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NEWSLINE

Ludlow author



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Pet of the Week



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IN SPORTS

Lions drop opener to Agawam



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DATEBOOK

Ongoing events

AQUACISE AT THE CLUB: The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club, at 91 Claudias Way, continues to offer Aquacise throughout the week.

SEE PAGE 13



Turley photo by Marcelo Gusmão

Corporal John Crabtree, Santa Claus, Isaac Santana, Mark Almeida and Ruby, Geovanny Da Costa, Matthew Cieslak, Corporal Eric Guidmond, and Michael Lynch stand in front of the cruiser they filled with donations.

Police Stuff a Cruiser with Toys for Tots

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
 mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – At this weekend’s Stuff the Cruiser event, the Police Department collected toys to donate to the Toys for Tots.

Last Saturday, from 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m., police officers and members of the Marine Corps. stood in the parking lot of Big Y to collect donations from residents of unwrapped, brand new toys to donate to the Toys for Tots fund.

The charity began in Los Angeles in 1947, when Daine Hen-

dricks tried to donate a Raggedy Ann doll to needy children, but couldn’t find an organization to donate to. Her husband, Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, was inspired by his wife and gathered local Marine reservists to coordinate to collect approximately 5,000 toys for local chil-

dren, through collection bins placed outside Warner Bros. movie theaters.

In addition to officers from the town’s Police Department, there were also representatives from the Marine Corps. and Santa Claus that attended the event.

Charter Committee meets with Town Managers

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
 mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – Last week, the Charter Committee met with Town Managers from around the state to discuss the logistics of adopting a new charter, and to weigh benefits of having a town manager over a mayor.

The Committee had previously agreed on a list of questions to be asked of both candidates by each committee member. However, after the meeting, the member discussed modifying this method to better keep with the flow of conversation.

Thomas Christensen, the Town Manager of East Longmeadow, attended the meeting in person. After his interview, the Committee spoke with Bridgewater Town Manager Michael Dutton via Zoom.

“I worked for many years in an Open Town Meeting form of government,” Dutton

said. “When you’re there long enough, you really start to see a lot of really good policy initiatives or really good proposals fall by the wayside.

“I saw an incredible number of ill-informed decisions being made about a lot of long-term issues,” Dutton said, “and a lot of them had very negative consequences for the community.”

Among the questions the Committee asked the Town Managers were questions about how the budget process works for their town, relations between boards, and about residency requirements and how that can create a shallow candidate pool.

“Conversely, that’s the thing people say to me the most; ‘I’m so glad you’re a town guy,’” Christensen said. “I’m glad too, but if it doesn’t work out that way, that doesn’t mean this professional isn’t going to care

Please see **CHARTER COMMISSION**, Page 7

Tax Classification Hearing with Board of Selectmen

By Marcelo Gusmão
 Staff Writer
 mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – At last week’s Board of Selectmen meeting, the Board was treated to a tax classification hearing.

The Assessor’s Office recommended that the town keep the classification rate at 100%.

The town’s tax rate is expected to be \$18.09 in 2024, which is a \$1.42 decrease, or 7.3%, from last year’s \$19.51.

The average single family tax bill will increase by \$263, or 4.9%, going to \$5,626 from last year’s \$5,363.

The commercial tax bill will increase by 9.1%, at a total of \$1,029, going from \$11,386 to \$12,415 this year. As the commercial and industrial class comprises 20.2% of the town’s total value, trying to shift any of the tax burden from the residential class to the commercial and industrial class would represent a significant increase to those taxes.

resent a significant increase to those taxes.

The town’s current assessment level is approximately 95%, with values increasing between 9-14%, with the total valuation of the town increasing by 13.5%.

New growth increased by approximately 80%, from \$527,172 to \$946,700 for Fiscal Year 2024. This growth was attributed to the industrial class, where two new commercial solar installations added \$19.1 million to the town’s value.

The town’s tax levy has increased by \$2,603,674, which represents a 5.3% increase from Fiscal Year 2023, which totalled \$49,000,325, reaching a value of \$51,928,939 in Fiscal Year 2024.

The Assessor’s office also noted that the construction as-

Please see **SELECTMEN**, Page 7



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Ludlow author hosts reading at East Meadow Elementary

GRANBY - Local Ludlow children's author Kathy Picard visited East Meadow Elementary School on Nov. 30 for a reading to two kindergarten classes and two first-grade classrooms.

The event was held thanks to Superintendent Stephen Sullivan and Principal Lisa Desjarlais of East Meadow Elementary School, according to a press release.

"Seventy-nine students were impressed with the story and interacting with the colorful pages by Illustrator Deborah Nicholson," the press statement reads.

Life lessons featured in the book, "I love you so much that..." include the "why's" of asking to brush one's teeth, paying attention to a teacher in school, going outside to play, eating vegetables, and more.

"The children had the opportunity to share their favorite vegetables/fruits, [and] share the chores they do around the house to help out the adults in their family," the press statement reads. "Talking about the importance of keeping them even safer by not talking to a stranger. To ask an adult if it's okay to go with someone they may not know. When Kathy asked them the important question, 'if a stranger said I have lots and lots of money and lots and lots of candy, would you help me find my lost puppy?' Every single child said no. So important, and these children all know the right answer."

According to reports, the children said their favorite part of the story was "seeing Abby, Kathy's mini schnauzer, on the pages." Abby "paw signs" each book given.

"They also liked Dr. Abair, the bicycle page, [and] bear brushing teeth," the press statement reads.

Picard gave each child a toothbrush

and paw stickers. The teachers of the four classes were given materials to do a "paper plate teddy bear pouch" with the children when time permits.

Picard authored the first edition in 2021, followed by a second edition later in 2021 to include activity pages to "engage young minds through repetition and retention so the story's heartfelt message remains with them."

"It includes questions, color, scribble, draw and interact with the images on these pages," the author released.

In June 2023, the story was put into an Interactive & Bilingual (Spanish/English) version. This children's book is also listed as an educational resource by organizations such as Childhelp and the Massachusetts Citizens for Children. It's also listed on ChildUSA, a non-profit organization in Pennsylvania, as a resource for parents and teachers, according to the author.

"Kathy has read her book to schools in Chicopee, Ludlow, and Springfield. Daycare centers in Chicopee, Granby, and South Hadley. YMCA's and Boys and Girls Clubs, Lupa Zoo, Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative in West Springfield, Book Clubs and Correctional Facilities," the press statement adds. "Her long-term goal is to give each child the opportunity to have this educational, loving book in their home library."

The books can be found on Amazon, libraries including the Granby Public Library, or directly purchased through Picard and for a limited time at Sapowsky Farms in Granby, Wilbraham Flowers in Wilbraham, and Beautiful You Salon in Ludlow.

Contact Picard at Kathychildadvocate@gmail.com or 413-575-4674.



Submitted Photo

Kathy Picard of Ludlow, middle, joined first-grade teacher April Johnson, right, and a teacher helper at East Meadow School in Granby.

Heritage 'Pops' Orchestra Christmas Party Dinner and Dance

LUDLOW - Celebrate the Christmas season with the big band sounds of the 19-piece Heritage "Pops" Orchestra with vocals by Ann Maggs on Dec. 15 at the Polish American Citizens Club on 355 East St.

The event includes hors d'oeuvres from 5:30-6:30 p.m., a grand buffet dinner

by John Diotalevi at 6:30 p.m. and dessert. Music and dancing will occur from 7-10 p.m. Advance tickets cost \$25 per person and are available at the PACC bar or by calling Bob at 413-636-7588 or calling Paul at 413-800-4164. There will be a giant wood dance floor, a cash bar and a 50/50 raffle.

Wilbraham Men's Glee Club to begin rehearsals

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Men's Glee Club will begin rehearsals for the 2024 concert season on Monday evening, Jan. 8, 2024, at Christ The King Lutheran/Episcopal Church, Wilbraham at 7 p.m. Rehearsals will continue each Monday thereafter at Christ

The King Lutheran/Episcopal Church at 7 p.m. until local performances in late April.

Interested singers should be able to "carry a tune" and be willing to pay a nominal fee for sheet music. No audition is required. Hope to see you there!

Friend of the Friends!

By Peter Ouimette
President of the Friends
of the Ludlow Public Library

'Tis the season to be kind & generous, so try your luck & support a worthy cause, the Friends of the Library.

The Friends of the Library's Winter Raffle Basket event has begun at the Hubbard Memorial Library.

Whenever you check out books, you can also check out the baskets on display in the lobby. Please visit the library to enter the raffle.

Entries are \$5 for two tickets, \$10 for five tickets, and the drawing will be before Christmas, on Dec. 21, story time

Bring cash or check to the great and

helpful library staff.

You are receiving this message because you were kind enough to participate in last year's raffle: thank you for your past generosity. The Friends of the Library appreciate you.

This is the library's biggest fundraiser of the year, and they hope you will help us make this year's raffle even more successful than last year's. We know you love the library, so please show your library a little love.

Just head to the Hubbard Memorial Library with cash or a check, browse the baskets and items, complete your tickets, and put your ticket in the corresponding ticket container. The library look forward to your participation.

Omission

Paul R. Baird Middle School's Term 1 honor roll recently published in the paper inadvertently left the name of Term 1 Honors 2028

student Elina J. Wright from the list.

The Register apologizes for this oversight.

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Submitted photo

The 2023 Super 60 Award (Give Back category), presented by Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Pioneer Valley Financial Group recognized for community service

LUDLOW- The Springfield Regional Chamber has announced Pioneer Valley Financial Group as a 2023 Super 60 Award winner in their newest Give Back category.

For over 30 years, the Super 60 Awards have honored the accomplishments of excellent businesses that call the Greater Springfield Area home. In addition to the traditional categories of Revenue and Growth, the Super 60 program was reimagined and expanded to include Start-Up, Non-Profit, and Give Back categories to celebrate additional measures of success.

The Give Back category recognizes companies that give back to the community, emphasizing the

impact of their charitable work and employee engagement in their efforts.

As a four-time Super 60 Award winning recipient, PV Financial has demonstrated a significant financial impact on the region, being honored in the Growth and Revenue category in 2022 and the Growth category in 2019 and 2015.

“Being recognized in the Springfield Chamber’s newest Give Back category speaks volumes to our company’s mission of helping our clients and community live better,” said Managing Partner, Edward Sokolowski.

Since 2002, PV Financial has provided a comprehensive, relation-

ship-focused approach to financial planning. Over two decades later, the financial firm has grown exponentially in the size of their clientele and team. What hasn’t changed is their unrelenting commitment to providing first-rate service and guidance, while continually giving back to our community.

This award recognizes businesses that made significant contributions to local communities and organizations. It is not specific to financial services and does not imply an endorsement, recommendation, or reflect the performance of the Advisor.

For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ywhjvmep>.

WFOL membership is a gift that keeps on giving

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Friends of the Library would like to remind residents that a membership to the WFOL is a gift that gives back all year long.

Memberships start at \$15, fit everyone and don’t end up in a closet waiting to be re-gifted. The funds collected from membership fees go to the Wilbraham Public Library to support programs for all ages, the


popular museum pass program, furnishings and other needed library equipment.

What does the gift recipient get from a membership? Knowing that you care enough about the library they use to help support it. When they check out a museum pass, they will think of you. When they attend a musical or educational program, they will think of you.

Maybe they will even invite you to join them!

To purchase a gift membership, drop by the library or email friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org. A card notifying the recipient of the gift will be sent to them.

For more information, contact the Friends at friends@wilbrahamlibrary.org.



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PET OF THE WEEK
TOMMY

This is Tammy LaFortune's Bengal boy, Tom. He is a great boy.

LUSO FCU in Ludlow, Wilbraham, collecting toys for families in need



(L to R): Ana Parrelli, VP of Business Development; Jennifer Calheno, president & CEO; Celia Fernandes, community relations/executive assistant and Jennifer Lopez, marketing director, volunteering to cook "Meals from the Heart" at the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield last month. Photo courtesy of LUSO Federal Credit Union

LUDLOW -- The holidays are here, and LUSO Federal Credit Union's holiday elves are hard at work to bring some holiday cheer to Western Massachusetts with a Toy Drive to benefit Ronald McDonald House of Springfield.

Now through Dec. 16, drop off your new, unwrapped toy at a LUSO Federal

Credit Union branch in Ludlow or Wilbraham, and you'll be entered to win a holiday gift card wreath valued at \$250.

For more information about LUSO's upcoming holiday events (including a visit with Santa Claus on Saturday, December 9th), visit www.lusofederal.com/ events.



Our First Big Event of 2024!

Visit us at Ludlowma250.org

First Night

Saturday, February 24, 2024

(SNOW DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2024)

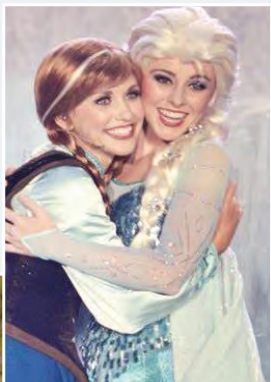
Ludlow High School, 500 Chapin St.

The Kick-Off Celebration of Ludlow's 250th Year!

Beginning at 11 a.m. A full day of fun & festivities.

- Presentations & never before seen pictures from Ludlow Historians.
- Local Food & Restaurant vendors.
- Fire pits with S'mores & Hot Cocoa
 - Ice Carving demonstrations
- Snowman & snow sculpture contests
 - Special visit from Elsa & Anna
 - Fireworks after sundown.

And so much more! Something for all ages!

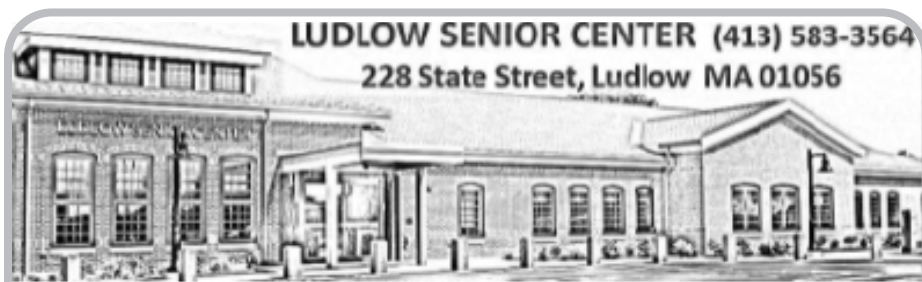


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Welcome to the Ludlow Senior Center

LUDLOW— Even amid the holiday season, the calendar is packed with many fitness programs, entertainment, education sessions, and more. Reserve a lunch in the Center’s beautiful dining room complete with coffee, tea, and dessert by calling a day in advance at 413-583-3564 (call Friday for lunch on Monday).

For full program and activity descriptions and general information about what a senior center is and does go to: Ludlow.ma.us. Seniors can also “like” the Ludlow Senior Center on Facebook. A paper copy of the Senior Scene newsletter is available at the Center.

Activities Calendar:

Please register in advance for items with*

Thursday, Dec. 14

8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 9:30 a.m. Dominos
 10:30 a.m. Friends of Senior Center Meeting
 10:30 a.m. Sen. Oliveira Office Hour
 12:30 p.m. Hearing Clinic*
 1 p.m. Mahjong
 1 p.m. Writers Block*
 1:30 p.m. Do-Ra-Mi Concert
 2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

Friday, Dec. 15

8:45 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
 9 a.m. Reiki*
 10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
 10 a.m. Blood Pressure Check
 10:30 a.m. Trivia
 1 p.m. Guidance by Li Grief Support*
 1 p.m. Ceramics
 1 p.m. Health Bones & Balance Class*
 1 p.m. Magic Class

Monday, Dec. 18

9 a.m. Knitting
 10 a.m. Boomer Bootcamp*
 10:30 a.m. Rep. Saunders Office Hour
 1 p.m. Better Together*
 1 p.m. Scrabble
 1:15 p.m. Pitch
 1:30 p.m. Watercolor Pencil Class*
 2:30 p.m. Zumba Gold

Tuesday, Dec. 19

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 Check
 1 p.m. Western Dance Lessons
 1 p.m. Brown Bag Pick Up*
 1:30 p.m. Bingo
 5 p.m. Movie: Christmas Vacation (1989)
 5:30 p.m. Power Pump Class*
 5:30 p.m. Volleyball at East Street School

Wednesday, Dec. 20

9 a.m. Ceramics
 9 a.m. Zumba Gold
 10:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
 12 p.m. Lunch & Learn
 1 p.m. Movie: Christmas Vacation (1989)
 1 p.m. Healthy Bones & Balance Class*
 1:30 p.m. TED Talk

Thursday, Dec. 21

8:30 a.m. Foot Care*
 9 a.m. Tai Chi
 9:30 a.m. Dominos
 10 a.m. Sunshine Painting Class*
 1 p.m. Mahjong
 2:30 p.m. Active Yoga

*PLEASE register for Boomer Boot Camp, Hearing Clinic, Healthy Bones & Balance, Writers Block, 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, Dec. 14: Birthday Lunch, Baked Ham/Sweet Pot./Veg.
 Friday, Dec. 15: Corn Chowder/Tuna Finger Sand./Chips
 Monday, Dec. 18: Crab Cake/Onion Rings/Power Salad
 Tuesday, Dec. 19: Taco Salad
 Wednesday, Dec. 20: Lunch & Learn, Ziti w/Meat Sauce/Garlic Bread
 Thursday, Dec. 21: Pulled Pork Sand./Sweet Pot. Fries/Cucumber Salad

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

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

Sheriff swears in academy-trained correctional officer



Submitted Photo

Ofc. Clarke receives his diploma from Worcester County Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis.

PAXTON — On Friday, Dec. 1, Worcester County Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis administered the Correctional Officers Oath to the 26 graduating recruits of the Sheriff’s Office’s 60th Basic Recruit Training Academy in Zecco Auditorium at Anna Maria College. Among the twenty-six graduates was Officer Christopher Alexander Clarke of Ludlow.

The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office has demonstrated a strong commitment to ensuring the public safety of the cities and towns in Worcester County. The department recognizes the importance of having a team that is representative of the community it serves. The graduates of B.R.T.A. #60 are a highly qualified and diverse group of recruits, each bringing unique skills and experiences to their new roles as correctional officers. These officers hail from sixteen different towns across Massachusetts, and many of them are veterans or reservists. B.R.T.A. #60 is the largest graduating class the department has had since 2017.

The Sheriff’s Office Academy is a paid full-time 12-week program that teaches recruits how to handle and maintain the care, custody, and control of inmates at the Worcester County Jail &

House of Correction. The program includes both classroom and hands-on instruction, covering important topics such as de-escalation, duty to intervene, fire safety, defensive tactics, first responder training, suicide prevention, mental health, and substance abuse. In the classroom, recruits learn about these topics, while hands-on training includes physical fitness, CPR/first responder, firearms, skid school, and many other scenario-based exercises.

“The recruits of the B.R.T.A. #60 have just completed 12 weeks of rigorous training and will now join the ranks of our full-time staff behind the walls of the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction,” said Evangelidis. “This class has demonstrated great strength and resiliency as they have navigated the academy. They represent the upcoming generation of correctional officers who will undoubtedly carry forward our mission to serve, protect, and foster a better and safer community for all.”

The Worcester County Sheriff’s Office is accepting applications for its 61st Basic Recruit Training Academy, which will begin in March 2024. To learn more about what it takes to be a correctional officer, please visit www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com/Careers.

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OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why Gen Z Supports Palestine

Since the October 7th attack that Hamas directed, tensions around the planet have grown. While mainstream media supports the United States' alliance with Israel, generation Z is getting their information elsewhere and has come to different opinions.

Two names keep appearing online as the war rages on. Bisan Owda and Motaz Azaiza. These young reporters have made it their duty to stay in the Gaza Strip to report what is happening firsthand; what they have shared so far is beyond shocking.

Owda wasn't always a wartime journalist. Before the war, she grew up and worked in the Gaza Strip as a media influencer, spreading the culture and beauty of her home, Palestine. However, since the Oct. 7 attacks, she has transformed her social media pages into a wartime archive.

"This is Bisan from Gaza, we are still alive," says Owda at the start of each video. From there she interviews mothers, fathers, and children about where they came from, what has happened to their homes, and what they think may happen next.

"My 40-day-old daughter was killed," a mother tells Owda in Arabic, through tears, as she explains how the Israeli Defense Force bombed the mother's neighborhood while they were sleeping.

"I was supposed to bring my boots, but I left them at home. I only brought two dolls with me, and I've been in these clothes for a long time," explained a little girl to Owda. Bombs and gunfire can be heard in the backgrounds of almost all of Owda's posts, showcasing just how close the conflict is to the mass groups of Palestinian civilians.

While Owda highlights the emotional and physical challenges those who have survived the massacres endured, Azaiza highlights just how destructive this war has become.

On Dec. 6, Azaiza posted a video just over a minute that truly captured what the IDF is doing to civilian neighborhoods.

At first, the video begins with Azaiza saying, "Another air strike on my street," and then shows him and others running around trying to help those who are injured. The video is extremely graphic and shows many bodies that are injured, deceased, or halfway between both. We see a man on the ground, surrounded by blood and body parts. We see a bright red blanket on the ground, strikingly out of place. When Azaiza removes the cover, an ashed body is shown to be underneath. Azaiza quickly recoils and moves to the next area he is being called toward. In just a few shots we see many deceased children, their small bodies reduced to rubble and ash, their skin turned gray from debris.

When Azaiza reaches the area he is being called toward, we see a little girl who is badly injured. Thankfully, her screams of agony let them know she was still alive, so they moved to the next area.

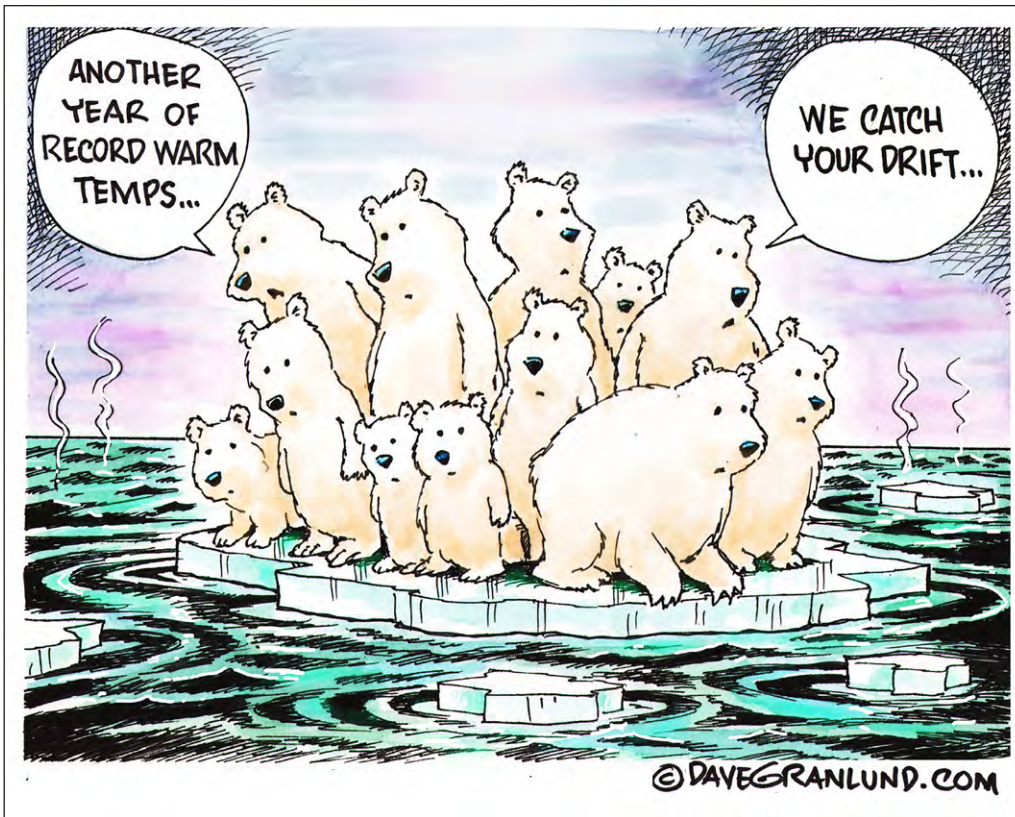
Shot after shot of corpses. A shot of a man trying to pull his neighbor out of the rubble by his hand, only to realize that the hand was no longer attached to anything. Bodies stuck in trees, bodies stuck in debris.

Similar to Owda's videos, gunshots and bombs can be heard in the background of Azaiza's posts. There is even a video of the IDF shooting directly at him and his press colleagues.

Even with these brave reporters showing the world firsthand what is happening in Gaza, world leaders seem to be holding back.

Gen Z supports a free Palestine because we support people, not governments. Gen Z supports a free Palestine because we have seen dead babies while we check our phones in the bathrooms. We have seen how people were left to die, killed in their sleep, and given no chance to fight. The actions of a few should not result in the punishment of many. According to NPR, Gaza is home to more than 2.3 million children, almost half of the population. That is 2.3 million little boys and girls who will never get to grow up and have a normal life. Some never got to grow up at all. Gen Z supports a free Palestine because, in our eyes, no one else will.

Carly Phaneuf



GUEST COLUMN



Fox sparrow



I received an email last month from a Brimfield resident who reported an acquaintance from Hardwick had a fox sparrow and pine siskin in his yard recently.

The fox sparrow is a large sparrow, seven inches. It has rufous sneaking on a gray head and back, whitish underparts and boldly streaked with brown or rufous. It has an irregular central dot on its breast and a reddish brown rump and tail.

These sparrows feed on the ground with seeds, fruits and insects making up its diet. They often jump forward and back to remove debris from the ground to uncover food. They come to feeders eating the seeds scattered on the ground by other birds.

The female lays four to six light blue, green eggs with darker marks in a cupcake nest if grasses, lichens and leaves lined with grasses, fur and rootlets. It is placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub. Their song is a series of clear melodious whistles and is more melodic than most sparrows.

Loon life span

In the Loon Preservation Committee newsletter, they discussed the loon life span.

"How long do loons live?" is one of the most common questions that LPC biologists are asked.

The two oldest known loons in the world breed in Michigan, at the Seney Wildlife Refuge. They used to be a pair, however, in recent years they have gone their separate ways. The male's exact age is known because he was banded the year that he hatched. The female's exact age is unknown because she was banded as an adult, however, we know her minimum age. This summer, the female was at least 37 years old, while the male turned 36 years old.

New Hampshire has a male loon who was banded as an adult in 2000, making him at least 26 years old. In addition to his advanced age, he has another claim to fame: he is the only loon, so far, in New Hampshire that has produced chicks after surviving lead poisoning.

The oldest known loon in New Hampshire is a female, who occupies a territory on Lake Umbagog. She was originally banded as an adult in 1993. Because she was banded as an adult, we don't know her exact age. We only know for sure that she was at least three years old in 1993. However, loons don't hatch chicks, on average, until they are 6 years old, and this loon hatched chicks the year she was banded. That means she is likely 6 years old or older in 1993. She is at minimum 33 years old, but more likely 36 or older.

Decrease in bird activity

I received an email from a man who said this year he has a very noticeable decrease in bird population.

He reports he has a male and female bobcat and squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks have disappeared. He said "maybe that's part of it." He said he started to leave one feeder out overnight testing to see if there are still bears about. Here's hoping they have all gone into hibernation.

Bird club

A Brimfield resident emailed, "On Nov. 30 I took part in a project for the bird club and afterwards we

went to Forest Park in Springfield and saw a black duck, a chilly looking great blue heron, a hermit thrush and several golden-crowned kinglets.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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 mharrison@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Readers, local merchants, 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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What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library?

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

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

FOR ALL AGES

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FOR ADULTS

Calling artists and more!

The Hubbard Memorial Library in Ludlow is seeking local artists, craftspeople and collectors who would like to display their wares in the library's display case. Exhibits remain in place for one month. The display case measures 70 inches long by 42 inches high by 11 inches deep, and has shelves which can be adjusted or removed to fit different sized items. For more information, or to arrange a showing, please contact the library at 583-3408 Ext. 114 during

normal library hours.

Happy Hour Book Club, last Thursday of the month (12/28), 6:30-7:45 p.m.

This month's book is "Looking For Jane" by Heather Marshall. This novel is perfect for fans of Kristin Hannah and Jennifer Chiaverini. Pick up a copy of the book at the Circulation Desk. New members are welcome!

FOR TEENS

Nintendo Switch Night, every other Tuesday (12/12 & 12/26), 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Play Mario Kart, Smash Bros, or other Nintendo Switch games. For 6th-12th graders, space is limited to 16 people, please register.

Anime Club, every Tuesday, 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Meet each week to watch & talk about anime, eat snacks, & try out your cosplay. Please register.

The 'Fellowship of the Pages' Tween Graphic Novel Book Discussion Group, Every Thursday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Meet each week to discuss graphic novels, eat snacks, play games, and make friends. This month the group is reading "Awkward" by Svetlana Chmukva, copies of which are available in the Youth Room. Please register.

Dungeons & Dragons High School Adventure Ensemble, Fridays 2:30-4:30 p.m.

This group is for experienced high school players and has room for 1 more player this fall. Please register.

The Read Between the Lines High School Book Group discusses "The Holiday Swap" by Maggie Knox, Friday December 22, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Book chat and snacks for ages 14 & up. Copies of the book are available in the Youth Room. Registration preferred.

FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

Drop-In Holiday Card Making, Holiday card making supplies will be set up in the Youth Room until Christmas.

Pokemon Club, Mondays 3:30-5:00 p.m.

For 7 & up. Trading, dueling, & gaming on handhelds, phones, or Nintendo Switch. Please have your name on everything you bring to the club. Please register.

Minecraft Club, Wednesdays, 3:00-4:45 p.m.

Minecraft players of all skill levels can bring their own devices, or may use one of the library's eight computers to build, play & create. For upper elementary & up. Drop-in.

Massachusetts Children's Book Award Book Group for 4th-6th Grade, Thursday December 14th, 5:45pm - 6:30 p.m.

4th-6th graders across the state are the ones to decide who wins this award after reading at least 5 of the nominated books. Meet with Youth Services Librarian July each month for 45 fun minutes to discuss, decide, play games, and share snacks. Everyone who has read at least 5 of the books by April 15th will cast their vote, celebrate with an ice cream party, and be featured in an article in the Register! Please register.

Duckie Soap Making, Thursday, December 7, 5:00-6:00 p.m.,

Make soap out of safe, non-toxic ingredients with a rubber duckie on top! Due to insurance reasons, this program is strictly for ages 8 & up. Since the soap can get hot, a parent or guardian must be present for children under the age of 10 to lend a helping hand. Please register.

Roblox Club, Fridays 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Meet new friends or play with old ones while playing Roblox; the library will help match kids up according to

age and game types. For ages 8+.

"Our Favorites" Scavenger Hunt, Friday, December 8, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.,

Which children's books do your library staff love? Find them all on display throughout the Youth Room and win a prize - and maybe check out a few books as well!

FOR CHILDREN

Daily Drop-In Crafts,

All ages. DIY crafts available in the Youth Room Daily. New craft each week.

Little Picassos, Tuesdays in December starting December 5 & 12 & 19, 3:30 p.m.

Ages 3-6 will make recycled art projects that support skills needed for school readiness; fine motor, imagination, following directions, tuning into language, & early math concepts. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register.

Sing With Me, Tuesdays 10:30-11:00 a.m.

For ages 0-5. Join Youth Services Librarian July for 30 minutes of favorite children's songs & movement. Drop-in.

Lego Build Challenge, Wednesdays 12:00-5:00 p.m.

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

December Grow, Play and Learn, Thursdays in December, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

For ages 0-5. Come join us for stories, songs and skill building, led by Kelly Castor, Early Childhood Developmental specialist, who will guide caregivers in strengthening interactions with their children. Sponsored by Pathways for Parents. Please register. Registration for the December group is also open.

CHARTER COMMISSION

from Page 1

about your community because they don't live there."

As an example, Christensen joked that his predecessor in East Longmeadow lived in Springfield and "could have gotten to town faster than me."

Christensen talked about East Longmeadow's charter change, and how the town's government has continued to review the charter to iron out any changes that have cascaded from changing the town's form of government.

"We're still finding things that we didn't realize were going to be impacted by this change in government, that's been difficult," Christensen said. "The recodification took us 18 months of meeting twice a week to try to pour through every page to find out what referenced this and what

referenced that."

Dutton was asked to compare the role of Town Manager to that of a Town Administrator.

"If you're operating in a city form of government, a Council/Manager form of government, the Town Manager usually has much more authority and responsibility spelled out in the charter, which is the case with Bridgewater," Dutton said.

After the conclusion of both interviews, the Committee members praised the wealth of knowledge both managers provided.

The Committee hopes to speak with some local mayors at an upcoming meeting, to compare the two forms of government.

The Charter Committee meets on the first and third Thursday of every month, and will hold their next meeting at 6 p.m. on Dec. 21.

SELECTMEN

from Page 1

sociated with the Mills Project will likely lead to increased value next year. "I've never been a fan of robbing Peter to pay Paul," Selectman Manny Silva said. "I'm worried at what we're doing. We are leaving \$20 in excess levy capacity. Each and every year, we're taxing to the brink." Silva warned that these tax rates will eventually reach a breaking point, and recommended that the Board find ways to reduce spending and "tighten their belts," in the hopes of lowering taxes in coming years.

"That's about a \$2.6 million increase in the budget," Selectman Tony Goncalves said, adding that the School Department has requested \$2.5 million, for comparison.

"All our insurance benefits, all those costs this year are going up 3-4%," Goncalves said. "Our hands are a little bit tied on 'let's not spend it,' because everybody's coming at us from all directions."

During the meeting, some residents complained about the increased tax burden, but the Selectmen maintained that in order to keep up with rising costs, there was little they could do to reduce the tax rate.

Frozen Polish Food sale in Indian Orchard Dec.16

INDIAN ORCHARD -- There will be a frozen Polish Food Sale of Pierogi, Golabki and Kapusta at Immaculate Conception Church Hall 25 Parker St. Indian Orchard, on Saturday, Dec. 16,

2023, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

You can also call Jane Wurszt at 413-543-2835 to arrange a different time. All are welcome to come and purchase.

EARLY DEADLINE For All Advertising & CLASSIFIEDS

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5



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Ludlow High School announces Term 1 Honor Roll

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Lions drop opener to Agawam

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The Agawam hockey team has won eight league titles during the past 15 years. They were co-champions of the Fay Division with Amherst Regional last year.

The Brownies, who are looking to add another league title to their growing collection, began the 2023-24 regular season with a 5-1 victory over league rival Ludlow at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield, last Saturday.

“One of our goals is to win the league title every year,” said Agawam head coach Todd Rowley. “All of our league games are extra special.

Please see **HOCKEY**, Page 11



Ethan Steigmeyer works in goal for the Lions.

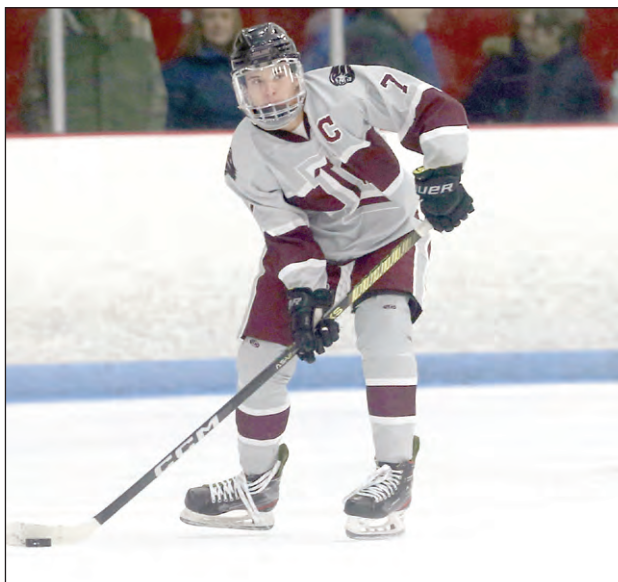


Benji Steele heads up the ice.



Ryan Kurtz reaches out and takes possession.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Brice Pereira takes possession in Ludlow's end.

Ludlow boys hope to regroup this season

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The 2022-23 season was very memorable for the members of the Ludlow boys' varsity basketball team.

The Lions, who lost to Norwood High School in a preliminary round game of the Division 2 state tournament, finished with a 16-5 overall record. It was the fifth time in school history that the boys' basketball team won 15 or more games.

“We had a very successful season,” said Ludlow head coach C.W. Zimmer. “We won the league title for the first time since 1996. We also qualified for the state tournament for the second consecutive year. It was a great ride with that group of players.”

The Lions captured the Tri-County North league title with a perfect 10-0 record. They've won 11 league titles since 1961.

“The Tri-County North league is a perfect fit for us,” Zimmer added. “There are some talented players and talented teams in our league. Every league game is going to be a challenge for us.”

The other members of the Tri-County North league are Mount Everett, Duggan, Hampden Charter School, Mcann Tech, and Westfield Tech.

The Lions, who are now a

Please see **LUDLOW BOYS**, Page 11



Ryan Gomes faces off with an opponent at 126 pounds.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Wrestlers open season with multi-team meet

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Last Saturday morning, it was multiple dual meets for the Lions to open the winter season. Ludlow went to West Springfield High School and faced off with the Terriers as well as others in a big event that included South Hadley, Westfield, and Northampton. The Lions travel to Wayland High School for a tournament this Saturday.



Ludlow faced off with West Springfield in one of its meets.



Logan Cabral gets into the action at 150 pounds.



Nathan Winters competes in the 144-pound bout.



Joshua Ridolfi goes for a win at 157 pounds.

Thunderbirds stuff Islanders on Teddy Bear Night

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (12-8-2-0) thoroughly controlled the game and came away with a defiant 5-1 win over the Bridgeport Islanders (6-15-1-0) on Saturday night before a sold-out crowd of 6,793 for the annual Teddy Bear Toss.

Fans did not have to wait long to chuck their stuffed animals onto the ice, as Mathias Laferriere cleaned up a loose puck rebound in front of Jakub Skarek and tucked it home on the backhand just 1:40 into the game, bringing about thousands of bears raining onto the ice sheet.

After a delay in picking up all the stuffed donations, the T-Birds picked right up where they left off, and just 6:10 after the Laferriere goal, the top line generated another marker. Adam Gaudette connected on a pass to the right side to Nathan Walker. Dylan Coghlan quickly raced up into the play as a trailer and perfectly placed a wrist shot over Skarek's blocker arm to make

it a 2-0 game at 7:50.

Vadim Zherenko was mostly untested in the T-Birds' net, as the offense for both teams went dry for well over the next 30 minutes of game action.

The game's temperature then rose at the 3:18 mark of the third as Sam Bitten and Travis Mitchell dropped the mitts in an old-school style scrap, bringing up the noise on both benches and inside the building. When the game moved to 4-on-4 following matching minors three minutes later, the T-Birds put the game out of reach with two goals in short order.

First, Calle Rosen drifted back toward his blue line and stunned the Islanders with a perfect diagonal pass to a streaking Walker, who beat Skarek with a backhand to make it 3-0 at 7:18 of the third. Just 22 seconds later, Walker was the distributor off the rush, setting up Wyatt Kalynuk for a snapper through Skarek's five-hole, and in a matter of a half minute, the

lead had ballooned to 4-0 for the T-Birds.

Matt Maggio broke up Zherenko's shutout bid with a shot that caromed off a defender and through Zherenko's legs at 10:27 to make it a 4-1 game, but that would be all the Isles could muster on this night.

Coghlan would add his second of the night on Walker's fourth point of the evening, blasting a one-time power play slapper through Skarek's legs at 13:59, rounding out the scoring with his seventh goal of the year and his second multi-goal game.

For the first time this season, the T-Birds went the full 60 minutes without having to play short-handed, and Springfield scored on their lone power play chance to make it a perfect night in special teams. Zherenko got his fourth straight win with 34 saves. In his last four outings, the second-year netminder has stopped 126 out of 132 shots.

Candlepin League News

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Tuesday Night Commercial Elks League

PALMER – December has arrived in the 2023-2024 candlepin bowling season at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes.

The Tuesday Night Commercial Elks has had momentum shifts happening so far in round two of their league. As of Nov. 28, Life is Good ranks #1 with a 7-1 record.

This past week, Life is Good bowled against Last in Line who is currently tied for fourth place in the 2nd round. In game one, Last in Line won a close game 333-329. In game two, Life is Good turned the tides by dominating game two 380-340.

Jeff Knight of Life is Good was over his average by bowling 106. Paul Cyr led the team confidently by scoring 122.

In game three, the two teams tied at 338 and received one point each. Life is Good won total pinfall by a final score of 1047-1011.

Blue B's bowled against Champs R Here. In game one, The Champs were victorious by a score of 389-374. In game two, The Champs won again 385-371. In game three, The Champs won 404-381 for the sweep. John Colkos of the Champs had a strong finish by scoring 121.

The Champs R Here won total pinfall by a final score of 1178-1126.

Team BK bowled against the 1st round winning team, Compression. In game one, Compression bowled well and took the first game 383-335. In game two, BK rebounded with a win of their own by a score of 376-315. In game three, BK managed to win the last game 372-354.

BK won total pinfall with a final score of 1083-1052.

Acres bowled against their average and won two out of three games.

Thursday Night Mixed League

The Thursday Night Mixed League witnessed a momentum shift as one team took over the #1 spot as of Nov. 30.

Team Six is the current leader with a record of 29-19 and is 1.5 points ahead of Team One. Team Three was the team to bowl Team One this past Thursday night. In game one, Team Three was victorious by a score of 403-399.

In game two, Team One came back with a win 415-383. In game three, Team Three won the last game of the night 408-386.

Team One took total pinfall by a final score of 1200-1194. Each team received two points.

Team Five bowled against Team Two as both teams were trying to move up in the ranks before the conclusion of round one. In game one, Team Two was the winner in a close game 383-377. In game two, Team Five managed to come up with a close win 399-396. In game three, Team Two had a strong last game and won 448-412. Team Two took 3 out of 4 points as they won total pinfall 1227-1188.

Team Four bowled against the #1 seed Team Six. In game one, Team Six had a strong showing as they won 438-409. The first game victory was thanks to anchor bowler Ron who bowled 113, 28 pins over his current league average (85).

In game two, Team Six won a close game against Team Four, 429-428. In game three, Team Four won the last game of the night 426-402.

Team Six won total pinfall 1269-1263.

Winter Showdown to feature SK Type Open Modified programs

WINTER HAVEN, FL – As tradition has it, motorsports fans from coast to coast will soon be flocking to the Sunshine State, ready to elude the abrasive winter chill in exchange for a full month of racing at a variety of ovals across the peninsula. Auburndale Speedway in Winter Haven, Florida, centrally located between Tampa and Orlando, will join in on the winter action, ready to host its highly-anticipated Winter Showdown on February 6-10.

In total, seven different asphalt divisions will be taking to the Auburndale shorttrack, all of which anchored with the 602 Tour Type Modifieds, and the Tour/SK Type Open Modifieds, that will headline the week-long Winter Showdown agenda on Thursday through Saturday. The 602 Modifieds, battling for \$500-to-win in each of their respective programs, will compete on

all three of the aforementioned evenings with the Tour/SK Type Open Modifieds competing for \$2,000-to-win paydays on Friday and Saturday, only.

A true must-see for any short track enthusiast, the Tour Type Modifieds have never competed at Auburndale Speedway giving fans the opportunity to witness a new piece of Florida history.

Competitors should note, Modifieds will utilize the F45 Hoosier; additional rules will be posted in the coming days.

In addition to the aforementioned Modified divisions, Legends/Bandoleros (highlighted with double programs on Wednesday and Thursday), Mighty TQ Midgets (chasing a \$5,000 total purse), USAC Eastern Midgets, the National Compact Tour, and the infamous Crown Vics, will also join in on the

Winter Showdown, activating officially with open practice and track rental sessions beginning Tuesday, February 6.

Registration for Auburndale Speedway's Winter Showdown is officially open. Competitors seeking to pre-register can do so by clicking the link below. Online registration will close on February 1 with additional registration opportunities available at-track during each day's respective program.

Speed Sport TV, home to the widest variety of motorsports events, award-winning shows and exclusive features with live and on-demand capabilities, is the official broadcast partner of the annual Winter Showdown and is set to broadcast each evening live. Race coverage packages and pricing will be available soon. Learn more at www.speedsport.tv.

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HOCKEY from Page 9

This is a huge season opening win for us.”

The two teams split the season series a year ago.

Agawam won the first meeting by the final score of 5-3.

Ludlow won the second meeting by the same score a month later.

One of the key players for Agawam in this year’s season opener was junior goalie Frankie DiSanti, who made a total of 20 saves. DiSanti took over the starting duties from Jake Croteau, who graduated last spring.

“I was a little bit nervous before the start of today’s game, but it all worked out very well. I’m just happy that we won the game,” DiSanti said. “I couldn’t have done it without the help of my teammates. We’re hoping to win a championship this year.”

DiSanti was a starting goalie for the second time in a varsity hockey game. He made 16 saves in an 8-4 win over South Hadley last February.

“Frankie made a couple of big saves on breakaway shots in today’s game,” Rowley said. “I just thought he did a great job.”

While the Brownies played their first game of the regular season, the Lions (0-1-1) tied Taconic, 1-1, in their first game two nights earlier. Junior Ryan Goodwin scored the goal in the Lions season opener, which was assisted by sophomore A.J. Stupak, and junior Owen Kumiaga.

Freshman goalie Peter LeBorgne was credited with 19 saves against Taconic. He only made five saves against the Brownies before being replaced in goal by sophomore Ethan Steigmeyer at the start of the third period.

LeBorgne, who took over the starting duties from Luke Sunderland isn’t the first member of his family to play hockey for longtime Ludlow head coach Paul Rivest.

His father was a member of the Palmer hockey team, which was coached by Rivest.

The Lions, who outshot the Brownies, 6-1, in the first period, failed to capitalize on two power play opportunities.

The Brownies also didn’t score a goal on their first period power play and the contest was still scoreless entering the second.

Less than five minutes into the second period, Agawam senior David New-



Sean Kefalas faces off against an Agawam defender as he heads up the ice.

some fired a low shot from inside the left circle that snuck into the net under LeBorgne’s glove for a power play goal.

Agawam’s first goal of the season was assisted by sophomore Thomas Connery.

A couple of minutes later, sophomore Casey Thomas scored a goal, which gave the Brownies a 2-0 advantage.

The Lions cut the deficit in half when senior Luke Martin netted an unassisted power play goal at the 8:19 mark of the second period.

With 2:23 remaining in the second period, Agawam senior Anthony Buoniconti, who assisted on the second goal, flipped a shot into the net increasing the lead to 3-1.

The senior duo of Hayden Dupre and Jake Paolo were credited with the assist.

Agawam took a 4-1 lead with 18 seconds left on the scoreboard clock following a goal by Cole Buffum, which was assisted by his classmate Landon Ashford.

“Even though we had control of the game entering the final period, I just told the guys in the locker room not to take their foot off the gas pedal,” Rowley said. “We got goals from all four of our lines, which was nice to see.”

Buffum, who netted his first goal in a varsity game against the Lions last year, scored an unassisted goal two minutes into the third period, which sealed the Brownies season opening victory.

DiSanti made several saves during the final period, including one on a breakaway opportunity by Ludlow sophomore Nick Deroin, which helped his team maintain a four goal lead.

The Fay Division rivals are scheduled

from them.”

McKenney, who’s an outstanding three-sport athlete, had a very memorable football game against Palmer on Thanksgiving morning.

“Dan is a phenomenal athlete,” Zimmer said. “He can do things that other people can’t do on the basketball court, on the football field, and on the baseball diamond.”

The only junior listed on the Lions varsity roster is Cooper Zukowski, who was a member of the junior varsity squad a year ago.

Rounding out the Lions varsity basketball team are sophomores Mason Morace, Jackson Mateus, Cameron Lyman, and Giovanni Acevedo.

Morace and Mateus are returning varsity players.

Acevedo, who’s a first-year varsity player, scored a team-high nine points in the Lions season opening 74-37 non-league loss at East Longmeadow, last Thursday night.

Mateus and Krutka finished the season opening game with seven points.

The Lions were scheduled to face Smith Vocational in the home opener on Monday night before playing another road game against Pathfinder on Friday night.

The Lions are hoping to qualify for both the Western Mass. tournament and the Division 3 state tournament.

David D’Agostino returns as the Lions boy’s junior varsity coach, while Tyler Goncalves coaches the freshmen team.

LUDLOW BOYS from Page 9

Division 3 team, lost six players to graduation. They are Daudy Guerrero, Ryan Cruz, Jonathan Goncalves, Matt Mendez, Aaron Little, and Braeden Schwartz, who scored more than 700 career points.

“The seniors on last year’s team certainly did a lot for us,” Zimmer said. “Without them, our program wouldn’t have been as successful as we were.”

The six seniors listed on this year’s varsity roster are Andrew Provost, Dan McKenney Jr., Mathis Fitzgerald, Dan Krutka, Stephen Goodreau, and Luca Martins.

“We’re excited about this season,” Zimmer said. “All of the kids have been working hard in preseason practice. We’re not rebuilding this year, we’re reloading. We just want to pick up where we left off last year.”

Anthony Emco would’ve been another senior on this year’s basketball team. He suffered an injury during the football season, and he won’t be playing basketball.

“Anthony is going to be our team manager,” Zimmer said. “We’re hoping that he can help develop our younger players.”

According to Zimmer, McKenney, Goodreau, and Emco will be the Lions leaders this winter.

“We don’t use the term captains,” he said. “We’re looking for those three guys to be our leaders. We’re expecting a lot

OBITUARIES

Anita (Silveri) Allen, 98

Anita (Silveri) Allen, 98, passed away on Dec. 8, 2023 surrounded by her loving family.



She was born on Mar. 15, 1925 in Ludlow to the late Josephine (Carmell) and Joseph C. Silveri. She graduated from Ludlow High School as class secretary in 1942, and later planned many memorable reunion events. Upon graduation, Anita was employed as a secretary at Monsanto Chemical Co, Military Intelligence during World War II, the Ludlow Welfare Office, and the Ludlow Board of Selectmen before retiring as executive secretary from Mass Mutual Life Insurance Company and again as receptionist at Wingate at Wilbraham.

Anita was an active member of First Church in Ludlow serving on the Board of Deacons, Board of Trustees, Stewardship, Capital Funds, Building Committee, Memorial Gifts and Friends of First Church. In the community Anita served as Town Meeting member for many years and was active as a volunteer at the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club, serving on the Women’s Advisory Committee, Board of Directors, Corporator and member of Capital Funds Committee.

Anita was the widow of Edwin W. Allen to whom she was married for 44 years before his death in 1989. Together they traveled to many locations in Europe, Bermuda, and across our country. She was predeceased by her son Gary J. Allen in 2012 and her brother Louis Silveri in 1992.

She was especially devoted to her family and will be fondly remembered for the many family gatherings in her home. She leaves her children Gordon and his wife Lynda Allen of Wilbraham, Patricia and her husband David “Zeb” Yelle of Ludlow and Gregory and wife Kim Allen of Ludlow. “Gigi” also leaves behind her four grandchildren Nathan and wife Alice Allen of New Orleans, LA, Heidi and husband Michael Maserati of Wilbraham, Joshua Yelle of Ludlow, and Marisa and husband Evan Hudson of Greenland, NH, along with nine great grandchildren Thomas, James and Emily Allen, Olivia, Elizabeth, Caroline and Madeline Maserati and Elouise and Juliette Hudson, and step grandchildren Megan Shelton with children Michael and Denora of Ohio and Jennifer Erin of Orleans, along with several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Burial will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ludlow Community Center/Randall, 91 Claudia’s Way, Ludlow, MA 01056 or First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St., Ludlow, MA 01056.

I’d like to leave an afterglow of smiles when day is done; I’d like to leave an echo...

DEATH NOTICES

Anita S. Allen,
Died on
Dec. 8, 2023

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 \$225, 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.

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DATEBOOK

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

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

SUPPORT FOR FAMILY MEMBERS: The Michael J. Dias Support Group meets 6-7:15 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Our Lady of Fatima Parish Center. Education, resources, peer support, and hope for parents and family members coping with a loved one with a substance use disorder. Anyone needing help is welcome to attend. Masks are required and we will be seated 3 feet apart. For more information, call Maureen at 413-563-6226.

H.O.P.E. RECOVERY GROUP: Having Our Pathways Encouraged meetings are for those who have experience with addictions, grief, anxiety and depression, (including anxiety and depression due to COVID-19) and for loved ones who might need help in their re-

covery. This group is also for those who can help lead others in their recovery by example. This meeting in no way replaces professional therapies. It is a time for sharing strength, encouragement and hope. No fees. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Pre-packaged snacks are available. Small group structure based on basic Christian principles, concept, purposes and confidentiality. COVID-19 guidelines are observed. Masks required. 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at Fellowship Hall in Faith Community Chapel, 485 East Street in Ludlow. Parking lot behind Chapel. Fellowship Hall entrance at back of Chapel. Seating is limited. To reserve yours, call 413-519-4591.

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

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

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

MA Senate approves supplemental budget

BOSTON— The Massachusetts Senate took final action on a supplemental budget designed to close out Fiscal Year 2023. The Senate's supplemental budget totals \$3.1 billion and contains several provisions to support the ongoing operations of programs and services that benefit the residents of the state.

To address the ongoing humanitarian emergency shelter crisis, the final bill allocates \$250 million to be spent to address costs associated with sheltering eligible families, including by making funding available for temporary emergency shelter sites for families on a waitlist for permanent shelter. The final bill also stipulates that a portion of the \$250 million be spent on support services and resources so that individuals and families can address the complex issues and challenges they face, as well as reimbursements to school districts for increased enrollment costs associated with an influx of migrant students.

To ensure oversight of spending on the emergency shelter crisis, the bill requires robust reporting every 14 days. In addition to \$250 million for the emergency shelter system, the budget provides \$10 million for resettlement agencies to assist immigrants and refugees and authorizes the use of up to \$2 million in available funds from the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund to support career centers in their efforts to assist immigrants and refugees in securing federal work authorizations.

"I'm grateful to have leaders in the Senate in President Karen Spilka, Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Senator Michael Rodrigues, and all my colleagues in the Senate who understood the importance of working together to address the challenges we faced, like funding over 90 collective bargaining agreements for state workers and addressing the rising costs of special education," said Oliveira.

Other notable items in the close-out supplemental budget include: \$378 million to fund collective bargaining increases for state workers; \$75 million for school districts impacted by special education tuition rate increases; \$15 million for disaster relief for municipalities impacted by storms and natural disasters that occurred in 2023; and a supplemental \$100 million pension payment to remove any further increased liability resulting from the 2015 early retirement incentive program. The largest spending item in the bill was related to health care costs provided through MassHealth. A version of this supplemental budget having passed the House and Senate, it was sent to the Governor on Monday, Dec. 4, and signed the same day.

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SMC and Facebook Live Stream ludlowfellowship.org
FRIDAYS Children's After School Club (pre K through teens) 5-6:30 p.m. Church Fellowship Hall
SATURDAYS at 10 a.m. Ecumenical Prayer Meeting

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

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

ST. ELIZABETH PARISH
191 Hubbard St., Ludlow
413-583-3467
Pastor - Rev. Msgr. Homer P. Gosselin
In Residence - Rev. Norman Bolton
Deacons: Normand Grondin, Thomas Rickson, Keith Davies
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
stelizabethludlow.org
Like us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram
Check out our Parish App
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Saturday, Dec. 23, at 4 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 24, at 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 24- Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m. in Church
4:00 p.m. in Pastoral Center
Monday, Dec. 25- Christmas Day
7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.
(Please note there will be no 4 p.m. Mass on Christmas Day)
Sunday, Dec. 31 - Feast of the Holy Family
7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. (No 5 p.m. Mass)
New Year's Day Mass- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(Not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.)
Monday, Jan. 1, 2024 (New Year's Day) - 9:15 a.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
Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:15 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8:45 a.m. (English), 10 a.m. (Polish)
Weekday Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 7:45 a.m. (English)
First Friday Mass: 5:30 p.m. (Polish/English)
First Saturday Mass: 9 a.m. (Polish/English)
Confessions: Saturday - 3:15-4 p.m.

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

OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH
438 Winsor St., Ludlow
413-583-2312
Father Pedro DeOliveira
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.

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413-583-3339
Reverend Dorothy Borden, Pastor
Office hours Monday & Wednesday 9 am - 3 pm
Sunday worship service 10 am
website: www.ludlowfirst.com or
Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstchurchludlow/
for complete schedule and events

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Indian Orchard, MA 01151
413-543-4204
Revs. Karen and Nick Munn, pastors
Sunday School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.
Worship in person, 11 a.m.
Or watch our livestream.
See our website for more information: orchardcovenant.org.

Teens Who Code to meet in Wilbraham Jan. 31

WILBRAHAM - Teens Who Code will have their first meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024, from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Wilbraham Public Library.

Facilitated by Mrs. Christine Goonan, this club is looking for new members. Grades 6-12 can explore project-based coding in a fun and friendly environment. Meetings are once a month in the Teen Loft at the library, and all attendees need a laptop to join in.

Online registration is required at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org or call 413-596-6141. After registering, teens will receive more info by email. This is a free program hosted by the Wilbraham Public Library.

Holyoke Community College celebrates fall 2023 graduates



Submitted photo

Left to right are student speakers Marcos Figueroa, of Holyoke, Angela Tindell-Gula, of Three Rivers, and Alannah Milgros Brunt, of Springfield, with President George Timmons at HCC's first Fall Graduate Reception on Wed., Nov. 29.

HOLYOKE - The first time Alannah Brunt tried Holyoke Community College, she flunked out after one semester. The next semester, she only passed one class.

"I was working a ton of hours and had not yet invested in school," she recently said. "I hadn't found a way to get excited about being a student. It was COVID times, folks, and it was not fun."

But Brunt eventually did find a way to get excited about college, and that led her to where she now stood - on the stage of HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater as one of the student speakers for the college's first-ever Fall Graduate Reception, held on Nov. 29.

"Fear not," said Brunt, who will complete her associate's degree in Latinx Studies this month before heading to the University of Massachusetts in the spring. "In my journey at HCC, I found a commu-

nity of people who became my village."

According to the HCC Registrar's Office, 172 HCC students will be fall 2023 graduates at the end of the current semester. Like Brunt, many of them will transfer to four-year schools in the spring. Although fall graduates are always invited to attend HCC's formal commencement ceremony in the spring, historically, many do not attend.

"This is really just the beginning of your celebrations as a college graduate," said President George Timmons. "Today, we honor your achievements with this reception because what you just achieved deserves immediate recognition. In June, we will come together again and formally welcome you as HCC alumni."

The family-friendly event began in the HCC theater, followed by food and photo opportuni-

Simple ways communities can combat bullying

Stand for the Silent, an organization helping to stop school bullying, helps communities address the issue

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK -- It has been known that bullying around the country is a big problem. The statistics point to the fact that something needs to be done. People mostly look to the schools to handle the issue of bullying, but perhaps it is time for the whole community to take the issue on. With the community on board, addressing the issue to dismantle it, the schools and all areas will benefit. Tapping into how to get the community on board to combat bullying is a powerful method for creating a kinder world.

"We work with schools and communities around the country. We know how important it is to get the whole community on board with stomping out bullying," said Kirk Smalley, co-founder of Stand for the Silent. "It's really a team effort to address the issue, and we are happy to be at the forefront of helping people to make a difference."

Bullying is a common issue at school, with one in five high school students reporting being bullied on school property, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But it doesn't stop once kids leave the school campus. The CDC reports that one in six high school students are cyberbullied, which takes place online, through texting, etc.

While we tend to think that bully-

ing is a problem only for our youth, one look at the statistics surrounding workplace bullying proves otherwise. The CDC reports that up to 59% of workers in America say that they have felt bullied in the workplace, while up to 15% globally have felt bullied, and 12% have witnessed others being bullied.

With youth and adults having bullying issues around the nation, it's time for communities to address the issue as a whole. Here are ways for communities to combat bullying:

Guest speaker. Stand for the Silent has a mission of traveling the country to speak with schools and communities about bullying. Inviting them to the community or school to talk is a significant first step toward making a change and setting a new tone.

Make the commitment. The community needs to commit to the idea of addressing bullying. Coming together to share in the mission of tackling the issue will be more successful if those involved are 100% on board with making it a consistent part of the community discussion.

Raise awareness. The more people talk about bullying in the community, including what it looks like, the damage that it does, and what to do to address it, the more it takes the power away. When people are aware of the issue in their community, they will become more active in helping not to tolerate it.

Partner up. Community groups working to eradicate bullying can partner with other local resources, including groups, organizations, sporting teams, etc. That way, the message is being re-

Please see **BULLYING**, Page 14

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD23P2438EA
Estate of:
Pauline Marie Ryba
Date of Death:
September 29, 2023
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Marguerite M. Swartz of Needham, MA

a Will has been admitted

to informal probate.

Marguerite M. Swartz of Needham, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative 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 regard-

ing 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. 12/13/2023

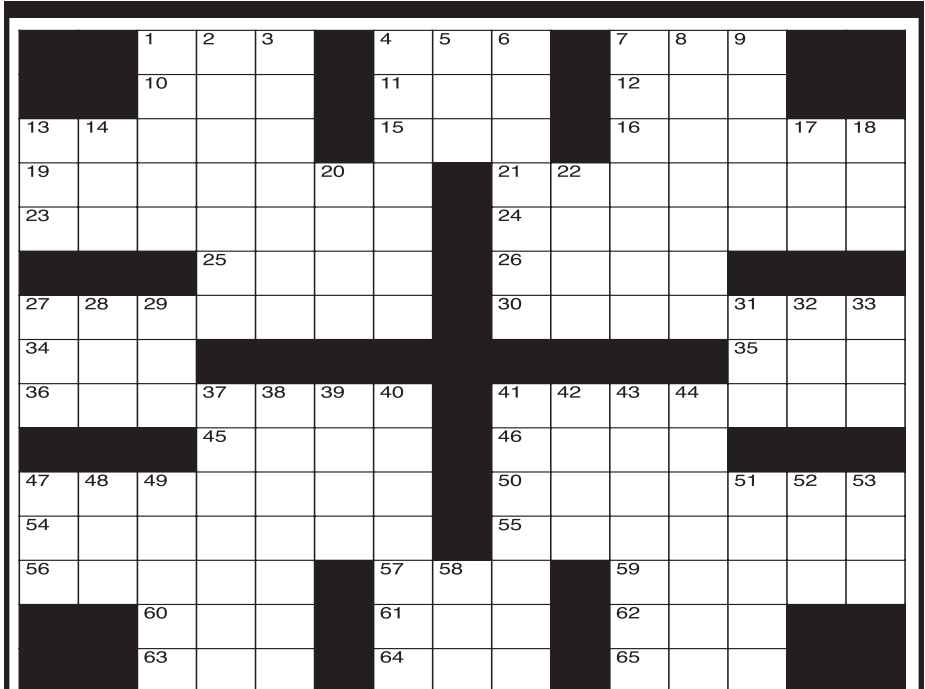
PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 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 Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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



CLUES ACROSS

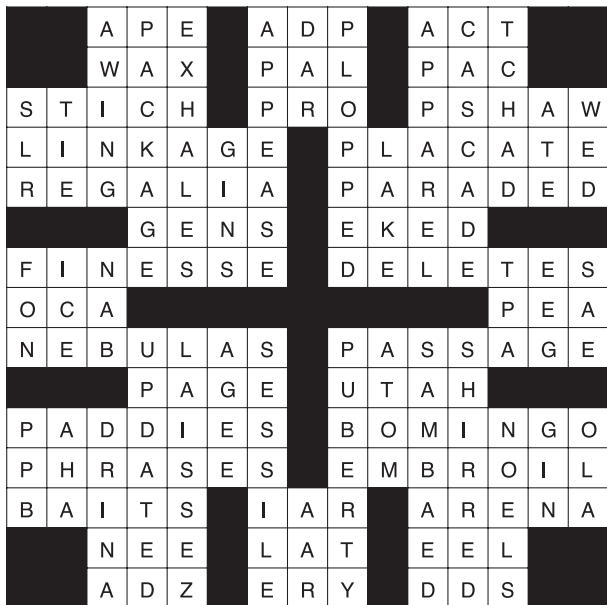
1. Mimic
4. Payroll firm
7. Perform in a play
10. Opine: ___ philosophical
11. Crony
12. Political action committee
13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
15. Affirmative
16. Exclamation of disgust
19. Action of connecting
21. A way to calm
23. Especially fine or decorative clothing
24. Walked proudly
25. Group of people related through male heir
26. Supplemented with difficulty
27. Soft touch
30. Erases

CLUES DOWN

34. Spanish river
35. A princess can detect it
36. Clouds of gas
41. A way to get through
45. Part of a book
46. Southwestern US state
47. Fields where rice is grown
50. Area in Ghana
54. Sayings
55. Involve deeply
56. Compels to act
57. "Ignore all rules"
59. Indoor entertainment space
60. Born of
61. Back muscle
62. Sea dweller
63. Tools that resemble an axe
64. Prefix denoting class or kind
65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN (abbr.)

1. Inspiring
2. Put into a box
3. Breathes out
4. Pacify
5. Patriotic society for women
6. Fell down
7. Clothing
8. Dishwasher detergent brand
9. Former French republic
13. Single lens reflex
14. Men's fashion accessory
17. Consumed
18. Marry
20. ___ up: intensifies
22. Body of water
27. People of southern Benin
28. Decorate a cake with frosting
29. Snag
31. Yearly tonnage
32. Records brain activity (abbr.)
33. Car mechanics group
37. Brought up to snuff
38. ___ faire: Economic approach
39. Phil ___, former CIA
40. Affixed
41. Period of adolescence
42. Substance
43. Danced
44. Baked without its shell
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
48. Satisfaction
49. Balkans river
51. Christmas carols
52. Partner to tonic
53. "The Godfather" character Johnny
58. Swiss river



Visiting Angels approved to provide free in-home care to eligible veterans

REGIONAL -- Visiting Angels West Springfield has recently been approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide non-medical home care for eligible veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

VA benefits offer financial assistance for home care to veterans through several programs.

The VA Aid and Attendance program helps to provide access to homecare for veterans and their spouses who need help with daily tasks or who suffer from a disability or illness.

Through Visiting Angels West Springfield, veterans who require help with daily living from another individual can receive help with everyday tasks in their home such as bathing, eating, cleaning, and memory care.

The Homemaker and Home Health Care Aid program helps veterans to receive assistance with everyday tasks with the help of a homemaker or home health aid. Visiting Angels West Springfield helps eligible veterans with in-home tasks which allows those who

prefer to stay in their homes rather than live in a separate facility.

Visiting Angels West Springfield is offering in-home care for veterans who meet specific service, disability, income, and asset criteria in order to be eligible for these VA programs.

To figure out if a veteran is eligible to receive assistance from these programs, they can contact the Visiting Angels West Springfield office at (413) 733-6900 for more information and assistance with the application process.

BULLYING from Page 12

enforced at every corner.

Get people involved. To get more community members engaged in addressing the issue, hold community events, have guest speakers, forums,

question and answer sessions, etc. People need the facts and how to handle it, and they can get the answers at these events.

"Your community will feel the difference it makes once you get started addressing the issue together," adds Smalley. "Our youth doesn't live in a

bubble, they are part of the community, so it's time for us to all stand together on this issue."

Some signs may signal a child is being bullied, such as having sudden changes in school attendance, having dif-

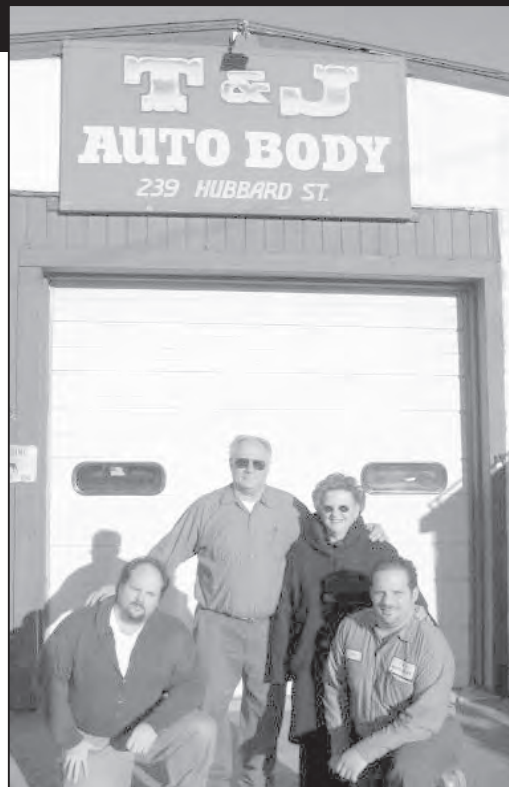
ficulty concentrating, lacking the ability to be self-assertive, having injuries without an explanation of where they came from, a loss of appetite before going to school, etc. If a parent or teacher suspects a child is being bullied, the issue should be investigated and remedied immediately.

Smalley and his wife, Laura, started the organization following their 11-year-old son ending his own life due to bullying. They turned their pain and loss into a mission of helping others. He travels the country giving presentations about bullying to schools, providing bullying prevention, giving out scholarships, offering intervention strategies, and more. Those interested in getting involved can start a chapter of the group in their area, obtain a free K-2 bullying prevention curriculum, host a presentation at their school, and donate to help support the cause. To get more information, visit the site at: <https://standforthisilent.org/>.

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Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthington-highway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department, P.O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

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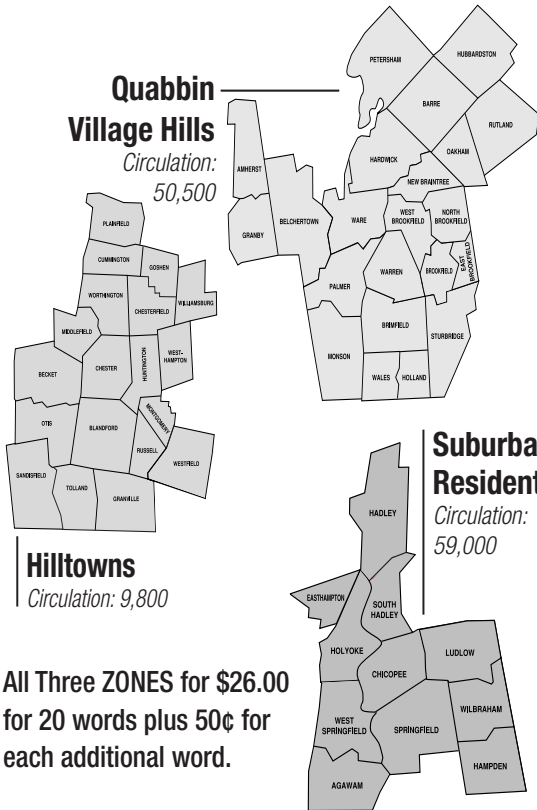
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13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
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23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
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Historic fundraising effort aims to bolster region's health

SPRINGFIELD -- Baystate Health has announced an historic \$70 million comprehensive fundraising effort. Healthier Tomorrows: The Campaign for Baystate Health is the largest fundraising goal in Baystate Health's history and focuses on raising money for three critical areas: capital needs, program support, and endowment development.

"This campaign changes the face of healthcare in our region," said Baystate Health President and CEO Dr. Mark Keroack. "Our vision is to improve the health of everyone in our community by recruiting top-tier medical providers, building cutting-edge spaces for them to practice in, enhancing our services to meet the changing needs of the people we serve, and ensuring Baystate Health is here to stay for the long haul."

The \$70 million goal funds several initiatives including a state-of-the-art surgical facility at Baystate Medical; renovated Family Medicine practice and teaching space at Baystate Franklin; a Center for Nursing Excellence at Baystate Medical; and support for the endowment, with the purpose of increasing fiscal resilience for the organization.

Community members and Baystate Health providers and staff gathered on the evening of September 18 to celebrate the campaign's launch. The event, originally planned to be held in the Bolduc Family Courtyard at Baystate Medical Center, was moved inside due to inclement weather. The courtyard was made possible by a recent gift from the Bolduc Fam-



Submitted photos
Dr. Mark Keroack, President and CEO, Baystate Health

ily and their Hope for Youth & Families Foundation.

Lead donors have already contributed generously toward the \$70 million goal. In addition to funds for the Bolduc Family Courtyard, campaign support includes a grant from the Irene E. & George A. Davis Foundation in support of the new Operating and Interventional Procedural Rooms at Baystate Medical Center, two named endowed clinical chairs, program contributions toward the Family Medicine Residency Program and mobile health, and support of annual giving and events which reach systemwide.

"Baystate Health has been providing high-quality, compassionate healthcare to this community since the 1880s," said Dr. Andrew Artenstein, chief physician executive and chief academic officer at Bay-



Left to right: Sheldrick Streete, Chief Operating Officer, Baystate Medical Center and Vice President, Hospital Operations, Baystate Health; Dr. Andrew Artenstein, Chief Physician Executive and Chief Academic Officer, Baystate Health; Joanne Miller, Chief Nurse Executive, Baystate Health and Chief Nursing Officer, Baystate Medical Center; Dr. Mark Keroack, President and CEO, Baystate Health; Samuel Skura, President, Baystate Medical Center and Senior Vice President of Hospital Operations, Baystate Health; Scott Berg, Vice President of Philanthropy, Baystate Health, Executive Director, Baystate Health Foundation

state Health, and president at Baystate Medical Practices. "It is our sincere hope that our promise to advance care and enhance lives will continue for the next century and beyond. This campaign helps us secure our mission well into the future."

The \$70 million goal of Healthier Tomorrows: The Campaign for Baystate Health is comprehensive, meaning all gifts made during the campaign count toward the historic goal.

"With roots dating to the founding of Springfield Hospital in 1883, Baystate has benefitted over the years from the generosity of community donors who have helped our organization to grow into the largest healthcare system in western Massachusetts," said Scott Berg, vice president of philanthropy for Baystate Health and executive director of Baystate

Health Foundation.

"Today, every contribution, no matter the size and no matter what the donor chooses to direct it toward, matters in this campaign as Baystate continues its essential role in the health of the people in our communities. Everyone has a stake in Healthier Tomorrows. We are truly all in this together."

Baystate Health's last campaign concluded in 2012. The \$23 million raised supported building the shell of the Hospital of the Future wing, including space for a new emergency department and the Davis Family Heart & Vascular Center. Healthier Tomorrows: The Campaign for Baystate Health will help complete much of the shell space as intended to accommodate new technology and meet the growing needs of the community.

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