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Utility choice program shared with the public

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – At the March 19 Board of Selectmen meeting, the Selectmen approved two promotions for police officers, as well as receiving updates from the Department of Public Works and hearing a presentation about the Power Choice program.

Municipal Electricity Aggregation Program

Consultants Marlana Patton and Paul Gromer from Mass Power Choice approached the Selectmen with a presentation about how to implement, man-

age, and support the program.

Patton clarified that this new program will not act as a replacement for Eversource, the company that provides electricity for the town.

“If you live in Ludlow, you’ve got Eversource. No choice there,” Patton said. “That can confuse people a lot; you don’t have a choice in your electric utility in Ludlow, Eversource owns the poles and the wires. They’re always going to deliver your electricity.”

Patton said that the “basic service” would be to have the utility company buy the electricity as well as provide it for the town. This program will al-

low consumers the opportunity to choose the utility supplier, which is the company that buys electricity and puts it on the grid.

“In order to launch a program like Ludlow Power Choice, you have to develop a document called an aggregation plan and submit it to state regulators for review and approval,” Patton said. “But before you can do that, you have to make it available for a period of public comment and review and this presentation is part of that process.”

Patton said that the presentation is designed to give the public an idea of the program. Pub-

lic comments about the program will be accepted through March 29.

Patton described the program as a “group electricity buying program.”

“It’s going to be a municipal alternative to the private electricity supply offers that we all get over the phone or in the mail,” Patton said.

Key benefits described in the presentation included competitive, stable prices, consumer protections, and more electricity from renewable sources.

“A few winters ago, we all had sticker shock when utility prices went very, very high at the start of the Ukraine War,”

Patton said. “That’s because utility prices for your electricity supply change seasonally. The utility has to go out every six months and buy electricity, so their prices will track with the market.”

Under this new program, the town will no longer have to do that, instead signing a long-term fixed price contract so that the town will have stable prices for a longer period. As part of that, the town will receive prices for the electricity supply that may be lower than the utilities price, with the caveat that savings are

Please see **UTILITY CHOICE**, Page 8



Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmão

School Committee meetings are held on Tuesdays in the library of Harris Brook Elementary School.

Tensions rise in public comments during School Committee meeting

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – At the March 12 School Committee meeting, residents spoke out during public comments about issues that they felt the committee has been mishandling.

The main agenda item was the approval of a consent agenda regarding safety and transportation for the students, which was unanimously approved.

There were 12 concerned residents appeared at the meeting to talk during public comments. The committee unanimously voted to extend public comments past its usual 15 minutes to allow three minutes for all 12 people to speak, though some people were there to yield their time to other residents.

Prior to the comments, Committee Chair Jeffrey Laing stated the rules of public comments.

“Please keep the topics pertinent to what is in the purview of the School Committee,” Laing said. “Things that we have control over, things that we can change, and not anything else.”

Laing also advised the

speakers not to include the names of students or teachers, and asked that each speaker limit their time to three minutes.

“We will give leniency if you’re mid-sentence, but please wrap it up. I hate to interrupt you, but I have to keep it fair for everyone,” Laing said after informing the public of the time limit.

“Please keep the topics pertinent to what is in the purview of the School Committee”

— Committee Chair
 Jeffrey Laing

The first person to speak was Sean Riopel, who alleged that sexual abuse had happened at the school. He described hearing about a student being harassed and bullied by a teacher since September, and stressed that this abuse had been ongoing since.

“That means this same

teacher has been doing this for months, and nothing has been done to stop it,” Riopel said.

Riopel referred to an ongoing case about a teacher who was allegedly fired for sexual misconduct, and complained that the school has not addressed the public about these rumors.

“I understand waiting a little to ensure the allegations have merit, but four months is far too long to keep silent,” Riopel said. “Please don’t try to hide behind HIPAA and confidentiality. Parents don’t need details or even names, but they have the right to know about the allegation.”

“This brings us right back to the parental notification policy,” Riopel continued, saying that the policy was “not a transgender policy, even though you three continue to label it that.”

Riopel quoted committee members expressing their intention to continue to vote down policies concerning parental notification about library collections and students’ preferred pronouns, but when candidate

Please see **SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**, Page 10

New format for library’s annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Hubbard Memorial Library changes its Easter Egg Hunt in order to address growing demand

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
 mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – The Hubbard Memorial Library is making some changes to the annual Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held on Saturday, March 30, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The library’s Youth Department has been putting on an Easter Egg Hunt every year since 2000. Head of Youth Services July Siebecker described it as the biggest event of the year.

“I think it’s the 23rd annual egg hunt event because we missed it for COVID,” Siebecker said. “It has grown precipitously. It’s always been a very popular event, but since COVID it’s become huge.”

Siebecker said that last year’s egg hunt reached 500 people. Realizing that the event had grown to a size where the previous format would leave kids without prizes, and looked for ways to improve the hunt without changing the things that made the event popular.

Siebecker said that this change could not have been done without the help of her Youth Services Assistant, Kristin Santos, who spearheaded the new format by organizing game boards, photographing the eggs, getting pictures laminated, and otherwise preparing the library for the event.

“Last year, close to 500 people attended,” Santos said. “If you’ve ever been to an egg hunt, it’s a mad dash melee for about four and a half minutes, and



Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Head of Youth Services July Siebecker mimics the face of a melted chocolate bunny.

that’s about it. This year it’s going to be a drop-in event over a two-hour span.”

The first change to the format will be to expand the one-hour event to two hours, so it will now run from 10 a.m. to noon. In order to make sure there are enough eggs for everyone who participates, the plastic eggs with candy inside have been relegated to prizes; rather than having the kids search for their prizes on the ground, they will be looking for laminated pictures of eggs that were submitted by kids in town as part of a contest with the library.

“There will be six game boards total, and this will allow the kids to be on different hunts,” Santos said. “Once they’ve located all of the eggs on their game boards, they head over to the Friends of the Library table and collect their prizes, which are plastic eggs with a candy treat inside.”

Santos said that the Friends of the Library donated sweet

Please see **EASTER EGG HUNT**, Page 10



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:

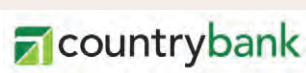
Ludlow 250th Golf Tournament, 488 Chapin St., Ludlow, MA 01056

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.



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250th Celebration Block Party Picnic & Parade

Saturday, June 15th

Volunteer!

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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

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LUDLOW

Community Center announces Sip Into Spring Fundraiser

The Randall's Community Center will hold its annual fundraiser at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
[mgusmao@turley.com](mailto:migusmao@turley.com)

LUDLOW – The Boys & Girls Club / Randall's Community Center is announcing an adult-oriented fundraiser to be held at the Gremio Lusitano Club on Friday, April 26, from 6-9 p.m.

Usually, the club holds a FallFest event later in the year, but has recently moved the fundraiser to the spring and changed its name. Sip Into Spring promises to be a fun night out of food, as well as a tasting for wine, beer, and other spirits.

"We stopped doing FallFest with COVID," said Cristina Jardine, the Office Manager for the Community Center. "After the pandemic, we brought this event in the spring. It's similar to the event that had been done; we did it last year with a Cinco de Mayo theme, now it's a Kentucky Derby theme."

The fundraiser will include raffles, games, and music, as well as an award for the most festively-dressed person. Jardine said that the event provides a great opportunity to get adults involved in the center.

"Our club is a Boys & Girls Club, so we offer licensed programs for childcare, preschool, and before and after school," Jardine said. "But we're also a Commu-

nity Center, so we work with the town to offer programs for adults like fitness opportunities and social recreation programs."

Tickets for the event are \$40, for which attendees will get unlimited samples, and will be sold either at the front desk of the club, or on the club's website. Participation serves to support the life-enhancing programs and activities offered to youths, adults, and families in our community.

"It's super casual," Jardine said. "Just come out with friends to have a good time and know that your ticket is supporting club programs that support 2,500 youths and adults we serve in town."

The event is being attended by a variety of food and drink vendors, including both national and local organizations. Jardine named Iron Duke Brewing and Vanished Valley Brewing as being signed up for the event.

The Community Center has served the town for over 70 years. The club's website says that it "provides a broad range of programs in five core program areas," including character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation and "several specialized initiatives, based on community need."

"Programs are designed to drive positive outcomes for youth and reinforce critical life skills," the website reads.

If you're interested in attending the fundraiser, you can purchase tickets either by visiting ludlowbgc.org, or at the Community Center's front desk at 91 Claudias Way.



PET OF THE WEEK COSMO

Cosmo, she's almost 20. She's super sweet and rules the house. We call her Queen Cosmo.

Photo by Jacqui Panek

Town officials re-elected in annual town election

LUDLOW – The results of this year's town election have been tallied.

James Gennette and Manuel Silva were re-elected to three-year terms on the Board of Selectmen. Gennette had 1464 votes, and Silva had 1471, beating

Alex Montagna's 1392 votes, and Dan Valadas's 1354.

Sarah Bowler was re-elected to her three-year seat on the School Committee with 2,086 votes, beating her opponent, Bella Soares, by 833 votes.

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Former selectman looks back on how town has changed

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
hgiza@turley.com

LUDLOW – Antonio Sousa has been a Ludlow resident for his entire life, but for three years in the sixties and seventies, he was a Selectman for the town.

“I have been here all my life,” Sousa said. “When I got home from the service, back in 1954, of course after being in Korea, I couldn’t leave Ludlow. And you know consequently, I’m still here.”

Sousa said he did not originally intend to enter politics.

“I can’t believe it is over 50 years ago,” Sousa said. “I really didn’t want to run to be honest, but a lot of people asked and persuaded me to do so.”

Sousa reflected on changes the town has gone through since he was in office.

“Actually back then, the selectmen took care of all the problems themselves between the five of us that were working there at that time,” Sousa said. “Naturally, any issues we would discuss with our Chairman and he assigned one or two Selectman, depending on the problem, to take a look at the requested issue... and then we’d go out, come back, give our reports, and then we would decide on what to do or is the best thing that should be done.”

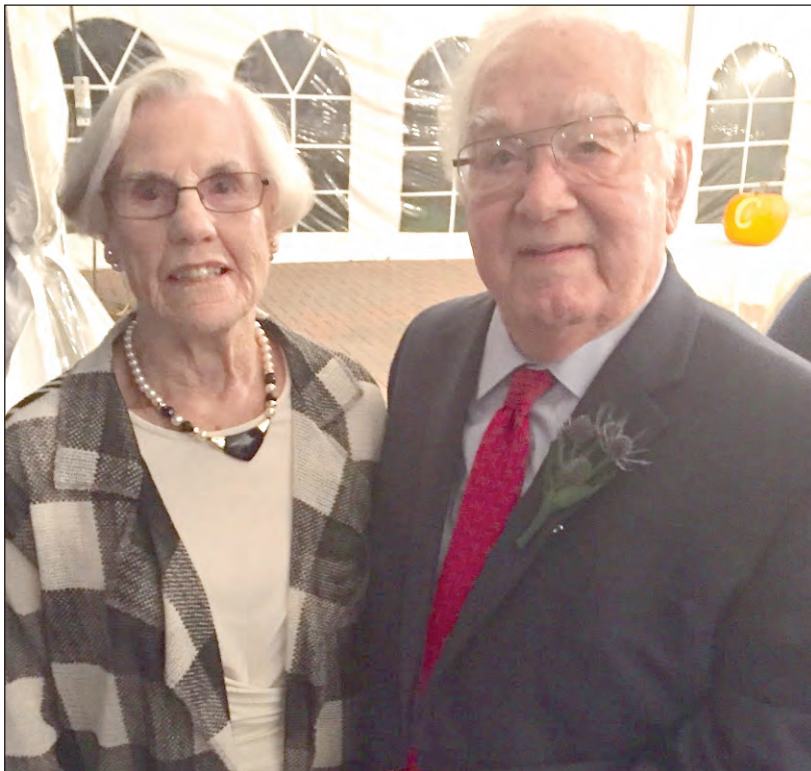
Sousa appreciates the amount of commemorative events he has seen for the 250th anniversary of Ludlow. He still has a Souvenir Memorial Booklet he was given in high school for the town’s 175th anniversary celebration.

During his time as selectman, he and his colleagues’ eyes were set on the growth and development of the town.

“Most of that time we were doing a lot of expansion,” Sousa said. “Like the new high school, different playing fields and so forth. We wanted to help grow the community and expand for the sake of our youth.”

Since his time as a three-year selectman, Sousa has seen many changes in the area. He notes that there is one modern issue that Ludlow residents should be concerned with moving forward.

“Back then we had five Selectman with five different ideas, and we discussed them between the five, and then we decided what was the best approach with all five ideas in mind,” he said. “Today, it disturbs me because I see that in politics right now, if you do not agree with me, then they clobber you. And I don’t think that is right. I think I should listen to your idea and you should listen to my idea and between the two of us make



Turley photos by Harrison Giza

Antonio Sousa with his wife of more than 70 years, Norma, dressed up for big night.

the proper decision for what is best in that particular time for the town and not push your own agendas.”

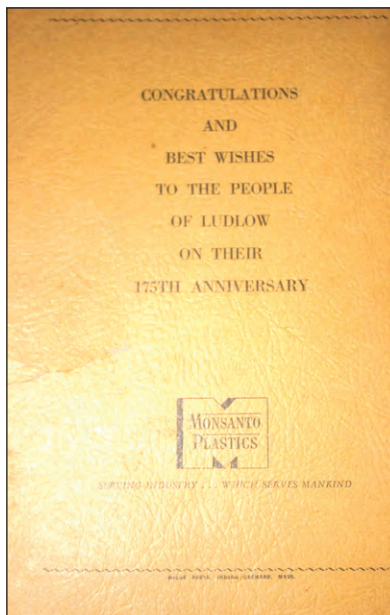
Sousa still recalls the names of all his coworkers in the late 1960’s and early 1970s.

“We had great representation,” Sousa said. “My colleagues were Mitchell Swinton, Fran Bourcier, Bill Avasey and Bill Mullins who most people know went on to become a state senator.”

William Mullins was also an educator and professional baseball player who served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1977 until he passed away in 1986.

Sousa remembers all his political friends fondly. He said there was a lot of diversity on the board over the years.

“If you look at that group, it is Portuguese, it is Polish, it is Irish, it is Italian, and bingo it is French,” Sousa said. “Almost every nationality, and to give you an example of how we operated, when we finished our meetings, and we had discussions, hot discussions at times, but what I liked was after the meeting. Regardless of what time it was, we would go to the Polish club and drink a few beers, to be honest with you. We’d go there to socialize between ourselves and that gives you the idea that we respected each others decisions, whether they agreed or disagreed with ours. We could go and get a beer together. It does bother the hell out of me that they don’t do that to-



An original mint condition copy of the 175th anniversary of Ludlow program Sousa received when he was in high school.

day. You see that is the other thing, when you get a group, any group, and you all have the same idea, that tells you one important thing: only one person is thinking. The others are not. That is what is happening today.”

Sousa has been married to his wife, Norma, for more than 70 years. The two have lived on Warsaw Avenue since the 1950’s. They have three daughters who now have families of their own.

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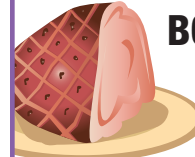
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CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY

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Police Department Swearing-In Ceremony



Submitted photos

Friends and family came out to support Lieutenant David Kornacki on his recent promotion.

LUDLOW – The Police Department congratulates Detective Lieutenant David Kornacki and Police Sergeant Andrew Roxo for their recent Civil Service promotional appointments on Tuesday, March 19.

Both police officers were sworn in on Friday morning by the Town Clerk, Kim Batista.

Lieutenant Kornacki has been with the Police Department full-time for the past 30 years. He was appointed a police officer in July of 1994 and a Sergeant in

October of 2019. He has been assigned to the Detective Bureau for 27 years of his career. Lt. Kornacki continues as the Commander of the Detective Bureau.

Sergeant Andrew Roxo has been a full-time police officer for over 10 years since his appointment in February of 2014. He will be assigned as a Patrol Shift Sergeant on the second shift 1500-2300 hours.

The department wishes both promoted supervisors continued health and longevity.



Sergeant Andrew Roxo (right) celebrated his promotion with his wife and child, and Chief Dan Valadas.



Detective David Kornacki (right) celebrated his promotion with Chief Dan Valadas.



Chief Dan Valadas gives Sergeant Andrew Roxo his new badge.

Fire Department adjusts Permit Fees for First Time in Nearly 20 Years

LUDLOW - The Fire Department announces that fees for services will be increasing effective April 1.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved an adjustment of Department fees for the first time since 2005 during its March 19 meeting. Most of the fees will now be \$50.

Fire Chief Ryan Pease requested the Selectmen approve the increases.

“You can imagine how, after 20 years, the fees just didn’t properly represent the effort anymore,” said Chief Pease. “We kept the fees as long as we possibly could. It was just time to make this adjustment, bringing us near the average for our area.”

Chief Pease stated, “Fees are an important compensation factor when we look at our department’s overall services. We all know costs have gone up and will continue to do so. This step was necessary to keep these permitting services financially viable.”

The new fees go into effect on April 1. An updated table of service fees levied by the Ludlow Fire Department is attached:

- Oil Burner Permit: \$50
- Oil Tank Permit: \$50
- Oil Line Upgrade: \$50
- LPG (Propane Tanks): \$50
- Blasting Permits: \$50

- Fire Suppression Systems: \$50
- Tank Truck Permits: \$50
- Vent Free Gas Heater Permit: \$50
- Flammables Storage Permit: \$50
- Black Powder Permit: \$50
- Tank Removal Permit (Above Ground): \$50
- Tank Removal Permit (Under Ground): \$50
- Miscellaneous Permits: \$50
- Smoke Detector/Carbon Monoxide Detector Inspection (Single-Family): \$50
- Each additional dwelling unit in same building: \$20
- Tank Storage Permit: \$50
- Self Service Gas Station Suppression Permits: \$50
- Sprinkler System, Minor Modifications Permit: \$50
- Sprinkler System, New Construction/ Additions: \$50
- Inspection/Plan Review: \$75
- TOTAL FEE: \$125
- Fire Alarm System Minor Modifications Permit: \$50
- Fire Alarm Systems New Construction/ Additions Permit: \$50
- Inspection/Plan Review: \$75
- TOTAL FEE: \$125
- Energy Storage System Permit: \$50
- Photovoltaic Plan Review: \$50

Neighborhood Tag Sale Fundraiser to support the 250th Parade

LUDLOW – The 250th Committee will have a Tag Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, April 20 in the High School parking lot from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a rain date of April 21.

Are you Spring cleaning? Do you have items to sell? Do you want to make a few extra dollars? Please bring your items to the Ludlow 250th Neighborhood Tag Sale to help support the big Ludlow 250th Parade.

You can purchase parking lot spaces to sell your items. A small 9’ x 18’ parking space is \$20. Have lots of items to sell? A double-parking lot space is two (2) 9’ x 18’ spots for \$35.

Make your check payable to the Ludlow 250th and mail it with your registration form to Mary Beth Silva at 455 Winsor Street, Ludlow, MA 01056. Reserve your spot now by going to ludlowma250.org for the official tag sale registration form.

Set-up time is 7:30 a.m. and clean-up must be done by 4 p.m. The Tag Sale runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

What you do not sell, must go back to you. The 250th Committee will not be responsible for your left-over items. The space must be totally clean when the vendor leaves.

Pop-up tents are allowed and can be no larger than 10’ x 12’. Tents cannot be staked in the parking space; you are responsible to bring weights to secure your pop-up tent. 2’ x 6’ foot tables are allowed for your merchandise. Electricity is not available. Generators and/or plug-in power sources are not allowed.

All Tag Sale Vendors must act in a professional manner. At the discretion of the 250th Committee, any Tag Sale Vendor who does not conduct themselves in a professional manner according to the said policies stated herein, may be removed from the event. The 250th Committee and / or their coordinators reserve the right to remove any objectionable merchandise.

The 250th Committee will be selling their merchandise, please support the committee by buying our celebration gear. The committee will also be offering a hot dog, water and a bag of chips for a cost of \$5.

The registration deadline is Monday, April 15. Again, please head to the Ludlow 250th website at ludlowma250.org to register today.

Start cleaning those closets out! If you have any questions, please call Kathy at 413-589-7994.



Easter is Sunday, March 31st!

Dickinson Farms & Greenhouse

- Pansies (Flats & Hanging) • Daffodils
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- Easter Lilies • Asiatic Lilies • 10” Hanging

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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

National Book Week Favorite Book-a-thon April 8 - 13. All ages. Fill out a bookstack page (available in the library) with the titles of your ten all-time favorite books & hand it in any time this week to win a prize; adults will win a raffle ticket for a local history prize basket, teens & children will win a free book.

Eclipse Watch Party, Monday, April 8, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Join us on the library lawn to watch the eclipse! We'll have safety glasses and pinhole viewers for everyone, along with hula hoops, bubbles, coloring pages and crafts for the kids. You'll also have the chance to help NASA with their Eclipse Soundscape Project. In the event of rain or clouds, we will offer a live stream of the eclipse inside. Thank you to StarNet and SEAL for supplying the glasses. All ages are welcome!

Summer Safety, Wednesday, April 17, 10:00 a.m. Get prepared for summer! Town Nurse, Angela, will be here giving tips for staying safe this summer. All ages are welcome! Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

Sarah Clay and the StarCats: "Blue Skies", Thursday, April 18, 6:00 p.m. Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month! Each year, Sarah Clay and the StarCats create a new themed concert that is both entertaining and informative. All ages are welcome. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

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.

How To Use the New Library Catalog, Wednesday, April 10, 11:00 a.m. Did you know the library catalog changed in March? Learn how to navigate the new one, sign into your library account, place holds, and more! This class is limited to 4 people. Please call Olivia at 413-583-3408x114 to sign up.

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.

Planning for Medicare, Wednesday, April 24, 1:30 p.m. Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, this informative presentation will

cover topics like COBRA, Medigap, Medicare Advantage, programs available to early retirees, and more. 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, (not 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 4:00-5:30 p.m. Meet each week to watch & talk about anime, eat snacks, & try out your cosplay. The group decides what to watch each week. (Does not meet April 16). Please register.

Youth Crochet Club, Every other Tuesday (4/9 & 4/23, 5/7, 5/21, 6/4, 6/18), 5:00-6:00 p.m. For ages 10 & up. For beginners up to experienced crocheters, supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

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

Pour Painting for Tweens and Teens, Thursday, April 4, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Learn the gorgeous abstract art technique as seen on social media. Please register.

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

"Read Between the Lines" High School Book Group, April 26, 3:00-4:00 p.m. Book chat and snacks for ages 14 & up. This month's book is "The Ocean at the End of the Lane" by Neil Gaiman; 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-

6:45 p.m. 4th-6th graders across the state are the ones to decide who wins this award after reading at least 5 of the nominated books. Everyone who has read at least 5 of the books by April 11th can come to our ice cream party and cast their vote, and will 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.

Storytime for 3-5 year olds, Mondays 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Does not meet April 8 or 15. A five-week series of stories, songs, & games relating to the theme of space, tailored for 3-5 year olds, with a craft & snack at the end. Please register.

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

Storytime for 2-3 year olds, Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Does not meet April 17. A five-week series of stories, songs, & games relating to the theme of space, tailored for 2-3 year olds, with a craft & snack at the end. Please register.

STEAM Program for ages 3-6, Wednesday 4/3, 4:00 p.m. After a book to introduce the theme, children will work together in small groups to plan, draw and build creations using Picasso Tiles Building Blocks. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE.

Story Art for ages 4-6, Wednesday April 10, 3:30 p.m. A storybook introduces and inspires a fun, gently

Please see **HUBBARD**, Page 13

ST. JUDE'S NOVENA

May The Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now, and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, Helper of the Hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude, for granting my petition. **R.S.**

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The Register

OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To Ban or not to Ban

Across our fair land, local school committees are removing books from their classrooms and library shelves. Any volume deemed historically uncomfortable, morally offensive, contrary to their cultural beliefs or inconsistent with the community's religious convictions should be purged from their public schools. Their argument is that their children's minds must be shielded from the corruption of contemporary American mores.

Why stop there? Why not gather every offensive novel, tome and treatise; take them to a public place in the dark of night, and feed them into a blazing bonfire? Finally, enlist the aid of David Duke or someone of his ilk to instruct the swooning spectators in the proper traditional salute. Oh, I think I've seen this movie before. It doesn't end well.

Or, we could hire professionally trained school librarians to carefully select, with the aid of the rest of the professionally trained staff, a collection appropriate to each level of student. As always, parents could surveil the materials that their youngsters choose to read from the school library, their mates, the internet or any other source. Golly, it seems pretty simple. Maybe, it's because it is. You protect your kids. I'll protect mine. I'll begin by giving them To Kill a Mockingbird.

William Koscher
Ludlow, Resident

GUEST COLUMN



Photo by Keith Ramos/USFWS

American woodcock

A Fiskdale couple reported seeing an American woodcock in their large field.

They said, "On Saturday, March 9 we heard the first woodcocks of the season. So happy to have them back."

The woodcock has an extremely long bill, a short neck, a dark back and buff breast. Its feathers blend into the leaf litter. The long bill allows the bird to probe into the earth and it can open its beak below the surface to grab prey.

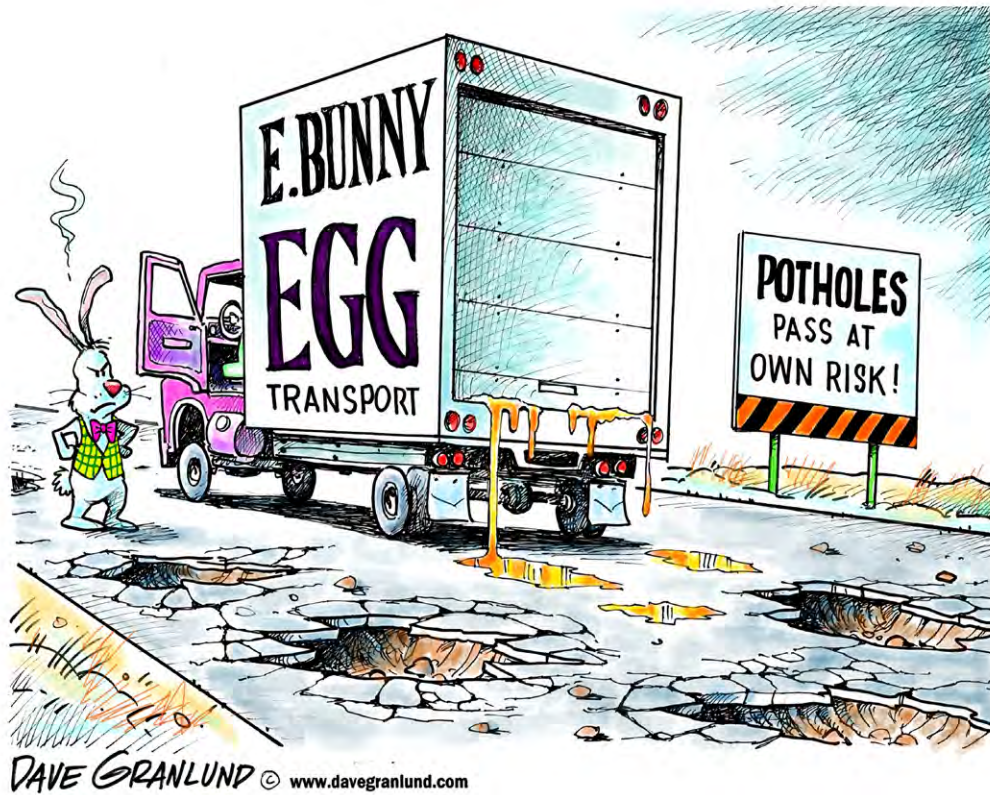
It can eat its weight in earthworms within 24 hours. It also eats insects and seeds. Woodcocks inhabit woods and thickets bordered by open areas.

Both sexes make a "peent" call. In spring, woodcocks display in open fields. The male rises in the air in wide circles. When he reaches about 50 feet about the ground his wings start to make a twittering sound. At about 200 to 300 feet the twittering stops. He gives a canary-like flight song and begins a zig-zag descent.

Several males may display in the same field. Woodcocks are polygamous. Females are attracted to the area and mate with the males. Males continue to display after mating and may mate with other females.

After mating, the females raise their brood alone. The nest is a scraped depression in the ground lined with twigs or grass and placed within 100 to 200 yards of the male's display

Please see **BACKYARD**, Page 13



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

GUEST COLUMN



Primroses serve double duty

This week's column was half done when I received a text from a good friend who I haven't seen in a few months.

She had just read last week's article and was reaching out to congratulate me on my impending delivery. What? If I were having a baby, my name may end up in more than just the local paper- try the Guinness Book of World Records.

Anyhow, I accidentally sent an old column in, not the one I revamped in honor of my first born's birthday. I am sorry you all missed out on a few new things I had to say about the Gerber daisy, but I hope this gave you a good laugh.

Another dear friend visited Cape Cod this past week. She left the morning that we had some freezing rain and light snow.

Later in the day I received a picture in a text message that said, "at least it's spring somewhere!" I chuckled as I looked at the pretty Polyantha Primroses (*Primula* spp.) planted outside of an establishment, almost beckoning tourists to jump start the busy season!

I countered her picture with one of my own, a picture of a primrose in my garden, just greening up but still weeks away from flowering. Why not take a closer look at this double duty plant, just in time for Easter giving.

What exactly do I mean by double duty? Pick one up at the grocery store to enjoy indoors this spring and then plant it in the garden.

Better yet, purchase a primrose as an Easter hostess gift and it will be a spring harbinger for years to come - a memory of

you! Even though they are usually sold in small pots, it's hard to miss their brightly colored flowers poking up through basal foliage.

They come in almost every color of the rainbow. Like the infamous pregnancy gift from last week's column, primroses also fall into the happy plant category!

Many types of primrose make great garden plants; check the label to make sure the one you purchase is hardy before planting it outdoors. I have had a clump of primroses blooming for years now that originally started out as a potted plant.

If it's been growing indoors for a while, be sure to let it harden off a bit before planting it in the ground; a partly shady spot with moisture retentive soil is best.

Typically, primroses need to be divided every three years or so, evident by die-out that begins in the center of the plant. Simply separate a chunk from the outer portion of the plant and replant it in rejuvenated soil.

I prefer to do this early in the season, but it can also be accomplished right after flowering has ended. In the heat of the summer, and especially in drier soils, the plant can look a little yellow and ragged.

Keeping it well watered helps. One year, when money was tight, I divided a plant and potted up one of the divisions and gave it to my sister in law as a hostess gift. She still has it growing in her garden, and every once in a while, will send a picture of it happily blooming.

I've tried in earnest to grow Japanese Primrose (*Primula japonica*) but something in my soil apparently isn't right. I will probably buy another one this year and hope beyond hope to eventually end up with a stand of them like they have in the display gardens at Positively Perennials.

The sea of whorled flowers in light and dark pink is arboretum worthy.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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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Santos Auto Repair celebrates history of success

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
hgiza@turley.com

Mark Santos is the president of Santos Auto Repair, a staple of Ludlow's automotive business, and is celebrating being in business for more than 45 years.

"It has been very rewarding," said Santos. "You know all these years that I have been here, to have the kind of following that I have, I really am thankful or the amount of people I have been able to work for over the years. If I had to guess it would be in the thousands."

Santos first had an interest in cars in his early teens and soon, with the permission of his mother, started to service vehicles in the area through his mother's garage when he was still in high school.

"As a youth, it just was always my passion," said Santos. "Since I was 13, I have actually been in some type of automotive repair or trade or some type of school. I went to college and got a two year degree and it just has always been in me to do it."

One thing that separates Santos' from his competition is his well-known and well-regarded 24 hour towing service. The operation has been a big part of his near half century success.

"We do 24-hour towing through the company," said Santos. "We are on the police tow rotation in Ludlow for accidents and arrests. That is something I am certainly proud of."

Santos has seen his share of bad events over the years, from brutal accidents to full on auto collisions. One particular crash still sticks out in this mind to this day.

"You often wonder with some of these accident scenes how they happen," said Santos. "You know, like a truck up a tree, you are always experiencing new adventures in the towing and the repair business. That was a weird one. In all



Turley photos by Harrison Giza

A sign Santos has displayed right on East St.

my years of Police-ordered tow, that had to be one of the weirdest things in the world, that a truck could get wedged and end up in the air between two trees. Just when you think you've seen it all, another strange event comes along though in towing and repair."

Santos compared this absurdity to his relationship with local Police Enforcement, referencing something an officer has told him over the years.

"A lot of police officers say the same thing," said Santos. "I never thought I'd see that again, you know?"

Santos is all about helping the Ludlow community and tries his hardest to make an effort to ease a day in customers' lives. Education and protection are two of his biggest concerns.

"We usually support anything we can," Santos said. "One of the biggest things we have been a part of is the Josh-

ua Duford Scholarship Fund, as well as any events that the Fire Department or the Police Department put on. I definitely support them because they are great help to me on accident scenes, both the Fire Department and the Police Department. I support all their activities."

One of the things that makes Santos' business stand out from others is his ability to be personable in an industry often labeled for ripping people off. Despite starting before the internet age, his 5 star reviews can do all the talking for him. One recent review, submitted by Cassie Ricardi, reads as follows on his website:

"Great place with great people! Always friendly and fast service. Mark treats you like family whether it's your first time or your 25th."

When reminded of that review, Santos is taken back by the kindness someone took the time to write in.



Mark Santos getting ready to head out for his next automobile endeavor.

"I try to maintain a trust between my customers and myself," said Santos. "I make sure to do everything in my power to do that job right at a fair price."

Santos is so dedicated to customers can even recall his first commercial customer.

"It was Ludlow Taxi Service," Santos said. "I took care of him in my mother's two

car garage. It is crazy to think about that now. I also really have to thank Julie and Fred Savrin. They were very instrumental getting me started and supporting me down here, believing in me enough to think I could make it. They even helped me out with rent because they really wanted me to make it here, you know?"

Santos Auto Repair is located at 1068 East St. Ludlow and is open 24/7 for all who need automobile repairs and guidance.

250th Parade Committee announces last call for parade participants

LUDLOW -- Chairman Bruce Durand and the 250th Semi-Quincentennial Parade Committee are currently working very hard to bring a great parade for the town's upcoming 250th birthday celebration.

The parade will kick off on Saturday, June 15 at 10 a.m. at the High School. Please mark your calendar for this important date.

The parade committee encourages all those who wish to march such as; veteran's groups, active members of our military, civic organizations, church groups, social groups, youth organizations, athletic organizations and businesses to become part of our parade.

If interested, please register by going to our Ludlow 250th website at ludlowma250.org to participate in the parade. If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Durand at 413-547-8998, or email him at ludlow-250parade@gmail.com.

The cut-off date for participating in the parade is Wednesday, April 2, so please register now.

The Ludlow 250th Celebration Parade Committee needs support from all local and surrounding communities. The committee is looking for sponsors for the bands that will be marching in the parade; such as the Polish American String Band, Aqua String Band, Woodland String Band,

Great American Band, Hog River Dixie Land Band, Holyoke Caledonian Pipe Band, Ludlow Community Band, Ludlow High School Band, Baird Middle School Band, and Melha Shriner's.

If interested in sponsoring a band, please contact Bruce Durand at 413-547-8998 or email him at ludlow250parade@gmail.com for sponsorship levels.

You can also go to our website for more information at ludlowma250.org. The Ludlow 250th Celebration Parade Committee appreciates your support.

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CB appoints 5 positions

LUDLOW— Country Bank announced the appointment of four new corporators and a new trustee at its Annual Meeting on Monday, March 11.

James Phaneuf, Chair of the Board welcomed the new corporators to the Bank, stating, "We are thrilled to have these accomplished individuals join our team. Their diverse backgrounds and expertise will contribute to the continued success of Country Bank."

Ivon Gois, president of Gois Broadcasting, brings a wealth of experience to the Bank. Based in Worcester, Gois operates 12 radio stations in New England and is well-known for his contributions to the media industry, ethnic and racial diversity work and his financial expertise.

Mechilia K. Salazar, CEO/Director of Hope for Youth and Families Foundation in Springfield, is a respected leader in the nonprofit sector. Salazar's previous role as CEO of the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club demonstrates her commitment to serving the marginalized and underbanked communities. She often serves as the bridge between local businesses and the communities they serve.

Samalid Hogan, a business consultant/CEO, and principal at Greylock

Management in Ludlow, is a seasoned professional with a strong track record of success. Hogan's leadership as past president of the Springfield Rotary Club and her involvement on various boards further highlight her dedication to making a positive impact. Her passion for empowering small businesses has made her a respected leader in the industry.

Walter Pacheco, a prominent figure in the hospitality industry, owns several Western and Central Massachusetts restaurants and investment properties. Pacheco's extensive business acumen and local ties make him a valuable addition to the Bank.

In addition to the new corporators, President-elect Mary C. McGovern was appointed to the Board of Trustees. Her expertise and leadership will help guide the Bank's strategic initiatives and ensure its continued growth as she takes over as President on April 1.

Country Bank is excited about the new appointments and looks forward to these individuals' valuable insights into the markets it serves. With their combined expertise and dedication, the Bank is well-positioned to continue to make a difference in serving its customers and communities for another 175 years.

GE called on for better disposal

WASHINGTON— Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) urged General Electric chairman and chief executive officer Lawrence Culp, Jr. to fix its proposed "On-Site and Off-Site Transportation and Disposal Plan" to better evaluate how rail could be used in the clean-up of the Housatonic River, which was contaminated by toxic chemicals decades after GE manufacturing waste was dumped into the river.

GE's current proposal heavily relies on truck transportation for its on-site disposal options, while also failing to provide a clear road map on how it plans to handle material cleaned up from further downstream. An approach that centers solely on truck transportation fails to take into consideration the efficiency, environmental, public health, and climate benefits of rail transportation, while also ignoring concerns from local stakeholders, public officials, and the Environmental Protection Agency's concerns.

As a result, Markey and Warren called on GE to resubmit a transportation and disposal plan that fully con-

siders rail systems and their ability to dispose of waste materials, including on the furthest downstream reaches of the Rest of River clean-up.

In the letter to CEO Culp, Markey and Warren wrote, "With a truck-centric focus, the proposal fails to sufficiently consider the efficiency, environmental, public health, and climate benefits of rail transportation. It also ignores both local concerns and recent statements from the state-owned Housatonic Railroad rail line, which expressed interest in working with GE to ensure that the rail infrastructure is able to transport waste material."

The letter continued, "Public officials representing six towns affected by the Rest of River clean-up have clearly expressed their support for the use of rail. These leaders highlight multiple benefits of prioritizing rail transport over trucks, including reducing vehicular traffic, protecting public health, limiting disruption to residents, and decreasing wear on municipal infrastructure."

We urge you to listen to these key local stakeholders, as well as to the EPA, as you continue to work on the transport proposal and remedy its inadequacies."

UTILITY CHOICE from Page 1

not guaranteed.

"Most communities do save a little bit of money over the term of the contract with these programs throughout the state," Patton said. "That's been the historical experience."

Patton also described the ways in which this new program will protect consumers from the rising rates.

"One of the key consumer protections is the ability to get out any time with

no fee or penalty," Patton said. "A lot of those private offers require you to agree to participate for a period of time – six months, a year – and then pay a hefty fee in order to leave if you want to get their good price."

"That's not going to be the case with Ludlow's program," Patton said, "people can leave any time with no fee or penalty, so the risk is very low for consumers to participate."

Select Board Chair James Gennette clarified that this program also makes it

easy for participants to opt into the program once it's started.

"Consumers are always going to be able to join," Patton said. "Bouncing back and forth, though, is not the way the program's designed, but if you're on a private supply contract and you want to join the program, you can do that at any time."

Patton went on to say that in addition to the competitive prices for electricity, the town can also buy a little bit extra electricity from renewable sources while still getting cost-effective pricing.

"The website is up and running," said Select Board Chair James Gennette. "You can always go there, and like they said, they have Customer Service. You can call the number that's on the website."

"It's on the left-hand page of the website, under latest news," added Selectman Bill Rosenblum.

DPW updates

Director of the Department of Public Works, Jamie Tomas, updated the Board on the DPW's work over the winter.

"Winter went great," Tomas said. "Most of the events we had were snow events with mostly slush and ice, so we did use quite a bit of salt, but we were able to fight most of the storms with salt and not having to have a huge plowing event."

Tomas said that although there were a couple equipment breakdowns, they have since been fixed. He then moved on to discuss paving projects for this spring.

"This year, we're planning on paving Grimes, Grimard, Willard, and Cady Street from West to the Chicopee line," Tomas said. "Our operation supervisor's been out working diligently to lay out the roads for the reclamation process and paving process, that's coming along very well."

Tomas said the DPW plans to start paving late May or early June, depending on the weather, and will likely start at Grimard Street and then work its way up to Grimes Street. Tomas said that the town was approved for \$684,000 in Chapter 90 funding.

After the discussion about paving, Tomas moved on to community events.

"Obviously, the 250th seems like it's a big hit and we're happy to help as much as we can with that," Tomas said. "We actually started our first phase of street sweeping already."

Tomas mentioned that the new street sweeper is currently the only one deployed, but that the old machine will be used later in the season as need ramps up.

"Then our forestry department, they're out every day trimming," Tomas said. "We have an abundance of tree service reports, every day is something new with the trees."

Tomas discussed the Highway Department's repairs of the catch basin, manholes and pothole patching. Tomas said that because the winter was mild, this is a worse scenario for plowing and curb damage.

"Nothing really freezes so as soon as the plow touches a piece of curbing it rips it right up," Tomas said. "They're out doing those repairs and lawn repair from the plow damage and the sidewalk root machines."

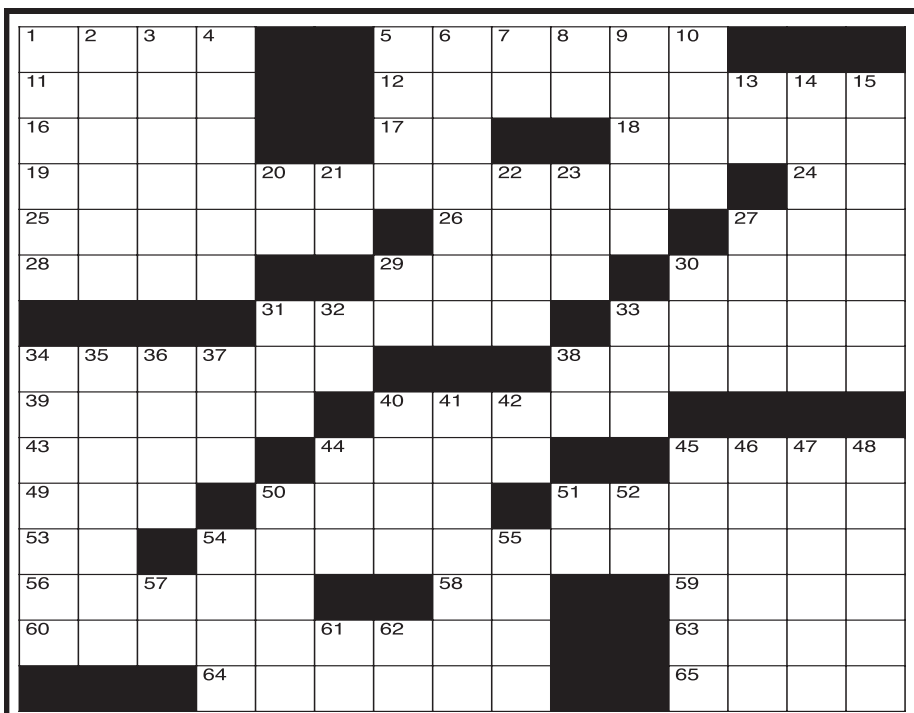
The department is also preparing to open the transfer station, which Tomas described as a "pretty big undertaking this time of year." He said that current projections are to open the station around April 1.

"We have to move compost and make room back in the compost facility for the season to start," Tomas said. "It's pretty muddy back there, so we have to wait until the mud and the water recedes a little bit so nobody gets stuck back there."

Tomas also said that the cemetery crew has started the spring cleanups of the six cemeteries that are operated by the town.

"With the cleanup and burials and cremations, it keeps those guys pretty busy throughout the season," Tomas said.

Finally, the sewer department has started to flush the water mains for preventative maintenance, which Tomas said is done to prevent sewer blocks and things of that nature. Tomas mentioned that a new trash contract is being worked on between the department and the Town Administrator.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Database management system
- 5. Medical procedures
- 11. ___ Clapton, musician
- 12. Defender
- 16. Exert oneself
- 17. Indicates position
- 18. Quay
- 19. Atrocities
- 24. A way to address an adult man
- 25. Ends
- 26. Unable
- 27. Taxi
- 28. Gratuities
- 29. A famous train station
- 30. Japanese persimmon
- 31. Sours
- 33. Beneficiary
- 34. Baseball official
- 38. Confused situation

- 39. Unworldly
- 40. Yemen capital
- 43. Type of soil
- 44. Beloved beverage ___-Cola
- 45. Lying down
- 49. ___ Angeles
- 50. Fail to amuse
- 51. Collapsible shelter
- 53. Commercial
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Lordship's jurisdictions
- 58. It cools your home
- 59. Dismounted
- 60. Charge in a court of law
- 63. One less than one
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Famed garden

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Show a picture of
- 2. Small sultanate
- 3. Unfortunate incident
- 4. A way to ski

- 5. Abba ___, Israeli politician
- 6. Observed
- 7. "Westworld" actor Harris
- 8. Belonging to me
- 9. Shoelace tube
- 10. Takes to civil court
- 13. Early multimedia
- 14. Produces anew
- 15. Horse races
- 20. Of I
- 21. Equally
- 22. Changes color
- 23. A place to stay
- 27. Town in Galilee
- 29. Mathematical figure
- 30. Klingon character
- 31. They ___
- 32. Atomic #58
- 33. Showed up extinct
- 34. Loosen grip
- 35. Unpleasant smell
- 36. Innermost membranes enveloping the
- brain
- 37. Esteemed college "league"
- 38. Partner to Pa
- 40. Small American rail
- 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
- 42. Sodium
- 44. Military figure (abbr.)
- 45. Lighted
- 46. Paid to get out of jail
- 47. All of something
- 48. Ohio city
- 50. More abject
- 51. A radio band
- 52. Scientific development (abbr.)
- 54. Monetary unit
- 55. Scored perfectly
- 57. A punch to end a fight
- 61. The Golden State (abbr.)
- 62. The Beehive State (abbr.)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 16

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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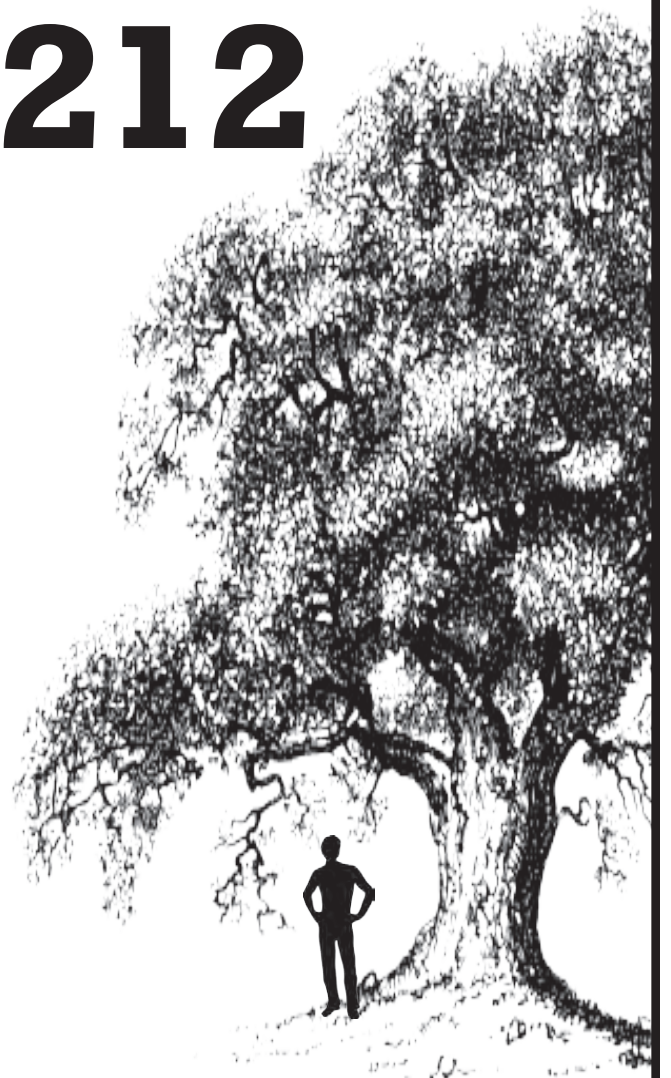
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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

from Page 1

Bella Soares yielded her time for him, Riopel turned the discussion to the topic of gender representation and pronouns.

“Schools exist to teach, not to confuse and indoctrinate,” Riopel said. “Discussions about sex and gender have no place in middle school or lower grades regardless of the guidelines put forward by the state or the Department of Early and Secondary Education. Teachers have no right to affirm a student’s alternate gender or name without the explicit permission of the parents.”

Former Chair of the Finance Committee, Joe Santos, who also previously served on the School Committee, turned the subject of discussion to the school budget.

“After watching your meeting a couple of weeks back where you met with the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen, I realized that the normal budgeting process for the town as it relates to its actions with the School Committee is upside down and not following the established fiscal process,” Santos said.

Santos described the committee as accepting the number that the Board of Selectmen had felt comfortable with, rather than advocating for the needs of the schools. He ended his comment by urging the committee to reconsider its acceptance of the budget.

Kelly De Gobbi addressed one committee member directly, responding to a comment that the committee meetings should be a safe space, saying that the meetings have “felt like a battleground” since “hate groups got involved.”

“We have serious issues with the downstream effects of these culture warriors, and the fear of escalation is real,” DeGobbi said. “Parent engagement and support and partnership with their teachers is of utmost importance right now. If teachers don’t have community support in times like these, when bad faith actors are constantly attacking them and calling them criminals, we are a lost society.”

Mia Alves said that she was “nervous about being here, because I have been bullied and slandered for being outspoken.”

Alves said that discussions about policies regarding gender expression are distracting the committee from focusing on issues pertinent to the students. She mentioned student mental health, which has been a main concern for parents, and was brought up at a previous meeting.

“We have one social worker left at Baird, down from five positions previously,” Alves said. “We stand to lose sev-



Turley photos by Marcelo Gusmão

One resident praised high school senior Mary for her work as Student Representative.

en teachers at the high school. What will happen to AP classes, or languages? Our up-and-coming students will be limited as to what colleges will find their Ludlow education worthy of entrance.”

Kelly Kapinos had a numbered list of issues that she wanted to clarify about her experience with kids and grandkids in the schools, which included debunking rumors of litter boxes in the classrooms, a claim that she found no evidence for in Ludlow.

“I did find that they have them in Columbine, Colorado, a school with one of the most horrific school shootings in our history,” Kapinos said. “It’s called a ‘go box,’ and along with cat litter, there’s material for a tourniquet so your student’s teacher can stop the bleeding if your child is injured. Let that sink in.”

Kapinos spoke about the students’ limited access to bathrooms as custodians close bathrooms to clean them, which she attributed to vandalism. She also spoke about parents’ rights.

“Parents, please use the process on the school library website, or talk to the librarian, so you can choose what books are allowed,” Kapinos said. “You have a voice, use it. I will never believe that any five school committee members are qualified to choose books for all students instead of the professionals.”

Math teacher Richard Oliveira also spoke at the meeting, and indicated that parents should be less afraid of the teachers, and more concerned about what their kids get up to online.

“It makes me angry to think that I’ve got to out a kid to a parent,” Oliveira said. “Most parents are great; some parents are not great, and some households are a tragedy. Ask any cop how many times they have a domestic abuse call. I’m afraid that one of the kids that I



“The School Committee is not the battleground for national culture war politics,” said Alex Montagna.



Joe Santos, former Finance Committee Chair and a former School Committee member, spoke out against the school budget.

would say is gay to their parents, that this parent would do harm to that kid.”

Oliveira was also adamant that abuse in the school district is not being covered up.

“We’re all CORI’d, we’re all investigated before we can even teach at Ludlow High School,” Oliveira said.

The last of the public comments came from Vanda Barros, who tried to bring a teacher up before the committee, though the teacher refused. Barros then spoke about having her emails ignored by members of the committee and the superintendent.

“Ron (Saloio), Chip (Harrington), and you, (Jeffrey) Stratton, you answer my questions, but you go with the other side,” Barros said.

Barros indicated that she had emailed Stratton about an incident concerning 11-year-olds sharing a bathroom, then turned her attention to Vice Chair Sarah Bowler.

“Now I understand that you are paying attention to me,” Barros said. “To be honest, you have to pay attention more, and all of you have to answer our ques-

tions again.”

At the end of the meeting, during closing statements, committee member Joao Dias read an article concerning a transition center. Vice Chair Sarah Bowler commented that the article was irrelevant to the meeting, as the school does not deal with transitioning students.

“She shouldn’t be discussing what I discussed,” Dias said, “because it was not on the agenda.”

Laing described himself experiencing “secondhand embarrassment” with the conduct during the committee meeting.

“Parents are notified of everything. Notifications go home for every single thing,” Laing said. “There are no carpools to a hormone place, there’s none of this craziness.”

“We cannot just attack a certain group,” Laing said. “We’re supposed to protect people who can’t protect themselves, correct? We’re not just going to create policies geared right at these kids who you don’t even know what they’re going through.”

Another School Committee meeting was held on March 21.



Submitted Photo

The Friends of the Library stuffed eggs with candy this week, (from left) Secretary Michelle Goncalves, Treasurer Alex De Gobbi, Roz Forti, President Peter Ouimette, Deb Piesz and Ellen Sagan. Not pictured: Kelly De Gobbi.

EASTER EGG HUNT from Page 1

treats and stuffed the eggs for the library in addition to volunteering to hand out prizes.

“We got 98 submissions total and they were so good,” Santos said. “We’re going to use the eggs that the kids colored for a scavenger hunt, so instead of looking for plastic eggs, they’ll be searching for pictures that they colored.”

Siebecker said that the Youth Depart-

ment was overwhelmed with the responses to the contest, and decided to expand the hunt so that all contest entries could be included.

“We decided there was no way we could possibly leave any of them out,” Siebecker said. “It’s been so adorable to see how much work kids have put into this artwork. Some of these are incredibly detailed. A lot of kids clearly spent a long time doing this and taking it very seriously, and even the ones submitted by one-year-olds that were just squiggles, we love



Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmão

The library’s Youth Department staff, July Siebecker and Kristin Santos, spoke to over 500 people last year.

those too.”

Siebecker said that the library prioritized keeping the event open for everybody. The entire community is invited at no cost, with no need to register, and all the children who participate go home with a prize.

“I have attended the egg hunt for many years as a patron with my kids, and now I have the opportunity to help so many kids in our community enjoy it as well,” Santos said. “I hope the changes we’re making allow the event to become bigger and also more organized.”

The Department of Public Works provided equipment to close off the lots and indicate the boundaries of the hunt.

The parking lot will be closed for the event, so library staff urged attendees to plan to park off-site. Because the hunt has been extended to two hours, families will be able to arrive as late as 11:30 a.m. and still complete the egg hunt.

The annual Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 30, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Hubbard Memorial Library. For more information, visit their website at hubbardlibrary.org.

SPORTS

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Boys volleyball to open at B-Town



The Lions get together before getting their practice going last Wednesday.

LUDLOW – Last week, Ludlow boys volleyball worked out in the gymnasium. The Lions, who have been perennial playoff contenders, are getting ready to open up the reg-

ular season next week. The Lions will face off at neighbor Belchertown on Monday, April 1 at 5 p.m. The home opener will take place on Friday, April 5 at 5 p.m. against Minnechaug.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Ethan Love squares up a bump.



James Diaz sets the ball straight up.

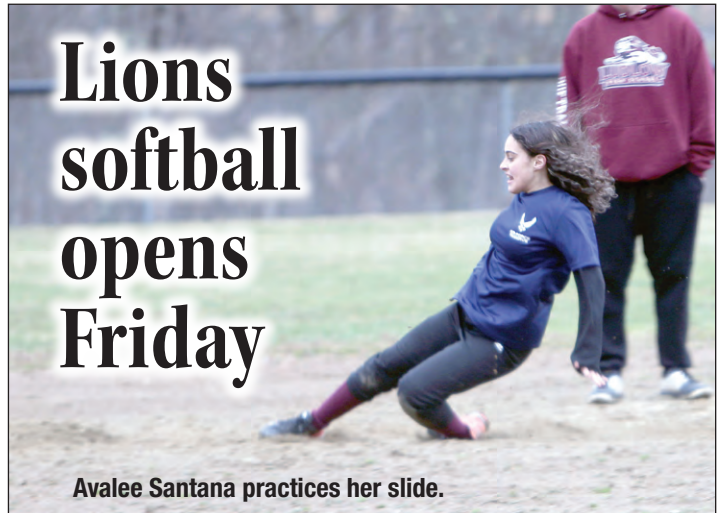


Michael Saloio practices his set.



Thomas Deroin sends a spike over the net.

Lions softball opens Friday



Avalee Santana practices her slide.

LUDLOW – Last week, the Ludlow softball team continued its preparation for the upcoming regular season. The Lions will have an early season opener as they face neighbor Minnechaug on Good Friday, March 29 at 11 a.m. at Baird Middle School.



Juliana Coelho catches during practice last week.



Ava Peczka does from long tossing in the outfield.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

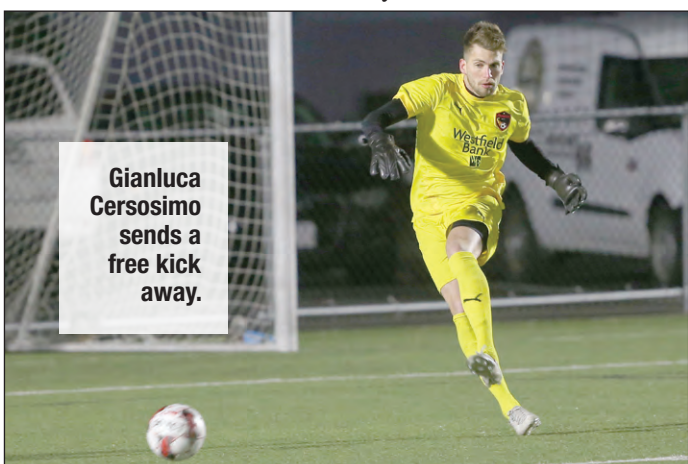
Pioneers fall in Open Cup

LUDLOW – Last Thursday night, the Western Mass. Pioneers opened their season with a matchup in the US Open Cup.

The Pioneers faced Union Omaha and unfortunately were shut out by a 4-0 decision. With the loss, the Pio-

neers Open Cup chances have ended after just one game.

The Pioneers will now gear their preparations toward the May 18 season opener. The Pioneers will also have an exhibition contest on May 10 against Third Eye FC.



Gianluca Cersosimo sends a free kick away.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Abdel Talabi sends a pass away ahead of pressure.



Santiago Blasco Gomez dribbles up the field.



Joaquin Lauria Calvo settles the ball before making a pass.

Candlepin League News

By **Ryan Drago**
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The team feeling lucky in the third and final round is Acres who stand in first place at 14-2.

Behind Acres in second place is the Blue B's at 12-4 and in third place is the Champs R Here at 11-5.

The #1 seed Acres bowled against #2 seed Blue B's on league night of March 19. In game one, Acres were victorious over #2 seed by a score of 402-358. Three out of four bowlers on Acres broke the century mark with Kenny Trudel as high bowler of the game with a 109.

In game two, Blue B's bounced back with a win 349-328. In game three, Blue B's won a close game 392-388. Mark Pafumi of Blue B's led the team in the last game with a 109.

Acres won total pinfall by a fi-

nal score of 1121-1099. Each team received two points.

Compression bowled against Last in Line. In game one, Last in Line won the first game 358-321. Vinny Navarro of Last in Line led the team with a 103. In game two, Compression was the winner 345-330. In game three, Last in Line won 358-349.

Last in Line won total pinfall by a final score of 1046-1015.

Thursday Night Mixed League

This league night was the second to last league night of the season for the Thursday League.

Team Six, the winners of round one, is leading in first place as the season comes to an end. Team Five is five points out of first place and competed against Team Six on March 21.

In game one, Team Five won the first game by a score of 403-402. In game two, Team Six won by a score of 416-381. In game three, Team Six won the last game by a score of 405-390.

Total pinfall scores were Team Six at 1223 and Team Five at 1174.

Team Three bowled against Team Four. In game one, Team

Three was the winner by a score of 426-388. Wayne Hughes of Team Three led the team by starting off with a 113.

In game two, Team three won again by a score of 403-387. Jesse Danek of Team Three led the team with a 108.

In game three, Team Three won 397-394 for a three-game sweep. Danek finished with a 106. Total pinfall scores were Team Three at 1226 and Team Four at 1169.

Team One bowled against Team Two. In game one, Kris Rickson bowled a 126 to lead Team One to winning 421-413.

In game two, Team Two won the second game 413-406. In game three, Team One dominated game three with all four bowlers breaking 100 and scoring 493. Dena Rickson bowled 124, Mike Jacobs 107, Sean Comerford 114 and Kris Rickson 108.

Team Two finished with 436 and Cody Allen had his best game of the year, 115.

Total pinfall scores were Team One at 1320 and Team Two at 1262.

Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday,

April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

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.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on March 24 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting will be held after the league's open practice for all players, including players interested in joining the league. The open practice will be at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley at 10 a.m. on April 7.

Registration now open to take part in Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 42nd annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2024 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from May 11 – July 27 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and North Star Ice Sports in Westborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Seven high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

Returning in 2024, Table Tennis will take place on June 1 at PingPod in Boston after a 5-year hiatus from the Summer Games sport lineup. New venues include Babson College, which will host the Girls Basketball Showcase, and NorthStar Ice Sports, which will host Figure Skating and the Girls Ice Hockey Showcase. Game On in Fitchburg will serve as a hub venue for eight sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July.

Bay State Games is pleased to announce a new partnership with Marathon Sports to provide athletes, officials, and volunteers with a special, traditional Bay State Games gift. Details will be released later in March.

"We are excited to present the 2024 version of the Bay State Summer Games where Massachusetts amateur athletes of all ages and abilities can have their 'Time to Shine,'" said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. "This year will feature the addition of table tennis and ultimate as well as several new host venues including Babson College in Wellesley, Howard Park and Maplewood Park in Malden and NorthStar Ice Sports in Westborough. We look forward to welcoming athletes from across the Commonwealth as we celebrate the 42nd year of the Bay State Summer Games."

An additional feature in 2024 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2024 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America features more than 8,000 athletes from over 25 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.stategamesofamerica.com.

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2024 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames.org.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.

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Local Newspapers are **IMPORTANT** Any Way You Look At It

Girls Inc. host gala

HOLYOKE— Girls Inc. of the Valley's annual major fundraiser is back at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, 1000 Hall of Fame Ave., on March 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. Spirit of Girls: Rewind / Fast Forward features co-lead sponsors PeoplesBank and the Women's Foundation of Boston.

Guests and attendees will hear the impactful stories of Girls Inc. youth, families, alumni and more. The evening will include heavy appetizers, along with a cash bar.

Girls Inc. of the Valley is actively seeking sponsors and volunteers to support the event.

"The need for investments in programs that work towards gender equity and providing safe spaces for girls, and youth who would benefit from pro-girl

environments, is greater than ever" said Suzanne Parker executive director of Girls Inc. of the Valley. "We will raise \$110,000 at Spirit of Girls to provide that safe space, especially during the summer months."

Thank you to our sponsors: PeoplesBank; Women's Foundation of Boston; Hazen Paper Company; bank-ESB; BonaVita Aesthetics; The Collins Companies; Monson Savings Bank; SourcePass; UMass Amherst; Parker's Portables; Kuhn Riddle Architects; and Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts.

If interested, or have questions regarding this event, please contact Meghan Rothschild at (413) 218-4994 or meghan@chikmedia.us.

HUBBARD from Page 4

educational hands-on creative art project. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

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

Homeschooler Storytime: True Tales, Wednesdays 12:00 p.m.-12:45 p.m. Does not meet April 17. For ages 5-8. A fun, gently educational storytime that uses picture book biographies to share inspiring stories about real people and historical events. Please register.

Grow, Play and Learn, Thursdays, 9:45-10:30 a.m. For babies and toddlers; 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.

Shel Silverstein Scavenger Hunt, Friday April 5, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. All ages. Celebrate National Poetry Month by searching the Youth Room for poems & pictures by the author of "Where the Sidewalk Ends," and win a prize! Drop-in.

Me, You, & We: Social Emotional Playgroup, Fridays from March 1-April 12, 9:30-10:30 a.m. (does not meet 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.

BACKYARD from Page 6

ground. The female lays four buff eggs with brown splotches.

Canada geese

On Friday, March 1 I saw a large flock of Canada geese in a field in Spencer. On Monday, March 4 I heard the honking of geese. I looked up and saw two large flocks of Canada geese fly overhead. The first flock flew lower and lower and landed in my hayfield and the pond next to it. The second flock flew much higher and headed northward.

Belted kingfisher

On Feb. 29, a spotted a pair of belted kingfishers at a small pond in Ware on my way back from the Ware River News/Barre Gazette office. I was surprised to see them this early.

Black bears and more

I received an email from a Wilbraham resident. He said, "It was March 1, when I woke to see the damage a bear did to our poles and feeders. This was the second time our poles and feeders were damaged by a bear, in the last few years. Shame on me, for not bringing the feeders in at dusk."

He said, "We have been casual bird watchers and feeders for over thirty years. It is relaxing and fun to see the local and migratory birds visit our feeders. Unfortunately, we have to consider the risks associated with placing food sources in our back yards. It means we have to be aware and maybe take the feeders in at dusk, putting them back out in the morning." He also said, "However, that will not eliminate the chance for a bear/human encounter. Last year, a black bear was in our neighbors back yard, at 10:30 a.m. in the morning. The bear was attracted by the chickens in the coup. Fortunately, they have an electrified fence,

surrounding the coup. After getting shocked, it ran across the street and into Cedar Swamp woods. It will be back, since a bear does remember where the food sources are located." He said he recently saw a male, pileated woodpecker.

Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee in Moultonborough New Hampshire included these interesting loon facts in their newsletter. Loons are physiologically adapted for life in the water, so much so that they struggle to walk on land as a result. Their dense, thick walled bones help to weigh them down in the water. The extreme rear-placement of their legs and feet allows them to maximize the propulsive force that they can exert with each kick.

Many studies documented the duration of observed loon dives. Most of these studies have reported that average loon dives last somewhere between 33 and 52 seconds, regardless of season or location. Loons diving to deeper depths tend to spend more time underwater than those diving in more shallow areas.

In a study of loons using Lake Michigan as a stopover site during fall migration, Kenow et al. (2018) found that loons diving to depths of 40 m (131 feet) were spending, on average, 139 seconds (over 2 minutes) underwater per dive. In contrast, loons diving to depths of just 20 meters (65 feet) in that study were spending less time under water per dive (87 seconds, on average).

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

OBITUARIES

Donald R. Cameron Jr. 1936-2024

LUDLOW—Donald R. Cameron Jr, 87, of Ludlow passed away peacefully on Friday, March 22, 2024. Born in Boston to the late Donald Sr. and Sara (Ternullo) Cameron he has lived in Ludlow for many years and was a 1954 graduate of Ludlow High School. Don served his country honorably in the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict.



He was a proud member of the Iron Workers Union Local 7 in Boston for over 64 years and was a draftsman for the Town of Ludlow Engineering Department. Don was a coach from 1967-2018 for the Ludlow Soccer Association, baseball coach for the Ludlow Boys Club and Fatima CYO, Recreation Commissioner and mentor to countless young athletes, he was also an avid golfer who started playing at age 57 and achieved a hole in one on 2 occasions.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 54 years Nancy (Fidalgo) Cameron; he leaves his loving children Mark Cameron of Ludlow, Lisa Mill of Ludlow and Donald Cameron III and his wife Janice (Patullo) Cameron of Amherst; adored grandchildren Jorgi Mill, Andrew Mill and Colby Cameron and a great granddaughter Sylvia Mill; his brother John Cameron of Ludlow, sister Cecilia Schibelli of West Springfield and the late Rose Falconer; his brother and sister in law Arthur and Rita Fidalgo of Naples, Florida. urnal services for Don will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2024 from the Ludlow Funeral Home. Visiting hours are Thursday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. with a Liturgy of Christian Mass celebrated at 11:00 a.m. in St. Elizabeth's Parish followed by burial with Military Honors in Island Pond Cemetery.

For additional information please visit ludlowfuneralhome.com

David A. Yelle, 1953-2024

LUDLOW—David A. "Zeb" Yelle, 70, of Ludlow, passed away on March 21, 2024 at home with his loving family by his side. Born May 20, 1953 to the late Robert Sr. and Irene Yelle, David was raised in Ludlow, graduating from Ludlow High School in 1971. Zeb, as he was affectionately known, worked as a machinist at Smith and Wesson for 25 years before working at the Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys and Girls Club and retiring from the Ludlow Town Hall. Zeb loved fishing and motorcycles in his younger years, coaching youth teams and making tie dye in his middle years, and gardening and his granddaughters in his later years. He was very proud and fiercely protective of his home, his dogs, and the family that he loved.



Zeb leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 45 years Patricia (Allen) Yelle and his son Joshua Yelle, both of Ludlow; his daughter Marisa Hudson and her husband Evan and their daughters Elouise and Juliette of Greenland, NH. He also leaves his sisters Sandy Galvin and her husband John of Ludlow and Tina Binette and her husband Mark of Mattapoisett, MA. He also leaves fond memories for his nephews and nieces Robert Yelle, Jodi Butler, Kori Binette, Cody Binette, Kacie Varner, Nathan Allen, Heidi Maserati, Jennifer McFarland, and Megan Shelton and their families. In addition to his parents, Zeb was predeceased by his brother Robert Yelle Jr.

A graveside service to honor Zeb's life will be held Friday, March 29, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Reservoir Cemetery, Center St., Ludlow, MA. Tie dye and crocs are welcome. Peace Out. Memorial donations in Zeb's name may be made to the Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys and Girls Club, 91 Claudia's Way, Ludlow, MA 01056 or to the animal shelter of one's choice. For more information please go to www.kapinosmazurfh.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Donald R. Cameron Jr.
Died March 22, 2024
Services
March 28, 2024
Ludlow Funeral Home

Raymond J. Laramie
Passed away
Feb. 25, 2024
All services are private.

David A. Yelle
Died on
March 21, 2024
Services
March 29, 2024
Kapinos Mazur Funeral Home

The Ludlow Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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DATEBOOK

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

COMING SOON

THE OLD POST ROAD ORCHESTRA will perform on Friday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham. The spring concert, titled *Bohemian Landscapes* (in the European Mountains), will include selections from Strauss, Sibelius, Smetana, and Mahler. Please join us! This concert is sponsored in part by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, and the generous donations of audiences and program book advertisers.

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

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

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

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

will be seated six feet apart. For more information, call Maureen at 413-563-6226.

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

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

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

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

Baystate Health to hold free events

SPRINGFIELD— Baystate Health's Loyalty Programs will offer two free events in April beginning with "When Your Kiddo Says, 'My Tummy Hurts' Series: Irritable Bowel Syndrome in Children" on April 9 from 6-7 p.m. All events are open to the general public.

Some children with tummy hurts have symptoms that alternate between diarrhea and constipation. Dr. Timothy Menz, Pediatric Gastroenterologist, Baystate Gastroenterology & Nutrition, will offer a discussion about irritable bowel syndrome including how overall diet affects IBS, as well as diagnosis and treatment options. This will be a virtual lecture.

The second lecture, "The Balancing Act," on April 10 from 4:30 to 6 p.m., will be held in person at the Baystate Health Education Center on 361 Whitney Ave., second entrance to the building, in Holyoke.

Participants can join neuro-physical therapists and occupational therapists from Baystate Rehabilitation Care, including Jaines Andrades, NP, Baystate Trauma Services, and Diana Chung-Edwards MSN, RN, Injury Prevention Nurse Coordinator, Trauma, for an interactive event on fall prevention. Each attendee will receive: discussion about individual risk factors with a physical therapist; instructions for specific exercises to improve balance; information about environmental safety and equipment with an occupational therapist that may help prevent falls; a fall-prevention checklist and prevention strategies; and information about the types of fall injuries. Wearing comfortable clothing is recommended. Space is limited.

Registration is required for each session at BaystateHealth.org/events. For additional information, call Sue Fontaine from Loyalty Programs & Consumer Events, at 413-794-5200 or email fontaine@baystatehealth.org.

If individuals are interested in attending other events, join Baystate Health's free Loyalty Programs, Senior Class and Baystate Health Every Woman for updates on events and articles.

New funding for infrastructure

WASHINGTON— Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) and Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), members of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, celebrated the Federal Highway Administration's announcement that applications will be open for \$45 million in funding unlocked by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for projects that expand corridors of active transportation, such as walking, biking, and public transportation, in communities across the United States.

FHWA's new Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program, made possible by Markey and Sullivan's Connecting America's Active Transportation System provision in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is a competitive grant program that will focus on building networks of connected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements, including to better connect trail networks between communities.

"When we connect bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, we connect communities to work, play, and health," said Markey. "This federal funding will enhance safety for cyclists and walkers while increasing access to transportation options that reduce emissions for residents. We cannot afford to trail behind in building healthy and safe transportation networks across the country, we must create the paths that enable everyone, regardless of neighborhood, to get where they need to go in safe and sustainable ways."

Church DIRECTORY

FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL
A Church of the Nazarene
485 East St. Ludlow, MA 01056 (413) 583-7875
Email: FCCPastorLisa@gmail.com
Faith Community Chapel, A Church of the Nazarene
(churchspring.org)
Lead Pastor: Rev. Lisa Morrison
Associate Pastor: Rev. Gary Coombs
Sunday Services:
Disciple Groups 9:45am
Worship Service 11am and YouTube Live
Other Ministry Opportunities:
MONDAYS: H.O.P.E. Recovery Meeting 6:30pm
TUESDAYS: Zoom Bible Study 7:00pm
WEDNESDAYS: Ludlow Christian Fellowship
7:00 pm
THURSDAYS: Zoom Bible Study 4:00pm
FRIDAYS: After School Club for Children 5-6:30 pm

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

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH
41 Warsaw Ave., Ludlow
413-583-2630
Pastor Rev. Raymond A. Soltys
Saturday Vigil Masses – 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Masses – 7:30 a.m.; 8:45 a.m. (Polish); 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Sunday Evening Mass – 5:30 p.m.

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 27, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Youth Group - 3:30 p.m. (JR), Holy Mother Choir - 5:15 p.m. (C), Confirmation Class - 5:30 (JR), (C), Scouts - 6 p.m. (FLBH), Scouts - 7 p.m. (JR)
Thursday, March 28, HOLY THURSDAY- Morning Prayer - 9 a.m. (C), Celebration of the Lord's Supper - 7 p.m. (C)
Friday, March 29, GOOD FRIDAY- Morning Prayer - 9 a.m. (C), Stations of the Cross - 3 p.m. (C), Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 7 p.m. (C)
Saturday, March 30, HOLY SATURDAY- Morning Prayer - 9 a.m. (C), Solemn Easter Vigil - 7 p.m. (C)
Sunday, March 31, EASTER SUNDAY - Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C), Mass - 11 a.m. (C), NO Mass at 5 p.m.
Monday April 1, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Faith Formation - 6 p.m. (JR/ER),
Tuesday, April 2, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), St. Rita Choir - 2:30 p.m. (C), Eucharistic Revival - 6:30 p.m. (FLBH)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
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413-543-3627
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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
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Ludlow, MA 01056
Phone: 413-583-2140
Pastor: Father Andriy Krip
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Wednesday 9 a.m., Friday 9 a.m.
Rosary for Peace in Ukraine on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

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413-583-2312
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Sunday Masses – 9 a.m. (Portuguese); 11 a.m. (English)
Monday and Wednesday Morning Masses – 8:30 a.m. (Portuguese)
Tuesday and Friday Masses – 5:30 p.m. (Portuguese)
Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m. (English)
First Saturday of the Month – 8:30 a.m.
For more information, visit ourladyoffatimaparish.org.

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for complete schedule and events

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See our website for more information: orchardcovenant.org.

Legislation passed to prevent abuse

BOSTON— Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) joined his colleagues in the Senate to pass bipartisan legislation aimed at preventing abuse and exploitation online by criminalizing the dissemination of sexually explicit images or videos without an individual's consent.

The bill, S.2073, An Act to Prevent Abuse and Exploitation, takes a multifaceted approach to tackling online harassment and exploitation. It includes provisions for a comprehensive educational program designed to help adolescents understand the severe consequences of posting indecent visual depictions online.

Oliveira emphasized the significance of the bill's approach, said, "With this legislation, the Senate has made it clear that this form of bullying, harassment, and exploitation will not be tolerated. Survivors will receive the justice and support they deserve. And the educa-

tional programs included in this bill will ensure that young people understand the damaging effects of this behavior."

Oliveira thanked Senate leadership for their collaborative effort in developing this extensive bill. "The final bipartisan bill, unanimously passed by the Senate on Thursday, was crafted with the guidance of Senate President Spilka, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Sen. Michael J. Rodrigues, Senate Chair of the Judiciary Committee Senator Jamie Eldridge, and the bill's primary sponsor Senator John F. Keenan. I want to recognize them for their efforts on this landmark bill."

The key features of the bill include: Comprehensive Educational Program: The bill mandates the development of a comprehensive educational diversion program by the Office of the Child Advocate. This program will educate adoles-

cents on the consequences of sexting and posting indecent visuals online. School districts will be required to promote media literacy skills and utilize content from the OCA's program; Definition of Coercive Control: The legislation defines coercive control providing individuals with the ability to seek abuse prevention orders in threatening situations; Increased Fines and New Offenses: The bill increases fines for criminal harassment and establishes new offenses for the unlawful distribution of explicit material; Creation of Commission: An amendment was adopted to create a commission tasked with examining the impacts of technology and the internet on protecting individuals from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

Advocates across the state have voiced strong support for the bill. Deb Mann Schmill, Founder and President of the Becca Schmill Foundation, highlighted its importance in protecting individuals from online exploitation. "The passing of this legislation by the Senate today is an important milestone for all victims of online image-based sexual exploitation in Massachusetts," said Schmill.

This marks the second time the Senate has passed a version of this legislation. Following the House of Representatives previous passage of a similar bill, the two branches will now reconcile differences before sending it to the Governor for consideration.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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 6:40 p.m.** on the application of Anlo Realty Corporation-Joan Foster for the property located at **0 Loopley Avenue, Ludlow MA (Assessors' Map 11D, Parcel 78D & 79, Zoning: Residential A)** The subject of the hearing is a Special Permit for a proposed creation of two (2) single family home lots to be located at the above-referenced properties with approximately 9,762 s.f. (Lot C) and 10,835 s.f. (Lot D) of proposed lot area from the minimum requirement of 15,000 s.f. as referenced from the Town of Ludlow Table of Dimensional Regulations-Table 2 within the Residential A (RA) zoning district. Section IV Dimensional Regulations 4.0.4 Lots of Less than the Required Width or Area.

Manny Lopes, Chairman
03/27, 04/03/2024

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 6:20 p.m.** on the application of Anlo Realty Corporation-Joan Foster for the property located at **0 Swan Avenue, Ludlow MA (Assessors' Map 16A, Parcel 8 & 7, Zoning: Residential A)** The subject of the hearing is a Special Permit for a proposed creation of two (2) single family home lots to be located at the above-referenced properties with approximately 12,500 s.f. (Lot A) and 12,500 s.f. (Lot B) of proposed lot area from the minimum requirement of 15,000 s.f. as referenced from the Town of Ludlow Table of Dimensional Regulations-Table 2 within the Residential A (RA) zoning district. Section IV Dimensional Regulations 4.0.4 Lots of Less than the Required Width or Area.

Manny Lopes, Chairman
03/27, 04/03/2024

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, April 11, 2024 at 7:40 p.m.** on the application of Christopher A. Coelho of **149 Poole Street Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 31, Parcel 93A)** for: **home**

the application of Nathaniel Sarrasin / Andre Martins of **55 Pleasantview Street Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 15C, Parcel 160)** for: **print shop.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
03/27, 04/03/2024

LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SITE SKETCH

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 8:10 p.m.** on the application of Jim Blackburn, PE, PMP (Hopkinton LNG Corporation d/b/a Eversource Energy Service Company (Eversource) for the property located at **76 Ravenwood Drive, Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 29, Parcel 41)** for the purpose of: **Construction of an approximately 12,000 square foot electrical yard with associated work, and construction of a 24,000 square foot electric building inside existing facility fence-line.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
03/27, 04/03/2024

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, April 11, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** on the application of Dominick Corsetti of **115 Laconia Street Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 14C, Parcel 40)** for: **home office for pressure washing business.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
03/27, 04/03/2024

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, April 11, 2024 at 7:20 p.m.** on the application of Christopher A. Coelho of **149 Poole Street Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 31, Parcel 93A)** for: **home**

office for real estate & consulting business.

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
03/27, 04/03/2024

LUDLOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Ludlow Conservation Commission has scheduled a Public Meeting under W.P.A. (M.G.L. Ch. 131, § 40) in Ludlow Town Hall, 3rd floor, Selectmen's Conference Room, for **Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** for the Request for Determination of Applicability application of Lucilia Nogueira, for the property located at 164 Higher Brook Drive (Assessors' Map 25A, Parcel 30). The subject of the meeting is: replacement of an above ground pool in same footprint.

Angela Tierney
Chair
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, April 11, 2024 at 7:50 p.m.** on the application of Matthew Costa of **386 Chapin Street Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 27B, Parcel 112L)** for: **home office for electrician.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
03/27, 04/03/2024

LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SITE SKETCH

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.** on the application of Volta Charging, LLC c/o Raquel Clement for the property located at **433 Center Street, Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 12C, Parcel 82-1)** for the purpose of: **Convert 7 parking stalls into 6 electric vehicle (EV) parking stalls & 1 accessibility aisle.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
03/27, 04/03/2024

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, 04/03/2024

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, April 11, 2024 at 8:00 p.m.** on the application of Nathan Pulowski of **735 Center Street Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 17D, Parcel 11-2)** for: **home office for handyman & cleaning business.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix
Chairman
03/27, 04/03/2024

LUDLOW CONSERVATION COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Ludlow Conservation Commission has scheduled a Public Meeting under W.P.A. (M.G.L. Ch. 131, § 40) in Ludlow Town Hall, 3rd floor, Selectmen's Conference Room, for **Wednesday, April 3, 2024, at 6:25 p.m.** for the Request for Determination of Applicability application of Joseph G. Chaloux, for the property located at **1206 Lyon Street (Assessors' Map 20, Parcel 18-2).** The subject of the meeting is: **changing location for placement of new fence.**

Angela Tierney
Chair
03/27/2024

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

James Gennette, Chairman
03/20, 03/27/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD24P0539EA Estate of:

Sandra L. Dionne
Date of Death:
February 12, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Nicole L. Gleason of Monson, MA.**

Nicole L. Gleason of Monson, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

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

copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
03/27/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD24P0513EA Estate of:

GERALD D. SEDELOW
Also Known As:
GERALD DAVIS SEDELOW
Date of Death:
February 14, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Tiffany A. Ablicki of Three Rivers, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Tiffany A. Ablicki of Three Rivers, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

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

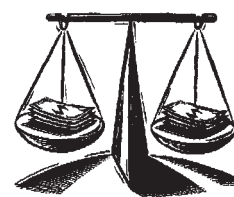
copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
03/27/2024

Town of Ludlow Procurement Office Invitation to Bid 2024-001 Ludlow Town Hall Roof Replacement and Improvements Electronic Bid Only

The Town of Ludlow is seeking sealed bids for roof replacement with various improvements that include expanding and renovating restrooms & counters and installing door actuators. **This project is being electronically bid and hard copy bids will not be received.** All bids must be submitted online at www.bid-docs.com. Bid documents will be available on 3/27/24 after 10:00 AM.

General bidders must be DCAMM certified in General Building Construction. General Bids will be received until 2:00 PM on 4/30/24. Filed sub-bids will be received until 2:00 PM on 4/19/24.

The Town of Ludlow reserves the right to reject any and or all bids.
03/27/2024



Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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The town of Hampden Highway Department is seeking to fill a full-time skilled worker/truck driver position. All applicants must possess a valid Class B CDL, 2B Hoisting License, OSHA 10 Certificate of Training, and a copy of current driving record. Applicants must have the skills and knowledge necessary to perform general road and grounds maintenance and the ability to operate and maintain all associated tools and equipment. The capability to perform maintenance/repair on trucks and equipment, welding, and the use of other garage tools, along with light construction and snowplowing experience, would be beneficial. Please call the Hampden Highway Department (413) 566-8842, or email highway@hampdenma.gov for inquiries and application/resume submittals.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and

local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become

more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders.



Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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