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Dias announces resignation from school committee

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
 mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – School Committee member Joao Dias announced he is leaving the committee following last week’s meeting.

Dias announced his resignation from the committee at the close of the April 9 meeting.

“Over the past two weeks, I have had time to reflect on what I’m doing as a member of the School Committee,” Dias said. “My confidence and moral beliefs led me to believe that I could be a part of bringing positive change on behalf of the students of Ludlow. I’ve come to the realization that this is unrealistic.”

Dias listed things the committee had done over the past

year that led to his decision to resign. These included following the directions set by the state, the recommendations of the superintendent, supporting biology teachers discussing gender identity, affirming students’ gender identity and pronouns, allowing alleged “pornographic” materials into the library, and refusing Dias’s suggestions for policies.

“The committee has been complacent or outright promoting evil,” Dias said. “The parents of this community have decided by a two and one margin to leave things as they are.”

Dias had previously used social media to campaign for candidate Bella Soares, who lost her election to Bowler. In his closing comments, Dias congratulated Bowler on her successful campaign.

“The children of Ludlow

deserve proper guidance so that they may flourish into healthy young adults,” Dias said. “The time for change from within this corrupt committee has come and gone, therefore I can no longer in good conscience continue. For this reason stated above and many more, as of tomorrow, April 10, 2024, I will be resigning from the School Committee.”

According to Town Clerk Kim Batista, Dias has not offi-

cially filed his resignation with the town as of April 16.

Student Opportunity Act
 Superintendent Frank Tiano and [presenter] presented about the district’s Student Opportunity Act Plan, which looked at specific areas and demographics where students may be struggling.

“I shared with you a little background in terms of the requirements of this act that was signed back in 2019,” Tiano said. “This was an effort by the state to help districts focus on serving our students with the greatest needs, providing us with data-based targets for us to meet and providing us with examples of evidence-based programming to use.”

The presentation discussed how the SOA Plan aligned and overlapped with the school com-

mittee’s District Improvement Plan, and identified demographics that had been surveyed as needing extra help in the classroom.

“The sub-groups that were identified in our datasets included our students with disabilities, our low-income students, and our Hispanic and Latino students,” the presenter said. “Those three subgroup populations had the greatest differences between the aggregate performance.”

The committee members were concerned about a presumption of need from these demographics, and clarified this with the presenter.

“There are low-income students and Latinos that don’t need tiered support, correct?”

Please see **DIAS**, Page 8

“The children of Ludlow deserve proper guidance.”

- Joao Dias



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Celebrating their vote for the competition, (from left) Masa Ghanem, age 10, Emily Fontaine, age 10, Jeffrey Therrien, age 8, Jessica Korzeniowski, age 11, Head of Youth Services July Siebecker, and Ava Walker, age 10.

Library hosts event to vote in Children’s Book Awards

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – Last Thursday, local children were able to vote in the statewide Children’s Book Awards competition, thanks to a club hosted by the Hubbard Memorial Library.

The library’s Head of Youth Services, July Siebecker, explained the basics of the program, saying that children from fourth through sixth grade get to vote for the award so long as they read at least five of the titles nominated.

“This is our first time doing it,” Siebecker said. “Many years ago, the school systems used to run a Massachusetts Children’s

Book Award program which involved, but unfortunately the librarians have been eliminated so they cannot do that program.”

To fill this gap, Siebecker decided to run a book group at the library, starting it in October and running for five months so the kids could have one month for each book they needed to read. Siebecker described the group as “small, but dedicated,” with several members that stuck through with the entire program, meeting once a month to play games relating to the books, share their thoughts and opinions, and learn how to review books, with snacks provided for participants.

Voting for the Children’s Book Award closed this Mon-

day, but because the club regularly met Thursdays, Siebecker and the club members put in their votes on April 11.

“They’ve worked very hard reading their books, including some kids who would not have called themselves regular readers before this program,” Siebecker said. “They’ve really gotten excited.”

In addition to the kids who have attended the club over the last few months, some of their parents also attended, and were able to share how their children have responded to the club.

“Teachers at school want the kids reading 15-20 minutes

Please see **LIBRARY AWARDS**, Page 9

Elks Lodge Hosts Meatloaf Appreciation Dinner for American Veterans

By Harrison Giza
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW - The Elks Lodge hosted their annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, April 13, to a room full of decorated veterans honoring their friends, family, servicemen and servicewomen.

The evening began at 5 p.m. to a packed room of chattering tables, all buzzing with American pride. There was a diverse array of attendees, with members from the Unit-

ed States Army, Navy, Vietnam war veterans, and other military organizations talking and listening to each other as a community.

Paul Chrzan, the Veterans Chairman of the dinner, hopes to instill the idea that the people of this country should be more appreciative to those who served their country.

“There are a lot of people, many younger and some older ones, who don’t seem to

Please see **VETS DINNER**, Page 8

Mills Clocktower Restoration



Photo by Dave Sady

The Mills restoration project has started working on the town’s iconic clocktower. The question photographer Dave Sady asks is, “Will the clock work?”



Upcoming Events!

To register for any events

Visit us at Ludlowma250.org

Tag Sale!

Saturday, April 20th, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL – SELL YOUR STUFF

1 parking space size \$20, 2 parking spaces \$35.

Rain date Sunday, April 21. Registration form on our website

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.

Sponsors: PeoplesBank, Mercedes-Benz of Springfield,
Luso Federal Credit Union, Randall's Farm,
Pioneer Valley Financial, 97.7 FM and Country Bank

Kids Bike Parade and Bike Rodeo

Saturday, May 25th, 10am-noon

Ages K-5th. Decorate your bike, trike, wagon, etc.

Prizes awarded! Parade starts at the Mill Clock Tower, travels down River Walk, ends at Iron Duke parking lot. Randall's will be serving cups of ice cream to all registered participants.

Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 27th

Be A Part Of The Parade!

Sign up your organization or business today.

Contact ludlow250parade@gmail.com

250th Celebration Block Party Picnic & Parade

Saturday, June 15th

Volunteer!


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

Join The Parade!

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


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

LUDLOW



BRITTA

Britta is a three-year-old standard poodle who has enjoyed her daily visits to the Senior Center Café with all her friends since she was 3 months old. Intriguingly, French Poodles are actual German water dogs; that's the reason for her name. She is homed with Joan and Matt Pszeniczny, on Prokop Ave. in Ludlow.



Families invited to new WIC office for healthy eating



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Present to open the office, (from left) Andrea DesJardins, Gail Domeracki, Lisa McGaffigan, and Jaritza Molina. Not pictured: Flor Diaz.

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – Last week, the Women, Infants, and Children Office reopened at its address at 14 Chestnut Place.

WIC is a nutrition program that provides nutrition and health education, healthy food and other services free of charge to families who qualify throughout the commonwealth. In order to achieve its goal of promoting healthy families in our community, it provides personalized nutrition consultations, tips for eating well, referrals for medical and dental care, health insurance, and other services to benefit families and free, healthy food.

The WIC office has been closed since the COVID-19 pandemic, but was able to hold a grand opening on April 10 with snacks, activities, and a raffle. The grand opening was hosted by the Valley Opportunity Council.

“VOC encourages those who live and work in Ludlow and surrounding areas to drop in and learn about the WIC program and resources that may be available to them,” a VOC representative said in a press release.

The Valley Opportunity Council is a Community Action Agency in the region with an annual budget of \$45 million, which the council uses to establish a network of support and collaborative services for the community.

All families are eligible for WIC, whether they are married or single, working or unemployed, as well as men and fathers and any parent or legal guardian of a child under five years old. The qualifications for the program are that you are a resident of Massachusetts, have a nutritional need as determined by WIC staff, are pregnant or have a child under five,



Andrea DesJardins donned a “peas in a pod” costume to stand by the snack table.

and have a family income less than WIC guidelines.

A variety of foods are available with WIC, including baby food, brown rice, canned fish, cereal, cheese, dried or canned beans and peas, eggs, fruit juice, fruits and vegetables, infant formula, milk, peanut butter, tortillas, whole-grain bread and pasta, tofu, and yogurt.

This year's income eligibility guidelines for WIC are based on the number of family members in the household, and broken up by yearly, monthly, bi-weekly, and weekly rates. This was outlined on fliers handed out at the opening.

Fliers were also provided with instructions to simplify WIC shopping by installing a “WIC Shopper” app.

To start an application for WIC, you can visit their Facebook page, their website at mass.gov/WIC, or call the Chestnut Place office by dialing 413-589-1551.

Miss Ludlow Bi-Centennial reflects on crowning achievement 50 years later

By Harrison Giza
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW - In 1974, Irene Pereira was selected as Miss Ludlow Bicentennial for the town's 200th anniversary. She remembers that time in her life like it was yesterday, and thankfully, with terrific detail.

"It was truly such an honor be Miss Bicentennial," Pereira said. "The process, truthfully, was incredible and the committee at the time, they really decided that they were going to do this up big. They wanted this entire year to be out of this world. So one of the first things that they really did was they advertised for young women to join the Miss Ludlow pageant. I have no idea who filled out the application for me because I would have never filled it out."

She laughs at the thought of someone suggesting her.

"I always had the idea that doing, a 'beauty pageant,' was not something I would do," Pereira said. "I just always thought that you had to think that you were something, like 'I'm better than everybody' and I am not that kind of person."

Ludlow High School was going through renovations. Pereira recalled her crowning at that time. While the renovations certainly benefited students over the next 50 years, there were other reasons for rebuilding. One being a ramp for 1973 Miss America winner, Terry Meeuwsen.

"Miss America was actually the one who crowned me," Pereira said. "They built out a huge ramp that came out into the audience for us to come down, and Terry came to Ludlow to be the emcee and entertainment, then crown Miss Ludlow. It was beyond a huge deal. The auditorium was packed and I was very honored to be chosen. Every single month there was an event and I would represent, come home for the weekend and do whatever event there was. The people of Ludlow, when I did go on to Miss Massachusetts, busloads of people came to Attleboro to support me. I did end up winning Miss Congeniality, but, I did not go any further than that at the state pageants."

Pereira was let by the state competition finishing, feeling she may not have done her town good.

"I sort of felt very much that I had let the town down," Pereira said. "But they were wonderful.



IRENE SALOIO, MISS LUDLOW

Submitted photos

A gleaming Irene Pereira showcasing her dynamite smile for the 1974 Town Warrant.

The town was supportive for the entire year. It was lovely. It really was an amazing time and that parade that we had."

Sincer her time in the pageants, Pereira has remained a constant community servant, and was also a business owner in the community. Her dedication has not waned since the 1970's.

Pereira compared the era she was first crowned to today's social and political landscape.

"I am not really sure how it would be perceived today," she said. "I know there are some very wonderful businesses in town that are supporting our 250th anniversary big time. But maybe that 200th year, we had even more family-owned businesses in town that were truly going way deep into their pockets to help. It was just so fun and a wonderful year that closed out with an end of the year banquet, where they got Miss America to come back to close out our year. We sang together and did entertainment together. She was there at the beginning and at that very last event. It was phenomenal."

Pereira will never forget how much that interaction, as well as the scholarship she won, meant to her.

"That was very helpful for me," Pereira said. "It truly was. It helped pay my last 3 years. It made it much much easier. And I still have the sash they gave me and the scepter and my crown. Though I will be honest with you, the crown does have a little crack on there. The glue has dried."



The Official Bicentennial Picture of Pereira's Miss Ludlow reign.

Winning the hearts and academic minds of her hometown peers led Pereira to a career of nearly 50 years educating and helping others.

"This year I finally stopped teaching in the fall," Pereira said. "I miss it so much already. I was a middle school chorus and drama teacher for around 40 years."

Pereira began teaching in Spencer Massachusetts, then was at Wilbraham, and then ended her career in Ludlow.

"My last years were here and I just adored them," Pereira said. "We would put on a show every year with a musical in the spring. I would help put on a talent show in the fall which would raise money so that we could put on a show in the spring because unfortunately the public schools have no money to pay for royalties and costumes, so we had to self-support but we were always able to do it. And boy, I loved it."

As she says this, Pereira laughs with the same warmth seen in her 200th anniversary photo, happy to share that she has been recently blessed twice over.

"We just had our little granddaughter two months ago," Pereira said. "She is keeping us young, Audriana Grace. And our daughter Lauren and her other half, Jonathan. It's our first grandchild, the little one, and my husband Fred and I could not be happier. They live up in Boston so they have been here for the past weekend and we could not be happier."

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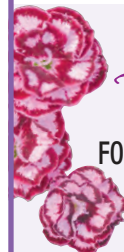


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Gift Baskets & Gift Cards!



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Grape Tomatoes Pint Size..... 2 for \$4
Seedless Hot House Cucumbers 99¢ ea.
Zucchini Green Squash \$1.49 lb.
Honeycrisp Apples \$1.99 lb.
Boar's Head Cracked Pepper Turkey .. \$12.99 lb.
Boar's Head Vermont Cheddar Cheese .. \$8.99 lb.

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Boys and Girls Club open brand new Sports Court

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

LUDLOW – The Boys and Girls Club recently held the grand opening for its new Sports Court, which was made possible thanks to funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

The club held a Grand Opening for the Sports Court on Thursday, April 4. The club received \$263,158 to help with these projects, and with those funds we were able to do the key card expansions, new flooring, water bottle stations, and the outdoor sports court.

CEO Josue Irizarry described the event being attended by members of the club, state legislators, board members, people from the community, and some of the kids from the club’s after-school program.

“The grand opening went great,” Irizarry said, adding that the club is very excited to provide the community with the opportunity to use the court for basketball and pickleball, with a smaller court next to it where people can play shuffleboard and Four Corners.

Irizarry said that the court will be open to members and non-members at different times throughout the day, with details listed on the website.

“It’s been a long process, but we were able to get it,” Irizarry said. “We were hoping to have it up and running last summer, but there were a few things we needed to be sure we could get situated first.”

These things were mostly related to safety regulations, including getting railings for certain areas and building steps leading up to the gates. Irizarry said that these steps in the project were delayed in the wintertime, but that the Sports Court is now up to code.

In addition to constructing the Sports Court, the club was able to use the funding for a number of other improvements to the club. “We were able to let the community know the work that we’re doing, and about the funding we received from the ARPA funds,” Irizarry said. “We were able to replace some of the drinking fountains, we had old ones that you press on the bottom, but now we have the double one, where you can do that and also fill water bottles.”

The funds were also used to replace the flooring of the club’s preschool and school-age program rooms, and to replace



Submitted photos

Jake Oliveira, Jennifer Aldworth, Josue Irizarry, and Aaron Saunders serve pickleballs to inaugurate the new Sports Court.



Cutting the ribbon of the new sports court, (from left) Jennifer Aldworth, CEO Josue Irizarry, Senator Jake Oliveira, and State Representative Aaron Saunders.



Josue Irizarry (left) received an official citation from the Senate, provided by Senator Jake Oliveira.



State Representative Aaron Saunders spoke at the grand opening of the sports court.

the key access on the doors of the building as well.

As of yet, there are no plans for specific events to be held in the court, but Irizarry indicated that the opportunities that this new court provides speak for themselves.

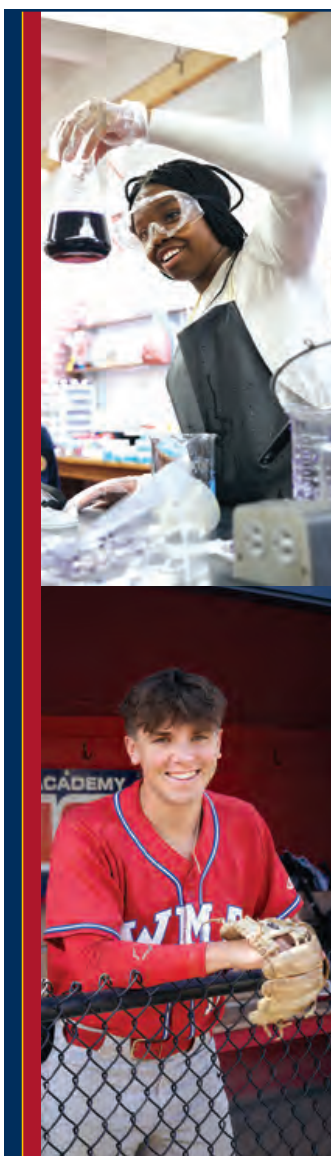
“We’ll be able to use it with our summer camp, and our school-age members will be able to use the sports court when they want to come play pickleball,” Irizarry said. “There could potentially be additional classes, we could do outdoor


classes, and that area could be used for floor hockey. We may be able to use it to teach kids how to play pickleball, and at some time we may do classes like that for beginners.”

Irizarry gave a special thanks to Senator Jake Oliveira and State Representative Aaron Saunders, who helped the club get the funding from ARPA.


“When COVID was happening and the

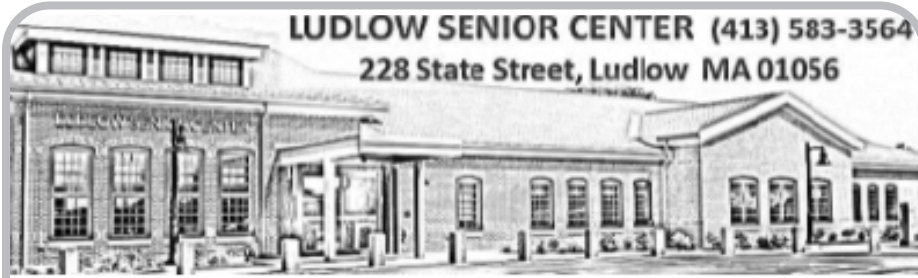
Please see **SPORTS COURT**, Page 10




Join us for the
Wilbraham & Monson Academy
MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL
PREVIEW
NIGHT
Tuesday, April 30
6-7 p.m.
 Learn more about our programs and community. Meet faculty and students.
For families interested in Grades 6-12, PG.
MIDDLE SCHOOL PREVIEW
 Middle School building
UPPER SCHOOL PREVIEW
 Mattern Science Center
RSVP: wma.us/preview




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 – Sherry Anderson
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Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

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

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

Activities Calendar:

Please register in advance for items with*

Thursday, April 18

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

Friday, April 19

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

Monday, April 22

- 8 a.m. Jelly Bean Day
- 9 a.m. Knitting
- 9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
- 10 a.m. Computer Help
- 10:30 a.m. Rep. Saunders Office Hour
- 1 p.m. Scrabble
- 1:15 p.m. Pitch
- 1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencil Class*
- 2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

Tuesday, April 23

- 9 a.m. Quilting
- 9 a.m. Line Dancing
- 9 a.m. Botanical Garden Trip*
- 10 a.m. Cribbage
- 10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga
- 10:30 a.m. Mindful Meditation
- 12:30 p.m. Blood Pressure Checks
- 1 p.m. Western Dance Class
- 1:30 p.m. Bingo

- 4:30 p.m. Power Pump Class
- 5 p.m. Ferrari (2021)

Wednesday, April 24

- 8 a.m. Garden Club
- 8 a.m. Facials*
- 9 a.m. Ceramics
- 9 a.m. Zumba Gold
- 10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
- 12 p.m. Lunch & Learn Berkshire Bank
- 12:45 p.m. Movie: Ferrari (2021)
- Teidi GHhhey
- 1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
- 1 p.m. TED Talk

Thursday, April 25

- 8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
- 9 a.m. Tai Chi
- 9:30 a.m. Dominos
- 10 a.m. Sunshine Village Paint Class*
- 10:30 a.m. Passover
- 12:30 Hearing Clinic*
- 1 p.m. Mahjong
- 1:30 p.m. Queen Elizabeth Portrayal
- 2 p.m. Book Club: Tom Lake by Ann Patchett
- 2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

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

Daily Events:

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

Menu:

- Thursday, April 18: Birthday Lunch, Stuffed Shells/Caesar Salad
- Friday, April 19: Mild Chili/Cornbread
- Monday, April 22: Crab Cake/Onion Rings/Cole Slaw
- Tuesday, April 23: Cobb Salad
- Wednesday, April 24: Lunch & Learn: Eggplant Parm/Small Salad
- Thursday, April 25: Meatloaf/Mashed Potato/Carrots

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

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

Sheriff Cocchi swears in Honorary Deputies

LUDLOW – Sheriff Nick Cocchi held his swearing in Ceremony for over 100 Honorary Deputies at the Country Club on Sunday, March 24.

“Your efforts and kind deeds can significantly contribute to the public safety of our communities, and help to improve the quality of life for all the citizens of Hampden County,” said Cocchi.

Photo by Mike O'Rourke

Sheriff Nick Cocchi congratulated his new Honorary Deputies, Tom Damoulakis and Laura Chagnon.



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Week in History April 17

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

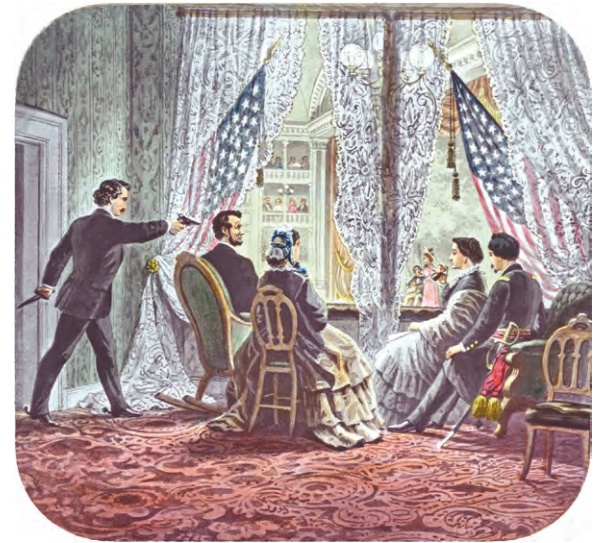
Sunday, April 14, is the anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln being shot by anti-abolitionist John Wilkes Booth, and died the next morning.

On April 15, in 1912, the Titanic sank during its maiden voyage across the Atlantic.

On April 16, in 1962, Walter Cronkite became anchor of the CBS Evening News, a position he would hold for nearly two decades.

On April 17, in 1521, Martin Luther appeared before the Diet of Worms to talk about church reform.

On April 18, in 1906, San Francisco



A drawing depicting John Wilkes Booth shooting President Abraham Lincoln as he watches "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. on April 14, 1865.

suffered an earthquake caused by the San Andreas Fault.

On April 19, in 1775, the Battles of Lexington and Concord launched the American Revolution.

tionary War.

Finally, on April 20, in 1999, two students brought weapons to Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, and murdered 13 people.

250th Committee holds Tag Sale April 20

LUDLOW -- The 250th Parade Committee is having a huge Tag Sale on Saturday, April 20 at the High School Parking Lot at 500 Chapin Street from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come and check out the many tag sale vendors and craft vendors, you never know what treasures you will find. Take the time to explore each and every table.

There is a rain date of Sunday, April 21. There will be Ludlow 250th merchandise for sale.

Hungry? There will be a hotdog deal

with a bag of chips and a beverage for \$5. Need dessert? There will be baked goods for sale too.

The Committee urges people to bring cash for cash sales. All funds raised will help defray the cost of the 250th Committee Parade and Picnic on Saturday, June 15.

The committee thanks you for your support. For more information on 250th Committee events, please go to their website at ludlowma250.org, or visit their Facebook page, under "Ludlow MA 250."

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Northern Flicker

A Blandford resident saw a male northern flicker during the April 4 snowstorm among other birds at her snowbound feeding station.

I saw a male northern flicker before the snow storm last week near the Barre line. The day after the snow, I saw one by the edge of the road at the ball-field in the center of Oakham, the only bare spot.

The northern flicker is about 13 inches long. Distinguishing marks include a black bid or necklace under its throat, black spots on its breast, gray head and long beak. The male has a black line at the base of its bill, which the female lacks. Both have a red patch on the neck and a white rump, clearly visible in flight.

The flicker is the only ground feeding woodpecker. Ants make up almost half of its diet. It also catches insects in the air and eats fruit, berries and seeds. It will come to feeders like the one in Blandford.

Flickers are cavity nesters and excavate a hole in a tree, fence post or cactus. They will use a nest box. The female lays seven to nine white eggs. They make a loud “kekekekeke” for territorial display and a “woikawoikawoka” during courtship. They also do muffled volleys of drumming.

Flocks of robins

The Blandford resident also had a flock of about 25 robins in her yard. She said they departed before she could shovel clear strip of grass for them and put out mealworms. I saw many robins along the side of the after last Thursdays snowstorm and the day after as there was no other area clear of snow.

Pileated woodpecker holes

I received a photo from a Charlton resident showing a tree with numerous holes made by a pileated woodpecker. It was impressive.

I usually hear the pileated woodpecker more than I see them. Recently, I heard one and looked for it in the area of its hammering. I saw this one and it kept up its excavating as I watched it.

More snowstorm bird

A Brimfield resident, who sends me frequent bird sightings, said, “During the snow storm last week in addition to the usual suspects we had a field sparrow, a Carolina wren and about 36 goldfinch visit the yard. Some of the male goldfinch were beginning to show some yellow plumage.”

Black vultures

The Brimfield resident said his wife saw two black vultures in the center of Brimfield feeding on a dead opossum. He said, “They are showing up in western Massachusetts more often recently.”

Turkey vultures

A favorite roost for turkey vultures is near the transfer station in Barre on Depot Road. I saw several vultures circling over the area, several perched on lamp posts and

Please see **BACKYARD**, Page 10



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

GUEST COLUMN

An icy hike at the Holyoke Range



Submitted photo

By Julie Midura
Correspondent

“GET OUT OF THE WAY!” Tom yelled as the thunderous sound of splintering wood filled the space between us and sent my heart racing with fear.

We arrived at the Seven Sisters trailhead at the Holyoke Range at 10am on a recent Sunday morning. Our plan was to do a ten mile out and back hike along the ridge. The previous day’s heavy rain combined with the frigid overnight temperatures caused a thick coating of ice to cling to the trees. As we moved upwards toward the summit of Bear Mountain in the midmorning sunshine, we were awestruck from the dazzling brilliance of the ice-encased trees.

Ten minutes into our hike, we encountered two women who were descending. They warned us that there was an overwhelming number of downed trees that were blocking the trail; so prolific that they feared losing their way and decided to turn back. Tom and I continued on, and within minutes, we encountered our first blowdown. As we scrambled over a patchwork of twisted limbs and bent branches, we wondered how many more fallen trees we would encounter. We reached the summit of Bear Mountain without incident, and stopped to marvel at the view before continuing along the ridge.

Soon we were pushing through the ice-coated branches of trees bent in half from the weight of the ice. It was both exhausting and exhilarating at the same time. The experience was similar to walking through a crystal chandelier, with the gentle sound of twinkling glass echoing all around us.

However, our delight eventually turned to shock as we encountered more and more blowdowns strewn haphazardly along the trail. Trees ranging in size from a mere fifteen feet to what had to be a hundred-foot tall behemoth lay scattered and splintered like giant toothpicks thrown from the heavens. Tom and I had never seen so much devastation on a hiking trail before. I felt saddened by the destruction, yet also in awe of the raw power of what nature has the ability to unleash. Dozens of trees and limbs littered the earth, unable to withstand both the weight of their ice-laden branches and the blowing wind that ensued.

Our progress was slow, the result of wading through an ever-growing accumulation of ice chunks below our feet that the trees began shedding when the sun rose high enough to kiss the treetops with sunlight. By early afternoon, the sound of large chunks of ice crashing to the ground became a con-

Please see **HIKING**, Page 14

Election letters policy

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

for that Thursday’s newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the

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

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

The REGISTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library?

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

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

FOR ALL AGES

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.

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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 Thursdays until June 27, 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 (April 25), 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 (May 2), 3:30 p.m. Join us for this month's Who picked this book? Book Club meeting! You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

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.

Painting on Canvas, Thursday, April 25, 6:30 p.m. Explore the world of vibrant colors, unleash your creativity, and embrace the beauty of negative space. No brushes required, just a flair for originality and a passion for self-expression. During this hands-on workshop, you'll discover the art of tape resistance and create an abstract, angular masterpiece on a 10" x 10" stretched canvas using acrylics and tape. For adults only. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

Mini Mindfulness Retreat, Saturday, May 4, 10:30 a.m. Learn and practice strategies that can support you in times of anxiousness, stress, in addition to developing self care tools you can use every day. These strategies include gentle, grounding postures for all levels of ability and breathing and meditation techniques. This workshop is accessible for people of all abilities. No previous yoga experience needed. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408.

FOR TEENS

Nintendo Switch Night, every other Tuesday (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 (4/23, 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

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

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

FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

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

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

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

Movie and Craft: Trolls Band Together, Saturday, April 27, 10:00 a.m. Rated PG Watch Trolls Band Together, free snack provided and then stay after to make a cute troll craft. Drop in.

FOR CHILDREN

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

Storytime for 3-5 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.

Design Your Own Kite, Tuesday, April 16, 1:00 p.m. 2nd grade and up. Design and decorate and then assemble your kite from a kit, under the guidance of Mary Beth Silva artist and LPS educator. Please register.

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.

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.

The Wonderful World of Bats, Wednesday, April 17, 1:30p.m. Ages 5-10 Learn how important bats are. Learn about echolocation, hibernation, migration, plus fun facts about different species of bats. Kids will create their own bat t-shirts (you must bring your own white cotton t-shirt). Space is limited, please register.

Snack Attack Wednesday, April 24, 3:30 p.m. For ages 15-36 months. Make healthy snacks, do sensory food exploration, and listen to a story while eating. Allergies accommodated. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

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

The Poop Museum, Thursday, April 18, 10:00 a.m. Ages 5-10 Learn fantastic, fabulous and fun facts about human, animal, and insect poop in this program that blends solid science with hilarity! Space is limited, please register.

Read to Karl the Dog, Thursday, April 18, 3:30 p.m. For beginner readers. Therapy dog Karl is a great listener! Join him and his trainer Ludlow Animal Control Officer Octavia Anderson for 15 minutes of solo reading. Please register.

Earth Day Scavenger Hunt, Friday, April 19, 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. & Saturday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. All ages. Search the Youth Room for tips and tricks on how to take care of the environment and fight climate change, find them all and win a prize. Drop in.

Learn in Motion, Saturday, April 13, 12:00 p.m. Ages 2-8 An active playtime for little ones and their dads, grandpas, uncles, or other male-identified caregivers. This program will get kids moving, learning, and having a ball! Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

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Monson Arts Council Spring Art exhibition opens April 20

MONSON— The Monson Arts Council 30th Annual Juried Spring Art Exhibition and sale will open at the House of Art, 200 Main St., and in Monson’s Memorial Hall at 198 Main St., on three week-ends from April 20 through May 5, from Noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The exhibition will be open to the public at no charge. A sales shop featuring work by the artists will be open in House of Art at all times during the show.

Awards will be announced on April 20, at 2 p.m. The Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce will hold a reception on Thursday, April 25, at 5 p.m.

The Monson Arts Council will award \$4500 in Prizes in 4 Categories including a \$1000 Best of Show plus a \$500 1st Prize & \$100 2nd Prize in each category of art submitted: paintings in all media, sculpture, photography, and the graphic arts.. Three jurors select-

ed the 139 pieces by 77 area artists from more than 270 works of art submitted. A reception will be held on Saturday, April 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. in both buildings. Prizes will be announced at 2 p.m.

Prize money for the exhibition is supported by donations from a broad selection of business sponsors in the region, including: Monson Savings Bank, Turley Publications, WARE Radio, Steer Rite Tire & Alignment, Dazed Cannabis, Squier Lumber & Hardware, Re/Max, Richard R. Green Insurance Agency, Inc., Monson Family Dental, Architectural Insights and more.

Jurors for the show are Kara Bigda, a freelance painter working in watercolor.

Cathy Liontas of Milford, CT, who has an SCSU, Masters Degree in Art Education. For more information, check the MAC website: www.monsonartscouncil.org.

DIAS from Page 1

Laing said. “you’re not just saying every low-income student in second grade gets tiered support, you are getting recommendations from the teachers before the tiered support.”

The presenter confirmed that this was true, and that the statistic of subgroup populations is based on overall groups, and added that the needs are often different.

“We’re assessing our students continuously,” Tiano said. “That’s been the focus of our planning, it’s to diagnose and prescribe. Students struggling with, say, something in reading, we prescribe an intervention so they get the skills that they need in the manner which they need it so that they can continue and get back on track again.”

Committee Member Ron Saloio asked how this plan might be affected if the THRIVE Act passes and eliminates certain aspects of the MCAS testing. The presenter said that the MCAS is just the state’s way of alerting the program from its dataset, and is supported by other assessments.

“We have MAP assessment, we have Dibbles, which are reading assessments, and other local assessments that we’re utilizing with our evidence-based core academic programs, as well as special

education programs that we’re utilizing,” she said.

The committee unanimously voted to accept the SOA Plan as it was presented.

Field trip approved

The committee unanimously voted to approve a trip to Disney World to take part in a culinary challenge.

“If you recall back to September, Adelei Bernard had submitted, for your approval, the Cook Around the World challenge at Disney World,” Tiano said. “She and her students had competed in this last year (...) and found it to be completely beneficial.”

According to the committee’s policy, a trip like this requires an initial vote of approval from the committee prior to fundraising, and then a final vote once the numbers have been gathered. The committee voted unanimously to approve the trip for four students and a teacher.

The committee also received reports about the initial conversations of the Policy Subcommittee. The subcommittee met Tuesday, April 2, with Committee Members Jeff Laing and Jeff Stratton in attendance.

“These will be posted for everyone to look at online for the recommendations that we made,” Laing said. “We will have a discussion at the next meeting.”

VETS DINNER from Page 1

support their veterans as much as I think they should,” said Chrzan. “This is roomful of veterans, most served in Vietnam and I am very thankful for all they have done for us.”

The Elks aimed to put together other ways to help out former freedom fighters, from personal monetary donations, to contributions for their stock raffles. All foodstuffs, gifts, raffle prizes were given

to various local veteran’s organizations.

The multi-generational dinner program was thought up as a way of supplying dedicated veterans with comfort food. While any and all veterans in attendance were treated to enjoy a flavorful meatloaf dinner free of charge, all other attendees who wished to taste the hearty dish had to pay standard \$10 fee for plate.

“This dinner has been an event we put on to show our appreciation for all those

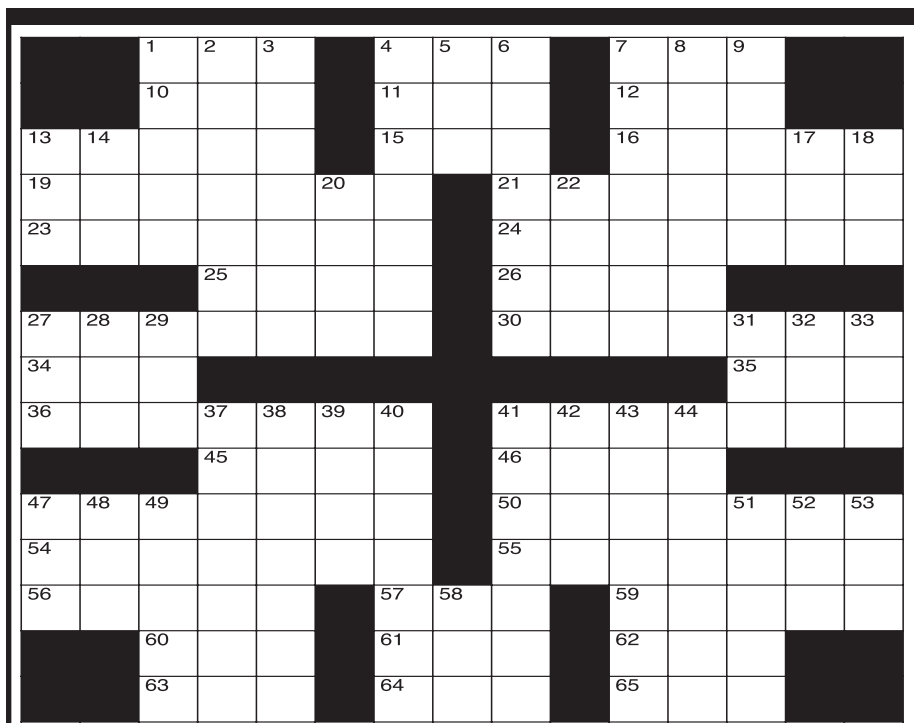
who decided to serve,” Chrzan said. “We want to honor all those who served us and had a helping hand in protecting the freedoms of our country. This is our way of saying thank you.”

With the amount of support from the community that showed up on April 13, there is no doubt that Elks Lodge plans for veteran celebrations will continue far into the future, with many years on the horizon.

The Elks Lodge will be hosting their

third annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on May 9 at 4:30 p.m. for all interested in the area to help support their continued efforts to provide local scholarships and caregiver awards. Tickets may be purchased at the door, but those who decide to pre-purchase tickets before April 28 will be entered into a special drawing.

The Elks Lodge #244869 is located on 69 Chapin St. and can be reached by phone at 413-583-2448.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast
4. For each
7. Airborne (abbr.)
10. Photographs
11. They ___
12. It’s important in respiration (abbr.)
13. Monetary unit
15. Cool!
16. A son of Jacob
19. Cut off
21. Devour
23. Agent of one’s downfall
24. Best
25. Network of nerves
26. Partner to “oohs”
27. Origins
30. Sewing utensil
34. Alias
35. Swiss river
36. Greek mythological figure
41. Type of whiskey

45. Lay to rest
46. “Rule, Britannia” composer
47. Select jury
50. Feeling
54. Action regarded as morally wrong
55. Makes angry
56. Act incorrectly
57. Defensive nuclear weapon
59. Class of escort aircraft carrier
60. To what degree
61. Buzzing insect
62. The human foot
63. “The Leftovers” actress Dowd
64. A place to stay
65. Sun up in New York

CLUES DOWN

1. An involuntary muscular contraction
2. Earnest

3. Cuts out surgically
4. Can’t move
5. Baseball stat
6. British soldier
7. Traditional medicine plants
8. Political party controlled by managers
9. Hebrew prophet
13. Supporter
14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
17. Liberty Mutual mascot
18. Georgia rockers
20. A place where building is done
22. Large, deep-bodied fish
27. Clothing retailer
28. Supplement with difficulty
29. Annoy constantly
31. Founder of Babism
32. Indigenous person in parts of Asia
33. Sea eagle
37. Leave behind
38. Time of day
39. Colorless crystalline compound
40. They lay out course requirements
41. A diamond has three
42. Algerian coastal city
43. Remove cover
44. Rechristened
47. Distinctive practice
48. Defunct phone company
49. Turkish officer of high rank
51. Eliminate from the body
52. Witness
53. Soviet Socialist Republic
58. Founding Father Franklin

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The voters present were (from left) Masa Ghanem, age 10, Emily Fontaine, age 10, Jeffrey Therrien, age 8, Jessica Korzeniowski, age 11, Ava Walker, age 10, and Head of Youth Services July Siebecker. Not pictured: Caitlyn McKinney.

LIBRARY AWARDS from Page 1

a night, and when you have something that's structured, you're more likely to do it," said Sue Therrien. "Signing up for this, they picked their own book based on the ones here, and then they were like, 'this is our reading time, we have to do this because we're going to be in the competition,' so they had to make sure they read at least a couple of books."

Jeffrey Therrien announced to the club that he had learned not to judge a book by its cover. "I still do, though," he admitted, which got a laugh from his friends.

For voting night, the Friends of the Library provided ice cream, which were served alongside pretzels and juice. Sie-

becker took votes from each of the members, and then submitted the vote at 6:30 p.m. She said that the members will be informed when the MCBA announces the winners.

"Everybody in our group who read it loved 'Stella' by McCall Hoyle," Siebecker said. "That one I have to admit I loved, too. I read all 25 books in preparation for this program, and that was one of my top five."

"There were a few others that were high-interest," Siebecker continued. "A lot of kids also liked 'How to Win a Slime War' by Mae Respicio, and then there was one more, a graphic novel called 'Frizzy' by Claribel Ortega and illustrated by Rose Bousamra."

Given the success of the club and



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

July Siebecker led the club in a wrap-up discussion as they talked about their favorite books, and how to improve the club for next year.

the interest and excitement from its participants, Siebecker said that she looks forward to running it again next year, despite having to add another 25 books to her reading list.

"I really hope I get some of the same kids, and I expect they will want to," Siebecker said, and was proven right when she announced that the club would form again next year and all the participants expressed an interest in rejoining.

"I feel like the award itself makes it easy for kids to participate in ways I really appreciate," Siebecker said. "They don't have to read 25, they only have to read one fifth of that. It's a realistic expectation for that age of reader, and the nomination list is really well-curated. It always has a really even balance between the grade levels, and a good balance of a lot of different genres."

Siebecker said that the Children's Book Awards include a good spread of

realistic fiction, fantasy, sci-fi, mystery, and a nice quantity of graphic novels for kids who aren't hardcore readers. Siebecker also praised how diverse the authors and stories for the award are; at the club meeting, Ava Walker mentioned that part of the reason she enjoyed "Frizzy" so much is because the book highlights a girl with curly hair like hers.

"There's always diversity within the selection, including a lot of authors who are people of color and across the gender spectrum, and books that have body-positive themes," Siebecker said. "It's a really nice spread of representation, so every kid who participates is going to find some character they can resonate with personally."

The library is always hosting events that are free to participate for the community. To learn more, visit their website at hubbardlibrary.org.



Parents were able to attend the club and watch as their kids held a discussion about the books that they liked and disliked.



July Siebecker answered a question asked by Emily, age 10.



For the last meeting of the book club, the kids were provided with pretzels, juice, and ice cream from the Friends of the Library.

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SPORTS CLUB from Page 4

funding for ARPA became available, they were big supporters in helping us get the funds," Irizarry said.

Irizarry also thanked the town and the Board of Selectmen for approving the projects, the club's Board of Directors, and Jennifer Alworth from the Massachusetts Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs.

"Those were major key people helping us," Irizarry said. "Thank you to everyone for making the Sport Court possible."

For information about when you can use the sports court or other facilities at the Boys and Girls Club, visit their website at LudlowBGC.org.



The Boys & Girls Club appreciated Jennifer Aldworth, Josue Irizarry, Jake Oliveira, and Aaron Saunders for their work in setting up the new court.



Club members were able to try out the new court following the grand opening.



The new sports court will be available to community members of all ages at specific times.

BACKYARD from Page 6

a shed at the transfer station. One on the lamp post had its wings spread out. It was quite a sight to see.

I saw a turkey vulture spreading its wings like that several years ago on one of the high tension line poles in Oakham. It almost looked like it flew into the post.

Ospreys and herons

This Brimfield resident makes regular trips to several ponds. He said in his most recent email, "In Warren at the pond on South Street the osprey pair that have nested there the past three years have returned. Last year there were three great blue heron nests there that produced young. This year only one pair of herons has returned so far. At my last visit it looked like a heron was incubating eggs or maybe just sitting down?"

He also said, "At the great blue heron rookery at Conant Brook Dam in Monson there are four nest this year. On a visit last week the four nests had birds incubating eggs. There were six nest here last year but one of the trees with a nest looked like it was in danger of falling over, guess it did. And another nest has disappeared." He said there is an osprey pair at the playing fields in Wilbraham by the YMCA/Spec Pond. He saw one of osprey bring sticks to the nest and at another visit one was sitting on the nest.

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.

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SPORTS

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Carillon pitches Granby past Ludlow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

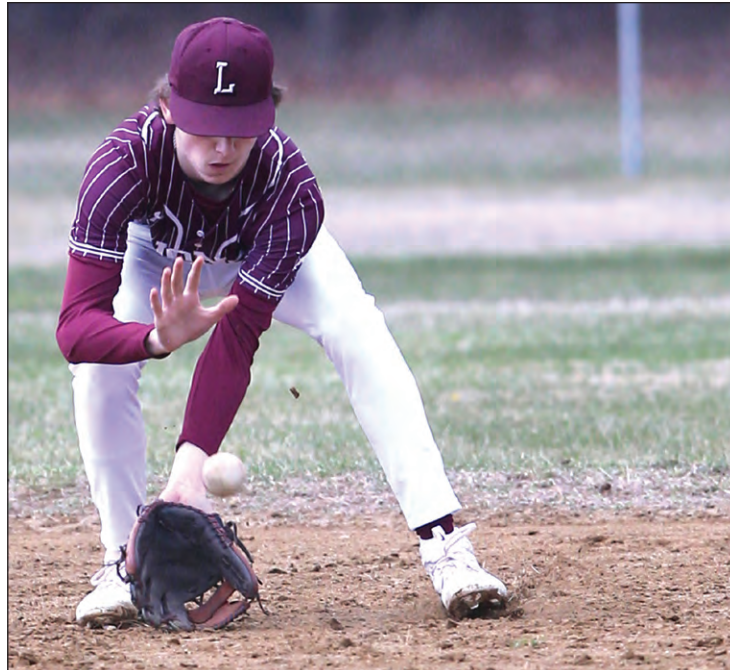
GRANBY—In a span of a couple of hours last Wednesday afternoon, Mabel and Brandon Carillon were the winning pitchers for the Granby varsity softball and varsity baseball teams.

Brandon Carillon, who's a freshman right-hander, and his teammates celebrated a 13-5 home victory over Suburban Central League rival Ludlow. It was the first meeting on the baseball diamond between the two neighboring high schools.

"It just feels great winning my first varsity baseball game," said Carillon, who lives in the shadows of the Granby High School baseball field. "I was a little bit nervous when coach (James) Woods told me that I was going to be the starting pitcher in today's game. We did fall behind early in the game, but my teammates helped me out a lot."

Brandon's sister is a junior member of the varsity softball team, who defeated Smith Academy, 21-8, in five innings.

Carillon, who was a member of the Rams j.v. baseball team last year, pitched three innings in the season opener against Smith Academy, which was a 15-4 win. He hurled the first



Mason Morace is very focused as he fields the grounder.

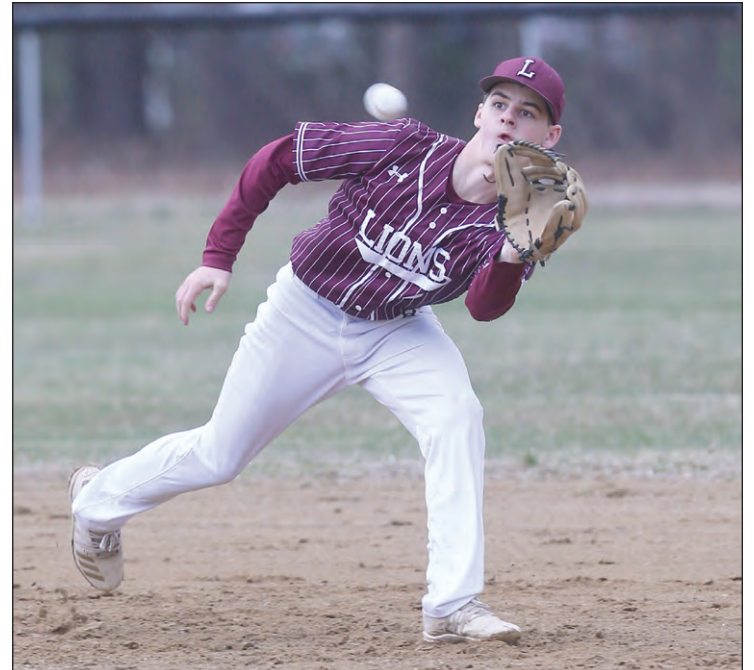
five innings against the Lions allowing four runs on four hits. He walked seven batters and had four strikeouts.

"Brandon was a little bit shaky on the mound in the first inning, but he quickly settled down after that," said Granby assistant coach Matt Misiaszek. "He got out of a second inning jam without allowing any runs, which was huge for us. Brandon is a talented pitcher, and

he knows the game of baseball very well."

Woods, who's the longtime Granby varsity baseball coach wasn't available following the game, which was called due to darkness with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Granby sophomore righthander Anthony Santiago, who replaced Carillon on the mound in the top of the sixth, allowed an unearned run and a



Jacob Santos ranges to make a catch.

hit.

The home victory evened the Rams overall record to 2-2. The Lions fell to 1-3. It was the first league game for both teams.

"We're a young team," said Ludlow head coach Aaron Patterson, who was the boys' basketball coach at the McDuffie School "We're going to continue to play hard in every game this season. I just love coaching this group of players."

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

The Lions did take a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning.

Freshman Christian Kochanek, who was the Lions starting pitcher, doubled to left leading off the frame. He scored when freshman DH Nicholas Dion (2-for-3) lined a single into left field. Senior first baseman Stephen Goodreau, who drew a two-out walk, scored the Lions

Please see **BASEBALL**, Page 12

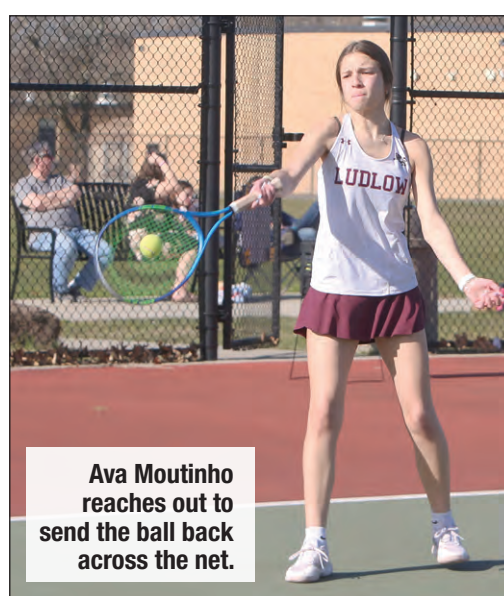
Ludlow defeats Agawam in girls tennis action

AGAWAM – Last Tuesday afternoon, Ludlow girls tennis picked up the win at Agawam High School 4-1. All of the winners in the contest won in straight sets. Malina Dinis took the top victory in first singles. Ludlow also got wins by Gabriella Pereira in second singles, and Isabella Cyr in third singles. Sophia Alvaro and Ashlyn Mortimer got the win in second doubles.

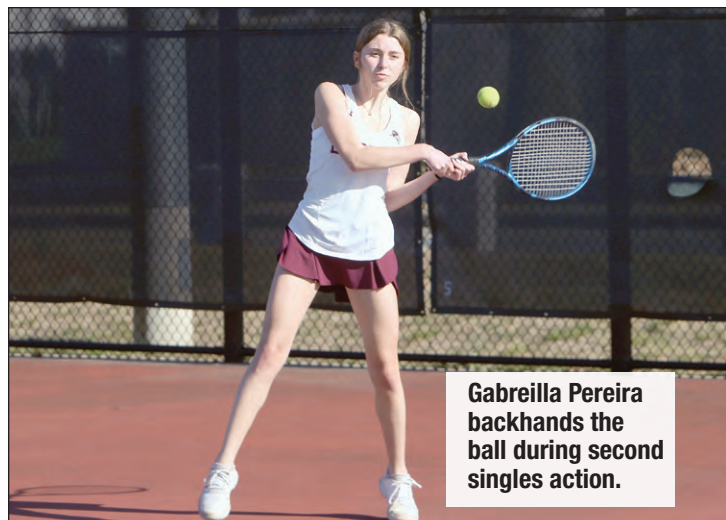
Winning for Agawam was the doubles combination of Autumn Vincze and Lydian Phommachanh. Ludlow is 2-0 to start the season while Agawam is out to a 2-3 start.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

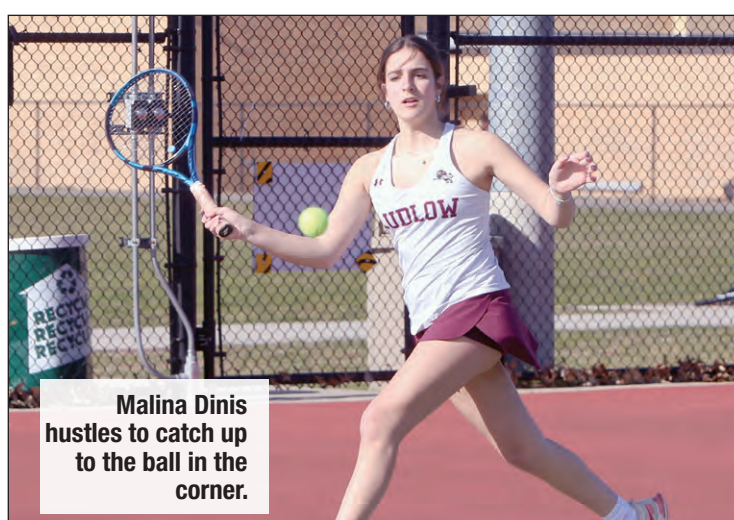
Annabella Castro returns the ball.



Ava Moutinho reaches out to send the ball back across the net.



Gabriella Pereira backhands the ball during second singles action.



Malina Dinis hustles to catch up to the ball in the corner.

Tough start to season for Ludlow softball

LUDLOW – After a few rainouts, Ludlow High School softball finally got its season underway with three games in three days.

After a close loss in their opening matchup, the Lions suffered a pair of tough defeats to go to 0-3 on the season.

Ludlow fell against Mt. Everett 9-8, and then lost at Drury 13-1 and against Hampshire 21-0.

In Ludlow's 9-8 loss against Mt. Everett, Caitlyn Peczkka went 4-for-4 with three runs scored. Deb Rosado-Pagan had a 3-for-4 game with three RBI and two runs scored. Juliana Coelho added two hits with two RBI and two runs scored.

The Lions had a busy week with four games over eight days. The Lions next face Chicopee Comprehensive on April 19 at 4 p.m. followed by a home game with Monson on Monday, April 22 at 4 p.m.

Win keeps playoff hopes alive for T-Birds

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (30-35-3-2) snapped their six-game slide with a 4-2 comeback win over the Providence Bruins (40-20-6-3) on Sunday afternoon inside a sold-out MassMutual Center, the 19th such crowd this season.

The afternoon started rocky, as Patrick Brown connected on a forehand from the slot area on the day's first shot to give Providence a 1-0 lead 46 seconds into the contest.

T-Birds starting goaltender Colten Ellis put himself into a pickle at 9:24 of the first when he mishandled a puck to the side of his net. After a pair of Bruins dislodged it, the third man on the attack, rookie Jaxon Nelson, deked to the backhand to beat Ellis and give Providence a 2-0 advantage. It was Nelson's first professional goal.

Brandon Bussi drew the net for the Bruins, and after shutting out the T-Birds on March 10, he had his sights on duplicating the feat on Sunday, holding the T-Birds off the board past the midpoint of regulation.

With their backs against the wall, the T-Birds leaned on their Man of the Year to jumpstart the squad. Off a draw at 13:08 of the middle stanza, Drew Callin pushed past his opponent to hack a shot toward Bussi's crease. The normally stout netminder sprung a leak this time as the puck sneaked under his legs to get Springfield



on the board, cutting the lead to 2-1.

Following matching minors and another penalty to the Bruins, Springfield's man advantage earned a 4-on-3 opportunity, and the AHL's leading goal scorer made his presence known as Adam Gaudette rifled a one-time snapper over Bussi's glove at 14:40, tying the score off a perfect cross-ice setup by Jakub Vrana.

Special teams proved paramount for Springfield, as the penalty kill went a perfect 5-for-5, including two clutch successes in the final period. Gaudette provided more heroics at 10:32 of the

third when he skated in on the right wing on a 2-on-1 and blistered a wrist shot over Bussi's blocker to give the T-Birds a 3-2 lead on his 44th goal of the season. The two-goal day for Gaudette was his 12th such game this season.

With Providence clamoring for an equalizer in the final minute, Callin, rookie Dylan Peterson, and Kean Washkurak gutted out a defensive zone sequence to clear their end. Washkurak capped things off with an empty-netter from the red line to give the T-Birds the victory.

The T-Birds look to earn a second straight win over the Bruins when they travel to Providence for a rematch on Friday night at the Amica Mutual Pavilion at 7:05 p.m.

HoopHall announces unique new exhibit for this summer

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced another brand new exhibit coming to the museum this summer titled The Vault: Boston Celtics Unlocked. This innovative and immersive experience will be unlike anything the Basketball Hall of Fame has previously produced. The Hall of Fame has collaborated with the NBA's most storied franchise to present this inaugural installation of The Vault.

"We are excited to launch another state-of-the-art space in the world's finest sports museum," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. "The Vault: Boston Celtics Unlocked is a limited engagement that will feature a finely crafted experience that will capture the

imagination of sports fans and speak to the heart of what makes basketball the world's most popular game."

Matt Zeysing, Vice President of Curatorial for the museum, began working on The Vault concept more than a year ago. "We knew we wanted to create something spectacular, something that basketball fans had never seen before. The Boston Celtics represent a winning tradition that is second to none and that tradition still continues today. To that end, our team has carefully curated and brought together the most sought-after Celtic memorabilia in the world."

Set in an immersive bank vault, Celtics legends from the past and present will take visitors on an epic journey to discover the true meaning of Celtic

Pride. The Vault will feature authentic game-worn jerseys, championship rings, the original '81 NBA championship trophy, long-lost footage, and much more.

"The Boston Celtics are honored to bring their history and tradition to life with the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in The Vault: Boston Celtics Unlocked," said Boston Celtics Team President Rich Gotham. "We hope fans enjoy this immersive experience, which will showcase unique memorabilia and celebrate the Celtics' storied legacy."

Visitors will enjoy an exclusive display of Celtics memorabilia for a limited period. Tickets for the museum can be purchased online at etix.com or at the door.

Some roster spots still open in Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League

Rosters spots are dwindling, but there are still some spots available as the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League prepares for its season opener on Sunday, April 28 featuring three games.

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.

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 used as well some expansion to the surrounding area this season. The league does not play on Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekends.

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.

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 ar-

chery, 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.

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

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Dylan Huard makes the throw across the diamond.

BASEBALL from Page 11

other run on a wild pitch.

Kochanek stranded a pair of runners in scoring position in the bottom half of the inning.

Then sophomore shortstop Mason Morace and sophomore centerfielder Alex Spurlock drew back-to-back walks leading off the top of the second inning. The Lions failed to add to their lead in that inning, as Carillon struck out the next two batters before catching a pop-up.

Ludlow made a costly throwing error in the bottom of the second leading to five unearned runs.

Four of the Rams runs scored on RBI singles by senior second baseman Colin Murdock, senior catcher Nik Misiaszek, Santiago, and Carillon. Misiaszek scored the fifth run of the inning on a wild pitch.

The Rams added four more runs in their next at-bats with the help of two run singles by Santiago and Carillon.

Overall, Kochanek allowed nine runs (two earned) on seven hits with two walks and two strikeouts during the first three innings. He was replaced on the

mount by freshman righty Luke Stejna before the bottom of the fourth inning.

Granby sent ten batters to the plate in that frame and four of them scored. Junior first baseman Gavin Kennedy drove home two runs with a single to left. The Rams other two runs scored on a throwing error, which made the score 13-2.

Had the Rams been able to keep Ludlow from scoring two runs in the top of the fifth inning, the game would've ended at that point due to the ten-run mercy rule.

The Lions first run of the frame scored on a Dion RBI single to right field. Stenja, who walked, scored the second run on a wild pitch keeping the game going a little bit longer.

Ludlow scored another run in the top of the sixth.

With two outs in the home half of the frame, Misiaszek and Carillon, who both had two hits apiece, hit back-to-back singles.

At that point, the umpires decided to stop the game, which began at 5pm, due to darkness.

The Rams are scheduled to make the short trip to Whitney Park to battle the Lions for a second time on April 30.



Christian Kochanek pitches for Ludlow against Granby last Wednesday.

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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

DINING FOR A CAUSE: The Villa Rose invites everyone to a fundraiser to benefit the Ludlow Lions Club, on Wednesday, May 1, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Villa Rose will donate 20% of the guest check (excluding drinks) to the Ludlow Lions Club. This includes dine-in or take-out orders. Please join in at the Villa Rose.

MONSON GARDEN Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 11, at Dave Grieve Park Gazebo on Main St. in Monson starting at 9 a.m. A wide selection of perennials in addition to wildflowers, vegetables, shrubs, house plants, bulbs and herbs will be available. Prices range from \$3 and up. There will also be an assortment of special gift planters for Mother's Day gifts.

ST. ELIZABETH'S Parish's next monthly spaghetti supper will be held on Tuesday, April 9 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Pastoral center. Adult tickets are \$7, children (under 10) are \$4 and immediate family cap is \$20.

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.

tion, call Maureen at 413-563-6226.

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

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

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

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



Submitted photo

HIKING from Page 6

stant melody.

There is a sound that a tree makes as it releases ice from its branches. It's quite distinctive; similar to the sound of twisting an ice cube tray in order to free the ice from its trappings. Nothing to worry about when you're in your kitchen filling your glass, but a sound that instills fear when it's coming from directly above your head in the middle of the forest. For that is when the ice becomes NOT a chiller of drinks, but a projectile.

Three-and-a-half miles into our hike, having dodged wayward ice chunks for the better part of an hour, we decided that we'd had enough fun for one day and turned to make our way back to the trailhead. And that is when a nearby tree decided to shed MORE than just ice.

We were stopped on the trail. Tom was about twenty feet ahead of me. We were talking about how unsettling it was to hear the ice breaking away from the treetops and crashing to the ground all around us. But the sound of ice hitting the earth paled in comparison to this new sound that suddenly came from behind me. The source of the sound was unmistakable, and the decibel level told me that this was no small branch that was breaking off of a tree trunk. A tree was coming down. And based on Tom's scream to get out of the way, I was in its path.

Now, prior to that moment, I assumed that all of the trees and limbs that were going to fall had probably already fallen. The rest of the trees were likely strong enough to withstand the onslaught of ice and wind. If they were not, they would have fallen already. Right?

WRONG!

Now it's cataclysmic moments like this when you begin to second guess your decisions. Like perhaps taking a hike on a trail that was littered with fallen trees immediately following an ice event wasn't such a good idea after all. Especially since the reason for the destruction was still very much in evidence on every tree in the vicinity. But there would be time to question my life choices later. Right now, there was just one thing to do. RUN!

When I heard the explosive crack of splintering wood and simultaneously heard Tom yell, "GET OUT OF THE WAY!" I knew that I had, at best, two seconds to get out of the trees path. With my heart exploding out of my chest, I sprinted towards the largest tree nearest me and leapt behind it for cover. A millisecond later, the ground shook as the tree struck the ground.

I remained motionless, trying to comprehend what had just happened while waiting for my racing heart to return to its natural rhythm. I peered around the tree I had taken shelter behind and looked at Tom with my mouth hanging open. The top of the tree was no more than twenty feet from where I was standing. With enormous relief, I looked up to the heavens and said, "Thank you."

As we walked away from what had been the scariest experience we had ever been through on a hiking trail, I thought to myself, 'I really need to rethink my life choices.'

See you in the wild places, my friends! But perhaps not in conditions such as the ones described here.

Church DIRECTORY

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

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
584 West St., Ludlow
413-583-8454
S Sunday services
Sacrament Meeting 10- 11 A.M.
Sunday school for adults, Young single adults(18-30) and teens (11-18) - 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Classes for Single Adults(18-30)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -11- 12 noon
Classes for Young Men(11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon
Classes for Young Women (11-18)- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month - 11-12 noon
Children's classes: Sunday school & singing time every Sunday(3-10) 11- 12 noon
Nursery 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, April 17, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Training for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults - 10 a.m. (JR), Youth Group - 3:30 p.m. (JR), Holy Mother Choir - 5:15 p.m. (C), Scouts - 6 p.m. (FLBH), Scouts - 7 p.m. (JR).
Thursday, April 18, - Daily Mass - 9 a.m. (C), Training for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults - 6:30 p.m. (JR).
Friday, April 19, - Daily Mass - 9 a.m. (C).
Saturday, April 20, - Saturday Mass - 4 p.m. (C), Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C),
Sunday, April 21, - Sunday Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 11 a.m. (C), Sunday Mass - 5 p.m. (C), Take & Eat - 8 a.m. (FLBH & K), Confirmation Class - 8 a.m. (JR), Faith Formation - 10:15 (All Rooms).
Monday April 22, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Bible Study - 6 p.m. (ER)
Tuesday, April 23, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), St. Rita Choir - 2:30 p.m. (C), Bereavement Support - 6:30 p.m. (ZR), Scout Troop Committee - 7 p.m. (ER).

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

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

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

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

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

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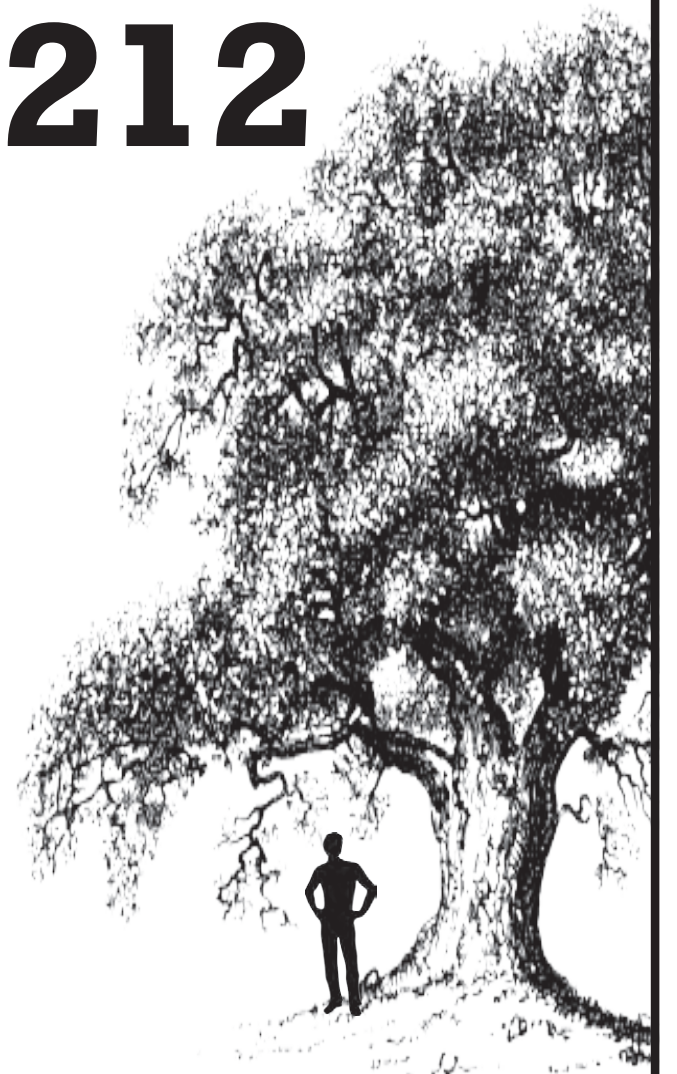
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413-478-4212

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TREE**



PUBLIC NOTICES

LUDLOW ZONING 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 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** on the application of **Pete Ribeiro-Maria Kroll** for the property located at **53 White Street, Ludlow MA (Assessors' Map 15B, Parcel 33, Zoning: Residential A)** The subject of the hearing is a Special Permit for a proposed reconstruction and improvement of the home that was damaged within a fire. The proposed improvements require a finding under MGL Chapter 40A, Section 6. It is believed that the proposed improvements would not increase onto the existing non-conformities and is allowed under the MGL's and Ludlow Zoning Bylaws.
Manny Lopes, Chairman
04/10, 04/17/2024

Sale Of Motor Vehicles Under G.L. C. 255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by **CTS Citywide Towing, 125 Carmelinas Circle, Ludlow, MA 01056**, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. C. 255,

Section 39A, on Monday, May 6, 2024 at a private sale the following motor vehicle will be sold to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle:
2012 Harley-Davidson Road Glide Custom
VIN: 1HD1KHM16CB643122
Plate: 1W4091
LKO: Matthew J Dowd
343 Mill Valley Road
Belchertown, MA 01007
04/17, 04/25, 05/01/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P0753EA**

**Estate of:
Michael P Melnyck
Date of Death: 01/19/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Public Administration** has been filed by **John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for

such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **John J Ferriter of Holyoke, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/06/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 08, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
04/17/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P0761 EA
Estate of:
Jorge F. Teixeira
Date of Death: 10/26/2023**

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kimberly Teixeira of Ludlow, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/06/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely

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UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 08, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
04/17/2024

Meet our families: The faces behind the Habitat homeownership mission

By **Brandice J. O'Brien**

Marketing and Communications Manager, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) recently celebrated its newest homeowner. Single mother **Antonia Santos** purchased a 1,500-square-foot colonial home in Holyoke for herself and her four youngest children. Like her predecessors and someday successors, Antonia came from a challenging background in which homeownership would not be attainable through traditional means.

Greater Springfield Habitat believes its homeownership mission is a crucial foundation for any family. By moving out of substandard housing and into a Habitat home, homeowners and their families become more likely to improve their health, attain a better education, and increase their safety and personal wealth.

"I think we all gain inspiration from our partner families to continue helping others become homeowners," said **Olga Callirgos**, GSHFH Homeowner Programs coordinator. "It isn't easy to overcome language barriers, health issues, domestic violence, or any other bumps in the path of life, but yet it has made our partner families more driven and dedicated to a fresh start."

Antonia and her children are survivors of domestic violence. After



Submitted photo

Antonia's keys to new house.

leaving an abusive husband, Antonia sought help from nonprofits to get a fresh start. She found counseling, training, and employment. She learned to live by a budget, save regularly, give back to the community, and build a support system through her work and church families.

"It has been a hard road, but I made it. No, we made it, my family and me," said Antonia at the Valentine's Day dedication, a ceremony celebrating the completion of the new home's construction. She closed on the house the next day. "God is good. He has blessed me tremendously, especially with my family and the opportunity to partner with Habitat for Humanity to help make my dreams come true."

In January 2023, Greater Springfield Habitat sold a home,

which neighbors Antonia's residence, to a family of four. Lifelong renters **Juan Gonzalez** and **Ireydiza Perez** purchased the home to give their two young children better lives.

Several years before they partnered with GSHFH, **Juan** and **Ireydiza** dreamed of purchasing their first home through traditional means. Then, tragedy struck. A workplace injury disabled **Juan**, the breadwinner. Following several surgeries and two strokes, their dreams were put on hold. **Juan** was unable to return to work. **Ireydiza** left school to become the sole breadwinner, and create time to care for their children and her recuperating husband.

"I know we all experience unexpected hardships in our life and these times are when our trust in God is tested," **Juan** said. "After my stroke

and losing my career, my family and I got tested. I didn't think getting a house for them would be possible. Thanks to Habitat for Humanity, y'all are making our dream come true. ... Not only do you build houses and sell them at affordable prices, but you also save lives through this program. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for giving us the opportunity to be homeowners."

In September 2023, Greater Springfield Habitat accepted the newest family into the homeowner program – **Driss** and **Majda Errahali** with their four children. The family emigrated from Morocco in 2018 in search of better opportunities. They lived in a house in West Springfield until a car crashed into the home causing structural damage. It was condemned and the family was moved to a tiny two-bedroom apartment in the same town. The girls who are 8- and 11-years old share one bedroom, while the **Driss**, **Majda**, and the two youngest boys share the other bedroom.

"We applied through the homeownership program to get a home so that our children would have a better life," said **Driss**, the patriarch who works as a truck driver, while his wife **Majda** cares for the children. "My dream is for my children to be good people and useful to society and do good deeds for the environment and achieve their dreams." Construction on **Driss** and **Majda's** home is scheduled to begin this spring.

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