



Police arrest man attempting elder scam

LUDLOW – Last week, a New York man was arrested by police for scamming a local resident. According to a press release from the Ludlow Police Department, Chief Michael Brennan reports that the department arrested and charged a New York man in connection with a scam that stole thousands of dollars from an elderly resident.

Suqi Chen, 43, of Flushing, NY, was arrested and charged with:

Larceny Over \$1,200 by False Pretense

Larceny from a Person Age 65 or Older

Extortion of a Police Officer (two counts)

Attempted Larceny from a Person Age 60 or Older/Disabled

Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official

Conspiracy

Permitting Abuse of an Elderly or Disabled Person

Impersonating a Police Officer

Identity Fraud

Forgery of a Document (three counts)

Uttering a False Writing (three counts)

On June 21, the Ludlow Police Department was notified that an elderly Ludlow resident had been the victim of a fraud scheme after being contacted by individuals claiming she had been charged a large sum of money for a fraudulent purchase.

The individuals contacted the victim by phone, posing as Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Agents. The victim, while attempting to correct the charge, was told by the scammers that her finances had been compromised and was instructed not to notify local law enforcement.

The victim was persuaded to provide personal identifying information and withdraw a large sum of cash, which she then gave to an individual posing as a federal agent. The exchange took place on June 17.

The scammer then attempted to fraudulently obtain additional funds from the victim under the false promise that her funds would be returned by the federal government. The scammers provided photos of government-issued checks, which were later determined to be fraudulent, to the victim in an effort to further convince her of their official government affiliation.

On June 21, the victim contacted the Ludlow Police Department after realizing she had been scammed.

Members of the Ludlow Police Detective Bureau immediately began an investigation and learned that the suspect was actively arranging to collect the additional funds. On June 22, detectives

Please see **ELDER SCAM**, Page 3



Submitted photo

Residents in Holyoke would protest data centers before the city council passed a resolution to ban data centers of a certain size.

Resident requests data center moratorium

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – At Tuesday’s Select Board meeting, the board received a letter from a resident who is concerned about the possibility of the town being a proposed site for a data center, and believes the town should pass a moratorium on data centers in order to allow time to develop regulations for them.

Certain zoning allows for the construction of data centers, but cities and towns are starting to developing bylaws

and ordinances that will regulate the structures, which are known to be a heavy draw on resources including water and electrical power.

The Select Board, which was scheduled to receive the correspondence this week, could ask the Planning Board to develop and recommend a moratorium.

Kathleen Shea, a resident in Precinct 4, outlined several reasons why the town should consider a moratorium.

“I understand this (data centers) is a use our current Zoning Bylaw does not

specifically address, and I am concerned that a proposal could come forward before the town has had a real chance to think through what reasonable rules should like,” Shea states. “Other Massachusetts town have run into this same gap. Shutesbury, for example, put a temporary moratorium in place in 2025 specifically so it’s Planning Board could study the issue.”

She said noise, water use for cooling systems, energy demand, and appropriate size and siting limits are among the concerns that could go

into a potential bylaw regulating data centers.

Most recently, the City of Holyoke ran into a data center proposal, which is likely going to go through. But the city council there would set a regulation on the maximum size of any data center that is installed in the city.

Another nearby community, Agawam, has a resolution headed for a city council vote that would place a temporary ban on data centers

Please see **DATA CENTER**, Page 3

Eversource to start getting warrants’ to enter properties

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – Last year, Eversource Energy rolled out smart meters for customers that are meant to make monitoring electrical usage to be streamlined and more accurate. It also was supposed to stop the need for any kind of manual reading of meters as the information would be automatically sent to Eversource.

Eversource notified customers and began entering properties to change out the meters. Now, representatives from Eversource have notified Town Administrator Marc Strange that it will be stepping up its work to complete installation of the smart meters for property owners who have not responded to requests to enter their property and do the changeover.

“Over the past several months, representatives from Eversource and its authorized contractor have made numerous attempts to contact you regarding access to the electric meter,” an Eversource letter that has gone out to customers states. “At this time, we have not received a response to arrange access to complete the meter exchange at your property.”

Strange was contacted by Leslie Gulluni, a representative for Eversource, stating that the company is still



Submitted photo

Eversource began rolling out smart meters to customers. They are now trying to compete the installation.

working to complete the installation of new meters

“We’re down to fewer than 6,800 customers across the region who meters have not been accessible during at least three site visits,” Gulluni states. “These customers have not responded to multiple phone calls and door hangers left at their homes with instructions on setting up an appointment.”

Gulluni states that Eversource has the legal right to enter properties under Massachusetts law.

“We have the right come on to their property to access our meter,” she states. She said the company can get a legal authorization in the form of a warrant to enter properties, but said it is not the optimal approach.

“Obtaining a warrant for property access is a last resort that we only use when absolutely necessary,” Gulluni states.

Eversource is asking customers in Ludlow and other communities that they service to not ignore contact

and to allow the company to change out the meters. Eversource is also telling customers that if a legal action is required to obtain access to a property, a related fee of \$240 will be charged to the customer’s account to recuperate to cost of pursuing the action.

Additionally, customers who attempt to opt-out of the smart meter changeover will be charged a fee of \$34 per

Please see **EVERSOURCE**, Page 5

Staying safe from ticks and pesky mosquitos

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

As the weather gets warmer there is an increase in the number of ticks and mosquitos as people go about summer activities. It is important for people to be aware of protection against these insects to prevent illnesses, including West Nile Virus, Lyme disease and Alpha-gal Syndrome.

The Director of Public Health in Wilbraham Ryan Paxton recommends that people check themselves, children and pets for ticks after going outdoors.

The key places to check are: inside and behind ears, along the hairline, the back of the neck, the armpits, the groin, the legs, and between the toes.

To remove a tick utilize fine point tweezers and grab the tick as close to the skin as possible. Try to pull straight out, as moving at an angle can leave parts of the tick behind.

Additionally, as is on the website for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, people should avoid applying kerosene, petroleum jelly, nail polish or a hot match tip to remove a tick, as those methods aren’t effective and can result in injury.

The Department of Public Health also recommends noting when the tick was removed and where on the

body it was removed from. This information will be helpful if a person or pet needs to go to a doctor for treatment.

A person should go to the doctor if they develop a rash where they were bitten or experience the common symptoms of tick-borne diseases (including fever, headache, fatigue or sore muscles).

Someone should also go to the doctor if they have stomach or intestinal problems (including nausea, vomiting or diarrhea) or symptoms of an allergic reaction within a few hours of eating meat or dairy.

It is also important to be aware of mosquito bites. The West Nile Virus is the most common mosquito-borne illness in the United States.

However, this illness has not been reported in humans in Massachusetts this year.

To prevent tick and mosquito bites a person can wear a light-colored long-sleeved shirt with long pants and tuck their pants into their socks. This helps to prevent a tick or mosquito from getting onto a person’s skin and can help a person to spot a tick on their clothing.

Avoiding outdoor activities between dusk and dawn during peak mosquito

Please see **STAYING SAFE**, Page 5

DATEBOOK

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

ONGOING

PLAY CRIBBAGE IN INDIAN ORCHARD - Cribbage players of all ages and ability are welcome to enjoy a fun time with other local cribbage players. Join us at Club #72, "Pegging Fools", Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at St. Gregory Armenian Church, 135 Goodwin St., Indian Orchard. For more information, contact Peter Setian, 413-552-6336.

VOLLEYBALL at E Street School began Sept. 16th at 5:30 p.m. They play Tuesday and Thursdays. Call the Ludlow Senior Center for more information 413-583-3564.

BI-MONTHLYFOOD DRIVE. 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.

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.

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

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 Monday - Aquacise 9 to 9:45 a.m.; Tuesday - Aquajazz 9 to 9:30 a.m.; Aquacise - 10 to 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday - Aquacise - 9 to 9:45 a.m.; Thursday - Aquacise 10 to 10:45 a.m. and Friday - Aquacise 9 to 9:45 a.m. 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.

2026 Vote by mail postcards available

LUDLOW – Ludlow Town Clerk's Office would like to inform Ludlow voters that per M.G.L. c. 54, § 25B paragraph (7) (i), the State Secretary must send vote-by mail applications to every registered voter in Massachusetts prior to state primaries and state elections.

Please expect to receive the application on or before July 18, 2026. You will not receive an application if you have already applied for a vote-by-mail ballot for all

elections this year. Please sign your application before returning it. Massachusetts law requires your signature in order to process your request.

If you are an unenrolled voter requesting a vote-by-mail ballot for the State Primary, you must choose a party ballot (Democratic or Republican). If you do not select a party, we cannot send you a vote-by-mail ballot for the State Primary because we must know which party's ballot you are

requesting.

If you misplace your application, they are available on the town's website or through the Secretary of State website or you may provide a handwritten request.

The deadline to request a ballot by mail for the September 1, 2026, State Primary is Tuesday, August 25, 2026, by 5 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's office (413) 583-5600.

LPD announces temporary traffic pattern changes for 2026 Festa Celebration

LUDLOW – The Ludlow Police Department is informing residents and visitors of temporary traffic pattern changes that will be in effect during the 2026 Festa Celebration, held in September, to help ensure the safety of pedestrians, motorists, and emergency responders.

The temporary traffic pattern will affect the areas of Canterbury Street, Newbury Street, and East Street during the following dates and times:

- Thursday, September 3: 5 to 10 p.m.
- Friday, September 4: 5 p.m. to 12 a.m.
- Saturday, September 5: 12 p.m. to 12 a.m.
- Sunday, September 6: 7 a.m. to 12 a.m.
- Monday, September 7:

12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

These traffic pattern changes are in effect only during the dates and times listed above. Normal traffic flow will resume outside of these designated periods.

Important Traffic Information

To assist with traffic flow during the event, motorists are asked to observe the following changes:

- Access to Newbury Street from East Street will be restricted to emergency vehicles only.

- Residents who need to access Newbury Street should do so via Canterbury Street or Winsor Street.

- Canterbury Street will operate as a two-way street from its entrance to the end

of the Tony & Penny's parking lot.

- A Ludlow Police officer will be stationed at the intersection of Canterbury Street and Newbury Street to assist motorists, answer questions, and help maintain safe traffic flow.

Community members and visitors attending the event are encouraged to allow extra travel time, follow posted signs, and obey the directions of officers and traffic control personnel.

The Ludlow Police Department appreciates the public's patience and cooperation as these temporary changes are implemented to accommodate the Festa celebration and looks forward to a safe and enjoyable event for all.

Cookbook Club at the Wilbraham Library Aug. 5

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Public Library Cookbook Club is meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 5, at 6:30 p.m.

This month's selection is "Tenderheart: a cookbook about vegetables and unbreakable family bonds," by

Hetty Lui McKinnon.

Please let the library know what you're bringing when registering so we do not duplicate recipes. Cooking is encouraged but not required for attendance. Copies of the book are available now at the Service Desk.

The Cookbook Club meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m. This program is free and open to the public, and registration is required. For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

Community Newspaper
ADVERTISING
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The advertisement features a dark background with red and white accents. At the top center, the OrthoMA logo is displayed above four anatomical illustrations showing injuries to the shoulder, knee, hip, and wrist. To the left, large 3D-style text reads "NOW OPEN". To the right, another large 3D-style text reads "NEW HOURS!". Below these, a red banner states "STARTING AUGUST 3, 2026". A central box lists services with checkmarks and new hours. Three doctors are shown at the bottom. The footer contains two columns of clinic information and contact details.

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4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

WEEKENDS

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

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Rep. Puppolo announces passage of economic bill

BOSTON, MA – State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. announces House passage of a \$561 million economic development bond bill that strengthens key innovation sectors, supports small businesses, expands housing opportunities, and positions the Commonwealth for long-term economic growth and competitiveness.

The legislation makes targeted updates across dozens of state programs to improve efficiency, encourage investment, reduce barriers to economic development, and better prepare Massachusetts for emerging industries and workforce needs.

“This legislation is about investing in our communities and ensuring our cities and towns have the resources they need to grow, improve infrastructure, support local

businesses, and enhance the quality of life for residents,” said Representative Puppolo. “I am proud to support a bill that strengthens Massachusetts’ economy while delivering meaningful investments that directly benefit the communities I represent.”

Among the local initiatives championed by Representative Puppolo are several key projects that will directly benefit residents, businesses, and communities throughout the district, including \$300,000 for the Springfield Technology Park to support parking lot restoration and infrastructure improvements in support of the Springfield Technology Park and the Western Massachusetts quantum project; \$600,000 for the Town of Wilbraham to construct a new sidewalk on Stony Hill Road from Wilbraham Commons to the

intersection of Boston Road, improving pedestrian safety, accessibility, and connectivity for residents and businesses; \$50,000 for the Town of Monson for interior repairs and renovations at the Monson Free Library, including improvements to the reading room and foyer; and \$50,000 for the Town of East Longmeadow for the preservation, repair, maintenance, and enhancement of the East Longmeadow Veterans Memorial, in consultation with the East Longmeadow Veterans Memorial Committee.

“These projects reflect the priorities of our communities and represent meaningful investments in our region,” said Representative Puppolo. “From supporting innovation and economic opportunity at the Springfield Technology Park, to improving pedestrian safety in Wil-

braham, preserving an important community resource in Monson, and honoring the service of our veterans in East Longmeadow, these investments will have a lasting impact for years to come.”

Representative Puppolo emphasized that strategic investments in infrastructure, innovation, and community development are essential to ensuring that every region of the Commonwealth shares in Massachusetts’ continued economic success.

“I will continue working to ensure that Springfield, Wilbraham, Monson, and East Longmeadow receive the resources they need to grow and prosper,” said Representative Puppolo. “By investing in our communities today, we are building a stronger economy and a brighter future for generations to come.”

Golf for Good: tee off for women and girls

BELCHERTOWN – Join us for the 32nd Annual Zonta Golf Tournament and help create a brighter future for women and girls in our community. On Saturday, Sept. 12, at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown, we’ll tee off at 8:30 a.m. for a day of fun, friendly competition, and making a difference.

Whether you’re a seasoned golfer or just looking for a fun day out, everyone

is welcome. For \$120, you’ll enjoy a round of golf, a delicious box lunch, and the chance to win amazing prizes.

Your support directly funds scholarships and grants that empower women and girls to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. We’re working to end child marriage, domestic violence, and human trafficking, while also supporting climate

justice, education equality and women in decision-making positions.

Let’s make a lasting impact together! Sign up today at zontaq.org/golf or contact Mary Knight at 413-323-4806. We also welcome sponsorships from local businesses.

Be a champion for women and girls. Join us on the green.

ELDER SCAM from Page 1

tives coordinated with the victim to contact and arrest the suspect, identified as Chen.

Chen was taken to Palmer District Court and held on \$50,000 bail.

Residents who believe they may have fallen victim to a scam or who believe they may be communicating with

scammers are encouraged to immediately contact the Ludlow Police Department at 413-583-8305.

Ludlow Police would like to remind residents of the following scam safety tips:

- Never share personal information over the phone.
- Never respond to unknown phone numbers.
- Don’t click on any hyper-

links.

Report and block numbers that appear to be scams.

Scammers often tell you to pay using difficult-to-recover payment methods, including cash, gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.

Scammers pretend to be from an organization you know or a government-affiliated organization.



Submitted photo
A resident in Ludlow wants to see the town issue a temporary moratorium on data centers in order be able to come up with an appropriate set of rules for the structures.

DATA CENTER from Page 1

for the same purpose Shea is asking for one in Ludlow.

Agawam had a similar situation dealing with Battery Energy Storage Systems, another type of facility that has major concerns for residents in the region. Mayor Christopher Johnson would develop local regulations to help with their placement and place

limits and safety parameters on BESS. Agawam is now looking to the same thing with data centers, recognizing that they are a growing trend.

Shea expressed similar sentiments, saying Ludlow needs its own rules.

“I want to be clear that I am not asking the Board to ban this use forever, or to make a snap decision,” she

said. “I am asking for time, the chance to study the issue properly, hear from residents, and come up with rules that actually fit Ludlow, instead of being forced to react to whatever a developer proposes first.”

The Register will try to update the progress of the moratorium suggestion if and when the Select Board discusses it.

Crafters wanted for St. Nick Fair

LUDLOW – Crafters Wanted for the Rosary Sodality’s St. Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, at Christ the King Church located at 41 Warsaw Avenue in Ludlow 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 refreshments will be available.

St. Elizabeth Parish looking for vendors

LUDLOW – St. Elizabeth Parish, Ludlow, is now accepting applications for vendors for the St Nick’s Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 9 to 3 p.m. The 8’ table is provided and the charge is \$40.

Please call Pat at (413) 531-6997 for an application or additional questions. Thank you.

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NOTICE

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

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Perennial of the Week July 22-July 28

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN

Guest Column



Keep your liver alive for a lifetime

Tucked under your ribs next to your stomach on the right side, your liver may not be a body part you think about every day, but this three-pound powerhouse - our largest internal organ - performs a lot of important functions our bodies rely on.

And it's up to us to keep it going.

Some liver diseases are caused by genetic mutations that can be inherited. Liver health, however, is largely dependent on our own lifestyle behaviors. Let's take a moment to appreciate all our liver does for us, and how we can keep it in tip-top condition.

What does the liver do?

A lot. Your liver's biggest job is filtering harmful substances and waste from your blood. Every day, your liver filters more than 250 gallons of blood. As if that weren't enough, it also makes cholesterol, produces certain hormones, makes proteins, stores glucose to keep your blood sugar steady, and breaks down toxins and germs so your body can eliminate them.

How do you know if your liver is healthy?

A healthy liver doesn't really call attention to itself. Typically, your regular bloodwork will look at albumin and bilirubin levels. Low albumin levels, typically below 3.5 grams per deciliter, can indicate liver malfunction. A normal bilirubin level is generally less than 1 milligram per deciliter; anything higher is associated with potential liver disease. Abnormal results in these measures may indicate further screening is needed.

A liver that's feeling poorly will make you feel poorly, too, with fatigue, swelling in feet and ankles, abdominal pain, easy bruising or bleeding, and chills. Another telltale sign is jaundice, a yellowing of the skin and eyes caused by the buildup of bilirubin.

What can go wrong with your liver?

One of the more prevalent liver disorders is inflammation classified as Hepatitis A, B and C. Hep A is caused by contaminated food or water, not a huge problem in the U.S. but more common elsewhere in the world.

Hep B and Hep C viruses spread through contact with infected blood and body fluids through unprotected sex or needle sharing. It used to be that blood transfusions were a common source of hepatitis, but today's thorough screening methods make that very rare now. Vaccines help prevent Hep A and B. There's no vaccine yet for Hep C because the virus takes many different forms.

The most common liver disorder is metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), which is excessive fat build-up in the liver without another clear

cause, such as alcohol use. Obesity and type 2 diabetes are associated with this disorder.

What does alcohol do to your liver?

Heavy drinkers and binge drinkers are at particular risk for liver disease, but even moderate drinking can affect liver function. Alcohol stresses the liver by causing fat buildup, inflammation and eventually scarring, leading to conditions like alcoholic fatty liver disease, alcoholic hepatitis and cirrhosis.

The good news is that our livers are remarkably resilient. Going 24 hours without alcohol eases the burden on the liver, and taking a break for a full 30 days lets your liver go into full recovery mode. If you drink, try to take a 30-day break a couple of times a year, and then have a few "dry" days each week. Your liver will thank you.

How do you keep a healthy liver healthy?

A lot of the same foods in a healthy diet are also liver-friendly: lean proteins, fatty fish, cruciferous veggies (i.e. broccoli, kale, cabbage and the like), nuts and olive oil.

Some studies indicate that blueberry and cranberry extracts may be helpful, but more research is needed. Experts warn against so-called "de-tox" treatments for livers because they haven't been through clinical trials or been approved by the FDA.

Other helpful behaviors include maintaining a healthy weight and exercising. No surprises there. Above all, limit alcohol intake and take booze breaks for a day, a week or a month.

Problems with our livers can creep up on us, causing few symptoms until significant damage has already been done. If you have a family history of liver disease, acquaint yourself with the symptoms and ask your doctor whether more screening should be done.

While liver transplants have become relatively common - more than 11,000 performed in 2024 - it's likely you can keep yours going with some smart lifestyle choices.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.

GUEST COLUMN

Twenty-four days of mountains, miles & memories on the Appalachian Trail



By Julie Midura

Seventeen days into our 320-mile walk on the A.T. from North Carolina to Virginia, the sky broke open with unyielding rain, drumming the leaves overhead and turning the trail into a torrent of rushing water. The squish, squish, squish of water-filled shoes became a constant melody for the next eight days as rain drifted through the forest... sometimes in sheets and sometimes in hushed murmurs.

Wet foliage accosted us at every turn, the branches leaning heavily onto the trail from the weight of SO MUCH unrelenting rain.

Every step became methodical. Our eyes looked down rather than ahead, focusing on the individual brushstrokes rather than the entire painting. Only then were we able to see the tiny little details we likely would not have noticed under sunny skies.

As we continued to walk through ever-present WET, our attention narrowed. We focused our eyes on a much smaller world-the one directly below our feet.

I crouched down to see a turtle shyly peeking its head out of its bright yellow lacquered shell. I squatted with my elbows on my knees in the middle of the path to watch a snail moving with ceremonial slowness as it crossed the trail on a rotting log, leaving a trail of silver in its wake. I stooped low to get a closer look at a vivid orange salamander with black speckles dusting its back and golden eyes staring straight into mine. I observed tiny creatures of our earth-who



Submitted photos

remain under cover on hot sunny days-come to life on the surface of the raindrops.

For eight days in a row, we awoke in a tent and pulled on soaking wet socks and shoes. We gripped trekking poles with fingers that turned white and puckered by days end. But we also witnessed magical forest spirits and tiny details we would never have noticed on a clear day.

It rained overnight and was still spitting when we packed up our wet tent on our final day on trail. Before we started walking, we ended our morning prayer with, "And if it be your will, Lord, please let us end this hike under sunny skies."

Several hours later, we reached the end of our journey at the Virginia border, completing our 320-mile walk from Fontana Dam, NC to Damascus, VA! We congratulated each other, snapped a few pictures, then continued hiking the final few miles toward the town of Damascus, where our friends were meeting us to shuttle us back to our car.

As we walked, the clouds finally began to loosen their grip on the sky. Minutes later, golden beams of sunlight spilled between the branches, as if an unseen hand was parting a curtain. The entire forest came alive with a radiance that could not be explained by mere sunlight alone.

I stopped walking, and with my pack on my shoulders, I tilted my face upward as the sun poured rivers of gold through the canopy above me. And suddenly, I was filled with an overwhelming revelation-so powerful that I began to weep uncontrollably.

I wept not because the rain finally stopped. Not because the hike had been so hard. Not because we completed our goal. I cried, because in that sudden moment of awakening, I could feel God's presence to the depths of my very soul. And I realized we had never walked a single mile alone.

God had carried us through every storm. Through every drop of rain. Every exhausting climb. Every windswept ridge. Every stretch of muddy trail. Through every ache and every pain.

He had not been waiting for us at the end. Had not been watching us from a distance. He had been walking right alongside us, filling us with His glory with every step, and carrying us when we could no longer carry ourselves.

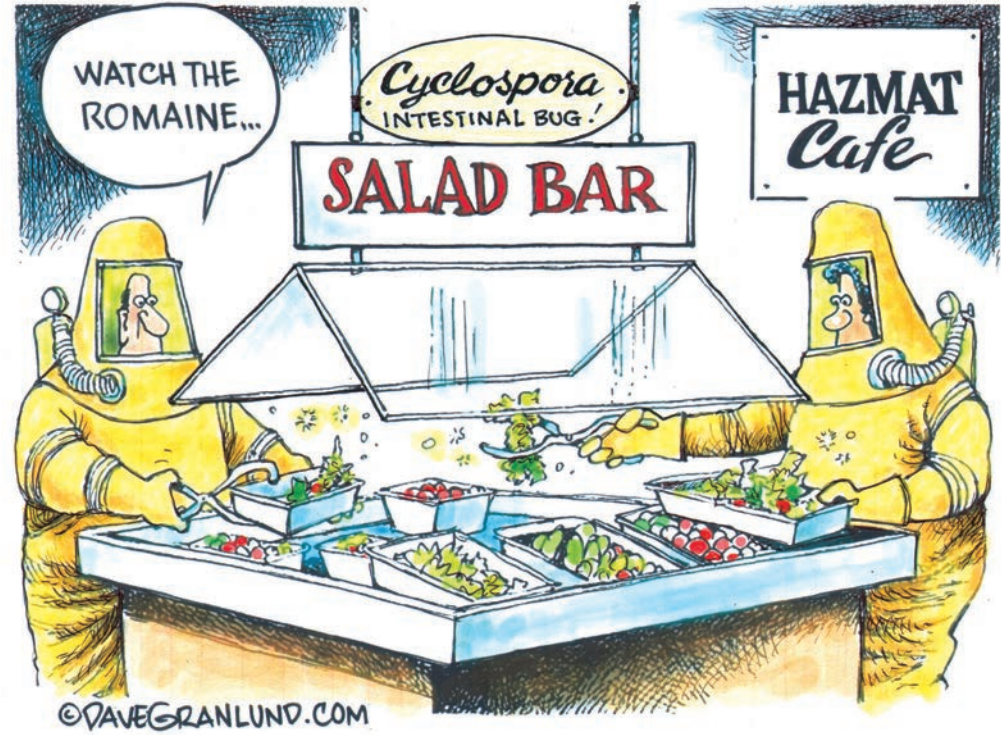
My fatigue had concealed it. The rain and clouds had obscured it. My own determination had camouflaged it. But here, in a moment of complete clarity, with the sunlight warming my face, drops of water dripping from the leaves above me, and over three hundred miles behind me, I could see it clearly.

God had been with us in every step.

In the strength when ours failed. In the shelter that appeared when we needed it most. In the strangers who offered kindness. In the moments when we thought we had nothing left, yet somehow continued forward.

I stood among the trees, while beams of golden light streamed through the branch-

Please see **HIKING**, Page 9



The REGISTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 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. 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.

What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library

To register for programs or find out more information, visit ludlow.cwmars.org, or call (413) 583-3408 x113. Weather-related announcements for outdoor events will be made on the library's Facebook page the morning of the program.

Library Hours: Mon 9–5, Tue 9–8, Wed 9–5, Thu 9–8, Fri 9–5, Sat 10–2. Closed Saturdays during the summer, Sundays and holidays.

Friends of the Hubbard Memorial Library, third Thursday of the month, 6 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

True Crime—Dinosaur Edition, Thursday, July 23, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Retired Special Agent Ian Smythe discusses the FBI's Art Crime Program and how it has worked to prevent cultural property theft and trafficking in cases involving dinosaur bones and archaeological treasures. Please register.

Creative Writing Hour, Tuesday, August 4, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Drop in and get some writing done! The facilitator will provide prompts for various genres (fiction, poetry, memoir) and a quiet space for writing. Share what you've written if you like! Please register.

VIRTUAL—"Act Worthy of Yourselves" with author Salina B. Baker, Monday, August 10, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Learn about the life of Dr. Joseph Warren, a Boston medical man and scholar who became a warrior and revolutionary during the American Revolution. Register online for your Zoom link or call (413) 583-3408 x114 for assistance.

Footprints and Fossils, Thursday, August 13, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Interested in dinosaurs? Would you like to see a fossil up close? Curious to learn more about evidence of prehistoric life in the local area? Retired HCC Professor Steve Winters discusses these topics and more! Geared for adults. Please register.

VIRTUAL—Celebrating America's 250th with Presidential Doodler Heather Rogers, Monday, August 17, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. "Presidential Doodler" Heather Rogers shares trivia and her own original artwork in this fascinating talk about lesser-known figures from American history. Please register.

Chair Volleyball for Seniors - ADDITIONAL DAY! Every Monday and Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Have some fun and join us for chair volleyball! No running or jumping re-

quired. Walk-ins are welcome!

Technology Appointments, Have questions about your smartphone, tablet, or laptop? Book a 30-minute, one-on-one technology appointment by visiting the reference desk or calling (413) 583-3408, x114.

Seeking Local Artists, Seeking local artists, craftspeople, and collectors who would like to display their wares in the library's display case. Exhibits remain in place for one calendar month. For more information, or to arrange a showing, call (413) 583-3408, x113.

Mass Center for the Book Monthly Reading Challenge, Each month, read a book based on a chosen theme. Participants will be entered to win a free tote bag full of books! For more information and to sign up, please visit <https://www.massbook.org/readingchallenge-2>

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! Pick up a copy of this month's 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! Pick up a copy of this month's book at the circulation desk.

FOR YOUTH

"Unearth a Story" Summer Reading, through August 17, sign up on the Beanstack App. For youth of all ages. Read 20 minutes a day and earn digital raffle tickets towards one of our awesome prizes! What if you don't win a raffle? No worries! All youth participants get a small prize at the end.

Music and Movement, Thursdays, July 23, 30, 11 a.m. For ages 2-5. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

Tween Graphic Novel Book Club, Thursday, July 23, 5 to 5:45 p.m. For ages 10-14. This month's book is available in the youth room. Please register.

Tie Dye, Friday, June 24, 2:30 p.m. Raindate: August 5, 1:00pm. For ages 8-17. On the library lawn. Bring a washed and dried 100% cotton shirt, and a plastic bag to take it home in. Leave the mess with us! Please register.

Dino Build Challenge, Monday, July 27, 12:30 p.m. For ages 5-17. Use recycled materials to make a dinosaur. Drop-in.

Youth Chess Club, Mondays (biweekly) July 27, 3:30 p.m. Ages 9-17. Please register.

Youth Crochet Club, Tuesdays (biweekly), July 28, 5:30 p.m. For ages 10-17. Please register.
Anime Club, Tuesdays (biweekly), July 28, 3:30 p.m. For middle and high school. Registration recommended.

Notebook Making for Elementary, Wednesday, July 29, 1 p.m. For youth grades 3-6. Please register.

Junk Journal Book Making (part 1) for Tweens and Teens, Thursday, July 30, 5:30 p.m. For ages 10-17. Please register.

Harry Potter Scavenger Hunt, Friday, July 31, all day. For youth of all ages. Drop-in.

Harry Potter Movie, Friday, July 31, 11 a.m. For youth of all ages and families. Rated PG. Drop-in.

Dino Slime Lab, Monday, August 3, 1:30 p.m. For ages 5-17. Please register.

Friendship Bracelet Making, Tuesday, August 4, 6:00 p.m. For ages 8-17. Please register.

Ready 4 K, Wednesday, August 5, 10:30 a.m. For those entering kindergarten. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.

Junk Journal Making for Tweens and Teens (part 2), Thursday, August 6, 5:30 p.m. For ages 10-17. Please register.

Make Shrinky Dinks for your Backpack, Friday, August 7, 11:00 a.m. For ages 5-17. Please register.

Sing With Me, every Tuesday, 10:30 to 11 a.m. For 0-5s. Drop-in.

Pokemon Club, Wednesdays (weekly), 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. For gr. 3-8. Please register.

Lego Build Challenge, every Wednesday, noon to 5 p.m. Drop-in.

Online Gaming/Minecraft Club for YAs, Every Thursday, 3:30 - 5 p.m. For ages 10-15. Drop-in, first come first served.

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

EVERSOURCE

from Page 1

month to cover the costs of manual meter reading. Eversource would require property access to come read the meter each month.

To schedule an appointment to complete a smart-meter changeover, you can call 781-441-8303 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

STAYING SAFE

from Page 1

season also greatly lowers the risk of mosquito bites.

The Department of Public Health also recommends removing standing water in yards, as that is where mosquitoes breed.

This can include water in garbage cans, flowerpots, bird baths and discarded tires.

Property owners can

also utilize mosquito prevention services, including spraying private property with insect repellent to help reduce the amount of insects.

Additionally, people should use bug repellents that contain DEET on their skin. There should be no more than 30-35% DEET in repellents for adults and no more than 10-15% DEET in repellents for children.



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Here Today Adopted Tomorrow’s Feline Fun Day set for Aug. 1

BRIMFIELD — Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) invites cat lovers of all ages to its annual Feline Fun Day on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at the Brimfield Winery. This free, family-friendly event brings the community together for an afternoon of fun while raising funds to support shelter cats and HTAT’s community programs.

Visitors can browse local craft vendors, enjoy delicious food, sip wine from the winery’s own selection, listen to music, and try their luck at exciting raffles throughout the day. Guests will also have the chance to enjoy kit-

ten cuddling with some of HTAT’s youngest residents. While the kittens won’t be available for adoption at the event, they’re sure to bring plenty of smiles. Whether you’re spending the day with family, meeting friends, or simply celebrating your love of cats, there’s something for everyone to enjoy.

Every dollar raised by HTAT during Feline Fun Day helps provide care for shelter cats while supporting programs that keep pets with the families who love them. Through services like low-cost spay and neuter, a pet food pantry, and other community assistance programs,

HTAT works to ensure that cats and their owners have access to the support they need. As more families face financial challenges each year, the organization remains committed to being a trusted resource for pets.

HTAT Executive Director Rachael Max says Feline Fun Day is about more than just a fun afternoon; it’s about bringing the community together for a shared cause.

“Every person who attends, shops with a vendor, or purchases a raffle ticket helps make a difference for cats both inside and outside our shelter,” said Max. “It’s a wonderful opportunity to

have fun while supporting programs that strengthen our entire community.”

Feline Fun Day will take place on Saturday, August 1, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Brimfield Winery, 35 Main Street, Brimfield, MA 01010. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.heretodaysanctuary.org or call 413-324-8224.

About Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary

Here Today Adopted Tomorrow (HTAT) was founded by mother-daughter team Barbara Horn and Rachael Max. HTAT

is a volunteer driven group focused on helping cats and the people who love them in our community. In 2012 we opened our no kill, cageless cat adoption center for adult cats and kittens in Brimfield, MA. It is deeply important to us that every resident’s stay at HTAT is comfortable and healthy, making for well-adjusted, happy animals. Shortly after opening, we realized there were more homeless cats than we could handle by adoption alone. We believe that pets are cherished members of the family and that every cat deserves care, respect, and the chance to thrive, no matter their cir-

cumstances. We have programs to help special needs cats flourish and get adopted, as well as community assistance programs to help pet owners keep their pets, such as our Pet Food Pantry, low-cost spay-neuter program, and free cat behavior program. Each year, HTAT helps over 1,500 animals and their families. For more information, visit heretodaysanctuary.org.

Visit Here Today Adopted Tomorrow on Facebook at facebook.com/heretoday-sanctuary, and follow us on Instagram at [@heretoday-adoptedtomorrow](https://instagram.com/heretoday-adoptedtomorrow).

EDUCATION

The classes of ’76 fall reunion Oct. 17

PALMER – The Palmer High School Reunion Committee invites the 1976 graduates of PHS AND the 1976 graduates of Pathfinder Regional High School to a 50th Anniversary Reunion Party on Saturday, October 17, 2026 from 5 to 10 p.m. Faculty is also welcome.

Graduates and guests are invited to eat, drink and be reunited in the outdoor venue at Vanished Valley Brewing Co., 782 Center Street, Ludlow. The cost is \$35 per person, includes entertainment – Kingdom of Jones Band – and a BBQ style buffet with cornbread, sal-

ad, BBQ ribs, BBQ chicken, pulled pork, mac n’ cheese, rice and beans and coleslaw.

Save the date and spread the word. Please RSVP by contacting Sue Warner Prosperi at suewpro@gmail.com. Registration and payment are due no later than September 30, 2026.

School records to be destroyed

LUDLOW – Ludlow High School Class of 2019, temporary school records will be destroyed on or about December 31, 2026 unless claimed by individual former students.

The temporary record consists of all information in the student record which is not contained in the transcript.

Such information may include standardized test results, class rank, school sponsored extra-curricular activities, discipline records, immunization-health records and evaluations by teachers, counselors, and other school staff.

Persons wishing to claim their temporary school records may request them in writing and sent to the address below: LHS Counseling Department, 500 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA 01056.

If you have any further questions, please call (413) 589-9001 ext. 2407.

Palmer High School Class of ’76 plans August reunion

PALMER – Do you have the Spirit of ’76? With the 50th anniversary of Palmer High School’s Class of 1976 this year, a reunion of classmates and faculty at the end of the summer has been planned for Aug. 28 at Salem Cross Inn, 260 W. Main St., West Brookfield. It will be a summer option for those unavailable in the fall, when a separate Class of ’76 group is planning a reunion on Oct. 17.

The event at Salem Cross will begin with

cocktails at 5 p.m., and dinner will start at 6 p.m., offering a menu of cheese and crackers, garden salad, and entrees of Rustic Chicken, Honey Dijon Salmon or Vegetarian Option. Tickets for the summer event will be \$50, which will include a tip.

For the Aug. 28 registration link, which includes payment options online and by post, contact Suzanne Strempek Shea at sess7@comcast.net. RSVP and payment are due no later than Aug. 10.

Ciesla named to Salve Regina University’s spring 2026 Dean’s List

NEWPORT, RI – Nicholas Ciesla of Ludlow was named to the Dean’s List during the spring 2026 academic semester at Salve Regina University. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must earn a

semester grade point average of 3.6 for full-time students completing at least 12 graded credits, or a semester grade point average of 3.8 for part-time students completing at least six credits.

Baystate Wing Hospital among the most socially responsible in the nation

Baystate Wing Hospital recognized for delivering health equity and high value care in addition to great clinical outcomes

PALMER — Baystate Wing Hospital has been named one of the most socially responsible hospitals in the nation, earning an Honor Roll spot on the 2026 Lown Hospitals Index. Ranked No. 21 nationally and No. 1 in Massachusetts, Baystate Wing, is one of only 160 out of more than 3,600 U.S. hospitals achieved this status by earning top grades across measures of health equity, value, and outcomes.

The Lown Hospitals Index for Social Responsibility is the only national ranking that examines how equitably care is delivered, how well hospitals invest in their communities, and whether patients receive high-value care that avoids unnecessary pro-

cedures, in addition to traditional measures like clinical outcomes and patient safety. More than 50 metrics contribute to a hospital’s overall score.

This marks the fifth consecutive year Baystate Wing Hospital has been recognized on the Lown Hospitals Index Honor Roll, reflecting its sustained commitment to delivering equitable, high-value care while improving the health of the communities it serves.

“This recognition highlights the dedication of our team, who work each day to fulfill our mission of delivering compassionate, quality, and accessible care while advancing the health of our communities for all,” said

Karli Barrett, President and Chief Operating Officer of Baystate Wing Hospital. “As we advance toward becoming a High Reliability Organization, we are building a culture where safety, equity, quality, and continuous improvement guide every decision. Being named among the nation’s most socially responsible hospitals affirms our commitment to exceptional care, better health outcomes, and ensuring every patient receives the support they need to thrive.”

“Honor Roll status is earned by hospitals meeting the highest standards across the breadth of our metrics,” said Vikas Saini, MD, president of the Lown Institute. “They aren’t just clinically excellent, they’re deeply committed to the communities they serve and work hard to ensure all patients get the care they need.”

Kids ON TRACK at Union Station Aug. 1 & 2

REGION – On August 1 & 2, the Amherst Railway Society, CTrail, and Springfield Union Station are jointly sponsoring Kids ON TRACK at Union Station in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Area model railroad clubs will have operating model railroads set up in the Union Station concourse, and children (of all ages) will have a chance to run trains. Model railroads are fascinating to watch. But, the real thrill is getting a chance to run your own train. And, that’s

what Kids ON TRACK is all about.

CTrail is offering \$5 round-trip train rides between Springfield and Hartford both mornings, August 1 & 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

And, Maggie the Railroad Clown will be at the event performing magic tricks, juggling, and creating balloon wizardry. Maggie is a graduate of the prestigious Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College. She spent four years traveling with the Greatest Show On

Earth.

Kids ON TRACK is a national effort by the model railroad industry to encourage young modelers, and link model railroading to STEM education.

There is no charge for this event and the Union Station parking garage, located on Main Street, will be offering a special \$2 event parking fee.

For more on Kids ON TRACK, visit: amherstrail.org/kids-on-track/.

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Mutiny finishes up first dual league season

LUDLOW – Earlier this month, the New England Mutiny, which features soccer players from all over the region as well as some players from out of state, finished up their season, unfortunately failing to reach any postseason play despite playing in two leagues this season. The Mutiny participated in both the USL as well as the UWS, nearly doubling its number of games this season. The Mutiny hope to have better luck next season with the added schedule.



Addyson Earl hustles after the loose ball.

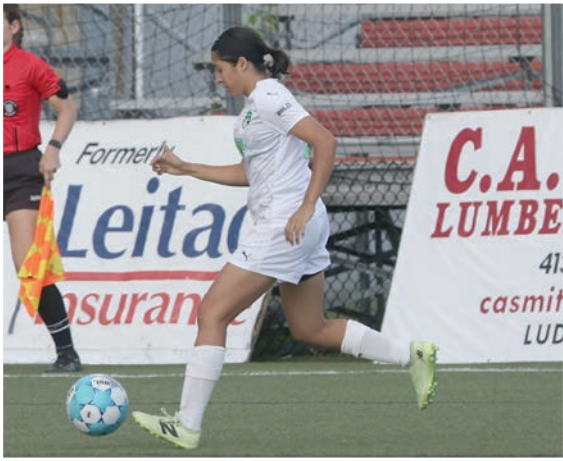


Laci Lewis fights to keep possession.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdog



Trinity Clark dribbles toward the goal.



Sadie Mathis winds up for a long shot.

St. Joe's suffers late-season loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE – In what might've been a preview of a Tri-County League playoff matchup, Teddy Bear Pools and Spas broke open the final meeting of the regular season against St. Joseph's by scoring nine runs across the fifth and sixth innings, rolling to an 11-1 victory at St. Joe's Field in Thorndike, last Friday night.

"We split with St. Joe's during the regular season, and we'll probably be seeing them again in the playoffs," said Teddy Bear Pools player/manager Ryan Magni. "The first three innings of tonight's game was almost like a playoff game. Then we were able to break it open against their relief pitchers."

Even though Friday's make-up game was played at St. Joe's Field, Teddy Bear Pools served as the home team because their own field was unavailable. The game ended with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning due to the ten-run mercy rule.

Teddy Bear Pools entered the final week of the regular season sitting in third place in the league standings with a 13-5-1 record one point behind second place St. Joseph's. The Saints had a 14-4 overall record.

Peoples Bank (15-3-1), who are looking to capture the league championship title for the 13th consecutive season, was sitting in first place.

Teddy Bear Pools could move into second place with a win against BankESB on Thursday night and if St. Joe's losses their final two regular season games.

The Saints had the opportunity to move into first place if they defeated the DOC Spartans on Monday and Peoples Bank on Wednesday.

The top two finishers in the league standings earn a first round bye and the first place team will get home field advantage throughout the playoffs, which are all best of three series.

Teddy Bear Pools righthander Matt Drobiak, who graduated from South Hadley High School, was the winning pitcher in last Friday's game. He went the distance, allowing one run on just one base hit with three walks and two strikeouts.

"My defense made the plays behind me in tonight's game," said Drobiak. "This is a big win for us, and it feels great. We're hoping to play them again in the playoffs."

Teddy Bear Pools took a 1-0 lead against St. Joe's with two outs in the bottom of the third inning.

Magni, who started in centerfield, drew a lead-off walk. Then St. Joe's lefthander Jackson Hayes retired the next two batters before catcher Michael Toth hit a flyball which the centerfielder lost in the twilight. Toth, who graduated from Granby High School, wound up at second base with a double and Magni scored on the play.

St. Joe's tied the score in the fourth inning.

Designated hitter Mark Jodoin singled leading off the frame before stealing second. He scored the tying run when right fielder Ryan O'Leary hit a sacrifice fly.

Drobiak then retired seven of the final eight batters that he faced.

"We just didn't hit the ball very well in tonight's game," said St. Joe's manager Paul Marcinek. "You can't beat many teams by scoring only one run."

Prior to the start of the bottom of the fourth inning, righty Jack Feltovic replaced Hayes on the mound.

Teddy Bear Pools retook the lead with two outs in that inning when designated hitter Bailey Griggs hit a ground ball single up the middle into centerfield scoring shortstop Ray Toth (walk).

Teddy Bear Pools scored three more runs in the fifth inning. Two of the runs

Please see **ST. JOE'S**,
Page 9



Cam MacDonald sends a throw across the diamond.



Jack Feltovic sends a pitch away.

St. Joe's grabs win over PeoplesBank

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE— Since 1995, the PeoplesBank baseball team has built a dynasty in the Tri-County League, capturing 21 championship titles, including each of the last 13 seasons.

The St. Joseph's Saints, who are looking to win the TCL championship title for the first time in two decades, are determined to knock PeoplesBank from its perch this summer.

In a span of 48 hours last week, the Saints celebrated two victories in the rivalry series.

St. Joseph's traveled to Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke last Wednesday night and defeated PeoplesBank, 10-5, which kept them in first place in the league standings.

"We've faced Peoples



James Flahive delivers a pitch for PeoplesBank.

in the championship series the past couple of years, and they've gotten the best of us," said St. Joe's shortstop Devin Slattery, who had a base hit and scored three runs in last Wednesday's game.

day's game. "We beat them in a regular season game last year and they're a great team. We're also outstanding team this year and we're trying to win the championship title."

St. Joe's entered this week's action with a 13-3 overall record, while Peoples had an 11-3-1 mark.

"We made a couple of mental errors in tonight's game," said Peoples player/manager Joe Ferry. "We out hit them, but we left too many runners on base. It's a frustrating loss."

Peoples, who fired a 6-0 shutout victory in the first meeting of the regular season between the teams, never held the lead in last Wednesday's game.

The visitors took a 3-0 lead against lefty James Fla-

hive in the top of the second inning.

After loading the bases with no outs, St. Joe's second baseman Greg Vourous, who's the Athletic Director at Westfield High School, grounded into a double play plating the game's first run. First baseman Dillon

Slattery, who singled to center, and his older brother, Devin, (walk) both crossed the plate on an errant throw by the catcher that bounced into left field.

"I believe baseball games are won and loss on the bases," said Devin Slattery, who played for Peoples for one season before moving to St. Joe's. "We put some pressure on them in the second inning, and they made a throwing error."

Dillon Slattery, who finished the game with two base hits and scored three runs, and his older brother were teammates on the Ware varsity baseball team for a couple of years.

Peoples first baseman Cam Rivest, who's the varsity baseball coach at Ludlow High School, led off the bottom of the second with a line-drive single into left field before scoring on a wild pitch.

With two outs in the top of the fourth inning, third baseman Joey DeMichele (3-for-4) delivered a two-

Please see **TRI-COUNTY**,
Page 9



Dillon Slattery makes the catch at first for an out.

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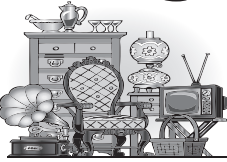
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FOR RENT



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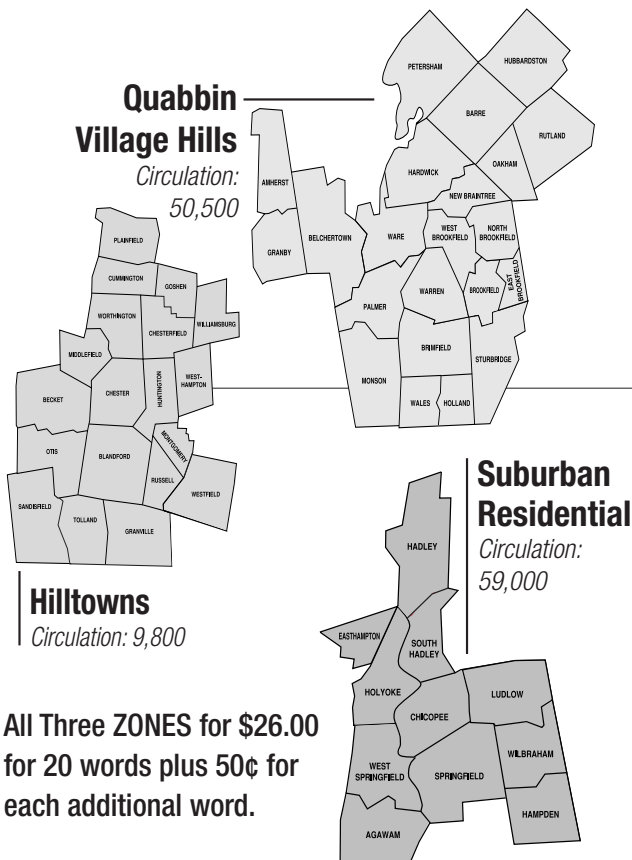
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ST. JOE’S from Page 7

crossed the break on RBI singles from Ray Toth and right fielder Sean Rosemond. The other run scored following a throwing error by the catcher. Holding a 5-1 lead, Teddy Bear Pools scored six

more runs in the sixth. Left fielder Josh Frometa and Magni knocked home a pair of runs with RBI singles, while second baseman Ramon Jomenez added a run scoring ground rule double to center. Griggs also drew a bases loaded walk during that frame.

HIKING from Page 4

es above me in silent testimony. Stripped of my armor, I wept on my husband’s shoulder while he held me in his arms. And finally, every raindrop, every ache, every hard climb, every trial, and every mile... made sense. We completed our goal, not because it was easy, but because we kept putting one foot in front of the other for 24 days. We embraced a path that humbled us. Carried us. Challenged us. Stripped us down and built

us up-physically, mentally and emotionally. Taught us resilience. Showed us that we can sit in discomfort without becoming a casualty of it. We tasted freedom. We inhaled silence. We knew peace. The miles may be finished, but we will carry what they gave us as we step out of this wilderness and re-enter the world we left behind. Onward! *Read more about Julie and Tom’s wilderness adventures on Instagram @morethanthemountain*

TRI-COUNTY from Page 7

run single into centerfield, which increased St.Joe’s lead to 5-1. St. Joe’s scored five more runs in the following frame with the benefit of only one base hit. Right fielder Brian Hayes, who was hit-by-a-pitch, and Dillon Slattery (Walk) both scored on wild pitches. Centerfielder Jacob Hayes drove home another run with a sacrifice fly. Another sacrifice fly by left-fielder Mark Jodoin scored two more runs. PeoplesBank battled back against righty relief pitcher Jack Feltovic, who wound up as the winning pitcher, during the final three innings. Feltovic replaced lefty starter Jackson Hayes on the mound with two outs in the fourth inning. He allowed four runs on eight hits. With two-outs in the bottom of the fifth, third base-

man Cam McDonald drew a bases loaded walk cutting Peoples deficit to 10-2. After scoring another run in the sixth, Peoples catcher Pete Hogan knocked home two runs with two outs in the seventh. The home team couldn’t get any closer than five runs, as Feltovic ended the game with a groundball out. Fueled by a complete game performance from Monson’s Trey Yesu, St. Joe’s posted an 8-5 home victory in last Friday’s contest against the Bankers. Yesu, who was the ace of the Bridgewater State University pitching staff the past couple of years, allowed five runs on 12 hits with eight strikeouts and just one walk. He threw 108 pitches. The two rivals are scheduled to face each other again in a make-up game before the end of the regular season.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD26P1445GD
In the interests of Isabella Naiomy Maldonado of Ludlow, MA Minor
NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
1. **Hearing Date/Time:** A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **07/01/2026** by **Eliezer Medina** of Ludlow, MA will be held **08/03/2026 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **50 State Street, 4th FL., Springfield, MA 01102**.**

2. **Response to Petition:** You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. **Counsel for the Minor:** The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. **Counsel for Parents:** If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. **Presence of the Minor at Hearing:** A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.

Date: July 1, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/22/2026

**Town of Ludlow
LEGAL NOTICE**
The Select Board opened the Warrant on July 7, 2026, for the October 5, 2026, Special Town Meeting to be held at 7:30 P.M. at Ludlow High School. All Articles should be submitted to the Select Board’s Office, select board@ludlow.ma.us, **no later than Friday, August 21, 2026, at 12:00 P.M.** The Select Board will close the Warrant on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at their regular meeting.
07/22, 07/29/2026

**TOWN OF LUDLOW
LEGAL NOTICE**
Ludlow Annual Town Meeting of May 11, 2026 – Case #12252 Warrant Article 29 (General) was approved by the Attorney General’s office. “Such Bylaws have been posted according to the Bylaws and copies are available at the Town Clerk’s Office”. **see full context of text in Town Clerk’s office.
Posted in all 6 polling locations and at the Ludlow Town Hall.
Precinct 1: Harris Brook Elementary School
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Precinct 3: Ludlow High School
Precinct 4: East Street School
Precinct 5: First Church in Ludlow
Precinct 6: Paul R. Baird Middle School
07/22, 07/29, 08/05/2026

**Ludlow Public Schools
Destruction of
Special Education Records**
Please be advised that the SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS from the Ludlow High School Class of 2019, along with the records of students released from special education services during the 2018-2019 school year, will be destroyed the week of August 3, 2026. If you wish to obtain your records, please contact the Special Education office at (413) 583-8372, ext 1216 prior to Friday, July 31, 2026, in order to make arrangements for pick up. Please note that identification will be required at the time of record retrieval.
07/08, 07/15, 07/22, 07/29/2026



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Fri., July 24 – Daily Mass – 7:30 AM (C)
Sat., July 25 – Confessions – 2:30PM (C), Satur-
day Vigil Mass 4:00 PM (C)
Sun., July 26 – Sunday Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:15
AM, 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM (C)
Mon., July 27 - Daily Mass – 7:30 AM (C)
Tues., July 28 – Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C)

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Send Us Your Community Autumn Events

Turley Publications will print your Summer event FREE OF CHARGE in our Autumn Fest Supplement which will be published September 9, 2026. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley!!

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 19.

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com *Be sure to indicate “Summer Event” in the subject line of your email.

Event Name _____
Date/Time _____
Location _____
Description _____
Cost _____
Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.



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