28, noon to 1:50 pm. For ages 7-11. We have Minecraft accounts. Please register.

Youth Chess Club, Mondays, (biweekly) February 9 & 23, 3:30-4:30 pm. Ages 9-17. Please register.

Storytime Series for ages 3-5; There's Magic in the Library, Mondays, February 9, 23 & March 2 (not Feb. 16) 10:00 am. Space is limited, please register.

Anime Club, (biweekly) Tuesday, Febru-

ary 10 & 24, 3:30-5:00 pm. For middle and high schoolers. Registration recommended.

Sing With Me, Tuesdays, February 10, 17, 24, 10:30 to 11:00 am. For 0-5s. Drop-in.

Youth Crochet Club, Tuesdays, (biweekly) February 10 & 24, 5:30-6:30 pm. For ages 10-17. Beginners welcome. Supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

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

Valentine Heart Jewelry, February 12, 4:30 pm. For ages 9 & up. Use a huge selection of beads to make jewelry. Please register.

Backyard Bird Scavenger Hunt, Friday & Saturday, February 13 & 14. For all ages. Drop-in.

Tween Chaos Boardgame Club, (biweekly) Fridays, February 13 & 27, 3:15 - 4:45 pm. For ages 10-14. Please register.

Valentine Heart Magnets, February 14, 10:30 to noon. For ages 5 & up. Use wooden hearts to make a love-ly magnet. Drop-in.

Nintendo Switch Night, (monthly) Tuesday, February 17, 6 - 8:00 pm. For middle and high schoolers. There's pizza! Please register.

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

Young Adult Volunteer Program, ongoing. For 6th grade through high school. Volunteer one hour a week in the youth room. Please see our website calendar for more information and to submit an application.

## SOCIAL SECURITY

from Page 4

benefit depends on your lifetime earnings record when you later claimed Social Security.

When you applied for benefits, Social Security reviewed your lifetime earnings and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your lifetime (adjusted for inflation) to calculate your "Primary Insurance Amount" or "PIA," which is what you get if you claim benefits to start at your Social Security full retirement age. If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than your earnings while serving in the military, Social Security would have used your later higher earning years to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings would not have

had an effect on your Social Security benefit. However, if any of your military earnings including the "special extra credits" were among the highest over your lifetime, then those higher military earnings would be included when calculating your Social Security benefit.

So, whether you would benefit from these "special extra credits for military service" depends largely on your earnings history after you were discharged from active duty. If your military earnings were among the highest earning years over your lifetime, and you provided SSA with a copy of your DD-214 when you applied for Social Security, then your current SS benefit already includes consideration of your military service. FYI, Social Security should have asked about your military service when you

applied. If you didn't tell SS about your military service when you applied for Social Security, or if you aren't sure, you should contact the SSA at 1.800-772-1213 and ask if you were given those "special extra credits for military service" for your 1960s military service years when you applied for Social Security.

But if you had at least 35 years of higher earnings after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get any additional Social Security benefit because of the "special extra credits" for your military service years.

*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 inter-*

*pretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

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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  
Nursery provided for ages 18 month- 3 yr

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

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**  
25 Parker St, Indian Orchard,  
413-543-3627  
Very Rev. Piotr Calik  
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m. -1 p.m.  
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MASS SCHEDULE  
Monday 8:00am  
Tuesday 8:00am  
Wednesday No Mass  
Thursday 6:00pm  
Friday 6:00pm  
Saturday 4:00pm  
Sunday 8:30am (English) 10:15am ( Polish)  
Confessions: Saturday - 3:15-4 p.m.

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In Residence - Rev. Norman Bolton  
Deacons: Normand Grondin, Keith Davies  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Visit our website at [www.stelizabethludlow.org](http://www.stelizabethludlow.org)  
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**Wed., February 4.** - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C), Holy Mother Choir - 4:30 (C), Scouts - 6:00 PM (ER), Cub Scouts - 6:00 PM (FLBH), Bible Study - 6:30 PM (JR)

**Thurs., February 5.** - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C) Fri., February 6, - Daily Mass- 7:30 AM (C), Sat., February 7, -First Reconciliation - 10:00 AM (C), Confessions - 2:30 PM (C), Saturday Vigil Mass - 4:00 PM (C)

**Sun., February 8.** - Daily Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM (C), Confirmation Class - 8:00 AM (JR), Faith Formation - 10:15 AM (FLBH/ST/ JR/ER/ZR), Lifeteen - 6:00 PM (JR)

**Mon., February 9.** - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C), Ladies Auxiliary K of C 1:00 PM (JR) Faith Formation - 6:00 PM (JR), Women's Bible Study - 6:00 PM (ER)

**Tues., February 10.** - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C), St. Rita Choir - 4:00 (C), Pasta Supper- 4:30 PM (FL-BH/K), - Bereavement Support Group - 6:30 PM (ER)

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Website: [www.ludlowfirst.com](http://www.ludlowfirst.com)

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Indian Orchard, MA 01151  
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See our website for more information: [orchardcovenant.org](http://orchardcovenant.org).

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH**  
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413-583-2312  
Father Pedro DeOlivera  
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Sunday Masses - 9 a.m. (Portuguese); 11 a.m. (English)  
Monday and Wednesday Morning Masses - 8:30 a.m. (Portuguese)  
Tuesday and Friday Masses - 5:30 p.m. (Portuguese)  
Saturday Vigil Mass - 4 p.m. (English)  
First Saturday of the Month - 8:30 a.m.  
For more information, visit [ourladyoffatimaparish.org](http://ourladyoffatimaparish.org).

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

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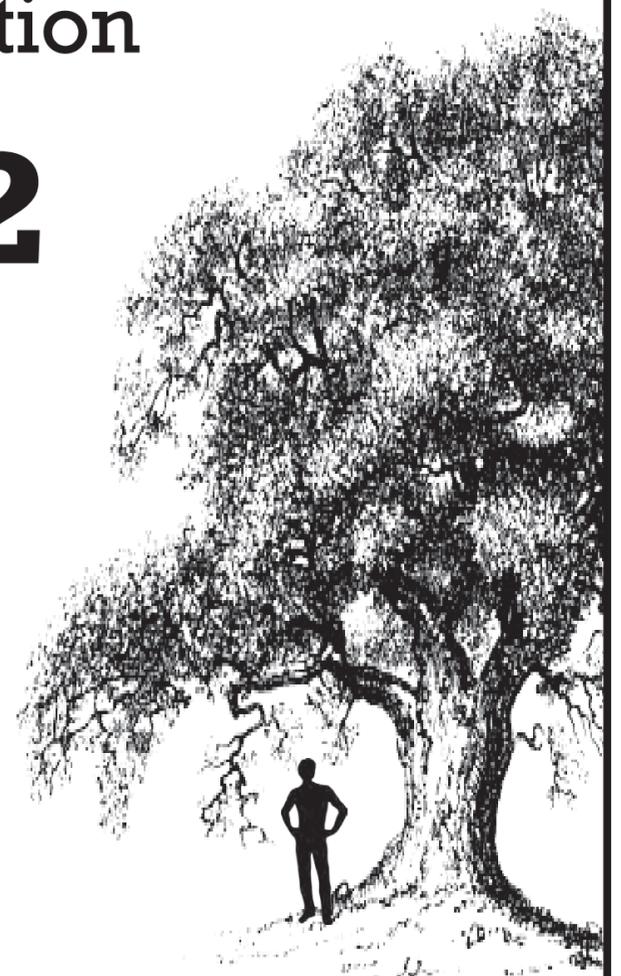
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