



COMMUNITY

# McKinstry Farms to acquire local Sapowsky Farm

By Ben Hernandez  
Correspondent

GRANBY – The beloved local Sapowsky farms has been acquired by fellow family owned operation McKinstry Farms. Farmer William McKinstry spoke at length about family history and the importance of tradition within farming. He stated the acquisition was a way to preserve the beloved local farm, as the current generation of Sapowsky children “weren’t really interested in the farm.”

“Steve and Tammy worked very hard to build up their business,” McKinstry said. “They didn’t want to see it just sit idle. It was a good decision for both of us, you know?”

McKinstry spoke at length about the combined family history and mentioned his father and the Sapowsky patriarch were close. He mentioned how close Granby was to their central Chicopee operations and how they were already helping each other’s estates.

“They were just getting started and what-not,” McKinstry said as he reminisced on when the Sapowsky business got started. “My dad gave them a lot of advice to what to do and what not to do. And now it’s the other way around. Steve’s helping my son.”

The McKinstry farm specializes in sweet corn, a crop which McKinstry reported

has four different types. The Sapowsky farm also sells sweet corn and strawberries, which he defined as their specialization. The farmer intended to continue the proud tradition and stressed this acquisition would not change anything in their business model.

“We definitely want to continue what Steve and Tammy have built up their business,” McKinstry said. “We’d like to have a good strawberry crowd and following, so we want to keep that going.”

He discussed how important it was to meet current customer expectations and spoke on how much of local farming success was reliant on local markets. Much of the business requires the farms to maintain regional markets, which in turn relies on loyal repeat customers. McKinstry also discussed his desire to further expand production into the Boston markets.

“My son has expanded the wholesale now,” McKinstry said. “So, he goes to Boston, you know? He just re-sends the truck every week.”

McKinstry also mentioned the acquisition was a bit more of a formality than anything, as the two families have been working close together for at least five years. He stated his family farm was already renting property from their area and pointed out they were always looking for more land.



McKinstry Market Garden has combined branding with the roadside stand to signify the merger.



Both Sapowsky Farms and their roadside stand is under new ownership.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

“We’re just trying to grow, you know,” McKinstry said as he discussed his future plans and also mentioned they introduced a new crop to help with the farm’s expansion ambitions. “We’re doing a lot of winter squash.”

McKinstry identified the crop as essential to their eastward expansion efforts due to the vegetable’s overall resilience and longer shelf life. He stated the crop was easy

to store in the wintertime, so long as it’s kept heated around 58 degrees.

“It’s good income in the winter for us,” McKinstry said. “It’s a hardy crop.”

The Sapowsky family, however, isn’t completely out of operation. McKinstry mentioned Tammy Sapowsky would still work on the farm as a morning manager, as well as “doing the bacon” on the premises. He stated

the move would allow her to reduce her overall responsibilities, a decision he said made her happy.

“She doesn’t have all the responsibility of everything now,” McKinstry said. “She can just devote more time to her customers and baking and she’s enjoying life a lot more.”

Steve will continue to help out as well, though the recent shoulder reconstruction sur-

gery may affect his ability to contribute. McKinstry reiterated his whole goal in this acquisition was to help out the family and to continue to uphold the farm’s proud legacy within the community.

“The transition’s been very smooth,” McKinstry said. “They’re happy – they seem happy and willing and don’t have the burdens on their shoulders...they want to see us succeed too, you know?”



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Granby residents lined up for a free musical performance at the park.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

## Public invited to grand opening for EV station

BELCHERTOWN – There will be a grand opening event for the new EV charging station. This event is to familiarize the Belchertown community with the recently installed 4-port Level 2 EV charging station located in the parking lot next to the Finnerty House at 1 S. Main St.

Participants will learn about how to use the charging stations and the work of the Energy and Sustainability Committee in meeting energy goals for the town. Come by and celebrate with us on Sunday, June 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 1 South Main Street, parking lot adjacent to library and town hall.



Singers encourage the audience to participate in a rousing rendition of "Country Roads."



The concert featured a myriad of local talent.

### SINGERS from page 1

and the local senior center. Standout performances were high school student Pierce's rendition of Frank Sinatra's

"Fly Me to the Moon" and "Margaritaville" from Jimmy Buffet, elementary school student Lyla Grace's version of "Popular" from the hit musical Wicked and haun-

tingly beautiful performances from resident blind singer AJ. Additional features were renditions of "Man! I Feel Like a Woman" from women's singing troupe the

Pearls and rousing patriotic versions of the US Marine Corps theme, "America the Beautiful" and "Country Roads" by John Denver.

### WEBSITE from page 1

ment leaders. The town's vendor, MuniBit, already allows each department to manage its own pages, but that has not been used consistently.

Lynch said the goal should be to have "department heads... maintain their own presence on the website," with the town's IT resources and outside help focused on structure and training rather than day-to-day postings.

Bail and Lynch also raised ethics questions about hiring Hedjamowitz, who already works in the school superintendent's office. Lynch said the town may have to designate her role as a special municipal employee or classify the work as a consulting contract to comply with state conflict-of-interest law.

"We probably would have to name her as a special municipal employee... or (maybe) we could (hire her) as a consultant," Lynch told the board, adding that he would check with counsel and the finance director before bringing back a recommendation.

Board members did not take a formal vote but agreed Lynch should speak with Hedjamowitz about scope, hours and rate, consult Finance Director Chris Martin about funding and coordinate with MuniBit on training options. Lynch said he expects to report back as early as the next meeting.

The website debate quickly broadened into questions about how Granby communicates overall.

Lynch said he plans to work more closely with Communications Committee chair Tobias Wilson on both the town site and social media, including how to handle archiving requirements for public records.

Bail, who has pushed for a stronger communications strategy, said committee members have the technical skills but need clearer direction from the board.

Separately, officials agreed that some existing reports should be more visible online. When the board reviewed a monthly construction update for the West Street building renovation, Select Board chair David Labonte asked that it be post-

ed so residents can follow the project without attending meetings.

"Could you actually scan this, and... put it on the website?" Labonte said, referring to the project manager's progress report.

Police Chief Kevin O'Grady supported that move, noting the document is already public and would likely answer many questions about budget and schedule.

For now, Lynch has what he called "marching orders" to:

Identify money in the budget to pay for cleanup work on the site.

Determine whether Hedjamowitz can be hired under ethics rules and on what terms.

Work with MuniBit to schedule training so department heads can update their own sections.

Coordinate with the Communications Committee on website structure and responsible use of social media.

Board members emphasized they are not looking to build a flashy site, but a functional one that residents can rely on for accurate, current

information about town government.

While no deadlines were set, Lynch said he expects to return with options in the coming weeks, setting the stage for what could be Granby's most significant communications overhaul in years.

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**■ PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Belchertown Police Log**

*Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of June 12, through June 17. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.*



**ARRESTS/SUMMONS**

**ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS Friday, June 12**

12:58 a.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for a report of a past breaking and entering incident. The person believed it was related to issue with a former acquaintance. Various things were vandalized or destroyed throughout the residence. The matter is under investigation.

7:40 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Chauncey Walker Road. A vehicle traveling north on Chauncey Walker Road struck a deer on front left side. The vehicle was driven from the scene and no injuries were reported.

3:13 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle traveling east on Federal Street was struck by a second vehicle going north on Allen Road. The operator of the second vehicle said they didn't the first vehicle. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

4:22 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about former acquaintance made who threats towards them. The caller said they broke up with the former acquaintance. The person then made threats towards them. The person was provided contact for a domestic violence counselor.

4:33 p.m. – An officer responded to an Old Amherst Road residence for a report of a person opening a door at the residence. The caller said they thought their partner entered the residence, but it wasn't. The called then left the apartment. There was a similar report in April by the person who reported there was knocking at their door.

10:15 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence for a report of a large underage drinking party without permission. The officer saw children running away from the home through backyards. Assistance was requested from state police as the juveniles were running toward major road in town. They spoke with the homeowner who said their child was having a small gathering with friends and was unaware more people showed up. The officer contacted many juveniles' parents to pick up the juveniles. No injuries were reported. The officer asked the children how they heard about the party. They said social media and showed up uninvited.

**Saturday, June 13**

5:54 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence where a person reported they were selling an iPhone while a George Hannum Road business. The potential buyer took the phone and ran away with it. The person said they messaged to meet the potential buyer and provided a description of the person. They handed the phone to the buyer to look at then the person ran off with it. The person said they don't know the identity of the person. They were trying to reverse search for the person through Facebook. The matter is under investigation.

**Sunday, June 14**

12:50 p.m. – An officer working a traffic enforcement grant saw a vehicle without an inspection sticker and stopped the vehicle. The person's registration came back as expired. The officer radioed dispatch and then learned the registration was

non-renewable. An officer arrived to assist the matter. The vehicle was towed and the driver was given a ride by a relative.

**Monday, June 15**

10:36 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Jackson Street. A vehicle traveling westbound on Jackson Street was side swiped by a second vehicle. There was left side damage to both vehicles. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

**Tuesday, June 16**

6:20 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a motor vehicle fire. An officer responded to Chauncey Walker Road for a report of a Jeep Wrangler fully engulfed in flames. The operator said they were driving when the vehicle began to overheat. The vehicle then began to smoke. The fire was extinguished by Belchertown Fire Department. National Grid was contacted to check the lines.

6:42 a.m. – An officer responded to North Washington Street and Bardwell Street for a report of a woman walking on the roadside in a blanket and there were concerns they were intoxicated. The officer couldn't find them and met with a person at the proposed residence. They were picked up by a person and brought home.

12:23 p.m. – An officer responded to a Federal Street residence to locate a juvenile who ran away from home in another town. Shortly after, they appeared at the station. An officer tried to contact Blanford Police and Northampton Police were contacted. A 51A was filed.

**Wednesday, June 17**  
12:29 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle traveling south on Federal Street struck a trash barrel on the side of the road. There was damage to the passenger side of the vehicle. The vehicle was able to be driven from the scene. No injuries were reported.

3:10 p.m. – An officer took a wallet from a residence who found it. Amherst Police was contacted to try to find the person. It was placed into property.

4:30 p.m. – An officer responded to Springfield Road near the railroad crossing for a report of juvenile who was being followed by a man. The juvenile reported they were walking on a trail when a person came towards them. They appeared to be on their hands and knees but stood. When the person got closer, the juvenile thought they had a knife. They went towards Springfield Road and called 911. The youth's parents were contacted. The officer walked the length of the trail no one was located, nor was any suspicious person found. The school resource officer was advised of the incident.

4:36 p.m. – An officer responded to a Stadler Street business for a report of e-bike operator brandished a firearm while walking north on Maple Street. The officer saw the person on the e-bike. They went back to the area and the suspect wasn't there. After checking the area, the officer spoke with the reporting party. They were preparing to turn onto Maple Street then the e-bike came up from behind them. The suspect then get into an argument with the person. The reporting person said they saw the suspect reach into their pocket and brandish something like a firearm. Officers were unable to identify the suspect.

4:43 p.m. – An officer dispatched to a State Street business for a report of shoplifting earlier in the evening. The manager said the suspect purchased two items then stole a soccer ball. Security footage was viewed and concealed it then exited the store. The officer was able to identify the person who stole it via a receipt. The story wanted the person trespassed from the business and then the person got it later.

**Quabbin exhibit heads on 'road trip'**

**BELCHERTOWN** – The Reading Public Library is the first library in Eastern Massachusetts to host Quabbin: Yesterday and Today, a photographic exhibit that pairs historic images of the Quabbin Reservoir's creation with contemporary landscape and wildlife photography from the region that will be on display through July 2026. The goal is to make the communities that benefit from the Quabbin more aware of where their water comes from and what it took to create the reservoir.

The exhibit, which was made possible by a grant to the Friends of Quabbin from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, recently concluded a successful run at the Massachusetts State House Senate Gallery and is now touring libraries in communities that receive drinking water from the Quabbin Reservoir. With the state in a significant drought after two years of below-average precipitation, and with the Quabbin 10 feet below capacity, this is a timely exhibit to help bring attention to the importance of the reservoir to the 2.7 million people it serves.

The Quabbin Reservoir was created in the 1930s as part of Massachusetts' effort to provide a reliable water supply for metropolitan Boston and surrounding communities. Construction required the disincorporation of the towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, the relocation of more than 2,500 residents, and the demolition or removal of approximately 1,100 homes, businesses, and other structures before the Swift River Valley was flooded.

Today, the Quabbin Reservoir remains one of the largest unfiltered public water supplies in the United States. Careful watershed management across the 12 communities of the Quabbin watershed protects the region, which has also become an important destination for wildlife, outdoor recreation, photography, and environmental stewardship.

Belchertown nature photographer Ed Comeau created the exhibit. His contemporary images document the landscapes, wildlife, and natural beauty that now define the reservoir and surrounding watershed.

"I wanted to help people better understand where their water comes from, what it took to create the Quabbin Reservoir, and what an extraordinary place it has become," said Comeau. "By bringing this exhibit to libraries in communities that benefit from Quabbin water, such as Reading, I hope to create a stronger connection between residents and the watershed that serves them. I appreciate the library's support in hosting this exhibit."

"We are proud to bring Quabbin: Yesterday and Today to Reading," said Library Director Amy Lannon. "This exhibit connects our community to the source of the water we rely on every day and reminds us of the extraordinary human and environmental history behind it. We hope residents will take the time to see it."

Digital Commonwealth and the Massachusetts State Archives provided the historic photographs featured in the exhibit. Photographers working for the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission created many of the images, documenting the final years of the Swift River Valley communities and the construction of the reservoir itself. The collection includes images of homes, farms, businesses, public buildings, and engineering works associated with one of the largest public works projects in Massachusetts history.

An online version of the exhibit is available at [ComeauPhotography.com/QuabbinYesterdayAndToday](http://ComeauPhotography.com/QuabbinYesterdayAndToday)

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COMMUNITY

# Donation made at Aaron's Race

The Belchertown Lions Club would like to thank the many folks who visited its food wagon during the recent Aaron's Race 2026 held on the Town Common and in the Old Town Hall. All of our proceeds (and then some) allowed our club's treasurer, Frank Cowdrey, to present this check for \$1,000 to coordinator Heather Twining, which will be used to promote awareness through education regarding teen suicide prevention. Next up on our food service schedule will be our Meatball Sub Sale on July 18, and then our 3rd Annual Cruisin' the Common Memorial Car Show on Aug. 8.



SUBMITTED PHOTO



# Seniors need to pick up senior packets

BELCHERTOWN – Graduating seniors who were previously on an IEP are encouraged to pick up their senior packets at Central Office. Packets include; most recent IEP and testing along with a summary of performance. If you wish to obtain your records, please come to Central Office, 14 Maple Street with picture identification, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding holidays. High School transcripts that contain course titles, and grades received will continue to be stored at the BHS Counseling Office for sixty (60) years after graduation.

SCHOOL from page 1

be at Swift River with grades one and two."

As a result of the new students, third graders currently attending Swift River will find themselves moving to Chestnut Hill. Sixth graders attending Chestnut Hill will be transferred to Jabish Brook.

"At that point it was not known whether the new middle school project was going to be approved or not," Pelletier said as she discussed the new student reshuffling in the district. Pelletier became the school's interim principal last year, during a time where the building's future was unknown. The project to build a new middle school didn't pass, which prompted the town to "consider what was needed in terms of support." She commented the restructure made sense when looking at current state curriculum frameworks.

"There's often the K to two band and then three to five. Middle school's often six, seven and eight," Pelletier said. "So we're really kind of aligning and following that."

She believed the current school ethos will remain in town as Cold Spring's existing educators get redi-

tributed and mentioned the change will "help support educators in kind of doing similar work." She also stated the reorganization would help educators build off each other's strengths and allow for further collaboration. Pelletier herself will be moving to Swift River once Pathfinder Tech takes over the building in July.

"You always thought of the school for the little, little kids. Now we're going to have big, huge kids here," said former educator Liz Rogers. Rogers was the personal special education teacher for one student, a unique position which had her follow her pupil through the entirety of the Belchertown primary education system. She commented the school's future "could have been a lot worse."

The closure was commemorated with a small ceremony on June 18, which started at 5:30pm and continued until 8pm. Light refreshments of cookies, water and lemonade were served during the open house and closing ceremony. The ceremony offered opportunities to share memories, reconnect with old colleagues, a plethora of photos which showcased the building's history. Attendees also painted hands and left their prints on the prepared bulletin boards, a symbolic way



Former teachers and students leave their literal mark on the school's bulletin boards.

TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ

to show the mark they left on the school.

Featured speakers included former superintendent Richard Fazasis, former Cold Spring student Ava Switlowski, interim principal Jill Pelletier and current superintendent Brian Cameron. Each speaker reflected on their time at the school and offered heartfelt farewells with no small

amount of tears. Though the doors have closed on Cold Spring as an early childhood education building, some remain hopeful for the school's future.

"I think I'm happy that they kept it," Rogers said as she referred to Pathfinder Tech's bid to buy the location. "And not, you know, burn it down."

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## OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY  
*Matters*

By Russell Gloor

## Why don't they just create individual Social Security accounts?

Dear Rusty:

Regarding Social Security's financial issues, three people contributing to Social Security for every one beneficiary sounds to me like a surplus.

If they had given workers their own accounts, similar to a 401k, where they could manage their own money, it would have worked out more favorably for retirees. President George W Bush suggested these changes, but it was shot down by Congress.

The average worker now pays a 6.2% Social Security tax. If the government had bumped it up to say 7%, I don't believe that me or anyone else would have cried too hard.

There are ways of correcting this before the SS reserves are depleted and, hopefully, Congress will address Social Security's financing soon.

Signed: Skeptical Senior

Dear Skeptical:

Believe it or not, putting SS contributions from payroll taxes into separate individual accounts is not really a good idea.

For information, most people get back all payroll taxes they contributed to Social Security within about five years of receiving SS benefits. Even with decent public market returns, some individual separate accounts would eventually run out of money, causing some to lose Social Security benefits before they die, meaning they would likely live in poverty.

People are now collecting benefits on average for decades and the current SS format means that even those who contribute only a small amount will collect benefits no matter how long they live. Remember, the primary purpose of the SS program is to reduce poverty in America.

FYI, President Bush's plan had opposition in the 2005 Congress largely because of the cost to transition to that plan and the

fear that investments in the public markets subjected individual retirement savings to unacceptable risk.

In any case, few have since advocated investing Social Security funds in the public financial markets because of the risks and the political backlash. And adding a small amount to the FICA/SECA payroll tax rate only somewhat mitigates the problem; it doesn't completely solve it. I'm afraid that Social Security's financial issues are more complex than that and can't be fully solved by a small increase in SS payroll taxes.

You are right Congress can and, we are confident, will address this and hopefully soon. For its part, the Association of Mature American Citizens and the AMAC Foundation have been evaluating this issue for years and have developed a Social Security reform plan for Congress to consider.

And we are actively promoting our reform plan in Washington, D.C. Please know that we share your concerns about the future of Social Security and will continue to work hard to ensure the program is here for many generations.

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

This summer...



## Kohlrabi: The first Garden Lady question of the summer

A reader of 'In the Garden' wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "Can you tell me why my kohlrabi did not make a bulb? I have grown them all my life and enjoyed them shredded like coleslaw or cooked with a white sauce. I also know I can use the leaves in stir fry. Thanks for any advice you might have."

While I am not highly experienced when it comes to kohlrabi culture, I applied a few basic gardening principles to come up with some ideas as to why you are having issues with bulb development, some within your control and others left up to Mother Nature.

Kohlrabi is a member of the cabbage family, a cruciferous vegetable. Think cabbage, broccoli, kale, Brussels's sprouts, etc.

The swollen stem is considered the "bulb" but it does not grow below ground. Picture the heart of cabbage or the stem of broccoli swollen to look like a flying saucer of sorts.

As our reader mentioned, they are great in coleslaw and they keep a long time. Like other members of this family, they are considered highly nutritious.

Let's start with fertility. For the biggest, bulbous stem,

think less nitrogen and more potassium and phosphorus.

I'm curious if you fertilized with high nitrogen sources, such as composted manure, blood meal or fish emulsion? Or perhaps used a chemical fertilizer with a ratio such as 10-5-5?

The first number would indicate a higher amount of nitrogen than the other two numbers for phosphorus and potassium, respectively.

Another thought would be that kohlrabi can sometimes resist proper bulb formation if it is spaced too close together. Planting a minimum of eight inches apart gives the plant enough space to do its thing.

Since you've had luck with kohlrabi in the past, I'm thinking either of these scenarios are likely not the case, unless you are gardening in a new locale with new materials or more limited space.

The other two considerations are Mother Nature related.

As I recall, we had a burst of hotter than normal weather in late May. Since Kohlrabi is a cool weather crop, thriving at temperatures less than 75 degrees, the heat stress could have signaled the crop to bolt without ever forming a bulb.

Are your plants tall and spindly, or are they otherwise well developed? If you installed transplants, perhaps the trouble started even before the plants even made their way into your garden. Just another thought!

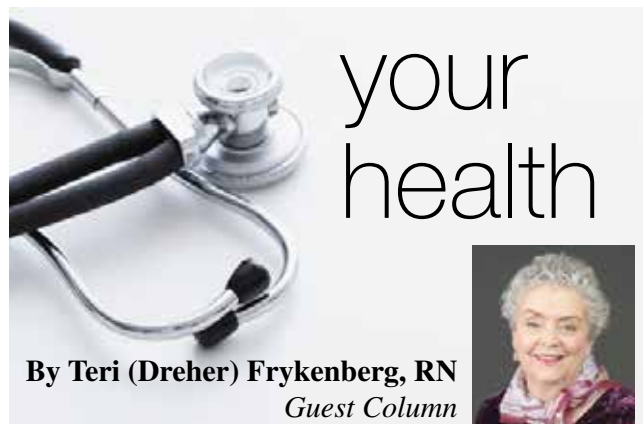
The second weather related issue is moisture. Mother Nature has not been generous in the rain department. Sometimes when droughty conditions are followed by bouts of deep soaking, the would-be bulbous stems can crack or get fibrous before actually bulbing up.

Since we have had less rain that what would be ideal, providing consistent moisture is key.

Although I am not 100% certain why you are having issues this year, I hope that you do give kohlrabi another try. Maybe it was just an off year.

Typically we gardeners are an optimistic lot and our motto is "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." That, I know we will.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



## Patient advocates specialize, too

How many recognized medical specialties are there in the U.S.? Go ahead, take a guess.

Answer: More than 135, and that's just doctors, not counting nurses, technicians, paramedics and other medical professionals.

But did you know that patient advocates can also specialize? Depending on what kind of advocacy you

feel you or a loved one needs, there may be a patient advocate who offers just that.

My colleague Brad Schwartz, an attorney who founded Greater National Advocates (gnanow.org), does us all a favor by explaining the different ways in which patient advocates specialize.

Brad launched his non-profit website to help others find private patient advocates after a harrowing medical experience – which left him a quadruple amputee because of a life-threatening infection – made him realize how easi-

ly things can go off the rails in our health-care system.

As Brad and I like to point out, when we have a complicated legal issue, we consult lawyers. When our taxes get complex, we find a CPA to help. It's the same with medical issues we don't understand or feel "something isn't right." Then you have to ask yourself, "Do I need a patient advocate?"

Private patient advocates may specialize in one or more of these areas.

## Medical guidance

This is where I have spent most of my career. A medically-trained advocate works to improve communication between the medical team, patient and family members. Very often, situations can be improved just by translating medical-ese into English. And sometimes, someone who knows the medical jargon can communicate more effectively with the medical team.

Another advantage is that a medical advocate can help plan your discharge and make sure you have the support you need for a success-

ful recovery.

## Complex and senior care

Many families are far-flung these days, and often adult children aren't able to be on the scene with aging parents. Long-distance caregiving is hard.

Patient advocates can evaluate parents' daily needs, develop and implement care plans and address common safety concerns, like trip hazards. If it's time for an older adult to explore a senior living community, they can also help explore those options to make sure all medical, cultural and social needs are being considered.

Insurance and billing challenges

I find that a lot of clients, and people in general, don't really understand the terms of their policies, which leads to insurance denials, insurance appeals or, in this case, loss of coverage.

Also, health systems are not infallible when it comes to billing. Not long ago, a little bit of investigation turned a \$4,000 bill into a \$400 one.

Some patient advocates specialize in challenging

medical bills and insurance payouts. These advocates aren't necessarily medically trained, but they know their way around billing codes, copays and common pitfalls. They help with appealing denials of benefits and getting pre-authorizations, and may even help you compare insurance options.

## Wellness and lifestyle support

The buzzword in health care these days is "whole-person care." You can think of these advocates as coaches, helping you develop healthy lifestyle choices through education and encouragement. After a tough course of therapy or hospitalization, they may assist in rebuilding strength and self-esteem.

If you're interested in exploring non-traditional or alternative approaches to health and wellness, they can help you separate fact from fiction and pursue proven therapies.

Please see **HEALTH**, page 8

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## Turley Election Policy

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Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

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The Sentinel is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



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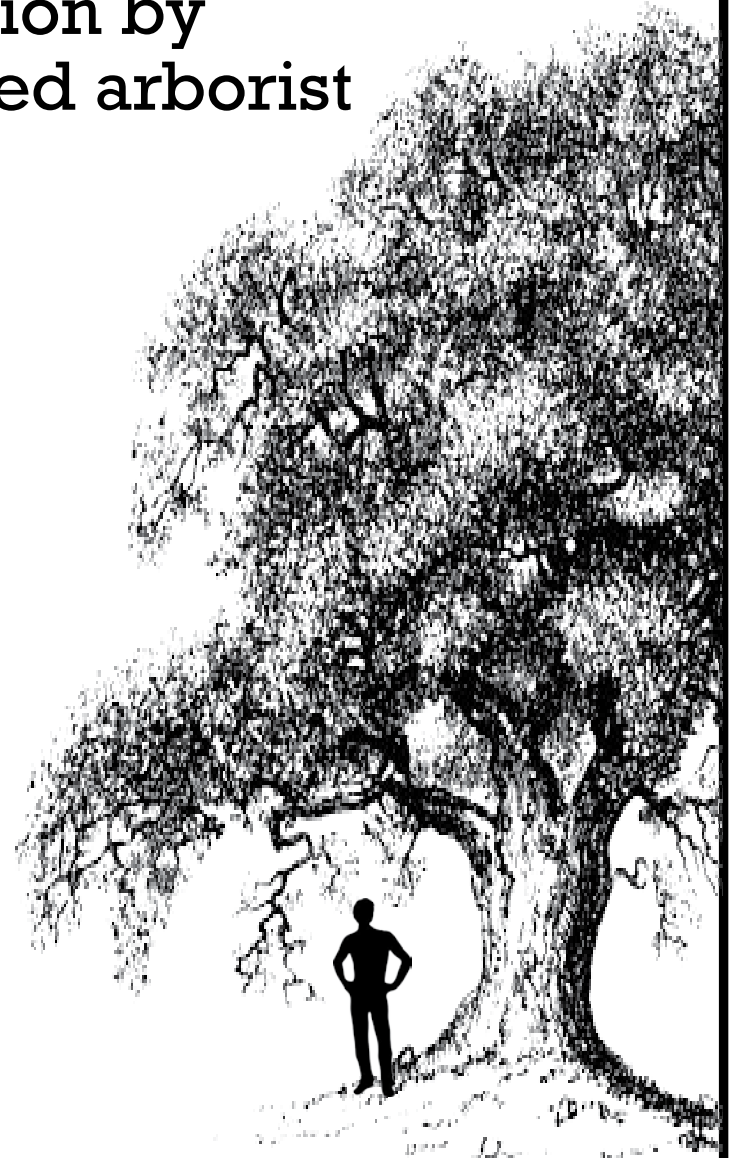


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## Town hosting beaver management walk and presentation on June 27

BELCHERTOWN — Residents are invited to a free, all-ages presentation and walk about beaver management on Saturday, June 27, from 1 to 3 p.m., beginning at the Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State Street.

The Beaver Institute will give a presentation at the Recreation Department, after which the group will walk to the Lake Wallace spillway at Foley Field to see a “beaver deceiver” flow device in action. The device, also known as a Pond Leveler, allows the town to manage water levels while letting beavers remain in place. A table will be set up lakeside with pond critters, giving attendees a chance to explore local biodiversity and aquatic macroinvertebrate biomonitoring.

Beavers play a vital role in flood control, water

retention and infiltration, and habitat biodiversity. The event offers families a fun, hands-on look at how these complex animals shape the local landscape and how the town coexists with them.

The presentation and walk are made possible through Massachusetts Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program funding for the culvert replacement project on Warren Wright Road over Hop Brook.

The walk to the spillway is approximately one-third of a mile. Anyone arriving after the group has departed the Recreation Department can meet them at the Lake Wallace spillway at Foley Field.

For more information about this program please call or email Belchertown Department of Public Works at 413-323-0415 or lleduc@belchertown.org.

## Volunteers wanted for school garden maintenance

BELCHERTOWN — Volunteers are wanted to help maintain the Belchertown School Gardens. There will be a volunteer day held on Sunday, June 28 from 8 to 10 a.m. held rain or shine. At the event, a plan will be made for water-

ing, weeding, and harvesting the food to share with the community. There are also ways to help out that do not require you to be in the dirt like social media outreach. Please meet Volunteer Garden Manager Holly Field at the garden this Sunday.

## Granby Lions sponsoring July bus trip to Boston

GRANBY — The Granby Lions Club will be sponsoring a bus trip to Boston on Tuesday, July 14, 2026. The chartered bus will be leaving the East Meadow School Parking Lot at 8 a.m. and dropping us off in the Seaport District at approximately 10 a.m.

Come help us celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States at SailBoston 2026, an international maritime event that brings tall

ships and naval vessels from around the world to Boston Harbor. You will be on your own to visit the ships and the bus will depart Boston at 4 p.m.

The cost per person is \$75. Please make your checks payable to the Granby Lions Club, c/o Jim Pietras, 280 East State St, Granby, MA, 01033. Questions — email Jim at jpietas@comcast.net

### SCOUTS from page 1

badge in camping,” Barbeau said. “First aid, you know, life saving, swimming. You have to learn about citizenship and the community, the world; the nation.”

During the proceedings, a new Cub Master was appointed, which Barbeau said was a familiar face. Phil Broader has been the Cub Master “off and on” for the better part of 29 years, a person who Barbeau said he’s been a “backstop” for when he needs to travel. Barbeau also mentioned the daughter of Assistant Scout Master Mia Santos enrolled in the Cub Scouts during the proceedings. Santos is to become a full-fledged troop Scout Master in the future.

“We were excited to start a girls’ troop,” Barbeau said. “Mia was active in the council and lived in Ludlow. So, we asked her if she would like to join the troop. She said yes and came over. And that started our affiliation. And then, when Zelda was born five years ago... it was almost a forgone conclusion that she was going to be in the pack when she got old enough.”



The ceremony included a potluck and a cookout.



The three candles in the front represent the Scout's oath to God and country, to other people and to oneself. The back row symbolizes the 12 point Scout Law each Scout must uphold.



A Scout displays their newly received award.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

### HEALTH from page 6

#### Peer and survivor support

The trauma and uncertainty that come with a new and frightening diagnosis can be difficult to navigate. These advocates specialize in listening to patients and sharing first-hand experiences about conditions, treatments and procedures. Based on their experiences, they provide realistic expectations of treatments and can con-

nect patients and their families with support groups and counseling services.

Are all of these specialties available everywhere? Not necessarily. But if you're looking for a particular kind of advocacy, Greater National Advocates can help you find the right person. As a professional patient advocate, I am also happy to offer readers a free consultation.

Also keep in mind, however, that one medically trained

advocate can help out in more than one type of situation. Best of all, the advocate you choose will work only for you, not for a doctor, hospital, health system or insurance company.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of [www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](http://www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com), which trains medical professionals to become

successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of “How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones” and her new book, “Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care,” available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.

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# SPORTS

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## Young Belchertown Jr. Legion set to take the field

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – Young and inexperienced.

That’s probably the best way to describe the 2026 Belchertown Black Junior Legion baseball team.

“We’re a very young baseball team. Most of these kids began playing on a regular size diamond last fall,” said

Belchertown manager Stefan Audet. “Our main goal is to teach these players how to play baseball at this level.”

Belchertown was scheduled to host the Wilbraham Falcons last Thursday, but the contest was postponed due to rain.

Belchertown began the regular season with losses against Greenfield Post 81, Belchertown Orange, and

West Springfield Post 207.

Two of the Black squad leading players are Jack Cycz and Dylan Braid.

“Jack and Dylan both played for a varsity baseball team this past spring,” Audet said. “Jack played at Hopkins Academy and Dylan was a member of Belchertown varsity baseball team.”

The other players from Belchertown listed on the

Belchertown Black Junior Legion roster are Orelio Manduley, Rioghan Auffrey, Zackary Ritter, Jackson Shaughnessy, Mason Archambault, Eliza Boyko, Jacoby Homer, and Nathan Murray.

Auffrey and Boyko, who’ll be freshmen in the fall, are the only two girls’ players listed on the roster. Because the MIAA changed the rule

a couple of years ago, they’ll be able to try out for the Orioles baseball team next spring instead of having to play softball.

“Girls are now allowed to play baseball for the high school team,” Audet said. “That’s why they wanted to keep playing with us this summer. It’s been a pleasure watching them develop their baseball skills.”

Auffrey is a pitcher and infielder, while Boyko is a catcher and outfielder.

Another varsity baseball player listed on the Belchertown Black Junior Legion roster is Joey Cygan, who was a freshman at Ware High School.

“Because Joey didn’t want

Please see **JR. LEGION**, page 10

Sebastian Mayberry sends a throw to second.



## Post 241 suffers loss to visiting Greenfield

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – Entering the second week of the American Legion baseball season, Monson Post 241 had the

opportunity to move into a first-place tie with Greenfield Post 81 in the Zone 3A standings.

The Monson supporters didn’t have very much to cheer for in the first meeting between the two teams. Greenfield remained in sole possession of first place and improved to a perfect 3-0 following an 11-0 shut-out victory on a gorgeous evening at Legion Field in Palmer, last Monday (June 15). The contest ended after five innings due to the

10-run mercy rule.

“We made more errors than we had base hits in tonight’s game,” said Palmer manager Steve Tripp. “You always have to make the plays to beat a very good hitting team like Greenfield.”

While Greenfield outscored their first three opponents, 39-2, Monson (1-2) only scored seven runs in their first three

Please see **POST 241**, page 10



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, tries to get control of the loose ball.

## N.E. Mutiny suffers loss to Crusaders

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – Following three straight 2-1 road losses, the New England Mutiny were looking to celebrate a home victory versus the Hudson Valley Crusaders.

The Mutiny managed to take a 1-0 lead before the Crusaders responded with four unanswered goals leading to a 4-2 victory in a USL W League match held at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

“This is a very challenging league,” said Avery Klingensmith, who was an outstanding soccer player at Belchertown High School. “We’ve had several games this season where we had taken an early lead and wound up losing, which is a little bit frustrating. Protecting a lead is something that we need to work on. We really wanted to win tonight’s game.”

The Mutiny (1-5-2) are

Please see **MUTINY**, page 11



Brayden Mega sends a pitch home.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Anthony Elliott fouls off a pitch.



Kyle Kaczuwka makes a play on a bouncing ball to first base.

## Pioneers battle to draw with Boston Bolts

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW – After 21 days away from historic Lusitano Stadium, the Western Mass. Pioneers returned home last Friday night for an intra-state showdown with the Boston Bolts.

The Pioneers faithful supporters had plenty to celebrate early in the match, as the home side stormed out to a 2-0 advantage in the 24th minute.

The Bolts responded with a goal late in the first half. They struck again 15 minutes into the second half and the USL League Two match-up ended in a 2-2 draw in front of a large crowd.

“We held a 2-1 halftime lead,” said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. “We didn’t play very well in the second half. This is a very disappointing result for us.”

Both teams entered the match with a total of 14 goals.

The Pioneers (5-1-2),

who have allowed 10 goals, are currently sitting in third place in the Northeast Division table behind NEC and Vermont Green FC.

The top two finishers in the division will automatically qualify for the league playoffs.

The Pioneers, who went 2-0-1 in their previous three matches on the road, have qualified for the league playoffs each year since joining USL League Two in 2019.

The Western Mass. squad will most likely need to win their remaining five regular season matches and get a little bit of help along the way to keep the playoff streak alive.

“It’s very disappointing letting a two goal lead slip away, especially in front of our fans,” said Felipe De Andrade, who scored the Pioneers second goal. “We’re going to continue to improve and keep fighting the rest of the season.”

De Andrade, who’s from Westborough, played for the Bolts, which only won three



Yigit Kilic looks to play the ball off his body.

matches a year ago.

“Western Mass has always been a very strong team,” he said. “I just wanted a new challenge this year.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Santiago Blasco fights to keep the ball.

The atmosphere here is amazing and it’s a privilege to be a member of this squad. I wouldn’t change anything.”

De Andrade, who was a member of the New England Revolution Academy soccer team in high school,

began his collegiate career at UMass Boston. He’ll be joining the men’s soccer team at Bryant University, which competes at the Division 1 level, this fall.

The Pioneers had a couple of scoring chances during



Jaiden Williams makes a quick pass to his left.

the first ten minutes of the contest.

Bolts goalie William Synnestvedt made his first

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10

**SPORTS**

**JR. LEGION** from page 9

to play for the Monson Senior Legion team, he can play for our baseball team without needing to get a waiver," Audet said. "He's a very good pitcher and is one of our better hitters. He also played for us last year as an eighth grader."

Ryley Manseau, who's from South Hadley, was scheduled to be Belchertown's starting pitcher against Wilbraham.

"We really don't have an ace pitcher," Audet said. "Ryley throws a lot of strikes and lets the defense make the plays behind him."

Rounding out the Belchertown Black Junior Legion roster are Johnathan Welcome, Frank Gauthier, Andrew Grabherr, Jack Cooke, Joe Barrett, and Tyler Sullivan.

Belchertown Black was scheduled to face Belchertown Orange for the second time on Tuesday.

"There are five players from Belchertown on the Belchertown Orange team. The rest of the players on that team are from Chicopee," Audet said. "Our first game against them was very competitive. We're hoping to win the second meeting."

All eight of the District 3 Junior Legion team's will be competing in the playoffs.

**POST 241** from page 9

games, which were all played at home. Four of the runs came in, a 4-2 win over Sheffield Post 340 on June 12.

Tripp received some good news about Theo Haley, who suffered an injury at a pre-season practice.

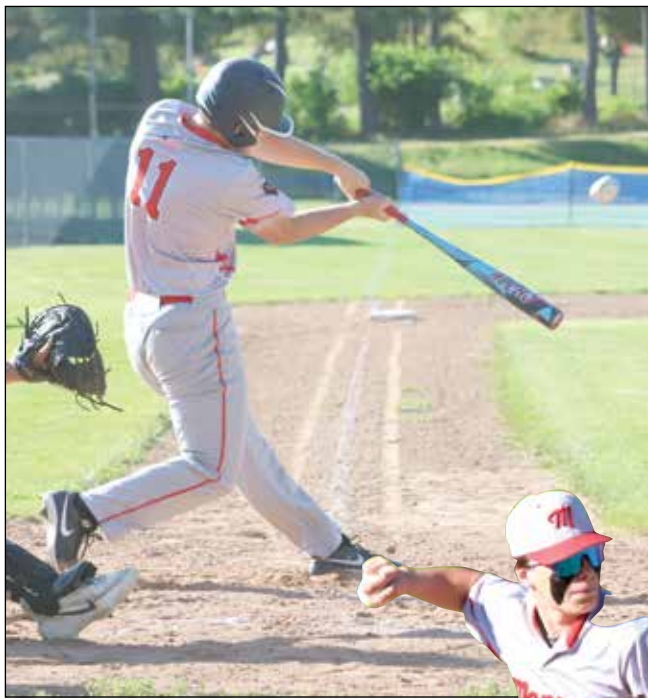
Tripp was originally told that it was a season ending injury, but after seeing a doctor, Haley was cleared to return to action. He's hoping to play his first game during the next couple of weeks.

This past spring, Haley was one of the leading hitters on the Palmer varsity baseball team.

Making his second start of the Legion season, Brayden Mega, who graduated from Pathfinder Tech a year ago, set down the first three Greenfield hitters that he faced on a groundball out and two strikeouts. The righthander didn't receive very much support after that.

The Monson batters had a chance to take the lead against Greenfield righthander Matthew Burke in the bottom half of the opening frame.

Third baseman Sebastian Mayberry beat out a groundball to the shortstop for an infield single leading off the inning. After the next batter struck out, first baseman Kyle Kaczuwka was also safe at first base following another infield hit. The threat ended quickly, as Burke retired the next two



hit in the game was a single into rightfield by Josiel Ortiz, who was a defensive replacement at second base, with one-out in the fourth. Catcher Jarrett Skowyra walked with two outs. Once again Burke ended the inning with his sixth strikeout.

Burke was relieved by righty Evan Tsipenyuk before the start of the fifth

**AT LEFT: Liam McGrath, a Quaboag student, makes solid contact.**

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

batters on a flyball and a strikeout.

"We haven't scored a first inning run during our first three games of the season," Tripp said. "We've been struggling offensively."

Monson had at least one base runner during the next four innings, but none of them advanced past second base.

With one-out in the second inning, shortstop Matt Santos reached first base following a fielding error by the Greenfield shortstop. It was only error made by the Post 81 defense.

Santos stole second base before Burke struck out the next two hitters.

Kaczuwka drew a walk with two outs in the next



**Grayson Griswold sends an easy throw to first.**

inning. Monson's only other base Pinch hitters Hunter

Sherman and Julian Detra drew walks with one out before Tsipenyuk retired the next two hitters ending the game a couple of innings early.

Greenfield scored eleven runs in their final four At-bats. Only four runs were earned, as Post 241 committed a total of seven errors.

Centerfielder Hunter Donahue (2-for-2) was hit-by-a pitch leading off the second inning. He advanced to second base on an error and to third base on a wild pitch. He scored the game's first run on the back end of a double steal play. Catcher Luca Siano also contributed with an RBI single in the second inning.

After retiring the first two batters in the third inning, Mega should've been sitting in the third base dugout, but a flyball hit by third baseman Chase Zraunig was dropped by the right fielder. The visiting team wound up scoring three runs in that frame to take a 5-0 lead. Monson made two more errors in the fourth, which helped Greenfield build an 8-0 advantage.

Greenfield reached double digits against righty relief pitcher Emerson Boronski when shortstop Samuel Connors knocked home a run with a double down the right field line. Connors, who went to third base on a wild pitch, crossed the plate on a ground out by DH Connor Bergeron making the score 11-0.



**Alfred Baafi dribbles up the field.**



**Thomas Wadas clears the ball away.**

**PIONEERS** from page 9

save on a header from Martin Echarren six minutes into the first half. A minute later, Echarren, who plays soccer at the University of Charleston, lined a shot towards the goal, but Synnestvedt (2 saves) made the diving save knocking the ball over the end line resulting in a corner kick.

The Pioneers broke the ice during the 21st minute.

The scoring play began with Alfred Baafi delivering a crossing pass in the box to Echarren, who put a header into the right corner of the net.

Three minutes later, De Andrade fired a shot into the back of the net after receiving a pass from Echarren.

The Bolts (3-4-2) cut their deficit in half when Connor Gibson scored on a header in the 37th minute.

Nikolaj Bertelsen was the Pioneers starting goalie for the first time this season. He replaced Ben Alexander, who suffered an injury in a 1-0 win over the Conn. Rush two nights earlier.

"Ben suffered a head injury the other night and he had to get stitches," Molinari said. "He'll probably be out a couple of games."

During the 60th minute, Xavier Tanyi lined a shot from about 25 yards out into the net tying the score at 2-2.

The Pioneers had a couple of chances to retake the lead during the last 30 minutes, but the score didn't change on the scoreboard.

Western Mass. defender Riley Priddy was given a straight red card from referee Luis Reis after pulling down a Bolts player just outside the top of the box in stoppage time. The free kick taken from Rainer Osselmann-Chai deflected off a Western Mass. defender and the home team salvaged a tie.

A tie is better than a loss, but it wasn't what the Pioneers fans were hoping for.

The Pioneers are scheduled to face the Bolts for the second time this season at Brandeis University on June 30.



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**Fernando Garcia eyes a teammate up the field.**

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**SPORTS**

**MUTINY** from page 9

first-year members of the USL W League. Their only victory came at home against AC Connecticut, 5-0, on May 30. They lost two close road matches against Hudson Valley, 2-0, and 2-1.

The Crusaders (5-2-2), along with Hartford Athletic and Vermont Green FC, are trying to finish the regular season in first place in the Northeast Division. Only the first place team earns a berth in the league playoffs.

Klingensmith, who wrapped up her collegiate soccer career at American University in Washington D.C. last fall, is planning to join a professional soccer team in Greece at the end of the summer.

"I'm really looking forward to starting my professional soccer career in a different country," Klingensmith said. "Its going to be a different type of experience for me."

Hope Santiniello, who's from Agawam, has been a member of the Mutiny since 2019. She played in her first home match of the 2026 season against the Crusaders.

"The atmosphere at this stadium is always amazing," said Santiniello, who was a starting defender for the first time in last Saturday's match. "It's always been a pleasure playing for this team."

Just like Klingensmith, Santiniello is seeking an opportunity to play soccer at the professional level. She's hoping to join a women's team in Florida.

Another local player listed on the Mutiny roster is Tennessee Murphy, who began her high school soccer career at Monson High School before transferring to the Loomis Chaffee School in Connecticut. She'll be a freshman on the Bucknell University women's soccer team in the fall.

"Being a member of this soccer team is preparing me for the college level," Murphy said. "I'm counting down the days until I leave for college. I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Murphy is scheduled to leave for Pennsylvania on July 27.

The Mutiny took a 1-0 lead less than ten minutes into the opening half.

Hudson Valley goalie Brianne McDonald attempted to clear the ball, but it went directly to Mila Dillard, who put a shot into the open net for an unassisted goal.

Dillard, who lives in Chicopee, is going to be a senior on the Pope Francis girls' varsity soccer team, which is coached by her father, Brent. She has verbally committed to playing soccer at the University of



**Kayleigh Lukasik heads up the field for the Mutiny.**



**Chloe Laizer corral the ball.**



**Monson's Tennessee Murphy advances up the field.**

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Kentucky a year from now. The Crusaders tied the score during the 18th minute of the opening half with Joy Okonye putting a header into the left corner of the net past Mutiny goalie Chloe Laizer.

About six minutes later, a goal from Emmanuella Frimpomaa gave the visiting team the lead for first time.

The Crusaders were then given a penalty kick following a foul in the box.

Okonye took the shot, which deflected off the right post.

With five minutes remaining in the first half, Laizer made an outstanding save on a breakaway shot from Frimpomaa, which kept the score at 2-1 a little bit longer.

The Crusaders did take a 3-1 lead when Marta Carrasco Mesa headed the ball into the net following a corner kick.

Frimpomaa scored her second goal of the match 30 seconds into the second half, which pretty much sealed the Crusaders victory.

At the end of regulation, Trinity Clark scored a goal for the home team.

The Mutiny were scheduled to play a road match against AC Connecticut on Tuesday night before wrapping up the season against Vermont Green at Lusitano Stadium at 6pm on Saturday night.



**Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, sends a long kick away.**



**Maeve Staunton overtakes an opponent.**

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15 Atwood Drive  
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(413)586-8500  
Docket No. HS26P0405EA  
Estate of:  
George R. Hodgins  
Date of Death: 03/17/2026  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Cody Hodgins of Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Cody Hodgins of Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to

this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/14/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S.

Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: June 16, 2026

Mark S. Ames,  
Register of Probate  
06/25/2026

**OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN**

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138 of the General Laws that Cold Spring Country Club Management, LLC, has applied for a Section 12 Restaurant All Alcoholic Beverages License at 330 Chauncey Walker Street, Belchertown, MA 01007.

A public hearing relative to the above referenced application will be held on Monday, July 6, 2026, at 7:10 p.m. in the Select Board's Meeting Room on the first floor of Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts.

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06/25/2026

**OBITUARY**

**Larry R. Foote, Jr.**

1961-2026

WARE — Larry R Foote, Jr, 64, born on June 24, 1961, in Holyoke, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully at home on June 16, 2026. He was an iron worker for many years for several local construction companies that specialized in steel construction. Larry was known for his love of family, his enjoyment in telling jokes—especially the classic “Dad” jokes—and sharing stories that brought laughter and warmth to those around him. Those who knew him will remember a man who appreciated lively conversations, often sharing, back-and-forth banter with his former wife, Bonnie Robert.

He is survived by his son, Larry R. Foote III, and his partner, Shelby Smith, of Ware; his daughters, Amanda M. Gonzalez and her partner Luke Biggs, also of Ware, and Kelly Wezniak along with her husband Jeff of Chicopee. His siblings, Bruce A. Foote of Belchertown and Cindy L. Foote of West Springfield, cherish his

memory as do his grandchildren, Rhaelyn Foote and Ashtyn J. Santor. Nieces, nephews, and many extended family members also remember Larry. Larry's parents, Eleanor Y. (Rimbold) Foote and Larry R. Foote, Sr, as well as his brother Richard J. Foote, preceded him in death.

Larry R Foote, Jr's legacy lives on through the stories he told, the laughter he inspired, and the family he loved.

Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. Visiting hours will be held Thursday, June 25, 2026 from 2 to 4 p.m. A Prayer Service will conclude the visitation at 4 p.m. at the funeral home. All are welcome to continue their remembrances of Larry at a reception immediately following the service on Thursday.

A Funeral Mass will be held Friday, June 26, 2026 at 10am in St. Mary's Church, 59 South St., Ware, MA 01082. For online condolences please visit www.lombardfuneralhome.com

**DEATH NOTICE**

**Foote, Larry R. Jr**  
Died June 16, 2026  
Visiting hours June 25 from 2 to 4 p.m.  
at Lombard Funeral Home, Monson  
Funeral Mass June 26, St. Mary's Church, Ware

*The Sentinel*  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

**80th Anniversary of B-17 crash on Mount Tom set for July 11**

HOLYOKE — The 80th anniversary of the July 9, 1946, crash of a B-17 that killed all 25 aboard will be held at the crash site on Saturday, July 11, at 10 a.m.

The flight, enroute to New York from Greenland, was to stop at Westover Field in Chicopee as the port of entry into the United States before continuing on to its final destination.

For nearly three decades, the community has gathered annually at the crash site to honor their memory and ensure that their service and sacrifice are never forgotten.

While making the

approach to Westover on a dark, rainy night, the plane struck the 1200-foot mountain about 300 feet below the summit. After tearing through trees, the B-17 hit a rocky outcrop causing the aircraft to disintegrate and starting an intense fire that burned for much of the night.

Several people who were at the Mountain Park amusement park at the base of Mt. Tom that night climbed up toward the accident site via an old cable railway roadbed but could not get close due to the heat of the fires. In the morning, rescue crews found

the bodies of the young men among the wreckage in the scarred and charred landscape. All were killed on impact.

The crash was, at the time, the worst air disaster in New England's history and the single largest loss of Coast Guard life outside of a maritime accident.

This year's ceremony marks not only the 80th anniversary of the tragedy but also the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Mt. Tom Memorial, which has become a place of reflection, education, and gratitude for generations of visitors.

**Crafters wanted for fall show in Ludlow**

LUDLOW — Crafters Wanted for the Rosary Sodality's St. Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, at Christ the King Church located at 41

Warsaw Avenue in Ludlow from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost is a non-refundable \$40. fee for an 8-ft table, which will be provided by the church.

To reserve a table or for more information contact Debbie Martell at 413-547-8739 or Lorraine Bernier at 413-519-7658. Light refreshments will be available.

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**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

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**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling).**

**Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands.**

**Thank you.**

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**CLUES ACROSS**

1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Excitedness
16. Armed Forces branch
17. Actor Harris
18. Middle Eastern capital
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Popular computers
27. Reduce light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Absence of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Whittles
34. Impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. \_\_\_ Clapton, musician
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. Singer Hansard
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Former AL MVP Vaughn
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
64. Relating to passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. \_\_\_ Lang (country singer)
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Wildebeests
13. Equal to one quintillion bytes
14. Japanese three-stringed lute
15. Type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. Measurement unit
30. Body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Snack food
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Pitching statistic
38. \_\_\_, myself and I
40. City in Utah
41. They play in the trenches
42. "Can't Touch This" rapper \_\_\_ Hammer
44. Type of tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Needles
51. University of Dayton
52. Atomic #11
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not any
57. \_\_\_ and behold
61. Popular sports highlight show (abbr.)
62. "The Great Lakes State"

**EARLY DEADLINES**

In observance of July 4th, there will be an **EARLY AD, PUBLIC NOTICES & CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE**

To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, July 2**

— Thank you! —

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