

Woodstock’s Spinney, “Big Bird”, passes



Woodstock’s Carol Spinney, with Big Bird, he died on Dec. 8 in his Woodstock home.

WOODSTOCK — The Quiet Corner, and Sesame Street, has lost a legend. Woodstock’s Carol Spinney, the puppeteer who played Big Bird and voiced Oscar the Grouch for nearly 50 years, died on Sunday, December 8, in his Woodstock home after years of battling dystonia, a disorder that affects a person’s muscles, according to a statement from Sesame Workshop. He was 85.

“Carol was an artistic genius whose kind and loving view of the world helped shape and define Sesame Street from its earliest days in 1969 through five decades, and his legacy here at Sesame Workshop and in the cultural firmament will be unending,” the statement reads. “His enormous talent and outsized heart were perfectly suited to playing the larger-than-life yellow bird who brought joy to generations of children and countless fans of all ages around the world, and his lovably cantankerous grouch gave us all permission to be cranky once in a while.”

Throughout his decades on the show, Carol always spoke admiringly of his role, he told the New York Times in 2018, “Playing Big Bird is one of the most joyous things of

my life.”

His condition made the physical dexterity of puppeteering a difficult task for him in the last few years, and eventually forced him to stop puppeteering Big Bird in 2015. He provided the voices for Big Bird and Oscar until his retirement in October of 2018.

“I always thought, how fortunate for me that I got to play the two best Muppets?” Spinney told the New York Times.

The beloved puppeteer recorded more than 4,400 episodes as the two characters and was named a “Living Legend” by the Library of Congress. Before his death, he received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and a U.S. postage stamp.

“Carol Spinney’s contributions to Sesame Street are countless. He not only gave us Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch, he gave so much of himself as well,” Sesame Street co-founder Joan Ganz Cooney said in the statement. “We at Sesame Workshop mourn his passing and feel an immense gratitude for all he has given to Sesame Street and to children around the world.”

Carol is survived by his wife of 40 years, Debra Spinney, and his three children

New leader at Pomfret Christ Episcopal

POMFRET — The Reverend Alon White is the new priest-in-charge at Christ Episcopal Church. Senior Warden Stephen Adams recently introduced her to the parish.

“She will be serving for about three years to provide a steady hand as we identify goals for our community that will be matched with new leadership for the long term,” Adams said.

Since her ordination as a priest in the Episcopal Church, White’s ministry has been focused on work with parishes in transition. She has served nine parishes in western Connecticut and New York. She describes her role with congregations as exploring the best of what they have been and imagining new directions where Christ is calling them.



Courtesy photo

The Reverend Alon White

White grew up in California, where church was not part of her family experience, although she would attend church after an overnight at a friend’s house, if worship was the family practice.

“I was fascinated by the incense, bells and candles,” White said.

But linking her intellectual curiosity to her faith was something that began as an adult. First by attending a Presbyterian church as a college student and then by visiting other faith traditions.

“The Episcopal Church is an ideal place for converts,” said White.

With services that engage the mind and practices that empower “the living of faith in daily life.”

Around the time that friends started saying that she would become a priest, the church’s General Convention agreed to start ordaining women. Still not ready, White’s further reflection about her strengths led to the decision to study for a master’s degree in counseling that she would implement “for the glory of God and our neighbors.”

With a degree in Marriage and Family Counseling from the University of San Francisco in hand, White moved to Connecticut, only to find that the state did not recognize the credential. That led to a job at Mitchell College in New London and a church affiliation that

became her spiritual home and eventually her sponsoring parish once she accepted the call to priesthood. Three years later, she was enrolled in seminary, where she discovered how rapidly landscape of divinity school had transformed: one-third of the members of the entering class were women and all had graduate degrees.

After Seminary, she began a traditional ministry serving two parishes in Connecticut, but then returned to New York City and General Seminary as Chaplain and Director of Field Education and Deployment.

During that time her pastoral training in urban hospital emergency rooms returned to the foreground leading to experiences that were part of such newsworthy events as the Central Park Rape and eventually 9/11 and its aftermath. She was also finding that her work with Seminary students around their clinical placements was fulfilling. The threads converged on Sept. 11 2001. She said she was feeling God’s presence among the victims, the perpetrators, and the people working at the site. White helped set up St. Paul’s Chapel as a respite center and attended Red Cross training for chaplains in preparation for meeting long-term needs. She

Please Read WHITE, page A18

SCHOOL SPIRIT



Charlie Lentz photo

WATERFORD — Killingly High’s cheerleaders didn’t let a rainy Tuesday night at Waterford High dampen their enthusiasm as the they rooted on the football team in the Class M state semifinals.

KILLINGLY TO PLAY FOR STATE TITLE



Charlie Lentz photo

WATERFORD — Killingly High’s Josh Heaney makes a catch with Waterford High’s Christian Hightower defending in the Class M semifinals on Tuesday night. Killingly won 35-7 and will play Weston in the state championship game this Saturday, Dec. 14, at Veterans Stadium in New Britain. Coverage begins on page B-1 of The Villager sports section.

FUNDRAISER FOR
PUTNAM DANCE
ACADEMY

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — The American Legion Post 67 in North Grosvenordale hosted as well as collaborated with the Putnam Dance Academy on a spaghetti dinner on Nov. 23. The effort will help the dancers raise money for regional and upcoming competitions. The American Legion wished all the dancers good luck in the coming competition year. Parents and American Legion Post 67 volunteers made the event a successful fundraiser. In photo: from left: Bob Lebeau, Abigail Bessett, Samantha Checko, Commander John Heath, Madisyn Raymond, Ann Lebeau, Lydia Orlovski, Bob Pepin, Caroline Costa, Asst. Dir. PDA Kelsy Rioux, Eileen Walker, Alana Clayton, Kevin St.Cyr, Riley Linkin, Isabel Bolendar, Bill Jesuwic, Zoe Kalisewski and Adrian LaPalm.



Deane at vets coffeehouse

DANIELSON — On Tuesday, Dec. 17, Curt Deane will tell the story about Sgt. Stubby at Danielson Veterans Coffeehouse. Stubby, a small, short-tailed puppy who arrived at the front lines in France alongside the 102d Regiment of the Yankee Division, a unit composed of mostly Connecticut soldiers who had been recruited in New

Haven. In the summer of 1917, when the little stray dog wandered onto the green of Yale University, where soldiers of the 102d were undergoing training exercises. That puppy, named “Stubby” by his comrades on account of his stubby tail, would go on to save the lives of dozens of American soldiers and eventually become the most decorated

war dog of World War I. The veterans only coffeehouse located at 185 Broad Street Danielson opens at 8:30 a.m. The speaker program will start at about 9:15 a.m. For questions about the Coffeehouse see our facebook page DanielsonVeteransCoffeehouse or our website dvcoffeehouse.com.

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POLICE LOGS

Editor's note: The information contained in these police logs was obtained through either press releases or public documents kept by the Connecticut State Police Troop D and the Putnam Police Department and is considered the account of the police. All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. If a case is dismissed in court or the party is found to be innocent, The Villager, with proper documentation, will update the log at the request of the party.

TROOP D LOG

KILLINGLY

Nov. 30
Thomas Anthony, 41, of 693 Chestnut Hill Road, Killingly, was charged with disorderly conduct, assault in the 3rd degree and interfering with an emergency call.
Seth Eno, 41, of 34 Dog

Hill Road, Killingly, was charged with operating a motor vehicle under suspension, operating a motor vehicle under the influence and failure to drive upon the right.

DANIELSON

Dec. 2
Jonathan Putnam, 25, of 170 Broad Street, Apt. B, Danielson, was charged with burglary in the 3rd degree and larceny in the 6th degree.

Dec. 3
Ralph Price, 38, of 148 Furnace Street, Danielson, was charged with criminal mischief in the 3rd degree, interfering with an officer, resisting and escape from custody.

Dec. 4
Michael Horton, 42, of 255 Main Street, Apt. A, Danielson, was charged with disorderly conduct and assault in the 3rd degree.

PUTNAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nov. 26
Andrew Richardson, 30, 175 Walnut St., Putnam, was charged with Failure to Illuminate Plate Light

Dec. 2
Michael Meadows, 51, of 68 North Street, Putnam, was charged with Operating Under the Influence and Failure to Drive Right
Dustin D. Lowell, 33, of 35 Green Street, Putnam, was charged with Failure to Maintain Lane, Failure to Meet State Insurance Requirements.

Dec. 7
Gary D. Macintyre Jr., 33, of 50 May Street, Putnam, was charged with Operating Under the Influence, Failure to Maintain Lane.

Dec. 8
Philip Shaffer, 60, of 217 Woodstock Ave., Putnam, was charged with Operating Under the Influence, Operating Motor Vehicle without OP

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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 Dec. 2: Bluebird, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Grackle, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Canada Geese, Mallard, Robin, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Carolina Wren. Visit ctaudubon.org/Pomfret-home

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Klare honored by Day Kimball



Dr. Ronald Klare, director of the internal medicine division with Day Kimball Medical Group.

Courtesy photo

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Healthcare held a dedication ceremony at the Hospital on Nov. 20 to honor longtime community medicine physician and director of internal medicine for Day Kimball Medical Group, Dr. Ronald Klare.

Dr. Klare joined DKH in 1978 and stands as the longest serving community medicine physician currently on the medical staff. The Hospital's administration elected to name the medical surgical waiting room located at the Hospital after Dr. Klare in recognition of his 41 years of service and in commemoration of DKH's 125th anniversary. At the dedication ceremony, colleagues, family members, and friends gathered to honor Dr. Klare and his decades of excellence in the practice of medicine and patient care.

“Dr. Klare and the Woodstock Medical practice have played an important role in providing our community with high-quality, patient-centered care throughout his forty-plus year career,” said Joseph Adiletta, interim president, Day Kimball Healthcare. “The excellent care Dr. Klare provides to his patients and his commitment to the community has touched many lives. For these reasons and more DKH leadership has chosen to honor Dr. Klare in this way.”

Dr. Klare's roots at Day Kimball began in 1966 when he was initially employed as a medical/surgical orderly at the Hospital. He earned his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine. Dr. Klare's father, Dr. Rudy Klare, opened his medical practice in Woodstock

in 1955 as part of the inaugural class of board-certified family practice physicians in the U.S. Dr. Klare joined his father's practice in 1978 upon completing his residency at Bellevue Hospital in New York and the two physicians opened the Woodstock Medical practice in its current location.

In his tenure at DKH, Dr. Klare has served in many positions including Chairman of the Department of Medicine (1980-1982), Director of the Intensive Care Unit (1984-1991), DKH Board of Directors (1993-2001), Initial Chief Medical Officer, Day Kimball Medical Group (2012-2014), and Director of Internal Medicine, Day Kimball Medical Group (2012-present).

Woodstock students at Model U.N.

Courtesy photo

Woodstock Academy students Austin LeDonne, Julia Schad, and Nathan Becher were honored at a Model U.N. Conference.

WOODSTOCK —On Nov. 13, 26 students from Woodstock Academy attended a Model United Nations Conference in Montreal at McGill University. The group was led by teacher Sara Dziedzic. The conference is one of Canada's largest high school level Model United Nations gathering, hosting over 1,300 students from across the United States. The three head delegates attending the conference were awarded gavels in representation of their outstanding achievement at the conference, those honored included Woodstock Academy students Austen LeDonne, Julia Schad, and Nathan Becher. The Model United Nations program at Woodstock Academy ranks fifth in the United States. The program's intent is to build a strong awareness of what is happening in our nation and abroad.

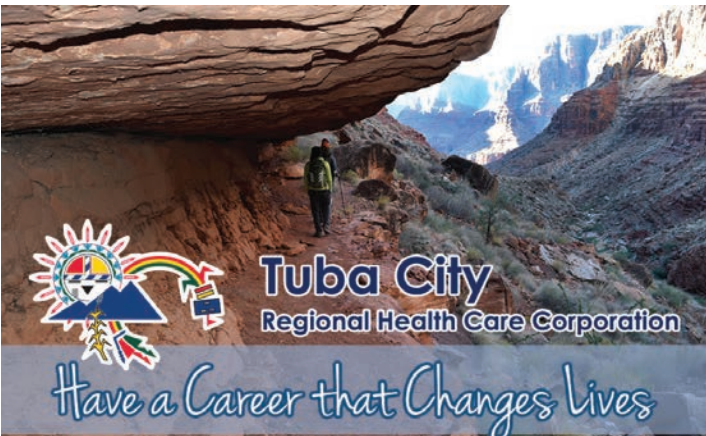




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Gingerbread houses in Putnam

BY KAREN BUTERA
FOR THE VILLAGER

PUTNAM — Last weekend Santa arrived and this weekend it is Putnam's Ugly Sweater and Gingerbread themed occasion. Gingerbread was found everywhere. Restaurants featured Gingerbread drinks, desserts and other related items from their menus. Then there is all of the beautiful gingerbread displays in windows, located on the Gingerbread Trail. Local businesses had the option of designing and setting up their own gingerbread creations in their stores or allowing another business to place a house in their window to keep the Main Street area alive with Christmas charm.

There was also a Gingerbread Contest for residents in both the adult and youth category giving everyone a chance to get creative in making their own idea of their Gingerbread House. They were completed in a style and size all their own with all the candy, marshmallows, gumdrops and many other sweet surprises as they could envision. Varieties ranged from houses of all shapes and sizes, churches, dog house, and other designs- with every type of candy imaginable. All of the arrangements were decked out and delivered on December 6 to the atrium of the Montgomery Ward Building in Putnam, where official voting would take place the next day when the building would come alive bustling with elves and

Saint Nick. There were Shop Local specials held throughout the building. There were even small Gingerbread Houses available for kids to decorate for free and have displayed.

The mood was festive. The Young family of Brooklyn, Bonny and her 2 daughters participated in the event. The three of them added their own unique style making their own individual designs. Bonnie made a house while eight year old Lexie made a dog house. When asked why she chose a dog house she said with a smile, "Because I love dogs. We have three small dogs at home." Thirteen year old Julia made a church with winter colors of blue and white titled 'Silent Night.'

Young wanted to do something fun and festive with her two youngest daughters. "We talked about it and decided we wanted to make gingerbread houses," she said. "I searched online to see if there was someplace close by that we could display our houses and I found the Putnam Gingerbread House event." They started to plan and work on it over the course of three weekends. "The first weekend we made and cooked the gingerbread and cut out the shapes. We put the houses together the second weekend and decorated them the third weekend," she said. "Another thing we enjoy doing together during the holidays is making and decorating cookies.

At the end of the day the official vote had the winners.



Karen Butera photos

Bonny Young of Brooklyn along with daughters Lexie and Julia submitted Gingerbread house entries. Son, Devin Bergin came out for support and to see their creations.

There were two categories- adult and youth. The adult winner is Michelle St. Ament with her entry of 'Stuck in the Chimney.' The youth entry winner is Julia Young with her entry of her church, 'Silent Night.' Congratulations to them both. The designs will stay in the atrium where the public can vote for their favorite through December 20, with the winner to be announced the next day.



Bonny Young's Gingerbread House entry



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Rope used as a lasso
7. Lomb's partner
13. North African nation
14. Rounds up cattle
16. Densest naturally occurring element
17. Home of the Brewers
19. Atomic #44
20. Vetches
22. Moved earth with a tool
23. Cavalry sword
25. Supplements with difficulty
26. Encouraged
28. Speech defect
29. Periodical (abbr.)
30. Very cold
31. __ Paulo, city
33. Former OSS
34. Approves food
36. Cars need them
38. Sweden's dominant phone company
40. Long lock of a woman's hair
41. North American natives
43. Fly high
44. One type is fire
45. Nocturnal bird
47. More than one male
48. LOTR actor McKellen
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Tony-winning actress Daisy
55. Tennis star Kournikova
56. Pulitzer-winning composer
58. The opposite to pro
59. Safecrackers
60. Denotes past
61. Parrots
64. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
65. Reduce the importance of
67. Stiffly
69. In a sensible way
70. Signs

CLUES DOWN

1. Capital of Zambia
2. Article
3. Country star LeAnn
4. Egyptian goddess
5. Afflict in mind or body
6. Showy but cheap
7. Belgian urban center
8. Short-winged diving seabird
9. Deploys
10. Ballplayers can legally do it
11. Centiliter
12. Contrary beliefs
13. Type of pole
15. Distinguish oneself
18. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
21. One who monitors
24. Petty quarreling
26. Fiddler crabs
27. Touch lightly
30. American state
32. Pro wrestler Randy
35. Indicates spelling mistake
37. Macaws
38. Gradually narrowed
39. Installments
42. Female sheep
43. Politician
46. Servant
47. Said to facilitate concentration
49. California ballplayers
50. Once Toledo's tallest building
52. A type of pie
54. State of southwestern India
55. Principal member of Norse religion
57. Counterspy
59. Wellness practice
62. __-de-sac: dead end street
63. Used to cook
66. Type of hospital
68. Direct message

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SPORTS ACTION!

FFA Holiday Shopping Night



From left, sisters Mya, Sophia and sister Gracey Seaman

BY KAREN BUTERA
FOR THE VILLAGER

DAYVILLE — December 6 was the 9th Annual Killingly Holiday Shopping Night, sponsored by the Killingly FFA Parents and Alumni. This year was bigger and better than ever before. Because they had to turn away so many vendors last year, they added additional space. This year's event overflowed from the main hall into the cafe and gym.

There was a craft area set up for kids, with shopping to be had for everyone with something for anyone still left on your Christmas list. There were jewelry items, specialty soaps, primitive candles, crochet items, wooden items and many items to choose from.

Susan Loweheaney of Putnam was there featuring her handmade items from her business, Creative Sews.



Jed Rategan and wife Emma



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Erica Willey with her daughters Lexleigh and Kalleigh and mother in law Mary Willey attend Shopping Night.

Loweheaney has been sewing for many years. She started when she ten. "My mom taught me how to sew at home. She was a 4H Master Sewer. The first thing I made was a smock," she said.

According to Loweheaney, she always enjoyed making things and found that sewing came in handy. "It relaxes you and it is enjoyable to create," she said. Loweheaney followed in her mother's footsteps by sewing all of her kids Halloween costumes when they were younger. "The kids said they always had the best costumes." She also made dresses for her daughters and neckties and vests for her sons.

The first item she ever made with fabric was a tote bag. From there she

went into recycled items. "I spent time recycling items and repurposing them. There is always something new you can make out of things that are usually thrown away," she said. "You can always do more with recycled stuff." She sewed candy wrappers into usable items and also recreated empty juice boxes.

This year she is specializing in denim. She calls it her Outa Jeans line. "Everything is made out of recycled jeans." Since everyone knows what she is doing, many people will donate their old jeans to her. She gets many pairs from her own kids and she also hunts in the thrift shops.

She works with every part of a pair

of jeans including the waist band and small watch pockets. "There are so many ideas I have. I want to do so much more." She loves it so much that she has a desire to retire and do this full time. "People seem to love the items I make. Many come back year after year, first it was for themselves then their kids and now their grandkids," she said.

She makes note book covers, calendars, bags and more. She adds a special decorative touch to make them unique by embroidering different designs on them. Her designs encompasses a wide variety of popular items, but she also keeps them trendy.



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Breakfast with Santa

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Parks and Recreation Department held its annual Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 7. After enjoying a hot breakfast of Pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee and juice cooked by The Danielson Lions, kids were able to talk to Santa to let him know what they wanted for Christmas. They also received a candy cane from Mrs. Claus. In the auditorium, the Broad Street Singers were caroling, and kids were also able to make a craft.

Karen Butera photos



Danielson Lions making breakfast, from left, David Randall, Chloe DiFusco, Ailice Dumas, Linda Edwards, David Griffiths, Dave Burgess, Savannah Turner, Peter Scribner and Brooke Cusson-Malone



Danielson Lions, from left, Jessica Long, Monica Scribner, Betsy Burgess, Tom Soderberg and Jennifer Neff



From left, Willow Farnum, Liz Farnum and Kayla Farnum-Ballou



Jayla and Jayden Rivera



From left, Jordan, Jackson and Landon Venturini with Noah and Lilli Michaud

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Mike Muise from KPRD works the craft table while Lilly Sumner, Aili Brown-Nevala and Lily Brown make crafts

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FFA shopping night at Killingly High

DAYVILLE — On December 6 the FFA Alumni held its ninth annual Holiday Shopping Night at Killingly High School. It was a busy successful event. Due to the high demand of vendors wanting to show their wares, the event opened additional space going from just the Cafe in previous years to adding vendors in the hall and gym. The proceeds will go to support the Killingly FFA Parents and Alumni Association.

Karen Butera photos



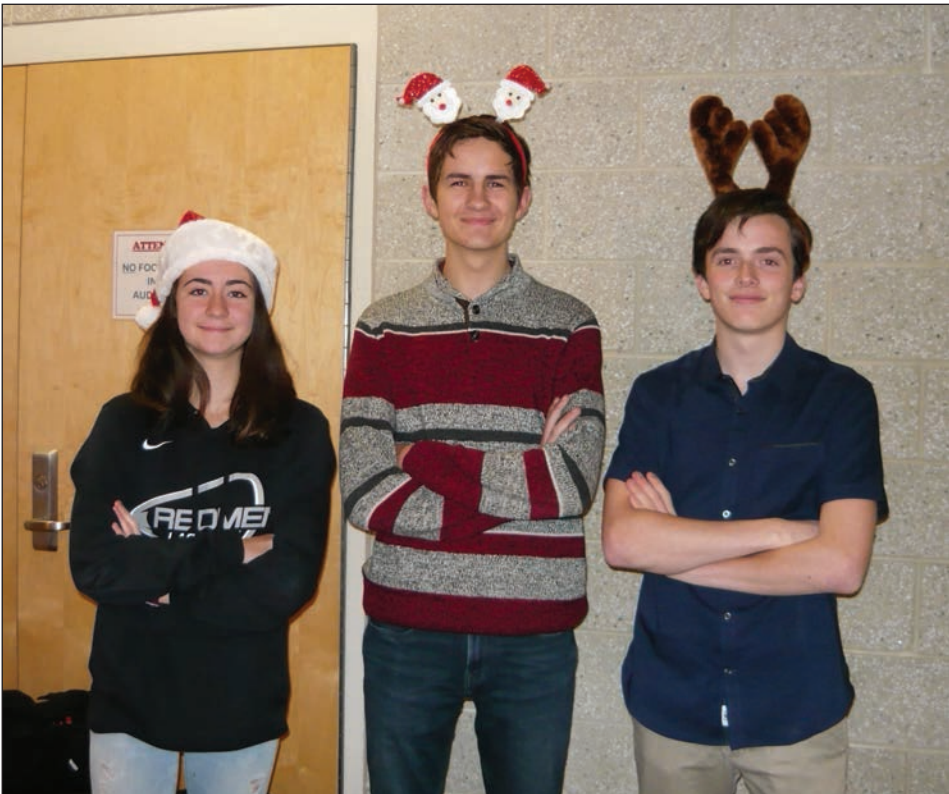
Jennifer Baublitz and daughter Graciella



Ashley Lanacre and daughter Olivia



Norah Coulombe makes a craft with grandmother Sheryl Popwycz



From left, Kenzie Farguhar, Aidan Parsons and Russell Farnsworth



FFA Alumni from left, Sharlene Martin, Hazel Glaude, helper-Kingston Rhodes and Darlene Gunkel

DECK THE HOLIDAY STRESS!

The holiday season can sometimes be stressful with all the shopping, party planning and everything else that goes along with this busy time of year.

If you feel yourself becoming overwhelmed, then try this simple calming breathing exercise.

1. Take a series of deep breaths
2. Focus on the air coming in and out of your nose/mouth as you breathe
3. If your thoughts wander, bring your attention back to your breath and repeat

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Thanks for the memories

This is my final column for 2019. The next two issues will feature photographs. Since childhood I’ve kept notebooks, diaries and daily calendars recording what happened. At the end of every year I look back and reflect. As I get older, every aspect of life seems to flit in and out like the chickadees at my bird feeder. For the last column of the year, I’d like to share some memories. I urge you to look back too.

The year will forever important to our family as we welcomed twin grandchildren in February. I had no idea how exhausting, exhilarating and, as our daughter says, “relentless”, it is to care for two little people, but also how delightful. They join two other grands, giving us a robust assortment of personalities to understand, try to influence and marvel at. I learned about grand parenting from friends, who throw themselves into the job with gusto.

The little ones link me to the future, although I know I won’t be around to dance at their weddings. I inhale deeply the scent of their hair and treasure small fingers holding mine. Our oldest grandson can read, write and enjoys numbers. Where did that come from, I wonder.

His little sister’s independence, however, is completely familiar. As the wheel of life goes around once more, it reminds us of our place in a great chain of people, linked by destiny, genetics and the whims of fate.

For several close friends, 2019 was their last year. The area lost three devoted educators. What a joy it was to know Bob Miller, the founding president of QVCC. He was a remarkable man with a modicum of grace and wit rarely encountered. Marilyn Ebbitt, Headmistress Emerita, of Marianapolis, was a whirlwind of energy, intellect, faith and needlepoint.

She revived the school and created a place for high school students to thrive. Lizzie Heckler loved little kids. She taught elementary school for decades with an open heart and a creative, generous spirit. Her friendship was a gift to us as was her devotion to Roseland Park.

Architect Peter Vercelli left his mark in venues big and small. In our area his distinctive touch is found in private homes that add style to the landscape. His love of family, friends and pasta dishes was as expansive as the signature towers he often employed in his designs.

Inventor Glenn Dash was part of the revolution that brought us video games. As a man who loved complexity, he later spent decades exploring the secrets of the pyramids in Egypt.

I met Big Bird – Carol Spinney, but I didn’t know him. His passing is mentioned nationally and it is noted that he lived in Connecticut. I saw him dining quite often with his wife by the window at 85 Main in Putnam. He genuinely liked the area and did his part to support local businesses and charities.

My reflections are about births and deaths, but there was much more this year. From the growth of farm to table options to new restaurants, new breweries, a distillery, expanded trails and bike groups, the paved walkway on Pomfret Street, a favorite haunt of mine, to incredible local theatre, music and dance, there were plenty of opportunities to enjoy our remarkable region.

I want to thank everyone who reads my column. I have written approximately 650 in 14 years. Every time I sit down to write, I create an imaginary reader. I hope to make that person smile in recognition, think differently or twitch in annoyance. Thank you for your time. I am deeply grateful.

GOOD

NEWS



OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tough times for Never-Trumpers

The last couple of weeks have been very tough on the Democrats, and the left in general as they have had to watch their ludicrous efforts to impeach our President flounder on the shores of innuendo, presumption, and hearsay all in the midst of one of the best economies we have seen in decades. Employment at its highest, and unemployment at all-time lows; wages increasing, especially for the lower end of the pay scale; NATO allies finally starting to pay their fair share (at least moving in that direction); our enemies once again having to respect us; yes, a very tough couple of weeks for the left. So it comes as no surprise that the frustration has started to take its toll; however, last week’s personal attack on Tom Pandolfi (Letters to the editor, Dec. 6) and the suggestion that he is some kind of “Russian Troll” goes beyond the pale, not to mention the suggestion that a local newspaper should censor his opinions on a community opinion page.

For those who don’t know, Tom is a U.S. Army veteran who served multiple tours in

Woodstock reader weighs in on free speech

I have not read a more foolish letter in the Villager than Mr. Loffredo’s of last week (Letters to the editor, Dec.6). Years ago, the Woodstock Republican Town Committee conducted a survey at that year’s election that did not ask partisan views, but instead asked voters what had influenced their vote. The choices were: political signs, paid ads, robo-calls, personal conversation and letters to the editor. Most influential to those who participated that day, overwhelmingly, was letters to the editor.

Mr. Loffredo suggests that banning letters from Mr. Pandolfi would be beneficial. To do so would be more destructive than any opinion or fact that Mr. Pandolfi would state. The right of free speech, Robert’s Rules of Order, the structure and procedures of democratic government all depend upon the right

I’m no Russian troll

I would like to clarify comments about me from previous Letters to the Editor. I am, and never was a fan of President Obama and I detest the Democrats that are in Washington and all those liberals that follow in their beliefs and especially the murder/killing of babies. As far as being “only one of the most popular Presidents in history”, Obama was a total disgrace. He put race relations back to when George Wallace was the governor of Alabama. He was not a friend of police enforcement and was instrumental in the attacks on police today. He was not a friend of our military and had more allegiance to the Muslim world than America. Why are these liberals so upset with my articles and respond labeling my letter, lies? In discussions with other liberals, and some are my friends, they cannot respond to my “facts” so they call them “lies”.

Over the past three years, Democrats have embarked on a scorched earth campaign with the sole aim of tearing down our Democratic ideals and replacing it with Chavez-style socialism. America’s worst enemies were once found in the mountains and deserts of the Middle East, now, her worst enemies are found within the Halls of Congress. After the election, to cover their tracks, James Comey, representing the FBI and the Department of Justice, misleadingly told Trump that the investigation was about Russia and a few stray people in his campaign, but they assured him he personally was not under investigation, they lied. Make no mistake, Democrats aren’t branding themselves as anti-Trump, they’re branding themselves as anti-American. The actions of these radicals are a blatant attack on our democracy and impeachment madness and we should vote these socialist-loving radicals out of Congress. The Democrats literally want to give us a lump of coal for Christmas! There should be an investigation to see if anyone in the Democratic Party has ties to America. Russia, North Korea, ISIS aren’t attacking

Civil servants to be commended

Two weeks after the initial public impeachment hearings, a lasting impression remains: These hearings gave our American public a glimpse into the workings and procedures and concerns of our foreign-service representatives. The behavior of our civil servants — of Dr Fiona Hill and David Holmes and Col. Vindman — who operate with intelligence and integrity, make me proud. Their efforts to aid other countries in journeys toward

Vietnam – unlike our Senator Blumenthal who only claimed to have served there. Tom continues to serve veterans and his community through the American Legion and the Veterans Coffee house. It is only because of the service and sacrifice of veterans like Tom that you, all of us, get to enjoy the freedoms that we have and the right to express our opinions without censorship. I was glad to see the Villager step up and make clear they will not censor opinions to accommodate either side of the issues – I had expected nothing less.

For those who are having such a difficult political time while enjoying the success of our economic times, you’ll get to vote next year – assuming you are a citizen and register – let’s wait and see how all this anger and frustration works out for you. Merry Christmas.

DAVE RICHARDSON
WOODSTOCK

of majority and minority, individuals and groups to freely and publicly state their opinion — all without going through a filter or check by a third party.

It is important to readers to hear all opinion — pro and con. That is how we make decisions on issues and on who should represent us. Mr. Lofreddo’s request was quickly and decisively rejected by the Villager for reasons easily understood. Mr. Lofreddo should continue to write as he wishes but should more clearly understand the structure and procedures of democracy.

The above is an individual view that does not represent the thinking of family, friends or third parties.

WOODY DURST
WOODSTOCK

America — we have Democrats for that. Hillary Clinton herself said. “Look the average Democrat voter is plain stupid, they’re easy to manipulate, that’s the easy part.” How true a statement and probably the only thing she said I believe and Russia didn’t make me vote for Mr. Trump, Hillary did, the most corrupt politician ever who should of been brought up for treason.

They parade liberal college professors before Congress, who have zero knowledge of what did or did not take place, as their star witnesses. How ridiculous was that and they forgot to bring in the Congressional janitor and cafeteria workers. I am also getting sick and tired of hearing Nancy Pelosi saying she speaks for the American people, she does not speak for America nor this American. They refuse to even allow the whistleblower to testify and Adam Schiff says that the anonymous whistleblower got death threats. So how can he get death threats if he’s anonymous?

CNBC’s Jim Cramer says no matter your view on President Trump there’s no denying we’re living in the best labor market in more than a generation, “this is the best number I’ve ever seen in my life,” says Cramer, zeroing in on the 3.5 percent unemployment rate in November. Cramer says, “Fifty years ago, that number was a curse. Now it’s a blessing” and it’s nothing to do with the Obama administration as liberals say.

I DIDN’T SERVE MY COUNTRY TO SEE AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT WHO BELIEVES IN AMERICA, OUR MILITARY, OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND THE SANCTITY OF LIFE, BE TREATED LIKE THE LEADER OF A THIRD WORLD BANANA REPUBLIC. OUR CITIZENS COME FIRST, NOT ILLEGAL ALIENS WHO THE DEMOCRATS CALL “DREAMERS”.

TOM PANDOLFI
WOODSTOCK

independence and self-governance reveal thoughtful, ethical behavior. They are clearly engaged in practices and procedures for the betterment of mankind. This makes me proud to be American, and I believe that we are well represented by them.

KAREN RYKER
WOODSTOCK

Pay down debt or save for retirement?



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

As we continue to discuss year-end planning strategies, many people may begin to wonder how to align their priorities. For instance, you may be torn between paying off debt and the need to save for retirement. Both are important; both can help give you a more secure future. If you’re not sure you can afford to tackle both at the same time, which should you choose? You can use a variety of strategies to pay off debt, many of which can cut not only the amount of time it will take to pay off the debt but also the total interest paid. There’s no one answer that’s right for everyone, but here are some of the factors you should consider when making your decision.

Rate of investment return versus interest rate on debt: Probably the most common way to decide whether to pay off debt or to make retirement investments is to consider whether you could earn a higher after-tax rate of return by investing than the after-tax interest rate you pay on the debt. For example, say you have a credit card with a \$10,000 balance on which you pay nondeductible interest of 18%. By getting rid of those interest payments, you’re effectively getting an 18% return on your money. That means your money would generally need to earn an after-tax return greater than 18% to make investing a smarter choice than paying off debt. That’s a pretty tough challenge even for professional investors. And bear in mind that investment returns are anything but guaranteed. In general, the higher the rate of return, the greater the risk. If you make investments rather than pay off debt and your investments incur losses, you may still have debts to pay, but you won’t have had the benefit of any gains. By contrast, the return that comes from eliminating high-interest-rate debt is a sure thing.

An employer’s match may change the equation: If your employer matches a portion of your workplace retirement account contributions, that can make the debt versus savings decision more difficult. Let’s say your company matches 50% of your contributions up to 6% of your salary. That means that you’re earning a 50% return on that portion of your retirement account contributions. If surpassing an 18% return from paying off debt is a challenge, getting a 50% return on your money simply through investing is even tougher. Assuming you conform to your plan’s requirements and your company meets its plan obligations, you know in advance what your return from the match will be; very few investments can offer the same degree of certainty. That’s why many financial experts argue that saving at least enough to get any employer match for your contributions may make more sense than focusing on debt.

And don’t forget the tax benefits of contributions to a workplace savings plan. By contributing pretax dollars to your plan account, you’re deferring anywhere from 10% to 39.6% in taxes, depending on your federal tax rate. You’re able to put money that would ordinarily go toward taxes to work immediately.

Your choice doesn’t have to be all or nothing: The decision about whether to save for retirement or pay off debt can sometimes be affected by the type of debt you have. For example, if you itemize deductions, the interest you pay on a mortgage is generally deductible on your federal tax return. Let’s say you’re paying 6% on your mortgage and 18% on your credit card debt, and your employer matches 50% of your retirement account contributions. You might consider directing some of your available resources to paying

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No to tolls

During the election campaign, Gov Lamont and Lt Gov Bysiowiec proposed tolling only trucks. Soon after being in office, they declared that this plan would not raise enough money for transportation projects. Their next proposal was to toll all vehicles at fifty tolling gantries. Lamont spoke in Chicken Little terms that the sky would fall if billions of dollars were not raised to fund these projects. Facing a public backlash, their next proposal scaled back tolling to fourteen bridges, with the money raised going for repairs at those bridges. As more pressure mounted, Lamont, Bysiowiec, and the Democratic majority are back to a truck-only toll plan. That would raise less money than proposed previously. What happened to the need for a large amount of money for many transportation projects they said the state needed? Did they disappear?

Now, they no longer like to speak the word “tolls”, but rather, talk about “quality of life” for commuters, driver “user fees”, and economic growth “investments”. Changing the name of something does not change what it is. Are you fooled? No. Once tolls are created, even in a limited or temporary form, it can be immortalized, expanded, and increased. For example, the Mass Pike was built using tolls to pay off the initial construction bonds. The bonds were paid. The tolls remained.

That is why people continue to say “No to tolls”.

A cogent, consistent message about tolls has not been presented to the people of Connecticut. Lamont himself said on November 12th, “I think I should do some town meetings ... I think I ought to do it pretty soon”. So far, no town meetings, just a call to hold a special legislative session quickly, an idea supported by Speaker Aresimowicz and Senate President Looney. Evidently there is no need to talk with people about it beforehand, because, once tolls are in, it is easier to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission.

Trying to gain political leverage, Lamont is withholding money for local road aid, which is needed for things like snowplowing. Is it OK to deny towns promised money in order to get tolls? This seems like a “quid pro quo” situation.

During the election campaign, it was pointed out that Rhode Island’s truck tolling plan was under legal challenge. What do we find out now, soon after a belly dive back to truck-only tolling plans in Connecticut? The First Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals allowed

going forward a lawsuit against Rhode Island’s truck-only tolls. The claim is that the state plan is discriminatory by not creating a fair tolling program for all vehicles. If the lawsuit prevails, then Connecticut’s truck-only tolling program either must stop or be broadened to everyone. Connecticut would likely expand the tolls across the board, not end the tolls.

Additionally, as if tolling is not enough of a tax increase, ideas are being floated for Connecticut to participate in a new, regional gas tax. We already pay three separate taxes on each gallon of gas and diesel: federal, state retail, and state wholesale. Now a fourth tax on top of tolls!

If Lamont, Bysiowiec, and the Democratic majority care so much about repairing roads and bridges, and talk so much about a transportation “crisis”, then why has the Democratic majority raided and diverted \$821 million from the Special Transportation Fund going back to 2011? The STF was created specifically for transportation projects. Taking money away from the STF shortchanges it irresponsibly and creates an artificial “crisis” by which to call for tolls.

State government has a systemic and systematic problem with spending. Where did the \$2.7 billion tax increases (2011 and 2015) go? Where will this year’s \$1.7 billion tax increases go? The state’s budget is already out of balance. A continuous and confusing reliance on raising taxes makes no common sense.

The more taxes, tolls, and fees enacted, the more it squeezes hard working people and job-creating businesses. It is like a frog being slowly boiled alive. The frog does not notice the gradual change until it is too late to jump out of the pot. People are noticing now, however.

Connecticut’s economic growth has lagged behind the national average and our neighbors. Government does best raising revenue when it has a strong economy with people earning good wages and businesses increasing sales and assets, all contributing taxes through a modest and reasonable taxation system. Government does worst when it focuses with abandon on tax increases despite the consequences and without regard to spending.

We need a new way of doing things. Part of this is to keep saying “No to tolls”.

JEFFREY A. GORDON, M.D.
WOODSTOCK

Rosebrooks responds to DeLuca

Ed DeLuca , I have a right to my views as I respect your right to air your views. I disagree with all you stated. Just recently because of Trumps zero tolerance policy a 16 year old boy died in immigration detention from lack of medical care. In my view this is wrong as is the illegal round up of working immigrants by I.C.E. Separation of families is wrong. I am not advocating for funding of countries but for aid and relief to suffering people , all the refugees , the victims of brutal wars and bombings and of political oppression. You did not carefully read my editorial. I am not anyone’s puppet and my ideas are my own. I think your characterization of Joe Biden is disgraceful. One thing I forgot to mention in my previous editorials is the climate problems we are all dealing with, seriously shrinking ice caps, colder temperatures, more

violent and long lasting storms, the increased carbon in our atmosphere, the burning of the Amazon rain forest. Another issue Donald Trump denies and refuses to deal with by not curbing industrial pollution and by not making cars and trucks more fuel efficient with better options. He left the Paris Accord which is a positive step toward making our planet healthier. As I stated before I cannot find one positive thing he has accomplished for this country. There is a leadership void in this country. The Republicans are afraid of Trump and support him despite the evidence of his wrongs. I hope the Democrats can do better and that they are not as you state all for themselves but for the good of the country and the people.

ANN C. ROSEBROOKS
THOMPSON

Woodstock reader comments on tone of letters

Brian Loffredo, in his December 6 Letter to the Editor, describes the mind-numbing experience of regularly encountering letters in the Villager that parrot the latest lies and conspiracies from Rush, Hannity, Breitbart, and the internet, and contain virtually no real ideas or discussion. Several months ago I wrote to the Villager to express similar thoughts but I focused more on ad hominem attacks and insults contained in these letters. In one particular instance, I objected to a letter writer’s use of the word “libtard,” a word deeply offensive to the disabled community (the Special Olympics in particular). My letter, when published, was appended by a similar “Editor’s Note” to that which accompanied Mr. Loffredo’s letter: a quote from Benjamin Franklin and an explanation of the Villager’s free speech policies. I thought quite a bit about this over the ensuing weeks, focusing on the issue of free speech and whether or not there should be any limitation whatsoever put on it and, if so, what limitation would look like. I reflected on the fact that editors of most publications regularly reject or edit letters which contain profanity and libelous attacks and that this is not generally regarded as an abrogation of free speech. But the issue of “tone” is harder to grapple with. I did some cursory research into how editors generally handle the “Letters” section in their papers and came across a nice summary written February 9, 2013 by Ken Tingley, the Editor of the Post-Star in the towns of Glen Falls and Saratoga Springs in upstate New York. In it, Tingley reaffirms the paper’s commitment to publish almost all letters they receive with exceptions for clearly libelous material and for letters in which outrageous claims and facts cannot be confirmed. He says that he tries to bird-dog those claims but doesn’t get around to checking all of them. (Tingley’s small essay is well worth reading for those so inclined.) So, would it be better to err on the side of publishing virtually all letters, recognizing that some may contain unverifiable claims and assertions, or to publish many fewer (or, worse, none) but carefully vet those? I guess

The most wonderful gift

For so many, the holidays can be a sad and emotional time for many, me included. Loved ones no longer with us, the challenges we face in our families, in the workplace, in our communities and just being human.

However, attitude is everything. Everything. It is the gift of choice. To be good and do good as much as we can and for those of us who believe in God, to “Let Go, Let God” because He wants us to. And, as we celebrate the birth of His Son (and frantically shop, right?) I am so thankful for the reason for the season. I am no longer a churchgoer, but have been very involved in many

I prefer the present Villager policy, where all members of this community have access to a forum of sorts. I think it is incumbent upon all members of this community to call out those who write intemperate or untrue things. Do I wish that the tone of these letters would be less angry, less filled with hate and vitriol? Do I wish that these letters would stop parroting the kinds of lies which I’ve just seen on Fox and Friends at the YMCA? Of course. But one consideration is that, in their own special way, letters like this tell us a lot about the nature of support for President Trump. These letters do not make any attempt to explain how Republican “patriots” can continue to support a deeply immoral president who to this day refuses to call out Vladimir Putin for interfering in the 2016 election (or to demand that he not do it again in 2020), who cravenly abandoned the Kurds (our allies, many of whom died fighting ISIS with us) to the benefit of Russia and Turkey, who even more cravenly refuses to call out Mohammed Bin Salman (or Trump’s great friend, Saudi Arabia) for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, who interfered in the Navy chain of command for blatantly political reasons (see Gallagher, Eddie), who was forced to close down his foundation and pay a \$2 million penalty for shamelessly using veterans’ groups for pushing his political agenda, whose campaign had 272 contacts with Russian operatives, who had 6 close associates convicted of crimes, who has stifled thousands of workers (waiters, plumbers, dishwashers, construction workers, etc.) over the years, and who undermined established US policy towards the Ukraine (to Russia’s gain) in pursuit of his own personal political agenda. To deal with these things (and untold others) in any substantive way would be to come face-to-face with the horror that is Donald Trump. So, reluctantly (because, like Mr. Loffredo, I’d like to see a far more temperate and thoughtful letters section) I say: keep the letters, all of ‘em, coming!

JOHN A. DAY, JR.
WOODSTOCK VALLEY

Shame on Senator Murphy

I have to laugh at all these whiny, hypocritical democratic politicians who say that President Donald Trump is not “above the law.” Let’s take a look at Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy for a good example, and shame on him as the karma bug would come back to bite him. A recent news article reported that Murphy’s Nov. 5 election vote (done via absentee ballot) was not counted because his name had been moved to the inactive voter list. So how did this happen? Shortly after his election to the U.S. Senate, Murphy and his family moved to Washington, D.C. And according to his spokesman, Murphy is “temporarily living between Old Lyme and Wethersfield, but spends most of his time (?) in Old Lyme where his parents own a home and where he is registered to vote.” In a reply to that article, a local resident noted that his (so-called) residence is “an unheat-

ed summer cottage with no mailbox or phone.” But when the Registrar of Voters in Old Lyme sent Murphy a notice asking him to confirm his voter application, it was returned by the U.S. Postal Service with no phone number or contact information on the card which led to his removal. But the biggest slap in the face to this now most embarrassed scofflaw was that the Republicans swept all the seats on the council and board of education - in his own (supposed) home town yet - and him feeling sorry that his vote didn’t count. Murphy then admitted that “his mistake underscores the importance of being vigilant about voter registration” which only means that nobody - including himself - is “above the law.”

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

You’re slower than cold molasses moving uphill in January



RED’S
WORD
• • • • •
BRENDA
PONTBRIAND

Shout-out to Paul and Donna Breton at Breton’s Tree Farm! We’ll be visiting you folks soon to get our Christmas tree! Well, thank goodness we went away for Thanksgiving, so I didn’t have to play the “twelve are coming... no, nine are coming, three will be late, can I move the time to accommodate people” game. We went to New Hampshire to visit Sean’s family and only had to be responsible for a pie. We stayed with his Aunt Bev and Uncle Jack the first night. Jack hand-made me an incredibly cool cherry wood cane, with a gold eagle head on

the grip. If I’m going to hobble I may as well do it in style! Bev is an organist and church choir director, and Jack is a retired high school principle who does taxidermy and woodworking in his free time. He has a man cave downstairs that is a hunter’s dream. Stuffed animal heads adorn the walls, and animal skins are slung over all the furniture. To ensure you don’t overuse your bathroom time, there’s a massive wild boar head (complete with tusks) glaring down at you from above the toilet. I assure you, that’s not all... Jack makes his famous broiled cow tongue every year, and hounded me all Thanksgiving Day to try it with a little horseradish. I barely eat any meat, and tongue is definitely not on that short list. The locals were interesting, albeit entertaining. Jack’s friend Lou keeps his fishing bait in his bathtub, and Ray does his own dental work in his garage. You can’t make this stuff up!

The day after Thanksgiving we drove an hour to visit Sean’s father and his sister. His father lives on a mountain with zero phone service, but plenty of snow and ice! I shuffled with my cane at a glacial pace, holding onto car door handles, people, lawn furniture, the dog etc.... We were totally off the grid! No cable, so no TV. For entertainment, his father plays his fiddle or the family plays card games. They all sit around the woodstove, drink a few beers, and actually talk to each other. It’s pretty wonderful. I met the neighbor, Fred, who broke his leg around the same time as me. He accidentally drove over himself with his ’39 Ford pickup, then laid under it for three hours until someone stopped over to visit and found him. No phone service, so calling 911 wasn’t an option. Kudos to Fred for being such a trooper! Maybe it’s New Hampshire thing, or maybe is a Yankee thing, but everyone

we know up there has a vast knowledge of their family history, including completed family trees, mass amounts of pictures, and documents dating back hundreds of years. Up until two years ago, my family tree was a branch with three people on it. Those New Hampshire folks are stubborn, resilient, resourceful, at times quirky, and very family oriented. They have only one area code (603), have no concept of a sales tax, and granite is the only rock that matters. You get your liquor and wine from the Liquor Store. If you want beer, that’s at the grocery store. It’s illegal to sell your clothes to pay a gambling debt, own a ferret, operate machinery on Sundays, or take seaweed from the beach. Every state in this grand country of ours has something to offer that’s their very own, and very worth checking out!

Stay Warm!

Eastford's Cookies and Cocoa with Santa

BY CAROL DAVIDGE
FOR THE VILLAGER

EASTFORD — More than 100 children, parents, grandparents came to the Town of Eastford's "Cookies & Cocoa with Santa" on Dec. 7. The Ashford Babcock Band, the oldest continuously performing band in the U.S., played holiday music, including "Sleigh Ride,"

the holiday favorite song that was composed by Leroy Anderson whose family lives in Thompson. Eastford's Recreation Commission, chaired by Paige Burgess, sponsored the event with the Congregational Church. Santa arrived with his bag of goodies as the band played "Here Comes Santa Claus." Children scrambled onto his lap as Madison Bates, age 14, took photos for

each family. Children decorated cookies, made ornaments, played games and created art. Becky Williams came with two daughters, two sons, three grandchildren, and one son-in-law. Even though she lives in Eastford, she loves the town-sponsored events because, she says, "I've met many people that I wouldn't have known otherwise. The kids make new friends and when they

meet up with children they've met before at these events, it's like meeting long lost cousins." Paige Burgess thanked the dozens of volunteers who baked cookies, set up tables, and helped plan the day. "It was a great time," she said.

Photos by Carol Davidge, Monica McKenna, Paige Burgess



Eastford Selectman Terry Cote plays percussion in the Ashford Cornet Band, and is shown with Band Director Vincent LaMonica.



Olivia and Brianna, both age 6, make ornaments.



Santa listens to Rylie, 20 months old.

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Eastford Recreation Commission members (l-r) Pastor Mike Moran, Catherine DePercio, Paige Burgess, and Laura Barlow.

Photographer Madison Bates, age 14, with Mrs. and Mr. Santa.

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Nick DePercio of Eastford with Matthew, age 2, and Ashlynn, age 4.



Brielle, age 6, and Bina, age 7, decorated cookies.



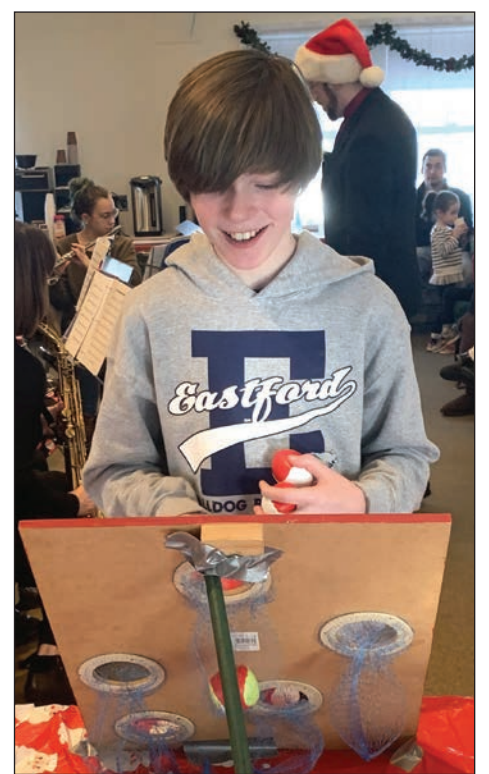
Becky Williams came with many family members including Logan, age 9.



At Eastford's "Cookies and Cocoa with Santa," many activities were offered. "How many kisses are in the jar?" asked Pam Desaulnier, and four-year-old Scarlett guessed 105. (The total was 97).



Justin, with mom Christine Knudsen, is very pleased with the cookies he made.



Ayden, age 9, mastered the Snowman toss game.

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Halley is Westview Employee of the Month

DAYVILLE — Tom Halley, an athletic trainer on the team at Westview Health Care Center, is the organization’s October Employee of the Month. Halley is part of the Sports Medicine team, and since he was hired in September 2017 he has continually proven himself to be a valuable teammate among his colleagues.

A native to Worcester, Mass., Halley finds himself recently relocated to Connecticut’s quiet corner in pursuit of his passion. He grew up in the Grafton Hill neighborhood of the sprawling Massachusetts city and still maintains ties to friends who also grew up in this area. Halley went on to graduate from Holy Name High School in Worcester as a member of the 2007 class, and it was during this time in his own scholastic athletic career that he began to observe and take an interest in athletic medical care. He was fascinated by the range of solutions that can be offered between simply taping an injured joint or having an advanced knowledge of human anatomy and physiology and advising athletes about injury prevention versus injury treatment. Halley attended Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts and there he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training. He went on further in academic education and geographical location to earn a

Master’s degree in Athletic Training from East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania. His first forays into the field of sports rehabilitation brought him through a few different locations in southern New England before he ultimately found his ideal vocational fit at Westview Health Care Center. Halley’s reaction to Westview’s esteemed monthly award offers insight to his confidence regarding the organization.

“I am truly humbled to be selected as the Employee of the Month. It is a privilege for me to be able to come and work at Westview every day and to take that team name with me to athletic endeavors outside of the facility. I work with a great team of people who help me to become an even better athletic trainer,” Halley said.

According to Halley, he loves the different ways he is able to treat patients in his roles; diverging between two distinct modes based on the settings he finds himself in. As one of Westview’s Athletic trainers contracted to work with the area schools, he provides on-campus expertise, advises on athletes’ readiness to return to play, offers medical support at home contests, and delivers some treatments to student athletes on location. As passionate as Halley is about working with the student athletes of several of this region’s pri-

vate and public schools, he is equally enthusiastic about seeing patients in the clinical setting at Westview. Here he utilizes the same anatomical and physiological knowledge base to help athletes from all ages and ability levels, but also people experiencing challenges with their activities of daily living. Whether the individual is a wide receiver injured while running down a football field, or a firefighter injured while running to save a person, or someone who simply injured themselves running to the grocery store—Halley is keenly aware of customizing treatment options. Halley enjoys playing golf and a common interest in this sport promotes a collegial bond between Westview’s Sports Medicine team. They are often inclined to play a quick 9 holes at Harrisville Golf Course during Friday afternoons in the summer. A few of Halley’s additional favorite pastimes include supporting the New England Patriots football conquests and traveling with his girlfriend Sarah throughout Connecticut to add to their growing checklist of 5K road races completed and craft beer breweries visited. Whenever possible, Halley cherishes time spent with his mother and father, Mary and Larry, and his sisters Diana and Lynne.

“Tom is a dedicated member of the Sports Medicine department,” stat-



Tom Halley

ed Alex Williams, Director of Sports Medicine. “His positive attitude and enthusiasm contributes to a positive morale in the department. He is a natural leader and invaluable member of our team.”

Holiday Church Guide

South Woodstock Baptist Church invites you to
come celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!

Live Nativity
Sunday, December 22 at 6 pm

All are invited to join us hear the story of Jesus' birth and celebrate God's gift to mankind

A night of music, live animals, refreshments and fellowship.
On the lawn of South Woodstock Baptist Church

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Sunday Worship Service 8am & 10:30am

Live Nativity
Sunday, December 22 6pm
Hear the story of Jesus' birth. Music, live animals, & refreshments

Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24 5:30pm

www.southwoodstockbaptist.org
23 Roseland Park Road, South Woodstock, CT

Join us at the
East Woodstock Congregational Church
for A Quiet Christmas Service
Sunday, December 22 at 7:00 pm

This service is meant especially for those who are grieving and/or those who find the holidays challenging because of life circumstances. If you are feeling neither “merry” or “bright” but still wish to hear the hope of Christ’s birth, this time of worship is for you. Everyone is welcome.

and Christmas Eve services
5:00 pm service: Features the Christmas story & songs
Children are especially welcome!
11:00 pm service: Candlelight Communion service.

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Blue Christmas service: Dec 16, 7:00 p.m.

The time between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day can be difficult for many of us. The heavily advertised gatherings of happy extended families and the showy overabundance of everything that is supposedly required to have a happy holiday season can cause emotional pain and sadness, especially in those who are separated from family, those who lack the means to provide even the basics of shelter, food, and clothing, and those who now face the holiday activities with an empty chair at the table because of the death of a loved one. This service offers a quiet, meditative atmosphere focusing on the comfort the Holy One offers during troubled times, or if people just need a time to be free of holiday distractions and busyness. Open to all desiring joy and hope this season.

Celtic Prayer Circle: Yule/Winter Solstice: Thursday, December 19, 4:00-5:00 p.m.
with hot cider and cookies to follow. In the Celtic tradition, the changing seasons were considered “thin places” where the veil between heaven and earth lifted or was nearly transparent. In such thin places, the Celts experienced a deep sense of God’s presence especially through awareness of and alignment with the natural world. Yule begins the journey of continued sinking and letting go; deeply surrendering to the Holy present within the darkness. Come to pray, reflect, and participate in a drumming circle as we celebrate Solstice together.

Christmas Eve Service: Tuesday, December 24, 7:30 p.m.
A service of Lessons and Carols, a Christmas message, candlelight, and special music. All ages welcome.

Worship Service, Sunday, December 29, 10:00 a.m.
A casual service held in Harrison Hall with interactive activities, song, and brunch served! Everyone welcome.

First Congregational Church of Woodstock is an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
www.firstchurchwoodstock.org • 860-928-7405
Rev. Dr. Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine, Transitional Minister
(debrapallatto@gmail.com)

ZAHANSKY

continued from page A8

off the credit card debt, some toward your retirement account in order to get the full company match, and continue to pay the tax-deductible mortgage interest. There's another good reason to explore ways to address both goals. Time is your best ally when saving for retirement. If you say to yourself, "I'll wait to start saving until my debts are completely paid off," you run the risk that you'll never get to that point, because your good intentions about paying off your debt may falter at some point. Putting off saving also reduces the number of years you

have left to save for retirement. It might also be easier to address both goals if you can cut your interest payments by refinancing that debt. For example, you might be able to consolidate multiple credit card payments by rolling them over to a new credit card or a debt consolidation loan that has a lower interest rate.

Bear in mind that even if you decide to focus on retirement savings, you should make sure that you're able to make at least the monthly minimum payments owed on your debt. Failure to make those minimum payments can result in penalties and increased interest rates; those will only make your debt situation worse.

Other considerations: When

deciding whether to pay down debt or to save for retirement, make sure you take into account the following factors: Having retirement plan contributions automatically deducted from your paycheck eliminates the temptation to spend that money on things that might make your debt dilemma even worse. If you decide to prioritize paying down debt, make sure you put in place a mechanism that automatically directs money toward the debt—for example, having money deducted automatically from your checking account—so you won't be tempted to skip or reduce payments.

Do you have an emergency fund or other resources that you can tap in case you lose your job

or have a medical emergency? Remember that if your workplace savings plan allows loans, contributing to the plan not only means you're helping to provide for a more secure retirement but also building savings that could potentially be used as a last resort in an emergency. Some employer-sponsored retirement plans also allow hardship withdrawals in certain situations—for example, payments necessary to prevent an eviction from or foreclosure of your principal residence—if you have no other resources to tap. (However, remember that the amount of any hardship withdrawal becomes taxable income, and if you aren't at least age 59½, you also may owe a 10% premature

distribution tax on that money.)

If you do need to borrow from your plan, make sure you compare the cost of using that money with other financing options, such as loans from banks or credit unions. Although interest rates on plan loans may be favorable, the amount you can borrow is limited, and you generally must repay the loan within five years. In addition, some plans require you to repay the loan immediately if you leave your job. Your retirement earnings will also suffer as a result of removing funds from a tax-deferred investment.

If you focus on retirement savings rather than paying down

Turn To **ZAHANSKY** page **A16**



BY THE
REVEREND BRUCE HEDMAN
ABINGTON
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Our favorite service throughout the year is our traditional Candlelight "Lesson and Carols" on Christmas Eve. Everyone is warmly invited to attend, and we have more guests from the neighborhood than on any other occasion. Families bring their

Christmas Eve

children, because they can sing the old Christmas carols, see the bright, traditional decorations, and hear the familiar words of the story of Christ's birth. We pair readings from the gospels with the Christmas carols the readings inspired. The service culminates in a passing from one to another the flame of Christ's love. As the church is darkened, the deacons take the flame from the Christ candle on the Advent wreath and pass the flame to the end of each isle, as people in turn pass it along the rows, lighting their neighbor's candles. When the church is lit only with candlelight, we softly sing "Silent Night, Holy Night." The ceremony beautifully symbolizes how of the love of Christ is

spread throughout the world by individuals, as one person touches another with the love Christ has put in their heart. "The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world."

In a Christmas sermon the Methodist radio preacher Ralph Sockman said, "The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable." The birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth tells us more than we can know of what it means to love one another and to love God. Nothing ennobles human life like love, yet in Jesus we see that love goes beyond that "lovin' feelin'" to embrace sacrifice. What we may be called to give up for others is little compared to what Jesus gave up for us.

He left a throne in glory to become not just human, but to be born in poverty to an unwed mother in a remote backwater. "Though he was rich, yet he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." In the end his message of forgiveness and love was reviled, as the powerful as ever sought to silence his voice of conscience. The wood of Bethlehem's cradle led inexorably to the wood of Calvary's cross. Yet, death does not have the last word over love. Jesus arose from the dead to be a living presence within and among us today, inspiring open hearts to forgive and accept others as he does. Jesus left his throne in glory and became human, in order to show us how to be human. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we have beheld his glory."

I am blest to have served the Abington Church for 31 years,

where I have preached the gospel within walls which have echoed that gospel for 268 years. The Abington building is the oldest meetinghouse still standing in the State of Connecticut, as its first congregation gathered in 1751. But more than looking back on a rich history, we look ahead to that future congregation gathered in our stead by that same gospel of forgiveness and love in Jesus Christ. If you do not have your own church, please join us at 7pm on Christmas Eve to sing the joyous carols of the birth of the Prince of Peace.

"Silent Night, Holy Night, Son of God, Love's pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth."

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The Abington Congregational Church will hold a **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** of "Lessons and Carols" on Tuesday, December 24, 2019 at 7pm. This is a family service in which we sing our favorite Christmas carols

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Meeting starts at 8am • Killingly Library

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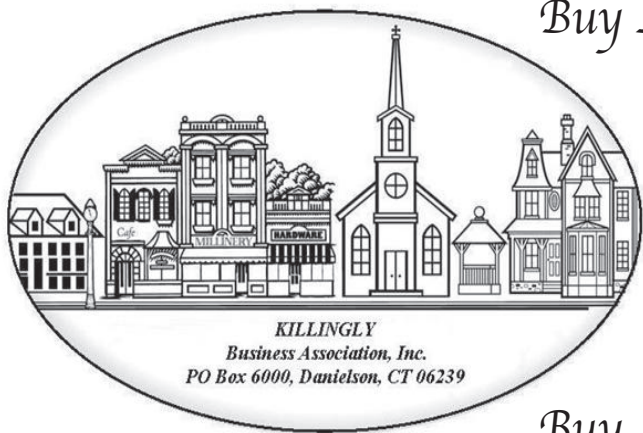
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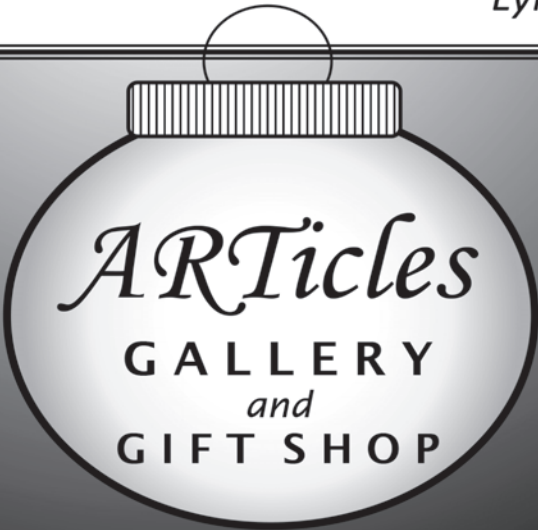
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KILLINGLY
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MARGARET
WEAVER

Well, thankfully my older son is here and was able to do most of the digging out from out recent multi-day snow/rain/snow storm on Thanksgiving weekend. We had about nine inches at our house. I'm glad it wasn't the 27 inches my niece in New Hampshire had. I thought that I'd look back at some older Windham County Transcripts from years ago to see what mention was made of the December weather — and perhaps find some interesting articles. From the sounds of it late November and December 1909 were cold and wintry. A December 2nd Transcript had the following: "Ice on the trolley wire seriously disarranged the P & D (Providence and Danielson) schedule Wednesday of last week." W. S. Brown cut a quantity of six inch ice on the Hygeia reservoir at East Killingly on Saturday. The ice is clear and of a very good quality." (WCT 12/23/1909). The same paper carried several articles that subtly spoke of the month's weather conditions, "About two hundred persons enjoyed skating on the Assawage River Tuesday afternoon" (The Assawaga was the Five Mile River). "Mercury was five above Tuesday morning. Excellent skating has been enjoyed for a week now, and the ice men are wearing happy faces."

Do any of you still have relatives in Canada? In 1909 many of the residents of Danielson and vicinity did. "Large numbers of French Canadians are taking advantage of the special rates offered by the railroads and spending Christmas with friends and relatives in Canada."(WCT 12/23/1909).

By December 1917 war efforts were going on throughout the United States. "Loan Your Spyglass to the Government. Connecticut spyglasses, binoculars and telescopes are needed to spot submarines in the war zone. It is

expected that before long many glasses now privately owned in this state will be doing their part in ridding the sea of German U-boats and it may be that before the war is over a Connecticut spyglass will be the means of saving a transport bearing Connecticut troops from destruction by a submarine. The United States Navy is threatened with a shortage of spyglasses, telescopes, and binoculars because it has in the past depended largely on European sources for its supply and it is believed that many people who own such instruments will be glad to give them to the government so that they can be used as 'eyes for the Navy'... As the government does not accept gifts, it will pay the nominal sum of one dollar for each pair of glasses which it finds acceptable. It will return the rest to the senders. The glasses should be sent to the Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the Navy...(WCT 12/6/1917)"

Now for a few more tidbits from 1917. "The cornerstone of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church was laid Sunday afternoon with appropriate ceremonies. Shortly before two o'clock the members of the church gathered in St. James hall and headed by St. James Band marched to the corner of Cottage and Water Streets where is located the lot on which the church building is to be erected. The ceremony of blessing and laying the stone was then performed by Father Christus Haztepapas, priest in charge and Father Papasconstantino of the Greek church at Norwich...(WCT 11/29/1917). "The bids for the building of the Greek church have been opened and the contract awarded to Damase Boulais. Work will be started immediately, and it is hoped that the edifice will be ready for occupancy by Easter. The cost of the building is estimated at about seven thousand dollars. This church will add another to Danielson's houses of worship and the members will be pleased

to receive any contributions from local citizens that they may chose to make." (WCT 12/13/1917).

"Local War Bureau Organized. On Friday evening about thirty men and women assembled in the Town Hall to perfect the organization of a War Bureau. For some time there has been more or less chaos in the conduct of the various war activities throughout the State, due to the fact that there was no regular local committee in the different communities to look after the work... After some of those present had been satisfied that the bureau did not propose to interfere with the work of any organized society in town, a motion prevailed to elect an executive committee whose names had been proposed by a subcommittee. The executive committee is as follows: Danielson, F. E. Cunneen, S. S. Russell, F. T. Preston, E. A. Sullivan, Jon Gilbert; Dayville, N. Lorne Greig; East Killingly, Alcott D. Sayles; Goodyear (Rogers), Robert W. Boys; Ballouville, Hector McConnell; Attawaugan, C. H. Truesdell." (WCT12/13/1917).

The next two issues of the Villager will be photo issues so my column will not appear again until the New Year. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all who have sent comments and information. You have added so much human interest to the bare bones of history. I'd also like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukkah. Peace on earth; good will to all.

Unique Christmas Gifts: Surprise a loved one with something from the Killingly Historical Center. Reprints of old maps, postcards, books, booklets, and back issues of the Journal are available. Books include Williamsville by Ray C. Smith; Pictures on Memory's Walls; Dear Transcript: Letters from Windham County Soldiers During The Civil War; Killingly Moments and Mementos; Killingly Keepsakes (Book 2); Killingly

Treasures & Antique Advertising Cards (Bk 3.); The Blumenthals in Danielson and Beyond; Danielson Before the War; Mills Along the Whetstone Brook by Richard Adams; Chestnut Hill & East Killingly by Herbert Oatley; Perspectives of Putnam by Margaret M. Weaver; Killingly Revisted, Images of America series by Natalie L. Coolidge, \$20; Back issues of Killingly Historical Journals, Assorted prices.

The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society will be sponsoring a Mayflower trip on June 19, 2020 to Plymouth Plantation, the Gristmill, and the Mayflower II replica. The bus will depart from the Brooklyn Walmart at 7:15 a.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. Free parking. For additional information contact 860-779-7250 or director@killinglyhistorical.org for tickets by May 1, 2020. Surprise a loved one with a trip for a Christmas present.

If you are planning a December visit to the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, please keep in mind that it will be closed December 25, 28, and January 1st for the Christmas holiday. It will reopen on January 4.

In case of inclement weather, check the Society Facebook page at at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety.

Margaret M. Weaver is the KillinglyMunicipal Historian. For additional information e-mail Weaver at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250. 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. 06329.

December weather in Danielson in 1909

Be mindful of others trying to control you



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

The national media is absorbed by impeachment proceedings while most of the nation has tuned out. Regardless of which side of the aisle you reside, most Americans recognize the extreme partisan agenda of the process. There is no thoughtful discussion of events, only hard-line talking points crafted to influence the proceedings.

I'm not a political columnist. My mission is to awaken the optimism of my readers and encourage a more positive approach to life. As I have pointed out numerous times, optimistic people live happier, healthier and more successful lives. This claim isn't just my opinion but proven through a plethora of clinical and uni-

versity studies. Now there is evidence that optimistic people may live as much as seven years longer than those with a pessimistic outlook on life.

We become what we focus upon: What we allow to occupy space in our heads, influences our every action and deeply impacts our overall attitude. Because of civic duty, I am keeping up with the impeachment proceedings, but I also recognize it is largely based upon political agenda and less on actionable facts ... which I believe is shameful.

If you watch the proceedings and make your own decision, good for you. However, most people are busy making a living and navigating their lives. Few can sit and take it all in as it happens. Instead, they tune into their favorite television opinion journalist (and I use that title loosely) to get their info. The problem is that none of the talking heads want to give you facts. Instead, their goal is to win you over to their way of thinking. They want

to seize your mind and, in the process, influence your vote. Period.

Sean Hannity is a partisan opinion influencer on Fox News, while Rachel Maddow is the same for MSNBC. Philosophically they could not be more different. They are polar-opposites, yet one-and-the-same when it comes to their agenda of winning you over to their side. They are both shamelessly partisan, mouth-ing political talking points from their side of the aisle and are nothing more than political commercials for their party and agenda. And its not just Hannity and Maddow, it is most hosts on our primetime cable channels. There is not a network in America today that isn't openly displaying their bias. Take for example, Bloomberg Business News, a formerly reliable source. They have openly declared that they will only cover Donald Trump and his campaign and not a single Democratic challenger. What happened to Bloomberg

News? They are no longer a news network but an activist machine for their founder who is now running for President. Did "real news" ever exist? Or are we only finally waking up to the fact that television and radio pundits have been trying to manipulate us all along?

So, what is optimistic and positive about all this? Hannity, Maddow and other pundits only have the power we give them by watching and believing they are in the news business. They are not. Becoming aware of the reality of their manipulation allows you the option to decide not to be manipulated. When we are aware of what their agenda really is, we become more discerning. We weigh their claims for reality rather than accepting whatever comes out of their mouths. Once we begin doing so, the talking heads lose their power over us and we instead take the power back. That is positive.

I encourage all of us to be discerning this election cycle

and beyond. Ask questions. Listen to and read sources from all channels and stations. Do not allow a familiar face on a television screen that you have never met to control your beliefs. Become a smart and savvy citizen, not a clone of your favorite talking head. They are not your friend. They do not have your best interests at heart. We are smarter than that. We deserve better than what they are dishing.

I believe the American people are smart and want the best for our nation and world. We have been hijacked by "infotainment" masquerading as news, but once we realize what they are trying to do, we take back control.

Be positive. Be discerning. Always remain aware of the agenda. Get your information from a variety of sources ... and make decisions based upon your educated opinion.

Gary W. Moore is at www.garywmoore.com

ZAHANSKY

continued from page 13

debt, make sure you're invested so that your return has a chance of exceeding the interest you owe on that debt. While your investments should be appropriate for your risk tolerance, if you invest too conservatively, the rate of return may not be high enough to offset the interest rate you'll continue to pay.

Planning for 2020: Regardless

of your choice, perhaps the most important decision you can make is to take action and get started now. The sooner you decide on a plan for both your debt and your retirement savings needs, the sooner you'll start to make progress toward achieving both goals. Meeting with a financial advisor or planner might make it easier to decide how to align your assets; at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors, we help our clients

maneuver their way through difficult decisions like this. With the new year approaching, there's no time like now to establish a strategic plan for achieving your financial life goals. As the year comes to a close, we want to thank our dedicated readers for taking the time to read our articles every week. Enjoy the rest of your holiday season! This column will resume after the new year. You can access weekly market highlights, along

with additional information, on our website at www.whzwealth.com/resources.

Authored in part by James Zahansky of Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259,

860.928.2341. www.whzwealth.com. Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors and Commonwealth Financial Network do not provide legal or tax advice. You should consult a legal or tax professional regarding your individual situation as all investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there can be no assurance that any investment strategy will be successful.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BROOKLYN

Tuesday, December 17

P&Z, 6:30 p.m., Clifford B. Green Memorial Center
BOE, 7 p.m., Central Office Community Room

Wednesday, December 19

Regular Board of Finance, 7 p.m., Clifford B. Green Memorial Center

Thursday, December 20

Emergency Management and Homeland Security, 7 p.m., Town Hall

KILLINGLY

Monday, December 16

Special PZC, 6 p.m., Town Meeting Room
Regular PZC, 7 p.m., Town Meeting Room

Tuesday, December 17

Veteran's Coffee House, 9 a.m., Killingly Community Center

Wednesday, December 18

Housing Authority, 7 p.m.

Water Pollutions Control Authority, 6 p.m., Water Pollution Control Facility, 31 Wauregan Rd., Killingly

Regular KCC, 7 p.m., Room 102

EASTFORD

Tuesday, December 17

Republican Town Committee, 7 p.m., Eastford Public Library

Thursday, December 19

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building

Saturday, December 21

AA, 7:30 p.m., Town Office Building

POMFRET

Monday, December 16

Board of Selectman, 8 a.m., Senior Center

ZBA, 7 p.m., Senior Center

Wednesday, December 18

P&Z, 7 p.m., Old Town House

Thursday, December 19

Agriculture Commission, 7 p.m., Senior Center

PUTNAM

Monday, December 16

Board of Selectman, 7 p.m.
Library Board, 7 p.m., Library Community Room

Thursday, December 19

Municipal Complex Building Committe, 6 p.m.

THOMPSON

Monday, December 16

Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., Merrill Seney Community Room

Conservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Tuesday, December 17

Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Merrill Seney Community Room
Wednesday, December 18
Economic Development

Commission, 6:30 p.m., Merrill Seney Community Room

Thursday, December 19

Library Board of Trustees, 2 p.m., Library Conference Room
Fire Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., address as indicated on posted agenda

Board of Finance, 7 p.m., Thompson Public Library, Louis P. Faucher Community Center

Friday, November 22

WOODSTOCK

Monday, December 16

AG Commission, 1 p.m., Room A
ZBA, 6 p.m., Room A
IWWA, 7 p.m., Room B

Wednesday, December 18

Garden Club, 6:30 p.m., Room B

Thursday, December 19

Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Room A
Open Space Land Acquisition, 7 p.m., Room B
Planning and Zoning, 7:30 p.m.

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WHITE continued from page A1

said the message: “Slow down. There is plenty to do” and that was her primary work for three years. Eventually professional work with a parish away from the city led to a long-term interim position there. This is when White became “an intentional interim minister.”

While each church has been different, each has called for similar skills of parish assessment in determining the role she will play. Christ Church, similar to other parishes she has served, is experiencing the retirement of a long-time rector who built the “relationships that hold the community together.” But this is not the only factor guiding her interim work.

“There are other changes in society that indicate that the church as it has been is unsustainable,” White said. “Take, for example, the idea that women—most of whom work—can con-

tinue to devote hours of time to projects such as the Christmas bazaar. The task of the parish is to recognize what is essential in our lives as it considers becoming the kind of community that answers Christ’s call in a sustainable manner.”

She said the question is then: “How to live into that and sustain it.”

She said she has found Christ Church to be full of such willing people that her role is clear: to be a good pastor. The youth program is “fabulous and what makes it work is the number of adults who are making a time commitment, both as leaders and families, to work together.”

She said the hunger for community is felt nationally but how do we know what that is? We know there are choices when choosing a family activity. She said sports and entertainment are both widely available and they are not a role for the church. So, she wondered what makes Christ Church unique?

The Bible is filled with stories about community, but as someone who was not raised in a church-going household, she said she appreciates that scripture literacy has declined along with church attendance. White said she views her role as teaching about liturgy, but most of all, she says, “a preacher’s role is to tell the Bible stories, both as part of adult education and in church.”

Christ Church is located at 527 Pomfret Street (across from Rectory School). The church holds services on Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Church School and Youth programs are held as part of the 10:15 service. On Christmas Eve, the Eucharist will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. (family service) and 10:30 p.m. (with the choir). The Christmas Pageant takes place in the Tang Center at Rectory School on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 10:15 a.m. Reverend White can be contacted through the church office by calling (860) 315-7780 or by e-mail at clergy-cpomfret@gmail.com.

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Killingly bound for championship game



Charlie Lentz photo

Killingly High’s Jackson Lopes runs with Waterford’s Trey Brennan, left, and Matthew Olbrys, center, in pursuit in the Class M state semifinals on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at Waterford High. Killingly won 35-7 to advance to the state championship game vs. Weston, with the game set for 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14, at Veterans Stadium in New Britain.

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

WATERFORD — Coach Chad Neal likes to call Killingly High’s football team his family. Dad and the kids will be packing up the bus on Saturday morning for another trip to the state championship game — Killingly’s second appearance in the Class M title game in three seasons. The Red Hawks’ streak of reaching the state semifinals five years in a row would perhaps not be possible without the brotherhood Neal fosters. As with any family there are the inevitable squabbles.

“You don’t always have to like each other. As a family you may not always like your brothers and sisters and this and that — but when push comes to shove you have your family’s back,” Neal said. “We talk about trust, caring about each other, being there for each other. I think if you can trust somebody, that they’re going to have your back, and you can trust them and you care about them — you’re going to rise to the occasion. These guys trust each other. They care about each other. You saw that tonight.”

Third-seeded Killingly defeated second-seeded Waterford High 35-7 in the state semifinals on Tuesday night to advance to the Class M championship game on Saturday, Dec. 14, at Veterans Stadium in New Britain — with kickoff set for 11 a.m. Killingly will face

fifth-seeded Weston, a 37-0 winner over top-seeded Rockville in the semifinals. Killingly and Weston both bring records of 11-1 into Saturday’s state final. Killingly will try to win its second state title over the last three seasons — having won the Class M state championship in 2017.

In the semifinals on Tuesday Killingly skidded through much of the first half beneath a steady rain on Waterford High’s waterlogged artificial turf. Waterford jumped to a 7-0 lead while the Red Hawks’ offense had trouble gaining traction.

“We came out way too flat than we should have and they came out heavy, ready to go, amped up,” said Killingly junior linebacker Chris Jax. “That’s definitely a lesson learned because if we come out flat again it’s not going to end well for us.”

The Lancers received the opening kickoff and drove 68 yards in 11 plays — with senior quarterback Ryan Bakken deftly employing a mix of passes, misdirection, and runs up the middle. Trey Brennan capped the drive with a 10-yard burst and Sam Menders kicked the point after for a 7-0 lead with 8:40 left in the first quarter.

Waterford got the ball right back when Killingly couldn’t handle the ensuing kickoff and the Lancers Matt Sanford pounced on the football at Killingly’s 42-yard line. The Lancers drove to Killingly’s 4-yard line in six plays but the Red Hawks forced a pair

of incompletions from Bakken from the 4 to avert falling farther down a hole.

“Coach talks a lot about bend, don’t break,” said senior linebacker Jonathan Creswell. “We made a big stop, got the ball back.”

Coach Neal said it could have gotten ugly early if Waterford had pushed its lead to two touchdowns in the first quarter.

“That would have been tough to dig a hole out of,” Neal said.

Waterford dominated offensively through much of the first half. On the Lancers first five possessions they picked up 119 yards on the ground on 22 carries, another 80 yards through the air, and 10 first downs — over that span Killingly had three possessions and gained a total of nine yards on eight carries, zero completions on two pass attempts, and no first downs.

The momentum shifted on Killingly’s final possession of the first half after a Waterford punt from Bakken pinned the Red Hawks back on their own 1-yard line with 5:25 left in the first half. Killingly drove 99 yards in 12 plays with the help of a key fourth-down pickup from senior quarterback Jacob Nurse and a pair of clutch completions. On fourth-and-1 from Killingly’s own 10-yard line, Nurse sneaked seven yards for a first down.

“It’s a great call but it’s a bad call if we don’t get it,” said coach Neal of his decision to go for it on fourth-and-one from his own 10-yard line.

On first-and-10 from the 17, Nurse connected with sophomore tight end Nate Keefe on a 45-yard completion to move the ball to Waterford’s 38-yard line. On second-and-11 from Waterford’s 21-yard line Nurse hit senior receiver Josh Heaney for a 10-yard gain. Coach Neal said the run game wasn’t working so they needed to open it up on their final possession of the first half.

“We said we’re going to have to throw the ball. We’re going to have to do some play action because they were sending everybody,” Neal said.

Sophomore running back Jack Sharpe capped the 99-yard drive with a five-yard touchdown run with 31 seconds left in the first half and Jax booted the extra point to knot the game at 7-7. The 99-yard drive reversed momentum and deadlocked the game at halftime.

“That was key for a couple reasons. We didn’t want to give the ball back to them,” Neal said. “We were able to put one in before the half. I think that changed a little bit of momentum of what we were doing and swinging it our way more.”

Killingly took command with 22 points in the third quarter. Nurse ran four yards for a score to cap a six-play 72-yard march with 9:36 left in the third quarter. Sharpe scurried 33 yards for a touchdown with 4:29 left and then Sharpe raced 60 yards for a touchdown with 2:10 left in third quarter to help push the margin to 29-7. Sharpe ran for

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KILLINGLY 35, WATERFORD 7

Killingly	0	7	22	6-35
Waterford	7	0	0	0-7

FIRST QUARTER

W- Trey Brennan 10 run (Sam Menders kick) 8:40

SECOND QUARTER

K- Jack Sharpe 5 run (Chris Jax kick) :31

THIRD QUARTER

K- Jacob Nurse 4 run (Nurse run) 9:36

K- Sharpe 33 run (Jax kick) 4:29

K- Sharpe 60 run (Jax kick) 2:10

FOURTH QUARTER

K- Jackson Lopes 20 run (kick failed) 4:07

	Killingly	Waterford
First Downs	15	15
Rushes-yards	42-362	33-137
Passing	68	175
Sacked-yds lost	0-0	5-26
Comp-Att-Int	3-6-0	8-22-2
Punts-Avg.	2-38	3-37
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	3-1
Penalties-Yards	6-50	4-27

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING- K: Sharpe 25-251, 3 TD; Nurse 8-28, TD; Lopes 7-69, TD; Kameron Crowe 2-14. W: Brennan 6-16, TD; Ryan Bakken 7-43; Jackson Harshberger 9-32; Mike Vincent 3-39; Christian Hightower 6-8; Sam Menders 1-(-1)

PASSING- K: Nurse 3-6-0 for 68 yards. W: Bakken 8-22-2 for 175 yards.

RECEIVING- K: Nate Keefe 1-45; Josh Heaney 1-10; Crowe 1-13. W: Matt Sanford 2-29; Menders 2-76; Quincy Foren 1-44; Mike Vincent 2-26; Brennan 1-0.

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Killingly's defense stands tall vs. Lancers

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

WATERFORD — Killingly High's "bend but don't break" defense was bent severely by Waterford senior quarterback Ryan Bakken in the first half of the Class M semifinals on Tuesday night — with Bakken and the Lancers shredding Killingly's defense on a 12-play 63-yard scoring drive after receiving the kickoff.

"They came out and they threw their best offense at us in the first quarter," said senior safety Jackson Lopes. "We couldn't respond. They scored a touchdown. They pulled out some plays."

The Red Hawks surrendered the early score but came up with the big stop when needed — made adjustments at halftime — and went on to contain Bakken and the Lancers in a 35-7 victory at Waterford High on Dec. 9.

"Our defensive adjustments coming out of halftime, I mean, Coach told us what we had to do," said Lopes, who put an exclamation point on the win by intercepting Bakken on the final play of the game. "We came out after halftime, we executed."

The game started on an ominous note for Killingly — with Waterford receiving the opening kick and promptly marching 63 yards for a touchdown in 12 plays. During the drive Bakken connected with senior receiver Matt Sanford on a 21-yard completion that moved the football to from Waterford's 48-yard line to the Red Hawks 31-yard line. Bakken ran the ball three times during the march for a total of 25 yards. The Lancers capped the drive with a 10-yard run by senior Trey Brennan with 8:40 left in the first



Charlie Lentz photo

Killingly High's Jonathan Rodriguez-Mendez bats down a pass from Waterford quarterback Ryan Bakken, far left, in the Class M semifinals on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

quarter.

Killingly mishandled the ensuing kickoff after Brennan's score, gave it back to the Lancers, and was in danger of falling behind by two touchdowns after Waterford drove to the Red Hawks 4-yard line — but the Red Hawks forced Bakken into incompletions on both third down and fourth down from the 4 to thwart the drive with 5:07 left in the first quarter.

Killingly's defense responded once more — still ahead 7-0 — Waterford drove to Killingly's 13-yard line, but the Red Hawks tackled junior running back Jackson Harshberger for a two-yard loss on second down, then knocked Brennan back for a two-yard loss on third down

— then Killingly junior inside linebacker Chris Jax strip-sacked Bakken for an eight-yard loss on fourth down.

So while Bakken completed three passes for 80 yards and the Lancers picked up 119 yards on the ground and gained 10 first downs on their first five possessions of the first half — Waterford had just one touchdown to show for the effort. Killingly shut out Waterford in the second half with the help of defensive coordinator Gary Brine.

"We had to adjust to the offense they were coming at us with," Jax said. "Coach Brine helped us out a lot at halftime. He's a very good defensive coach and he showed us where we should move,

who we should watch, and the formations they brought."

Senior linebacker Jonathan Creswell said Killingly eventually figured out how to contain Bakken and the Lancers.

"We just started widening out. We switched up the blitz packages and we got our outside linebackers to widen out a little bit. And we finally started stopping that jet sweep there, it was killing us on the corner all night, at least in the first half. Once we started containing that they didn't have much up the middle," Creswell said. "And the passing game wasn't really doing much for them. Once we shut down the outside edge they really couldn't do much after that."

Bakken rushed seven times for 43 yards and completed eight-of-22 passes for 175 yards with two interceptions. Creswell intercepted Bakken at Killingly's 21-yard line with 8:18 left in the fourth quarter. The Red Hawks sacked Bakken five times.

"We had a few sacks but there were a few times where he should have been sacked but he stepped up, broke a few tackles and made some plays. Kudos to him. He's a great player," said Creswell of Bakken. "Once he started getting sacked a few times he wasn't going to throw the ball downfield as much. It was wet out there. It starts getting into a quarterback's head. It was definitely huge for us."

Bakken bent Killingly's defense — but it didn't break. Killingly will face Weston in the Class M state championship game on Saturday. Creswell said the Red Hawks will be ready.

"It's a privilege to play for a state championship," Creswell said. "We've just to come with some intensity and come out of the gate playing hard. I think we're going to be able to rally the troops pretty well. We're going to be hyped. We're going to be ready to go — going to go out there and try to win this football game."

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Nurse passes the test against Waterford



Charlie Lentz photo

Killingly High quarterback Jacob Nurse picks up some yardage against Waterford High in the Class M semifinals on Tuesday, Dec. 9, in Waterford.

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

WATERFORD — In a variation on the gunslinger's motto, Killingly High's offensive philosophy is "Run first, ask questions later." The Red Hawks dub their style R.P.O. — run people over. But Killingly High senior quarterback Jacob Nurse came under the gun when the Red Hawks running game shot blanks early on against Waterford on Tuesday night in the Class M semifinals. Nurse answered the call and came out firing in Killingly's 35-7 win over the Lancers on Dec. 9.

Waterford dared Nurse to throw the football on a rainy night — stacking the box while shutting down Killingly's

run game in the first half. Killingly first three offensive possessions went nowhere, picking up a total of nine yards on eight carries.

"We definitely came out a little slow. They had a great game plan. They really loaded up the box. They really challenged us up front," Nurse said. "We just had to adjust and work through it."

With the Red Hawks trailing Waterford 7-0 late in the first half, Killingly's aerial attack finally helped pierce the Lancers' defense during a clutch 99-yard drive. The Red Hawks began the march from their own 1-yard line with 5:25 left in the first half — three consecutive runs by sophomore running back Jack Sharpe yielded just nine yards and moved the football to

Killingly's 10-yard line. On fourth-and-1 from the 10, Nurse sneaked seven yards for a first down — the only first down Killingly had picked up to that point.

After Nurse's sneak moved the football to the 17, he energized the Red Hawks with the pass. On first-and-10 from the 17, Nurse connected with sophomore tight end Nate Keefe on a 45-yard catch-and-run that moved the ball to Waterford's 38-yard line. Keefe did his part to get the Red Hawks passing game off the ground.

"We really needed a momentum boost because the run really wasn't working at the time. That kind of got us going. I loved the opportunity to have that chance," Keefe said. "My coaches gave me the chance and I knew they'd lead

me to success, and they have so far."

Nurse and Keefe are both first-year starters. Coach Chad Neal said they've ably handled their responsibilities in a pair of key skill positions.

"That says a lot about the kids. They come to practice every day to work hard," Neal said. "They listen. Both are coachable kids. For a sophomore (Keefe) to make that play in a big spot, catching the ball. And of course Nurse — he's an all ECC quarterback — when it's time to make a play he makes a play."

Senior running back Jackson Lopes said Killingly's passing game delivered under pressure.

"Jacob (Nurse) definitely did. Our coach made good play calls with play action. Our receivers made great catches in this rainy weather," Lopes said. "Jacob put it on the money. Couldn't ask for better passing than that."

In Killingly's 99-yard scoring drive, facing a second-and-11 from Waterford's 21-yard line, Nurse tossed a 10-yard completion to senior receiver Josh Heaney to move the ball to the 11. Three plays later sophomore running back Jack Sharpe ran for a five-yard touchdown followed by Chris Jax's extra point — Killingly had finally got its offense untracked. Despite a steady rain and a slippery football Nurse welcomed Waterford's dare to make him throw the ball.

"We knew at that point we were struggling. We needed to open up our offense a little bit," Nurse said. "Tough conditions to throw in but it's something we had to do. We had to work through it."

Tied 7-7 going into the third quarter, with Killingly's passing game now keeping Waterford's defense honest, the Red Hawks run game was able to get untracked. Sharpe ran for just 35 yards on nine carries in the first half but picked up 216 yards on 16 carries in the second half. Killingly was able to keep the Lancers' defense honest with the threat an aerial attack — a variation on the gunslinger's warning: "Pass first and ask questions later."

"That caused them in the second half to loosen up the box a little bit," said coach Neal. "(Nurse) made the plays. He's made them all year."

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Killingly tramples New Fairfield in playoff opener



Killingly High quarterback Jacob Nurse hands off to Jack Sharpe with Jonathan Creswell blocking against New Fairfield in the Class M state quarterfinals at Killingly High on Dec. 4.

KILLINGLY 28, NEW FAIRFIELD 0

New Fairfield	0	0	0	0-0
Killingly	7	0	14	7-28

FIRST QUARTER

K- Jacob Nurse 3 run (Chris Jax kick) 4:52

THIRD QUARTER

K- Jack Sharpe 4 run (Jax kick) 8:39
K- Nurse 1 run (Jax kick) :24

FOURTH QUARTER

K- Jackson Lopes 2 run (Jax kick) 3:52

N. Fairfield	Killingly
First Downs	9 21
Rushes-yards	12-75 55-325
Passing	99 17
Sacked-yds lost	3-30 0-0
Comp-Att-Int	9-22-2 2-3-0
Punts-Avg.	2-31 0-0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1 3-0
Penalties-Yards	6-65 3-20

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING- NF: Matt Constantinides 2-(-2); Mike Altobelli 10-77. K: Sharpe 33-175, TD; Lopes 13-112, TD; Nurse 8-36, TD; Jonathan Creswell 1-2.

PASSING- NF: Constantinides 9-22-2 for 99 yards; K: Nurse 2-3-0 for 17 yards.

RECEIVING- NF: Altobelli 1-14; Nick Dimyan 2-20; Mike Pederson 1-1; Jack Thuesen 4-41; Aidan Ford 1-23; K: Josh Heaney 2-17.



Jackson Lopes runs against New Fairfield in the Class M quarterfinals.

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

DAYVILLE — Step one of Killingly High’s methodical march to the Class M state championship game came against New Fairfield High — fittingly the Red Hawks

stepped all over the Rebels — placing their feet directly on New Fairfield’s neck on the way to a 28-0 victory in the opening round of the Class M playoffs. Third-seeded Killingly trampled sixth-seeded New Fairfield for 325 yards on 55 carries. Coach Chad Neal

stated the obvious to his legion of foot soldiers in the post-game huddle.

“We did what we do best,” Neal told his Red Hawks, “run people over.”

Sophomore running back Jack Sharpe made Killingly High his stomping ground on Dec. 4 — chugging for 175 yards and one touchdown on 33 carries.

“We just try to pound the ball down their throat and I feel like we did today. Our team played amazing. We really came together today and I feel like we played the best game of the year,” Sharpe said. “We are determined. We don’t really care who they’re going to put in front of us.”

Killingly scored on its first possession, driving 46 yards in 10 plays — with Sharpe carrying the ball nine times for 43 yards during the march and senior quarterback Jacob Nurse capping the drive with a three-yard scoring run.

“We’re a physical football team,” Neal said. “We wanted to come out and show them how physical we were.”

The Red Hawks didn’t lose a step when Sharpe left the game with a leg cramp with nine minutes left in the fourth quarter — senior Jackson Lopes took over and finished with 112 yards and one touchdown on

13 carries. Nurse rushed for 36 yards and two touchdowns on eight carries.

“It’s always next man up,” said Lopes after relieving Sharpe. “Jack was carrying the ball well all game long. When he went down I said ‘I got him.’ I just had to run hard. Our offensive line’s amazing. They bullied people all game.”

Killingly’s line includes junior left tackle Jacob Galarza, senior left guard Ben Morin, senior center Caleb Johnson, senior right guard John Rodriguez-Mendez, and senior right tackle Justin Maiato.

“One thing’s for sure, our offensive line was great,” said coach Neal. “They just blew people off the ball. Yes, our backs ran great. But those five guys up front (on the line), our receivers, and Nate Keefe at tight end — they blocked their tails off tonight. When there was a surge (our runners) were getting three yards at a time before they got touched.”

Nurse threw only three times, completing two passes — both to senior receiver Josh Heaney. There was no need to throw while the Red Hawks were pounding New Fairfield into the turf.

“We knew that going into this game that we had a good game plan. We just knew that we were prepared,” Nurse said. “We proved to ourselves that we can play competitive football in December. We feel that whoever we play, we can come out, be prepared, and beat them.”

Killingly’s defense was stout against New Fairfield and kept the Rebels out of the end zone despite several forays deep into Killingly territory. With Killingly leading 7-0 late in the first half New Fairfield drove 51 yards in six plays to the Red Hawks’ 24-yard line, but on fourth-and-two Killingly junior cornerback Sam DeRonsie intercepted New Fairfield quarterback Matt Constantinides to thwart the drive. And early in the fourth quarter with Killingly holding a commanding 21-0 lead New Fairfield drove 52 yards in 10 plays to Killingly’s 13-yard line. On second-and-10 from the 13 Lopes, also the Red Hawks safety, picked off Constantinides in the end zone to snuff the drive. Coach Neal said New Fairfield had a talented receiving corps including seniors Nick Dimyan and Jack Thuesen, along with juniors Aidan Ford and Mike Pederson.

“We knew (our secondary) would be challenged. Great receivers, we talked about ‘Don’t give up the big one.’ We

didn’t give up the big one,” Neal said.

Constantinides completed just 9-of-22 passes for 99 yards with two interceptions. Killingly sacked Constantinides three times — with senior defensive end Rodriguez-Mendez, DeRonsie, and junior linebacker Chris Jax each notching one sack.

“We got enough pressure to get (Constantinides) to throw off his back foot quite a bit,” Neal said. “We got enough pressure to get him to throw off his back foot and not put enough on it.”

Leading 7-0 at the intermission, Killingly received the second-half kickoff and drove 56 yards in seven plays to take command. Sharpe capped the march with a four-yard touchdown run and Jax booted the point after to stretch the Red Hawks’ margin to 14-0 with 8:39 left in the third quarter.

“That’s what we talked about at halftime, 7-0, you come out here and you establish that and you score,” Neal said. “That puts a lot of pressure on a team.”

Although New Fairfield was seeded sixth the Rebels came from the highly competitive South West Conference and were perhaps one of the better squads in the field of eight teams in the Class M tournament.

“When we drew them we thought that was one of the best teams we’d face,” Neal said. “That’s not a knock on anybody else. It’s just that they won eight straight. They won some good games. But there’s good teams out there. Teams make the playoffs for a reason.”

The win over New Fairfield was Killingly’s 27th-straight victory at home and lifted the Red Hawks record to 10-1, advancing Killingly to the Class M semifinals against second-seeded Waterford, a 10-6 winner over seventh-seeded Granby/Canton in opening-round play. The loss ended New Fairfield’s season with a record of 8-3.

Step one in Killingly’s march toward the state final was a trampling of New Fairfield. Neal’s foot soldiers won’t change their ground attack.

“The game plan’s going to be the same — play great defense, run the ball — and, you know, run people over,” Neal said. “We’re ready to play — anybody, anywhere, anytime.”

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Killingly’s Jackson Lopes intercepts New Fairfield quarterback Matt Constantinides in the end zone in the fourth quarter.



Killingly quarterback Jacob Nurse picks up some tough yardage against New Fairfield.

KILLINGLY

continued from page B1

just 35 yards on nine carries in the first half but picked up 216 yards on 16 carries in the second half, finishing with 251 yards on 25 totes.

“The ‘O’ line made some good adjustments and we found which plays were working. We just kept pounding them over and over again. It paid off,” Sharpe said.

Senior Jackson Lopes capped the scoring on a 20-yard touchdown run with 4:07 remaining in the game. Lopes finished with 69 yards on seven carries. Lopes gives the Red Hawks a viable rushing option should opposing defenses key on Sharpe.

“It’s two different types of runners. Sharpe’s one speed and go — where Lopes can change speed a lot quicker,” Neal said.

This weekend Killingly will be making another road trip to a state championship game. The Red Hawks’ run of excellence continues. There’s no question coach Neal has built a family dynasty here in the Quiet Corner — perhaps the only question his kids will be asking on Saturday’s bus ride to Veterans Stadium: Are we there yet?

“I mean this is what I’ve wanted all year,” Nurse said. “I finally get the opportunity to go and win a ring.”

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VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

"SHINING A LIGHT ON COMMUNITY EVENTS"

December 13, Fri., 5-7pm

Club 2087 will hold a fish fry from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13, in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1017 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale. The menu: fish & chips (\$11); baked haddock (\$12); fried bay scallops, fried shrimp (\$13); fried clams (\$16); seafood platter (\$18). 860-923-2967, council2087@gmail.com.

December 13, Fri., 9:30-11:30am

Stoncroft Women's Connection Brunch at The Inn at Woodstock Hill, 94 Plaine Hill Rd., \$13.00 inclusive. Men invited this month. "Let the Bells Ring/Choirs Sing" with Tracy Medling. Inspirational Speaker Businessman Bill Blount - "You can achieve Success, but if you Haven't Found God, You Have Nothing" Reservations/Cancellations required by Dec. 3. Call 860-774-5092, 860-455-7671 or email: wccwc81@hotmail.com. Come celebrate with us.

December 14, Sat 9am-1pm

Big annual holiday cookie sold by the pound. Great basket raffle also. Our Lady of LaSalette Church, 21 Providence Rd (Rt 6) Brooklyn, CT In the church basement. Try us and it will become your new holiday tradition!

December 15, Sun., 8:30am-11:30am

Thompson Lions Club for An All-

Holiday Open House ~ Paws Cat Shelter



December 14 & 15, Sat & Sun.

Paws Cat Shelter rte 171, Woodstock ct will be holding a Holiday Open House We'll have Handmade Gifts & Ornaments and a variety of delicious Baked Goods. Need stocking stuffers, or gifts for your furry friends? We've got what you need to finish off that holiday shopping! Are you in the spirit of giving? Visit our Giving Tree to see how you can help. Order a Paws Purrbbox for your favorite feline friend! Most importantly, we'll be open for adoptions, so come and find your new best friend! Get those applications pre-approved and you can bring your new kitty home that day! Mark your calendars! Share with your friends!



You-Can-Eat Holiday Breakfast At the American Legion Post #67 17 Thompson Road, North Grosvenordale. Breakfast Includes Eggs, Sausage, Bacon, Home Fries, Pancakes, French Toast, Belgium Waffles with Strawberries, and Omelets made to order and more. Door Prize, 50/50 Raffle, and Basket Raffles Adults \$9.00 Children under 12 \$5.00 *We will be collecting gently used eyeglasses and frames at this event* All Proceeds Go Back to Help Our Local Charities

December 20, Fri., 5-7pm

Club 2087 will hold a fish fry from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 20, in the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1017 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale. The menu: fish & chips (\$11); baked haddock (\$12); fried bay scallops, fried shrimp (\$13); fried clams (\$16); seafood platter (\$18). 860-923-2967, council2087@gmail.com.

December 29, Sun., 1-2:30pm

Wee Wanders Year End Zeelandia

Roseland Romp, Roseland Park Rd., Woodstock www.wyndhamlandtrust.org

January 11, Sat., 7-11pm

Snowball. The 15th Annual Snowball of the Mill Museum. The theme of the gala, "Celebrating a Stunning Century" will be a party with pizzazz for the 100th year anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment. The Ball will be held at the Betty Tipton Room at Eastern Connecticut State University. The event includes hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, a silent auction and dancing to the big band sound of the all female band the Flamingos. Tickets are \$75 per person and available online at purplepass and at the museum. The Mill Museum



This page is designed to shine a light on upcoming local nonprofit, educational and community events.

Submissions are limited to 50 words or less and are FREE to qualifying organizations, schools, churches and town offices.

To submit your event contact: Paula at paula@stonebridgepress.news

Deadline for submission is Friday at Noon

HERE & THERE → Local Events, Arts, and Entertainment Listings

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

LADIES & GENTS The stockings are hung. The wish lists are done.



Join us at Cormier Jewelers for a sequel evening of fun! Join us for Free Refreshments & Appetizers including Beer from local Breweries * Exclusive One Day

Raffles

*Must be 21 years old 5:30-7:30pm
136 Main Street • Spencer
508-885-3385 • cormierspencer.com



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

WHISKEY NIGHT

(playing) 9pm
308 Lakeside
308 East Main Street
East Brookfield, MA 01515
774-449-8333

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15



LUNCH WITH SANTA CLAUS
11am-2pm
Kids 7 and under eat free from kids menu
308 Lakeside
308 East Main Street



East Brookfield, MA 01515
774-449-8333

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

SECOND CHANCE MOBILE UNIT PET ADOPTION

from 2-4pm. Home for the Holidays! MOBILE ADOPTION UNIT is coming to Klem's! On the road to saving more lives! Be sure to stop by and say hi to some of the sweet dogs and cats looking for a new home! Let adoption help you find your next best friend. Let us know you're coming. Click here to RSVP at our Facebook Event Page. Please don't forget to share with your friends!

ONGOING



MARIACHI BAND
First Thursday of the month 5-8 p.m.
MEXICALI MEXICAN GRILL
Webster location
41 Worcester Rd.,
Webster, MA
508-461-5070



TRIVIA SATURDAY NIGHTS
7:00 p.m. register 7:30 p.m. start up
HILLCREST COUNTRY CLUB
325 Pleasant St., Leicester, MA
508-892-9822



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FRIDAY NIGHT
HEXMARK TAVERN
AT SALEM CROSS INN
260 West Main St., W.
Brookfield, MA 508-867-2345 salemcrossinn.com

THE CENTRAL MA CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED meets the first Monday of every month from September through May. We discuss a variety of conservation programs to improve the local cold water fisheries, local fishing opportunities. Our annual High School Fly Fishing Championship (open to all MA high school students) And our annual fund raising banquet. Auburn Sportsman's Club 50 Elm St., Auburn, MA



Lets Hang Out Together!



OBITUARIES

Charles P. Sroczenski, 97

DUDLEY-Charles P. Sroczenski, age 97, passed away Monday, December 2, 2019, at the Webster Manor. He leaves behind his wife of seventy two years, Norma (Albetski) Sroczenski and a daughter, Marthafaye Stone and her husband Edmund Markevicius of Cape Coral, FL. He is predeceased by his son, Ronald C. Stone of Webster, three brothers, Raymond, Louis and Chester and six sisters, Wanda, Phyllis, Cyrilla, Julia, Nancy and Claudia.

He was born in Webster, son of the late Walter Sroczenski and Mary (Bonczek) Sroczenski, and lived here all his life. He was a proud WWII US Army veteran. Charles was employed at Anglo Fabric in the shipping department for many years until his retirement. He was a member of the American Legion and VFW. He

enjoyed cars, wood-working, The Patriots, a good cigar and family. There are no calling hours. A Mass of Christian burial will be held, Friday, December 13, 2019 at 10 AM in St. Andrew Bobola Church, Dudley, MA with military honors to follow. Please omit flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council, Veterans Way, Webster, MA 01570. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA is directing arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle in his memory.



Joseph H. Schimmelpfennig, 75

BROOKLYN - Joseph H. Schimmelpfennig, 75, of Brooklyn died peacefully on Sunday, December 8, 2019 at the Matulaitis Nursing Facility in Putnam. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Kathleen (Baril) Schimmelpfennig and a son Geoffrey (Elizabeth) and three grandchildren, Carli, Adam and Alexa Schimmelpfennig. He is also survived by his brothers, Albert J. (Carol) Schimmelpfennig, John (Wanda) Schimmelpfennig, sister-in-law Arlene Baril and several nieces.

Joe was born in McAlister, OK on January 26, 1944 to the late Albert and Laura (Dudark) Schimmelpfennig. He spent his childhood in the village of Wauregan and graduated from Plainfield High School in 1961 and Ellis Technical School in 1962. After graduating, Joe joined the United States Air Force for four years spending his final year in Vietnam and Thailand. On his

return, he worked many years in the tool and die/machinist field, his last position at Fiberoptics Technology in Pomfret, CT.

The family would like to thank the staff at Matulaitis Nursing Facility for the excellent care given to Joe over the past eight months.

As per Joe's request, there are no services and burial will be private at the convenience of the family. In lieu of cards and flowers anyone wishing to pay their respects are encouraged to make a donation to Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeastern Connecticut at 320 Pomfret St., Putnam, CT 06260 in his memory. tillinghastfh.com



Adam C. Hollender, 29



PHOENIX, AZ: Adam C. Hollender, 29, formerly of Woodstock, CT, passed away unexpectedly on, Nov. 19th, in Phoenix, AZ.

He leaves his longtime companion, Gloria Moreno and their son, Dylan B. Hollender; his mother and step-father, Norma (Cloutier) Hollender-Celico and Bruce J. Celico of New London, CT; his father, Donald W. Hollender of Arizona; his brother, Andrew D. Hollender and his wife, Meghan MacDonald of Nashua, NH; his sister, Maria A. Sochor of Nashville, TN; his step-brother, Bruce J. Celico, Jr. of Little Compton, RI;

his maternal grandfather, Norman O. Cloutier of Sturbridge; his son Dylan's grandmother, Maria V. Rodriguez of Arizona; his nieces and nephews, Henry Sochor, Otis Sochor, Annie Hollender; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. He was predeceased by his maternal grandmother, Rita A. (Remillard) Cloutier. Adam was born in Worcester on Feb. 10, 1990.

Adam worked as a line cook for the Wildflower Bread Company in Phoenix. He also worked as the community impact coordinator and logistics coordinator at Step One Recovery Inc. in Phoenix. Adam was a soft-spoken, loving and kind father, son, brother and friend who gave freely of his warm soul. Adam loved music, especially the music of Bob Dylan. Adam

was a skateboarder and bicycling enthusiast and loved sports, especially the Patriots and the Celtics.

Adam adored his son Dylan and his corgis Annie and Sammy. Adam's gentleness will forever surround us.

Calling hours for Adam will be held on Saturday, Dec. 21st, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a memorial service to follow in the funeral home at 4:00pm. Burial in North Cemetery, Sturbridge, will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dylan B. Hollender at Putnam Bank, 40 Main Street, Putnam, CT 06260, to benefit Dylan's education.

Michael J. Eggleston, 48



Michael J. Eggleston, 48, of Webster, died Friday, December 6, 2019 at UMass Memorial Healthcare Center - University Campus in Worcester after a sudden illness at home with an aneurysm and stroke earlier this week.

He leaves his wife of 14 years, Tracy L. (Barnes) Eggleston; his son, Russell C. Eggleston; his mother Dorothy (Jock) Eggleston, his five siblings, Theresa (Eggleston) Smith, Danny Eggleston, Richard Eggleston, David Eggleston and Susan (Eggleston) Hyson and their Spouses, and several nieces and nephews.

Michael was born in Worcester, son of Robert and Dorothy (Jock) Eggleston. He graduated from Oxford High School in 1989 and later from

Worcester State College and New England Institute of Technology with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science.

Michael was a U.S. Navy veteran..

Funeral services will be held at a later date. There are no calling hours.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle of remembrance.

In lieu of flowers please send donations in Michael's name to the National Park Foundation at: www.nationalparks.org or the link posted on Face Book.



Richard W. Stubbs, 73

WOODSTOCK- Richard W. Stubbs, Age 73, of Woodstock, CT, died on December 6, 2019. He was the loving husband of Margaret (Meg) Stubbs. Richard was born on July 26, 1946 to Edwin and Dorothy Stubbs of Waterbury, CT. He graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and became an ardent fan of the UConn women's basketball team. Richard met his wife-to-be Meg in the UConn Outing Club, and they have been adventuring together ever since, instilling a love of hiking, climbing, and caving in their children and, later, grandchildren.

In June of 1968 Richard joined the US Army, and later became an Army Ranger. He served in the 11th and 14th Armored Cavalry Units, including a tour of duty in Vietnam for which he received a Purple Heart. After retiring from the military in 1988, Richard continued to serve his country through the American Red Cross, as Executive Director of the Waterbury Chapter for more than 19 years; Deputy Chief of Disaster Planning and Readiness for the Connecticut Chapter for two years; and Service Delivery Manager for CT, RI, ME, NH, VT for three years.

In 2014, Richard and Meg moved to Woodstock, CT upon the arrival of twin granddaughters. As a very

involved grandparent, he instilled his love of the outdoors, reading, music (particularly traditional oompah tunes), trains, fantasy, and the importance of family. The outdoor skills that Richard taught his children will continue to be passed on to new generations with great joy and fond remembrance.

Richard is preceded in death by his parents Edwin and Dorothy Stubbs. He is survived by his loving wife, Margaret (Meg); daughter Elizabeth Gould, son-in-law Nathaniel Gould, and grandchildren Pipa and Wren; son William Stubbs and daughter-in-law Morgan Thompson; son Christopher Stubbs; and son James Stubbs, daughter-in-law Kelsey Stubbs and grandchild Charles. There will be a private celebration of his life for family and friends at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the American Red Cross or Appalachian Mountain Club. Arrangements under the care of Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com



Virginia Maxine Miller, 57

CHAPLIN, CT - Virginia Maxine Miller, 57, passed away at home after a long illness on October 17, 2019.

Born in Morrisville, VT, the daughter of Bessie and step-father Matthew Clinton.

Virginia served in the US Army and was a life member of International Order of Rainbow for Girls. She was an active member of the Chaplin Senior Center. Virginia was a loving mother, grandmother, sister and friend who enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

She is survived by her children

Shallon Messier and Robert F. Messier, JR of Florence, MA; a grandson, Cameron; sisters Shannon Huetez and Bambi Lima of Graham, NC and a brother, Theodore Miller of Cooper Lake, Alaska. She was pre-deceased by three sons, Max, Jason and Ben.

She will be sadly missed by all - including her beloved pup, Precious.



Anna M. Bayer, 78



THOMPSON - Anne M. (Peterson) Bayer, 78, loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away unexpectedly at Hartford Hospital on Saturday, November 23, 2019. She was predeceased by her husband of 39 years, Clayton J. Bayer in 1999, along with 2 older sisters, Barbara Hasenberg and Phyllis Willett, and older brothers Wallace Peterson and William Peterson.

She leaves behind 3 daughters, Debra Bomba and her husband Joseph of Windham, ME, Donna Fedler and her husband Daniel of Webster, MA and Barbara Bayer of York, ME. She also leaves behind 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, granddaughter Lindsey Green and her husband David and their 2 children John and Rita, granddaughter Melissa Aviles and her husband Pedro and their 2 children Eleya and Jaxson, and grandsons Tyler Bomba and Justin Fedler.

Anne was born in Putnam, CT the daughter of Frank and Jessie (Hefler) Peterson. She worked for many years at

B & W Footwear Company in Webster. When it closed she went to school to study culinary arts and obtained a position as cook and house mother at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity House at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester where she fed "her boys" their 3 meals a day. She thought of them as family and talked about them often. She retired in 2007.

Mrs. Bayer was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Oxford. She enjoyed gardening, decorating, cooking and baking. She loved spending time with her family, having cookouts in the summer, vacationing with her daughters in Maine and watching her grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow. She made a positive impact on everyone who met her and will be dearly missed by her family, friends and acquaintances.

A private graveside service was held Saturday, December 7, 2019 in East Thompson Cemetery. Donations in her memory may be made to the Zion Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, 70 Main Street, Oxford, MA 01540. Arrangements were under the direction of Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main St., Webster, MA.

William K. "Bill" Pybas Sr., 78



DOUGLAS - William K. "Bill" Pybas Sr., 78, of West St. died Sunday, December 1, 2019 at Milford Regional Hospital after an illness. His wife of 42 years, Jean (Sullivan) Pybas died on February 19, 2007.

He is survived by a son, William K. Pybas II of Douglas; a daughter, Dr. Julie A. Wheeler of Thompson, CT; 2 grandchildren, Jessica Wheeler and Jacqueline Wheeler; several nieces, nephews, and many friends. He was brother of the late Charles E. Pybas II, Janet Kelly, and James "Jack" Pybas. Born in Boston on November 11, 1941 he was the son of Charles and Albertine (Parent) Pybas and was raised on his family's Fairview Acres Farm in Medway. He lived there from 1947-1977 before moving to Medfield. He had been a Douglas resident from 1990 until his passing.

Bill was an avid equestrian from the age of 6 who enjoyed horse riding and racing. He rode throughout his life. A member of the Old North Bridge Hounds Hunt Club, he traveled by horse through beautiful scenic trails from the Boston area to Southern NH. He was actually featured in a 2007 edition of Worcester Living Magazine in an article about fox hunting.

Mr. Pybas worked as a salesman, and a permit runner for Guaranteed Builders Inc. in Douglas from 1990 until recently. He was educated in the Medway public school system. He served on the Town of Douglas Finance Committee and was a long-time member of St. Denis Church.

A Mass at St. Denis Church, 23 Manchaug St., Douglas will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 9 AM. Burial will be privately held at St. Denis Cemetery at a later date. To leave a condolence message for his family please visit: <http://www.Jackmanfuneralhomes.com>




To place an In-Memoriam, Card of Thanks, Birthday or Anniversary Greeting, in the Villager Newspapers

the deadline is Monday at noon for that week.

Ad prices are \$15 for a 2x3 (actual size 2.4" x 3") or \$25 for a 3x4 (3.7" X 4") or 4x3 (5" x 3"). You can add a photo at no additional cost.

To send by mail, please mail to
**Villager Newspapers
P.O. Box
196 Woodstock, CT 06281**
Personal checks, Visa, Master Card, Discover and AMEX are accepted.


For more information, please call 860-928-1818 or email brenda@villagernewspapers.com and she'll be happy to help!



Bob Fournier and the Staff at

Gilman & Valade

Funeral Homes and Crematory



would like to wish you

Happy Holidays.

1919 100TH ANNIVERSARY 2019

"A century of dedication, compassion and guidance."

104 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260 • 860-928-7723 • GilmanAndValade.com

OBITUARIES

Martha Bonnevill, 94



WEBSTER / DANIELSON, CT - Martha (Kacerik) Bonnevill, 94, passed away peacefully on Dec 9, 2019, surrounded by her family at her home in Webster, MA.

Martha was born on April 25, 1925 in her grandparents' home in Webster, MA. A few years later the family moved to Putnam, CT, where Martha grew up. She was the daughter of Stephen and Margaret (Stefanik) Kacerik. Martha is predeceased by her loving husband Robert, with whom she spent 68 years in Danielson, CT, and is also predeceased by her son Steve and her sisters Pauline and Frances, grandson Lance Martin, great granddaughter Amanda and daughter-in-law Nancy.

Martha is survived by a large loving family including her daughter Cynthia and husband Edward Koziak of Webster, her son David Bonnevill and partner Jen, of Orinda, CA, her sister Mary Vandt and brother Steve Kacerik of Putnam, her sister Barbara and husband Rich Ives of Lebanon, CT, her grandson Derek Martin and wife Erica of Webster, grandson Adam Bonnevill (Arizona) and granddaughter Stephanie Bonnevill (Eastford), granddaughter Rebecca Bonnevill (Los Angeles) and grandson Noah Bonnevill (San Francisco), great granddaughter Lainey Martin and three great-great grandsons Bradley, Kane and Logan of Webster. She is also survived on both the Kacerik and Bonnevill sides of the family by many nieces, nephews and many friends.

Martha had a passion for learning that served her and her family well. Growing up in the depression era with

immigrant parents (Slovakia) she was required to start working before graduating high school, but that didn't stop her from walking miles each night in the dark to take classes. That continued as she learned bookkeeping on the job, first at Putnam Woolen and then through her father-in-law at Bonnevill's Pharmacy in Danielson. Martha raised (and made clothes for) three kids, cooked the old-fashioned way and grew and canned vegetables, all while serving as the bookkeeper, office manager and silent partner in a very successful family business. If she ever complained along the way, know one can recall it.

Martha and Bob had an amazing partnership in life and in business. From scratch, they started the family business - Colonial Nursery/Colonial Paving, whose success afforded them a long enjoyable retirement that included time with family and close friends, gardening (at a passionate level), traveling and crafts - weaving and needlepoint for Martha and stained glass for Bob at their beautiful home of 65 years on Morin Avenue in Danielson.

The family acknowledges the very special care Martha received in her final days from Laura's Guardian Angels and Central Mass Hospice.

A calling hour will be held on Friday, December 13 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. followed by a memorial service at 10:30 a.m. in Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street, Webster. Burial will follow in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace in Webster. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. James Church in Danielson or the Central Mass. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

Marie Elaine Rzeznikiewicz, 73



BROOKLYN - It is with great sadness that the family of Marie Elaine Rzeznikiewicz, best known as Elaine to those close to her, passed away on Friday, December 6, 2019, at the age of 73.

She was the daughter of the late George and Aurore (Turcotte) Roy, Elaine was born on May 4, 1946, in Putnam, CT. She was a graduate of Putnam Catholic Academy and later attended Johnson and Wales University. She worked at various local businesses and then went on to become a certified massage therapist, graduating from the Bancroft School of Massage. She was able to build her own successful massage business out of her home, and helped relieve the stress and pain of countless others through her work. She was also an active member of Our Lady of LaSalette Church, volunteering in the Rectory and various church activities.

Elaine is survived by her husband of 48 years, Edward Rzeznikiewicz, Sr. Their first home was in Dayville, CT, but they later moved to Brooklyn, CT,

where they raised their four children, Edward Rzeznikiewicz, Jr. (wife Lea), Terri Cedio, Andrew Rzeznikiewicz and Amy Rzeznikiewicz Bachand (her husband Michael). She was the proud grandmother to six beautiful grandchildren and eight adorable great-grandchildren. Elaine cherished her close relationship with her sister Cecile Smith (husband Dennis) and loved her two nieces and nephew.

Elaine enjoyed playing golf and bowling with her husband Eddie in their own "Just for Fun League" for many years. She loved to travel, especially spending summer vacations with family and friends at Misquamicut Beach and Martha's Vineyard. She was also an avid UCONN Women's Basketball fan, rarely missing a game. Elaine loved to dance and sing, and was always the first one on the dance floor.

Elaine's family would like to invite her extended family and friends to join them at a Memorial Mass of Christian Burial to celebrate the life of Elaine, on Friday, December 13, 2019 at 10:30 A.M. at Saint James Church in Danielson. There are no calling hours. tillinghast-fh.com

Theresa M. Magiera, 91



WEBSTER - Theresa M. Magiera, 91, passed away on Monday December 2, 2019 at the UMass Memorial Medical Center;

She is survived by two sons: David Notis of FL, and Mark Notis and wife Kathleen. Theresa also leaves seven grandchildren; she was predeceased by her husband Charles Magiera, her son Stephen Notis and by two brothers.

Theresa was born in Webster,

MA on November 11, 1928 daughter of the late Charles and Alexina (LaFlame) LaFontaine. Coming from North Grosvenordale, CT. Theresa has resided in Webster for over forty years; she enjoyed assembling puzzles and spending quality time with those she loved and cared for.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle of remembrance.

Beverly J. Bernier, 89



HARRISVILLE, RI - Beverly J. Bernier, 89, passed away peacefully on Thursday December 5, 2019 at the Beaumont Nursing Home in Northbridge, MA.

Beverly is survived by her son Donald L. Bernier of Rockland, MA; two daughters: Jacqueline McNeily of Harrisville, RI and Michelle Phipps of Attleborough, MA; she also leaves nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Beverly was born in Schenectady,

NY on October 14, 1930, daughter of the late Arthur and Wilimina Berry; she worked as a waitress for many years and resided in Whitinsville prior to living in Harrisville. Beverly will be deeply missed by all who were blessed to know her.

A Celebration of Beverly's Life will be held on Saturday December 14, 2019 at 12:00 noon in the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle of remembrance.

Margaret A. Amiot, 86



HOLDEN/NORTH OXFORD - Margaret A. (Watson) Amiot, 86, died Friday, December 6, 2019, in her home. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Joseph W. Amiot; five children, Mary Gough of

Auburn, Joseph Amiot and his wife Anne of Auburn, Jacqueline Miller and her husband David of Thompson, CT; David Amiot and his wife Alice of North Grafton, and Laurie Gardner and her husband James of Holden; five grandchildren, Daniel Gough of Harwich, Christopher Miller of Lewiston, ME, Matthew Amiot of Auburn, Catherine Gardner of Holden, and Maggie Gardner of Holden; and many beloved nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by two brothers, Walter Watson and Lawrence Watson; and a sister, Eileen Alex. She was born in Worcester, daughter of the late Walter C. and Eileen A. (Keeney) Watson, and lived in Auburn for several years and North Oxford for 44 years, before moving to Holden in 2002. She graduated from Auburn High School in 1952.

Mrs. Amiot was a cashier at Park

and Shop in Auburn for 17 years, retiring in 2002. She was a member of St. Ann's Church in North Oxford. She was a kind and gracious woman whose life reflected her strong faith. She dedicated her life to caring for her parents, husband, and family. She cherished friendships and time with her family. She always maintained a positive attitude and truly enjoyed the time she spent interacting with her friends and family.

The family would like to thank everyone who cared for and loved Margaret throughout her life, especially her devoted physician Dr. Michal A. Galica and most recently her VNA nursing and hospice team.

A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at St. Ann's Church, 652 Main St., North Oxford. Burial will follow at St. John's Cemetery in Worcester. Calling hours are Thursday from 9:00-10:15 a.m. at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford, prior to the Mass. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Cape Abilities, 895 Mary Dunn Rd., Hyannis, MA 02601, or to the VNA Care Hospice, 120 Thomas St., Worcester, MA 01608. paradisfuneralhome.com

Lillian B. Lajoie, 91



SUMMERFIELD, FL - Lillian B. (Labonte) Lajoie, 91, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, December 6, 2019 at The Villages Regional Hospital. She was the beloved wife of Roland

"Pete" Lajoie for 71 years. Born in Putnam, CT, she was born on August 7, 1928 to the late Frederick and Albina (Bizzalio) Labonte.

In addition to her husband, Lillian leaves behind her daughter Jackie Lajoie of Thompson and her son Michael Lajoie of Mentor, OH; her three grandsons, Robert J. Lajoie "RJ" of Mentor, OH, Ryan and Amanda Lajoie of West Thompson; Jeffrey and Danielle Lajoie of Boston, MA. She also leaves her beautiful great-grandson Rhett and great granddaughter, Willa Rose.

In addition to her immediate family members, she leaves her special sister-in-law, Liz Lajoie (Jim,) her lifelong special friend Rachel Wojick, several sisters in-laws and brothers in-laws, and many nieces and nephews. Lillian

also leaves many special and close friends in Florida. She enjoyed life and the 27 years of retirement in Florida. She was predeceased by her parents and siblings, the late Pauline Cournoyer, Doris Dery, Raymond Labonte, and her son, Robert K. Lajoie.

Lillian graduated from Tourtellotte Memorial High as the valedictorian for the Class of 1946. She worked in the office of Cluett Peabody, was the office manager for Deran/Borden Candy Shop, and several other area offices. She was a communicant of St. Joseph's in N. Grosvenordale, and St. Timothy in Summerfield.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Lillian's family from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 14, 2019 in the Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 12:00 p.m. in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to St. Joseph School, P.O. Box 137, Thompson, CT 06277. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Betty J. Eliason, 62

For many years Betty worked as a bus driver for the town of Ware where she has lived for the past ten years, after moving there from Palmer.

Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA.

A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle of remembrance.

WARE - Betty J. Eliason, 62, passed away at home while surrounded by her loving family on Sunday December 1, 2019.

Betty is survived by her daughter Erika Eliason-Gendreau of Palmer; her sister Shirley Eliason of Palmer, as well as six grandchildren.

Born in Palmer on February 26, 1957 Betty was the daughter of the late Folke and Jacqueline (Gurski) Eliason.

LEGALS

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING December 19, 2019 7:00 P.M.

A Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Woodstock, Connecticut, will be held at the Woodstock Town Hall, 415 Route 169 in the Town of Woodstock, Connecticut on December 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss and vote on the following:

1. To choose a Moderator.
2. To consider and vote upon the following Resolution:
RESOLVED, that the Town of Woodstock approve the expenditure of \$75,000.00 for Emergency Tree Removal as has been recommended by the Board of Finance from the Reserve for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund to be used for the Tree Removal Projects.
3. To consider and vote upon the following Resolution:
RESOLVED, that the Town of Woodstock approve the expenditure of \$96,641.00 for Highway Equipment as has been recommended by the Board of Finance from the Reserve for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund to be used for such Highway Equipment.

4. To adjourn
/s/John V. Swan, Jr, First Selectman
/s/Chandler Paquette, Selectman
/s/Gregory C. Kline, Selectman
Attest: /s/Judy E. Walberg, Town Clerk
December 13, 2019

TOWN OF BROOKLYN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING LEGAL NOTICE

The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday December 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Clifford B. Green Meeting Center, 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn, CT on the following:

1. SPG 19-003 Gravel Special Permit - Strategic Commercial Realty d/b/a Rawson Materials, Map 29, Lot 5, RA Zone, 30 acres on south side of Maynard Road, excavation of 1,205,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel.
2. SPG 19-004 Gravel Special Permit - Strategic Commercial Realty d/b/a Rawson Materials, Map 21, Lot 7 and Map 30, Lot 16, RA Zone, 200 +/- acres on south side of Rukstela Road, excavation of 1,945,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel.

Copies of the above application are on file and available for review in the Land

Use Office located at 69 South Main Street, Suite 22, Brooklyn, CT. All interested parties may appear, be heard and written correspondence received.

Dated this 5th day of December 2019
Michelle Sigfridson
Chairman
December 6, 2019
December 12, 2019

TOWN OF BROOKLYN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

At the regular meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday December 4, 2019, the following action was taken:

SPG18-002 Special Permit for Sand and Gravel - FCR Realty LLC, 200 acres north of Brickyard Road and west of Day Street (Assessor's Map 35, Lot 7; Map 41, Lot 6; Map 42, Lot 43), Proposed removal of 97,650 cubic yards of gravel over 8.8 acres, BY ORDER OF THE COURT- APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.

Any appeals are to be filed with Superior Court 15 days from the date of the legal notice appearing in the paper. Dated this 5th day of December 2019
Carlene Kelleher
Vice Chairman

Please publish in the legal section of the Villager, Friday December 13, 2019. Call Audrey with any questions at 860-779-3411 Extension 12.
December 13, 2019

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF John O. Newell, Jr (19-00455)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated December 4, 2019, ordered that all claims must be pretested 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:
Pamela N. Gaumond
c/o SCOTT F LEWIS (attorney for Pamela N. Gaumond)
LEWIS, LEWIS & FERRARO, LLC,
28 NORTH MAIN STREET,
SUITE 202, WEST HARTFORD, CT
06107 (860)521-1500.
December 13, 2019

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<p>2019 Toyota Highlander LE AWD STK# 1936251 MODEL# 6948 MSRP \$36,854</p>  <p>LEASE FOR \$229 /MO* 36 MOS.</p> <p><small>10k Miles/Year CAP COST: \$34,169. 3YR/10K. \$3,999 + TAX + FEES = \$5,382 TOTAL DUE AT SIGNING</small></p>	<p>2020 Toyota RAV4 LE AWD STK# 274400 MODEL# 4432 MSRP \$28,858</p>  <p>LEASE FOR \$229 /MO* 36 MOS.</p> <p><small>10k Miles/Year CAP COST: \$27,372. 3YR/10K. \$3,999 + TAX + FEES = \$5,525 TOTAL DUE AT SIGNING</small></p>	<p>2020 Toyota Prius LE AWD STK# 274705 MODEL# 1263 MSRP \$28,214</p>  <p>LEASE FOR \$289 /MO* 36 MOS.</p> <p><small>10K Miles/Year CAP COST: \$26,881. 3YR/10K. \$3,999 + TAX + FEES = \$5,364 TOTAL DUE AT SIGNING</small></p>

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<p>2015 Toyota RAV4 XLE</p>  <p>SUV, I-4 cyl, auto, Pyrite Mica, 80K miles, A274109A \$18,998</p>	<p>2016 Toyota RAV4 LE</p>  <p>SUV, AWD, I-4 cyl, auto, Electric Storm Blue, 59K miles, A2740474 \$19,998</p>	<p>2017 Toyota RAV4 LE</p>  <p>SUV, AWD, I-4 cyl, auto, Electric Storm Blue, 45K miles, A274319A \$19,998</p>	<p>2017 Toyota RAV4 LE</p>  <p>SUV, AWD, I-4 cyl, auto, Silver Sky Metallic, 42K miles, A5741XX \$20,998</p>	<p>2017 Toyota RAV4 Hybrid XLE</p>  <p>SUV, AWD, I-4 cyl, auto, Magnetic Gray Metallic, 64K miles, A273496A \$21,998</p>	<p>2019 Subaru Impreza Premium</p>  <p>Sedan, AWD, I-4 cyl, CVT, Gray, 7K miles, A273963A \$22,998</p>
<p>2017 Hyundai Tucson Limited</p>  <p>SUV AWD, I-4 cyl, auto, Ash Black, 34K miles, A5710XX \$22,998</p>	<p>2017 Toyota Camry XLE</p>  <p>I-4 cyl, auto, Parisian Night Pearl, 31K miles, A274212A \$23,598</p>	<p>2017 Toyota RAV4 XLE</p>  <p>SUV AWD, I-4 cyl, auto, Super White, 29K miles, A273745B \$23,998</p>	<p>2016 Toyota RAV4 SE</p>  <p>SUV, AWD, I-4 cyl, auto, Hot Lava, 31K miles, A5742XX \$24,998</p>	<p>2017 Toyota Sienna LE</p>  <p>Mini-Van, Passenger, V-6 cyl, auto, Super White, 47K miles, A274272A \$25,998</p>	<p>2015 Ford F-150 XLT</p>  <p>4WD, V-8 cyl, auto, Blue Jeans Metallic, A5743XX \$25,998</p>
<p>2017 Toyota Tacoma TRD Off Road</p>  <p>4WD, V-6 cyl, manual trans, Inferno, 62K miles, A273328A \$27,998</p>	<p>2017 Toyota Tacoma SR5 Ext Cab</p>  <p>V-6 cyl, auto, Super White, 35K miles, A5705 \$28,998</p>	<p>2016 Toyota 4Runner SR5 Premium</p>  <p>SUV, V-6 cyl, auto, Magnetic Gray Metallic, 44K miles, A274008A \$31,298</p>	<p>2016 Toyota Tacoma Limited</p>  <p>4WD, V-6 cyl, auto, Black, 36K miles, A273675A \$31,998</p>	<p>2018 Toyota Tundra SR5</p>  <p>4WD, V-8 cyl, auto, Super White, 34K miles, A274188A \$31,998</p>	<p>2017 Mercedes-Benz GLC 300</p>  <p>SUV, AWD, I-4 cyl, auto, Selenite Grey Metallic, 29K miles, A272740B \$32,998</p>

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