

Turkey Trot returns to Thompson



Photo Jason Bleau

Runners take off as the 2021 Centerville Bank Turkey Trot commences.

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THOMPSON – The Thompson Dam was filled with life on the morning of Sunday, Nov. 14 as the annual Centerville Bank Turkey Trot took to the trails of the nearby woodland. Runners and walkers turned out for a spectacular fall morning to help support several local causes in the town of Thompson.

The main beneficiary of the event was TEEG, a local social service agency that provides a variety of services to the towns of Thompson, Pomfret and Woodstock including food programs, youth services and senior assistance. Heather O'Rourke, the recently named new President of the TEEG Board of Directors, called the Turkey Trot a great community event that brings countless people together to support the local community.

"It's getting the community involved and especially for newer people in the area this shows them what TEEG is all about and the caring community that Thompson is," said O'Rourke. "I feel that's important because in order to get the word out there for what our

needs are we all have to pitch in. The preregistration was higher than it was in the past, it's a beautiful day and everything is going to a great cause."

Brian Lievense, Thompson recently hired Recreation Director, was part of his first Turkey Trot. He said the event not only provides 50 percent of the profits to TEEG but splits the other half of the money between recreation programs and the Thompson Trails Committee.

"For the Thompson Trails Committee, this is really their big event of the year. This is the one event where they generate the majority of their revenue for the year. For Thomson Recreation, we're going to use this for summer programming, summer camps, and some of the costs that go along with that including subsidizing for some of the lower income kids so that's our plan," said Lievense, who noted that after taking 2020 off due to the pandemic it seems excitement was high for the Turkey Trot's return in 2021. "I think having a year off, it was slightly beneficial because it brought in a record for sponsorships, and we got close to our

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Woodstock Fire Departments hold annual Toy Drive

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department held its 16th annual toy drive on Saturday, Nov. 13 benefiting local children in need as the official kick-off to the giving season in the region.

Volunteers from the department joined with the Muddy Brook and Bungay Fire

Departments and Community Fire Company in Thompson to collect toys throughout the day to benefit several local agencies and organizations including TEEG and the Putnam Family Resource Center. Toys and funds will also be allocated to families designated through the departments Woodstock, Pomfret and Eastford social worker contacts.

President of the Woodstock

Volunteer Fire Association Russ Downer said the event is a highlight of the year for all departments involved and allows the department to get involved with their local community in a much more positive way than just answering emergency calls.

"We usually get calls for times of need, but this is some-

Please Read **TOY DRIVE**, page **A3**



Photo Jason Bleau

Members and volunteers from the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department show off a selection of toys collected during the department's annual toy drive on Nov. 13.

Defense pitches third consecutive shutout as Killingly overpowers Norwich Free Academy

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — For the majority of this season, the talk surrounding the undefeated Killingly High football team has centered on its explosive offense — and rightfully so as the unit is averaging approximately 40 points per game.

Killingly's defensive unit, however, deserves a little love, too.

Killingly's 48-0 Senior Night victory over Norwich Free Academy (NFA) on Friday, Nov. 12, was the team's third consecutive shutout. No opponent this year has scored more than 14 points against Killingly.

More impressive than the dominating shutout of NFA was the fact that the Wildcats drove inside the Killingly 25-yard line three times, getting as far as the Killingly 23-, 15-, and 6-yard line only to come away with zero points.

"That was, honestly, huge," Killingly senior defensive end Nate Keefe said after the game, "especially that first one."

Norwich, on its second offensive possession, trailing 7-0, drove from its own 31-yard line to the Killingly 14-yard line, where they faced a third-and-one. Two incomplete passes later and Killingly took possession of the ball.

"We made a statement there and we just kept building off of it all night," said Keefe, who finished with seven tackles [four unassisted] and had a key stop on Killingly's second red zone stand. "As a leader on this team, along with linebackers Soren Rief, Keith Perry, Alex Potapskiy and Seth Dootson, we knew we needed a stop there to be successful. We came through; we had a lot of heart tonight."

The Killingly defense scored two of the team's seven touchdowns in the game. Defensive back Ben Jax returned an interception 33 yards for one score and nose tackle Terrance Allen recovered a Wildcats' fumble in the end zone for

Please Read **FOOTBALL**, page **A6**

Putnam High School remembers Veterans Day in a special way

PUTNAM — More than 50 veterans turned out at Putnam High School for a special program in remembrance of Veterans Day, on Nov. 11. Basking in the sunshine of the morning and temperatures edging up to 60 degrees, the entire student body, faculty, administration and friends respectfully surrounded the contingent of veterans on hand.

The veterans in attendance, some parents and grandparents of students, represented the military dating back to World War II, the Korean Conflict, the war in Vietnam and conflicts as recently as Desert Storm, Lebanon/Grenada and the War on Terror.

The day opened at 8 a.m. with refreshments and a "meet and greet" in the school library. Students mingled with veterans, offering tours of the school and encouraging the veterans to enter classes, share their military experiences and answer questions from the students. Everyone adjourned to the green in front of the school at 10 a.m. for a program coordinated by the students, Principal Heather Taylor and faculty members John Allen and Matthew Amendola.

John Allen opened the program with greetings and thanks to everyone in attendance.

Allen noted, "This is the first time in many years that Putnam High School has remained open for students on Veterans Day."

He expressed how happy everyone was to entertain the veterans in attendance.

Senior Reagan Boledovic presented a brief history of Veterans Day, which dates back to the end of World War I in 1919, when it was designated as Armistice Day. She further explained how President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name to Veterans Day in 1954.

Boledovic then presented a folded American flag to American Legion Post #13 Commander Michael Vassar, VFW Post #1523 Commander Hans Lowell and Past Post #13 Commander and current Putnam Mayor Norman "Barney" Seney. The trio then ceremoniously unfolded the flag and raised it up the flag pole on the Putnam High School green.

Following a saxophone solo of America the Beautiful by PHS senior James Lazarou, Vietnam veteran and Post #13 and VFW member Albert Cormier led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Past Post #13 Commander and Past American Legion District #4 Commander Ronald P. Coderre addressed the gathering with thoughts about the meaning of Veterans Day and its effects on veterans today. He cited The American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard, whose motto for the year is, "No Veteran Left Behind."

"It is the custom of the United States military to never leave a comrade behind," said

Please Read **VETERANS**, page **A4**

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Note: The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society will be closed the day before Thanksgiving, Nov. 24. It will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 27.

Newly Arrived at the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center: Copies of “Images of America Killingly” by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A. Spencer. This first book of Killingly photos has been out of print but is now available just in time for Christmas. Copies are \$20 if purchased at the Center; \$25 for postage and handling if the book must be mailed. Copies will be available during regular Center hours on Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Checks accepted but not credit cards. Please send a letter with your name, address and a check for \$25 if you wish to have a copy mailed to you. No phone orders, please. Check out the other items.

The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society recently received a donation from Kathy Fedor (Pat Rychkowski) of “What’s Cookin’?” a cookbook compiled by Ladies Aid Society of the Union Baptist Church of East Killingly in 1948. Volunteers at the Center have been chuckling at the suggested diet food in the Eighteen Day Reducing Diet. Every breakfast was identical: 1/2 grapefruit, melba toast, (no butter) and coffee. Sue Gosselin picked up on the fact that the diet included an entire head of lettuce in one day. Lunch:

1 orange, 1 egg, 1 slice melba toast, ½ head lettuce, tea; dinner 1 small broiled steak (plain), ½ head lettuce, 1 tomato, ½ grapefruit, tea or coffee. The diet continued with plenty of eggs, cucumbers, melba toast, radishes, and grapefruit. I guess you’d be out of luck if you had a medication that said, “No grapefruit.” I don’t think I’d ever want to see another piece of melba toast! Under household hints Frank Aleman pointed out the following, “Kid gloves may be kept clean much longer if rubbed gently and firmly with bread crumbs with each wearing. An Art Gum eraser may also be used for this purpose.” How many of you had kid gloves? I never did, but remember having white ones to wear to church when I was growing up.

Wayne Magao brought in a copy of “Taylor’s Directory of Putnam and Danielson 1900,” which he thought I might find interesting. It has given me much food for thought! The cover ad was for “Farley’s-Putnam’s Busiest Store. Windham County’s leading Ladies’ and Gent’s Clothier and Furnisher. A specialty of gent’s fine shoes. Seton Farley, Prop.; G. W. H. Farley, Manager. No. 9-11 Front Street, Bradley Building. Another Putnam business was Shaw’s Satisfactory Store. I found the ad fascinating since the store of George E. Shaw was not only a stationary store but also was selling jewelry, bicycles, sewing machines, pianos, organs and other musical merchandise. The ads in the Directory tell so much about the life and times of the area residents at the beginning of the 20th century. Do you ever even think

of using a tailor today? In the Danielson section I found a full-page ad for “W. J. Craig, Honest Tailoring. Quality is the most important point to be considered in selecting a suit or overcoat, cape or cloak...Leading county Tailor.” C.H. Bacon had a large store at the corner of Academy and Mechanics Sts. in Danielson. He advertised house furnishings for parlor, chamber, dining room, kitchen--furniture, carpets, window shades, wall paper. The picture of the Magee cook stove reminded me of the coal stoves that my grandmothers had. My maternal grandmother loved tea and could easily keep an ironstone cup of it warm on the back of the stove. Bacon’s was not the only such store. John F. Bennett operated Bennett’s Boston House Furnishing Store on Main Street in Danielson. E. H. Keach & Co. in Danielson was advertising “The Winchester... the best House heating Boiler for either steam or hot water.” The directory also included beautiful photos of three successful hotels in Killingly--the Sprague House with porches on the upper two stories (Attawaugan Hotel), Central House (both rates, \$2 per day), and the Kennedy House in Dayville, which is no longer standing. The proximity of the railroad and trolley made it very easy for those from out-of-town to come for business or pleasure. Patrons of the “People’s Popular Pleasure Park” at Alexander’s Lake were being encouraged to take the trolley, which was in its infancy in the area.

How many of you or your parents attended school in Killingly in 1949? I came

across the following article in a notebook at the Killingly Historical Center. I hadn’t known this building was ever used for a school. “At Long Last! A New School... While the powers that be in Hartford are still bickering over ways and means of providing relief to overcrowded schools in the state, Killingly has acquired a ‘new school’; that is, a new school annex. The fact that the building formerly housed a fish market is quite beside the point. The essential thing is that the first grade room at the Grammar school which has had 54 pupils to accommodate since the opening of school in September, now has the more rational number of 20, since 24 were moved into the new annex on Monday. And the said 24 should consider themselves lucky, for the little one story building has been completely transformed within and without (and incidentally without any state aid). The Killingly Board of Education and Superintendent R. Vernon Hays deserve a ‘slap on the back’ for the prompt and very satisfactory action taken to relieve a serious situation. This 24’ by 20’ classroom has new insulated walls and ceiling and insulated floor covered with inlaid linoleum. The color effects are in apple green and peach pastels; the heating system includes air conditioning and thermostat control; the lighting is of the most modern type and new lavatories have been installed. The boiler room is separated from the classroom by a fire wall, and all this was accomplished in a little over a month. The new annex, pictured above (only in the article), is located

at 7 School Street, close enough to the grammar school to allow the children to use the main playgrounds during recess.” The little building is still standing on the south side of the Danielson fire station. Killingly Memorial School was completed in 1952, but how long this building remained an annex is unknown at this time. (Windham County Transcript, Nov. 17, 1949; Killingly Tidbits and Business Ad Notebook, compiled by Bernard Mitchell in May, 2016; Miles of Millstream, Weaver & Wood). Killingly Historical Society archivist Lynn LaBerge said that she and her family lived in the building for several years during the 1970’s (conversation, Nov. 10). Please share memories by emailing me if you or a family member attended this annex.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian November 2021. Special thanks to Kathy Fedor, Sue Gosselin, Frank Aleman, Lynn LaBerge, and Wayne Magao. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or contact the Killingly Historical Society at www.killinglyhistorical.org. Leave messages for the Killingly Historical Center at 860-779-7250. Visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday from 10-4. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center should be sent to P.O. Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239.

How to lighten your business tax liability by year’s end



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JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

If your small business had a better year than expected, congratulations! But also beware

– if your business income significantly exceeds the amount projected when figuring your quarterly estimated tax payments for this year, you could

be looking at a big tax bill next April.

But don’t panic. Even with only several weeks left in the year, there are still some things you can do to reduce this year’s tax burden to your business. Here are four strategies to consider.

Accelerate Expenses

Consider making early purchases of deductible supplies, equipment, or services before year’s end. If you know you’re going to incur those expenses next year anyway, choosing to purchase them now instead can lower your overall business tax liability by allowing you to take those deductions in the current tax year.

If you’re expecting to have a high tax bill, having those deductions could divert at least some of those tax dollars back into your business instead. Just be sure to check with your accountant on which purchases will be deductible before you make them.

Delay Income

If your business uses the cash method of accounting (used by many self-employed individuals, sole proprietors and small partnerships) you could defer income by delaying the billing of clients until next year.

Income is taxable in the year in which it is received, not necessarily in the year in which the goods or services were provided. By delaying your invoicing until after the first of the year, you can push that income into next year instead of having it included in your tax-

able income for this year. (Just be sure to plan your quarterly estimated tax payments for next year accordingly to take that additional income into account.)

Establish a Retirement Plan

If you don’t already have a retirement plan in place for your business, the end of a profitable year is a great time to get one in place. Retirement savings are essential for both your employees and yourself.

There are a variety of retirement plan options for small businesses that offer not only a way for you and your employees to save for retirement but also some valuable tax advantages for your business. Employer contributions to employees’ retirement plans are tax deductible, and for the first three years of having the plan your business may also be eligible for a \$500 annual business tax credit for setting the plan up. Even self-employed individuals have an option, the one-participant 401(k) plan, which allows you to save up to \$57,000 in total for retirement, tax deferred. Which plan is right for you will depend on your business and situation.

Take Advantage of Business Tax Credits

Tax credits are even more valuable than deductions, because they are subtracted from your business income before gross income is determined. There are a variety of tax credits that may be available to your business.

Some examples include:

- tax credits for business purchases (the purchase must have been put into use during the year in which you claim the credit);
- the small business health care tax credit, which is available to small busi-

nesses that pay at least half the cost of single coverage for employees;

- tax credits for making certain changes to your business to make it more energy efficient and environmentally friendly;
- the work opportunity tax credit, which is available to employers who hire employees in certain categories such as veterans or certain disadvantaged individuals;
- the access for disabled persons tax credit, which is available to businesses that make changes to the business location to accommodate employees and customers with disabilities; and others

Each of these tax credits offer a different credit amount and carry different requirements for eligibility. You should talk with your accountant about which tax credits your business may be eligible to receive.

Don’t Just Plan for Year-End, Plan for Years Out

A successful business requires financial planning not just at tax time, but year-round and long-term as well. At Weiss, Hale and Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors we use our proprietary Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well™ strategic process to help business owners get set up for financial success both personally and professionally at every stage of their journey. See how we can help you and your business at whzwealth.com/business-owners and contact us at (860) 928-2341 or info@whzwealth.com to create a strategic financial plan for you and your business.

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QVCC announces upcoming events

DANIELSON — Quinebaug Valley Community College has several coming events in November and December, which are open to the public:

Covid Vaccinations – Receive your first and second doses, as well as boosters (Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson). Tuesdays 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and Wednesdays 3 - 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge on the Danielson campus. No appointment needed. (There will not be a vaccination clinic held on Wednesday, Nov. 17).

Veterans Connection Photo Exhibit: Running until Nov. 26 – The Veterans Connection photo exhibit began in the fall of 2014 to recognize and celebrate the QVCC faculty, staff, and community members who have served or have loved ones who have served in the United States military. Featured in the exhibit is a missing man table, also known as a fallen comrade table. This table is reserved to honor our brave and selfless American military members who have perished on the battlefield, those who have not been returned to us after being taken prisoner on foreign soil, and for those who went missing and have not found their way back home. The Veterans Connection photo exhibit, which is open to the public, will be running until Friday, Nov. 26. Community members are invited and encouraged to visit.

Nov. 16 at 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.: Tour & Information Session Spotlighting QVCC’s Careers in Healthcare – Learn about QVCC’s Healthcare Associate Degree and certificate programs, including Business Administration: Health Care Management, Medical Assisting, Medical Laboratory Technician, Pre-Nursing, Administrative Medical Office Skills, Phlebotomy, Health Career Pathways, and HIMT: Certified Coding Specialist.

Nov. 17 at 6 p.m.: QVCC Fall Open House – Have you always wanted to go to college? Are you looking for a new career or the right career for you? Do you need help figuring out your next steps? QVCC is the place to find yourself and your path. Attending Open House is the best way to discover why QVCC should be your choice for starting, continuing, or finishing your college education. By registering, you will have access to the Open House for a year! Open House includes an alumni & student panel, individual breakout sessions, and a student services informational panel. Register at qvcc.edu/openhouse.

Nov. 18 at 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.: Advanced Manufacturing & Mechatronics Automation Technician Tour & Information Session – Join the QVCC Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center Team at the Danielson campus to learn about our programs. You can tour our facilities, learn about internships, job placement for graduates, and hear about the demand locally, regionally, and statewide for the skills of our graduates from these programs. No RSVP is required. For more information, contact Sandy Gould at sgould@qvcc.edu.

Nov. 24 at 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Black Dog Bar & Grille: Annual Alumni Mixer – A fun night that brings

QVCC alumni together to reconnect with one another and the college. We cordially invite alumni, faculty, and staff to come by and enjoy a drink, some food and conversation – a perfect pre-Thanksgiving celebration! RSVP at qvcc.edu/alumni-events. Contact Sarah Wolfburg, Director of Alumni Relations at swolfburg@qvcc.edu or (860) 932-4133 with any questions.

Nov. 30: Giving Tuesday – After widely recognized shopping days, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday kicks off the charitable holiday season. Celebrated the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, this Giving Tuesday, the QVCC Foundation is asking you to give the gift of education and help support local students at QVCC. Give online at www.qvcc.edu/give-now on Nov. 30. Your gift makes a difference in hundreds of local QVCC students’ lives!

Dec. 4 and Jan. 8 from 10 a.m. - noon: QVCC Preview Day – Learn why QVCC is the best and most affordable start for a college education. Apply for free, tour campus, meet faculty and alumni, and learn about your options for paying for college (financial aid, scholarships, and PACT free tuition funding). Enjoy cider and donuts. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yjsk6x9o>.

Dec. 4 and Jan. 8 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Enrollment Day – Advising will be available to help you build your winter or spring class schedule and register. Financial Aid will also be available for questions. Advanced reservation is required.

Dec. 11: In-Person FAFSA Completion Event – Join us in-person for our 2022-2023 FAFSA Completion Event. If you are a recent high school graduate (under age 24) or high school senior, we strongly recommend your parents attend the workshop as well, as they will need to provide information and a digital signature to complete the process. Students and parents/guardians: please bring your 2020 tax returns and FSA ID, which can be created at studentaid.gov. If you did not file 2020 taxes, please bring your W2. This event will be offered at two different times to fit your busy schedule: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm or 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm. Please RSVP to choose your preferred time and location: forms.office.com/r/U1nhEbLkr1.

Dec. 7 from 5 - 7:30 p.m.: Evening Advising and Registration (Danielson & Willimantic) – Get advised and get registered! Advisors will be available on both the Danielson and Willimantic campuses, as well as through phone and video options, to help build your winter or spring schedule and register for the courses you need.

Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m.: Tour Tuesday – Take a tour of our main campus and see what QVCC can offer you! Tour the building and labs, meet with admissions, visit our library and learning center, and hear about services that can make you a successful student.

Dec. 7 from 5 - 7:30 p.m.: Opening Exhibition for El Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead – The opening reception for the El Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead exhibit will be held on Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the SPIROL Art Gallery. The exhibit will run from Dec. 7 – Jan. 21.

Dec. 8 from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.: FAFSA Completion Event (Remote) – Join us virtually for our 2022-2023 FAFSA Completion Event. If you are a recent high school graduate (under age 24) or high school senior, we strongly recommend your parents attend the workshop as well, as they will need to provide information and a digital signature to complete the process. Students and parents/guardians, please be prepared with your 2020 tax returns and FSA ID, which can be created at studentaid.gov. If you did not file 2020 taxes, please provide your W2. Please RSVP to choose your preferred time: <https://forms.office.com/r/U1nhEbLkr1>.

Dec. 8 from 2 - 6 p.m.: Get Accepted, Advised, and Registered (Willimantic) – Receive in-person student support services from Admissions, Financial Aid, and Advising at QVCC’s Willimantic satellite location.

Dec. 8 from 5 - 7:30 p.m.: Evening Advising and Registration (Danielson) – Get advised and get registered! Advisors will be available on the Danielson campus, as well as through phone and video options, to help build your winter or spring schedule and register for the courses you need.



ACCURACY WATCH

The *Villager Newspapers* is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page A3 in a timely manner. If you find a mistake call (860) 928-1818 or e-mail charlie@villager-newspapers.com.

Killingly Grange to host bluegrass concert

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Grange, P of H #112, is proud to welcome back The Nick Anderson and Shady Creek Band to its hall on Saturday, Nov 27. A lot of people know that the Grange and his band constitute the longest running live traditional bluegrass music venue in Eastern Connecticut. So far, his band has been performing at the Grange for a good 20 years or so. Let’s hope for another good twenty years! Also, on the 27th, a second band, The Bear Minimum, led Dave “Tex” Orlomoski, originally from Canterbury, will perform after a 20 -30-minute break. The doors open at 6 p.m., and the concert starts at 7 p.m. Sandwiches and other refreshments will be available throughout the night. Tickets for the concert will be \$12 at the door.

TROT

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record for runners. I think people were really receptive to getting back in to supporting the race and the causes.” Around 174 runners registered for the event, and just under \$11,000 was raised in sponsorships alone, the most in the events history and the first time the event cracked \$10,000 in sponsorships money. The fastest finishers of the Trot were 14-year-old Woodstock Academy cross country team member Christian Menounos of Brooklyn for the men with a time of 20:02 and Lebanon native Rachel Hartley for the women with a time of 24.25.

TOY DRIVE

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thing we can do for people who need something in a different way and help them get through the holiday season. It makes it less stressful for them. The community support for this is just incredible,” said Downer. “Every year, the dollar amount doesn’t matter, it’s about the support for the community. There are years where people have more to share but it’s just about the support that we get. This is an event inclusive of the three fire departments in Woodstock and Community Fire Company in Thompson has helped us the past few years so this is about helping the community as a whole.” Department Lt. John Kline, who helped coordinate the event with Downer, echoed his colleague’s sentiments, noting “Just to know we have this many people who are backing us for everything we do for the town and the surrounding towns is an amazing feeling. That support just keeps growing. Every year that we have this we have more and more people going through.” The event collected numerous boxes of toys for different ages groups that will all be donated to agencies throughout the next few weeks leading up to the holiday giving season. The department also raised \$6,200 throughout the day, and that doesn’t include the money and toys raised from the other three departments that participated throughout the day.

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Day Kimball Healthcare signs agreement to affiliate with Covenant Health



Photo Courtesy

Left to right: Steve Grubbs, President/ CEO of Covenant Health, Janice Thurlow, Chairman of the Day Kimball Healthcare Board of Directors, and R. Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Healthcare sign affiliation agreement at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam, today, Tuesday, Nov. 16.

PUTNAM — The leadership teams from Day Kimball Healthcare and Covenant Health, Inc. announced today that they have entered into an affiliation agreement allowing both organizations to move forward with discussions aimed at Day Kimball Healthcare becoming a full member of Covenant Health.

The news follows several months of thoughtful conversations between the two entities. Once details are worked out and regulatory approvals are granted, Day Kimball Healthcare will be able to leverage resources available through the Covenant Health system, including access to capital for investment in Information Technology platforms and an electronic health record while retaining its focus on its mission and the local

community. No expectation was established for the affiliation to become final as the regulatory review and approval process is extensive.

“We have had many productive and encouraging conversations with the leadership of Day Kimball Healthcare,” said Stephen Grubbs, President/CEO of Covenant Health. “The agreement we signed today allows us to take the next steps in this process, including working out important details and filing requests for approval of the proposed transition with various regulatory agencies.”

As part of the proposed affiliation, Day Kimball’s hospital, medical group, home care, hospice and palliative care and four health centers located across Northeast Connecticut would be owned and oper-

ated by Covenant Health. Day Kimball Healthcare’s community-led board of directors will continue to serve in an advisory capacity to Covenant Health’s board of directors, preserving local influence on decisions. Like Day Kimball, Covenant Health shares a deep commitment to serving people of all faiths, backgrounds and incomes — just as Day Kimball does today.

“Day Kimball Healthcare is proud of our 127-year tradition of providing the highest quality care and always acting with the community’s best interest in mind,” said R. Kyle Kramer, CEO of Day Kimball Healthcare. “This affiliation with Covenant Health will further enhance our ability to serve our immediate community and beyond, and will also provide us the opportunity to make much needed investments in our electronic, physical, and clinical infrastructure.”

Covenant is a not-for-profit Catholic health system that owns and operates 12 skilled nursing and senior living communities and three hospitals spread throughout New England and into Pennsylvania. Much like Covenant Health, which has roots dating back 150 years, Day Kimball was founded in 1894 and has strong ties to the communities it serves. By joining forces with Covenant Health, Day Kimball Healthcare can achieve an economy of scale and operating efficiencies that will make more efficient, effective and financially viable — even during a time of unprecedented change in healthcare industry.

Day Kimball is a fully integrated health system that is comprised of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group and four ambulatory healthcare centers in Connecticut including Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield and Putnam. Day Kimball also operates Day Kimball HomeMakers, Day Kimball HomeCare and Hospice & Palliative Care

of Northeastern Connecticut.

Both organizations are committed to keeping the community informed during the approval process. To learn more, please visit www.daykimball.org or www.covenanthealth.net.

About Covenant Health

Covenant Health of Tewksbury, Mass., is an innovative, Catholic regional health delivery network and a leader in values-based, not-for-profit health and eldercare. Covenant Health consists of hospitals, skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers, assisted living and independent senior residences, and community-based health and elder care organizations throughout New England and in Pennsylvania.

About Day Kimball Healthcare

Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare’s comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is www.daykimball.org.

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Eastern honors active, past service members on Veterans Day

WILLIMANTIC — For the first time since 2019, Eastern Connecticut State University celebrated Veteran’s Day with an on-ground, in-person ceremony on Nov. 11 in the Student Center Atrium.

Following refreshments, SPC Willard Brin of the Connecticut National Guard, a student worker in the Veterans Education and Transition Services (VETS) Center, welcomed several hundred Eastern students, faculty and staff to the celebration. Citing veterans’ “love of country,” Brin thanked the audience for joining him to honor the 2.3 million active members of the Armed Services and Reserve/National Guard personnel; 19 million living veterans; and the three million Americans who have died or been wounded since 1775 in defense of our country.

National Guard recruiter SSG Patrick Passantino; Eastern Police Department SFC Lauren Fauchon; and students SPC Kathryn Platt and Kassandra Manguaf presented the colors for the ceremony. Eastern’s Chamber Singers sang the National Anthem, conducted by Music Professor David Belles.

Father Laurence LaPointe offered reflections.

“It is an honor for all of us to be here, an honor enabled by veterans who provide hope for our community today and for our community in the future,” said LaPointe. “We pray that we may be inspired by the example of those who have dedicated themselves to the service of the nation.”

Eastern President Elsa Nunez expressed gratitude to those who made the celebration possible, especially recognizing Eastern’s VETS Center. “We have several hundred active-duty military and veterans enrolled at Eastern. I am proud to share that Eastern was tied for first in New England this fall among public regional universities in service to veterans, as ranked by U.S. News and World Report. Such external validation speaks to the support for veterans provided by our entire campus community!”

Nunez said a relatively small group of people protect our nation.

She noted that with a population of 330 million people, we are protected by only 1.4 million active service personnel and another 850,000 Reserves and National Guard. She also said that U.S. service men and women defend not just their own lives and ours, as well as our homeland, they defend the principles of democracy and individual freedom.

“As Founding Father Alexander Hamilton wrote, ‘There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself in acts of bravery and heroism.’ Heroes overcoming fear to protect the liberty we hold dear - those are the people we are here today to honor.”

“We owe our lives, our land and our freedoms to these brave souls,” continued Nunez. “Today and every day, please find ways - tangible ways - that you can let our servicemen and women know how much you respect and appreciate their sacrifices for each of us.”

Lt. Colonel Joe Danao ‘89, who retired after a distinguished 33-year career with the Connecticut Army National Guard, delivered the keynote address. Danao was deployed in Afghanistan. His wife, son and son-in-law are also veterans. His daughter Ashley is an Eastern graduate as well.

“Peace is precious and worth working towards as a nation and world,” said Danao as he applauded Eastern’s leadership in its service to veterans. “A 19-year old freshman at Eastern has not known peace in their lifetime. This has never happened in our history before.”

Danao also share some good news. “This is the first Veterans Day since Nov. 11, 2000, that our nation hasn’t been at war. We have veterans who spent their entire careers earning their 20-year retirements and have never known peace.”

Danao said today’s generations of warriors includes members from all corners of the nation - all races, genders and walks of life. He said that no matter who, what and where they are upon enlistment, they have one thing in common - “a commitment to make our country better, stronger and freer and by extension the rest of the world.”

Danao said we also should thank veterans for all they do outside of their military service. “Today our warriors are not just engaged in conflict overseas, they are engaged here on the home team - helping with the war on COVID19, natural disasters, cybersecurity and other homeland missions. The bottom line is, they are stepping up and getting the job done.”

Danao concluded by saying, “We are here to honor all veterans, past and present for their mental and physical sacrifices and commitment of service that helped our nation become a safer and more peaceful place. I salute each of you and your families, for your service, and if you are not a veteran, I salute your commitment to supporting veterans. If you see a vet, say ‘Thank You!’”

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Benefits Local Outreach

Davis' big day helps Woodstock Academy defeat Ledyard, win ECC Division II Championship

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy football team completed the long journey to the Division II summit of the mountain that is the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) when it soundly defeated Ledyard High, 42-8, at the Bentley Athletic Conference on Saturday, Nov. 13.

With the win the Centaurs improved to 7-2 overall and finished the season 4-0 in ECC Division II play, capturing their first-ever ECC divisional title in the process.

"It's crazy; we've worked so hard for this," Woodstock senior quarterback Ethan Davis said. "We were literally the doormat of the ECC and the state. So, to actually win a championship is great. This is a huge improvement from a few years ago."

Like Davis, Woodstock Academy coach Sean Saucier was well aware of the magnitude of the moment.

"This is incredible," he said while looking out on the field and watching his players and their families celebrate the win and the ECC championship. "It's really special, it's very important, and it's a great accomplishment. 'I can't say enough about my coaches and players. They prepared very well. We had three incredible practices this week and the old saying, 'you play how you practice,' is true. We proved it today."

Davis made sure the Centaurs realized their dream of winning the ECC Division II title by rushing for 262 yards and four touchdowns on 13 carries and completing 11-of-18 pass attempts



Woodstock Academy's Ethan Davis carries the ball for one of his four rushing touchdowns versus Ledyard on Saturday, Nov. 13.

for 170 yards and another two scores. On the season Davis has rushed for 940 yards and 12 touchdowns on 94 carries (a 10 yards per-carry average) and completed 105-of-165 passes for 1,356 yards and 17 TDs.

"I definitely will not forget this game for the rest of my life," said Davis, who had a hand in every WA touchdown. "Winning an ECC championship with my boys, it doesn't get better than that."

Saucier smiled when Davis' name was mentioned.

"This performance today was an exclamation point to the season he's had and his career," Saucier said. "We like to say, 'if Ethan's Ethan, we'll be good.' He was more than good today, he was special and I'm really happy for him. He put it all together today; he had a heck of a day. He's earned every bit of it."

Woodstock Academy made it clear early in the game that they would not be denied, scoring touchdowns on back-to-back offensive plays to jump out to a 15-0 first quarter lead.

On the sixth play of the Centaurs' first offensive series, Davis hooked up with junior Carter Saracina, who had gotten behind the Ledyard defense, on a 44-yard scoring strike. Junior Payton Barna followed with the two-point conversion rush and with 6:52 left to play in the first quarter, WA led 8-0.

Eight seconds later, following a successful onside kick — recovered by sophomore David Bunning — the Centaurs led, 15-0. On the play following the onside kick, junior Braiden Saucier took the snap from center, quickly passed it to the right sideline to Davis, who threw it to Saracina, who waltzed into the end zone to complete the



Woodstock Academy's Kenneth Brown and Silas Strandson combine to take down a player from Ledyard.

47-yard scoring play.

The two touchdown receptions were Saracina's sixth and seventh receiving TDs of the season.

"Hitting on those two deep balls for touchdowns really helped us momentum-wise," Davis said. "On both plays the linebacker stayed in and the safety was on the other side of the field. Carter was just wide open."

Coach Saucier was thrilled with the start, but he knew there was a lot of football left to be played.

"That was a heck of a way to start the game, but I was still nervous," coach Saucier said. "I tell the kids to ride the wave of the ups and downs of the game. Sometimes when you start that fast the momentum can swing and the next thing you know it's a one-score game. I get just as

nervous if we're up two scores as I do when we're down one or two scores. You don't want the kids to get too high. But, that wasn't a problem because they were consistent all day. They were incredible today."

After a Ledyard score, Davis pushed the WA lead at halftime to 22-8, plowing in from a yard out with 2:13 left in the first half. On the first possession of the second half — Woodstock won the toss but deferred so they could get the ball to start the third quarter — Davis extended the Centaurs' lead to 29-8 with a six-yard scamper.

Davis put WA ahead, 36-8, with 1:55 left in the third quarter on an 85-yard run right down the middle of the field on a quarterback draw, and Davis then closed out the scoring with 9:16 left in the game, scoring on a 25-yard run.

FOOTBALL

continued from page A1

another touchdown.

In addition, Norwich gained 171 yards on 69 offensive plays, an average of 2.77 yards per play. The Wildcats were just 3-for-16 converting third downs into first downs, and 0-for-4 on fourth down.

"Our red zone defense was great; the kids really paid attention during the week to what [Norwich] likes to do down there," Killingly coach Chad Neal said. "Hats off to our kids; they played tremendous. They work hard every day. They come to practice, they learn and they get better, and then they go out on game night and execute."

Killingly's offense was as devastating as its defense, scoring five first half touchdowns on 18 plays. Senior Jack Sharpe led the way, finishing the night with 241 rushing yards, including scoring scampers of 11, 37 and 57 yards, on 19 carries. If Killingly fans think Sharpe

looks as if he's hitting the hole with more explosiveness than he was earlier in the season, it's because he is.

"Unfortunately, I've had some injuries this year that were holding me back," Sharpe said. "I've started working very hard in practice, doing the extra stuff I need to do to bring my game to the next level and get ready for the state playoffs. I'm going to continue working; there's no stopping now."

Sophomore running back Soren Rief also broke the century mark, gaining 128 yards on eight carries and scoring on a 44-yard burst through the middle of the NFA defense.

"The guys up front, they do everything for us. Me and Jack, we have it easy," Rief said, referring to right tackle Shane Leduc, right guard Ryan Miller, center Noah Russell, left guard Devin Exarhoulias and his twin brother Darin Exarhoulias, the left tackle. "Those guys, they open the holes up. We knew [Norwich] was going to be physical, but

we got it done tonight. I was confident, despite how physical they can be, that our offensive line was going to give us holes to run through."

The Killingly offense rushed for 369 yards on 30 attempts, gaining an average of 12.3 yards per carry. Sharpe and Rief combined to rush for 10 or more yards on seven carries. The longest run of the night for Killingly was a 66-yarder by Rief that preceded Sharpe's 11-yard rushing TD.

For quarterback Thomas Dreiholz,

it was a night to just deliver the mail. The junior completed 2-of-4 passes for 61 yards, one of the completions being a 48-yard scoring strike to Jax after six straight rushing plays. Nine of Killingly's first 11 offensive plays were runs.

"It was a great play call by [Neal]," Jax said of the touchdown toss. "To be able to set that up coach started with the runs, which really opened up that pass play. It was a great pass, too, from Thomas. It was awesome. It was perfect timing and everything was great."



Photos Jason McKay

Jack Sharpe of Killingly makes his way into the end zone while effortlessly evading the Norwich Free Academy defense.



The Killingly football team sprints onto the field before taking on Norwich Free Academy on Friday, Nov. 12.



Killingly's Nate Keefe tackles Norwich Free Academy's ball carrier.

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High School Notebook

Ellis Tech boys' soccer enjoys historic season

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

DANIELSON — Making history.

That's what the Ellis Tech boys' varsity soccer team did in 2021, setting a school record for wins in a season and, in the process, earning the No. 1 seed for the Connecticut Class L Tournament. The 13-3-2 Golden Eagles' run in the postseason ended earlier than they had hoped, thanks to a 3-0 second-round loss to Masuk High of Monroe, but fourth-year coach Drew Mizak was thrilled by the just-completed season.

"This group of seniors, the first group I've had as head coach for all four of their years, they've been building and getting better each year and it culminated in this 13-win season, that included a 10-game win streak during the year," said Mizak, who was the team's assistant coach for nine seasons before becoming head coach.

The team was led this season by its senior class, which consisted of co-captains Brett Gile and Everett LeBlanc, as well as Sebastian Fauxbel, Tyler Grenon and Logan Hereth. Gile, Ellis Tech's starting goalkeeper this season, played every minute of every game in 2021, which isn't surprising since he has started in net for every game of his four-year high school career. This season he allowed just 12 shots to get past him.

"Brett worked his butt off for four years. He is the best student of the game I have ever coached. He dedicated himself 100 percent to this program," Mizak said. "Brett was every-



Photo Courtesy

The record-setting 2021 Ellis Tech boys' varsity soccer team.

thing you could ask for in a captain. He is a bright kid with a good soccer mind. In his four years in the program, I saw him get better and better and better.

"We knew Brett was going to get tested against Masuk, and he was," continued Mizak, who confirmed Gile made 21 saves against the Panthers. "Masuk took an incredible amount of shots and he did not let us down. The three goals we conceded, one of those came on the penalty kick and Brett was a half an inch away from making the stop. He read it correctly, dove correctly and ultimately came up a little bit short. Their other two goals came off of corner kicks. Brett made every save that he should have, and then a couple that were really special stops."

Leading Ellis Tech at the other end of the pitch was sophomore Cody Cramer, who scored a team-high 15 goals and assisted on four others. Classmate Cam Fulone found the back of the net eight

times. Fauxbel and Fulone led the Golden Eagles in assists with six each while LeBlanc and freshman Devon LaRoche recorded three assists apiece.

"Cody can definitely put it in the net. He is probably the most clinical finisher we have on the team," Mizak said. "Fulone is a constant worker. The effort we get from top to bottom gives us a nice balance."

Key freshmen on this year's team included LaRoche, Hunter Giovanni and Hunter Tatro.

"We ask a lot out of some of our freshmen, and we had a few who really delivered this year," Mizak said. "Hunter Giovanni, I can't say enough good things about him. He was our utility guy out there. I played him all over the midfield, I'd put him up top, I'd put him out back. Wherever I need to put him he could go. I've never been able to do that before with a freshman. Hunter is going to be something special. He's only going to get bigger, faster and stronger."

The future, thanks to the past four years, looks bright for Ellis Tech.

"Seasons like this don't happen by accident; they happen through hard work and dedication," Mizak said. "That was the legacy of this senior class. Next year the guys on this team need to continue that. These guys, the senior class in particular, started to change the culture of this program. It wasn't by accident that they strung together the wins they strung together. It was by hard work. I expect and believe that we will see that mentality and culture continue with the younger kids."

Elsewhere:
It took 80 minutes of regulation, 20 minutes of overtime and a round of penalty kicks, but 28th-seeded Woodstock Academy — finally — completed its upset of fifth-seeded Abbott Tech, 2-1, in a first round game of the Class L CIAC Boys' Soccer Tournament, played in Danbury on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

After a scoreless regulation

and two 10-minute overtime periods which ended, 1-1, the game went to penalty kicks, during which the 7-9-1 Centaurs prevailed, 3-2, to account for the 2-1 final.

Senior Ty Morgan — who netted Woodstock's overtime goal — junior Gabriel Viau and sophomore Manny Vidal all scored for the Centaurs in PK's. Woodstock's junior goalkeeper, Brian Jameson, sealed the victory by stopping three of the five shots he faced in the penalty kick round.

In the second round of the Class L tournament WA lost at 12th-seeded Wethersfield, 4-0, on Thursday, Nov. 11.

Girls' Soccer
Woodstock Academy fought valiantly, but in the end a first half goal by Branford High's Brenna Murphy ended the Centaurs season as 25th-seeded WA lost its first-round Class L State Tournament game, 1-0, to the eighth-seeded Hornets on Monday, Nov. 8.

After the game, Centaurs coach Dennis Snelling said the second half of the game, even though WA couldn't net the game-tying goal, was one of the best halves of soccer his team played all year.

For Woodstock Academy (5-9-3), sophomore goalkeeper Rebecca Nazer finished with 10 saves.

Elsewhere:
Madison's Daniel Hand High School, the No. 15 seed in the Class L Tournament, had too much firepower for 18th-seeded Killingly High, the Tigers winning the game, 5-0. For Killingly (8-7-2), junior goalie Aryn Nisbet finished the game with 18 saves.



BY DONNA DUFRESNE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

POMFRET — It's not easy digging into the understory of American history; those stories which have been buried deep between the lines of our national narratives, and sometimes deliberately omitted. However, it's in the understory that we find the richness of our American soil (soul), the story of US. Participants in the recent Waking the Dead series of workshops presented by Pomfret Historical Society, learned that there are many facets to the lens of history. Experts in the fields of social history, archaeology and genealogy shared their research and techniques for interpreting the lives of disenfranchised communities such as poor, white laborers, Native Americans, enslaved Africans and free Blacks in the 18th and 19th centuries. The workshop series was funded by Connecticut Humanities.

Workshop participants learned how primary documents have informed the narrative of local history and how folklore inspired new research into the enslaved Africans who lived and worked in the region. They also learned from State Archaeologist, Dr. Sarah Sportman, that archaeology can inform the historical narrative through a more inclusive lens using scientific methods such as ground penetrating radar (GPR) and analysis of material culture. Archaeologist Dr. Nick Bellantoni reminded the audience that Native and African American cultures have been hidden in plain sight and sometimes deliberately excluded from written history, yet archaeological investigations throughout the state have revealed communities of color which thrived, and people who struggled for freedom and autonomy for centuries.

One of the goals of the workshop series was to repair and clean some of the headstones in the Randall/Higginbotham burial ground where the enslaved Randalles are buried in unmarked graves. On Oct. 23 and 31, Ruth Brown (New England Gravestone Network), Michael Carroll (Rediscovering History), and Keegan Day, led workshops in cleaning, repairing, and identifying gravestone carvers. Participants learned that grave-stones and burial grounds provide vital information as primary sources and

material culture which help to widen the lens of history. They provide data ranging from spiritual beliefs and practices, geology, economy, social structure, and cultural evolution as well as individual genealogy.

The final workshop at Abington Congregational Church with genealogist William Fothergill was a perfect ending to the series. On Nov. 6, the audience was reminded that researching Native and African Americans can be difficult, especially in the 1700's when documentation was sparse. However, like the archaeologists and social historians who spoke during the series, Fothergill reminded us that oral history provides an important starting point to search for grains of truth. Lois Boyd, who identifies as Native American, joined in the conversation reinforcing that oral history in disenfranchised groups who were sometimes omitted from written documents, can provide reliable sources along with DNA. Both genealogists, who are Native and African American, emphasized that their story is our story, and that we share ONE history, regardless of our heritage.

Fothergill shared his research on Ebenezer Bassette, the first African American to graduate from the Connecticut Normal School (teacher's college) which is now CCSU. Bassett, whose father and grandfather were both "Black Governors" in Derby. in the 1840's, was the descendant of enslaved Africans and Native Americans. He was a friend and confidant of Frederick Douglas and was appointed as the first ambassador to Haiti by President Grant in 1869. But his story has only recently been brought to light, even though he was an accomplished educator, activist,

and ambassador who spoke several languages.

Perhaps the greatest take-away from the Waking the Dead Workshops is that primary documents, artifacts, architecture, gravestones, and genealogy are the cornerstones of truth in our historical narratives. Historical research requires multiple perspectives, scientific analysis and collaboration with experts while investigating people who may have been

Rawson Materials purchases Rawson Manufacturing & DB Cotton

PUTNAM — Rawson Materials, a quality aggregate producer, has purchased substantially all of the assets of Rawson Manufacturing, Inc. and DB Cotton in Putnam. The companies will continue to operate under the trade names Rawson Manufacturing and DB Cotton. Rawson Manufacturing will continue to provide quality equipment for the aggregate industry including, but not limited to, portable screeners, conveyors, bins and feeders. DB Cotton will continue to provide quality steel, stainless and aluminum products, high definition and plasma cutting, shearing, bending, rolling and custom fabrication services.

Historically, both Rawson Materials and Rawson Manufacturing had been one entity with Richard Rawson founding R.A. Rawson Sand & Gravel in 1947. Allan Rawson and Jim Rawson, sons of Richard Rawson, separated the business into two entities in 1976 for autonomy and growth potential.

hidden in the understory of American History. Yet the gems found in the more inclusive telling of history, reveal perseverance, hard work, resilience, and the forward motion of a people who want to better themselves, their family, tribal units, and their nation. Digging the understory reveals one history, our history in the story of us.

Discussions regarding the asset purchase and unifying the businesses once again had been ongoing between the next generation in the Rawson family, specifically Jeffrey Rawson of Rawson Materials and Ben Rawson of Rawson Manufacturing. The deal was closed by the parties on Friday, October 29, 2021.

President of Rawson Materials, Jeffrey Rawson, states "It is with great pride that we announce the purchase of Rawson Manufacturing and DB Cotton. With our strengths combined, we look forward to expanding opportunities to serve our ever-growing customer base, promoting internal growth for continued employee success, and developing an even larger footprint within the community. Our team is very excited about what the future holds for all of the companies."

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EDITOR

Don't be a source of misinformation

There is never a good excuse to not be informed about what is happening in your town or school district. In this day and age, with technology at our fingertips, information is readily available in a matter of seconds. Public hearings are always posted in local papers, town halls and libraries as well. Minutes from meetings are also easily accessible on town and district websites. School districts are constantly emailing information home to parents on a daily basis. Finding information could also be as simple as calling a family member or friend who tends to always be in the know. If people remain unaware of what is going on, they only have themselves to blame.

Further, do not post misinformation on social media. If you don't understand a situation completely, refrain from posting about it, until you do, unless of course your post is an inquiry. Posting misinformation does two things — it makes you look uninformed and unintelligent, and second, it passes on misinformation to others who might believe that what you're posting is true. Fact check or find out more information before blindly posting things you know nothing about. Would you give a book report without first reading the book?

While being informed is key to being a productive member of your community, keep in mind to not overwhelm yourself with too much negative news. Be sure to check the news twice a day, then turn it off. Now, if you're a news junkie, and are unaffected by too much negativity, then of course, have at it.

Be sure to avoid news on social media as it's often biased and filled with misinformation. Make sure your news sources are reliable.

Experts say that when people consume too much information, it's hard to process it in a meaningful way. It can also make it difficult to remember all of the facts. In order to properly think about new information, you need time to process it and compare it with other facts you know. You need time to reflect and form an idea or opinion that logically makes sense.

Instead of letting hours go by doom-scrolling, spend some time outdoors or with friends and neighbors. By doing so, you're engaging with fellow Americans in a positive, productive way.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to Brendan@villagernewspapers.com

Please include your place of residence and phone number for verification, not publication. Letters must be received by noon on Tuesdays.



Email Us!

What's On Your Mind? We'd Like to Know.

Email us your thoughts to: Brendan@villagernewspapers.com

Tips for buying antiques and collectibles

In my recent columns, I offered tips for selling your antiques and collectibles. I realize many of you enjoy the thrill of hunting for items for your collections, so today's column will focus on tips for collectors.

I received a question at a recent presentation which made me think more about how collectors can find items for their collections. The person who asked the questions collects pocket watches. He said that he frequently goes to estate sales and tag sales but only occasionally finds pocket watches. When he goes to antique shops, he sometimes finds booths that are full of pocket watches and wonders how dealers are able to find large collections of watches that can fill a booth in an antique shop.

Whether you are collecting pocket watches or have a different item you're hunting



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

WAYNE TUISKULA

about the items you are interested in collecting. You can find books on almost area of collecting to increase your knowledge. You can also find plenty of websites full of information. For example, a web search for "collecting pocket watches" produced nearly eight million results. Many dealers like sharing their knowledge and passion for what they sell. If you find someone who specializes in what you collect and it is a slow time during a show, they'll likely be very happy to answer your questions and

for, there are some things you can do to improve your odds of making that next great find. I'll discuss pocket watches in this column because that's what the person who asked the question was interested in, but these tips apply to any type of antique or collectible.

The most important step is to learn as much as you can

offer advice to a fellow collector. If there is something specific that you collect, they may even contact you if they happen to find items that may interest you.

When I answered the question about where dealers get their inventory, I explained that there are many different ways and dealers often use a combination of methods to acquire items. Some dealers are also collectors and sell items for extra cash to purchase items for themselves. Many purchase items from estate sales and auctions. When people see that a dealer at a show or in a shop specializes in specific such as pocket watches, they may be inclined to bring their watches specifically to that dealer to sell.

My advice for collectors who are looking for specific items is to cast a wide net in your search. Visit local antique shops and speak with the owners. Go to estate

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We can disagree and still be civil

To the Editor:
I applaud the clear and precise writing of Patricia Susla, Billy G. Taylor, Donna Dufresne, G. Leslie Sweetnam, Jock McClean, and others who expose the mean and evil doings of our former president and his cronies. I agree there is no decency in the threats, lies, verbal assaults, and coarse language used to promote the lie that the election was stolen.

Adults should behave better and not expose their children to violent outburst against teachers, principals and elected officials they disagree with! School board members should

not be harrassed and threatened. Signs like '[Expletive] Biden' should not be put up. It is a disgrace to extend freedom of speech to such indecent language. Officials who had the courage to certify the election results and to go against Trump are being harrassed and driven from office by intimidation and threats to themselves and their families. This is not American; we can disagree, but need to do so in a civil way.

ANN C. ROSEBROOKS
THOMPSON

Pet peeves #2

To the Editor:
Dogs wearing hair bows and tutus, with painted nails and riding in little carriages... no this is not the opening line of a children's book. Just some observations about my Quiet Corner neighbors and how they anthropomorphize their pets.

I have seen dogs, not cats, at every venue imaginable: library, restaurants, farmer's market, fire works, physician office, hair stylist, nail salon, church and more! Many are better outfitted for the occasion then their owners or settled into carriers suitable for royal heirs. Leashes have grown from five to 50 feet. All legal and acceptable. Store managers, and other supervisory personnel are reticent about enforcing any animal policy in their store or setting one at a venue because of "service animal" laws or fear of offending their pet owning patrons. What about those of us who don't dislike pets, but have allergies, concerns about your dog's hygiene or behavior? Stores and venues might show concern for those patrons. Please, dog owners, all dogs can bite; just like they can get fleas. Don't tell me your dog won't bite. It just depends on the circumstances, and you won't suffer the consequences your dog and I will.

But common sense should tell us actual Service Animals do not wear dresses, ride in strollers, are rarely off leash. Service ani-

mals are generally leashed, visibly licensed, and may wear identifying vests. (Connecticut dogs are required to wear their licenses at all times) Service animals are well trained, attentive to their handlers, and have specific jobs to do. Service Animals are not ill mannered and will not relieve themselves unbidden. The Americans with Disabilities Act gives very specific parameters for Service Animals; Including allowing them to accompany their owners to the hospital by ambulance. [www.ada.gov/service_animal_qa\(1\).pdf](http://www.ada.gov/service_animal_qa(1).pdf) Did you know that Illinois, New York, Florida, Mississippi and soon Massachusetts all allow EMT's to treat law enforcement K-9's injured in line of duty and transport by ambulance for emergency veterinary care? But these are not pets.

Pets are pets. You love them, that's great! I loved mine too. Watch out for them, protect them. Take them for a walk, give them a good brushing, toss them a ball, give them a purpose, but unless they are going to read you a book, cook your dinner, paint you a picture or take communion can you leave them at home? And please, please don't leave them in the car! Especially with it running, I mean if they are as smart as you think, they may take it for a joy ride!

KATHY FEDOR
DAYVILLE

Reclaim your property rights

To the Editor:
Thompson has a unique rural character with a beautiful country setting consisting of ten villages, farmlands and forestry. It is a place where, over the years, families have raised chickens, ducks, and turkeys for eggs and meat. Families would set up farm stands and sell excess produce and eggs to neighbors, and people were free to set up home occupations. That was at least until recently.

Before Sept. 15 of last year, Thompson residents were regulated by the Thompson Zoning Regulations 7th Edition, 2007, amended September 2012. Within those regulations were 'uses permitted by right.' A 'use permitted by right' is a use permitted in a zoning district that is not subject to review and approval by the government.

In the rural sections of town (most of Thompson), the 'uses permitted by right' were farms, raising up to 150 fowl (chickens, ducks, and turkeys), riding stables, single or duplex family dwellings, sheds, outbuildings, home occupations, family day care services, country inns, business signs, wildlife conservation activities, docks and boat ramps.

In the villages, the 'uses permitted by right' were single or duplex family dwellings, sheds, outbuildings, home occupations, family day care Services, wildlife conservation activities, docks and boat ramps.

In the commercial sections, the 'uses permitted by right' were shops for the conduct of trade,

establishments for hair care, tailoring, and similar personal services, offices, including medical and dental clinics and professional studios, laundries and dry-cleaning establishments, repair shops, manufacturing of food products or handcrafted items for sale,

restaurants, banks, funeral homes, family day care services, and business signs.

During 2020, while we were all concerned with the Covid Pandemic, the Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission had Zoom meetings to update the regulations. Sept. 15, 2020, the P&Z Committee revised the zoning regulations. In the new regulations, no use is permitted by right, all uses are subject to review and approval by the P&Z Commission. All the property rights you had previous to the issuance of the Thompson Zoning Regulations 8th Edition, 2020 have been removed.

Property owners are now subject to government oversight in their daily affairs. Along with the loss of property rights, you now need to pay the government hundreds of dollars to get permission to do what was previously your use of right.

During the P&Z Commission Zoom meeting of Aug. 24, 2020, Commissioners Alvan Hill, John Lenky, Brian Santos, Melissa Desrochers, Charlene Langlois and Joseph Parodi-Brown voted to approve the new regulations, with an adoption date of Sept. 15, 2020. John Rice and Randy Blackmer voted against them, as they wanted more public participation.

Your rights were taken away, and you were not allowed to participate. It is vital that we need to stay active and prepare for the next election to remove the P&Z members who took away your rights and install freedom loving citizens to restore them. Contact ThompsonTaypayerAlliance@gmail.com to get involved.

BILL WARNER
THOMPSON

Never again



BEYOND THE PEWS
.....
BISHOP JOHN W. HANSON

"Missy, please open the door so we can talk," pleaded her mother.

"No. I don't want to talk to anyone ever again," came the emotionally charged response, accompanied by a shoe thudding against the door, muffled sobs and occasional outburst like: "I hate boys, I'm through with dating, and I am never coming out of my room."

A couple pints of ice cream and a few days of sulking later, Missy was finally ready to talk. Her wise mother was able to guide her through her first broken heart episode and explain to her that love hurts. She read her this quote from C.S. Lewis:

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable."

History is replete with examples of broken-hearted world changers. Some of the greatest world changers died as martyrs. In fact, it is rare, if not impossible, to find a Biblical hero who did not experience major loss or rejection. For example, Elijah was so rejected after doing great miracles to save his people from apostasy, that he struggled with depression. The Bible says, "the word of the lord tried" Joseph, as he awaited his opportunity to save his people. Then, of course, there was Jesus, who was underestimated by his brothers, misunderstood by his disciples, used by the public, falsely accused by the elite and lynched by a coalition of politicians – and he came to love and give his life for all those people.

This concept has been captured in proverbs like: "no pain, no gain" and "no risk no biscuit". Life teaches us that we can't ski without risking a journey high up the mountain. Furthermore, we can't ski jump without taking even bigger risks. And those who do ski tricks or win ski competitions must take enormous risks. That is the price of living large.

So, the more we love, the more we risk being heartbroken. The only other option is a bland cloistered existence that ultimately ends in lovelessness. Understanding this gives us courage to get vulnerable one more time, because it is worth the risk of going through a heart-broken episode in which we say, "never again."

Ironically, one of the least risky and most rewarding love relationships one can experience is loving God himself. It is less risky because of God's impeccable character and great grace. But God loves us in the deepest part of our being, so it is not always easy to get as vulnerable as He wants us to get. It feels like the riskiest kind of vulnerability, but it is the safest and most rewarding of all.

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries, located at 1366 Riverside Dr. in Thompson, CT. For more information, books, and videos, please visit www.ActsII.org.



GOOD NEWS

A prayer of thanks

It is the season to be grateful. After all we have missed, all we have postponed and all we have lost, this Thanksgiving season is one to embrace. I don't mind buying three cans of cranberry sauce or three bags of stuffing, because last year, for the first time ever, I didn't cook. We ordered our holiday dinners from the Inn at Woodstock Hill. They were delicious, but I look forward to filling our house with the smell of roasting turkey and the anxiety inspired by lumpy gravy.

Praying comes naturally to me. I say countless prayers all the time. Many are just exclamations – Oh God, I say when I look at look at the mess in the bottom of the oven. Oh for heaven's sake, I say when



NANCY WEISS

I realize that I have forgotten to put out the trash or shut the back door. Many focus on the outdoors. Who among us isn't filled with a special spirit when seeing the incredible sunsets, cloud formations and colorful displays of burning bush? One would have to be numb to sensation to miss the glory of the last few weeks. It may be climate change, but my god, it is beautiful.

Many of us were fortunate to bumble our way through Sunday School. My parents taught me the basic Protestant prayers and read the foundational stories to me. I learned the hymns, and I love many of them. This time of year we sing, "We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessings". Behind our masks, the con-

gregation at my church sings with as much spirit as it can muster. The light streams in the stained glass windows and for a while, I am transported and others are too.

Years ago, my husband and I lived in a small town in upstate New York. We attended the Unitarian Universalist Church in Canton. The pastor was a charismatic man, Max Coots. Max had a wonderful sense of humor and used his wit in leading his congregation. He died in 2009. The church has given me permission to share this pray with others, if I make sure Rev. Max Coots, Minister Emeritus, is noted as the author.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving (sometimes called the Vegetable Prayer)

Let us give thanks...
For generous friends...with

hearts as big as hubbards
And smiles as bright as their blossoms;
For feisty friends as tart as apples;
For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us we had them;
For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;
For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn – and the others- as plain as potatoes, and so good for you.
For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussel sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem Artichokes, and serious friends as complex as cauliflower and as intricate as onions;
For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as

summer squash as persistent as
Parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini, and who-like parsnips- can be
Counted on to see you through the long winter;
For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes;
For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils, and hold us despite our blights, wilts, and witherings;
And finally for those friends now gone, like gardens past, that have been harvested- but who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter;
For all these we give thanks.

My thanks to you, dear readers, for being here with you.

QVCC observes Veterans Day with outdoor celebration and Veterans Connection photo exhibit

DANIELSON — On Thursday, Nov. 11, Quinebaug Valley Community College was graced with a beautiful November afternoon to host the annual Veterans Day Celebration outdoors in the Veterans Garden, located on the Danielson campus.

More than 400 bricks engraved with the names of local veterans lie in QVCC's Veterans Garden, which was built in 2010 with the goal of providing a place where local veterans could be honored and remembered for their services to our country.

QVCC's Veterans Day Celebration began with the National Anthem, performed by QVCC alumna Linda Colangelo, and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Fred Ruhlemann of the Danielson

Veteran Coffeehouse. QVCC CEO Dr. Karen Hynick provided a warm welcome, followed by comments from United States Congressman Joe Courtney and Connecticut State Representative Pat Boyd.

The celebration also included an original poem, written and recited by QVCC's Veterans Services Coordinator Joel Niemann '15, "A Soldier's Prayer," read by Sgt. 1st Class Melissa Collins of the Connecticut National Guard, and musical selections, including a Military Service Song medley and God Bless America, also performed by Linda Colangelo.

Following the outdoor celebration, guests were welcomed into the SPIROL Art Gallery for a viewing of the Veterans Connection photo exhibit. The

Veterans Connection photo exhibit began in the fall of 2014 to recognize and celebrate the QVCC faculty, staff, and community members who have served or have loved ones who have served in the United States military.

Also featured in the exhibit is a missing man table, also known as a fallen comrade table. This table is reserved to honor our brave and selfless American military members who have perished on the battlefield, those who have not been returned to us after being taken prisoner on foreign soil, and for those who went missing and have not found their way back home.

The Veterans Connection photo exhibit, which is open to the public, will be running until Friday, Nov. 26. Community



members are invited and encouraged to visit.

"We're so grateful that we could host our Veterans Day celebration in person this year," said QVCC's Veterans Services Coordinator Joel

Niemann. "We had outstanding weather, excellent speakers, and an incredible photo exhibit. We couldn't have asked for more to honor our veterans, locally and beyond."

Mums, a traditional fall favorite

The rich colors and fall bloom of Chrysanthemums represent fall for many. It's also the November birth flower symbolizing cheerfulness, optimism, and friendship. Add a few to your indoor décor and help improve the indoor air quality in your home.



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

in the pebbles below the pot and eventually evaporates, increasing the humidity around the plant.

Remove faded flowers to keep your plant looking its best. Once it's done blooming, you can enjoy the greenery or add the plant to the compost pile. Keep in mind florist mums may not thrive or flower in the garden like those sold as hardy or garden mums.

Grow mums headed to the garden in a sunny window and water the soil thoroughly whenever it starts to dry. Wait for the danger of frost to pass before moving the mum outdoors. Pinch the plant back to four to six inches throughout June to keep it tidy and compact. Those with long growing seasons can continue pinching plants through mid July. If lucky, you will have flowers before the snow flies.

Next year, consider planting a few mums in the garden for an added blast of fall color. Garden mums are sold at nurseries and garden centers each fall. They may be hardy and suited to the area, but all the energy is directed to the flowers. This leaves little to establish a hardy robust root system for winter survival.

Those sold as perennial mums are usually hardy enough to survive the winter and flower early enough to provide weeks of color in the garden. Increase your success by planting them in spring. This allows the plant time to develop a robust root system before it begins flowering in the fall.



Photo Melinda Myers

Mums add beauty and fall color whether growing them indoors or in the garden.

As the holidays approach, celebrate the season with a potted chrysanthemum or a few flowering stems. Then plan on adding some perennial mums to your garden next summer.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist

and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

Kendra Annis of North Grosvenordale appointed to inaugural Nichols College Senior Advisory Council

DUDLEY, Mass. — Nichols College President Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M, has appointed Kendra Annis of North Grosvenordale, Conn. as on of the 31 students to the inaugural Nichols Senior Advisory Council (NSAC).

NSAC comprises students who have played significant leadership roles in the Nichols community. Their role is to advise the president and senior administration on issues related to the senior class and the college in general. In monthly meetings, the council will discuss plans, initiatives, and trends and issues in higher education.

"In addition to helping Nichols become a leader in higher education and enhance the overall experience for the community, NSAC participants will develop the communication skills that are vital to career advancement," said President Sulmasy.

He reported receiving an "overwhelming number" of nominations for this first council, adding, "These students should be quite proud of this appointment."

About Nichols College

The mission of Nichols College is to educate and enlighten students to capitalize on their ambitions and to become impactful, forward looking global leaders.

ANTIQUES

continued from page A8

sales, tag sales and flea markets. Websites like estatesales.net and estatesales.org list local sales. These sales are primarily run by estate sale companies, but you can find smaller sales run by individuals in the classified ads of this publication and other newspapers. You can also find live and online auctions on auctionzip.com.

Before I became an auctioneer, I spent Saturday mornings at estate and yard sales and Sundays at flea markets and antique shows looking for things for my personal collection. I rarely found the local sports and railroad memorabilia that I was looking for, but I was able to find many other items that other collectors might be interested in. I sold items I didn't collect and

had some additional funds to buy things for my collection. Even though the weather is getting cooler, there are still plenty of sales running and you can always buy or bid online. Happy hunting!

We currently have two online auctions running. Session I with gold jewelry, diamonds, gold coins and Rolex watches ends Nov. 30. Session II with sterling silver, paintings and other artwork, silver coins, sports cards, comic books and other antiques and collectibles ends on December 1st. Please visit our website for more details on upcoming events: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

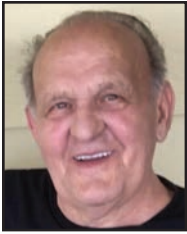
Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com



OBITUARIES

Ernest Frechette

Brooksville, FL - Ernest Frechette passed away peacefully on



Thursday, October 21, 2021 with his loving son, Paul, by his side. Ernest was born on a farm in Pomfret, CT., the son of Gabriel and Valeda Frechette. He was predeceased by his wife Anita (Bousquet) Frechette and son Mark Frechette. Ernest was a pipefitter and plumber. He was a member of the UA of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the US and Canada and a member of the steamfitters and plumbers union local 777 for more than thirty years before retiring to Brooksville, Florida.

He enjoyed puttering around and doing odd jobs to help others. He also enjoyed playing cards at the Elks club and the American Legion and playing horse-shoes with his friends at Highpoint. He was a member of the Elks Club, the Knights of Columbus, and the American Legion. He served in the U.S. Army reserves out of Fort Devens, MA and was honorably discharged on August 13, 1964.

Ernest is survived by his children Paul and Lynne Frechette, grandchildren Brianna Frechette and Kai Frechette and great grandson Zechariah. He is also survived by his siblings: Gloria Nichols, Muguette Burdick, Henry Frechette, Richard Frechette, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his siblings: Roger Frechette, Lucian Frechette, Norman Frechette, Renee Frechette and Andre Frechette. There will be a private, graveside service for family members.

Muriel Walker, 92

Muriel Walker, 92, of Danielson, CT, having lived a full, useful, and rich life, passed peacefully October 30th.



deeply committed to her family, her faith and her community.

Inherently organized, Muriel worked for almost 30 years as a clerk in the insurance industry and volunteered at St James church keeping the financial records in order. Throughout her life, Muriel volunteered for many organizations including the Cub Scouts, the American Legion and Day Kimball Hospital and made missionary trips to eastern Europe. She embraced new experiences, was always up for adventures and traveled to France, Ireland,

Denmark, and Yugoslavia.

Friendly, caring, hard-working, and devoted to family and friends and the wild and tame creatures she shared her life with, she sought to make other's feel at ease and provide a helping hand when possible.

She is predeceased by her parents Herve and Alida Gendreau, her brothers Rene and Roger Gendreau, and her husband Kenneth Walker.

She is survived by her daughter Denise Walker and her partner Philip Stephenson, her son Andre Walker and his wife Anne, and her grandchildren Michelle, Kate, Sam, and Ben.

A Memorial Service was held 10:30AM Friday, November 12, 2021 at St. James Church, 12 Franklin St., Danielson, CT 06239.

Private interment will immediately follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Danielson.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Muriel's memory to the ASPCA.(www.ASPCA.com).

Gerard Edward Cinq Mars, 92

Killingly, Connecticut – Gerard “Gerry” Edward Cinq Mars, 92, passed away on Sunday, November 7, 2021. Gerry was born on January 14, 1929 to Emelia Anne (Leboeuf) of Fortierville, Canada and Napoleon Joseph Cinq Mars of Gentilly, Canada. His family lived in West Springfield where Gerry attended public schools.



then earned his Master's Degree in Education from State Teachers College in Boston.

While at AIC, Gerry met the love of his life Annette Marie Christie. They were married on September 7, 1957 in Springfield. They lived in Boston while Annette completed her nursing degree and Gerry finished graduate school. In 1959 they moved to Killingly to raise their young family. Gerry and Annette enjoyed a beautiful life together for 26 years until her death in 1983.

Gerry began teaching in the newly built Harvard H. Ellis Technical School in the fall of 1959. Mr. Cinq Mars, as he was known by his students, taught History, Civics, English, and Economics for 30 years. He served as department head, senior class advisor, and faculty coordinator for the yearbook and student government. He cared about the school community and loved working with students.

Gerry was an active participant in the towns of Killingly and Brooklyn. He served on a commission to build affordable senior housing at Maple Courts and on a committee to renovate Brooklyn Middle School. For more than 20 years (18 years as Chairman), he served on Killingly's Water Pollution Control Authority. He helped secure more than \$30 million in State and Federal funding to upgrade aging sanitation lines and facilities, ensuring cleaner water in the Quinebaug River.

Gerry enjoyed traveling, woodworking, home renovations, breakfast with friends, and long conversations with his siblings, children, grandchildren, and friends, especially about politics and current events. He was a car enthusiast who followed the latest models and enjoyed visiting auto museums to view the classics.

Gerry was a long-time supporter of St. James Catholic Church and Friends of Assisi Food Pantry.

In the late 90's, Gerry was fortunate to meet Faye P. Clapp. They enjoyed each other's company for 15 wonderful years.

Gerry loved his family and will be dearly missed. He is survived by his children Laura Whittier, Michele Cinq Mars (John), Sarah Gretzky (James), and Peter Cinq Mars (Karen), and his grandchildren Kyle and Zoe Neil, Madison (Cameron) and Lexington Gretzky, Alexander (Sarah) and Gabrielle Cinq Mars, and his cherished siblings Theresa and Michael.

The public is welcome to join calling hours on Friday, November 19, 2021 at the Gilman Funeral Home, 104 Church Street in Putnam, CT from 3:30PM to 6:00PM. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at St. James Catholic Church, 12 Franklin Street, Danielson, CT at 10:00AM. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to Friends of Assisi Food Pantry, 77 Water Street, Danielson, CT 06239. To send condolences, visit www.gilmanandvalade.com

Thompson, Ct. Linda Marie Vandamme Dodge, our family matriarch who was as beautiful on the inside as she was on the outside, joined her husband of 54 years, Conway T. Dodge, Sr., in a well-deserved spot in heaven on November 10, 2021.



A resilient, courageous trailblazer, Linda left her home in Antwerp, Belgium in 1961 at the age of 23 to move to New York City, a city which had more residents than her entire home country, to join Pan American World Airlines as a Flight Attendant. She was part of an ultra-elite group of women who met rigorous criteria in order to be selected for the Purser training program. One of the requirements for this program was the ability to speak more than one language. Linda spoke eight.

Her decision to move to the U.S. and join Pan Am set the course for the rest of her life. On board, she met and had the privilege of serving many notable travelers, including Charles Lindberg and Elizabeth Taylor. She was selected to be part of the flight crew when The Beatles made their inaugural flight to the U.S. in February of 1964 to appear on the Ed Sullivan Show. But the one person she met on board who had the most influence on her life was a young First Officer who would become her husband. Linda tells the story of meeting Conway for the first time and assuming that the dashing pilot HAD to be taken, only to quickly discover he was single. The rest is history...

The courage Linda displayed in her 20s extended beyond her years at Pan Am, and was perhaps best exemplified when she became the quintessential homemaker. As the wife of a pilot who often was gone for a week or two at a time, she embraced the role of household Chief Executive Officer, something she genuinely enjoyed. In this role she became a resourceful expert in crisis management, culinary arts, gardening, scheduling, entertaining, and household operations. Her work ethic and resilience inspired others. She was proud of her home and kept it immaculate despite having four active children who always had a plus one (or two or three) in the mix. As her children grew older, she continued to run the household while indulging in a new passion – fine jewelery. She embarked on her second career as a gemologist and leading sales associate at Sharfman's Jewelers, where she devoted 18 years of quality service to the customers she so enjoyed.

Linda's love language was to give, and one of her favorite ways of giving was to prepare a home-cooked meal for family and friends. Her signature dish, steak au poivre, was the number one most-requested meal for any special occasion. Any and all were welcome in her kitchen and, to her delight, most nights included extra guests at the dinner table.

Linda's courage was put to the test

again with a cancer diagnosis in her early 50s. She fought that battle and was cancer-free for 30 years. To everyone's shock, it returned in 2020. In typical fashion, she handled the diagnosis with grace and resilience. Even in the darkest moments, she had unbounded optimism and kept a sense of humor that made everyone around her feel at ease. She was a firm believer in mind over matter and never let external circumstances influence her faith or love. During this period, received wonderful care under the stewardship of Dr. Dimitri Levenson, who became a friend as well as a compassionate care giver to both Linda and Conway.

Anyone who knew Linda understood that her ten grandchildren were her greatest pleasure in life. Through “Bobolle's” eyes, each grandchild saw herself or himself as absolutely perfect and unconditionally loved. To bask in that feeling, and her radiance, was a gift.

Linda raised and is survived by her four strong, kind, funny, earnest children. And in them, her legacy of giving, living in the moment, focusing on the positive, seeing goodness, serving others, rising early, loving family, telling silly jokes, not sweating the small stuff, and steak au poivre will live on. Gabrielle Boisvert (Marc), Conway T. Dodge, Jr. (Katie), Daniel D. Dodge (Nicole), and Benjamin F. Dodge (Vicki) are eternally grateful for the foundation that both Linda and Conway provided. Bobolle's ten grandchildren – Jackson, Sophie, Conway III, Elizabeth, Maeve, Henry, Wyatt, Emerson, Sam, and Ella – will miss their inside jokes, back scratches, and daily check-ins with Bobolle via text. She remained close to her siblings Jan Vandamme, Fryda Augustynen, and Ingrid Willems, all residents of Belgium, despite being across the pond. Linda's brother, Eric Vandamme, pre-deceased her.

Linda has a special circle of lifelong friends who treated one another like family. This includes her best friend from childhood, Mireille Goldstone, who joined Linda in NYC in the early 1960s where they lived an adventurous and exciting life together for several years. The LaChance and Pope families provided friendship, counsel, and incredible support over many decades. And the community at Westview Commons, where Linda recently resided, were welcoming and kind.

Per Linda's request, there will be no services, but the family will be holding a Celebration of Life in the future and will provide details at that time. Please consider making a donation in Linda's memory to the United Way of Northeastern CT to help those in need, especially as we enter the holiday season - <https://app.mobilecause.com/form/BSCemQ?vid=nb8xn>.

“You have power over your mind – not outside events. Realise this, and you will find strength.” Marcus Aurelius

Services have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Janet (Bessette) King, 68,

Janet (Bessette) King, 68, of Danielson, passed away on Sunday November 14, 2021, at home surrounded by her family



after a courageous battle with cancer. Janet was born in Putnam on February 21, 1953, the daughter of the late Gerald and Irene (Stringer) Bessette. She was the wife of the love of her life, married for 50 years to Charles King. Janet worked through the years at Bob's A&W, Danielson Federal Bank, McIlvain Lumber and retired from Quinebaug Treatment. She was a longtime volunteer with Killingly-Brooklyn Midget Football.

Besides her husband, she is survived by two daughters Terri (Harold) Churchill of Ballouville and Sherry King of Danielson. Grandchildren Courtney and Ryan Churchill, great grandson Dakota Churchill, all of Ballouville. Two sisters Elaine (Larry) Verraneault of ND and Deb Waterman of Brooklyn. One Aunt Claire Stringer of Danielson. Brother and sister-in-law Leo and Maureen King, several cousins, nieces and nephews and good friends. A special thank you to Dr. Canter, Dr. Ferguson, Dr. Yang and the girls at Plainfield Infusion Center for the excellent care Janet received. Funeral services will be private. There are no calling hours. tillinghastfh.com

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ConnecticutQuietCorner.com

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Sandra Walmsley recognized as Westview Health Care Center’s Employee of the Month



Sandra Walmsley

DAYVILLE — Sandra Walmsley of Dayville was selected as Westview Health Care Center’s Employee of the Month for October 2021.

Walmsley’s presence is very well known around the Dayville skilled nursing facility; having been employed in their Housekeeping Department

since May of 1995. During this tenure she has ascended to the role of full-time Housekeeping and Laundry Supervisor. Given Westview’s census of up to 103 inpatients and their corresponding clothing and bedding, the freshened fabric needs of clean napkins and tablecloths for their dietary department’s meal service, and the facility’s robust Outpatient and Aquatic Rehabilitation programs, Sandy oversees a massive amount of laundry procedures on any given day. Throughout all of the washing, drying, folding, delivering, and inventorying, Sandy maintains pride in her work and a pleasant demeanor among her colleagues.

As a dedicated, long-time Westview employee, it comes as no surprise that Walmsley has been selected for distinctions like this before. She was previously named as Westview’s Employee of the Month in September 2003, and was awarded the honor of Westview’s 2012 Employee

of the Year at the staff banquet that summer. Westview’s staff and leadership certainly appreciate Sandy—and that feeling is mutual. Her remarks when receiving this October’s Employee of the Month award indicate her gratitude for her workplace: “It is an honor to be awarded Employee of the Month for October. I have had the privilege of working for Westview for the past 26 years and it has become like my second home.”

She went on to say: “I am grateful to work in an environment where I love the coworkers, patients, and residents that I get to work with.”

Family is very important to Walmsley, and she makes sure to get together with her multi-generational kin whenever possible. Sandy and her husband Joseph are parents to David, Heidi, and Tyler, grandparents to Mary-Beth, Brittany and Tyler, and great-grandparents to Vanessa and Wyatt. Additionally, she is excited about having

another great-grandchild on the way. Furthering the familial connections between Westview and the Walmsleys, Sandy’s son, Tyler, also works at Westview Health Care Center and Country Living at Westview Commons on their Support Services team, and her granddaughter Mary-Beth has worked at Westview in the past.

Anyone who works or interacts with Walmsley notices the way she combines her pledge to professional duty along with her commitment to kindness, and Westview Health Care Center Administrator David T. Panteleakos especially appreciates Sandy’s contributions to Westview over the last three decades.

“Sandy is a trusted member of our organization, and in addition to having a member of her actual family as a coworker, she greatly contributes to the idea of Westview’s organizational family,” Mr. Panteleakos elaborated, adding “Her efforts consistently support the work

of her colleagues, enhance the experience of our visitors, and enable our patients to feel comfort and confidence in the setting of Westview Health Care Center. Sandy’s compassion for everyone in our building is genuine and we greatly appreciate her devotion.”

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, consecutively for the past 13 years.

Day Kimball Healthcare partners with local school districts to Distribute COVID-19 vaccination



Photo Courtesy

Day Kimball Healthcare partnered with the Putnam, Thompson, and Woodstock school districts to distribute COVID-19 vaccinations to youth ages 5+ at Putnam Middle School on Friday, November 12. Pictured left to right: Dan Durand, BS, RN, ICU Clinical Manager, Day Kimball Healthcare; Bob Viens, Chief of Pharmacy, Day Kimball Healthcare; Janice Thurlow, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Day Kimball Healthcare; Dan Sullivan, Putnam Schools Superintendent; Melinda Smith, Thompson Schools Superintendent; Viktor Toth, Woodstock Schools Superintendent; and Kyle Kramer, Chief Executive Officer, Day Kimball Healthcare.

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) has partnered with several local school districts to begin vaccinating children ages 5 to 11 years old at sites across the region.

“Day Kimball Healthcare is very pleased to partner with our local school districts for this next chapter in the fight against COVID-19. The more people who can get vaccinated – including children – the better we can protect our community and put this pandemic behind us,” said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare. “By vaccinating the five to 11 age group we are one step closer to getting back to some normalcy. We are excited that parents and guardians have several opportunities to have their 5-11-year-olds vac-

inated, including vaccine clinics, pharmacies and pediatrician’s offices. We encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible, and we look forward to helping vaccinate the children in our community and their families.”

On Nov. 2, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced final emergency use authorization and recommendation of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children ages five to 11. The vaccine was previously authorized for emergency use in adolescents ages 12 and older and has full FDA approval for use in individuals ages 16 and older.

As Northeast Connecticut’s major healthcare provider, Day Kimball

Healthcare is collaborating with local schools to ensure that children and families have access to evidence-based resources and safe, age-appropriate vaccination sites in their local communities.

DKH held its first pediatric COVID-19 vaccination clinic for children ages five to 11 at Plainfield High School, on Wednesday, November 10, where 150 youth were vaccinated. A similar clinic was held on Friday, Nov. 12 at Putnam Middle School in partnership with the Putnam, Thompson, and Woodstock school districts, where 300 more of the area’s youth were vaccinated. Parents or guardians who had not received the COVID-19 vaccine and those who needed a booster, were able to do so at the clinics as well.

DKH is planning additional vaccine clinics and will announce them as they are planned. For more information, visit www.daykimball.org/coronavirus.

About Day Kimball Healthcare

Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, and healthcare centers in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare’s comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is www.daykimball.org.

LEGION DEPARTMENT COMMANDER HONORED AT TESTIMONIAL



Photo Courtesy

The American Legion Department of Connecticut celebrated Post #91 Moosup member and Department Commander Jeffrey De Clerck with a testimonial at Lake of Isles on Saturday, Nov. 13. More than 160 Legionnaires, family and friends were on hand, including members from New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Pictured (l to r) Ronald P. Coderre, Past Post #13 and Past District #4 Commander, DeClerck and Post #13 Commander Michael Vassar.

LEGALS

TOWN OF BROOKLYN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via Webex and in-person (masks required) at the Clifford B. Green Memorial Center, 69 South Main Street Brooklyn, CT on the following:

ZRC 21-002: Request to change Zoning Regulations concerning adult cannabis. Applicant: PZC.

A copy of the application will be available for review on the Town of Brooklyn website, Land Use and Town Clerk offices.

All interested parties may attend the meeting, be heard and written correspondence received.

Dated this 4th day of November 2021.

November 19, 2021

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION Permit: LIR.0020736 Type: RESTAURANT LIQUOR Doing Business As: SAW DUST COFFEE HOUSE & DESERT BAR Located At: 91 MAIN ST PUTNAM CT 06260-1919 ON PREMISES PLACARD NOTICE

DISPLAY THIS PLACARD IMMEDIATELY: This placard must be affixed to the outer front door of the proposed

premises. If the front door is more than 25’ from the road, a 4’ x 6’ sign must be posted by the roadside with the attached placard. The sign shall consist of black letters of a minimum height of 4” on a white background having the same wording as below, including the attached placard. The placard must be posted by [Placard Start Date] and must be maintained in a legible condition until [Placard End Date].

After the placard has been maintained for twenty-one (21) days on the outer front door of the premises (or the 4’ x 6’ sign), return the certificate of publication to the Department of Consumer Protection, Liquor Control Division. Upon completion of this process, a Liquor Agent will contact you with further instructions.

Any questions regarding this placard publication notice can be emailed to DCP.Liquorcontrol@ct.gov

State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection 450 Columbus Blvd, Ste 901 Hartford, CT 06103 November 19, 2021 November 26, 2021

TOWN OF BROOKLYN INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC) took the following action at its regular meeting on November 9, 2021:

1. Declaratory Ruling - 100421A Heather & Matt Allen (applicant) and David &

Gail Allen (Owner), 0 Christian Hill Rd., Map 31, Lot 19, Excavation and construction of an agricultural pond, less than 3 acres, essential to the farming operation, and a dry hydrant for exclusive use by the Fire Department: approved as permitted uses as of right. The dewatering basin should be surrounded by double-staked hay bales and silt fence on all sides. For any future maintenance work, the applicants should come before the Brooklyn IWWC. The work shall be done in accordance with the site plan last revised on 11/2/21.

Dated this 10th day of November, 2021

Richard Oliverson, Vice Chairman November 19, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Emily A Allard (21-00402)

The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 8, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Richard O Allard, 480 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260 c/o THERESA IMPERATO MADONNA, LAW OFFICE OF THERESA I, MADONNA, LLC, 110 MAIN STREET, JEWETT CITY, CT 06351 November 19, 2021

TOWN OF BROOKLYN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Brooklyn Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing and Meeting on Monday, November 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. held at the Clifford B Green Meeting Center 69 South Main Street Brooklyn, CT and via Web Ex on the following applications:

1. ZBA-21-006 Sean and Lisa Donovan, 3 Bailey Woods Road, Map-32, Lot-12, Acres 1.14, RA Zone. 24’ above ground pool and 10’ x 12’ deck. Swimming Pool is approximately 15’ from rear property line. Deck is approximately 15’ from the side property line. Requesting variance of section 3.C.5.2.2 and 3.C.5.2.3 from the minimum front and rear yard setback.

2. ZBA-21-007 Joshua Moyer, 14 Kara Road, Map-32, Lot 10, Acres 0.55, RA Zone. Construct a 12’ x 24’ wooden fabricated shed on gravel base. Requesting variance of section 3.C.5.2.2 from the minimum side yard setback 15’ from side yard property line.

Interested persons may appear and be heard. Written communications will be accepted. A copy of the application is available on the Town of Brooklyn Website. Web Ex meeting information will be included on the November 22, 2021 Zoning Board of Appeals Commission Agenda.

Bruce Parsons, Vice Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals November 12, 2021 November 19, 2021

St. Mary's Yuletide Festival kicks off holiday season



Harrison J. Boyll brought his leather creations to the festival through his Harry's Canva Creations brand.



Jean of Jean's Creations provided a delicious selection of cakes and cupcakes for visitors to pick from.



George Liberty and Kathy Toby presented some beautiful creations from the minerals of the earth.



A large line of raffle baskets served as the literal centerpiece of the Yuletide Festival.



Forever Green included a neat selection of wood art designed products.



The crew of Wonderful Creations brought a selection of unique totes, mugs and more.



It wouldn't be a Yuletide event without an appearance from Santa himself.



Volunteers in the kitchen helped cook up some delicious meals for guests to the Yuletide Festival.

QUEST MARTIAL ARTS STUDENTS SHINE AT REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Three young people, two women and one man, are standing together in white martial arts uniforms with blue and red belts. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera.

Two young men are standing together in white martial arts uniforms with blue and red belts. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera.

Photos Courtesy

Master Kristin Duethorn of Quest Martial Arts in Thompson brought the competition team to the 2021 Delaware County Karate Championships in Pennsylvania. Tournament results for Quest martial arts tournament team.

Master Derek Pomes earned 3rd Place Forms; Greg Martinez: 3rd Place Weapons,

2nd Forms, 3rd Place Sparring; Vincenzo: 1st Place Sparring; CJ: 4th Place Sparring; Damienne Orthmann: 4th Place Forms and 1st Place Sparring.

A long table covered with a green cloth is filled with various food items, including breads, pastries, and other treats. The table is set up in a large room with other people visible in the background.

Two young men in Boy Scout uniforms are seated at a table. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The table is covered with a red and white patterned cloth and has several bags of snacks on it.

Patrons of St. Mary's Church made up their own delicious treats which visitors could buy to get a taste of local community flavor.

Boy Scouts from Troop 21 of Putnam man a station selling delicious treats to support their troop.



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Replace your windows and doors this holiday season, and you'll pay nothing until November 2023.² It's a gift to yourself that won't put a dent in your wallet this time of year.

Inferior vinyl windows can cost you more in the long run.
Choose a poor-quality vinyl window and you'll be searching for another Black Friday window sale in a few years! Take advantage of this sale on our Fibrex® windows, and you'll be set for decades!*

We make the holiday season less stressful.
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There are limited appointments available
Call for your FREE Window and Door Diagnosis **959-456-0067**

¹Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. Initial contact for a free Window and Door Diagnosis must be made and documented on or before 11/26/21, with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. 3% cash discount for payment in full by cash or check applied at time of sale. ²No payments and deferred interest for 24 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 24 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under CT HIC.0634555, MA 173245, RI 36079. Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. Southern New England Windows LLC is the authorized representative of Renewal by Andersen and the registered Home Improvement Contractor. Renewal by Andersen does not hold this HIC number. All residents of islands including but not limited to Martha's Vineyard will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbguidelines.com. ©2021 Andersen Corporation. ©2021 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *See limited warranty for details at <https://www.renewalbyandersen.com/homeowner-help/warranty>.

One veteran’s tale of service

PUTNAM — Peter “Pete” Trama didn’t know what the Merchant Marines was but he did know that he didn’t want to get drafted into WWII.

In honor of Veterans Day, Trama, 96, gave razor-sharp details of his experiences in the Merchant Marines during WWII and later in the Army draftee in the Korean conflict at the Nov. 9 Putnam Rotary Club meeting.

“At 17, I didn’t know what I was getting into. I didn’t even know what it (the Merchant Marines) was,” he said.

The Merchant Marines at the time was a branch of the military. They spent their time at sea delivering fuel, military vehicles and more

After joining he found himself in Oyster Bay, N.Y., training. His most vivid memory of training was the tall tower over water. At first sight, he wondered what the tower was for. He’d soon learn: “We had to jump off the tower — practice for jumping off the ships.”

The Merchant Marines were the most vulnerable of all the branches of service during the war. The German U2 boats always went after them. All they could do was steer in a zig zag pattern to try to stay safe.

“So many men were lost. So many ships (370),” he said.

The Merchant Marines had to continually keep their numbers up, he said, adding “They were losing men left and right.”

There were no jobs after the war so he said he stayed in the Merchant Marines eight years. In that time he took 73 sea trips total. Each trip was from 60 to 90 days.

“Let me tell you,” he said, “that ocean is big.”

During the war he saw the world making deliveries from to Australia, the Marshall Islands, Korea and many more places. He went through the Panama Canal 18 times and through the Suez Canal four times.

And he was seasick for eight years.



Photo Courtesy

The Putnam Rotary Club Nov. 9 heard from WWII and Korean conflict veteran Peter “Pete” Trama (third from right). Guests and Rotarians who are veterans included, from left: Guest Mike Rocchetti, Rotarian Jay Wade, Trama, Rotarian Peter Benoit, and Rotarian Ron Coderre.

That’s right; he was seasick the whole time he was in the Merchant Marines.

Those were different times at home. He remembers being sandwiched in with other veterans on a train headed toward home.

“I had a club sandwich,” he said.

When he went to take a bite, as inconspicuously as possible, all eyes riveted to him and his sandwich.

He got off in Putnam — off a very late train — and walked home and dropped into bed. In the morning his sister was surprised to see he was home.

“Doors weren’t locked back then,” he

said.

After the Merchant Marines, at age 27, he was drafted into the Army during the Korean conflict. “If I’d been 28, I couldn’t have been drafted,” he said.

He was sent to Germany as some thought the Soviet Union might try to invade Germany.

Following that, he returned to Putnam and ran Tony’s Package Store and, according to Rotarian and veteran Ronald P. Coderre, was/is a good community servant, doing much for Putnam.

Woodstock Dems holding Winter Boot Drive to benefit TEEG and area children

WOODSTOCK — Warm, winter boots are a basic need of children here in New England, something every child deserves. For the second straight year, the Woodstock Democratic Town Committee will partner with TEEG to help fill this special need.

WDTC invites residents to participate in our Holiday Winter Boot Drive to benefit children from Woodstock and neighboring towns. The event will take place Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Station #76, 399 Route 169 (next to the Town Hall), in South Woodstock.

Please bring new, unwrapped winter boots in children’s sizes for either gender and in original packaging to WVFA Station

#76 on Dec. 4 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The Democratic Town Committee will turn over all donations to TEEG. In its role as a youth services bureau, TEEG will distribute the donated boots to deserving families in Woodstock and neighboring communities it serves.

Donors who prefer to contribute cash can bring donations to the boot drive or mail checks, payable to TEEG, to WDTC, attn: Holiday Winter Boot Drive, P.O. Box 813, Woodstock, CT 06281. Cash donations will be used to purchase additional boots for area children.

In 2020, TEEG served more than 100 households (250 individuals) in Woodstock. But “families that struggle to afford food and rent often do not have a budget for children’s foot-

wear,” said Anne Miller, TEEG executive director.

“WDTC’s Holiday Winter Boot Drive makes sure that every child who needs warm, winter boots gets them!” Miller said.

“The Democratic Town Committee is pleased to once again host this community service project in these times of health and economic distress,” WDTC Chair Charles Super said.

Last year, the inaugural Holiday Winter Boot Drive collected 82 pairs of boots and raised an additional \$768 in donations that helped needy area families. Event coordinator Greg Kline urges donors to “Please help us reach our goal of 100 pairs of boots this year!”

Meet Pam Lefferts and her Opossum Educational Ambassadors at Audubon Center

POMFRET — Pam Lefferts, co-founder of Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue and newly minted children’s author, will sign her book “From Pouch to Couch: Why Lavender the Opossum Lives in a House” on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 1 p.m. at The Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret, 218 Day Rd. There is no charge to attend the book signing.

Located in Woodstock, Ferncroft specializes in opossum rehabilitation and release. Lavender, however, was non-releasable due to the nature of her injuries. In the book, written from her point of view, Lavender shares how, after her rescue as a two-ounce joey (baby), she came to live in a house and become an educational ambassador.

Pam comments, “One of the main reasons I wrote the book is that I wanted children who meet our opossums to understand wild animals are not pets. As licensed wildlife rehabilitators, we are permitted to keep them only because they are unable to survive in the wild. There is a balance throughout the story comparing Lavender’s life with how wild opossums live.”

Pam adds, “I love teaching both children and adults about opossums and other backyard wildlife.”

In addition to many photographs, this charming and educational book features beautiful illustrations by Sara Murdock Lo Presti of Norfolk.

“From Pouch to Couch” is available from the Center at Pomfret’s nature store.

Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue is a not-for-profit organization founded by Pam and Bill Lefferts, who “stumbled” into wildlife rehabilitation after retirement. Ferncroft specializes in working with opossums.

More information about Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue and upcoming programs can be found on its Facebook page and at www.ferncroftwildlife.com.

The Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) protects Connecticut’s birds, other wildlife, and their habitats through conservation, education, and advocacy. More information about CAS can be found at https://www.ctaudubon.org/.

Unvaccinated? Need a booster shot? Do you have a child or children age 5+?

Northeast District Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Schedule

Tuesdays 10:00-2:00

Thursdays 2:00-6:00 (No clinic on 11/25/21)

NDDH Office, 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn

Walk-ins welcome • FREE • No insurance needed • No appointment needed for Tues/Thurs clinics

Vaccines Available	For Ages	# of shots needed to be fully vaccinated	WHEN you can get a COVID-19 booster	WHO can get a booster shot
Pfizer	5+	2 (21 days apart) <small>Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian</small>	At least 6 months after a second dose of Pfizer or Moderna	For Pfizer/Moderna: Those 65 years & older 18+ who live in long-term care setting
Moderna	18+	2 (28 days apart)		18+ who have underlying medical conditions 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings
Johnson & Johnson	18+	1	At least 2 months after a J & J vaccine	For J & J booster: Ages 18+

You may have a preference, but you can receive **any** authorized COVID-19 vaccine as a booster.

In addition, “BOOSTER-Only” Clinics being held BY APPOINTMENT:

Wednesdays 11/17, 12/1 and 12/8 2:00- 6:00pm

Quinebaug Valley Senior Citizens Center

69 South Main Street, Brooklyn (front of building)

CALL 860-774-1243 for an appointment for these booster-only clinics.

Vaccination offers protection *and* peace of mind. Find a COVID-19 vaccination site near you:



<https://www.vaccines.gov/>
<https://covidvaccinefinder.ct.gov/>
<https://www.nddh.org/>

This message is grant-funded by the CT Department of Public Health



Public Health
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Monson Arts Council Presents Its
42nd Annual
Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, November 27th
9am-4:30pm
Sunday, November 28th
Noon-4:30 pm

70 exhibitors in four buildings
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You can also email your resume to Jim@StonebridgePress.news

Stonebridge Press is looking for full-time press helpers, and also a lead press operator for our Southbridge newspaper printing headquarters.

Previous pressroom experience is a big plus, but we will train the right person for this rewarding job.

Positions are year-round Monday-Friday printing our 22 community newspapers that are distributed in three New England states.