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The REGISTER

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Annual High School Senior Show was held this past weekend

LUDLOW – This weekend, the senior class of 2024 put on their annual Senior Show at the high school.

Shows were held on Friday and Saturday, March 15 and 16, in the auditorium at high school. Titled “Timeless,” it appropriated skits from past years of the Senior Show, and was directed by Natalie Smith and Kate Ziano.

Structured as a variety show with a collection of skits from past shows that satirized the town and its culture. Students told jokes about soccer, rivalries between the Portuguese and Turkish communities, and the plights of students commuting to school and following policies.

For the first act, Emma Arocho and Julianna Coelho served as emcees, with Malina Dinis and Diogo dos Santos taking over in the second act. Luca Martins, in addition to playing a number of characters throughout the show, emerged from backstage to share “dad jokes.”

The three-hour show was recorded and is available on LudlowTV.org.



Photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Among the fan favorite skits was “LHS Cops,” where Diogo dos Santos and Malina Dinis played teachers enforcing Ludlow High policies at crime scenes. See more photos on page 10 & 11.

Finance Committee discusses town budget with Administrator

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
 mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – On March 13, the Finance Committee met with the Town Administrator last week to discuss the town’s budget as well as other items on a busy agenda.

Budget Report

Town Administrator Marc Strange reported to the Finance Committee on changes to the budget as part of the normal budget review process.

“We are looking under every possible rock, every possible place that we can reduce costs,” Strange said. “Last year we did this, which is why we’re able to increase the school’s portion.”

Strange said that the town was able to save \$100,000 by outsourcing IT.

“If you ask anybody in Town Hall, it’s a lot more convenient to have somebody here five days a week,” Strange said. “We have somebody here two days a week and he’s available remotely the other three days; it’s not the same. That’s a sacrifice that the town made because we needed to make sacrifices for the budget.”

Strange mentioned that the

town has been able to increase its efficiency by consolidating departments, but mentioned several departments that are understaffed, including the Hubbard Memorial Library and the Department of Public Works.

“In terms of cuts, I don’t know where we would cut,” Strange said. “Our biggest town budgets are police, fire, and DPW. Again, DPW is understaffed, and obviously we don’t want to cut our Public Safety personnel.”

Strange said the town looked at other big costs, such as the trash budget, which costs \$2.1 million for collection, disposal, and transportation. The town spoke to the trash provider about doing a five-year contract instead of a three-year contract in the hopes of saving some money on the contract, as well as pursuing a grant.

Strange also said that 12% of the budget goes to health insurance, which is costing the town over \$10 million. Strange said that the town is discussing the possibility of offering buy-backs for employees to save costs.

One change to the budget that Strange outlined was to finance the Sealer of Weights and

Measures position in the Building Inspector’s department.

“Not much has changed,” Strange said. “We essentially added \$10,000 to the deficit because in the Building Inspector’s budget, there was a line item for \$4,670 to pay our Seal-

“We are looking under every possible rock, every possible place that we can reduce costs”

— Marc Strange

er of Weights and Measures, and as I’m sure most people know it’s so hard to find people just in general now, we have not been able to find a Sealer of Weights and Measures.”

Strange said that the reason for this is because the stipend is too low to fill the position. After comparing with the rates of the same position in Wilbraham,

Please see **FINANCE COMMITTEE**, Page 8

Public hearings held for at-home businesses and Zoning Bylaw changes

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – The Planning Board held a public hearing last Thursday where they discussed a proposed zoning bylaw change, and voted on an application for a mental health counseling service via telehealth.

The proposed zoning bylaw revision was to effect Section III: General Use Regulations to delete a portion labeled 3.0.3 pertaining to the obstruction at street intersections, and replace it with a diagram and new text describing Visibility at Street Intersections and Driveways and Street Entries.

Board member Josh Carpenter noted that this change was brought before the Board a year ago, but was sent back from the Attorney General because a diagram was not included.

With no discussion from the Board, Chair Ray Phoenix opened the public meeting, but received no comments. The Board voted unanimously to accept the proposed bylaw

change.

Jennifer Wright submitted a special permit request for an at-home business. She said that the permit was only to continue the business she had at her rental property.

“I actually have a permit now because I was renting for six years at my last place in Ludlow, and I bought a home,” Wright said. “I’m just looking to do the same thing I was doing before. It’s telehealth therapy, or I go to client’s houses. No one comes to my house, no special vehicle, just the same thing.”

Wright said that, due to the convenience of telehealth, most of her clients are from the eastern part of the state, and that her appointments are primarily through video, or, on occasion, she will travel to the client’s house.

After confirming the information on the permit request, the Board opened the floor for discussion from public comments, but there were none. The Board approved a motion

Please see **PLANNING BOARD**, Page 9

LUDLOW

Local high schooler attends All-State Music Festival

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – Next weekend, a junior from the High School, Caitlyn Day, will participate in the Massachusetts Music Educators Association All State Music Festival for the third year in a row.

Day will go to Mechanics Hall in Worcester on Friday, March 22, for an all-day rehearsal ahead of the concert on Saturday, March 23, at Boston Symphony Hall.

“We hope that this festival will give participants the opportunity to demonstrate their superior artistry, to grow as musicians, and to create new and meaningful friendships,” said James Joinville, the 2024 Concert Chair. “We are so fortunate in Massachusetts to have such dedicated students, parents, music educators and school administrators supporting this work.”

The MMEA All-State Music Festival is only offered to high school students. This year marks Day’s third time making the choir in the three years that she has been eligible since it is for high school students only.

“First I had to be accepted into the Western District Choir,” Day said. “The top half of the scores get an all-state recommendation. You learn the music, which I did with my Vocal Coach, Teri Lafleur, which this year is

‘Music, when soft voices die’.”

Day said that at the audition, singers are called into a room to audition one-on-one with one of the adjudicators, after they meet with a second adjudicator to sing a scale and complete a sight reading sample. Those with qualifying scores move onto the All-State.

Day received the music for the upcoming concert prior to the schools’ winter break in February.

“I then have to learn it before Friday,” Day said, “so that on Friday everyone goes in and we can all come together as a choir and work the music together, fixing anything that needs to be fixed.”

Day described learning the music for the upcoming concert as a “daunting task,” due to the amount of music she and the rest of the choir will have to learn in a short amount of time.

“In the past few years it’s been between four and five songs we’ve put together,” Day said. “This year they provided us with seven songs to do. Four to five is hard enough to make sure you spend enough time, but seven will be a challenge.”

“In school choirs you spend multiple class periods learning a song. For musicals I’ve been part of in the past, we spend entire rehearsals for one song.”

Day said that her goal is to qualify for the Music Festival again next year, as it’s almost unheard of for a student



Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Caitlyn Day is honored to attend the All-State Music Festival.

to qualify for all four years of high school.

“In my freshman year there were two other girls that qualified for the all-state festival, Angela Falcetti and Riley Londraville,” Day said. “They were both juniors at the time. I’m the only one that qualified (from Ludlow High

this year.”

The MMEA is a federated state unit of the National Association for Music Education, which is made up of over 75,000 active, retired, and preservice music teachers, according to its website.

“NAfME members make an impact on millions of students through activities at all teaching levels from preschool to graduate school,” the website reads.

MMEA is divided into five districts with a Chair and an Executive Board for each district, with each district organizing honor ensemble festivals and general music events. According to Day’s father, Garret Day, about half of the students who audition for the District performance are selected, about half of those who make it into Districts qualify to audition for All State, and about half of those who qualify for All-State make it into the choir.

“So it is about the top 15% who make it in,” Day said.

MMEA works with school staff and administration, and with the Superintendents Association, the Secondary Principals Association, and the Elementary Principals Association, who represent the state level by participating on the executive board.

To become a member of NAfME or the MMEA, you can fill out the online application form on their website at massmea.org.

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Open House
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9:30-12:30

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250th Committee Challenge with DesForges Run/Walk and Pasta Dinner

LUDLOW -- In collaboration with Veteran's Services, the 250th Celebration Committee would like to put forth two challenges in honor of Sgt. Joshua D. DesForges who served this great nation.

The 250th Celebration Committee would like to have 250 people sign up for each event to commemorate Ludlow's 250th birthday. Sgt. DesForges gave his life for our country and we must honor him. Ludlow friends, please step up and help support these two important events.

On Friday, April 26, at the Polish American Citizen's Club at 355 East St. from 5-7 p.m., there will be a Pasta Dinner to raise funds for the Sgt. Joshua D. DesForges Scholar-

ship Fund. Come and enjoy a great meal, tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children and if you want to feed the whole family, there is a deal for a family of four for \$40.

Dinner includes pasta, meatballs, sausage, salad and dessert. There will be door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. You can also pick up your bibs for the Run/Walk Challenge.

If you have not registered for the Run/Walk Challenge, you can do that at the dinner. Tickets can be purchased at the Veteran's Services office located at 487 Holyoke St. or tickets can be purchased from committee members or at the door.

On Saturday, April 27, at the High School, there will be a Run/

Walk Challenge for the entire family. There is a kids' race at 8:30 a.m. for free for children under 12 years of age and then at 9 a.m. the three-mile run/walk challenge starts. The fee for adults is \$30 and Veteran's / Students is \$25.

Both of these events benefit the Sgt. Joshua D. DesForges Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is open to any graduating Ludlow high school student who could be going to a trade school, joining the military, going to college, starting their own business, etc.

Please support these two important events in honor of Sgt. Joshua D. DesForges. If you have any questions, please call 413-858-5554.

Town Clerk shares Town Election information for voters

LUDLOW -- The Annual Town Election is Monday, March 25. Polls are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Polling locations are as follows:

Precinct 1: Harris Brook Elementary School, Fuller Street.

Precinct 2: Paul R. Baird Middle School, Rooney Road.

Precinct 3: Ludlow High School, Chapin Street.

Precinct 4: East Street School, East Street.

Precinct 5: First Church of Ludlow, Center/Church Street.

Precinct 6: Paul R. Baird Middle School, Rooney Road.

If you are unsure of your polling location, please contact the Town Clerk's office at 413-583-

5600, extension 1.

The last day to return your vote by mail ballot is Monday, March 25, 2024 by 8 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots for the March 25 Annual Town Election, are available in the Town Clerk's office.

You may apply for an absentee ballot if you will be unable to vote at the polls on election day due to: absence from your city or town during the hours the polls are open.

The last day to apply for an in-person absentee ballot is Friday, March 22 by 5 p.m. at the Town Clerk's office.

A New Polish Eagle is born for the Ludlow 250th Parade

LUDLOW -- The 250th Parade Committee is proud to present the Polish American Citizens Club as a participant in the Ludlow 250th Celebration Parade.

The club is a long-standing member of our community which generously supports several community organizations.

The Polish American Citizens' Club of Ludlow was established in March of 1914. Their primary purpose is to promote fellowship among the Polish American people of Ludlow, while encouraging the promotion of good will and civic mindedness.

The Club has become one of the most premier organizations not only of Ludlow but also of Western Massachusetts.

The club boasts a membership that supports their original goals, which includes many civic and community groups. They continue to promote their Polish Heritage through many functions carried out throughout the year.

Look for them in our upcoming parade as they will be well represented by marching members, a magnificent float that is currently being designed and creating, and several special vehicles.

The Ludlow 250th Parade will kick off on Saturday, June 15 at 10 a.m. at the Ludlow High School, please mark your calendar for this important date. Come out and celebrate Ludlow's 250th birthday.

250th Parade Committee highlights Ludlow Community Band

LUDLOW -- The 250th Parade Committee is proud to present the Ludlow Community Band.

The band has served and entertained people of all ages for many years. They are a 501(c)(3) not-for profit organization and consist of many members throughout Western Massachusetts and you do not have to be a town resident to play in the band.

Their goal is to promote music awareness and provide the public with concerts for their enjoyment. They can be seen at different venues such as, in the Concert Series at the Gazebo in Ludlow's Veterans Memorial Park, the Holy-

oke Soldiers Home, several area Churches and Assisted Living Centers just to name a few.

The Ludlow Community Band stands ready to serve the needs of Ludlow as well as those throughout Western Massachusetts.

The band accepts musicians of all ages and those with varied skill levels, all are welcome. The only requirement is that you must have your own instrument.

Rehearsals are held at the Ludlow High School on Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. The Band Director is Tina Ziencina and the Conductors are Veronica Richter and Carol Bobbin, who are both former music educators.

WJWC Annual Bunny Breakfast takes place March 23

WILBRAHAM - The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club invites you to our Annual Bunny Breakfast on March 23 from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. at St. Cecilia Church, 42 Main St. Wilbraham.

The Annual Bunny Breakfast has been a tradition in Wilbraham

for over 25 years and offers families a delicious pancake breakfast, crafts, face painting and an opportunity to meet the Easter Bunny.

Please visit our website WilbrahamJuniorWomens.org for details and to purchase tickets. Same day tickets at the door will be available

until sold out. You can learn more about Wilbraham Juniors on the website as well - new members are always welcome.

For more information, contact Marva Walting 413-505-9022 or Marva_Walting@hotmail.com.

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Grade A Large White Eggs	\$2.99 doz.
Driscoll Strawberries 1 lb. pack	\$2.99
Fresh Green Asparagus	\$1.99 lb.
Yellow & Zucchini Squash	\$1.49 lb.
Brussels Sprouts	\$1.99 lb.
Fresh Green Beans	\$1.99 lb.
Golden Ripe Pineapples Extra Large	\$3.99 ea.
Golden Lemons Extra Large	4 for \$3

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Yukon Gold Potatoes 5 lb. bag	\$2.99
Boars Head Black Forest Smoked Turkey	\$12.99 lb.
Boars Head Monterey Jack Cheese	\$7.99 lb.

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Mark Your Calendars For These Upcoming Events!

Visit us at Ludlowma250.org

Ludlow 250th Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Saturday, May 18

4 Person Scramble at Westover Municipal Golf Course

Team Total: \$500. Registration due by April 26.

Send team name, contact person, contact person's email and phone, and the four participants names to:

ludlowma250@gmail.com along with a check made out to:

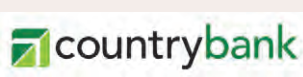
Ludlow 250th Golf Tournament, 488 Chapin St., Ludlow, MA 01056

For more information call Paul Chrzan: 413-636-1527 or Linda Colette 413-427-3072.

For a sponsorship opportunity, please contact ludlowma250@gmail.com. Visit us at ludlowma250.org.



Hole in One Sponsor



Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 27th

Be A Part Of The Parade!

Sign up your organization or business today. Contact ludlow250parade@gmail.com

250th Celebration Block Party Picnic & Parade

Saturday, June 15th

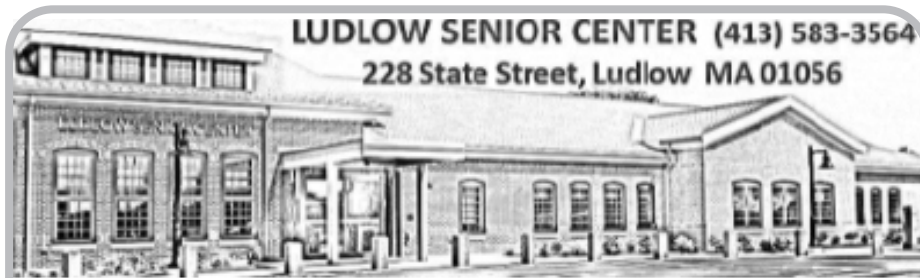
Volunteer!

We need YOU to help out at the picnic or parade.

Join The Parade!

All are welcome: athletic clubs, businesses, civic organizations, service members, veterans and youth groups. Email: ludlow250parade@gmail.com or contact Bruce Durand at 413-547-8998

Follow us on Facebook Ludlowma250



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

Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

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

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.

5:30 p.m. Power Pump Class
5:30 p.m. Volleyball at East Street School

Wednesday, March 27

8 a.m. Facials*
9 a.m. Ceramics
9 a.m. Zumba Gold
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
1 p.m. Movie: Teidi GHhhey Heidi G (1937)
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
1 p.m. TED Talk
2 p.m. Windowsill Gardening*

Thursday, March 28

8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10 a.m. Sunshine Paint Class*
1 p.m. Mahjong
1:30 p.m. Chair Volleyball at Hubbard Memorial Library
2 p.m. Book Club: The Housemaid
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga
*PLEASE register for Boomer Boot Camp, Healthy Bones & Balance, Foot Care, and other programs as noted by calling 583-3564

Daily Events:

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

Menu:

Thursday, March 21: Birthday Lunch, Shake & Bake Pork Chop/Scalloped Pot/Veggie
Friday, March 22: Egg Salad on Croissant/Lettuce & Tom/Tomato Soup
Monday, March 25: Taco Salad
Tuesday, March 26: Beef Stroganoff/Egg Noodles/Mixed Veggies
Wednesday, March 27: Vegetable Curry/White Rice/Roll
Thursday, March 28: Easter Lunch- Baked Ham/Au Gratin Pot/Broccoli

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.

Activities Calendar:

Please register in advance for items with*

Thursday, March 21

8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10:30 a.m. Hearing Clinic*
1 p.m. Mahjong
1:30 Chair Volleyball at Ludlow Library
2 p.m. Writers Block*
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

Friday, March 22

8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
9 a.m. Reiki*
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
12:30 Western Mass. Home Show Trip*
1 p.m. Ceramics
1 p.m. Health Bones & Balance Class*
1 p.m. Magic Class
1:30 p.m. Forget-Me-Not Circle*

Monday, March 25

9 a.m. Knitting
9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
1 p.m. Scrabble
1:15 p.m. Pitch
1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencil Class*
2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

Tuesday, March 26

9 a.m. Quilting
9 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Cribbage
10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga
12:30 p.m. Blood Pressure Checks
1 p.m. Western Dance Class
1:30 p.m. Bingo
4:30 Soup in the Café
5 p.m. Movie: Heidi G (1937)



MAX, MILO AND STELLA

Max, Milo and Stella love to play at the dog park!

Photo submitted by Debbie Haesaert Schwartz

Retro World aims to 'level up' local entertainment

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
hgiza@turley.com

INDIAN ORCHARD - Retro World is the newest spot for video game and physical entertainment in Western Massachusetts.

Bob Skerry, manager of Retro World, is the face of the company for owner, Paul Morelli. With Skerry's passion for the gaming market, it is not hard to see why.

"So my goal as the manager of this store," said Skerry. "Is to make sure that physical media is still alive and kicking and that we are educating the youth as they are moving forward in games. There is definitely an interest as time has gone on and things have gone more digital."

Skerry is dedicated to making Retro World into something special.

"With the way that so many things are going through streaming," Skerry said. "And being lost to time because of other companies, this that or the other, we are making sure that people still have access to games that still might not be on the Nintendo Switch or online stores. Stuff that might not be on Game Pass. So a lot of this just comes from a love of movies, games and other media that are being lost to time."

Skerry is a dedicated member of Retro World and knows a lot about video games. However, he wants the community to know that this is not just a place for electronic entertainment.



Photos by Harrison Giza

Store manager and entertainment enthusiast, Bob Skerry, showing off the shop.

"Video games are our bread and butter," Skerry said. "We have everything from the Atari 2600 forward through Nintendo and all its ages, through SEGA and all its ages, PlayStation and XBOX as well. We also do VHS, DVD, Blu-Ray, cassettes, records, board games, card games and some other things that you haven't gotten to see quite yet. We are trying to make this, and this is my personal goal here, I want this to be a tentpole for our community. I want this to be a place where people can go and speak with other people. Not every time that you walk through these doors do I expect dollar

bills. I expect this to be a place where people can create a community and as time goes, support that community."

The business will also have products for tabletop and card games.

"One community event will focus on tabletop related things," Skerry said. "We will also run people through demos of how to play certain games if they have always wanted to learn but didn't know who to ask. The other area that we have been referring to as, 'the test site,' will allow people to take a game off the shelves if they aren't sure if this is the game they heard of from their youth or they haven't

heard of it before, and they get about 5 minutes to go in, pop the game into one of the several systems that will be there for testing, and check it out. If they like it, they can take it with them, purchase it or it put back on the wall. For a small fee, they can takeover that room for about an hour, so if their friends want to go in there, they can all play a given game and hang out in that space together."

Good customer service and positive interactions are important to Skerry, and he said he wants everyone who comes through his doors to have a positive experience at his location.

"I've made circuit of other stores in the community," Skerry said, "I want people to know if I do not have something here, I have people that I can point you to that not only will likely have it, but they are good people to work with too. I don't want you to feel like you can't get it or that I am trying to strong arm you."

Skerry is an avid collector, currently working on putting together his own private stash of VHS media.

"I love the mom and pop stores," said Skerry, "where you'd get 5 movies for 5 nights for 5 dollars, that sort of thing, you know? We aren't a rental store of course, but I want people to come in and go 'oh man looking at the shelves and seeing this, that or the other.'"

Retro World is located at 187 Main St in Indian Orchard. The business is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and is closed Sundays.

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

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NIGHT CANADA & NEW ENGLAND CRUISE
Norwegian Gem - Departing August 30
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May 4	Kennedy Library	\$95
June 11-14..	Boothbay Harbor Vacation	\$799
June 29	Lake George Cruise & Lunch.....	\$175
July 13	Cape Cod Canal & Lunch.....	\$130
Aug. 30.....	7-Night Nova Scotia Cruise..	from \$1499

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357
or email adventuretours@att.net
or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

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VOTE **Monday March 25th**

Isabel Maria SOARES for **LUDLOW SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

- **Promote ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE** in the core subjects with a school budget that reflects that goal.
- **Promote** school committee meetings that include respect for all parent/caregiver/tax payer concerns; responds to concerns.
- **End** the indoctrination of children through social, political, racial, and sexual instruction.
- **Ensure** the schools are teaching academics and not becoming a medical facility.

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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT ISABEL MARIA SOARES



Easter is Sunday, March 31st!
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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Thank goodness for the 'happy plant'

It was a bad night and the next day didn't start out much better.

I had heard that the days prior to delivery can be a bit uneasy for a soon-to-be-mother (and therefore for her spouse!), now I know it to be true. Luckily, even before my husband came home from work, the smile he is accustomed to had returned to my face.

My grin grew even bigger, however, when I greeted him at the door and found he had a pot of gerber daisies in his hand. Years ago, I deemed this particular potted plant "the happy plant."

For me it is next to impossible to look at its brightly colored flowers and remain in a bad mood. If you feel the same way but have never had any luck growing the gerber daisy, read on to learn just what cultural requirements are necessary to keep it happy.

The gerber daisy was discovered by Robert Jameson in the early 1880s near the gold fields of Barberton, in the Transvaal region of South Africa. The most popular species, the one which we will concentrate on today, bears his name, *Gerbera jamesonii*.

The Barberton daisy, the Transvaal daisy, and the African daisy are all common names for the plant that relate back to its place of origin.

Not long after its discovery, breeding began on the gerber daisy in England, eventually resulting in improved quality and enhanced color variations. Today, the Netherlands and Columbia are the primary producers of gerbers in cut flower form.

In the floral trade, it ranks an impressive fifth in popularity, behind the rose, carnation, chrysanthemum and tulip.

According to floral lore, the meaning behind the gerber flower is one I would wholeheartedly agree with: cheerfulness, probably due to the wide palette of colors it is available in – nearly every one except blue. Look for vivid orange, cool coral, hot pink, crimson red and sunshine yellow, not to mention bubblegum pink and creamy white!

Unfortunately, the gerber daisy is not hardy in our area; it prefers a much warmer location in which to grow. On the eastern seaboard, the only place it will overwinter is the southernmost tip of Florida, in hardiness zones 9 and 10.

Here in New England, it is best enjoyed on the windowsill during the winter months. As long as the plant is provided with normal room temperatures, bright light and sufficient but not excess moisture it should bloom prolifically.

Remember to remove spent flowers to keep up the gerber's good looks as well as to encourage future blooms.

Once the danger of frost has passed, it is also safe to plant the gerber daisy outdoors, just as you would any other summer annual. More and more consumers are doing this each year and with success!

The best type of soil for it is one that is organically rich and well-drained. Full sun is a must for flower production.

If you wish to dig up the plant after the season wanes and attempt to overwinter it indoors, be extra careful not to disturb its deep root system or death may incur. Some gardeners who plan on overwintering their gerbers sink the pot and all at planting time to avoid any potential risk later on.

Right now, the "happy plant" sits on the bureau in the nursery, awaiting the arrival of our little girl, just as we are. There is indeed so much to be happy about!

Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



GUEST COLUMN

Random Acts of Kindness

Val Rodrigues

Whether a damsel in distress, a senior citizen or maybe just a distressed senior gal, whichever, I definitely met my Knight in Shining Armor!!

I was trying to put air in my tire with one of those digital machines and instead of putting air in, it took all the air out! Now looking at a flat tire I needed to get the address of the station so I could call AAA for help. Well luck was with me and cashing out was my Knight in Shining Armor, Val Rodrigues from Ludlow!! He had a portable air pump and offered to put air in my tire so I could get where I needed to go and even suggested I borrow the pump in case it happened again! Well you know I couldn't let the opportunity pass without sharing this wonderful Random Act of Kindness! I just knew if this kind man was helping me, he had other stories too. So I told him about my articles, asked if he'd allow me to share this experience about him, and though hesitant like most, he agreed. Thank you!

Val is a the very proud dad of three sons, Kaleb, Blake and Luke and definitely showed them by example about kindness and helping others. The boys were all in the car at the time and just making a pit stop at the store before rushing off to a basketball game. Val having been a soccer player the majority of his life until he was 36, loves sports and now coaches all his kid's teams which include soccer, baseball and basketball through the Palmer Youth Sports where his sons currently live with their mom. When not playing sports, he and the boys enjoy camping, boating and fishing too.

Val spends a lot of time of the road, traveling 132 miles a day from Ludlow, to Palmer to pick up the boys then to Sturbridge where they go to school, then does the same thing when school's out. When I expressed that was a lot of driving he responded with a big smile, "I don't mind at all, it's worth getting to spend 45 minutes each day with my sons". Now that's a pretty incredible dad!

Val explained some about his Portuguese

heritage and how for eight summers he and his mom visited Portugal. He described how there really was a village of people coming together that made a difference. He shared about one Christmas there, no gifts but instead a gathering of people and said it was the best Christmas he ever experienced. He talked how the men would go into the woods, find a tree with a huge stump then bring it back into the center of the village where it was used as the base of a big bon fire. The women would gather, bring food, the music would begin, then lots of dancing ensued. What a cherished memory! Val's mom and dad were actually an arranged marriage when his grandfather had a friend with a girl 4 months younger than his dad and it was at 4 months that this tradition was cemented.

Val served six years in the Army National Guard, went onto a couple different jobs but wound up retiring from MA Trial Courts. Unfortunately, he was forced into an early retirement because of an injury sustained on the job when offering a helping hand ten minutes after his shift ended. He loved the job while always treating people with dignity and respect. He said one in particular that he helped is now is a business owner and has thanked him often for his help with turning his life around. Very rewarding!

He started as a court officer and went onto be the Training Coordinator which entailed teaching health & wellness, CPR instructions as well as training officers about courtroom tactics. First thing he showed them was to greet everyone with courtesy when they came into court as it was undoubtedly not the best day of their lives.

Val shared that a Random Act of Kindness he'd been the recipient of was when he was looking for a job after the military and a friend helped him with that process. And doing for others, well he often pays for a patron's lunch if he sees them eating alone or likes to pay for a military person's meal.

Val said, "I don't have bad days, instead only bad moments". I loved that and also

Please see **RANDOM ACTS**, Page 7

Election letters policy

The Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered

for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election. For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news
As part of its election coverage, the

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

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

The REGISTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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

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. 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 (3/28), 6:30 p.m.

Join us for this month's Happy Hour Book Club meeting! You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

Who picked this book? Book Club Meeting, first Thursday of the month (4/4), 3:30 p.m.

Join us for this month's Who picked this book? Book Club meeting! You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

The True Story of the Lincoln Assassination: The Nest That Hatched Evil, Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.

Many of the commonly-held myths about the murder of our 16th President are utterly false. Although assassin John Wilkes Booth fired the gun that killed the President, there were many fingers on that trigger. Join Honorable Dennis J. Curran, Justice Massachusetts Superior Court (Ret.), as he thrills us with the story of Lincoln's assassination and the conspiracies surrounding the murder. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

FOR TEENS

Nintendo Switch Night, every other Tuesday (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 (3/26 & 4/9 & 4/23), 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 Pag-es' 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.

Nametag Bracelets for Tweens and Teens, Thursday, March 21, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Choose from a huge array of beads to design a unique and stylish name bracelet. 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, April 26, 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

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, April 11, 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.

Roblox Club, Fridays 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Meet new friends or play with old ones while playing Roblox. For ages 8+.

Minecraft Club, Saturdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Minecraft players of all skill levels can bring their own devices, or may use one of the library's eight computers to build, play & create. For upper elementary & up. Drop-in.

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 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.

"Me & My Water Bottle" Storytime, Friday, March 22, 2:00 p.m.

For ages 4-7 March 22nd is World Water Day! Bring your favorite water bottle and get ready to laugh and learn with a simple intro to water conservation and the water cycle. Go home with new water bottle stickers! Please register.

RANDOM ACTS from Page 6

said he believes, "Helping others is the best high in life!" Can't agree more, so go out and do your own Random Act of

Kindness and you'll get to experience that natural high as well. Thanks for the great examples you are showing our next generation and others through your own kind gestures.

If you'd like to tell me a story about a Random Act of Kindness please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-788-7514. Who knows, you might see your story in this column, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed,

did or received something nice being done.

See you next month with another Random Act of Kindness!

~ Barb

NOTICE

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

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HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

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IOCC mourns the death of David Moretti and cancels 2024 Indian Orchard Blooms Campaign

INDIAN ORCHARD -- The Citizens Council mourns the unexpected passing of David Moretti, President of Garten Landscaping, our longtime partner in the Council's Annual 'Indian Orchard Blooms' Campaign.

"His passing is a shock to all of us, and we wanted to inform the community that as a result of his passing, we will be unable to go forward with the Indian Orchard Bloom campaign this year," said Zaida Govan, President of the Indian Orchard Citizens Council.

"I know that David had been sick, and last year was forced to take a step back from running our Indian Orchard Bloom campaign, but he had contacted me back in October of last year to tell me that he had recovered from his medical ailment, and wanted to once again return to managing Indian Orchard's Signature Neighborhood Beautification Campaign," said former State Representative Paul Caron, who worked closely with David Moretti since 2018, when the campaign first launched.

"David was the glue that held our program together. He not only oversaw the purchase of the flowers, but also was responsible for hanging them up throughout Indian Orchard/Boston Road, and was solely responsible for their constant watering, fertilizing, and for the general maintenance of the flower pots throughout the long hot Summer into early Fall", he added. "With his passing, there is no way we can continue this much loved neighborhood program," Caron added.

"The man was amazing dedicated to his work, and could never imagine taking time off during the Summer, that would require him to abandon his flowers, and interrupt his rigid maintenance schedule," Caron added. "He always scheduled his vacations until after the growing season had ended."

"The Indian Orchard Citizens Council mourns his passing and sends our deepest condolences to his family. His death will sadly diminish the beauty he helped bring to our neighborhoods," said Govan.

Oliveira and Senate Pass Landmark "EARLY ED" Act to Transform Early Education and Care

BOSTON — On Thursday, Senator Jake Oliveira and the State Senate unanimously passed legislation to make early education and care more accessible and affordable for families across Massachusetts.

Known as the Early ED Act and filed as S.301, An Act ensuring affordability, readiness, and learning for our youth and driving economic development, the landmark legislation aims to improve, expand accessibility to, and make early education more affordable for families across the state. Senator Jason Lewis (Fifth Middlesex District) presented the bill, which was advanced by the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

Before the Senate deliberated the

bill, Senator Oliveira stood with Senator Lewis, Senate President Karen Spilka, and fellow Senators outside the State House to rally for the bill and advocate for its passing.

"This is a significant moment for Massachusetts families," said Senator Oliveira. "The Early Ed Act not only promises affordable and accessible high-quality early education and care but also provides a pathway for all families in the Commonwealth to improve their quality of life and contribute to the thriving economy of Massachusetts. I am honored to join my colleagues in the Senate on Beacon Hill today to champion the Early Ed Act and to pass it during today's formal session."

One of the highlights of the Early

Ed Act includes establishing permanent Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) Grants, which benefit over 92% of childcare programs statewide and have significantly reduced tuition costs for families, increased educator compensation, and expanded childcare availability.

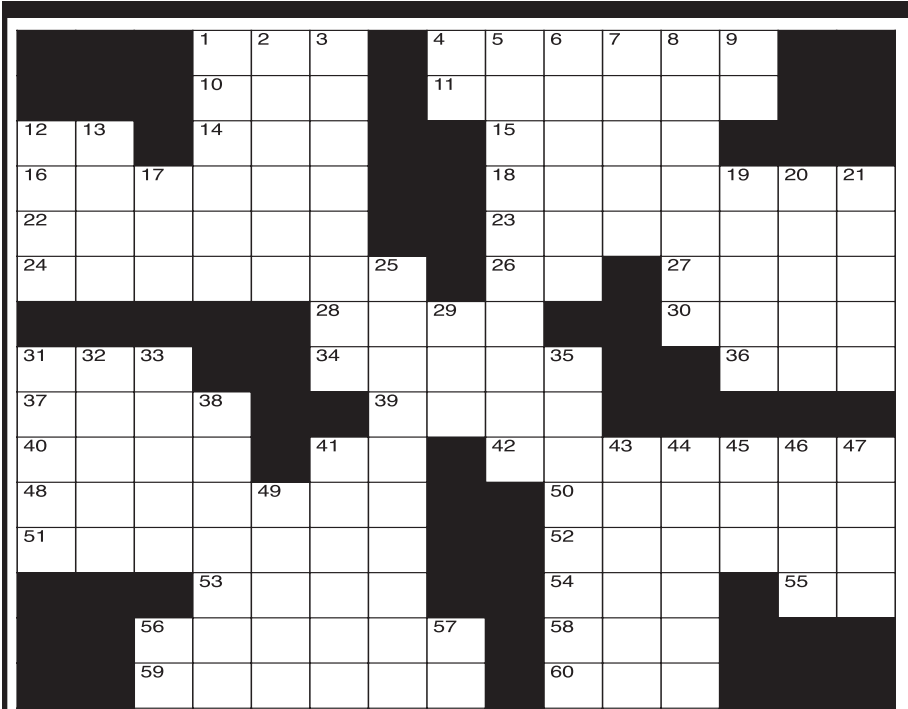
The bill also includes provisions for expanded childcare subsidies, allowing families earning up to 85% of the state median income (\$124,000 for a family of four) to qualify for childcare subsidies. It also eliminates cost-sharing fees for families below the federal poverty line and caps fees for other families at 7% of their income.

The legislation also strongly emphasizes support for educators. It directs

the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) to establish a career ladder with recommended salaries, influencing program reimbursement rates and operational grant funds. Additionally, the act makes scholarship and loan forgiveness programs for early educators permanent, recognizing the importance of supporting and retaining skilled professionals in early education.

The Early ED Act also lays the groundwork for expanding the subsidy program to families earning up to 125% of the state median income (\$182,000 for a family of four) when additional funds become available.

The bill will now move to the House of Representatives for further consideration.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Small Eurasian deer
- 4. Irish county
- 10. A major division of geological time
- 11. Broadway actor Lane
- 12. Canadian province (abbr.)
- 14. Human gene
- 15. Two
- 16. A famous one is blue
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Ring-shaped objects
- 23. Spoils
- 24. Occurs
- 26. Commercial
- 27. Near
- 28. Products you may need
- 30. Pledge thrown down as a challenge

- 31. TV network
- 34. Silk or cotton garments
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republics
- 37. Retired American football coach
- 39. Hot dish
- 40. A type of gin
- 41. Atomic #84
- 42. Sawhorse
- 48. About ground
- 50. Medicine man
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Capital of Albania
- 53. Appendage
- 54. OJ trial judge
- 55. By the way (abbr.)
- 56. Bicycle parts
- 58. Barbie's friend
- 59. Moved one's neck to see
- 60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make up for
- 2. Baltimore ballplayer
- 3. Salary
- 4. Influential world body
- 5. Engravers
- 6. Declared as fact
- 7. One who steals
- 8. Jewelry
- 9. Hospital employee (abbr.)
- 12. Nonsense (slang)
- 13. Town in Galilee
- 17. Value
- 19. A fake name
- 20. Sheep in their second year
- 21. Town in Surrey, England
- 25. Appropriate for a particular time of year

- 29. Creative works
- 31. Recesses
- 32. W. Pacific island group
- 33. Tolkien character
- 35. Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
- 38. Pioneer
- 41. Scribe
- 43. Painted a bright color
- 44. Lowest members of British nobility
- 45. Actress Thurman
- 46. Type of sugar
- 47. Crest of a hill
- 49. N. American people of British Columbia
- 56. Device
- 57. The Mount Rushmore State

ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

FINANCE COMMITTEE

from Page 1

Palmer, and Monson, which ranged from \$7,500-10,000, the town raised that line item by \$10,000.

"This is a really important job function that we have not been able to fill for some time," Strange said. "We do have somebody interested, actually going out tomorrow for some training."

Strange said that the line item pertaining to the Sealer of Weights and Measures was the only change in recent weeks.

School Committee

Joseph Santos approached the Finance Committee to share a letter that he read to the School Committee at their meeting the night before.

Santos has been a Precinct Member for approximately 40 years, and served on the School Committee for 12 years as well as President of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees.

Santos's letter asked that the School Committee reconsider their vote, and that they ask that the town provide level service funding for the school department.

"This is not the time to be cutting services," Santos said. "It's pretty obvious that the Selectmen pushed (the School Committee) to accept the number they felt comfortable for them and their departments they manage, and it's your job as the School Committee to advocate for what you see for the students of Ludlow."

"The Finance Committee's job is to reconcile all differences, ask thorough questions of the budget, both of the school department and other town de-

partments, and to make a recommendation on Town Meeting floor," Santos said.

Strange read sections of the town bylaws to clarify the roles of the Finance Committee and other departments with regards to the town budget.

"The first day I sat in this chair, it was a point of contention with the Finance Committee and our Town Accountant," Strange said.

After reading the relevant bylaw, Strange summarized, "That, to me, says that there needs to be a public hearing held by the Finance Committee, and after that public hearing there's a report and a recommendation made. Nowhere in there do I see that the Finance Committee is charged with the responsibility of meeting with individual departments and creating their budgets."

"Because there's been such a controversy surrounding this dynamic, but also because it's so important for the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee and the Finance Committee to buy into the budget, we have monthly meetings with the head of the School Committee, the head of the Finance Committee, and the Chair of the Board of Selectmen, myself, and Dr. Tiano. We have monthly meetings with Tiano and his School Business Manager, we have quarterly meetings with the School Committee, so we've put programs in play so that there is open communication consistently," Strange said.

Strange said that it is his responsibility to present a budget that the Finance Committee, the School Committee, and the Board of Selectmen are comfortable with, and that these committees work to have an open dialogue throughout the process.

Santos agreed with the process that Strange described, but also said that there should be a public hearing so that Town Meeting members could discuss the school budget before it went to vote.



2nd Annual Earth Day Community Clean-Up seeking volunteers and sponsors

WILBRAHAM - The Keep Wilbraham Beautiful Committee (KWBC) has announced that the 2nd Annual Earth Day Community Clean-Up will take place on Saturday, April 20. Those interested in volunteering can report to Fountain Park between 8 - 9 a.m., where safety vests, gloves, trash pickers, and garbage bags will be provided. KWBC representatives will direct volunteers to areas of town in need of trash removal. A complimentary lunch will be provided to all volunteers at Fountain Park following the clean-up.

KWBC is appreciative of the generous continued support and collaboration of the DPW, local police, USA Waste, NEPM, and Wilbraham Select Board. Rice Fruit Farm and Friendly's are joining the efforts for 2024, and additional sponsors are sought to offset the costs related to the volunteer appreciation luncheon and the purchase of additional safety vests, sig-

nage, and trash pickers for the event. If you are inclined to offer monetary support, checks can be made out to the Town of Wilbraham and earmarked for Earth Day. All sponsors will be recognized both on the KWBC website and Facebook page.

KWBC is also seeking organizations who would like to host a table at Fountain Park during the event. These tables could offer information about taking care of the Earth or family-friendly activities.

For more information on how to get involved in this community event, please visit KWBC's website: <https://sites.google.com/view/wilbraham-earth-day-clean-up/home>. KWBC can also be found on Facebook by searching "Keep Wilbraham Beautiful" or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/keepwilbrahambeautiful/>.

You can also contact Event Chair Megan Harrigan at keepwilbrahambeautiful@gmail.com.

Hampden Senior Center to host Pie Sale

The Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen St., is having another great Pie Sale.

This year, the fundraiser is offering juicy Apple, delicious Fruit of the Forest and mouth-watering Blueberry. Orders for pies at \$19 each will be taken at the

senior center starting March 1, paid in full in advance.

Pies will be boxed and bagged and available for drive-up pick up at the center on Saturday, April 27 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. Call 413-566-8271 with any questions.

PLANNING BOARD from Page 1

to accept Wright's special permit request.

Kristin St. Germaine approached the Board to apply for a permit for an at-home bakery.

"I started a sourdough baking business when I lived in Wilbraham last year," St. Germaine said. "I make sourdough bread and sourdough bagels, and sometimes sourdough scones."

St. Germaine said that the Special Permit will allow her to do vendor events and farmer's markets, not just in town but elsewhere.

"The idea is you're doing the business there and it's more or less transparent to the neighbors," Phoenix said, joking that, "They don't know there's a major industrial shipping business going in next to them."

"I don't have any plans of making it noticeable on my house or around my house," St. Germaine said.

Phoenix added that if St. Germaine would be within her rights to include some non-intrusive fea-

tures to advertise her business from the house, such as a sign.

"For some people that do have people coming to the house, it's sometimes helpful so people aren't cruising the neighborhood trying to see the numbers on the house," Phoenix said.

The Board confirmed that the paperwork was in order, and passed a unanimous motion declaring the business as suitable, and approved the Special Permit request.



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American Family Care opens third location in North Springfield

Healthcare network addresses community need with new location

SPRINGFIELD - American Family Care, the nation's leading provider of urgent care, accessible primary care and occupational medicine, is pleased to announce the opening of its third location in North Springfield.

The state-of-the-art medical facility is located at 1312 Boston Post Road, near Pasco Road, in a former MedExpress location.

The AFC North Springfield medical team began seeing patients on Wednesday, March 13. AFC also has locations on Cooley Street in Springfield and Union Street in West Springfield.

"We're thrilled to expand access to our high-quality, accessible healthcare services in Springfield," said Randy Johansen, CEO and President of AFC. "This new location not only expands our presence in the area, but fills the void of recent urgent care closings. AFC is committed to providing comprehensive and convenient medical care to every community we serve."

AFC North Springfield Services:

Physicals: Conveniently walk in to receive a routine check-up. Providers can also perform sports physicals for all the local youth athletes.

Pediatric Urgent Care: No need to wait for a pediatrician's next available appointment; AFC North Springfield takes a child-friendly medical approach to help treat the most common illnesses and injuries.

On-Site Lab Testing and Vaccinations: AFC North Springfield's on-site

laboratory provides a wide variety of lab work with results available within minutes, including flu, COVID-19 and STD testing. Staff can also perform immunizations such as the flu vaccine.

State-of-the-Art Diagnostics: Digital X-ray equipment allows AFC staff to take and read X-rays within minutes.

Occupational Health Exams: These services include DOT physicals, return-to-work exams, drug testing and immigration physicals.

AFC North Springfield is open seven days a week with extended hours to accommodate people's working schedules. Starting March 13, patients can receive care Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. No appointment is needed.

For more information, visit afcurgentcare.com/north-springfield.

Founded by Dr. Bruce Irwin with a single location in 1982, American Family Care has pioneered the concept of convenient, patient-centric healthcare. With more than 330 clinics and 1,500 in-network providers caring for millions of patients each year, AFC is the nation's leading provider of accessible primary care, urgent care, and occupational medicine.

Ranked by Inc. magazine as one of the fastest-growing companies in the United States, AFC's mission is to provide the best healthcare possible, in a kind and caring environment, while respecting the rights of all patients, in an economical manner, at times and locations convenient to the patient. For more information, visit americanfamilycare.com.

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- Taps



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For one brief moment you were here with us and life was good.

With joy we remember you....

the boy, the teen and the young man with his dreams.

Always in our hearts.....

Sending hugs and peace to you beyond the stars.

Shine Bright Jeffrey!

♥ **Love Mom, Dad and family**

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- David Harkins



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Logan Costa appeared as a recurring character based on Richard Oliveira, often lecturing about history.



The Senior Class of 2024 danced in the opening number of the Senior Show.

Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Ludlow High School Senior Play



"Soccer Moms," starring Kassie Malaquias, Malina Dinis, Emma Ellis, Arianna Soares, Brianna Saraiva, Hannah Goncalves, Keely Smyth, Gabriella Pires, Sayla McHale, and Elizabeth Braz, satirized the town's passionate soccer culture.



Seniors rock out with fake instruments and broom handles for the opening number.



The senior class lined up in front of the stage in the opening number.



Allison Kehoe covered Green Day's classic graduation anthem, "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)."



In "SchoolCenter Live," the hosts provided visual aid to describe a play.



Recurring character Henry Winklebottom, played by Nick Coelho, ran a game show that satirized candidates from the upcoming 2024 election, with Piotr Budzyna as Joe Biden and Theryn Pelletier as Donald Trump.



Students donned Portuguese accents in a skit about an animated family dinner.



In a skit about daydreaming through the MCAS, students rocked out to Queen's "I Want to Break Free."



Periodically through the program, Luca Martins would emerge from stage right to share a “dad joke.”



Malina Dinis, Kassie Malaquias, Gabby Pires, Keely Smyth, Lizzie Braz, and Nina Gomes played the “Real Housewives of Disney,” narrated by Diogo dos Santos.



The Senior Show was not afraid to get controversial, with a skit about the rivalry between Dunkin’ Donuts and Starbucks, starring Kaity Lafond, Marina Soja, Lexi-Mena Santucci, and Julia Valadas.



“You boys think you’re slick? You better come out here and ‘drop the nick,’” Luca Martins said to a group of boys smoking pork, incense, and oil drums in the bathroom.



Recurring character Henry Winklebottom, played by Nick Coelho, hosted a “Celebrity Dating Game” between Emma Ellis, Sayla McHale, Luca Martins, Logan Costa, Hannah Goncalves, and Piotr Budzyna.



Emma Benard played a substitute teacher in an adaptation of a Key & Peele skit.



Applause was encouraged during “The Greatinis.”




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More than 6,000 brighten great day at St. Patrick's Road Race

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – After some dreary, cold, or rainy weather during the past few years, the people attending the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race drew a winner yesterday.

On a sun-splashed afternoon with comfortable temperatures, the 47th running of the popular 10K Road Race took place.

With more than 6,000 harriers competing, and many more taking part in the Fun Run or walking events, the first part of St. Patrick's weekend was definitely a success.

Louis Serafini was the big winner of the main event. He completed the very hilly, 6.2-mile course in 30:12. Serafini is from Cambridge.

The top female was a local runner from Western Massachusetts. Anna



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Please see **ROAD RACE**, Page 13

The runners are off in the 2024 Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Road Race.



The wave of runners head down the first stretch of the 6.2-mile course.



The pace truck makes its way across the finish line followed by state police, which escorts the first set of runners.

Ludlow begins Szlats tournament

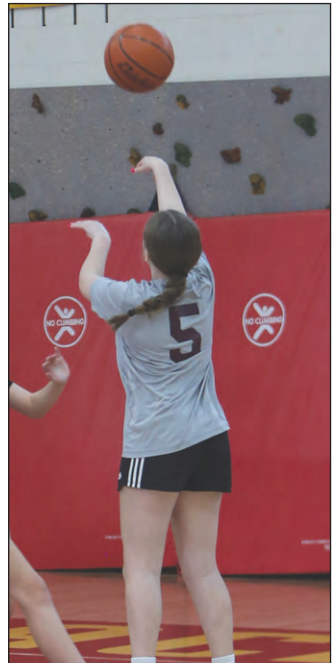
CHICOPEE – Last weekend, the Szlats tournament, an annual girls basketball tournament at the middle school level, took place in Chicopee. The

tournament included multiple division and Ludlow's 7-8 girls participated in three matchups prior to the playoffs.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Heley Adams shoots a free throw.



Allie Negrón gets a bank shot off.



Khloe Davis fights to get a hook shot off.



Maddy Gonçalves-Korny makes her way down the court.

More players needed to fill Quabbin Valley League rosters

With April looming, the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking for more players to fill its open roster spots.

There are more than 15 open roster spots as the league heads for its open practice and tryout date and teams are looking to fill their 14-player rosters for a 2024 season that will see the league get back to its normal schedule.

The league is very enthusiastic to welcome new members to the league to fill these roster spots so all teams have the full depth they need. To register, go to: www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org and click on the Registration tab.

Following heavy turnover between 2022 and 2023, the league had to downsize to five teams and ran a modified schedule that includ-

Please see **QUABBIN VALLEY LEAGUE**, Page 15

Locals named to Senior All-Star Game

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the team rosters for the 2024 Western Massachusetts Senior High School All-Star Games. On Thursday, March 21, the Hall of Fame hosted the 2024 All-Star event on the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams at the Hall of Fame. A total of 60 players were selected from different divisions within the region to participate in three games that will showcase the top seniors in their final high school contest.

“The Basketball Hall of Fame is honored to host the top high school basketball players from Western Massachusetts at our 13th annual All-Star celebration,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “We encourage the residents of Western Mass. to join us as we celebrate these outstanding seniors in the final game of their high school careers.”

A committee of local coaches and media members who represent each division on the boys’ and girls’ sides selected the teams. Using the designated classes for the PVIAC Tournament, the players will be divided into six teams: two girls’ teams, two boys’ teams of

Class A and B players, and two boys’ teams of Class C and D players. Only graduating seniors are eligible for the All-Star Games. Rosters can be found on the next page.

For the 13th year, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will recognize one boy and one girl as the Western Massachusetts Players of the Year. A special presentation will be made for the recipients during halftime of one of the participating games. A panel of local media members selects the award winners, who are recognized for their achievements on the court, in addition to their sportsmanship and character off the court.

The three All-Star Games were held on Thursday, March 21. There were two boys games and a girls game on the slate.

Among the all-stars named were Granby’s Colin Murdock, Monson’s Colin Beaupre, Ware’s Jack McKeever and Emily McGrail, Palmer’s Andrew Menard, Minnechaug’s Lylah Jeanotte, South Hadley’s Drew Alley, Holyoke’s Amilyan Treadwell-Mercedes and Shawn Rivera, Chicopee Comprehensive’s Alyssa Caney and Tineus McCluster, and Agawam’s Colin Smith.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League is nearing the end of the regular season.

The top five teams in the third and final round are seeking a playoff spot at the end of the season. As of March 5, Acres are in first place at 10-2. Close behind Acres in second place is The Blue B’s at 9-3.

In third place, The Champs R Here are at 8-4 and still lead with team high single (439) and team high triple (1253). Team BK and Last in Line are tied for fourth place at 6-6. The two lower seeded teams, Compression and Life is Good, have already clinched a playoff berth after each team won a round.

Another match was between the #1 seed Acres against Last in Line. In game one, Acres won by a score of 374-363. Paul Tereso of Acres led the team with a 107 to start in the match.

In game two, Acres continued with a strong performance on the lanes and won 381-341. Matt Bertelli bowled a 104 and Kenny Trudel led the team

with a 111.

In game three, Acres won the last game by a score of 408-379. Trudel finished the night with a 121 and Dave Cobleigh finished with a 113.

Acres won total pinfall 1163-1083 and all four points to maintain their #1 seed position.

The winners of round one Compression bowled against the Blue B’s. In game one, Blue B’s won 387-375. Bobby Ward of Blue B’s started off with a 101.

In game two, Compression defeated Blue B’s 369-365. In game three, Blue B’s won the last game by a score of 370-360. Blue B’s won total pinfall by a final score of 1122-1104.

Thursday Night Mixed League

After league night on March 14, The Thursday Night Mixed League will have two weeks left of the season.

In one match, Team Three bowled against Team Two. In game one, Team Three was victorious by a score of 412-379. Jesse Danek of Team Three led the team with a 106 to start the evening.

In game two, Team Three dominated with another win 433-378. Danek bowled his best game of the season 132, which is now the leading high

Please see **BOWLING**, Page 15

ROAD RACE from Page 12

Steinmen, of Springfield, came across the finish line at 37:00.

Ryan Davis, of South Hadley, was one of the top local finishers at 34:36. He was 20th overall.

This year’s race would feature runners from all over the region, the state, and surrounding states as many are preparing for the Boston Marathon, set to take place in just under a month on Monday, April 15. Many runners over the years have enjoyed using the St. Patrick’s Day Road Race as practice for the marathon because of the challenging hills throughout the streets of Holyoke that runners must navigate through.

Of the more than 6,000 runners who were registered, 4,442 finished the 10K course this year. Race officials have said the participation level in the event is still rebounding from the pandemic. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, race participants totaled about 7,000. The race was not held in 2020 and 2021 before it returned in 2022 with around 5,000 participants. More made their way out to the race last year, but that number was surpassed this year.

Because of that, the start of the race featured multiple waves, though 4RUN3 ran the bibs and electronic re-



Male top finisher and first overall Louis Serafini, of Cambridge, finishes the race at 30:12.

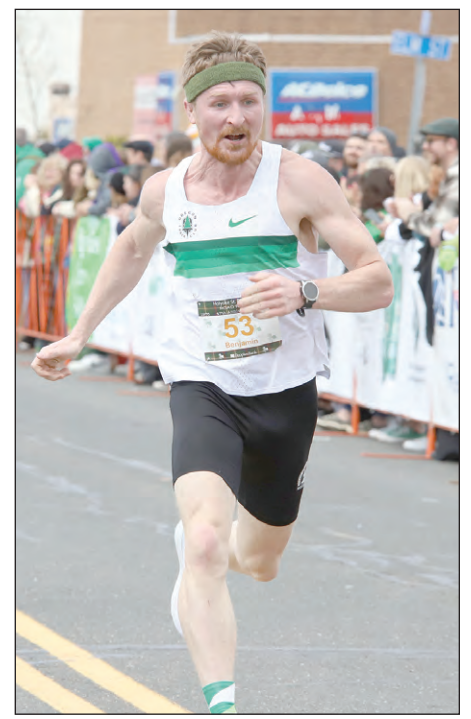
sults kept accurate results for all those involved.

A number of this year’s participants were featured in the usual celebratory costumes and outfits for St. Patrick’s Day, while many others opted for car-



Anna Steinmen, of Springfield, was the top female finisher at 37:00.

toon and other fictional characters, such as Spider-Man. Several local running clubs also made their way to the race, as did the youth of the region. Youth participants in the race were as young as seven-years-old.



Benjamin Farias, of Ludlow, crosses the finish line at 38:46

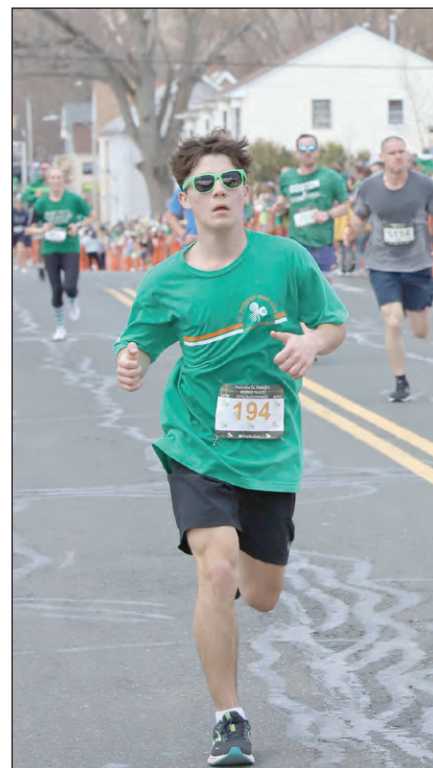
Security was in full force at the event with plenty of presence from the Massachusetts State Police, Holyoke Police, and Hampden County Sheriff’s Department, and the event went off without any incidents.



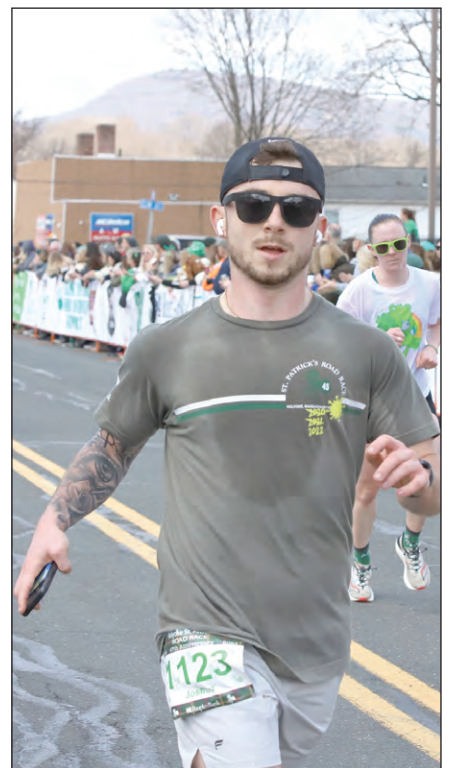
Michael Goodreau hustles to get across the finish line.



Robert Goncalves, of Ludlow, crosses the finish line pursued by a crowd.



Nathan St. Cyr races a group to the finish.



Joshua Labonte, of Ludlow, finishes the road race at 44:58.

OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICES

John "Jay" Brady
Died March 7, 2024
Services
March 23, 2024
Ludlow Funeral Home

Alan R. Chase
Died March 9, 2024
Kapinos Mazur Funeral Home

Cecile O. Hurley, 87
Died March 16, 2024
Services
March 21, 2024
Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home

Ezaura Nunes
Died March 12, 2024
Services
March 16, 2024
Ludlow Funeral Home

The Ludlow Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries

should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

John "Jay" Brady, 69

LUDLOW - John "Jay" Brady, 69, of Naples, FL and Ludlow passed away peacefully on March 7, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Boston, Jay was the son of the late John and Phyllis (Hogan) Brady and grew up in Brookline.

After graduating high school, he relocated to Western Massachusetts to pursue his education at Springfield College, where he excelled as a gymnast on a championship team. Jay obtained both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Springfield College and later earned an MBA from WNEC. Throughout his career, he dedicated his services to various medical centers, including UMAss Medical Center in Worcester, St. Francis Hospital in CT, and Baystate Medical Center, where he served as a Human Resource Administrator for over 30 years until his retirement in 2019. He enjoyed playing pickleball at various locations including his residence in Naples FL, the Scantic Valley YMCA, and Borgatti Park in Agawam, and was a "beast" on the pickleball court (in a great competitive way). In earlier years, he was also an avid cross-country skier and runner. Jay cherished



his family trips to Aruba, Disneyworld, and recent travels throughout the world. However, his greatest joy in life came from spending time with his family. Jay will be remembered as a soft spoken, humble man with a quiet energy, all qualities that made him an exceptional human. He was always a gentleman, a great sport, and so kind to all. He will be deeply missed.

Jay was the beloved husband of 43 years to Lydia (Battista) Brady; a loving father to Maya Brady and her fiance Will Fan of Stamford, CT and Alexander Brady and his wife Molly of Ludlow; and also leaves many loving extended family members and dear friends. Jay was predeceased by his sisters Diane and Patricia Brady, and his canine companion Bailey. Celebration of Life services for Jay will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024.

Visiting hours are from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. in Ludlow Funeral Home concluding with a funeral home chapel service at 12 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Jay's memory to The American Heart Association (heart.org), Dana Farber Cancer Center, or Dakin Humane Society (dakinhumane.org).

Alan R. Chase, 66

LUDLOW— Alan R. Chase, 66, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully on March 9, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

Son of Jane (Drawec) Chase and the late Richard Chase, he was born in Palmer, MA on Feb. 28, 1958.

Alan was a 1976 graduate of Ludlow High School.

He was a devoted family man, passionate about his pets, raising livestock and building all sorts of things. He enjoyed working with his father and brothers on racecars, many of which raced at Riverside in Agawam, fueling his love of NASCAR. In his later years, he would often joke that he was "forever 38", since his mother would tell everyone she was only 39. He was a key individual in the recovery and relief for the town of Monson following the devastating 2011 tornado. He and his sons helped re-open many of the Town's roads in the days immediately following the tornado.

They further helped multiple residents regain access to and use



of their properties that were littered with hazardous and downed trees. He was involved with Boy Scout Troop 164 in Palmer for many years. Alan also thoroughly enjoyed vacationing on Cape Cod.

In addition to his mother, Alan is survived by his wife Louise (Belisle) Chase; his two sons Mckinley Chase (Melissa) and Shane Chase; his step-child Kade Methot and his grandsons Lincoln and Jackson Chase. He also leaves his siblings Bill Chase; Scott Chase (Madeline); Linda Kershaw (Randy) and Lois Chase (John Seifert) as well as several nieces and nephews

The family kindly requests that contributions be made in honor of Alan to the Bondsville Firefighter's Association, P.O. Box 1021, Bondsville, MA 01009. Your generous support will not only honor his memory, but also contribute to the community where both of his sons serve as volunteer firefighters. For more information please go to www.kapinosmazurfh.com.

Cecile O. Hurley, 87

LUDLOW— Cecile O. Hurley, 87, of Ludlow passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, March 16, 2024. Sadly, she was predeceased by her husband, Andrew Hurley in 1996. They cherished raising their eight children in the Ludlow community, in their home which Cecile has lived in for 63 years. She was a communicant of Saint Elizabeth Parish.



Daughter of the late, George and Olive (LaPointe) Perron. She was born in Berlin, New Hampshire, on May 18, 1936. Cecile graduated from Cathedral High School, and worked for many years as a cashier at the Ludlow Big Y where she made many great friends. After retiring from Big Y, she worked for LPVEC as a bus monitor until she was 80 years old.

She loved spending time with her family. Her favorite past time was knitting. Since the early 2000's, she knitted over 15,000 preemie baby blankets for Baystate NICU with her signature heart pattern. She also knit full size and baby afghans, with the same heart pattern, for many other special people in her life.

Cecile is survived by her daughters, Denise Zrakas (Thomas) and Kathleen Ouimette (Brian) of Ludlow, and Patricia Condercuri (Anthony) of Port Orange, FL; her sons, Michael Hurley (Robin) of Chi-

copee, James Hurley (Kathleen) of Ludlow, and Timothy Hurley (Robyn) of Port Orange, FL; her sisters Jeanne Parrow of Agawam, Loretta Jones (Roger) of Feeding Hills, Evelyn Tranter of Dayton, Ohio, and her sister-in-law Janice Perron of Indian Orchard. She also leaves her beloved 17 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews. Sadly, she was also predeceased by her daughters Maureen and Anne-Marie Hurley, her sister Shirley Perron, her brother Ronald Perron, her grandsons, Scott Lauzon and Ethan Emirzian.

Funeral services for Cecile will be held Thursday March 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at Kapinos-Mazur Funeral Home, 64 Sewall Street, Ludlow, followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10:00 AM in St. Elizabeth's Parish. The burial will be at Island Pond Cemetery. Visiting hours at the funeral home will be Wednesday, March 20, 2024 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Cecile's memory may be made to the Ludlow 250th Celebration Committee, 488 Chapin St, Ludlow, or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place Memphis TN 38105.

For more information, please go to www.kapinosmazurfh.com

Ezaura Nunes, 100

Ezaura Nunes, 100, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Mar. 12. Laura, as she preferred to be called, was the daughter of the late Joseph and Joaquina Nunes. Born and educated in Ludlow, she worked at Monsanto Chemical Co. before leaving to care for her parents. Laura enjoyed making crafts, cooking and baking. Laura will also be remembered for her favorite catch-phrases: "So far, so good" and "You have a good day now".



Laura was predeceased by seven sisters and their spouses: Armanda Bechard (Arthur), Amelia Charland (Lionel), Mary Axiotis (George), Tillie Mayoski (Roman), Ida Methot (Carlton), Aurora Desautels (Albert) and Gloria Allard. She is survived by

her sister and brother-in-law, Dorothea and Arthur Day, her special niece, Judith Day-Sanderson and her partner David Burroughs, and Judith's two children Cole and Tory Sanderson. Laura also leaves many nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family would like to thank the staff at Vantage at Wilbraham and Beacon Hospice for the support and care given to Laura.

Funeral services for Laura will be held on Saturday, Mar. 16, 2024. Visitation is from 10-11 a.m. in Ludlow Funeral Home concluding with a funeral home chapel service at 11 a.m. and followed by burial in St. Aloysius Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions in Laura's name may be made to the charity of one's choice.

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Estate Planning

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(413) 610-1122 • Fax: (413) 610-1126
77 Winsor St., Suite 202, Ludlow
pmarta@martalawoffices.com

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

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Register, please email register@turley.com.

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BBB Tip: How to identify AI in photos and video

Paula Fleming
pfleming@boston.bbb.org

Gone are the days when one could confidently say, “Seeing is believing.” New artificial intelligence (AI) technology is becoming more sophisticated and more accessible, making it possible for just about anyone to create realistic-looking images and videos.

Unfortunately, this also means scammers can now use AI images and videos to lend credibility to their tricks. AI videos and images can make a phony celebrity endorsement look real or convince family members of a fake emergency.

What can you do to spot synthetic, AI-generated content?

Tips for recognizing AI-generated text

If you’re reading something and are wondering whether it was written by a human or generated by AI, consider

these tips.

Look for typos. Normally, typos are red flags for scams. But, if you’re trying to decipher between human-written or AI-generated content, the MIT Technology Review mentions that typos are a great indicator that a human wrote the content.

Watch for incorrect or outdated information. Many AI bots are trained on limited data sets and, therefore, may write with out-of-date information.

See any repetitive words and phrases? When discussing a single topic, AI may use the same keywords and phrases that it learned during training repeatedly. This can make the writing sound unnatural.

Pay attention to the tone of voice. AI writing may have a more robotic and emotionless tone, whereas humans may write more informally and causally with slang.

When in doubt, seek out another source. If you’re not confident that what you’re reading is coming from a credible source, seek out the information from another source.

Tips for recognizing AI-generated images

Look at the context for red flags. Because generative AI capabilities are advancing at an incredible rate, it is becoming very hard to spot fakes. The most reliable cause for suspicion may be the context in which you see a potentially faked image or hear a voice. Ask yourself these kinds of questions: Is the image or voice being used with pressure to take an urgent action, one that seems questionable, such as sending money to a stranger, or through an unexpected or odd payment mechanism? Is the context political, and does it seem like someone is trying to make you feel angry or emo-

tional? If the image or voice is one of a friend or loved one, don’t respond to any requests that come with it before you contact that person offline to see if it’s a genuine message.

How to identify AI in the pope puffer coat photo. Signs of an AI generated photo. Source: Pablo Xavier

Find a high-resolution image and zoom in. If you see a surprising photo of a politician or celebrity, look closer before you believe what’s in the picture. Search the image in the highest-possible resolution and then zoom in. You’ll likely find a few giveaways if you’re looking at an AI-generated image. Take this image of the Pope that recently went viral, for example. A closer look reveals glasses that seem to melt into the Pope’s face, fingers that don’t quite close around the

Please see **BBB**, Page 15

QUABBIN VALLEY LEAGUE

from Page 11

ed scheduled doubleheaders and bye weeks for teams in order to complete a 15-game schedule. Rain also hampered the league’s schedule as well last year.

On March 3, the league’s board voted to bring in a new team, bringing the league back up to six teams and creating an even schedule with every team playing on 15 Sunday morning starting on Sunday, April 21 through late August with playoffs to follow.

The league is also voted to play a segment of its schedule using wood bats only. The middle five games of

the schedule will be played that way while the rest of schedule is played with either metal or wood bats.

The league will be holding an open practice for all league players and especially players who are new to the league on Sunday, April 7 at 10 a.m. at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley.

Prior to that, the next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 12 noon at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining. The league’s board will be discussing final preparations for the 2024 season.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players

who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the

league board for to inquire about entering a team.

Games are typically held in the Easthampton and South Hadley area with some expansion to Chicopee, West Springfield, Agawam, and Granby being considered.

BOWLING from Page 13

single of the league.

In game three, Team Three won again for a three-game sweep by a score of 402-391. Danek finished with a 99 and a series of 337.

Total pinfall scores were Team Three at 1247 and Team Two at 1148.

Team Six, the winning team of round one, bowled against Team One. In game one, Team Six won 414-385. In game two, Team Six won again 416-390. Dan Mahoney of Team Six led the team in game two with a 107.

In game three, Team Six won 415-405 for a three-game sweep. Team Six won total pinfall by a final score of 1245-1180.

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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

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

CHESS CLUB: Open to residents of all sur-

rounding 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.

BBB from Page 15

coffee cup hanging from thin air, and a crucifix held up with half a chain. Divine intervention? Definitely not. These are all inconsistencies generated by AI.

Consider asymmetry and other physical inconsistencies - but be careful. Less sophisticated versions of AI can have a hard time with physical traits. Asymmetry in human faces, teeth, and hands are common issue with poor quality AI images. You might notice hands with extra (or not enough) fingers too. Another telltale sign is unnatural body proportions, such as ears, fingers, or feet, that are disproportionately large or small. However, AI technology is already advancing, and these mistakes will show up less and less often. Recent reports have indicated that physical inconsistencies are no longer a reliable marker for spotting higher-quality AI-generated images, especially with faces.

A girl being led away by soldiers where the girl has been put into the image using AI and has uneven features and an airbrushed texture This image was AI generated. Source: Amnesty International

Strange textures or a glossy effect. AI images often have textured backgrounds or an airbrushed look that real photos don't share. You might also notice strange-looking backgrounds or sharp images with random blurry spots. An "airbrushed" appearance is noticeable in the AI-generated image above.

How to identify AI-generated videos

Look out for strange shadows, blurs, or light flickers. In some AI-generated videos, shadows or light may appear to flicker only on the face of the person speaking or possibly only in the background. This is especially true of low-quality deep fake videos like this video of Ukrainian President Zelensky, left, appearing to surrender the fight against Russia, which was quickly debunked.

Unnatural body language. This is another AI giveaway. As with photos, AI can have a hard time replicating actual humans. If the body language feels off, it's time to question the veracity of the video you're watching.

Take this deep fake video of Vladimir Putin speaking about democracy, for example. You might not notice at first glance, but he doesn't blink throughout the entire video.

Take a closer listen. Synthetic audio might sound a little strange too. Choppy sentences, confusing inflection, or background sounds that don't match the speaker's location are all dead giveaways.

How to verify that a photo or video is authentic

Check the source. This can be hard to do when a video or photo goes viral on social media, but it's essential if you want to know if you're looking at a fake. Try to trace the photo back to the original post to see who shared the image or video and why they shared it. If it shows shocking political events or messages, ask yourself if the news is on social media or mainstream media. Why might mainstream media be hesitant to pick up the story? It's probably fake news corroborated by AI-generated images and videos.

Do a reverse image search. If you're having trouble figuring out where an image came from, try a reverse image search. This can bring up all the websites where the image has been shared, which can help you understand the context of the image and its origins.

Be prepared for change. AI technology will continue to evolve and improve, so that these tips will change, too. The best thing you can do is be aware that fake videos and images exist and always fact-check what you see before you believe it.

For more information

Read these BBB tips on how to spot a deepfake, phony celebrity endorsements, and how con artists may use ChatGPT in their scams.

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

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

ST. ELIZABETH PARISH
191 Hubbard St., Ludlow
413-583-3467
Pastor - Rev. Msgr. Homer P. Gosselin
In Residence - Rev. Norman Bolton
Deacons: Normand Grondin, Thomas Rickson, Keith Davies
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
stelizabethludlow.org
Like us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram
Check out our Parish App
Wednesday, March 20, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Youth Group - 3:30 p.m. (JR), Confirmation Class - 5:30 (JR), Parish Lenten Mission with Fr. James Savage - 6:30 p.m. (C), Scouts - 7 p.m. (JR)
Thursday, March 21, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Eucharistic Adoration - 6:30 p.m. (C)
Friday, March 22, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C)
Saturday, March 23, - Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C), Mass - 4 p.m. (C)
Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday - Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C), Mass - 11 a.m. (C), Mass - 5 p.m. (C),
Take & Eat - 8 a.m. (FLBH & K), Confirmation Class - 8 a.m. (JR), Faith Formation - 10:15 a.m. (All Rooms), Lifeteen - 4 p.m. (JR)
Monday March 25, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Faith Formation - 6 p.m. (JR/ER), Bible Study - 6 p.m. (ZR)
Tuesday, March 26, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Friends of St. Elizabeth - 10 a.m. (ZR), St. Rita Choir - 2:30 p.m. (C), Scouts Troop Committee - 7 p.m. (ER)

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

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

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

FIRST CHURCH IN LUDLOW
859 Center St., Ludlow
413-583-3339
Reverend Dorothy Borden, Pastor
Office hours Monday & Wednesday 9 am -3 pm
Sunday worship service 10 am
website: www.ludlowfirst.com or
Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow/
for complete schedule and events

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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 28, 2024 at 7:35 p.m.** on the application of Daniel B. Moore of **77 Yale Street Ludlow, MA** (Assessors' Map 15D, Parcel 202) for: **office for landscaping business.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
03/13, 03/20/2024

LUDLOW ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

LEGAL NOTICE
The Ludlow Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing in the Ludlow Town Hall, 488 Chapin Street, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** on the application of **Marcel Nunes** for the property located at **681 Center Street, Ludlow MA** (Assessors' Map 17D, Parcel 1, **Zoning: Agriculture**) The subject of the hearing is a special permit for an addition of 630 sq ft for a master suite to create a 3 bedroom, 2 bath home, which will be greater than 25% of the original house square footage. The addition is also on a non-conforming lot because of the frontage being 125 sq ft instead of the required 140 sq ft and the square footage of the lot itself being 25,000 sq

ft when 40,000 sq ft is what is required by this zoning district. The applicant is seeking relief from the Town of Ludlow Zoning Bylaw under Sections 3.4.2 (b)

Manny Lopes, Chairman
03/20, 03/27/2024

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 28, 2024 at 7:45 p.m.** on the application of Jan Wojcik of **827 Poole Street Ludlow, MA** (Assessors' Map 41, Parcel 32-1) for: **home-based photography studio.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, April 11, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
03/13, 03/20/2024

TOWN OF LUDLOW LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with G.L. c. 82, §22 of the General Laws, the Board of Selectmen has called a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Selectmen's Conference Room, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA to consider the laying out of Piney Lane as a public way as shown on a plan entitled "Alteration Plan of Piney Lane in the Town of Ludlow, MA" prepared for the Town of Ludlow, prepared by C&C Consulting Engineers LLC,

and shown on a plan entitled "Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Plan and Profile of Piney Lane Bridge No. L-16-026 in the Town of Ludlow Hampden County, Preliminary Right of Way Plans", also prepared by C&C Consulting Engineers, LLC, comprised of seven (7) total sheets, originally dated March 11, 2022 and revised through February 8, 2024," a copy of which is available in the Board of Selectmen's Office at Town Hall.

James Gennette, Chairman
Ludlow Board of Selectmen
03/20, 03/27/2024

Town of Ludlow LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Board of Selectmen has called a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 5:35 p.m.** in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA on the application of Ludlow Country Club, 1 Tony Lema Drive, Ludlow, MA Annual and Seasonal Liquor License for Change of Directors.

James Gennette, Chairman
Ludlow Board of Selectmen
03/13, 03/20/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24C0092CA**

In the matter of:

Mary Kathleen Humel CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Mary Kathleen Humel of Ludlow, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Mary Kathleen Brennan IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/18/2024.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 15, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/20/2024

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield MA, 01103
Docket No. HD24P0517PM**

In the matter of:
**Victor A Santiago
Of: Indian Orchard, MA
RESPONDENT
(Person to be Protected/
Minor)**

**CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT
OF CONSERVATOR OR
OTHER PROTECTIVE
ORDER PURSUANT TO
G. L. C. 190B,**

§ 5-304 & § 5-405R'S

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Brenda L Gonzalez of Indian Orchard, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Victor A Santiago** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that Brenda L Gonzalez of Indian Orchard, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

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

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **04/08/2024.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's

right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

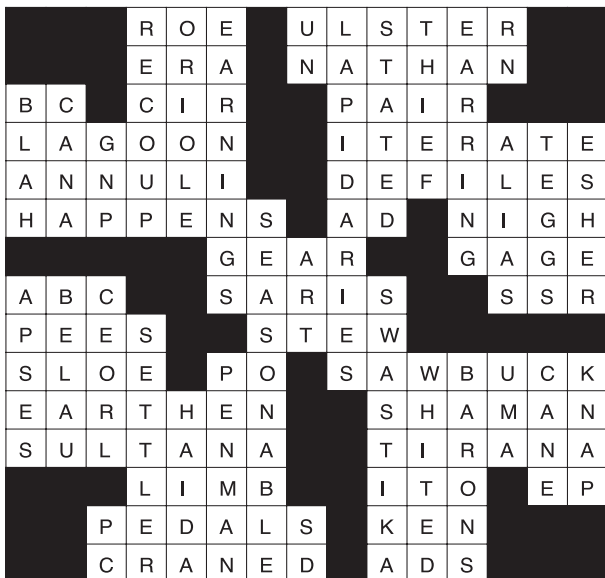
Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 11, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/20/2024

Town of Ludlow LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 138 of the General Laws, the Board of Selectmen has called a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at 6:15 p.m.** in the Selectmen's Conference Room, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA on the application of Awaits Kamran Mir for USAVE Food Store, LLC. Oba USA VE Food Store, located at 546A Center Street, Ludlow, MA 01056 for a Transfer of an off-premises wine and malt beverages license from Tahir Humayun dba E-Z Shop Convenience to be located at 546A Center Street, Ludlow, MA and a Change of Manager to Tahira Khatoon on the following described premises: Retail store 30' x 28' which contains a cooler 20' x 10' with storage space to the rear.

James Gennette, Chairman
Ludlow Board of Selectmen
03/13, 03/20/2024



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HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Brookfield is seeking an experienced full-time Highway Superintendent. Full job description at brookfieldma.us. Please submit resume and cover letter to selectmen@brookfieldma.us. Application review will begin after March 28th. Resumes accepted until position is filled. Brookfield is an equal opportunity employer.

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: squiereoil@verizon.net. Call **413-267-3184** or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

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