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Town celebrates 250th birthday with *Incorporation Day* ceremony

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – Last Wednesday, Feb. 28, was the 250th anniversary of the town’s incorporation. The occasion was celebrated with a ceremony held in the high school auditorium.

Principal Lisa Nemeth presided over the ceremony, which featured speeches from Brian Bylicki, Senator Jake Oliveira, and State Representative Aaron Saunders, a thank you from 250th Committee Co-Chair Linda Collette, and a performance from the high school chorus.

Bylicki, formerly a history teacher from the high school, spoke about the original incorporation of the town in 1774.

Bylicki described the petition being “brought up by residents of the Stony Hill section of the eastward outward com-

mons of Springfield, and sent to Boston, possibly with Dr. Eric Miller, the first doctor in Ludlow’s history, requesting all the rights and privileges of a town.”

Senator Oliveira appeared in an 18th century Hamilton costume, which he acquired from Berkshire Hills Music Academy in South Hadley from their Broadway-themed gala.

“It’s an honor to be here today to celebrate the 250th anniversary,” Oliveira said. “Like many of you, we were so pleased to be here this weekend to celebrate with so many small community vendors and so many organizations and so many non-profit groups that came out to celebrate our 250 years of service here in the town of Ludlow.”

State Representative Saunders also spoke about the history

Please see **INCORPORATION DAY**, Page 7



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão
 Senator Jake Oliveira and State Representative Aaron Saunders thanked Co-Chair Linda Collette for her work with the 250th Committee.

School Committee divided on cuts to balance proposed \$37M budget

By Jim Russell
 Correspondent

LUDLOW – The School Committee is divided on whether teachers or administrators should be dislodged to balance the proposed \$37 million fiscal 2025 budget that, overall, is 3%, or \$1 million, more than current spending.

This discussion occurred at the school district’s annual budget hearing Feb. 27 that had been scheduled earlier that month, but was postponed due to a snowstorm.

Town Administrator Marc Strange, the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee attended the joint meeting of the three committees.

School Superintendent Frank Tiano said 20.7 full time equivalent positions were cut to balance the current year’s fiscal 2024 budget.

At January’s meeting he said cutting seven teaching positions at Ludlow High School for the fiscal year that begins on July 1 is possible, saying, “72% of our budget is people. If you can make reductions and still have your class size at 20 to 21, that’s something for us to consider.”

During the budget hearing, School Committee Chair Jeffery A. Laing said: “It would be

economically irresponsible to just keep teachers – even though that’s what we all want.”

School Committee member Joao Dias said “if there is going to be cuts, we have to look closer and harder at administration. 1984, when I graduated, we had roughly 1,200 students; we had one principal and one vice principal.”

“My understanding is we vote on the budget; we don’t make the decision where the ultimate cuts come from,” School Committee Vice-Chair Sarah F. Bowler said. “It’s out of our hands from that point on.”

“We do have some influence...some impact” on where any staff reductions would be made, Dias said. “If we can find them elsewhere, it shouldn’t be teachers.”

By a 4-1 margin the school board voted to recommend to town meeting a \$37,028,442 fiscal 2025 school budget.

According to Tiano this number is \$359,348 less than needed to maintain service at current level.

Prior to the upcoming annual town meeting, the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee will also make their spending

Please see **SCHOOL BUDGET CUTS**, Page 11

Candidates speak at Democrats Breakfast

By Marcelo Gusmão
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LUDLOW – Last weekend, the town’s Democratic Committee held its first commemorative breakfast after a long hiatus.

On Sunday, March 3, at 9 a.m. at Villa Rose, town residents met with state and federal politicians and community members from the surrounding towns to network, organize, and promote the message of the Democratic Committee. The Chair of the committee, Mia Alves, said that the breakfast was a great opportunity to meet like-minded members of the community.

“From the enthusiastic turnout, I think this breakfast was a wonderful place for organizing, networking, and getting our message out,” Alves said.

Among the speakers were Steve Kerrigan, Chair of the State Democrats, as well as member Candy Glasier, Tara Jacobs from the Governor’s Council, and Chairs of Democratic Committees of various neighboring towns, including Linda Dagradi from Wilbraham, Co-Chair Ann Stockton from South Hadley, Jane Porter from Pelham, Susan Knightley from Granby, and Barbara Wenig from Longmeadow.



Submitted Photo

Senator Jake Oliveira stopped by residents’ tables to talk to them.

The event also included speeches from Senator Jake Oliveira and State Representative Aaron Saunders, as well as speeches by Alex Montagna and Kelly Lamas, who are running for positions on the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health, respectively.

“Breakfast was delicious, Tony Tavares runs Villa Rose and he did a great job, he’s also on BOH

“Both Jake and Aaron did a wonderful job,” Alves said. “Jake’s parents, Carol and Richard, were there. Because everyone’s from Ludlow, it was very warm and family orient-

ed; their tables were more like family tables.”

“It was a first for me, I enjoyed it,” Montagna said. “I can’t wait to do another one, I hope to help make this town a better place one step at a time.”

Though she was not able to attend, Senator Elizabeth Warren sent a video praising the work done by the Committee and organizers in town.

“I want to give a special shout out to your chair, Mia, to the Breakfast Club, and the whole team for the hard work

Please see **DEMOCRATS BREAKFAST**, Page 8

LUDLOW

BOH notes: Candidates sought for key positions

By **Marcelo Gusmão**
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LUDLOW – The Board of Health met last week for some routine matters, including appointing a new Medical Director, and the search for a Health Inspector and Shared Services Coordinator.

Medical Director

At the start of the meeting, the board met with Eleanor Kelliher about the position for Medical Director that was recently opened.

“Dr. Kelliher is here because the medical director who is responsible for vaccine administration in compliance with the state and federal has retired,” said Kelly Lamas, Chair of the BOH. “Paulina (Matusik) has drafted this Health Department and Medical Director Services Agreement between the board and Dr. Kelliher.”

Kelliher, who has served on the board in the past, said that she had read through the documentation, and would be happy to provide oversight on the town’s vaccination program.

“I imagine I’ll be working with An-

gela Kramer,” Kelliher said. “We’ve already met once and she’s brought me up to speed about the vaccines and what (the board) offers, which is really just the flu shot, tetanus vaccine, periodic COVID vaccine clinics that occurred during the pandemic years, as well as tuberculosis testing as needed.”

Health Inspector

Health Inspector Tim Fontaine resigned Feb. 9 to pursue a position with the state.

“He’s on to bigger and better things,” Matusik said. “We’re very happy for him.”

Matusik said the position has been posted. So far, six have applied, with just one meeting the qualifications.

“I do have an interview scheduled for next Wednesday, so we’ll see how that goes,” Matusik said.

Matusik said that she has been fielding complaints while the town looks for a new health inspector. She said there were only three inspections that needed to be done this month, and that there were no updates for the BOH.

“Tim really got us up to date, so at this time I don’t really have any concerns,”

Matusik said. “Permits have been paid for, so that’s all up to date as well.”

“I’m hoping that things will work out, we’ll get a good candidate and we’ll be smooth sailing from there,” Matusik said.

The board praised the new inspection software, which Matusik had used for a mobile food truck.

“I’m leaning towards just using that going forward,” Matusik said. “So, with the new health inspector starting as well, you won’t see inspection reports anymore.”

The board discussed ways for board members to be able to see those reports, between email or the use of an iPad.

Lamas expressed an interest in providing some kind of outreach to residents in the hopes of curbing the amount of complaints in the warmer months.

“I’m wondering, to get ahead of the spring season and what may come in terms of complaints, if there’s something that can be done in terms of education for the town,” Lamas said. “I wonder if there’s some kind of educational outreach thing that can be done in early May, just to remind people that now is the time to start cleaning up to kind of get ahead of what we may get for complaints.”

Monthly Updates

Health Director Paulina Matusik provided the monthly update on the Health Department.

“We are now offering free sharps disposal for residents because of our syringe service program that you guys agreed to be a part of and the state approved,” Matusik said. “We’re working with Tapestry Health to provide this service to residents.”

Matusik said that she reached out to the American Public Health Court about updating the sharps disposal to notify the public as well as making monthly educational Facebook posts. She also mentioned that a summer intern program was approved through the Department of Public Health.

“They’ll have four project proposals to choose from,” Matusik said, “one of them will be emergency preparedness, another is an educational piece, the third option would be going over regulations and updating any regulations or creating new ones as needed, and then the fourth would be any opioid or substance misuse kind of bringing that up to speed as well.”

Matusik spoke about the Health Department’s table at the Ludlow 250th’s First Night. Board member Antonio Tavares said that he stopped by on Saturday and that she had several people at the ta-

ble.

“Angela Kramer had a table there, and we had a lot of positive feedback,” Matusik said. “I heard it was a great event.”

Request for chickens

Matusik provided a packet about a request to expand the number of chickens from 20 to 25 at a 1.1 acre property on 98 Tower Road.

“I did look through our zoning bylaws, they fall under R-A, which means they do require a permit from the Board of Health,” Matusik said. “Their chickens are used as pets and for eggs, and the location of the coop is set back from the property all the way at the end.”

Matusik noted that the property owners clean the coop every third day, and droppings, feathers, dirt, etc. are added to a compost pile.

“I did go out with our Animal Inspector,” Matusik said. “We didn’t perform an actual inspection, but the property looked very clean, well-maintained, so I personally don’t have any concerns.”

The board voted unanimously to approve the request for a permit for up to 25 chickens.

Body R Establishment fee

The Board received a letter from the Town Administrator about fee increases, which requested that town departments go over fees to see about increasing any of them.

“I did have our administrative assistant go through all of our fees,” Matusik said. “I think ours are pretty much the highest in all the surrounding towns comparable to us that she looked at.”

Matusik said that she didn’t believe we should lower the fee unless you guys think otherwise.

The board unanimously passed a motion to keep the establishment fee at \$500.

Shared Services Update

Finally, Matusik reported that the search for a Shared Services Coordinator continues, as the job was posted as of Jan. 26.

“We have received a total of two applicants for this position, so if you know of anybody interested, that would be great,” Matusik said.

Matusik was hopeful about an interview she had scheduled for a “great candidate.”

“I’m very optimistic and once that position is hired, they’ll be in charge, full swing, for the grant,” Matusik said.

The Board of Health will hold its next meeting at Town Hall on Tuesday, March 26, at 4:30 p.m.



Ongoing Events

Visit us at Ludlowma250.org

Incorporation Day



Wednesday,
February 28, 2024 • 6pm
Ludlow High School
500 Chapin St.

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the town’s incorporation. Reading of the proclamation and patriotic music by the Ludlow High School Choir.

Cabin Fever Dinner Dance

Saturday, March 9, 2024

Gremio Lusitano Club

Doors open at 6pm for cocktail hour, dinner at 7pm served by Tony & Penny’s Catering. Music & dancing to follow.

Featuring DJ Cumba Entertainment. Raffle Baskets, 50/50 Raffle & more.

Tickets are \$50 per person.

Available from any 250th Committee member or contact co-chair

Kathy Ouimette at 413-589-7994.



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RONIN

Ronin came to us from Russia in February 2022 and has been the perfect addition to our family. He is Mr. Mischievous always getting into things he shouldn’t be in. He loves to eat, and play with water in the kitchen sink.

Polish Plate Dinner to be at Immaculate Conception Church

INDIAN ORCHARD – A Polish Plate Dinner (Four Pierogi, one Golambki, Kielbasa, Kapusta, Rye Bread) will be held on Saturday, March 9, from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. at Immaculate Conception church Hall 25 Parker St., Indian Orchard.

Eat In or Take Out. \$20. per plate. For Tickets please call: Maria Kowalski at 413-222-6229, Irena Wurszt at 413-427-5846 and Maryla Bukowski at 413-427-9464.



Cabin Fever Dinner & Dance, a 250th Celebration Fundraiser Event

LUDLOW -- Join the 250th Committee on Saturday, March 9, at 6 p.m. at the Gremio Lusitano Club for the Cabin Fever Dinner and Dance Fundraiser for the 250th Semi-Quincentennial Celebration Committee's upcoming events.

Tickets are \$50 per person. Cheese and crackers will be offered during the cocktail hour at 6 p.m., and at 7 p.m. there will be a delicious buffet dinner of Filet of Had-dock, Chicken Francaise, Roast Beef with mushroom gravy, Seafood Rice

with scallops, shrimp, and clams, Roasted Potatoes and a Vegetable Mix. Dessert and Coffee will also be served.

Following dinner will be music and a little Ludlow trivia provided by the region's finest, DJ Cumba, who will get you up dancing the night away.

Do you have any memorabilia of the town? Please bring your historical items to the dinner to share with your table to travel back in time and reminisce about the good old days.

There will be a 50/50 raffle and a basket raffle, as well as a photobooth to take a commemorative 250th photo.

The 250th Committee invites you join them for this fun-filled evening to help support the town's upcoming birthday celebration events. Get your friends together and reserve a table of eight to 10.

For tickets, please call Kathy Ouimette at 413-589-7994.

Dress is casual. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Friends of Ludlow Senior Center eager to get word out about scholarship for graduating students

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
hgiza@turley.com

LUDLOW -- The Senior Center hopes to give back to its academic community this year with three awards to graduating high school seniors who reside in the area.

Two of the prizes are valued at \$2,000 and are awarded to graduates attending a four-year school, while one other prize of \$1,000 is awarded to a graduate attending a two-year school.

Janice Grimaldi, one of the original Friends of Ludlow Senior Center Committee members who helped define the program for future students, hopes to get the word out through local media about the potential of this educational award.

"We know that The Register is a source for most of the people in Ludlow," Grimaldi said. "We know

it well, and it is a great place to get information about what is going on in the area. We are hoping to attract lot of attention so we think the paper is a great way to get everybody informed and interested in the scholarships."

When asked about the reason why these scholarships were started, Grimaldi was prepared.

"We would like to help graduating seniors who live in Ludlow with their college and the scholarships are terrific way of doing just that. It will be directly available to the students once rewarded for the tuition, books, fees, or however they might want to use it."

With this being a new scholarship, there are many things to look forward to in the future.

Grimaldi hopes to keep these helpful gifts going in times of educational reward.

"We have seen some scholarships not get off the ground be-

cause the word did not get out and people weren't encouraged to apply. We hope that does not happen here. That is why we wanted to specifically reach out to The Register."

Grimaldi went on to say that applications are currently available at all high school counseling offices as well as at the Senior Center.

Candidates must be graduating seniors who reside in Ludlow. They must also be interested in pursuing a degree in a senior citizen related discipline, including but not limited to health care, social work, gerontology, adult development, health education, counseling and psychology.

"We do hope to do this annually, and we hope that we get applicants for this" Grimaldi said.

Applications must be sent in April 2. The Friends of Ludlow Senior Center are located at 228 State St.

MMWEC offers scholarships to Ludlow seniors

LUDLOW— Applications are being accepted for the 2024 Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company scholarship.

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

Scholarship recipients will be awarded based on several factors including academic achievement, area

of study, and need. All seniors planning to pursue one of the specified academic areas are encouraged to apply, regardless of their class ranking.

To be considered, students must submit all required documents including a letter of recommendation from their school counselor and a letter detailing their educational and professional goals. Application and submission details will be shared with students via their school counselors. The deadline to apply is Friday, April 19.

As part of its commitment to the

community, MMWEC has awarded \$62,000 in scholarships to help local students defray the cost of higher education since the inception of the scholarship program in 1998.

MMWEC is the joint action agency for public power in Massachusetts, providing a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state's consumer-owned, municipal utilities. MMWEC is the operator and principal owner of the Stony Brook Energy Center on Moody Street and has been a corporate resident of Ludlow for 46 years.

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- Cantaloupes large size \$2.99 ea.
- Fresh Asparagus \$1.99 lb.
- Fresh Green Beans \$1.99 lb.
- Sweet Grape Tomatoes pint size \$2.99
- Brussels Sprouts \$1.99 lb.
- Boar's Head EverRoast Chicken \$11.99 lb.
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Impassioned public voices concerns to school committee

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
hgiza@turley.com

LUDLOW – Citizens are growing concerned with a variety of issues in the Ludlow Public Schools.

Those citizens brought many of their concerns to the Ludlow School Committee at their meeting on Feb. 27.

“I’m a grandparent and a parent and a great grandparent,” resident Al Delacia said. “And I’m very concerned about what I see in the school systems today. Not only in Ludlow but throughout the country. Not every school but all too many. There’s been several issues that have come up, in fact two or three lawsuits on gender issues. So, gender pops up as being an issue and a problem. It is across the country and it is through the Ludlow school system.”

Delacia also expressed his concern for the enormous per pupil cost and that taxpayers should have more of a say in the school system at that rate.

“The cost per student average in Massachusetts is estimated at \$20,376,” Delacia said, “that is a lot of money, so taxpayers certainly have an input, should have an input in terms of what’s going on in their public school system. You might ask the question ‘who has the primary responsibility of the educational journey of a young student? The Parents? The state? The government? The school?’ One may say they all have a role in it... but the parents should have a primary role and are increasingly left out.”

Delacia then attacked the decision-making of school officials, especially related to books available in a school library.

“Another issue at Ludlow schools and across the country is pornography,” said Delacia, “I just can’t imagine presenting to little children some of the stuff that I’ve seen. It’s just disgusting to me and it should be to everybody. Committee member Joao Dias, in a Boston.com article, offered a reasonable approach to school books in the library where responsible elected school committee members could help decide in terms of school books and all that. Somehow, the ACLU got involved... and my question is who runs Ludlow schools? At a recent meeting I witnessed a slide show by Su-

perintendent Frank Tiano about mental health. It is shocking that Western Mass has a 45% level of problems with mental health. So my question then comes... why is this? What are the reasons for it? Well, these reasons that I just gave are part of the reason, but there is more to it than that.” Resident Fred Noack followed Delacia, and addressed concerns about bullying at the middle school level.

“My issue is that the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades are subject to bullying,” Noack said, “Speaking with my neighbor her granddaughter has been being bullied since entering sixth grade. Her seating in-between boys who make noises, blame her laugh at her and intimidate her. She feels very uncomfortable and not like this is a learning environment. It took a month to get that seat changed. She is physically pushed into lockers, afraid to name her assailants for the reason of more persecution.”

Ludlow High School alumnus Sean Riopel expressed frustration over a lack of communication and accused the school district of taking away parents’ rights.

“I cannot believe the state of our school system right now with parental notification,” Riopel said, “if a child is going through something so extreme that they feel the need to commit suicide because they can’t talk to their parents? The Department of Child and Families should be notified and they can mediate between the parents. You are taking away their fundamental right to make the proper decisions for their child.

“You are assuming control of that, you’re saying you know what is best for their family and that child... and you’re hiding it from them... you are completely eliminating parents from the choice and you’re creating a situation where they are lying to their parents and holding secrets from teachers, and since 2002 just in the state of Massachusetts, 75 teachers have been charged with sexual assault crimes. Just today, an Easthampton teacher was charged with five different sexual abuse charges.”

Riopel talked about his own personal trauma and said the schools are setting a bad precedent with its current approach.

“Everybody doesn’t think its not going happen in their town until it does,” Riopel said, “as somebody who was sexually abused by his own grandfather, I can tell you it can happen anywhere at any time. And the first thing he did was teach me to lie to my parents and tell them it wasn’t happening. You guys are setting dangerous precedence because it is not a matter of if it is going to happen, it will

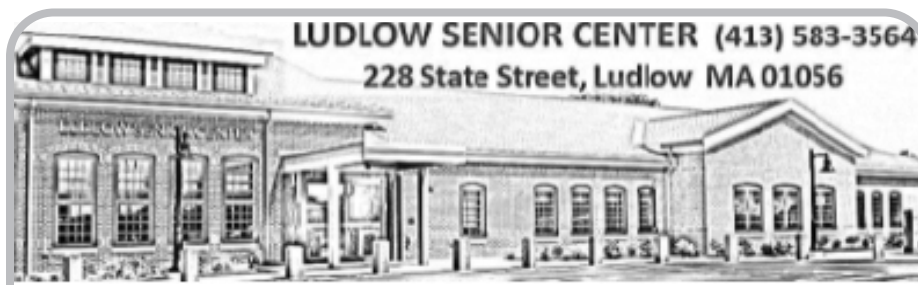
Please see **SCHOOL COMMITTEE**, Page 11

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661**.



Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

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

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

Activities Calendar:

Please register in advance for items with*

Thursday, March 7

- 8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Dominos
- 10:30 a.m. National Cereal Day
- 1 p.m. Mahjong
- 2 p.m. Writers Block*
- 2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

Friday, March 8

- 8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
- 9 a.m. Reiki*
- 10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
- 10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
- 10:30 a.m. Trivia
- 1 p.m. Ceramics
- 1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
- 1 p.m. Magic Class
- 1 p.m. Guidance by Li Grief Support*

Monday, March 11

- 9 a.m. Knitting
- 9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
- 10 a.m. Computer Help
- 11 a.m. Lunch Bunch Figaro’s*
- 1 p.m. Scrabble
- 1:15 p.m. Pitch
- 1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencil Class*
- 2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

Tuesday, March 12

- 9 a.m. Quilting
- 9 a.m. Line Dancing
- 10 a.m. Cribbage
- 10 a.m. Coffee Talk*
- 10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga
- 12:30 p.m. Blood Pressure Checks
- 1 p.m. Western Dance Class
- 1:30 p.m. Bingo
- 5 p.m. 250th Parade Planning Session

- 4:30 p.m. Creative Corner Crafts w/ Tammy*
- 4:50 p.m. The Quiet Man (1952)
- 5:30 p.m. Power Pump Class
- 5:30 p.m. Volleyball at East Street School

Wednesday, March 13

- 8 a.m. Dental Hygienist*
- 9 a.m. Ceramics
- 9 a.m. Zumba Gold
- 10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
- 12 p.m. Lunch & Learn
- 1 p.m. Movie: The Quiet Man (1952)
- 1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*

Thursday, March 14

- 8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Dominos
- 10 a.m. Veterans Agent*
- 10:30 a.m. Friends of Center Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Sen. Oliveira Office Hour
- 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:

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

Menu:

- Thursday, March 7: Loaded Baked Potato/Must-Go-Soup
- Friday, March 8: Mac & Cheese/Stewed Tomatoes
- Monday, March 11: Sloppy Joe Casserole/Power Salad
- Tuesday, March 12: Stuffed Sausage/Sweet Potato Fries
- Wednesday, March 13: Lunch & Learn! Chef Salad
- Thursday, March 14: Corned Beef Dinner

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

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

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Friday, March 22



FRANK SERAFINO
Saturday, March 23



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Saturday, March 16
Saturday, March 30



LIVIO GRAVINI
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Friday, March 29

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What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library?

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

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

FOR ALL AGES

The Solar Eclipse Experience, Thursday, March 7, 6:30 p.m.

Get ready for this year's total eclipse on April 8! Total eclipses of the sun are among nature's most breathtaking events. Richard Sanderson will explain why solar eclipses occur, how they differ from lunar eclipses, and describe the profound and unexpected emotional impact they often have on witnesses. He will also look back at several past eclipses, including the "Great American Eclipse" of 2017. Sanderson will also discuss viewing April's eclipse. All ages are welcome. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

Calling artists and more! The Hubbard Memorial Library in Ludlow is seeking local artists, craftspeople and collectors who would like to display their wares in the library's display case. Exhibits remain in place for one month. The display case measures 70 inches long by 42 inches high by 11 inches deep, and has shelves which can be adjusted or removed to fit different sized items.

For more information, or to arrange a showing, please contact the library at 583-3408 Ext. 114 during normal library hours.

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

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

FOR ADULTS

Mass Center for the Book Monthly Reading Challenge

Each month, you'll be challenged to read a book based on a chosen theme. January's challenge is a book you read years ago that you may feel differently about now. Those who participate will be entered to win a free book! For more information and to sign up, please visit massbook.org/readingchallenge.

Chair Volleyball for Seniors, every Thursday starting January 18 until March 28, 1:30 p.m.

Have some fun this winter by joining us for chair volleyball! No running or jumping required. There will be no chair volleyball on February 22. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408. Walk-ins are welcome.

Happy Hour Book Club Meeting, last Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. This month's book club pick is "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah. You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

Who picked this book? Book Club Meeting, first Thursday of the month (3/7), 3:30 p.m. This month's book club pick is "The Wager" by David Grann. You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

FOR TEENS

Nintendo Switch Night, every other Tuesday (3/19, 4/2, 4/16, 4/30) 6:00-7:45 p.m. Play Mario Kart, Smash Bros, or other Nintendo Switch games. For 6th-12th graders, space is limited to 16 people, please register.

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

Youth Crochet Club, Every other Tuesday (3/12 & 3/26), 5:00-6:00 p.m. For ages 10 & up. For beginners up to experienced crocheters, supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

The 'Fellowship of the Pages' Book Discussion Group, Every Thursday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Meet each week to discuss graphic novels & other books, eat snacks, play games, and make friends. This month the group is reading "Five nights at Freddy's the Graphic Novel: The Silver Eyes" by Scott Cawthon, copies are available in the Youth Room. Please register.

Dungeons & Dragons High School Adventure Ensemble, Fridays 2:30-4:30 p.m. This group is for

experienced high school players and currently has room for 1 more player. Please register.

"Read Between the Lines" High School Book Group, March 8 (rescheduled), 3:00-4:00 p.m. Book chat and snacks for ages 14 & up. This month's book is "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros; copies of the book are available in the Youth Room. Registration preferred.

FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

Egg Coloring Contest, through March 18th. The annual egg hunt is getting an update & young artists are needed! Pick up a coloring page from the library or download from the website, design & color it, & return it to the library by 3/18. The best & most unique eggs will be laminated & featured in the Eggstravaganza (formally the annual Egg Hunt) on 3/30 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

Massachusetts Children's Book Award Book Group for 4th-6th Grade, Thursday, March 14, 6:00-6:45pm. 4th-6th graders across the state are the ones to decide who wins this award after reading at least 5 of the nominated books. Meet with Youth Services Librarian July each month for 45 fun minutes to discuss, decide, play games, and share snacks. Everyone who has read at least 5 of the books by April 11th will cast their vote, celebrate with an ice cream party, and be featured in an article in the Register! Please register.

St. Patrick's Day Rainbow Snacks, Friday, March 8, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Make a sweet treat out of graham crackers, blue frosting, marshmallows, and a strip of rainbow Airheads. Easy, pretty, and a tasty way to get in the spirit for St. Patrick's Day. While supplies last. Drop in.

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

"Elemental" movie & craft, Saturday March 9, 10:00 a.m. Watch the latest movie from the folks who made the smash hit "Inside Out," then make a headband of your favorite element after the show, and take home a free activity packet.

Minecraft Club, Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Minecraft players of all skill levels can bring their own de-

vices, or may use one of the library's eight computers to build, play & create. For upper elementary & up. Drop-in.

Eggstravaganza '24, Saturday, March 30, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Bring your basket & drop in anytime between 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. to search the library grounds for artwork created by the winners of the egg coloring contest - find everything on your game board to win candy-filled eggs for your basket! Please register.

FOR CHILDREN

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

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

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

Sounds of Reading w/ Renee Coro, Wednesdays in March, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For ages 2-5. Run by board-certified music therapist Renee Coro of Harmonious Happenings. Song, sounds, rhythms, rhyme, stories, instruments, & more. Please register.

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

Grandparents Storytime, Thursday March 7 & 14, 11:45 a.m. -12:45 p.m. Ages 0-6 In this two-week group, grandparents (or grandfriends) and little ones will enjoy stories and songs and engage in play activities that foster intellectual and social-emotional development, motor skills, language learning, and overall literacy. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

Me, You, & We: Social Emotional Playgroup, Fridays from March 1-April 12, 9:30-10:30 a.m. (no program on 3/29). This playgroup will support 3-5 year olds and their caregivers in developing and practicing social-emotional skills. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

2024 KINDERGARTEN READINESS NIGHT

Welcome Students & Caregivers to East Street School!

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5-6pm: Last names A-M
6-7pm: Last names N-Z

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OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor

As a parent and educator in this town I am voting for Sarah Bowler for School Committee. Sarah has dedicated her career to helping children remain safe emotionally and physically. While serving on the School Committee, she has ensured the safety of all students. When I think of Sarah words such as dedicated, supportive, accepting and professional come to mind.

Sarah does not believe teachers are grooming and indoctrinating children. Sarah honestly cares about ALL members of our Ludlow community. Sarah is not trying to push her own personal agenda into our public schools.

Please vote for the candidate who will be accepting of all Students. Who believes our teachers are here to support, educate and care for all students. If you have never voted before in a town election, please get out this year. Please vote for Sarah Bowler. Let's send a message that unfounded fears and hate are not welcome in Ludlow.

Carol O'Shea
Ludlow resident

To the Editor,

The school system in Ludlow is VERY important to the Town and needs good leadership.

There has been a great deal of turmoil over the Ludlow, Massachusetts Public Schools over the last few years.

Yet there appears to be an atmosphere of fear surrounding many of the parents of the Ludlow Schools. Many feel that their single voice gets them nowhere with the School Committee, or other personal interfaces at the school. On the contrary, they feel that in complaining their child may be negatively affected, or jeopardized!

In regard the March 25th School Committee Election Isabel "Bella" Soares is running for the Committee membership. She is a life long resident of Ludlow for 42 years with a Portuguese / American background, as many in Ludlow are. She is a parishioner at Christ the King Church in Ludlow. She was a graduate of Ludlow High and Holyoke Community College; a soccer star at both! She was a Pre-School Teacher at Orchard Children's Corner in Springfield; and received her lead teaching certificate in 2002.

If you were to describe her "platform" for running for the School Committee, it is to strongly fight for parents rights; for education, not indoctrination; and to focus on academics, away from social engineering.

It sounds like "Bella" Soares may be just what the Ludlow Schools need at this time!

Al DiLascia
Chicopee, MA

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Register, please email register@turley.com.

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Local fishing holes...



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GUEST COLUMN



Blueberry pruning 101

My blueberry bushes came to me as full grown plants uprooted from an acquaintance's yard.

He needed the space for something else, so I happily agreed to take the eight bushes off of his hands. They struggled a lot the first few years of being in their new home, I think because the move was a stressful one.

Over the last couple of seasons we've seen more fruit production, thankfully, but I know there should be more. I think I may need to improve my pruning practices.

We are nearing the end of the dormant season, but if I get right to it, the job can still be accomplished this year.

There are many good reasons to prune in the dormant season. Because there are no leaves on the bushes, you can really take a good look at what you have to work with. You can notice off-colors, bent branches and the like when there is no leaf cover.

Late February into early March is perfect timing because theoretically the coldest part of the winter has passed. Sometimes pruning reduces cold hardiness, but like I mentioned, we should be OK since we are nearing winter's end.

Some rules transfer from pruning one type of plant to another; in other words, you'd make these same type of considerations for pruning roses or other woody plants. Let's call these the obvious cuts.

First concentrate on dead wood. Prune away any entirely dead branches all the way to the ground.

If parts of branches are dead, make a cut to the next living part of the branch. If you see anything that looks diseased or a little "off," cut that section or branch away too.

Sometimes branches get damaged from animals or ice storms. Likewise, cut damaged branches back to a section that shows no signs of damage.

Now it gets a little more tricky, but it still should be straightforward and it applies to mature blueberry plants, not new plantings or super old neglected bushes.

Look at the base of your plant. Is it wider than 18 inches in any direction from the center? If so, cut away these stems at ground level or try to dig them up, roots and all in the coming weeks, then move them to a new spot, preferably a nursery bed where they can grow up a bit. I'm into a whole new topic, so let's get back to the task at hand.

Once the plant has been cut back to within its limits, look for growth coming from the base that is on an angle or crossing over other branches. Cut that away too, so that we encourage upright growth instead.

Okay, with that behind us, let's dive into more difficult territory. Here is when you begin to rejuvenate the plant (listen carefully, self).

Old canes will be gray in appearance and thick. You probably don't want to cut away every one, but perhaps removing one-third of these stems would be a good plan.

Cut them back to ground level. Your next cuts will be what I can "fine tuning," or making cuts that thin out older twiggy growth in the upper part of the plant by cutting back stems to a younger, upright branch.

Go by color here. Younger growth is reddish in appearance. Hand pruners are your desired tool of choice, while bypass loppers or a hand saw is essential for the bigger cuts I mentioned first.

You'll be surprised by how great your blueberry bushes will look and just how productive they will be with this type of maintenance pruning accomplished annually. I think there is just enough daylight for me to get to my own pruning.

I can almost taste the blueberry pie come July. Yum.

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.

The REGISTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

Send letters to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email mharrison@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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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.

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Town celebrates 250th birthday with *Incorporation Day* ceremony



Principal Lisa Nemeth led the ceremony in the high school auditorium.



Former history teacher Brian Bylicki spoke about the town's incorporation in 1774.



Senator Jake Oliveira, dressed in a Hamilton costume, spoke about the ways the town has adapted to change since its inception.



State Representative Aaron Saunders looked to the future as he talked about his pride in the town.

INCORPORATION DAY

from Page 1

of the town, and looked to the future of the town's residents.

"You have received, in some way, shape or form, the benefit of those who came before us in this town," Saunders said. "You can see it in the schools, you can see it in our access to recreation, you can see it in our social clubs, our churches, our places of worship.

"The question I'm going to ask myself tonight," Saunders said, "And I would invite you to do the same, is what is our responsibility to those who will be coming in 50, 100, 150, 250 years from now. What will they say that we did to ensure that the generations that come after us have the same opportunities that we had?"

Oliveira shared a silver medal that he had found in a box of items from his grandmother, which was given out during the town's 200th celebration.

"My family came here a little over 110 years ago and settled right here in the town of Ludlow to work partly in the mills and in various different factories," Oliveira said. "I think it's also important to point out that over 250 years, things change a lot. We've become more inclusive, become more accepting of different groups that come in.

"Replacing names like Miller and Hutchinson are names that are of the diverse cultures and patchwork that make up the various different cultures that make up the town of Ludlow," Oliveira said. "250 years ago, or even 100 years ago, a person with the last name Oliveira could not get elected — not only to a Select Board here in the town of Ludlow, they couldn't get elected to the legislature. In fact, even now, as someone who's not a property owner, I could never be a member of the Senate until about 50 years ago.

"We change over time. We evolve. We change with society, and that's what Ludlow has done each and every step of the way over our 250-year history," Oliveira said.

Bylicki read part of the town's original incorporation document, joking that he would not read all eight sections.

"Mr. Bylicki, if we were in



250th Committee Co-Chair Linda Collette was brought onstage to be recognized by the Senator and State Representative.

class, State Rep. Saunders and myself, you would be reading all the sections of that proclamation," Oliveira joked back.

Bylicki speculated as to the origin of the town's name, saying that contemporary residents reportedly wanted to name the town Stony Hill, but Bylicki has not found a definitive answer as to why the name was changed to Ludlow.

"Why did Governor Hutchinson choose 'Ludlow'? We'll never know," Bylicki said. "Was it for Ludlow, England? Was it for Sir Edmund Ludlow, a prominent English Republican from the 17th century, or Roger Ludlow, a 17th century English lawyer, magistrate, and military officer?"

"We will never know, because right after this, Governor Hutchinson was driven out of Massachusetts by revolutionary soldiers," Bylicki said. "He was the last civilian royal governor of Massachusetts, replaced by General Thomas Gage."

Bylicki said that when this happened, Hutchinson's house was ransacked and his papers and diaries burned in the streets of Cambridge.

The speakers thanked 250th Committee Co-Chairs Linda Collette and Kathleen Oumette for their work towards the events, and the event was closed with a song by the Ludlow High School Chorus.



The high school choir sang at the beginning and end of the ceremony.



State Representative Aaron Saunders and Senator Jake Oliveira, both Ludlow High graduates, celebrated the town's 250th birthday.



Submitted photo by David Sady

Senator Jake Oliveira wore a Hamilton costume from Berkshire Hills Music Academy's Broadway night.



Pictured at Sunday's breakfast, (from left) Mike Kelliher, Steve Kerrigan, State Representative Aaron Saunders, Mia Alves, and Kelly DeGobbi.



Steve Kerrigan spoke with students from the high school.

Submitted Photos

Candidates speak at Democrats Breakfast



Chair of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, Steve Kerrigan (left), and State Representative Aaron Saunders of the 7th Hampden District, were both speakers at the event.

DEMOCRATS BREAKFAST

from Page 1

that you've put in getting this together," Warren said. "You have dedicated your time, your sweat, and your skills to our party, and I am deeply grateful for that."

The event provided an opportunity for community members and leaders to share the mission of the committee, which is to promote inclusion and acceptance in the town.

"That message is that all people are created equal, and that we continue to support the inclusion of everyone," Alves said. "That doesn't exclude Christians; I'm a Christian, I even said when I gave a speech as an introduction. All of the community needs to feel welcome, seen, understood, and heard."

The school system was a main topic of conversation at the breakfast, as candidates spoke about the issues facing the town's schools in recent years.

"I spoke about making Ludlow a more welcoming and supporting community, and that my priority will be to focus on education funding," Montagna said. "The school budget, particularly, will be my primary focus, from investing in schools to driving young families to town and becoming a community that can support and sustain small businesses by bringing people to

live here."

Alves said that though the town has done a great job supporting the Senior Center, Veterans Services, and the police and fire departments at the Safety Complex, that it's time to start investing in the schools.

"Right now we're certainly facing some really regressive attempts at changing policy in Ludlow around the outing of children to their parents," Alves said. "They say it's about parental rights, but parents have the right to choose what their kids read out of the library already. The fact of the matter is, the Department of Early and Secondary Education and Title IX supercede whatever an independent school committee can do. There's lot of hyperbole, and drama, and culture wars going on, and it's unproductive when we have a school budget we need to be concerned about, and mental health issues for kids in school."

Warren also spoke about the organizing done by the town's community against bigotry, giving a particular shout out to the Color Ludlow with Love event organized by Kelly DeGobbi and others last fall.

"I appreciate that you have been in a tough fight against the forces of hate," Warren said. "You've been sticking up for the LGBTQIA+ children, for the freedom to read,



Senator Jake Oliveira made a speech to people seated with their breakfast from Villa Rose.

for the freedom to feel seen and understood and embraced at school. As leaders in your community, you found creative ways to push back against bigotry, like your Color Ludlow with Love event; wow. I know that you are in this fight all the way, for all of our kids. We're all here because we believe deep, deep down in an America that works for everyone."



Kelly Lamas spoke about her campaign for the Board of Health.



A full dining room at Villa Rose listened to a speech from the Chair of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, Steve Kerrigan.



Martin Fanning ate with his family while Senator Elizabeth Warren's video played in the background.

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Lions suffer OT defeat in WMass finals



Brice Pereira tries to clear the puck.



Sean Kefalas attempts to reach out and get the puck.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD - The Ludlow ice hockey team has won the Western Mass. championship title a total of five times during the past 57 years. The Lions have never won back-to-back Western Mass. titles.

After defeating Belchertown in the 2023 Western Mass Class B finals, the members of this year's squad had a golden opportunity to accomplish that feat.

Top-seeded Ludlow held a 2-0 lead in the middle of the second period against the third-seeded Taconic Thunder

Please see **LIONS**, Page 10



A melee ensues in front of the net with goalie Peter LeBorgne pouncing on the puck.



Ryan Kurtz takes a faceoff.

Lawsuit changes brackets in basketball tournament

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

FRANKLIN - Over the years, there have been issues with ineligible player use or other rule-breaking that has led to high school teams being left out of sectional or state tournaments.

This year, however, a school took action and it ended up halting the state tournament and changed opponents for several teams involved.

Oliver Ames High School, which competes in Division 2 in many sports, appealed it being left out of the State Division 2 Boys Basketball tournament due to a paperwork.

According to a representative from the MIAA, schools are required to submit certain paperwork for entrance into the tournament, and Oliver Ames failed to meet the requirement. They were thusly removed from the tournament and did not have a spot when seeds were released on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Some preliminary games in

the tournament, of which Oliver Ames would have been a part of due to their projected lower seed, were scheduled to start on Monday, Feb. 26, but the tournament had to be halted due to an injunction being filed by Oliver Ames in a court. The injunction went through and the MIAA was ordered by a judge to include the ousted school in this year's tournament.

"One team from Eastern Mass. was headed for Amherst and had to be turned around because of this," Eric Castonguay, athletic director at South Hadley High School said. "It stopped the whole thing."

While it only affected a handful of teams in Western Mass. Division 2, Amherst and Agawam were among the teams that were locally affected.

Karen Gomez, athletic director at Agawam High School, had to wait until a new opponent was announced in order to schedule her game.

Please see **LAWSUIT**, Page 10

Pioneers release 2024 schedule

LUDLOW - Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19.

The Pioneers have won an

Open Cup match in the past. Later, the Pioneers have their "friendly" exhibition game scheduled for May 10. They will face 3rd Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule.

Their opener for the regu-

lar season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York.

The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.

Thunderbirds suffer loss to Isles

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds (25-24-3-2) could not overcome a 3-0 hole in the opening period as the Bridgeport Islanders (18-29-6-1) skated off as 4-1 winners at the MassMutual Center on Sunday before a seventh straight sellout crowd of 6,793.

Not even a minute into the festivities, both Sam Bitten & Will Bitten got the Thunderdome engaged in the game with a pair of fighting majors in bouts against Seth Helgeson and Eetu Liukas respectively. However, the Islanders held a sizable edge in offensive zone time, and that translated into an early lead for the visitors.

At the 9:10 mark, Ruslan Iskhakov artfully slipped the

puck to Matt Maggio in the left-wing circle, where the rookie swiftly moved the puck from backhand to forehand and uncorked a perfect wrist shot under the crossbar past Colten Ellis to make it 1-0 for Bridgeport.

The penalty parade continued as two separate Springfield players were whistled for penalties just 45 seconds apart, opening the door for Bridgeport's power play. On the ensuing two-man advantage, Ellis made a save on an initial try by William Dufour, but Carsen Twarzynski was positioned perfectly to slide the rebound home to make it a 2-0 score at 11:18.

In the final minute of the period, Brian Pinho further bolstered the Islander lead when he

sidestepped a hit attempt before beating Ellis between the legs with a snapper at 19:23.

After being outshot 18-5 in the first, the T-Birds responded with some pushback in the second, but rookie Bridgeport goalie Henrik Tikkanen was steady in the crease. Mikhail Abramov finally dented the young goaltender at 12:11 when he deposited a loose puck in the blue paint after a Jakub Vrana slapper squeaked through Tikkanen's equipment. Abramov's second goal in as many days cut the margin to 3-1.

The T-Birds' best chance to get closer came in the middle portions of the third period, when back-to-back Bridgeport

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

Baldwin gets modified win as he prepares for New England return

FLORENCE, S.C. – Tommy Baldwin Racing drivers Jack Baldwin and Luke Baldwin both had success Saturday night at Florence Motor Speedway.

Jacked sealed the night by capturing the victory in the opener of the Carolina Crate Modified Series, driving the No. 7NY in a final lap dash battle to the finish. Luke made his Tour-Type Modified debut in the SMART Modified Tour Peanut Patch 99 with Sadler-Stanley Racing and scored a top-five finish.

Jack qualified on the pole earlier in the day, inverting to fourth and running inside the top-five for the whole 62-lap Crate Modified race, before making the move for the win in the final corner.

Luke posted the fastest lap time in his first official Tour Modified practice in the PSR No. 7VA for the Sadler-Stanley Racing group. The team, owned by former NASCAR driver Hermie Sadler and Attorney and Virginia State Senator Bill Stanley, is Luke's official

home for the full SMART Modified Tour season in 2024. He also qualified the car in third spot in time trials and started second after the redraw.

"Excited to win another Crate Modified race, especially being able to get to Victory Lane at Florence," Jack Baldwin said. "Slate (Myers) had a fast car tonight. I hate that it came down to him spinning, but I was as low as I could possibly go without hitting the inside wall. Florence is a fun track. We were able to ride a bit early then close a large gap over the final 30 laps to be in position to win. I can't thank everyone on the TBR team and PSR enough."

Both Baldwin brothers attended Florence events with the help of their respective team members and PSR Chassis members, with Tommy Baldwin Jr. at Las Vegas Motor Speedway with Rick Ware Racing.

"Super proud of everybody involved with this team for what we accomplished at Florence," Luke Baldwin said. "We showed race

winning speed all the way through the day, and if a few things went my way, we may have had a shot at winning it. We had a solid second-place run going until a late race restart where I made some mistakes and fell to fifth. Nothing to hang our heads about. Huge thanks to all the guys at Sadler-Stanley Racing, Bill Stanley, Hermie Sadler and PSR Products. The car was a rocket ship and they made my job easy. Also, thanks to Pace-O-Matic, The Stanley Law Group, and Mohawk Northeast for making it happen. Congrats to Carson Loftin on his first career win."

Next up for the Tommy Baldwin Racing team will be for Luke driving the No. 7VA for Sadler-Stanley Racing in the second SMART Modified Tour race of the season next Sunday, March 10 at Caraway Speedway. Jack Baldwin is currently slated to return to the seat during the summer in the SK Modifieds at Stafford Motor Speedway.

LIONS from Page 9

before everything came crashing down on top of them. The Thunder scored a goal at the end of the second period before tying the game in the third period. The Thunder celebrated a 3-2 overtime victory in the Class B finals held at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield on Feb. 24.

The seven Ludlow seniors, who were hoping to win back-to-back Western Mass titles are Trevor Goff, Ryan Kurtz, Brice Pereira, Cody Sanderson, Luke Martin, Thomas Deroin, and Benji Steele.

"I've been coaching most of the seniors since they were six or seven years old. I really feel bad for them and we're really going to miss them next year," said Ludlow head coach Paul Rivest. "It would've been nice to have won back-to-back Western Mass. finals, but it just wasn't meant to be."

It was the third overtime game played between the Fay Division rivals this winter.

When the two teams met in the season opener at Olympia on December 7, Ludlow junior Ryan Goodwin scored the Lions only goal in a 1-1 draw. A month later, freshman Evan Dias and junior Nick Staeb, who didn't play in the Class B finals due to an injury, were the Ludlow goal scorers in a 2-2 road tie against the Thunder.

Ludlow (9-10-2) advanced into this year's Class B championship game following an 8-3 semifinal win against fourth-seeded Southwick. The Lions also clinched a berth in the Division 3 state tournament with that victory.

The 36th-seeded Lions were scheduled to face 29th-seeded Norton High School in a preliminary round game on Monday night. The winner of that match will face fourth-seeded Lynnfield on Wednesday night.

"Playing in the Western Mass finals is a very big deal for these kids," Rivest said. "They're upset right now because we lost, but I just told them they need to be ready to play another game on Monday night. We played well in today's game."

Sophomore Tannar Severyn gave the Lions a 1-0 lead in last Saturday's match with a goal at 13:12 of the opening period. The scoring play began with sophomore Nick Deroin delivering a pass from the left circle across the front of the goal to Severyn, who then fired a shot into the net past Taconic senior goalie Cam Laferriere (16 saves).

In the middle of the second period, Deroin scored an unassisted breakaway goal giving his team a 2-0 lead.

Three minutes later, Thomas Deroin received a five minute major penalty for boarding. He was also given a ten-minute misconduct penalty.

"Thomas was playing very well before the penalty in the second period," Rivest said. "He was in the box for one period. We can't afford not having him on the ice for that long. It was extremely frustrating."

It wound up being the turning point of the game. Taconic, who's competing in the Division 4 state tournament, cut the deficit in half following an unassisted power-play goal from senior Roshan Warrior with a minute remaining in the second period.

Just after another Ludlow penalty came to an end three minutes into the third period, Taconic senior Rylan Padelford fired a shot into the net past Ludlow freshman goalie Peter LeBorgne (15 saves).

The Lions had four power plays during the first three periods, but they couldn't capitalize on them.

Less than a minute into the sudden-victory first overtime period, which is eight minutes long during the post-season, a shot attempt by Kurtz was saved by Laferriere.

"Ryan went around three players at the start of overtime and his shot looked like it was going into the net, but their goaltender got his pad on it," Rivest said. "He was the difference in the game."

Taconic senior Brayden Bishop scored the game winning goal with 4:16 left in overtime.

The Lions players had a day off before playing their first game in the Division 3 state tournament.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The third and final round of the candlepin league season rolls on for the Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League.

As of Feb. 20, The Champs R Here, Acres, Compression and the Blue B's started off the third round at 3-1. Life is Good, Team BK and Last in Line started off the round at 1-3. Compression was the winning team of round one and Life is Good was the winning team of round two.

The Champs R Here bowled against Last in Line on the league night of Feb. 27. In game one, Last in Line won the first game by a score of 364-360. In game two, The Champs got a win of their own by a score of 377-369. Taylor Colkos led the Champs R Here in game two by scoring 107.

In game three, Last in Line won the last game by a score of 394-368. Last in Line won total pinfall by a final score of 1127-1105.

The winners of round two, Life is Good, bowled against

the Blue B's. In game one, Life is Good defeated Blue B's by a score of 344-318. In game two, the Blue B's won by a score 368-348. In game three, Blue B's won the last game by a score of 379-341.

Mike Zwirecki of Blue B's bowled a 128 to lead his team to victory.

Blue B's won total pinfall by a final score of 1065-1033.

Acres bowled against Compression. In game one, Acres won the first game 399-371. Dave Cobleigh of Acres started off the evening with a 113. In game two, Acres won again by a score of 430-333. Cobleigh bested his first game by scoring 136 in game two, his best game of the season.

In game three, Compression won the last game 385-372. Acres won total pinfall by a final score of 1201-1089. Cobleigh's three game series for the evening totaled 329. Cobleigh's teammate Matt Bertelli had a consistent night of bowling. Bertelli scored 102, 106 and 106.

Thursday Night Mixed League The Thursday Night Mixed League bowled their last league night in the month of February.

Team Two bowled against the round one winning team, Team Six. In game one, Team Two de-

feated Team Six in a close first game, 397-390. In game two, Team Six returned the favor and won game two by one pin, 394-393. In game three, Team Six won the last game by a score of 412-399.

Team Six won total pinfall by a final score of 1196-1189.

Team Three bowled against Team Five. In game one, Team Five won the first game 421-367. In game two, Team Three won the second game by a score of 418-403. Tyler Moore of Team Three led the team by scoring 110.

In game three, Team Three won the last game of the evening 408-372. Moore repeated his second game by scoring 110 in game three.

Thanks to a big lead after game one, Team Five managed to win total pinfall by a final score of 1196-1193.

Team Four bowled against Team One. In game one, Team Four won the first game by a score of 395-393. In game two both teams tied at 403. In game three, Team Four won the last game by a score of 420-417. Sean Comerford and Kris Rickson of Team One finished strong by scoring 112 and 113.

Team Four won total pinfall by a final score of 1218-1213.

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SALE DATES: 3/7/24-3/13/24 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

LAWSUIT from Page 1

She was originally scheduled to play Tuesday, Feb. 27 and host Bay Path Vocational Technical. That opponent changed when Oliver Ames was inserted into the tournament. Masaconomet ended up visiting Agawam, and luckily, at short notice, agreed to come to Agawam and played at the same time the Bay Path-Agawam game was scheduled for.

Amherst was forced to postpone its game from Monday. One team unaffected was Chicopee Comprehensive, which did not see an opponent change and traveled to Scituate in the Round of 32.

T-BIRDS from Page 1

penalties handed Springfield a 5-on-3 advantage. However, Tikkanen and the gutsy Isles' PK unit stood up to the challenge, and a Springfield penalty would then nullify the advantage.

Karson Kuhlman put the game away at 16:48 with an empty-net goal to seal the visitors' seventh win in 11 tries this season against the T-Birds.

The T-Birds and Islanders complete their season series on Friday night for one final installment between the rivals inside the MassMutual Center. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

Baystate Wing Auxiliary seeks scholarship applicants

PALMER—The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary is making scholarship applications available for the 2023-24 academic year. The Auxiliary will award scholarships of \$1000 to seniors graduating from Belchertown, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Pathfinder, Minnechaug, and Ware High Schools who are pursuing higher education in a healthcare field. The students will be chosen based on their academic excellence, volunteer efforts and related community service, work experience, and dedication to their goals.

Applications and instructions for completing the application forms are available in each school's guidance department and must be completed and submitted by April 12. The Auxiliary Scholarship Committee will select student recipients and recommend them to the Auxiliary board for final approval.

Throughout the years, a wide variety of healthcare fields have been represented by area students who have received these scholarships, including premedical, dental hygiene, health system man-

agement, nursing, pharmacy, and radiology.

"Growing careers in healthcare is now more important than ever," said Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Baystate Wing Auxiliary. "We are so proud when we hear from our former scholarship recipients who are now providing healthcare throughout the region and Massachusetts."

For over 65 years, the Auxiliary has been actively supporting Baystate Wing Hospital through its sponsorship of special events and management of the gift shop. This diverse group of women and men includes teachers, nurses, and business owners, both young and retirees, who live in many different communities and are united by a shared commitment to support the mission of the hospital.

"We are thankful to the Auxiliary members for their continued commitment and support to our hospital and the many communities we serve," said Teresa Grove, philanthropy officer for Baystate Health's Eastern Region.

Gentle Flow Yoga Class at Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM - Certified Instructor Michelle Bouchard will lead a light and rejuvenating yoga class at the Wilbraham Public Library on Saturday, March 9 at 10 a.m. Participants ages 18+ will explore breathing practices, mindfulness and meditation techniques and a physical approach to sustainable exercise. All skill levels are welcome. Please bring your own yoga mat and dress comfort-

ably. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, please contact the library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org. This free program is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

To learn more, contact Emilie Lang at 413-596-6141 or elang@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

SCHOOL BUDGET CUTS

from Page 1

recommendations to the town's legislative body.

During public comment, residents said problems with bullying are not being adequately addressed and that some fear even discussing issue - with one speaker saying this includes reluctance to speak out at School Committee meetings.

In response to a public comment, Bowler, during the School Committee member reports section of meeting, acknowledged she made a mistake on her campaign finance reporting and had corrected it. Bowler also said that as a state

employee, there are additional rules she must adhere to involving political matters.

"I have not committed fraud...someone filed a complaint with the office of campaign and finance that I had incorrectly documented a form...I noticed the incorrect documents. I amended them; I re-filed them," she said. "Apparently now there's rumors out there that I'm a fraudulent person...I have never committed fraud in my entire life."

Bowler is running for reelection to the School Committee this spring. Challenging her for the three year term in office is Isabel Maria Soares.

The municipal election is scheduled for March 25.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

from Page 4

eventually happen. A teacher is going to be charged in this local area, hopefully not in the school. I know we have some great teachers, but you are setting a bad precedent.

Riopel then targeted his comments toward members of the school committee.

"Specifically Mr. Laing, I hope you can pay attention to this meeting because the last time the teachers were here, you were reading paperwork and not even looking at them," Riopel said. "It is very important when teachers come here and actually voice their complaints, you are actually looking at them and paying attention."

Richard Oliveria, a mathematics teacher at Ludlow High School, said he is concerned about safety in the schools.

"I'm indoctrinating your kids to learn geometry," Oliveira said, "three of those

courses, one course of math for personal finance, and a course in statistics. We are not indoctrinating your kids, despite what Mass Resistance says.

He then talked about an incident that occurred at a 250th anniversary celebration for the town, saying an individual assaulted an educator. He also expressed concern for his safety.

Resident Joseph Santos targeted his comments on the school budget.

Santos, a town meeting member for about 40 years, said he is concerned about class sizes and is concerned about potential reductions in staff.

"I'm disturbed to read that we may have reduction in staff, Santos said. "At this time after COVID, after having a lot of our students in house learning, we should not be cutting staff. And please don't tell me that reducing a teacher and increasing the class size is beneficial to the town of Ludlow. It is absolutely not; we should be focusing on our children."

OBITUARIES

Avelino Goncalves, 87

Avelino Goncalves, 87, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family. Avelino was born in the small village of Travassos de Cha in Portugal, where at the age of 18, he immigrated to Venezuela in pursuit of a better life. At the age of 25, he went back to his hometown to marry the love of his life



Ana. Together, they returned to Venezuela where they lived and started a family. Avelino's family was his priority and chose to relocate with his wife and two sons nearer to his parents and siblings in America. It was there that he and his wife welcomed their daughter. Avelino worked in construction and in 1985, he started his own company, Caracas Construction. He loved to travel with his family, eventually achieving his dream of taking all 8 grandchildren to his birth town, and looked forward to his annual Florida trips with them. He was also a member of Our Lady of Fatima Parish and the Gremio Lusitano Club.

Avelino leaves his wife of 62 years Ana, three children Matias Goncalves and wife Ermelinda, Manuel Goncalves and his wife Donna, and Anna Gomes and her husband Luis, all of Ludlow; eight grandchildren, who meant the world to him, Manuel Jr and his wife Daniela, Alexander and his fiancé Stephanie, Michael, Adam, David, and Mariana Goncalves, and Luis and Emma Gomes. He also leaves his brother Custodio Goncalves and wife Joaquina of Ludlow and several nieces and nephews. Avelino was predeceased by his sisters Ana (Joao), Ana (Avelino), brothers Joao (Ana), Antonio (Idalina), and Fernando (Maria), and his brother-in-law Manuel (Lucia), sister-in-law Maria (Mario).

Funeral services for Avelino will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. Visitation is from 8:15-10:15am in Ludlow Funeral Home with Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11:00am in Our Lady of Fatima Parish followed by burial in St. Aloysius Cemetery.

Linda Marie (Dumont) Metayer

WEST BROOKFIELD—Linda Marie (Dumont) Metayer age 81 passed away Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024, with her family at her side. She leaves her husband of sixty-three years, Theodore E. Metayer. She also leaves sons, Theodore Metayer Jr. and his wife Tina of Ludlow, Gregory Metayer and his wife Pamela of West Brookfield and a daughter, Michelle Golinsk and her husband Patrick of Port St. Lucie, FL, two grandchildren, Isaac Graves of W. Brookfield, and Theodore Metayer III of Ludlow and a sister, Shirley Koch of Ludlow.

She was born in Chicopee daughter of the late Armand Dumont and Rita (St. Marie) Dumont and lived in the area most of her life. Linda was owner of Heavenly Inspirations flower and gift shop, Ludlow, MA, for over 30 years.

She was a member of the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Hamden, MA. There are no calling hours, and all services are private. Please omit flowers and donations may be made to St. Jude's Childrens Hospital or the Shriner's Hospital. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

DEATH NOTICES

Avelino Goncalves, 87
Services
March 6, 2024
Ludlow Funeral Home

Linda Marie (Dumont) Metayer
Died Feb. 28, 2024
Services are private
Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home

The Ludlow Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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



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DATEBOOK

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

COMING SOON

THE ST. CECILIA WOMEN'S CLUB March meeting takes place on Tuesday, March 12, beginning with a liturgy at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Soup & Sandwich at 6 p.m. The guest speaker will be Deacon Michael Forrest who will intrigue the meeting with his miraculous story. A **FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON** featuring CHICO'S is being sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club, Thursday, April 25, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham. A social hour begins at 11:30 a.m. with luncheon served at noon. The meal choices are Chicken Francoise and salmon with dill sauce. The \$35 donation for the luncheon also helps to fund the club's scholarships and community service projects. In addition, there will be a raffle for many prizes. For reservations, please contact Norma Bandarra, 413-596-8173, by April 17.

ONGOING

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

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

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

CHESSE 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.

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission announces DLTA grant awards

Nearly \$290,000 will be used to support communities with local projects

SPRINGFIELD - The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission announced its most recent Direct Local Technical Assistance grant awards, allotting \$288,682 to support projects across Hampden and Hampshire counties.

The concepts span from a rural network to end domestic violence, to shared regional emergency services, to broad-scale rezoning, to housing development, to drinking water protection, to a regional waste disposal costs evaluation, and others. Projects are set to begin over the following weeks.

"A huge portion of our work at PVPC is providing technical assistance to communities across Western Massachusetts, which is particularly important as we recognize the nature of our municipalities in the Pioneer Valley. Unlike the rest of the state, our region is home the majority of rural and suburban towns with small local governments and limited resources. By joining forces, PVPC is able to elevate the ambitions of these communities and make real legacy change," said Kimberly H. Robinson, Executive Director of PVPC. "We applaud the creativity and thoughtful proposals put forward and we are eager to work hand-in-hand with these municipalities and see them come to life right here in the Valley."

The PVPC is able to provide this local technical assistance at no cost to these communities thanks to funding provided by the Massachusetts Legislature with the support of local legislators, under a contract with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities for the DLTA Program.

Communities are asked to provide an in-kind match equivalent to 5% of the total budget for each project, which can include community staff time or volunteer board members time spent on the project.

Some of the projects which will be supported are:

Belchertown - "Making the Community and its Plan Live!" work.

Chester - the exploration of the feasibility of the Towns of Chester and Blandford to combine their fire departments and share a Fire Chief.

Chester, Russell, Middlefield, Huntington, Bandford, Montgomery, Tolland, Granville, Worthington, Ware, Hardwick and Warren - "Rural Network to End Domestic Violence," connecting and supporting participating communities and task forces that now work independently to prevent and end domestic violence.

Chesterfield - "Catalyst for Master Plan: Review of Zoning Compliance with State Mandates and Current Zoning Practices in Small, Rural Towns."

East Longmeadow - housing needs assessment.

Goshen - a comprehensive zoning bylaw review and diagnostic plan.

Granby - open space and recreation planning.

Hadley - exploring a Chapter 40R Zoning District on Route 9.

Hilltown Community Ambulance Association (HCAA) - technical assistance with communication, outreach and work to sustain regional ambulance services in the six Gateway communities of the Hilltowns.

Huntington - updating the open space and recreation plan.

Ludlow and surrounding towns - continued regional evaluation of trash disposal.

Ludlow - a comprehensive zoning bylaw review and plan update.

Middlefield - continued assistance with the municipal capital Plan

Pelham - planning for future needs following a 40B project approval in an aging community.

Church DIRECTORY

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

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

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

SMC and Facebook Live Stream ludlowfellowship.org
FRIDAYS Children's After School Club (pre K through teens) 5-6:30 p.m.
Church Fellowship Hall

SATURDAYS at 10 a.m. Ecumenical Prayer Meeting

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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.

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191 Hubbard St., Ludlow
413-583-3467

Pastor - Rev. Msgr. Homer P. Gosselin
In Residence - Rev. Norman Bolton
Deacons: Normand Grondin, Thomas Rickson, Keith Davies

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
stelizabethludlow.org
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Check out our Parish App

Wednesday, March 6, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Youth Group - 3:30 p.m. (JR), Holy Mother Choir - 5:15 p.m. (C), Confirmation Class - 5:30 (JR), Scouts - 6 p.m. (FLBH), Scouts - 7 p.m. (JR)

Thursday, March 7, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C) Friday, March 8, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C) Saturday, March 9, - Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C), Mass - 4 p.m. (C), Knights of Columbus Corned Beef Dinner - 5:30 p.m. (FLBH)

Sunday, March 10, - Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C), Mass - 11 a.m. (C), Mass - 5 p.m. (C), Confirmation Class - 8 a.m. (JR), Faith Formation - 10:15 a.m. (All Rooms), Restored Lenten Youth - 3:00 PM (FLBH)

Monday March 11, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus - 1 p.m. (ZR), Faith Formation - 6 p.m. (JR/ER), Bible Study - 6 p.m. (ZR)

Tuesday, March 12, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C) St. Rita Choir - 2:30 p.m. (C), Spaghetti Supper - 4:30 p.m. (FLBH & JR), Finance Council - 6:30 (ER)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
25 Parker St, Indian Orchard,
413-543-3627
Very Rev. Piotr Kalik

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.

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45 Newbury St.
Ludlow, MA 01056
Phone: 413-583-2140

Pastor: Father Andriy Krip
Liturgy schedule:
Wednesday 9 a.m., Friday 9 a.m.
Rosary for Peace in Ukraine on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH
438 Winsor St., Ludlow
413-583-2312
Father Pedro DeOlivera

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses - 9 a.m. (Portuguese); 11 a.m. (English)

Monday and Wednesday Morning Masses - 8:30 a.m. (Portuguese)
Tuesday and Friday Masses - 5:30 p.m. (Portuguese)
Saturday Vigil Mass - 4 p.m. (English)
First Saturday of the Month - 8:30 a.m.

For more information, visit ourladyoffatimaparish.org.

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413-583-3339

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website: www.ludlowfirst.com or
Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow/
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95 Berkshire Street
Indian Orchard, MA 01151
413-543-4204

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Worship in person, 11 a.m.
Or watch our livestream.
See our website for more information: orchardcovenant.org.



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Arts and crafts, swimming, nature programs, hiking and more. **Lunch is included. Before and after care is available.**

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 SESSION 2: JUNE 24-28
 SESSION 3: JULY 8-12
 SESSION 4: JULY 15-19
 SESSION 5: JULY 22-26
 SESSION 6: JULY 29-AUG 2
 SESSION 7: AUG 5-9

Visit Bement.org/summer for more information and to register. Register early!

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 Led by faculty and staff from Bement as well as local area experts, enrichment camps are open to campers in a variety of grades. Check the website for specific offerings each week.

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 Book Blasters & Word Wizards • Bement Does Broadway & more!

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April Vacation Riding Camp - April 16-18

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9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PLANNING BOARD HEARING
Relative to
PROPOSED ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENTS
Pursuant to G.L. c. 40A, § 5
LEGAL NOTICE – ZONE CHANGE

The Planning Board of the Town of Ludlow will hold a public hearing to discuss proposed amendments to the town's zoning bylaws. The public hearing will be held as follows:

Place: Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room, 3rd floor
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024
Time: 8:00 p.m.

Applicant: Kevin Lavigne
Location: 8-10 Wedgewood Drive (Assessors' Map 11A, Parcel 160)

The subject matter of the proposed amendment is as indicated below. The complete text relative to the proposed amendments is available for inspection on the Planning Board web site: www.ludlow.ma.us/html/planning.

Zone Change Requested from: Agricultural to Residence A
Reason for Requested Change: To create a building lot for a single-family house.
Raymond Phoenix
 Chairman

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, March 28, 2024.
 02/28, 03/06/24

LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD
488 CHAPIN STREET
LUDLOW, MA 01056
583-5624 Ext. 1282
LEGAL NOTICE – SPECIAL PERMIT / HOME OCCUPATION

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** on the application of Kristen St. Germain of 10 Autumn Ridge Road Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 30, Parcel 209) for: home bakery.

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will

be rescheduled to Thursday, March 28, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
 Chairman
 02/28, 03/06/24

LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD
LEGAL NOTICE
SPECIAL PERMIT / HOME OCCUPATION

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7:10 p.m.** on the application of Jennifer Wright of **68 Letendre Avenue** Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 11A, Parcel 100) for: **mental health counseling via telehealth.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, March 28, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
 Chairman
 02/28/24, 03/06/24

NOTICE OF PLANNING BOARD HEARING
Relative to
PROPOSED ZONING

BYLAW AMENDMENTS
 Pursuant to G.L. c. 40A, § 5
LEGAL NOTICE
ZONE CHANGE

The Planning Board of the Town of Ludlow will hold a public hearing to discuss proposed amendments to the town's zoning bylaws. The public hearing will be held as follows:

Place: Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room, 3rd floor
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024
Time: 7:40 p.m.

Applicant: Hajer Brak
Location: 191 West Street (Assessors' Map 2D, Parcel 3)

The subject matter of the proposed amendment is as indicated below. The complete text relative to the proposed amendments is available for inspection on the Planning Board web site: www.ludlow.ma.us/html/planning.

Zone Change Requested from: Agricultural to Business A
Reason for Requested Change:

Auto repair/dealership
Raymond Phoenix
 Chairman

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, March 28, 2024.
 02/28/24, 03/06/24

Town of Ludlow
Invitation to Bid 2024-004
Plumbing Maintenance and Repair Services

The Town of Ludlow is seeking sealed bids for plumbing maintenance and repair services for Town Buildings.

Bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer **until 2:00 PM on 3/21/24.**

Documents will be available by email request after 10:00 AM on 3/6/24 at: lbelanger@ludlow.ma.us.

The Town of Ludlow reserves the right to reject any and or all bids
 03/06/2024

LUDLOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 488 CHAPIN STREET

LUDLOW, MA 01056
(413) 583-5600 Ext. 1282
LEGAL NOTICE

The Ludlow Conservation Commission has scheduled a Public Meeting under W.P.A. (M.G.L. Ch. 131, § 40) in Ludlow Town Hall, 3rd floor, Selectmen's Conference Room, for **Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 7:45 p.m.** for the Request for Determination of Applicability application of Christopher LaRose (Eversource), for the property located at 993 Center Street (Assessors' Map 24, Parcels 53-58). The subject of the meeting is: Replace the existing drainage system within the substation as part of a larger upgrade project taking place within the substation.

Angela Tierney
 Chair

02/28, 03/06/24



PVPCA from Page 12

South Hadley Fire Districts #1 and #2 - sharing personnel and potentially services.

South Hadley - to support the creation of affordable housing in 40R Smart Growth Districts.

Southampton - "2024 Drinking Water Supply Protection Initiative."

Worthington - updating the open space and recreation plan.

PVPC's Environment and Land Use Department works to protect the environment of the Pioneer Valley region, promote economically and environmentally healthy communities where people

can walk and bicycle safely and conveniently.

In their work, the Department can facilitate transition to clean, safe, sustainable energy; promote smart growth and reduced urban sprawl; catalyze regional action to address climate change and food insecurity; and promote understanding of and access to green infrastructure.

The Department assists in Master Planning to ensure resilient communities, to keep rivers and streams clean, assure local zoning regulations to achieve community visions, protect our water supplies, and encourage sustainable land use. Working with municipalities, state and federal agencies, community organiza-

tions, non-profit groups, and private sector partners, the Environment and Land Use Department promotes local action, regional cooperation, and state initiatives leading to wise use of our resources.

PVPC's Department of Economic and Municipal Collaboration works on municipal and economic development issues throughout the Pioneer Valley, covering a range of initiatives supporting police, health, succession planning, and decarbonization, among others.

The Department provides technical assistance to communities, such as capital planning, digital equity, shared services, and strategic economic development. Working with local communities, the

Department is service-driven and focused on the unique challenges facing cities and towns daily.

About the PVPC

Since 1962, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has been the designated regional planning body for the Pioneer Valley region, which encompasses 43 cities and towns in Hampden and Hampshire Counties. PVPC is the primary agency responsible for increasing communication, cooperation, and coordination among all levels of government as well as the private business and civic sectors to benefit the Pioneer Valley region and to improve its residents' quality of life.

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SQUIER & CO. is looking to hire an oil truck driver. \$40,000-\$60,000 full time. Squire will provide CDL school for the right candidate! **Email: squeroil@verizon.net. Call 413-267-3184** or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised 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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Flu cases on the rise; in some cases antiviral medications can help

SPRINGFIELD – Despite all the efforts to avoid the flu, inevitably some people will catch it. For those who do, antiviral medications may help. Just what are antivirals? How do they work? Who should take them and when? The health-care providers at American Family Care explain patients need to know.

“The first line of defense against the flu is to get vaccinated,” said Dr. Andrew Koslow, associate medical director of AFC for Massachusetts. “Antiviral medications are a second line—when the vaccine doesn’t prevent infection, or someone didn’t receive the vaccine. Antiviral medications are mostly used for severe cases of the flu or patients who are considered at high risk for flu-related complications.”

The general protocol for treating the flu consists of getting lots of rest, drinking plenty of water and other clear liquids and taking over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol and ibuprofen to reduce fever and relieve symptoms. However, in some cases, prescription antiviral medications are recommended.

Antiviral medications are always prescribed for flu patients who are hospitalized, have severe flu symptoms but are not in the hospital, meet certain age criteria or have underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of complications from the flu.

Sometimes antiviral medications are prescribed for cases of the flu diagnosed early (within the first 48 hours of developing symptoms) or for those who are

exposed to high-risk populations either at home or work. Antiviral medications are sometimes prescribed to help prevent the flu for people who cannot receive the flu vaccine.

“When antiviral medications are recommended, patients should discuss all possible side effects and drug interactions with their doctor,” Koslow said. “Nausea and vomiting are possible, as are headaches. And certain other medications may reduce the effectiveness of antiviral medications.”

Koslow reiterates these important reminders to reduce the spread of infections:

Wash hands frequently with soap and water for two minutes and dry them thoroughly.

Maintain social distancing and/or wear masks, especially at large, indoor gatherings.

Stay home if you have symptoms such as fever, coughing, sneezing, runny nose, aches, chills and fatigue.

Regularly disinfect high-touch surfaces like doorknobs, countertops and faucets.

The medical providers at AFC Springfield and AFC West Springfield offer convenient, walk-in care seven days a week for patients of all ages. Services include urgent care for illnesses, sprains and strains; stitches for minor cuts and lacerations; flu vaccines and testing; diagnostic rapid tests and antigen tests for COVID-19; physicals and on-site x-rays.

PET OF THE MONTH Meet Dory!

She is a Miniature Australian Shepherd. She was 14 weeks old in this picture and is now 1 year old. She enjoys chewing things and playing with her sister Riley. She is loved by Guy and Ann Egan of Springfield.



PET PAGE

READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our “Pet of the Month” and receive a free weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care. Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet’s name.



6 Things Cats Hate

PART 2

What’s bothering your cat could very well be something that bothers you, too. You could unknowingly be making some mistakes regarding these things cats hate.

Cats Hate Overly Aggressive Petting There are only certain areas a cat will allow you to pet—and if you pet the wrong part, it will hiss, scratch, or bite. Cats can be extremely sensitive to tactile stimuli, so it’s important to be aware of where and how you’re petting them. Cats groom each other on the head and neck—and dislike “full-body” pets down the length of their backs. Stick to the areas around its head and neck only. Pay close attention to its behavior and body signals to understand acceptable and unacceptable petting.

Cats Hate Loud Noises Thunderstorms, arguments, fireworks, loud noises, and commotion can seriously stress your cat out. Chronic stress from loud noises can cause a number of behavioral and health issues, including skittishness, aggression, or depression, as well as hair loss, lack of appetite, and over-grooming. Try to limit your cat’s exposure to loud noises. Keep it in a quiet, safe space when guests are over or during bad weather and avoid playing very loud music or cranking up the volume on the TV.

Cats Hate Yucky Medicine When feeling lousy, the last thing a cat wants is to be force fed some yucky tasting medicine. It is much easier for both of you to make the experience a bit more palatable. First, train your cat to be comfortable having its face and mouth handled; associate the sensations with something positive by rewarding it with a small treat. Then, establish a medication schedule, so it knows what to expect and when. If you’re still having issues with administering pills, there are lots of soft treats with pockets designed for holding pills.



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