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Specialist makes presentation on youth jobs

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

INDIAN ORCHARD – Local residents had the opportunity to attend a presentation about youth work opportunities with the Citizens Council’s Youth Council.

On Dec. 11, the Youth Council welcomed Phylis Gedon, the Youth Specialist and Program Coordinator at MassHire, for a presentation. In a Facebook post, Ayanna Crawford, Chief of Staff for Representative Orlando Ramos’s office, praised the presentation and the work of the council.

“Tonight’s meeting was outstanding, with my dear friend from MassHire who shared all about youth jobs,” Crawford said.

MassHire Springfield Career Center offers recruitment



Submitted photo

Please see **YOUTH JOBS**, Page 7 Youth Specialist Phylis Gedon was surrounded by members of the Indian Orchard Youth Council.

Ellison appointed as new captain at LFD

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – At last week’s Board of Selectmen meeting, the board appointed Zachary Ellison to Fire Captain, as well as conducting other business.

The Dec. 17 meeting began with the board accepting the resignation of Bill Rosenblum from the Mobile Home Rent Control Board.

“After considering that there could be a possible conflict, I decided that I should resign,” Rosenblum said.

The board also accepted the resignation of Joseph Queiroga from the Planning Board, effective Dec. 31. Select Board Member Tony Goncalves offered his “sincere thanks for his time.”

“I’m really sad that Joe has to retire, he’s been on the Planning Board since 2007 and he was a real serious member of that board, he took a lot of time,

his own personal time,” said Goncalves.

Select Board Member Manuel Silva asked if the board would be asked to appoint an interim member to fill Queiroga’s seat. After some discussion over whether the alternate would take the position, Town Administrator Marc Strange said he would seek clarification.

Fire Captain interviews

At last week’s meeting, the board conducted interviews to appoint a firefighter to the position of Fire Department Captain. The board interviewed three candidates for the position; Ellison, Robert Dooley, and David Nally.

Fire Chief Ryan Pease took some time to thank the candidates for their work with the department. “I don’t usually get that opportunity to say thank you to all of them at one time,” Pease said.

“No one of them was here

Please see **ELLISON**, Page 7

Planning Board holds public hearing for White St. property

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – At the recent Planning Board meeting, members voted to continue the public hearing about ongoing parking violations at a property on White Street.

The Dec. 12 meeting began with a public hearing on revoking approval of the site plan for the White Street property. The site was determined to not be in compliance with the State Building Code.

Background

An emergency meeting between the Board of Health Director Paulina Matusik, Fire Captain Seth Falconer, and the owner and renter of the property was held on Oct. 23 to explain the requirements to bring the property up to code. According to the letter from Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer BJ Church,

“nothing was done to start this process.”

“The renters continued to occupy the dwelling/work on property with no certificate of occupancy or permit,” read Chair Ray Phoenix. “As of Nov. 14, a stop work order and danger notice is posted to the address by the Building Commissioner Church.”

The Fire Department provided a full data incident report, which included dates and times along with a narrative, which described the department’s response to a fire alarm activation on the night in question.

“Upon our arrival, we could hear the fire alarm sounding,” the report said. “There was a language barrier present, but we were able to ascertain that there was an electrical problem with their coffee maker and it started to smoke.”

A pull box had been activated and the firefighters present reset it, but to deactivate

the alarm itself, it was necessary to access the other side of the building, occupied by a meat market.

“One of the occupants called the landlord and left multiple messages,” Phoenix read. “With no way to reset the fire alarm, (the fire department) had to leave it sounding until the morning when someone came to open the meat market.”

Church and Falconer met again with the renter of the club on Nov. 19 after the Fire and Danger Notice/Stop Work Order were issued to explain the steps to go forward.

The board received correspondence from Health Director Matusik, who said she conducted a pre-op food inspection at the prime meat market that is the attached building, and found it in compliance. Discussion

Please see **PLANNING BOARD**, Page 11

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LUDLOW



ZIGGY

This is Ziggy, the Williams family's dog, and he was the best Christmas present ever. He loves to visit his mom's work friends, dig holes on the beach, and get the zoomies. Ziggy is a great vehicle traveler, loves stealing socks and swimming, and is an all around love bug.



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.

Proposed changes to Ludlow tobacco regulations

LUDLOW— Convenience store owners are condemning the Ludlow Board of Health's proposal to ban the sale of products often used by adult smokers to gradually reduce nicotine consumption over time. The Board of Health held a public hearing on Tuesday, Dec. 17.

The hearing was about a plan to cap nicotine levels of nicotine pouches sold in Ludlow. If adopted, this ban would stop adult consumers from being able to legally purchase nicotine pouches with nicotine levels above 6 mg per pouch. If approved, the change in local tobacco regulations would prohibit local stores from selling these products to their adult customers who often purchase the less harmful nicotine pouches to curb or stop their use of traditional cigarettes. Anyone who opposes the local prohibition is encouraged to speak out at the public hearing.

The retail community and NECSE-MA, which represents thousands of con-

venience stores across New England, oppose the measure for several reasons, including: Oral nicotine pouches are considered less risky products than many other tobacco products, and adult consumers are adopting them to replace, in whole or in part, their use of tobacco products higher on the continuum of risk recognized by the FDA.; A cap on nicotine levels is an infringement on personal choice.

Many adults use nicotine pouches at varying levels as a safer alternative to smoking, and capping the nicotine level could discourage adults from moving away from cigarettes to a less harmful product.; It does nothing to address under-age youth use of nicotine and tobacco products.; Fewer than two out of 100 (1.8%) youth nationwide report using a nicotine pouch in the last 30 days. More than three times (6.3%) that number report using marijuana. This plan proposes to fix a problem that doesn't exist.

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First Responders Dinner to be held Jan. 9

LUDLOW—Pioneer Valley Financial Group & Ludlow Veterans of Foreign Affairs' hosts its 7th Annual First Responders Appreciation Dinner. The event will be held on Thursday, Jan. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Gremio Lusitano Club in Ludlow.

The event is held as a way of recognizing the dedication of our local first responders. It's a night of food, fun, games and prizes. Annual chief games will be hosted; a friendly competition between departments, toys for all the children attending and raffle prizes!

This event is for local first responders and their families who live or work in Ludlow, Wilbraham & Hampden, including Police, Fire, EMTs, Hampden County Sheriff's Dept, State Police, Emergency Dispatchers and all departments' retirees.



First responders from last year pose together for a photo.

There is no registration or charge to attend this event. If you have any questions, feel free to connect with our Community Outreach Manager, Katherine Ferri, at 413-589-1500.

Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi warns public of new scam targeting travelers

LUDLOW -Hampden County Sheriff Nick Cocchi is warning the public of a new phone scam targeting travelers.

In addition to the usual scams that continue to disrupt citizens' daily lives, a family member of a Sheriff's Office deputy who was traveling abroad reported a new variation. The scammer, posing as a deputy, asked her to verify her signature by offering it up at a nearby electronic terminal. That could prove just as dangerous as giving up cash.

"All of these scams are aimed at using a fear of being on the wrong side of the law to coerce people to give up their hard-earned money. And we only expect these scams to

increase as the holidays approach," Sheriff Cocchi said. "Law enforcement will never call you to settle a warrant or to solicit money for any reason. If you get one of these calls, hang up."

There also have been reports of a new round of a previously used scam in which Western Massachusetts residents are contacted via phone by someone claiming to be a Sheriff's Office deputy. In these phone calls reported over the past few days, the scammers represented themselves as a Hampden County Sheriff's Office deputy who claimed the person answering owed money for missing grand jury duty.

The Sheriff's Office will NEVER conduct such business via tele-

phone or electronic means. If it was a serious matter as the scammers claim, a uniformed deputy would be knocking at your door. Sheriff Cocchi warns that even if the phone number on the caller ID appears to be from a local law enforcement agency, it is not legitimate and likely generated via a spoofing service on the Internet.

Legitimate government and law enforcement agencies will NEVER do business on the phone or by digital means.

Sheriff Cocchi is asking members of the public who receive such messages to hang up and report it to their local police department. And if you're reading this, please share the message with loved ones.

Professional Organizer to Share Tips at the Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM— New year, new you! Jenna Elliot, founder of The Naked Flower Professional Organizers, will lead a workshop at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, Jan. 6 at 6 p.m.

This informative workshop will inspire attendees to get a jump start on their new year organization goals. Learn how to create better habits, utilize your calendar and to-do lists more effectively, and find organization resources to help you stay on task.

This free event is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library. Registration is requested as space is limited. Sign up at wilbrahamlibrary.org, or call the library at 413-596-6141.

Family LEGO Challenge Build Day

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library will be holding a Family LEGO Challenge Build Day on Saturday, Dec. 28 at 10 a.m.

Residents are invited to work with their family to recreate LEGO designs. There will be both LEGO Challenge Cards available to build with, as well as LEGO "Free Build".

Finished LEGO designs will be photographed for display in the children's department following the program.

This program is for children aged five and up, with adult supervision. Adults are required to remain with their children at all times.

Call the library at 413-596-6141 or visit www.WilbrahamLibrary.org to register.

Wilbraham Hiking Club December hikes

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Hiking Club has these hikes coming up for December....and, wait! there's more! The Wilbraham Senior Center Hiking Club has great hikes, too! For more info and to register for the hikes below, contact Jen at the Senior Center, 596-8379

* Tuesday, Dec 31- 9:30 a.m. Arcadia Rolling Meadows, Easthampton

Storytime at the Wilbraham Public Library

WILBRAHAM - Registration is now open for the winter session of Storytime at the Wilbraham Public Library. Join Mrs. B for a fun collection of stories, songs, and fingerplays geared for children ages three to six.

Kids must come in independently and parents/caretaker must wait in the library. Sessions run for six weeks. Winter session dates: Thursday January 9, 2025 to February 13, 2025 at 10 a.m.

Call the library at (413) 596-6141 or visit www.wilbrahamlibrary.org to register.

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PNA Lodge 711 hosts Children's Holiday Party

By Kristin Rivers
 Editor
 krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The Lodge 711 Polish National Alliance of Chicopee hosted a Children's Holiday Party at the Chicopee Falls Polish Home on Dec. 15.

The party ran from 1 to 5 p.m. with attendees--members of the PNA and their families--enjoying raffle prizes, arts and crafts, games, a hot cocoa station, making holiday cards for elders in nursing homes in Chicopee, a Holiday Sweater Competition, visits with Santa, singing Polish and English carols and a classic Polish dinner.

Also among the volunteers were members from the National Honor Society at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, with members of the Wilbraham PNA Lodge 3276 also taking part in the festivities.

In addition to families from Chicopee and Wilbraham and Hampden, families from Ludlow and Belchertown and other surrounding communities also were in attendance at the event.

Teresa Sherman, financial secretary, treasurer and sales representative for the PNA Lodge 711, was excited about the annual event, sharing it's also the first time the MRHS NHS is volunteering.

"We're having lots of fun and singing and having Polish food," Sherman said. "We couldn't ask for anything more."

President Joanne Cebula, who is overseeing the event for the first time after taking over from her father, the late Mitchell Nowak--who served for many years--explained the PNA is a fraternal organization that started in the 1880s "to unite Polish immigrants and the community to the American society."

Cebula added the Holiday Party is the organization's major event of the year, thanking the Chicopee Falls Polish Home for letting them host the event.

"It started with a lot of sports, youth, educational groups. There's also a yearly scholarship that they provide," Cebula said. "They also have a publication. They have quarterly Zgoda. So, they try to keep tradition going. A lot of folk music, dancing, youth sports and dance groups."

Sherman added the organization also supports other nonprofit organizations, a member of the Polish American Congress in Holyoke and supports the Polish Center for Discovery & Learning.

"We try to help where help is needed in the community," Sherman said.

Alexa Sherman, the granddaughter of Teresa Sherman, is an NHS member and came up with the idea for the annual Children's Holiday Party, enjoying seeing the children get the presents from Santa.

"As I grew up, I always came to these parties and my grandmother and my grandfather would run them. So, I was always a part of it and I thought it would be a good idea to help them set up because I know it takes a lot for her now as



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

A group of happy children meeting Santa during the Polish National Alliance Lodge 711 Children's Party Holiday at the Chicopee Falls Polish Home on Dec. 15.

she's gotten older," Sherman said. "So, I thought it would be a good way to help give back to my community and help NHS be involved with the party."

Sherman was excited to have NHS take part in the event as it provides the students an opportunity to give back and learn about PNA.

"It helps just give back to our communities like I've been saying and I think it's important to be involved in your community and to just help everyone who needs help or help people that need more help now," Sherman said. "So, I think with helping the Polish National Alliance and different communities like that, it helps spread holiday cheer and it just assists people who need extra help."

Like her grandmother, Sherman also believes in keeping traditions alive.

"It's important to keep that tradition and to keep all of your values as you grow up, so you can instill them in your family members and things like that," Sherman said. "So, they can grow up knowing about their heritage and their ethnicity because that's what this party's about."

Teresa Sherman wants the community to know how much the PNA enjoys holding this event.

"It's very heartwarming. It's a lot of work to begin with, but it's really worth it to see everybody having a good time," Sherman said.

Alexa Sherman's message to everyone is the importance of getting together.

"Some of these families may not know each other, but when they come to this party they may all establish a great connection just because of a similarity of being Polish or whatever or even just the holiday spirit," Sherman said. "Just coming together and having fun I think that's just great."



Members of the PNA Lodge 711 and members of the Wilbraham PNA Lodge 3276 also got to meet with Santa Claus in this fun group photo.



Isabella Strand, Alexa Sherman and Katelynn Pronovost smile in front of the Christmas tree. The girls volunteered at the event as part of the National Honor Society at Minnechaug Regional High School.



A shot of families enjoying the festivities.



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Legislators push for resolution in contract negotiations

SPRINGFIELD—In a letter sent to Baystate Health and WellPoint, Inc., members of the Western Mass Delegation of the Massachusetts Legislature have called for swift action for both sides to resolve their ongoing contract negotiations, emphasizing the potential harm to Western Mass residents who rely on uninterrupted access to healthcare services.

Wellpoint Insurance said it has been unable to renegotiate a contract with the region's largest healthcare provider. Its current contract outlining reimbursement rates with Baystate expires at the end of the year. Baystate Health is poised to stop accepting its members as patients after Dec. 31.

In the letter, the delegation underscored the importance of protecting patients and families from disruptions in coverage that could arise if an agreement is not reached promptly. The legislators expressed concern that unresolved negotiations would force many residents to navigate the healthcare system without access to in-network services. This burden could be particularly devastating for those managing chronic illnesses or complex medical conditions.

One of the Legislators urging Baystate and Wellpoint to come to an agreement is Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), who says constituents have been reaching out with concerns over the uncertainty surrounding their healthcare coverage.

"This is more than a contractual disagreement—it's a public health crisis in the making," said Oliveira. "Western Massachusetts residents should never have to choose between financial stability and accessing the care they need. We strongly urge both parties to work collaboratively and resolve this issue with the urgency it

demands."

Massachusetts is a national leader in healthcare access and quality, and we must do everything in our power to uphold this standard," the letter stated. "The potential for thousands of families to lose in-network access to essential services is simply unacceptable. Our priority must be to protect the well-being of patients and families who depend on these critical services.

The legislators acknowledged the complexity of contract negotiations, which often involve significant financial and operational considerations. However, they emphasized that these challenges cannot overshadow the immediate and long-term consequences for patients if a resolution is delayed. The letter urged both Baystate Health and WellPoint to act with urgency and empathy to find common ground that prioritizes the needs of the community.

The legislators offered their assistance in facilitating discussions or providing additional support to expedite a resolution. They warned of the ripple effects that prolonged disruptions could have, not only on individual patients but also on the broader healthcare system, local economies, and public trust in healthcare institutions.

Oliveira emphasized that the stakes are particularly high for families in Western Massachusetts, who often face unique challenges such as limited healthcare options in rural areas.

"Massachusetts has built its reputation as a leader in healthcare through innovation and collaboration," Oliveira said "I am confident that Baystate Health and WellPoint can find a resolution that ensures the continued well-being of the people who trust them with their care."



Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

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

For the 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, Dec. 25
Center Closed for Christmas

Thursday, Dec. 26
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10 a.m. SHINE Benefits Counseling*
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation*
1 p.m. Mahjong
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

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

Daily Events:

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

Menu:

Thursday, Dec. 19: Shrimp Scampi/Linguini/Peas
Friday, Dec. 20: Chicken Patty Sand/Lettuce & Tom/Chips/Pickle
Monday, Dec. 23: Christmas Lunch, Pot Roast/Mashed Pot/Glazed Carrots (sorry, sold out)
Tuesday, Dec. 24: No lunch. Center Closes at 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 25: Center Closed for Christmas
Thursday, Dec. 26: BBQ Riblet/Sweet Pot. Fries/3 Bean 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.

Baystate Wing Auxiliary selling January Lotto calendars

PALMER—The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is currently selling their January 2025 Lotto Calendars. The one-month calendar, which costs \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Drawings will begin on Feb. 3.

For over 65 years the Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has been actively supporting local healthcare through its sponsorship of special events and sales from the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop located on the first floor of the hospital.

The calendars are on sale at the Baystate Wing Hospital gift shop. Funds raised by

the annual Lotto Calendars support the Auxiliary's scholarship program and their philanthropic efforts that benefit Baystate Wing Hospital.

Whether looking for something special for a patient, a gift for a special occasion, or an item for the home, the Baystate Wing Hospital Gift Shop offers many unique, hand-selected items.

For more information about the Lotto Calendar visit the gift shop located on the first floor of the hospital or call 413-370-8169.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Snowy owl



Snowy owls have already been spotted in Massachusetts this year.

They come from the tundra area of Canada into the United States during the winter. Usually, the snowy owls that head to this area are immature. This irruptive behavior may or may not be coordinated with the lemming cycle, one of their primary foods especially during their breeding cycle.

The snowy owl is about 24 inches long and primarily white, yellow eyes and variable amounts of black spots and barring. Immatures are darker than adults and females darker than males.

Snowy owls frequently hunt during the day. Their diet is mainly rodents, Arctic and snowshoe hares, fish, birds including waterfowl and carrion.

They nest on the tundra in a shallow depression on a mound on top or on a gravel mound. They line the nest with feathers and bits of moss. The female lays three to ten white eggs. When prey is abundant the clutch size is larger. They make barking noises during breeding, but are quiet in winter.

They inhabit the open tundra and when they move south, they inhabit airports, beaches, marshes and open fields.

Many years ago, a snowy owl appeared in Oakham during the winter. I was lucky to see it perched on a fence post near an open field in the daytime. People came from all over to see this rare visitor. Logan Airport is a popular winter stop over.

Bald eagle sighting

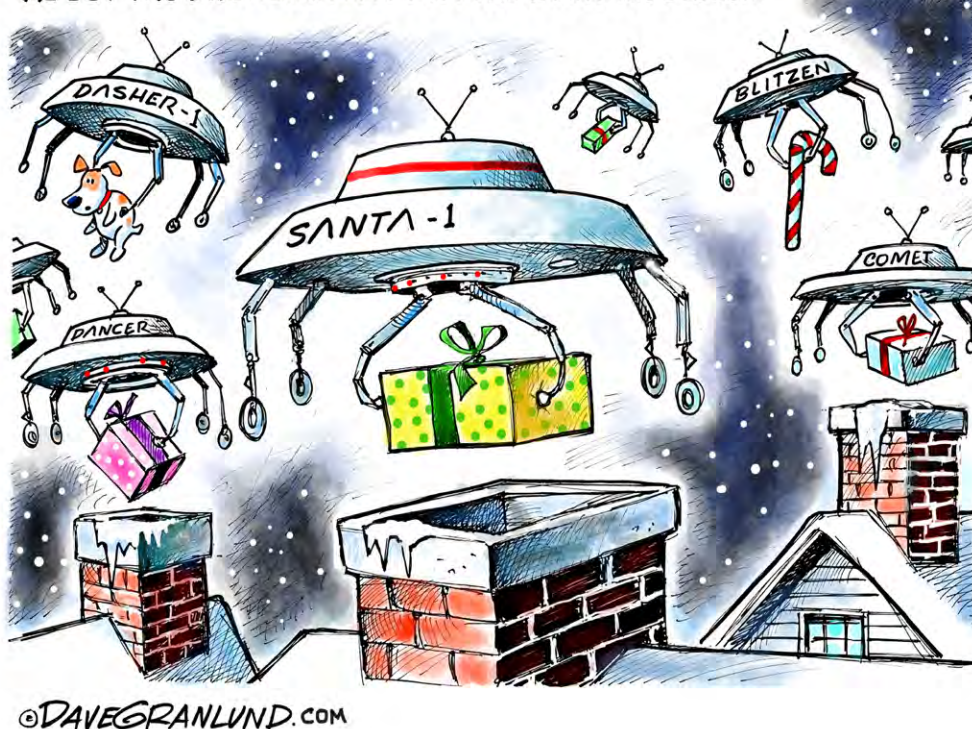
On Dec. 2 I received an email from a Brimfield resident. He said, "I've been checking the local ponds but not a lot happening. However, I have seen a bald eagle or two at the pond on New Reed Street four times in the last two weeks and another birder I met there reported seeing eagles there that I missed. On one visit two adult bald eagles were sitting in the same dead tree about fifteen feet apart."

Christmas Bird Count

He plans to participate in the Allen's Bird Count Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec. 14. National Audubon Society 125th Christmas Bird Counts take place Saturday, Dec. 14 through Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025. This is one of the most popular birding events of the year. It is rarely held on the actual designated holiday itself, counts are scheduled to take place on various days surrounding Dec. 25 within the official count period noted above. Counting takes place anytime during the 24 hours, mid-night-to-midnight.

Please see **BACKYARD**, Page 11

ABOUT THE DRONE ACTIVITY IN THE EVENING SKIES...



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GUEST COLUMN



Coriander makes a great cookie

Today was the designated day to begin to bake like crazy. Personally, I wish we could cull the number, and honestly the sheer volume of Christmas cookies we make, but if the kids or my husband hear of that I will be banished to Grinch status.

It's a tradition to go through the recipes ahead of time and decide what cookies we'll bake.

One of my all-time favorites, and one I would never consider culling, is the coriander cookie. My family tried a sample at Old Sturbridge Village's Christmas by Candlelight some years back and enjoyed it so much we added the recipe to our repertoire. Yummy indeed!

You may be surprised to learn that Coriander sativum is the Latin name for two herbs. Confused? Most folks are when they learn that the seeds of this plant are called coriander, while the leaves are known as cilantro.

Both have been used for culinary purposes since the beginning of time! All portions of the plant are edible but some argue that the green portion is barely that.

Read on.

I liken cilantro to be the "marigold" of the herb world. Either you love it or you hate it. I, for one, immensely dislike it and if given the chance to pick it out of my salsa I will certainly do it! Even in a restaurant.

I found it interesting to learn that some

people possess a genetically predisposed aversion to it, according to studies by Charles J. Wysocki of the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia.

To me it has a bitter taste that I have a hard time describing beyond that. Dirty? Soil-like?

Most people that do dislike it have a similar lack of descriptive ability; they just can't put their finger on it, but they don't like the taste...or the smell of it.

As I mentioned, cilantro is often used in salsa and other Mexican, Asian and Italian dishes including curries, sauces, salads and soups. If you prefer to grow the plant more for its greens and less for its seeds, manage it as you would spinach.

Sow seeds in the ground in the cool of the season and in succession every two weeks. It dislikes being transplanted but doesn't mind pot culture. Harvest greens rather aggressively – about one-third of the plant at a time.

Just like spinach, there are slow-to-bolt varieties to choose from such as aptly named "Slow Bolt" and "Longstanding."

Coriander seeds, on the other hand, have a pleasant (at least to me!) fragrance once dried. The scent is easier to pin-point too; nutty and spicy (ever so slightly) come to mind.

Coriander seed is also well known in various ethnic cuisines and is a favorite in spice blends, curry being the most popular. It is also used in the making of a number of distilled spirits and herbal liqueurs, and cookies.

It's funny that I can like one part of the plant and not the other. Coriander seed can be eaten whole, crushed or powdered.

The Herb Society noted that during World War II the seeds were coated in white or pink sugar and thrown from carnival wagons, earning the name "confections" or "confetti!" When the seeds were replaced by balls of colored paper the name confetti stuck. Take this one to your next game of Cruise Ship Trivia!

It is easy to harvest the seeds. Simply

Please see **GARDEN**, Page 11

Election letters policy

The Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to theregister@turley.com. 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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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication.

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

Send letters to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email 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 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.

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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

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Submitted photos

Phylis Gedon made a presentation on job opportunities for young residents at the Citizens Council.

YOUTH JOBS from Page 1

options to companies, which include job expos and on-site recruitment, ranging from large job expos, to on site recruitment options for individual companies.

“Our goal is to match the needs of people looking for work to those of our business partners,” the website said.

“We are more than a website,” the website said. “We are local people interacting with

local job seekers and businesses. We assist people in building their skill sets to meet the needs of businesses (and) advance your job search and career through our many workshops and career training options.”

This opportunity was made possible through collaboration of the Indian Orchard Citizens Council’s Youth Council.

“Thanks to our amazing Office Manager Jackie Farrow, for making sure we all felt comfortable and picking up food from

YAAD foods,” Crawford said.

The Citizens Council is still recruiting local residents aged 11 to 18 to participate in the Youth Council, which provides opportunities such as workshops and classes, presentations like Gedon’s, and a chance to be involved in the community.

“The Youth Council is growing rapidly and we look forward to welcoming more youth from Indian Orchard to this council,” Crawford said.

If you’d like to get involved



Young residents sat around a table to discuss employment opportunities with Gedon.

with the Indian Orchards Youth Council, you can reach out to Youth Advisor Ayanna Crawford by telephone at 413-886-9089 or Zaida Govan at 413-301-2533. For a link to the council’s Zoom meetings, call or text 413-886-9089.

The Youth Council offers a stipend to active members, requiring that members attend at least three meetings before they can be eligible.

The next meeting of the Youth Council will be on Saturday, Jan. 18, at 5 p.m.

ELLISON from Page 1

by any luck or happenstance,” Pease said. “All of them are 10-plus-year career veterans of our department who have always served the department well.”

Lieutenant Ellison currently serves as Acting Captain, and estimated that he has performed over 3,400 hours of supervisory experience in his role.

The board asked prepared questions to each of the candidates about leadership qualities, budget advice, experiences on the job, and challenges in the role.

“Being in a leadership po-

sition means that there will be people underneath you in rank, but that certainly doesn’t mean that they work for you; you also work for them,” Ellison said. “It’s kind of a give and take. You have to have that mutual respect there.”

Ellison talked about the importance of being consistent when doling out unpopular orders as well as when receiving feedback. He also talked about his experience with the firefighters’ union as an advantage when handling matters concerning budget shortages.

Ellison said that in more than 200 shifts working with the town’s police department has taught him a lot about working

with people, and particularly to delegate.

“I’ve always been more of a hands-on kind of person, I really like to have my hands in there, doing something. (...) Being in that supervisory role and having the opportunity to do that for so long has actually taught me to take a step back a little bit more,” Ellison said. “The people that I work with will really bring out the best in themselves, and the better in me, if I let them.”

Ellison talked about the importance of addressing health concerns within the department, and emphasized not only physical health, but mental health as well.

“We have to make sure that we’re as close to tip-top shape as we can be, but that’s going to include keeping our mind sharp,” Ellison said. “I think that may have been something that’s been overlooked for a long time. I think it’s made great strides, not just in the fire service – certainly, in society, it has, but the fire service is catching up and it’s nice to see.”

“Those are some tough conversations to have,” Ellison said. “We need to make ourselves available for each other when it comes to mental health.”

Ellison said that in his experience as a supervisor, a “fun challenge” to address has been discussing past practices with

young firefighters entering the service.

“With the younger generation, if you will, you can’t be afraid to engage with the why,” Ellison said. “Explain, be transparent, be fair, allow for a little bit of dialogue, maybe, a back-and-forth – if that opportunity presents itself, certainly there are going to be some opportunities where that’s just not going to be an option.”

“If you’re not willing to explain the why, then how can you expect anybody to follow you?” Ellison said.

After discussing the three candidates with Chief Pease, the board voted unanimously to appoint Ellison.

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Lions get second overtime win



Tanner Severyn maneuvers through traffic.

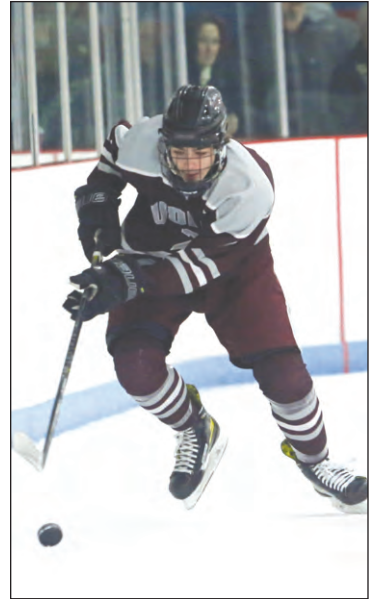
By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD—The members of the Ludlow varsity hockey team began the 2024-25 regular season by celebrating a pair of overtime victories in a span of 48 hours.

The two overtime goals were scored by junior captains.

Defenseman Sean Kefalas, who recorded a hat-trick in the season opener, netted the game winning goal against Agawam with 39.8 seconds remaining in OT. It gave the Lions a 5-4 victory at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield, last Thursday night.

Two days later, on Saturday, Dec. 14, the Lions returned to Olympia and celebrated another 5-4 overtime win against Berry Division rival Minnechaug Regional. Forward Tanner Severyn scored the game-winning goal with 3:38 remaining in OT. It was a memorable day for Severyn, who celebrated his 17th birthday with a



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Evan Dias heads down the ice.

goal and two assists.

“This is the first time that I’ve scored a game winning goal in a varsity hockey game, and it feels great,” Severyn said. “Scoring the game winning goal in overtime is one of the best birthday presents

Please see **HOCKEY**, Page 10

Mateus nets 26 in win



Mason Morace defends for the Lions.

LUDLOW – Last Monday night, Ludlow High School boys basketball defeated nearby Hampden Charter School of Science 62-52. Jackson Mateus had a big opener with 26 points. He had five three-pointers. Cameron Lyman had 12 points and Mason Morace added seven points. Ludlow is 1-0 to start the season.



Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande

Tyler Tatro sends up a shot.



Cameron Lyman heads down the court in traffic.



Jackson Mateus drives to the hoop.

Lions fall in home opener

LUDLOW – Last Tuesday night, Ludlow High School girls basketball was defeated 46-27 by visiting Franklin Tech. The Lions struggled

early in the game with turnovers and were not able to recover. The Lions defense did perform well, keeping the Eagles under 50 points.



Abigail Toomey makes a pass inside the paint.



Ava Friese makes a pass on the run.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Ellana Garcia holds the ball away as she tries to get around an opponent.

T-Birds fall to Checkers on the road

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-10-2-1) fell victim to a two-goal comeback by the Charlotte Checkers (15-6-1-2) last Wednesday night at Bojangles Coliseum in a 4-3 defeat.



The T-Birds did themselves no favors by taking back-to-back penalties just four seconds apart, resulting in 1:57 of two-man advantage time for the league's top power play. Steve Konowalchuk's team dug in, though, as Vadim Zherenko and the penalty killers did the job to survive the lengthy threat.

Charlotte still rode the momentum from the power play to the game's opening tally by Oliver Okuliar at 4:45 of the first period, giving the Checkers a 1-0 advantage.

After the burst from Charlotte, the T-Birds quickly chipped away on the shot board. At 15:00 of the frame, Dalibor Dvorsky brought Springfield even with his team-leading 11th of the season, cashing in on a rebound at the edge of the crease and driving it past former T-Bird Chris Driedger.

The 1-1 score continued for nearly a whole period of game action until the T-Birds' third and

fourth units capitalized on back-to-back shifts. Tanner Dickinson started the scoring blitz with a wristed from the left circle that glanced off traffic and eluded Driedger at 14:02 of the second period, making it a 2-1 lead for Springfield.

34 seconds later, Mathias Laferriere and Drew Callin entered the offensive zone on a 2-on-1 and took advantage of the situation. Driedger made an initial pad save off a Laferriere shot from the left circle. However, the rebound kicked right to Callin, who quickly deked to the forehand and put it behind Driedger to give the T-Birds a 3-1 advantage.

Penalties, though, continued to throw a wrench in the T-Birds' plans, and the Charlotte power play finally connected in the final minute of the second as Rasmus

Asplund redirected a Trevor Carrick wrist shot behind Zherenko, chopping the lead to 3-2 at 19:21 of the middle frame.

For a second straight night, rookie Ben Steeves provided a clutch tying marker for Charlotte, taking a feed from Okuliar in the right circle and snapping a shot past Zherenko's stick hand at 3:55 of the third, bringing the game to a stalemate, 3-3.

The two teams did not generate much after the Steeves goal, with the two clubs combining for only eight shots in the entire third period, and the tie score carried into the final three minutes of the game.

Again, discipline proved pivotal, as Tobias Bjornfot drew a high-sticking double minor and a four-minute power play for the Checkers with 2:39 remaining.

The league's top man advantage lived up to their billing in the final minute, as Wilmer Skoog unloaded a blistering one-time slapper that found twine with 54 seconds left to give Charlotte the 4-3 lead. Springfield's last-ditch efforts to tie came up empty in the closing moments, and Charlotte completed the two-game sweep of the T-Birds.

Railers announce major coaching change

WORCESTER — The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) and Chief Operating Officer Michael G. Myers have announced that Bob Deraney has taken on a new role within the organization, Head of Scouting, effective immediately. Nick Tuzzolino has been named Head Coach & General Manager of the Worcester Railers.

"Bob has been a part of the Railers family for a number of years," Myers said. "We can't thank him enough for his dedication and commitment to this organization over the past several seasons. We look forward to him continuing to work with the team in this new role."

Tuzzolino becomes the fifth head coach in Worcester Railers history after serving as General Manager & Associate Head Coach to begin the season. He first came to Worcester in June after he spent the 2023-24 season as assistant coach and director of player development with the Savannah Ghost Pirates. As a defenseman, he played over 500 games professionally between the UHL, IHL, ECHL & American Hockey League from 2007-2023. During his initial retirement, he coached the Buffalo Jr. Sabres of the Ontario Junior Hockey League from 2016-20.

"In his time here, Nick has demonstrated his readiness to lead the team both on and off the ice," Myers said. "He has a wealth of experience in dissecting professional systems and working in pro player development. We're excited for him to take the reins and continue his work on bringing a winning culture to Worcester."

HOCKEY from Page 9

that I could receive."

It was the first time that Severyn, who's also a member of the Lions golf team, had played a varsity hockey game on his birthday.

Severyn only played in four varsity hockey games as a freshman before suffering a right knee injury which required season ending surgery. He scored ten goals last season. He scored a goal in the season opening victory against the Brownies. Severyn also has twelve career assists.

Not only did the Lions (2-0) win their first two games of this season in OT, but they also lost their final two games a year ago in overtime.

The Lions lost 3-2 in OT to Taconic in the Western Mass. Class B. finals. Two days later, the Lions lost by the same score in OT to Norton High School in a preliminary round game in the Division 3 state tournament.

"This was our fourth overtime game in a row dating back to last season," said Ludlow head coach Paul Rivest. "I'm glad that we won today's game, but we didn't play particularly well. Whenever we took the lead, we allowed them to score a goal. We can't afford to keep giving up leads."

Ludlow is a co-op hockey team for the first time. Seven of the players listed on the Lions hockey roster attend Belchertown High School.

The Belchertown players are freshman Andrew Lambert, senior Charlie Fijal, sophomore William Mitus, senior Owen Hess, sophomore Gavin Harrington, senior Jack Mandeville, and junior Donald Rogers, who was the starting goalie in the first meeting of the regular season against the Falcons (0-1).

Fijal recorded a hat-trick in last Saturday's game. He also assisted on Severyn's game winning overtime goal.

"Charlie is a great hockey player and it's



Charlie Fijal looks to shoot.

great playing on the same varsity hockey team with him," Severyn said. "We were also teammates at the youth level, so I've known him for a long time. We probably wouldn't have had a hockey team this year without the players from Belchertown."

Ludlow was also moved into the Berry Division, along with Greenfield during the off-season.

"We'll be playing a much stronger schedule this year, which will help us in the power rankings," Rivest said. "We're a Division 3 team and both of our wins came against Division 2 opponents. We should skyrocket in the state power rankings."

Minnechaug, who went 11-10 last season, is one of the few Western Mass. hockey teams that hasn't formed a co-op with another school. The Falcons defeated the Lions, 3-1,

a year ago.

The only three seniors listed on the Falcons roster are Ben Daniels, Brayden O'Sullivan, and Matt Beaudin.

Freshman goalie Matt Lafley was credited with 14 saves in his first varsity start.

The Lions took a 1-0 lead in the latest meeting with the Falcons following a 5-on-3 power play goal by Fijal with 4:13 remaining in the opening period. The duo of sophomore Evan Dias and Severyn were credited with the assists.

With 58.7 seconds left in the period, Minnechaug junior Dom Fiorentino scored a power play goal on a rebound shot that deflected off Rogers (27 saves).

In the middle of the second period, back-to-back goals from Kefalas and Fijal gave the Lions a 3-1 advantage.



Sean Kefalas approaches the opposing defense.

Minnechaug managed to slice their deficit in half following a goal from sophomore Liam Faneuff with 6:57 left in the second period. Faneuff's linemates, Enzo Hrycay and Jake Moore, who are both juniors, were credited with the assists.

Ludlow entered the third period holding a slim 3-2 advantage.

Less than two minutes into the final period of regulation, a goal by Minnechaug sophomore Ethan Kelliher, which was assisted by freshman Ryan Donovan tied the score for the second time.

A couple of minutes later, Fijal completed his first hat-trick wearing a Ludlow jersey on a tip-in goal. Severyn was given his second assist of the game on the go-ahead goal.

The score was tied again at 4-4 after Donovan fired a low shot that snuck into the net past Rodgers with eight minutes remaining in regulation.

The Berry Division match-up would remain tied until Severyn became the hero on his birthday a little more than a minute into the overtime period.

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Virtual support groups for those with cancer

PALMER— During a cancer journey patients and their families often benefit from the support of others. Virtual support groups are being held now and through 2025, by Camille St.Onge, LICSW and oncology social worker.

For many years, people had to travel to a predetermined location to attend cancer support group meetings. As a result of restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic virtual support groups began meeting entirely online, with participants joining through video conferencing platforms like

Zoom. Today, many people prefer this method because it offers flexibility, and convenience, and allows them to access support from where they are without needing to physically travel to a meeting location.

“Sharing concerns with a support group can be a beneficial way for people facing cancer to get the help they need to cope with the physical and emotional concerns that arise during and after a cancer diagnosis,” said St. Onge. “While support and self-help groups can vary greatly, groups

share one thing in common, they are a place where people can share personal stories, express emotions, and be heard in an atmosphere of acceptance, understanding, and encouragement.”

The support groups are designed to help patients, their families and caregivers cope with the challenges of a cancer diagnosis.

Virtual Support Group offered include: General Cancer Support Group: first Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Partners in Caregiving: second Wednesday of each month, 5 to 6:30

p.m.; Expressive Writing through Cancer, third Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Breast Cancer Support Group, fourth Wednesday of each month, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All meetings are currently held virtually and are made possible by funds raised by the Walk of Champions. For more information contact Camille St.Onge, LICSW, Oncology Social Worker by calling 413-239-7239 or by email at cstomagin@gmail.com.

PLANNING BOARD from Page 1

Phoenix said that the meeting was scheduled to address ongoing issues with parking at the property prior to the fire.

“We had discussed previously that the parking at the property is what’s approved on the site plan; it’s not wherever people choose to park,” Phoenix said. “It’s parking in the parking spaces, and that still was not going on even after we had people in at one of our meetings.”

After discussing it amongst the board, it was decided to call a hearing to draw attention to the severity of the repeat problem with the property.

“We even talked about, at that time, ‘God forbid there’s a fire and people are double- and triple-parked,’” Phoenix said. “Then, lo and behold, there ends up being an issue with a fire at the property. Thankfully, not a large one, but nevertheless, it could have been, which is why those rules exist.”

Phoenix explained to the property owner and the renters that it was not the board’s “desired outcome” to revoke the site plan, as it would affect the other tenant in the building.

“We need to find a path forward where whatever’s going on in that building is being done in a safe and legal manner,” Phoenix said.

Administrative Assistant Kelly Strempek of the Building Department, who attended the meeting, said that the commissioner had indicated they didn’t

want to approve renovations on the property if it would lead to the approval being revoked. Phoenix said that this risk was up to the property owner and the tenants.

“From our perspective, it’s in their court,” Phoenix said. “They either take care of whatever code violations they have and they follow the rules as defined on the site plan, or they don’t.”

Board Member Christopher Coelho asked that one of the people attending the meeting with the tenants translate as he pointed out the parking spaces in the site plan.

“Those lines indicate that’s the only place cars can park,” Coelho said. “Anywhere outside of those lines is a strict violation. Regardless of what’s painted on the ground or not, this is what it goes by.”

Phoenix instructed the tenants to coordinate with the health and fire departments to satisfy their safety requirements, and recommended installing a Knox Box at the property, “especially if access to the equipment is only through one side of the building.”

“Making sure that, God forbid, something were to happen again,” Phoenix said, “that (the fire department) can get in and be able to have access in an emergency.”

The tenants offered to provide written documentation of an agreement with a neighboring property for overflow parking.

The board voted unanimously to continue the public hearing to the March 13 meeting.

BACKYARD from Page 6

The goal is to find, identify and count all birds within a 15-mile diameter “count circle.” All are welcome. Compilers do their best to make sure that beginners join a group with at least

one experienced birder. Locations in late December include: Quabbin on Saturday, Dec. 28 compiler Scott Surner at ssurner@aol.com and Westminster on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025 compiler Charles Caron at 978-874-5649 or caronev@aol.com.

People may visit <https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count> to read about CBC history, science and data.

Juncos and snow

The Brimfield resident noted a large flock of juncos about 40 the day before the Dec. 5 snow storm. He said, “Storms a commin’ I looked out near where the

feeding stations are located and where I spread mixed seed on the ground and a quick count resulted in 40 junco. And chickadees and titmice were constantly back and forth to the black oil sunflower seed feeder.” I also saw a large flock of juncos on my daughter’s lawn in Barre on that Wednesday.

Pond visits

The Brimfield resident makes frequent trips to ponds in his area. He found most of them frozen over on Dec. 4. He did count 12 hooded mergansers at Holland Pond, a large group of mallards over 200 and three black ducks at Sherman Pond.

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.

GARDEN from Page 6

let the heads dry to brown right on the plant. Clip them and place inside a paper bag; as they dry further they will open and the seeds will pop out.

Even if you are only interested in harvesting the seeds, multiple plantings (or a big garden patch) are necessary to get a decent-sized harvest.

No matter how you like your Coriander sativum, sow the seeds in a sunny, well-drained spot in place for the best success. If you let a few drop their seed each year, chances are you will be bless-

ed with volunteers.

Enough writing, I have four batches of cookies to get in the freezer!

Merry Christmas to all of my gardening friends out there!

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

Eversource named among “America’s most responsible companies” by Newsweek

BOSTON – For the sixth year in a row, Eversource Energy has again been recognized by Newsweek and Statista Inc. as one of America’s Most Responsible Companies for 2025.

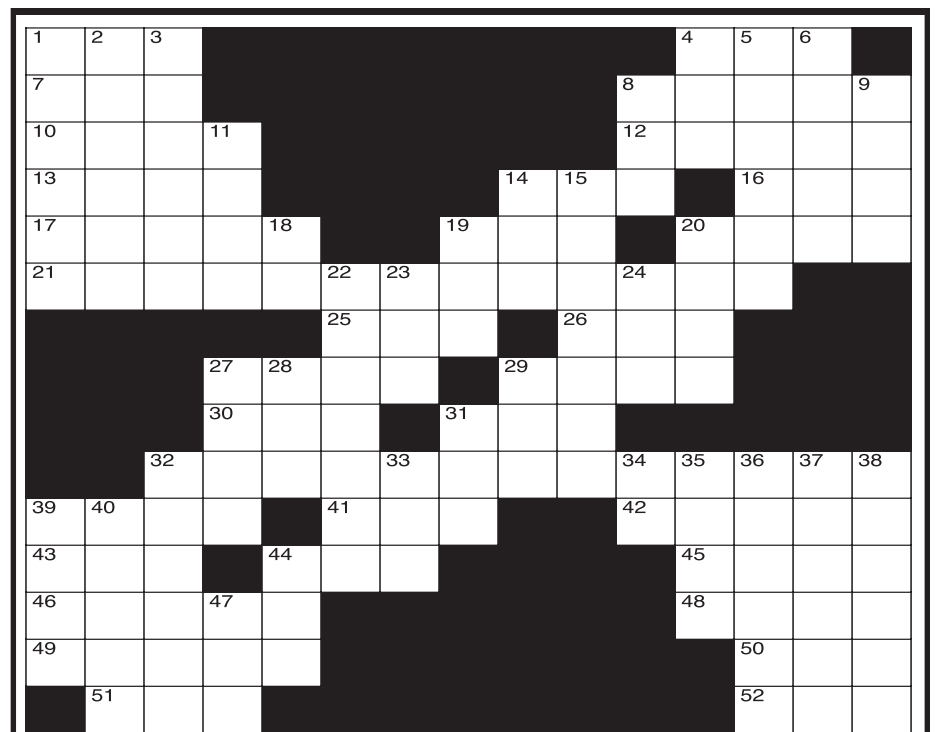
The prestigious award highlights the energy company’s excellence in environmental, social, and corporate governance initiatives, reaffirming Eversource’s steadfast commitment to sustainability throughout its operations and a workplace culture that deeply embraces the values of corporate and social responsibility.

“We’re honored to receive this recognition once again from Newsweek and Statista Inc., which is a powerful reflection of our leadership in environmental, social and governance areas throughout our business,” said Eversource Chairman, President and CEO Joe Nolan. “As the energy landscape continues to rapidly evolve in New England, we recognize our responsibility to help address some of the greatest challenges facing our society, such as climate change and histori-

cal inequities faced by environmental justice communities. Our unwavering commitment to sustainability is essential to securing a positive future for generations to come, and I’m tremendously proud of how our dedicated employees continue to incorporate this focus into all areas of our operations.”

The America’s Most Responsible Companies 2025 ranking focuses on a holistic view of corporate responsibility that considers environment, social and governance factors. Companies on the 2025 list were selected based on a review of publicly available data and a survey of 26,000 U.S. residents about their perceptions of companies related to corporate social responsibility. Since the annual ranking was introduced in 2019, Eversource has appeared in every edition of the list.

For more on the energy company’s nationally recognized sustainability efforts and progress on ESG initiatives, visit Eversource.com.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Central processing unit
4. Taxi
7. Body part
8. Papal court
10. Young women making their public debuts
12. Metal shackles
13. Joseph’s wife
14. Licensed professional
16. Partner to cheese
17. Mild fruits
19. File format
20. Province of Indonesia
21. Beloved grilled foods
25. Bar bill
26. Don’t know when yet
27. Whale ship captain
29. Touches softly
30. Mock
31. Red-brown Pacific sea bream
32. Summer entertainment options
39. Protective crust
41. Cool!
42. Behave in a way that belittles
43. Denial
44. A place to sleep
45. Electronic counter-measures
46. Intestinal pouches
48. SE Asia family of languages
49. Sound
50. Select
51. Give the impression of dishonesty

CLUES DOWN

1. Of cadmium
2. Deliver a sermon
3. Inner regions of a shadow
4. Aggressive dog
5. Smells
6. Twofold
8. Former OSS
9. Computer language
11. Indian groom
14. Automobile
15. Hairstyle
18. Atomic #76
19. Guy (slang)
20. Ladies’ undergarments
22. Furniture with open shelves
23. Back-arc basin
24. Partner to flow
27. A type of horse
28. Possesses
29. Split pulses
31. Small amount
32. Flat-bottomed riverboat
33. Not good
34. Atomic #31
35. Assist in committing a crime
36. Chauvinists
37. Get away
38. One of a people who speaks a Semitic language
39. Civil rights college organization
40. Combustible dark rocks
44. Grocery container
47. Central nervous system

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@turlley.com.

ONGOING

FOOD DRIVE BI-MONTHLY. On the first Saturday of each even month (December, February, April, June, August, October) First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St, collects non-perishable foods. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., drive through the back parking lot. Donations will be taken out of the car and brought to the Community Survival Center to be distributed to those in need. Save your extra food items to drop off at our next Food Drive on Dec. 7.

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

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

THRIFT SHOP: Now open at St. Gregory Armenian Church, 135 Goodwin Street, Indian Orchard, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. every Saturday offering quality items at affordable prices. Gently-used clothing and accessories, household items, books, children's items, collectors' items and more are available. For more information, call the church office at 413-543-4763.

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

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

AQUACISE AT THE CLUB: The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club, at 91 Claudias Way, continues to offer Aquacise throughout the week. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength. Classes are open to all members with pool-inclusive memberships and do not require prior registration. Classes are held 8:30-9:15 a.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For questions, call 413-583-2072, ext. 124.

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

H.O.P.E. RECOVERY GROUP: Having Our Pathways Encouraged meetings are for those

who have experience with addictions, grief, anxiety and depression, (including anxiety and depression due to COVID-19) and for loved ones who might need help in their recovery. This group is also for those who can help lead others in their recovery by example. This meeting in no way replaces professional therapies. It is a time for sharing strength, encouragement and hope. No fees. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Pre-packaged snacks are available. Small group structure based on basic Christian principles, concept, purposes and confidentiality. COVID-19 guidelines are observed. Masks required. 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at Fellowship Hall in Faith Community Chapel, 485 East Street in Ludlow. Parking lot behind Chapel. Fellowship Hall entrance at back of Chapel. Seating is limited. To reserve yours, call 413-519-4591.

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

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

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

19 artists to exhibit at Northampton

NORTHAMPTON— The Quabbin Art Association is hosting its first ever New Artists, New Perspectives exhibit at the Northampton Center for the Arts, featuring nineteen emerging artists from nine Pioneer-Valley Universities, Colleges, and Community Colleges. The exhibit runs Dec. 4, through Jan. 3, 2025, at NOHO Arts, 33 Hawley St.

Northampton Center for the Arts and the Quabbin Art Association will also host a Meet the Artists Reception at the exhibit on Dec. 13, from 5 to 8 p.m. This new initiative is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council Festivals and Projects grant and awards a \$250 cash stipend and 2-year QAA membership to each participating artist. Projects like this one reflect the Quabbin Art Association's mission to support the arts in Pioneer Valley. Congratulations to all of the new student artists that will be featured in the up-coming exhibit: Rhaymi Porter—American International College; Caly Van Leeuwen and Eads Fouche—Amherst College; Elms College—Sarah Paradee and Catalyna Alexopoulos; Valentina Cacaj, Mari Champagne and Erin Shabunin—Greenfield Community College; Emma Aiken and Malyna Dansereau—Holyoke Community College; Lize Brown, Sophia Jakobson and AJ Treat—Mount Holyoke College; Christopher Sanabria and Nhu Truong—Springfield College; Jenezy Ortiz and Heeju Yoon—The University of Massachusetts; Ariana Masterjohn—Western NewEngland University; and Maddison Deboise Wetherell—Montserrat College

Wilbraham Public Library invites Families to Storytime Fun

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Public Library is thrilled to announce a special storytime event designed for families with young children. Join us for a morning of delightful stories, engaging songs, and fun activities on Saturday, January 11th at 10:00 a.m.

This interactive Storytime session will feature:

- Captivating stories: Enjoy a selection of engaging picture books that spark imagination and foster a love of reading.

- Sing-alongs: Join in on lively songs and rhymes that encourage movement and interaction.

This event is free and open to the public, but registration is encouraged to ensure adequate space for all attendees. To register, please visit the Wilbraham Public Library website or contact the library directly at (413) 596-6141.

Contact: Lisa Berezin lberezin@wilbraham-ma.gov

Wilbraham Troop 359 hosting Bottle & Can Drive

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Troop 359 will have their Bottle & Can Drive on Sat, Jan. 4, 2025 from 8 a.m. to Noon.

It will be held in the St. Cecilia's Church parking lot.

All donations to Troop 359 provide support toward camping equipment and supplies, program materials, registration and activity fees throughout the year. People come to the troop's bottle & can drives year after year.

The generous community support and donations are greatly appreciated.

Church DIRECTORY

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

584 West St., Ludlow
413-583-8454
S Sunday services
Sacrament Meeting 10- 11 A.M.
Sunday school for adults, Young single adults(18-30) and teens (11-18) - 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Classes for Single Adults(18-30)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -11- 12 noon
Classes for Young Men(11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon
Classes for Young Women (11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month - 11-12 noon
Children's classes: Sunday school & singing time every Sunday (3-10) 11- 12 noon
Nursery providedfor ages 18 month- 3 yr

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.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

25 Parker St, Indian Orchard,
413-543-3627
Very Rev. Piotr Calik
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m. —1 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAY
MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:15 p.m.
Sunday Mass; 8:45 a.m. (English), 10 a.m. (Polish)
Weekday Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday – 7:45 a.m. (English)
First Friday Mass: 5:30 p.m. (Polish/English)
First Saturday Mass: 9 a.m. (Polish/English)
Confessions: Saturday - 3:15–4 p.m.

ST. ELIZABETH PARISH

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.
stelizabethludlow.org
Like us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram
Check out our Parish App

Wednesday, Dec. 25, - Christmas Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Christmas Mass – 9:15 a.m. (C), Christmas Mass – 11 a.m. (C)

Thursday, Dec. 26, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 p.m. (C), Pastoral Center Closed
Friday, Dec. 27, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m.(C), Pastoral Center Closed

Saturday, Dec. 28, - Confessions - 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. (C), Saturday Mass - 4 p.m. (C), Pastoral Center closed
Sunday Dec. 29, - 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), Knights of Columbus 5th Sunday

Rosary, 12:30 p.m. (C), Pastoral Center Closed
Monday Dec. 30, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Holy Mother Choir Rehearsal 5:15 p.m. (C), Pastoral Center Closed
Tuesday, Dec. 31, - Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), St. Rita's Choir Rehearsal 2:30 p.m.(C), Mass – 4 p.m.(C), Pastoral Center Closed

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.

FIRST CHURCH IN LUDLOW

859 Center St. Ludlow
413-583-3339
Reverend Darcy Borden, Pastor
Office hours Monday & Wednesday 10 am to 2 pm
Available by appointment at other times
Sunday worship at 10 am alternating weekly with Grace Union Church, Wilbraham
Call or check Facebook or the website for the schedule of worship and events
Service live-streamed at 10 am on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow>
Website: 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.

FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL

A Church of the Nazarene
485 East St., Ludlow, MA 01056 413-583-7875
Email: FCCLudlow@GMail.com
Lead Pastor: Reverend Lisa Morrison
Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs
Discipleship Groups 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m.
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
RIDAYS Children's After School Club (pre K through teens) 5-6:30 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.

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.

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

FOR ALL AGES

Social Services Drop-In, Wednesday, January 15, 11:00 a.m. Come meet with our Social Worker for assistance with getting connected to food pantries and applying for food stamps, health insurance questions, referrals to treatment and support groups, supporting those with mental health concerns, free fentanyl test strips and condoms AND MORE! This program is made possible through the Mill Town Public Health Coalition.

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.

FOR ADULTS

Annual Giving Tree, November 26 - January 2. The library is now accepting donations of warm winter clothing items such as hats, gloves, mittens, scarfs, and socks! All donations benefit local charity.

Virtual 50+ Job Seekers Networking Group, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays through December on Zoom, 9:30 a.m. The Massachusetts Library Collaborative's 50+ Job Seekers Group is for unemployed and actively looking, underemployed, seeking a new career direction, re-entering the job market, or recently retired and looking for your "Encore Career". Meetings are facilitated by Deborah Hope, MBA PCIC, an experienced executive career coach. Register on our website.

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 massbook.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

Chess Club, every other Monday (December 30 and January 13) 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. All experience levels are welcome for an hour of chess, some instruction provided. For ages 9-17, please register.

Mario Kart Tournament for YAs, Monday (December 30) 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. For middle and high schoolers. Limited to 16 people and there will be free pizza! Use the library Switch or feel free to bring your own. Please register.

"Sun and Snow" Beaded Beauties for YAs, Tuesday (January 14) 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. For tweens and teens. Sandy brings a HUGE selection of beads and will teach how to make beaded snowflakes and sparkling suncatchers. Please register.

Youth Crochet Club, every other Tuesday (January 14) 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. No meeting December 31. For ages 10-17. For beginners up to experienced crocheters, supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

Magic the Gathering Club, Monthly, Thursday (January 2) 5:30 p.m.-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, once a month, Friday (January 24) 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Monthly book chat for ages 14-17. For January the group is reading ; copies of the book are available in the Youth Room. Registration preferred.

Open Sew Saturday (January 18) 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. For tweens, teens, and adults. Extra help for the Sewing Club project or bring your own project, with expert seamstress Janet Foy on hand to provide advice and support. Drop-in.

FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

Winter Scavenger Hunt, Monday (December 30) 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. All ages. Win a prize for finding signs of winter in the Youth Room! Drop-in.

New Year Resolution Jars, Tuesday (December 31) 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. For all ages. Decorate a sparkly, colorful jar to save your New Year's resolutions and then open the jar next New Year's Eve to see how you did! Drop-in.

Pokemon Club, every other Wednesday (January 8 and January 22) 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m. For 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.

New Tech Toy Expo, Thursday (December 26) 11 a.m. All ages. Try out all the great new tech toys in the youth room donated by the Friends of the Library from a grant from the Joseph and Anna

C. Dias Jr. Family Foundation! Drop-in. Tween Graphic Novel Book Group, Thursday (December 26) 1:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m. Note December time change. (January 23) 5:00 p.m.-5:45 p.m. For ages 9-13. Meet each month with other graphic novel lovers to discuss and share books, play games, make crafts, and eat snacks. Copies of January's book will be available in the Youth Room. Please register.

Mass. Children's Book Award Book Group, second Thursday of the month (January 9) 6:00 p.m.-6:45 p.m. For 4th-6th graders. Kids decide who wins this award after reading at least 5 nominated books. For January the club is reading "The One Thing You'd Save" by Linda Sue Park. Copies are available in the youth room. Meet each month to share opinions, play games, enjoy free snacks, and talk about what you read and which book you think should be the winner. Please register.

Third Thursday Sewing Club for YAs: Make iPad/Tablet Cases, Thursday (January 16) 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. For ages 9-17. Learn how to sew a cool, protective case for a tablet, all materials provided. Please register.

Friday Online Club, previously Roblox Club, every Friday, 3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m. Play Roblox, Minecraft or other online group games. Meet new friends or play with old ones. Feel free to use one of the library Minecraft accounts: please sign up for your own Roblox or other accounts. For ages 8-15. Please register.

Make Peace Stickers, Friday (January 17) 12:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. All ages. This is an early release day for Ludlow Public Schools and Monday is the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Come make peace stickers to celebrate Dr. King's message of peace! Drop in.

Saturday Online Club, previously Minecraft Club, every Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Play Minecraft, Roblox, or other online group games. Use the library's Minecraft accounts but please register for your own Roblox or other accounts. For grades 3-8. Please register.

Snow Slime, Saturday (December 28) 10:00 a.m. For 5 and up. Make sparkly, snow white slime! Please register.

Drop-in Book Cover Collaging, Saturday (January 4) 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Turn the covers of your favorite picture books into your own unique artistic creations! Drop-in.

FOR CHILDREN

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

Storytime for 3-5s: Time, Time for Storytime, Mondays 10:00 a.m. Starts (January 6) through (February 24) No storytime January 20 or February 17.

Stories, songs, games and crafts about different times of the day, with a snack at the end. Please register.

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

Holiday Movie and Craft: "Winnie the Pooh, A Very Merry Pooh Year" and Hunny Jar craft, Tuesday (December 31) 11:30 a.m. Rated G. Enjoy free popcorn and drinks with this 1 hour movie, then make a New Year's Resolution "Hunny" jar afterwards! Drop in.

Lego Build Challenge, every Wednesday, 12:00 p.m.-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.

Storytime for 2-3s: Time, Time for Storytime, Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. Starts (January 8) through (February 12) Six weeks of stories, songs, games and crafts about different times of the day tailored for 2-3 year olds, with free play at the beginning and craft and snack at the end. Please register.

"True Tales" Storytime for Homeschoolers, Wednesdays 12:30 p.m.-1:15 p.m. Starts (January 8) through (February 12) For 5-8 year olds. A fun, gently educational storytime about real people and historical events. Please register.

Grow, Play and Learn for ages 0-2, every Thursday, 9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and skill building, led by Early Childhood Developmental specialist Jane Christian of Pathways for Parents, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. Program includes a curriculum, "Ages and Stages" questionnaire, and resources to fit your child's individual needs. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

Grow, Play and Learn for ages 2-5, every Thursday, 10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Stories, songs and skill building, led by Early Childhood Developmental specialist Jane Christian of Pathways for Parents, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. Program includes a curriculum, "Ages and Stages" questionnaire, and resources to fit your child's individual needs. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

December and January PreK Pals, every Friday, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. No group December 27. This playgroup supports children ages 2-5 and their families. Each week we focus on an area of development and provide fun activities to support your child's learning through play. Areas explored include early literacy, fine motor development, science, math, cognitive and social emotional skills. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register for the month.

EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **NEW YEAR'S PUBLIC NOTICES** WILL HAVE AN **EARLY AD DEADLINE** Place your public notice no later than **Fri., Dec. 27 Noon**

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NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P2485GD
In the interests of
Naveyah Jade Rivera
of Indian Orchard, MA
Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on 11/29/2024 by **Terina Simmons** of Indian Orchard, MA will be held **01/08/2025 08:30 AM** Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located: **50 State St., 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103.**

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

File the original with the Court; and

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

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

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

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.
Date: November 29, 2024

Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/25/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD23P0870EA
Estate of:**

**Joan Ann Fountain
Date of Death: 01/07/2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Tracie A. Barnett of Indian Orchard, MA**

Tracie A. Barnett of Indian Orchard, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
12/25/2024

**LUDLOW
ZONING
BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Ludlow Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing in the Ludlow Town Hall, 488 Chapin Street, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** on the application of **Eversource Gas of Massachusetts** for the property located at **76 Ravenwood Drive/ 6 Miller Street, Ludlow MA (Assessors' Map 29, Parcel 41, Zoning: Industrial A)** The subject of the hearing is for a Variance for a Below Grade Natural Gas Regulator Station. Based on existing site topography and tree growth, any other location on this property would likely involve a substantial amount of earthwork and/or tree removal. Additionally, in regard to the fence height, the additional fence height provides greater security to the Facility per code of Federal Regulations Title 29, Subtitle B, Chapter XVII, Part 1926, Subpart K, Section J.2. The applicant is seeking relief from the Town of Ludlow Zoning Bylaw

Table 2-Table of Dimensional Regulations and Section 3.0.04

Manny Lopes, Chairman
12/25/2024, 01/01/2025

**Town of Ludlow
LEGAL NOTICE**

You are hereby notified that a **PUBLIC HEARING** will be held at the Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA 01056 on **Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 5:35 p.m.**

Upon petition of: **EVERSOURCE ENERGY** requests permission to locate a line of poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along and across the following public way:

44 Riverside Drive: Install one (1) fully owned pole along Riverside Drive. This pole to be labeled 97/76M-1. The purpose for this work is to provide service to lights in the parking lot. Pole to be located 75' SE from pole 97/76M and 19' from the center of the road. Actual dimensions above and pole is marked in the field.

Derek DeBarge, Chairman
Manuel D. Silva
James Gennette
William Rosenblum
Antonio Goncalves
Ludlow Board of Selectmen
12/25/2024, 01/01/2025

**LUDLOW
PLANNING BOARD
LEGAL NOTICE
SPECIAL PERMIT
ESTATE LOT**

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 7:15 p.m.** on the application of Muhammad Ali Saleem for the property located at **0 Sunset Ridge Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 25, Parcel 27C) for: estate lot.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 23, 2025.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
12/25/2024, 01/01/2025

**LUDLOW
PLANNING BOARD
LEGAL NOTICE
SITE SKETCH**

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** on the application of Matthew Nichols, Eversource Gas of Massachusetts for the property located at **76 Ravenwood Drive, Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 29, Parcel 41)** for the purpose of: **Construct a new below grade station within the limits of subsidiary company property.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 23, 2025.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
12/25/2024, 01/01/2025



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

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

On Dec. 25, in 1066, William I was crowned King of England at the end of the Norman Conquest.

On Dec. 26, in 2004, an earthquake shook the Indian Ocean floor near the island of Sumatra and triggered a tsunami that affected areas

from Thailand to Africa and killed over 200,000 people.

On Dec. 27, in 1571, Johannes Kepler, the German astronomer who discovered the three major laws of planetary motion, was born.

On Dec. 28, in 1734, the outlaw Rob Roy MacGregor, known as the Scottish Robin Hood, died in his home in the village of Balquhider, after an illness brought on by age and a harsh winter.

On Dec. 29, in 1845, the Republic of Texas was annexed with approval by U.S. Congress, sparking the Mexican American War.

On Dec. 30, in 1916, Russian mystic Grigori Rasputin was murdered in an effort to halt his influence over Empress Alexandra and the royal family.

Finally, on Dec. 31, in 1775, American troops under General Richard Montgomery and Colonel Benedict Arnold were defeated by the British in the Battle of Quebec.



William I of England was crowned King of England on Dec. 25, 1066.

Senators Markey and Paul urge President Biden to extend TikTok divestment deadline

WASHINGTON – Senator Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.), sent a letter to President Joe Biden urging him to provide TikTok owner ByteDance with a 90-day extension to either sell TikTok or face a ban in the United States, as authorized by the Protecting Americans Data from Foreign Adversaries Act.

The lawmakers urged the Biden administration to trigger the 90-day extension before Jan. 19, the deadline by which ByteDance must either divest TikTok or face a ban. On Jan. 10, the U.S. Supreme Court has scheduled oral

arguments to consider whether the law violates the First Amendment.

Earlier this month, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the legislation that bans TikTok.

In the letter, the senators wrote, "The stakes here are high: As a practical matter, even if the Court rules that the law is constitutional by the January deadline, ByteDance cannot divest TikTok in that limited time. Consequently, absent a judicial injunction, decision overturning the law, or action by you, TikTok will soon be banned in the United States, causing its creators and users serious hardship."

Behavioral Health Network announces new additions to Executive Leadership Team

SPRINGFIELD — Behavioral Health Network, Inc. has announced two new members of its Executive Leadership Team, Anthony Boswell and Sigfredo Irizarry.

Anthony Boswell joined BHN as Senior Vice President in October. In this role, he will provide strategic leadership across multiple service lines and play an instrumental role in shaping the organization's future direction. With extensive experience in mental health leadership, Boswell's expertise will be key in advancing BHN's mission and expanding its impact in the community.

Prior to joining BHN, Boswell served as CEO of LevinThor, LLC, a consulting firm specializing in management, leadership, and education. He has also held senior leadership positions at mental health organizations in Springfield, MA, New Orleans, LA, and Washington, DC, further enhancing his diverse experience in the sector.

Boswell attended the United States Air Force Academy and earned a B.A. from Stony Brook University, a Master of Education in Organizational Leadership from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Juris Doctor from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.

Sigfredo Irizarry joined BHN in November as Vice President of Performance Improvement, Applications & Data Analytics. In this position, Irizarry will lead efforts to enhance

performance improvement initiatives across the organization, focusing on optimizing applications and leveraging data analytics to improve service delivery. His strategic vision and leadership will play a key role in the company's continued success and operational efficiency.

With 30 years of experience in IT, Irizarry specializes in IT leadership, system information, business continuity, cybersecurity, and process automation. He is an accomplished IT executive, adept at leading diverse teams and developing sustainable IT strategies. Irizarry has extensive experience in managing technical teams, complex system migrations, and cyber security efforts to mitigate risks.

Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity from Purdue University, Irizarry is enrolled in the CISSP Track. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management from the International Institute of The Americas.

Steve Winn, President and CEO of BHN, stated, "We are excited to welcome Tony and Sigfredo to our Executive Leadership Team. Their experience and leadership will be key in driving our strategic vision and enhancing the quality of services we provide. These appointments demonstrate our commitment to strengthening BHN's leadership and advancing our mission to deliver exceptional behavioral health services."

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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HELP WANTED

The **Town of Oakham** is seeking an experienced municipal **Treasurer/Collector**. 15 hours a week, negotiable pay based on experience. Please send resumes to **admin@oakham-ma.gov**.

TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills. Please visit our website **TownOfBlandford.com** or email **Administrator@Townof-Blandford.com** for more information.

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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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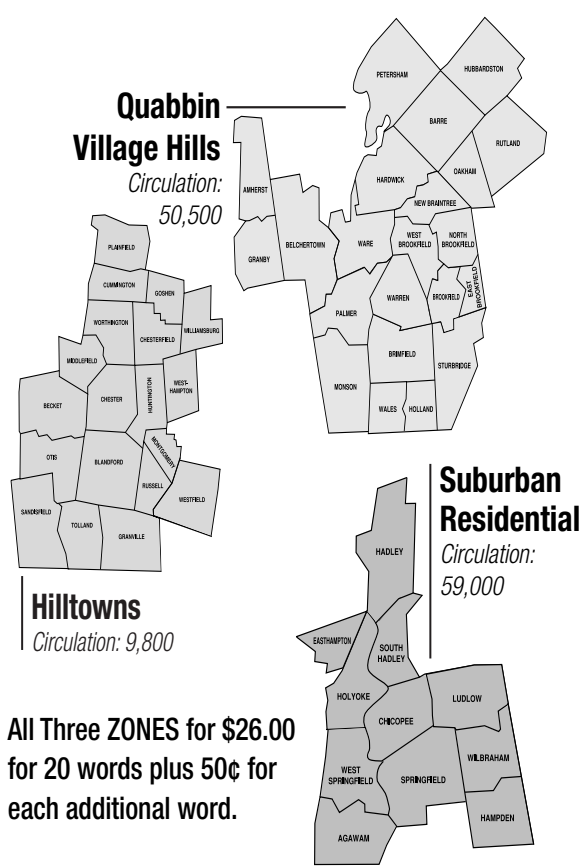
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