



PUTNAM VILLAGER

Friday, June 18, 2021

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Killingly High School newspaper earns national recognition



KILLINGLY — The staff of Killingly High School's student newspaper, the Redline, has definitely gone above and beyond this year, earning a first place in the American Scholastic Press

Photo Courtesy

The Redline writers! From left to right, first row: Brooke Harrington, Alison Capuano, Kailey Harrington, Lellani Dean, Mr. Martin, Laney Dunn, Abby Driscoll, Grace Gilman, Mackenzie Farquhar. Second row: Grace Nicholls, Emma Prindle, Famina Seidl, Cal Barber, Dedrick Baublitz, MaryGrace Dufault, Charlotte Morrisette, Nikki Flynn. Missing from photo: Shealyn Harvey, Hannah Morrisson, Shealyse Oertiz, Leah Groh, Skye Knupp, Emilee Lehtinen, Grace LeSage, Sydney Zicoella.

Association annual review!

The Association evaluates a series of newspapers which are submitted, based on format, newswriting, coverage, grammar, creativity, page design and a number of other aspects of publishing. In order to achieve a first place designation, a newspaper has to be almost perfect, earning a minimum of 850 points out of 1,000. The KHS Redline topped out at 910! That included a maximum score of 330 points out of 330 for content coverage.

"You have an excellent school newspaper, which shows the creativity and journalistic knowledge of your editors, reporters, writers, photographers, lay-

Please Read REDLINE, page A16

Day Kimball Hospital transitions COVID-19 vaccinations to Primary Care practices

PUTNAM — Beginning Monday, June 21, Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH) will transition COVID-19 vaccinations from its existing clinics at Day Kimball Hospital to its Day Kimball Medical Group (DKMG) adult and pediatric primary care practice locations.

"DKH has innovatively adapted care and services to meet the needs of our community throughout the pandem-

ic," said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare.

"As vaccines became available, we moved quickly to offer vaccinations at central locations. These mass vaccination sites were key components of our success when we needed to deliver the vaccine to as many people as quickly as possible," he said.

Kramer continued, "Now that we have administered

well over 40,000 vaccines to those who were eager to receive it, we are shifting our approach to better support those who may require direct conversation with a physician regarding the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, and enable delivery of the vaccine at the point of contact. This change also makes the vaccine available at more locations in our

Please Read VACCINATIONS, page A16



Photo Courtesy

Left: Hans Rhynhart '22, National English Honor Society President. Right: Emma Heimgartner '22, Poet Laureate.

Several residents displaced by Woodstock fire



Photos Courtesy

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Firefighters from thirteen different departments worked to control a blaze at a Woodstock farmhouse on Route



Fire spews from the roof of a home in Woodstock that caught fire in the early morning hours of June 15.

WOODSTOCK — Thirteen fire departments from two states responded to an early morning structure fire on June 15 that displaced five individuals and took the lives of several pets.

Shortly after midnight crews received calls for a reported structure fire at 832 Route 169 with the possibility of people still inside the building. According to Woodstock Fire Marshal Dick Baron, first responders arrived to find the building completely engulfed.

"There was already a trooper on the scene who must've been nearby. The four occupants of the house were out, and they were in the process of waking the tenant up and getting him out. From there we knew at least all the occupants were out and then it got into a pretty large-scale fire attack on an old farmhouse with balloon frame construction in an area where there's no hydrants," Baron said. "That's why there were over twelve fire

Please Read FIRE, page A16

Meet Woodstock Academy's first Poet Laureate

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy is proud to announce that Emma Heimgartner '22 of Brooklyn has been elected the first Poet Laureate of The Woodstock Academy.

As her first official act as Poet Laureate, she will be presenting her original poem, "New Dawn," at The Academy's Commencement ceremony this Saturday, June 12.

The Academy has had subject-specific honor societies in science, math, world languages, and music, but this year, it started two new honor societies, the Linda Stedman Social Studies National Honor Society (SSNHS), and the Robert Holland National English Honor Society (NEHS). The SSNHS is named in memory of social studies teacher Linda Stedman, and the NEHS is named for Academy Trustee Robert Holland.

"I think that Mr. Holland would be pleased by the naming of the NEHS to honor his dual legacy, both as a dedicated Trustee and as an accomplished writer," said Rich Telford, English department chair at The Woodstock Academy. "His long tenure on the Board of Trustees was marked by a constant dedication to providing Academy students with the richest education possible."

"The administration tasked our newly formed society with finding the first WA Poet Laureate," said Hans Rhynhart '22, president of the NEHS. "All of us were inspired by Amanda Gorman's poem at President Biden's inauguration. We

accepted the task eagerly. After voting on candidates, we were lucky to find Emma Heimgartner as our first poet laureate. We are excited to walk in the powerful footsteps that Gorman has set, and we're excited for what this society can do in the future."

About Heimgartner, Telford added, "I am confident that Emma will excel in her role as Poet Laureate. She will set a high standard, not just for herself but for those students who will follow in the role, which makes her an especially apt choice for this inaugural year."

Below is a brief interview with Emma Heimgartner.

WA: What are some of your earliest experiences with writing and poetry?

EH: My earliest experience with writing poetry, specifically, is in seventh grade where I had to write a haiku for my English class. The prompt was writing about something you love through metaphor and a specific rhyme scheme. I ended up writing about corgis and compared them to lattes. However, I've been crafting my own tales since I was little and loved to make little picture books and short stories.

WA: What authors or poets influence you?

EH: For this poem I was influenced heavily by poets like Maya Angelou and Dylan Thomas. "On the Pulse of Morning" by Maya Angelou is all about the future and the new beginnings it can bring. The past and present may

Please Read POET, page A2

The more things change, the more they stay the same



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

Once again, I thought that I would do some June Windham County Transcript extracts from a few assorted years. I always enjoy, and sometimes am amazed, at how life has changed—and how it is still much the same. Have you ever attended a garden party? This one was held in 1916. “A Floral Garden Party is to be given by the Civic Federation, June 13, on the grounds of Luther Pilling, Main St., Danielson. A Children’s Pageant occurs directly after school and supper will be served from 6 o’clock to 8 o’clock. There will be many and varied attractions which the Civic Federation knows so well how to provide. If Tuesday should be stormy, the Garden Party will be given the following day” (WCT June 8, 1916).

With the isolation many senior citizens have felt during the Covid pandemic, I found the following article most touching. “The first annual National Flower Shut-in Day is to be observed Saturday by the Florist Telegraph Delivery Association, of which Franklin D. Crosby of Academy St. is a member. The aim of the association is that no shut-in shall be without a complimentary bouquet and Mr. Crosby requests that any church or organization knowing of any such worthy person call him at Danielson 137 this evening up to 9.30 o’clock or on Friday before noon. This offer applies to the towns of Killingly and Brooklyn. The flowers have been donated by the association and by the large growers and

are distributed by the local florists. This is not in any way a commercial project” (WCT, June 8, 1913).

How many of you remember when Grant’s was located on Main Street in Danielson? While browsing through June 1975 Windham County Transcripts I came across the following interesting ad: “The Grant City of Danielson Welcomes The Royal Wild West Circus June 19 at the Killingly High School Field. Performance at 4 and 8 P.M. Sponsored by the Danielson F. O. P. and The Heart Fund.” (WCT June 12, 1975, p. 1). I would love to hear from anyone who actually attended one of the performances. I found Grant’s hours interesting, especially Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Years ago I remember some of the men at the Killingly Historical Center discussing the fact that Saturday night was a big shopping night for the local families. Downtown Danielson was bustling! An entry in Natalie Coolidge’s Killingly Business Encyclopedia stated that W. T. Grant’s opened a store in Danielson in 1926 in the Exchange Block which once stood across from present-day Danielson Surplus Sales.

Did you celebrate Flag Day this past week on June 14? A caption to a photo in the above Transcript captured a bit of Flag Day 1975. “Flag Day ceremonies were held Sunday at Davis Park in Danielson. Among the participants are Nicholas Katsapis, post commander, Merrill C. Smith Post 2650, Veterans of Foreign Wars, who received a state of Connecticut flag which was flown over the Capitol April 29 from State Representative James O’Connor; State Senator Audrey Beck, (was) keynote speaker. Danielson Elks Exalted Ruler John E Burke Jr. presented a U.S. flag to Marilyn Elfgrén of the Foster-Killingly Fife and Drum Corps. The group (under the direction of Alton P. Aldrich) has been part of the Flag Day ceremonies

for the past three years. Other groups participating in the observance were the color guard of the Leo J. L’Homme Post 21, American Legion of Danielson, and local Boy Scouts.” Rev. Frank C. Perkins of the Union Baptist Church in East Killingly gave the Invocation and Benediction (WCT June 12, 1975, article and caption). Flag Day dates back to 1916 when President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation establishing June 14 as Flag Day. (en. Wikipedia). Do you remember Gertrude Pradel? Perhaps some of you even had her as a teacher. In 1975, “the Eastern Connecticut Schoolmen, meeting in Norwich Saturday night to observe their 50th anniversary as the only remaining all-male educators group in Connecticut, honored veteran Killingly High School teacher Miss Gertrude Pradel as Schoolman-of-the-Year. It was the third time in the ECSM’s history that their annual award has been made to a woman educator. Main speaker at the dinner meeting was Dr. Sidney P. Marland, Jr., a Killingly native and former U. S. Commissioner of Education, currently president of the College Entrance Examination Board based in New York City and a resident of Hampton. Dr. Marland related stories of the great contribution of Connecticut Educators to America’s progress, including Henry Barnard and especially William Torrey Harris of Killingly, both former U.S. commissioners of education who ‘fathered’ and ‘laid the ground work for free public education in our state.’ Preliminary speaker was Mr. Alton P. Aldrich, retired-director of the Harvard H. Ellis Technical School, who spoke briefly ‘in retrospect’ on Education from the Stone Age to the Aero-Space Age..” (WCT, June 12, 1975, p.1).

June is the month for graduations, and the Transcript of the following week reported on the Killingly High School graduation, which had taken place on

June 12, 1975. That class was the 100th graduating class from Killingly High School (which was originally housed in the old Grammar School building on High Street). Carl Harrington and Mark D. Robinson were co-valedictorians; Susan M. Chabot, the salutatorian. The prayer was given by Reverend Ivanhoe McCollum, pastor emeritus of the Danielson Baptist Church. The Principal in 1975 was Richard Smith; Superintendent of Schools was Anthony Muscente. (WCT June 19, 1975, p.1). For a photo of the original high school see page 21 of “Images of America Killingly” by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A. Spencer.

Perhaps you dreamed of travelling to exotic places even when you were in high school. One lucky young lady saw her dreams come true that year. “Miss Joanne Correia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Correia of Main St., Dayville, has been notified by American Field Service International Scholarships that she will be living in Istanbul, Turkey, this summer with Mr. and Mrs. Halil Anli and their four children. Joanne, 16, will be a senior at Killingly High School in September. She was chosen for the AFS ‘Americans Abroad’ summer program by the local chapter.” (WCT June 12, 1975, p.1).

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, June 2021. For additional information email me at margaret-mweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239.

Fatherhood — often underappreciated

Who originally penned the words is not clear, but this oft-quoted truth is clear and thought-provoking: “Dads are like a steady but less sentimentalized institution — the sun in our familial sky that warms and gives life but isn’t much thought about unless he goes missing.” As a son, a father, and a long-time pastor, that statement resonates with me. Fatherhood is often unappreciated.

When I consider my own father, I would have to agree with two other public figures who captured the beauty of fatherhood in just a few words:

“My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person, he believed in me.” —Jim Valvano, college basketball coach and broadcaster.

“My father didn’t tell me how to live. He lived and let me watch him do it.” —Clarence Budington Kelland, American author of sixty novels.

It is impossible to measure, or put a value on, the steady, loving father. They give stability and protection to millions, while flashier, noisier men grab all the attention. Many of us could not share a quote or point to a magnanimous feat of our father, but we can remember the safety and sanity his covering provided. Unfortunately, we often don’t express or show appreciation for that sunshine, until our father is old or gone.

Sometimes fathers are under-appreciated just as God is underappreciated, because it falls their lot to provide us with discipline. Here is how Scripture



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

put it:

In this all-out match against sin, others have suffered far worse than you, to say nothing of what Jesus went through—all that bloodshed! So don’t feel sorry for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as his children?

My dear child, don’t shrug off God’s discipline, but don’t be crushed by it either. It’s the child he loves that he disciplines; the child he embraces, he also corrects. God is educating you; that’s why you must never drop out. He’s treating you as dear children. This trouble you’re in isn’t punishment; it’s training, the normal experience of children. Only irresponsible parents leave children to fend for themselves. Would you prefer an irresponsible God? We respect our own parents for training and not spoiling us, so why not embrace God’s training so we can truly live? While we were children, our parents did what seemed

best to them. But God is doing what is best for us, training us to live God’s holy best. At the time, discipline isn’t much fun. It always feels like it’s going against the grain. Later, of course, it pays off big-time, for it’s the well-trained who find themselves mature in their relationship with God. (Hebrews 12:4-11 MSG)

What if we celebrated the everyday, ordinary fathers who believe in their children and live honest, steady lives? What if we rose above the rhetoric of the few who have had bad experiences with fathers, and verbalized how much we love those fathers who did their best? What if we honored our fathers, knowing that they are human and imperfect? Wouldn’t that be much like stopping to appreciate that old, faithful orb in the sky that makes the world tick?

If you are a father who is feeling unappreciated, I hope you can see past the verbiage of our declining moral climate and realize your enormous value. I would agree with Mike Myers, Canadian-American actor, comedian, director, producer and screenwriter, who said, “Anyone who tells you fatherhood is the greatest thing that can happen to you, they are understating it.”

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson, where fatherhood is celebrated. For more information, please visit www.ActsII.org.

POET continued from page A1

be trying times but there is a brighter future on the horizon. The famous Dylan Thomas poem, “Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night,” inspired me to think about how although there were times over the past year where giving up seemed easiest, our generation kept fighting. Fighting for things we cared about and working hard despite the uncertain times. I took many of these ideas to help me write my poem and come up with a tone.

WA: What is the title of your commencement poem?

EH: I titled my poem “New Dawn” because with each new generation there comes new ideas, new technology, and new efforts to make the world better. As our world is given to our generation, we will change it in small and large ways. Dawns are the starts of new days full of limitless possibilities. Especially with the Covid nightmare simmering down we are on the cusp of a new type of dawn. A new beginning other generations haven’t really seen.

WA: Can you give us a preview of its theme, content, or message?

EH: The main theme of my poem is really loss and how the graduates and people our age have dealt with the losses of the last year, and more importantly how we changed and grew because of them. I want people to walk away thinking about how Covid has changed them and how despite everything we lost we were resilient and pushed on. Our generation survived a pandemic and the turmoil that came with it, and throughout we worked, protested, and adapted.

WA: What do you hope to accomplish as Poet Laureate next year?

EH: As Poet Laureate my job is to spread poetry throughout the school and local community. I understand that poetry isn’t most people’s thing. It’s very metaphorical and the language can even be confusing. But, I hope to start encouraging poetry through spreading more poetry through The Academy—small posters with inspirational or humorous poetry that people might take the time to stop and read. I’ve even been toying with the idea of a club or website where people could share poetry or short stories they’ve written to get compliments or advice.

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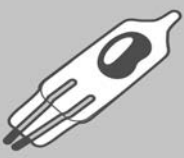
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VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT Audubon

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of June 7: Sedge Wren, Bobolink, American Kestrel, Savannah Sparrow, Tree Swallow, Ovenbird, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Wood Thrush, Barred Owl, Pine Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Least Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, American Redstart, Veery, Cedar Waxwing, Black and White Warbler, Indigo Bunting. Visit ctaclub.org/pomfret-home.

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In the Studio

CYNTHIA SAARI

"In the Studio" is a newer feature for the Villager Newspapers. The Quiet Corner is home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, handcraft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this semi-weekly series, we'll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns. We'll also learn some "artspeak" terms in our conversations, demystifying some of those "artist words".

Tucked into Lee Street in downtown Putnam, is Red Spider Tattoo. Today we're speaking with owner Bob Lindell and associate Thom Soroka. Collectively, they have 45 years of experience as professional tattoo artists. Both of them create a range of drawings, which are transformed into permanent body art.

Hi guys—thanks for taking the time to talk with me. I just asked a young woman in your waiting area to say something about Red Spider and she enthusiastically told me that she's back for her 4th tattoo here. That's a nice endorsement!

Bob, I understand that technology has greatly changed tattooing. Is it a pretty sophisticated process now?

The process has remained the same—ink/pigment pushed into the skin. Technology has been applied to how that pushing is done. With more popularity comes innovation (some good, and some unnecessary in my opinion).

What kind of style changes have you seen over time?

Thom: I wouldn't necessarily say there have been style changes so much as trends. I can say that there's definitely been constant growth in the quality of tattoos.

Bob: There are trends and fashions. For example, "tribal" style arm bands were once in vogue, but are now considered dated. Meaning in tattoo choice is personal, but not a requirement.

You've called tattoo a form of folk art, Bob. Can you elaborate on that?

I believe it was more from the turn of the last century to the post-WWII period that we could call it that. Previously, tattooing was secretive and limited to fewer people. It had a real mojo to it that is now mostly gone.

What kind of research or planning do you do before starting a commis-



Bob Lindell

sion, Thom?

A lot. The first step though is talking with the client and really trying to understand his or her vision and what they're expecting, then I go from there.

I'd like to hear a little bit about your career paths. Have you both always drawn or painted?

Bob: I'm using my B.A. in English as you can tell...seriously, I've always just wanted to do something creative. I played drums for 15 years before giving that up for tattooing starting in 1994. I began tattooing professionally in 1997 and it is my only job.

Thom: I've been a part of the tattoo industry for about 20 years now and have been drawing and creating as far back as I can remember.

Where does your work intersect with the Quiet Corner?

Bob: Well, I live here in Putnam and have lived in Connecticut since coming from Chicago in 1999; I've marked people from all over the world. We try to be a positive business in the area and I think we achieve that for the most part at Red Spider Tattoo.

Thom: I grew up here and live here so I'm just trying to contribute.

This leads me to my next question for you both. In a few words, what do you strive for?

Bob: Giving people what they want if I'm comfortable doing that, and doing it well.

Thom: Progression.

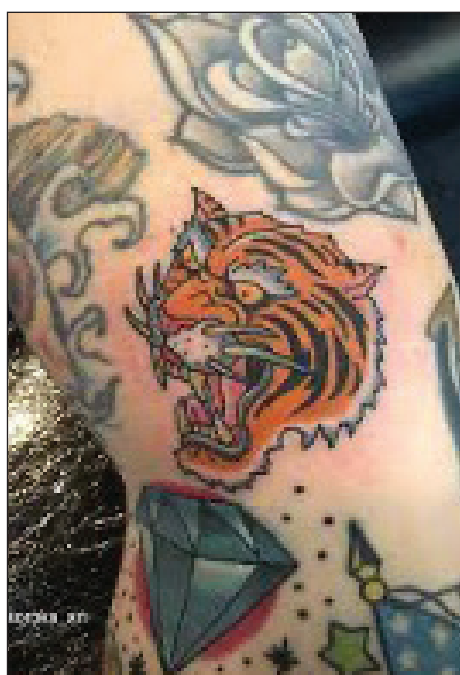
I'm sure that some of our readers will have more questions for you. How can you be contacted?

Bob: The shop phone number is 860.933.2974; leave a message. We work by appointment only now and try to get back to people in a timely manner. We're on social media. That's me in the photo.

Thom: Yes, call the shop. I'm also on Facebook, Instagram @Soroka.art, and e-mail tsoroka860@gmail.com. You can see images like the one here on line.

Word of the day:

Tattoo: a mark, figure, design, or



word intentionally fixed or placed on the skin: a: one that is indelible and created by insertion of pigment under the skin (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

Early tattoos marked criminals in China; Egyptian mummy women bore medicinal tattoos, and young Samoan chiefs were "tataued" to signify leadership roles. In ancient Greece and Rome, outcasts, soldiers, and arms makers bore tattoos. Moving into the 20th Century, sailors and entertainers illustrated their stories and professions through tattoos. Celebrities and musicians in America have inspired tattoos since the 1940's; cosmetic and medical tattoos are used to minimize marks of trauma and enhance facial features. Styles of tattoos range from "classic Americana", to cartoonish "new school" work, Japanese, black & gray, stick and poke, realism, blackwork, minimalist, and blended styles. One of the most significant trends in contemporary tattoo work is the planning out of large pieces harkening to the the sleeves and bodysuits of counterculture tattoos of the 1970's. Personal meaning may be expressed in memorial imagery such as portraits and birth/death dates. What was once clandestine has become mainstream, organic pigments have replaced minerals, and while the electric needle has largely replaced more primitive materials for tattooing tools, pushing ink into the skin has endured for centuries. (ref. authoritytattoo.com)

Bonus fun fact: "Otzi the Iceman", Europe's oldest human mummy bearing 61 tattoos made from soot or ash, was preserved in ice for 5300 years.

About the writer: Cynthia Saari (Woodstock) is a nationally recognized framework glass artist. She has exhibited her work & taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitations. Cynthia offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner; she is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.

Villager Newspapers

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.

Lasell University students named to Spring 2021 Dean's List

NEWTON, Mass. — Lasell University students named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List were recognized for their academic performance last semester. Students included were:

Alexandra Chitwood of Dayville
Lexie Brunet of Dayville
Spencer Fulone of Thompson

For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications at smocle@lasell.edu or at 617-243-2386.



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Local women meet Gov. Lamont



Photo Carol Davidge

Mary Eliza Kimball and Cheryl Kapelner-Champ of Pomfret, and Claudia Allen of Thompson met Gov. Ned Lamont (center) on June 11 to express concern about Windham Hospital's elimination of its Maternal and Newborn Delivery Room and construction of a new Killingly Power Plant.

BY CAROL DAVIDGE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WILLIMANTIC — On June 11, Cheryl Kapelner-Champ and Mary Eliza Kimball of Pomfret with Claudia Allen of Thompson met Govern Ned Lamont in Willimantic.

"We praised the Governor for his positive handling of this horrific pan-

demic and expressed our concerns about two urgent issues affecting Windham County: the elimination of Windham Hospital's Maternal and Newborn Delivery Room and Killingly's Fracked Gas Power Plant Project," said Kapelner-Champ.

The three women are involved in local organizations including: Windham United to Save Our Healthcare, No

More Dirty Power Plants, and Quiet Corner Shouts!, a grassroots group that encourages civic engagement.

"We learned from the Governor that he is working to address our concerns. He said prenatal and postnatal home visits will be offered to mothers and babies in Windham, there will be state-wide no-cost summer camps for children to prepare them for school this fall after their isolation due to COVID, and he's concerned about the Killingly power plant," she continued.

Kapelner-Champ introduced herself as "Mother Lightning," her artist and poet name since the 1970s. The meeting was in Willimantic's Willibrew restaurant.

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Woodstock Academy announces Class Night scholarships and awards

WOODSTOCK—Members of the class of 2021, families, faculty, and the greater Woodstock Academy community gathered in the Loos Center for the Arts on Thursday, June 10, for the annual Class Night and Baccalaureate program.

Throughout the evening, soon-to-be graduates were honored with over 200 awards and scholarships. Generous donors and community partners contributed to the more than \$170,000 awarded to Woodstock Academy students during the event.

By a vote of the senior class, newly announced director of equity and inclusion, Denzel Washington, was chosen as the inspirational speaker for the Baccalaureate portion of the evening.

Senior class president, Clayton Singleton of Eastford, welcomed the families, guests, and classmates, and presented the senior class gift.

95 seniors received the Presidential Award for Academic Excellence awarded to students with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

The Woodstock Academy's most prestigious awards, the Yale Honor Cup and the Donald and Hope Williams Scholarships, will be presented during Saturday's commencement exercises.

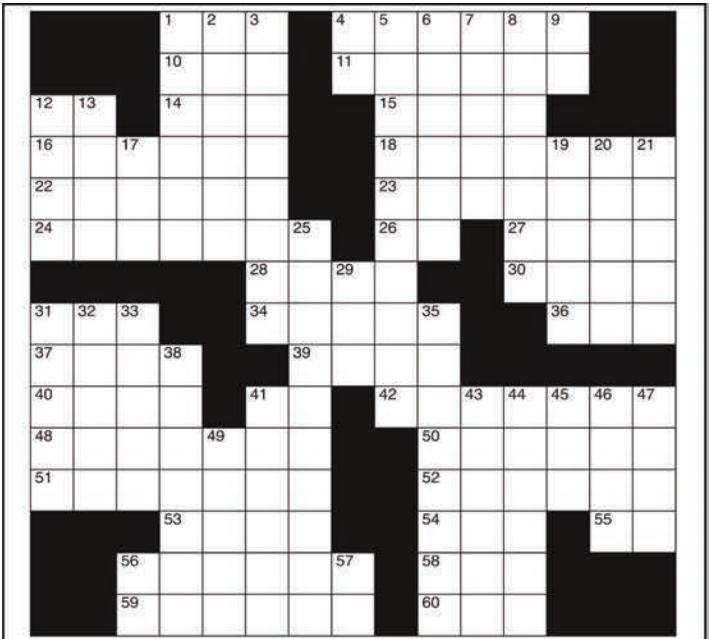
2021 Awards and Scholarships

Alexia Adams: Accounting Award, David H. Luppi Memorial Scholarship, Outstanding Achievement in AP Computer Science, Outstanding Achievement in AP Statistics, Outstanding Achievement in ECE Statistics, Woodstock Agricultural Society Scholarship; Emily Anderson: Outstanding Achievement in Italian 3; Livia Armstrong: Susan Dorrance Gordon - Latin Prize, Outstanding Achievement in Latin 3, Natalie & Robert W. Randall Memorial Award; Ethan Aspiras: Artist of the Year; Iris Bazinet: National Honor Society Scholarship; Sierra Bedard: Charles Cournoyer Memorial Scholarship; Kathleen Ben: The Woodstock Academy Ambassador Award; Tabitha Bezanson: 2021 Legacy Award Scholarship, High Achievement in Personal Finance, Walter B. Millward Scholarship; Cedric Bilica: American Legion Americanism Award, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Dennis S. Barlow Scholarship, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Esther & Lucie Harmon & Leta Sabin Trepal Scholarship, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Town of Eastford Scholarship, The Academy Humanitarian Scholarship; Timothy Billings: Senexet Grange Helena B.

Duffy Scholarship; Liam Blanchflower: Outstanding Achievement in Latin 1; Amanda Bond: Outstanding Achievement in Pastry and Baking; Ethan Bove: Congressional Certificate of Merit, Susan Dorrance Gordon Scholarship - Outstanding Math Student, National Merit Scholarship Finalist, Outstanding Achievement in AP Calculus BC, Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry, Outstanding Achievement in Physics, Williams Scholarship Academic Scholarship; Matthew Brady: Christopher Bradley Memorial Scholarship, High Achievement in Family Foods & Nutrition, William L. Parkerton Memorial Award, Tri-M Award - Silas Bunnell Memorial Scholarship, Woodstock Academy Music Parents Association Scholarship; Katelin Briere: English Teacher's Award for Hard Work and Effort, Woodstock Academy Music Parents Association Scholarship; Logan Brock: August Walter "Gus" Loos Memorial Scholarship, Woodstock Academy Music Parents Association Scholarship; Riley Chapuis: Outstanding Four-Year Achievement in History, Outstanding Achievement in AP European History, Williams Scholarship Yale Honor Cup, Woodstock Agricultural Society Scholarship; Demosthenes Chrisovechotis: Demosthenes Chrisovechotis: Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship; Sara Cutillo Soria: Outstanding Achievement in College Accounting; Sydney Couture: South Windsor Administrator Association Scholarship from South Windsor Schools, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Bernard and Alice Chalecki Scholarship, Douglas Foisy Memorial Scholarship, Putnam Rotary Club Scholarship, Woodstock Academy Music Parents Association Scholarship; Emma Curtis: High Achievement in Introduction to Careers, Hannah Darigan: Bethany T. Dauray Memorial Scholarship; Julia Dearborn: Outstanding Achievement in Architectural Design; Arianna DiDomizio: High Achievement in Honors Spanish 4 ECE/ACC; Riley Douglas: Edward "Bud" Rondeau Memorial Scholarship; Oliver Driscoll: Gerry Suprenant Memorial Scholarship; Zhiyan Du: High Achievement in ECE Statistics, National Honor Society Leadership Scholarship, Outstanding Achievement in Biology, Outstanding Achievement in Spanish 4 ECE/ACC, Outstanding Achievement in Spanish 5 ECE/ACC, Abraham & Evelyn Rodensky Memorial Award for Excellence in Writing, Williams Scholarship Robertson Essay Third Place, Williams Scholarship Academic Scholarship; Eliza Dutson: National Honor Society Scholarship; Adam Exley: Kenneth Beatson Award; Guerin Favreau: Laskey Memorial Scholarship; Kileigh Gagnon: William & Gladys Murdock Scholarship; Zipeng Gao: High Achievement in Entrepreneurship; William Gaug: Wiltsie Most Improved in Science Award; Gabriel Geyer: High Achievement in ECE Calculus; Grace Gronski:

Richard W. Franklin Memorial Scholarship, Head of School Award - 2020/21 School Year; Colby Groves: Louise P. Jordan Memorial Outstanding Vocalist Award; Ashley Guillot Head of School Award - 2020/21 School Year; Charles, Millicent & Richard Noren Memorial Scholarship, Woodstock Agricultural Society Scholarship Fern Phaneuf Memorial; Amanda Hair: Community Foundation of Eastern CT Emil Vaida Scholarship, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Harold D. Carpenter Scholarship, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Town of Eastford Scholarship, Woodstock Academy Music Parents Association Scholarship; Jacob Hernandez: Outstanding Achievement in German 2; Yago Herrera Moreno de Acevedo: High Achievement in Architectural Design, Outstanding Achievement in ECE Calculus; Emma Hovestadt: Community Foundation of Eastern CT Shirley Bradway Serafin Scholarship, Eleanor Peterson Lawton Memorial Scholarship, Woodstock Agricultural Society Preston T. Roberts Memorial Scholarship, Woodstock Education Foundation Director's Award; Joey Ignacio: John Conover Memorial Scholarship, Outstanding Achievement in 3D Animation; Andrew Johnson: Community Foundation of Eastern CT Union School Association Scholarship; Kelsey Kosior: Dr. Robert E. & Sylvia M. Miller Scholarship; Kaily LaChapelle: Outstanding Achievement in Human Rights, Williams Scholarship Robertson Essay Second Place; Jadyn LaFlamme: Nancy Brush Memorial Award, Outstanding Female Instrumentalist, Woodstock Academy Music Parents Association Scholarship; Jerry Lin: Outstanding Achievement in Mandarin 2; Angela Lu: Outstanding Achievement in Introduction to Careers; Brandon Maciolek: Wesley Woronecki Scholarship; Ciara MacKinnon: DAR Good Citizen's Award, Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Science, Outstanding Achievement in Forensics, Williams Scholarship Yale Honor Cup, Wesley Woronecki Scholarship; Harriet Majek: Hannah Green Memorial Scholarship; Marco Maluf: Outstanding Achievement in English 4, Martha Paul Memorial Scholarship; Matthew Marshall: Outstanding Achievement in Mandarin 3; Samuel Massey: German Honor Society Scholarship, Outstanding Four-Year Achievement in History & Social Sciences, Outstanding Achievement in German 5, The Town of Woodstock Fire and Life Safety Scholarship; Sophia Mawson: Harrington Hospital Auxiliary Scholarship, Louise P. Jordan Memorial Outstanding Vocalist Award, Williams Scholarship Robertson Essay First Place; Marissa Mayhew: Outstanding Achievement in Family Foods & Nutrition; Emily McClure: CR Premier Properties Entrepreneurial Award; Ella McMahon: Helen Plassmann Memorial Scholarship; Gavin Miller:

Outstanding Achievement in Exploring Multimedia, Senior Video Contest - Best Script, The Academy Humanitarian Scholarship; Carly Millette: Charter Oak Federal Credit Union Community Scholarship, Outstanding Achievement in Family & Consumer Science; Karissa Minkema: Tri-M Award; Bailey Mitchell: High Achievement in Spanish 4; Salwa Naveed: The Academy Humanitarian Scholarship; Ashley Nunes: AFSCME Local 1303 Scholarship, American Legion Americanism Award, Charles Couture Memorial Award, Outstanding Achievement in International Relations, Woodstock Agricultural Society Scholarship, Woodstock Lions Club Scholarship, Putnam #46 Ancient Free Accepted Masons Educational Award; Meaghan O'Brien: Woodstock Academy Music Parents Association Scholarship, Michael Wlaskiewicz Memorial Award; Oliva Ott: The Woodstock Academy Ambassador Award, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Jerry Baggish Scholarship, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Union School Association Scholarship; Lily Patenaude: Community Foundation of Eastern CT Ester & Lucie Harmon & Leta Sabin Trepal Scholarship, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Town of Eastford Scholarship, High Achievement in Exploring Multimedia, David W. Marsland Memorial Scholarship; John Peabody: Douglas Foisy Memorial Scholarship, Senior Video Contest - Best Technical Execution, Tri-M Award; Alexa Pechie: German Honor Society Scholarship, Outstanding Achievement in German 3; Payton Peterson: Kenneth Beatson Award; Eric Phongsas: Outstanding Achievement in Game Design; Megan Preston: Outstanding Achievement in Prenatal Development & Infancy, Marvin N. & Susan Weed Sherman Memorial Scholarship; Connor Quinn: High Achievement in Family Foods & Nutrition; Maxwell Racicot: Outstanding Achievement in Latin 4; Haven Renshaw: Woodstock Academy Music Parents Association Scholarship; Owen Ritzau: Arlene Bradley Memorial Scholarship Science Award; Noah Salsich: Outstanding Achievement in Anatomy & Physiology, Outstanding Achievement in Honors Microeconomics; Maria Santucci: Community Foundation of Eastern CT Jerry Baggish Scholarship, Community Foundation of Eastern CT John Geissler Memorial Scholarship, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Union School Association Scholarship; Adam Schimmelpfennig: Outstanding Achievement in Personal Finance; Heather Schofield: Community Foundation of Eastern CT Arnelde Pitre STEM Leadership Scholarship, High Achievement in Engineering CAD, David & Helen Richardson Scholarship; Clayton Singleton: Big Y Academic Excellence Scholarship, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Edith Wheaton Smith Scholarship, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Town of Eastford Scholarship, Dr. David Bates/Dr. Rudolph Klare Memorial Scholarship, President's Volunteer Service Award, Prudential Spirit of Community Award Distinguished Finalist, Putnam Rotary Leon Archambault Memorial Scholarship, QRS Compassion Scholarship, QVR Rotract Scholarship, Woodstock Academy Music Parents Association Scholarship, Woodstock Agricultural Society Fran Stevens Award; Christina Skellinger: Outstanding Achievement in The Developing Child; Meghan Slate: Most Deserving Senior Ingraham/Parkerton Award, Woodstock Academy Music Parents Association Scholarship; Sybaljan Tahirova: High Achievement in Family Foods & Nutrition, High Achievement in Spanish 5 ECE/ACC; Sarah Tavares: Outstanding Achievement in

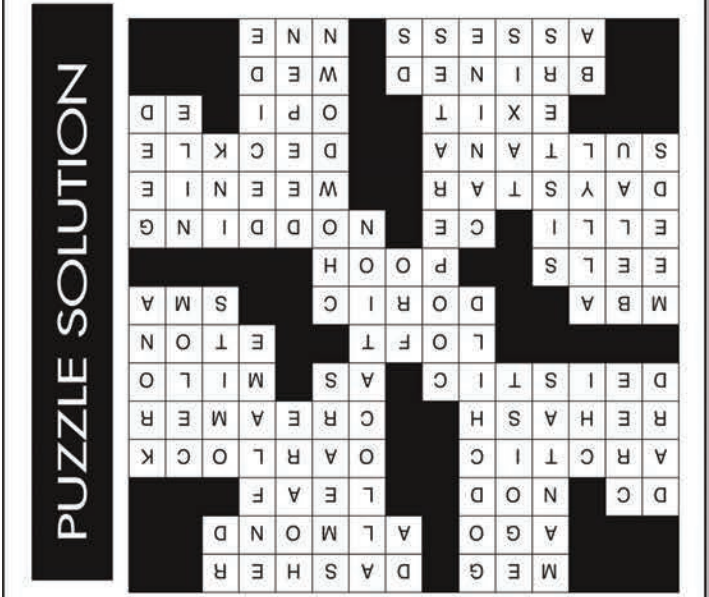


CLUES ACROSS

1. "Sleepless In Seattle" actress Ryan
4. One of Santa's reindeer
10. Before the present
11. Type of butter
12. Location of White House
14. Motion
15. Tree part
16. Regions around the North Pole
18. Fits on a boat's gunwale
22. Discuss after it's happened
23. Milk substitute for coffee
24. Describes one who believes in supreme being
26. Equally
27. Famed director Forman
28. Popular apartment style
30. British School
31. Advanced degree
34. Order of architecture
36. Investment account (abbr.)
37. Snakelike fishes
39. Children's tale bear
40. Norse personification of old age
41. Atomic #58
42. Moving your head
48. 1878 Kentucky Derby winner
50. Frankfurter
51. Small, seedless raisin
52. Device in papermaking machine
53. Go
54. Open payment initiative (abbr.)
55. "Westworld" actor Harris
56. Saturated with salt
58. Marry
59. Report on
60. Midway between north and northeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Rays
2. Self-centered person
3. One you look after
4. Prosecutor
5. Portion
6. Speaks ill of
7. Formal system for computer programs
8. To make angry
9. Rural delivery
12. Group of languages
13. Large First Nations group
17. Circulating life force in Chinese philosophy
19. Excludes
20. Body cavity of a metazoan
21. Swedish monetary unit
25. Works with
29. Partner to "to"
31. Rewards (archaic)
32. One of Caroline Islands
33. Type of alcohol
35. Eat a lot
38. Nuns
41. Dog
43. Become more serious
44. Choose
45. Newspapers use it
46. World's longest river
47. Commanded to go faster
49. Cabs
56. Mr. T's "A-Team" character
57. Document signed (abbr.)



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**VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS**

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The Putnam Villager (025-154), The Thompson Villager (024-998) The Killingly Villager (025-004) and The Woodstock Villager (024-999) are published weekly by Villager Newspapers, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Woodstock, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to the Villager Newspapers, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

ACT students get history lesson from Civil War soldier



Photo Donna Dufresne

Leah Ralls, President of Windham/Willimantic NAACP and Kevin Johnson, dressed as Private William Webb of the 29th Colored Regiment in the Civil War.

BY DONNA DUFRESNE
OUT OF THE BOX LEARNING

WILLIMANTIC — On June 7, students at The ACT School for the Performing

Arts in Willimantic assembled in their theater for the first time since the pandemic. The mood was celebratory. They were happy to be together as they waited for Mr. Kevin Johnson from The Connecticut State Library to appear in the character of Private William Webb, a Civil War soldier from the CT 29th Colored Regiment.

Students were introduced to the 29th regiment a few weeks earlier through the preparation materials provided by Windham/Willimantic NAACP which arranged the program and performance through their curriculum and education committee. During the preparation lessons students were asked to dive into the concept of freedom, the most iconic of American ideals, in the context of enslaved Africans and free Blacks who did not yet enjoy citizenship or full freedom in the 1860's. Students explored first amendment rights through case studies from the 1830's to the Civil War, including Prudence Crandall, where abolitionists argued for equal education, free speech and the right to petition, while the higher courts argued that "those of African descent were not nor ever would be citizens" (Dredd Scott, 1857).

When Kevin Johnson crept onto the stage in the character of William Webb, singing a traditional spiritual, "Freedom," the audience was immediately hooked. More than a biographical sketch, William Webb brought the students back to 1864 when he enlisted in the CT 29th Colored Regiment. He'd had his troubles as a young Black man

a few years before when he committed a minor crime by stealing a boat with a friend. He was sent to prison and the conditions were so terrible, he escaped only to be sent to the Old Weathersfield Prison for a longer sentence. When Webb was finally released, he would have found it difficult to find employment. Some things never change. The CT 29th Colored Regiment provided an opportunity to turn a new leaf, become a man and fight for freedom.

Freedom was a loaded word for a young Black man, even in the North, where people of African and Native American descent were patronized as if they were children. They certainly were not shown respect or treated as citizens. William Webb conveyed the immense respect that he and the other soldiers had for one of the Black officers who stood over 6 feet tall and held command over the troops. He was the target of their aspirations "He was a man – a man that looked like me".

William Webb described the speech Fredrick Douglas gave to the 29th Regiment before they shipped out, a pep talk that instilled pride and determination as they reflected on the solemnity of their role as Black men who were fighting for the freedom of their enslaved brothers and sisters as well as a better life for themselves.

But the glitter of hope and freedom were soon lost as the 29th regiment engaged in battles and William Webb saw his friends and comrades fall around him. Most notable was the battle of the Crater at Petersburg. The

29th fought valiantly and dug the deep trenches to plant explosives. But the casualties were massive. Private Webb put a human face on the fog of war as he appeared clearly shaken by the experience. It was not lost on his young audience who absorbed the heaviness of the moment. And then he brought us all back to reality with levity as he described the hard tack biscuits which were part of his daily rations and later getting married. By the time William Webb sauntered off stage singing his old "Freedom" song, the performing arts students were already saluting him with a standing ovation.

But that was not the end of the lessons. When Mr. Johnson returned to the stage to take questions, the students rose to the occasion and showed that the lessons of the past had not been lost in the context of the present. They asked intelligent questions about the scholarship and research behind the performance, and provocative questions about racial justice. Perhaps the best lesson of the day was that of being fully human. When asked if the murder of George Floyd and current racial tensions made him angry, Mr. Johnson replied that believed that it was important to talk about race, but it was most important to put a human face on it and make positive connections through kindness. Indeed. Anger and hatred are the crumbs that sustain fear. Mr. Johnson and Private Webb fed our souls and gave us much to chew on as we reflected on the lessons of the past in the context of the present.

Area Eastern students make Dean's List in spring 2021 semester

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the spring 2021 semester, in which nearly 1,300 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among them are:

Maxwell Chace of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in English.

Keeling Chiu of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Criminology and Sociology.

Amanda Gilbert of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Biology.

Savannah Henault of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Social Work.

Josephina Keith of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Psychology.

Olivia Majek of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Psychology.

Rebekah Perez of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Social Work.

Emily Rainville of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in English and Elementary Education.

Jared Tidwell of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Accounting.

Benjamin Torre of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Business Administration.

Lucas Basilio of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Business Administration.

Tyra Bergstrom of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Psychology.

Tina Dyer of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Social Work.

Caitlyn Eldridge of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Early Childhood Education and History.

Morgan Harriott of Danielson, a full-

time student who majors in Health Sciences.

Felicia Horne of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Early Childhood Education and English.

Candice Koolhaas of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Psychology.

Danielle Laurito of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Early Childhood Education and Psychology.

Lily Madden of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Elementary Education and Liberal Studies.

Lauren Mayotte of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in English.

Aboyowa Rone of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Finance.

Jamie Shay of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Social Work.

Vanessa Streb of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Biology.

Larda Yottivong of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Psychology.

Victoria Bryer of Dayville, a full-time student who majors in Criminology.

Zachary Capron of Dayville, a full-time student who majors in Criminology.

Molly Hayes of Dayville, a full-time student who majors in Sociology.

Allison Keeling of Dayville, a full-time student who majors in Elementary Education and Art.

Jonathan Lepire of Dayville, a full-time student who majors in Environmental Earth Science.

Camryn Soler of Dayville, a full-time student who majors in Psychology and Criminology.

Brandon Gaudreau of Rogers, a full-time student who majors in Political Science.

Hannah Bowen of Putnam, a full-time student who majors in English.

Zachary Cutler of Putnam, a full-time student who majors in Health Sciences.

Angelica Desrosiers of Putnam, a full-time student who majors in English.

Shai-Lin Gothreau of Putnam, a full-time student who majors in Business Administration.

Haley Russo of Putnam, a full-time student who majors in Health Sciences.

Hanna Russo of Putnam, a full-time student who majors in Social Work.

Cecilia LeBlanc of North Grosvenordale, a full-time student who majors in Early Childhood Education and Art.

Laura Leeza Ching of North Grosvenordale, a part-time student who majors in Computer Science.

Noelle Ciccarelli of Thompson, a full-time student who majors in Psychology.

Elizabeth Jourdan of Thompson, a full-time student who majors in Communication.

Emma Green of Pomfret Center, a full-time student who majors in Criminology.

James Hemeon of Pomfret Center, a full-time student who majors in Computer Science and Mathematics.

Allen Horn of Pomfret Center, a full-time student who majors in History.

Gabrielle Larrow of Pomfret Center, a full-time student who majors in Art.

Isabella Symington-St. John of Pomfret Center, a full-time student who majors in Biology.

Kaitlyn Bembenek of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Biology.

Jacob Blain of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Communication.

Danielle Chaput of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Psychology.

Joshua Lavitt of Woodstock, a full-

time student who majors in Criminology and Sociology.

Sylvia Lawrence of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Social Work.

Samantha Orlowski of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Communication.

Cameron Saracina of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Social Work.

Aidan Stewart of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Exploratory STEM.

Evann Wood of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Exploratory - Undecided.

To qualify for Dean's List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they've accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded course work with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

ACT Performing Arts Magnet High School recruiting students for 2021-2022

WILLIMANTIC — EASTCONN's Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) magnet high school is currently accepting academically motivated, grade 9-12 students seeking intensive study in the performing arts.

Housed in Willimantic's historic Capitol Theater, ACT enrolls students from 46 towns in its NEASC-accredited, interdisciplinary and arts-infused academic program. The school enrolls up to 150 students, making ACT an intimate, highly focused artistic learning environment.

ACT students select a major focus area from among five arts disciplines that include acting/vocal performance, audio/video production, creative writing, dance and theater production (set design, lighting design and costuming).

Students have daily creative experiences in ACT's state-of-the-art facility that features a fully equipped theater, a scene shop, audio/video editing suites, dance studios and a costume shop.

Partnerships with Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) and Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) allow qualified ACT upperclassmen to enroll in college class-

es and earn free college credits through the state university system, while still attending ACT.

Students in all grade levels have the opportunity to participate in numerous professional-quality performances and showcase their artistic talents in competitions throughout the year.

In recent years, many ACT students have been recognized for their participation and excellence in Scholastic's Art & Writing Awards contest, UCONN's Connecticut Writing Project, DMV-Travelers' Teen Safe Driving Video Contest, the Quiet Corner Film Festival, the national Future of Technology Essay Competition and other state and nation-wide contests and competitions.

To enroll, students can visit www.eastconn.org/act for an application. There is currently no deadline to apply for the fall 2021 semester.

EASTCONN, which administers ACT, is a public, non-profit Regional Educational Service Center that has been serving the education needs of northeastern Connecticut's schools and communities since 1980. Learn more at www.eastconn.org.



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Lawmakers vote no on highway use fees

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

HARTFORD – State lawmakers representing Northeastern Connecticut voted against a proposed highway use fee that opponents argue would increase the costs of goods and services in the state.

Republican State Representatives Anne Dauphinais and Rick Hayes voted against H.B. 6684, An Act Concerning a Highway Use Fee. The bill passed on June 9 in a largely party line vote of 88 to 59. While all Republicans present voted against the bill several Democrats joined in opposing the measure including another local lawmaker, Democratic State Representative Pat Boyd, but not enough to kill the bill on the final day of

the 2021 regular legislative session.

The bill has been touted as a way to add to the state’s Special Transportation Fund, which Republicans argued should be restored using existing monies. During debates on the bill Republican lawmakers in the House even sought to transfer \$320 million in motor vehicle-related sales tax revenue to the STF which also failed much to the dismay of Rep. Dauphinais.

“One amendment aimed to use the tax dollars Connecticut residents are already paying to make necessary road repairs. We realize we have roads that absolutely need to be repaired, but by rejecting our amendment, Democrats once again are telling taxpayers that they need to pay more in order for

these repairs to be made. This is a bad bill that keeps increasing taxes on the residents of this state and there is no way I could support the bill as written,” Dauphinais said in a statement. “This is just another example of legislation that was passed by Democrats who rejected every sensible, Republican amendment without compromise.”

Her fellow Republican lawmaker Rep. Hayes took aim a Governor Ned Lamont whose seeks to use the STF to fund multiple transportation projects. However, Rep. Hayes sees the new use fee as a way to bolster the account through new taxation in contrary to the governor’s previous vows.

“In one breath, the governor says no new taxes, but what was just voted on

here tonight tells another story. We fought this hard for six hours but as expected, the majority Democrats have their way and any amendments that we tried to put into this bill to attempt to make it better failed. I hope people across the state are paying attention to what is going on in this building,” said Hayes in a statement. “The trucking companies will have to recover their lost money and you better believe that burden will be on the consumer.”

Republicans also made an attempt during debate to exempt retail, wholesale food delivery and agricultural commodity transportation vehicles from the bill’s impact which also failed to earn enough support from lawmakers across the aisle.

Lori Hamilton named Day Kimball Employee of the Year

PUTNAM — Lori Hamilton, clinical coordinator in the medical/surgical department at Day Kimball Hospital, has been named employee of the year for 2020 by Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH).

Hamilton’s selection was announced at DKH’s staff appreciation barbecue held at Day Kimball Hospital on Thursday, May 27, where Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer of Day Kimball Healthcare, and Janice Thurlow, chairman of the Day Kimball Healthcare Board of Directors, presented her with the award.

“Lori is an exceptional employee and we are very appreciative of the positive impact she has had on patients’ lives during her tenure with DKH,” said Kramer. “We commend her for being a positive example within the organization and we are so glad we could honor her with this award.”

Hamilton, who began her healthcare career path during high school as a certified nursing assistant, has been a nurse for 24 years. Prior to joining Day Kimball in February 2000, Hamilton worked as an emergency medical technician and as a nurse in intensive care, emergency and acute rehab settings. In her role as clinical coordinator for the medical/

surgical department, Hamilton is responsible for supporting the unit’s nursing staff, providing staff education, and assisting with direct patient care.

“We are so proud to see Lori receive this recognition,” said her supervisor, Deb Blackmer, clinical manager in the medical/surgical department at Day Kimball Hospital. “Her dedication of over 20 years at Day Kimball providing excellent patient care and mentoring staff and leadership on the medical/surgical unit make her well deserving of this achievement.”

In response to being named Employee of the Year, Hamilton said, “I am so honored for receiving this award. I find myself thankful and grateful for working with such an amazing team. It was great to see everyone at DKH rise to the challenges that 2020 presented.”

Hamilton earned an associate degree in nursing from Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester, Mass. in 1996 and received a Bachelor of Science degree in education and psychology from Worcester State College in 1988. She was a recipient of the eastern Connecticut’s Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing in 2010, a statewide nursing recognition program

that honors nurses for their exceptional contributions to the profession. Hamilton currently resides in Oxford, Mass.

Day Kimball Healthcare’s 2020 employees of the month included: William Heckendorf, registered nurse and nursing supervisor; Caitlin Mather, medical social worker; Dennis Gaffney, public safety lead officer; Amanda Chambers, speech language pathologist; Christine Flynn, medical assistant; Amy Tucciarone, administrative assistant; Sylwester Czado, physical therapy; Katherine Ratelle, internal medicine referral coordinator; Michael Hanrahan, public safety officer; April Chitwood, physical therapist and clinical supervisor; Jennifer Bray, certified nursing assistant.

Day Kimball Healthcare’s employee of the month program is sponsored by Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut. “The Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation and Foxwoods Resort Casino has been focused on taking care of the people that serve within our community, and we appreciate everything Day Kimball Healthcare does,” said Foxwood’s Director of Sponsorships and Partnerships Roy Colebut-Ingram. “Supporting meaning-



Photo Courtesy

Day Kimball Healthcare names Lori Hamilton, clinical coordinator in the medical/surgical department at Day Kimball Hospital, Employee of the Year for 2020 at a staff appreciation barbecue held at the hospital on Thursday, May 27. (Pictured left to right): Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare; Janice Thurlow, chairman, Day Kimball Healthcare Board of Directors; Lori Hamilton, medical/surgical department clinical coordinator, Day Kimball Hospital; Kathy Rocha, secretary, Day Kimball Healthcare Board of Directors; Deb Blackmer, medical/surgical department clinical manager, Day Kimball Hospital.

ful employee recognition programs like that at DKH is just one way that we feel we can express our appreciation.”

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 cen-

ters 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.

United Services receives Gold Seal of Approval, Certification for Behavioral Health Home

DAYVILLE – United Services, Inc., northeastern Connecticut’s behavioral health center, has once again earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval for Behavioral Health Care Accreditation and this year adds Joint Commission Certification for its Behavioral Health Home program.

United Services underwent a rigorous, unannounced survey from Jan. 25-29. During the review, The Joint Commission evaluated United Services’ compliance with behavioral health care standards related to several areas, including care, treatment, and services; environment of care; leadership; and screening procedures for the early detection of imminent harm. Reviewers also conducted interviews with staff and clients.

The Joint Commission’s standards are developed in consultation with health care experts and providers, measurement experts and patients. They are informed by scientific literature and expert consensus to help health care organizations measure, assess and improve performance. The surveyors also conducted onsite observations and

interviews.

“We commend United Services for its continuous quality improvement efforts in patient safety and quality of care,” says Mark Pelletier, RN, MS, chief operating officer, Accreditation and Certification Operations, and chief nursing executive, The Joint Commission.

United Services is a non-profit, community-based outpatient behavioral health center with more than 55 years’ experience serving northeastern Connecticut. The agency is the Local Mental Health Authority for 21 towns and operates more than 30 programs under its one administration, including outpatient mental health and addiction services, parenting and family programs, youth programs, and community education and prevention programs.

United Services has proudly delivered one of Connecticut’s most innovative care models – the Behavioral Health Home (BHH) – since its outset in 2014. This program was launched to improve the health outcomes of individuals with serious mental illness.

BHH is a healthcare service delivery

model focused on the integration of primary care, mental health services, and social services and supports for adults and children diagnosed with mental illness. A multidisciplinary team, including Nurse Care Managers and Peer Support, deliver person-centered services designed to support a person in coordinating care and services while reaching their health and wellness goals. United Services served more than 500 adults and children in its BHH program last year.

“United Services is proud to receive the Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval for our agency and Certification for our Behavioral Health Home,” said Diane L. Manning, President/CEO of United Services.



Photo Courtesy

Staff at United Services Behavioral Health Home at its Dayville Clinic celebrated the Joint Commission Certification. From left: Nurse Care Manager Krystin Tetreault, LPN, Behavioral Health Home Manager Kimberly Solomakos, LPN, and Nurse Care Manager Elisabeth Parcinski, LPN.

“This accomplishment recognizes our staff for the hard work they do every day to provide the highest quality behavioral healthcare and wellness services to the residents of northeastern Connecticut.”

United Services’ accreditation is valid for three years and the agency’s next survey will be in 2024.

Loos & Co. donates \$500 to St. Vincent de Paul Place

POMFRET — Loos & Company employees are paying it forward to their community by putting their coronavirus vaccination to further good use.

This week, Loos & Company, in Pomfret, proudly presented a \$500 check to support the mission of the St. Vincent de Paul Place Food Pantry in Norwich.

This is the fourth donation in three weeks from Loos & Co. to local charities.

The donations are powered by Loos & Co. employees choosing to receive a coronavirus vaccination. Once an employee receives their vaccine, a \$50 contribution is made to the general donation fund.

“We wanted to create an

incentive program to help out those most in need in the community,” Central Wire Industries Rope and Assemblies Division President Tom Dodds. “We asked our employees to recommend local charities to support. The St. Vincent de Paul Place was at the top of that list for its great work.”

Donations were also given to the Pomfret Community/Senior Center, the Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse and the Putnam Daily Bread Food Pantry.

St. Vincent de Paul Place (SVdPP) was founded in 1979 to meet the basic needs of the poor and homeless in Norwich and the surrounding region. Staff and volunteers connect clients to food,

hygiene supplies, social services and more.

“COVID-19 hit us hard,” said SVdPP Grant Writer and Media Coordinator Tim Hathaway. “We had less opportunities to gather together and learn more about our clients’ needs. Donations like these helps to bridge that gap.”

Loos Director of Corporate Marketing Robert Davis, Loos Director of Manufacturing Jason Kunnick and Dodds presented Hathaway with a check on Thursday.

Loos & Co., headquartered at 16B Mashamoquet Road in Pomfret Center, is the industry leader in the wire and cable industry. More information about Loos is available at loosco.com.



Photo Courtesy

Left to right: Loos Director of Manufacturing Jason Kunnick, St. Vincent de Paul Place Food Pantry Grant Writer and Media Coordinator Tim Hathaway, Loos Director of Corporate Marketing Robert Davis and Central Wire Industries Rope and Assemblies Division President Tom Dodds.

Nichols College students named to Spring 2021 Honors List

DUDLEY, Mass. — Many hard-working students at Nichols College in Dudley, Mass., have achieved Dean's List or President's List honors during the spring 2021 semester.

The Dean's List and President's List give recognition to those students who achieve high grades during a single semester. In order to be included on the Dean's List, a student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and must have received no grades below B- during the semester. Students whose semester grade point average is 3.85 or higher for at least 12 undergraduate credit-hours and no grades below B- will receive President's List honors.

Abigail Teczar of Rogers receives President's List honors

Christina Bileau of Brooklyn receives Dean's List honors

Keeley Cerbo of Dayville receives President's List honors

Ethan Gosper of Danielson receives Dean's List honors

Brianna Hogan of Danielson receives President's List honors

Lauren Hyatt of Dayville receives President's List honors

Dylan McMerriman of Brooklyn receives President's List honors

Kendra Annis of North Grosvenordale receives Dean's List honors

Olivia Antonson of North Grosvenordale receives President's List honors

Evan Ware of North Grosvenordale receives Dean's List honors

Nicholas Kolodziejczak of North Grosvenordale receives President's List honors

Kunthea Siv of Thompson receives Dean's List honors

Prince Patel of North Grosvenordale receives President's List honors

Maegan Roy of Thompson receives President's List honors

Shannon Gauthier of North Grosvenordale receives President's List honors

Lucas Couture of Woodstock receives Dean's List honors

Nicholas Elliott of Woodstock receives Dean's List honors

Christian Mayotte of Woodstock receives President's List honors

About Nichols College

Nichols College is a college of choice for business and leadership education as a result of its distinctive career-focused and leadership-based approaches to learning, both in and out of the classroom, and through impactful research and professional education. Students thrive in a learning and living environment that is supported by an experiential business curriculum and a strong liberal arts foundation aimed at transforming them into tomorrow's leaders. Nichols also offers master's degrees in business, leadership, accounting, and counterterrorism, as well as a range of certificate programs, to promote career advancement for today's professionals.

University of Rhode Island names local students to Spring 2021 Dean's List

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the Spring 2021 Dean's List. More than 7,000 students were named to the Spring 2021 Dean's List, representing nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

The following local students were named to the list:

Jennifer Burdick of Danielson

Cadie Coderre of Moosup

Riley Hardacker of Brooklyn

Ryan Humphreys of Brooklyn

Jenna Mccauley of Danielson

Wendy Parr of Dayville

Zoe Hetrick of Putnam

Doug Ryan of Putnam

Hannah Weiss of Thompson

Ivan Asikainen of Eastford

Reagan Couture of Woodstock

Katrina Davis of Woodstock

Allison Faist of Woodstock

Grace McWilliam of Woodstock

Katie Papp of Eastford

Rose Wood of Pomfret Center

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

To view the entire Dean's List, visit: uri.edu/academics/deans-list/

About the University of Rhode Island

Founded in 1892, the University of Rhode Island is the principal public flagship research and graduate institution in Rhode Island. Competitive and highly regarded, its 14,300 undergraduate students and more than 2,700 graduate students represent 48 states and 76 countries across the globe. With 203 academic programs, URI offers its undergraduate, graduate, and professional students distinctive educational opportunities designed to meet the global challenges of today's world and the rapidly evolving needs of tomorrow. At URI, you will find some of today's leading innovators, discoverers, and creative problem solvers. To learn more, visit: uri.edu.

Husson University announces Spring 2021 President's List

BANGOR, Maine — The following students have been named to the Spring 2021 President's List at Husson University. Students who make the President's List must be enrolled as an undergraduate student, carry a full-time load of 12 credit hours, complete all attempted courses in the time allotted for the semester, and achieve a 3.80 to 4.0 semester grade-point average. Credits from pass/fail classes do not qualify toward meeting the minimum credit hour requirement.

Jolie R. Wilber of North Grosvenordale, Conn. is enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in national and corporate security/Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration program.

Rori M. Johnson of Thompson, Conn. is enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Administration and Public Health/Master of Science in Occupational Therapy program.

Samantha E. Murd of Danielson is enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in Psychology/Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration program.

For more than 120 years, Husson University has shown its adaptability and strength in delivering educational programs that prepare future leaders to handle the challenges of tomorrow through innovative undergraduate and graduate degrees. With a commitment to delivering affordable classroom, online and experiential learning opportunities, Husson University has come to represent a superior value in higher education. The hallmarks of a Husson education include advanced knowledge delivered through quality educational programs in business; health and education; pharmacy studies; science and humanities; as well as communication. According to a recent analysis of tuition and fees by U.S. News & World Report, Husson University is one of the most affordable private colleges in New England. For more information about educational opportunities that can lead to personal and professional success, visit Husson.edu.

Clara Sarantopoulos of Danielson, Bachelor of Science

Julie Sullivan of Brooklyn, Cum Laude Bachelor of Science

Annie Vance of Danielson, Bachelor of Science

Joel Cheney of Woodstock, Bachelor of Science

About UVM

Since 1791, the University of Vermont has worked to move humankind forward. Committed to both research and teaching, UVM professors -- world-class researchers, scholars, and artists -- bring their discoveries into the classroom and their students into the field. Located in Burlington, Vermont, one of the nation's most vibrant small cities and top college towns, UVM is a Public Ivy and top 100 national research university educating 10,700 undergraduate students, 1,627 graduate students, 776 certificate and non-degree students, and 478 M.D. students in the Larner College of Medicine.



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VA rep to speak at next Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse

PUTNAM — Jeannie Gardiner, Veterans Service Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs, will be the guest speaker June 22 starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse at the Putnam Elks Club, Edmund Street, Putnam.

This program is open to all veterans, and will cover many areas and discussions:

- Disability Compensation
- Presumptive Conditions – Agent Orange Exposure
- VA Pension
- Financially needs based program for Wartime Veterans or their survivors
- Aid & Attendance / Housebound
- Widows Benefits
- Dependency & Indemnity Compensation
- Widows Pension
- State Benefits
- Burial in State Veteran Cemetery
- John Levitow Healthcare Facility – Rocky Hill (skilled nursing facility)
- Residential at Rocky Hill
- Veterans Property Tax Exemption (wartime & disabled veterans)
- Flag on License
- Wartime Service Medal
- Tuition Waiver (wartime veterans)

POMFRET — In less than three weeks, Loos & Company has generously donated to three eastern Connecticut organizations from its employee vaccination donation fund.

This week, Loos & Company proudly presented a \$500 check to support the mission of the Daily Bread Food Pantry. The food pantry is organized through the Interfaith Human Services of Putnam group.

This is the third donation in as many weeks from Loos & Co. to local charities.

The donations are powered by Loos & Co. employees choosing to receive a coronavirus vaccination. Once an employee receives their vaccine, a \$50 contribution is made to the general donation fund.

Loos Director of Corporate Marketing Robert Davis said employees were asked to provide suggestions as to where the funds should be donated.

Donations were also given to the Pomfret Community/Senior Center and the Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse.

“We’re working hard to be caring and compassionate members of the community,” said Loos Director of Manufacturing Jason Kumnick.

IHSP is an all-volunteer non-profit charity that oversees the food pantry, the NU2U Clothing Closet, and the Diaper Bank of Northeastern Connecticut. It also provides fuel/heating assistance, rental assistance and homelessness support.

Kumnick and Davis presented IHSP board president Karen Osbrey with a check Monday.

“Donations like these mean a lot to us,” Osbrey said. “Because of our resources, we have great spending power. A \$500 donation can buy us about \$1,500 in food.”

Osbrey said the food pantry serves 300 families in the Pomfret, Putnam, Woodstock and Eastford area.

Loos & Co., headquartered at 16B Mashamoquet Road in Pomfret Center, is the industry leader in the wire and cable industry. More information about Loos is available at loos-co.com.

Photo Courtesy

Loos Director of Manufacturing Jason Kumnick and Loos Director of Corporate Marketing Robert Davis present IHSP board president Karen Osbrey with a \$500 donation check Monday.



First Apostolic Church collects food for local pantries

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

DANIELSON – The First Apostolic Church in Danielson held a food drive on Sunday, June 12 to benefit two local pantries as part of the church’s Youth on Missions Day.

The event was part of a day-long series of activities where local youth from the church and beyond came together to make a difference in their community. Pastor Jamie Jarvis said the event is much larger than just their single church family.

“There are churches from all around the state from the United Pentecostal Church that came here. We’re part of that church which is of the same organization. We coordinated different events throughout the town. We had the food drive set up to accommodate supporting Friends of Assisi and Access,” Jarvis said. “We had involvement from all around. It’s not as much as we would have liked but every little bit helps, and we appreciate the support we did get.”

The church collected several bags and boxes of nonperishable food items that will help feed members of the community who depend heavily on the local food banks to get by. Jarvis said the hope is that this will inspire kids to continue to be involved in making a positive impact on their community.

“We’re looking to serve the community and hope to let people know that we’re still here. The church is open and



Photo Jason Bleau

Members and youth volunteers of the First Apostolic Church pose for a photo after the church’s June 12 Youth on Missions Food Drive.

we’re teaching the younger generation to give back,” Jarvis said.

The Youth on Missions Day also

included cleaning up the Killingly Library parking lot, painting wood fences as Owen Bell Park, restoring

a wood kiosk at Cat Hollow Park and passing outdoor hangers throughout several neighborhoods in town.

LOCAL VETERAN RECEIVES QUILT OF HONOR



Photo Courtesy

Raymond K. Williams (seated), a World War II veteran, member of Post #13 – Putnam and former District #4 Commander, was honored on Sunday, June 6 with the presentation of a Quilt of Valor by Jean Ann Moore of Putnam (right), who crafted the quilt. The Quilt of Valor program is a nationwide effort to bring comfort and thanks to veterans who served our country. Williams was also presented a certificate of honor by District #4 Commander Ronald P. Coderre (left), recognizing his loyal service to The American Legion for 50 years.

Kyle Jonathan Derosier named to Husson University’s Dean’s List

BANGOR, Maine — Danielson resident Kyle Jonathan Derosier has been named to Husson University’s Dean’s List for the Spring 2021 semester.

During the spring semester, Derosier was enrolled in Husson’s Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in financial management/Master of Business Administration (MBA) program.

Students who make the Dean’s List must be enrolled as an undergraduate student, carry a full-time load of 12 credit hours, complete all attempted courses in

the time allotted for the semester, and achieve a 3.60 to 3.79 semester grade-point average. Credits from pass/fail classes do not qualify toward meeting the minimum credit hour requirement.

For more than 120 years, Husson University has shown its adaptability and strength in delivering educational programs that prepare future leaders to handle the challenges of tomorrow through innovative undergraduate and graduate degrees. With a commitment to delivering affordable classroom, online and experiential learning opportunities, Husson University has

come to represent a superior value in higher education. The hallmarks of a Husson education include advanced knowledge delivered through quality educational programs in business; health and education; pharmacy studies; science and humanities; as well as communication. According to a recent analysis of tuition and fees by U.S. News & World Report, Husson University is one of the most affordable private colleges in New England. For more information about educational opportunities that can lead to personal and professional success, visit Husson.edu.

Olivia Kremer named to St. Lawrence University’s Dean’s List

Olivia Kremer named to St. Lawrence University’s Dean’s List

CANTON, N.Y. — Olivia Kremer from Pomfret has been named to St. Lawrence University’s Dean’s List for achieving academic excellence during the Spring 2021 semester.

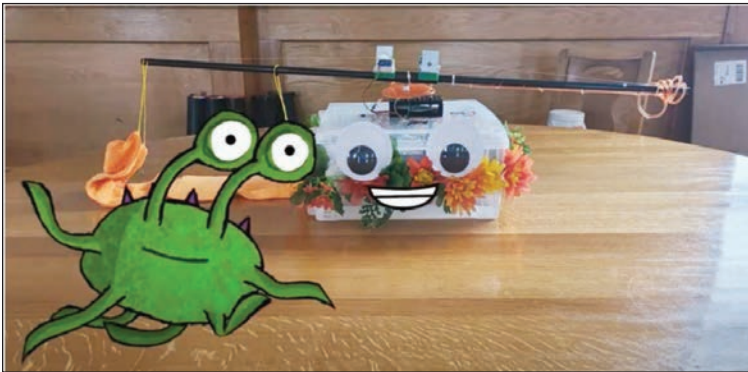
Kremer is a member of St. Lawrence’s Class of 2021.

To be eligible for the Dean’s List, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

About St. Lawrence University
Founded in 1856, St. Lawrence

University is a private, independent liberal arts institution of about 2,500 students located in Canton, New York. The educational opportunities at St. Lawrence inspire students and prepare them to be critical and creative thinkers, to find a compass for their lives and careers, and to pursue knowledge and understanding for the benefit of themselves, humanity and the planet. Through its focus on active engagement with ideas in and beyond the classroom, a St. Lawrence education leads students to make connections that transform lives and communities, from the local to the global. Visit www.stlawu.edu.

Pomfret School teens named finalists in national coding competition



POMFRET — Students from Pomfret School in Pomfret are one of five finalists in the TI Codes Contest, a nationwide coding competition hosted by Texas Instruments. The team members are Anna Davis, Delia Bousquet, Evan Gonzalez, Lucas Canavan, and Simiao Li. The adult sponsor is Pomfret School’s Head of Science Department, Joshua Lake.

Texas Instruments challenged students across the country to design a product or process related to related to health, wellness or medicine that can improve lives in response to the global Covid-19 pandemic and use their coding skills to create a model bringing that product or process to life. After several rounds of competition, the teams have been narrowed down to the



final five. Team Pomfret School designed a Germ Eliminating Rinsing Machine (GERM). GERM automates the process of cleaning circular and rectangular tables. Our rinse cycle is about three minutes

long. It has telescoping arms that change length with table size. The arms stay retracted when GERM isn’t operating for dining space and portability. GERM sprays a cleaning solution using the TI water pump

around the table and spreads it out with a microfiber cloth. Germ doubles as a centerpiece with flowers as well as an education tool. It features information about the different components and how they operate. You can see a video of how it works: <https://youtu.be/CuPnF1vnf2s>. From June 10-17, the public can vote on their favorite project video to determine the grand prize winner at [TICodesContest.com](https://ticodecontest.com). Each member of the winning team receives a TI graphing calculator, the TI-Innovator Hub and TI’s calculator-controlled robotic vehicle, the TI-Innovator Rover. The teacher or adult that sponsors the winning team also wins a \$250 gift card to help cover the cost of future class activities.

Pomfret’s Ron Pariseau records June 10 Eclipse

BY CAROL DAVIDGE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

POMFRET — Ron Pariseau set up his camera to photograph the eclipse of the sun in Pomfret at 4:30 a.m. on June 10. The eclipse started at 4:47 a.m. below the horizon, and became visible locally from 5:34 until 6:42 a.m. During that time, Pariseau took 143 pictures, using a Nikon D-5200 DSLR with special lens for photographing the sun without damaging his camera. “You can’t look into the camera during the eclipse. Looking at the sun, even through a special lens, is very dangerous to the eyes,” he explained. Pariseau’s interest in astronomy began as a youngster living in Dudley, Mass. In 1957, his uncle, Don Nicholson, took him to see Sputnik, the first satellite to orbit the earth (launched by the

USSR). While serving two tours in the US Navy Seabees in Vietnam, Pariseau purchased his first Kodak Instamatic. He soon upgraded to a Minolta SR-15 DSLR1. He moved to Pomfret in 1993 where, in 2006, he began to photograph the region’s natural wonders. Pariseau and wife Linda have received many awards from The Last Green Valley for their pictures. “I love the country atmosphere and the American Revolutionary War history of this area. Not many people can say they live in a town where more than 60 Revolutionary War heroes are laid to rest,” he said. These include General Israel Putnam, hero of Bunker / Breed’s Hill and Rogers Rangers (“Don’t fire till you see the whites of their eyes,”) and Captain John McClelland, both of whom marched off to Lexington Green in 1776.



Photo Carol Davidge

Sunrise in Pomfret with Pomfret photographer Ron Pariseau.

Maximize the harvest with proper care

Grow an abundant harvest with some timely garden care. Arm yourself with a few basic tools, a bit of time and regular visits to the garden throughout the growing season to keep plants healthy and more productive. You don’t need to invest in every garden tool on the market. A shovel, trowel, weeding tool, gloves and kneeling pad are the basics. If your budget is tight, ask gardening friends and family if they have extras to spare or lend. Now you are ready to get started. Weed control is an ongoing task. Working in a few minutes of weeding time as your schedule allows makes this a much less overwhelming task. Keep a bucket with your favorite weeding tool, gloves, and kneeling pad by the door. Anytime you have a few minutes between other activities pull a few weeds. If tools are handy, you spend less time looking for them and more time accomplishing the task. Consider keeping all your tools conveniently stored and ready for the garden in a mobile tool storage caddy (gardeners.com). It has room for short and long handled tools, a bucket for gathering weeds plus wheels and a handle for easy maneuvering.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
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Spread a layer of shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic matter over the soil surface surrounding your vegetable plants. This layer of organic matter helps conserve moisture so you will need to water less often. It also helps suppress weeds and improves the soil as it decomposes. As your seeds sprout and begin to grow, you will need to do a bit of thinning. Remove extra plants, leaving enough space for those remaining seedlings to reach full size. The seed packet recommends the proper spacing for the vegetables you planted. Good news, some seedlings like radishes, beets and spinach are edible so think of this as harvesting instead. Once you make your first harvest, leaving space in the garden, fill it with another planting. Succession, also called relay planting, allows you to grow several different vegetables in the same space. Just make sure the second planting has time to reach maturity and produce before the end of the season. Seed packets and plant tags contain information on the number of days from planting to harvest. Compare this to the number of days until the average

first fall frost. Keep plants healthy with proper watering and fertilization. Water new plantings often enough to keep the top few inches of soil slightly moist. Wait until the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist to deeply water established plants. Deep watering, moistening the top six inches of soil, encourages plants to develop a more drought resistant root system. Frequent shallow watering keeps roots near the soil surface where they dry out quickly. Insufficient water means fewer and smaller vegetables. Follow soil test recommendations for fertilizing your plants. If these are not available, consider using a fertilizer recommended for vegetable gardens. Apply it according to the label directions. Providing plants with space to grow and keeping them healthy means fewer insect and disease problems. That means a bigger harvest for you and your family to enjoy all season long.



Photo Courtesy — Gardener’s Supply Company

Keeping garden tools organized and conveniently stored will save time and energy throughout the growing season. editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardener’s Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Melinda Myers is the author of more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* “How to Grow Anything” DVD series and the *Melinda’s Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing

Fitchburg State University names local students to Dean’s List

FITCHBURG — Fitchburg State University congratulates the following students on being named to the Dean’s List for the spring semester of 2021.

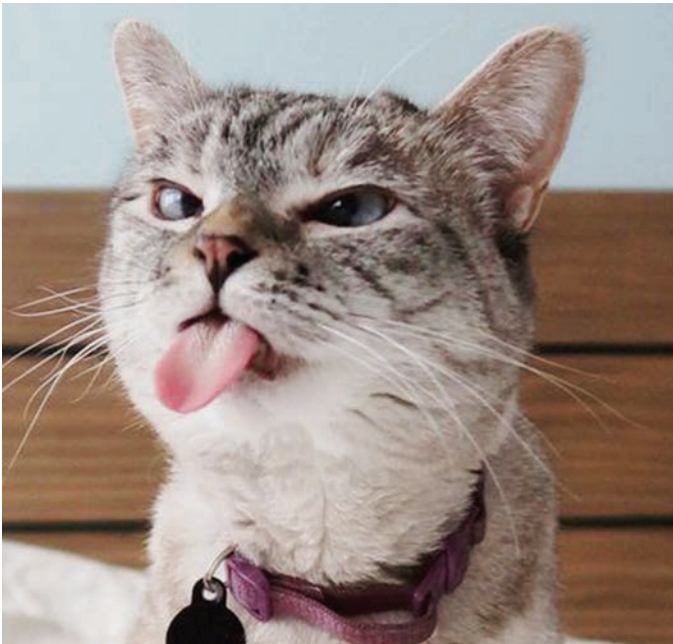
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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Some words of advice for new graduates

Students around the region are flipping tassels this week, participating in a traditional rite of passage, generally symbolizing their transition to adulthood. With more and more people becoming vaccinated, ceremonies are looking a bit more traditional than they did last year.

Many seniors and their underclassman counterparts have faced big changes as they navigate the world amidst a global pandemic. This time in a teen's life is still quite pivotal.

Students will be bombarded with advice and speeches as these final weeks unfold. Our favorite bit of advice, however, is the following: 1. Don't smoke; 2. Drink plenty of water every day; and 3. Wear sunscreen (your 40-year-old selves will thank you). 4. Spend as much time as humanly possible outside; and 5. Watch the "Back to the Future" trilogy.

The most important thing you can do, however, is to find out who you are. From there the entire world opens up. Do not limit your lives to the same scene and same people you have always surrounded yourself with. This doesn't mean you need to forget people or places, it simply means that now is a great time to branch out. The more people you meet in different places, with different experiences will shed light on who you really are.

Always remember your roots. These are what has shaped you and prepared you for your next chapter. Remember how important your community has been to you, and remember to always give back.

Always practice kindness, even when it's hard. The world can aggravate and frustrate the most mellow of us. Anger is a normal human emotion, however it's what you do with it that really matters. If you have disagreements or you think the way you feel about a certain issue is correct, remember to not let your anger take you over. It never feels good, plus harboring too much anger and discontent ages us, plus it's really no fun. The more fun and kindness you have in your life, the happier you are. Try to find balance between your work and your leisure time. Spend time doing the things you love, and never forget what those things are, despite how busy your life may become.

As you go through life, you will make mistakes. None of us are perfect and mistakes can actually define who we become if we learn from them. The best formula for mistake making, is to own up to them, have some self-awareness, be gentle on yourself, learn, then move on. Simple.

Remember to follow your own gut, always, no matter what. This is your life, and that means you need to make it what it is and what it will be.

Congratulations to the class of 2021!

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.

READING NEWSPAPERS IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER

WA
continued from page A4

Early Childhood Education; Mallory Tyimok: CT Association of Schools Outstanding Arts Award, High Achievement in Personal Finance, Outstanding Senior Artist; Alexandra Vaida: Outstanding Achievement in Engineering CAD, David & Helen Richardson Scholarship; Rockwell Valentine: Community Foundation of Eastern CT Take Note! Antonia Brancia Memorial Scholarship, CT Association of

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Created chaos

To the Editor:

In 150 days in office today, President Biden and his administration have obviously and purposely created chaos in our country. Unfortunately, he recently stated that he's been in office for 15 months, which does indicate he's not really in charge or has a handle on the facts of reality. The gaffes come faster than Kamala's laughs, and our Commander in Chief frequently comments that he will "get in trouble" if he answers questions. I do not understand their motives, but have contemplated some theories...most of which are just plain power-hungry and evil. There truly is no other explanation. Watch "Hillary's America" by Dinesh D'Souza...you will get the point.

Why would we ignore our immigration laws and policies? How do we benefit from this new policy of an open southern border? How can they repeatedly say that the border is not open when over 180,000 immigrants came through in May alone? And these are only the documented ones. Imagine the ones that came through undetected? The administration spouts its humanitarian motivation, but this mantra rings pretty shallow considering the terrible risks that people from over 100 countries face when attempting this journey. Not to mention the risks to America's citizens with drug cartels recruiting, organizing and transporting these immigrants into our communities. They are making a fortune - to the tune of 25 million dollars per week!... in human trafficking and drug trafficking. Fentanyl seizures have increased over 200 percent...hitting our communities

Controversy over Native American sports team names is an elitist invention

To the Editor:

In 2004, the Annenburg Institute conducted a nationwide study on the opinions of rank and file Native Americans when it comes to high school, college, and professional Native American sports team names. The study found that 91 percent of average everyday working Native Americans have no problem with Native American sports teams' names.

A 2016 Washington Post poll of every tribe the Post could find nationwide got the same results. The Washington Post is a very liberal newspaper, and they did not really want to hear these particular results. But the facts were undeniable, and they had to print them. White elitists went apoplectic because they have sold their souls to the belief that these names were chosen because of racism. The fact that the overwhelming number of Native Americans disagree with them was intolerable to these white elitists. Since then, they have jumped through unbelievable intellectual hoops desperately trying to make believe these studies are not true.

Overwhelmingly, the opposition to these national polls of average everyday Native Americans has come from elitists. Elitists from academia and from journalism. These elitists don't just want these polls to be not true; they need them to be not true. Their ideology demands it. So they launched their own polls, rewording the questions in a desperate attempt to get a different result.

Two of their polls worded their questions as if the debate were about mascots, which shows what a shallow understanding elitists have about the issue. Mascots are silly uniforms dreamed up by students. The issue is about sports teams' names.

Another poll quoted tribal leaders, not average Native Americans. Elitists like to quote other elitists, don't you know. Then they tried another tactic. This time, they tried to poll only those who strongly identified as Native Americans, which is a completely arbitrary tact. Describe 'strongly' — it's different for every Native American. It depends on their personal history, their relationship with their family, and their relationship with their tribe. It also assumes that Native Americans are homogeneous. They are not. Each tribe has a slightly different culture, sometimes a vastly different culture, and each tribe is very proud of their particular culture and history. Many do not identify as Native American at all, but rather as Cheyenne, for example. The pollsters at the Washington Post were keenly aware of these cultural differences, and went way out of their way to poll people from every tribe in the country, and the results were that 90 percent were not bothered by Native American sports team names. Average everyday Native Americans are just as smart as you and I, and they don't need elitists (especially white ones) to tell them what to think.

I can just imagine what all these average Native Americans think about white elit-

through blatant social media advertising and access. This is a tragedy...and created chaos. No doubt about it. I just don't understand why our elected leaders are leading us down this path. Interestingly, the whole "white supremacy" dialog is being propelled by the true white supremacists and global elitists.

Canceled pipelines, no more energy independence, disrespect of and mass exodus of law enforcement, the disturbing increase of crime across our country, the doubling of costs of oil, gas, food...this is created chaos. The new definition of "infrastructure." What the...?

I think our saving grace at this point in time is our collective voice to reject and denounce the un-scientific theories that are being shoved down our throats. Parents across the country are speaking out against our educational system indoctrinating our youth instead of educating them to succeed in life with skills to succeed. Instigating racism instead of nurturing our natural, God given love of one another.

The other blessing in these times is discernment. Those who seek to deny, distract, divide and destroy have become so arrogant, their transparency is glaring.

P.S.: Trump is not our President anymore. As we Trump voters (not a cult, not Kool-Aid drinking followers or any of the other names you continue to call us...in your words, "Get over it.")

TAMI JO WYKES
BROOKLYN

Our love for dogs unites us

"I fall in love too easily. I fall in love too fast..." A song musician Frank Racette plays well. That's how I feel watching the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. At first, I focus on the handlers in too tight St. John's knit suits or the evening attire on the judges, but in minutes, it is all dogs, dogs, dogs. I love to look at various breeds of dogs. As each one is led into the ring and introduced, I want to pet it. I want to own it. Dogs are among the better things in life. Love of dogs links us together.

This year, Westminster was held at the Lyndhurst estate instead of Madison Square Garden. The Web site indicates it will be back in New York City for 2022, but as long as it happens, that's all that matters. The winner this year, Wasabi, is a charming Pekingese, that beat out a whippet, a sheepdog and a Samoyed. When I was a child, I had a Samoyed, named Snow. He liked to look up at the sky and chase the birds as they flew.

Often he ran into cars instead of cars running over him. He lived to a ripe old age nonetheless.

As with the Kentucky Derby, where I always pick the wrong horse, I was wrong again about the winning dog. I saw star quality in the Golden Retriever, which didn't make it to the final pack. Perhaps they are seen as common by the judges, but I know they are wonderful pets. The judge, Patricia Trotter, a much revered 85-year-old, had complete discretion to pick the winner and she like Wasabi. I loved him too, of course, even though he looks like a wind-up dust mop.

I've not met many Pekingese, except for two that accompanied their owners to shop at the local Red & White grocery store when I was little. The women, widowed twin sisters always dressed in black, were driven to the general store in a chauffeured car. They carried their small dogs like living handbags. They were happy to extend their arms so I could pet the little creatures. They kissed the dogs' faces, which I thought odd.

Out of affection, my husband was nearly drawn into a dog scam. Someone told him to look at a certain site to find a pug for me. He clicked on it and then on to another. It indicated that the breeder had many puppies, that they were nearby and the price was reasonable. He began to suspect something was up. The texts were written in unusual grammatical style and the location of the kennel was moving from one nearby town to another. Of course, he cut off contact. No pug for me.

Wherever I go I meet dogs. At the dog parks in Putnam and Killingly, dogs frolic as their owners' beam. On the trails at Thompson Dam, there are so many dogs I stop and discuss almost every one. The Airline Trail is a fine place to walk dogs and the few let off-leash seem quickly controlled. Dogs provide a mutual source of conversation as dog owners share the harrowing stories of their rescue pets or qualities of their purebreds.

We may be divided about many things, but we are united about dogs. We love them, whether they are giant or tiny, furry or sleek, pedigreed or mixed. Dogs are like the best qualities of people. They see common bonds regardless of where they come from and they greet each other with a sniff and an invitation to fall in love.



NANCY WEISS



GOOD NEWS

Schools Outstanding Arts Award, Most Deserving student Nelson Morse Award, Outstanding Male Instrumentalist, Woodstock Academy Music Parents Association Scholarship; Kassidy Walden: High Achievement in Personal Finance; Allison Wall: Kristina Noe Memorial Scholarship; Eli Werstler: Spirol International Scholarship, Charter Oak Federal Credit Union Community Scholarship, Luke Leaders 1248 Scholarship, Outstanding Achievement in Advanced Engineering; Caroline Wilcox: Michael Antunes Memorial Scholarship, Charter

Oak Federal Credit Union Community Scholarship, Community Foundation of Eastern CT Shirley Bradway Serafin Scholarship, High Achievement in Pastry & Baking, Marvin Barrett Masonic Educational Award, Woodstock Agricultural Society Ray Donnelly Memorial Scholarship; Alexander Williams: High Achievement in AP Computer Science, Linemaster Switch Business Scholarship; Alex Wojciechowski: High Achievement in Pastry & Baking; Hongli Zhang: Outstanding Achievement in German 4.

Do you have the right amount of life insurance for your stage of life?

Your need for life insurance changes as your life changes. When you're young, you typically have less need for life insurance, but that changes as you take on more responsibility and your family grows. Then, as your responsibilities once again begin to diminish, your need for life insurance may decrease. Having the right amount of life insurance for each stage of life can save you money as well as provide peace of mind. Here's a look at how your life insurance needs may change throughout your lifetime.

Footloose and fancy-free
As a young adult, you become more independent and self-sufficient. You no longer depend on others for your financial well-being. But in most cases, your death would still not create a financial hardship for others. For most young singles, life insurance is not a priority.
Some would argue that you should buy life insurance now, while you're healthy and the rates are low. This may be a valid argument if you are at a high risk for developing a medical condition (such as diabetes) later in life. But you should also consider the earnings you could realize by investing the money now instead of spending it on insurance premiums.
If you have a mortgage or other loans that are jointly held with a cosigner, your death would leave the cosigner responsible for the entire debt. You might consider purchasing enough life insurance to cover these debts in the event of your death. Funeral expenses are also a concern for young singles, but it is typically not advisable to purchase a life insurance policy just for this purpose, unless paying for your funeral would burden your parents or whomever would be responsible for funeral expenses. Instead, consider investing the money you would have spent on life insurance premiums.
Your life insurance needs increase significantly if you are supporting a parent or grandparent, or if you have a child before marriage. In these situations, life insurance could provide continued support for your dependent(s) if you were to die.
Going to the chapel
Married couples without children typically still have little need for life insurance. If both spouses contribute equally to household finances and do not yet

own a home, the death of one spouse will usually not be financially catastrophic for the other.
Once you buy a house, the situation begins to change. Even if both spouses have well-paying jobs, the burden of a mortgage may be more than the surviving spouse can afford on a single income. Credit card debt and other debts can contribute to the financial strain.
To make sure either spouse could carry on financially after the death of the other, both of you should probably purchase a modest amount of life insurance. At a minimum, it will provide peace of mind knowing that both you and your spouse are protected.
Again, your life insurance needs increase significantly if you are caring for an aging parent, or if you have children before marriage. Life insurance becomes extremely important in these situations, because these dependents must be provided for in the event of your death.
Your growing family
When you have young children, your life insurance needs reach a climax. In most situations, life insurance for both parents is appropriate.
Single-income families are completely dependent on the income of the breadwinner. If he or she dies without life insurance, the consequences could be disastrous. The death of the stay-at-home spouse would necessitate costly day-care and housekeeping expenses. Both spouses should carry enough life insurance to cover the lost income or the economic value of lost services that would result from their deaths.
Dual-income families need life insurance, too. If one spouse dies, it is unlikely that the surviving spouse will be able to keep up with the household expenses and pay for child care with the remaining income.
Moving up the ladder
For many people, career advancement means starting a new job with a new company. At some point, you might even decide to be your own boss and start your own business. It's important to review

your life insurance coverage any time you leave an employer.
Keep in mind that when you leave your job, your employer-sponsored group life insurance coverage will usually end, so find out if you will be eligible for group coverage through your new employer, or look into purchasing life insurance coverage on your own. You may also have the option of converting your group coverage to an individual policy. This may cost significantly more, but may be wise if you have a pre-existing medical condition that may prevent you from buying life insurance coverage elsewhere.
Make sure that the amount of your coverage is up-to-date, as well. The policy you purchased right after you got married might not be adequate anymore, especially if you have kids, a mortgage, and college expenses to consider. Business owners may also have business debt to consider. If your business is not incorporated, your family could be responsible for those bills if you die.
Single again
If you and your spouse divorce, you'll have to decide what to do about your life insurance. Divorce raises both beneficiary issues and coverage issues. And if you have children, these issues become even more complex.
If you and your spouse have no children, it may be as simple as changing the beneficiary on your policy and adjusting your coverage to reflect your newly single status. However, if you have kids, you'll want to make sure that they, and not your former spouse, are provided for in the event of your death. This may involve purchasing a new policy if your spouse owns the existing policy, or simply changing the beneficiary from your spouse to your children. The custodial and noncustodial parent will need to work out the details of this complicated situation. If you can't come to terms, the court will make the decisions for you.
Your retirement years
Once you retire, and your priorities shift, your life insurance needs may change. If fewer people are depending

on you financially, your mortgage and other debts have been repaid, and you have substantial financial assets, you may need less life insurance protection than before. But it's also possible that your need for life insurance will remain strong even after you retire. For example, the proceeds of a life insurance policy can be used to pay your final expenses or to replace any income lost to your spouse as a result of your death (e.g., from a pension or Social Security). Life insurance can be used to pay estate taxes or leave money to charity.
Don't go it alone – get help in determining what the right amount of insurance is for you, at the right time, and as part of an overall financial strategy.
Ensuring that loved ones are provided for is perhaps one of the biggest concerns many people have when it comes to their finances, and of course having an appropriate amount of life insurance is a big piece of meeting that goal. Get started on assessing your own needs by using the Life Insurance Assessment tool on our website at whzwealth.com/financial-calculators. Then get in touch to see how we can help you build a solid financial strategy that will let you rest easy and move forward fearlessly toward your goals. Call us at (860) 928-2341 or email info@whzwealth.com to see how we can help you Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well.


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Back to summer antique shows

Last summer, the COVID-19 pandemic caused all three Brimfield antique shows to be canceled. Sadly, these cancellations were widespread and there were very few shows for antique collectors and dealers during the summer of 2020. Luckily, there will be many more opportunities available for antique enthusiasts this summer. I am pleased to report that the July 13-18 and Sept. 7-12 Brimfield shows are scheduled to run this summer.
Apart from Brimfield, there are plenty of other shows taking place throughout New England. Locally, Walker Homestead's Antiques & Primitive Goods Show takes place this weekend on Saturday, June 19th. It will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 19 Martin Rd., Brookfield. According to their Web site, 40 dealers will offer wares "on the grounds of our 1698 colonial saltbox." Also on June 19, The Dover Antiques Show & Vintage Market will take place at 282 Durham Rd., Dover, New Hampshire from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. On June 24, fields open at 9:00 AM for The Flying Pig Antiques Tailgate show at 867 Route 12 in Westmoreland, New Hampshire. If you're looking to travel even further now that the country is opening up again, on Sunday, June 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Wells Antiques Show & Sale "will be held under the tents and barn" at the Wells Reserve at Laudholm Field, 342

Laudholm Farm Road, Wells, Maine.
July looks to be a good month for antique shows as well. On July 10, the 61st Boothbay Region Antiques Show & Sale takes place on the Boothbay, ME Common from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On July 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and July 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the 40th Camden-Rockport Historical Society Antiques Show is scheduled at the Camden-Rockport High School in Camden, Maine. A little further south, the 52nd New London Garden Club Antiques Show & Sale will be held on July 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the New London Historical Society Grounds, 179 Little Sunapee Rd. in London. And we can't forget about the return of the famed Brimfield Antiques show, beginning on July 13 at 6 a.m.
As the summer winds down, there are also shows scheduled for August. The 40th Annual Maine Antiques Festival runs Aug. 6 through the 8th. Friday's opening early bird admission of \$25 gets you on the grounds from noon to 5 p.m., and allows readmission the rest of the weekend. On your way back from Maine, you can stop at The Americana Celebration

Antique Show, which will be held at the Douglas Everett Arena, 15 Loudon Rd. in Concord, New Hampshire. It will be held on Aug. 10 with early buyers admitted at 8 a.m. and general admission from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The 64th Annual New Hampshire Antiques Show will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton in Manchester, New Hampshire from Aug. 12 through the 14th. It will run from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. the first two days and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 14. Be sure to check on the status of shows you plan to attend before traveling, but it looks to be a nice summer for antiquing, and life in general, as our country continues to move forward.
Here at Central Mass Auctions, we are also returning to live events. I will be appraising items for the public at the John B. Gough House at 215 Main St. in Boylston. The event will be held on Aug. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are also still running online auctions. Our sports and non-sports cards online auction ends on June 23. Check our Web site for other upcoming events: <https://central-massauctions.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

**POSITIVELY SPEAKING**
GARY W. MOORE
I love spontaneity more than the average person – whether it be a spontaneous vacation or party. This last weekend has been a weekend of spontaneous fun, celebration, laughter, eating, and story-sharing. More than a hundred people have poured in and around my home, patio, and family room over the last three days for what has felt like a non-stop celebration. My two sons, Toby and Travis, and my son-in-law, Jeff, all worked hard to take the mantle of master grill and made my special barbecue ribs better than I could have ever done. I've savored every conversation, hug, moment, and memory. By now, you might be wondering why it's been a non-stop party in my own home. Well, I will tell you why, but it is perhaps the scariest yet most courageous sentence I'll ever

write to my readers.
I am dying.
I believe transparency is an important component in relationships. Whether it's between husband and wives, parents and children, teachers and parents and students. Anywhere a relationship exists, transparency is important. Transparency must always lead to vulnerability, and that is always a terrifying experience. In the beginning of the Bible, we read about Adam and Eve discovering their vulnerability in their nakedness, and they were ashamed and hid. I don't feel shame and I don't feel afraid to die but being transparent and vulnerable about this reality is hard.
"Vulnerability is not winning or losing. It's having the courage to show up when you can't control the outcome."
— Brené Brown
Most of you know, I've been fighting Stage 4 Stomach

Cancer for years. There is no cure. I've been working with a brilliant young oncologist who is a world leader, Dr. Pashtoon Kasi at the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa Hospitals. My treatment has been cutting edge, and has extended my life by at least nine months.
Unfortunately, every treatment works until it doesn't, and my chemo that was eating my cancer began eating healthy tissue and organs, and we had to stop. We tried another but it also failed. At the same time, I was being fed through a feeding tube and my body began rejecting the food. I have been removed from all treatment and placed on hospice care.
What does it mean? It means to some that I am off treatment and being kept comfortable until I die. But I am not a "go quietly in the night guy," I refuse to give up or give in;

Not my favorite column
If I am breathing, I am fighting. If a new option or treatment becomes available, I'll be the first in line. Fighting also means doing everything that I love – spontaneous parties into the night, being with the people I love, endless trays of food, laughing, and being present in every single waking moment.
You are now wondering how much time? I've been given estimates of six days up to a month. But a month is generous. My daughter bought me a bracelet that says in morse code, "Never Give Up!" I'll fight to be present; I will fight to be with the people I love until my last breath.
My daughter, who is a pastor, continues to remind me that this is a sacred and holy journey as I cling to the hope of the future. I do believe in God's promises. I believe in the God of resurrection, and though I will someday die, I also believe that I will be raised to new life.
I believe that someday I will join the great cloud of witnesses and experience an inextricable joy that I've never before known. I am at peace.
In the meantime, I will continue writing this column until I'm gone. You will know I'm gone when my daughter publishes my final column, which has already been written.
My relationship with you is precious to me. I'm grateful for your love and loyalty, and I cherish every note of encouragement. I'm not planning on checking out of here soon, but when I do, I will miss you. Cling to hope, dear friends.
Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

OBITUARIES

Estelle Yakis, 89

PUTNAM – Estelle (Lavallee) Yakis, 89, of Liberty Hwy, passed away on Saturday, June 12, 2021 at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was the beloved wife of the late Andreas Yakis. Born in Putnam, she was the daughter of the late Emile and Georgiana (Dragon) Lavallee.

Estelle worked as a secretary for Leschke Puffer Insurance. She and her husband Andreas enjoyed taking daytrips and visiting different restaurants. She also enjoyed reading and caring for her German Shepherds and cats.

Estelle is survived by her grandchil-



dren, Ryan Yakis of Colebrook, NH, Matthew Yakis of Woodstock, and Nathan Yakis of Woodstock; her nephew, Kevin Lavallee of Putnam; and her sister-in-law, Jeanne Lavallee of Putnam. She was predeceased by her son Steven Yakis; her brother Jimmy Lavallee; her sister Theresa Lavallee and her niece Sr. Jeanne Lavallee.

Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Estelle's family at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 21, 2021 in the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:00 a.m. in St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT. Burial followed in St. Mary Cemetery. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Gladys Carol Westerberg

Gladys Carol Westerberg of Exeter, New Hampshire passed away on February 9, 2020. She was 82 years old.

Gladys was born in Brooklyn, New York to Ole and Lily Haakonsen on May 26, 1937. She was raised in Brooklyn before moving to Upland, Indiana in 1952 where she attended and graduated from Taylor University. She married Paul Westerberg (1936-1993) in 1960. Gladys was a school teacher, with the majority of her career spent at Woodstock (CT) Elementary School from 1974 to 1995. She was actively involved in her church her entire life and



enjoyed crafts, sewing and singing. Gladys is survived by sons Robert Westerberg, Glen Westerberg and his spouse Talley, Steve Westerberg and his spouse Emily, and her daughter Susan Schick and her husband Kyle. Gladys is also survived by her grandchildren, Emma, Kenyon, Lilly, Paul, Soren and Georgia. A Celebration Of Life will be held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, June 19, 2021 at the First Congregational Church of Woodstock, Woodstock, CT. An outdoor reception will immediately follow. For those wishing to reach out, the family asks to please consider giving to the Rockingham County VNA & Hospice: 137 Epping Rd, Exeter, NH 03833, or to the First Congregational Church of Woodstock in her memory.

Ronald “Ron” A. Hemingway, 75

Bradenton, FL – Ronald “Ron” A. Hemingway, 75, of Danube Circle formerly of Sturbridge, MA, and Dayville, died April 19, 2020, at home. He was the loving husband of Elizabeth (Tokarz) Hemingway. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Armand and Palma (Billings) Hemingway. He joined the United States Marines right after high school and served for six years, including two tours in Vietnam.

Mr. Hemingway worked in many sales positions over the years, the last being with McCord Corporation in 1970. He then owned and operated a liquor store, Ron's Spirit Shoppe, in Putnam, CT for twenty-eight years until his retirement. Ron married Elizabeth Tokarz in 1971, and the couple resided in Dayville, CT until 2015, when they purchased residences in Sturbridge, MA and Bradenton, FL.

He was a member, first of the Putnam, and later, the Danielson CT Lions Club. He was elected District 23C Governor for Lions year 1996-1997 and served the state as MD23 Council Chairperson the following year. As a resident of



Chateau Village in Bradenton, FL, Ron served the association both as Treasurer, at the time of his death, and as President from 2015-2018. He enjoyed traveling, especially cruising, playing cards, hosting dinner parties, shopping, exploring restaurants around the city of Bradenton, listening to country music, and watching mystery movies and his favorite TV shows (NCIS, Seal Team).

Ron leaves behind his wife of forty-eight years, Betty, four brothers-in-law and two sisters-in-laws, Dennis and Sharon Tokarz and Joseph and Denise Tokarz of Dudley, MA, Robert Tokarz of Webster, MA, and Steven Tokarz of Putnam, CT, and several nieces and nephews and grand-nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Ron's family from 9:00a.m. to 11:00a.m. with a Lions Club Memorial Service at 10:00a.m. on Friday, June 25, 2021, in the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30 a.m. in St. James Church, 12 Franklin St., Danielson, CT 06239. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, Dayville. Memorial donations in Ron's memory may be made to the Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation “CLERF” P.O. Box 848, Watertown, CT 06795. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Shirley (Weaver) Breton passed away peacefully on October 23, 2020 at the age of 92. She was born on July 17, 1928 as one of six children in a wonderful family. A woman of great beauty she never let it go to her head and remained a humble and sweet person her whole life. A natural athlete in an era when athletic opportunities for women were limited, she still found a way to shine. In an era before TV and computers when people actually went out and did things all the time, roller skating was all the rage among young people. Shirley was the queen of roller skating. She won local champi-



onships and regional championships in MA and East Providence. She married and raised two sons. Shirley started her working career as a secretary and then spent the rest of her life working in local textile mills. In retirement she and her husband traveled the whole country time and time again. She is predeceased by her husband Reginald and her youngest son Richard. Shirley is survived by her son Gary and her brother Thomas Weaver. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial for Shirley will be held at Our Lady of LaSalette Church on Route 6 in Brooklyn on Friday June 25, 2021 at 10 AM followed by a graveside service at St. Joseph Cemetery in Dayville. In lieu of flowers, please donate in Shirley's memory to your local catholic church. tillinghastfh.com

Got Space? we do.

Contact Mikaela Today,
860-928-1818, EXT. 313

June is National Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Month

Fresh fruits and vegetables from the backyard garden are a summertime treat like none other. So what's the next best thing to a homegrown crop? Try “pick your own” at area farms and look for weekly Farmers Market events to ensure the freshest picks. How to choose fabulous fruits and vegetables at an outside market or grocery store? The following tips can help you pick perfect produce!

Beans, snap: Look for small seeds inside straight, fleshy pods. If you can see large seeds through the skin than the beans are probably too old. Avoid beans with dry-looking, rusty, wilted or damaged pods.

Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower: Look for tightly compacted flower clusters on broccoli and cauliflower, and compact, uniform sprouts. Avoid wilted, yellow, or dirty heads, and avoid loose, open sprouts or those that are yellow or pale green.

Cabbage and head lettuce: Look for firm compact heads that are heavy for their size. On leaf lettuce, choose unwilted, compact, crisp-looking compact plants.

Carrots: Look for deep orange colored and smooth skinned roots. Avoid carrots with purple or green shoulders or pale in color, or ones with forked or crooked roots. Oversized roots usually mean they are woody. If tops are still attached on carrots, they should be fresh.

Celery: Choose large, firm stalks with

uniform stalk and a white bottom. Avoid spindly, wilted stalks.

Chard: Look for fresh, dark green leaves with bright, tender stalks. Avoid wilted, poorly colored leaves.

Collards and kale: Check for tender, green, full-sized leaves with tender tips; avoid wilted, tough or overly large leaves.

Corn on the cob: Choose for well-filled cobs with plump, straight rows of kernels. Avoid large, wrinkled kernels.

Cucumbers: Pick long, slender cukes that are medium to dark green.

Peppers: Look for firm, darkly colored fruit with uniform size, color, and number of lobes. Avoid wrinkled or shriveled ones or fruits that are sunburned (contrasting color spots).

Radishes: Choose medium-sized, firm, crisp roots. Avoid wilted or soft roots or those with growth cracks or insect damage. Oversized roots will be pithy. Sunburned crowns are also not desirable.

Summer squash: Choose ones that are uniform in size, color, and shape. Avoid large fruits (over mature) or ones with scarred skins, missing stems, or that are soft or wilting.

Tomatoes: Look for smooth skinned,



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

firm fruits with uniform color. Avoid fruits with growth splits, sun scald, or overripe (soft) fruits.

Apples: Choose firm, well-colored fruit that feels crisp.

Blueberries: Pick plump, firm, deep blue berries with their natural waxy silver coating.

Cantaloupe: Look for a smooth shallow base; thick, coarse, corky netting that stands out from skin. Should yield slightly when pressed on non-stem end and have the slight scent of cantaloupe.

Cherries: Should be dark in color, glossy, plump, with fresh looking stems.

Mangos: Pick fruit that has plump, smooth, dark green skin with patches of red, yellow, or orange color; should be slightly soft.

Nectarines: Fruit should be plump, slightly soft along “seam”; either orange-yellow or greenish between red-blushed areas depending on variety.

Oranges: Choose firm oranges, heavy for its size; smooth-textured, with bright-looking skin.

Peaches: Should be somewhat firm, becoming slightly soft; red with creamy, orangy base color.

Pears: Look for firm fruit, just barely beginning to soften. Bartlett's: pale to rich

yellow; Boscs: green to brown yellow.

Watermelon: Should be symmetrical with bright green rind with a creamy yellow underside. Choose a watermelon that's heavy for its size.

Win Dinner for Two

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three cours dinner for two at the renown restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press publications? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Or e-mail kdrr@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

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Planting hope for the future

DAYVILLE — A common scene at Westview Health Care Center is to witness multiple staff departments unified in pursuit of a mutual goal. They can be seen huddled around their patients in shared compassion or rallied around each other in empowering solidarity.

On June 8, a selection of 32 such Westview Warriors stood proudly united around the new Magnolia tree planted on the Westview grounds. This recent addition to the Westview campus is meant to commemorate the lives lost, the love gained, and the hope for new growth following the COVID-19 pandemic. Representing each department of the Dayville skilled nursing facility, their combined presence in this photographic moment created an enduring image of the team-first attitude that helped to maintain the professional passion and compassionate care needed over the last year. One of Westview's second-shift Charge Nurses, Gloria Albert, first suggested this idea to the facility's leadership after sensing a need to signify the impact of this tumultuous era.

Westview Administrator David T. Panteleakos sensed the emotionally healing potential this concept possessed as soon as he heard about it from second-shift Charge Nurse Gloria Albert. In his comments about the Westview staff, Mr. Panteleakos highlighted their hard work, acknowledged their many sacrifices, and praised their dedication to their profession.

"Our amazing inter-departmental team has displayed an unending desire to continue their work at the height of



their ability—regardless of how difficult the days and nights became," he said.

Mr. Panteleakos went on to say, "The dedication, loyalty, and adaptability displayed by our team has been nothing short of remarkable and when Gloria mentioned this idea to me, we both agreed that it was the perfect way to have a lasting symbol; serving as a reflection point for the departed, commemorating the way our staff have met countless challenges, and offering optimism for more beautiful developments in the seasons to come."

Having worked at Westview since February 2013, Gloria Albert has seen many different trials, tribulations, and triumphs in the health care setting. She readily acknowledges there was never a cross-department challenge as comprehensive as the COVID-19 fight. After posing prominently in the group photo with a shovel in hand, Albert also referenced the dual symbolism of the new Magnolia tree as a way to look backwards and forward in light of recent times.

"As we were having our picture taken, my mind traveled to those we lost—those who are so dear and near to all of our hearts," she said.

Albert continued, "I'm glad 2020 is done, and I'm looking forward to this year's team blossoming with an improved outlook for the healthcare

landscape."

This commemorative tree can be seen on the corner of Thompson Turnpike and Ware Road, right next to Westview's "Caring for Generations" sculpture depicting a family holding hands. Additional developments are also planned for this point of the Westview Commons four corners. Specifically, a stone marker will be placed next to the tree, featuring a stylized Westview logo and an Alfred Tennyson quote: "Shape your heart to front the hour. Dream not that the hours will last." This quote selected as an acknowledgement of the Westview staff's determination in dark times presented and optimism for brighter days ahead. A life-altering event such as this pandemic cannot be forgotten, and this landmark at Westview stands at the juncture of its somber memories and hope-filled future.

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, for the past 13 years.

LEGALS

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
The Zoning Board of Appeals has scheduled a Public Hearing for Monday, June 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., for 64 Pulpit Rock Road – Patrick & Deirdre Monahan – variance for front yard setback – to be held at the Woodstock Town Hall, Meeting Room 1. Chairman Martin Nieksi.
June 11, 2021
June 18, 2021

**TOWN OF THOMPSON
PLANNING AND ZONING
COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE**
The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, June 28, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom or location to be determined to hear the following applications:
PZC Application #21-12 Applicant Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc. d/b/a Rawson Materials, of 6 Kennedy Drive, Putnam, CT property owner River Junction Estates, LLC,. 204 Munyan Road, Putnam., Ct 06260 for Gravel Mining at property located at 0 East Thompson Rd, Map 154, Block 5, Lot 10, Zone, RRAD creation of a 3.5+/- acre pond. Approximately 120,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel will be removed from the site to create the pond. Continued from PZC Regular Meeting May 24, 2021.
File may be reviewed on line, Town of Thompson website, Planning and Zoning Commission. Written communication will be accepted prior to the meeting
Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman
June 11, 2021
June 18, 2021

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
On June 7, 2021, Woodstock Inland Wetlands Agency granted wetlands approval for 04-21-05 – Angela Billings – 0 Dividend Road – new single-family dwelling and accessory structure and 05-21-03 – Benjamin & Robin Marinelli – 1920 Route 198 – 2-lot subdivision. On June 7, 2021, Woodstock Inland Wetlands Agent granted wetlands approval for 05-21-01 – Ross & Kathleen Ellison – 123 Laurel Hill Drive – install stone steps to water and beach area and 05-21-04 – John Webber – 4 Loyola Road Extension – addition to existing dwelling.
June 18, 2021

**TOWN OF BROOKLYN
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF ACTION**
The Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing and special meeting, on Monday, June 7, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. via WebEx and the following action was taken:
1. ZBA21-001 Shawn and Stacy Olson, 10 Hillside Drive, Map 46, Lot 42-1, R-30 Zone; Addition of a 2-car garage with mudroom/breezeway; Request variance from Section 3.B.5.2 Setback Standards 50-foot front yard setback reduced to 30-foot setback-APPROVED
2. ZBA21-002 Eileen McKenna, 301 South Street, Map 45, Lot 2-3, R-30 Zone; Installation of 24-foot round above ground swimming pool installed

where there was an existing swimming pool; Request variance from Section 3.B.5.2 Setback Standards 30-foot side yard setback reduced to 19-foot setback-APPROVED
Dated this 8th day of June 2021
Any appeals are to be with the Supreme Court within 15 days from the legal notice appearing in the paper.
Bruce Parsons
Vice Chairman
June 18, 2021

**TOWN OF THOMPSON
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE**
The Thompson Zoning Board of Appeals held a Public Hearing on Monday, June 7, 2021 beginning at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255 and took the following actions:
ZBA 21-02 Bates Auto Parts, Inc., Owner of Record Linehouse Road LLC, c/o Maher and Cotnoir, PO Box 187, Putnam, CT, property located at 64 Linehouse Rd, Map 38, Block 71 and 71B, Lot 13 and 5, Zone RRAD. This is an application pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 14-67 for approval to use the premises for the operation or maintenance of a motor vehicle recycler's yard or motor vehicle recycler's business. Continued to July 12, 2021
ZBA 21-03 Karol and Grazyna Wojtowicz Owner of Record, 2 Marcy Lane, Map 83, Block 7, Lot 13 D, Zone RRAD requesting 16-foot side yard setback to build a 36' x 21' detached garage. Rescheduled to July 12, 2021
ZBA 21-04 – James Brazel & Susan Waters, Owner of Record 53 Wrightson Drive, Map 153, Block 17, Lot 14, Zone LD, request a variance to the Town of Thompson Amended Regulations, Article 4G, LD District, Section 3, Dimensional Requirements, Front setback for an accessory structure shall equal or exceed that of the primary structure. Applicant placement of the detach garage is on roadside of house. Accepted for a Public Hearing on July, 12. 2019
File may be reviewed on line, Town of Thompson website, Zoning Board of Appeals. Written communication will be accepted prior to the meeting
Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Beno, Chairman
June 18, 2021

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
On June 10, 2021, Woodstock Inland Wetlands Agent granted wetlands approval for 06-21-01 – Shaun & Maggie Boynton – 29 Olde Meadow Road – new inground pool.
June 18, 2021

TOWN OF THOMPSON
At the June 8, 2021 meeting of the Inland Wetlands Commission an appeal of the Wetlands Agent Approval WAA21008 issued on 5/12/21 to Jason Lavallee for underground utility work at 597 East Thompson Rd (Assessor's map154, block 5, lot 10) resulted in the Commission upholding Approval WAA21008 with the modification to require the authorized work be completed by 6/23/21.
Marla Butts, Wetlands Agent
June 18, 2021

**PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF EASTFORD**
In accordance with CGS 22a-42a(c) (2), the Agent of the Eastford Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission approved the following application(s):
21-005 Philip Mazzarella, 265 Chaplin Rd., Eastford CT, 06242 for the erection of a 40'x 60' steel building, utilities extension and crossing improvements within the 100' Upland review area. Appeals shall be filed within 15-days of this notice to require review by the Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. This may be done by:
• Sending an email landuse@townofeastford.com or
• Mailing the appeal to the Land Use Department at P.O. Box 98 Westford Rd., Eastford CT 06242. Please note that the letter must be postmarked before the 15-day appeal period expires. Please contact Jim Larkin, Inland Wetlands Agent, email: jim.larkin@necog.org or by calling (860)774-1253 ext:15 if you have any questions concerning this approval.
June 18, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Mark Nozzolillo (21-00205)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 9, 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.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Anne Nozzolillo,
c/o STEPHEN J ADAMS (attorney for Anne Nozzolillo), STEPHEN J ADAMS, ESQ, 158 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 682, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-6528
June 18, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Ronald E. Lincoln (21-00201)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 7, 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.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Irene Lincoln,
c/o to NICHOLAS CHARLES ADAMO-POULOS (attorney for Irene Lincoln), LAKE SHORE LEGAL, LLC, 154 THOMPSON ROAD, PO BOX 1210, WEBSTER, MA 01570, (508)943-7800.
June 18, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Jeremy Lockard (21-00204)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 9, 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.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Adrienne Cremins,

c/o KATHLEEN MARY CERR. ONE (attorney for Adrienne Cremins), BORNER, SMITH, ALEMAN, HERZOG & CERRONE, 155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-2429.
June 18, 2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO21P1807EA
Estate of:
Judith Elaine Martinek
Date Of Death: April 20, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Deborah A. Martinek of North Grosvenordale, CT** a Will has been admitted to informal probate
Deborah A. Martinek of North Grosvenordale, CT has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
June 18, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Barbara M. Salony (21-00176)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated June 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.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Karen L. Latterell,
c/o JAMES K KELLEY (attorney for Karen L. Latterell), LAW OFFICES OF JAMES K. KELLEY & ASSOCIA, 33 BROAD STREET, DANIELSON, CT 06239, (860)774-9627
June 18, 2021

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IN THE SWING OF IT ALL

Woodstock Academy, Killingly High win golf titles

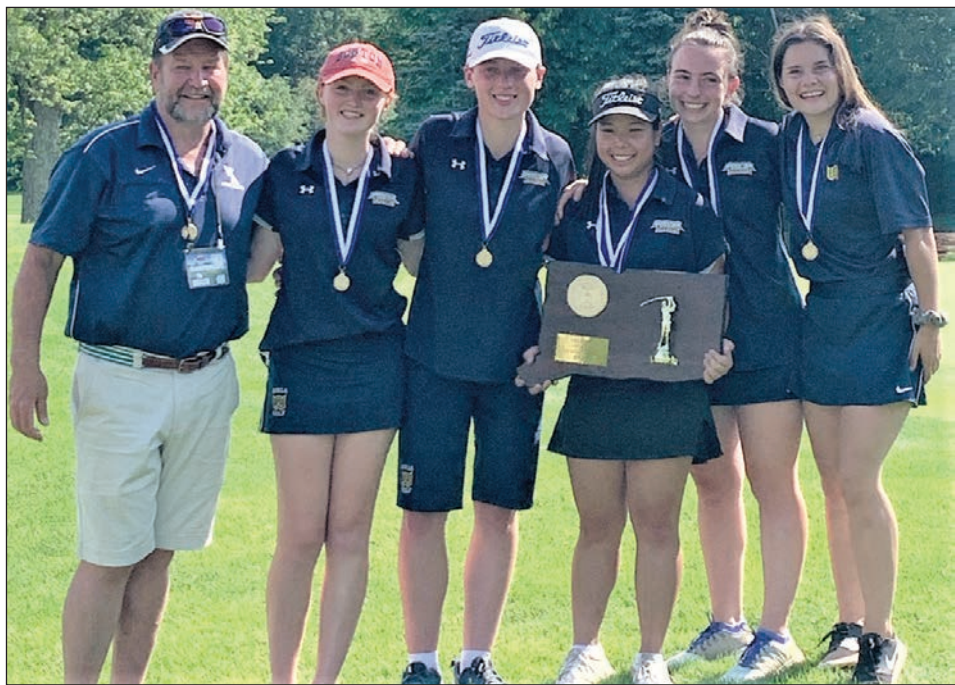


Photo Courtesy Woodstock Academy Athletics

Woodstock Academy won the inaugural CIAC Division II girls' golf championship on Monday, June 7, at Farmington Woods Golf Club. The winning team consisted of (left-to-right): head coach Earl Semmelrock; Alex Vaida; Kaily LaChapelle; Mia Dang; Ciara MacKinnon; and Maria Santucci.

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — It was a hardware haul for the Woodstock Academy girls' golf team at the inaugural Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) Division II championship, held Monday, June 7, at Farmington Woods Golf Club.

The Centaurs not only won the team title, thanks to finishing four strokes better than Berlin High (369-373), but junior Mia Dang, on the strength of her tournament-best, 8-over-par 80, was the individual champion as well.

"I couldn't be any more pleased with the way the season unfolded," Woodstock Academy coach Earl Semmelrock said. "I knew that we had some experienced players coming back, and I knew we had a transfer player [Dang] that was supposed to be good. But I hadn't seen Mia play at that point and until we actually got on the golf course I wanted to keep my expectations at a reasonable level. I thought we'd have a successful season, but I had no idea that we would have the season that we had."

Dang, the 10th-ranked girls' golfer in Connecticut, competed in the girls' State Open championship on Saturday, June 12 at Old Lyme's Black Hall Club.

Seniors Kaily LaChapelle, Alex Vaida, Ciara MacKinnon; and Maria Santucci were the other four golfers who contributed to WA's team win. LaChapelle finished with a 92, Vaida a 96. All four were on the team as sophomores as well.

The rapid development of Dang, who transferred to WA from St. Peter-Marian Central Catholic High School in Worcester, Mass., was clearly the subplot to the Centaurs' storybook season.

"Mia is a hockey player, too, so she was looking for a school that had both girls' hockey and girls' golf, St. Peter-Marian didn't offer girls' golf as a sport; she had to play with the boys' team," Semmelrock explained. "So, in her school search she was looking for a school that had a girls' golf team as well as a girls' hockey team. Woodstock Academy filled that bill nicely."

"When Mia was considering transferring here I looked at some of the scores she was (posting) in some of the tournaments she was in and I could tell that she took the game very seriously and wanted to be good," Semmelrock said. "She plays at a pretty high level in terms of playing all summer in junior tournaments. She's used to the rigors of golf so I thought she would be very good."

Semmelrock said Dang passed the "eyeball test" quickly.

"The first couple practices we had I could tell she was the real deal," Semmelrock said. "Just the way she handled herself around the golf course, the makeup of her bag, how she approached the shots; I didn't have to tell her anything, she knew what she was doing."

"The first time we got to play our home course [Quinnatisset Country Club in Thompson], she was a couple over par, playing the eighth hole,

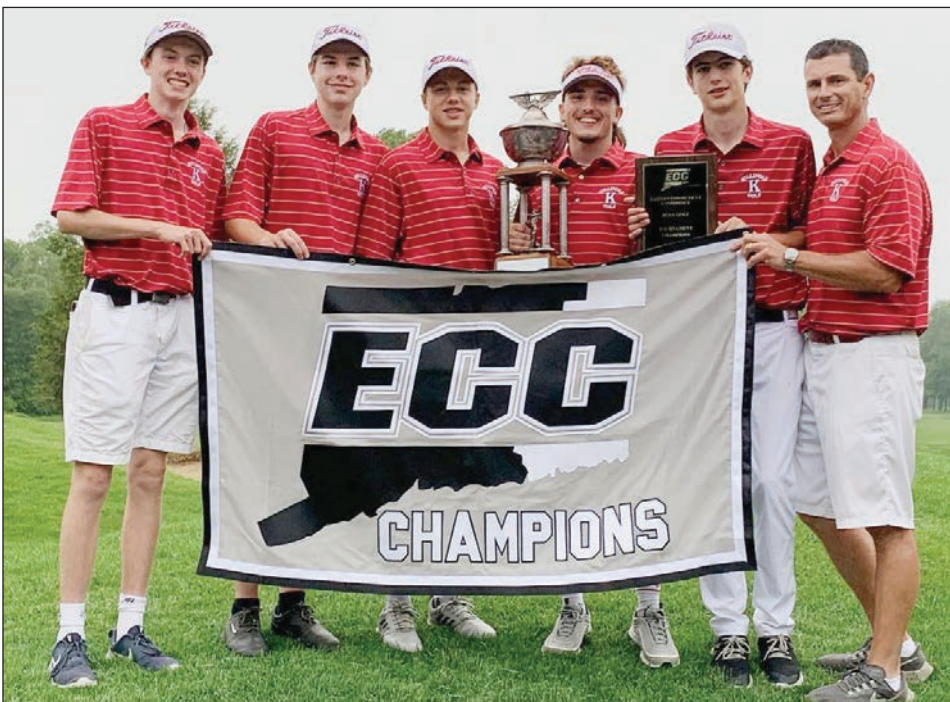


Photo Courtesy Killingly High Athletics

The Killingly High boys' golf team captured the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Open Championship on Thursday, June 3 at Putnam's Connecticut National Golf Course. Members of the winning team were (left-to-right): Logan Gagnon; Harrison Giambattista; Ethan Lackner; Cooper Morissette; Cameron Seiffert; and head coach Kevin Marcoux.

and she holed out from the fairway for eagle. And it wasn't a mistake; it was a real golf shot," Semmelrock said. "I could tell right then she was going to have a good year."

As dazzled as Semmelrock was by Dang all season, he was especially dazzled with how she played in the CIAC Division II Tournament.

"What impressed me the most was how she handled the match that day," Semmelrock said. "It was the first time we played 18 holes all year and she was paired with three of the best players in Division II, who were all ranked higher than her. It was a really hard day to play well because it was so hot, and the course was so demanding."

"But that's when she really showed me how good she can be. She was laser focused that day," Semmelrock continued. "She beat all three of the girls that went in with a higher ranking than she did. I was keeping an eye on the Division I Tournament [played the next day] and Mia would have placed second in that tournament."

Killingly High wins ECC Open Title
Sophomore Cameron Seiffert fired a 6-over-par 77 and classmate Ethan Lackner was right behind with at 78, both helping immensely to lead the Killingly High boys' golf team to the ECC Open Championship on Thursday, June 3, at Putnam's Connecticut National Golf Course.

Killingly finished with a score of 317, five strokes better than runner-up East Lyme High.

Seiffert was the second overall finisher in the tournament and Lackner was third overall. Joining the duo in the top 15 were sophomore Harrison Giambattista (80, fifth overall), senior Cooper Morissette (82, eighth overall), and sophomore Logan Gagnon (86, 14th overall).

The victory was Killingly's seventh ECC Open Championship in the last eight years. The team finished the season 18-1, its lone loss coming to East Lyme earlier in the season. East Lyme, in fact, was the only team to win an ECC Open Championship during Killingly's current run, and that came in 2019, after Killingly had won six straight titles.

"This was the culmination of a lot of hard work by this young group and a complete team effort," Killingly golf coach Kevin Marcoux said. "Cooper was a tremendous leader for us this year as our lone senior. He kept the team focused and driven all year. This group took on a very talented and experienced East Lyme team and never flinched. We had a game plan coming in and our guys followed it perfectly."

Killingly followed up its win in the ECC Division II Open win with a fourth-place finish at the Division III state tournament on Monday, June 7, at Stanley Golf Course in New Britain. Killingly shot a combined 335, six shots behind first-place finisher St. Joseph's of Trumbull.

Based on their play all season, Seiffert, Lackner and Morissette were named to the ECC All-Star team.

30th Anniversary Steeple Chase fundraiser roars back to Eastern Connecticut

WILLIMANTIC — After a year of Coronavirus-related social distancing and safety protocols, Steeple Chase Bike Tour participants are excited to again gather in-person on bikes or on foot to raise money for critical Eastern Connecticut human service non-profits. This year's 30th anniversary event will take place on Saturday, Aug. 21, starting and ending at St. Mary-St. Joseph School in Willimantic and winding through the country roads of Windham and surrounding towns. Registration is now open at <https://steeplechasebiketour.org/register/> and www.bikereg.com/steeple-chase-bike-tour.

This year's event will start in the school's parking lot at 35 Valley St., and will feature three supported cycling routes and a five-mile ride/walk tour through the parks of Willimantic. Cyclists and walkers can also participate virtually by choosing their own route – in-state, out-of-state, on-road or off.

The Steeple Chase Ride/Walk benefits three critical

social service organizations in eastern Connecticut that help people struggling with drug addiction, homelessness, mental health challenges, and poverty. For the fourth straight year, every dollar raised by participants, donors and sponsors will be matched by the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation, doubling event proceeds.

"So many people took up cycling during the pandemic that there was a bike shortage," remarked Victoria Nimirowski, chairperson of the Steeple Chase planning committee and executive director of Windham Area Interfaith Ministry. "This is a great opportunity to use those bikes to do good for others. Our non-profits – Perception Programs, Windham Area Interfaith Ministry, and the Windham Region No Freeze Project – help the most vulnerable, most at-risk members of our community every day. Throughout Covid, our organizations worked overtime, exceeding our already tight budgets, to keep people safe and healthy. This event

is the biggest fundraiser for all three organizations and will help replenish our budgets so we can continue our life-saving work."

Event organizers have created three dedicated cycling routes and one official walk/ride for the 30th Anniversary Steeple Chase. These in-person routes will start and end at St. Mary-St. Joseph School.

The classic 20-mile route is almost as old as the event and travels through the low-traffic backroads of South Windham, Windham Center, Chaplin, North Windham, Mansfield and Willimantic.

The new 30th Anniversary route celebrates this event milestone by traveling 30 miles through Windham, Chaplin, Mansfield and Willimantic.

The Half Century route covers 50 kilometers - or 62.5 miles - of eastern Connecticut backroads and is one of the most beautiful rides in the state, with sweeping views and challenging hills.

A newly-designed five-mile ride/walk will take participants through nine Willimantic parks and gardens and will showcase the community's rural beauty.

Cyclists committed to the event's beloved 100-mile Century Ride are invited to ride the route unsupported. In addition, virtual Steeple Chase participants can ride or walk wherever they want – through their neighborhood or hometown, on one of Connecticut's traffic-free Rail Trails like the Hop River or the Airline Trail, or on out-of-state roads



or trails. Virtual participants can ride or walk whenever they want, starting and finishing their route at a convenient day and time and donating by Aug. 21.

By registering online and asking friends, family, employers and others to sponsor the ride, participants can generate desperately needed funds used to shelter and secure housing for people experiencing homelessness, offer a path to recovery for people with addiction and mental illness, and provide basic needs from clothing to heat for individuals and families living in poverty. Over its history, the Steeple Chase Bike Tour has raised approximately \$1.75 million to help fund its beneficiaries' important work.

Pre-registration for the event is \$25 for individual riders or walkers. In addition to registration, each rider is asked to raise a minimum of \$75 in donations. Online registration for the Steeple Chase

will continue through Aug. 21 at www.steeplechasebiketour.org and www.bikereg.com/steeple-chase-bike-tour.

The Steeple Chase benefits from the generosity of corporate sponsors and donors including The Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation, The Chronicle Newspaper, Thread City Cyclists, Home Selling Team, Sarazin General Contractors, WILI AM, Willimantic Waste Paper, the board of directors of the Windham Region No Freeze Project, and many others. Companies and organizations interested in sponsorship should call Perception Programs at 860-450-7122.

For more information, visit www.steeplechasebiketour.org, call (860) 450-7122, email steeple.chase@perceptionprograms.org, or follow the event on Facebook @SCbiketour, Twitter @SCbiketour, Instagram @steeplechasebiketour, and on LinkedIn.

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VACCINATIONS

continued from page A1

community and allows individuals to receive the shot from their primary care providers in a private and comfortable setting.”

DKMG adult primary care practices will administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) single-dose COVID-19 vaccine. DKMG pediatric primary care practices will administer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to individuals ages 12 and older.

COVID-19 vaccinations at DKMG’s primary care practices will be available to new and established patients. An appointment is preferred, but walk-in appointments will be accommodated.

All Day Kimball Medical Group primary care practices are welcoming new patients. Call 1 (844) DKMG DOC (1-844-356-4362) to get established with a provider at any of DKMG’s practice locations in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, or Putnam.

As Day Kimball learns more about the possibility of COVID-19 booster vaccines in the future, it will keep the community informed of any plans for booster vaccination clinics at Day Kimball Hospital and across the region.

“The coordination of our vaccination

efforts has been an enormous undertaking involving hundreds of dedicated individuals both inside and outside of our organization. We appreciate the time and talent they have all contributed in planning and operating these vaccine clinics which have protected thousands of Northeast Connecticut residents against COVID-19,” added Kramer. “It’s important for all eligible individuals to be vaccinated so we can put an end to the pandemic in our region and get back to life as we prefer it.”

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 vaccination distribution plans in Connecticut, call 2-1-1, the Connecticut State Hotline for information or visit ct.gov/covidvaccine. Local information is available on the Northeast District Department of Health website at nddh.org. For more information about Day Kimball Healthcare’s COVID-19 vaccine rollout visit daykimball.org/coronavirus.

About Day Kimball Healthcare
Day Kimball Healthcare is a non-profit 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

REDLINE

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out/graphics designers, advertising/sales manager and advisor,” noted the ASPA in its evaluation. “Your ability to keep your publication alive and printing during a pandemic is a testament to your dedication and devotion to your publication, school, community...and to each other.”

Only a handful of submissions earn this unique status. Only three other Connecticut high school publications earned awards: the Mane Street Mirror of Joseph A. Foran HS of Milford, the Academy Times from the Academy of Aerospace Engineering in Windsor, and the Redcoat Review of Berlin High School.

Though The Redline has earned a number of Second Place rankings, also difficult to achieve, the last time it earned a 1st place was 10 years ago.

“This is a very difficult ranking to achieve,” adds Mr. Martin, who has been the advisor since 2000 and is a veteran journalist himself, having written for The Providence Journal, Providence Magazine and a number of other periodicals. “It is a very rigorous examination. We have come very close a number of times, only to miss a 1st place ranking by a few points.”

Martin adds that he had a feeling this year’s crew was up to the task.

“From the beginning of the year, despite covid problems, these students have done an exceptional job,” he adds. “They are a talented crew who gets the job done and gets it done well. I submitted the issues expecting and hoping

nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is www.daykimball.org.

they could pull off a 1st place finish, and they didn’t let me down.”

Martin submitted all but the last issue, this one, which, ironically, he adds, is probably the best issue all year. It is a 66-page special senior issue aimed at end of the year awards, senior reflections and other KHS accomplishments.

“This issue is the culmination of the year really,” he says. “They did an excellent job!”

Laney Dunn, the Assistant Editor-in-Chief said she was not surprised.

“I am honestly not that surprised,” she says. “I knew we had a lot of really good writers and a great deal of teamwork and communication so that made for many really well written issues.”

“Being the recipient of such an award is such a tremendous honor!” adds Editor-in-Chief Abigail Driscoll. “Writing for The Redline is already such a great opportunity, I’m so ecstatic that we placed so well. This class of journalists works so hard to get such wonderful issues of our school newspaper out to our peers, and Mr. Martin is the best teacher this side of the cosmos that we could have possibly asked for. I’m just so proud of this class and to be a part of something so wonderful. Journalism is my passion and it feels so great for our paper to be recognized for all the work we put in.”

The best part, agrees Dunn, was just being in the class itself.

“The experience you get is invaluable,” she explains. “You get a lot of real world communications experiences. almost like you have an actual job. You get close to the people you are in class with so you form a lot of good relationships, also.”

“You’re planning on the water supply people getting additional tankers and setting up a refill site. You should have enough water flow for what they’re going to be using on the fire. It’s easier said than done,” said Baron. “I don’t think we ever lost water at the scene, but it does require a lot of departments and a lot of manpower to pull that off. The departments that participated really did a great job. The building is pretty much totaled but a lot of the contents in the building is salvageable.”

Firefighters from Woodstock, Muddy Brook, Bungay Fire Brigade, Eastford, Pomfret, Putnam, East Putnam, Quinebaug, Community Fire Company, and West Thompson as well as crews from Southbridge, Webster, and Dudley in Massachusetts all responded to the event. The East Thompson and Thompson Hill Fire Departments covered the rest of Woodstock while crews were busy on scene.

FIRE

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departments at the scene, three of them from Massachusetts, who were assisting with water supply and tankers and fighting the fire.”

Four of the occupants were treated for smoke inhalation and one was sent to UMass for further evaluation according to Baron. Several dogs and a bird perished in the blaze. Baron said the cause of the fire is ongoing although investigators do have an idea of where the fire may have started.

With the building located in a rural area without a dedicated water source for firefighters the blaze proved to be a practice in efficiency as several different departments came together to bring water to the scene and tackle the fire effectively. Baron said all crews worked well as a team to save what they could.

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