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The REGISTER

LOCAL NEWS | LOCAL STORIES | LOCAL ADVERTISERS

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Semi-Quincentennial Anniversary concludes with *Last Night*

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – This Saturday was the official send-off for last year’s 250th Anniversary celebrations, titled Last Night.

On Feb. 22, the 251st anniversary of the town’s incorporation, residents gathered at the High School to celebrate the end of the 250th anniversary events. The event concluded a year of parades, fundraisers, festivals, decorating contests, breakfasts, tournaments, and more to celebrate the town’s history and ever-growing legacy.

The immersive celebration included food trucks, character visits from Anna, Elsa, and Spider-Man, free crafts for kids, and booths and tables for more than 70 artisans, crafters, and local authors. Various town departments, including Police, Fire, and Health, and the Hubbard Memorial Library,



Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

The 250th Committee and Board of Selectmen were presented with a commemorative plaque to mark the end of the celebratory year.

Please see **LAST NIGHT**, Page 6

Wellspring Coop holds workshop

To offer business advice and support

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

INDIAN ORCHARD – Last week, the Citizens Council coordinated a networking meeting for local worker co-ops with Wellspring Cooperative.

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, the Citizens Council hosted a networking meeting with Wellspring Cooperatives. Fred Rose, the co-director of Wellspring Cooperatives, described the organization as a network of worker cooperative businesses.

“This gathering was a meeting of the network of co-ops,” Rose said. “It was an opportunity for people to share experiences, learn from each other, and identify areas where we can collaborate.”

Wellspring has been around for about 12 years, founded around a mission to create businesses and partner with anchor institutions, such as colleges and hospitals.

“They buy a lot of goods and services that don’t come from the local economy,” Rose said. “So we’re looking to them as a market where we could produce things that they would buy.”

Wellspring works with a number of co-ops in the area, including partnering with Citizens Council Jackie Farrow, who runs a recreational organization, Jumping Jack Hoops. One co-op, Greenhouse, supplies locally-grown food year-round to such institutions as the Bay-state Medical Center, Mount Holyoke College, Randall’s Farm, and Big Y.

Rose said that the workshop was a learning opportunity for people to discuss the common issues around running a worker co-op. He said that Wellspring decided to work with the Citizens Council both because of its connection with Farrow, and because of the network’s many connections to the neighborhood.

“We have the Go Fresh Mobile Market, which delivers fresh produce to SNAP recipients,” Rose said. “The state has the Health Incentive Program, it’s an added benefit that the state supports for SNAP recipients to purchase fresh produce. We go to 13

Please see **WORKSHOP**, Page 2

BOH votes to maintain tobacco regulation updates

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – The Board of Health met recently to vote on changes to the tobacco regulations and to vote on condemning a property deemed uninhabitable by the Health Inspector.

Tobacco regulations

The board voted to update the tobacco regulations, including adding state definitions, reducing the number of tobacco sale permits, and discussed the regulation of oral nicotine patches.

Following the previous public hearings, Health Director Paulina Matusik reached out to the businesses in town that sell tobacco products, and heard back from only one establishment, which she met with on Jan. 30.

“I went through the regulations, and then I went through if these draft regulations were all to be voted in, how it would affect the shop,” Matusik said. “The only thing that would af-

fect that business would be the nine milligram (nicotine patches), which he did inform me that those aren’t sold a lot.”

Board Secretary Adrienne DeSantis said that, based on the information presented to the board, there was not significant pushback against regulating the sale of nine milligram nicotine patches.

“I believe if the state wanted to do this, they should do it across the whole state,” Tavares said Board Member Antonio Tavares. “They can’t buy one in Ludlow, but if they drive right over the bridge, they can spend the money in Springfield.”

After amending the regulation to allow the sale of nicotine patches up to nine milligrams, the board voted unanimously to accept the tobacco regulations.

Condemnation

The Board of Health held a public hearing on Thursday, Feb. 13, to hear evidence for the condemnation of a property on West Street.

Board of Health Chair Kelly Lamas opened the meeting by outlining the procedure for a condemnation hearing.

“We will hear evidence from the Health Inspector, the alleged violator, and members of the audience,” Lamas said. “The Board of Health members will then make the determination to deliberate at this meeting, or if they would like to deliberate at their next meeting.”

Health Inspector Emily Quinn provided photos to the board, along with copies of reports detailing the conditions of the property.

“Our office received a complaint from the occupant of 350 West St., #6, with concerns of the condition of the home, including a leak and mold,” Quinn said.

Quinn and Health Director Paulina Matusik conducted an inspection of the property in January, and found “numerous violations” for the “minimum standards of fitness for human habitation” as established by state’s code of regulations.

Please see **BOH**, Page 3

Boys & Girls Club to celebrate 75th anniversary

By Marcelo Gusmão
Editor
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – The Boys and Girls’ Club is excited to announce upcoming events for its 75th anniversary, starting with the official kick-off on Saturday, March 1.



The Boys and Girls’ Club has been operating in town since March 1, 1950. Director of Development Cristina Jardine has been with the club for eight of those years, and said that the staff are “really excited” about the upcoming celebration.

“Our plan is for the 75th anniversary to create opportunities for families to come to the club and gather, and create more opportunities to build community,” Jardine said. “March 1 happens to be on a Saturday this year,

which is perfect.”

The club is holding a free event for members of the community to be able to visit and learn about the club. Jardine listed attractions for the event, including food trucks, open swim, crafts and activities, fitness challenges, a performance by after school students, a presentation of animals by Lupa Zoo, storytimes with the Hubbard Memorial Library, fitness class demonstrations, and many other activities as an overview of all the different things that happen at the club on an ongoing basis.

“We want to create a fun day for families; for youth, but also for adults,” Jardine said. “A lot of people think of the club primarily as an organization for kids, but we offer

Please see **ANNIVERSARY**, Page 10



Submitted Photo

East Street apartment fire

LEFT: The fire department responded to a fire on the upper floor of an East Street apartment last Saturday.

Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

RIGHT: A fire broke out on the upper floor of an apartment building on East Street on Saturday, Feb. 22.



LUDLOW

Planning Board grants permits to businesses

By Emilia Alves
Correspondent

LUDLOW—The Planning Board met on Feb. 13 to discuss and decide on four public hearings, two of which regarded two new businesses in town.

The first hearing requested a special permit to operate a graphic design and arts and crafts business from a home office. Similarly, the second hearing also requested a special permit, this time to conduct online doula consultations from a home office. Both of these permits were approved on by the board during its meeting.

Marie Tefts, a local graphic designer and artist, runs a graphic design and art business in which she sells various crafty trinkets such

as signs, banners, decorative lanterns, wooden knick knacks, and much more, offering custom works as well. Additionally, she also offers graphic design work to her customers.

Tefts applied for a special occupation permit for her business which will be run out of a home office. A concern brought up by chairperson Raymond Phoenix was how many customers would be coming and going from the house office. As a small business, she infrequently has customers at her house.

"Maybe one or two a month, to pick up projects," Tefts said. "Most of the projects, I deliver."

The home office will simply operate as a normal office would, as to not dis-

turb or change the residential neighborhood around it.

After further discussion among the board and Tefts they came to a unanimous decision in favor of Tefts request, granting her the permit for her arts and crafts business, Marie Ann Designs, which will be run out of her home office.

Next was a very similar hearing, this time for a special permit for online Doula consultations out of a home office.

Faith Rains, a local birth and post-partum doula, is looking to run her business in her home office where she will conduct consultations, do paper work, take phone calls, take part in trainings, store business goods, and other at-home business practices. For those unfamiliar

with the work of a doula, they offer support and guidance to expecting mothers during and after labor, Rains specializing in pre and post-partum care.

Rains will not have any customers coming to her home officesaying, "I go to clients' houses."

With this minor concern being addressed, the board made its decision. Once again, in a five-to-zero vote, the permit was approved by the board, allowing Rains to run her doula business at her home office.

These two permits were decided on by the Planning Board at their last meeting highlight two new local businesses, allowing them to further thrive with the home office space they have permits to operate in.

MMWEC offers scholarships to Ludlow High School seniors

LUDLOW—Applications are now open for the 2025 Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) scholarship.

MMWEC is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to qualifying seniors from Ludlow High School who are planning to attend either a two- or four-year college. Eligible students must plan to pursue a degree in engineering, environmental sciences, finance, accounting, or a related discipline.

Scholarship recipients will be awarded based on several factors including academic achievement, area of study, and need. All seniors planning to pursue one of the specified academic areas are encouraged to apply, regardless of their class ranking.

To be considered, students must submit all required documents including a letter of recommendation from their

school counselor and a letter detailing their educational and professional goals. Application and submission details will be shared with students via their school counselors. The deadline to apply is Friday, May 9.

As part of its commitment to the community, MMWEC has awarded \$66,000 in scholarships to help local students defray the cost of higher education since the inception of the scholarship program in 1998.

MMWEC is the joint action agency for public power in Massachusetts, providing a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state's consumer-owned, municipal utilities. MMWEC is the operator and principal owner of the Stony Brook Energy Center on Moody Street and has been a corporate resident of Ludlow for nearly 50 years.

WORKSHOP from Page 1

sites around Springfield, to low income housing, some health centers, and a couple libraries, where people can use this benefit to get produce."

The workshop consisted of a lot of discussion about shared ideas, with many of the businesses working with food, such as growing it and distributing it.

"Our mission is to create these businesses and other kinds of community-serving things like the Mobile Market Organization," Rose said.

Another service offered by Wellspring for people interested in starting or working with co-ops is the annual Co-Op Academy, which is a four-week intro to co-ops and a ten-week business planning program.

"If somebody was interested in forming a co-op, they could go to that. It helps people walk through their ideas," Rose said. "We're doing it online these days, local people and some non-local people participate."

Rose said that co-ops tend to work well if they start out with a group of people interested in working together, and that starting a co-op from the ground up



The networking meeting included representatives from Wellspring Harvest Greenhouse in Indian Orchard, Jumping Jack Hoops, Evergia Weatherization, Natural Living Landscapes, Gran Cocina Community Kitchen, and Go Fresh Mobile Market.

can be very expensive, and putting capital together can be a challenge.

"We're involved in a support capacity to help these new businesses sort out all the things any new business needs to sort out," Rose said, "and then to play a facilitating role with issues like putting up money to build a greenhouse, or doing some of those bigger things that would be hard for people to do on their own. It's a mix of business support and de-

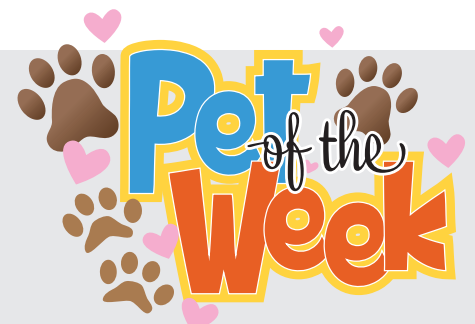


The Citizens Council hosted Fred Rose of Wellspring Cooperative to help coordinate with worker co-ops in the region.

velopment support."

If you'd like to get in contact with Wellspring about its worker co-op support programs, you can send

an email to Wellspring-CoOps@GMail.com, or call Fred Rose directly at 413-522-2204.



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LUDLOW

Host families needed

LUDLOW – ASSE International Student Exchange Programs, a Non-Profit, Public Benefit Organization, is inviting local families to discover the many rewards of hosting a foreign exchange student. ASSE students come from more than 50 countries worldwide: France, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Ukraine, Japan, Australia, to name a few. They are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports, etc. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into their home, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons.

The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. ASSE students are

carefully selected based upon academics and personality, and host families choose their student from a wide variety of backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

ASSE also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

Those interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad, should call Lori at 1-800-677-2773, visit www.asse.com or send an email to asseusaeast@asse.com to request more information or start the application process. Students are eager to learn about their American host family, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter today. The memories and the friendship you create with your exchange student will stay with you forever.

Zonta to celebrate women

LUDLOW— Each year in March, the global community recognizes women for their achievements regardless of national, ethnic, linguistic, economic or political divisions. The Zonta International community also celebrates Zonta Rose Day, a time to reflect and give tribute to the women who have empowered us.

In this spirit, the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley proudly announces its Women Making a Difference Award dinner on March 10, at the Ludlow Country Club. As the theme of this year's International Women's celebration is accelerate action, the club has chosen a keynote speaker who heads an organization fueling progress toward gender equity

by funding the most promising solutions, collaborating with results-oriented partners, and by elevating the collective power of local women to take charge, and to lead with purpose; and four women leaders in the community deserving of recognition for exemplifying the ideals of Zonta and inspiring inclusion in their day-to-day work and volunteer efforts.

The public is invited to join us in celebrating women on March 10. RSVP by March 4, 2025 at info@zontaqv.org. 5:30 p.m. reception, 6 p.m. dinner followed by the program. Pay at the door for the buffet (\$30 for table of 8; \$35 individual) or pay online. Details at www.zontaqv.org/women.

Reminder to return your 2025 Annual Town Census

LUDLOW – 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.

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.



Relay for Life looking for participants

BELCHERTOWN— Quaboag Valley Relay for Life is looking for more teams to join our Relay on May 31 on the Belchertown Common from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Everyone has been affected by cancer so now is the time to form a few friends and family so you can fundraise and spread awareness of this dreaded disease. You do not have to have a large team or lots of money collected.

A few new teams getting in some donations is a big help to the American Cancer Society.

After we are done doing all our fundraising, the Relay is a way to unwind and celebrate our accomplishments.

The teams can be in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend. Any questions please feel free to email ctellie@juno.com

A Kick-Off event will be held on Feb. 23 at Hope Church on Main Street in Belchertown from 1 to 3 p.m. This is an informative and fun event. Come and learn what Relay is all about.

Veterans eat lunch free at Ware Senior Center

WARE – Now through May 31, 2025, veterans of the U.S. armed services can enjoy a homemade lunch for free at the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road.

These meals are provided by the generosity of former Ware Selectboard member John Morrin, the Ware Veteran Fund and the Ware Veterans Carnival.

For veterans to take advantage of this offer they must call the Ware Senior

Center 413-967-9645 by noon the business day before they wish to come for lunch and place their name on the list. Meals are served daily, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.-noon.

Menus and more information are available on the Council on Aging page of townofware.com or by stopping by the Ware Senior Center, 1 Robbins Road, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

BOH from Page 1

Quinn said that an order to correct was sent to the owner, describing 31 violations with several conditions deemed to endanger or materially impair health or safety. Some violations described included a missing portion of the roof, an unusable bathroom sink that was disconnected from the drainage system, exposed wiring and improperly installed outlets, and a lack of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

A second order to correct was sent to the occupant, which described four violations. These included the aforementioned absence of smoke and CO detectors, and the second exit being obstructed and unusable.

"After that, I reached out to the Fire Department and the Building Department to schedule a joint inspection,

given the conditions we witnessed," Quinn said.

This inspection was conducted in January, and Quinn described both departments expressing "serious concerns" over the conditions.

"The Fire Department added a battery-operated smoke/CO detector onsite, and the second egress was unblocked by the occupants at the time of that inspection," Quinn said.

The following day, the Building Department announced it had posted a stop work order on the address, and issued a notice that the structure is unsafe for human occupancy or use. Shortly after, Mill Town Social Worker Ashley Jediny contacted the occupant to provide resources for seeking alternative housing options.

"I do not believe the property can be brought into compliance up to code standards

while it is occupied," Quinn concluded. "It's my recommendation that the board declare the property unfit for habitation and the property be secured and condemned."

The owner of the property said that the occupant was a friend with a background in construction who had offered to fix some of the damage, "but nothing got done." The owner said he was informed about the water damage, leaks, and mold two weeks before the Health Inspector was informed.

The owner said that he hopes to fix the property so that he can sell it, but that he can't make the necessary repairs while it's occupied. Concluding that the investigation was detailed and thorough, and that the owner agreed that the property was uninhabitable, the board voted unanimously to condemn the property.

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OPINION

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer



Snow bunting

I received an email from an Oakham resident said he and a friend on Feb. 12 startled a flock of about eight snow buntings as they drove along Adams Road in New Braintree.

He said, "The buntings are seen here every winter." On Feb. 18, I drove over Adams Road and saw the same flock of snow buntings. Their white bellies will be visible as they flew up from the side of the road.

The snow bunting is seven inches long with a plumpish body. In winter, snow buntings are streaked with buff and black. The ear patch and the back is streaked with buff as well as the flanks and breast. The belly is white and the bill yellow-orange. The male's crown is black and the female's buff.

The male in summer is a striking white and black. The head and breast are white and the back, tail and bill are black. The female in summer plumage is a more subdued version of the male with her head a gray color.

Snow buntings summer on the tundra and rocky shores, their breeding grounds. The female lays three to nine creamy blue or gray eggs in a nest of moss, grasses and earth placed on rocky ground. Their song is a musical warble and calls include "tew" and soft, buzzy notes.

In winter, they inhabit open fields, roadsides and beaches in the southern Canada and the United States.

Brown creeper

Last week, I saw a brown creeper moving up a tree near one of my bird feeders and suet cakes. When they get near the top of the tree, they fly down to the base and climb up the tree in a different spot on the tree.

Birds and more at my feeder Sunday during the

storm, I spotted an opossum under my feeder digging in the snow for seeds. At this point, it switched to rain and the opossum had wet fur. Besides the opossum, I had squirrels and the usual black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, tufted titmice, downy woodpeckers, dark eyed juncos, bluejays and mourning doves.

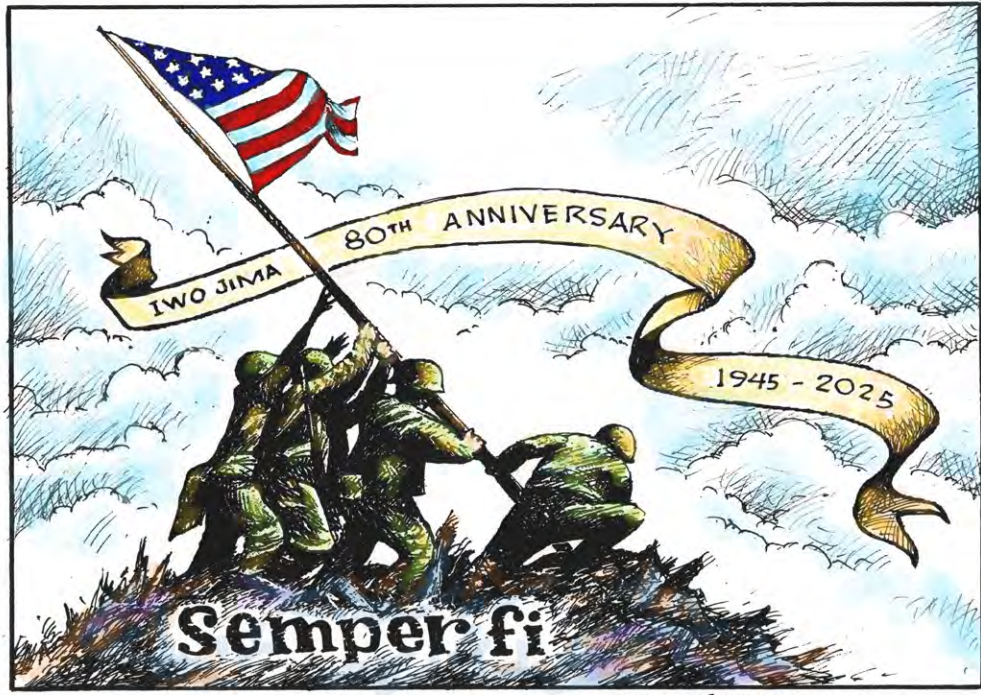
Bald eagle

An Oakham resident saw a bald eagle land on the ice on Lake Dean. Late last month, fishing derby participants saw an eagle at Lake Dean.

Loon facts

The Loon Preservation Committee newsletter mentioned facts about the first migration and acquiring breeding territory. Each fall, juvenile loons undertake their first migration to their wintering grounds. The article said, "First, they have to manage the energetic costs of migration—sadly, not all survive the trip from their lakes to their wintering grounds. Those that make it to the ocean encounter a new and unfamiliar world, filled with prey species that they have no experience catching and predator species like sharks and seals that they have no experience evading. Without their parents to show them the ropes, they have to quickly learn where to forage and how to evade these new predators. And carry-over effects resulting from the environmental conditions they experienced on their lakes during development can also influence their survival – those juvenile loons that were raised on lower quality territories may start off in worse shape than others, which can reduce their chance of survival. All of these factors combine to mean that there is a 53% chance that a loon will survive from hatch to adulthood (age three)."

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



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Can I get extra Social Security for my military service?

Dear Rusty:

Please help, I served from 1964 to 1966 in the US Army.

I have been trying to contact Social Security in order to request extra benefits for veterans. The telephone is a recording and you never get to speak to anyone.

The web site at www.ssa.gov is useless to me. I went to the SS office and there was a huge line outdoors in the freezing cold. I am disabled and cannot stand on a line in this cold. Please advise me about my options. Financially, is it worth the trouble?

Signed: Disabled American Veteran

Dear Disabled Veteran:

My profound thanks for your service to our country.

FYI, the "special extra credit for military service" you refer to does not provide an incremental Social Security benefit amount for military veterans. Rather, it adds an additional amount to your recording earnings for the years you served, which may or may not affect your Social Security benefit. FYI, I've written numerous articles on this topic, one of which you can read at this link: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-older-veteran-asks-about-special-social-security-credit-for-military-service/.

In your case, serving between 1964 and 1966, if you told Social Security of your military service when you applied for benefits or gave them a copy of your DD-214, they would have added up to \$1,200 per year to your recorded military pay record (FYI, those who served after 1967 were automatically given earnings credit for their military service years).

However, whether those special extra credits would affect your SS benefit depends on what your lifetime earnings record was when you later claimed SS. When you applied for benefits, So-

cial Security reviewed your lifetime earnings record and used the highest earning 35 years of earnings over your

after you left military service, your current SS benefit is already based on those later higher earning years, and you will not get anything additional from those "special extra credits" for your military service years.

FYI, we know it is often difficult

to contact the Social Security Administration by phone, as well as trying to visit SSA offices without an appointment, which is why our AMAC Foundation provides this free service). SSA is now allowing in-person visits "by appointment only" and you can call the above number to schedule an in-person appointment at your local SSA office. But before you do, please consider what I've said above. And remember that your SS benefit is based on the highest earning 35 years over your entire lifetime and each year represents only 1/35th of your benefit amount. So, is it worth the trouble? That depends on whether your military earnings, including the "special extra credits for military service," are among the highest over your entire lifetime. If the answer is "yes" then it is likely worth it; if "no" then perhaps not.

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



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 SS full retirement age.

If, after your military service, you had 35 or more years of earnings which were higher than what you earned while serving, Social Security would have used those later higher earnings to calculate your benefit, and your military earnings wouldn't affect your benefit. If, however, 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 benefit.

So, whether you will benefit from these "special extra credits for military service" depends largely on your post-service earnings history. 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.

Social Security should have asked about your military service when you applied. If you didn't advise SS of 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" when you applied. However, if you had at least 35 years of higher earnings

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. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

The REGISTER TEAM

EDITORIAL
register@turley.com



ASSISTANT EDITOR
Marcelo Gusmao
mgusmao@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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www.register.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



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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 register@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.

CHECK OUT ALL THE
Turley Publications
www.turley.com



Vasco da Gama, as depicted in approximately 1516 by an anonymous artist, reached Mozambique on March 2, 1498.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

This Week in History March 2

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

On Feb. 26, in 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from exile on the island of Elba and gathered support to retake power on his return to Paris.

On Feb. 27, in 1951, the Twenty-second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which limited U.S. presidents to serving two four-year terms, was ratified.

On Feb. 28, in 1827, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad became the first steam-operated railway in the United States to be chartered as a common carrier of freight

and passengers.

On Feb. 30-31, nothing happened, because that date doesn't exist.

On March 1, in 1919, protesters in Seoul launched the March First Movement, a series of demonstrations for Korean national independence from Japan.

On March 2, in 1498, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama and his fleet reached the Island of Mozambique on their first voyage to India.

On March 3, in 2005, American adventurer Steve Fossett became the first person to complete a solo nonstop circumnavigation of the globe.

Finally, on March 4, in 1837, Chicago was incorporated as a city, with a population of about 4,200.

What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library

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

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

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

FOR ALL AGES

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

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

FOR ADULTS

Ukulele Night, Thursday, March 6, 6:00 pm. Musician Julie is back with another in-demand Ukulele class! Have you been wanting to try an instrument that's fun and easy to play? Come catch some island vibes during this frigid cold and learn the fundamentals of ukulele playing! Register.

Mass Center for the Book Monthly Reading Challenge Each month, you'll be challenged to read a book based on a chosen theme. Those who participate will be entered to win a free book! For more information and to sign up, please visit mass-book.org/readingchallenge.

Chair Volleyball for Seniors, every Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Have some fun and

join us for chair volleyball! No running or jumping required. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408. Walk-ins are welcome.

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

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

FOR TEENS

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

Chess Club, every other Monday, March 10, March 24, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. All experience levels are welcome for an hour of chess, some instruction provided. For ages 9-17. Please register.

Youth Crochet Club, every other Tuesday, March 11, March 25, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For ages 10-17. For beginners up to experienced crocheters, supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

Friendship Bracelets for Tweens and Teens, Tuesday, March 4, 6:00 p.m. If you're a beginner it's easy to learn how to make them. If you've made them before then add more to your collection! Please register.

Nintendo Switch Night for YAs, Tuesday, March 18, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. For middle and high school. Play Mario Kart, Smash Bros, or some of the library's new Switch games. Free pizza sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Limited to 16 people. Please register.

Magic the Gathering Club, Monthly, Thursday, March 6, April 3, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. For middle and high school. Bring your cards or use our decks. Please register.

"Read Between the Lines" High School Book Group, monthly, Friday, February 28, then Friday, March 28, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Monthly book chat for ages 14-17. For February the group is finishing Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros. In March the group is reading Iron Flame by Rebecca Yarros. Copies of the book are available in the Youth Room. Registration preferred.

FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt, Monday, March 17, all day. All ages. Find the symbols of St. Patrick's Day around the Youth Room to win a prize. Drop-in.

Good Vibes Sticker Making, Monday, March 24, all day. All ages. Make stickers to boost your spirits and remind yourself that you're awesome! Drop-in.

Pokemon Club, every other Wednesday, March 5, March 19, April 2, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. For ages 8-14. Trading, dueling, and gaming on your own handhelds, phones, or Nintendo Switch. Please have your name on everything you bring to the club. Please register.



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

Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

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

- 10 a.m. Sunshine Painting Class*
- 10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation*
- 1 p.m. Mahjong
- 2 p.m. Book Club: Age of Repose by Wallace Stegner
- 2 p.m. Writer's Block*
- 2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

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

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR:
Please register in advance for items with*

- Wednesday, Feb. 26**
- 9 a.m. Ceramics
 - 9 a.m. Zumba Gold
 - 9 a.m. Facials by Appointment*
 - 10 a.m. Opera Appreciation
 - 10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*
 - 1 p.m. Movie: Cabaret (1972)
 - 1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*
 - 1 p.m. TED Talk Hour

- Thursday, Feb. 27**
- 8:45 a.m. Foot Care by Appointment*
 - 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 - 9:30 a.m. Dominos

*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:

Wednesday, Feb. 26: Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce/Garlic Bread
Thursday, Feb. 27: Southwest Chicken Salad

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

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

Ludlow Lions Club will present dinner

LUDLOW – The Lions Club will present a Comical Modern Mystery Dinner "Deadly Chateau Shenanigans, on Saturday, March 8. Doors open at 6 p.m. and Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m.; \$45 per person or 2 for \$85.

Participate and interact with Cza Cza Grabmore and her three famous investiga-

tors. Diners become part of the best Murder Mystery Party ever. But this party just got deadly.

Tony & Penny's Restaurant, 18 Canterbury St. Menu includes: Chicken Soup, Salad, Rolls, Fish Filet w/ Rice, Roast Beef, Seasonal Vegetables, Desert & Coffee/ Tea (Pasta Primavera upon

request). Tickets may be purchased thru the mail by sending a check, made payable to the Ludlow Lions Club, to PO Box 72, Ludlow, MA 01056. Or by visiting <https://bit.ly/LudlowLionsClub>. ludlowlions@yahoo.com.

Ludlow Community Center/ Randall Boys & Girls Club's 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT SCHEDULE

**MARCH 1, 2025
SCHEDULED**

- 12:00 PM** Doors Open
- 12:30 PM** Opening Ceremony (Gym)
- 1:00 PM** Club Kid Sing Along (Gym)
- 1:00 PM** Escape Room (Club Blue) Ages 10-15
- 1:00 PM** Story Time with *Hubbard Library* (Preschool C)
- 1:30 PM** *Lupa Zoo* visits the Club! (Game Room)
- 2:00 PM** Yoga with *The Alley Yoga Studio* (Gym) Age 16+
- 2:30 PM** Story Time with *Hubbard Library* (Preschool C)
- 2:30 PM** Drop-in STEAM Project (Makerspace) Age 10+
- 3:00 PM** Senior Bootcamp with *Diane* (Gym) Age 50+

**12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
ONGOING**

- 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM** Food Trucks Dev's Mac N Eats & Coffee Cabin (available for purchase)
- 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM** Explore the Club Challenge
- 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM** Open Family Swim (Pool)
- 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM** 75th Anniversary Arts & Crafts (Art Room)
- 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM** Open Gaming (eSports Lab) Ages 8+

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Members of the Lions Club, (from left) John Martowski, Charlie Gravelin, Phyllis Carneiro, and Sue Padgett, served hot coffee and cocoa.



250th Committee Chair Linda Collette (center) received the 250th Anniversary plaque alongside Select Board Members (from left) Tony Goncalves, Bill Rosenblum, Derek DeBarge, and James Gennette.

Last Night



Mary Beth Silva (standing) helped residents while they made paper bag puppets, (from left) Dorothy, age six, Sharlette, age five, Yadira Ramos, and Zariah Stack.

LAST NIGHT from page 1

and community groups such as Scouting America had tables with activities as well.

Lupa Zoo brought in small animals for the guests to interact with, and balloon artist and magician Ed Popielarczyk performed magic tricks and made balloon animals in the afternoon. Live music was performed over the course of the day by the CCG Band and the Kingdom of Jones Band.

The event also involved a bonfire, and attendees were able to ride the Roaming Railroad. At the end of the celebration, a fireworks display was held at 6 p.m.

250th Celebration Committee Chair Linda Collette was very happy with the turn-out, which she said rivalled last year's First Night. Collette said she'd already been approached about making the event a regular celebration.

"It's an expensive day," Collette said. "You have to pay for the music and the fireworks. The crafters pay us to be here, but you need the attractions."

This event concluded the town's 250th celebrations, and marks the end of a year full of fun events that were made special by the community's enthusiasm and spirit.



Faith Community Chapel's chili is always a big attraction, served by (from left) Elaine Weiss, Ed Sanderson, and Carmen and Mary Camp.



Ken and Joyce Douthwright of Belchertown had a table for their business, Cold Spring Soapery.



ABOVE: Olivia Eberli from the Hubbard Memorial Library stood by a display of old photographs from around town.



RIGHT: Tom Barbeau helped Zadrian, age six, and Keziah, age five, make a craft. (Not pictured: Vanessa Smipson and Jesenia Lopez.)

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CLUES ACROSS

- Greek mythological figure
- Small amount
- Play a role
- River in Georgia and Alabama
- Water in the solid state
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- Fleece
- Writer/actress Dunham
- Behave in a way that belittles
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Zoroastrian concept of holy fire
- Conceits
- Slowed down
- Nourishment
- Midway between east and southeast
- Fights

CLUES DOWN

- S. American plant
- Comedienne Tyler
- Standing operating procedure
- Locks
- Old
- Song sung to one's lover
- Whale ship captain
- Moved quickly on foot
- Volcanic craters
- Large musical instrument
- Liquefied natural gas
- Ethiopian town
- Not closed
- A team's best pitcher
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Disfigure
- Prefix denoting "in a"
- Sleep

CLUES ACROSS

- Soul and calypso song
- Fruit of the service tree
- Continent
- Albania's capital
- Poisonous plant
- Argues
- Assists
- Town in Galilee
- Russian leader
- Promotional materials
- Wings
- Not odd
- Expression of creativity
- Conceptualize
- A digital tape recording of sound
- Peyton's little brother
- Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- Difference in potential
- Owner
- I (German)
- Chinese conception of poetry

CLUES DOWN

- The world of the dead
- Sign language
- Coincide
- Religious observance
- Confined condition (abbr.)
- Polite interruption sound
- Texas ballplayer
- Type of sword
- Abba ____, Israeli politician
- Basic unit of a chemical element
- Native American people in California
- Swiss river
- Hebrew calendar month
- Easily swindled person
- One point south of southwest
- Small island (British)

Wistariahurst offers kid art classes

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

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

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

March 2: Color, Pattern and building a mural using inspiration by artist Yayoi Kusama

April 6: Art with Recycled Materials and found objects (Earth Day inspired)

May 4: Exploring Still Life drawing with pastels in-

spiration by artist Georgia O'Keeffe

June 1: Drawing from Nature Outdoors inspiration by artist Claude Monet

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

To learn more, visit: [EventBrite.com/E/Wistariahurst-Kids-Art-Classes-Tickets-1104573572289?aff=Od-dTDTCreator](https://www.eventbrite.com/E/Wistariahurst-Kids-Art-Classes-Tickets-1104573572289?aff=Od-dTDTCreator).

COLLEGE NEWS

Dean's List honors announced at Tufts University

MEDFORD —Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Tommy Caproni, Class of 2027, of Ludlow

Ebru Karaarslan, Class of 2027, of Ludlow

Torcato Zina, Class of 2027, of Ludlow

Sydney Germain named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at Emmanuel College

BOSTON—Sydney Germain, of Ludlow (01056), has been named to Emmanuel College's Fall 2024 Dean's List in recognition of academic excellence. Germain is a Criminology & Criminal Justice major.

To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

DCR lists upcoming winter hybrid presentations

BELCHERTOWN – The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, announces the schedule for winter hybrid presentations.

All programs are scheduled for 2 p.m. In person seating is limited to 45 people.

In case of bad weather, the programs will only be held virtually. Please register for any of these events by visiting <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events>.

Quabbin Reservoir and Watershed Protection

Sunday, March 2 from 2-3 p.m.

Engineering, forestry, wildlife and aquatic biology, carpentry, mowing and snowplowing...how do all of these things combine to protect the water supply of over three million people in Massachusetts? How does they benefit the region around the reservoir?

This presentation from the Visitor Center staff explores how the many different goals of DCR staff all support one goal, Quabbin watershed protection.

Stay off the ice this winter

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

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

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

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



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Inspiring stories share impact of care

WMAS Radiothon for Baystate Children's Hospital

SPRINGFIELD—The public is invited to join in the fun at the 24th annual 94.7 WMAS Radiothon for Baystate Children's Hospital at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on March 4 and 5 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Broadcasting live from the 94.7 WMAS studios, the Kellogg Krew will connect listeners with stories from patients, team members, and community members that are filled with hope, miracles, and the impact of Baystate Children's Hospital. Among the many stories shared will be Emilia Cecchetelli's, the 2025 Children's Miracle Network Ambassador for Baystate Children's Hospital. Four-year-old Emilia was born at 26 weeks and spent 143 days in the Davis Neonatal Intensive Care Unit fighting chronic lung disease and Craniosynostosis, a condition which causes problems with normal brain and



skull growth. Listeners will hear how she's doing today and how the care at Baystate Children's Hospital played a critical role in her life.

Attendees of the Radiothon will be able to have their photo taken on the red carpet, make a donation, and get a sneak peek of the Kellogg Krew broadcasting live.

"Each year, I feel so inspired by the stories we are able to share and the families we are able to meet," said 94.7 WMAS' Chris Kellogg. "Baystate Children's Hospi-

tal plays such a critical role in our community, and we are happy to support it in any way we can."

There are many ways to donate. Listeners can visit WMASKids.com, text WMASKIDS to 51555, or call the Lia Auto Group Phone Bank at 413-794-1111 from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on March 4 and 5.

"It really is incredible what our community can accomplish when we come together for an important cause," said Interim Vice

President of Philanthropy, Baystate Health, and Executive Director, Baystate Health Foundation, Kathy Tobin. "As the only accredited, full-service children's hospital in western Massachusetts, the Radiothon helps provide vital funding for care that spans our region."

Baystate Children's Hospital is one of 170 fundraising Children's Miracle Network Hospitals across the country. Children's Miracle Network Hospitals are unique in that 100% of all money raised locally goes directly to Baystate Children's Hospital in Springfield in support of children's health programs and services.

Major sponsors for the Radiothon include Hyundai Hope on Wheels, Lia Auto Group, Pioneer Valley Credit Union, Eversource, M&T Bank, City Tire, and Peoples-Bank.

To make a donation online today, visit WMASKIDS.com, or for more information, email Event Manager Heather Clark at Heather.Clark2@BaystateHealth.org.

Oliveira leads over 80 legislators in call for urgent review of Energy Rate Increases

BOSTON – In response to unprecedented spikes in energy bills across Massachusetts, State Senator Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) is leading a coalition of state legislators to jointly call on the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to immediately reassess recent rate hikes approved for investor-owned utility companies, including Eversource and National Grid.

In a letter addressed to DPU Chair James Van Nostrand, Oliveira was joined by more than eighty legislators who expressed grave concern over the financial strain these increases place on households and small businesses.

"Residents across our districts have reported alarming increases in their utility bills, with some seeing their costs double," said Oliveira in the joint letter. "A senior constituent of mine's Eversource bill jumped to \$449.91 in January, nearly \$300 of which was due to supply costs alone. These excessive rate

hikes are unsustainable for working families, seniors, and small business owners who are already struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living.

The letter highlighted the burden on vulnerable residents, including seniors on fixed incomes who are experiencing an astonishing 27% increase in their heating costs. Despite claims from Eversource that the spikes are due to colder temperatures and increased usage, many ratepayers who have maintained consistent energy consumption are still seeing drastic hikes.

"Families are having to make the impossible decision between putting food on the table and heating their homes. This is unacceptable."

Oliveira and the legislators are demanding that the DPU conduct a comprehensive and transparent review of Eversource's pricing structure to determine

Please see **ENERGY**, page 11

SUMMER CAMP GUIDE



MacDuffie offers fun summer camp

Camp MacDuffie is an exciting summer day camp for rising 1st to 8th graders.

Participants spend the morning engaged in a program area of their choosing, enjoy lunch by Sage Dining Services (included), and then stay active with various outdoor/indoor activities and field trips throughout the week.

Their program leaders are passionate and experienced, and they all look forward to creating a fun and supportive environment for your child to thrive in this summer.

Come along and join Camp MacDuffie this summer.

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MacDuffie Hoops Summer Camp available with Coach Steiner.

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This camp is for players who are serious about improving and want to sharpen their skills, build confidence, and grow their game.

The MacDuffie School is located in Granby, MA. Limited spots are available – Register today!

Don't miss your chance to train with Coach Steiner! Sign up now and get ready to work hard, compete, and have fun!

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#SummerBasketball
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Day and overnight camp for girls

It's in our DNA. Our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, was a famous lover of nature. Today, Girl Scouts honors her legacy by promoting respect and love of the great outdoors far and wide.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) summer camps offer a wide variety of programs for all different interests.

Summer camp is a great way for girls to explore leadership, build skills, and develop a deep appreciation for nature. In a girl-led environment, all campers are able to challenge themselves and take healthy risks while

surrounded by supportive friends and camp staff. No prior Girl Scout experience needed to attend Girl Scout camp!

Camping has been a cornerstone of the Girl Scout experience for more than a century. While girls are swimming, hiking, and honing their skills on the archery range, they're also achieving valuable life skills whether at Day Camp at Lewis Perkins in South Hadley or Overnight Camp at Bonnie Brae in Otis. Girl Scouts' dedication to progression in outdoor programming means campers practice age-appropriate skills and gain experience

they need to feel confident taking the next step in their outdoor journey.

No matter which camp you choose or whether the stay is a few days, a week, or longer, your camper will have a ton of fun making new friends, trying new things, practicing new-found skills, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. Financial assistance is available.

Camp Lewis Perkins and Camp Bonnie Brae are American Camp Association Accredited. More information and sign up here: <https://www.gscwm.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/camp-and-outdoors/summer-camp.html>.

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Mason Morace extends for a shot.

Filipe Fernandes takes the free throw.

Cameron Lyman looks for a lane to the layup.

Lions head for state tourney



Jackson Mateus fights through a pair of guards for a shot on the hoop.



Kobe McKay gets the open shot.

LUDLOW – Last Tuesday night, Ludlow High School faced Easthampton in nonplayoff action and scored 67-46 win at home. In the victory, Cameron Lyman had one of his best efforts of the season with 24 points. Jackson Mateus had 17 points and Mason Morace had 15 points. The Lions finished the regular season with an even 10-10 record to make the state tournament. The Lions were scheduled to go on the road to Apponequet Regional on Monday in the first round of the Division 3 State Tournament.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Lions hockey draws home game

LUDLOW – Last weekend, the seeds for the Division 3 State Tournament were released. Ludlow received the No. 32 seed, the bottom seed in the tournament. The Lions, which cop this year with Belcher-town, drew a home game as Middleborough made it into the tournament as the No. 33 seed with a .500 or better record.

The two teams were set

to face off early this week at Olympia Ice Center. If the Lions are successful in the preliminary round game against Middleborough, the Lions would head to the far other end of the state to face Nauset Regional on Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. The game would be held at the Charles Moore Arena in Orleans, a town near the end of Cape Cod.

Thunderbirds get big win in shootout

BRIDGEPORT — The Springfield Thunderbirds (26-19-2-3) walked a tightrope and escaped with a 3-2 shootout win over the Bridgeport Islanders (12-33-3-3) on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena.



field the 1-0 lead. Both teams exchanged unsuccessful power plays during second-period action, but a strange sequence of events at the 5-on-5 resulted in the next key moment in the game. It began at the 17:27 mark when Matthew Peca one-timed a pass from MacKenzie MacEachern from the right-wing circle. The captain immediately celebrated what he believed to be a goal, but referees deemed it hit the crossbar, and play continued. Just seconds later, Brian Pinho beat Zherenko on a breakaway at the opposite end of the rink, and the Isles believed they had tied the game, 1-1.

From the game's onset, T-Birds starting netminder Vadim Zherenko was dialed in, as he fended off a ferocious first-period barrage as the Isles launched 15 shots at the Springfield net. Despite managing only five attempts at the opposite end, the T-Birds kept the game even heading into the second.

For a second straight day, the T-Birds offense came to life in the back end of the middle frame, beginning with Otto Stenberg cashing in for the game's opening marker at 11:05. Hugh McGing gathered the puck behind the goal line and slipped it into the left circle for a pinching Anton Malmstrom. The Springfield defenseman's shot glanced off Henrik Tikkanen before coming to rest in the crease for Stenberg, who tapped it into the yawning net to give Spring-

field the 2-0 lead heading into the third. Despite what has been a difficult season, the last-place Islanders refused to waver in the third. Eetu Liukas finally solved Zherenko with a perfectly placed wrist shot from the left side

Please see **T-BIRDS**, Page 10

Ludlow girls basketball loses to Granby



Nora Adams heads for the hoop.



Aneysha Donais drives around a guard to the hoop.



Kayliana Moret fights to make a layup attempt.

LUDLOW – On Tuesday, Feb. 10, Ludlow High School girls basketball suffered a 52-37 setback at Granby High School. In one of its final games of the season, the Lions were in the game early, but the offense could not keep up in the second half. Madelyn Riley and Aneysha Donais had seven points each to lead the team.



Ryleigh Remillard goes for an open shot.



Karley Roman goes for a free throw.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

SPORTS

Hodgdon looks for big impact in NAPA Duel qualifying race

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Since beginning his racing career at Stafford Speedway in the Legend Cars division in 2014, Danbury, CT native Teddy Hodgdon has enjoyed more than just a small amount of success. Hodgdon won 5 races in the Legend Cars division before moving into the SK Light division, where he won 6 races in 2 seasons along with the 2019 track championship. Hodgdon began racing his family owned #55 Montanari Fuel open modified car in 2022 and in 17 starts at Stafford, Hodgdon has 8 top-5 and 10 top-10 finishes. But with finishes of 16th, 16th, and 24th in his 3 career NAPA Spring Sizzler® starts, he has yet to taste success in “The Greatest Race in the History of Spring.”

“It’s really just how things have played out for us,” said Hodgdon. “The first year we raced the Sizzler® it was one of our first races with the open style car so you can chalk that up to beginner’s luck and then the last couple races have just been wrong place, wrong time for us with incidents or we had a bad pit stop. The cards have definitely not fallen our way the last couple years so hopefully we can get that turned around this season.”

Hodgdon appeared to have his Sizzler® luck turn for the better in the 2024 edition of the race by winning his 40-lap NAPA Duel qualifying race that put him on pole position for the 100-lap main event. A mid-race incident that collected Hodgdon relegated him to a 24th place effort after running in the top-10 for the first half of the race.

“It definitely stinks not

having a good showing at the Sizzler®, especially last season when we won the Duel race,” said Hodgdon. “We thought we were going to have a good shot at winning the race last season, but for whatever reason we can’t seem to capitalize on the big races at Stafford like we can with the races in the summer months. We have a little different game plan on what we’re going to do this year and with the Sizzler® format changed from the last couple years, the race will be more like a standard show and we’re better at those.”

The 2025 edition of the NAPA Spring Sizzler® will see the race format go back to being a one-day event with qualifying heat races setting the starting grid. Hodgdon thinks going back to the one-day format will be a benefit for him and his team as well as other drivers who will make up the starting field as well as the fact that he and his team skipped out on traveling to New Smyrna in Florida to concentrate on their northern racing efforts.

“With the old race format, you had to focus on the Duel race one day and then the Sizzler® on the second day where this new format is just one day with standard heat races and then go feature racing,” said Hodgdon. “I think the newer format works a lot better for a lot of the drivers, myself included. I think this year by not going to Speedweeks and focusing on the northern part of our schedule, we won’t be rushing anything and we’ll be able to pinpoint some details in order for us to have success at the start of the season.”

Like much of the field,

Hodgdon has an extensive background at Stafford that he can lean on in terms of putting the correct setup in his #55 car. While Hodgdon and the #55 team have showed that their car is quick at Stafford, they’re still searching for ways to make their car even faster while trying to eliminate an issue they had with long run speed.

“Everyone is striving to be better and we certainly are hoping we can make the car better,” said Hodgdon. “It seems like our long run speed last year didn’t seem quite as right as it had the last couple seasons at Stafford, so that’s what we’re working on. If we can have a good long run car, then we should be right there at the end of the race. We were great in time trials and in heat races, but it would seem like always right around lap-40 the car would start to fall on its face. Stafford has been my home track forever and I have a million laps there and I love the place, it’s just getting there and executing on all fronts. We need to make sure the setup and the tires on the car are good and our pit stops are where they need to be. Hopefully everything can come together for us and we can knock one out this year.”

The 53rd Annual NAPA Spring Sizzler® is set for April 26-27. The NAPA Spring Sizzler® kicks off on Saturday, April 26, with feature events for the Late Model, Limited Late Model, and Street Stock divisions, along with SK Light qualifying duel races that will set the field for an extra-distance 30-lap feature event on Sunday, April 27.

Railers get shutout win in road finale

CHARLESTON, SC – The Worcester Railers HC (24-23-2-4 54pts) lost to the South Carolina Stingrays (33-13-3-2, 71pts) on Sunday afternoon by a final score of 3-0 in front of a crowd of 4,503 at the North Charleston Coliseum.

The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center taking on the Bloomington Bison on Friday, February 28th, at 7:05 p.m. for Monkey Wrenches weekend.

Jamie Engelbert (1-0-1) opened up the scoring with a goal for the Stingrays early in the second period. 8:35 into the third period Alexander Suzdalev(1-0-1) netted another goal for the Sting-

rays increasing their lead to 2-0. The Stingrays kept their momentum going with a goal late in the third period by Tyler Weiss (1-0-1) which would be the final goal of the game to give the Stingrays a 3-0 win over Worcester.

Neither team was able to get the puck in the net in the first period. Hugo Ollas had 11 saves on 11 shots while Garin Bjorklund had 7 saves on 7 shots. The score was 0-0 going into the second period.

The Stingrays struck first with a goal from Jamie Engelbert (14th) just 2:18 into the second period, placing a shot perfectly over the glove hand of Ollas to score what would eventually be

the game-winner. This was the only action in the second period, while South Carolina out shot the Railers 15-4 in the second.

Alexander Suzdalev (10th) gave the Stingrays a 2-0 lead over the Railers in the third period. The Stingrays continued their scoring with a goal by Tyler Weiss (14th) who finished off a rebound along the far side on a wide open net. Weiss’ goal was the final goal of the game giving the Stingrays a 3-0 victory over the Railers. The Railers outshot the Stingrays 12-11 in the third period.

T-BIRDS from Page 9

at 10:13 of the final period, setting the stage for a chaotic finish to regulation in a 2-1 game.

After Springfield killed off one Islander power play, Tikkanen raced to the bench in the final minute, and with a cavalcade of bodies around the slot, Sam Bolduc found a home for a point wrist shot at 19:07, and the game was tied heading into overtime, 2-2.

The Islanders had most of the high-danger chances in the 3-on-3 period, but Zherenko locked back in and answered the bell on three Bridgeport attempts while getting a break as Bolduc rang a shot off the post.

Peca got the T-Birds off on the right foot in the shootout, beating Tikkanen through the right armpit to give Springfield the edge. Zherenko took care of matters from there, stopping

Matt Maggio and William Dufour before getting an assist from the post on Chris Terry’s attempt to push the shootout into a fourth round. The shootout triumph was Springfield’s first away from home since Dec. 31, 2022.

Winners of three straight, the T-Birds continue their five-game road swing on Friday night when they visit the Hartford Wolf Pack for a 7:00 p.m. puck drop at the XL Center.

ANNIVERSARY from Page 1

so much for adults and seniors, we want to make sure people come to get a fuller understanding of the things we offer. We want to make sure people know how the club benefits the whole community.”

Senator Jake Oliveira and State Representative Aaron Saunders will be at the club at 12:30 for opening remarks, and Jardine invited residents to spend the rest of the time exploring the club and the different games and activities that will be going on.

“In every room, there will be something happening,” Jardine said.

Besides the presentations by the Hubbard Memorial

Library and Lupa Zoo, there will also be a photobooth from After Hours Events, and yoga with Allegra Yoga Studio.

Over 75 years, the Boys and Girls Club has made improvements to keep up with the needs of the modern family. Jardine had a lot of praise for the club’s ability to adapt to better offer its services to the community.

“One of the things that the club is so great at is continuing to evolve to support families’ needs as they change,” Jardine said. “Whether it’s changing our hours for the summer camp program because parents go to work earlier, or offering different programs like STEAM, we keep the programs fresh.”

Jardine said that the club partners with community resources that adults benefit from to offer things like fitness classes, personal training, and pickleball, which she said has been a huge draw for the community.

There is no RSVP required for the kick-off event, so anyone interested in seeing what the Boys and Girls Club has to offer can come to the Randall’s Community Center on Saturday, March 1, from 12 to 4 p.m.

In addition, the club will be holding multiple events throughout the year in the hopes of raising \$75,000 to support projects the club will be undertaking, including tournaments of basketball and pickleball.

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SCHOCHET IS CURRENTLY HIRING!

We are currently accepting resumes for an **Experienced Property Manager or Asst Property Manager** at Weldon House in Greenfield, MA. Weldon House is a 105-unit elderly/disabled apartment community with a Section 8 project based subsidy program.
3+ years of prior multifamily property management experience, strong knowledge of Section 8 program. COS designation required and ARM designation preferred. Able to motivate and manage property management staff and have excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills. Excellent benefits package and competitive salary.
Interested and qualified candidates, please submit resume to:
careers@schochet.com.
Pre-employment background check & drug test required. EOE
For more information on this position please contact **Robin @ 617-398-5144 schochet.com**

The **Town of Russell Sewer/Water Department** is accepting resumes for the full time position of **SEWER/ WATER OPERATOR** at **Town of Russell WWTP, 200 Main Street, Russell, MA 01071-0131** or email **russellw-wandw@townofrussell.us**.

Applicants will need a Grade 4 Wastewater, 1T Water, and a 1D Water licenses or the ability to acquire them.
Inquire at office or thru email.

Worthington Police Department Full-time Police Officer

The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for **Full-time Police Officer**. Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license. They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.

This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined, possess a community policing philosophy and live in or near Worthington. This position has the potential to be elevated to Police Chief.

Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to:
Worthington Police Department P.O. Box 247 Worthington, MA 01098
Or via email to: **sboard@worthington-ma.us**
Subject line: Employment

Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.
The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

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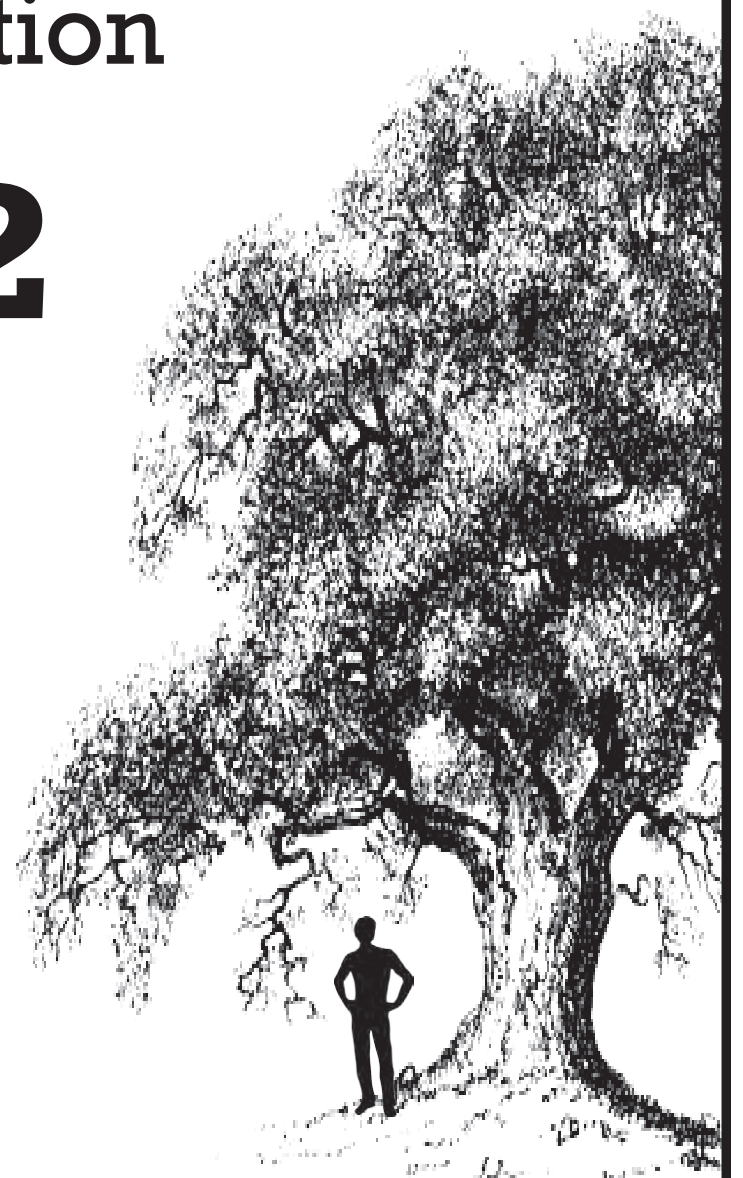
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