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Annual Joshua DesForges Run/Walk takes off!



Well over 250 people took off when the announcers signaled the beginning of the race at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning.

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW - This Saturday, the community came out to run for the annual Joshua DesForges Scholarship Fund Race.

It was a beautiful, sunny morning when residents and members of the community gathered at the High School to participate in the annual fundraiser walk. The event was attended by town officials from municipal departments, and numerous families of all ages, including local residents and out-oftowners from all over the area.

This walk is organized to support the scholarship fund in Joshua DesForges's name, which has been managed and awarded to a local student every year for the past 14 years.

Desforges was said to have "lived life full-throttle," achieved his dream of becoming a U.S. Marine. In his honor, instead of a regular 5K walk, this 3+ mile road and trail run includes obstacles inspired by the Marine Corps.

This year, the top three finishers were Michael Goodreau, David Lipson, and Jhon Wielblad.

Proceeds from the event go to

Please see **DEFORGES**, Page 16

Fundraiser dinner held to benefit **DesForges Scholarship**

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW - This weekend was the 13th annual Joshua DesForges Fundraiser, which included the annual walk/run at the high school, and a pasta dinner at the Polish American Citizens Club.

Every year, the community comes together to remember the life of Joshua DesForges, a town native who died in Afghanistan in 2010, by awarding a scholarship to a local student, and with the annual walk/run in his name.

'The race went awesome," said Arlene DesForges, Joshua's mother. "We got a lot of very positive feedback, the weather was beautiful, and the trail was great. People loved the obstacles, and they liked interacting with marines on the course."

DesForges said that it was Tom Cote, a staff member at the High School and her son's mentor when he was a student, who started organizing the Memorial Fund.

"Josh did not like school,



Eric and Melanie Segundo presented a check to the Joshua **DesForges Scholarship Fund.**

but he wanted to become a marine, so I had asked Tom to keep him on a good track," DesForges said. "When we lost Josh, he started fundraising for the memorial and scholarships."

In the first year, the fundraiser was able to raise money to build a memorial to DesForges behind the high school. After its success, Cote and the DesForges family continued to organize with the community for the last 14 years, only missing one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

> Please see **SCHOLARSHIP**. Page 9

Anticipation builds for Mills Apartment Complex

By Harrison Giza Staff Writer hgiza@turley.com

LUDLOW - The new apartment complexes being built inside Ludlow Mills and the clock tower are set to kick off later

While many local residents are excited to live inside the monumental housing development, the people behind the scenes creating the space are just as ready as they are.

"The first thing is that we are starting to accept applications to live at the residences of Mill 8," said Ed Cafasso, spokesman for WinnDevelopment. "They can visit livemill8and10.com to get more information and we have a couple more informational sessions coming up in the next few weeks for people and there is going to be a lottery and housing application process. However, if you go to the website, you'll be able to see when the informational sessions are and how the lottery is going to

Cafasso wants the public to know how to secure an opportunity at Mill 8 and 10.

"People can also apply in person if they go to the management office at Mill 10," Cafasso said. "That location is at 68 State St in Ludlow and we are really excited about the progress that is being made on the residences at Mill 10. Construction is about 80% complete at this point and one of the most visable things is the work that is being done on the interior of the property, finishing apartments and community rooms and that sort of thing."

Cafasso is excited to see how Ludlow residents view the pending apartment complex.

"What Ludlow residents will see is that staging has been erected around the clock tower," Cafasso said. "That is in preparation for work that is going to begin shortly to restore the tower, the exterior of the tower and the clock. We want to attempt to get the clock to work again. So, it is exciting for me because the clock tower is such a landmark for people in the area and we are thrilled to start work on that portion of the project while we finish the apartments and com-

Please see **MILLS**, Page 14



Upcoming Events!

To register for any events

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Ludlow 250th Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Saturday, May 18

4 Person Scramble

at Westover Municipal Golf Course

Team Total: \$500

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Saturday, May 25th, 10am-noon

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

Kicks Off at 9 a.m. the Gremio Lusitano War Memorial, 385 Winsor St.

250th Celebration Block Party Picnic & Parade

Saturday, June 15th

10 a.m. Kick Off of the parade from Ludlow High School 11:30 a.m. Block Party Picnic at Ludlow Memorial Park/Veterans War Memorial Park 9:20 p.m. Fireworks

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LUDLOW

Butterfly Garden to honor beloved science teacher

By Harrison Giza Staff Writer hgiza@turley.com

LUDLOW - William Koscher, a former teacher in Ludlow, helped start the AP program at the high school. Now, he hopes to start a new educational adventure in memory of his beloved wife, Elizabeth, with a butterfly garden memorial.

"We are doing this in honor of my wife Betsy," said Koscher. "Right now it is pretty much done and is set up at Harris Brook School, which is the school that replaced Chapin St School just about a year or so ago."

Koscher is committed to sharing his late wife's story.

"Chapin is where Betsy taught," said Koscher. "We had a lot of generous contributions and donations, even a GoFundMe kind of thing, and whatever that doesn't cover we are going to cover. It will be on the Chapin St side of the school. They had three raised stets there that were part of the construction of the new building and the School Committee has given us permission to use the middle of the three as a butterfly garden for Betsy to honor her."

Those that had the opportunity to know Elizabeth Koscher, both inside and outside of school, were fortunate. With the amount of support the butterfly garden has received so far, it seems Koscher has left a resounding impact in Ludlow, a town she lived all her life in.

"She was a fourth grade teacher who loved to teach and taught a lot of science," Koscher said. "One of the big things she included was the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Some of the fourth grade teachers still teach a unit from that so we just thought it would be an appropriate tribute for Betsy."

Koscher is excited and relieved at the amount of support he has seen in honor of Betsy's educational impact.

"We've sent notices to all of our friends and to local contributors and really whoever we could think of to tell them about our little dedication ceremony," Koscher said. "Afterwards, we are going to meet at the First Church hall for a nice luncheon."

For those that may not have known Bet-

sy for her teaching skills or warm smile, they may remember her and Bill as for their shared giant unicorn sculpture on their front lawn in Ludlow.

"I sold the house to a lovely couple with two young kids," Koscher said. "We closed about a month ago or so and they have not moved in yet. I think they might be delaying moving in until their own kids finish the school year... but we gave them the option of taking the unicorn away and finding another place for it."

The buyers intend to keep the unicorn, he said.

Koscher was a collector of curious objects; filling her home with a full-sized cow skeleton, a menagerie of roadkill specimens, a small shark that she stored in the freeze, and of course, multiple butterflies.

Koscher recalled his wife's love of but-

"It really is hard to pinpoint it. It goes back as far as I can remember," he said. "It was something she decided that she really wanted to do. She originally taught second grade for the first four years or so of her career, and I think she introduced the whole idea then. She was a science-brained kind of person and she loved all kinds of science. I think she fixated on that because she knew it would be something that the kids would enjoy."

He also recalled his wife's love of educating students.

"Everything she did in class had to be something that kids would enjoy doing," Koscher said. "There was always a lot of hands-on stuff and this was a perfect example of that. She loved the butterflies. Every year, at least in the last 10 or 15 years, during the middle of her butterfly unit, she had an outfit that she would put on. It had butterfly wings and these Groucho Marx glasses with a big nose as a kind of disguise. I remember she even had a pointer... but she would enter the room on those days as, in character, as Doctor Entomology."

Koscher and his family are pleased that the Butterfly Garden will be a teaching garden that will carry on, not only the love Elizabeth had for monarch butterflies, but continue towards the joy she experienced when teaching children about their life cycle during her tenure at Chapin St School.

The family is in the process of planting the garden over the next couple of weeks and will be holding a dedication of this memorial garden on Saturday, May 11 at 11 a.m. It will be held at Harris Brook School, 766 Chapin St, Ludlow, MA. A commemorative luncheon will follow at 12:30 p.m. at the First Church hall in Ludlow, 859 Center St.

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The Ludlow Fish and Game Children's Fishing Derby is scheduled for May 4, 2024

Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. and fishing starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 1:00 p.m.

This event is open to the public and participants through age 16 are welcome.

Prizes for four age groups for 1st and 2nd place will be awarded based upon time and length.

Lunch will be provided.

Rain or shine!

Fishing gear and bait must be provided by the participant.

Library hosts Boston Justice to talk about **Lincoln Assassination**

Ry Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW - The Hubbard Memorial Library continues to serve as a source of information and learning for all ages by hosting a historical talk on the assassination of President Lincoln.

Did you know that the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865, was not the first attempt on the president's life? Members of the audience of the April 11 speech, including this reporter, did not, until sitting in on Justice Dennis Curran's presentation about the historical event.

The talk was held in the library's conference room, and given to a crowd of residents and library patrons of varying ages. Olivia Eberli, the library's Reference and Technology Librarian, arranged for Curran's visit to the library.

"Justice Curran actually reached out to us to let us know about the different topics that he presents on," Eberli said. "His list of accomplishments and topics was amazing."

Eberli said that after researching Curran and watching videos of his speeches, she decided that he would be an engaging speaker and emailed

"It came out that his favorite presentation was 'The True Story Behind the Lincoln Assassination," Eberli said. "I knew I had to book that presentation; letting someone speak about their favorite topic or subject is always more interesting."

The speech was booked for April, just days before the anniversary of Lincoln's assassination.

Curran spent the talk outlining some of the misconceptions surrounding the historical event. He compared his research from contemporary texts and visits to museums dedicated to Abraham Lincoln to the Apple+ series "Manhunt," which he described as entertaining, but histor-



Justice Dennis Curran shared a slide depicting a sketch of President Abraham Lincoln's final moments.

ically inaccurate.

One misconception that Curran was adamant about debunking was that John Wilkes Booth was a lone operator, as Booth was working with a group of anti-abolitionists to assassinate Lincoln since before he was even elected.

Curran told the story about how assassins had attempted to kill Lincoln while he was on the campaign trail prior to his election, and then again when he was working at the White House. He provided detailed maps, as well as pictures of the various co-conspirators, the codex they used to share messages, as well as a little background on the individuals involved.

"John Wilkes Booth was not so great of an actor," Curran said. "He was very careless with his lines, and would oftentimes forget his lines in the middle of a play, and then he'd immediately launch into a swordfight, because that was what he could really do.'

Boston native Dennis Curran graduated from the University of

Pennsylvania and received his law degree from the University of Virginia. He shared that he started researching the assassination of President Lincoln after graduating in order to give himself something to study.

At the end of the presentation, Curran shared a number of titles of historical non-fiction that delved into the topic, including "Backstage at the Lincoln Assassination" by Thomas Bogar, "Decapitating the Union" by John Fazio, "We Saw Lincoln Shot" by Timothy Good, and the works of Harold Holzer, including "The Lincoln Assassination," "President Lincoln Assassinated: The First Hand Story of the Murder, Manhunt, Trial and Mourning," and "The Lincoln Assassination - Crime and Punishment, Myth and Memory," written with Craig Symonds and Frank Williams, among many, many others.

Eberli said that the library hopes to have Justice Curran back in the future.

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Brillo recognized for recent award

By Harrison Giza Staff Writer hgiza@turley.com

LUDLOW - Tim Brillo, athletic director at Ludlow High School, was recognized at last week's school committee meeting after being named Athletic Director of the Year.

The news was shared at the meeting by Superintendent Frank Tiano.

"Mr. Brillo on March 28 was at the annual conference of the Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association, where he was awarded Athletic Director of the Year," Tiano said. "This is an amazing

The Massachusetts Secondary Schools Athletic Directors Association (MSSADA) recognizes outstanding contributions and leadership in high school athletics across the state. Tim Brillo's dedication, innovation, and commitment to excellence have made him a true stand out amongst

Under Brillo's guidance, Ludlow High School's athletic programs have flourished, not only achieving success on the field but also emphasizing the importance of sportsmanship, teamwork, and academic achievement among student-athletes.

Tiano continued to discuss his high praise for Brillo.

This has been shared publicly and we shared this here at our last meeting, but we wanted to bring this up tonight this evening that in person we could congratulate him.

With 14 years as the school's athletic director, it should come as no surprise that Brillo won the prestigious award.

Tiano then echoed the presentation from the awards ceremony held last month, allowing Brillo to be recognized

by the

c r o w d

MSSADA MSSADA MSSADA

Tim Brillo and wife Kristen.

school committee meeting.

Tiano listed Brillo's many efforts and accomplishments during his time as athletic director.

'Tim has been a respected Athletic Director for 14 years and as a certified Athletic Administrator through the NIAAA (National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association). He began his career as a physical education teacher at Ludlow High School where he has served as the department chairperson for 10 years. Tim's commitment to athletics extend to coaching as well as he was the girl's varsity basketball coach for 22 years and also the offensive coordinator at Westfield State for 10 years. Locally, Tim has served on the PVIAC (Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference) District One Executive Board, Eligibility Appeals Board and has held roles such as Ice Hockey Chairperson and has been a member of the Western Mass Tournament Coordination Committee. Tim has also contributed at the state level. He cur-

rently serves on the Ice Hockey Committee, the District Athletic Committee and was a member of the MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association) Board of Directors for two years."

Tiano then added his own comments, sharing that Brillo himself did not release the news, and that it was leaked out to the

"I have worked with several Athletic Directors and Tim by far is the best one that I have ever worked with. All the words here presented by that presenter hit home for me, Brillo said. "Tim you are an excellent administrator, not only by the athletic department, but as well throughout the high school and our community, so for me, I just wanted to say congratulations. I wanted to say it publicly. It is a heck of an honor and we really appreciate you."

"I am fortunate to be in Ludlow," Brillo said. "I mean you can tell I did not grow up in Ludlow from my accent. I'm fortunate and I say this all the time, if you are in a community that has number one, supportive coaches, and great athletes and parents, and then if you have a supportive school committee and superintendent that appreciate educational athletics, and then ultimately being able to work with Lisa (Nemeth) as my principal, who is just so supportive in everything that we do and what I do and allows me to do my job. She is very, very supportive of what our kids are doing and I am just extremely fortunate to be in Ludlow."

School Committee Chairperson Sarah Bowler thanked Brillo for his service to the school district.

"It is no surprise that you are still here," Bowler said. "You have been fantastic since the beginning so thank you for everything that you do for our students Ludlow and continue to do. I am really happy to have you here."

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250th Golf Tournament

LUDLOW -- The 250th Committee invites you to play golf with us on Saturday, May 18 at the Westover Municipal Golf Course at 181 South St. in Granby.

Registration starts at 11 a.m., with the shotgun start at 12:15 p.m.

The fee is \$500 per foursome and \$125 per person. The entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, a golf cart, a goodie bag and a buffet-style dinner.

Special events are for low score,

closest to the pin and Holea in - One sponsored Mercedes-Benz

of Springfield.

The 250th Committee is proud to have Mercedes-Benz as a sponsor. There will be a basket raffle and much more.

Space is limited, so please register soon as the deadline is Friday, May 10. Registration starts at 11 a.m. and with a shotgun start at 12:15 p.m.

Golf registration forms are available on the committee's website at www. ludlowma250.org. If you would like to sponsor a hole at the golf tournament, the sponsorship fee is \$100.

For more information on sponsoring a hole, please contact Linda Collette by phone at 413-427-3072, or by email at ludlowma250@gmail.com.





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Route 20 billboard unveiling honors Wilbraham, Longmeadow residents

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Family and friends gathered along Route 20 on April 19 for the unveiling of a billboard honoring two residents from Wilbraham and Longmeadow.

The residents, Jackson Connors of Wilbraham and Sadie Slattery of Longmeadow, are also patients at Shriners Children's of New England and will be recognized as honorees at the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament supporting the organization on Aug. 9.

The event, taking place at Franconia Golf Course, is still looking for foursome teams to join, with tee off at 10 a.m. followed by dinner, raffles and performances by Project 267 at the Elks on Tiffany Street in Springfield.

The dinner event is open to the public and for anyone who wants to check out the band and not do dinner, it's \$10 at the gate.

To sign up, visit ma-cthomes.com and click the 'Golf Event' tab.

As the billboard was unveiled, the children reacted with shock and excitement to see their faces on the billboard for everyone driving along Route 20 to see.

"It was really cool. It's an honor," Connors said.

"I think it's pretty cool because everybody can see it and then, hopefully, we can get more people to raise awareness," Slattery said.

Connors and Slattery were happy to have the community support at the unveiling.

"It means a lot because family and friends are important," Connors said.

"Mainly because everyone can see it and I think it's good," Slattery said.

Connors and Slattery hope the billboard helps raise awareness for Shriners and for the upcoming golf tournament, stressing the importance of their work with children.

"Shriners is important because I had a clubbed foot and I couldn't play with my friends, then Shriners helped me a lot and helped me play with my friends and just have fun," Connors said.

"I think it's important because I also go to Shriners and the whole Shriners made me feel a lot more confident and made me feel better about the whole situation, so I'm very thankful for it and I'm glad to be doing this," Slattery said.

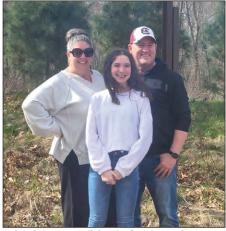
Brenda Cuoco, broker/owner at Brenda Cuoco & Associates Real Estate Brokerage, was ecstatic about the unveiling, wanting to give back to the kids and raise awareness for the organization and the upcoming event.

Cuoco said she loves teaming up with Shriners and supporting them, adding giving back to the community brings her great joy.

"I absolutely love it. There's nothing better than being able to support someone like Shriners. Any of the businesses around that we can support locally. Like I said, we just love giving back," Cuoco said.

The community support also means a lot to Cuoco.

"We just want to keep changing peo-



A family photo of Sadie Slattery of Longmeadow with her parents Stella and Derek after the billboard unveiling honoring Slattery and Jackson Connors of Wilbraham on April 19.



A family photo of Jackson Connors of Wilbraham with his parents Jill and Nick after the billboard unveiling honoring Connors and Sadie Slattery of Longmeadow on April 19.

ple's lives and make a difference and leaving a legacy most of all is what we love to do," Cuoco said.

Keri Tichy, associate director of philanthropy at Shriners Children's of New England, explained last year's golf tournament raised \$27,000 for Shriner's Children of New England and she is looking forward to this year's event.

Tichy expressed gratitude to Cuoco and her team for their support, adding how Shriners Children's of New England treats everyone regardless of ability to pay and 85 cents to every dollar goes towards patient care.

"Their efforts help to transform the lives of so many children across New England and upstate New York. We can't do it without them and our community and strengthening strong partnerships," Tichy said. "To be able to see our amazing patient ambassadors on a billboard this year out in the community just strengthens that even further."

Connors and Slattery encourage the community to support Shriner's and give back to the community.

"Sign up for an event for a great cause," Connors said.

"Help donate to Shriners," Slattery said.

To learn more about the organization, visit shrinerschildrensnewengland.org.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

A photo of the billboard unveiled along Route 20 in Wilbraham featuring Jackson Connors and Sadie Slattery to promote the Aug. 9 Golf Tournament supporting Shriners Children's of New England.



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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Minister wants to maximize Social Security benefit

Dear Rusty

I want to apply for Social Security, but I want to make sure I get all the benefits I have earned. I am a veteran with a 10% disability rating (not sure if that matters). I am 68 years old. I am a minister and have been exempt from Social Security taxes for most of my income since I was about 30, but I still have the 40 quarters needed. I have also worked off and on in the secular workplace and continued paying Social Security taxes.

One hears a great deal about those who want to "help" us apply for Social Security, but which turn out to be a scam or want a fee. How do I apply and maximize my benefits with my unique situation?

Signed: Seeking Answers

Dear Seeking

Don't worry about fees here at the AMAC Foundation – there is never a fee for the services we provide as we are non-profit. And I want to thank you for your military service, you may find the "For Veterans" section at our AMAC Foundation website interesting at www.amacfoundation.org.

To your question

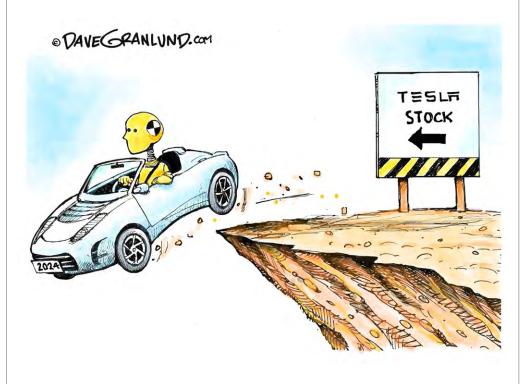
Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit. At 68 years old, your Social Security benefit payment has been earning Delayed Retirement Credits since you reached your Full Retirement Age of 66 years and 4 months in July 2022. That means that your benefit, if you claim now, will be about 13% more than it would have been had you claimed at your FRA. FYI, if you continue to delay, your SS benefit will continue to grow by 8% per additional year you delay,, up to the month you turn 70. At that time, your SS benefit will be 29% higher than it would have been at your FRA. Nevertheless, if you wish to claim a smaller amount now, you can do so in a couple of

You can call Social Security at 1-800-77-1213 or your local SS office to request an appointment to apply. They will most likely set a date/time to call you to take your application over the phone, they discourage office visits these days.

Once you have applied, it typically takes a month or two to process your application, but they will pay your benefits effective with the month you say you want them to begin. Note, they will likely also offer you six months of retroactive benefits but be aware that if you accept that offer your monthly payment will be permanently reduced by

You can apply for your SS retirement benefit online at www.ssa.gov/apply. Applying online is, by far, the most efficient method, as shown in this short video: www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm. However, to apply online you will need to first create your personal "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you have your personal online account set up, you will be able to see what your SS retirement benefit will be now and at future ages should you plan to wait longer to claim.

Your SS retirement benefit will be based on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security FICA taxes were withheld or self-employment earnings on which SS payroll taxes were levied. In any case, your SS benefit will be based on your lifetime earnings record contributing to Social Security, as well as your age when you



GUEST COLUMN

What to do when and how to do it

he last few gorgeous days got us all outside and into our home landscape.

Maybe you looked at this or that and said "Now what do I do?" Here is a column straight from the archives to best guide you through the next oh so fun (and busy) weeks in the garden.

DO remove spent blooms from spring flowering bulbs. Once "deadheaded" the bulb won't expend energy making seeds, instead, it will store it and delight you with an even healthier stand of flowers next year.

DO NOT cut, braid or otherwise alter bulb foliage. It may not be the prettiest, but

as long as it is green, (and to some degree even when it is yellowish) it is photosynthesizing, making a storehouse for next spring's blooms.

DO turn under your covercrop of winter rye now, a few weeks prior to planting your vegetable garden. Plant

residues will have a chance to break down without stealing valuable nutrients from newly transplanted seedings.

DO NOT add fresh manure to garden plots as it will burn plants. Be sure to compost it for at least six months prior to use. Make your compost pile "hot" by balancing the amount of green and brown ingredients and by turning it regularly. The result is a near neutral weed-free source of organic matter.

DO prune spring flowering shrubs soon after blooming. Forsythia and lilac for example, bloom on the previous season's wood. By pruning once their blooming period is complete you will allow enough time for regrowth without sacrificing next year's blooms.

DO NOT prune fruit trees now. Better to wait until the trees are dormant. You can, however, rid apple trees of pencil sized or smaller water sprouts in mid summer. Simply grab one with your hand and give it a quick jerk. Removing a small portion of the branch from which it grows will likely prevent future sprouts in this area.

DO begin to harden off homegrown seedlings and garden-bound indoor plants over the course of the next few weeks. By gradually acclimatizing plants to the outdoors you will likely prevent transplant shock and other maladies such as sunscald and windburn. Start off with a few hours outside each day, working up to all day and overnight. Then, as long as the threat of

frost has passed the plants can successfully be planted in the ground.

DO NOT plant pepper seedlings until the soil has sufficiently warmed (usually by the first week in June). Research indicates that planting peppers in cold soil will stunt

plants and reduce yields. You can warm the soil where peppers (and other heat lovers) are to grow by laying down sheets of IRT mulch a couple of weeks prior to planting. Then simply cut holes in the plastic and plant as normal.

DO cut asparagus with a knife just under the surface of the soil. In established plantings you can harvest spears for about six weeks. Leave those that are thinner than a pencil. Although we wish the season could go on forever, allowing foliage to form will only return energy to the roots, making for tasty shoots next spring!

DO NOT allow weeds to take over the strawberry patch! Applying a mulch of shredded leaves, composted sawdust or pine needles will not only keep the weeds at bay, but it will feed the plants and keep

Please see **GARDEN**, page 7

newspaper plans to print stories about

contested races for Congress, state Sen-

ate, 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 or-

der to ensure fairness to all candidates,

no political press releases will be printed

nor will reporters cover political rallies or

Candidates who wish to further pub-

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

licize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in *The Register*.

fundraisers.

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

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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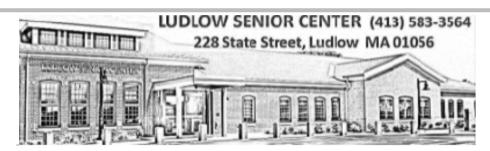
DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



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Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 7



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, May 2

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, May 3

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 & Bal-

ance Class*
1 p.m. Magic Class

Monday, May 6 9 a.m. Knitting

9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp* 10 a.m. Computer Help 1 p.m. Scrabble 1 p.m. Better Together 1 p.m. Author: Hanna Marcus

1:15 p.m. Author: Hanna Marcus 1:15 p.m. Pitch 1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencils*

Tuesday, May 7

2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

9 a.m. Quilting 9 a.m. Line Dancing 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 p.m. Decorating Committee 1:30 p.m. Bingo 4:30 p.m. Power Pump Class 5 p.m. Guilt Trip

Wednesday, May 8

8 a.m. Garden Club
9 a.m. Ceramics
9 a.m. Zumba Gold
10 a.m. Nutrition Check Up
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones &
Balance Class*
12:45 p.m. Movie: Guilt
TripTeidi GHhhey
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Bal-

Thursday, May 9

ance Class*

8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10:30 a.m. Friends Meeting
11 a.m. Lunch Bunch*
1 p.m. Mahjong
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

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

Daily Events:

Café: Monday – Friday 8-11

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, May 2: BBQ Riblet/Fries/Corn

Friday, May 3: Loaded Baked Potato/Soup

Monday, May 6: Swedish Meatballs/Noodles/Broccoli Tuesday, May 7: Baked Cod/

Rice/Green Beans Wednesday, May 8: Chef Salad Thursday, May 9: Hamburger/ Fries

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

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



GARDEN from page 6

developing berries clean at the same time!

DO sow grass seed soon, before crabgrass has a chance to take hold. Or better yet, sow seed in late August, or early September, when this dreaded weed is near done its life cycle. Water sown areas daily to promote timely germination.

DO NOT rototill patches of perennial weeds; you are merely spreading them about the garden! Better to hand weed, digging out the roots completely. After planting is complete mulch around plants to cut down on future weeds, conserve moisture, and add organic matter to the soil. When applying mulch around trees and shrubs remember to pull it back, away from the trunk to prevent girdling.

DO have fun in the garden this spring!

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

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 6

claim. You'll get your maximum benefit based on those factors.

Although your situation is somewhat uncommon, it is not exceptionally unique. Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit and, because you are a member of the clergy, you are not subject to Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision. a rule which reduces SS benefits for those with a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security. In other words, your SS benefit will be based entirely on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security payroll taxes were withheld and your age when your benefit starts.

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Dias apologizes following resignation from school committee

By Harrison Giza Staff Writer hgiza@turley.com

LUDLOW – Former School Committee member Joao Dias apologized publicly for an incorrect statement he made during his resignation statement at the April 9 meeting.

On April 9, Dias spoke at the end of the meeting

and said he was resigning his position on the committee and listed several reasons for his decision to leave the board.

At the April 23 meeting, Dias spoke at public

At the April 23 meeting, Dias spoke at public comment, retracting part of his resignation statement falsely identifying an individual he spoke about at the meeting.

"I made a statement at the end of the school committee meeting that I would be resigning," Dias said. "During that meeting, I listed 8 reasons for my resignation.

"I stand by everything that I said except for reason number 6. I misspoke in that I identified a teacher in a specific department and that department was incorrect. An apology has been made in writing to that individual and I thank you for your time."

At a prior school committee meeting on April 9, Dias had announced his resignation to a packed room of committee members, teachers and concerned parents of Ludlow students.

Dias said he could no longer in good conscience be a consistent member of the Ludlow School Committee due to the current state of the board. He later added that he believed certain members had made statements that were not in good character for the future of Ludlow schooling.

"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 believed other members of the committee have not been serving the community as it should.

"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."

The position that Dias formerly held is currently vacant with many local residents left wondering who in the town will step up to the plate and fill the position

The School Committee works with the Superintendent; the Superintendent works with the staff. The School Committee is concerned with the end results and both the Superintendent and School Committee advocate on behalf of the Ludlow Public Schools.



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Seeing a Total Eclipse beats any partial viewing

By Marcelo Gusmão Staff Writer mgusmao@turley.com

REGION – Last weekend, I had the opportunity to travel to Canada to see the total solar eclipse, and to meet friends from all over the continent.

In the region we live in, only a partial eclipse was visible. I had previously seen a partial eclipse in 2017, when the Hubbard Memorial Library where I worked handed out specialized eclipse glasses, as they did this year, but I was told - and would soon discover for myself – that the experience of standing beneath a total eclipse is vastly different.

On Sunday, April 7, I set out for Sherbrooke, Quebec with my friends Sam Hoffman and Paul Schmelz, her husband. Schmelz, who is used to long drives thanks to tours with his band, Cheap City, drove the whole five hours on Route 91 through Vermont.

I've previously visited Canada several times, usually going to Toronto in Ontario, but unlike Ontario, I found that Quebec is a heavily French-speaking region. Despite having studied French as a child and practicing it daily as an adult - thanks, Duolingo - I am always surprised at how far from conversational my French is; fortunately, many Canadians also speak English.

Though the stated purpose of the trip was to see this once in a lifetime celestial event, the real draw was the opportunity to meet friends that I've known over the Internet for close to four years. Even when I could not socialize in-person during the COVID-19 lockdowns, I was able to regularly play games online with friends from as far as New Jersey,



The moon is at the exact perfect distance from the Earth to blot out the much larger sun entirely from view.

Ontario, Saskatchewan, and, of course, Western Massachusetts.

Whereas we were able to drive from Massachusetts, Corey Donaldson from New Jersey and Morgan Moats and their partner Marc from Regina, Saskatchewan flew to Toronto, where they met with Alana Watson and her husband Kyle to drive to Montreal.

On the afternoon of April 8, hours before the eclipse would happen, the two groups convened at a park in Magog, Quebec. We had just enough time to catch up with each other before the moon began to block out the sun.

This is the part when it's essential to wear your eclipse glasses. An article by the Australian Radiation Protection



As the moon blocked out the sun, its light was refracted across the sky, with light still visible on the horizon.

and Nuclear Safety Agency explained how looking at the sun during an eclipse damages a person's eyes.

"Exposing your eyes to the sun without proper eye protection during a solar eclipse can cause retinal burns, or solar retinopathy," said the report. "The retina has no sensitivity to pain, and since the effects of retinal damage may not appear for hours, there is no warning that an injury to your eye has occurred. The damage can be temporary or permanent and can cause symptoms such as loss of vision, distorted vision or altered colour vision. The amount of time looking at the sun that will cause eye damage varies between individuals, but in all cases is only a matter of seconds."

The mid-afternoon light began to dim around us as more of the sun became covered. Watson, who did much of the arrangement of the trip, regaled the group with science facts about the eclipse as we counted down to the moon covering the sun.

"At this point, we might see unusual animal activity," Watson announced.

Our group looked around, but the park was empty of animals aside from a couple of dogs and, of course, the humans who were gathered there. Hoffman did point out a turkey vulture that took off while we were looking, but its behavior seemed relatively normal.

We did, however, note that it got several degrees chillier as the eclipse happened. With much of the sun's warmth blotted out, what would have been described as T-shirt weather suddenly got cold enough to need jackets and sweat-

The thing about eclipse totality is that we live under very specific conditions to make it possible. The sun is approximately 40 times the size of the moon, but it is also 40 times further from our planet than the moon is; this means that if the moon were in a different position, it would not be able to block out the sun perfectly the way it does during an eclipse.

As the moon's orbit of the Earth continues to expand and the moon gets further from our planet, there will likely be a time in the future when the moon will no longer be able to fully eclipse the

"When the eclipse reaches totality, because of the way the light is refracted, you'll be able to see a 360-degree sunset," Watson said.

I did not know what a 360-degree sunset would look like. Watson could not describe it to me, either, but in a matter of minutes, I would be able to see it for myself.

A hush fell over the crowd when the moon slid into position in front of the

sun. All of a sudden, it was as though we were standing in twilight.

"There's a hole in the middle of the sun," Moats sang to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It"; this ditty would be stuck in my head for the rest of the week.

At this point, it was safe to take off our eclipse glasses and look directly at the light above us.

The 360-degree sunset – or sunrise – was a band of orange light that wrapped around the horizon as though the sun had just set. It hadn't set, of course, it was right above us.

The total eclipse lasted for only a handful of minutes, but it was an experience that I can only describe as primal.

Humans have been looking up at eclipses since time immemorial, even before we knew to wear protective lenses. A story dating back to the 6th Century, B.C.E. describes a six-year war in Anatolia, now present-day Turkey, which came to an abrupt halt because an eclipse passed over the Battle of Halys.

Standing in the middle of the totality, I can understand why people in ancient times would see this as some kind of omen; for a few minutes in a day, at a time when our knowledge of the patterns of celestial bodies was rudimentary at best, it felt like the sun just blinked out for a while.

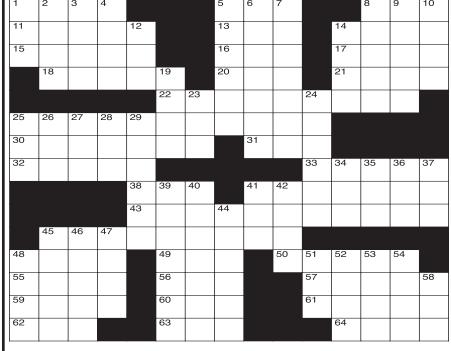
In all too short a time, the moon moved out of the sun's way and it became light again.

Immediately, we began to warm up, and the glasses came back on so we could watch the moon move out of the sun's way. With the main event over, my friends and I went to a nearby Italian restaurant to have a meal and say our farewells.

The trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and the biggest cost to me and my friends was a very long drive home. We fought through traffic for over an hour to get over the Canadian border on Tuesday, August 9, and the restaurant we stopped at along the way assured us that their business had been through the roof as people flocked to Vermont for

The next time an eclipse passes over North America won't be until 2044. In August of 2026, though, a total eclipse will pass over Iceland, Portugal, and northern Spain.

If you can afford to travel, I highly recommend you make plans to visit the Iberian peninsula in two years to see an eclipse in its totality. Even if you've seen a partial eclipse before, there is nothing that quite compares to seeing the sun blink out of sight for a few min-



CLUES ACROSS

- Lions do it 5. In favor of
- 8. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 11. Pulpits
- 13. Leisure activity 14. Fertility god
- 15. Financial obligations
- 16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
- 17. Spanish river
- 18. Sporting events
- 20. Type of tree
- 21. Ceased to be
- 22. Persons
- 25. Synthetic resin 30. Relates to photochemical reactions
- 31. Father 32. Former Cowboys
- coach 33. City in Finland 38. Run batted in

- 41. Got through
- 43. They darken skin 45. In a harmful way 48. Form of weaving
- 49. City of Angels hoopster 50. Caucasian
- language 55. Syngman ___,
- Korean president 56. Sun up in New York
- 57. Paddled 59. Fishes 60. Affirmative
- 61. Nimble 62. Doctor of
- Education 63. Soviet Socialist Republic 64. A small island
- **CLUES DOWN** 1. Cool! 2. Hebrew unit of
- measure 3. Swedish rock

- group
- 4. College army 5. Favor over another
- 6. Called it a career 7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
- 8. Israeli statesman 9. Hurries
- 10. Slog 12. Midway between south and southeast
- 14. Benedictine monk 19. Self-immolation
- by fire ritual 23. Family of regulator genes
- 24. Surrendering 25. Political action committee
- 26. S. American plant 27. Long-term memory
- 28. Bark 29. Breathes in 34. Take hold of

35. Everyone has one

- 36. Valentine's Day color
- 37. Drivers' licenses and passports
- 39. Outer walls of castles
- 40. Enters with force 41. One thousandth of an inch
- 42. Deceased Chinese politician
- 44. Sugary secretion of plants 45. Expressed
- pleasure 46. Shelter 47. Utilizes
- 48 Forest resident 51. Fashion accessory 52. A sharply
- directional antenna 53. __ Kristofferson, actor
- 54. A bad place to end up
- 58. MLBer Gordon



Photos by Marcelo Gusmão

Glenn DeBlois, Bob Boduch, and Dave Bassett served dinner to the hundreds of people who attended the fundraiser.



Arlene DesForges, the mother of the late Joshua DesForges, pictured with VFW Post 3236 Commander Paul Chrzan.

Scouts Jrake Cullison (sic) and Miguel Pires interrupted their dinner to get a picture with the Thunderbirds mascot, Boomer.



Sergeant Sierra Williams, Lance Corporal Dakota Williams, Lance Corporal Mark Nieves, and Corporal Savannah Williams accomplished some community service by participating in the fundraiser, according to David Williams (right).



Ron and Michele Thompson looked over the raffle prizes that were part of the fundraiser dinner.





Working the front table were Tina and Ken Ziencina, Melanie Segundo, Kara Smith, and Christine Bussett.



Ken and Tina Ziencina were eager to get a picture with Springfield Thunderbirds mascot, Boomer (center).

SCHOLARSHIP from page 1

The fund seeks to provide scholarships to graduating seniors to pursue their lives' passions, whether it's to continue their education, or to pursue other projects that don't involve college.

Since then, the community has continued to rally around Des-Forges's memory. In recent years, it's expanded to include a Pasta Dinner at the PACC on East Street.

"The Club donated all the food and the use of the hall," DesForges said, "giving us more money than we would have made. We also get these extremely generous donations; the Veterans of Foreign Wars gave us a check, and Veterans Auxiliary also gave us a check towards the scholarship. There are so many donations and sponsors that also contribute, and that makes a huge difference."

This year, the Scholarship Fund received support from the 250th Semi-Quincentennial Committee, who challenged the community to bring as many as 250 racers to the event. The community was able to meet this goal, and DesForges thanked the committee for the support and publicity.

The scholarships are to be awarded on Senior Night, and DesForges said that the fund has already reached its goal of \$10,000 for this year. Applications for the scholarship were due

by May 2, and involved two recommendations, including one from a teacher or Ludlow Public Schools staff member, and a 250word essay.

"It all depends on the essay," DesForges said. "We have a small committee that reads all the essays, and (the students) have to express their passion in life. It's about if they strike the chord of passion."

DesForges is herself a teacher in the district for 25 years. After 12 years as a paraprofessional, she became a full-time teacher, and currently teaches Special Education.

"I think there's a need for kids that aren't always going to follow the education path, kids going for different options," DesForges said.

Though DesForges is happy that the fund provides local students with opportunities they may not have otherwise had access to, she added that her foremost pride in the project is immortalizing her son.

"As a parent losing a child, your biggest fear is they're going to be forgotten," DesForges said. "Because of the community, and Veterans Agent Eric Segundo and Tom Cote, especially, who got this whole thing going, we can support younger people pursuing whatever it is in life they want to do."

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

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

On April 28, in 1881, Billy the Kid escaped from a prison in Mesilla, NM, where he had been convicted of murder and sentenced to death. He would be killed months later by Sheriff Pat Garrett.

On April 29, in 1992, riots erupted in Los Angeles over the acquittal of the four police officers charged with the 1991 beating of Rodney King.

On April 30, in 1897, English physicist J.J. Thomson announced the discovery of the electron, revolutionizing knowledge of atomic structures, for which he was later awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics.

On April 31, nothing happened because that date doesn't exist.

On May 1, in 1931, the Empire State Building, then the tallest building in the world, was officially opened.

On May 2, in 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France.

On May 3, in 1494, Christopher Columbus arrived on the island of Jamaica, which he dubbed Santiago.

Finally, on May 4, in 1970, the Ohio National Guard opened fire on four unarmed students at an anti-Vietnam War protest at Kent State University.



Public Domain

The iconic New York City landmark, the Empire State Building, was unveiled on May 1, 1931, and would be the world's tallest building for four decades.





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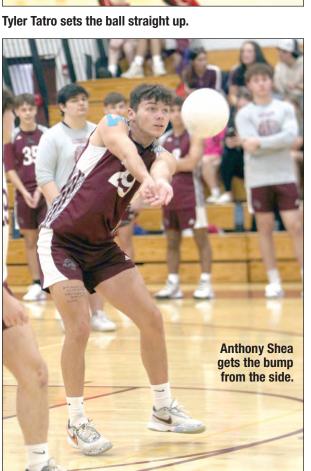
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Tristan Moss sets up a play.





Andrew Provost sends a long hit from the back line.

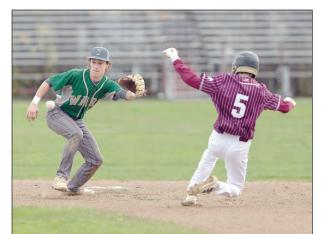
Lions rise above .500 with win over **Southwick**

LUDLOW - Last Friday afternoon, Ludlow had its second home game in as many days. After falling against Westfield, the Lions rebounded to defeat Southwick by a 3-0 sweep. The Lions are now 6-5 on the season and have a pair of matchups with Agawam this week, including one tomorrow, May 3, at home at 5:15 p.m.

Lions softball picks up win

LUDLOW - Last Friday afternoon, Ludlow was able to edge McCann Tech 14-13. The Lions pounded out 17 hits in the win. Juliana Coehlo, Ariana Fitzpatrick, and Kylie Roach had three hits each. Roach and Olivia Cruz as well as Emma Arocho had three RBI each. The Lions have won three of their last four games and are 3-4 this

Lions baseball remains winless

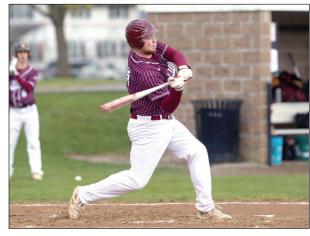


Collin Doyle sets

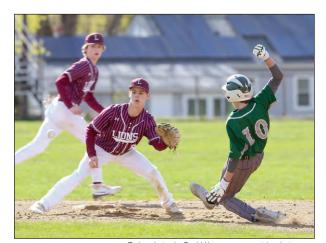
to the front line.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Alex Spurlock slides into second.



Stephen Goodreau swings and connects.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Jacob Santos looks to tag out a runner at second.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago Staff Writer rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – The Commercial Elks made it to their final regular week of league candlepin bowl-

These series of matches will conclude the final round and will determine the third qualifier for the playoffs.

As of April 16, The Champs R Here are in first place at 27-9. In the running Acres is in second place at 25-11. Team BK is in third place at 24-12. The remaining teams are mathematically eliminated from playoff conten-

Compression and Life is Good have already qualified for the playoffs.

One match took place between #1 seed Champs R Here against #2 seed Acres. In game one, Acres defeated Champs R Here by a score of 398-382. Matt Bertelli and Paul Tereso of Acres each broke 100 in the opening game (Tereso 101, Bertelli 106). Stephen Manolakis of Champs R Here began with a 114.

In game two, Champs R Here defeated Acres 375-362. Manolakis led the team with a 113.

In game three, Champs R Here defeated Acres 385-367 to win a total of three points and secure the last playoff spot. Manolakis finished with a 109 and a series of 336.

The final score is Champs R Here at 1142 and Acres at 1127.

#3 seed Team BK bowled against Last in Line. Team BK won the first game 353-345. In game two, Last in Line won 367-354. Vinny Navarro bowled a 112 to lead Last in Line to a victory. Mark Fitzpatrick of Team BK bowled 118.

In game three, Team BK won the last game by a score of 378-361. The final score was Team BK at 1085 and Last in Line at

The two playoff teams, Compression and Life is Good, bowled each other in the last week of round three. In game one, Compression took the first game from one of their playoff opponents 361-345.

In game two, Compression won again by a score of 352-341. Jason Dominick of Compression led the team in the second game with a 104.

In game three. Compression won for a three-game sweep over Life is Good. The score in game three was Compression at 364 and Life is Good at 357. The final score was Compression at 1077 and Life is Good at 1043.

As a result of winning three points against Acres, Champs R Here are the winners of round three and will be in the playoffs. Compression, Life is Good and Champs R Here will compete against each other in the final week of the season for the league championship.

The remaining four teams who didn't receive a playoff berth will compete in a consolation roll off.

Monday Night League Play-

The final two teams who made it to the final week of the season are Tag Team and the Four Stooges. After three competitive games, Tag Team prevails and are the 2023-2024 candlepin league season champions for Monday nights.

Tag Team consists of John Havens Sr, John Eckart, John "JT" Terault and Nick Maslon. The runner ups of the season, The Four Stooges, consist of Dave Chambers, Rich Chambers, Joe Grant and Marc Pelissier.

T-Birds put bow on successful season at MassMutual

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds completed a historic season in style on Saturday, hosting a 14th consecutive sellout crowd inside the MassMutual Center. The capacity crowd for the finale also marked the 20th time during the 2023-24 season that "the Thunderdome" hit its maximum occupancy.

Both the 14-game sellout streak and the 20 total sellout crowds set Springfield AHL hockey records, and those were merely two statistics from a year full of shattered records and overwhelming support from the fanbase. The Thunderbirds' ticket sales department saw distinct growth in numerous categories, including group ticket revenue (up 30% from 2022-23), season ticket revenue (up 15%), and total full-season tickets sold (up 5%).

"The support this franchise has received from day one has been indescribable," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "It takes so many factors for an American Hockey League franchise to succeed, and our front office staff is right up there with the best in the business. Their tireless efforts, coupled with the passion and energy of the Thunderdome crowd, made this historic season a reality. We have no intention of slowing down either, which should make our fans so excited for what will come."

Of the 6,321 fans who attended Thunderbirds games on average last season, about 25% were members of various groups participating in a wide variety of in-game experiences, from Premium Suite and Executive Perch parties to on-ice activities like national anthem performances and high-five tunnel teams. Springfield's front office staff efforts helped the club generate the eighth most group tickets sold in

"We have long worked at making Thunderbirds games a lifelong memory for fans of all ages," said Costa. "In the process of doing that, we have been able to showcase members of our community, which has led to amazing opportunities for these groups to have a huge audience and grow their followings. Performing at Thunderbirds games has become a checklist item for thousands in this area, and we take great pride

This season, the T-Birds saw an average of 93.1% of all seats filled inside the MassMutual Center, the highest average attendance to capacity in the AHL's Eastern Conference and second-highest in the league. Such successes in filling the arena directly led to the Thunderbirds' corporate sales department reaching new heights.

In the 2023-24 season, the T-Birds saw a 15% growth in corporate revenue while sitting atop the league rankings in total sponsorship deals. Integrations with sponsors have continued to be showcased across various mediums, from in-arena and in-ice signage to social media post sponsorships and elements of the ingame broadcast production.

"Having widespread support from our business partners is also paramount to success in the American Hockey League," Costa added. "Our corporate team has fostered meaningful relationships beyond return on investment and emphasized Springfield's pride for the city. Their accomplishments are remarkable when compared to markets of exponentially greater

Supplementing the Thunderbirds' success in tickets and corporate business, the franchise experienced a seventh consecutive season of brand development and merchandise growth as the club rose to the top 10 in the AHL in-game night merchandise sales, with an emphasis on creating high-quality product lines across not just the T-Birds brand, but specialty nights as

"We are aware of how impactful merchandise can be from a grassroots marketing perspective," said Costa. "Giving our fans the ability to show their pride for specialty evenings like Pink in the Rink, Ice-O-Topes, and Military Appreciation further bolsters our connection between our team and the community."

The Thunderbirds will look to build upon their record-breaking success when the 2024-25 season, the eighth Thunderbirds hockey campaign, gets underway this October. Schedules and single-game tickets will go on sale later this summer. Fans can reserve their seats for Thunderbirds' hockey action in the 2024-25 season with a ticket membership by calling (413)-739-GOAL (4625) or visiting www. SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

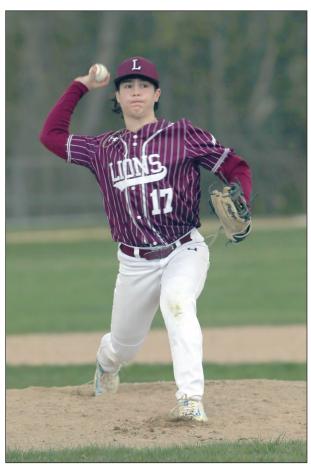
Lions baseball remains winless



Jacob Santos slings a throw to first.



Dylan Huard fields the bouncer to third.



Christian Kochanek pitches to the plate for the Lions.

LUDLOW - Last week was another tough one for Ludlow baseball, which suffered three losses during the Wednesday, the Lions were shut out at The Lions are now 0-8 on the season

week. The Lions would fall to Monu- home 9-0 by Ware High School. Palmment Mountain, Ware, and Palmer. Last er defeated Ludlow 13-3 last Thursday.

and hope for their first win against South Hadley on Thursday, May 2.

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 dinein 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.

FROZEN Polish Food Sale (Golabki, Kapusta (Cabbage, Potato & Cheese, Sweet Cheese, Blueberry) Pierogi will be held on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish Hall, 25 Parker St.

BAZAAR St Elizabeth Parish, Ludlow, is now accepting vendor applications for St Nick's Christmas Bazaar to be held on Saturday, Nov. 16. Please call Pat Flaherty at 413-531-6997 and leave a message, or send an email to pflaherty1952@charter.net.

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Church DIRECTORY

FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL
A Church of the Nazarene
485 East St. Ludlow, MA 01056 413-583-7875
Email: faithcommunitychapel@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 Iudlowfellowship.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 11-18)- 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

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, May 1, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Youth Group - 3:30 p.m. (JR), Holy Mother Choir - 5:15 p.m. (C), Confirmation Mass - 6 p.m. (C), Confirmation Reception - 6 p.m. (FLBH), Scouts - 7 p.m. (JR). Thursday, May 2, - Daily Mass - 9 a.m. (C), Knights of Columbus - 6 p.m. (JR)

Friday, May 3, - Daily Mass - 9 a.m. (C)
Saturday, May 4, - Saturday Mass - 4 p.m. (C), Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C), Prayer &
Share - 6:30 p.m. (JR).

Sunday, May 5, - 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)

 $\begin{array}{l} \mbox{Monday May 6, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Ladies} \\ \mbox{Auxiliary of the K of C - 1 p.m. (JR), Bible Study - 6} \\ \mbox{p.m. (ER).} \end{array}$

Tuesday, May 7, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), St. Rita Choir - 2:30 p.m. (C), Bereavement Support - 6:30 p.m. (ZR), Eucharistic Revival - 6:30 p.m. (FLBH).

> 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 am to 2 pm
Available by appointment at other times

Sunday worship at 10 am alternating weekly with
Grace Union Church, Wilbraham
Call or check Facebook or the website for the
schedule of worship and events
Service live-streamed at 10 am on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow
Website: www.ludlowfirst.com

ORCHARD COVENANT CHURCH

95 Berkshire Street
Indian Orchard, MA 01151
413-543-4204
Revs. Karen and Nick Munn, pastors

Sunday School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.
Worship in person, 11 a.m.
Or watch our livestream.
See our website for more information:
orchardcovenant.org.

GoNetspeed to host first annual Mass. Broadband Legislative Summit

SPRINGFIELD -- As widespread access to broadband continues to lag throughout much of Central and Western Massachusetts, GoNetspeed will host the Massachusetts Broadband Legislative Summit on Monday, May 13, to focus on innovative solutions to deliver broader access to high-speed internet service.

Information and registration are available at www.gonetspeed.com/broadband-summit.

A space for civic officials, technology officers, internet service providers, and economic development officials, the state Broadband Legislative Summit presented by GoNetspeed will bring together leaders from throughout the commonwealth for a half-day event to improve access to broadband in Central and Western Massachusetts.

"As we have worked to provide communities throughout the Commonwealth with access to more choice and better speeds, we have seen that due to the difficult pole application process, much of the state is left behind without access to quality service options," said Richard Clark, GoNetspeed President and CEO. "By bringing together industry, state, and civic leaders, we have created a space to discuss opportunities and solutions to bridge the quickly growing digital divide for the students, workers, cities, towns, homes, and businesses that lack access to high-quality, high-speed solutions."

Representative Angelo Puppolo, Jr. and Senator Adam Gomez are among the

Please see **BROADBAND**, page 14

Thompson Pool opening, passes available

LUDLOW — The Recreation Department would like to inform anyone interested in obtaining a pool pass for the Thompson Memorial State Pool that you can purchase one at the Recreation Office located at Whitney Park.

The office hours are Monday through Friday, 5:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Please call before 10 a.m. if you're coming during this time, as the Clerk is not always in their office. Must show license/proof of MA residen-

The pool is "tentatively" scheduled to open June 22. The fee schedule is as follows

- Daily entrance fee is \$4 for state residents and \$5 for non-residents.
- Season passes are \$60 per family, maximum five immediate members (parents and children only). Children must be 16 or un-
 - \$5 each additional immediate

member over the original five.

- \$30 per individual (ages 17-
- \$10 per Senior Citizen (age 60+)

All patrons entering the pool area must show a license, with or without a pass. There is a capacity limit within the pool area so all patrons entering the pool area must pay, as the fee is an entrance fee not a user fee.

Pool rules:

- All patrons must wear arm band during their stay
- · All patrons must sign in and sign out
- No alcohol
- No smoking
- No flotation devices of any kind (arm bubbles, floaties, swim vests etc)
- No goggles with the nose
- No toys, balls, etc. allowed

No glass containers (coolers will be checked)

Only diapers that are for swimming are allowed & must be worn with a bathing suit - diaper changing is only allowed in the bathroom on the changing table

Only proper swimming attire is allowed (bathing suits) boys must have netting inside (no underwear) - no cutoffs, shorts (gym or otherwise), shirts/tank tops/sports bras (only swim shirts), no bathing suit cover ups etc. Everyone must take a cleansing shower before entering

Management reserves the right to refuse admittance to or eject from the pool premises, any person failing to comply with any safety regulation or rule or whenever is deemed necessary

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Recreation Office at 583-8856.

Police encourages residents to clean out medicine cabinets

National Drug Take-Back Day April 27

LUDLOW -- Chief Daniel Valadas is proud to announce his department's participation in the upcoming National Drug Take Back Day.

This event provides a secure, convenient, and responsible way of disposing of prescription drugs while also raising awareness about the potential for medica-

The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Police Department, 612 Chapin St.

Residents are encouraged to bring expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs to the police headquarters for safe disposal. The service is free and anonymous, and no questions are asked.

This initiative is vital in addressing public safety and public health issues, as unused medicines in homes are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. Unfortunately, rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.

Valadas said, "It is too often that we come across prescription medication used by someone other than the patient who originally received the prescription. Not only is this dangerous, but it is a drug supply that is easy to stop. Take a few minutes and check your house for expired medication or meds that are no longer needed, and turn them in at our collection site on Saturday."

Please note that the Police Department can only accept pills or patches, not liquids, needles or sharps.

At the conclusion of the event, all collected medications will be delivered to the DEA for safe disposal. The DEA sponsors National Drug Take Back Day twice a year and has collected over 8,950 tons of prescription medication since the program's inception in

Letter Carriers hold annual food drive

National Association of Letter Carriers will hold their annual food drive on Saturday, May 11. Don't forget to leave a donation of nonperishable food preferably in cans and jars, by the mailbox, to be picked up by the local letter carrier.

This drive is a national event and helps many pantries provide food to local families in need. The food donated in Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Indian Orchard will be brought to the Community Survival

INDIAN ORCHARD—The Center that day. Last time, participants donated over 7,000 pounds of food from the Letter Carriers drive. With everyone's help, we hope to surpass that this year.

> The Community Survival Center's Emergency Food Pantry provides bagged groceries, up to six times a year, to low-income households from Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Hampden, as well as from the Indian Orchard and Sixteen Acres neighborhoods of Springfield. Senior clients may reside anywhere in

Hampden County and visit the Pantry each month. Families enrolled in the Preschool Program also visit the Pantry every month to collect 20 breakfast, lunch, and snack items for their children who are not yet enrolled in school.

The Center also has a Thrift Shop that sells donated clothing, jewelry, shoes, dishes, etc. and uses the proceeds to help support the

Parents, Grandparents & Friends **SPECIAL**



Honor Your Graduate

We are offering a great deal for you to celebrate your graduate in your community graduation issue. Submit a photo and a brief message.

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2 x 3 Advertisement



Love Mom, Dad, John and Chloe

BROADBAND from page 13

experts speaking at the Massachusetts Broadband Legislative Summit. Other sessions will include discussions on the status of broadband in the state, opportunities to bridge the digital divide, implementation strategies, and more.

GoNetspeed will present the first annual state Broadband Legislative Summit on Monday, May 13, from 8 a.m. to noon at American International College in Springfield.

Event organizers encourage civic officials, economic development leaders, and those looking to advance broadband throughout the commonwealth to register soon as attendance is limited.

For more information on the summit and to register online, please visit www.

gonetspeed.com/broadband-summit.

GoNetspeed, a high-speed fiber internet provider serving residential and business customers in Maine, Alabama, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and West Virginia, formed a partnership with Oak Hill Capital in January 2021, allowing GoNetspeed to accelerate the expansion of its fiber network throughout the Northeastern U.S.

Adding thousands of new service areas every year, GoNetspeed is one of the largest independent internet providers in the east. For more information about GoNetspeed, or to inquire about service in your residence, business or community, visit gonetspeed.com.

MILLS from page 1

munity spaces inside of Mill 8."

Cafasso believes the property will become a great addition to the town.

"Whenever we talk about this property over the years people have always asked us about the clock tower," Cafasso said. "I think, you know, it is exciting to be able to begin work on that aspect of the project because it is so very visible and it really means something to people who live in the area. Generally, we are excited to bring this community online in the next four or five months and to begin the process of people being able to apply to live there. It is going to be a beautiful

He described the various kind of apartment homes that will be available

"These buildings when they are converted into apartment homes are very interesting and different," Cafasso said. "There will be one bedrooms with dens and two bedrooms apartments. All the open concept apartments with exposed brick walls, beautifully-restored beam

ceilings, and stainless steel appliances are going to be quite exciting for people to see. These historic buildings always produce apartments that you won't be able to find anywhere else... and there will also be a fitness center, resident lounge, work from home spaces and a nice outdoor patio. It will be great to start moving people in this fall."

The location is set have 95 apartments within the 220-square feet on the Mill with 43 units available for rent at 60% or below of area median income, with 40 market rate units and 12 units for people earning 30% of area median income. This wide range of affordability is something Cafasso hopes the public responds well to.

"This is the most exciting time for these kids of developments," Cafasso said. "Everything is coming together and we are preparing to finish the project and get it ready for people to move in."

For information regarding applications, apply in person at 68 State St on Ludlow or go through the process online at livemill8and10.com.

SCHOOLS

Baird Middle School Honor roll

School names these students to their Honor rolls for term 3.

High Honors 2030

Jaxon A. Antaya, Leia S. Begin, Mark A. Botelho, Cayden P. Burns, Justin A. Canoa, Chloe M. Cavallo, Kristiana M. Chutkowski, Ethan J. DaSilva, Nicholas A. Del Negro, Brigid L. DiVenuto, Ivan Dong, Casper N. Drap, Lilliana M. Dube, Cesia E. Estrada Requena, Hirad Falahatian, Mason S. Ferrabelo, Alexander J. Hamilton, Benjamin D. Hill, Blake C. Housey, Calvin M. Iwasinski, Hadley V. Kaytra, Aubrey C. Keane, Jacob H. Kowalski, Natalie K. Kowalski, Lucas A. Lage, Alexander M. Linna, Ava J. Martins, Christopher J. Mathisen, Layla R. McDaniel, Carlos Merino Hernandez, Makenzie A. Morin, Addison E. Murphy, Mariah L. Parent, Xavier C. Pereira, Ryleigh E. Picard, Maria R. Premo, Lorenzo J. Sanches, Lennox C. Schuko, Olivia D. Sekowski, Isabella R. Skura, Peter A. Szewczyk, Jackson D. Teixeira, Jason K. Tirado, Jayden A. Torres, Dilara Turk, Jacoby S. Voyik, and Ryan M. Whiting.

Honors 2030

Khereya N. Ahmed, Ali A. Al-Ghabban, Natalie P. Alvaro, Klayten L. Ashcraft, Mert C. Baytemur, Brennan M. Bishop, Jameson P. Bishop, Cora M. Blackburn, Haylo A. Braz, Sean X. Buchanan, Omar Y. Cancel Hornedo, Alex A. Castro, Matthew R. Clapprood, Alivia I. Coates, Izabella M. Collazo Serrano, Marina R. DaSilva, Isabella C. Dias, Kayla J. Dias, Mackenzie P. Dion, Julianna D. Disanti, Alexis R. Dos Reis, Ana G. Duarte, Callie L. Duclos, Chloe J. Duclos, Gavin M. Elias, Mason R. Fontaine, Caleb F. Foster, Ava G. Fraga, Ava N. Gallup, Aubriella S. Garcia, Kaylee L. Germain, Viviana R. Goncalves, Lily A. Grassetti, Mackenzie L. Gray, Madeline L. Hardick, Emma M. Harvey, Benny M. Hernandez Baez, Ellie M. Hua, Zachary E. Kielbania, Ella R. Kirchner, Joseph A. Klink, Samuel C. Labrie, Morgan R. Lepine, Sydney G. Lopes, Jahnziel Luccas, Dylan K. Maina, Aloralynn V. Maravilha, Addyson P. Mayette, Marjories K. Mercado Skerrett, Jayden A. Merceri, Sofia N. Perez, Violett L. Perez, Miguel A. Pires, Arrayah S. Plummer, Alex Ramik, Xzevio D. Rivera, Jaidielys Rodriguez Nieves, Brooke E. Ruszala, Olivia V. Sanches, Victoria M. Saraiva, Ella S. Smith, Lorelai R. Smith, Savannah R. St. Germain, Haylee A. Sullivan, Andrew J. Surprenant, Felicity R. Tenney, Gracie-Ann S. Tuck, Mert Turan, Azra A. Turk, Jett C. Whitney, Jason P. Willis, and Ania E. Wojcik.

High Honors 2029

Haley M. Adams, Alanna A. Aniolowski, Lea B. Avezzie, Lily R. Ayers, Siena F. Bahgat, Quentin A. Blake, Emirhan Bolat, Jakub Bulatewicz, Ma-

rio V. Ferrero, Samantha E. Gianni, Adrienne N. Glanville, Chandler A. Gregory, Kylie A. Gregory, Cora B. Hall, Theodore J. Iwasins-

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LUDLOW— Paul R. Baird Middle ki, Muhammed E. Karaarslan, Samson A. Laguerre, Michelle N. Larronde, Braden D. Martins, Zoe E. McCarthy, Jessica L. Opitz, Audrina M. Palatino, Bentley L. Patrone, Nora A. Pedro, Camille R. Pszeniczny, Olivia G. Reilly-Courchesne, Nathan J. Ribeiro, Fabian A. Rodrigues, Madelyn N. Schoolcraft, Aubriana M. Stupak, Joseph T. Toomey, Gamze S. Turan, Jonathan K. Vermette, Kaylie J. Voyik, Adrian K. Waclawski, and Ellianna C. Williams.

Honors 2029

Makeen H. Al Sammaraee, Tyler J. Allen, Liam J. Beaulieu, Emmet J. Berte, Ava K. Buccacio, Ava N. Carattini, Blake P. Carroll, Annabelle C. Davis, Matthew J. Flaherty, Cameron R. Friese, Lincoln O. Gauthier, Chase C. Germain, Davi D. Gomes, Samantha M. Gregory, Mason B. Hartzell, Gokmen N. Kahraman, Violet R. Kingsley, Damian B. Kopka, Bohdan Krip, Nathan S. Line, Ava R. MacDonald, Charlotte M. Maciolek, Thomas J. Oakley, Abigail M. Rosario, Cayden J. Rubasha, Sadie R. Small, Ethan O. Stephens, Jake M. Tatro, Ella J. Taudal, and McKenzie M. Tripp.

High Honors 2028

Joana C. Afonso, Isla M. Alvaro, Aroush Atif, Ella S. Belleville, Gabriel A. Bleau, Karina G. Costa, Olivia R. Costa, Madelynne A. Dodd, Lydia R. Dowling, Madelyn R. Goncalves-Korny, Jade M. Gonzalez, Leigh Anne M. Gregorio, Liam T. Hua, Kara J. Kunz, Ava K. Laing, Kamila N. Lombardi, Elsa M. Merino, Kamryn M. Murphy, Brady J. Ouellette, Averie D. Picard, Marianna R. Sanches, Montana J. Stepanian, Edmund W. Stratton, Connor M. Sylvestre, Morgan R. Vala, and Ellie R. Vital.

Honors 2028

Roaah S. Al Jashaam, Yaa T. Amoakohene, Addison P. Audet, Kariina C. Begin, David J. Bish, Brayden M. Bishop, Jake B. Canoa, Aubrielle G. Chappel, Juliana J. Claudio, Sofia Marie F. Comi, Julianna M. Costa, Leila K. Cruz, John J. Davidson, Khloe B. Davis, Holly M. Dennis, Collin A. Desmarteau, Daniella I. Diaz, Marco S. Dos Santos, Salma K. Elkhashab, LeeAnna J. Ferrero, Shelby E. Girard, Kutay Gokcek, Jolani I. Hilyard, Milo T. Hnatow, Belinay Ibas, Utku K. Kuruca, Grayson M. Kus, Ella N. Lariviere, Nicholas J. Lavertue, Sadie A. Leatherman, Bryce A. Lipson, Ella M. Murphy, Eliany C. Navedo, Kylani A. Orbe, Jasper R. Pacheco, Sydney R. Pereira, Angelina C. Quiterio, Myleigh J. Rubin, Sergio M. Sa Leandro, Azal Safi, Olivia R. Santos, Anthony J. Schuko, Samuel L. Silva, Olivia R. Slatton, Kimora R. Smith, Dylan R. Southall, Kellan P. Steigmeyer, Miles A. Stratton, Daniel J. Surprenant, and Jake E. Tatlock.

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OBITUARIES

Kathleen May (Cairns) Giebner

Kathleen May (Cairns) Giebner of Winter Springs, FL formerly of Ludlow passed away peacefully on April 22, 2024, surrounded by her family. She was born in Westfield MA on March 23, 1946, the daughter of the late Thomas and Catherine (Lafountain) Cairns.

She graduated from Ludlow High School in 1964 and Fitchburg Nursing School. Kathy worked many years as a nurse in hospitals and local doctor offices.

Kathy is survived by her loving husband of 57 years, Norman, whom she married on March 4, 1967 and her three sons Norman T. Giebner of Agawam, Mark Giebner and his wife Stephanie of Casselberry, FL and Eric Giebner of Winter Springs, FL. She leaves 7 grandchildren; Jordan Inglesby and husband Patrick, Hallie Giebner, Colin Giebner, Logan Giebner, Morgan Giebner, Madison Gieb-



ew Connor Monaghan of Monson as well as several other nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother Thomas Cairns in 2014. Calling hours will be held Thursday May 9, 2024 at the

ner and Quinn Giebner. She also leaves her special neph-

Ludlow Funeral Home 432 East Street Ludlow from 4 - 6 p.m. concluding with a funeral home service at 6 p.m. followed by a reception at the Ludlow Country Club, 1 Tony Lema Dr., Ludlow.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Boston Children's Hospital Trust, 401 Park Drive Suite 602, Boston, MA 02215-5301

Nancy Z. Cavin 1933-2024

Nancy Z. Cavin, 90, passed away peacefully on March 2, 2024 in Springfield, MA. She was born in 1933 in Ludlow, MA to parents Frederic Theodor and Maria Zajaczkowski. She was the youngest of five children. She grew up in a very tight knit community and graduated from Ludlow High School in 1952. Nancy went on to a fulfilling career with the Telephone Company, eventually retiring from there after more than 30



years. She was the beloved wife of Lonnie A. Cavin for 61 years and they made their home in Chicopee, MA. He preceded her in death in 2019, as did both her parents, and her siblings Steve, Rose, Ann, and Walter precede her. Nancy was very proud of her Ukrainian heritage and enjoyed traveling with her husband, friends, and family. She is survived by three nieces - Marjorie, Renee & Denise, one nephew-Peter, multiple grand nieces, and many close friends.

A service will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 3 p.m. at the Massachusetts Veterans

Memorial Cemetery, 1390 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001. A celebration of her life will follow at 4 p.m., at Tony & Penny's, 18 Canterbury St., Ludlow, MA 01056. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the: Catholic Relief Services in Ukraine. https://www.crs.org/ our-work-overseas/where-we-work/Ukraine The family

would like to thank the hospice staff at Baystate Medical in Springfield for their kindness & peaceful care. More importantly, Thanks to all friends who visited her and the wonderful staff and administration at Keystone Commons. They generously provided a warm, activities filled, loving environment which she called home for the last 6 years. We can never fully express our gratitude to everyone there for their friendship, compassion and attentiveness. Ludlow Funeral Home has been entrusted with her services for more information please visit ludlowfuneralhome.com



DEATH NOTICES

Kathleen May (Cairns) Giebner Died April 22, 2024 Services May 9, 2024 Ludlow Funeral Home

Nancy Z. Cavin Died March 2, 2024 Services May 9, 2024 Ludlow Funeral Home

The Ludlow Register

Obituary POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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Lance Corporal Mark Nieves, Sergeant Sierra Williams, Corporal Savannah Williams, and Lance Corporal Dakota Williams held flags by the Joshua DesForges Memorial.



Police Chief Dan Valadas stopped to chat with Tom Fournier (right).



Getting pumped before the starting gun, (from left) Paul Noreau, Darlene Kennedy, and Carolyn Koloziey.



Corporal Juan Garcia and Sergeant Mik Wedel (sic) shook hands in front of the Marine Corps vehicle parked behind the high school.



David DesForges directed me to the truck that his son, the late Joshua DesForges, drove.



Catching up with friends from out of town, (from left) Wally and Adam Kiel, Tracie Lenhardt, and Officer Troy Rubner.



Officers Isaac Santana and Jordan Liszka rode police bicycles to the race.



Standing with Joshua DesForges's father, David (left) were Fire Chief Ryan Pease and Director of Veterans Services Eric Segundo.



Coffee and sugar treats from Dunkin' Donuts were handed out to the race's participants in the back of the high school.



An enormous American flag hung from a crane behind (from left) Joao Bernardo, Mike Frydruk, Jack Egan, and Jeffrey Lavoie.



Jennifer Duncan and Scout Jrake Cullison (sic) wore matching shirts to attend Saturday's race.

DEFORGES from page 1

the Sgt. Joshua D. Desforges Scholarship Fund. Des-Forges's mother Arlene DesForges said that the organization was able to surpass its goal of \$10,000 this year "by a lot."

The scholarships are expected to be awarded on Senior Day, May 30, before graduation.



Darlene Davies gave out fruit and provisions at the **United Service Organizations' table.**



Joe and Susan Rodio were happy to participate in the race together.



Families attended the fundraiser together, such as Oscar and Jacqueline Beaulieu.



Waiting for the race to start, (from left) Patrick Roy, Matthew Dent, and Jhon Wielblad (sic).



A father and son leave the parking lot after the race begins.



Julian Olanoff (left) said that he was trying to catch up with Officer Jhon Wielblad (right), who came in third place.



Colleen Cummings was in the top 10 finishers of the



Julian Olanoff was one of the first young runners to cross the finish line.



Julian Olanoff (left) said that he was trying to catch up with Officer Jhon Wielblad (right), who came in third place.



The announcer told the crowd how to navigate the trail before counting off the beginning of the race.



The racers gathered behind the high school on Saturday morning to start the annual run in Joshua DesForges's memory.



Well over 250 people took off when the announcers signaled the beginning of the race at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning.

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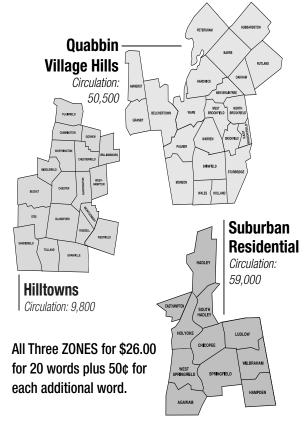
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Town of Ludlow

Procurement Office 488 Chapin Street, Second Floor Ludlow, MA 01056 413-583-5600 x1298 2024-001 Rebid for Filed Sub-Bid Categories: Electrical & Roofing. **Ludlow Town Hall Roof Replacement and Improvements Electronic Bid Only**

The Town of Ludlow is seeking sealed bids for filed sub-bid categories: Electrical and Roofing & Masonry. This is a rebid of the two catego-

This project is being electronically bid and hard copy bids will not be received. Updated bid documents will be available after 9:00 AM on 5/1/24 at www. biddocs.com.

Bidders must be DCAMM certified and provide a 5% bid deposit. Filed sub-bids will be received by 2:00 PM on 5/15/2024.

The Town of Ludlow reserves the right to reject any and or all bids. 05/01/2024

LUDLOW ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

The Ludlow Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing in the Ludlow Town Hall, 488 Chapin Street, Selectmen's Conference Room on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 6:00pm on the application of Hopkinton LNG Corporation D/B/A Eversource Energy for the property located at 76 Ravenwood Drive, Ludlow MA (Assessors' Map 29. Parcel 41, Zoning: Industrial C) The subject of the hearing is a Special Permit regarding Section 3.0.04 of the Town of Ludlow's Zoning Bylaws, which specifies fence height no taller than 6.5 feet. The proposed fence height is 8 feet with 1-foot of barbed wire at the top, to match the height of the existing facility fence. We request this Special Permit mainly for safety, as the additional height provides greater security to the Facility.

Manny Lopes, Chairman 05/01, 05/08/2024

TOWN OF LUDLOW LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 13 8 of the Massachusetts General Laws. the Board of Selectmen has called a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room, Town Hall, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA on the application of Iron Duke Brewing, 100 State Street, Suite 122, Ludlow, MA Annual Liquor License for Alteration of Premises and Change of

Derek DeBarge, Chairman Ludlow Board of Selectmen 05/01, 05/08/2024

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, May 15, 2024 at 6:40 pm on the application of Agostino J Calheno for the property located at 0 Rood Street, Ludlow MA (Assessors' Map 17, Parcel 66A, Zoning: Agriculture) The subject of the hearing is for construction of a single family dwelling (2,000 sq ft +/-); consisting of a 3-BR; 2 1/2 Baths; 2-car garage on a 30,000 sq ft residential building lot. As referenced from the Town of Ludlow Table of Dimensional Regulations-Table 2 within the Agriculture zoning district. Section IV Dimensional Regulations 4.0.4 Lots of Less than the Required Width or Area.

Manny Lopes, Chairman 05/01.05/08/2024

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

Visiting Angels celebrates 25 years

WEST SPRINGFIELD— On Tuesday, April 9, Visiting Angels West Springfield proudly celebrated 25 years of business. Since 1999, the office has become a leading home care agency in the Springfield area in Western Massachusetts, receiving Home Care Pulse's Provider of Choice award for the past 9

Started in April of 1999, owner Michele Anstett began the 9th branch of the nationwide company that now spans over 600 locations across the United States. Anstett's extensive experience in an evolving sector had made her uniquely equipped to handle the modern challenges of the industry and successfully direct the business.

What attracted Anstett to starting a homecare business was exactly what makes Visiting Angels a well-loved company, a desire to provide dignified, affordable, personalized homecare to some of our society's most vulnerable and underappreciated citizens, seniors facing age-related illnesses and conditions. Realizing the importance of human connection and genuine care, she wanted to do something for the elder community of Western Massachusetts that extended beyond just providing a

"We're not just taking care of somebody, we're building a relationship and that creates a much better situation," said Anstett "Even though vou're inviting a stranger into your loved one's home, they become family."

Because of this passion for going above and beyond for the community, the organization has been able to adapt and change with the various economic changes that the past 25 years has brought, most recently being the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead of sitting back and letting the state of the world take a toll on her community, Anstett decided to be proactive and see what she could do for the seniors of Western Mass during the lockdown.

She knew that the main problems seniors were facing during the pandemic was loneliness and isolation and decided to meet the need at no cost to those who needed help the most. In the summer of 2020, Visiting Angels West Springfield began sponsoring weekly socially-distanced chair yoga sessions at Brownstone Gardens in East Longmeadow, taught by Sheila from Heartsong Yoga. These sessions became so popular that they continue today.

Now in 2024, Anstett continues to dedicate her business to improving the community in and around the Springfield area. Visiting Angels West Springfield looks forward to many more years to come helping Western Mass seniors maintain their independence in their own home or a senior living setting.

To find out more or to request your free personal no-cost consultation, go to www.visitingangels.com/westspringfield/. Contact or call (413) 733-6900 to speak with an office staff member. Visiting Angels West Springfield serves the following areas in Hampden County: Westfield, Springfield, Indian Orchard, West Springfield, Agawam, Feeding Hills, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Southwick, Southampton, Chicopee, Ludlow, Holyoke, Wilbraham, and

photograph for printing.

AUTO

HELP WANTED

BRIMFIELD ANTIQUE MARKET. May 15-18, seeks food service help. This is a fast paced gig. Email contact information to emaysfoodservice@

CLASS A DRIVER. Triaxle dump trailer work. Local deliveries, minimum 40 hours, rate based on experience. RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHAN-IC. Construction equipment and trucks. Experience required, full time. RB Enterprises, Ludlow, MA. 413-583-8393.



HELP WANTED

DRIVERS

INTERSTATE BATTERIES IS SEEKING A DRIVER for deliveries in Western Mass area. Qualifications include: clean driving record; ability to lift heavy weights: stable job history: good communication skills; high work standards & strong self-organizational skills. Apply in person 8 am-5pm M-F 9am-12pm Sat. 230 Chauncey Walker Street (Rte 21) Belchertown.

FOR RENT



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

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

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

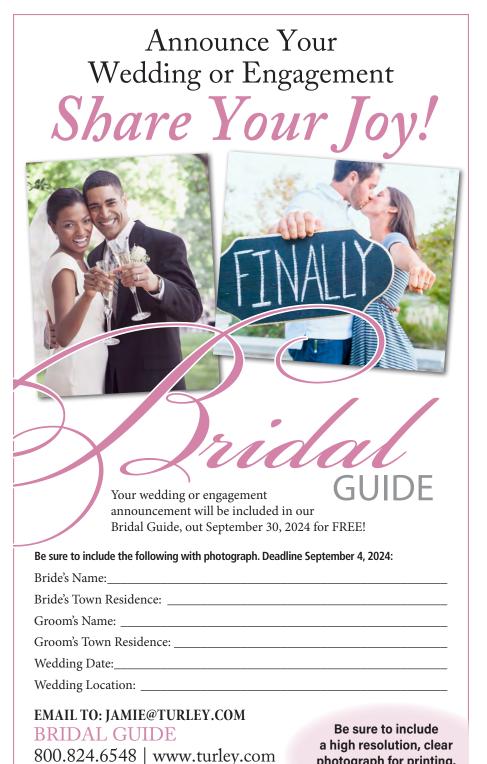
REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



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