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# The REGISTER

LOCAL NEWS | LOCAL STORIES | LOCAL ADVERTISERS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

May 15, 2024 | Vol. 81, No. 10

www.register.turley.com

## Selectmen interview candidates for Building Inspector

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
 mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – At its May 7 meeting, the Board of Selectmen conducted an important interview with Brenda Church, who is in the running to be the next building inspector for the town.

Church comes from the south, originally from Arkansas.

“I’m a cotton farmer’s daughter from Arkansas, I’m a mom of two great kids, and I’m a building commissioner in the state of Massachusetts,” Church said.

Church said that while she has worked all over the commonwealth, she has been gaining knowledge to try to become a better Building Commissioner.

After Selectman Manuel Silva confirmed that Church had all the necessary certifications for the position, Church added that there is some continued education.

“We have to keep 45 credit hours to keep our commission through the state,” Church said.

Church estimated that she conducted approximately 2,000 inspections on average in any given year, with as much as double that in permits.

“When do you sleep?” asked Selectman Tony Goncalves, to laughs from Church and the other Selectmen.

Church said that she works Monday through Sunday unless she’s on vacation, because she enjoys the work.

“I wanted to learn this job,” Church said, “because I believe that the state-adopted building code is a minimal safety code at best.”

“When I first started doing this, I saw a model that I really appreciated after being in the military, having a chain of command and having that respect,” Church said. “I saw that in the beginning when I became a young inspector, where you had a building commissioner who was teaching that local inspector how to be a building commissioner, because you can pass all the state exams, all eight of them, but it doesn’t teach you how to be a building commissioner. When you become a building commissioner, 70% of it is the code, and the rest is the politics, the people, and the everyday life of it.”

“Somewhere along the way, we lost that, and now what we’re finding ourselves, or at least what I see, is people aren’t signing up to be Building Commissioners anymore, or Building Inspectors,” Church

Please see **SELECTMEN**, page 5



Elizabeth Reidel and Todd Ostrowski presented an award to Ava Laing, who placed first out of 570 submissions in her grade.



The winners of this year’s Stock Market Game, (from left) Bryce Lipson and Ava Laing. Submitted photos

## Baird students receive SIFMA award

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
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LUDLOW – Two students from Baird Middle School were recognized last week for their submissions to the fall semester of SIFMA Foundation’s InvestWrite program.

The SIFMA Foundation is an organization working to close opportunity gaps by fostering better knowledge of the financial markets to young people of all backgrounds. In-

vestWrite is a culminating activity for Stock Market Game students extending their classroom learning with a written challenge to address real-world financial issues and situations, requiring students to analyze, think critically and problem solve about long-term saving and investing scenarios.

This year, Bryce Lipson was presented with the 6th place award, and Ava Laing won 1st place nationally out of 570 8th grade submissions. The National Director of the

program, Elizabeth Reidel, presented the awards with the help of Todd Ostrowski, the school’s Math for Personal Finance teacher.

“This is my 17th year,” Ostrowski said. “I started in 2007. My official position back then was 6th grade math teacher, but position now is Intro to Personal Finance to the Stock Market, which is amazing when I’m talking to someone on a ski-lift, they’ll ask if I’m a college professor; they’re surprised I’m able to

do this in a middle school.”

Ostrowski teaches an introductory class to Personal Finance in the Stock Market, which is a subject he’s very passionate about. He has 100 students between his 7th and 8th grade classes, and the Stock Market Game is a requirement for their grade.

“I had fun with the students, helping them write with more evidence and always look at that perspective,” Os-

Please see **SIFMA**, page 5

## Fire Department fights a three-alarm fire during storm

By Marcelo Gusmão  
 Staff Writer  
 mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW— Chief Ryan Pease reports that the Ludlow Fire Department extinguished a 3-alarm house fire located at 484 Poole St. on Wednesday evening.

On May 8 at 7:19 p.m., the Fire Department received a call from a resident who reported that their home was struck by lightning and there was smoke coming from the house.

Upon arrival, first responders observed fire coming from the attic of the home and struck a second alarm. A third alarm was quickly struck to bring tankers to the scene due to the lack of a municipal water supply in the area and to bring other additional resour-



The Ludlow Fire Department responded to a three-alarm house fire on Wednesday evening on Poole Street. Submitted Photo

es and support.

Firefighters made an aggressive interior fire attack to stop the fire from spreading further into the home, and the

fire was brought under control within approximately 35 minutes. Pease talked about the way the department assesses these risks.

“We make a calculated risk based on the conditions presented and resources available,” Pease said. “The Captain made a call that it was a fire we could control with the resources we had, so they did.”

There was structural damage to the garage, breezeway, kitchen, bathroom, and some of the roof structure. There was also smoke and water damage to the home.

Three residents were able to safely evacuate from the home prior to the arrival of firefighters. The residents were displaced as a result of the fire. Additionally, firefighters were able to locate a cat in the home and return it to the residents. There were no reported injuries.

Mutual aid at the scene was provided by fire departments

Please see **FIRE**, page 11



## Upcoming Events!

To register for any events

Visit us at [Ludlowma250.org](http://Ludlowma250.org)



### Kids Bike Parade and Bike Rodeo

Saturday, May 25th, 10am-noon

Free to enter, registration required.

Go to our website [ludlowma250.org](http://ludlowma250.org) to register.

Ages K-5th. Prizes awarded!

Decorate your bike, trike, wagon, etc.

Parade starts at the Mill Clock Tower, travels down

River Walk, ends at Iron Duke parking lot.

Randall's will be serving cups of ice cream to all registered participants.

### Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 27th

Kicks Off at 9am  
the Gremio Lusitano War Memorial,  
385 Winsor St.



### 250th Celebration Block Party Picnic & Parade

Saturday, June 15th

PARADE!  
10am kickoff from Ludlow High School.



Mummer bands, performance bands, high school bands, floats, police and fire departments, military units, sherrif's department, community groups, churches & athletic organizations and so much more!

**BLOCK PARTY PICNIC! 11:30am at Ludlow Memorial Park/Veterans War Memorial Park**

- Live music - 8 bands throughout the day
- Kids entertainment - Magician Ed Popielarczyk & Puppeteer Tom Knight
- Food trucks, local breweries & V-one Vodka
- Manuel Amusements
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SCAN FOR MAP & MORE INFO



**FIREWORKS!**  
begin around 9:20pm

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

# LUDLOW

## Veterans Services Department announces Memorial Day celebrations

LUDLOW – The town will honor and remember its fallen with two events on Memorial Day Weekend.

On Sunday, May 26, at 7 p.m., a Candlelight Vigil will be held at the Veterans Memorial at 15 East St. During the vigil, a roll call of names of those who have been killed in service to our country will be read and a 21 Gun Salute and Taps will be played.

On Monday, May 27, the Memorial Day Parade will kick off at the corner of Winsor and Worcester Street at 10 a.m.

### PARADE ROUTE:

From Winsor Street down to Warren Street; left onto East Street; right onto Hubbard Street; right on Oak Street; left on Howard Street to Maple Street; left on Maple; down to Hubbard Street; right on Hubbard; left on Center Street to the Bridge on Ludlow Ave; past the reviewing stand. Only Marchers will be allowed to turn onto Chestnut Street. All Floats and Vehicles will continue and turn on Sewall Street, with a ceremony to follow at Veterans Memorial.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Veterans' Services at 413-707-5050.

### CORRECTION

In last week's paper Planning Board Vice Chairperson Joel Silva's name was spelled incorrectly. We regret this error and apologize to Mr. Silva for the inaccuracy.

### 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.



THELMA & LOUISE

Thelma and Louise are a bonded pair rescued by T.J. O'Connor. They are about 7 and 8 years old. They live with Angie and Phil Tierney. Thelma is very shy, and Louise is feisty. We feature your pets here. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse... you get the point. Is there a pet you're fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to [mgusmao@turley.com](mailto:mgusmao@turley.com).

### Ludlow Self Storage

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# Marra interviews for Ludlow Treasurer/Collector position

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

The Selectmen conducted an interview with Brenda Marra for the position of Treasurer/Collector.

Brenda Marra explained that she's been working as a treasurer since 2017 in the town of Lenox, and was in Blandford prior to that, as an Assessor Assistant.

"That's where I started in the municipality," Marra said. "I was on unemployment and I said, 'I'll just apply here, they probably won't hire me because I have no municipal experience'; surprise!"

Marra indicated that her work was primarily in the role of Treasurer, but assured the Board that her certifications were up-to-date.

"I had my designation for assessing, but I let it run out because I couldn't keep treasury-collecting and assessing. Doing all that school was too much to leave work," Marra said. "but you don't lose that knowledge."

Selectman Tony Goncalves asked Marra to outline her involvement with the budget in her previous position.

"The accountant, I, and the Town Manager would meet," Marra said. "We actually didn't go to Town Meeting; we would decide on things and help them come up with the funding and where we're going to take the money from at the office, and then he would present it to the town."

"The Finance Committee sometimes would ask us questions to see where we're at on different things, but I didn't actually have to present the budget, we just worked on the budget," Marra said.

Marra told Goncalves that there were as many as three revisions to the budget in Lenox this year, but praised the work of the Town Man-

ager, Christopher Ketchen.

"That's where he really excelled, in finance," Marra said. "He would usually make the budget up and then speak to all the town offices and help with the enterprise account when we had to raise the fees for different things to make sure we're meeting the budget."

Marra said she would work with the accountant to put together spreadsheets on this information, and that she didn't have a lot of say on the budget in Lenox compared to the Town Manager.

"We would say what we want and what we need, but then he would go over it," Marra said.

Marra talked about the different entities that went into Lenox's budget, including the water and sewer enterprise fund, the school budget, and the library, which she said Lenox recently took over, as well as funds for scholarships and cemetery care.

"I just finished balancing today for April," Marra said. "We try to balance within the first week of the month."

Selectman Bill Rosenblum noted that Lenox's population is approximately 5,000, compared to Ludlow's 21,000, and noted the larger staff in the Collector's office.

"Do you see it being maybe a heavy lift to go from 5,000?" Rosenblum asked.

"A lot of the things are the same, no matter how many people you have," Marra said. "If you need to borrow and you're doing public disclosure, it doesn't matter if you're borrowing 1 million or 50 million. You're still doing the same paperwork, no matter how much it is, you're just adding zeroes."

Marra added that she brought up the amount of interest the town gets by checking interest rates and watching where the rates are and moving them up or down.

"We did just get a \$26 million settlement from General Electric," Marra said. "That's my responsibility to manage and invest."

Chair of the Selectmen Derek DeBarge noted that, with changes to the systems for mailing and paying in town, the Collector's office has been receiving negative responses from the town.

"Coming into an office with four employees that know the Munis system," DeBarge asked, "how do you address these employees knowing that they actually have to train you in Munis, and yet you're they're supervisor as the Department Head, not knowing the kind of atmosphere that you're walking into?"

DeBarge warned Marra that it was "almost a hornet's nest" that she was walking into, and asked about her mindset towards the situation. Marra told about how, when she started at Blandford, the town had not balanced its bank records in approximately three years, and that the town was being subjected to an audit for the Tax Collector's office.

"The auditor told me, 'start from here, where you are, because you know what you did today, and work your way backwards to find your errors and whatever was done,'" Marra said. "I did that, and I kind of enjoyed solving it."

Marra said that when she started in Lenox, the town hadn't had an Assessor in six months, and so she had to straighten out piles of forms.

"I had to really learn on my own where their mistakes were," Marra said. "I've been there since, and we're very organized, we have a good work flow of where things should be. I think I'm pretty good at picking things up and learning."

As she left, Marra mentioned that she knew Church from Lenox, and that she was "very good."

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# Boys & Girls Club thanks strong community partners in recent Sip Into Spring Fundraiser



Iron Duke Brewing had a table with drinks and information about the bar.



Natalia Chmielewski sold original Vanished Valley drinks from the brewery's table.



The Boys & Girls' Club's Aquatics Director Ciera Tseka and Preschool Director Barbara Glanville, pictured at the Mint Julep table.



Participants stood by the Greater Good Brewing Company, dressed up in their derby best.



Wearing flower tiaras and inflatable horses, (from left) Brittany Mallonga, Lydia Robinson, Jane Sheffler, and Camille Way-Pene.



CEO and President Josue Irizarry (center), pictured in front of the proud sponsors banner with local participants.

LUDLOW – The Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club held its Sip Into Spring Fundraiser on April 26.

“We wanted to take a moment to thank our incredible community for coming together to support the Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club at our recent Sip Into Spring fundraiser at the Gremio Lusitano Club,” said Josue Irizarry, the CEO and President of the Club.

The club thanked sponsors Westfield Bank, MMWEC, Teddy Bear Pools & Spas, Country Bank, Baltazar Contractors, Inc., Freedom Credit Union, Bill's Tire & Trailer

Service, and Pop-n-Kork, as well as restaurants Tony & Penny's, Mill's Tavern & Grille, Randall's Farm & Greenhouse, and Main Street Tavern, and beverage vendors Hardwick Winery, Iron Duke, Vanished Valley, Leadfoot Brewing, LLC, Loophole Brewing Company, and several distributors coordinated through Uncle Bob's General Store.

“They all came together to provide samples, camaraderie, and fun to the Club's spring fundraiser,” Irizarry said.

The Club extended a special thanks to PV Financial Group for donating two tickets to a Hootie &

The Blowfish summer concert at Fenway park. This donation, combined with other raffles, donations, games and ticket sales helped the event raised over \$13,000 to help the Community Center support families and “offer opportunities for individuals of all ages to grow, learn, connect, and become their best selves at the Boys & Girls Club.”

“We are so grateful to be part of a community that clearly values working together to support the needs of others,” said Josue Irizarry, the CEO and President of the club.



The Club's CEO, Josue Irizarry, held his hand over a guest that came up to the front of the room to have their Derby attire judged for the men's category. People clapped, and Cristina Jardine, Director of Donor Relation & Events, asked the crowd to cheer.



Baskets full of prizes were included as part of a raffle for the fundraiser.

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# Polish Club dishing up pasta for town's police K-9 Unit May 24

To continue to provide the Police Department's crimefighting canine Max the support he needs to enhance the department's public safety efforts, the Polish American Citizens Club is hosting its Annual fundraiser for the K-9 unit on Fri., May 24, 2024. The K-9 unit has become an integral part of our communities police force.

Every year, we run a fundraiser, specifically a pasta dinner" said John Diotalevi, president of the Ludlow Polish American Citizens' Club. The Polish Club has been instrumental in providing the money to purchase the dogs the K-9 unit uses, but most importantly we raise money to help keep the K-9 program operating.

The dinner which includes pasta, meatballs, salad, and fresh baked rolls will take place Fri., May 24, 2024 from 5-7 p.m.. Tickets for the dinner are adults \$10 and children under 12 \$5 and are available at the door. The club is located at 355 East St. Ludlow.



## SIFMA from page 1

trowski said. "We're really drawing on a lot of support and expertise to do this, but the students all engage differently, and each group gets to move at their own pace."

Ostrowski explained that part of the program is a Stock Market Game that the students participate in where they can buy and sell stocks in real time, with the students writing a 900-word essay component.

"In the past few years the district has had all of the teachers go through the Collins Writing Program to help us get students to write at different levels," Ostrowski said, saying that this ranges from "quick-writes where there's no wrong answer, ideas that they're supposed to share, and really heavy-duty writing with evidence about what they're thinking."

Ostrowski went over the process of the project, which started in November of last year, and involves breaking up

the writing assignment into several assignments in order to make it easier for the students to work through.

"The entire stock market game to begin with allows students to see numbers in real world," Ostrowski said. "Not just that math course understanding, but they are forced to start using what they know from math to apply it. In finance, you may say something is only from 7-8% or one full percentage point different, but that amount can compound astronomically."

Ostrowski described seeing the kids get energized about what they were learning, talking to classmates about what investments they were exploring, and sharing their writing with their classmates.

"I enjoy it, the kids enjoy it, it's one of the most talked-about classes," Ostrowski said.

For more information on the SIFMA Foundation, visit [sifma.org/foundation](http://sifma.org/foundation). For more information about Invest-Write, visit [investwrite.org](http://investwrite.org).

## SELECTMEN from page 1

said. "We're at a shortage in the state."

The Selectmen noted that Church usually works in several municipalities, and asked about how she would manage these responsibilities.

"I've started to give some up; I can explain that," Church said. "When I started as a young inspector, many, many years ago, municipalities were part-time at best, and to have a decent wage as a single mom - my oldest has graduated college now and I've got one more left - I had a lot of small municipalities."

Church said that some of the municipalities she served in were close together, while she still works for others in a limited capacity, such as the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

"My goal is to have one municipality that I can work in," Church said, but added that if she were to be hired in Ludlow, she would like to keep working for two small towns in the state where she has no office hours.

"It's the town of Florida and the town of Monroe, MA," Church said. "It wouldn't affect my Monday through Friday at all. Normally, and you can call the Selectmen, go by on Saturdays there."

Church said that she has a lot of energy, but that she's reached a point in

her career where she'd like to bring her knowledge from the various municipalities, she's worked in to one place. She displayed a great deal of passion for her work, and said that she sees it as her responsibility to not only enforce the state's building code, but to teach the public about it.

"I should be working with you and the people of this community who pay my salary," Church said. "You're hiring me to be your expert here and help you navigate the state-adopted building code. I'm not just enforcing it, but I should be showing why it's this way."

When asked about taking people to court to enforce the code, Church was adamant that, though she has in the past, she avoids it as much as possible.

"This code wasn't set up to make it a hardship or a punishment," Church said. "This code is to provide safety for the structures that we live in and do business in."

"I always attribute it to being from the South," Church said, "I've had really good success in finding solutions rather than go to court."

In her closing remarks, Church emphasized that she wants to help spread her knowledge and expertise through the community, and to work with the residents to make building code and inspection work more accessible.

# OBITUARIES

## Donald J. Goodreau

Donald J. Goodreau, 83 passed away peacefully on May 10, 2024. May he rest in peace in the loving arms of his wife, Margaret R (Morin) Goodreau who died 21 years ago. We just know the wind is in their hair on that Harley Davidson in heaven! Don was born Dec. 26, 1940 to Helen (Soja) Goodreau and Edward F Goodreau. He lived in Ludlow all his life. He was a proud member of the Teamsters local 404 and worked at many different companies, including Adley, Burgmeyer and Yellow freight. He was a hard worker and instilled a very strong work ethic in both of his children. He was always willing to lend a hand and he did many "projects" with his good friend, Joe Jorge. After Marge passed away in 2003, he took many trips with Joe and "the gang" (Ray, Diane, Danny, Karen, Steve and Manny) on the Harley to Sturgis and Florida. Also many weekend trips wherever the road took them.



He married Marge, the love of his life, Aug. 27, 1960 and had two children, Debra A Goodreau and Donald E Goodreau (deceased April 2023). He leaves his grandson, Mike DeChellis and great grandson, Gavin DeChellis who both have fond memories of riding the lawn mower at an early age. He also leaves a grandson Aaron Goodreau and granddaughter Emily Lilly (James) and also their mother Marie Goodreau of Alaska. He also leaves behind a brother Alan Goodreau (Mary) of West Springfield and was predeceased by sister, Linda Brisbois and brother Edward F Goodreau Jr. Don loved family trips and camping in the "Cookie Monster" with the Gypsy tribe. He enjoyed Cape Cod and Maine. Don loved all of nature and God's creatures great and small. He really missed his grand dog, Dexter, who died in 2023. He swore Dexter was still sleeping on his feet every day.

Services for Donald will be held on Sat., May 18, 2024 from the Ludlow Funeral Home. Visitation is from 9 -10:15 a.m. at the Funeral Home with a Liturgy of Christian Mass celebrated at 11 a.m. in St. Elizabeth's Church followed by burial in Island Pond Cemetery. Donations in Don's name can be made to friends of Ludlow Animal Control P.O. Box 32, Ludlow, MA. "Death ends a life, not a relationship. All the love you created is still there. You live on in the hearts of everyone you have touched and nurtured while you were here." - Morrie Schwartz. For additional information please visit [ludlowfuneralhome.com](http://ludlowfuneralhome.com)

## DEATH NOTICES

**Donald J Goodreau**  
Died May 10, 2024  
Services May 18, 2024  
Ludlow Funeral Home

## The Ludlow Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

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

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

## MMWEC, CET Awarded Grant for Inclusive Utility Investments Program

LUDLOW - The state Municipal Wholesale Electric Company and its energy efficiency provider and partner, CET, are pleased to announce the receipt of a grant to help support decarbonization of the residential sector.

MMWEC is working with CET on CET's Inclusive Utility Investment program. The IUI program, already successfully piloted for customers of MMWEC Member Ipswich Electric Light Department, is an innovative financing program that enables more residents, including renters, to decarbonize their living spaces at a

price they can afford.

MMWEC and CET have received a grant of more than \$75,000 through the American Public Power Association's Demonstration of Energy and Efficiency Developments program to make the program available to more municipal light plants. The project will provide support to a cohort of two- to three MLPs for launching IUI programs.

Under IUI, sometimes known as tariff on-bill financing, the resident who up-

Please see **MMWEC**, page 14

Planting Season has just begun!

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN

### Life Together

Ramadan began March 7 and lasted until April 9.

This Muslim time of fasting and prayer is a discipline of purity and awareness. The word Ramdan literally means, "scorching heat."

This spring time is the time for awakening and rededication.

I walked through the streets of Old Jerusalem, and at 5:43 p.m. saw the families breaking their fast since 4:57 a.m. They were gathered in the back of their shop, and I could see their whole family sharing a meal at the end of another day.

Today there is no food in Gaza, no breaking fast, breaking bread.

Ramadan urges believers to live with discipline and these values: no drinking alcohol, fasting during the day, trust in Allah, creating healthy habits, focusing on spirituality, obeying Allah's commands, learning self-discipline, breaking unhealthy cycles, building God-consciousness and developing as a person.

Ramadan is usually at the same time as the Christian time of Lent and Easter. A similar theme in Lent is the fasting of Ramadan; and the time of Easter is a time of rededication to new life.

The rhythm of sacred days, of most religious expressions, are grounded in the reality of repentance to renewal, from darkness to light, from despair to hope. This rhythm is like the beat of a heart; pumping life through the person to sustain life.

For those whom there is no religious expression, our humanity brings us to the reality that whatever we do or do not believe, is subject to this fundamental rhythm of life and death.

When we take time to be in a space that allows for the quiet peace we seek, we experience a time of respite. Whether Ramadan or Lent-Easter, or no ritual, we discover that our fear and anxiety block us from experiencing the deeper presence of the Holy.

I often struggle with the need for discipline in my life. It can be messy and unfinished. It is frustrating when my thoughts and feelings flood my awareness and am distracted.

What if there were a way to be fully aware and experience the joy of living?

What if we experienced the peace we seek through meditation, and focus our attention on being fully aware and awake? Meditation does not eliminate any religious expression, it may, like Lent and Ramadan, deepen our peace.

Where do you find a "moment of peace?" What discipline do you practice to engender healthy God-consciousness? What discipline do you practice to repair our broken world?

As we move through these days of introspection and honesty, may we find the peace we seek.

**Rev. Dr. Randy Wilburn**  
Minister, Therapist, Consultant

*Life Together is written by Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn. With over 54 years as a parish minister, Wilburn is also an experienced marriage and family counselor. Life Together will deal with topics such as stress, grief, anxiety, healing and hope.*



### Memories on Mother's Day

I came across the column below and it brought back a wonderful memory of my oldest daughter being a year old and her having a fascination with pansy faces.

Fast forward to Mother's Day 2024, 16 years later, and I find a vase of fragrant double narcissus "Bridal Crown" and lilacs in my bedroom from said child. How sweet.

But before I even found and read the column, I was seriously thinking about devoting one of my perennial borders to a garden of memories. Most of the plants in my landscape hold special meaning anyway, but a garden devoted to my childhood would be neat.

It was certainly those early experiences that shaped my career and honestly my life in general. Maybe you can relate.

Read on for a "blast from the past."

Gardening was a big part of my childhood. Our backyard, while under an acre in size, was immense to me, full of nooks and crannies to explore.

We had a rock garden, and garden on a banking, a garden devoted to annuals, and of course, a vegetable garden. We also had a few choice flowering plants and shrubs just outside of the screened porch and fruit trees and bushes tucked in here and there.

One of my favorite spring pastimes as a kid was to pick little bouquets of lily of the valley, lilacs or peonies and place them around the house. I also enjoyed moving plants from one place to another in the yard.

My mom is reminded of one of my adventures in transplanting each time the lawn mower maneuvers around a clump of lilacs planted smack dab in the middle of the upper landing.

Most of the flowering perennials we had were handed down from my mother's grandmother ("Babci") or her Aunt Julia. They aren't rare by any means, but to know

they came from a line of strong women before me makes me want to pass these same plants on to my daughter.

My daughter is just over a year old and she has already taken an interest in flowers. This, of course, has made me very happy.

She points them out on her shirt or in books, and each time we stroll around the yard she clamors relentlessly until I give

her a stem or two to hold. Recently, a single pansy face held her attention long enough for me to actually do some work in the garden...nothing short of a miracle for a busy little girl like her!

When she is a bit older I think it would be fun to plant a memory garden. In it we could commemorate five generations of flowers and the ladies who grew them.

First, I would include all of the heirloom flowers that my mom has tended over the years originating from her grandmother and aunt's garden: the deep purple bearded iris, the sweetly scented lemon lily and frilly pink peony. Then I'd add her favorites, the flowers I remember her growing when I was a kid: ground phlox, lily of the valley and candytuft.

Next would be my contribution, pretty primroses that originated in England and double columbines that I started from seed several seasons ago. My daughter could add her favorites too - this year pansies would have certainly made the cut!

Fast forward to the present day, Mother's Day 2024. Why not consider installing a memory garden of your own?

If you aren't lucky enough to have family heirlooms already growing in place, ask your mom or grandma what their favorite plants are and go from there. I'm sure that many are still available for purchase.

Involve the kids by making stepping

Please see **GARDEN**, page 7



## The REGISTER

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

### SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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The Register is published every Wednesday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



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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 [mharrison@turley.com](mailto:mharrison@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.

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

## For Adults

Mass Center for the Book Monthly Reading Challenge Each month, you'll be challenged to read a book based on a chosen theme. January's challenge is a book you read years ago that you may feel differently about now. Those who participate will be entered to win a free book! For more information and to sign up, please visit [massbook.org/readingchallenge](http://massbook.org/readingchallenge).

Chair Volleyball for Seniors, every Thursday until June 27, 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 (May 2), 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 (May 30), 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.

Health Plan Options, Wednesday, May 15, 1:30 p.m. Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, this informative presentation will discuss what health plan options you have like Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage plans, and more. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

Sourdough Starter Workshop, Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 p.m. Learn how to make, maintain, and store a sourdough starter from local sourdough baker and food blogger Sourdough Brandon. You'll even leave with some free sourdough starter! Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

Introduction to Tarot Card as a Whole System, Thursday, May 30, 6:00 p.m. Join Winifred for a fun and interactive evening where you will be introduced to the "big picture" view of tarot as a system and get started demystifying tarot. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

Michael Ponsor Author Visit, Thursday, June 6, 6:00 p.m. Join us for an evening as we welcome back New York Times best-selling author Michael Ponsor as he discusses his third Judge Norcross book Point of Order.

## For Teens

Nintendo Switch Night, every other Tuesday (5/14, 5/28, 6/11, 6/25), 6:00-7:45 p.m.

Play Mario Kart, Smash Bros, or other Nintendo Switch games. For 6th-12th graders, space is limited to 16 people, please register.

Anime Club, Tuesdays 4:00-5:30 p.m. Meet each week to watch & talk about anime, eat snacks, & try out your cosplay. The group decides what to watch each week. Please register.

Youth Crochet Club, Every other Tuesday (5/7, 5/21, 6/4, 6/18), 5:00-6:00 p.m. For ages 10 & up. For beginners up to experienced crocheters, supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

The 'Fellowship of the Pages' Book Discussion Group, Every Thursday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Meet each week to discuss books, eat snacks, play games, and make friends. This month the group is reading "The Storm Runner" by Jennifer Cervantes, copies are available in the Youth Room. Registration preferred

Mass Kids Lit Fest: Writing Workshop w/ Author Erin Dionne, Thursday, May 9, 5:30 p.m. For tweens & teens. Renowned author Erin Dionne will use her book, "Lights, Camera, Disaster" as inspiration to conduct a writing workshop for students with fun writing activities and a peek into how authors write books. Sponsored by Mass Kids Lit Fest & MA Center for the Book. Please register.

Dungeons & Dragons High School Adventure Ensemble, Fridays 2:30-4:30 p.m. This group is for experienced high school players; the group is currently full but you can sign up now to be part of the summer campaign. Please register.

"Read Between the Lines" High School Book Group, April 26, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Book chat and snacks for ages 14 & up. This month's book is "The Outsiders" by S.E. Hinton; copies of the book are available in the Youth Room. Registration preferred.

## For Children & Teens

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

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

Minecraft Club, Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Minecraft players of all skill levels can bring their own devices, or may use one of the library's eight computers to build, play & create. For upper elementary & up. Drop-in.

Mother's Day Gift Making, Saturday, May 11, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. All ages. Stop by the library to make snow globes, handprint vases, and thumbprint magnets. Drop in.

Move & Craft: Clifford the Big Red Dog, Saturday, May 18, 10:00a.m. Rated PG Free snacks, stay after the movie to make a craft. Drop in. All ages.

Magnetic Slime, Saturday, May 25, 10:00a.m. For ages 6 & up. Make slime that works like a magnet! Please register.

## For Children

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

Storytime for 3-5 year olds, Mondays, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. A five-week series of stories, songs, & games relating to the theme of space, tailored for 3-5 year olds, with a craft & snack at the end. Please register.

Sing With Me, Tuesdays 10:30-11:00 a.m. For ages 0-5. Does not meet April 16. Join Youth Services Librarian July for 30 minutes of favorite children's songs & movement. Drop-in.

May Flowers Scavenger Hunt, Tuesday, May 14, 9:00a.m.-5:00p.m. All ages. Drop in. April showers bring May flowers -find them in the Youth Room to win a prize.

Storytime for 2-3 year olds, Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. A five-week series of stories, songs, & games relating to the theme of space, tailored for 2-3 year olds, with a craft & snack at the end. Please register.

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

Read to Karl the Dog, Wednesday, May 8, 3:15 p.m. For beginner readers. Therapy dog Karl is a great listener! Join him and his trainer, Ludlow Animal Control Officer Octavia Anderson for 15 minutes of solo reading. Please register.

Homeschooler Storytime: True Tales, Wednesdays 12:00-12:45 p.m. For ages 5-8. A fun, gently educational storytime that uses picture book biographies to share inspiring stories about real people and historical events. Please register.

Grow, Play and Learn, Thursdays, 9:45-10:30 a.m. for babies and toddlers; and Thursdays 10:45- 11:30 a.m. for 2-5 year olds. Stories, songs and skill building, led by Kelly Castor, Early Childhood Developmental specialist, who will guide caregivers in strengthening interactions with their children. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

Mermaid Yoga, Friday, May 24, 2:00p.m. Ages 2 & up. Learn how to move like a graceful mermaid with fun, easy yoga poses! Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

## GARDEN from page 6

stones, plant labels and other simple ornaments to decorate the space. Tailor the design to suit your taste – it certainly doesn't have to be grandiose, just special, like the gardeners who came before us.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at

the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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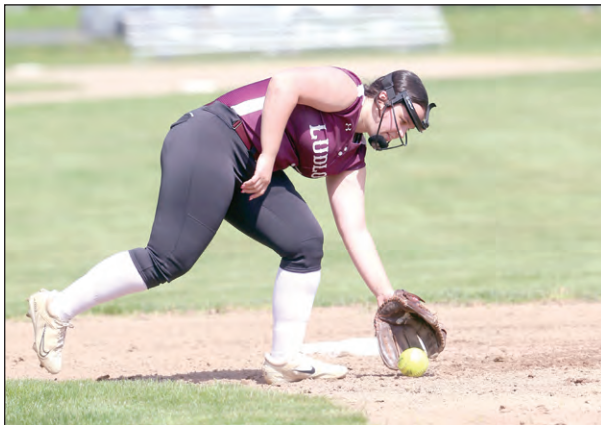
Emma Arocho slides back into second base.

## Ludlow softball breaks losing streak

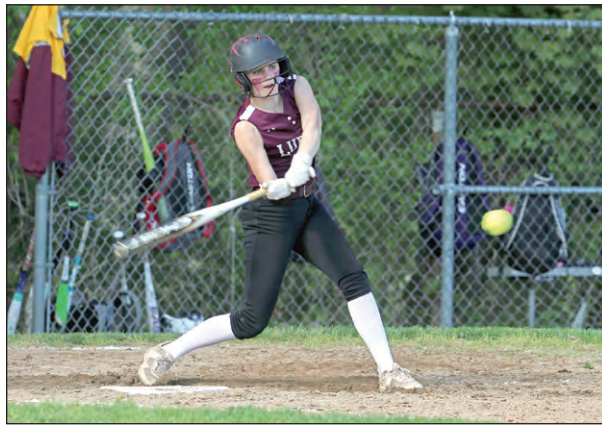
LUDLOW – Last Thursday, Ludlow softball broke up a losing streak with 14-2 win over Chicopee. In the win, Emma Arocho had three hits and three runs scored. Kylie Roach pitched well and had two hits and three RBI for the Lions, who are 6-10 this season.



Kylie Roach pitches for the Lions.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Juliana Coelho extends to field a grounder.



Caitlyn Peczka swings for a hit.



Bridget Schnieder takes a swing from the left side of the plate.

## Lions face Holyoke track



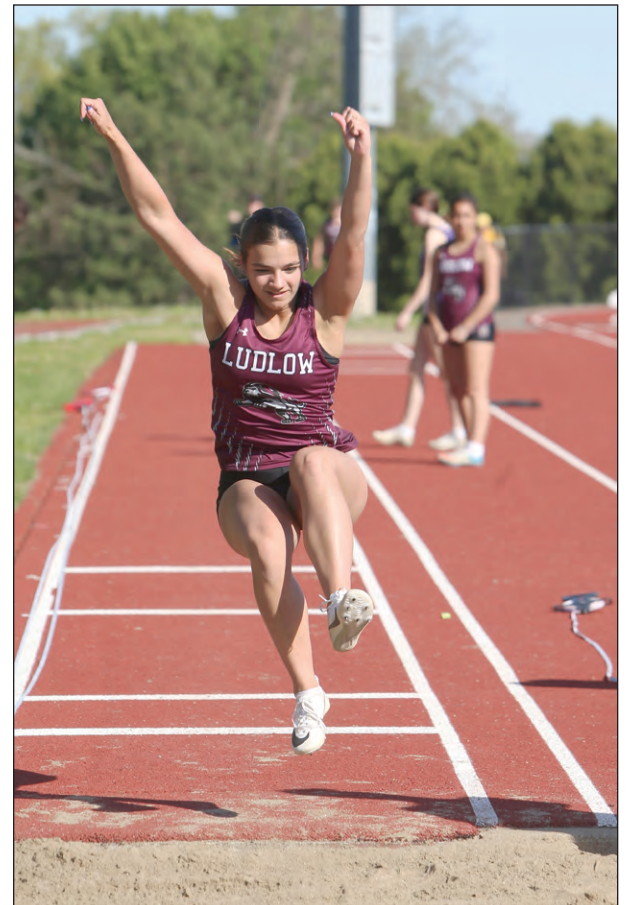
Audrea Afonso fully extends in her jump attempt.



Nathan Tracy takes his turn in the javelin.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Seongho Jang attempt the high jump.



Carina Fonseca lands in the long jump.

HOLYOKE – Last Wednesday, Ludlow boys and girls track had one of its final meets of the regular season with Holyoke. The meet had several high-

lights. Among them, Elena Chaplin continued her streak of sweeping the shot put, discus, and javelin. Sayla McHale had success in some new events after

placing second in the 400 and 400H. Luca Martins had one of the biggest performances of the day with a huge personal record in the long jump with 19'9.75".

Ben Silveira and Seongho Jang had breakthrough performances in the 400H.

Please see **TRACK**, page 10

# Pioneers set to get regular season underway

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Since they joined USL League Two in 2019, the Western Mass. Pioneers have finished first in the Northeast Division standings twice. They've also finished in second place twice.

The members of this year's squad will be looking to make their fifth appearance in the USL League Two playoffs. The 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

"We're going to try our best to put together another winning season," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari following his team's 9-0 friendly win against 3rd Eye FC at Lusitano Stadium last Friday night. "We do have nine returning players and a bunch of new players. The older players will need to show the new guys how we do things here. Every game that we play is very important because it's very difficult to make up points in this league."

The Pioneers finished the 2023 regular season with a 10-1-3 record (33 points). They finished in second place, one point behind the Seacoast United Phantoms, who finished in first place. The Pioneers lost to North Carolina Fusion U23 in the conference quarterfinals by the final score of 2-1.

The Pioneers were scheduled to kick off the 2024 campaign on Tuesday night with a road match against the Boston Bolts. They'll be facing Pathfinder FC in the home opener at 7pm on Saturday night.

It'll be the second game of a doubleheader at Lusitano Stadium. The New England Mutiny will be hosting Maine Footy at 4pm in their season opener.

Saturday will be a very busy day for Molinari. He was named as the Mutiny head coach by Joe Ferrera, who's the General Managers for both soccer teams, during the offseason.

"I told Joe if he wasn't able to find a head coach for the women's soccer team, I would help him out this year," said Molinari, who has been coaching the Pioneers since 2012. "Tomas Duben will be helping me out as an assistant coach."

Molinari is also the Director of Coaching for the Western United Pioneers.

Dennis Gomes and Jay Willis are returning as the Pioneers assistant coaches.

Duben, who played in about 30 matches for the Pioneers during the past several seasons, is also the Pioneers new Scouting & Tactical Analyst.

"Tomas knows a lot about soccer," Molinari said. "He can also relate to the players very well. It's a very good connection between the players and the coaching staff."

Ciro Viviano has replaced John Voight as the Pioneers Goalkeeper coach.

The Pioneers' other six regular season home matches will be against Black Rock FC (May 31), Seacoast United Phantoms (June 7), AC Connecticut (June 11), Boston City FC (June 21), Albany Rush (June 28), and Vermont Green FC (July 13).

"Every year is a new season, and you have to start from the beginning," Molinari said. "It's a lot of fun watching your players improve in every game."

One of the Pioneers veteran players is Connor Hicks, who helped the Monson boys' soccer team win back-to-back Division 4 state titles. As a senior in



Jared Smith looks to send the ball deep.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Zach Sauer looks to pass.

2016, Hicks scored an incredible overtime goal to beat Cohasset High School in the state finals.

Hicks played college soccer at AIC and has been a member of the Pioneers since 2019.

"I'm getting a little bit older, but it's nice to be back playing for the Pioneers again," said Hicks, who's one of the defenders. "We've made the playoffs every year that I've played for this soccer team. I really enjoy the atmosphere here. It's a lot of fun signing autographs and taking pictures with the kids."

This will be Hicks final season playing for the Pioneers, as he's planning to move to Florida this summer.

Midfielder Khalid Rose, who's another fan favorite, is also returning.

Alec Hughes, who was one of the Pioneers leading goal scorers a year ago, is back again this year. He was a senior on the UMass men's soccer team last fall.

One of the Pioneers newcomers is striker Scott Testori, who was the leading goal scorer on the 2023 UConn men's soccer team.

The Pioneer's captain is Nicholas Oberrauch, who's a defender.

Gianluca Cersosimo was the Pioneers' starting goalie in the friendly match.

The tickets prices for all the Pioneers regular season home matches are \$10.

Children 6 years old and younger are free.

# Academy names new hockey coach

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham & Monson Academy is pleased to announce Lawrence Biondo has been named Head Coach of the Boys Varsity Hockey program beginning with the 2024-25 season.

Coach Biondo will take the helm with a strong foundation of current and new student-athletes and support from the entire WMA community. The Titans compete as a full varsity member of the New England Prep School Athletic Council.

"Coach Lawrence Biondo is a prep school person, through and through," Head of School Brian P. Easler said. "He played at prep school, has coached at prep schools, sent all of his kids to prep schools, and now he chose to return to prep school teaching and coaching after retiring from the New York City Police Department. He is fully committed to WMA and the development of our hockey program for the long term, and I can't wait to see how it grows under his leadership."

Biondo's hockey resume includes both playing and coaching experience at the prep school and collegiate level. As a coach, count Avon Old Farms, St. Benedict's Prep and The Harvey School in his prep school experience.

Joining Biondo will be Steven McGeary as Assistant Coach. Formerly the Boys Ice Hockey Head Coach at Wyoming Semi-

nary, McGeary played at Bethel University (MN). Assistant Coach and Goalie Coach Brian Musa '92 will round out a stellar coaching staff. Musa has over two decades of coaching experience, played goalie at Elmira College and is USA Bronze Goalie certified.

As a player, Biondo was a three-year member of a Deerfield Academy team that won the 1983-84 Prep School Championship, and he lettered all four years at Tufts University. He played on the Olympic Development U16 summer program at Lake Placid, N.Y., and the Springfield Pioneers AA Bantam championship team that included WMA alumnus Rick Bennett '86.

Already a current English faculty member at WMA, Biondo retired as a lieutenant in 2023 after 20 years of service with the NYPD. Two of his five children are recent alumni of WMA, both Class of 2021, and they are currently matriculated at United States Military Academy West Point and Florida Atlantic University.

"I look forward to building upon the hockey program here at WMA and appreciate the full support I'm receiving from the school," Biondo said. "We have a solid schedule, we're expanding our off-and-on-ice program and we're eager to begin the season this November."

# Thompson Speedway holds Icebreaker

THOMPSON, CT — A much nicer day awaited fans on day two of the 50th Icebreaker at Thompson Speedway held last month. Six star-studded features took to the 0.625-mile oval on Sunday, as did the peaks of sunshine to greet the fans in the stands. While the Street Stocks were able to start their 2024 track championship season on Saturday, the rest of the track championship line-up got their year started with plenty of action on Sunday along with the roar of the mighty NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour with their return to Icebreaker weekend.

Following strong qualifying efforts in time trials, Justin Bonsignore and Jake Johnson led the NASCAR Whelen Modifieds to a short start after Bobby Santos III lost a right rear tire in mid-pack, dragging Dave Sapienza, Andrew Krause and Eric Goodale into the turn one wall. Back under the green flag, Johnson slid back to third on the restart and gave second to a hard-charging Craig Lutz with Bonsignore still at the helm. Lutz grabbed his chance to take over the lead on a lap 25 restart following a grenaded motor in the Tim Con-

nolly machine.

A second motor expired in the first 33 laps for Trevor Catalano but Lutz again retained control ahead of Bonsignore and Ron Silk. Silk methodically made his way to Lutz's back bumper, pulling up alongside the #46 on lap 59 and using the slide job in turn one to come back and lead lap 60. The field would slow once more on lap 89 for the spinning Matt Swanson in turn four, leading to a frenzy of teams jumping down pit road for their respective tire changes. Patrick Emerling stunned the competition by winning the race off pit road followed by Silk, Johnson, Bonsignore and Austin Beers.

Silk moved up way high as they motored through turns one and two, forcing Emerling to pull back on the outside and giving him the lead. The final laps saw Emerling and Bonsignore battle for third as Silk continued to grow his lead more and more. Ron Silk took the dominant Icebreaker 150 win followed by a consistently fast Jake Johnson and a hard-charging Patrick Emerling, whose radiator sat steaming in victory lane.



Josh Ridolfi throws the javelin for the Lions.

## TRACK from page 9

Ben ran 61.31 ranking him up there with the top hurdlers in Western Mass. Seongho ran 65.49 and also had a personal record in the triple jump and high jump. Dan Krutka and Nathan Tracy had another great day in the shot put and discus. Tommy Pryzbyl threw a career-best in the shot put at 38'9" and the javelin at

101'0". Triston ran a season-best time in the 200 with 24.24 and placed third in the high jump. Kyle Martin won the 800 and came back with a strong finish on the winning 4 x 400 team. Josh Marino continued his strong season with 25.59 in the 200 and 11.9 in the 100. Enzo Botta anchored the winning 4 x 100 team and ran 12.1 in the 100.

# Fish & Game Club holds annual Fishing Derby



The Fishing Derby provides a great way for parents to bring their kids to enjoy nature and learn valuable skills.



The Fish & Game Club held a fishing derby last week full of family-friendly fun.



Participants were able to socialize and have discussions with other residents at the fishing derby.

LUDLOW -- The Fish & Game Club held its annual fishing derby on Saturday, May 4.

The fishing derby is a great way to

get kids outside to enjoy nature while learning valuable skills. It is a fun and family-friendly event that promotes outdoor recreation and conservation.

The Fish & Game Club is grateful to all the volunteers who helped make this event as success, and looks forward to seeing even more young fisherman at

next year's derby.

Prizes were awarded for the biggest fish, and a tagged trout and lunch was served.

## Ludlow helping with mental health

LUDLOW— May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and Town Administrator Marc Strange and Ludlow's Health Director Paulina Matusik are proud to announce two pioneering initiatives to enhance mental health services for the Ludlow community. These efforts aim to streamline care and improve outcomes through increased collaboration among health professionals, first responders and educators.

In September 2023, Ludlow launched the Ludlow Community Intervention Team in partnership with the Center for Human Development and local first responders. This team is dedicated to integrating resources to deliver the most effective mental health treatments available.

"Unlike traditional physical health treatments, typically coordinated through a primary care provider, behavioral health often requires navigating a complex array of services," said Matusik. "Our approach aims to simplify this process for our community members, ensuring they receive the care they need when they need it."

Building on the success of this initiative, the Ludlow Behavioral Health Assessment Team was formed in December 2023. This new team focuses on mental health care within educational settings, involving the Ludlow School District case manager, the Police Department's School Resource Officer, and a Health

Department social worker specializing in behavioral health.

The police and fire departments have been instrumental in the success of this project. Their responses provide information and insight, making possible the connection between resources, service providers, and patients. Matusik said, "This is a team approach, and I want to give a huge shoutout to our police and fire departments for their help with the process."

The innovative model has already garnered attention from neighboring regions and is poised to serve as a blueprint for community-based healthcare interventions in the area.

Strange emphasized the broader benefits of this approach: "By addressing behavioral health needs effectively, we not only enhance the quality of life for our residents but also realize cost savings by reducing the need for repeated interventions. It's about providing the right help at the right time."

In the first four months of 2024, the teams connected with 127 residents on concerns ranging from self-harm, general behavioral health, and substance misuse to overdosing.

The Ludlow Health Department remains committed to keeping the community informed and engaged with ongoing and future health initiatives to promote the well-being of all residents and visitors.

### FIRE from page 1

from Belchertown, Bondsville, Granby, Palmer, Westover and Wilbraham. The Chicopee Fire Department provided station coverage. The Ludlow Police Department and the Ludlow Department of Public Works aided at the scene. Ludlow Central Dispatch also provided communication and logistical support.

"In that case you saw a lot of towns involved, but most of the support was for water," Pease said. "We don't have municipal water supply, so a lot of mutual aid was just for tankers to bring water to the scene that we couldn't get."

"Being a department that operates with a minimum staff of six, it can be very difficult to operate at a fire scene with six people," Pease said. "We call all our off-duty officers as well as mutual aid companies, because we just don't have staff in Ludlow to safely operate without mutual aid on structure fires."

The cause of the fire was investigated by the Fire Department with assistance from the State Police Fire & Explosion Investigation Unit assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office. The cause of the fire was determined to be due to a lightning strike during Wednesday night's storm.

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# DATEBOOK

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

## COMING SOON

**BINGO:** St. John the Baptist School Designer Purse Bingo. Friday, May 17. St Elizabeth's Parish Center, Ludlow. Doors open at 5 p.m., games start at 7 p.m. \$30 at the door, \$25 in advance. Reserved tables of 8 are \$185. Call the school 413-583-8550 to reserve tickets.

## ONGOING

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

**THRIFT SHOP:** Now open at St. Gregory Armenian Church, 135 Goodwin Street, Indian Orchard, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every Saturday offering quality items at affordable prices. Gen-

tly- used clothing and accessories, household items, books, children's items, collectors' items and more are available. For more information, call the church office at 413-543-4763.

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

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

**AQUACISE AT THE CLUB:** The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club, at 91 Claudias Way, continues to offer Aquacise throughout the week. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength. Classes are open to all members with pool-inclusive memberships and do not require prior regis-

tration. Classes are held 8:30-9:15 a.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For questions, call 413-583-2072, ext. 124.

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

**H.O.P.E. RECOVERY GROUP:** Having Our Pathways Encouraged meetings are for those who have experience with addictions, grief, anxiety and depression, (including anxiety and depression due to COVID-19) and for loved ones who might need help in their recovery. This group is also for those who can help lead others in their recovery by example. This meeting in no way replaces professional therapies. It is a time for sharing strength, encouragement and hope. No fees. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Pre-packaged snacks are available. Small group structure based on basic Christian principles, concept, purposes and confidentiality. COVID-19

guidelines are observed. Masks required. 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at Fellowship Hall in Faith Community Chapel, 485 East Street in Ludlow. Parking lot behind Chapel. Fellowship Hall entrance at back of Chapel. Seating is limited. To reserve yours, call 413- 519-4591.

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

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

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

## Church DIRECTORY

**FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL**  
A Church of the Nazarene  
485 East St. Ludlow, MA 01056 413-583-7875  
Email: [faithcommunitychapel8@gmail.com](mailto:faithcommunitychapel8@gmail.com)  
[faith-communitychapel.org](http://faith-communitychapel.org)  
Lead Pastor: Reverend Lisa Morrison  
Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs  
Sunday Services:  
Discipline Groups 9:45 a.m. WorshipService11 a.m. and Facebook Live Stream  
OTHER PROGRAMS  
MONDAYS at 6:30 p.m. H.O.P.E. Meeting Recovery meetings for those with addictions, anxiety, and grief SMC. Call 413-519-4591  
TUESDAYS at 7 p.m. ZOOM Bible Study WEDNESDAYS at 7 p.m. Ludlow Christian Fellowship Meeting Hank Bastos, Leader, 413-348-6487  
SMC and Facebook Live Stream [ludlowfellowship.org](http://ludlowfellowship.org)  
FRIDAYS Children's After School Club (pre K through teens) 5-6:30 p.m. Church Fellowship Hall  
SATURDAYS at 10 a.m. Ecumenical Prayer Meeting

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**  
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413-583-8454  
S Sunday services  
Sacrament Meeting 10- 11 A.M.  
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Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon  
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon  
Classes for Single Adults(18-30)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -11- 12 noon  
Classes for Young Men(11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon  
Classes for Young Women (11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month - 11-12 noon  
Children's classes: Sunday school & singing time every Sunday(3-10) 11- 12 noon  
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**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH**  
41 Warsaw Ave., Ludlow  
413-583-2630  
Pastor Rev. Raymond A. Soltys  
Saturday Vigil Masses - 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday Masses - 7:30 a.m.; 8:45 a.m. (Polish); 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Mass - 5:30 p.m.

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191 Hubbard St., Ludlow  
413-583-3467  
Pastor - Rev. Msgr. Homer P. Gosselin  
In Residence - Rev. Norman Bolton  
Deacons: Normand Grondin, Thomas Rickson, Keith Davies  
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Visit our website at [www.stelizabethludlow.org](http://www.stelizabethludlow.org)  
Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Instagram.  
Check out our Parish App.

Wednesday, May 15, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Youth Group - 3:30 p.m. (JR), Holy Mother Choir - 5:15 p.m. (C), Scouts - 6 p.m. (FLBH)  
Thursday, May 16, - Daily Mass - 9 a.m. (C), Trip Informational Meeting - 6:00 p.m. (FLBH)  
Friday, May 17, - Daily Mass - 9 a.m. (C), Purse Bingo - 5:00 p.m. (FLBH)  
Saturday, May 18, - Saturday Mass - 4 p.m. (C), Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C),  
Sunday, May 19, - Sunday Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 11 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 5 p.m. (C)  
Monday May 20, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Women's Bible Study - 6 p.m. (ZR)  
Tuesday, May 21, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Friends of St. Elizabeth - 10:00 a.m. (ZR), St. Rita Choir - 2:30 p.m. (C), Bereavement Support - 6:30 p.m. (ZR), Pastoral Council- 6:30 p.m. (JR)

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**  
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MASS SCHEDULE  
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:15 p.m.  
Sunday Mass; 8:45 a.m. (English), 10 a.m. (Polish)  
Weekday Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 7:45 a.m. (English)  
First Friday Mass: 5:30 p.m. (Polish/English)  
First Saturday Mass: 9 a.m. (Polish/English)  
Confessions: Saturday - 3:15-4 p.m.

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

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

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Service live-streamed at 10 am on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow>  
Website: [www.ludlowfirst.com](http://www.ludlowfirst.com)

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

## Ludlow summer concert series

Ludlow— The Ludlow Cultural Council is hosting a summer concert series every Sunday night from June 23 to August 24.

"We have a great line up and are excited to provide a free opportunity for the community to come together this summer," says Michelle Goncalves, council chair.

The outdoor concert series features a range of local bands from multiple musical genres. "This year's lineup includes Tower of Power, Grateful Dead, and Beatles tributes, as well as original jazz, rock, blues and Americana music from our talented Western Massachusetts musicians," says Goncalves.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs and blankets to enjoy the music. The council is in the process of lining up food trucks for each concert, with the final line up available at the Council's website [ludlowculturalcouncil.com](http://ludlowculturalcouncil.com).

The series runs Sundays at 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Mack Donnelly Gazebo, 11 East St.; June 23.; Union Jack; June 30.; Lisa Martin Band; July 7.; Lobsterz from Mars; July 14.; Blues Brothers; July 21.; Oakland Stroke; July 28.; Kingdom of Jones; August 4.; Frank Manzi; August 11.; Bad Signs; August 18.; Acousticca; August 25.; Billy Eagen.

In Massachusetts, public funding for the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences is provided through a central agency, the Mass Cultural Council, with support from a network of 329 local cultural councils across the state. The Ludlow Cultural Council is one of these local councils.

Each year, the Ludlow Cultural Council awards more than a dozen grants to artists, educators, musicians, and other performers or organizations for events and activities that benefit Ludlow and support the cultural vitality of our town. See <https://mass-culture.org/Ludlow>.

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# CAMPUS NOTES

## Benjamin Hamel Achieves Spring 2024 Dean's List at Belmont University

Benjamin Hamel (01056) was named among the students who qualified for Belmont University's spring 2024 Dean's List. Approximately 44% of the University's 7,338 undergraduate students qualified for the spring 2024 Dean's List.

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

## Dennis from Ludlow Participates in Service Trip to Jamaica

Julia Dennis, Class of 2027 from Ludlow was among several Regis students who embarked on a service immersion trip to Montego Bay, Jamaica during their Spring Break to volunteer for the

Mustard Seed Community.

Dennis volunteered at Blessed Assurance, a non-profit organization that offers lifelong residential care to children with disabilities. Each day, Dennis volunteered by participating in services such as painting and spending time with the residents. When Regis students were not participating in service, they explored the rich culture Montego Bay has to offer.

## Wilken Attends 50th Annual Northeast Bioengineering Conference

Nicholas Wilken from Western New England University's (WNE) College of Engineering recently attended the 50th Annual Northeast Bioengineering Conference (NEBEC), held at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, NJ on April 4-5, 2024.

NEBEC, a premier gathering in the field of bioengineering, aims to foster collaboration and showcase innovative research and education programs in the northeastern United States. This year's conference brought together distin-

guished professionals and aspiring minds to explore various disciplines within bioengineering and biomedical engineering, including Cell and Tissue Engineering, Biomechanics, Medical Device Technology, Medical Imaging and Processing, Neuro-engineering, and Education.

Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering Andi Kwaczala and Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Director of Experiential Learning Mike Rust lead the student delegation of 12 students from the Biomedical Engineering Department. Student teams actively participated in the conference's scientific and design presentations, which included oral talks and poster sessions. The event featured keynote speakers from academia, medicine, and industry, enriching the dialogue on the latest advancements and future directions in bioengineering.

Nicholas Wilken of Ludlow, MA is working towards a BSE in Biomedical Engineering.

## Students Recognized awards ceremony

WESTON— Regis students received recognition during the university's Student Leadership awards ceremony, an

event that recognizes students who serve in leadership roles on campus, including clubs and organizations, who have made a significant impact on the Regis community over the last academic year.

Students were recognized with prestigious awards across a variety of categories due to their unwavering dedication to academics as well as the Regis community.

"Regis students are challenged and supported as they explore their passions to find their purpose in the world," said President Antoinette Hays, PhD, RN. "A Regis education is truly invaluable, thanks to the faculty and staff who prioritize fostering character and confidence in our students in preparation for a successful career and life of meaning."

The Student Leadership Awards ceremony is hosted annually by the Center for Student Engagement. Among several categories, there are awards for campus life, departmental recognition, and student employee of the year.

Julia Dennis, 2027 of Ludlow; received the Rising Star Award.

Madelynn Philibotte, 2027 of Ludlow; received the Rising Star Award.



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**The Russell Public Library in Russell, MA is seeking a PART TIME (8 HOURS) LIBRARY CIRCULATION ASSISTANT.** Required, strong interest in working with the public, good organizational skills and solid computer skills. Bachelor's Degree with 1 year of library/administrative/ public service experience or an Associates Degree, with 2 years of library/administrative/ public service experience. For more info see library page on **Town of Russell website.** Please send a cover letter and resume to **Russell Public Library Trustees P.O. Box 275 Russell, MA 01071** or email to **rpldirector@townofrussell.us** to be received by May 21, 2024.

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### MMWEC from page 5

grades their home's electrification or efficiency measures pays a monthly tariff that sums to no more than the savings in energy costs afforded by the new measures. The tariff is tied to the electric meter, rather than the resident, so that if a resident moves, the tariff simply transfers to the next occupant.

Unlike traditional on-bill financing, where a utility makes a loan to a property owner, thus requiring adequate credit history and a willingness to take on debt, IUI decouples capital improvements from the individual resident or business. It is a financing mechanism that enables upgrading properties with measures that reduce operating costs and improve the comfort, health, and environmental footprint of the building, all with little or no upfront capital investment from the ratepayer.

As part of the project, MMWEC will conduct a feasibility study of implementing MMWEC's unique

pooled loan program as a capital pool for MMWEC Member light departments that launch IUI programs. This pooled loan funding would leverage economies of scale and eliminate the substantial time and resources involved in each individual MLP independently sourcing capital.

"What excites me about IUI is that it avails equitable access to clean energy improvements for all customers—renters and low-income included—and has the potential to unlock the pace and scale of residential decarbonization that science-based targets require," says Ashley Muspratt, President & CEO of CET.

"IUI addresses one of the key hurdles to decarbonizing and electrifying the residential sector – up-front cost," says Zoe Eckert, MMWEC's Sustainable Energy Policy and Program Senior Manager. "We are excited to continue our work with CET to expand the availability of this program to more municipal utility customers. The IUI program is an effective tool

to enable more people to decarbonize their homes without breaking the bank."

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.

CET, a regional nonprofit, operates on the front lines of climate action by helping people and businesses decarbonize through waste reduction, energy efficiency, and electrification. With nearly 50 years of experience, CET envisions a world that has embraced and advanced just and resilient climate solutions.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD24P0600EA  
Estate of:  
Oswaldo Washington Hidalgo, Jr.  
Also known as: Washington Oswaldo Hidalgo, Jr.  
Date of Death: 01/28/2024  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
To all interested persons:  
A Petition for S/A - Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative**

has been filed by **Maria Angelica Figueroa of Ludlow, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the **Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and**

**objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/03/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under

**the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 06, 2024  
**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
05/15/2024

## FCU collecting cash donations to provide a 'Bed for Every Child'

SPRINGFIELD - "Good night, sleep tight..." Freedom Credit Union believes every child deserves a great night's sleep, every night. That's why it is again holding its annual "Month of Giving" campaign to provide A Bed for Every Child throughout the Pioneer Valley. The community is invited to stop by any Freedom

branch throughout the month of May to support this worthy endeavor with cash donations.

"We appreciate the commitment of our members, staff and community in supporting this important annual initiative," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "With ongoing support, we can help make sure all

children have a warm, cozy place to dream every night."

This effort began in 2011 when the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless learned that many public-school students were not getting enough sleep because they did not have their own beds. In response, they launched A Bed for Every Child in 2012 with a

mission to help children get the restful sleep they need to learn and succeed.

Partnering with schools, healthcare institutions and non-profit community partners, each child receives a brand-new mattress and a sturdy custom wooden bed frame. On average, A Bed for Every Child receives more than

200 referrals for beds each month statewide. To date, more than 1,598 children have been helped.

Freedom Credit Union has partnered with the Pioneer Valley Chapter of the Cooperative Credit Union Association to support this initiative annually since 2017.

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