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The REGISTER

LOCAL NEWS | LOCAL STORIES | LOCAL ADVERTISERS

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Fire and Police Departments host 9/11 remembrance ceremony



The Ludlow Fire Department with Chief Ryan M. Pease and Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Lavoie in the middle.



The Ludlow Police Department in the background with Ludlow Fire Department Chief Ryan M. Pease salute the American flag.

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – On Sept. 11, the Ludlow Fire and Police Departments hosted the annual 9/11 ceremony to remember all the lives that were lost or forever changed by the events that took place 24 years ago. Held at the Town’s 9/11 Memorial at the Public Safety Complex, everyone stood together and listened to the speeches beginning with Ludlow Fire Department Chief Ryan M. Pease.

“Welcome everybody, on behalf of the town of Ludlow Police and Fire Departments, our Veterans Department for our annual 9/11 ceremony. Today is the 24th anniversary of Sept. 11, a day where we can all remember where we were on that day. Most of us remember almost every detail, as I do. It’s a little bit significant for me, again it’s not about me, but I was hired as a firefighter in Ludlow in Oct. of 2001. Where I was on that day

School Committee reviews FY27 budget calendar

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – On Sept. 9, the Ludlow School Committee reviewed the fiscal year 2027 budget calendar and Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano began by talking about the draft of the calendar and the town’s timeline. “The timeline is similar to years past since I’ve been here. This is my fourth year, we do have some dates that have been moved up a week due to the timing of Veteran’s Day and moved in terms of our joint meetings. I think it would be beneficial for not only us, but for the town. As we walk through the calendar, it’s very similar to what you folks have seen in the past. Town Administrator Marc Strange suggested instead of having a joint meeting in Sept., waiting until Oct. 21 and Chairman Jeffrey A. Laing and I thought it was good timing. There’s time in between our two meetings and there’s time to have more information before our joint

Please see **FY27 BUDGET** Page 5

Ludlow High School hosts open house for families and students



Senior Gian and Junior Emily were happy to help their fellow classmates and families during the open house.

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – On Sept. 11, the Ludlow High School hosted an open house for students and families to walk around, following the seven class Thurs. schedule, and experience the direct learning time (DLT) that is similar to a study hall session. Roaming the hallways of LHS, student volunteers were walking around and directing families to the appropriate classrooms, and the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club and Cares Coalition offered flyers for upcoming town events. Families were seen sitting in the cafeteria, browsing the auditorium that was playing an informational presentation, and asking questions on schedules, testing days, and student performances.



This classroom in the math department had parents and guardians confused with the equations written on the board.



Ludlow Health Department in collaboration with the Mill Towns Public Health; Health Department Administrative Assistant Tereza Crosby, MTPH Shared Services Public Health Coordinator Erin McMurray, MTPH Regional Health Inspector Tessa Obuchowski, MTPH Social Worker Ashley Jediny.

Health Department hosts Health Fair

By Amanda Munson
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LUDLOW – The Ludlow Health Department held the 2025 health fair Sept. 6 at the Randall’s Boys and Girls Club where it was free to the public, fun for all ages, and

offered health resources to those local in town. From CPR and first aid demonstrations from the Ludlow Fire Department, community partner showcase, and raffles, everyone left with more answers than questions. Walking into the LBGC gymnasium, the communi-

ty with local business partners had tables set up that displayed resources, snacks, and department directors for people to meet face-to-face and ask questions. The first

Please see **HEALTH FAIR** Page 7

Senior Center to host Caregivers Compass & Anchor program on Sept. 23

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – On Sept. 23, the Senior Center will host the Compass & Anchor Initiative at 5:30 p.m. that’s designed to support caregivers of those with Alzheimer’s, dementia, or memory challenges through education, group support, and valuable resources. This special presentation will share practical tools to help navigate caregiving from those who

are recently receiving the diagnosis, to noticing early signs that something may be changing, this free program is for you. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common cause of dementia, which can lead to serious memory loss and affect the person’s ability to do everyday tasks. Dementia is a general term for loss of memory, language, problem-solving, and other thinking abilities severe enough to impact daily life; based on the Alzheimer’s Association

website. Assistant Director of the Ludlow Senior Center Heather Jolicoeur spoke with The Register about the motivation behind offering this program, why it’s important to offer a support presentation in town with the focus on caregivers, and the importance of recognizing caregivers everyday. Jolicoeur began, “This program came out of the memory care program we have here currently and all the feedback from everybody was that the whole time be-

tween things weren’t right, things were changing, to then a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s or dementia, and then to not having a place to go. They didn’t know who to turn to, where to go, where to find things, and even though they had been with neurologists, doctors, nurses...there was no direction. So when I had this grant opportunity, I thought let’s be the hub. I would love for people to know that they can just call me or Executive Director Jodi Zepke or the senior cen-

ter.” The day of the program will consist of public and educational presentations within the Forget-Me-Not circle, a four-week workshop that Jolicoeur developed to set up caregivers with tools and tips, mainly to support and to help each other. “It’s a very supportive group,” added Jolicoeur. “We’re going to have products which are part of the grant. I am turning from respite care (short-term relief for primary caregivers)

that was previously used for the grant into reducing frustration with products. Usually the first thing to go is someone losing their pocketbook, so with this tag in there, you can push a separate base with colored corresponding buttons and the tag in the bag will make a noise. Your remote control is the second thing that is missing and it is also very common

Please see **SENIOR CENTER** Page 8

LUDLOW

Paul R. Baird Middle Schools hosts mental health training to LPS staff

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – On Sept. 8, District Health Care Coordinator Kristen M. Bunten partnered with Ludlow Cares Coalition and Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano in bringing mental health training to the new members of the public school staff, reviewing topics brought by Mental Health First Aid. In the conference room, new staff members were able to meet each other and share thoughts and ideas with students that they may encounter in the school year, whilst presenter and Advisory Board Member Karen Carreira reviewed productive ways in handling those scenarios.

Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based, early intervention course that teaches participants about mental health and substance use challenges. Mental health challenges affect one in five youth every year, yet most never get the support they need and too often, young people stay quiet and try to handle things alone.



Ludlow Cares Coalition Advisory Board Member Karen Carreira presenting at Paul R. Baird Middle School.

Or believe that no one would care if they got better. Caring adults can make all the difference, but only if they know how to recognize the signs and respond; based on the Mental Health First Aid website.

Speaking further with Bunten, who's been the district health care coordinator for 13 years and previously was a school nurse for an additional 13 years, people may not realize that the position has a lot more to do behind the scenes.

Bunten explained, "People understand that I am in a supervisory role with the health offices and the school nurses, that's an understood concept when it comes to schools and school health. But what people probably are not aware of is how much I do behind the scenes, that it's actually not directly related to school nursing. My position is making sure that we are making connections for staff to have adequate professional development

training around the mental and behavior health needs of our students, making sure that are students and families who need extra supports around mental health and behavior health, that we are making community connections and trying to bring those supports in place for them. Advocacy for sometimes people who don't have resources or don't know where to go, I also look at safety and the training around it. I look at what kind of specific plans

we have in place to keep kids safe in school, and how to make sure they have the same amount of access to the curriculum that any other student has. They may have some type of disability and we have to make sure we are giving them equal access to everything," said Bunten.

Bunten continued stating that having a mental health condition is basically having any type of chronic medical condition, but having a mental health condition wasn't recognized as having a condition, it was overlooked. Bunten said that breaking those past barriers is important in getting people to seek treatment, "When it comes to our children, if they are not in a space where they are well emotionally and mentally, then they're not going to learn. This has a direct impact on their ability to be successful as students, so we have to address if a student is struggling with a mental health condition or even a short-term emotional bump in the road, we have to be able to address that. We want them to be able to

access their education," said Bunten.

Bunten clarified that she wants all of the educators to have a simple and basic understanding of where the kids may be emotionally, but highlighting that the district is not asking them to be counselors or therapists. The goal is to have the educators be more comfortable with the conversation and to be able to approach someone and say, "You seem to be struggling, let's get you some help."

"They are with the kids most of the time and so for some students, that teacher is the trusted person to share that they are struggling, and we want to give our teachers and our staff the skill set. We want them to understand the importance of listening, reaching out, getting help, and the importance of relationships. If we are not addressing that, we have kids who are struggling in classrooms who aren't going to be learning, so we're just trying to give them another tool. To give kids a safe space to be able to say what they need to say," ended Bunten.

Inspiring children's book event with local author Kathy Picard

LUDLOW—Families came together last week at Ludlow Coffee Co. for a morning of storytelling, connection, and education with local author, child advocate, and law

changer Kathy Picard. Picard read her children's book, *I Love You So Much That...*, a heart-warming and educational story designed to teach children about love, boundaries, and safety in a gentle, empowering way.

The event brought to-

gether parents, grandparents, and kids of all ages — creating a space for laughter, learning, and quality family time. "It's always good to be reading to the kids," Picard shared.

"Those moments are more than just story time — they're chances to talk about feelings, trust, and ways to keep kids safer in everyday life." The morning was filled with smiles, photos, and conversation as families left inspired to continue reading together

at home. Picard's book is especially meaningful for caregivers who want to build a foundation of love and safety through age-appropriate dialogue.

About the Book

I Love You So Much That... is more than a bedtime story — it is a life-lesson book that helps children feel secure while opening the door for parents to talk about keeping

their kids safe. The book includes interactive activity pages that make reading a

shared experience and encourage kids to engage with the lessons in a fun way.

Get Your Copy

Parents and caregivers who couldn't attend the event can still get a copy of *I Love You So Much That...* The book is perfect for families, schools, and childcare centers who want to combine reading time with gentle safety education.

Order or learn more by reaching out to Kathy directly at KathyChildAdvocate@gmail.com

Beer and wine tasting event to be held on Sept. 26

LUDLOW — Are you ready for a fun evening of socializing, entertainment, finger food, beer and wine?

Please join the "Friends of the Ludlow Senior Center" and the FESTA Committee for our first Beer & Wine Tasting. We are looking to bring folks together while raising funds for the "Friends of the Ludlow Senior Center" and the FESTA Committee.

Music will be provided by Ric and Amy Acoustic. Ric Tesoro and Amy Tosi are a duo from Emotion and

play top 40, country, 80's music and so much more. Please bring cash as there will be basket raffle with many wonderful prizes!

The Beer & Wine Tasting will take place on Friday, Sept. 26 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall at 438 Winsor Street from 6 to 9 p.m.

The price for the tickets are \$25 and \$20 for Seniors 60 and over.

Please call Kathy Hurley Ouimette at 413-589-7994 for tickets and more information. Looking forward to see you all there.

Notice of 75th Annual Meeting of Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club

LUDLOW—According to the bylaws of the organization, the board of directors hereby gives notice of the annual general meeting of Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club, which will take place on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the Ludlow Country Club (1 Tony Lema Drive, Ludlow, MA).

Board members, Ambassadors, volunteers,

and donors of the organization are invited to participate. To RSVP, please contact Christina Yacono at (413) 583-2072, ext. 126.

Agenda for the meeting:

- 1) Report on the activities of the organization in the past year.
- 2) Presentation of the audited annual report for approval.
- 3) Appointment of new directors.



Turley photo by Amanda Munson

Ludlow High Cheerleaders Violet Kingsley, Giani Pérez, Avalina Esteves near the Riverwalk.

LHS cheerleading fundraisers

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – On Sept. 6, the Ludlow High School Cheer team were seen at the Riverwalk entrance parking lot waving signs to support the team during their fall season. Spotted on the corner of East St. and Riverside Dr., Cheerleaders Violet Kingsley,

Giani Pérez, Avalina Esteves were donned in full uniform and hoping to raise funds for new flags, signs, practice wear, and more.

With the rest of the team fundraising down the street, the cheer team were off to a great start for their fall season.

For more information about the LHS Athletics, visit ludlowathletics.org



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MMWEC announces retirement of CEO Ron DeCurzio, appointment of Tom Barry

LUDLOW — Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC), the Commonwealth's designated joint action agency for municipal utilities, has announced a change in leadership of the organization.

After nearly 30 years of service to MMWEC, CEO and Secretary Ronald C. DeCurzio is retiring effective September 22, 2025. The MMWEC Board of Directors has announced his successor is Tom Barry, MMWEC's current Director of Energy Markets.

DeCurzio joined MMWEC in 1997 and was appointed CEO in 2008. Previously, he served as MMWEC's Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. In addition to his role at MMWEC, he sits on the boards of the Massachusetts Municipal Light Department Wind Energy Cooperative, the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative Corporation and the Massachusetts Clean Energy Cooperative. He is also a member of the Board of Directors at the Northeast Power Coordinating Council (NPCC), a member of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) Implementation Advisory Committee, and a member of the Massachusetts Energy Transformation Advisory Board. Prior to joining MMWEC, DeCurzio had 15 years of treasury experience in areas such as debt restructuring, portfolio management, banking relations and cash

management, at the New York Power Authority, and other organizations.

DeCurzio has been at the helm of MMWEC during unprecedented times in the electric industry. During his tenure, and under his fiscal stewardship, MMWEC has achieved several major milestones. In 2019, all bonds related to MMWEC's nuclear projects were paid off. It is believed that participating municipal light plants were the first public power utilities in the country to own nuclear generation debt-free. DeCurzio also oversaw the creation of MMWEC's unique Pooled Loan Program. Since it was approved by the DPU in 2014, the Pooled Loan Program has supported more than 15 municipal light plant projects through more than \$70 million in loan funding.

Additionally, DeCurzio oversaw the development of several major projects during his time at CEO, including the Berkshire Wind Project, Northeast Reliability Center, MMWEC Master Sergeant Alexander Cotton Memorial Solar Project, and the Lightshift energy storage partnership. He was an early champion of decarbonization technologies, particularly with regard to electric vehicle incentives and charging programs, as well as peak forecasting/peak shaving programs.

"For the past 18 years, it's been my privilege to serve with a talented team at MMWEC," said DeCurzio. "MMWEC truly is a special place - created more than

50 years ago to improve the quality of life through affordable and reliable electric service for the municipal light departments' customers across the Commonwealth. That mission of service continues to be our focus today. While I'm looking forward to my next chapter, I will miss our MMWEC team and the relationships we've built across the Commonwealth. The true strength of MMWEC is its people - an experienced and passionate workforce who work every day to make a difference."

That work will be carried on by Tom Barry, who joined MMWEC in February 2024. While serving as Director of Energy Markets, Barry has been responsible for the energy and environmental portfolio management and wholesale market interaction for MMWEC. This includes the overarching strategy, structuring and ongoing portfolio optimization of MMWEC energy infrastructure assets and demand side sustainability efforts. Barry has a broad background as a senior utility executive focusing on commercial optimization, operational management, organizational strategy and risk management. He served as Vice President at American Electric Power (AEP) in Columbus, OH. He has also held various positions in wholesale power trading, derivative products origination, finance and treasury at Phibro Energy.

"As Director of Energy Markets, I have had the great fortune of working with the

many amazing staff members at MMWEC that are dedicated to assisting our Members and Project Participants achieve their goals of providing their customers with low-cost, reliable, and energy-efficient power," Barry said. "I deeply believe in the merits of public power and joint action agency efforts and am honored the Board has elected me to lead the company and these amazing individuals into the future. I truly appreciate and am humbled by the Board's confidence in me and will do everything I can to serve our many stakeholders, their respective communities, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

"Ron's knowledge and experience made him one of the top leaders in the energy industry," said MMWEC Board Chair and gubernatorial appointee Mike Flynn. "His vision has positioned MMWEC well for the future, and we are excited for Tom to lead MMWEC in driving the public power industry forward."

MMWEC is a not-for-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts created by an Act of the General Court in 1975 and authorized to issue tax-exempt debt to finance a wide range of energy facilities. MMWEC provides a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state's consumer-owned, municipal utilities. It is the largest provider of asset-owned generation for municipal light departments in New England

Caregiver support to meet on Sept. 23

LUDLOW—The Compass & Anchor Initiative is a free program designed to support caregivers of those with Alzheimer's, dementia, or memory challenges through education, group support, and valuable resources.

Throughout the next year and beyond, we will be having public and private educational presentations, meeting privately with care-

givers, providing educational workshops, and will have products available to help reduce the frustration that comes with caregiving.

This program is grant-funded by the Massachusetts Councils on Aging.

To officially kick off the start of our program for caregivers, Compass & Anchor Initiative, we will be facilitating the first of two sessions on Sept. 23

at 5:30 p.m. Laura Lavoie from Our Dementia Life will share practical tools to help caregivers navigate caregiving.

Whether they have just received a diagnosis, are noticing early signs that something may be changing, or are further along in their caregiving journey, this free program will provide much-needed help and support.

A hilarious "Divine" comedy show coming to Wilbraham Senior Center

WILBRAHAM—Time to sit back, relax and join us for a fun filled comedy fundraiser hosted by the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors. Get set to enjoy the hilarious "MisGivings" a divine comedy of belly laughs, blessings and bingo.

Join Father Patrick Aloysius Misgivings for this divine presentation of stories and one-liners about growing up Catholic. From miracles and mar-

riage counseling to bazaars and birth control, nothing escapes the good Father's razor sharp Irish wit!

The show will be held at the Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield Street, on Friday November 7. Doors open 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$18 and may be picked up at the Senior Center.

For those who cannot go the Senior Center for tickets, you may order them by sending in a check

made payable to Friends of Wilbraham Seniors and mail to Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095.

Please write your phone number on your check and note it's for MisGivings Show. Your ticket(s) will be available at the door when you arrive. All open seating. No reservations. Limited seating.

Any questions, call Matt Villamaino 413-896-2206.

Tag Sale at ICC on Sept. 20

INDIAN ORCHARD—Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, September 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church located at 25 Parker St. in Indian Orchard. Parking lot section between the school and the church, some items will be inside the parish hall.

Please come, browse, find and purchase what you need Bedding, Collectibles, Jewelry-Small Furniture, Kitchenware, Luggage, Handbags, Small Appliances, Religious Items, and Sporting Goods.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



Plant exodus, coming soon

Just this past week I put a call in to the herb gardeners at Old Sturbridge Village where I work part time.

I asked them to let me know they'd like me to deliver the pots and soil for the annual "exodus." We will be moving the tender perennials from their summer residence in the herb garden to my domain, the maintenance department's greenhouse.

There are some wonderful and very familiar plants in our living collection: rosemary, bay, lemon verbena and scented geraniums are some of my personal favorites.

Before the interpreters dig up the plants, I always ask that they give them a bath to cut down on the number of insects that will be brought into the greenhouse. For the home gardener this is equally important.

I say "bath" because my pesticide of choice is a natural and fairly benign one- made of potassium salts of fatty acids (soap) that weaken the insect's outer shell and cause dehydration. It is sprayed on leaves and stems until they are soaked, and can be reapplied every seven-10 days as needed.

This product is especially effective on insects that make their home on herbs and houseplants: whitefly, aphids and mealy bugs.

Once the insects have been eradicated, it is time to get out the shovel and get to work digging up and repotting the plants. You will be amazed at how large some of them can become after only a few months in the ground.

It is important to salvage as much of the root ball as possible to minimize the shock of being potted up. To do this, position your shovel along the "drip line" of the plant and dig straight down, completely around its circumference. After you've made your way around, get your shovel underneath and lift.

Have a pot ready - one that is an inch or two bigger than the root ball is sufficient, and will allow for minimal winter growth. My container of choice is always plastic, but glazed pottery is fine too. I steer clear of clay; it dries out too quickly.

I usually put a couple of inches of moist potting soil into the container, set the plant and then fill in with more as needed before watering well. Oftentimes I leave the plants outside until a frost threatens, then I bring them in and back out until the weather turns decidedly cold.

Home gardeners of-

ten ask how to overwinter their favorite herbs without a greenhouse.

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*), the herb of remembrance. The key to growing it successfully indoors is "cool but sunny."

My old house affords me many such microclimates. If you aren't as lucky, try for a sunny window away from dry heat, in other words far from heat vents, the wood stove etc.

Bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*) is another favorite and can be grown right through the winter with little or no coddling provided it is given medium to bright light and consistent watering. Do be on guard for the waxy-looking insect; one giveaway is leaves covered in a sticky, shiny sap called honey dew.

Try to "Q-tip" individual insects with rubbing alcohol or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil to smother larger infestations. If the bugs have been active for awhile, sooty mold may have formed. This thick, black coating will likely need to be scrubbed off leaf by leaf to allow the plant to photosynthesize properly.

To have success overwintering scented geraniums (*Pelargonium* spp.) indoors, situate them in bright light where daytime temperatures are 65-70 degrees, and night temps are in the 50s. Fertilize every other month during the fall and winter.

Smaller leaved varieties will be easier to manage; large leaved cultivars will get top-heavy quickly- take terminal or "tip" cuttings of these instead.

Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*) may start out looking great, but a month or so into indoor culture will likely begin to lose its leaves. Fear not, leaf drop is completely normal and to be expected! You may be tempted to throw it out; instead, position in a sunny spot, water as needed and await new growth in the spring.

Enjoy your favorite tender herbs over the winter and again come springtime and summer when they return to the garden.

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 with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

GUEST COLUMN

'Tis the season! Nope not the holiday season, though those are approaching quickly, it's the season that since 1999, Tracy Sicbaldi has been volunteering with the Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer. As you'll read more about Tracy, this isn't the only charity she offers her talents to, instead she's a seasoned volunteer helping many causes she believes in.

Though we all know that breast cancer happens every day of every month of every year, and you probably know someone affected with it, October is the month that brings its awareness to the forefront. Tracy began championing for this charity by forming a team and walking while supporting her friend Judy, who was dealing with breast cancer.

Having over 40 years of experience in the banking field, a natural fit for Tracy was to help with the financial portion of this event. She became a prominent part of the financial team and actually served as the Co-Chair of Finance with her good friend and fellow banker, Lisa Bullcock, who is a breast cancer survivor herself. Though they relinquished their roles as Co-Chairs after many years, they both continue to be dedicated finance volunteers. Tracy continues with Rays of Hope to honor her friend Lisa and in memory of Judy, who unfortunately she lost in 2000.

Tracy loves the feeling of giving back and has been a well-rounded volunteer for years, helping many with her financial expertise. She currently volunteers with West MA Elder Care who recently changed their name to Access Care Partners, where her responsibility is being part of the 'Money Management Program'. Within this role she goes to elderly client's homes who don't always have people around to help them. Her tasks may include assisting them in

creating a budget, helping them with balancing their checking account, she's even helped them write checks to pay their monthly bills. She also will make phone calls on their behalf, whether to question a charge on a bill, to checking with their insurance company about benefits they are entitled to and may not be aware they have. She finds this very rewarding and loves when she can resolve an issue that is weighing heavily on the mind of that person. This service is free and therefore a Random Act of Kindness by helping the seniors in our communities.

As you can see, doing Random Acts of Kindness doesn't necessarily mean a monetary gift is needed, instead sharing your time and expertise is a very precious and appreciated contribution. Another place you may find Tracy is taking the minutes at the Board meetings where she volunteers for the East of the River Chamber of Commerce. She's been a member for years but in 2021 became the Board Clerk of this organization. The purpose of this Chamber is to promote business networking in the towns it encompasses which are Ludlow, Wilbraham, Hampden, East Longmeadow and Longmeadow.

As if all this wasn't enough, Tracy doesn't stop there! She held the position of Board Clerk at Dakin Humane Society then this year was elected as its Board President. For the past 4-5 years, she's also volunteered in their thrift store on Saturdays. Tracy said she can't work in the area with the animals because there wouldn't be any animals left in the shelter to adopt: she'd have taken them all home with her.

Tracy's mom and dad have been members of the Grace Union Church in Wilbraham for years and have always taken care of the donations and financial matters for the church. Tracy didn't attend that church on a regular basis with her parents, but after her mom passed, her dad asked if she could lend him a hand. So now she's not only a member of that church, she's the Assistant Financial Secretary as well. Just another way she is giving back.

She loves helping with other fundraisers too. For the past three years she has helped BB Landscaping in Monson at their various community events as they support numerous local charities. Rays of Hope shares a partnership with Baystate Health Breast Network and the Baystate Health Foundation. This year the Walk and Run will be on Sunday, October 19, 2025. It will begin and end at Temple Beth El on Dickinson Street in Springfield with two routes designed to capture the beauty of Forest Park and the neighboring communities. For more information about this incredible event that started with only 500 attendees thirty-two years ago and has now grown to over 20,000 participants, go to <https://www.baystatehealth.org/events/rajs-of-hope>. See how you can support this very worthy cause by creating a team, individually walking, volunteering, making a donation or becoming a sponsor. Make a positive difference like Tracy is doing!

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 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

Barb Turcotte



By Barb Turcotte

The REGISTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

I'd like to retire early, but don't want my Social Security reduced

Dear Rusty:
I will be 65 this year and my husband is 72 (he retired in 2019 at age 66).

I would like to retire and enjoy some time with him before he gets too much older. I do not want to have my benefits cut by retiring earlier, but I don't see a way to be able to do that. My benefit will be \$1,343 on my Full Retirement Age.

If I took half his retirement when he retired, it would be less than mine. If I take early retirement and he passes away before me,

would I get his full benefit as his survivor or will it be cut? We are trying to figure it out. His current benefit (before Medicare Part B) is \$2,978.

It's very confusing.

Signed: Confused and Wondering

Dear Confused:
Whenever any Social Security benefit is claimed earlier than Full Retirement Age, the monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you were to retire at age 65, your Social Security benefit would be reduced by about 13% - in other

words, if your FRA (age 67) amount is \$1,343, at 65 you would get about \$1,164. And at age 66 you would get about \$1,253 per month.

Whether you would be entitled to a "spousal boost" from your husband depends on how your FRA amount compares to 50% of his FRA entitlement. If your FRA amount is less than 50% of his FRA amount, then you

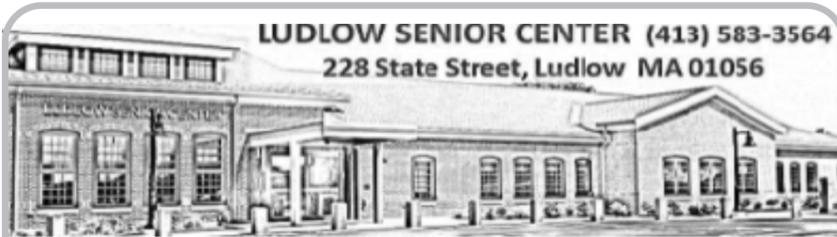
Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY** Page 7



PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Register, please email theregister@turley.com.



LUDLOW SENIOR CENTER (413) 583-3564
228 State Street, Ludlow MA 01056

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 on Friday for lunch on Monday).

For full program and activity descriptions, as well as general information about what a senior center is and does, please visit: 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, September 18

8:45 a.m. Foot Care by Appointment*
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation*
10:30 a.m. Rock Painting Class*
12:45 p.m. Mahjong
2 p.m. Writers' Block
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

Friday, September 19

8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
9 a.m. Reiki by Appt.*
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
10:30 a.m. Home Care Choices*
1 p.m. Ceramics
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*
1 p.m. Guidance by Li Grief Support*

Monday, September 22

9 a.m. Knitting
9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
12 p.m. Flu Shots*
1 p.m. Scrabble
1 p.m. Limitless Legions*
1:15 p.m. Pitch
1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencils*
2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

Tuesday, September 23

9 a.m. Quilting
9 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Cribbage
10:30 a.m. Gentle Yoga
12:30 p.m. Blood Pressure Checks
1 p.m. Western Dance Class

1:30 p.m. Bingo
4:30 p.m. Power Pump Exercise Class
4:45 p.m. Movie: *The Light Between Oceans* (2016)
5:30 p.m. Caregivers Compass & An-

chor Program*

Wednesday, September 24

8 a.m. Garden Club
8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold
9 a.m. Ceramics
9 a.m. Facials*
10 a.m. Opera Appreciation
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*
12 p.m. Lunch & Learn! Blue Cross/Blue Shield*
1 p.m. Movie: *The Light Between Oceans* (2016)
1 p.m. Dominos
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*

Thursday, September 25

8:45 a.m. Foot Care by Appointment*
9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10 a.m. Sunshine Painting Class*
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation*
10:30 a.m. Home Modification Program
12:45 p.m. Mahjong
2 p.m. Book Club: *My Incredible Journey: A Memoir by Katherine Johnson*
2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

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

Daily Events:

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

Menu:

Thursday, September 18: Birthday Lunch! Breaded Pork Chop/Rice Pilaf/Carrots
Friday, September 19: French Toast Bake/Breakfast Sausage
Monday, September 22: Chicken Patty Sand/Lettuce & Tom/Tater Tots
Tuesday, September 23: Kielbasa/Lazy Pierogi/Beet Salad
Wednesday, September 24: Lunch & Learn! Shepherd's Pie/Cornbread
Thursday, September 25: Fish & Chips/Cole Slaw

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 inquire about ingredients at 413-583-3564.

Knights sponsor benefit dinner to support Community Survival Center Oct. 18

INDIAN ORCHARD—The Wilbraham Knights of Columbus Council 10195 will sponsor a major fundraising benefit dinner to support the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard.

The Survival Center helps feed and clothe over 400 individuals each month in Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow, Indian Orchard and 16 Acres. According to Executive Director, Cristal Turcotte, this year is par-

ticularly impacted by the anticipated federal cuts in SNAP and the less successful Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive by the National Association Letter Carriers.

"Our shelves are very bare" according to Turcotte, "and with the holidays fast approaching we are asking for assistance to help us support those in need."

The benefit dinner will be held Saturday, Oct. 18 at 5 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main Street,

Wilbraham and will feature a delicious homemade chicken parm Italian dinner complete with pasta, salad, bread, coffee and cannoli.

The event will include numerous raffles and musical entertainment with sing-a-longs.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased by contacting George Reich at ticketskoc10195@gmail.com or may be picked up at after Mass in the St. Cecilia rotunda starting on Sept. 27.

MRHS Class of 1975, 50th Class Reunion

WILBRAHAM - The Minnechaug Class of 1975 will be gathering to celebrate their 50th Reunion with a weekend of fun activities Friday, Oct. 3 through Sunday, Oct. 5.

Classmates will have several opportunities to get together to catch up on the past 50 years. We have planned for golfing, hiking, Home

Football Game, tour of high school, lunch at Fern Valley and a parting Breakfast Buffet the morning of Oct. 5.

The main event, dinner and socializing, will be held at Wilbraham Country Club on Oct. 4 from 6 to 10 p.m. Additional information is available, can be sent to you if you send a request to Jim Chambers at mrhsclas-

sof1975@gmail.com.

We hope you'll be able to join us to celebrate this milestone. If you can't attend in person, you can still have a presence by sending a photo / information for our slide show to Donna Sclafani Parker at donnaparker357@yahoo.com. Please let others in our class know about the reunion.

Indian Orchard Youth Council cuts ribbon on new mural Sept. 15

INDIAN ORCHARD—The Indian Orchard Youth Council and Common Wealth Murals held a ribbon cutting for its newest mural located at 565 Main Street, Indian Orchard on Monday, September 15, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Elected Officials, Representatives of the Indian Orchard Youth Council and Common Wealth Murals participated in Ribbon Cutting for "Long May She Reign" Mural.

State Representative Orlando Ramos; Springfield City Councilor Zaida Govan; Ayanna Crawford, President at AC Consulting and Media Services and facilitator of the Indian Orchard Youth Council; and representatives of the Indian Orchard Youth Council and Common Wealth Murals spoke at the Ribbon Cutting event.

The mural, titled Long May She Reign, was conceived through an input session with the Indian Orchard Youth Council, an organization created to address the lack of youth voices in the neighborhood. Through participation in the Council, the youth learn leadership skills and plan community activities.

Through input from the Youth Council, the messaging that came across and inspired the mural design was, "Indian Orchard is a place where we can achieve our dreams. If we make a plan to do something, the community will help us achieve it."

Depicted in the mural design are two strong matriarchal figures emerging from the earth, their arms forming a bridge over a glowing river. People of all ages walk together across the bridge, supported by community and hope, as symbolized by the floating blue balloons and radiant sunset. It represents how, in Indian Orchard, dreams are realized through collective effort and shared purpose, with every step forward guided by the strength and care of generations.

The mural's design was created by Chris Seabrooks, a Springfield native and graduate of the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, New York. The mural was painted with the assistance of the Youth Council and the Indian Orchard community.

Chris Seabrooks is a muralist and graphic designer. His design clients include:

MerchantCantos, Sweet Chick, The Honest Company, Qatar Airways, 10 Speed Labs, Estée Lauder, and numerous Springfield nonprofits, events and businesses. Seabrooks was a member of the artist team that recreated The Old, the Young, the Beautiful mural and he has also designed three murals for Impact Prep Middle School.

This summer, Common Wealth Murals added murals to three Springfield neighborhoods: Mason Square, Indian Orchard and the South End. To date, Common Wealth Murals has created more than 80 murals in Springfield and more in other Massachusetts cities and towns. The organization has also trained more than 70 local artists and teachers in community-engaged mural making, and has directly engaged thousands of people of all ages in participatory mural design and painting.

Common Wealth Murals began mural-making in Springfield in 2019 with the Fresh Paint festival, and has also produced Springfield's graffiti jams, window, bike kiosk and sidewalk chalk installations, and other temporary public art installations.

120th Anniversary Jazz Luncheon

SPRINGFIELD—St. Peter's Episcopal Church is delighted to announce its 120th Anniversary Luncheon with a special live performance by Connie Fredericks-Malone. Connie is an immense singer

of blues, jazz, soul and the sister of the great bluesman Taj Mahal.

This is set to take place on Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, at 52 Sumner located at 52 Sumner Avenue in Springfield, MA

The time of the event is 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., cost per adult is \$100, RSVP by Sept. 30, 2025. For more information contact Debbie (413)782-7050. Tickets also available at Eventbrite.com

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meeting," said Tiano.

The capital improvement plans for the schools will be updated later in terms of the high school facade, which could be a request or priority for the capital moving forward, stated Tiano.

"We could talk about the impact, since that may bump a project or two out. The required date for the submission of capital requests to the town administrator is Nov.

15. We will back that up to Oct. 28 when we submit the final recommendations to this committee prior to that, a week or two earlier than we have in the past. Then going forward, I will have the budget subcommittee meetings dates soon. I tried to match our meeting calendar and the timeline of the town. The town had our school committee voting on the recommended budget on Feb. 10. I don't think there's anything in the bylaws that

has to be Feb. 10, but years past this board had voted the second meeting in Feb. I don't think that will be a problem. By the time of the public hearing, where the public gets to come in and ask questions, by that time you will have seen the budget at least three times and our budget subcommittee will have a hand in putting that together."

The next school committee meeting will be on Sept. 23.



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Community honors and remembers at 9/11 Memorial Mass

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The community gathered at St. Stanislaus Basilica on Sept. 11 for this year's Annual Mass of Remembrance for the Victims and Fallen Heroes of September 11, 2001.

The annual deanery-wide Memorial Mass is sponsored by the Catholic parishes of Chicopee and Ludlow 9/11 Memorial Mass Committee. The participating parishes include St. Stanislaus Basilica, St. Anthony of Padua and St. Anne Church in Chicopee and Christ the King Church, Our Lady of Fatima Parish and St. Elizabeth Parish in Ludlow.

The mass provided an opportunity for attendees to reflect and honor the memory of the victims who died at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Shanksville, PA, where Flight 93 went down as passengers fought back against the hijackers that day.

After opening with the National Anthem, members of the fire and police departments came together in a combined honor guard to open the Mass, with Fr. Brad Milunski presiding with readings of Scripture, hymns, communion and reflections on the 24th anniversary of the terror attacks.

The mass concluded with a rendition of "America the Beautiful," followed by a reception with refreshments in the back of the church.

Milunski shared it was an honor to host the Mass and St. Stanislaus Basilica has hosted it other times in the



Members of the Chicopee Fire and Police Departments stand together in a combined honor guard with the colors and American Flag.

past, thanking Bruce Broyles for helping to organize this annual Mass.

"We were very grateful that we were chosen this year again and someone reminded me that St. Stan's actually hosted the first 9/11 Mass, so it's a privilege to do it. We've done two or three times here since I've been pastor," Milunski said. "It's really just a wonderful way to continue to honor those died and to remember and lift up their families as well and all the survivors."

Milunski also learned that a regular parishioner, a retired police officer, was there when 9/11 happened.

"She was saying how important the Mass was to her, so I never really thought that there would be in the congregation here in Chicopee—24 years later—one of the ones who was literally at Ground

Zero that day, so that made it even more special," Milunski said.

Milunski also noted the first responders amongst the attendees for the Mass, carrying in the colors and the American Flag.

"That really is one of the most powerful things, I think, is participate in the gathering," Milunski said.

Broyles said, "It's a wonderful Mass every year" and it goes from parish to parish, having first begun in 2007.

He credited a set of cousins for the Mass.

"The guy from Williamsett said, 'What if we did for our deanery, what if we did a 9/11 Memorial Mass? No one's ever done except the first year afterward,'" Broyles said. "It moves every year, Chicopee this year, Ludlow next year and then different parishes within the

communities will have it when it comes back to their (church). It's just wonderful."

For Broyles, Milunski's homily made a mark and seeing the congregation "participate meaningfully" in the Mass stayed with him.

"He does a nice job," Broyles said. "The priests do a nice job also."

Broyles encourages more people to attend the Mass and to honor and remember.

"Someone said to me once, 'How long do you keep planning to do this anyway?'" Broyles said. "I said, 'Wait a minute, let me understand this. People went to work one day and they never came home. So, at one point, do you think we should stop remembering that?' You can't. If we do, there's something wrong with us. Never forget. I don't know how



Fr. Brad Milunski, pastor at St. Stanislaus Basilica, gives his sermon during this year's 9/11 Memorial Mass.



Al Kendall presents the first reading.

anybody could."

Milunski's message was this: never forget and always remember.

"It's so important for us to keep remembering and to do this annual celebration so that that day is not forgotten. It's got to be more than just a news segment or just a little blurb that says, 'Oh, on this day in history.' This was a really pivotal day in history and so it needs to be commemorated by actually getting together and remembering it," Milunski said.



Two American flags in a pot of white flowers at the altar inside St. Stanislaus Basilica during this year's 9/11 Memorial Mass.

Also, a prayer for change in human hearts.

"This change that we're praying for tonight has to begin with us, right? We can have wonderful policies, all kinds of strategies in place and all kinds of rules and regulations and protocols, but that will not change human hearts, right? Only the message that we heard tonight from Jesus can change human hearts," Milunski said.

911 from Page 1

was when I was a junior in college, a fresh paramedic getting ready to go about my day and walking down the stairs of my parents house, the events were starting to unfold. Just like everybody here, before our eyes, life changed. One of the things that I go back to is the feeling we all had after that day, how united this country felt and the humanity we felt, and how proud I was to be a firefighter. Not only a member of the department but also a U.S. President, citizen, somebody proud of this country and how we all got together and stood up to what we believed in. I really wish we could all remember that, all get together and remember how great this flag is and this country is. We remember the innocent victims that were on those planes, the innocent victims that were inside the towers, and the heroic efforts of the town of Pennsylvania, the heroic efforts of the police and firefighters, all the emergency responders, and the efforts of our armed military service that continue to fight for years to come. We remember all of them who gave the ultimate sacrifice, they sacrificed their lives for people they did not even know because



Select Board Chairperson Manuel Silva, Town Administrator Marc Strange, Member Anthony Alves, and Vice Chairperson William Rosenblum.

they believed in something bigger than themselves. We remember all of our first responders here in town and work everyday to put a better life to people in town they don't know. We want to take this moment and remind the younger generation of what had happened. Those said yesterday that many of our police and fire department weren't even

on the job when this happened. Many of our children weren't around to remember it happened. They don't remember how unified our country came after this happened, and how that was the best version of this country I've ever seen and we have to continue that. We need to not forget, we most of all need to remember," said Pease.

In attendance were both

fire and police departments with Pease and Provisional Police Chief Mike Brennan, Director of Veteran Services Eric Segundo with VFW Michael Moore and comments of appreciation for those who attended the ceremony.



VFW Michael Moore performing taps in front of the fire engine.

ees Linda Collette. The ceremony continued with speeches, the ringing of the bell, flag lowered to half-staff, a moment of silence followed by a prayer for fire and police departments, taps by VFW Michael Moore and comments of appreciation for those who attended the ceremony.

Segundo added, "As a veteran of Sept. 11, it's a day that hits us deeply, not just a day on the calendar but a moment of history that reshaped our nation and our lives. On that day, we witnessed unspeakable tragedy, the loss of thousands of innocent lives, and attacks on the values we hold dear. We also witnessed extraordinarily courage, first responders who ran into danger. The ordinary citizens who became heroes and the service mem-

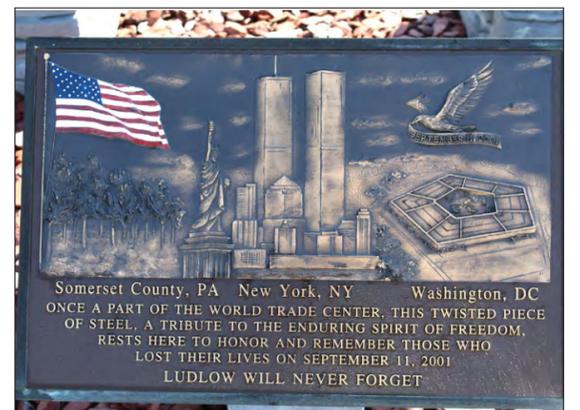
bers who answered the call without hesitation. I want to especially honor the first responders who charged into the chaos of Sept. 11, knowing the risk yet committed saving lives. Many made the ultimate sacrifice and many carried scars, visible and invisible, even to this day. Their bravery exemplifies the best of our nation, reminding us that heroism often comes in the form of selfless service to others. Let us not only remember the pain of that day, but also remember the resilience of the bravery that followed. May we never forget the lessons of Sept. 11, the importance of unity, the courage of those who acted in the face of danger, and the enduring spirit of our country," ended Segundo.



Director of Veteran Services Eric Segundo at the podium speaking.



Massachusetts State Representative Aaron Saunders addressing the town of Ludlow.



The 9/11 plaque that stands in front of the memorial, stating Ludlow will never forget and highlighting locations in Pennsylvania, New York, and Washington DC.

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. 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 10-2. Closed Saturdays during the summer, Sundays and holidays.

The library will be resuming regular operating hours on September 1. Please note a change in Saturday operating hours of 10-2 rather than 9-1.

FOR ALL AGES

Social Services Drop-In, Wednesday September 3, 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.

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

Mediumship Talk

Thursday, September 25 at 6:30 PM.

Jacqueline Engel, a local writer, author, and spiritual medium will give a talk on what mediumship is, differentiate between other psychic abilities, and explain how a medium communicates with the spirit world. Please register on our website.

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.

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-ins are welcome.

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

Nintendo Switch

Night for YAs, Tuesday, September 16, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. For middle & high schoolers. Meet once a month to play Mario Kart, Smash Bros, or other Switch games, while munching on free pizza & drinks! 16 person limit. Please register. Generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Anime Club, every other Thursday, September 23, 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.

Read Between the Lines High School Book Discussion Group, September 26, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. For ages 14 -18. Fun, relaxed book discussion for

high schoolers. Copies of the current book are available in the Youth Room. Please register.

FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

Pokemon Club, every other Wednesday, September 17 & October 1, 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. For ages 9-14. . Bring your cards, Nintendo Switch, phone, or tablet for Pokemon Go, handheld gaming, and trading. All trades will be supervised by staff who will check market value; all trades must be of equal market value. Please register.

Youth Chess Club,

Please see **HUBBARD** Page 13

HEALTH FAIR from Page 1

table was the Ludlow Health Department in collaboration with the Mill Towns Public Health, who had Ludlow Health Director Paulina Matusik and Mills Towns Public Health Shares Services Public Health Coordinator Erin McMurray to speak on the various collaborations between departments and businesses to make the event possible.

"Ludlow is the host agency for the Mill Towns grant, which is why we are lucky enough to have all of our employees in Ludlow and working for all the towns. I've been working for the town for five years total and three years in my current role. My favorite part about being in public health is meeting people and getting to know our community needs. Learning how we can better support the town and expand our services. It's really important to connect with individuals because they are the ones we are looking to help. We focus on the population as a whole, making sure we are serving the entire community and in this case, all of our communities," said Matusik.

McMurray added, "We work in Ludlow, Palmer, Warren, and West Brookfield and essentially we fill in any gaps that the health departments need. I've been in my role for a year and a half, my favorite part is every day is different, you never really know what you're getting yourself into. I love how active of a job it is, you get to

go out in the community and do events like this. You really get to see the impact you have, it's not just a desk job you're sitting behind 24/7."

The gymnasium had departments such as the Ludlow Fire Department, the Ludlow Police Department, Hampden County Addiction Taskforce, Ludlow Public Schools, Commission on Disability, and various local businesses.

When asked about their favorite aspect of the town of Ludlow and what people may not be aware of, McMurray highlighted the different resources townspeople have. "It's all the services Ludlow has to offer, between their sharps disposal, social worker on staff, assistance with expired medications, help with wheelchairs and walkers; it's amazing."

Matusik continued, "Ludlow in particular is definitely connected with resources which is why we are having this health fair, almost everybody here is stationed within Ludlow and only two vendors are here that do not have a physical building in town. There's a lot available that people may not be aware of which is the purpose of this health fair. Echoing McMurray, we have a social worker that a lot of other health departments don't have, where they're able to connect residents to services like housing and food insecurity. We are a close-knit community, the vendors we have here we know personally outside of hosting fairs. I think that it's really special and important in helping build relationships



Hampden County Addiction Taskforce Coordinator Bradley Bodenstein and Care Coordinator Destiny Ware presented the HCAT's mission of addressing substance use disorder, drug overdoses, and prevention across the county.

as well, while also helping in offering resources to the residents."

The free bag that was given away at the health department table was an emergency preparedness kit that had a flash light, emergency whistle and blanket, pack of gloves and wet wipes, with a first aid pack to be placed in a car or vehicle. Other tables had pamphlets and brochures, pens and notepads, and healthy snacks too.

When asked about the partnership between the health department, the LBGC, Mill Towns, and various town departments, Matusik remarked on how the LBGC is the center of Ludlow.

"Every community either has a YMCA or boys and girls club, there are a lot of

important programs and activities, I feel like it captures the entire population. From children to older adults and everybody in between, having and working with the LBGC really encompasses all of public health which is what we serve. Having that partnership and willingness to have this event here is really important because it brings us all together, and it captures

all the population that we are looking to serve," said Matusik.

McMurray commented about the turnout of the health fair and enjoyed seeing the people realize the resources available in their community. "If we could just reach out to just one person, it's worth it and it's one more person that knows something they didn't know before."



Ludlow Commission on Disability Member Christopher Harkins was in attendance to ensure that local and municipal services, programs and meetings are available and accessible to persons with disabilities.

SOCIAL SECURITY from Page 4

would get a "spousal boost," but the amount of that boost would also be reduced if you claim before your FRA. Note: from the numbers you provided, you may be entitled to a spousal boost and, if so, it would be applied by Social Security when you claim.

Also, FYI, if you take SS before your FRA and are still working, Social Security has an annual earnings test which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. If you earn more than \$23,400 in 2025, you will likely not get all of your monthly SS payments (SS will take away some monthly benefits if you exceed the earnings limit). Of course, if you retire from working, this will not be a problem, because earnings before you claim SS won't count toward the limit.

When you claim your SS retirement benefit now will not affect your survivor benefit from your husband later. If your husband passes first, your benefit as a surviving spouse would be based on the amount your husband

was receiving at his death. But if you were to claim your widow's benefit prior to your FRA, your survivor benefit would also be reduced (the amount of reduction depends on how much before your FRA you claim your survivor benefit). If you claim your widow's benefit at or after you FRA, you will get 100% of the amount your husband was receiving at his death instead of your own smaller amount. It will only be reduced if you claim before your full retirement age.

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 or email us at ss-advisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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DATEBOOK

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

Sept. 20

DAY FOR KIDS, Sat. Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Ludlow Community Center/Randalls Boys & Girls Club. Celebrating 75 years of serving our community's youth. There will be games, face painting, splash pad, snacks, crafts, bounce obstacles, music and fun. This is a free event.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT will be held on Sept. 20 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot at the First Church in Ludlow, located at 859 Center St. This event is held by Green Day recycling. All towns are welcome and the event will be held rain or shine.

Sept. 23

Ludlow Senior Center and The Compass & Anchor Initiative is a free program designed to support caregivers of those with Alzheimer's, dementia, or memory challenges through education, group support, and valuable resources. To officially kick off the start of our program for caregivers, Compass & Anchor Initiative, we will be facilitating the first of two sessions on Sept. 23 at 5:30 p.m. Laura Lavoie from Our Dementia Life will share practical tools to help caregivers navigate caregiving. Whether they have just received a diagnosis, are noticing early signs that something may be changing, or are further along in their caregiving journey, this free program will provide much-needed help and support.

Sept. 26

Please join "Friends of

the Ludlow Senior Center" and the FESTA Committee for our first Beer & Wine Tasting. We are looking to bring folks together while raising funds for the "Friends of the Ludlow Senior Center" and the FESTA Committee. The Beer & Wine Tasting will take place on Friday, Sept. 26 at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall at 438 Winsor Street from 6 to 9 p.m.

The price for the tickets are \$25 and \$20 for Seniors 60 and over. Please call Kathy Hurley Ouimette at 413-589-7994 for tickets and more information. Looking forward to see you all there.

UPCOMING

Oct. 24

RAG SHAG PARADE & TRUNK OR TREAT - Save the date! Parade begins at 6 p.m. at the Ludlow Town Hall!

Nov. 15

St. Nick's Christmas Bazaar will be held Saturday, Nov. 15 in the Pastoral Center at St Elizabeth Parish in Ludlow from 9 to 3 p.m. Approximately 40 vendors will sell stained glass, primitive decor, Avon, and Hockey Association items - to name a few.

Great way to start your Christmas shopping.

ONGOING

BI-MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE 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.

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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.

CHESSE 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 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.

Favata, Ludlow resident wins Thoreau Scholarship

LUDLOW—Jack E. Favata, a graduate of Ludlow High School, will be entering college this autumn as a Thoreau Scholar. The scholarship, named for the



Jack E. Favata

The son of Karen and Louis Favata, Jack credits being a Project 351 ambassador for his dedication to environmental causes. As an eighth-grader, Jack joined other students, one representative from each of the 351 Massachusetts towns and colleges in a youth-led movement working for positive changes in their communities.

By his senior year in high school, Jack, now a Senior Legacy Fellow, has worked extensively to unite communities in protecting and safeguarding the environment. Jack's experiences have instilled in him the belief that environmental sustainability isn't just a cause—it's a shared responsibility, one that connects all of us through our collective impact.

This fall, Jack will be a student at Harvard College. Jack plans to study political science with a minor in environmental science so he can learn to develop innovative and effective envi-

ronmental policies that balance human progress with the preservation of our planet's natural landscape.

The Henry David Thoreau Scholarship is a four-year tuition scholarship awarded to eight students graduating from high schools in Massachusetts. High school seniors awarded the Thoreau Scholarship can enroll in any college or university in the world while they major or minor in an environmentally related field.

Thoreau Scholars are encouraged to enroll in internships or study abroad to broaden their awareness and understanding of environmental issues.

The Thoreau Foundation further assists its scholarship winners by identifying environmentally related internships, offering internship stipends, and providing networking opportunities. A sign of success of the Thoreau Foundation's mission to foster environmental leadership is the support past scholarship winners provide to present scholarship winners.

To learn more about the Henry David Thoreau Foundation and the Thoreau Scholarship, please visit thoreauscholar.org. The online scholarship application opens Oct. 15 at thoreauscholar.org with a Feb. 1 deadline.

Livy's VIP Dance Oct. 5

LUDLOW – Livy's VIP Dance, in support of a fundraiser for Rett Syndrome, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 5, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

The special dance is in memory of Livy, who succumbed to Rett Syndrome at the age of five.

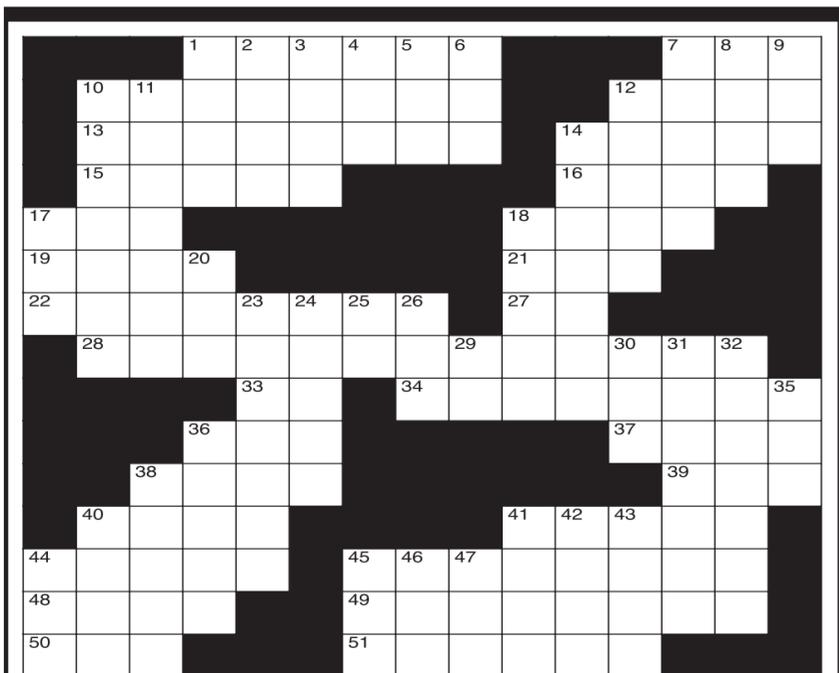
Sparkle, shine and support!

Music and memories with VIP Princess guests.

To learn more, contact Maggie Wurm at maggie@rsangels.org or Shannon at shanon.m.hardy@gmail.com.

To learn more about Rett Syndrome, visit rsangels.org.

For the event page, visit rsangels.org/event/livys-v-i-p-dance/.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Carved into
7. ___ Rogers, cowboy
10. Unruly locale
12. Edible mushroom
13. Influential nobleman
14. Rattling breaths
15. David ___ George, Brit. P.M.
16. Musician Clapton
17. Small Eurasian deer
18. Invests in little enterprises
19. Perimeter
21. Chicago ballplayer
22. Animal body part
27. It's everywhere these days
28. Fictional ad exec
33. Mr. T character

CLUES DOWN

1. Root of taro plant
34. Against the current
36. Subway rodent
37. Armor plate
38. Hair on the head
39. Strong insect
40. Swollen lymph node
41. A way to lessen
44. Walter White
45. Sleeveless garment
48. Long accompanied song
49. Without features
50. Yankee great
51. Removes from record

CLUES ACROSS

2. Those ones
3. Appliances have one
4. A way to sing
5. Midway between east and southeast
6. Animal dwelling
7. An object that as survived from the past
8. Oil cartel
9. Affirmative
10. Foul smell
11. Brisk tempo
12. S. American indigenous person
14. Restored
17. Official
18. Skin lesions
20. Electro-encephalograph
23. Middle Eastern country
24. Extremely angry

CLUES DOWN

25. Title used before a woman's name
26. British thermal unit
29. By the way (abbr.)
30. Anger
31. Nullifies
32. Ones who acquire
35. Time zone
36. Arabic name
38. Protein in mucus
40. Ballpoint pen
41. Mimics
42. Humans have a lot of it
43. Expressions of good wishes
44. Cool!
45. One point east of due south
46. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
47. A way to save for retirement

SENIOR CENTER

from Page 1

for people with Alzheimer's and dementia for things like toothbrushes to go missing. The person could be involved in their oral care and then kind of get sidetracked and not realize they've put the toothbrush down somewhere. If you put a little tag on it, the base can make the noise and locate it. We have apple air tags that we're able to purchase, so if the person is at risk for wandering, you can put it in the sole of their shoes, wallet, something they would take automatically and then find out where they are with the phone," explained Jolicoeur.

Jolicoeur shared that she submitted a request for gait belts for those who may be starting to lose their mobility, a safer way than pulling somebody by their arms or waist, explaining that it's used to the core of their mobility and a great way to help people. The Ludlow Fire Department is partnering with the Senior Center and Jolicoeur is planning to purchase three KnoxBoxes (a wall-mounted safe that holds building keys

for emergency services) so emergency services can use the home key and get in the building in a timely manner.

The Senior Center also partnered with the health department to communicate and share resources that could be beneficial to both town departments, highlighting those who might need assistance.

Jolicoeur added, "I think it's going to be a really good program, I love that it's based on the feedback of people who have already and unfortunately have had to deal with this. A lot of people in our memory care and forget me not circle have gone through something's wrong with my spouse, thinking they're crazy themselves for thinking that way, to a diagnosis then to a neurologist and trying to figure it all out, to unfortunately death. Through their experiences and feedback, we're able to make this program more helpful moving forward."

When asked about the importance of utilizing the senior center, Jolicoeur remarked on the trust the members build when they come more frequently, explaining that members may not trust a stranger going into their home but they trust the senior center staff to take care of their loved ones while they are at the center.

"My education came from taking care of my own grandparents who both had dementia, my grandfather had Lewy Body Dementia (LBD); affects thinking, movement, and memory) and my grandmother who went undiagnosed. I was a stay-at-home mom so I had to take care of them because everybody else was at work. There were days I was drowning; I didn't know what to do but I did the best I could do in the situation. From then, I knew that helping caregivers was where my interest was going to be for the rest of my career," explained Jolicoeur.

This grant program was supported by the Massachusetts Councils on Aging, in collaboration with the Ludlow Senior Center, Ludlow Fire Department, and Ludlow Health Department. A second program that will go over the same information to this event will be coming in October

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Register, please email theregister@turley.com.

SPORTS

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Orioles get better of Lions

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—Seniors Tim Haley and Luke Dudek are first-year starters for the Belchertown boys' varsity soccer team.

The duo helped the Orioles post a shutout victory against the Ludlow Lions in the first meeting of the 2025 regular season between the Smith Division rivals.

The contest remained scoreless until late in the second half when Haley scored a goal leading to a 1-0 victory in the Orioles home opener, last Monday night (Sept. 8).

"The past few games in the Rte.21 rivalry have been very close," said Belchertown head coach Zach Siano. "Any win against a Smith Division opponent is a big deal for us."

While Haley scored the lone goal of the contest, Dudek made four saves at the other end of the field in recording his second consecutive shutout.

"A win against Ludlow is honestly a dream come true, especially with a shutout," Dudek said. "This is just an amazing feeling."

The Rte. 21 rivalry series between Ludlow and Belchertown is now tied 3-3 since the start of the 2021 regular season. The Orioles also posted a 1-0 home win against the Lions in the first meeting of last season.

Prior to that game, Ludlow had won the previous three games, which were all



Darien Lambert is closely pursued by a Belchertown defender.

shutouts.

Dudek took over the starting duties from Jack Mandeville, who made more than 200 saves during his outstanding varsity soccer career.

"Luke was our back-up goalie during the past couple of years to Jack Mandeville, who was a two time All-State goalie," Siano said. "Luke has hit the ground running so far this season. He has done a

great job of commanding the defense. He has a very high soccer IQ."

The members of the Orioles defensive unit are senior Tyler Burrows, senior Jordan Kalish, senior Austin Raymer, and sophomore Henry Mueller.

Raymer is also a co-captain, along with senior Nathan Marino.

Dudek's second shutout of the season improved the



Nicholas Dion makes a dive.



Samuel Pontes sends a pass forward.

Orioles overall record to 2-1-0 and a perfect 2-0-0 mark versus Smith Division foes.

After beginning the regular season with a 2-1 loss at Chicopee High School, Dudek made seven saves in the Orioles 3-0 win at East

Longmeadow in their first Smith Division match.

Belchertown also posted a 1-0 home in the first meeting of last season against Ludlow. Esat Cayan netted the only goal of that match.

For the first time in many

years, the Lions lost their first three games of the regular season. They began the regular season with a 2-1 non-league loss at Northampton before suffering a 1-0 loss to Smith Division Longmeadow in the home opener.

"This was another very tough result for us," said longtime Ludlow head coach Greg Kolodziej. "We created a couple of chances, but they wound up scoring the goal. We're going to get back on the training field and start preparing for our next game against Pope Francis."

The Lions closed out last week's action with a 1-1 home tie versus the Cardinals.

Belchertown, who also defeated South Hadley, 2-1, last week, had a total of six corner kicks during the first

Please see **LIONS**, Page 10

Ludlow girls soccer gets 3-1 start

LUDLOW – The Ludlow High School girls soccer is now 3-0 on the regular season with their latest victory last week.

The Lions would defeat West Springfield 2-1 in the first road game of the season for Ludlow. All of the scoring came in the second half with Valentina Molinari and Audrey Afonso scoring the goals for the Lions. Afonso assisted on Molinari's goal. Madelyn Riley made four saves for the win. After facing Agawam and Monson this week, the Lions take on Chicopee Comprehensive next Monday evening at 6 p.m. at home.

Westfield State football falls to Bridgewater

WESTFIELD – Eric Lovell's 80-yard interception return for a touchdown highlighted Westfield State's efforts as the Owls dropped a hard-fought 29-16 decision to Bridgewater State University in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football opener for both teams.

Westfield is now 0-2 overall and 0-1 in the MASCAC, while Bridgewater is 1-1 and 1-0 in the league.

The Owls fell behind 9-0 at the half.

Lovell picked off a pass

Please see **WESTFIELD STATE**, Page 10

Lions girls volleyball scores home win

LUDLOW – Last Monday evening, Ludlow High School girls volleyball defeated Belchertown in four sets by a 3-1 score. The Lions got eight kills from Hayden Morin while Ashlyn Mortimer turned in 12 assists. Belchertown got 18 assists from Olivia Skora while Tayla Liminski turned in eight kills. Kayia Cavanaugh had nine aces for the Orioles. Ludlow is 2-3 while Belchertown 1-3 on the season.



Sophia Alvaro looks to make the side bump.



Hayden Morin sends a spike over the net.



Ashlyn Mortimer sends a backwards set over the net.



Caitlyn Peccka squares up a bump.



Ella Lariviere keeps the ball in play with a hit.



Selena Yusuf makes hit from the back line.

SPORTS

Stafford hosts responder race

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Stafford Speedway hosted USNE First Responder Friday on Sept. 12 with the TC 13 Shootout joining Stafford's five weekly divisions in feature action. The SK Modified® division ran their regularly scheduled 40-lap feature as well as the 3rd Annual TC 13 Shootout, a 13 lap race contested between the top-13 finishers from the 40-lap feature. Michael Christopher, Jr. was the big winner of the night taking home the TC 13 Shootout trophy and the \$1,313 to win TC 13 Shootout. Also as part of the TC 13 Shootout festivities, the Ted Christopher Safety Initiative, orchestrated by Quinn Christopher, donated a Bell helmet with the winner determined by the winner of the TC 13 Shootout drawing from a list of the five drivers who finished in 13th place in their respective feature events. Christopher drew the Street Stock division which made Bill Cote the winner of the Bell helmet for his 13th place finish in the Street Stock feature.

In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature event, Michael Gervais, Jr. took the early lead with Anthony Flannery and Todd Owen going wheel to wheel for second. Owen took second on lap-2 with Andrew Molleur going around Flannery to move into third on lap-3. Flannery was able to get back in

line in fourth, just in front of Cory DiMatteo and Alexander Pearl, who were side by side fighting for fifth place. Molleur made a move to the inside of Owen on lap-6 to take second with Michael Christopher, Jr. getting around Pearl for sixth. Molleur took the lead from Gervais on lap-8 with DiMatteo moving into third on lap-9. With 10 laps complete the order was now Molleur, Gervais, DiMatteo, Owen, and Christopher, Flannery was sixth followed by Pearl, Marcello Rufrano, Tyler Chapman, and Jon Puleo.

DiMatteo streaked by Molleur to take over the lead on lap-13. Gervais was third behind DiMatteo and Molleur with Christopher fourth and Owen fifth. Christopher took third from Gervais on lap-16 and then took second from Molleur on lap-17. Wesley Prucker spun on the backstretch to bring the caution flag out with 18 laps complete.

Molleur spun from third place on the restart to bring the caution flag right back out. The next restart saw Gervais shoot out of line going down the backstretch and into turn 3 and his car came back up on the track and collected several cars including Curt Brainard, David Arute, Timmy Solomito, and Wade Gagner to bring the caution right back out again before a lap could be completed. Christopher was sent to the rear of the

field for making contact with Gervais.

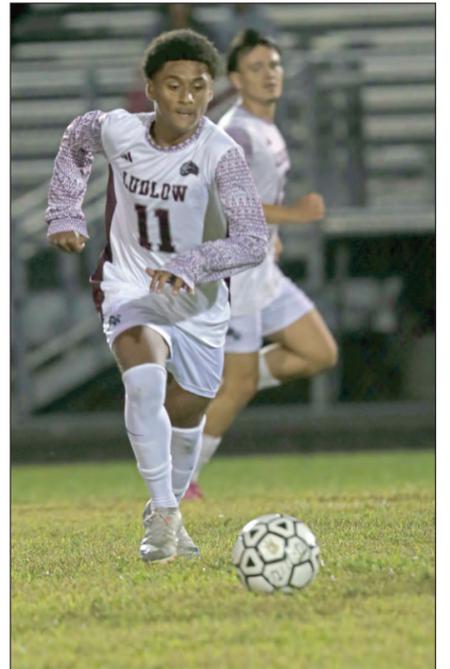
The third lap-19 restart saw DiMatteo take the lead with Flannery in second. Puleo and Owen were wheel to wheel for third with Mikey Flynn and Tyler Chapman wheel to wheel for fifth. Flynn and Chapman touched going into turn 3 with Chapman spinning into the wall to bring the caution flag back out with 20 laps complete.

DiMatteo took the lead on the restart with Puleo moving into second. Flynn took third after a side by side lap with Flannery with Rufrano in fifth behind Flynn and Flannery. Rufrano got around Flannery to take fourth place on lap-23 and then took third from Flynn on lap-24. Puleo was looking high and low for a way around DiMatteo but DiMatteo was able to maintain the lead.

With 5 laps to go it was still DiMatteo and Puleo fighting for the win with Rufrano and Flynn fighting for third and Flannery and Keith Rocco fighting for fifth. Rocco took fifth from Flannery on lap-37 while Flynn made a move to get back by Rufrano for third on lap-39. Puleo couldn't get close enough to DiMatteo as DiMatteo took down his second win of the 2025 season. Flynn finished third with Rocco and Rufrano rounding out the top-5.



Evan Dias heads up the field.



Desmond Danso goes after the loose ball.

LIONS from Page 9

half against Ludlow. The home team went 0-for-6 on them.

"The ball just didn't bounce our way on the first half corner kicks," Siano said. "The ball finally did bounce late in the second half."

Ludlow junior goalie Nick Dion (4 saves) managed to keep the contest scoreless at halftime.

Junior Jayden Premo had several shots on goal for the visiting team during the first

ten minutes of the second half.

During the 74th minute, a free kick taken by Ludlow senior Gabe DiRosa was saved by Dudek.

A couple of minutes later, Haley, who played for an academy soccer team during the past couple of years, became the hero. He finally broke the deadlock with his third goal of the season, which was assisted by senior Chase Connor.

"He does what I ask of him, and he has great syn-

ergy with some of the guys out there, in particular Chase Connor," said Siano, who probably wishes he could've coached Haley for four years instead of just one. "He has a great nose for the goal."

The Lions failed to score the tying goal before the referee blew his whistle for the final time.

The second edition of the Rte. 21 rivalry game is scheduled to be held on the new turf field at the Ludlow Sports complex on Oct. 2 at 6 p.m.

Kessy re-signs with T-Birds for 2025-2026 season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today they have re-signed forward Kale Kessy to a one-year AHL contract extension.

Kessy, 32, is entering his 13th professional season and has logged 359 regular season games of AHL ex-

perience, posting 43 points (21g, 22a) and 961 penalty minutes. He has additionally skated in 13 Calder Cup playoff contests, including all three games of the Thunderbirds' postseason series against the Providence Bruins last April.

Originally a fourth-

round pick by the Phoenix Coyotes in the 2011 NHL Draft, Kessy has also dressed in the AHL for the Oklahoma City Barons, Bakersfield Condors, Manitoba Moose, Cleveland Monsters, Colorado Eagles, Hershey Bears, Iowa Wild, and Syracuse Crunch.



Jayden Premo tries to settle the ball off his knee.



Anthony Schuko sends a pass away.



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WESTFIELD STATE from Page 9

on the right side of the field and outprinted everyone to the endzone midway through the third quarter, and Dino Stellato converted the extra point for the Owls to trim the Bears' lead to 9-7.

Bridgewater answered with a 29-yard field goal from Joey Naso, and then capitalized on an Owls turnover, as Lucas Lambert returned an interception 23 yards to the Owls 21, and a penalty on the tackle set the Bears up 1st and 10 at the Westfield 11. Bridge-

water QB Shamus Whiting found Jack McCarthy for an 11-yard TD pass on the next play to extend the lead to 19-7.

Westfield got two points back on a safety, after a 52-yard Brian Carlin punt pinned the Bears back on their own one-yard line, and Justyn Gardener sacked Whiting in the end zone to cut the lead to 19-9 with 1:26 left in the third quarter.

On the ensuing drive, Westfield marched 75 yards on eight plays, capped by an 18-yard scoring strike from Westfield QB Miles Foerster to Will Brewster that trimmed the lead to 19-16 after the extra point with 12:57 left in the game.

Bridgewater responded with a sharp 6-play, 60-yard drive of their own, with Whiting connecting with Josh Registre for 34-yard TD to boost the lead to 26-16. The Owls answered by driving the ball to the Bears 7-yard line, but a bad snap

and hold foiled a field goal attempt.

A late 42-yard field goal from Naso late in the fourth quarter capped the scoring and effectively ended the Owls comeback chances.

Foerster finished 10-26 passing for 94 yards, a TD and an interception, and ran for 57 more yards. Manny Mengata led the Owls with 63 yards on 22 carries. Brewster caught five passes for 56 yards.

For Bridgewater, Whiting finished 8-19 for 158 yards with two 2tds and 2 int's, and Joseph-Dube Garrett threw a TD pass as well. Isaiah Wright carried 20 times for 74 yards, and Registre caught three balls for 75 yards and a TD. Bridgewater held a 327-263 margin in total offense, and led 19-18 in first downs. Westfield held a slight 30:58 to 29:02 edge in time of possession.

Budder Ferreira led westfield with eight tackles, Lovell added seven.

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This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

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. HD25P1871EA
Estate of:
Michael S. Gubola
Date of Death: 08/14/2025
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 Michelle M. Gubola of Dublin, OH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Michelle M. Gubola of Dublin, OH 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 10/07/2025. 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: September 09, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 09/17/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Draft Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) Public Meeting
Ludlow Mills Buildings:

Mill 9, Mill 11 & Warehouse 199

100 State Street, Ludlow, MA
A public meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 17, 2025** to commence the 30-day public review and comment period of the Draft ABCA for Cleanup of the three sites at the Ludlow Mills complex in Ludlow, Massachusetts. Westmass Area Development Corporation was awarded a FY2024 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant for this work.

The meeting will be held remotely via Zoom at 4:00 PM. To register and request the meeting link, please contact info@westmassdevelopment.com.

The Draft ABCA will be available by appointment for review at the Ludlow Mill Office, 100 State Street, Bldg 119, Ludlow MA and the Westmass Corporate office, One Monarch Place, Suite 1210, Springfield MA, during regular business hours Monday-Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. It will also be posted on the Westmass website at: <https://westmassdevelopment.com/ludlow-mills/epa-fy24-brownfield-cleanup-grant/>.

The spokesperson representing the cleanup is Sarah la Cour, VP of Planning and Development at Westmass, who can be reached for questions and comments by email at s.lacour@westmassdevelopment.com or by phone at (413) 386-3124. 09/10, 9/17/2025

OBITUARIES

Mark Munkittrick, 78

LUDLOW - Mark Munkittrick, celebrated bass-baritone and longtime member of the Stuttgart State Opera in Germany, died on August 26, 2025, at the age of 78, after a long illness.

Born in Boston in 1946, Mark grew up in Ludlow, where his early love of music and language would shape the course of his life. He earned his B.A. in political science from Providence College and then joined the Peace Corps, serving in Iran. Upon returning to the United States, he launched his operatic career with the New York City Opera, making his debut at Carnegie Hall. In 1978, he moved to Germany, where he joined the Stuttgart State Opera.

From 1985 to 2016, Mark was a core member of the Stuttgart ensemble, singing dozens of roles across the operatic repertoire. His performances

ranged from comic characters like Bartolo in The Barber of Seville to dramatic roles such as Kaspar in Der Freischütz and Alberich in Wagner's Siegfried. Known for his artistic integrity and stage presence, he was appointed Kammer-sänger, one of Germany's highest honors for an opera singer, in 2007.

Mark is survived by his ex-wife, Catarina

Mora, and their son, Robin, of Waiblingen, Germany; by his son Mark and his wife, Nicole, and by his son Benjamin, all residing in New Zealand; and by his cousins Joyce Breault of Ludlow, Ted Kosior of Hadley, MA, and Diana Bittern of Simsbury, CT.

Funeral services will be held at Waldfriedhof Cemetery in Stuttgart, Germany, on September 12th. Friends and family may contact Diana at deltabird@gmail.com for additional information.



DEATH NOTICES

Helga (Mueller) Loeffler,
Memorial mass
Thursday, Sept. 18
9 a.m. at St.
Elizabeth Parish,
Ludlow

Mark Munkittrick
Died
August 26, 2025
Services
Sept. 12, 2025

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. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.
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Seamlessly Krafty grand re-opened with new ownership

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW - On Sept. 6, Seamlessly Krafty Sewing School and Art Studio hosted a grand re-opening with the new owner Madi Ogorzalek, where the community was invited to join the business in welcoming returning and new sewing students and guests.

Walking inside the art studio, sewing machines lined the walls with counter-top space, cubbies full with threads in every color, and rulers, fabrics, and craft supplies ready to be used for any project.

Walking around, guests of all ages were creating their own tote bags and comparing designs with each other, whilst Ogorzalek was busy helping everyone with their craft questions and sewing machine assistance. When speaking with Ogorzalek, the new 20-year-old owner and Ludlow High School 2023 graduate, Ogorzalek shared she's owned the business for one month and was thrilled to host this grand re-opening.

"I've been a student under the previous owner for about 10 years, so half my life! I just graduated college and became a certified teacher. I teach at Palmer High School. To be the owner, it feels amazing and it feels like I have finished a full circle. This was my journey and this was my goal since middle school. I was a student with some of the students here, some of them I taught with the previous owner so it's a complete full circle moment."

The one aspect of the job that Ogorzalek learned throughout the years was how much she loved her job.

"Learning patience and knowing how much I love every moment as well. I was very passionate about making clothes so it's kind of taken me along this route; this is my creative outlet. Today we are making little tote bags to get people warmed up to the idea of sewing. We are also doing mini projects too," said Ogorzalek.

To the town and the community, "Feel free to stop by for whatever you need. I am

here for pretty much anything, like classes, alterations, parties, camps, it's a never-ending business," ended Ogorzalek.

The art studio offers alterations for pants, shirts, skirts and dresses, and formal dresses. Kindly contact Ogorzalek to schedule an appointment.

Seamlessly Krafty Sewing School and Art Studio is located at 5 Sewall St. and is open Tues. through Sat., with various morning and evening hours. For contact information and upcoming events, visit the Seamlessly Krafty Facebook page.

Priscilla Ann (Wakem) Rys, 85

LUDLOW - Priscilla Ann (Wakem) Rys, 85, of Ludlow passed away peacefully at home on October 24, 2024 surrounded by her loving family.

Born on May 3, 1939 in Springfield, MA, daughter of the late Lester and Stephanie (Ziemba) Wakem, she graduated from Chicopee High School in 1956 and went to work for many years in the clerical field.

She was a member of Christ the King Church, Ludlow. Priscilla loved flowers, lilacs were her favorite. She enjoyed bowling, listening to Polka music, cooking, baking and

most of all spending time with her family.

Priscilla will be deeply missed by her beloved husband of 65 years Robert M.Rys. Her children, Robert Rys and his wife Tonia, Carolyn DaCosta and her husband Antonio. She was a loving grandmother to Alyson, Antonio

Morgan and Cody. Priscilla is survived by her sisters Gloria Moore and Sandra Czupyrna; brother, Ted Wakem; many nieces and nephews and several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Priscilla's family would like to express their gratitude to Beacon Hospice for their kind loving care.



Church DIRECTORY

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584 West St., Ludlow
413-583-8454
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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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Saturday Vigil Masses - 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Masses - 7:30 a.m.; 8:45 a.m. (Polish); 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Sunday Evening Mass - 5:30 p.m.

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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.

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Wed., September 10 - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Adoration - 8 a.m. (C), Holy Mother Choir - 5:15 p.m. (C), Scripture Enrichment - 6 p.m. (FLBH), Cub Scouts - 8 p.m. (JR)
Thurs., September 11 - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C),
Fri., September 12 - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C)
Sat., September 13 - Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C), Saturday Mass - 4 p.m. (C)
Sun., September 14 - Daily Masses at 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. (C),
Mon., September 15 - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C) Faith Formation - 6 p.m. (JR)
Tues., September 16 - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), St Rita Choir - 2:30 p.m. (C), Middle School Youth Ministry - 3:30 p.m. (JR), Bereavement Support - 6:30 p.m. (ZR)

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413-583-3339
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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.

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A Church of the Nazarene
485 East Street, Ludlow
(413) 583-7875
Email: FCCPastorLisa@gmail.com
Lead Pastor: Rev. Lisa Morrison
Associate Pastor: Gary Coombs
Sunday Morning Discipleship Groups meet at 9:45am
Worship service meets at 11am
OTHER MEETINGS
Tuesdays: Zoom Bible Study 7pm
Fridays: After School Club for Children 5pm AA Group 7pm

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



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HUBBARD from Page 7

every other Monday, September 22, 3:30 p.m. For ages 9-17. All experience levels welcome; some instruction provided. Bring your chess set if you have one. Please register.

Love My Library Scavenger Hunt, Monday, September 22, all day. All ages. This is National Library Card Sign-up month and we have a scavenger hunt for you that features some of the great things you can get with your library card! Win a prize when you find all the pictures. Drop-in.

Quilting for 10+, Fall Session, begins Thursday, September 18 - December 4, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. For ages 10-17. Seamstress Janet Foy will teach everything you need to know to make your own full-size winter or holiday themed quilt, including measuring & cutting fabric, using a pattern, hand sewing, & using a sewing machine. Meet every other

week for 6 weeks. Materials provided. Our thanks to the Warm Company & Ludlow Cooling and Heating for donating materials. Class size limited to 10*. Please register. *You must be able to attend all 6 classes

Tween D&D Chaos Club, every other Friday, begins September 19, 3:15 - 4:45 p.m. For 10-14 year olds. The group has room for 5 players, experience preferred but not necessary. During the first meeting ("Session Zero"), the Dungeon Master will help everyone create a character for the campaign. Please register.

Youth Crochet Club, every other Tuesday, September 23, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For ages 10-17. For beginner to experienced crocheters; supplies provided or bring your own. Registration recommended.

Tween Graphic Novel Book Group, Thursday September 25, 5:00 to 5:45 p.m. For ages 9-13. Meet to discuss graphic novels, play

games, and make crafts. This month's graphic novel is available in the Youth Room. There will be snacks! Please register.

Lego Build Challenge, every Wednesday, 12:00 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, 3:00 to 4:45 p.m. For grades 3-8. 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. Please register.

Saturday Online Club, every Saturday, noon to 1:50 p.m. For grades 3-8. See description above. Please register.

FOR CHILDREN

Read to a Poodle, every other Monday, September 29 and October 27, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. For beginning readers. Quill the poodle will visit the Youth Room every other Monday and he is a great listener! Sign up for a 10-15 minute session. Bring your own book, or we can help you pick some out. Quill is a registered Bright-spot therapy dog. Please register.

Grow, Play and Learn Playgroup for 0-2, Thursday, September 18, 9:45 - 10:30 a.m. Targeted for children birth to age 2 and their caregivers. Stories, songs and skill building, led by Early Childhood Developmental specialist Jane Christian of Pathways for Parents, guiding caregivers in strengthening interactions with their child. Program includes curriculum, "Ages and Stages" Questionnaire, and resources to fit your child's individual needs. Please register. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents

CFCE.

Grow, Play and Learn Playgroup for 2-5, Thursday, September 18, 10:45 - 11:30 a.m. Targeted for children 2-5. See description above. Please register. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE.

Tanglewood Marionettes Puppet Show, Saturday, September 20, 11:00 a.m. Suitable for PreK - 8. The library is thrilled to welcome this award winning nationally known company, thanks to a grant from the Ludlow Cultural Council. See "The Fairy Circus" on the library lawn. Note: will reschedule to spring if the weather is poor. Drop-in.

Storytime Series for 3-5 year olds, Mondays, September 29 - November 10, 10 a.m. Stories, songs, and games about firefighters, teachers, doctors, and other community helpers, with a craft and snack at the end. Tailored for 3-5 year olds. Please register. No class October 13.

Storytime Series for 2-3

year olds, Wednesdays, October 1 - November 5, 10 a.m. See description above; tailored for 2-3 year olds, with a free play period at the beginning with a craft and snack at the end. Please register.

Homeschool Storytime: "True Tales", Wednesdays, October 1 - November 5, 1:00 - 1:45 p.m. For ages 5 and up. A fun, gently educational storytime that uses non-fiction picture books to share inspiring stories about real people and historical events, with a craft or activity at the end. Please register.

Sing With Me, every Tuesday, 10:30 to 11:00 a.m.

For 0-5s. Interactive, participatory music for children and their grown-ups with favorite children's songs. It takes place on the library lawn, but we move inside for bad weather. Drop-in.

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

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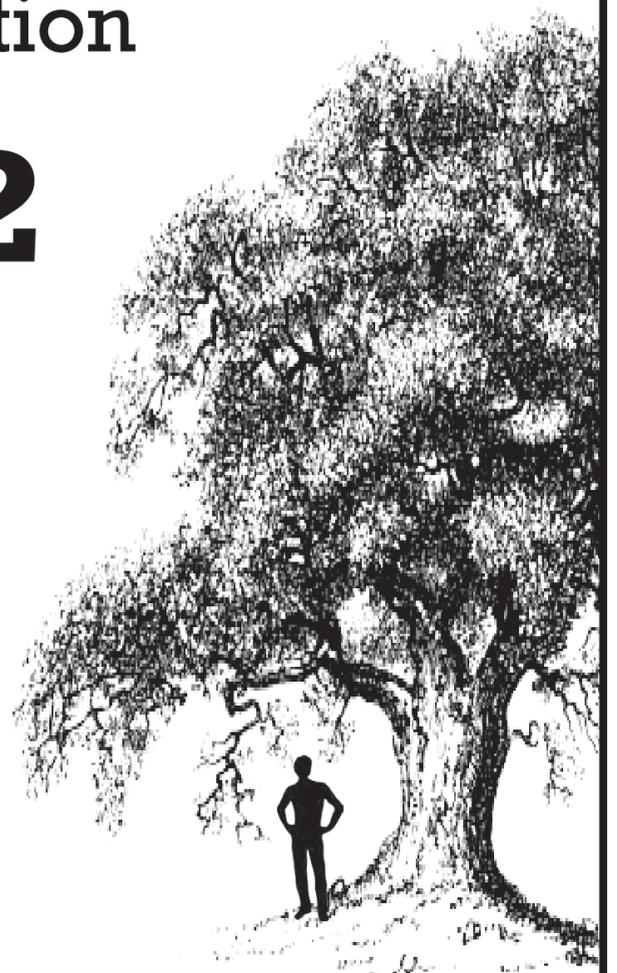
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