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# The REGISTER

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Hard-working Lions fall to Agawam



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DATEBOOK

Upcoming events

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.

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Hubbard Happenings

SEE PAGE 14



## 250th Committee congratulates Christmas Decorating Contest Winners



Submitted photos

Joyce Siok of Miller Street won first place in this year's Christmas Decorating Contest.

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – Last week, the winners for the 250th Christmas Decorating Contest for 2023 were chosen and awarded their prizes.

Third place went to Maria Nadeau on Dale Street, and Second Place went to Ross and Michele Dominique of Edison

Drive. The first place winner was Joyce Siok of Miller Street.

Last weekend, after looking over 32 entries around town, the judges went out to each of the winner's houses to present them with their prizes.

Silva said that when the judges approached her house to congratulate her, Siok started crying

Please see **CONTEST WINNERS**, Page 3



The second place winners were the Dominique family on Edison Drive, after taking home first place for the Halloween Contest.



Third prize went to the Nadeau family on Dale Street.

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

JAN. 18

### Voters will decide BPW dissolution question

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – At a Special Town Meeting held Jan. 9 precinct representative members approved putting the question of dissolving the Board of Public Works on the ballot in March. The vote was 36 in favor and 25 against.

Ahead of the vote, BPW Chairman Stephen Santos, addressed the claims of departmental mismanagement and announced he would not be running for a position on the board again.

“It has been my honor to serve on the BPW, and although I will not be there after March 27, I sincerely want to see all the positive efforts of the current board to continue,” Santos said. “The board is primarily made up of members with construc-

tion and administrative experience.”

Selectman Derek Debarge spoke about why he thinks Ludlow should dissolve the BPW.

“My biggest goal to run for the Board of Selectmen was to change this form of government, and since it moves at such a snail’s pace – and at this point it’s because of this, Town Meeting, that our government runs at a snail’s pace,” he said.

Carlton Leonard, a Precinct 3 representative, said, “I worked, for a number of years, making an effort to see the town’s form of government changed. I watched the politics of the old ways interfere with the process, and we’re all here tonight with a lot of part-timers doing their best to put patches on an old pair of jeans; the pants need to be changed.”

JAN. 25

### Governor visits Ludlow Mills to speak about housing development bill

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – The Ludlow Mills welcomed Gov. Maura Healey, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll and other state officials on Jan. 19 to show their support for the Mills Housing Complex, and to talk about the Immediate Needs Bond Bill she has filed, which would provide more funding for projects such as this one.

“You can see the pride that facilities like this mean to a community,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. “Both the history of it, going back to, Jake (Oliveira), your story about your family starting here, what this particular space meant to this community. We saw that, frankly, in North Adams as well; we have an embarrassment of riches

when it comes to older historical structures, and the key to unlocking that potential is the partnership that exists. Kudos to community leaders here in Ludlow and the private sector partners. It’s one thing to have an idea, and yet another thing to make it actually happen.”

“This particular space has lots of memories and meaningful impact on the community,” Driscoll said. “It can (...) need some TLC, as we might say, but through the passage of time it can once again have that meaningful impact in the community. That’s good for Ludlow, that’s good for our commonwealth, and we certainly want to continue that strong partnership.”

Please see **YEAR IN REVIEW**, Page 4

# LUDLOW

## Nomination papers available for the March 2024 Annual Town Election

LUDLOW – Nomination papers for the March 25, 2024, Annual Town Election are available through February 2, 2024. Town Hall is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Tuesday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Two openings for Board of Selectmen (three year terms)

One opening for Board of Assessors (three year term)

One opening for Board of Health (three year term)

One opening for Library Trustee (three year term)

One opening for Recreation Commission (three year term)

One opening for School Committee (three year term)

One opening for Planning Board (five year term)

One opening for Ludlow Housing

Authority (five 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.

Nomination papers for all the above offices must be filed at the Town Clerk's office by 5 p.m. on February 2, 2024.

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. 1230.



**Our First Big Event of 2024!**

Visit us at [Ludlowma250.org](http://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.

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## Nugget's second chance

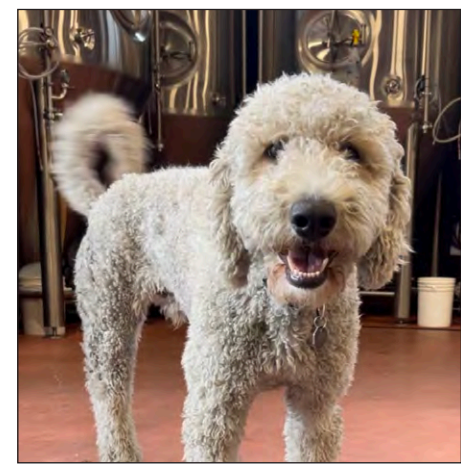
EAST BROOKFIELD— Nugget, formerly known as Natty, faced unimaginable pain and adversity when he arrived at Second Chance Animal Services with a severe leg injury. The dedicated team at Second Chance worked tirelessly to save his leg, but ultimately, the decision to amputate was made to ensure Nugget's comfort and quality of life.

In a heartwarming twist of fate, Nugget caught the attention of Matt and Nellie Zarif, the generous owners of Timberyard Brewing Company and longtime supporters of Second Chance. The brewery, known for its commitment to the community, had not only donated to Second Chance but also hosted events and provided storage for a large donation.

Nugget's story resonated with the Timberyard team, who had just started hosting popular puppy yoga classes to benefit Second Chance, led by the talented yoga instructor Audrey Martinez. The classes, held monthly, include a visit from friendly adoptable dogs available at Second Chance, who romp around the taproom while attendees work on their yoga moves.

Nugget, now thriving after his surgery, found his forever home with the Zarifs, joining a loving pack that includes three young boys and another three-legged dog, Lucy. Nugget's dog-sister wears a prosthetic leg and goes to work with her dog mom, Nellie Zarif, a prosthetist at Hanger Clinic in Worcester, where she helps to inspire people with limb loss.

Nellie considered making a prosthesis for Nugget but quickly realized that he did not need one due to the nature of his amputation and his young age. "He is so fast on three legs that four legged dogs have a hard time keeping up with him," said Lindsay Doray, chief development officer at Second Chance, who expressed admiration for Nugget's resilience. "We were in awe of his determination."



Submitted Photo

**Nugget, once known as Natty, came to Second Chance with a severe leg injury and is now the Timberyard Brewery dog.**

As a proud member of the Timberyard family, Nugget comes to work with Matt Zarif every day and has become a local sensation. The staff from Second Chance, including the veterinarian that performed his surgery, stop by the brewery from time to time to visit him. "Nugget is the smartest dog that I have ever met," said Matt Zarif. "Like-Lassie level smart; when you talk to this dog, he understands you. He's the perfect brewery dog, so well behaved, sweet, and friendly. He loves being a part of the action."

Nugget has embraced his role as a dogfluencer, delighting visitors at Timberyard and stealing the spotlight in social media posts. His favorite gig? Greeting attendees on puppy yoga mornings. He's even been spotted auditioning with Santa for a chance to be a reindeer, sitting patiently next to Santa for hours during his visits to the brewery, posing for photos with happy families, and helping to fundraise for a local charity. Nugget's journey from pain to fame is a testament to the power of love, resilience, and a community that cares.

### Sale of Real Estate Under M.G.L. C. 183A:6

**Friday, January 5, 2024 @ 12:00 noon**

18 Palmer Road, Unit 5, Monson, MA  
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## Sourdough Workshop to be held at Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM – Baker and food blogger Sourdough Brandon will present his Sourdough Starter Workshop at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, Jan. 22 from 6 – 7 p.m. Attendees will learn how to build, maintain, and store a sourdough starter and will even receive a free sample to get baking. Online registration is required, and space is limited. To register, please contact the library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org). This free program is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

## Ludlow resident inducted into Psychology Honor Society

SPRINGFIELD— Katlin Mowry of Ludlow is among eighteen American International College students who have been inducted into Psi Chi, the International Honor Society of Psychology. The induction ceremony was held in the AIC Campus Center on Nov. 30, 2023.

The College recently reinstated its chapter of one of the largest

honor societies in the country.

Psi Chi was founded in 1929 with a mission to recognize and promote excellence in the science and application of psychology. To be inducted into Psi Chi is an esteemed honor. Students must be in the top 35% of their class, have a major or minor in psychology, and have excelled in their psychology courses.

## Spiritual Healing to return to Federated Community Church

HAMPDEN – The Federated Community Church of Hampden, located on Main Street, will be offering

Spiritual Healing on the first Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m., beginning in January.

### CONTEST WINNERS from Page 1

tears of joy.

“Her house is as beautiful during the day as it is at night,” said one of the judges, Cindy Saleh. “She did all the carvings and craftsmanship herself. It’s not far from my house so I pass it all the time.”

Pictures of each of the winners’ displays were taken by David Sady, who uploaded links to his Facebook so anyone can see the decorations in detail.

The second place winners, the Dominiques, also won first place in the Halloween Decorating contest in October, and the judges praised them for going all out for both contests.

“It was unbelievable, the workmanship and the time they put into it,” Saleh said. “There should have been more people joining it, but maybe next year it will be larger.”



The Dominique family’s display on Edison Drive was lit up at night.



The Dale Street display by the Nadeau family was photographed at night.

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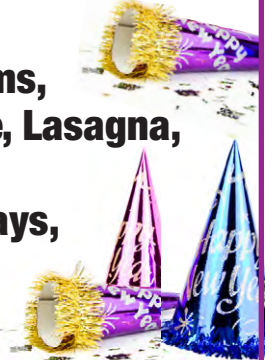
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# YEAR IN REVIEW - 2023

## YEAR IN REVIEW from Page 1

State Sen. Jake Oliveira, D-Ludlow, introduced Healy before the tour, speaking to his family history with the Mills, and thanking the gathered speakers for their continued support of the restoration of the historic buildings.

“This Ludlow Mills Complex is not only something that’s part of our history, but it’s also our town symbol,” Oliveira said. “This last legislative cycle, the Massachusetts House of Representatives and the Massachusetts Senate invested nearly \$7.7 million for affordable housing and infrastructure updates to make sure that this mill complex comes to light, and we are just on

the cusp of making that a reality.”

State Rep. Aaron Saunders, D-Ludlow, was also spoke to the success of the project.

“As we continue a conversation about housing across the commonwealth, we are standing in the living room of how we do this right,” Saunders said. “I want to thank West Mass for providing the example that I think we can follow across the commonwealth, for finding ways for ample, affordable, market-rate housing, to meet the demands that we have in the commonwealth now. The transformation, for folks that have been here, is nothing short of amazing. Thank you again, you’re welcome back anytime.”

FEB. 1

## Town-wide 250th celebration planned

*Committee needs community involvement*

By Marcella Comerford  
Reporter  
mcomerford@turley.com

LUDLOW — Residents may have heard about the grand celebration being planned for the town’s birthday in 2024, and the 250th Semi-Quincentennial Committee needs

everyone’s help to make it happen.

Committee Chairwoman Linda Chapman Collette said the committee wants to include everyone in town, and the committee has reached out to veterans groups, Hubbard Memorial Library, the Historical Commission and other organizations and institutions. The Committee has been holding a series of open house events to encourage participation, recruit volunteers and showcase



*A Time to Celebrate,  
A Time to Come Together,  
A Time to Reflect and Remember,  
A Time to Share Our Appreciation  
and Best Wishes With Folks Like You!*

As we wind down the year and look ahead to a new one, we can’t help but be moved by the trust and support we’re so fortunate to have from all of you here in the community. We thank you sincerely for believing in us and choosing us as your local, hometown newspaper. We hope you know how much we’ve enjoyed spending time with all of you in 2023. From our family to yours, best wishes for health, happiness and prosperity in 2024. We hope your New Year celebrations are just the beginning of more good times, good health, good people and good fortune to come.

*Happy New Year!*  
The  
**REGISTER**

periods in Ludlow history.

“Our goal is to really include everybody, families and young parents, civic groups, churches, Exit 7 Players, businesses, schools, really anyone who has been or is involved in the town,” Chapman Collette said.

She said the goal is an all-inclusive celebration and to get everyone

in the community excited and participating in a commitment to commemorate the town.

To volunteer, donate, or inquire about the celebration, email ludlowma250@gmail.com. Information can also be found on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter by searching for Ludlow Mass 250th, or visiting www.ludlowma259.org.

FEB. 23

## CARES distributes Valentine’s Day bags to Senior Center

By Marcella Comerford  
Reporter  
mcomerford@turley.com

LUDLOW – Distributing Valentine’s Day gift bags to local seniors is just part of the CARES Coalition’s overall mission to facilitate cohesiveness in the Ludlow community.

Ludlow CARES is an all-volunteer foundation dedicated to improving mental health and providing educational support to members of the community, young and old. The volunteers come from all sorts of different local organizations, including members from the library, the Fire Department, the Police Department, the school administration, students at the middle and high school, the 250th Committee, and Our Lady of Fatima Parish.

Peter Leonczyk, a volunteer advisory board member for CARES and financial advisor for the Pioneer Valley Financial Group, has become a spokesperson for the CARES Coalition, and an advocate for their mission to recognize mental health awareness.

“We continue to see more and more members of the community and other organizations participate,” said Leonczyk, “That alone is exciting as CARES evolves.”

The Valentine’s Day gift bags are designed to lift the spirits of local seniors, and let them know that the group is thinking of them. This year, over 250 bags were filled, most of which were delivered during lunch at the Senior Center, with the Take-and-Eat program taking a couple of them.

## LHS and other schools see bomb threat hoaxes

By Marcella Comerford  
Reporter  
mcomerford@turley.com

LUDLOW – The Police Department is currently investigating a fake bomb threat that was called in last week at the high school, believed to be part of a series of “swatting” prank calls.

At approximately 11:50 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15, Ludlow Central Dispatch received a 911 call reporting that a man was standing in front of Ludlow High School, holding a bomb. The dispatchers contacted the school’s administration while patrol officers were sent to the area.

After checking the perimeter, the officers on the scene confirmed that there was no such person near the premises. Following conversations with the principal and vice principal, they determined that the call was a hoax, and that there

was never any danger to the students or staff.

Two more false alarms were raised the same day, at Northampton High School at around 12:14 p.m., and at South Hadley High at 1:15 p.m. The day before, similar hoaxes were called in at schools in Springfield, Greenfield and Great Barrington, spreading as far as the Boston area.

“We are aware of several hoax ‘swatting’ telephone threats that were made today, in addition to those yesterday, reporting threats of violence to be committed at schools in Massachusetts,” said the Massachusetts State Police Media Relations last week. “Similar hoax calls have been reported throughout the United States. We are assisting local police departments in investigating the source of threats made yesterday and today.”

Please see **YEAR IN REVIEW**, Page 5

*Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?*

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# YEAR IN REVIEW - 2023

MARCH 1

## Local public school teachers honored with 'Excellence' awards

By Anne Marie Corrieri  
Correspondent

LUDLOW — Superintendent of Schools Frank Tiano and the principals at Ludlow High School, Baird Middle School, Harris Brook Elementary School and East Street Elementary School recently presented prestigious Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching awards to local teachers.

The Ludlow educators who were honored are:

Emily Conroy, social studies teacher at Ludlow High

This marks Conroy's first year teaching at LHS, having taught one year at Hampden Charter School of Science West before coming "back home" to LHS, where she graduated in 2017. Currently, she teaches 10th and 11th-grade history (U.S. 1, World History 2, and U.S. 2).

Conroy, who said "This is my dream job" called the award an "amazing honor" and that she was "happy and thankful for being recognized, especially as a new teacher."

She added, "I'm thankful for my students and colleagues who make every day the best day. I've always known I wanted to be a teacher, and my time as a student in the Ludlow Public Schools helped reinforce that decision. I love being back at LHS teaching and inspiring my students the way my teachers inspired me. I will remember this moment throughout my teaching career."

Jodi Yarkey, second grade teacher at

Harris Brook Elementary

During her career, Yarkey has supported students and colleagues beyond the classroom in a variety of ways. She helped establish a summer reading program for students, ran an after-school club for the student council for approximately three years, and for 10 years, was the grade level leader in second grade, stepping down from this position last year. Yarkey was also elected as the co-president of the Ludlow Education Association, serving alongside Nancy Raymond for the last seven years.

Yarkey's students gave their teacher nonstop accolades when learning of this prestigious award sharing comments such as "she is kind and the best teacher in the world, she does fun stuff in our classroom"; "she is super playful and nice, she takes time away from the things she needs to do so she can do fun stuff with us" and, "I want to stay in her class forever!"

Nicole Carbonneau, kindergarten teacher at East Street School

This marks Carbonneau's 20th year teaching kindergarten in the Ludlow Public Schools, first at Veterans Park School and currently at East Street School. Carbonneau is a proud LHS Class of 1999 graduate. Following her graduation, she attended Becker College, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood and later earned a Master's Degree in Education from Westfield State University.

Carbonneau said she was shocked when learning she received this honor.

MARCH 15

## Salazar reflects on time with Boys & Girls Club

By Marcella Comerford  
Reporter  
mcomerford@turley.com

LUDLOW — After five years of passionate service for the families in town, Mechilia "Chile" Salazar is stepping down as president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Club.

"I know some people don't like framing it as a family," Salazar said. "But nonetheless, I refer to our staff here as family, and I feel emotional about it because that's so important."

"What they say is true: once you become part of the Boys & Girls family, you always bleed blue," she said. "So when I heard that, I knew it must be meant to be. It was truly the best of both worlds."

Salazar recently talked about her many accomplishments in the five years since she took over the club, including serving upwards of 2,500 to over 3,000 young people per year, and hundreds of adults in the community, building a brand new Maker Space, starting adult fitness classes like Pound Fitness, and Sensory Saturdays, which make children with special

needs or disabilities feel welcome and comfortable, as well as production on new sports courts and talks of starting a teaching kitchen.

"I came in like a crazy lady from the city, having a million ideas and constantly challenging our team," she said, but added it was because she was "always pushing everybody to be their best selves."

Salazar sees endless opportunities to continue working with the Boys & Girls Club in her new position with the Hope for Youth and Families Foundation, and spoke highly of working with organizations like Ludlow CARES, the Rotary Club and the Board of Health.

"There's just so much pride, and I hope this community never loses that and never forgets the role that the club has played in making this such a special town to live and work in," she said. "I would say all our efforts touch in some way, every other aspect that exists in the town, and for us to be a part of the wonderful group at Ludlow CARES, the Rotary Club, the ERC5 business chamber and working with the Board of Health."

MARCH 29

## School budget, town election discussed

By Marcelo Gusmao  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW — Town elections, elected boards, and the school budget were among the topics of discussion during last week's Board of Selectmen meeting, the last one before this Monday's election.

Town Administrator Marc Strange talked about the school budget. After discussions during previous meetings about the school's request for a 9% budget increase, the selectmen asked the Town Administrator to update them on the school budget.

Strange said the governor's budget proposal would add about \$608,000 to the overall town budget. Though these numbers may change once the House and Senate have reviewed the proposal, "traditionally the final numbers haven't

changed dramatically," Strange said.

"As we look at the budget, we're about \$540,000 under capacity, so in terms of what that means in terms of the schools, if we were to increase the budget, the increase for the schools from three to four percent, that'd (cost) about \$350,000 or so, and if we go to 5% it'd be about \$680-\$690,000."

Strange said that, in meeting with Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano and Director of Operations Kathy Demetrius, he observed that "they're doing the same thing we are, they're trying to figure out where their inefficiencies are. They found some things that's going to lighten their load a little bit."

Strange said the vote on the treasurer/collector position would help to free up some funds.

Please see **YEAR IN REVIEW**, Page 7

MARCH 8

## Police Department swears in Sgt. Vigneault

By Marcella Comerford  
Reporter  
mcomerford@turley.com

LUDLOW — The Police Department swore in Brandon Vigneault as its newest sergeant last week.

"It's definitely a lot of emotion," Vigneault said. "I didn't really see this coming. If I look back, I never thought I'd be taking this position, so I'm really happy."

A Ludlow native, Vigneault has been serving the town for more than 10 years, and has served in a variety of positions with the department, as an officer, with the detective bureau, and as part of the Hampden County Special Response Team.

Last Wednesday, Vigneault was officially sworn in by Town Clerk Kim Batista in a ceremony at the Police Department, overseen by Police Chief Daniel Valadas and with Vigneault's family

and fellow police officers in attendance. When asked what he hopes to see from the department as a sergeant, Vigneault took the time to praise Valadas' leadership.

"I think we just gotta keep on track with what Chief Valadas is doing," Vigneault said. "He's a great leader and I think he's just trying to instill the best in all of us."

Vigneault comes from a family of police officers. His father, Dana Vigneault, is a retired detective, who described him as "a good kid."

"He was in the detective bureau for a little while," the elder Vigneault said, "I'm glad he chose to go with the sergeant route and advance his career a little bit."

"I'm happy to follow in your footsteps," Vigneault told his father.

"I'm very proud to take this position," Vigneault said, "I'm very proud of my upbringing. I couldn't be happier."

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# OPINION

## GUEST COLUMN



**Sandhill crane**

Rick Hendra of Oakham took this photo of sandhill cranes foraging in a field on Stone's Road in Oakham.

In his email, he wrote, "I took this picture this morning (Sunday, Dec. 17) about halfway up Stone Road. Their call was so loud it startled me from 50 yards away. And they were large, but oddly colored."

The sandhill crane is a tall bird about 45 inches, gray colored with a dark red patch on the forehead and a black bill. They have staining of feathers on their back and tail caused by the iron rich soil on its beak when it preens feathers. The immature crane lacks the red patch and has an orange bill. It also may have more rust colored feathers on the back and tail.

The sandhill crane summers on prairies and tundra and during winter feed on agricultural fields and roost in shallow water. For several years now, Hardwick had a pair of nesting sandhill cranes, who successfully raised chicks.

The female lays one to three olive eggs with dark marks in a mound like nest of marsh plants, grasses and weeds either placed on the ground or shallow water. Courtship displays are seen during migration and involve graceful jumps off the ground in a dancing manner.

Many years ago, Richard Jankauskas, saw some in a field on South Street in Barre. He commented about a pair jumping up and down and dancing.

Their voice is a low pitched "karoo, karoo, karoo." Rick Hendra mentioned their call in his email printed above.

### Bird count

A Brimfield resident, who visits ponds in Warren, Brimfield, Holland and Sturbridge with his wife listed birds seen on Dec. 8. They included 210 Canada geese, 93 mallards, 70 hooded mergansers, three black ducks, two pied-billed grebes, one great blue heron, one bald eagle, two crows, one white-breasted nuthatch, two black-capped chickadees, three bluebirds, four house finches, one goldfinch, six white-throated sparrows, six dark-eyed juncos and three cardinals.

He also emailed in late November, "I checked the ponds in Warren and there were 14 hooded

mergansers very actively feeding and a very cold looking great blue heron that looked like it was not enjoying the 36 degree temperature.

### Christmas bird count

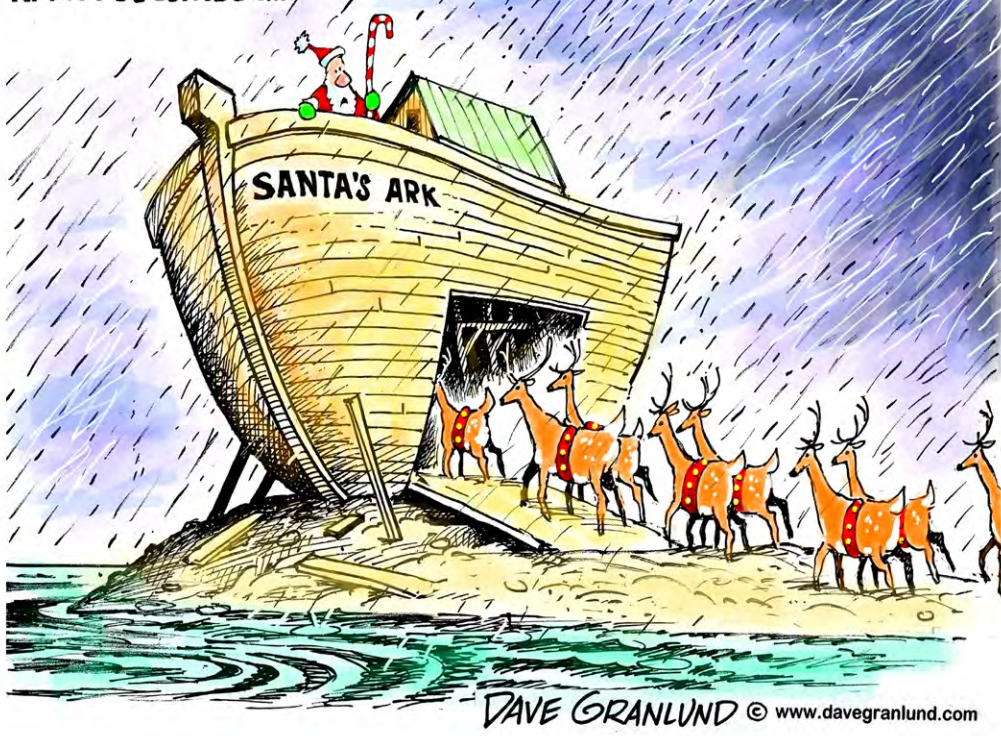
For over 120 years the Audubon Society has been doing a Christmas bird count and this year is no different. People can participate in an organized count or just do one on their own in their backyard.

### Decline in bird numbers

I received an email on Wednesday, Nov. 29 from a long time birder. He said, "[I] regularly feed them but have noticed a steep drop off of the number and type of birds since around September. Right now we have a loyal troop of blue jays and that's about it. Usually we have copious amounts of starlings, chickadees, grackles, crows, titmice, cardinals, juncos, etc."

He said he asked many people about

RAINY DECEMBER...



## GUEST COLUMN



### Kissinger left complex foreign policy legacy

Possibly no one had more influence on American foreign policy in the late 20th century than Henry Kissinger, who died last month at age 100. In his long and active career, he advised presidents, carried out policies and initiatives, and was a highly visible figure around the world.

While it's early to pronounce judgment on his legacy, it's clear that his impact is deeply mixed. His accomplishments were both positive and negative. He was respected and he was reviled.

Kissinger is the only person to have served as national security adviser and secretary of state at the same time, positions he held in the Nixon and Ford administrations. He was brilliant and secretive, and he wasn't much focused on the human cost of his policies.

He was interested in strategy, not values.

He showed little interest in democratic governance or transparency. A creature of the executive branch, he seemed to almost scorn the idea of three separate and coequal branches of government.

You sometimes got the impression he had contempt for Congress.

I was not close to Kissinger, but our paths did cross on foreign policy matters. I served in Congress, and we approached policy from different perspectives. Coincidentally, we were both connected to the commission that investigated the 9/11 attacks.

Kissinger was the original pick to chair the group, and former Sen. George Mitchell was to be vice chair. Both stepped down because of perceived conflicts of interest.

Former New Jersey Gov. Tom Kean chaired the 9/11 Commission, and I was vice chair.

Kissinger's view of the world, which he characterized as sober realism, may have been influenced by his background as a Jew who spent his childhood in Nazi Germany, before his family fled and settled in New York. He was a very talented man and, wherever he went, in academic, policy circles and government, he rose to power very quickly.

In the 1970s, Kissinger was widely praised for his diplomatic work. When he was named secretary of state in 1973, a Gallup Poll found him to be the most respected man in the world.

He engineered President Richard Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972, opening the door to improved U.S.-Chinese relations and ultimately reshaping the geopolitical map. He promoted détente with the Soviet Union, helping to reduce Cold War tensions.

In the Middle East, his tireless shuttle diplomacy improved relations between Israel and its neighbors. These were real accomplishments.

Kissinger shared the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize for negotiating the agreement that ended the Vietnam War. His critics found that highly ironic.

During the war, Kissinger orchestrated the U.S. bombing and invasion of Cambodia, which expanded the conflict and fueled a civil war that eventually brought the Khmer Rouge to power, resulting in up to three million deaths. The Cambodia disaster was Exhibit No. 1 for critics who accused Kissinger of war crimes, but he was also tied to a brutal military coup in Chile, Indonesia's bloody invasion of East Timor, a violent civil war in East Pakistan and other foreign policy disasters.

Kissinger later had a lucrative career in consulting. He clearly enjoyed being a celebrity, rubbing elbows with rich and powerful people and being photographed with glamorous women.

He became a great figure on the social circuit in Washington. Getting Kissinger to attend your dinner was a big achievement.

Henry Kissinger left quite a stamp on American foreign policy. He was a master of developing strategy and exercising power.

But American greatness isn't just about using force and gaining advantage. It also relies on our faith in democratic governance and our belief in human rights and the dignity of all people.

There's a place for sober realism, but American foreign policy should be grounded in our values.

*Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

this phenomena and "they have noticed the same thing but can't explain it either. We are all aware of some birds heading South but the sheer volume has dropped dramatically."

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

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# YEAR IN REVIEW - 2023

APRIL 12

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt draws crowd of hundreds

By Marcella Comerford  
Reporter  
mcomerford@turley.com

LUDLOW – The Hubbard Memorial Library’s 22nd annual Easter Egg Hunt drew over 500 kids and parents this past Saturday.

Every year, the Children’s Department spends days leading up to Easter weekend stuffing plastic eggs with chocolates and candies. Despite a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the event has not gotten any less popular.

With the help of volunteers and the Friends of the Library, the Children’s Department stuffed over 5,000 eggs, enough for each of the kids at the event to pick up 16 for themselves.

July Siebecker, Head of the Ludlow Library’s Children’s Department, thanked Walgreens for providing candy at a discount, and the Ludlow Police Department for sending an officer to work the event’s security.

Library events like the Easter Egg Hunt are listed on the website at hubbardlibrary.org.

APRIL 19

## School Committee ‘Disappointed’ with Budget

By Marcella Comerford  
Reporter  
mcomerford@turley.com

LUDLOW – The School Committee met last week to discuss the Board of Selectmen’s proposed budget.

Superintendent Dr. Frank Tiano opened by thanking the Board of Selectmen for attending the previous meeting, where they asked that the School Committee wait to vote on the budget until it was finalized.

“Yesterday, in conversation with the Town Administrator, Marc Strange,” said Tiano, “he gave me the dollar amount that, right now, the town has slotted for Ludlow Public Schools in the overall budget, and that number is \$35,949,944, and that represents a 4.31% increase over Fiscal Year 2023.”

According to Tiano, “(The Select Board) believe that that’s a number that they can work with, and for us, that’s a percentage increase more than this district has received in several years.”

“At the same time, it’s still \$1.5 million shy of our level service budget,” Tiano added. “We’re still in a difficult position.”

The School Committee expressed concerns over the lack of funding for the school, citing repeated cuts over previous

years that have made it difficult for the school to meet its requirements.

“This is the fourth or fifth year that we have not had a level service budget,” said Committee member Jeffrey Stratton. “That’s a lot of cutting over a long period of time, and I’m a little disappointed that it seems to be continuing. I think that we have a lot of work to do still to figure out how we can support the schools better.”

“I think our town’s not doing the service for the children in this community,” said Bowler. “I see that our children just don’t seem to be a priority and I don’t understand why, because for four years now, we’ve cut and cut and cut, and our teachers are getting cut.”

Chairman of the School Committee Jeffrey Laing agreed with Bowler, adding that “I don’t like getting to this point every year where we’re telling people that they don’t have a job after we have asked them to come to our district, give their all, work with our kids, do everything we ask, and then at the end of the year – you know, ‘Sorry.’”

The Town Administrator responded to these comments, saying “Town leadership understands the importance of establishing a steadier partnership with the schools to avoid the seemingly annual disagreements over funding.”

APRIL 26

## Selectmen appoint DPW Director

By Marcella Comerford  
Reporter  
mcomerford@turley.com

LUDLOW – The Board of Selectmen met with Jamie Tomas to appoint him Director of the Department of Public Works.

The Selectmen met with Jamie Tomas to interview for the position of Director of the Department of Public Works. This hiring process was previously done by the Board of Public Works, but is now the responsibility of the Select Board after the BPW was dissolved following this year’s town election.

“We’ve always said, we’re not gonna run DPW,” Rosenblum said. “We’re not gonna walk in and do day-to-day, and tell you this person needs to be in this truck. I’m not gonna go on the whiteboard and say this crew goes here, this crew goes there – that’s the Director’s job. We’re

here to help. We’re here to help with funding when we can, and we’re here to support.”

Goncalves asked Tomas what he felt the DPW needed going forward.

“We need staff. We need bodies,” Tomas said.

When asked what qualifications an applicant would need, Tomas said, “The PW1 is just a driver’s license, and pretty much a DOT card so they can drive the bigger trucks, and then the PW2s come along with a CDL.”

Goncalves said to townspeople, “If you know somebody that’s looking for work, hopefully they can get over, get applications to (Tomas), driver’s license, and the will to want to learn and cut some grass, and beautify the town and be part of, probably, a really good team, it looks like, going forward.”

MAY 3

## Ribbon cutting opens new veterans center

By Marcella Comerford  
Reporter  
mcomerford@turley.com

LUDLOW – A space for local veterans to receive care and support is now open for business following a welcome ceremony and open house last weekend.

The Department of Veterans Services invited the community to visit the veterans center on Holyoke Street for the first time, cutting the ribbon and opening its doors to the public.

Director Eric Segundo said he was grateful to bring this project to town in the same year he celebrated 10 years in his

position.

“What an honor it is to celebrate the opening of this center,” Segundo said. “This center is our town’s investment and symbol of the town’s commitment to its veterans, and I feel so thankful to have been a part of it.”

Eagle Scout Ron Snyder was acknowledged for his creation and donation of a flag box for the center, where the American flag will be stored when it is not being flown.

“Ludlow prides itself on providing for three main groups: our children, our se-

niors, and our veterans,” Selectman Derek DeBarge said. “We jumped through hoops to make this happen, but it just proves how much Ludlow cares about our veterans and the lengths we’ll go to provide for them.”

In addition to the food pantry at the center, veterans will be provided with a private office to hold telehealth meetings and virtual job interviews, with access to a computer and printer for resume writing and other professional endeavors.

For more information on the new veterans center, visit ludlowveterans.us.

MAY 10

## Mary Antelope Returns

Photo submitted by Alexa Wurszt

Mary the antelope, who has only one horn due to a birth defect, has been returned unharmed to Lupa Zoo.



MAY 24

## Retiring LHS faculty reflect on years of teaching

By Rebecca Wehner  
Staff Writer  
rwehner@turley.com

LUDLOW – This year, Ludlow High School will say goodbye to three teachers who have made a lasting impact on the school and its students – Martin Fanning, Hollington Lee and Diane Wright.

The three retirees-to-be have over 70 years of teaching experience combined, and now are ready to leave the halls of LHS.

Both Wright and Fanning grew up in Ludlow and raised their children here. Student Support Services teacher Wright graduated from LHS herself, as well as her three daughters, and now has five grandchildren attending school in town and continuing the legacy.

“I have been teaching here for 31 years, 19 of them at Ludlow High,” Wright said. “It is so rewarding to watch the students work hard and achieve their goals, and before you know it they’re seniors and graduating.”

“Time goes by so quickly that I have to enjoy every moment before it’s gone.”

Fanning, who has taught Social Studies at LHS for 30 years, majored in History at UMass Amherst and found himself drawn

to the prospect of teaching after enjoying his experiences in the classroom. Fanning spent five years teaching at Lee High School prior to starting at LHS.

“There are so many different personalities that come into your classroom that if you keep an open mind, you can’t help but learn,” Fanning said. “Of course we have parameters in school and society, but within those parameters there is room for all of us to pursue a path of success and enjoyment.”

Similarly to Fanning, science teacher Lee did not start teaching at LHS, but spent 22 years there once he began his position. After moving to Western Mass from Boston and teaching in Cambridge for four years, Lee taught at West Springfield High School for three years before finding his long-term career here in town.

“I’ve learned patience and flexibility through teaching at LHS,” Lee said. “Students are so much more than a grade could ever represent, and kindness goes a long way when building relationships and a classroom culture.”

Wright, Fanning and Lee will continue teaching at LHS until the last day of school on June 14. Graduating students will get a chance to say goodbye at LHS graduation on June 1.

JUNE 14

## Police and Fire Chiefs advocate against Regional Dispatch

By Marcelo Gusmao  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – At their June 6 meeting, the Board of Selectmen heard arguments for and against partnering with a regional service to run dispatch for the police and fire departments.

Karen Hastings, executive director of WestComm Regional Dispatch, was invited to make a presentation on the benefits the town would have by joining the dispatch service, which would transfer dispatch duties from the Police and Fire Departments to WestComm’s regional center based out of Chicopee.

According to Hastings, WestComm offers resources beyond what the municipality offers, as one of the higher-paying agencies in the area. This ranges from

competitive starting rates for staff, to more sophisticated technology and training in order to serve as a “live crime analysis center.”

Police Chief Dan Valadas and Fire Chief Ryan Pease spoke to the Board against partnering with the service, though he mentioned that he was part of the 9-1-1 service early in its inception, when it was just a telephone.

“Basically you’re looking at a product that we have in Ludlow that’s irreplaceable, and can’t be replicated,” Valadas said.

Valadas and Pease described studies done over the last few years, citing a study done in 2015 by their predecessors, which originally led to the police and fire depart-

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ments, as well as the Department of Public Works, to centralize its dispatch between the departments.

"Ludlow decided that we are going to be a self-sustaining, self-sufficient organization that provides the individual services

(...) for the townspeople of Ludlow and its first responders through one entity," Pease said.

Valadas said that though it might not be the most cost-effective method of running dispatch, "For services, it's the highest quality that you can get."

**JUNE 21**

## Proposed school library policy fails to pass

By **Marcelo Gusmão**  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – At last week's School Committee meeting, the proposed library policy was put to a final vote, which decided that it will not be adopted by the schools.

"This policy, in my mind, is going above and beyond the role of the School Committee," said School Committee member Jeffrey Stratton. "We do have a filter, and that filter is the librarian, and the principals, and the superintendent."

Stratton also said, "We have a policy [for challenging books] already, and I think that it works if you use it."

School Committee Vice Chair Sarah Bowler acknowledged problems with the

existing policy, and said, "I am in favor of maybe creating a subcommittee to look at [the current policy], but not to the extent of what is currently being proposed."

Bowler, a self-described Catholic, pointed out that it would be easy to provide examples of passages from the Bible with material that would be inappropriate according to the library policy, adding "some communities are now banning the Bible from libraries, because of the indignities in the Bible."

At the close of public comments, one resident refused to allow Laing to move on to other business, speaking over him for several minutes before leaving the meeting of his own accord.

Despite the impassioned response from the community, when it came time to vote on the policy, no one seconded the motion to adopt it.

**JULY 5**

## Boys & Girls Club gets a new CEO, Josue Irizarry

By **Marcelo Gusmão**  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – The Community Center and Randall Boys and Girls Club has recently welcomed its new CEO and President Josue Irizarry.

"So far everybody's been so friendly, and so kind," Irizarry said in an interview with the Register, "I had an opportunity to meet some of the board members, and I can see their passion about being here in the community."

The Boys & Girls Club offers everything from preschool programs, to before and after school programs, summer camps, basketball, fitness classes, swimming lessons, and a gym. "It's a great opportunity to impact a lot of families here in Ludlow," Irizarry said.

Irizarry talked about the importance of collaborating with local businesses and organizations to better provide guidance for the town's youth. He mentioned connecting with Westfield Bank and the Rotary Club in his first week, and that he looks forward to connecting with other



Submitted photo

**CEO Josue Irizarry, photographed outside of the new pickleball court.**

individuals in the community.

He said he was "seeing how we can potentially collaborate with other businesses that maybe have a skill set that we may not have, and we have space."

The club has been making some improvements, and Irizarry said they hope to hold a grand opening for their new basketball and pickleball courts next month.

**JULY 12**

## Lupa Zoo hosted 250th Committee's fundraising event

By **Marcelo Gusmão**  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – This past Saturday, the Lupa Zoo partnered with the 250th Committee for a family-oriented fundraising event.

The zoo has often been described as a "hidden gem" in Ludlow, just off of Nash Hill Road. It offers a number of games and activities for families and visitors, along with housing dozens of exotic animals that the zoo cares for.

"Joe Lupa, who is a member of our Committee, offered the Zoo for a fundraiser, so we took him up on it," said

Committee member Sue Corjoy, who said that the funds the Zoo earned from admissions between 5-8 p.m. were donated to the Committee to do further 250th events.

The Committee held a 50/50 raffle, and served food, ranging from hot dogs to chips and drinks.

The 250th Committee has set up fundraising boards by Town Hall and the Hubbard Memorial Library, which will track its journey to raise \$250,000 for the town's anniversary celebration.

The 250th Committee will continue to hold fundraising events in the lead up to the town's anniversary next year.

**JULY 19**

## WestMass gives updates on mill project

By **Marcelo Gusmão**  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – At the recent Board of Selectmen meeting, a representative from WestMass discussed current projections for the completion of the Mill 8 reconstruction, as well as addressing rumors that the project has been the cause of numerous rodent sightings in town.

"We absolutely do not have rats," Jeff Daley of WestMass told the Selectmen.

He added that since the company purchased the Mills in 2011, "we've never seen a rat or had a trace of a rat present in any of the buildings, from the clocktower all the way down to Mill 8."

WestMass expects the construction of Mill 8 to conclude in July of 2024, given the current rate of the project.

"Hopefully, a year from now, it's projected that Mill 8 will be complete," Daley said. "The parking lot and everything out back are getting finished as the project moves forward, and they're blowing through it."

Daley went over WestMass's methods of catching and monitoring animals on the property during the construction, assuring the Selectmen that the company "diligently manage the critters that do come on the site."

"We do have live catch cages, because we do have a possum problem," Daley said. "But I talked to our maintenance guys who have been here well past six-seven years, they've never ever seen a rat dropping, [nor] a rat itself."

During the redevelopment of Mill 10, Daley said that WinnDevelopment put out live traps and found no rats. The same was done with Mill 8, which also yielded no signs of a rat infestation.

"One of the false beliefs is that all those buildings have cellars; none of them have cellars," said Daley, adding the exception of a cellar that was built for the electrical connections from State Street.

"I hope it puts it to rest that everybody's pointing the fingers at the old Mill building project at the end of the street," Daley said. "I can sit here today and attest that we do not have a rat problem."

**AUGUST 9**

## Brave Book Reading protesters outnumber children

By **Marcelo Gusmão**  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – Last Saturday's Brave Books Storytime ended up being a peaceful gathering, with protestors and attendees making their voices and differences heard without incident. The books read were published by Brave Books, including one by former actor Kirk Cameron, many with a religious theme.

The company's website describes the books as an alternative to the current progressive agenda dominating children's literature.

Grace Burek, who organized the book-reading, said it "went very well. The protestors remained very quiet and very respectful."

The counter-protest was organized in part by resident Mia Alves, who described herself as "relieved" that the protest went as well as it did.

"I just added so many people, I couldn't tell who would actually go," Alves said. "It just turned out beautiful; everybody was so positive and friendly. This was the first time meeting each other, for a lot of us."

"Overall, we had about 40 people," said Burek, "They were all coming up to me and thanking me for holding the event."

Though Burek said that the event was not meant as a religious event, the book reading opened and closed with prayers, with the opening prayer led by Ron Lemelin, and the closing prayer by Pastor Hank Bastos.

Alves was concerned that event organizers misled the selectmen by claiming the event was not religious.

"When they went in front of Board of Selectmen, there was one selectman who was concerned that this was overtly religious, and they were assured there would be no preaching or anything at this event," Alves said. "One of our local town preachers, Hank Bastos, was sermonizing and preaching quite clearly at the event."

"I do think that this was misrepresented, it's not innocent and it's part of a larger agenda," Alves said.

"My takeaway is to put a little bit more into the planning," Burek said, lamenting that three weeks was not enough to put the event together. "If I did it again, I would definitely do it under a different title. It would not be in conjunction with Brave Books."

**AUGUST 16**

## Community comes together for Brianna Allen



**Players pose with Brianna Allen, of Ludlow, who is holding a special shirt she received after a game at the Lucitano Club. The game was a fundraiser to help pay for her cancer treatments.**

By **Marcelo Gusmão**  
Staff Writer

LUDLOW – Through collaboration with local organizations like the Lucitano Club and the Elks Lodge, Mike Borecki

has been organizing fundraiser events for the cancer treatments of his niece, Brianna Allen.

"She's a resilient little girl," Borecki

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# YEAR IN REVIEW - 2023

said. Allen is a fourth-grade student who has been undergoing chemotherapy to fight her leukemia.

Borecki, with help from his best friend and “guiding light” Alan Fettes, has been working with Jimmy Fund programs that benefit the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute for over 35 years. One day, he was on Facebook and read a post from someone named Alvarez.

“My brother Billy is married to Gloria Alvarez, who is an aunt,” Borecki said, to Brianna Allen. “I didn’t even have to go any farther, and I decided I wanted to do something, which was the soccer game with Mutiny at the Lucitano.”

A game was held at the Lucitano Club in July to raise funds for Allen’s cancer treatment. “That was a pretty good crowd,” Borecki said. “It poured, and everybody stayed, and it was festive and nice.”

Borecki said that he wanted to invite Allen’s whole class to the show, but

couldn’t because, as school was out, they couldn’t send out permission slips. He designed a shirt for Allen with her name on it, which was presented to her at half-time at the show.

“She didn’t know I was her uncle until we were on the field,” Borecki said. “Then all my brother’s relatives introduced me, and it was special.”

Borecki was able to report that Brianna is taking to her treatments well, having just seen her for a birthday party prior to his interview. “It’s a good week,” he said. “It’s been a good two weeks.”

In order to set up the fundraisers for Brianna, Borecki worked closely with Allen’s nurse Patricia Maggart, and with Lucitano Club owner Joe Ferreira, who he described as a personal friend.

“I can’t say enough about my friends at Ludlow’s Lucitano Club,” Borecki said. “I’ve been playing there probably 60 years. They’re great people, and they’re caring and kind, and they’ve been exceptional to me.”

who are involved in this,” Vice Chair Sarah Bowler said. “I’m hoping that... the teachers and counselors are providing your children the strength that they need.”

“It’s awfully dismaying to hear that some kids are reaching a point in our town and in our schools that they feel like that’s their option out of it,” said Committee Member Jeffrey Stratton.

Chairman Jeffrey Laing said that he believes addressing this should be the Committee’s “number one focus,” and that he will be meeting with Superintendent Frank Tiano to discuss strategies.

“When kids are bullied, they can’t envision it ever ending,” Laing said. “They’re too young to realize the immaturity of their peers and they literally be-

lieve that the comments they are hearing are true flaws in themselves.”

“Bullying and hazing seemed to be the norm back then,” Laing said. “You were either a bully or you got bullied. Schools didn’t start to take it seriously until Columbine and the many other tragedies that followed.”

“This country seems to be going backwards in the way we treat each other,” Laing said. “People’s own insecurities require them to have someone beneath them to prop themselves up.”

For those struggling with thoughts of self-harm, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has a hotline that can be reached by dialing 988. For more information, visit their website at afsp.org.

SEPT. 13

## 250th Committee Golf Tournament a shining success

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – In between this week-end’s rainstorms, the 250th Semi-Quincentennial Celebration Committee held a fundraising golf tournament at Westover Golf Club.

“It went really well,” said the 250th Committee Chair, Linda Collette. “We were so happy that the rain held off until after dinner was served and the prizes were all done.”

Collette said that the tournament had about 100 players, including Fire Chief Ryan Pease and members of the Board of Selectmen, along with residents, club members, and golf experts from all over

the state. The tournament drew players of all ages, including 12-year-old Travis, a sixth grader from Baird Middle School, who Colette was delighted to have participating in the event.

“I love to see the youth get involved like this,” Colette said. “Travis is an avid incredible hockey player, so this is a nice opposite kind of sport, a little bit chill for him, and not as fast paced. He really enjoyed it, he was grinning from ear-to-ear the whole time.”

The participants received gifts, including goodie bags, sets of golf balls from Callaway Golf, and sets of golf tees, ahead of the raffle, which was made possible thanks to the generous donations of gift baskets from residents and supporters of the 250th Committee.

SEPT. 6

## Fun at Festa



Friends Alfred, Edward, Ron, Noelle, Ella, Sophia, and Maxyne posed for a picture while waiting in line at Festa.

OCT. 4

## School Committee discusses bullying among students

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – During the public comments of last week’s School Committee meeting, Elizabeth Proulx-Skura addressed the Committee about an epidemic of self-harm happening among the town’s students.

“Over the last three weeks, two middle school-aged children in this town have

attempted suicide,” Skura said. “Please let that sink in for a minute.”

“These children felt so helpless that they had no other way of coping but to make a drastic decision for themselves.”

Skura read her comments with approval from both the recovering students and their parents, who she knows personally. The Committee members offered their sympathies and support to the families of the students.

“My heart goes out to the families

NOV. 15

## Vietnam Veteran continues to volunteer after surgery

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – This year, Robert Boduch was recognized as Veteran of the Year, and spoke of his volunteer work, his time in Vietnam, and a heart operation.

Boduch described himself as surprised when he heard about the nomination. Earlier this year, at the ribbon-cutting for the Veterans Center, Boduch had a close brush with death.

“I was there at the grand opening, but the next day didn’t go so good for me,” Boduch said. “I went to urgent care, and I coded on the floor. They brought me back, brought me to the hospital, and found out I needed a triple bypass.”

“24 hours later, I wasn’t doing good,” Boduch said. “They had to open me back up again. I had a bleeder. 11 units of blood later, and a lot of aggravation, I’m lucky I’m here.”

Despite this close call, Boduch was

determined to keep working for veterans in the area, and said as much to the Veterans Services Director, Eric Segundo.

Boduch is a veteran from the Vietnam War. He said that four weeks after he married Karen Boduch, to whom he’s still married to this day, he was drafted to serve in field artillery, and was deployed from 1967-68.

“I just do a lot of volunteer work,” Boduch admitted, “especially at the Soldiers’ Home that doesn’t have anybody.”

Boduch said that he has trouble working the cemetery in the summertime due to the temperature, and so he splits his time between working at the Veterans Center and at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home, where he’s been volunteering for eight years.

“They leave them there, they think they’re just staying overnight, and the kids take off,” Boduch said. “Naturally, they get bitter. I try to get them to be a better person by going to see the toughest cases that they have.”

Boduch said, “Loneliness is not good for anybody.”

DEC. 6

## Full house at first annual Santa Breakfast

By Marcelo Gusmão  
Staff Writer  
mgusmao@turley.com

LUDLOW – The 250th Celebration Committee was able to fill two seatings of its Santa Breakfast at Harris Brook Elementary School, with intentions to hold it again next year.

Sisters Kathy Ouimette and Denise Zrakas co-chaired the event, which held two seatings on Saturday, at 8 a.m. and then again at 10 a.m. According to Ouimette, the Committee expected up to 100 attendees for each seating, but even more tickets were sold at the door.

“The one thing that stands out is to see the smiles on all of the kids’ faces, as well as the smiles all the parents had,” said David Sady, who took pictures at the event. “It’s something that is etched in my mind forever.”

Families lined up in the Harris Brook library to take pictures with Santa Claus. Sady said that he took over 300 pictures of kids and families with Santa, and that this was the first time he had ever done something like this, and that he will never forget the experience.

A lot of praise went to Santa, who knew the kids’ names and would call out

parents he recognized, joking with the children about whether their parents were on the Naughty or Nice List. Santa’s presence was arranged by Tony Curto, who suggested holding the breakfast to get more kids involved with the 250th Committee.

The Committee received donations from BJ’s, Costco, Big Y, Pip’s Printing, Zing Ping Pong in Northampton, Vice President of PIP’s Marketing, Michael Tarby, and Chicopee Provision, who donated sausages.

“Liberty Farms, on Center St., they gave us a donation of a tree and a turkey,” Ouimette said. “That was very nice of them. You know how much those things cost? The trees are way expensive...so, that was really nice of them.”

At the end of the day, the leftovers were gifted to the police and fire departments. Everyone who attended said they had a great time, and there are already talks of ways to build the event up for next year.

“I probably had more fun than the kids,” Sady said. “When you do something that you like, it’s really not work. I never expected this, from flying the drone to getting into photography. I’m so glad I found something that I like to do.”

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## Hard-working Lions fall to Agawam

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— Ludlow High School was a busy place last Wednesday evening.

While a holiday concert was being held in the Wrinn Auditorium, the Lion's wrestling team was battling undefeated Agawam in a non-league dual meet down the hall inside Mullins Gymnasium.

After falling behind by 33 points, the Lions clawed back by winning three consecutive matches, which closed the gap to 15 points. The Brownies, who pulled away again by winning the final three matches, remained undefeated with a 57-24

victory before a large crowd.

"Ludlow is an underrated team, and they have a lot of tough kids," said Agawam head coach Armando Ramos. "The final score really doesn't show it, but they gave us all that we good handle tonight. A lot of our guys had to dig deep to win their matches. This is probably our best win so far this season."

The Brownies (4-0), who are members of the Valley League, first three dual meets victories came against Southwick, Holyoke, and Monument Mountain.

Ramos is looking forward to his team's first dual meet of 2024 at league rival Minnechaug Regional on January 4.

"Minnechaug is the team to

beat in our league once again this year," he said. "We'll be competing against them on January 4, and that match is circled on our calendars. They're a fantastic team and we'll have to wrestle our best that night to beat them. We can't make very many mistakes like we did in tonight's match."

Ludlow, who finished at the top of the Valley Wheel league standings a year ago, had a 3-2 record following the home loss. They defeated South Hadley, Smith Vocational, and Northampton and lost to West Springfield.

"I'm glad that we had this

Please see **WRESTLING** Page 13



Turley photos by Gregory Scibelli

Samantha Bertini goes for a tackle takedown.



Davien Smith locks up at 113 pounds.



Riley Morais tries to bring down his opponent at 120.



Chris Goncalves tries to avoid a leg takedown.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Tanner Severyn gets a hit on the boards.

## Lions, Falcons lock up

WEST SPRINGFIELD — In an important matchup for both teams, Ludlow and Minnechaug hockey met up on the ice prior to the Christmas holiday at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield last Thursday night. Ludlow was searching for its first win of the season while Minnechaug was looking to improve to 3-1. The result of the matchup was not available as of press time.



Luke Martin gets the puck behind the Minnechaug goal.

## Mateus' 19 points pace Lions

LUDLOW — Last Tuesday evening, Ludlow High School boys basketball improved to 2-2 on the season with a 62-56 win over the Hampden Charter School of Science, of Chicopee.

The Lions got three double-digit performances with Jackson Mateus leading the team with 19 points.

Daniel Krutka had 12 points and Stephen Godreau had 10 points. Mathis Fitzgerald had eight points to contribute to the win.

Ludlow held a one-point lead heading into the final frame, but was able to expand the lead late.

After facing Westfield Tech last Friday, the Lions took the holiday week off and is scheduled to be back in action on Jan. 3 against Westfield High School.



Ryan Goodwin makes a backhand play to keep the puck in the offensive zone.



Nick Deroin looks to circle the goal and go for another approach to shooting.



Cody Sanderson lets go of a wrist shot.

# T-Birds coach gets call to NHL, named interim coach of Blues

*Daniel Tkaczuk will take over as interim head coach in Springfield*

SPRINGFIELD – On Dec. 13, St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced the team has relieved Craig Berube of his coaching duties and named Springfield Thunderbirds head coach Drew Bannister interim head coach. Bannister will travel to St. Louis on Wednesday and serve his first game behind the bench on Thursday when the Blues host the Ottawa Senators.

Bannister, 49, has spent the past three seasons with the Blues' AHL affiliate in Springfield, leading the team to a 93-58-19 regular-season record. The Belleville, Ontario, native has also guided the Thunderbirds to consecutive playoff appearances, including 2021-22, when they won the Eastern Conference and reached the Calder Cup Final.

Bannister began his coaching career in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL), where he spent

three seasons as an assistant with Owen Sound and three as head coach with the Soo Greyhounds. He also served as head coach of the AHL's San Antonio Rampage and as an associate coach with the Utica Comets. As a player, Bannister's career spanned over 20 years and included 164 NHL regular-season games between the Tampa Bay Lightning, Edmonton Oilers, Anaheim Mighty Ducks, and New York Rangers.

In addition, Thunderbirds general manager Kevin Maxwell has announced that Daniel Tkaczuk will take over the head coaching duties in Springfield on an interim basis.

Tkaczuk, 44, joined the St. Louis Blues organization in 2016 as an assistant coach with the club's AHL affiliate, the Chicago Wolves. After spending the 2017-18 season as a Skills Coach with the Blues, he rejoined the AHL affiliate as an assistant coach under Bannister in 2018, a role he has held ever since, including a promotion to Associate Head Coach in 2022.

The Toronto, Ontario native began his coaching career in the OHL

as an assistant coach with the Owen Sound Attack from 2011-15 before spending the 2015-16 season with the Kitchener Rangers. Tkaczuk and Bannister were co-assistant coaches with Owen Sound from 2012-15.

Tkaczuk was the sixth overall draft pick in the 1997 NHL Draft by the Calgary Flames and played 12 professional seasons in both North America and Europe. As a member of the Saint John Flames, Tkaczuk captured a Calder Cup championship in 2000-01. He was tied for second among Flames skaters with 10 goals in the Calder Cup Playoffs that season.

In 286 AHL games with Saint John, the Worcester IceCats, Bridgeport Sound Tigers, Charlotte, Syracuse, Rochester, and Hartford, Tkaczuk posted 59 goals and 109 assists for 168 points. He was a career point-per-game performer in the playoffs, scoring 14 goals and adding 17 assists in 29 career Calder Cup playoff contests. Tkaczuk also skated in 19 NHL games with Calgary, putting up 11 points (four goals, seven assists) in the 2000-01 season.

# Olympic team among eligible Hall candidates

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the list of eligible candidates for the Class of 2024, including several high-profile, first-time nominees, including the 2008 U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team ("Redeem Team"), Vince Carter, Seimone Augustus, Bill Laimbeer, Rick Barnes, Mike Fratello and Penny Taylor.

A first look at the list of eligible nominees will be provided by "NBA Today" on ESPN, hosted by Malika Andrews, with Class of 2023 Hall of Famer Becky Hammon, Kendrick Perkins, Chiney Ogwumike, and Brian Windhorst. A complete list of eligible candidates can be found below.

Finalists from the Honor's Committee for the Class of 2024 will be announced on Friday, February 16, in Indianapolis, Indiana, during NBA All-Star Weekend.

The entire Class of 2024 will be unveiled during the NCAA Final Four in Phoenix, Arizona, on Saturday, April 6, in a nationally televised broadcast.

The announcement time and broadcast network for both the Finalist and the Class Announcement will be announced in the near future.

Enshrinement weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, August 16, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, followed by the Enshrinement ceremony on Saturday, August 17, at Springfield's historic Symphony Hall.

VIP Packages for the Hall of Fame Enshrinement Weekend will go on sale on Friday, February 16. All single-event tickets to the Ceremony, Tip Off Celebration, and Awards Gala, as well as other ancillary events, will go on sale on Saturday, April 6, at 12:00 p.m. EST. All packages and tickets will be available for purchase at hoopball.com.

The complete listing of events and pricing will be released by Feb. 1.

The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame also announced changes to its election process that will more carefully examine candidates from the International, Men's Veteran's, Women's Veteran's, and Contributor Committees. Since 2011, the Hall of Fame has allowed these categories to be stand-alone 'direct-elect' committees with the objective of ensuring candidates who may have 'fallen through the cracks' received focused and specialized consideration in these various categories. The Election Process Committee has determined that this objective of more acute consideration has been met during this 12-year period, and now candidates put forth from these categories will revert back to the previous and traditional process of being presented for final consideration to the Honors Committee for election.

# Granite State announces Pro Stock Series 2024 schedule

WALPOLE, N.H. – Granite State Pro Stock Series officials announced Friday the schedule of events for the 2024 racing season. The series slate includes a nine-race championship battle spread from May to October, with the championship event taking place at Lee USA Speedway's Octoberfest weekend.

The Granite State Pro Stock Series will visit five different tracks in 2024: Lee, Star Speedway, Claremont Motorsports Park, Riverside Speedway and Speedway 95. The schedule begins with the annual 100-lap spring event at Star Speedway in Epping, New Hampshire, this year on Saturday, May 4 with a Friday night practice on May 3. From there, teams will roll to Claremont Motorsports Park for the Memorial Day weekend, with a main event set for Sunday, May 26.

On Saturday, June 8, the series will make the first of two visits to Lee USA Speedway. That will be followed by the first of two races at Hermon, Maine's Speedway 95

on Saturday, June 16. After a few weeks off, the schedule continues with a return to Claremont for Independence Day weekend on Friday, July 5 with a special event.

The high-banks of Hudson International Speedway will host the series again on Sunday, July 14, while Riverside Speedway returns to the schedule with an event on Saturday, August 10. The final two events of the year will take place at Speedway 95 on Sunday, September 15 and Lee's Octoberfest weekend, where the champion will be decided, on Saturday and Sunday, October 5-6.

"Our 2024 schedule is shaping up to be one of the best in our history," Mike Parks, President of the Granite State Pro Stock Series, said. "Return trips to places like Star, Speedway 95, Lee USA and Riverside, mixed with us getting back on the high-banks of Hudson, will produce an exciting championship battle for fans to follow during the summer of 2024."

Additional information regard-

ing the 2024 Granite State Pro Stock Series schedule including event registrations, rules and more will be available soon. For the latest news, fans and teams are encouraged to visit gspss.net and follow the series on social media.

## 2024 Granite State Pro Stock Series Schedule

- Saturday, May 4 - Star Speedway - Epping, N.H.
- Sunday, May 26 - Claremont Motorsports Park - Claremont, N.H.
- Saturday, June 8 - Lee USA Speedway - Lee, N.H.
- Sunday, June 16 - Speedway 95 - Hermon, Maine
- Friday, July 5 - Claremont Motorsports Park - Claremont, N.H.
- Sunday, July 14 - Hudson International Speedway - Hudson, N.H.
- Saturday, August 10 - Riverside Speedway - Groveton, N.H.
- Sunday, September 15 - Speedway 95 - Hermon, Maine
- Saturday/Sunday October 5-6 - Lee USA Speedway, Lee, N.H.



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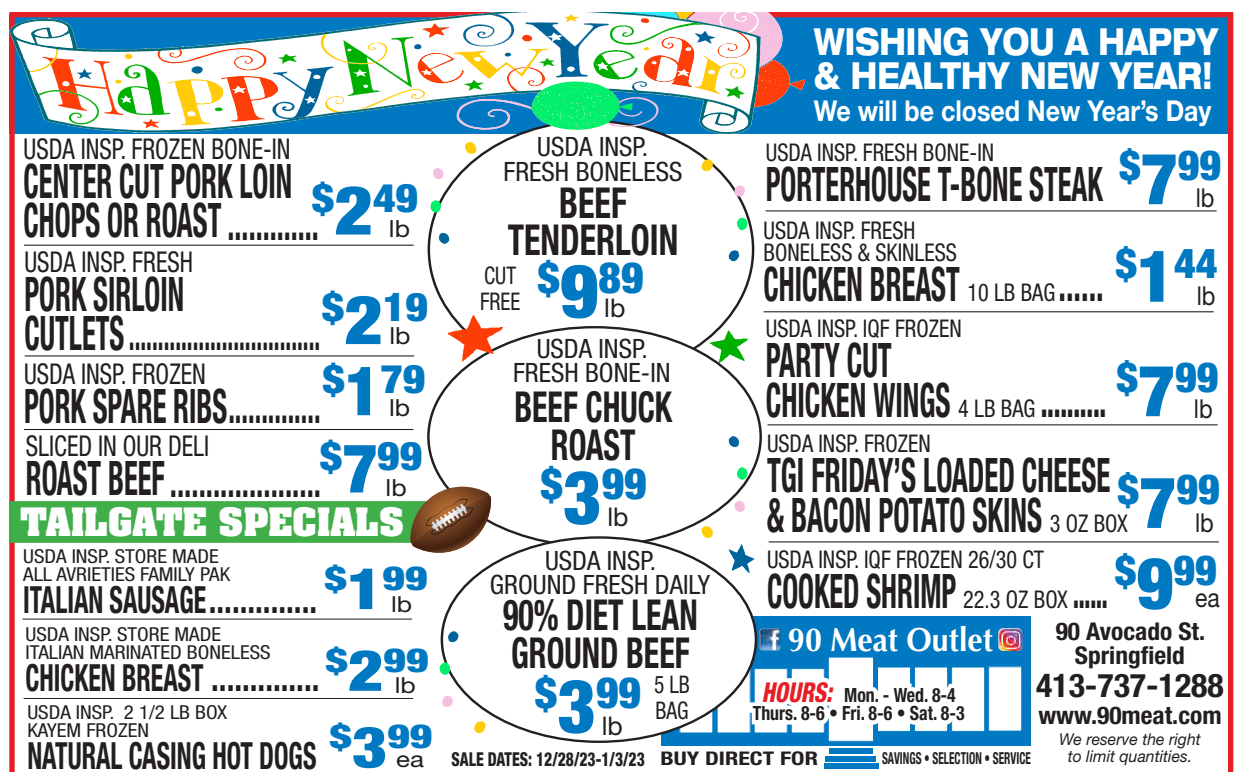


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## ONGOING

**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 [indianorchardcitizenscouncil@gmail.com](mailto:indianorchardcitizenscouncil@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](mailto: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 six feet apart. For more information, call Maurien 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 recovery. This group is also for those who can help lead others in their recovery by example. This meet-

ing 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.

## Great Decisions Discussion Group returns in 2024

WILBRAHAM – Registration has begun for the 2024 Great Decisions Discussion Group, to be held at the Wilbraham Public Library beginning Feb. 7. Sessions will be held in the Brooks Room on Wednesdays from 4-5:30 p.m. on Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28, and March 6, 13, 20 and 27. If any sessions are canceled for snow or other bad weather, April 3 and 10 will be used as make-up dates.

The topics from the upcoming series are Mideast Realignment, Climate Technology and Competition, Science Across Borders, U.S. - China Trade Rivalry, NATO's Future, Understanding Indonesia, High Seas Treaty and Pandemic Preparedness.

Great Decisions Groups meet all over the country – in private homes, libraries, and other venues to discuss selected topics in the area of current affairs. Participants can have their opinions tallied in a National Opinion Poll, which then gets sent to the White House, members of Congress and the national media. This is a wonderful program to learn more about what is happening in the world and to have your voice heard by people who make the decisions.

The Foreign Policy Association, which selects the key issues for discussion, publishes a briefing book for participants to read in advance so they can be informed and ready to engage. Participants can order the book from the FPA website at [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org), or by calling 1-800-477-5836. A copy of the book will also be available at the library Service Desk for in-library reading.

Please register through the Events Calendar at [www.wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org) or call the library at 413-596-6141.

## Wilbraham Troop 359 – Bottle & Can Drive Saturday, Jan. 6

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham Troop 359 will have their Bottle & Can Drive on Sat, Jan. 6, 2024, from 8 a.m. to Noon.

It will be held in St. Cecilia's Church parking lot. All donations to Troop 359 provide support toward camping equipment and supplies, program materials, registration and activity fees throughout the year.

People come to the troop's bottle & can drives year after year. The generous community support and donations are greatly appreciated.

## 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](http://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.

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
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Wednesday, Dec. 27, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Youth Group - 3:30 p.m. (JR), Scouts - 6 p.m. (FLBH), Scouts - 7 p.m. (JR)  
Thursday, Dec. 28, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Eucharistic Adoration - 6:30 p.m. (C)  
Friday, Dec. 29, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C)  
Saturday, Dec. 30, - Confessions - 2:30 p.m. (C), Mass - 4 p.m. (C),  
Sunday, Dec. 31, - Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C), Mass - 11 a.m. (C), Mass - 5 p.m. (C)  
Monday, Jan. 1, - Daily Mass - 9:15 a.m. (C)  
Tuesday, Jan. 2, - Daily Mass - 7:30 a.m. (C), St. Rita Choir - 6:30 p.m. (C), Eucharistic Revival - 6:30 p.m. (FLBH)

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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.

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Monday and Wednesday Morning Masses – 8:30 a.m. (Portuguese)  
Tuesday and Friday Masses – 5:30 p.m. (Portuguese)  
Saturday Vigil Mass – 4 p.m. (English)  
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**HOCKEY** from Page 10

opportunity to wrestle against a very good Agawam team tonight," said Ludlow head coach John Archambeau. "We didn't get the outcome that we wanted, but my kids worked very hard. We're hoping to win another league title this year."

It was the only meeting of the regular season between the two squads.

The Lions took a 6-0 lead in last Wednesday dual meet when sophomore Samantha Bertini posted a pin with 1:04 remaining in the third period of the 106 lb. match.

Neither wrestler earned any points in the opening period of the match, which is two minutes long.

Bertini held a 3-0 lead at the end of the second period.

"Samantha is one of our captains," Archambeau said. "She did a very good job of winning the first match of the night."

A pin by Agawam junior Chase Rising with 1:16 remaining in the first period of the 113lb match tied the score at 6-6.

It took Agawam sophomore Jordin Agosto 21 seconds longer to record a pin in the 120lb contest, which gave the Brownies the lead.

The 126lb match between Agawam freshman Lincoln Despard and Ludlow junior Ryan Gomes went the entire six minutes.

Gomes was leading 2-1 after the first period and 4-3 at the end of the second.

Despard took control of the match during the final twenty seconds of the third period, and he managed to pull out an 8-6 decision.

"I thought Lincoln wrestled hard in his match," Ramos said. "He was down by three points with about 15 seconds left in third period. He managed to make a reverse move and squeaked out the win. That was a huge win for us because it kept the momentum on our side. If they would've won, the overall match could've gone either way. It was a momentum changer."

The Brownies then recorded pins by freshman Tyler Callahan (132lb), senior Nick Ugolini (138 lb), senior Rhein Ingram (144lb), and senior Ilya Shelmanov (150lb), which increased their lead to 39-6.

It was a memorable night for Callahan, who won his first career varsity match.

"Tyler is a freshman, but he's been wrestling for us since the seventh grade. It was nice to see him get his first varsity win in tonight's match," Ramos said. "We no longer need the wavier, so we don't have any seventh graders on this year's team."

Ugolini and Shelmanov also joined the Brownies wrestling team as seventh graders.

The Lions began their comeback with junior Brady Trahan recording a pin in the 157lb match with five seconds left on the scoreboard clock in the first period.

Then junior Lucas Alvan (165lb) gave the Lions six more points by pinning



Ryan Gomes holds a waist lock on his opponent in the 126-pound match.

his opponent with two seconds remaining in the first period.

Alvan's older brother, Cesar, won a bronze medal for Team Brazil at the 2022 Pan American Games.

The Lions closed the gap to 39-24 with another pin by sophomore Noah Simard (175lb) with 16 seconds left in



Nate Winters locks up with an opponent at 138 pounds.

the first period.

"We dug ourselves a big hole, but we did have a lot more favorable matchups in the higher weight classes," said Ludlow head coach John Archambeau. "Some of our experienced guys wrestled against some of their younger guys."

The Brownies locked up their fifth

dual meet win of the season following pins by sophomore Tyler Gervais (190lb), senior Max Holloway (215lb), and Domenic Tourigny (285lb).

Both teams competed in the 56th annual George Bossi Lowell Holiday Classic, which was held on the UMass Lowell campus, last weekend.

# SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



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 Tap-I Ages 8-11  
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 Adult Jazz Friday 5-6pm

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# What's Happening at Hubbard Memorial Library?

To register for programs or find out more information, visit [hubbardlibrary.org](http://hubbardlibrary.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

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.

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

**Free Streaming Services Available!** Use your Hubbard Memorial Library library card to access our streaming services, Hoopla & Kanopy. They're compatible with Android, Apple, Roku, AppleTV, Chromecast, and more. If you are a Ludlow resident with a Hubbard Memorial Library library card and the Libby app, you've already got access to Kanopy in the app! Hoopla provides movies, TV shows, music, eAudiobooks & eBooks, while Kanopy focuses on films, TV shows, and documentaries. Both have a version for kids. Why pay for a streaming service when you can get two for free with your library card?

## FOR ADULTS

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 (12/26, 1/9/24), 6:00-7:45 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 ChmKOVA, copies of which are available in the Youth Room. Please register.

**Sewing Scrunchies for Tweens/Teens, Thursday, December 28, 6:00 p.m.** Ages 10 & up. Learn how to sew your own scrunchies using the library's sewing machines. Materials provided. Please register.

**Dungeons & Dragons High School Adventure Ensemble, Fridays 2:30-4:30 p.m.** This group is for experienced high school players and currently has room for 2 more players. 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.

**Snow Slime, Tuesday, December 26, 2:00 p.m.** Ages 5 & up. Make sparkly snow slime. 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 January 11th, 6:00pm - 6:45pm.** 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.

**Wildlife On Wheels, Wednesday, December 27, 10:30 a.m.** All Ages. Meet and learn about five animal friends from the Zoo At Forest Park. Drop in.

**World's Cutest Critters Scavenger Hunt, Wednesday, December 27, 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.** All ages. Learn about unusual, adorable creatures whose pictures are hiding throughout the Youth Room and win a prize.

**Roblox Club, Fridays 3:30-4:45 p.m.** Meet new friends or play with old ones while playing Roblox. For ages 8+.

**Wreck the Tech: Friday, December 29, 11:00 a.m.** Ages 9 and up. For curious budding engineers: take apart gadgets and old electronics and learn what's inside. Please register.

**Holiday Movie & Craft: "Elf" and Make a Reindeer Ornament, Saturday, December 12, 10:00 a.m.** Rated PG. Enjoy hot cocoa and a funny

Christmas movie, stay after to make a reindeer ornament. Drop in.

**BINGO, Saturday, December 30, 10:00 a.m.,** All Ages. Finish up the year with a fun game for the whole family, with free books and prizes to win. Please register.

## FOR CHILDREN

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

**Winter Storytime Session: Going Places, Mondays 10:00 a.m. (starting 1/08/24)** Ages 3-5. Stories, songs and games featuring far away places with a craft and snack at the end. 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. Does not meet on Tuesday 12/26.

**Winter Storytime Session: Going Places, Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. (Starting 1/10/24)** Ages 2-3. Stories, songs and games featuring far away places with a craft and snack at the end. Please register.

**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.

**Grow, Play and Learn, Thursdays, 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.

**Meet "Sister Detectives": Child authors Emma & Bailey, Thursday, December 28, 3:00 p.m.** For preschool and up. Meet the real life sisters who wrote the book "Sister Detectives", hear them read the book, make a craft based

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE WAIVER OF FRONTAGE**  
The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7:45 p.m.** on the application of

David Beaugard, for a Waiver of Frontage from the Subdivision Rules & Regulations MGL Chapter 41, 81R for the property located at **601 Center Street, Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 16B, Parcel 96)** for the purpose of: **Divide an existing parcel into two new lots, each containing an existing**

**residential structure, as per submitted plans. Lot 11-2 will require a waiver of frontage from 140 feet to 93.90 feet, and Lot 11-1 will require a waiver of frontage from 140 feet to 12.50 feet.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix  
Chairman  
12/27/2023, 01/03/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD19P0413EA Estate of: Patricia H Gates Date of Death: 02/07/2019 CITATION ON PETITION FOR**

## ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Maureen Pelletier of Livingston, TX and Brian Gates of Ludlow, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition..

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/26/2024. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day,

action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 19, 2023

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**  
Register of Probate  
12/27/2023

## LUDLOW PLANNING BOARD LEGAL NOTICE SITE PLAN

The Ludlow Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Ludlow Town Hall, Selectmen's Conference Room on **Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.** on the application of **Marco Vieira - V & V Properties LLC** for the property located at **20-56 East Street, Ludlow, MA (Assessors' Map 13C, Parcel 58)** for the purpose of: **update site plan for gym and café.**

If for any reason this hearing is cancelled, it will be rescheduled to Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Raymond Phoenix  
Chairman  
12/27/2023, 01/03/2024



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Send letter of interest and resume to: William Sullivan, Interim Principal; Gateway High/Middle School, 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050  
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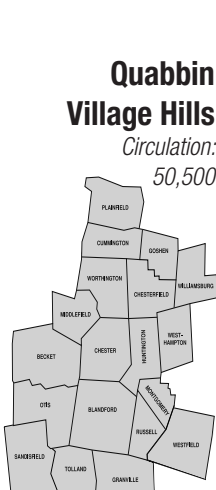
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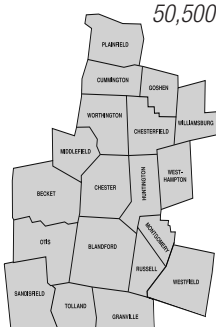
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33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

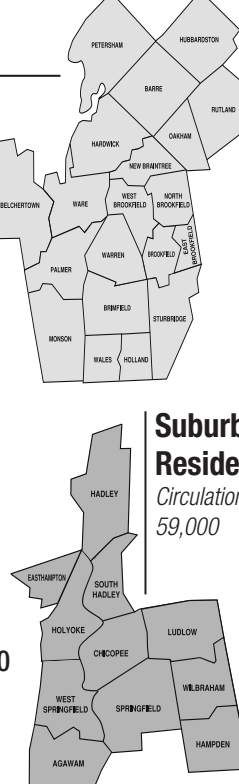
**Quabbin Village Hills**  
Circulation: 50,500



**Hilltowns**  
Circulation: 9,800



**Suburban Residential**  
Circulation: 59,000



All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

**GREAT VALUE!**  
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

**OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Whether you are hosting a party at home, looking for a quiet dinner out or planning to do some serious celebrating we've got you covered for a festive finale!

**ROUTE 20**  
Bar & Grille  
EST. 2016

2341 Boston Rd., (Rt. 20) Wilbraham  
**413.279.2020**  
Serving: Tuesday-Wednesday 4-9pm  
Thursday-Saturday 11:30am-9:30pm  
Sunday 11:30am-8pm  
WITH EXTENDED BAR HOURS

**NEW YEAR'S EVE!**  
**FRANK SERAFINO**  
Performing 6-9pm

We welcome reservations for parties of 6 or more.

**ENJOY OUR REGULAR MENU WITH AWESOME SPECIALS!**

**SUNDAY BRUNCH**  
Sundays 11:30-2:30  
(Plus Our Regular Menu Until 8pm)  
Featuring Our Build Your Own Bloody Mary & Mimosa Bar!

**SUNDAY NIGHT \$17 STEAK N' BREW**  
Dine In Only While Supplies Last

**\$25 THREE COURSE MEALS EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT!**  
Dine In Only While Supplies Last

**TUESDAY NIGHT \$15 PRIME RIB**  
Dine In Only While Supplies Last

**LIVE MUSIC**  
Thurs. 12/28 Joe Zabien  
Fri. 12/29 John Cantalini  
Sat. 12/30 Eagle Eyes  
Sun. 12/31 Frank Serafino

**route20barandgrille.com**

**di Hampden House**

1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA  
**413-566-8324**

**JOIN US NEW YEAR'S EVE FOR DINNER!**  
Reservations Recommended  
Offering Our Regular Menu Plus Great Specials!

*Make Your Holiday Entertaining Easy...*  
We have catering trays available!  
Visit our website for our banquet & Catering menus.

**LIVE MUSIC!!!**  
Every Friday & Saturday  
Visit Facebook For Lineup

**BOOK YOUR NEXT FUNCTION WITH US!**

Showers, Christenings, Rehearsal Dinners, Weddings, etc.  
For more information contact Lori Atkinson at 413-566-8324 or by email at lacucinagreenhouse@gmail.com

**Our Private Greenhouse Banquet Facility Can Accomodate Up To 100 People**

**lacucinahampden.com**

Mon.-Thurs. 3-9pm, Fri. & Sat. 11:30am-10pm & Sun. 11:30am-9pm  
12/24 Christmas Eve 11:30am-6pm • 12/25 Christmas Day Closed  
12/31 New Year's Eve 11:30am-10pm • 1/1 New Year's Day 11:30am-9pm

*Via Appia*

2133 Boston Road, Wilbraham  
**413.271.1208**  
Open Mon.-Thurs. 11am-9pm  
Fri. & Sat. 11am-10pm • Sun. 12-8pm  
Closed Christmas & New YearsDay

**DINING**  
**LIVE MUSIC**  
**KENO**  
**RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED**  
**SERVING LUNCH & DINNER**

Join us  
New Year's Eve  
Sunday,  
Dec. 31st  
Dinner &  
Live Music With  
Brad Shepard  
and a Special  
New Year's Eve  
Menu!

 <b>LUTHER</b> Saturday, 12/30 Friday, 1/12 Saturday, 1/20	 <b>PETER NEWLAND</b> (of FAT) Saturday, 1/13
 <b>LIVIO GRAVINI</b> Friday, 1/26	 <b>FRED MARION</b> Friday, 1/5
 <b>CHARLIE BONGIOVI</b> Saturday, 1/27	 <b>FRANK SERAFINO</b> Friday, 1/19
 <b>BRAD SHEPARD</b> Friday, 12/29 Sunday, 12/31 Sunday, 1/6	