

INDEX

Opinion: 4
 Sports: 7
 Obituaries: 11
 Notices: 12
 Classifieds: 13



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Turley photo by Amanda Munson

Spiderman, Elsa, and Anna were greeting children and searching if they were on Santa's nice or naughty list.

Town celebrates 'Light Up Ludlow'

By Amanda Munson
 Staff Writer
 amunson@turley.com

LUDLOW – “May the beautiful spirit of Christmas be with you all!” On the evening of Nov. 30, the day after Sun. after Thanksgiving, the Celebrate Ludlow Committee hosted a successful Light Up Ludlow event at Town Hall that surrounded the 22-foot Christmas tree made available by Celebrate Ludlow and the Friends of the 250th Committees.

Speaking with Sue Corjay of the Celebrate Ludlow Committee, who manned the table to buy and decorate ornaments to put on the tree on the lawn, shared what residents were writing on their decorations to be featured on the tree

in the future for years to come.

“After we finished the 250th celebration, the parade and picnic, we wanted to get something to remember the work that we did and all the people that came out, so we purchased a 22-foot Christmas tree with a star on it and these ornaments are for the tree. They are five dollars each and you can have what you want to put on it and they’ll be attached to the tree. It’ll be permanent because the tree will go up every year and the ornaments are going to stay there. It’s a nice heritage,” said Corjay.

The immediate response from Light Up Ludlow attendees purchasing the

Please see **TREE LIGHTING**, Page 6

Memorial Day Committee presents Pancake Breakfast with Santa



Turley photo by Amanda Munson

Member Linda Collette, Santa, and Chairman of the Parade Committee Bruce Durand.

By Amanda Munson
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – On Nov. 30, the Sunday after Thanksgiving, the Ludlow Memorial Day Parade Committee hosted a pancake breakfast with Santa at Harris Brook Elementary School with two different time slots for ample options for families, with tickets being sold prior at PlayNow. Serving hot pancakes and sausages, donated generously by the Polish

American Citizens Club in Town, the cafeteria was decorated for the holidays with festive music in the background and a surprise visit from a jolly Santa in the library.

While walking around and greeting families happily eating their breakfast, Zachary Nedaud from the Polish American Citizens Club shared how the club initially got involved and how it was to be volunteering at the breakfast event. Being part of the club for 10 years, Nedaud

began, “My favorite part is doing events like these, hanging out with the guys, serving breakfast to everyone. We consider each other like brothers, everybody is from different walks of life, we all come together at the lodge and try to do as many events like this as we can. The fraternal organization does a lot of charity work; our district has about five other lodges that we are in communication with. It’s a lot of brotherhood. Anybody who shows up makes a good brother.”

said Nedaud.

Sharing what his favorite memory is during Christmas time, Nedaud explained it’s watching his kid during the season and watching movies and opening gifts. While Nedaud was helping serving food to the attendees, Chairman of the Parade Committee Bruce Durand shared that the committee has been hard at work to create fun events for the residents of Ludlow.

“This event was origi-

Please see **SANTA**, Page 9

Ludlow Police Dept. partner with Toys for Tots

By Amanda Munson
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – On Nov. 29, the Ludlow Police Department were seen in the parking lot of Big Y collecting unwrapped gifts for Toys for Tots, the Sat. right after Thanksgiving. Speaking with Sgt. Jhon Wielbald, who recently earned Officer of the Year at the Veterans Day Ceremony at LHS, shared how it was to be at the toy drive and experience the amount of support the community showed.

Wielbald said, “Being at the toy drive is a fun experience. We saw families, kids, and residents stop by with toys. The generosity of the community was constant throughout the day. It was



Submitted photo

LPD Dispatcher Lynch, Ofc. Cieslak, Ofc. Blair, Sgt. Wielbald, with Marines Sgt. Perez and Sgt. Vazquez at the toy drive.

a reminder of the bond between the residents and the LPD and Ludlow communications, and it was nice to

see everyone come together for a good cause. We ended up filling five Toys for Tots donation boxes and two bi-

cycles which is a little more than we normally collect. We also have a few residents who donate every year, and

it’s always nice to see their continued generosity. One resident donated \$1,000 worth of toys from PlayNow,

and it was special to witness someone give that much to such a meaningful cause,” said Wielbald.

When asked why it was important for the department to be involved like a Toys for Tots drive, Wielbald commented about the importance of trust and connection within the community. “It’s important for us to be involved with the community because trust and connection don’t just happen during emergencies; they’re built every day. Events like this allow us to meet people, talk, laugh, and work together toward something positive. It helps strengthen relationships and shows that

Please see **TOYS FOR TOTS**, Page 5

Springfield Water and Sewer Comm. and MassDOT bridge updates

By Amanda Munson
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – At the Dec. 2 Select Board meeting, the board discussed a few ongoing topics like the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, the MassDOT bridge inspection updates, and reminded residents of important dates in the new year. The motion was filed 4-0 at the meeting of a letter from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission request for review of potential impact of a proposed commercial BESS, battery energy storage

system, project near Cobble Mountain Reservoir Watershed.

The MassDOT bridge inspection of West St. and Stony Brook Bridges is still pending as of The Register press time, with Chairman Manuel Silva stating, “There’s nothing new that’s happened.” Vice Chairperson William Rosenblum commented that the board is still waiting on what DOT has on their assessment. Member James Gennette stated the following, “There’s nothing we can do until the state gets in line.” The motion was filed and carried 4-0.

The MassDOT bridge inspection for Piney Lane and Broad Brook is still under renovation.

Town Clerk Kim Batista provided The Register with a list of upcoming dates in the new year for residents to be aware of. The Town Census will be mailed at the beginning of Jan. Following are the elections the Town has scheduled for 2026: Annual Town Election, Mon., Mar. 23. State Primary, Tues., Sept. 1. State Election, Tues., Nov. 3. Dog licenses expire on Mar. 31 every year. Residents may start licensing their dogs on Mar. 1.

Board sets FY26 tax rate, residents can expect increase in tax bills

By Amanda Munson
 Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – On Dec. 2, the Select Board reviewed and set the new Fiscal Year 2026 tax rate for residents following the Nov. 18 hearing with the Board of Assessors for tax classification, setting it to \$16.01 per \$1,000 valuation of property. Property assessments continue to rise, both commercial and residential, meaning the tax rate will be going down again, but the tax bills will be increasing since the properties are

worth more than they were last year.

According to the Town website, “The Board of Assessors has the responsibility to see that the department maintains assessment levels which are allowable by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, and that a timely tax rate is set for each fiscal year. They make all major decisions involving the department, act on exemption and abatement applications, and establish all office policy.”

The last three FY tax rates have been the following, FY25 was \$17.35,

FY24 was \$18.09, and the FY23 was \$19.51. Assistant Assessor Jose Alves visited the board and began, “The fiscal year 2026 is an interim year update. The work has been completed and was approved by the DOR, Massachusetts Department of Revenue, on Nov. 12, 2025. Fiscal year 26 values are as of Jan. 1, 2025, and are based on sales between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2024. Our current assessment level is approximately 96%.

Please see **FY26 TAX RATE**, Page 10

LUDLOW



Principal Nikki Reed with Cheryl Ingalls and students from HBES.



Cheryl Ingalls smiling after being surprised by the HBES classes on Wed. morning

Harris Brook honors Cheryl Ingalls for 10 years of volunteer service

By Amanda Munson
Staff Writer
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LUDLOW – “We appreciate you!” During Harris Brook Elementary School’s monthly community meeting featuring the third and fifth graders, Principal Nikki Reed wanted to recognize and honor a special person within their school named Cheryl Ingalls. Beginning in Oct. 2015, Ingalls began volunteering at Veterans Park Elementary School where she was described as instrumental in keeping things running smoothly within the library and in the school.

Following Harris Brook Elementary School in the fall of 2021 in the current location, Ingalls continued to volunteer within the library and shared her love of reading to the youth of Ludlow. Occurring a few days before



Principal Nikki Reed embracing Cheryl Ingalls after the presentation.

Thanksgiving, Reed wanted to honor Ingalls for her commitment to the school and figured it would be best to do it when students, faculty, and family could be there to witness it during a normal monthly community meeting.

Read aloud in front of the cafeteria that held In-

galls’ family at HBES, Reed presented a heartwarming PowerPoint that read, “Ingalls pours her heart into our library, greeting everyone with a smile that brightens the rooms and a sense of humor that keeps us all laughing. She played a pivotal role in establishing our beautiful



Cheryl Ingalls’ family takes photos of her on stage while the students look upon Ingalls celebrating her commitment to LPS.

library here at Harris Brook, a monumental task that she handled with grace, determination, and vision. She cares for our school community with such kindness and attention that we truly would be lost without her.”

Reed said, “This is a long time coming. We wanted to do something special for Cheryl and it’s hard because we have a lot of different volunteers, but she’s been one that’s been consistent for over 11 years. Mon. through Thurs. she’s here before I get to work, rain or shine; we didn’t even have to worry that she wouldn’t be here today because we knew she would be here. The Second Grade Teacher Sharon Driscoll asked what she could do to make this happen. We were able to get a few more family members here, and a former colleague came; it was special. We thought it was the perfect timing to be thankful for the work that Cheryl’s

done. The kids didn’t know that she volunteered. Everyone thought she was a paid librarian,” commented Reed.

Reed shared that volunteers are the extra hands schools need to keep them going, explaining that although HBES is strong staffed, tasks like helping with copies or helping with recess time do not go unnoticed. When asked what makes a good volunteer, Reed referenced Ingalls saying she brings a smile and joy every day and is so happy to be around kids.

Speaking with Ingalls, who was appreciative of the recognition she was receiving from her HBES family, shared why she continues to volunteer. “I’ve volunteered for a long time, I worked at Baystate and used to volunteer as well at the Westfield YMCA. My mom was a kindergarten teacher, so we grew up getting things ready for school, like a mimeograph machine in the living room,

so that’s how we grew up. I started doing arts and crafts at the YMCA for about seven years and then volunteered at the dog shelter for a while and then started volunteering at a school. And then when mom died, we moved to Ludlow, and it was just something that I wanted to do. I love volunteering, I love libraries, and I love books and that’s why I’m doing it,” said Ingalls.

When students come into the library and are eager to read, Ingalls says it’s the best feeling to see the children’s willingness to read and write, highlighting the importance of continuing to read books at all ages. Reed said, “For more than 11 years, Ingalls has been a cherished member of our Harris Brook family. Today, as a small token of our immense gratitude, we are honored to welcome her family as we celebrate the love, appreciation, and admiration we have for Mrs. Ingalls.”



LPS Kelsey Eggmann, Vinzorelli Perez, Cheryl Ingalls, with Zack Richer after the presentation.

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Heritage “Pops” Orchestra Christmas Concert Dec. 15
LUDLOW—Celebrate the christmas season with the big band sounds of the 20-piece heritage “pops” orchestra at Ludlow Senior Center located at 228 State Street in Ludlow, on Monday, December 15, 2025 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.
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Knights present check to Community Survival Center

Also, updates on other events

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Knights of Columbus 10195 presented a check for \$9,000 to the Community Survival Center during their Nov. 18 meeting.

The announcement comes after the Community Survival Center Benefit Dinner, held at the St. Cecilia Parish Center to support the non-profit organization.

The Community Survival Center is located in Indian Orchard and helps families struggling to provide the basics of food, clothing and household items, with their emergency food pantry supporting the towns of Ludlow, Wilbraham, Hampden and the 16 Acres, Pine Point and Indian Orchard neighborhoods in Springfield.

George Reich, the event chair, was ecstatic.

"Again, I want to thank all of you that helped, donated, volunteered your time. We had a very successful event, we actually had a sell-out and we now have a check—a big check—to present to the Community Survival Center," Reich said.

Reich was then joined by Christal Turcotte, the executive director of the Community Survival Center, and Financial Secretary Jim Rooney to unveil the check.

"Christal, a heartfelt thank you for all you do. I know we work a few days on this, you do this year-round. We had a very successful event and we raised \$9,000 for you at that event," Reich said.

During the Thanksgiving Food Drive a week later, Reich shared what was on his mind when sharing the announcement with his fellow Knights.

"I was glad. I've been involved in that for several years now and as far as I'm concerned, that's the largest check we raised from one of these dinners," Reich said. "We had a successful event, it was sold out, we had 240 seats and we sold them all and like I said, \$9,000 is the most I remember raising from that event."

There were, also, other exciting announcements on Nov. 18.

First, the Coats for Kids Drive, which received 192 coats this year and went to the following places: The



From the left, Financial Secretary Jim Rooney, Christal Turcotte, executive director at the Community Survival Center, and George Reich, event chair for the Community Survival Center Benefit Dinner, with the \$9,000 check.



Grand Knight Josh Mitchell opens the meeting.

Gray House got 48 coats, Lucy Ramos of the Diocese of Springfield Latino Ministry got 23 coats, the Springfield Schools to Joe Silva was 14 coats, Cathedral Religious Education at St. Michael's Cathedral got 27 coats, East Longmeadow Schools to Barbara Spear got 24 coats, Paul Diemand in Northampton got 24 coats, Sue Raynor got 23 coats for the DCF and Sister Mary and Rosemary Oldread got six.

Next, John Hegarty, who chairs the Thanksgiving Food Drive, announced the planning for this year's event and how much was raised.

"This was a record-breaking year for contributions. I want to thank everyone in the room who contributed," Hegarty said. "Last year, we raised a little over \$10,000. This year, \$12,044 so far. All of the money that comes in goes back out."

Hegarty said about \$1,500 in gift cards are given out by the parish as well.

"We also donate gift cards to the Diocese (of Springfield) Latino Ministry and down at St. Michael's Cathedral. So, after the gift cards are purchased, after Big Y



Knights members try out the chili entries.

gets paid for the food and the turkeys, whatever's left over gets split between the Community Survival Center and the Gray House," Hegarty said. "They'll all get a check right after Thanksgiving to replenish their food pantries, so thank you all that contributed. It was a great year."

Deputy Grand Knight Jared Demetri shared information about the upcoming Free Throw Competition on January 3, 2026.

"I do have a sign-up sheet over there and thank you to everyone that's signed up. I know it's a lot of fun. It's for boys and girls age 9 to 14, so if you know anyone in your family or extended family that is interested, please tell them about it. It's going to be in the church bulletin a few weeks prior to the event. I've contacted the superintendent's office so it will go to the Hampden-Wilbraham school system, all the kids within that age group 9 to 14," Demetri said. "I reached out to the CYO coach as well as the Wilbraham Rec Department coach, so hopefully we'll have a really good turnout."

Demetri explained the

council and district rounds happen on the same day, so volunteers are encouraged to sign up so they can help keep score.

And finally, this year's Annual Toy Drive, where a toy box will be set up the weekend after Thanksgiving and a notification in the parish bulletin will go out that same weekend. Volunteers are being sought for Wednesday, Dec. 17, to help deliver toys to the Diocese of Springfield.

Volunteers are also needed the night before on Tuesday, Dec. 16, to help get deliveries ready.

Over 500 toys were collected last year, Grand Knight Josh Mitchell added after the announcement was shared, with nearly 300 toys going to the Diocese.

"We spoke to the person that runs Catholic Charities and he was beyond elated in the amount of families that we helped last year was astronomical, so again, thank you to everyone that donated their money, toys, both. It's truly helping not just our parish but the Greater Springfield area too," Mitchell said

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Evangel Assembly to host free Christmas Dinner Dec. 25

WILBRAHAM — Evangel Assembly is delighted to open its doors and hearts this Christmas, inviting the Wilbraham-Hampden community and neighboring towns to a complimentary Christmas Dinner on Thursday, Dec. 25, 2025.

The free dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Evangel Assembly, located at 348 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA. Everyone is welcome-no registration required.

Whether you're spending the holiday alone, looking to share a meal with loved ones, or simply wanting to celebrate with new friends, you'll find a warm welcome, delicious food, and the joy of the season.

"This Christmas Dinner is our way of sharing the love and hope of Christmas with our neighbors," said Outreach Pastor Lori

Phillips. "No one should spend Christmas Day without a hot meal and the company of others. We can't wait to celebrate together."

The event is open to all ages and backgrounds. Volunteers from Evangel Assembly will serve a traditional holiday meal in a festive, family-friendly atmosphere.

Heritage "Pops" Orchestra Christmas Party Dinner & Dance

LUDLOW—Celebrate the Christmas Season with the Big Band Sounds of the 20-piece Heritage "Pops" Orchestra with hors d'oeuvres, dinner & dessert.

Polish American Citizens Club located at 355 East Street, Ludlow on Friday, December 19, 2025.

Advance Tickets are \$27.50 per person

There will be a giant wood dance floor, 50/50 raffle and cash bar.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served from 6 to 7 p.m. and the grand buffet dinner by John Diotalevi at 7 p.m. with music and dancing from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Tickets Available at the PACC bar or call Bob at 413-636-7588 or call Paul at 413-800-4164.

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN



About tax filing status and Medicare

Dear Rusty:
I'm trying to figure out if I should change my IRS filing status to "Married – Filing Jointly" prior to getting reviewed for my Medicare Part B and Part D.

My current IRS status is "Married – Filing Single" and I noticed this filing status is more stringent. I will be turning 62 this year (2025) and I've read that Medicare will review my income two years prior to turning 65. Any input would be appreciated.

Signed: Uncertain Senior

Dear Uncertain:

Your IRS tax filing status has no bearing on your eligibility for Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient healthcare services) or Medicare Part D (insurance coverage for prescription drugs). Medicare is an individual healthcare program, so enrolling in Medicare provides coverage for you only, not your spouse, your spouse's Medicare eligibility will be individually evaluated.

What your IRS filing status may affect is the amount of your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. There is a Medicare provision called Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount, which sets the income thresholds on which your Medicare premiums are based and those thresholds are different if you file your income tax as a single or as "married/filing jointly."

The IRMAA thresholds can change annually and there's no way to yet determine what they will be when you are able to enroll in Medicare at age 65. They are currently \$106,000 if you file as a single, and \$212,000 if you file your taxes as "married/jointly." If your "provisional income," your combined income from all sources, exceeds the threshold for your filing status, you will pay higher than standard Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. If your income is lower than the threshold, you will pay only whatever the standard Medicare Part B premium is for the year you start Medicare and there will be no supplemental premium for your Part D coverage.

For information, the IRMAA supplements are progressive that is, the more you exceed the threshold by, the higher your IRMAA premium supplement will be. To see the current IRMAA thresholds and supplements again, these will likely change when you are eligible for Medicare visit www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2025-medicare-

parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles.

You are correct that your Medicare premium, when you enroll, will be determined by your total income from two years prior. So, if you plan to enroll in Medicare at age 65, sometime in 2028, it is your 2026 income which will determine your Part B and Part D premiums, and that income will be defined by your 2026 income tax return. Note, too, that Medicare premiums are reevaluated each year, based upon your IRS income tax return from two years prior.

FYI, there are advantages to filing your income tax as "married/jointly" vs. married/filing separately and those are best evaluated by your tax advisor. We are not tax advisors here at the AMAC Foundation. And while it's true that the IRMAA thresholds are higher when you file as "married/jointly," it's also true that your total income as a married couple will be used when determining your IRMAA premiums for Medicare. So, once again, it is probably best to consult with a qualified income tax advisor for guidance on whether it is best, financially, for you to change how you file your income tax in 2026, considering that you will be enrolling in Medicare in 2028.

One final thing: If you are still working and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, "creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants, then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends thus temporarily avoiding the Medicare premiums. In other words, if you have creditable healthcare coverage from an employer, you don't have to enroll in Medicare immediately at age 65.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



GUEST COLUMN

Christmas decoration trivia

Last week I provided you with a few tips on how to make a simple evergreen swag and wreath. Hopefully you gave it a try.

For this column I thought it would be fun to share some fun facts with you, many of which I just learned today. You see, I will be working with a group of students tomorrow and wanted to have some cool trivia up my sleeve.

I'll be bringing in all the Christmas greens I talked about a week ago and will pass them around to each student: juniper, hemlock, fir, white pine and more materials, including rose hips, pine cones and holly. Read on to see if what I share is new to you, too!

For example, did you know that the Easter White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) is the tallest tree in the northeast? It also goes by the name "the Great Tree of Peace," due to the fact that five Native American tribes formed an alliance under a tall white pine; a neat correlation because the needles that are attached to the twigs are in groups of five.

This tree also has a history of being used to make ship masts, and for awhile the trees were reserved for "the Crown." The great "Pine Tree Riot" was an act of defiance that led up to the American Revolution!

One other point of interest is that pine needles are edible and contain vitamin C.

Other materials that often shows up in Christmas decorations are pine cones. What I learned today is that the correct terminology is to generically call them "cones," since they are only pine cones if they come from a pine tree! Logical point!

The hard cones we use for

to using juniper is that it smells nice and often has attractive waxy looking berries along with the foliage. It was interesting to learn that these berries are actually cones.

The seeds are protected well within the tough outer coating and can pass through an animal's digestive tract intact. That way the seeds can be dispersed far and wide – wherever the animal is traveling, I guess!

I've done complete articles on Holly (*Ilex* spp.) before, but I did learn a few new interesting tidbits with this most recent bout of research. The plant has a unique defense mechanism.

Lower foliage is extra spiny to reduce deer from browsing. Upper foliage is not nearly as spiny. There are chemicals in holly berries that make the berries unpalatable to birds and other wildlife at first, but as winter goes on they begin to taste a little better.

Still the birds only eat a few at a time thereby dispersing seeds at various rates and locales. I think all of this is so interesting and so carefully orchestrated to continue the species!

Well, I hope my research has been entertaining, and I do hope that the students enjoy my show and tell tomorrow!

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.



by Roberta McQuaid

decorating are female and their main purpose is to keep the naked seeds inside safe. They will open and close to maintain proper humidity levels. \

Some close so tight that they need the heat of a wild fire to have them open enough to drop their seeds! Cones can stay on a tree up to 10 years without falling off.

The kids will find it funny that dinosaurs even ate pine cones, the Parasaurolophus, to be exact! These trees belong to a group of plants called Gymnosperms, that have indeed been around since prehistoric times.

Many of our favorite Christmas trees are Fir trees (*Abies* spp.), with the Balsam Fir being one of the most common. Firs have needles that are soft and flat, and attached to twigs one by one, versus the pine that we learned attach in clusters.

An average, it takes about seven years to grow a decent size Christmas tree. According to my research, the first Christmas tree was in Latvia in the year 1510.

By the early 1800's German and Irish immigrants had brought the custom to America but it still took some time for it to catch hold.

Juniper (*Juniperus* spp.) is another evergreen that often makes its way into our Christmas wreaths and arrangements. The species can produce greenery that is either smooth or picky.

One of the biggest draws

Give yourself the gift of self-compassion

Give yourself the gift of self-compassion

Remember "tough love"? It was all the rage in the '80s and legitimized unkind or even cruel behaviors in pursuit of persuading a loved one to change their behavior.

"Positive narratives of tough love not only coursed through communities but also became a staple for television shows for decades," wrote Peg Streep in *Psychology Today*, "despite the fact that there is no evidence – and never has been – that what is called tough love works in any context, including addiction."

So there.

Tough love doesn't work on ourselves either. It's been shown that negative self-talk, beating ourselves up when we don't meet our own ex-



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

your health

pectations, and ruminating over our perceived failures don't do anything to improve our state of mind. In fact, it's damaging – and if you've ever been assessed for depression, those are some of the behaviors that might be identified.

There's a better way. This holiday season, give yourself the gift of self-compassion.

It's not just an idea. It's a way of living.

There's even an institute for its study and implemen-

tation, founded by Kristin Neff, an associate professor of educational psychology at the University of Texas at Austin. A pioneer in the field of self-compassion research, she conducted the first empirical studies on self-compassion more than 20 years ago and now runs the Self-Compassion Institute (self-compassion.org).

What is self-compassion?

Neff explains that self-compassion is showing yourself the same care and consideration you would show to a friend who is struggling or feeling bad about themselves.

"It means being support-

Please see **YOUR HEALTH**, Page 1

The REGISTER

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

Tell Us What You Think

Share your thoughts and suggestions with our staff and your fellow readers. **Participate in our opinion pages, or contact us anytime with your feedback!**

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

Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

Holiday cheer and excitement is in the air as well as entertainment, activities, new programs and a chance to meet and mingle. Gather with friends in the Center's beautiful dining room and enjoy a delicious lunch complete with coffee, tea, and dessert. To join us, just call 413-583-3564 a day in advance to reserve your spot (Call Friday for Monday lunch).

Don't miss out on what's happening. Pick up our monthly Newsletter at the Center or share your email with us to have it delivered straight to your inbox. You can also explore programs, find important forms, and learn more about what a Senior Center has to offer at ludlow.ma.us/coa/. And for the latest news and photos, be sure to "like" the Ludlow Senior Center on Facebook!

As the days grow cooler and the season turns cozy, we look forward to sharing warm meals, great programs, and good company with you at the Center. Please note that if the Ludlow schools are closed or have a delay due to inclement weather, the Center will be closed or have a delayed opening.

Activities Calendar:

Please register in advance for items with*

Thursday, December 11

9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation*
10:30 a.m. Friends of the Center Meeting

10:30 a.m. Sen. Oliveira Office Hour
12:45 p.m. Mahjong
1:30 p.m. Intro to Making Soup & Spices Class*

Friday, November December 12

8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp
9 a.m. Reiki by Appointment
9:30 a.m. Enfield Commons Trip*
10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
10 a.m. Blood Pressure Checks
10 a.m. Inclement Weather Preparedness*

Monday, December 15

9 a.m. Knitting
9:30 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
10 a.m. Computer Help
10:30 a.m. Rep. Saunders Office Hour
1 p.m. Scrabble
1:15 p.m. Pitch
1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencil Class*
1:30 p.m. Heritage Pops Orchestra
2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold
Tuesday, December 16
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 p.m. Brown Bag Pick Up*
1 p.m. Festive Seasonings*
1:30 p.m. Bingo
4:30 p.m. Power Pump Exercise Class
5 p.m. Movie: A Christmas Carol (1951)

Wednesday, December 17

8:45 a.m. Zumba Gold
9 a.m. Ceramics
10 a.m. Opera Appreciation
10:30 a.m. Latkes
10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*
1 p.m. Dominos
1 p.m. TED Talk
1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance*
1 p.m. Movie: A Christmas Carol (1951)

4:30 p.m. Council on Aging Board Meeting

Thursday, December 18

9 a.m. Tai Chi
9:30 a.m. Dominos
10 a.m. Sunshine Painting Class*
10:15 a.m. Mindful Meditation*
12 p.m. Funny Sweater Contest
12:45 p.m. Mahjong
2 p.m. Book Club: Long Bright River/ Liz Moore
2 p.m. Writers Block
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, December 11: Cold Cut Grinder/Chips/Pickle
Friday, December 12: Vegetarian Chili/Baked Potato
Monday, December 15: Pasta Primavera/Caesar Salad
Tuesday, December 16: Jambalaya/Rice/Corn Bread
Wednesday, December 17: Taco Salad
Thursday, December 18: Birthday Lunch! Stuffed Pork Chop/Scalloped Pot/Veggie
Reserve a delicious \$2 lunch by calling a day ahead. all on Friday to reserve lunch on Monday.
For allergy concerns, call the Senior Center to inquire about ingredients at 413-583-3564.

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

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

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 massbook.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

Anime Club, Tuesday, December 16 & 30 (biweekly), 3:30-5:00 pm. For middle and high schoolers. The group chooses what to watch each week. Join us to geek out on

Anime, try out your cosplay, and eat yummy snacks. Registration recommended.

JJK Animarathon, Tuesday, December 30, 3:30-7:30 pm. For middle and high schoolers. Join the Anime Club and wear your cosplay for half a season of a fan fave, with free pizza and drinks sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Online Gaming Club for YAs, every Thursday, 3:30 - 5:00 pm. For ages 10-15. Play Roblox, Minecraft, & more. Roblox players must have their own accounts; Minecraft players can bring their own devices or use one of the library's 8 computers and/or Minecraft accounts. Please register.

FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

Holiday Jewelry Making, Thursday, December 11, 4:30-5:30 pm. For tweens and teens (9 and up). Join Sandy Merrill to make unique and super cute holiday-themed beaded jewelry! Please register.

Youth Chess Club, Monday, December 15 & 29 (biweekly), 3:30-4:30 pm. Ages 9-17. All experience levels are welcome for an hour of chess, some instruction provided. No matter what level you start at, you'll be better after playing with the club! Please register.

Youth Crochet Club, Tuesday, December 16 & 30 (biweekly), 5:30-6:30 pm. For ages 10-17. For beginners through experienced crocheters, supplies provided or bring your own. Please register.

Easy Gifts for Grandparents, Saturday, December 20, 11:00 am - 1:45 pm. All ages. Make keychains, glass bead suncatchers, and book lover votive jars, plus a personalized gift bag and tag. Drop-in.

New Year's Sticker Making, Monday, December 29, all day. All ages. Drop in to use our sticker maker and some fun designs to make stickers celebrating the New Year!

Drop-in Holiday Card Making, for the month of December. All ages. Pre-cut designer papers, stickers, glitter, and more!

Lego Build Challenge, every Wednesday, 12:00 to 5:00 pm. Pull a Lego Build Challenge Card and try to build it with the

Please see **HUBBARD**, Page 12

IOCC collaborates with HCSD holding toy collection

INDIAN ORCHARD—Donations of new unwrapped toys are being accepted now through Dec. 20. The toy collection will benefit the Indian Orchard children at the holiday party.

Toys can be dropped off at IOCC, 117 Main Street, Indian Orchard, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Checks can be made payable to the IOCC, and mailed to 117 Main Street, Indian Orchard, MA 01151

The Community Christmas/holiday party will be held on Saturday, Dec. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. at IOCC 117 Main Street, Indian Orchard. Santa Claus will be available to distribute toys to the children.

TOYS FOR TOTS

from Page 1

we're here as police officers, dispatchers, working with Marines in making Ludlow

a better place. Giving back during the holidays is meaningful because this time of year can be difficult for many families. A simple toy can make a big difference for a child, and knowing we

can help bring some joy to them is very rewarding. The holidays are about kindness, generosity, and community and giving back is one of the best ways to reflect those values," said Wielblad.

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Collecting Toys for Tots were Miguel, Matthew, Ryan Howl, Mike, Mike Healy, Tony Sanches, and Maria Crespo.

Turley photos by Amanda Munson



Through the rain, everyone at Light Up Ludlow supported Toys for Tots and other community partners to make the night even more memorable.

TREE LIGHTING

from Page 1

ornaments was good, said Corjay, who shared that many were purchasing them in memory of someone who has passed on. The ornament fundraiser will continue for future years and become a tradition to directly support events like Light Up Ludlow.

Under one of the tents near the lighting, Shirley Flebotte was joined by her granddaughter and resident Emma St. Pierre, who both helped create and build the letters to Santa mailbox that can now be seen in front of Town Hall. While speaking with Flebotte, children were writing their wishes and gift ideas, with the help of their parents and guardians, onto letters and were dropping it into the box for Santa.

Flebotte began, "We have a little booth here where kids fill out post cards that they put in the mailbox that I made, they keep the candy cane pens, and the parents and guardians leave their name and address so they get sent back a postcard from my granddaughter in the future. St. Pierre's mother-in-law is in the Rotary Club, and I built a lot of things. I am very crafty, and St. Pierre knew who to call to build Santa's mailbox for this event. The children just love it! Referring to St. Pierre, she's been a big part of it



The Celebrate Ludlow Committee with Sue Corjay is holding an ongoing customized Christmas ornament sale that will have a permanent spot on the Town Hall tree every year.

because she's the one that did all the postcards and pens. It's just been a lot of fun getting involved and everything. We decorated Harris Brook Elementary for breakfast with Santa, and I hope to get more involved in other events," ended Flebotte.

St. Pierre shared that it was a blast watching the kids question what they wanted for the holiday season and see the grown-ups try to help with the gift process. When both were asked why residents who didn't attend should come out next year, Flebotte and St. Pierre both agreed that even with the pouring rain, people were still making the most of the tradition and hope it continues to grow.

On Facebook, the Celebrate Ludlow Committee posted a few words about the success of the event. "Despite the rainy weather, and it did not dampen our spirits! We want to thank everyone who joined us. We have a wonderful community and when we pull together to create special events and traditions like this, we make last memories. Tonight, this wonderful community also came together to bring toys for the Toys for Tots program, giving so generously to kids in need. Your kindness and generosity will brighten the hearts of many children on Christmas day."

Events were happening inside and outside and had musical entertainment



The Ludlow Police and Fire Departments smiling together at the base of the lit tree at Town Hall.

by the LHS Chorus, Saio-lo Family Band, children's caroling, food trucks, burn barrels, Ludlow Hockey Association with a hockey shoot-out, crafts for kids and family, and much more.

The Celebrate Ludlow Committee extended their gratitude towards the following Ludlow sponsors like the Rotary Club, DPW, LPD, LFD, Veteran's Services, LBGC, Cares Coalition, Cultural Council, American Legion Post 52, LHS, Friends of the 250th

Committee and Animal Control, and many more. The committee also specially noted their volunteers who made this event happen.

Santa's mailbox can be

found on the Town Hall steps during the wintertime and holiday season, so kids can continue to put their letters in and receive a postcard back.



Sue Corjay with her granddaughter and resident Emma St. Pierre underneath the hot chocolate tent.

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Santa was amazed by the lights on the Christmas tree.

SPORTS

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Turley's Henry, Peterson recognized for work by PVSOA

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – For nearly 20 years, two people have anchored the sports department at Turley Publications.

When you think of sports in the Journal Register, Sentinel News, Agawam Advertiser, or Ware River News, you think of David Henry and Tim Peterson.

Both have been members of the Turley Sports staff for almost two decades, covering every sport offered by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, and connecting with thousands of athletes over the course of their careers.

Their job has been to see that the deserving student-athletes who work hard and achieve milestones, league titles, Western Mass. titles, and college success get recognized by their communities.

Last Friday night, it was their turn to be recognized for their dedicated work.

The Pioneer Valley Soccer



Turley Publications Sports writer Tim Peterson and photographer David Henry were recognized last Friday night at the Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association. They are pictured with PVSOA member Joe Santos.

Officials Association awarded Henry and Peterson with Letters of Commendation.

The PVSOA, which held

its awards banquet at the Ludlow Polish-American Club on Dec. 5, recognized the pair for their dedicated service of reporting and pho-

tographing boys and girls soccer, impacting multiple communities throughout the region.

The PVSOA Awards

Committee believed their longtime service at Turley Publications was deserving of the letters.

Peterson had a more conventional background in sports journalism. He participated in his high school newspaper at Oxford High School and went on to work at the Southbridge Evening News.

In 2007, he transitioned to being a freelance writer for Turley Publications. At first, Peterson had an established rapport in the Palmer-Monson and Ludlow-Belchertown areas. But in recent years, readers can find Peterson in almost any one of the towns in Turley's 11-newspaper, 17-high school coverage zone.

"I really enjoy it," Peterson said. "I just love covering sports and I really enjoy watching high school soccer."

Peterson also named baseball as one of his favorite sports to cover. Peterson, especially over the past several years, has had no short-

age of exciting competition to cover. He's been at most major championship games in Turley's coverage area, and even enjoys traveling around the state to schools he has never been to thanks to the state's new tournament format.

Peterson was not even taking much of a break at the PVSOA banquet, forgoing receiving too much recognition, and focusing his attention on the award winners at the event (see related stories).

Henry did not have a typical path to becoming Turley's longstanding sports photographer since 2006.

He had a more than 30-years career in the military in the United States Air Force. He spent many of his years working as a mechanic at Westover Air Reserve Base right in his hometown of Chicopee.

But he also spent some of

Please see **TURLEY SPORTS**, Page 8

Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association held awards banquet

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – There are multiple soccer officials associations throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all which are responsible for the recruiting, training, assigning, and evaluating of soccer referees that do high school games, as well as some youth leagues.

The Pioneer Valley Soccer Officials Association is the only organization that is still doing awards banquets, recognizing athletes, its members for longtime service, and contributors to the soccer community.

Last Friday night at the Ludlow Polish American Club, the 79th iteration of the awards banquet was held and the same positive vibe could be felt in the room as the PVSOA gave out their sportsmanship awards, most valuable players, and other miscellaneous awards for service, contributions and dedication to the soccer community at large.

James Duggan, who was the master of ceremonies at last Friday's banquet, said he thinks it's amazing that the PVSOA is still going strong with its banquet.

"You are all a part of history," Duggan told the award winners. "Our program gets bigger every year as we have the entire history of our awards in that program."

Chief among the recognized people at the banquet are the sportsmanship awards. Coaches like Eric



David DelBuono, the outgoing PVSOA President, was inducted into the Massachusetts Interscholastic Soccer Officials Association. He was recognized at the PVSOA banquet for that accomplishment by James Duggan.



Joe Santos was the Downie Award winner this year. He stands with James Duggan.

Degnan of Monson girls soccer and Tom Rivet of Chicopee boys soccer, both of whom were present at this year's awards ceremony for other recognition, often said the sportsmanship

awards for their teams were huge honors.

Degnan, who recently retired from coaching, said making sure his teams showed exemplary sportsmanship was even more important than winning league titles, and multiple sectional and state championships. Degnan has received nine sportsmanship awards from the PVSOA, all with Monson.

Rivet has three from the group. Two came with Chicopee boys soccer and one with East Longmeadow.

Outgoing President David DelBuono, who received an award, emphasized the importance of holding the annual event.

He said he appreciat-



Reid Savoie receives a service award from David DelBuono.

Please see **AWARDS**, Page 8

Samantha Stratton named new coach of Ludlow girls basketball

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—After serving as an assistant varsity coach and a junior varsity coach for the Ludlow girls' basketball team during the past several years, Samantha Stratton is ready to take the next step up the coaching ladder.

Stratton, who was a three-sport athlete at Agawam High School, was named as the new Lady Lions varsity basketball coach in October.

"One of my goals has always been to become a varsity basketball coach and I'm excited about coaching the Ludlow girls' varsity basketball team," said Stratton during a recent interview. "I started my coaching career here at Ludlow High School as an assistant varsity coach under Tim Brillo. I've been coaching the junior varsity team the past couple of years."

Stratton, who graduated from Springfield College, is a physical education teacher at Agawam Junior High School. She replaces Ava Adamopoulos as the Lady Lions varsity basketball coach.

Brillo retired from coaching following the 2022-23 season, but is still



Samantha Stratton, a graduate of Agawam High School, will be the new varsity coach of Ludlow High School girls basketball. Stratton was previously the JV coach.

the Ludlow Athletic Director.

Just like any other coach, Stratton was a little bit nervous before being interviewed for the coaching position, but she was very familiar with everybody in the room.

"When I walked into the interview room, I was nervous because I wanted to do

well, but I was very comfortable," she said. "I was interviewed by a student athlete, the athletic trainer (Ashley Mourao), the boys' varsity coach (C.W. Zimmer), and Mr. Brillo. I'm very passionate about basketball and coaching. I treated it like any other job interview and I was prepared."

Stratton has been an assistant junior varsity softball coach at her alma mater under Tim Murphy, who's also the Agawam girls' varsity basketball coach. She has also been an assistant coach for the East Longmeadow varsity softball team under head coach Jenna Parks during the past couple of years.

"Being an assistant varsity softball coach at East Longmeadow has been an amazing experience," Stratton said. "Jenna Parks is an incredible softball coach, and I've loved working with her. I'm very excited about becoming a varsity basketball coach."

Since becoming the Lady Lions varsity coach, Stratton has received plen-



Stratton's tenure began Dec. 1 with practice and her first game is Dec. 11 at Amherst.

Please see **STRATTON**, Page 8

SPORTS

Railers comeback falls short

READING, PA — The Worcester Railers HC (9-9-1-1, 20 pts) fell to the Reading Royals (10-9-2-0, 22 pts) on Saturday, December 6th, with a final score of 4-5 in front of a crowd of 3,494 at the Santander Arena. The Railers are back in action on Wednesday night against the Adirondack Thunder at will take on the Royals again on home ice on January 14th at 7:05 p.m. EST.



Reading struck first with an early goal, scored by Massimo Rizzo (1-2-3), assisted by Nolan Burke (1-1-2) and Carter Berger (0-2-2) at 4:09 in the first. The Royals extended their scoring streak to two goals, the second added by Jeremy Michel (1-0-1), assisted by Rizzo and Ben Meehan (0-1-1) at 15:45 in the first (0-2). Worcester answered with a power play tally of their own at 17:46, scored by Gleb Veremyev (1-0-1), assisted by Anthony Callin (0-1-1) and Drew Callin (0-1-1) (1-2). Reading bookended the first period with their third goal of the night from Burke, assisted by Rizzo and Berger at 19:24. Reading grabbed the only goal in the second period, a tipped shot from Robbie Stucker (0-1-1), redirected by Nick Capone (1-0-1), also assisted by Artem Kulakov (0-1-1) at 7:46. A final Reading goal was scored by Kyle Haskins (1-0-1) at 2:54 in the third. Worcester answered the Royals' fifth goal with three goals in the second half of the period. The first by Matt DeMelis

(1-1-2) (2-5), the second by Anthony Repaci (1-1-2) (3-5), and the third by Lincoln Hatten (1-1-2) (4-5). The clock ran out just as Worcester pushed for their goal to tie the game and force overtime, but the game ended in a 5-4 Royals' victory.

Reading opened the game with an early lead at 4:09. Royal's forward Massimo Rizzo (4th) tucked the puck in between the pipe and left skate of Parker Gahagen (0-1). Reading stretched their lead to two goals with a score from Jeremy Michel (1st) at 15:45 (0-2). A chance for the Railers to narrow the gap came late in the period as they went on their third power play of the night, which opened the ice for Anthony Callin to feed a pass from behind the net to Gleb Veremyev (2nd) for Worcester's first goal at 17:46 (1-2). T.J. Walsh headed to the box shortly after the tally for holding, which put Reading on their first power play of the night. Nolan Burke (3rd) nabbed a goal for the Royals 28 seconds into Walsh's penalty to re-establish their two-goal lead. Shots on goal were 12-16 in favor of Reading.

The Royals' fourth goal of the night came just over a third of the way through

the second period from forward Nick Capone (2nd). Worcester played the period on the defensive and found themselves down a man on two separate occasions. Neither penalty resulted in a Royals goal, but Capone's scored soon after the clock ran out on Riley Ginnell's time served for high-sticking. Worcester was kept off of the board in the second which left the score at 4-1 Reading to close the second. Worcester trailed in shots on goal with nine to Reading's 12. Reading was assessed one penalty served by Ben Meehan.

As play resumed in the third, Worcester worked to cut into the Royals three-goal lead, turned four as Kyle Haskins (5th) added another to Reading's tally for the evening at 2:54. Worcester opened the floodgates on Reading's net and scored three times in the second half of the period. Matt DeMelis scored an even strength goal at the 12:41 mark to make it a three-goal game. Worcester then called its timeout and pulled goaltender Thomas Gale to give the team an extra attacker. Repaci (6th) (3-5), and Hatten (8th) (4-5) each added their own goals with the extra-attacker on to get back to within one. Despite their offensive push across the final 2:30 of the third, Worcester fell short by one as the final horn sounded. The final score was 5-4 Reading. Final shots were 41-35 Worcester, and final penalties were six for the Royals and three for the Railers.

Thunderbirds get big win over Providence Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (6-11-3-2) rode an otherworldly performance from their goalie to a 3-1 win over the Providence Bruins (17-5-0-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.



Vadim Zherenko had the busiest first period of anybody in the building, as the T-Birds goaltender was subjected to 15 attempts in a furious first-period push by the Bruins. Zherenko stood his ground, relenting only a power-play one-timer to Georgii Merkulov.

However, before Merkulov broke through, the T-Birds used their first shot on net of the day to get a fortuitous bounce and a 1-0 lead as Matthew Peca threw a puck off the legs of Hunter Skinner and through Michael DiPietro at 6:20 of the first period.

Providence wound up

outshooting Springfield by a 15-2 margin in the opening frame, but the

net. The pressure only intensified in the final 20 minutes for Zherenko, as the Providence attack emptied the tank on the Springfield goal mouth with 20 shots on net in the final period, but "Big Z" had responses every single time, including a high-light-reel denial of Christian Wolanin on a one-timer from the right-wing circle in the closing minutes.

T-Birds responded with a great start to the second, as Chris Wagner found open space in the low slot and wired a perfect wrist shot over DiPietro's glove at 2:04, off a great find from Nikita Susuev.

The T-Birds played a much more balanced second period, limiting Providence's high-danger chances and allowing Zherenko clear sight lines to deny all 11 Bruins shots that did reach

Sam Stange eventually gave the T-Birds a breath with an empty-netter with less than 30 seconds to play to usher the visitors to a victory. Zherenko completed his masterpiece with 45 stops.

The T-Birds are back on the ice next Saturday, Dec. 13, as they pay a visit to Utica to take on the Comets; puck drop is set for 7:00 p.m. at Adirondack Bank Center.

TURLEY SPORTS

from Page 7

his time overseas during his early days in the military.

"I bought my first SLR while I was in Thailand," Henry said. He was looking to capture moments from his tours in foreign places and began taking pictures.

He eventually built his own dark room at his home. But he did not do too much more with photography until digital became more prevalent and he was encouraged to apply to the Chicopee Register following his retirement from the military in 2006.

He was put in contact with then-sports Editor Lou

Zoldy, and has been a fixture with Turley Sports ever since. Additionally, over the years, his non-sports photo spreads have also been a huge support for Turley's mission of capturing the big events in the communities. Among other things, he has covered the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke for many years, and has done many photo spreads in Agawam, Holyoke, and Chicopee in recent years.

In accepting their letters of commendation, both thanked the PVSOA for recognizing their work. Henry recognized the student-athletes and their accomplishments as what has found him the most enjoyment in

the work he has done for the past 20 years.

Turley Sports is dedicated to the coverage of high school sports with a boots-on-the-ground type of approach, attending as many events as possible with photo or story coverage. Both Henry and Peterson's loyalty to Turley and to the student-athletes in the region personify the approach and the pursuit of that mission.

Peterson was just the third writer to be recognized by the PVSOA while Henry became the first photographer to receive a letter of commendation from the organization. The PVSOA has been awarding letters of commendation since 1979.

AWARDS from Page 7

ed the hard work of all the officials who continue to work hard for the student-athletes on the playing field.

The event was attended by family and friends of

the awardees along with several recognizable faces who have served as officials for many years.

Duggan said he is looking forward to having everyone back next years for the 80th years of the awards. The banquet was

established in 1946.

The PVSOA recognizes individuals with the Jimmie Downie and Larry E. Briggs Awards as well as plaques given to referees who had achieved milestone years of service..

STRATTON

from Page 7

ty of support from Zimmer, who has been coaching the boys' varsity team for more than five years.

"Coach Zimmer has been amazing," Stratton said. "He has taken me under his wing and has been very helpful during the past couple of weeks. If I have any questions, I know that I can ask him or Mr. Brillo."

Just like at every other high school in Massachusetts, Stratton held her first official practice of the basketball season on Dec. 1.

Since she has been the junior varsity coach during the past few years, Stratton didn't have to introduce herself to the players on the first day of practice.

"We had a lot of eighth graders on the junior varsity team last year, and they'll be freshman this year. I already know most of the players," Stratton said. "I just want the players to do their best at

try-outs. I'm hoping that we have between ten or twelve players on both basketball teams."

Stratton played soccer, basketball, and softball at Agawam High School.

"I loved playing all three sports in high school," Stratton said. "Basketball has always been my favorite sport. My grandfather coached basketball at Classical High School in Springfield. My father coached my youth basketball teams. I'm following in their footsteps and they're my mentors"

Her father, Dave Stratton, retired as the Agawam Athletic Director a couple of years ago.

The Lady Lions, who are members of the Franklin West Division, are scheduled to tip-off the 2025-26 regular season at Amherst, who's a league opponent, on December 11. Their home opener is slated for December 16 against Granby, which is another league game.

The other members of the Franklin West Division are

Sci-Tech, Ware, Monson, and Palmer.

"I think we're in a very competitive league and we don't have to travel very far," Stratton said. "I just want the players to enjoy playing basketball like I did when I was in high school."

The Lady Lions, who went 6-14 a year ago, will be facing their league opponents twice during the regular season. Their non-league opponents are Mount Greylock, West Springfield, Monument Mountain, East Longmeadow, and Hopkins Academy.

Agawam High School isn't listed on the Lady Lions regular season schedule.

The Lady Lions assistant varsity coach is Danielle Stratton, Sam's sister.

"Danielle has been my assistant coach since I've been coaching the j.v. team," Sam Stratton said. "She also played basketball at Agawam and it's nice having her opinions on different things. We get along very well, and we rarely argue with each other."

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EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

New Year's will bring early deadlines for all ads & legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of Dec. 29, 2025 - Jan. 2, 2026:

Friday, December 26 at 2 PM for January 1 issue

- Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times • Agawam Advertiser News

Monday, December 29 at 2 PM for January 1 issue

- Sentinel • The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Tuesday, December 30 at 2 PM for January 2 issue

- Quaboag Current • Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
413-283-8393 • www.turley.com



Santa sitting back and reading The Register newspaper.

SANTA from Page 1

nally run by the 250th Committee and now the parade committee has picked it up and kept it going. For what we're charging for the meals, we are not making a lot of money, but a few extra bucks help the parade out. In the future, we are going to try to get enough money to get bands to march in the parade. For the breakfast event, pancakes are very popular with the children and it's easy to make them quickly," Durand said.

For a long time, Durand explained that the 250th Committee revived Town events that haven't occurred in a long time and brought back events that the townspeople responded well with. Durand continued, "We want this; we want more to know how the residents responded. That's why we had Fall into Fun and Pancakes with



Sara Riddles with Abby were happy eating pancakes and enjoying their breakfast together.

Santa. Hopefully we'll have everybody come in and see families enjoy the morning. We have Santa over here too," ended Durand.

Durand's breakfast meal of choice is a simple answer, eggs and bacon, and his house is decorated from inside and out.



Members of the Polish American Citizens Club and the Memorial Day Committee before the pancake making began.

Turley photos by Amanda Munson



LHS students greeted families and children before meeting Santa in the HBES library.

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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 theregister@turley.com

UPCOMING

Now - Dec. 13

Annual Holiday Coloring Contest - LUSO Federal Credit Union is delighted to sponsor an annual Holiday Coloring Contest. If you would like a chance for your child to win one of our

prize-filled holiday gift bags, please have them complete the coloring sheet for their grade level (Pre-K to 8th Grade). Then return the coloring sheet entry to the credit union by Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025. One winner from each of the different grade levels will be selected on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025. Coloring sheets may be picked up at our branch locations in Ludlow or Wilbraham, or online at: www.luso-federal.com/events

Now - Dec. 13

Holiday Toy Drive - 'Tis the season of giving. Beginning Monday, Nov. 24, 2025, LUSO Federal Credit Union will be collecting new, unwrapped toy donations for

children in need within our community. Drop off your new unwrapped toys at either of our branch locations by Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025. In the spirit of the season, for each toy donated, you will receive an entry to win a gift card wreath valued at \$150.

Dec. 13 & 20

FROZEN POLISH FOOD will be sold at Immaculate Conception Church Hall, 25 Parker St., Indian Orchard on the following Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Dec. 13, 2025, and Dec. 20, 2025. Golabki (3) \$12---Kapusta (Large) \$10---Pierogi (12) Cabbage, Potato & Cheese \$14.

Sweet Cheese, Blueberries \$15. All are Welcome to come and purchase. Credit cards not accepted.

ONGOING

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

BI-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.

BI-MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE on the first Saturday of each even month (February, April, June, August, October, December) First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St, collects non-perishable foods. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., drive through the back parking lot. We will take your donations out of your car & bring them to the Community Survival Center to be distributed to those in need.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

Church DIRECTORY

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS
584 West St., Ludlow
413-583-8454
S Sunday services
Sacrament Meeting 10- 11 A.M.
Sunday school for adults,
Young single adults(18-30) and teens (11-18)
1st & 3rd Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Women- 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Adult Religious/Marriage and Parenting for Men- 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 11-12 noon
Classes for Single Adults(18-30) 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month -11- 12 noon
Classes for Young Men(11-18) 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month 11-12 noon
Classes for Young Women (11-18) 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month - 11-12 noon
Children's classes: Sunday school & singing time every Sunday(3-10) 11- 12 noon
Nursery providedfor ages 18 month- 3 yr

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH
41 Warsaw Ave., Ludlow
413-583-2630
Pastor Rev. Raymond A. Soltys
Saturday Vigil Masses - 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Masses - 7:30 a.m.; 8:45 a.m. (Polish); 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
Sunday Evening Mass - 5:30 p.m.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
25 Parker St, Indian Orchard,
413-543-3627
Very Rev. Piotr Calik
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAY
MASS SCHEDULE
Monday 8:00am
Tuesday 8:00am
Wednesday No Mass
Thursday 6:00pm
Friday 6:00pm
Saturday 4:00pm
Sunday 8:30am (English) 10:15am (Polish)
Confessions: Saturday - 3:15-4 p.m.

ST. ELIZABETH PARISH
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413-583-3467
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In Residence - Rev. Norman Bolton
Deacons: Normand Grondin, Keith Davies
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Visit our website at www.stelizabethludlow.org
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Wednesday, Dec. 10 - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C)
Adoration - 8 AM (C), Holy Mother Choir - 4:30 PM (C),
Scouts - 6 PM (FLBH), Cub Scouts - 6 PM (JR),
Scripture Enrichment - 6:30 PM (ER)

Thursday, Dec. 11 - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C)
Friday, Dec. 12 - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C)
Saturday, Dec. 13 - Christmas Gift Card & Bag Project - 10:30 AM (JR), Confessions - 2:30 PM (C),
Saturday Mass - 4 PM (C)

Sun., December 14 - Daily Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:15 AM, 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM (C),
Confirmation Class - 8:00 AM (JR),
Faith Formation - 10:15 AM (FLBH/ST),
Lifeteen - 6:00 PM (JR)

Mon., December 15 - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C),
Faith Formation - 6 PM (JR),
Women's Bible Study - 6 PM (ER)

Tues., December 16 - Daily Mass - 7:30 AM (C),
Middle School Youth Ministry - 3:30 PM (JR),
St. Rita Choir - 4 PM (C),
Pasta Supper Committee Meeting - 6 PM (ZR),
Bereavement Support Group - 6:30 PM (ER),
Eucharistic Revival - 6:30 (FLBH),
Pastoral Council - 6:30 (JR)

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413-583-3339
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Call or check Facebook or the website for the schedule of worship and events
Service live-streamed at 10 am on Facebook
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Website: www.ludlowfirst.com

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Indian Orchard, MA 01151
413-543-4204
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Worship in person, 11 a.m.
Or watch our livestream.
See our website for more information: orchardcovenant.org.

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

FAITH COMMUNITY CHAPEL
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

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

PAV vote to be held Dec. 21

THREE RIVERS—The PAV of Wilbraham will be holding a vote on a recent bylaw change recommendation at their members meet-

ing at 11:00 a.m. on Dec. 21 2025 at the AmVets Post 74 hall in Three Rivers.

All members are asked to attend this very important meeting.

FY26 TAX RATE

from Page 1

The DOR allows assessment levels between 90 to 110%. Values have increased by approximately 9.5 to 10.5%. Total valuation of the Town has increased by 10.5%. New growth for FY26 came in at \$72,403,638 compared to last year's \$28,778,388 for FY25. Most of the new growth came in from new residential construction of \$55,281,750 followed by commercial, industrial, and personal property coming in at \$17,121,888. This exceptional growth for the Town of Ludlow is well outside of the five-year average. The minimum residential factor is 88.64%, which is the max percentage allowed for the residential class by the DOR. Currently it's at 81.48%," said Alves.

Alves continued explaining the tax levy limit, saying it has increased by \$1,037,240 which is a 2.2% increase from \$53,515,259 in FY25 to

\$54,552,499 for FY26. The tax rate at 100% would be \$16.01 compared to last year's \$17.35, a 7.8% decrease in the tax rate.

The average single family tax bill will increase by \$150, a 3% increase from \$5,800 last year to \$5,950 this year. The average commercial tax bill will increase by \$330 which is a 4% increase from last year from \$9,258 to \$9,588.

The Select Board agreed with Alves, and there won't be a split rate, residential, or small commercial exemption. The FY26 tax rate is \$16.01.

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.

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USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS \$1.89 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TENDERLOIN \$13.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CORNISH HENS TWIN PAK..... \$2.79 lb
USDA INSP. STORE MADE ALL VARIETIES ITALIAN SAUSAGE \$2.77 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS \$6.67 lb	HOLIDAY APPETIZERS
USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS HOLIDAY ROAST PORK LOIN STUFFED W/ HAM, CHEESE, PEPPERS, OLIVES, SPICES \$4.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LEG LAMB \$6.69 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHEFS TOGETHER PIGS IN A BLANKET 24 PC BOX... \$3.99 ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTIONS BUTT or SHANK \$1.55 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN IMPORTED LAMB RACKS \$14.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN PARMESAN MINI SPRING ROLLS 8 PAK..... \$3.99 ea
USDA INSP. SKINLESS & SHANKLESS BUDABALL OLD TYME SMOKED WHOLE HAM \$2.66 lb		USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED SWEET & SMOKY BBQ BABY BACK RIBS..... \$3.99 lb
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We reserve the right to limit quantities.

SALE DATES: 12/11/25-12/17/25 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

OBITUARIES

Town election nomination papers available

LUDLOW – Nomination papers for the March 23, 2026, Annual Town Election are available in the Town Clerk's office.

Assessor, 1 seat; 3-year term

Board of Health, 1 seat; 3-year term

Housing Authority, 1 seat; 5-year term

Library Trustee, 1 seat; 3-year term

Planning Board, 1 seat; 5-year term

Planning Board, 1 seat;

4-year unexpired term Recreation Commission, 1 seat; 3-year term

Select Board, 1 seat; 3-year terms

Town Clerk, 1 seat; 3-year term

Town Moderator, 1 seat; 3-year term

Town-wide office nomination papers must be signed by at least 50 registered voters in Ludlow. Candidates are advised to collect more than 50 signatures to ensure

the requisite number of certified signatures.

Town meeting member nomination papers must be signed by at least ten registered voters of the precinct in which the candidate resides.

Voters in each precinct will elect five town meeting members for three years and elect other members as necessary to fill existing vacancies.

Please call the Town Clerk's office with any questions (413) 583-5600 Ext. 1.

Upcoming toy, clothing and food drives

Hampden Police Department Stuff a Cruiser *NEW TIME AND LOCATION*

Saturday, Dec. 13 9 a.m. to Noon

Monson Savings Bank, 15 Somers Road, Hampden

New and unwrapped gifts for kids ages birth to 16 years old to be collected and given to families in need

Richard Green Insurance

21st Annual Collection of Toys for Children and Supplies for Local Senior Veterans Stockings

Toys will benefit the I

Found Light Foundation located in Springfield, MA. The gifts for veterans will be donated locally.

For our veterans, the wish list includes individually wrapped snacks, granola bars, individually wrapped hard candy, individually wrapped chocolate, mini hand sanitizers, hot chocolate packets, and puzzle or word search type books.

New unwrapped toys and veterans gifts are being collected through Dec. 10.

Hampden Office at 32

Somers Road and Monson Office located at 128 Main Street. This year we are upping the match to first \$1,500 in collected items FOR BOTH THE CHILDREN AND THE VETS. Call 566-0028 for more information.

Spartan Auto Care

Collecting toys through Dec. 10 for I Found Light Against All Odds

New, unwrapped toys in lobby.

Open Monday through Friday a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MSB Community Giving Initiative is underway

MONSON—There's still time to make your voice heard! Monson Savings Bank's 2026 Community Giving Initiative is in full swing, and they are inviting YOU to help decide which local non-profit organizations will receive donations in the coming year.

Voting is open now and runs through Dec. 31, 2025 at 3 p.m. Every vote counts, so don't miss your chance to support the organizations that matter most to you and your community.

How to Vote:

Visit www.monsonavings.bank/CGI and submit the name of one non-profit organization you'd like Monson Savings Bank to support in 2026. Organizations must be non-profit and serve within the Bank's geographic area. Each person may vote once.

The top ten organizations with the most votes will receive donations from Monson Savings Bank. Winners will be announced in mid-January 2026.

"By participating in our Community Giving Initiative, you help ensure that the charitable organizations most important to our community receive support," said Dan Moriarty, President and CEO of Monson Savings Bank. "We are grateful for your involvement and look forward to continuing this tradition together."

Voting Ends Dec. 31, 2025 – Don't Wait! Cast your vote today at www.monsonavings.bank/CGI.

Holiday toy drive ends Dec. 13

LUDLOW—"Tis the season of giving. Beginning Monday, Nov. 24, 2025, LUSO Federal Credit Union will be collecting new, unwrapped toy donations for children in need within our community.

Drop off your new un-

wrapped toys at either of our branch locations by Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025.

In the spirit of the season, for each toy donated, you will receive an entry to win a gift card wreath valued at \$150.

Annual holiday coloring contest

LUDLOW—LUSO Federal Credit Union is delighted to sponsor an Annual Holiday Coloring Contest.

If you would like a chance for your child to win one of our prize-filled holiday gift bags, please have them complete the coloring sheet for their grade level (Pre-K to 8th Grade).

Then return the coloring sheet entry to the credit union by Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025. One winner from each of the different grade levels will be selected on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025.

Coloring sheets may be picked up at our branch locations in Ludlow or Wilbraham, or online at: www.lusofederal.com/events

Tree of Love fundraiser

PALMER—The Tree of Love annual fundraiser honors a loved one with a wooden ornament to be put on our tree near the Baystate Wing Gift Shop from November thru December.

A single name ornament is \$5 and a family name is \$10.

More information and forms are available in the Gift Shop or by our tree on the 1st floor.

Wilbraham Community Chorus Concert

WILBRAHAM - The nearly seventy-voice Wilbraham Community Chorus, accompanied by Marcia Jackson and conducted by Ray Drury, will present a concert in early December. The first concert will take place on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. at First Church of Christ, Longmeadow.

Drury has chosen a varied and compelling program including music of Haydn, Mozart, Vaughan Williams, Forrest and Whitacre as well as varied arrangements of folk tunes, pop songs and seasonal music. Of particular interest will be performances by both Jackson and well-known local pianist Todd Rovelli offering selections of four-hand piano music, and additionally a chamber choir comprised of members of the larger group will also perform.

While admission to each concert is free, a free-will offering will be taken.

José Valadas, 86

José Valadas, 86, of Ludlow, passed away peacefully on December 5, 2025 surrounded by his beloved family. He was born in Caldas da Rainha, Leiria, Portugal, on June 13, 1939 to José and Beatriz (de Jesus) Valadas.



José was educated in Portugal and upon completing high school, he served in the Portuguese Navy from 1957-1959 followed by the Portuguese Merchant Marines from 1959-1963. He immigrated to the United States becoming naturalized in 1967 and settled in Ludlow where he and his wife Adel raised their family. In Ludlow, José was a devoted communicant of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, The Gremio Lusitano Club, The Jose's Society, and the former Portuguese American Citizens Club. He also loved horticulture and will be affectionately remembered for his fruit trees, fig trees, and his Valadas vineyard which fueled his passion for gardening and winemaking. In addition, he was a member of the Central CT Manchester Homing Pigeon Club and an avid soccer fan of the NE Revolution and English Premier League, but his greatest joy was spending time with his family,

particularly sharing the stories of his life with them.

José was the devoted husband of 61 years to Adel (Leonardo) Valadas; a loving father to Odette Taylor and husband Matthew, and Daniel Valadas and wife Susan; a beloved grandfather to Emily, Andrea, and Benjamin Taylor, and Isabella, Daniel II, Amelia, and Julia Valadas; a cherished great-grandfather to Sydney; a dear brother to Rui Valadas and wife Manuela, and the late Lucinda, Lourinda, and Lucia; and also leaves many loving extended family members and dear friends both here and in Portugal.

Visiting hours for José will be held on Thursday, Dec. 11 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Ludlow Funeral Home. Funeral services are on Friday, Dec. 12 at 10 a.m. from the funeral home with Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. in Our Lady of Fatima Parish followed by burial in Island Pond Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations are requested in José's memory to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (give.michaeljfox.org) or Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (www2.breakthrough1d.org)

DEATH NOTICE

José Valadas
Died
December 5, 2025
Funeral Services
Thursday,
Dec. 11, 2025
Ludlow
Funeral Home.

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.

Wilbraham Men's Glee Club Rehearsals

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club, accompanied by Marcia Jackson and conducted by Ray Drury, will begin rehearsals for the 2025 concert season on Monday evening, Jan. 6, at Christ the King Lutheran/Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will continue each

Monday thereafter until 2 concerts in late April/early May.

While no audition is required, all interested should be able to "carry a tune" attend the majority of rehearsals, and be able to pay a nominal fee at the first rehearsal to cover the cost of sheet music.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

**Town of Ludlow
Department of Public Works
Bid for Goods and Services**
The Town of Ludlow Department of Public Works is seeking sealed bids for its Annual Bid for Goods and Services that include but are not limited to traffic line painting, paving and milling of roadways, replacement and installation of sidewalks, equipment rental, and crack sealing.

The Town will award multiple contracts on an "as needed basis."
Contractors must be pre-qualified with MASSDOT on various items. (Pavement-Surfacing \$96,250, Pavement-Reclamation \$112,500, Pavement-Surfacing \$700,000, Pavement-Markings \$50,000, Highway-Sidewalk & Curbing \$100,000, Pavement-Milling & Cold Planing \$60,000, Highway-Construction or Sewer & Water \$71,250)
Documents will be available by either email: Rhonda Burelle rburelle@ludlow.ma.us or in person at the Department of Public Works, 198 Sportsmens Road, Ludlow, Massachusetts after 10:00 AM on 12/10/2025.
Bids will be received by the

Ludlow Department of Works, 198 Sportsmens Road, Ludlow, MA 01056 until 12/29/2025 at 10:00 AM, at which time they will be opened and registered. E-Mail submissions will NOT be accepted.
The Town of Ludlow reserves the right to reject any and or all proposals.
12/10/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD25P2459EA
Estate of:
Frances G Maziarz
Also known as:
Frances Grybosh
Date of Death: June 02, 2025
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Christine A Fitzell of Ludlow, MA**
a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Christine A Fitzell of Ludlow, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Rep-

resentative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
12/10/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street**

**Springfield MA, 01103
Docket No.
HD19P2070PM
In the matter of:
Judith A. Mills
Of: Amesbury, MA
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF
CONSERVATOR'S
ACCOUNT**
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **Second to the Fifth** account(s) of Alison M. Bartlett-O'Donald of Holyoke, MA as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.
You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **12/26/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance

and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).
Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.
You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the Petition and account(s) at no cost to you.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer,

one may be appointed at State expense.
Witness, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: November 21, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/10/2025

**Town of Ludlow
Office of the Select Board
LEGAL NOTICE**
You are hereby notified that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held at the Town Hall Select Board's Conference Room, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA 01056 on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.** on the application of The Lighthouse, 108 Sewall Street, Ludlow, MA 01056 Annual All-Alcohol Liquor License for Alteration of Premises for the following described premises: 21,871 SF lot, 4,704 SF Building Space, operating as a Restaurant.
Manuel Silva, Chairperson
William Rosenblum, Vice Chair
James Gennette
Anthony Alves
Ludlow Select Board
12/03, 12/10/2025

HUBBARD from Page 5

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.
FOR CHILDREN
MCBA (Massachusetts Children's Book Award) Book Club for 4th to 6th graders, Thursday, December 11 (monthly), 6:00-6:45

pm. Kids decide who wins this award after reading 5 nominated books. Meet once a month to play games, discuss the books and which to vote for and eat snacks. Celebrate at the last meeting in April with an ice cream party sponsored by the Friends of the library, where we'll cast our votes and pose for photos for the newspaper. Please register.
Lunch Bunch, Wednesday, December 17th, 11:00 am - Noon. For ages 15-36 mos. Make

healthy snacks with your little one, do sensory food exploration, and listen to a story while eating. Allergies accommodated. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents CFCE. Please register.
The Night Before Christmas, Thursday, December 18, 6:30 pm. For preschoolers and up. Kids wear pajamas to hear the famous story by Clement Moore, sing carols, drink cocoa, and have a surprise visit from a very merry guest. Please register.
Labubu Scavenger Hunt, Friday & Saturday, December 26 & 27, all day. All ages. Pictures of Labubus will be hidden around the Youth Room - find them all to win a prize! Drop-in.
Gingerbread Slime, Tuesday, December

30, 2:00 - 3:00 pm. For ages 6-10. Make sparkly, cookie-brown, gingerbread-scented slime! Please register.
Movie: Lilo & Stitch, Wednesday, December 31, Noon - 1:45pm. Join us for the new live-action version of Lilo & stitch, with free popcorn and drinks and a craft. Drop-in.
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.
Grow, Play and Learn Playgroup for 0-2, Thursdays 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.
Minecraft Club, every Saturday, noon to 1:50 pm. For ages 7-11. Bring your own device or use one of the library's eight computers & Minecraft accounts to build, play, & create. Please register.



EARLY DEADLINE
In observance of **NEW YEAR'S** for Dec. 29-Jan. 2 newspapers there will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!**
Place your advertisement no later than **Thurs., Dec. 26 at 3 p.m.**
A TURLEY PUBLICATION
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 • 413-283-8393 • www.turley.com

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.
visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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FOR RENT

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

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

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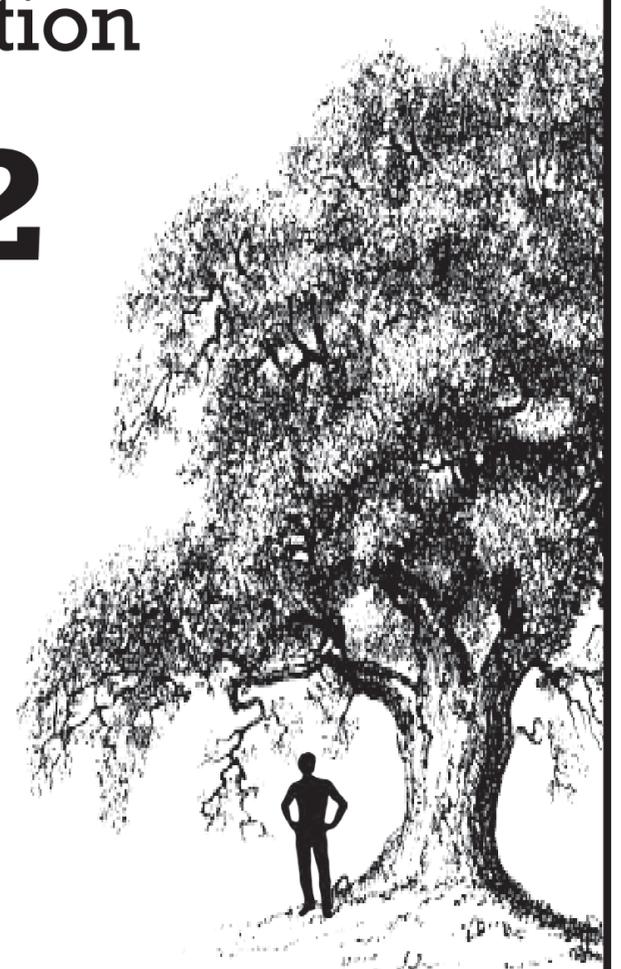
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