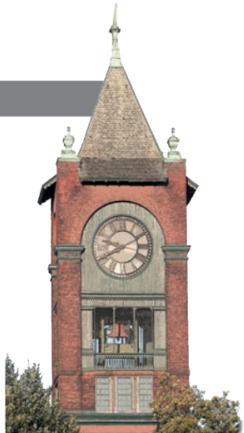


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# The REGISTER

LOCAL NEWS | LOCAL STORIES | LOCAL ADVERTISERS

## Ludlow graduates Class of 2025

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – Ludlow High School Class of 2025 had a total of 181 graduating seniors and was celebrated at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, inside the Mullins Center, on the evening of June 5. The ceremony began with the processional, salutatorian and valedictorian recipient awards, graduation message from Senior Class President Jack Favata, presentation of class and awards from Principal Lisa Nemeth, an address from Superintendent Frank Tiano, an address from the School Committee Chairperson Jeffrey A. Laing, and then Principal Lisa Nemeth awarded diplomas.

Nemeth began by addressing the Class of 2025 and recognizing their accomplishments, the class itself, and her appreciation towards numerous faculty members and staff.

“First, there are 181 graduating seniors. 45 of those seniors are members of NHS which is represented by their blue hood and blue and gold tassel. 79 seniors are wearing a gold cord which represents



LHS graduates 181 students last Thursday.

Submitted photo

the achievement of pro-merito, which means their grade point average was high honors or promerito upon graduation. 10 seniors are sitting in the front row and wearing double gold cords which represent they are the top ten

in their class. 7 seniors are wearing a pink cord which represents their membership in the National Tri-M Music Honor Society. They are exemplary students who represent true modern-music-masters. We have 3 se-

niors wearing a multi color cord which represents the Commonwealth’s Seal of Bilingual Literacy. These students have demonstrated proficiency in both English, and a foreign language which they have pursued for 5 years along

with the understanding of multiple cultures. 49 seniors received a John and Abigail Adams scholarship. This is a scholarship that provides the graduating senior with free tuition to any state college in Massachusetts. Another

testament to the success of the Class of 2025 is at class night 110 scholarships were awarded to individuals in the class, totaling 247,000 dollars. The walls of Ludlow high school have served its purpose for you and now you have to figure out your purpose. Live each day to its fullest, be humble, kind and always remember...you are always a Lion. Congratulations Class of 2025.”

Senior Class President Jack Favata spoke as one of the seniors graduating, extending his gratitude towards staff members and school committee members, and sharing his honor of leading the class of 2025. “Before I begin, I would be remiss if I didn’t extend gratitude to those who have supported us in the journey to graduation. To Mr. Gav and Mr. Augusto, thank you for your incredible support of our class. To Mrs. Nemeth, Ms. HB, and Mr. Mitchell, thank you for your leadership and commitment. To Dr. Tiano and the school committee members, thank you for your belief in the power of education. And to my friends, mentors, family and par-

Please see **LHS**, Page 6

### Chief Valadas announces retirement to Select Board

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – On June 3, the Select Board read aloud Chief of Police Valadas retirement announcement after 32 years of full-time service to the town. Addressed to Chairperson Manuel Silva, the letter was as stated, “Mr. Chairman, on July 19, 2025, I completed 32 years of full-time service to the town of Ludlow as a police officer. For many Massachusetts municipal police officers, 32 years of full-time service is considered a complete ca-

reer. Today I have completed 5 years of service as chief of police, an honor that I will never forget. With that in mind, my last day of service as a Ludlow police officer will be Aug. 8, 2025.”

Valadas’ retirement announcement letter continued, “It has been a both challenging and rewarding career, many memories are both positive and some negative as the nature of being a police officer. My reflections on my service bring me great emotions, primarily, overwhelming gratitude of God’s

Please see **VALADAS**, Page 5

### Children rode in circles at the bike parade, rodeo

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – The second annual bike parade and safety rodeo had children, families, and friends cycling on the River Walk and ending at Sole Syndicate Brewing Company on May 24. With the combination of great weather and an even better turnout than the following year, everyone was happy to be part of the new tradition in town.

Beginning at the parking lot of the River Walk and right in front of the walking

Please see **BIKE**, Page 5



Michael Lunsford leading the bike rodeo dressed up as a clown.

Turley photo by Amanda Munson

### Exit 7 produces play, ‘A Spare Me’

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – On June 13 through the 22nd, Exit 7 Players theater will hold A Spare Me, a play looking at identity, what it means to “be” someone, what it means to let go of or hold onto a past you can or can’t quite remember, how societal expectations shape us, and the differences between malice and ignorance. Celebrating and recognizing Pride month, occurring annually in the month of June, this month serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of acceptance, diversity, and love; from the Awareness Days website.

Since 1984 the Exit 7 Players has been dedicated to the production of classical, contemporary, and musical works that entertain, educate, and delight audiences of all ages; based on the

theater website. Speaking to Director Devin Dumas of A Spare Me, Dumas talked about first being introduced to theater, what it means to direct a play, and all about A Spare Me.

“I started working with the theater a couple of years ago performing and I just eventually started getting my hands into other work with them, like stage managing, producing, and sound design. Creative direction is always something I wanted to work up towards because I have a lot of queer stories I want to tell that I feel equipped to help portray in the community. So, working up to directing has always been my goal. As for getting on board for A Spare Me, Exit 7 has a directorial submission process every year so A Spare Me was one of the shows I proposed they do, and I wanted to direct it, which was approved through that process of the shows

this year.”

When asked what theater means to Dumas, on a community level and a larger level, “It’s about presenting stories to our community that are relevant, that resonate with us, that resonate with each other, it’s a way to relate to each other. An idea that’s gone around recently is that the theater is a gym of empathy, you go to the normal gym to workout and you go to the theater to workout your empathy. A gym of understanding and empathy, that’s what theater is to me. Especially from a queer-arts perspective, growing up queer and surrounded by heteronormative stories it’s fantastic but I remember growing up and saying when I’m older I want to make those queer stories that I wish I had when I was a teenager. That’s my goal with theater, to present queer

Please see **EXIT 7**, Page 9

### IOCC hosts youth dance party with a night to remember

By Amanda Munson  
 Staff Writer  
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – The Indian Orchard Citizens Council (IOCC) Youth Council hosted its first communi-

ty dance with DJ Calvin C-Smooth Carter on May 24. The dance was for youth ages 12 to 17 years where the council provided dinner, music, a candy station, and activities aimed at making the dance and

night memorable.

Speaking with President of AC Consulting and Media Ayanna C. Crawford, she talked about the beginnings of the youth council, what the youth does for the community, and why it’s important to engage our youth throughout the year.

“Around four years ago, the current city councilor and president of the IOCC Zaida Govan said she was writing a grant to the first ever youth council for the city of Springfield, and asked if I would be interested in spearheading it. Recruitment, create flyers, be their advisor, and really help them get it going and I said absolutely! It has been going on for around 3 years and we did our first initial youth council meetings at the lo-



An inside look at all the decorations at the dance.

Submitted photos

Please see **DANCE**, Page 9

# LUDLOW



Sheri Santos pouring a drink for the celebrity bartending contest.



Sheri Santos, Josue Irizarry, and Dr. Frank Tiano pose for a group photo.

## Vanished Valley hosts LBGC celebrity bartender event

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – Last Wednesday evening, May 28, the LBGC held its celebrity bartender event at Vanished Valley. Submitted

by Special Events & Marketing Coordinator Christina Yacono, “Friends, families and supporters of the Club came to see School Age Director Sheri Santos and Ludlow Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frank Tiano (also on our Board of Di-

rectors) battle for 1.5 hours to see who could make more tips as they poured drinks.

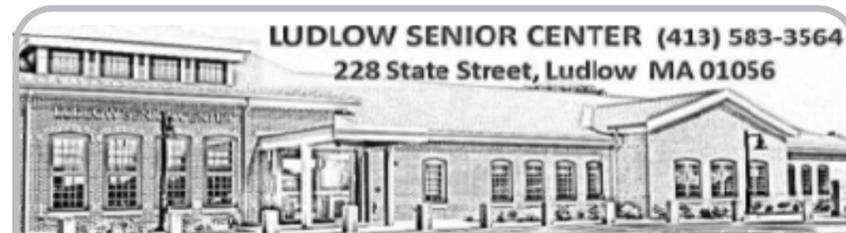
It was a close contest with Frank raising \$261 and Sheri raising \$273 for a total of \$534 to support the Club’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!”

## Case Mackintosh is Ludlow Boys/Girls Club Youth of the Year

LUDLOW – On May 22, Case Mackintosh participated in the Massachusetts State Youth of the Year at Gillette Stadium and attended the Western Massachusetts Youth of the Year dinner, recognized as LBGC 2025 Youth of the Year. Mackintosh is currently in grade 10 and has been at the Club for 15 years, stating his future plans, “When I enter the workforce, I intend to work for a non-profit organization that serves people and combines my special interests such as the Springfield Museums, The Boys and Girls Club, or The Gray House.”



Pictured here is Case Mackintosh with parents at the ceremony.



## Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

Our calendar is packed with many fitness programs, entertainment, education sessions, and more! Reserve your 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, June 12**  
8:45 a.m. Foot Care Appointments\*  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
9:30 a.m. Dominos  
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation\*  
10:30 a.m. Friends of the Senior Center Mtg.  
10:30 a.m. Senator Oliveira Office Hour  
1 p.m. Mahjong  
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

**Friday, June 13**  
8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
9 a.m. Reiki Appointments\*  
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Check  
10:30 a.m. Slow Strollers  
1 p.m. Ceramics  
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class\*  
1 p.m. Fishing Club

**Monday, June 16**  
9 a.m. Knitting  
9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp\*  
10 a.m. Computer Help\*  
10 a.m. What is Juneteenth?  
10:30 a.m. Slow Strollers  
10:30 a.m. Rep. Saunders Office Hour  
1 p.m. Limitless Legends\*  
1 p.m. Scrabble  
1:15 p.m. Pitch  
2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

**Tuesday, June 17**  
9 a.m. Quilting  
9 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Cribbage  
10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga  
11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch Trip\*  
12:30 p.m. Blood Pressure Checks  
1 p.m. Western Dance Class  
1 p.m. Brown Bag Pick Up\*  
1:30 p.m. Bingo  
4 p.m. Creative Corner with Tammy\*  
4:30 p.m. Power Pump Exercise Class  
5 p.m. Movie: *Woman of the Hour* (2023)

**Wednesday, June 18**  
8 a.m. Garden Club  
9 a.m. Ceramics  
9 a.m. Zumba Gold  
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*  
1 p.m. Movie: *Woman of the Hour* (2023)  
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance\*  
4:30 p.m. COA Board Meeting

**Thursday, June 19**  
Center Closed for Juneteenth  
  
\*PLEASE register for Boomer Boot Camp, Healthy Bones & Balance, Foot Care, and other programs as noted by calling 583-3564

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

**Menu:**  
Thursday, June 12: Fruit Salad & Cottage Cheese Plate  
Friday, June 13: Father’s Day Lunch! Meatloaf, Mashed Pot/Carrots  
Monday, June 16: Crab Cake/Onion Rings/Side Salad  
Tuesday, June 17: Meatball Grinder/Steak Fries  
Wednesday, June 18: Birthday Lunch! Chicken Piccata/Rice/Mixed Veggies  
Thursday, June 19: Center Closed Juneteenth

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.

## Strawberry supper on June 14

LUDLOW – First Church in Ludlow on 859 Center Street will be presenting a Strawberry Supper take-out on Saturday, June 14. Pick-up time is between 4:30 and 5:30 pm.

The menu includes Sliced Ham, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Roll & Strawberry Shortcake for only \$18.

Call now to secure your reservations 413-547-8720.

## Food Drive bi-monthly at First Church

LUDLOW – On the first Saturday of each even month (February, April, June, August, October, December) First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St, collects non-perishable foods.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., drive through the back parking lot.

We will take your donations out of your car and bring them to the Community Survival Center to be distributed to those in need.

Bring all food items to drop off at our next Food Drive on June 7. Thanks for your generosity.

## St. Gregory Armenian Church 2025 Father’s Day Picnic

INDIAN ORCHARD – Join us June 15 from 12 to 4 p.m. for a day filled with traditional Armenian food, live music, raffles and fun. St. Gregory Armenian Church is located at 135 Goodwin Street, Indian Orchard.

Dine in or take it “to-go” and enjoy at home. The event is RAIN or SHINE.

Free Admission & Parking

The menu is Lamb, Chicken and Losh Kebab Meals, Losh Sandwiches, salad and pilaf, Armenian pastries and so much more.

For more information www.saintgregoryarmenianchurch.org or call 413-543-4763.

## Polish food sale set for June 14

LUDLOW – A Polish Food Sale will be held on Saturday, June 14 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church Hall, 25 Parker St. Indian Orchard, MA.

There will be Golabki

(3) \$12, Kapusta (Large) \$10, Pierogi (12), Pierogi Available, Cabbage, Potato and cheese \$14, Sweet Cheese, Blueberries \$15

Everyone is welcome to come and purchase.

## Dog licenses are due by July 1

LUDLOW – Dog licenses expired March 31. All residents are required to license their dogs annually per MGL C.140, §.137. On July 1 there will be a late fee of \$10 per dog in addition to the licensing fee.

We must have the most current rabies certificate to license your dog.

Residents have the option to obtain a license in-person or by mail or Town Clerk drop box behind Town Hall.

When mailing in your

payment or utilizing the drop box: please include a self-addressed stamped envelope, valid rabies certificate, along with a check payable to the Town of Ludlow. Mail to: Town Clerk, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA 01056.

The fee is \$15 Neutered/spayed dogs; \$20 for Not Spayed/Neutered.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk’s office 413-583-5600 ext. 1 or email clerk@ludlow.ma.us.

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# Explore nature and learn about local wildlife at Norcross 2025 Open House!

WALES—Bring the whole family to enjoy a day of nature exploration and education at The Norcross Wildlife Foundation on Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free. Simply drop by to join in on the excitement.

Throughout the event, Norcross staff will lead guided tours of the 3-miles of

public trails, providing insight into local plants, wildlife, and conservation efforts. Visitors will also have the chance to engage with local experts and discover new ways to connect with nature and wildlife through a variety of fun, interactive booths and activities.

**Exhibitors include:**  
National Parks Service

(Springfield, MA)  
CT Science Center  
(Hartford, CT)

The Zoo in Forest Park & Education Center  
(Springfield, MA) – hosting a live animal program at 1 p.m.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

Fernald Entomology Club (UMASS)  
Minorities in Agricul-

ture (UMASS)  
Opacum Land Trust

For more information, contact Caroline Cay Adams, Director of Education, The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, 413-245-1264, ext. 106, cadams@norcrosswildlife.org, www.norcrosswildlife.org, 30 Peck Road, Wales, MA 01081.

## Freedom Credit Union collecting cash, food donations

*Month of Giving campaign extends from June 1 through August 31*

SPRINGFIELD—Food insecurity continues to affect families across western Massachusetts, with inflation driving up the cost of everyday essentials. That's why Freedom Credit Union is again rallying support for its summer campaign benefiting the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. From June 1 through August 31, the community is invited to contribute to a stronger community by donating nonperishable food, personal care items or mon-

etary gifts at any Freedom branch.

"Thanks to the generosity of our members, staff and entire community, this campaign has grown annually, and so has its impact," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "Last summer, we collected more than \$3,350 in donations, along with nearly 1,435 pounds of food and personal care items. This year, we're aiming even higher. By simply adding an extra item or two to your grocery cart each week, you can make a lasting difference without stretching your budget."

Suggested donations of non-perishable food

and personal care items include:

- Baby formula
- Beans in cans or dried in bags
- Bread mixes
- Canned chicken, fish and meat
- Cereals
- Coffee and tea
- Cooking oils and spices
- Diapers, wipes and toilet paper
- Dried or canned fruit
- Evaporated/powdered milk
- Granola bars and crackers
- Feminine sanitary products
- Instant potatoes
- Pasta and noodles
- Peanut butter and

- Rice and grains
- Sauces
- Shampoo and body wash/soap
- Soups, stews and chili in cans
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Vegetables in cans

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts has been feeding neighbors in need and leading the community to end hunger since 1982. It provides food to residents in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties through its members, which include independent food pantries, meal sites and shelters.



The Wilbraham & Monson Academy Class of 2025.

Submitted photo

## Wilbraham & Monson Academy Graduates 83

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham & Monson Academy graduated 83 seniors and postgraduates on May 24 at its 221st Commencement Exercises.

The Class of 2025 hailed from 7 states (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Virginia) and 22 countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, India, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakh-

stan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, United Kingdom, Angola, Russian Federation, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United States, Vietnam and Zimbabwe).

The following students graduated from local towns in Western Massachusetts and Connecticut:

From Belchertown: Kayla Makkiya  
From Brimfield: Ludmilla Venades

From East Longmeadow: Abigail Brunelle, Ryan Clark, Lauren Garvey, Sophia Najeebi, Regan Zhao

From Ellington: Rose Marie Sadlak

From Fiskdale: Ally Orquiola

From Hampden: Jason Foerster, Mark Tobias

From Longmeadow: Emma Landry, Alexander Torres  
From Ludlow: Rebecca Kakule, Benjamin Presz

From Somers: Ashley Birkenshaw, Cooper Dwyer

From Springfield: Malena Donovan, Ashley Li, Isabelle Rivera

From Wilbraham: Kayden Chhoun, John Crocker, Seamus Dineen, Mariana Mujica, Oliva Tierney, Breslin Grozio, Katherine Healy, Gabriel Enrico Cruz, Elena Baltazar

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



### Social Security questions asked over coffee

Dear Rusty:  
My coffee conversations among a group of friends about Social Security questions about Social Security.

1. What happens to the Social Security account of someone who dies before retirement age. What happens to that money and where does it end up?
2. How does the decreased birth rate of the USA affect future Social Security benefits?
3. Is a person, who has never contributed to the Social Security System entitled to any benefits from the Social Security Administration?
4. Is there a central location online that a person can access that explains the history and current status of the Social Security System, that explains all of it in simple terms. I would like to be able to give this location to people I talk with about Social Security.

Most of the articles we read are like slogging through mud. I enjoy AMAC articles and am college educated, but the average reading level in the U.S. is less than sixth grade. Thank you for considering these questions.

Signed: Curious Reader

Dear Curious:  
Thank you for your readership and I'll be happy to tackle your "over coffee" questions about Social Security.

1. Social Security is a "pay as you go" program, where all money collected from workers is used to pay benefits for all those, who are currently receiving Social Security. In other words, all money contributed is used to pay benefits to others already receiving benefits. It is not put into a separate account for each person and that is a good thing. Most people get more from Social Security than they ever contributed, but benefits are paid for life, regardless of how long one lives. The specific answer to your question is that if someone dies before retirement age, the money contributed has already been used to pay benefits to others. Keep in mind though, that a surviving spouse or minor or disabled adult child may also collect benefits on a deceased person's Social Security record.

2. The decreasing birth rate in the U.S. hurts Social Security. That's because fewer babies mean fewer future workers contributing to the Social Security program. FYI, in 1950 there were about 15 workers contributing to SS for every one person collecting benefits,

but today there are less than three workers for each SS beneficiary. That problem is exacerbated by the steadily increasing U.S. life expectancy. Beneficiaries are now often collecting SS benefits for decades from a program designed to pay benefits for only a few years.

3. Only those who have worked and contributed to Social Security through payroll taxes for about 10 years (40 quarters of SS credit) are eligible to collect SS Retirement benefits. However, some dependent spouses and/or dependent minor or dependent disabled children who have never worked might also be eligible for benefits from the worker's Social Security record. Along with each U.S. state, the SSA also administers another program, known as Supplement Security Income, on behalf of the federal government. However, federal "SSI" benefits are not paid with Social Security funds. "SSI" is a separate government benefit program, with federal benefits paid from the general U.S. Treasury.

4. There are lots of places to get information about Social Security, but I suggest you start at our AMAC Foundation Social Security information website, which can be found at [www.socialsecurityreport.org](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org). Here you will find numerous articles about Social Security, retirement, Medicare, etc., as well as all the Ask Rusty articles I have published weekly over the last 8 years. You can also find excellent Social Security information on our AMAC Foundation main website, [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org). And, of course, you can always ask any questions you have via email to [SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org). Or, if you prefer, you can just call us on 1-888-750-2622 if you have questions about Social Security or about Medicare enrollment.

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

I TWEETED YOU "HAPPY FATHER'S DAY," POSTED IT ON FACEBOOK, SNAPPED A PIC FOR INSTAGRAM, AND SENT YOU A SNAPCHAT... AND YOU STILL JUST WANT A HUG?

HEY, I'M RETRO LIKE THAT!



## GUEST COLUMN



By Barb Turcotte

Keystone Commons, an Independent/Assisted Living Facility in Ludlow was at it once again! The residents put cheerful smiles on the faces of shoppers at the Holyoke Mall on Friday, May 16 with gorgeous flowers! Because of the generosity from some local florists, we were able to repeat this event from two years ago and it was another huge success. We gave away over 500 flowers and the array of colors were brilliant!

We put the Keystone residents to work before enjoying the pleasure of dispersing positivity. Each flower was tagged with a list of the donating florists including addresses and phone numbers with hopes that the recipients will support these generous businesses who so willing wanted to help with our event. Our donors were, Big Y-Ludlow store ~ Flowers, FLOWERS ~ Sixteen Acres Garden Center ~ Springfield Florist Supply ~ The Flower Box, all in Springfield ~ The Flower Stop and Willow & Moss, both located in West Springfield.

The smiles on the resident's faces were priceless and the shoppers, well in a time of so much negativity and turmoil, their smiles said it all. They were grateful for a little reprieve from it and enjoyed witnessing positivity being spread! The comments were incredible as they explained what we were doing meant to them. One unfortunate woman had just gone to the registry and came out to find her car had been smashed into, needless to say the single flower put a smile on her face. A fam-

ily of four came in and as we gave each a flowering, one confided that her brother had just died and expressed how much our kindness meant to them all. Others claimed we had restored their faith that there are nice people still in the world. A couple of young women graciously accepted our flowers, then returned with bottles of water for us! Riding home, we discovered they had bought water for all ten participating in this project. It was such an incredible feeling knowing we had touched so many people and helped improve their day.

We didn't just give the flowers to women, though it seems that's the typical recipient of flowers, we gave to the male shoppers as well and their faces just lit up. One saying he'd never received flowers before and what a nice surprise. The young kids just felt so special as they walked away with their flower tightly clutched in their little hands. We also gave the shoppers a small flyer saying they were that day's recipient of our Random Act of Kindness and hoped they'd continue our mission by doing their own kind gestures. Hopefully they kept that flyer as a reminder of the day and will inspire them to continue creating and passing along positivity every day.

Kindness is truly all around us but so often we don't take the time to notice these small gestures, such as someone pointing out a parking spot to you in a crowded lot. Or perhaps a shopper told you go ahead of them when you only had a couple items compared to their full cart.

Everyone is in such a rush, but a driver allowed you go before them. How about even something smaller, like holding a door open for another. A cute story I heard was about a mom trying to teach her young son manners by holding the door open for the next person. As she was walking to her car she looked back and there was her 6-year-old son, still holding the door as the next ten people or so walked through it. She couldn't help but laugh, but noticed her son's kindness was met with a smile from each person as well as a big thank you! As you can see, kindness doesn't have to cost money and is something we can all do. But I've also been the recipient of someone ahead of me paying for my small grocery order as well as another diner paying for our tables lunches, so if you find yourself with a little extra, why not? I do my own Random Acts of Kindness and I can honestly tell you, it brightens my day just knowing I've made a difference in someone else's.

Holyoke Mall asked permission to put our efforts on their website and of course we said yes, but you can also see all the smiling faces on Keystone Commons website. We love sharing the good things we are doing within our local communities. They've ranged from donating to animal shelters, supplying lunch for fire and police departments, donating 'wish list' items to non-profits just to mention a few. Don't be afraid to be kind to a stranger, who knows, you might even make a new friend!

*If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at [bdt514@aol.com](mailto:bdt514@aol.com) or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, you did or maybe received something nice being done for you.*

*See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness! ~ Barb*

lots of them to freeze, and to do that it will require multiple plantings.

Bush beans are a good example of a vegetable that works well as a succession crop. What that means is that they can be sown multiple times throughout the summer.

Why? Because unlike most other vegetables, beans produce less than 8 weeks from sowing, are not finicky about heat, and as long as you have full sun and average garden soil they can be grown with relative ease.

Consider making additional sowings of this versatile vegetable now before you get busy with the harvest. That way you can enjoy a continuous supply all summer long.

You might still refer to snap or bush beans as "string beans" even though the tough strings that connected the two halves of the pod were bred out of the snap bean beginning in 1884 with Calvin N. Keeney's introduction of the Stringless Refugee Wax Bean. Today's modern stringless beans are a result of those early breeding efforts.

All types of beans require warm soil in which to germinate; 60 degrees at least. White seeded varieties are especially picky about soil temperatures.

Black and tan seeds regulate moisture intake more effectively, and therefore are less likely to rot in cool, wet soils. If you want to gamble

with an early sowing, sow these instead.

Many seed companies even tell you the seed color in a description. Usually by May 20 the ground is warm enough to sow all types of beans.

Succession plantings can be made every 10 days through July 30. After that it is unlikely that plants will produce a viable crop before frost hits.

Rather than sowing bean seeds in rows, I make good use of garden space by planting them in a four-foot wide block. Anything wider than four feet would make it difficult to reach in among the plants to harvest.

Please see **GARDEN**, Page 1

## The REGISTER

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

Send letters to: The Register, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email [theregister@turley.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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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@The Ludlow Register

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### 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 [theregister@turley.com](mailto:theregister@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

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

### Campaign news

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

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



### Bush beans are a great succession crop

I was "late" planting my bush beans this year, at least according to the calendar. But with the garden being under water for awhile and then mucky for days on end, this

past week was the first time conditions were favorable.

We want to grow a lot of beans this year. The kids like them steamed, then stir-fried with garlic. My hope it to have

# What's Happening

## at Hubbard Memorial Library

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

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

### FOR ALL AGES

**Social Services Drop-In, Wednesday, May 25, 11:00 a.m.** Come meet with our Social Worker for assistance with getting connected to food pantries and applying for food stamps, health insurance questions, referrals to treatment and support groups, supporting those with mental health concerns, free fentanyl test strips and condoms AND MORE! This program is made possible through the Mill Town Public Health Coalition.

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

**Friends of the Hubbard Memorial Library, third Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m.** Get involved! Join the Friends of the Library for their monthly meeting and learn how you can help support the library.

### FOR ADULTS

**Mixed Media Art Class, Thursday, June 5, 5:30 p.m.** Join us for a creative and hands-on art class led by local artist Sergio. Whether you're a beginner or have some experience, this class is designed to help you explore your artistic abilities using a variety of tools and art mediums to recreate a class work of art! Please register.

**Painted Sunflower Tote Bags, Saturday, June 7, 10:30 a.m.** During this workshop with artist Gariné, you'll create a sunflower painting on a canvas tote using premium acrylics. You will learn basic techniques and experiment with design elements! Bring an old shirt to protect your clothing. Please register.

**Mass Center for the Book Monthly Reading Challenge** Each month, you'll be challenged to read a book based on a chosen theme. Those who participate will be entered to win a free book! For more information and to sign up, please visit [mass-book.org/readingchallenge](http://mass-book.org/readingchallenge).

**Chair Volleyball for Seniors, every Thursday, 1:30 p.m.** Have some fun and join us for chair volleyball! No running or jumping required. Please sign up on our website or by calling the circulation desk at 413-583-3408. Walk-in.

**Who picked this book? Book Club Meeting, first Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m.** Join us for this month's Who picked this book? Book Club meeting! You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

**Happy Hour Book Club Meeting, last Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m.** Join us for this month's Happy Hour Book Club meeting! You can pick up a copy of the book at the circulation desk.

### FOR TEENS

**Anime Club, every other Tuesday, June 12 and 26, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.** For middle and high schoolers. Watch and talk about Anime, eat snacks,

try out your cosplay, and learn about anime. Registration recommended.

**CD Mandalas for YAs, Friday, June 20, 1:30 p.m.** For middle and high schoolers. Turn an old music CD into a mesmerizing work of art. Please register.

**Nintendo Switch Night for YAs, Tuesday, June 24, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** For middle and high schoolers. Play Mario Kart, Smash Bros, or other Switch games. Free pizza sponsored by Friends of the Library! 16 person limit. Please register.

**3D Fashion Paper Art, Friday, June 27, 1:00 p.m.** For tweens and teens. Join teen library volunteer Bella who will teach you how to create a high-fashion design and then make an artistic 3D drawing of it using designer papers and other craft supplies. Please register.

**Read Between the Lines High School Book Discussion Group, last Friday of month, June 27, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.** For ages 14 - 18. Fun, relaxed book discussion for high schoolers. The group picks the books. Pick up a copy of this month's book in the Youth Room. Please register.

### FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

**Youth Crochet Club, every other Tuesday, June 17, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.** For ages 10-17. For beginner to experienced crocheters; supplies provided or bring your own. Registration recommended.

**Drop-in Father's Day Card Making, June 9 through 14, all day.** All ages. Visit our card-making station and use designer papers, stickers, and rubber stamps to make cards for your dad, grandpa, or special friend. Drop-in.

**Garden Gnome Scavenger Hunt, Tuesday, June 10, all day.** June 10th is International Garden Gnome Day. Find all the gnomes hiding in the youth room to win a prize! Drop-in.

**Gnome Jar Craft, Tuesday, June 10, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.** All ages. Make a cute gnome out of a jar, with a light up bead inside that gives it a magical glow. Drop-in.

**Pokemon Club, every other Wednesday, June 11 and 25, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.** For ages 8-14. Trading, dueling, and gaming on your own handhelds, phones, or Nintendo Switch. Please have your name on everything you bring to the club. Please register.

**3D Paper Strip Sculptures, Monday, June 16, Noon to 5:00 p.m.** All ages. Make free-form sculptures from colorful strips of paper. Drop-in.

**Summer Reading Kick-Off Party, Tuesday, June 17, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** All ages. Join us as we kick off the summer reading program with face painting, balloon animals, glitter tattoos, crafts, cookie decorating, spin art, lawn games, and more! Generously sponsored by Country Bank. Drop-in.

**Tween Graphic Novel Book Group, Thursday, June 26, 5:00 to 5:45 p.m.** For ages 9-13. Meet to discuss graphic novels, play games, and make crafts. This month the group is reading *Séance Tea Party*, by Reimena Yee, which is available in the Youth Room. There will be snacks! Please register.

**Lego Build Challenge, every Wednesday, Noon**

Please see **LIBRARY**, Page 9

### BIKE from Page 1

trail sign, the rodeo began with a registration tent and numerous cyclists ready to bike together as a community. Parade Committee Member Ron Saloio spoke about his gratification towards the community members/businesses that were involved, the parade committee, and his fellow members.

"We've got a lot of help from Iron Duke, from Tandem Bagel, from the LPD who's holding their safety rodeo and giving out helmets. Last year was our first shot at it and this is our second annual one, it seems like we had a pretty good turnout, maybe more than last year. A lot of creativity we saw when they were coming in, they're excited and super creative with their decorations! We're going to have a lot of great prizes, children's books, ice cream at the brewery from Randall's Farm, PlayNow donated gift cards for all the kids, and Texas Roadhouse donated gift cards to all the participants."

Saloio added that there were six prizes for the silliest, most patriotic, and most creative bikes who attended the rodeo. "It's just a great event that we can carry on for years to come and hopefully it gets bigger and better. Our three judges today were Selectman Bill Rosenblum, Ray from PlayNow, and President of the Parade Committee Bruce Durant. We had online registrations, and we had quite a lot of walk-ins as well, there's a lot of work that goes in with the paperwork. There's a lot to that behind the scenes and then everybody donated the time and pretty much all the gifts were donated. There's a lot of great stuff and I just hope we can keep doing it, it's a great community event."

At Sole Syndicate Brew-



Turley photos by Amanda Munson

Bikers cycling through with community members, LPD officers, and friends.

ing Company, the safety rodeo was held by the LPD who provided free helmets and goodies to the children, whilst the parking lot had cones for the children to cycle freely. The person in front and leading the bike parade was Michael Lunsford who was dressed up like a clown for the second year in a row.

Lunsford began sharing his love for acting and how over the years, he's collected numerous costumes and likes to dress up, specifically for Halloween at the Senior Center.

"I just find it fun because it draws a lot of laughter from people. I love that part and I love making people laugh. For the bike rodeo, it's more about a family outing. The families are out here with their children; they've helped them to decorate their bikes and it's just this whole get together. It shows the kids a different kind of fun. Children have an imagination you wouldn't believe, and I see some terrific bikes."

The bike parade and safety rodeo were sponsored by the Parade Committee.



Financial Advisor of PV Financial Peter Leonczyk smiling with excited bikers before the rodeo began.



This young biker smiled for the camera.

### VALADAS from Page 1

guidance to this point in my life throughout my law enforcement career. It is time now for me to devote more time to my wife Susan, to my four children, and to my family. I look forward to other interests and experiences that are yet to come. My only request to the Select Board is that you appoint me as a special police officer on Saturday, August 9th, 2025 so that I may continue to serve the town albeit as a per-diem police officer. I am still Massachusetts Post Certified through 2027, and will allow me to continue to be of as-

sistance to the Ludlow police department in any capacity that they may need me. I was appointed as a Ludlow Auxiliary police officer on May 4, 1990, and I would very much like to return to the special police unit. It has been my honor to serve with pride as a Ludlow police officer and for the past 5 years as a Ludlow police chief, I am grateful to call Ludlow my hometown. Respectfully submitted Daniel J. Valadas, Chief of Police."

Vice-Chairperson William Rosenblum commented first by sharing his gratitude for Chief Valadas, "I will be the first to say, thank you to Chief Valadas. I mentioned to

him at one point that one of the first big duties I had in my first year as a selectman was chief of police interviews. Honestly, it was probably the most nervous I was because you're making a decision on one of the top 3 or 4 officials in the town. I want to thank him for his service, he's always been there whenever I sent him a text or made a phone call. Congratulations Chief, well-deserved."

Member James Gennette added that Chief Valadas has been an outspoken advocate for the police department. "He has fought for his department, a stellar chief, and fulfilled his duty as promised. It was a pleasure to

work with him." Member Anthony Alves followed by saying, "It's sad to lose such a respectful leader in town, but surely happy for him. It's good for him in the future and he'll be coming in to properly recognize him over the next few months."

Chairperson Manuel Silva agreed with the select board comments and gratification towards the chief. "I've known the chief forever and more, I thought he did a wonderful job and I am sad that he's leaving. Thank you chief."

The Select Board acknowledged and accepted Chief Valadas resignation.

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# Ludlow graduates Class of 2025



LHS Class of 2025 at Mullins Center.

**LHS** from Page 1

ents, thank you for your unwavering support. Because of you, I stand here today, and no words can adequately express how grateful I am for you. It has truly been an honor leading this class, and I have no doubts that each of us will accomplish great things. Thank

you and congratulations, graduates.”

Valedictorian Joseph Keroack followed with a speech about the race of life and connecting it to his high school racing career. “As we press on through life, I ask you all today to value others more than ourselves. I ask you to battle against the darkness. I

ask you all to look toward friendship, humble sacrifice, and true connection. As we continue to run forward I ask that we don't get so caught up in our own race, our own paths that we lose sight of what is really important. Friendship that gives us courage, strength, and carries us forward even at our breaking points.

Friendship that combats the darkness of our world. Friendship that lasts longer than gold or glory, and gives us a glimpse at heaven. As Tolkien said, “We will send word when we may, and some of us may yet meet at times, but I fear that we will not all be gathered together ever again.” In the race... Don't run alone.

Run with courage, strength, faith, and friends. Thank you LHS staff for your education and understanding. It's been a pleasure. And finally, thank you to my peers, the LHS class of 2025 for running alongside me as we raced towards our future.” 15 total awards were given out during the ceremony, with beautiful

music from the concert chorus and concert band. In attendance were school committee members, Ludlow High School administration, class advisors, class officers, and arch bearers. Following was congratulating the retirees of 2025; Eric Hanson, Richard Oliveira, and Cheryl Snyder.



Numerous students were recognized for being in Biliiteracy, National Honor Society, Pro Merito, and Tri-M Music Honor Society programs.

Turley photos by Amanda Munson

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

CONGRATULATIONS

*Logan Cabral*

We are so proud of you and all your accomplishments, Westfield State University is so lucky to have you.

We love you so much - Mom, Dad, Peyton, Russell, Roxanne and Elvis



The Class Officers were President Jack Favata, Vice President Esther Coelho, Secretary Madison Tereso, and Treasurer Taylor Colberg.



Multiple graduates decorated their caps for the day.



**Congratulations, Class of 2025!**

Country Bank is happy for you and proud of all you've accomplished so far. As you move onto greater challenges, remember that your community bank stands beside you. Make your dreams come true.

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**Congrats, CLASS OF 2025**

CONGRATULATIONS  
LHS CLASS OF 2025

*Congratulations*  
**Ashlyn Moquin**

We are very proud of you!  
Good luck at Clark University.

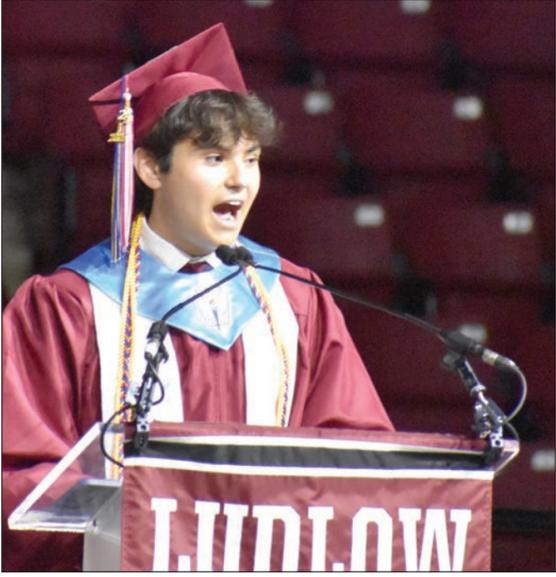
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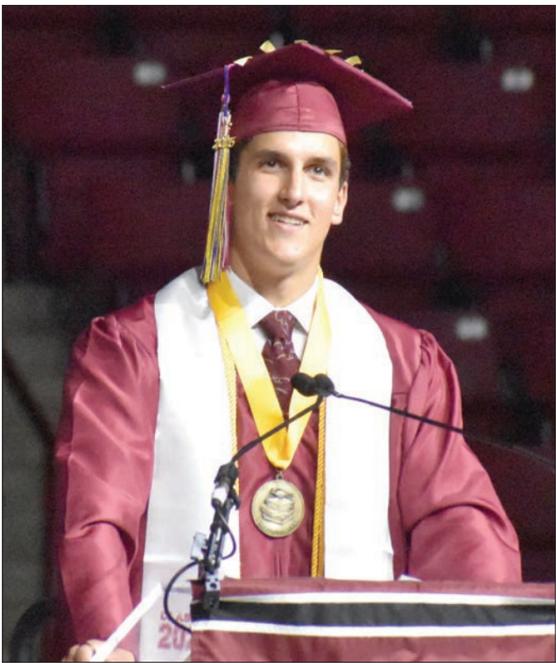
# Ludlow graduates Class of 2025



Class President Jack Favata gives his graduation speech.



Several graduates pictured after receiving their diplomas.



Joseph Keroack gave his valedictorian address, mentioning his brother and fellow runners.



Turley photos by Amanda Munson

*Congratulations*

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CLASS OF  
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Taylor Colberg  
Kate Del Negro  
Ela Dias  
Davane Mchale  
Ava Moutinho  
Alex Rodrigues  
Karina Silva

Belchertown High School

Alyssa Courchesne  
Peter Root

Minnechaug High School

Maxyne Evon

Plymouth State

Kaycie Colberg

WNEU

Chris Lapointe

UMASS

Emily Singleton

Western New England Law School

Joana Tulik

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# Ludlow graduates Class of 2025



Kelsie Blazejowski channeled Alice in Wonderland for her mortarboard.



Waving to friends and families, the LHS graduates were able to view their group in the crowd.



## Kelsie

Congratulations on all that you have accomplished.

We are very proud of you and love you so much.

♥ Love, Your Family



A group photo of the concert chorus after the LHS graduation.

Turley photos by Amanda Munson



These LHS graduates were happy walking out together.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**CLASS OF 2025**  
**&**  
**TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP**  
**WINNER**

**LOGAN WALSH**



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A graduate smiles after getting her diploma.

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# In the Classroom

## COLLEGE NOTES

### Germain inducted into Alpha Phi Sigma honor society

BOSTON – Sydnie Germain, of Ludlow was recently inducted into Pi Epsilon Zeta, a local chapter of the Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society.

Alpha Phi Sigma is the only Criminal Justice Honor Society, is a certified member of the Association of College Honor Societies and is affiliated with the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

The goals of Alpha Phi Sigma are to honor and promote academic excellence, community service, educational leadership, and unity. Applicants must rank within the top 35% of their class and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2.

### Dennis named to Regis College spring 2025 Dean's List

WESTON – Regis announces Julia Dennis of Ludlow met academic requirements to be named to the university's spring 2025 Dean's List, in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements. To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Regis students must earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher; first-year students must have a GPA of 3.25 or higher.

### Maxwell Cocchi of awarded degree at Wilkes University

WILKES-BARRE, PA – Maxwell Cocchi of Ludlow, received the BBA in Management from Wilkes University.

Wilkes University awarded more than 700 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at its 78th spring commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 17. The ceremony for graduate students receiving doctoral and master's degrees was held at 10 a.m., while the ceremony for undergraduates receiving bachelor's degrees was held at 3 p.m. Both ceremonies were held in the McHale Athletic Center in the Simms Center on Main, 169 South Main Street in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

The degrees conferred include approximately 279 bachelor's, 341 master's and 86 doctoral degrees.

### Emma Wehner named to Assumption University's spring 2025 Dean's List

WORCESTER – Assumption University has announced that Emma Wehner, of Ludlow, Class of 2027, has been named to the University's Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester. Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

### Springfield College recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2025 Spring Semester

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students in academic excellence for the 2025 Spring Semester. Listed are some of those from the Ludlow and Indian Orchard area.

Julia Brillo from Ludlow with a primary major of Health Science.

Madison Da Costa from Ludlow with a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PA.

Megan DaCruz from Ludlow with a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PA.

Jacqueline Doucette from Ludlow with a primary major of Criminal Justice.

Bernice Ferron from Springfield with a primary major of Human Services.

Michael Gilrein from Ludlow with a primary major of Health Science.

Ryan Lamountain from Ludlow with a primary major of Exercise Science / Applied ES.

Aaron Little from Ludlow with a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PT.

Jenny Malave-Battles from Ludlow with a primary major of Education.

Julia Mateus from Ludlow with a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PT.

Dean Rodolakis from Ludlow with a primary major of Exercise Science / Applied ES.

Paige St. Pierre from Ludlow with a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PA.

Drew Woishnis from Ludlow with a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PA.

Adam Younes from Ludlow with a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PA.

The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term.

The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term. Student must not have been barred from Dean's List due to disciplinary action.

### Marina Soja named to Elmira College Dean's list for winter 2025 Term

ELMIRA, NY – Marina Soja of Ludlow, MA was named to the Elmira College Dean's List for the Winter 2025 Term. Full-time undergraduate students registered for at least 12 computable credit hours and earning a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher at the end of Term I or Term II are placed on the Dean's List at the College.

### University of Rhode Island students named to Spring 2025 Dean's List

KINGSTON, RI – The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Spring 2025 Dean's List. Among them are:

Abigail Goncalves-Korny of Ludlow

Anthony Grasso of Springfield

Devon Santos of Ludlow

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

### Elizabeth Pereira graduates from Emerson College

BOSTON – Emerson College awarded approximately 1,000 undergraduate degrees to the Class of 2025 during its 145th Commencement at Agganis Arena in Boston, MA on Sunday, May 11, 2025.

Elizabeth Pereira of Ludlow received a BS in Political Communication.

Emmy and Golden Globe-winning actress and Performing Arts alum Jennifer Coolidge gave the commencement address. Both Coolidge and the College's retiring vice president of government affairs and community relations, Margaret Ings, received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.

### Libby receives the Program of the Year award and a Bison Excellence Award

DUDLEY – Evan Libby of Ludlow, MA, received the Program of the Year award and a Bison Excellence Award at the Nichols College annual Student Life Awards ceremony on Tuesday, April 15. The Program of the Year award recognizes an outstanding program developed, promoted and executed by a student organization. This year, the executive committee members of the Campus Activities Board received the award. The Bison Excellence Award recognizes outstanding juniors and seniors who fully embody the mission of Nichols College and the spirit of student life.

## Pope Francis celebrates local graduates



Submitted photo

Congratulations to the following Ludlow residents on their graduation from Pope Francis Prep in Springfield, on Thursday, May 29, Andrew Ferreira, Nick Dias, Gabriella Fialho, Sarah Tatro, Jack Dias.

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Submitted photo

A picture of the photobooth area where the attendees were taking a group photo.

### DANCE from Page 1

cal alternative schools in Indian Orchard and it was a great success. Then, we brought it into the Indian Orchard Citizens Council where we meet with the adults so at the very least, they can share their opinions and things they would like to do. We had a consistent crew of about 15 to 20 girls and boys, primarily middle school age, and they had opportunities to volunteer at the food truck festival, cleanups, the Easter bag giveaway, the turkey giveaway, classes on stop the bleed and financial literacy, guest speakers, library trips, a book club, and much more."

Crawford explained that it was important for her and the IOCC to engage with their youth, "They've given us ideas on what they would like to see the youth do and we just wrapped up our first

ever youth council community dance which was a huge success! They created it, they had the vision and they put it all together. They are really thankful for everybody coming out and it was a great way to really connect with the youth, but more importantly, get more youth on the youth council board. They did recruit a few boys and girls to participate in this coming school year."

"From the beginning to the end, the youth council was involved, even creating the flyer for the dance." The designer of the flyer was 12-year-old Kayloni King. The night itself was a success, Crawford explaining that the kids were befriending each other over the candy table the youth council put together, tons of food, a photo booth that printed out each photograph for the kids to take home, and the DJ to dance the night away.

### EXIT 7 from Page 1

stories for queer teenagers that want, queer adults that still want, and queer elders that never had it to begin with."

Dumas continued, "We want queer theater and queer arts, it's all encompassing diversity and more without segregating itself to smaller corners. To me, that's what queer and queerness means, it's kind of like an overarching identifier that more socially encompasses the cultural aspects of it all. The theater is donating a portion of our proceeds to the Trevor

Project. I plan to print up resources since our play deals with themes like queer self-harm and queer identity."

The Trevor Project is the leading suicide prevention and crisis intervention nonprofit organization for LGBTQ+ young people.

When asked why people should go attend A Spare Me, Dumas followed by saying, "It's about humanity at the end of its time, they've run out of resources and to try to bring them back from the brink of extinction they sent students to specialty schools to figure out the resource issue. And so that

they don't waste that education, they've given these students spare bodies in case of their deaths. The play opens with one student dying and it sets off a chain of identity crises', the student cell no longer knows who he is, what he wants, whether what he wants is what the old him wants or the new him wants. It's very representative of this queer dilemma of coming out when you are young, knowing whether you should stay true to the self that is emerging or the self that you were raised to be. It's a very heavy show but also very fun, you see these characters

and think to yourself despite their identity crises', they're just high school seniors having fun."

Occurring on two week-ends from June 13 through 22nd, the shows will be as follows: Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets can be found at Exit 7 Players website, [exit7players.org/buy-tickets/](http://exit7players.org/buy-tickets/)

A Spare Me is written by A. Rey Pamamat, directed by Devin Dumas, produced by Krystle Bernier, Kelly Gagner, and Jami Wilson, with stage management by Liz Monte.

### LIBRARY from Page 5

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

**Friday Online Club, every Friday, 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.** Play Roblox, Minecraft or other online group games at the library. Meet new friends or play with old ones. Feel free to use one of the library Minecraft accounts: please sign up for your own Roblox or other accounts. For grades 3-8. Please register.

**Saturday Online Club, every Saturday (last day June 21), 11:00 a.m. to**

**12:45 p.m.** Play Minecraft, Roblox, or other online group games at the library. Use the library's Minecraft accounts but please register for your own Roblox or other accounts. For grades 3-8. Please register.

**FOR CHILDREN**  
**First Words for 0-12 mo olds, Fridays, through June 20, 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.** For 0-12 mo olds and their caregivers. This series, presented by a certified speech-language pathologist from Connect 2 Communicate, will focus on early communication and how to support infant speech and language development. Please register.

**You & Me in Music for 18-24 months with Renee Coro, Wednesdays through June 25, 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.**

For 18 to 24 mos. Songs, stories, chanting, musical instruments and more to foster pre-literacy skills. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

**You & Me in Music for 2-5 yr olds with Renee Coro, Wednesdays through June 25, 11:00 to 11:45 a.m.** For 2-5 year olds. Songs, stories, chanting, musical instruments and more to foster pre-literacy skills. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

**Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup for Babies and Toddlers, Thursdays, through June 26 (not 6/19), 9:45 to 10:30 a.m.** For 0-2s. Playgroup led by early childhood development specialists. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please

register.

**Grow, Play & Learn Playgroup for 2-5 yr olds, Thursdays, through June 26 (not 6/19), 10:45 to 11:30 a.m.** For 2-5s. Playgroup led by early childhood development specialists. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

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

**Sing With Me, every Tuesday, 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.** (not 7/29 or 8/12) For 0-5s. Interactive, participatory music for children and their grown-ups with favorite children's songs. Takes place on the library lawn, but we move inside for bad weather. Drop-in.

# SPORTS

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## PeoplesBank baseball team grabs win as Tri-County opens season

HOLYOKE – The Tri-County Baseball League, which still contains the best quality adult baseball in the region, was back in action last week. Multi-time champion PeoplesBank opened up their season last Thursday at Holyoke’s Mackenzie Stadium and defeated Hilltown Tents 15-5. James Flahive got the win while catcher Pete Hogan homered for the Bankers.



Johnny Gegetskas is safe at home.



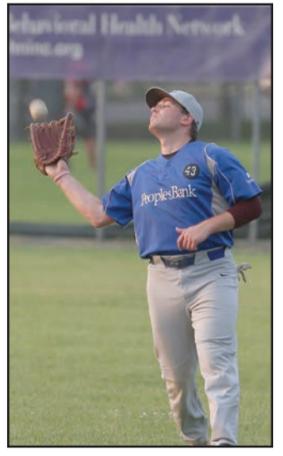
Dave Clark fields a ground ball to second.



Catcher Pete Hogan slides safely into third



Cam MacDonald comes up throwing home.



Cam Rivest catches a fly ball to right.



Lefty James Flahive delivers home.



Laci Lewis looks to deke out an opponent.



Chloe Laizer gets ready to send the ball away.

## Mutiny return home to record win over Eagles

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Even though the weather was miserable, it was still an enjoyable evening for the New England Mutiny players and their faithful supporters.

The Mutiny, who scored a pair of second half goals, defeated the Ole’ Eagles, 2-0, in front of a large crowd on a rainy night at Lusitano Stadium last Saturday

“It’s always nice to win at home,” said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. “I thought we played very well tonight, especially during the second half.”

The Mutiny (2-0) began the regular season by posting a 4-1 home win over Maine Footy two weeks earlier. That match was stopped by the referee in the middle of the second half due to a thunderstorm.

The Ole’ Eagles (0-1), who are from Trumbull Con-



Avery Klingensmith sends the ball deep.



Laci Lewis looks to deke out an opponent.

necticut, is a first year member of United Women’s Soccer, which is celebrating its tenth season.

A couple of the Mutiny players saw their first action in the second home match of the regular season.

Chloe Laizer, who’s graduating this week from West Springfield High School, was the starting goalie.

During the second minute of the first half, Alexa Pino fired a shot from the left side of the box, but Laizer made the diving save keep the visiting team off the scoreboard.

“This was my first start with the Mutiny, and I was a little bit nervous before the game. I had a lot more confidence after making the early save,” said Laizer, who’ll be a freshman on the St. Michael’s College women’s soccer team in the fall. “Playing a game in the rain and wind is very challenging, especially as a goalie.”

Pino, who’ll be a freshman at the University of

South Carolina in the fall, is the two-time Connecticut Gatorade Player of the Year.

The Mutiny back-up goalie was Maddie Riley, who’s a member of the girls’ varsity soccer team at Ludlow High School.

Both teams had several corner kicks during the first half, but the match was still scoreless at halftime.

The Mutiny finally broke the ice with a corner kick goal in the 56th minute.

Avery Galante sent the ball into the box from the left corner where Maya Mathis, who’s a defender, sent a shot into the back of the net past goalie Emily Robinson for her first goal as a Mutiny player.

“Avery and I are best friends. We used to play on a club soccer team together,” Mathis said. “My younger sister, Sadie, was also on the field when I scored my goal,

Please see **MUTINY**,  
Page 11

## Western United Pioneers celebrate 37 graduating seniors



Several outgoing seniors were honored at a recent Pioneers game.

By Abigail McCoy  
Staff Writer  
amccoy@turley.com

LUDLOW — The evening of May 31 was filled with pride, emotion, and celebration as the Western United Pioneers Football Club honored 37 graduating seniors during a special halftime ceremony at historic Lusitano Stadium. Held under the lights and light rain, the event brought together families, coaches, alumni, and soccer fans to recognize the achievements of student-athletes who have helped shape the club’s legacy.

“These individuals have been more than just players on the field,” said Western United Pioneers FC President Carlos Chaves in his opening remarks. “They have been ambassadors of the club and pillars of our community. Their dedication, passion, and sportsmanship have left an indelible mark on our organization.”

The evening’s recognition ceremony honored graduating players from the club’s junior academy, many of whom are continuing their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Chaves emphasized that the event was more than a send-off, it was a celebration of personal growth, commitment, and the role these players have played in the club’s success.

Among the honorees were standout players such

as Chloe Laizer, Abigail Toomey, and Hudson Manzolini. One graduate, Chloe Laizer, was even the starting goalkeeper for the night’s match with the New England Mutiny, the region’s senior women’s professional team that shares a deep connection with the youth academy.

“Most of the women on the Mutiny roster are NCAA Division I collegiate athletes,” Chaves explained. “And Chloe, a high school senior, started in goal tonight. That tells you what kind of talent and commitment we’re celebrating.”

Founded with the mission of developing young talent, the Western United Pioneers program today serves around 800 athletes, half boys and half girls, from ages 4 through high school. The program has grown into a vital part of the regional soccer landscape, nurturing talent and fostering community spirit.

“Tonight is about all 37 of our graduating seniors,” said Chaves. “Whether they’re going on to play in college or moving forward in life in other ways, we’re proud of them. We want to recognize the dedication and passion they’ve shown not just to the sport, but to our community.”

Names of all the graduates were read aloud during the halftime ceremony, receiving enthusiastic applause from the packed stands. The full list includes:



Those honored had been part of the Pioneers youth program.

Katelyn Gilhooly, Calleigh Foley, Avery D’Amour, Allison Morris, Mia Carvalho, Evan Costa, Sophia Scyocurka, Brianna Ribeiro, Robert Bustamante, Ethan Sousa, Eleanor Leland, Collette Thayer, Taylor Colberg, Taryn Cariveau, Madeline Hockman, Parker Tunley, Gabriella Fialho, Lilliana Barkyoub, Derke Lonzak, Ryan Baublitz, Madison Rathbone, Norah Walsh, Nicholas Byrnes, Matthew Ryan, Loretta Petraszewicz, Carlos David, Thomas Wadas, Otis Chuan, Pasquale D’Ascoli, Helen Vissas, Casimir Pierre, Chloe Laizer, Joey Borelli, Abigail Toom-

Please see **PIONEERS**,  
Page 11

# Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No.  
HD25P1146EA  
Estate of:  
Helena Roriz Gois  
Also known as:  
Helena R Gois,  
Maria Helena Roriz De Sousa Gois  
Date of Death: 04/07/2025  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Paul Gois of Westfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Paul Gois of Westfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/26/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days**

**of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: May 29, 2025

**Rosemary A Saccomani**, Register of Probate  
06/11/2025

**LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD  
LEGAL NOTICE  
SPECIAL PERMIT  
HOME OCCUPATION**

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** on the application of Kevin Bradley of 6 Rosewood Drive Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 17, Parcel 3H) for: **small batch bottling of wine.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, July 10, 2025.

Raymond Phoenix  
Chairman  
06/11, 06/18/2025

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](mailto:pressreleases@turley.com).

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14, 2025**

**Strawberry Supper-First Church in Ludlow** 859 Center Street, Ludlow, MA will be presenting our phenomenal Strawberry Supper Take Out on Saturday, June 14, 2025. Pickup time is between 4:30 and 5:30 p.m.

The menu includes Sliced Ham, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Coleslaw, Roll & Strawberry Shortcake for only \$18.00

Call now to secure your reservations 413-547-8720.

**ONGOING FOOD DRIVE BIL-MONTHLY** at First Church LUDLOW—On the first Saturday of each EVEN month (February, April, June, August,

October, December) First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St, collects non-perishable foods. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., drive through the back parking lot. We will take your donations out of your car & bring them to the Community Survival Center to be distributed to those in

need. Bring all food items to drop off at our next Food Drive on June 7, 2025.

**CRAFTERS WANTED** for the Rosary Sodality's

Saint Nicholas Craft Fair and raffle on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at Christ the King Church, 41 Warsaw Avenue, Ludlow, MA, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is a non-refundable \$40 fee for an 8-ft. table, which will be provided by the church. To reserve a table or for more information contact Debbie Martell at 413-547-8739 or Lorraine Bernier at 413-519-7658. Light refreshment will be available.

**SAVE THE DATES**

Ludlow High School "Class of 1975" 50th Class Reunion - Sept. 12, 13 and 14, 2025. Our committee is searching for classmates. If you have any info, please call Denise at 413-735-3751 or Celeste at 413-583-6041.

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION** Ludlow Public Schools Kindergarten Registration 2025-2026 is underway. If you are a Ludlow resident and have a child(ren) who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2025, they are eligible to enter Kindergarten in the fall of 2025. Registration is currently online at [www.ludlowps.org](http://www.ludlowps.org). Questions can be directed to Mrs. Foye at [registration@ludlowps.org](mailto:registration@ludlowps.org) or call 413-583-5695 ext. 6.

**FOOD DRIVE BIL-MONTHLY** On the first Saturday of each EVEN month (February, April, June, August,

October, December) First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St, collects non-perishable foods. From

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., drive through the back parking lot. We will take your donations out of

your car & bring them

to the Community Survival Center to be distributed to those in

need. Bring all food items to drop off at our next Food Drive on April 5, 2025. Thanks for your generosity.

**FREE CLOTHING.** Every Tuesday from 9 to 11 a.m., in the school building located behind Crossway Christian Church, 2230 Main St., Three Rivers. Clothing from baby through adult. Current, seasonal clothes in all sizes. Bags are provided for easy shopping. For more information call Donna, (413)478-0768.

**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.

**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](mailto:indianorchardcitizenscouncil@gmail.com) or stop in during operating hours. Follow the IOCC on Facebook and Instagram.

**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.  
**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.

## MUTINY from Page 10

so it was very exciting sharing that moment with them."

Maya Mathis, who graduated from Acton Boxboro Regional High School, was a member of the UConn women's soccer team during the past two seasons before entering the transfer portal. She'll be joining the University of Kansas women's soccer team this fall.

"I just wanted to make a change and go to a part of the

country where I've never been before," Maya Mathis said. "I'm really excited about playing soccer at Kansas."

Sadie Mathis will be playing soccer at Boston College.

About twenty minutes later, the Mutiny were given a penalty kick following a foul inside the box.

Taylor Jenkins, who also plays at UConn, put the PK into the right corner making the score 2-0.

A couple of local players who played in the home

match are Maddy Theriault (Palmer), Tennessee Murphy (Monson) Kylie Ray (Minnechaug), Bella Meadows (Pope Francis/ Chicopee) Olivia Crespo (Ludlow), and Avery Klingensmith (Belchertown).

The New England Mutiny will be one of the four teams competing in the inau-

gural Brandi Chastain Cup. The Mutiny will be facing Richmond Ivy of the USL W-league at City Stadium in Richmond, VA. On Thursday night.

"It's really special for us to be regarded as one of the top teams in our league," said Klingensmith, who's is a member of the American

University women's soccer "We're very exciting about playing in that game. The team that we'll be playing has some quality players, so it'll be a challenging match for us."

If the Mutiny defeats Richmond Ivy, they'll be hosting the finals of the Brandi Chastain Cup on June 18 at

Lusitano Stadium. The California Storm beat Pan World Elite, 4-1, in the other semifinal, which was held in May.

The Mutiny will also play two regular season road matches against NJ Alliance and the Ole' Eagles before returning home to face Racing Power FC on June 14.

## PIONEERS from Page 10

ey, Ryleigh Remillard, Fallon Clancy, and Hudson Manzolini.

The evening also marked a confluence of tradition and celebration. Lusitano Stadium, one of the nation's oldest soccer-specific stadiums, served as a fitting venue for such an occasion. Built in the 1920s, the walled stadium is home to both the Western Mass Pioneers (USL League Two) and the New England Mutiny (United Women's Soccer), both of which maintain strong ties to the junior academy.

"What makes this place special is the culture," said Chaves. "It's intimate, it's family-driven. You've got volunteers in the kitchen and at the bar. You've got local beer and Portuguese sandwiches being served. It feels like home."

Despite dreary weather earlier in the day, spirits remained high following the club's spring picnic held before the match. Over 450 players, families, and supporters turned out for the event, which blended the grassroots spirit of the club with the professionalism of a matchday

experience.

"Our kids had their picnic in the rain, and then they stayed for the game," Chaves said. "That's what community looks like."

As the Pioneers look to the future, leadership remains committed to fostering talent through experienced coaching and mentorship. The junior program's Director of Coaching, Federico Molinari, brings professional playing experience from Argentina and Italy and also serves as head coach for both the Mutiny and the men's pro team.

"We're a nonprofit, and what sets us apart is the soccer-specific culture and family atmosphere," Chaves said. "We're not just building players...we're building people."

As the night concluded, seniors posed for photos, hugged their teammates, and soaked in the applause one final time as youth players of the Western United Pioneers FC. The send-off was not only a tribute to past accomplishments but a call to future greatness.

"You will always be part of our family," said Chaves. "And we look forward to seeing the amazing things you'll accomplish next."

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Sunday school for adults,  
Young single adults( 18-30) and teens ( 11-18 )  
1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon  
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon  
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon  
Classes for Single Adults(18-30)  
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -11- 12 noon  
Classes for Young Men( 11-18 )  
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon  
Classes for Young Women ( 11-18 )  
2nd & 4th Sunday of the month - 11-12 noon  
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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.

**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.**  
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**MASS SCHEDULE**  
Monday 8:00am  
Tuesday 8:00am  
Wednesday No Mass  
Thursday 6:00pm  
Friday 6:00pm  
Saturday 4:00pm  
Sunday 8:30am (English) 10:15am ( Polish)  
Confessions: Saturday - 3:15-4 p.m.

**ST. ELIZABETH PARISH**  
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**In Residence - Rev. Norman Bolton**  
**Deacons: Normand Grondin, Thomas Rickson, Keith Davies**  
**Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Visit our website at [www.stelizabethludlow.org](http://www.stelizabethludlow.org)**  
**Like us on Facebook Check out our Parish App**  
**Wed., June 11 - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C),SJB Graduation -8:00 a.m. - (FLBH) Adoration 8:15 a.m. (C) Holy Mother Choir - 5:15 p.m. (C),**  
**Thurs., June 12 - Daily Mass -7:30 a.m. (C) Preschool Graduation 9: a.m. (FLBH)**  
**Fri., June 13 - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m.(C), School Awards - 8:30 a.m.(C),**  
**Sat., June 14 - Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C), Saturday Mass - 4:00 p.m.**  
**Sun., June 15 - Daily Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.(C), Tank and Eat Program 8:00 am (FLBH)**  
**Mon., June 16 - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C)**  
**Tues., June 17 - Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), St. Rita's Choir, 2:30 p.m. (C), Pastoral Council 6:30 p.m. (JR)**

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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](http://ourladyoffatimaparish.org).

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**Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs**  
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Fridays: After School Club for Children 5pm  
AA Group 7pm

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Wednesday 9 a.m., Friday 9 a.m.  
Rosary for Peace in Ukraine on Wednesday at 6 p.m.



# OBITUARIES

## DEATH NOTICES

**Pikul, Felix**  
Died: June 5, 2025  
Services: June 13, 2025 at 10 a.m.  
Ludlow Funeral Home

**Richard Donald Methot**  
Died: March 3, 2025  
**Jean Ann Methot (Squires)**  
Died  
January 1, 2024  
Services: June 21, 2025 at 10 a.m.  
St Elizabeth Church

## The Ludlow Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, 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](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## Felix Stanley Pikul, 94

Felix Stanley Pikul died peacefully on June 5, 2025 at age 94. He was born on September 30, 1930 at the family homestead in Palmer Center to John M. Pikul and Bronisława (Bridget) Wegiel. The youngest of eight children, life was not easy for Felix and his siblings. By the time of his birth, the family had survived two house fires and the loss of their business during the depression. While yet a toddler, an industrial accident left his father suffering from a series of strokes and unable to work. With a strong Polish spirit, his mother cared for her invalid husband, raised eight wonderful children and saw all of her sons and son-in-law serve their country honorably in WWII and Korea. Felix was always proud of the accomplishments of his older siblings and credits them for helping his mother to raise him.

After graduating from Palmer High School in 1949, Felix entered the workforce. 1950 arrived and he married the love of his life, Mary Josephine Adzima from Belchertown, who predeceased him in 2017. With the war in Korea looming, Felix joined the Army in March of 1952 and was sent overseas the following January. Attaining the rank of Corporal, Pikul served with the 24th Reconnaissance Co, 24th Infantry Division as a track mechanic, a precursor to his lifelong career. In later years, he made it a point to join the Korean War Veterans Association.

During high school, Felix was a standout on the



football field and it was at that time he developed a lifelong friendship with Robert (Lobby) Johnson. A fellow serviceman, Sgt. Johnson spent 30 months in a Korean prisoner of war camp. Felix appreciated the mutual respect they had for each other and Robert's ability to challenge him on and off the gridiron. Felix readily admitted his friend was better at football. In the late 1950s, the Reliable Service Center on East Street in Ludlow was born and later relocated into a site in downtown Indian Orchard. Felix worked side-by-side with his wife – he in the trenches doing transmission and auto repairs while she handled the business end; Mary was his “right hand” and true life partner in all they did. After almost forty years in business, Felix and Mary packed up and moved to Florida to enjoy the warmer weather. In 2022, despite the cold weather, he elected to return to his roots and spend his years closer to family in Massachusetts.

A communicant of Christ the King Church in Ludlow, MA, Felix's Catholic faith was always an important part of his life. He joined the Knights of Columbus and rose to become a 3rd Degree Knight, participating in numerous events to serve the Church and using his talents to set an example for others.

Integral with his faith was the pride he had in his Polish heritage. Felix's parents journeyed to the United States from Poland in the early 1900s and he

never tired of hearing stories about his ancestors or telling people about his relatives. More than anything, he wanted people to know the successes of his siblings after their return from serving their country in WWII – Anthony a CPA for a major accounting firm, Martin the owner of a plumbing and oil burner service company, Edward an accomplished and respected carpenter, Clarence a master electrician, Chester a certified diesel mechanic for Baystate Gas and George, a well-respected millwright for Monsanto. Felix cherished his sister Julia, a wife and mother who worked hard to maintain her home and support the career of her husband Henry Lord, an engineer at Diamond International and holder of many patents.

Felix is survived by his son Craig, daughter Cynthia and grandson Andrew, along with many nieces and nephews from both the Pikul and Adzima families. In addition to his wife Mary, he was predeceased by all his brothers and his beloved sister.

Visiting hours are on Thursday June 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Ludlow Funeral Home. Funeral services for Felix will be held on Friday, June 13 at 10 a.m. from Ludlow Funeral Home with Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. in Christ the King Church. Friends and family may then gather for interment with Military Honors on Tuesday, June 17 at 2 p.m. directly at Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Agawam. Due to cemetery restrictions, the family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Felix's memory to Christ the King Church.

## GARDEN from Page 4

If soil has been turned over or rototilled first it is easy to simply place the bean seeds on top of the soil four inches apart and push them into the ground with your index finger, up to the first knuckle. Pat the surface of the soil with your palm to firm, and water well. Germination will take place in a week to 10 days.

It is good practice not to work among the plants after a rainstorm or in the early morning when dew is present. Touching wet foliage can encourage diseases and spread them from plant to plant.

When the foliage is dry you will want to be on the look out for the Mexican Bean Beetle. A bit larger than ladybugs, and all brown, these pests and their fuzzy yellow larvae can decimate a stand of bean plants. Vigilance is the key.

If squashing bugs isn't for you, dropping them into soapy water will also do them in. Try planting marigolds nearby to deter them.

I have also found through experience that subsequent sowings are best sited away from one another. It will take the beetles a longer time to find the new plants than if they are planted side by side.

Harvest beans when they are still relatively thin. Depending on the variety, pods can average five to seven inches long at maturity. When inner seeds start to swell and fatten up the bean they aren't nearly as tasty.

As mentioned, bumper crops are possible, and sometimes it may be difficult to keep up with the harvest. One variety known especially for its holding power is Jade. Beans from this variety retain a deep green color and sport thin pods.

I have also enjoyed growing French beans “Haricot Verts” because they are very long and thin, never tough.

Fresh beans are easy to freeze. Blanch in boiling water for three minutes then plunge into ice water until cooled. Air-dry thoroughly, pack in plastic bags, and place in the freezer. Easy breezy.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

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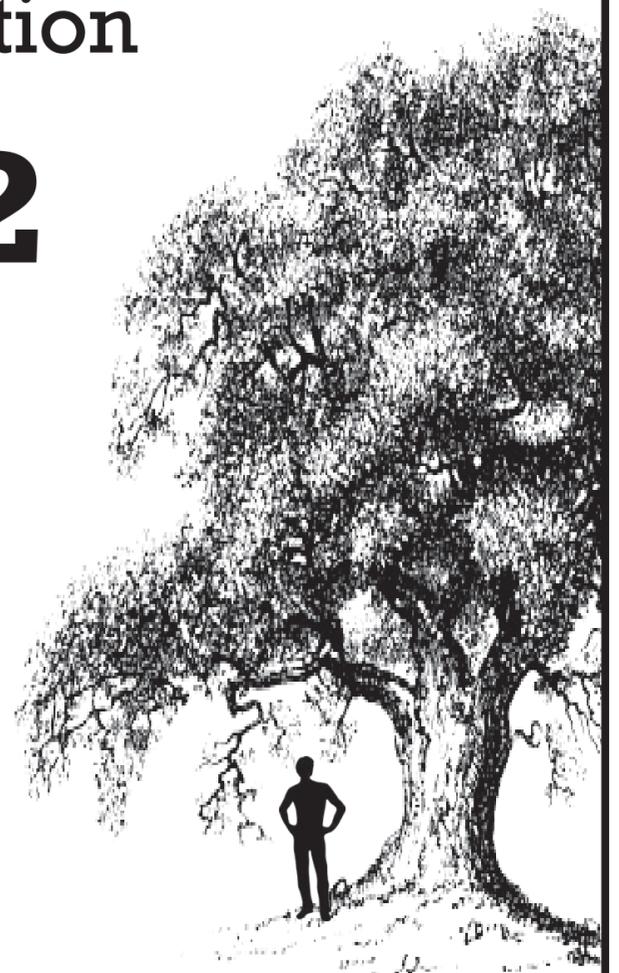
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