

# THOMPSON VILLAGER

Friday, July 17, 2020

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Photos Rebecca Ramsey

A “Back the Blue” rally was held on Saturday afternoon at Davis Park in Killingly to show appreciation for local law enforcement officers.

## “Back the Blue” rally supports local law enforcement

BY REBECCA RAMSEY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KILLINGLY — A “Back the Blue” rally was held on Saturday afternoon in Davis Park to show appreciation for local law enforcement officers. More than 150 people attended, holding American flags and white, black, and blue signs and banners.

The event included guest speakers who denounced racism and acknowledged the hard work of responsible law enforcement officers. Attendees saluted the flag, sang the National Anthem, and knelt for a prayer. “I understand the frustration being felt around the country,” Jason Muscara, organizer of the event, shared with the Villager.

“I condemn police brutality, and I condemn racism. I support the law enforcement officers that have done nothing wrong, and I hope that there is a way people can come together to express their concerns and try to find a way to resolve the issues we face in our country in a peaceful manner.” For Muscara, this rally was a way

for him and his community to voice their concerns on common ground while showing support for good police officers who have been stigmatized by recent events. “I think it is important to engage the community more and show community members the human side of

Turn To **BLUE**, page **A6**

## LEGION MEMBERS CELEBRATE THE 4TH



Photo Courtesy

American Legion District #4 Commander Ronald P. Coderre joined with Woodstock Post #111 as it celebrated July 4 with a 7.4-mile motorcade/parade through the roads of Woodstock. Officers of the Post pictured with Coderre (left to right): Post Commander Glenn Boies, Finance Officer Todd Smith, Adjutant Chuck Jones and Judge Advocate Everett G. Shepard III.

## Thompson moves summer concerts to Riverside Park

BY REBECCA RAMSEY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THOMPSON — After so many activities have been cancelled this summer, many families are in search of fun and safe events to enjoy with their families. Fortunately, Thompson Recreation has found a way to bring some fun into the summer by hosting a free Summer Concert series at their new location at Riverside Softball Field in North Grosvenordale. This series will feature

several exciting, lively, and talented bands from local areas. Each concert will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on either a Friday or a Saturday. The dates for the events are July 17-18, Aug. 14-15, and Sept. 18-19. The first concert kicks off this evening with Tyra Penn & the Snakes of Amazonia. Through a powerful collection of patriotic folk songs, this all-female lineup will musically commemorate

Turn To **CONCERTS**, page **A6**

## Roseland Cottage reopens for guided tours



Photo Courtesy

Roseland Cottage, a historic Gothic-style building built in Woodstock 1846, is reopening for guided weekend tours starting July 18.

BY REBECCA RAMSEY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WOODSTOCK — Roseland Cottage, a historic Gothic-style building built in 1846, is reopening for guided weekend tours starting July 18. Tours have been altered to maximize social distancing. Each tour is now limited to four guests. All guests must arrive ten minutes prior to their scheduled tour time and meet their guide in front of the visitor center, which is still closed. Face coverings must be worn by all staff and visitors, and social distancing is required. Hand sanitizer is available, and enhanced cleaning and disinfectant measures are in place.

Turn To **ROSELAND**, page **A6**



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# Eastern to offer Data Science and Anthropology majors

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University will offer two new majors starting this fall 2020 semester: Data Science and Anthropology.

Data Science  
Approved by the Board of Regents earlier this year, students enrolled in the interdisciplinary Data Science program will receive instruction in the core areas of statistics, computer science, business analytics and geospatial information systems.

They also will learn fundamental Python, R and SQL programming skills. Data-based team projects, which are integral to the program, will provide opportunities for students to apply data science tools and techniques as well as develop collaboration and communication skills. Students will also complete a portfolio of their work as part of their graduation requirements. In addition to internships available in the field, an on-campus, paid internship program operated by Cigna’s Technology Early Career Development Program provides valuable applied experience without leaving campus.

Students can choose between a B.A. or a B.S.; B.S. students must choose from one of four concentrations in Mathematics, Business Analytics,

Geographic Information Systems, or Computer Science. The program will be taught by faculty from Mathematical Science, Computer Science, Business Information Systems and Geographic Information Systems.

The ability to gather and analyze data is becoming a core technology competency, similar to the ability to work with office applications, email and other daily computer skills. The number of Eastern academic departments and faculty members working in this program is an indication of how broad-based the skillset is in this new major.

The major is designed for students who wish to pursue careers as data scientists, geospatial information scientists and technologists, data engineers, business analysts, insurance analysts, financial analysts, sports analysts, political analysts and more. Data science can be applied to fields as diverse as business, finance, healthcare, sports, environmental science, climate science, health science and medicine, political science, defense, social science, human culture and education.

Data science is one of the fastest growing careers in Connecticut and the United States, far outpacing the overall job market. A recent review of job postings in the field of data science and analytics showed 3,700 job postings in Connecticut in January 2020, with an average starting salary of \$69,355.

For more information, contact Marsha Davis, program coordinator and chair of the Mathematical Sciences

Department at (860) 465-4592 or [davis-ma@easternct.edu](mailto:davis-ma@easternct.edu).

Anthropology  
Approved by the Board of Regents earlier this year, the new Anthropology program features two concentrations— Cultural Anthropology and Archaeology—aimed at helping students understand the diverse past and present cultures of the world.

“Anthropology has long been recognized as a leading discipline in the development of concepts and knowledge regarding culture, prehistory, evolution and linguistics,” explained Ricardo Perez, program coordinator for the new major. “Anthropology is an excellent background for students who want to pursue careers or plan on attending graduate school in policy, development, teaching or other service professions.”

Eastern has long offered a popular minor in anthropology for students from other majors. The Anthropology major also can be used as a second major for students majoring in History, Psychology, Political Science and Sociology.

The major offers two concentrations: Cultural Anthropology and Archaeology. Cultural anthropologists examine social relationships and cultures in living communities, using ethnographic interviews, participant observation and other research strategies to explore human existence and help solve social problems in the United States and abroad.

Public health, climate change and eco-

nomic inequity are all issues that can be examined from the lens of a cultural anthropologist. Archaeologists explore cultures of the past using fieldwork and laboratory analysis to uncover and evaluate artifacts and other remaining evidence of past societies.

In addition to the courses in the two concentrations, students in the major will gain a strong foundation in biological anthropology and linguistic anthropology. The major will build on the five learning outcomes of the Liberal Arts Core curriculum that all Eastern students take, including Critical Thinking, Ethical Reasoning, Communication, Creativity and Quantitative Literacy.

Faculty teaching in the new major include experts in Latin American, Caribbean, Canadian and Native American studies. Applied learning opportunities are embedded in the program’s required field courses, which can include internships at local museums, archaeological field work at sites in New England and the Midwest and study trips to other countries.

The job market for people with anthropology degrees is expanding, with a projected eight percent growth in total jobs over the next 10 years. The national median salary in 2017 was \$62,000. In Connecticut, there were more than 13,000 jobs in 2018 linked to anthropology.

For more information, contact Ricardo Pérez, program coordinator and professor of anthropology at (860) 465-0191 or [perezr@easternct.edu](mailto:perezr@easternct.edu).



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

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# Connecticut Water to start water main replacement project in Thompson

THOMPSON — Beginning the week of July 13, Connecticut Water will begin replacing about 2,600 feet, or one-half mile, of water main on Main Street between School Street and the river. The water main being replaced is about 100 years old. The project is expected to run through September and is estimated to cost approximately \$1 million.

Project work hours will be 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for holidays. We ask motorists to travel safely through the work zone for the safety of our employees and contractors.

“This project will improve reliability of water service, enhance water quality and supply more water to hydrants along the road,” stated Craig J. Patla, Connecticut Water’s vice president, service delivery.

Patla added that the project is being done through the company’s Water Infrastructure and Conservation Adjustment (WICA) program.

Since the inception of the WICA program in 2007, Connecticut Water has invested more than \$175 million and replaced more than 145 miles of water mains, which averaged 75 years of age. Connecticut Water owns and maintains 1,700 miles of water mains across the state.

Connecticut Water has notified customers along the construction route about the project. Additional information is available on the company’s Web site at [ctwater.com/projects](http://ctwater.com/projects).

Safe distancing  
Connecticut Water is continuing its essential work in the community in accordance with guidelines and recommendations from state and local government officials, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Our field employees and contractors have adopted extra safety precautions that include appropriate personal pro-

tective equipment while they flush hydrants, collect water samples, work on drinking water infrastructure, and read meters.

We ask people to help protect the health and safety of our employees, contractors, their neighbors and the community by following recommended social distancing guidelines and allowing our people at least 6 feet of personal space. This helps us protect the people who make sure that clean, safe water reaches your tap 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

About Connecticut Water  
Connecticut Water provides water service to more than 105,000 customers in 59 Connecticut towns and wastewater services to 3,000 customers in the town of Southbury, Connecticut.

The towns served are Ashford, Avon, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Bolton, Brooklyn, Burlington, Canton, Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, Deep River, Durham, East Granby, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Essex, Farmington, Griswold, Guilford, Hebron, Killingly, Killingworth, Lebanon, Madison, Manchester, Mansfield, Marlborough, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Oxford, Plainfield, Plymouth, Portland, Prospect, Simsbury, Somers, Southbury, South Windsor, Stafford, Stonington, Suffield, Thomaston, Thompson, Tolland, Vernon, Voluntown, Waterbury, Westbrook, Willington, Windsor Locks and Woodstock.

## VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of July 6: Prairie Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black and White Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Common Yellowthroat, Veery, Broad-winged Hawk, Wood Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Bobolink, Cedar Waxwing, Whip-poor-will, Bluebird, Ovenbird, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Eastern Towhee, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Field Sparrow. Visit [ctaclubon.org/pomfret-home](http://ctaclubon.org/pomfret-home).



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# Tips to protect dogs from the summer heat



BY REBECCA RAMSEY  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

REGION — Dogs love playing outside in almost any weather, but some temperatures are not safe for them. On hot summer days, dogs are susceptible to injuries and illnesses such as dehydration, sunburn, foot pad burns, and heat stroke.

Dogs that are overheated may experience rapid panting, reddened skin inside the ears, vomiting, and diarrhea. These signs coupled with weakness, shock, a bright red tongue, or thick and

sticky saliva could mean a more serious condition such as heat stroke which can cause organ failure, seizures, brain damage, blindness, and more.

Certain dogs such as English and French bulldogs, boxers, Saint Bernards, pugs, and Shih tzus have shorter snouts and cannot pant out their body heat as easily as other breeds.

Because of these issues, dog owners should be cautious during the heat. To prevent your dogs from heat-related injuries, follow the tips below.

1. Allow access to fresh water. Giving your dogs fresh, clean water and making sure that they can always access it

will prevent dehydration.

2. Be aware of hot surfaces. Check the temperature of the surfaces where you dogs are standing or running. Asphalt in direct sunlight can become painfully hot and burn the bottoms of your dogs' feet. Walking on the dirt or grass is a cooler alternative.

3. Give them a haircut. If your dogs have exceptionally thick fur, consider giving them a lightweight summer haircut, but never shave your dogs as they should have at least one inch of fur protection to prevent sunburns.

4. Provide them a place to cool down. Some dogs enjoy swimming and can enjoy splashing around or wading in a pool or running through a sprinkler to keep their body temperatures down.

5. Never leave them in the car. Leaving your pet in a parked car even in the shade can be extremely dangerous for them. The temperature inside a car can quickly reach oven-like temperatures, often exceeding 140 degrees.

If you suspect that your dog is suffering from heat stroke, act fast. Your priority is to lower your dog's body temperate to a safe range. You can do this by placing your dog in a cool area with air circulation and wetting him thoroughly with cool or room-temperature water. Do not use ice or very cold water as doing so can trigger other life-threatening conditions. Allow access to water, but don't force your dog to drink.

Even if your dog appears to be recovering, bring him to the veterinarian as soon as possible. A pet with heat stroke should be monitored for shock, respiratory distress, kidney failure, and heart abnormalities.

While playing outside with your dogs this summer, keep the tips listed in this article in mind and attend to your animals' needs if you notice them becoming overheated. Enjoying outdoor fun in the sun with your dogs is even more enjoyable when you know your pets are happy and safe.

## Villager Newspapers

### ACCURACY WATCH

The *Villager Newspapers* is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page A3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake call (860) 928-1818 or e-mail [charlie@villager-newspapers.com](mailto:charlie@villager-newspapers.com).

## Bryant University students named to Dean's List

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is dedicated to the pursuit, recognition, and celebration of academic excellence. The University is pleased to recognize the students who have been named to the Deans' List for the spring 2020 semester.

"These outstanding achievements are particularly commendable as students have overcome significant challenges to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to excellence," says Provost and Chief Academic Officer Glenn Sulmasy, JD, LL.M. "I am impressed and proud of their resilience, dedication, and innovative spirit."

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!

Meagan Bianchi, class of 2021, from Brooklyn

Corrine Khamphoukeo, class of 2022, from Danielson

Emily Robinson, class of 2023, from Danielson

Audrey Chase, class of 2021, from Pomfret Center

Corrine Khamphoukeo, class of 2022, from Danielson

Cole McGovern, class of 2023, from North Grosvenordale

Vincent Nuccio, class of 2022, from Pomfret Center

Emily Robinson, class of 2023, from Danielson

About Bryant University

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## POLICE LOGS

### PUTNAM POLICE LOG

PUTNAM — The Putnam Police Department reports the following arrests.

Shannon Pelletier, age 32, of Putnam was arrested on July 8 for Larceny in the 6th degree.

Joshua Choiniere, age 38, of Putnam was arrested on July 10 for Littering.

Roswell S. Summers, age 36, of Putnam was arrested on July 11 for Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Laquan Matthews, age 28, of Putnam was arrested on July 12 for Breach of Peace in the second degree (domestic), Assault in the third degree on an elderly person, and Criminal Mischief in the third degree.



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# Fall sports at Woodstock Academy begin with summer workouts

WOODSTOCK — For the first time since transitioned to eLearning in mid-March, Woodstock Academy student-athletes are returning to campus for outdoor strength and conditioning workouts.

The modified summer workouts are just the first of many adaptations The Woodstock Academy will make to continue to provide students with excellent programs in preparation for the return to school.

“We may have new challenges and things will look different, but we are going to continue our tradition of preparing student-athletes for excellence on the field, the court, trail, and of course in the classroom,” said Christopher Sandford, head of school at The Woodstock Academy.

Around 50 student-athletes participated in the first day of workouts in early July.

Brenden Ostaszewski, who leads the summer workouts and works as the strength and conditioning coach at The Woodstock Academy, said, “It feels great to be working with the students in-person again. It’s different for sure, but you can tell [the students] are happy to be training in person again.”

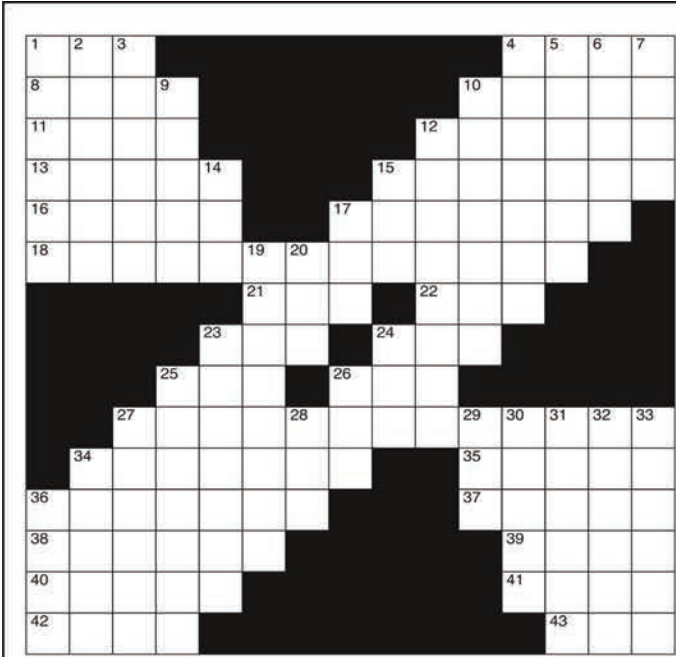
To allow for a minimum of six feet between student-athletes, sessions are

held on the outdoor turf field on South Campus and are limited to 10 participants. Student-athletes are checked for COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival and each participant brings their own water and towel. Masks are worn except during the actual workout. All procedures are in accordance with guidelines from the National Strength and Conditioning Association as well as the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC).

Student-athletes sign up for sessions through their coach and additional sessions are available for Woodstock Academy students not participating in a fall sport.

Ostaszewski knows that the time away from school and athletics may mean that students are de-conditioned, which makes these summer workouts and important first step for fall athletics. To start, the 30-minute workouts consist of body-weight exercises but, with time, they will transition to traditional exercises with weights, dumbbells, barbells, medicine balls, and other equipment.

The Woodstock Academy’s athletic director, Sean Saucier, called the summer workouts “a huge little step in the right direction.”



CLUES ACROSS

1. Sound unit

4. Trim by cutting

8. Small buffalo

10. Ancient manuscript

11. Look angry or sullen

12. Glum

13. Northern Zambia peoples

15. Central

16. Collector of birds’ eggs

17. Misbehavior

18. Top of the line

21. Political action committee

22. Have already done

23. Al Bundy’s wife

24. Entertainment channel
25. Holiday (informal)

26. The common gibbon

27. Legendary actress

34. Seasoned sausages

35. Bluish greens

36. Ridiculed

37. Three-dimensional arrangement

38. Emerged

39. Type of protein

40. Denmark natives

41. Leak slowly through

42. Expression of sorrow or pity

43. Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Artistic dancing

2. Plenty

3. Act leisurely

4. Serve as a warning

5. Admired lovingly

6. Leftover oil from distillation process

7. Company officer

9. Egyptian unit of capacity

10. One transmits information

12. Middle layer of an embryo

14. Form of “to be”

15. Cairo Regional Airport

17. Partner to cheese

19. Sample
20. A shirt may have none

23. Public gatherings

24. Disallow

25. Overnight suitcases

26. French river

27. Where boats dock

28. Top of a pot

29. Type of drug

30. City along the Rhine

31. Animal disease

32. They go in martinis

33. A way to break away

34. Intermediate ecological stage

36. Baby term for father



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# Cole McGovern named to President’s List at Bryant University

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is dedicated to the pursuit, recognition, and celebration of academic excellence. Cole McGovern, class of 2023, from North Grosvenordale has been named to the President’s List for the spring 2020 semester.

“These outstanding achievements are particularly commendable as students have overcome significant challenges to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to excellence,” says Provost and Chief Academic Officer Glenn Sulmasy, JD, LL.M. “I am impressed and

proud of their resilience, dedication, and innovative spirit.”

The President’s List is an academic distinction reserved for Bryant’s highest achievers who earn a GPA of 4.0 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work.

Congratulations to Cole on this outstanding achievement!

About Bryant University  
For 157 years, Bryant University has been at the forefront of delivering an exceptional education that anticipates the future and prepares students to be innovative leaders of character in a changing

world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,800 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron’s. Visit [www.Bryant.edu](http://www.Bryant.edu).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Siblings earn academic honors

PLAINFIELD — Andrew Duval, Jr. of Plainfield has been named to the Dean’s List at the University of Maine, Machias. He is studying to be a marine biologist, and is a graduate of the Killingly High School agriculture program.

Lea Olivia Duval of Plainfield has achieved High Honors at ACT Academy in Wllimantic. She was inducted into the Honor Society this past spring.

### Appointments available for veterans’ benefits

PUTNAM — The American Legion Soldiers, Sailors, Marines Fund is now making appointments for veterans’ benefits at the Putnam Town Hall Veteran’s Office for Fridays from 9 – 11 a.m.

Appointments can be made by calling Tom Pandolfi at 860-209-5923. There will be no walk-ins, and appointments will be scheduled at 15 minute intervals; all appointments will require veterans to wear masks.



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# Maintain privacy and safety while video conferencing

Video conferencing tools captured the world’s attention shortly after stay-at-home orders prompted people to seek alternatives to in-person gatherings. Seemingly overnight millions of people were logging onto various platforms to connect and chat with friends, family, schoolmates, coworkers, and others near and far. In March 2020, daily Zoom video chat users ballooned to more than 200 million from a previous maximum of 10 million, according to Zoom CEO Eric Yuan.

As digital communication continues to be an integral component of staying in touch — even after COVID-related restrictions are eased — users need to remain cognizant of the potential safety and privacy hazards related to this type of technology. Not all platforms are created equal, and some compromise security in favor of usability. The following are some safety considerations when using video chat.

**Look for transparency**  
Video conferencing platforms should be open and honest about the data they

collect, how information is used, whether you’ll be targeted for advertising, and which security features they employ. Recognize if and when your chat is being recorded.

Pick a platform that favors security  
“Zoombombing” refers to some security loopholes that have enabled hackers to enter Zoom chat rooms and leave inappropriate images and content. The company has had to fix bugs and tighten security in light of such problems.

Apple is known for strong encryption practices, meaning the company cannot see what you are sharing through a face call. People who chat with other Apple users can rely on the company’s built-in, free FaceTime app, which doesn’t require an additional download. Signal also is an encrypted messaging app considered to be the world’s most secure, and it’s increasingly going mainstream.

Engage extra security features  
Meeting hosts may be able to reduce the risk of security breaches by incorporating some features, according to the Federal Trade Commission.



Conferencing services may offer the option to lock the meeting once the participants have arrived. Others may require approval of each participant trying to join. Many services enable password encryption or ID numbers for each new meeting.

Be mindful of your surroundings  
Sometimes the biggest privacy blunders are made by users. Be sure to check the settings of microphones and cameras as they may be “on” by default when joining chats. If you want to increase privacy, disengage these options. Be sure you know which background items are in view as well, as others may be able to see private documents, photos

or people in your household. Let other people in the home know you are on a call, so they can refrain from discussing personal information.

Another concern is sharing your screen through video apps, in the case of slide shows or work or school presentations. Before sharing, make sure you don’t have any open documents, browser windows or other things on the screen not intended for a public audience.

Video conferencing is the new normal and safety needs to be kept in mind when utilizing this mode of communication.

# Beckon twilight with a tasty summer cocktail

Perhaps nothing is more relaxing on a warm summer night than sipping a cocktail as the sun sets. Some cocktails, such as the following recipe for “Blueberry Crush” from Susan Elia MacNeal’s “Infused: 100+ Recipes for Infused Liqueurs and Cocktails” (Chronicle Books), even evoke the twilight hours of summertime with their unique look.

**Blueberry Crush**  
Serves 1

4 or 5 ice cubes  
2 blackberries  
2 blueberries  
2 raspberries  
3 ounces Blueberry Vodka (see below)

Dash of lime juice  
1 cup cracked ice  
1/2 cup sparkling water or club soda (optional)

Place the ice cubes in a chilled old-fashioned glass. Place the berries in a small bowl and crush with a fork. Add to a shaker with the vodka, lime juice and cracked ice. Shake for 10 to 15 seconds, then strain over the ice cubes. For a lighter version of the drink, add the sparkling water.

**Blueberry Vodka**  
1 750-ml. bottle of vodka  
1 quart fresh blueberries  
1/4 to 1 cup Sugar Syrup (optional; see below)

Decant the vodka into a clean 2-quart glass container with a tight-fitting lid. Soak the original bottle to remove the label. Let dry.

If using frozen berries, allow them to thaw. Place the fresh or thawed frozen berries in a bowl, crush with a fork and add to the vodka. Allow the vodka to infuse away from direct sunlight and intense heat for 3 months. Shake the container a few times each week.

When you’re satisfied with the intensity of flavor, strain the liqueur through a metal sieve into a bowl. Discard the berries. Add the sugar syrup to taste, if desired.

Using a funnel, pour the liqueur into the original bottle (or another container). Label with the name of liqueur and the date. Age for 1 month away from light and heat.

**Sugar Syrup**  
1 cup water  
2 cups granulated sugar

Put the water in a small saucepan. Add



the sugar. Bring the water to a boil while stirring. Reduce the heat and continue to stir until the sugar dissolves. Cool to room temperature. Select a clean container that will hold at least 1 1/2 cups. Using a funnel, pour the sugar syrup into the container, seal and store in the refrigerator for up to 6 months.

# Kevin Blackmar named to President’s List at Bryant University

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — Bryant University is dedicated to the pursuit, recognition, and celebration of academic excellence. Kevin Blackmar, class of 2023, from Putnam has been named to the President’s List for the spring 2020 semester.

“These outstanding achievements are particularly commendable as students have overcome significant challenges to demonstrate an unwavering commitment to excellence,” says Provost and Chief Academic Officer Glenn Sulmasy, JD, LL.M. “I am impressed and proud

of their resilience, dedication, and innovative spirit.”

The President’s List is an academic distinction reserved for Bryant’s highest achievers who earn a GPA of 4.0 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work.


Congratulations to Kevin on this outstanding achievement!

About Bryant University

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leaders of character in a changing world. Bryant delivers an innovative and uniquely integrated business and liberal arts education that inspires students to excel. With approximately 3,800 graduate and undergraduate students from 38 states and 49 countries, Bryant is recognized as a leader in international education and regularly receives top rankings from U.S. News and World Report, Bloomberg Businessweek, Forbes, and Barron’s. Visit [www.bryant.edu](http://www.bryant.edu).

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ROSELAND

continued from page A1

Admission is free for Historic New England members. Tickets for non-members can be purchased online at \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors, and \$5 for students and children. Each tour lasts 45 minutes.

According to their Web site, Roseland Cottage was built in 1846 as the summer home of Henry and Lucy Bowen and their young family of ten children. While the house is instantly recognizable for its pink exterior, Roseland Cottage has an equally colorful interior, featuring elaborate wall coverings, heavily patterned carpets, and stained glass, much of which survives unchanged from the Victorian era.

Woodstock native Henry Bowen used Roseland Cottage as a place to entertain friends and political connections, including four U.S. presidents. The picturesque landscape includes original boxwood-edged parterre gardens planted in the 1850s. The estate includes an icehouse, aviary, carriage barn, and the nation's oldest surviving indoor bowling alley. It reflects the principles of Andrew Jackson Downing, a leading nineteenth-century tastemaker. The house is a National Historic Landmark.

To learn more about this historic building or to purchase tickets for their guided tour, visit [historicnewengland.org](http://historicnewengland.org). Roseland Cottage is located at 556 Route 169, Woodstock. Visitors can park in the lot behind the barn.

BLUE

continued from page A1

being a police officer," he said. "We need to show people that police officers are no different than any of us and that they have families and loved ones just like we do."

Muscara understands that some officers act wrongly. He strongly believes that those officers should be held accountable for their actions and receive repercussions for their wrongdoings just like anyone else. At the same time, he does not want the acts of the few to define the many.

Several members of the Black Lives Matter movement came to the rally to stand in opposition. Using bullhorns, they attempted to broadcast their criticisms over the sound of the rally speakers at the microphone. Officers of the Killingly Police

Department kept watch as the two groups exchanged heated words. Muscara said that he was aware of the interruption, but he stayed focused on the rally speakers and on his responsibility to keep everyone safe.

"I support peaceful protests, and I thank the ones who had civil discussions and debates with other people who were attending the rally," he said. "I am disappointed that they disrupted the event because they have had at least three demonstrations at Davis Park within the past month that nobody disrupted."

Although protests calling for the defunding of police have been sweeping the nation after the brutal death of George Floyd, Muscara does not believe defunding is the solution to end police brutality.

"I do not support defunding the police," he said. "I think we

should fund the police more to allow for all officers to have body cameras and to allow for other forms of training. The more training these officers have, the better."

Muscara raised about \$1,000 in donations during the rally. He plans to use the money to assemble a gift basket to give the Connecticut State Police Troop D and the Killingly Constables to thank them for their hard work. He plans to organize more events to support law enforcement officers in the future.

"I just want to say that I honestly believe that, as a country, we all agree with a lot more than we think we do," Muscara said. "I absolutely believe that everyone should be treated with respect equally, and I condemn hatred of any kind. We can support law enforcement and also support one another at the same time. It is possible."

CNCERTS

continued from page A1

rate the centennial of women's suffrage in America.

The following day, July 18, the fun will continue with performances by the folk and country duo of Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards.

"We're so excited!" said Lesley Munshower, Recreation Director in the town.

She is happy to have found a way to proceed with the summer concerts through increased safety measures such as moving to a new, more spread-out venue and following social distancing regulations.

The department asks that people bring blankets or lawn chairs and their masks. In accordance with the COVID-19 Outdoor Concert Guidelines, 15 feet will be required between blankets and the field will be marked accordingly. Mask must be worn when not seated at a blanket, and hand sanitizer will be available.

As a part of the six months of suffrage celebration in the town, these concerts will have both registrars of voters available to encourage voter registration and civic participation.

"Obviously, this is a presidential election year," said Tyra Penn, Developer of Planning and Development. "No matter what you believe, you don't get to say what you believe unless you turn out

and vote."

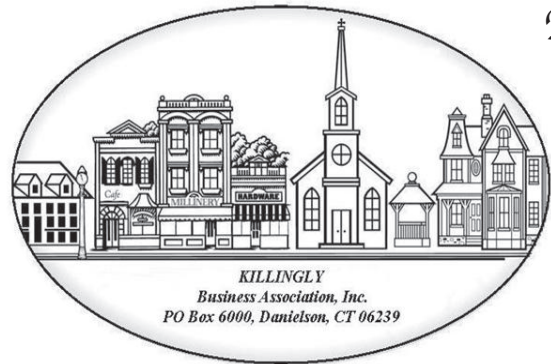
Beyond the concerts, Thompson Recreation will be involved with other programs this summer as Connecticut begins to cautiously reopen. Outdoor fitness programs, art programs, and music lessons are all in the works.

Thompson Recreation has also been hosting a Nip Bottle Collection Program to help clean up roadside litter in Thompson. For this program, individuals are offered 10 cents for every nip bottle they turn in. They receive their reward at the end of the collection period in the form of a gift card to a local retailer. In May, the program collected just under 30,000 nips. Last month, the collection number was just over 10,000 nips, and during their June collection

which took place last weekend, about 4,500 nips were collected.

They plan to do two more collection dates—one in August and one in September. According to Munshower, Thompson Recreation was able to extend the number of collections because of the financial support they received from Three Tiers for Connecticut, a nonprofit beverage company.

Thompson Recreation is happy to invest in their community through fun entertainment and helpful programs. They are especially excited to see all the happy families who will attend their Summer Concerts this evening, tomorrow, and in the following months.



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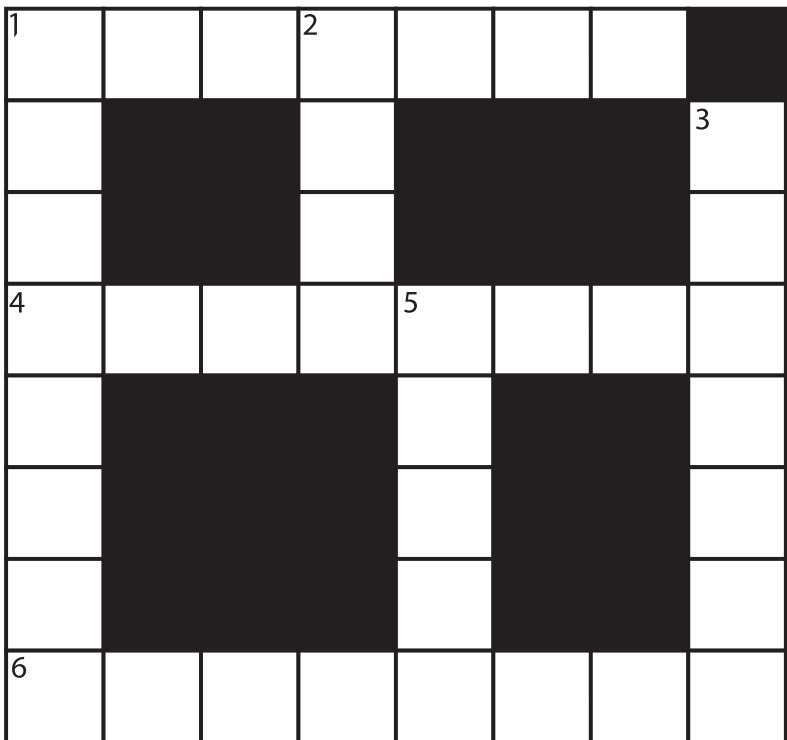
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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Long journeys
- 4. Strong desire to achieve something
- 6. Quality of being orderly

DOWN

- 1. Break from work or school
- 2. Against
- 3. Vacation properties
- 5. Runs on rails

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- 1865: P.T. BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM IS DESTROYED BY FIRE.
- 1943: THE BATTLE OF KURST, THE LARGEST TANK BATTLE IN HISTORY, ENDS IN GERMAN DEFEAT.
- 1977: A 25-HOUR BLACKOUT BEGINS IN NEW YORK CITY.



ACCORDING TO A RECENT POLL, AROUND 60 PERCENT OF PEOPLE TAKE ONE OF THESE EACH YEAR.

ANSWER: A VACATION



RECHARGE

return to a normal state of mind or strength



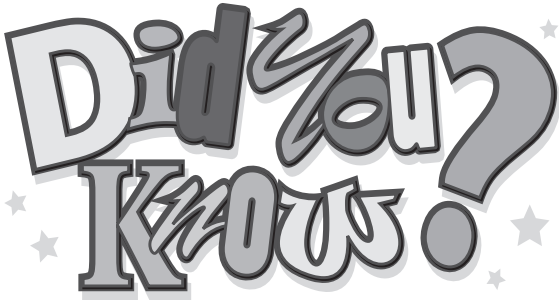
ENGLISH: Relax

SPANISH: Descansar

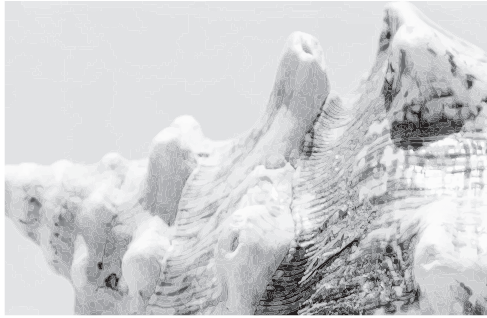
ITALIAN: Riposarsi

FRENCH: Se détendre

GERMAN: Entspannen



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Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: SEASHELL



CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to local news. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11 = e)

A. 11 20 11 4 7

Clue: Something going on

B. 12 11 9 2 12 7 11 12

Clue: One who investigates

C. 21 1 20 11 12 7 8 19 11

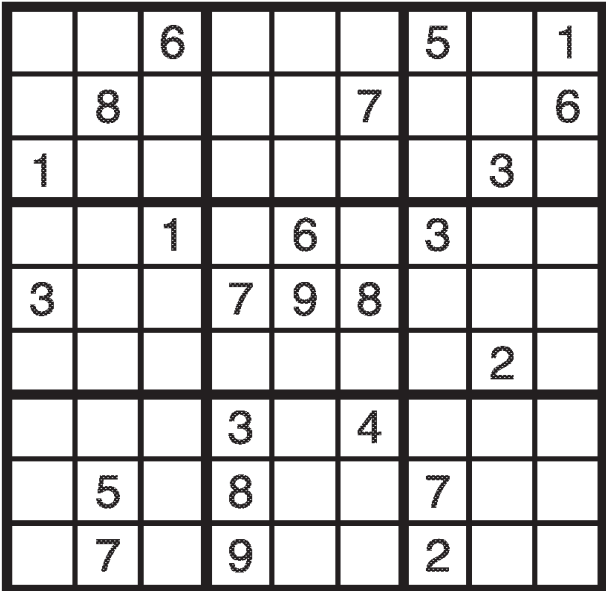
Clue: Draw attention to a product

D. 10 8 12 10 14 24 21 7 8 2 4

Clue: Number of copies sold

Answers: A. event B. reporter C. advertise D. circulation

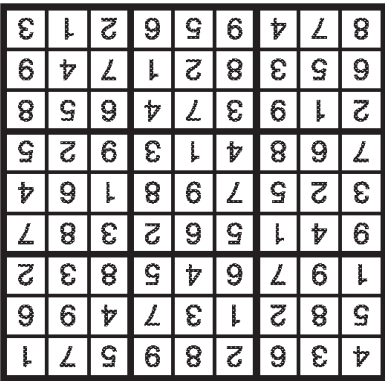
SUDOKU



Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!




ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!





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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Common sense has left the building

It seems like our country remains, and will remain, divided over how to stop the spread of Covid-19.

It distresses us that common sense seems to have left the building. When our cars break down, we bring them to a mechanic. When our phones or laptops go on the fritz, we bring them to a tech professional to fix them. When we need a new prescription for whatever ails us, or we break a bone, we call the doctor. When we are speeding down the highway and get pulled over for doing so, we are given a ticket to deter us from speeding again, and to keep ourselves and each other safe.

Why, then, when doctors and scientists whose experience and expertise are beyond question almost universally advise us that the best way to slow the spread of this virus is to wear a mask in public and avoid gathering in large groups, are so many so adamant in their refusal to listen? We all want our economy to function normally again. We all want our children to be able to attend school safely. We all want to be able to enjoy shopping at our favorite stores and dining at our favorite restaurants. So why this bullheaded refusal to do two very simple things that will help all of that happen safely? The answer is, regrettably, that like seemingly everything else in today's world, COVID-19 has been politicized.

Here's the thing, though — political affiliation has no effect on reality, and the reality we face at this crucial moment is that we are being stalked by a highly contagious virus. This enemy could not only prove fatal to certain segments of the population; it appears to leave even those who survive it with debilitating health issues that may follow them for the rest of their lives. And it doesn't give a damn what side of the political divide any of us stand on. Masks have always, and still do, helped to decrease the spread of viruses. Granted, certain styles are proven to work better than others, but that is a different discussion. There is ample research demonstrating that even the flimsiest of surgical masks can dramatically reduce the ability of entities like the COVID-19 virus to traverse the air between two people, and at this point, with flare-ups happening across the country, there is simply no excuse for those who are physically able to wear one not to do so.

This brings us to our next point. The fact that you might have found an article published somewhere online purporting to prove that a face mask is unhealthy for the wearer does not make it legitimate. You can find all sorts of misinformation during a Google search that could fuel a point/counterpoint discussion on any topic under the sun. While the Internet was meant to open conversations and was dubbed the 'information superhighway,' it seems the opposite is happening. People rely on ever narrowing social circles, memes, and unverified social media posts to guide them in their behavior, and it has frankly become dangerous. Facebook and Twitter 'trolls' spread misinformation at an alarmingly high rate to create division and unrest, and unfortunately, it has worked. With so much misinformation out there, it's hard to determine what is and what isn't fact. Many argue that COVID-19 is "just the flu," while ignoring the fact that the flu does not cause such a flood of patients at hospitals that they have no space to treat anything else.

According to the CDC, an infected individual, will spread the virus to at least five others. Our elderly population is the most vulnerable; however, that trend has seemed to spread to people of all ages becoming more and more infected with dire outcomes. If we value life, we must value it regardless of age.

No matter what our political persuasion, we all want to win the war against this pandemic. So why the refusal among so many to unite as one team to fight it? One of the defining characteristics of this great country of ours is that each time we have been faced with adversity, we have joined together as one to fight it. If all it takes is wearing a mask and some social distancing to get rid of this virus and to open our schools and economy, then there is no room for this childish refusal to cooperate. We are, and must be, better than this.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We will not be silenced

When the Dixie Chicks spoke up  
Against that war, so long ago  
That war which history has proved  
To be wrong and short-sighted,  
YOU shouted “Shut up and sing!”  
To silence their voice  
And yet their voices were not stilled.  
You did not listen then.  
But WE would not be silenced.

When President Obama was elected  
YOU said he did not belong,  
That the White House was built for white men  
And you mobilized a party of hate and division  
To undermine the promise of the ideal America.  
You weaponized your hate through the NRA  
And still we voted for hope.  
You did not listen then.  
But WE would not be silenced.

When twenty children were murdered  
With an assault weapon at Sandy Hook  
YOU offered “thoughts and prayers”  
An empty gesture while you lobbied for  
Your Second Amendment rights.  
We mourned, we cried, we lit candles  
We met in vigilant prayer, we wrote letters  
And we continued to teach in our broken-hearted schools.  
You did not listen then.  
But WE would not be silenced.

When the mass killings continued,  
Each one seemingly trying to outdo the last,  
We were stunned by the loss of our brothers and sisters  
In that Synagogue, that Black church in Charleston.  
Once again, YOU offered “thoughts and prayers”

A moral test!

To the Editor:  
Systemic racism still exists throughout the U.S. despite the facts that President Lincoln abolished slavery 155 years ago and that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.  
I support the sentiments behind the peaceful protests against racism and police brutality sweeping across our nation. I believe that

While you supped on the crumbs of systemic violence  
From the palm of the NRA.  
We marched, we prayed, we spoke, we voted, we wrote letters  
Trying to believe in that America we used to love.  
You did not listen then.  
But WE would not be silenced.

When Colin Kaepernick kneeled for justice  
To call attention to police brutality,  
Racial inequity and the systemic murder  
Of too many of our black brothers and sisters,  
YOU told the “owners” of the NFL to “fire the son of a [expletive].”  
You crucified his career, his hopes and dreams  
And called it “patriotism” when you weaponized hatred  
And militarized the police  
While we marched, and sang, and prayed, and wrote letters.  
You did not listen then.  
But WE would not be silenced.

Now, as the last straw has broken  
On the backs of those who have born the burden  
Of hate, racism and the violence  
Which YOU have strategically cultivated,  
YOU are appalled by the anger and the heat  
Burning through this nation, once the land of dreams.  
YOUR weapons, YOUR militarized police, YOUR police state  
Cannot quell the flames of justice in a WOKE America.  
Are you listening now?  
Because WE will not be silenced.

DONNA DUFRESNE  
POMFRET

black lives matter.  
This is a test of us! Moral, ethical and legal actions of citizens, backed by government leadership, will guide us. We will strengthen communities everywhere by eradicating racial injustice, hatred and violence.

GREG KLINE  
WOODSTOCK

The Class of 2020 — an example in making the best of it

To the Editor:  
Before the “graduation season” officially ends and all the wonderful signs along our roads hailing the graduates are taken down, I would like to applaud all the 2020 graduates whose ceremonies were muted. Kudos, too, for all the teachers and school personnel who went many extra miles to teach online and come up with creative ideas and fun ways to engage and honor their students and graduates.  
Many who are no longer intimately involved in the public schools have remarked about feeling more connected to public education

and sympathetic about the continuing challenges. For graduates—especially from high school—missing a long-anticipated milestone might still seem harsh and even cruel. With luck, the events of this spring can be crafted into a good story for retelling and a reminder of the value of taking responsibility for your own education and for developing the skills and outcomes that will serve you and your community well in the years to come.

CAROLINE SLOAT  
THOMPSON

Eastern Connecticut needs a strong leader in Hartford

To the Editor:  
My name is Lisa Thomas. I'm a candidate for State Senate in the 35th District, which includes Ashford, Chaplin, Coventry, Eastford, Ellington, Hampton, Pomfret, Stafford, Tolland, Union, Vernon, Willington and Woodstock. I deeply love these towns where my husband and I raised our daughters to also love them.  
We're experiencing a time that is going to change our lives for generations. Our district needs strong leadership in Hartford. I will be that qualified leader who works tirelessly for all of us.  
For 11 years, I've brought my law and teaching experiences to my service on the Coventry Town Council, including on the Finance sub-Committee. I understand the tough budget battles that large and small towns face and how the State budget impacts them. We must provide for the needs of our residents while keeping taxes down. We must support our schools, infrastructure, businesses, farms and our natural resources. We need the jobs and the training that are required by high-tech manufacturing. We need equitable health care. While working to achieve these goals, I've brought people together despite

differences that threatened our progress.

Especially important to families right now is how schools will reopen. Many parents face the challenge of online schooling for their children while working at their jobs. I've been a teacher for 35 years, and was named 2020 Teacher of the Year at Windsor's Clover Street School. I understand the pressures our schools, parents and students face. The problem solving skills that I teach my students every day are now more necessary than ever.  
These times demand a leader who shows up to unite us and challenges us to rethink priorities. This crisis presents the opportunity to revitalize our government in a positive way to rebuild the lives of our families and communities. Let us focus on the things we value: our families, workers, and the small businesses that are the backbone of our communities. I will fight relentlessly for eastern Connecticut each day that I'm in office. I'm asking the residents of the 35th to vote for me, for a better future for all of us.

LISA THOMAS  
COVENTRY

Go jump in a lake... no, really

Oh, go jump in a lake! That's the best thing to do in this hot weather. While air conditioning is nice, it can't replace the deeply cooling sensation of dipping one's entire body in a pool of water or in the ocean. We are fortunate that in our area, there are parks, pools and streams to soften the steamy days of summer.

Pomfret's Mashamoquet State Park was a pivotal place in my childhood. I learned to swim there and later taught swimming at Brownie Camp. My brothers swam across the pond with me on their backs when I was a little girl. I was always thrilled and a bit scared, a perfect combination of emotions for a youngster. The Nelson family operated the snack bar, a remarkable place as they offered candy and frozen treats in exchange for a few coins.

The water at Mashamoquet has a distinctive smell. It is a pleasant mix of decaying leaves, high iron content as the water is light brown, and moss covered rocks. One whiff and I can conjure up class picnics, chilly mornings of swimming lessons, boys showing off by doing cannon balls from the cement dock and the freedom of sitting with a friend on a blanket feeling all the emotions of a pre-teen longing to be older.

Our daughter and her family recently visited the park and said that while the pool has been drained, the stream that is the water source is still bubbling along. On a recent hot weekend afternoon, families were walking in the stream and sitting nearby under a canopy of trees. At a time of social distancing, there is room for families to get outside and at least dip their feet in cool water.

Alexander's Lake is so clear that even at the deepest part, the bottom can be seen glistening in the sunlight. As time passes and the place become far more gentrified, the lake remains, its water silky and cool. To me, there is a subtle smell of fish, not at all unpleasant, that makes it distinct. Sadly, there is no public place to swim, as there once was, but countless people slip into the water and cool off if connected somehow to property owners.

Rowing a kayak on Quaddick Lake recently was a lesson in contrasts. As we wended our way along the shady shore, fast, elegant boats pulled children on tubes around the deep water. It looked like fun. The beach at the public park was fenced off for repair, but families were picnicking under the trees and watching the boat show.

Roseland Park is favorite of our family. The various upgrades to the playground equipment and the overall physical plant are really welcome.

The caretakers keep the private park in tip top order. The pond is reedy and not open for swimming, but wildlife enjoy it to the fullest. I'm waiting to see an eagle there someday. A small flock of chickens is a big attraction to my grandchildren. It was once open to swimming and boat rentals. Now it is a nice place to push a stroller, walk with a friend or gaze at the water.

Now I swim in a pool. Every day, I do laps, back and forth in an aqua colored world almost too warm. I wear goggles and a swim cap that draw me into an underwater Zen-like consciousness. I don't think at all. I feel the silky water, catch a slight whiff of chemicals. If reincarnated, I'd like to return as a water creature. Everyone should go jump in a lake.



NANCY WEISS

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

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



# Happenings from 1910 and 1960

This has been an extremely sad week for those of us connected with the Killingly Historical Center and Killingly Historical Society, for Elaine Tenis, the Center’s Director, passed away after a brief illness. A tireless worker and dedicated and caring woman, Elaine will be missed.

Although the Center is not open, people continue to send mail and the vice-president is checking it. Kira Holmes passed the following letter on to me since it was a response from Al Borders to my request for memories of favorite television programs. “Back in my childhood Westerns were king and my father was in charge of the TV, of which there was one and black and white. I might add we watched Rawhide, Clint Eastwood; Paladin, Richard Boone; Cheyene, Clint Walker; Tales of Wells Fargo, Dale Robertson; Cisco Kid; Sugar Foot, Will Hutchins; Range Rider; Rifle Man, Chuck Connors; Bonanza, Lorne Greene, Michael Landon, Dan Blucker, Pernell Roberts. just to name a few. I listened to the Lone Ranger, Sgt. Preston of the Yukon and Amos & Andy on the radio with my Grandpa before TV” (letter, undated).

I was reading online newspapers from 1910 and noticed even back then locals were intrigued by the idea of the “Wild West.” “People Liked Wild West Show. Miller Brothers’ and Arlington’s Ranch 101 Wild West show, the best exhibition of its kind that ever came to Putnam, delighted two large audiences at grounds near Eden Street Wednesday. The show was late in getting into Putnam, the long jump from New Bedford delaying the arrival of the train of 22 cars until after 8 o’clock. There was a rush and scurry in unloading and in getting the equipment over to the grounds, where

the little tented city rose like magic, and where at the regular hour the afternoon performance was begun. Their stay here was a pleasure to those who like a taste of the wild and woolly.” (Norwich Bulletin, 14 July 1910, p. 2; newspapers.com).

An interesting article on the same page of that 1910 Norwich Bulletin caught my eye, “Blue Earth from South Africa. Attorney Arthur G. Bill has two small pieces of the famous blue earth from the great diamond mines a Kimberly, S. A. This earth, which is hard but disintegrates rapidly when wet and exposed to the sun, is the substance in which the diamonds are found. Mr. Bill came into possession of the pieces through his brother, Ward W. Bill, to whom they were given by a mining man while he was in Africa.”

If this intrigues you, do an internet search. I found all sorts of interesting sites for The Big Hole including photos and videos. The diamond mine opened in 1871 and closed in 1914 according to Wikipedia.

Have you ever heard of the Knights of King Arthur? “Back from their camp in the pretty territory at Old Killingly pond, the member of Asbury castle, Knights of King Arthur, are enthusiastic in their comments on camp life as they enjoyed it. The total number of boys that were in the camp from the time it was established on July 5 was 18. Henry McEwen was in charge and the boys are grateful to him, directing one their most pleasant experiences.” (Norwich Bulletin, 14



KILLINGLY  
AT 300  
.....  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

July 1910, p. 2; newspapers.com).

Imagine that you are a visitor to Killingly and are trying to locate a friend or relative in 1910--and there are no street signs. A third article in the July 14 Norwich Bulletin noted that a change was on the way.

“Stranger in Danielson will soon be able to find their way about our pretty little town without the necessity of stopping to ask the nearest citizen where they are at. We are going to have street signs. Warden W. I. Bullard has been authorized by the court of burgesses to make the purchase, which action is (in) accordance with a vote on the matter taken at the last annual borough meeting. The signs will be mounted at street intersections in all parts of the borough.”

Take Me Out to the Ball Game. I’ve enjoyed watching some of the reruns of the Red Sox games and have loved seeing my favorite players from the past but am more than ready for the return of baseball. I think that’s why I quickly honed in on this ad from a 1960 Windham County Transcript. “Join the Crowd...Get Free Baseball Tickets to Any Red Sox Home Game Just Save First National pink register tapes...with \$50 worth you get one free (\$2 tax paid) reserved grandstand seat. Tapes must be dated between May 23 and July 30. Tickets good during regular season.” (WCT June 9, 1960). If any of you remember taking advantage of this promotion, please let us know by emailing me.

Before you read the next tidbit, think about where you were in 1960,

how old you were, and what were your best memories. I was in high school in Pennsylvania, playing in our band. Perhaps some of you recall attending this Fourth of July event. “J C Sponsored Jamboree Day--Once Again Helps to Keep thousands From Highways--Pretty girls, marshal music, bright uniforms and fast-stepping marchers! These were only a few of the highlights which made Danielson’s 1960 July 4th Jamboree Day a gala occasion and once again helped keep many thousands of area residents off dangerous highways during the holidays...An estimated 3,000 people lined the streets as the marchers went by. At least 3,000 took part in or were spectators at the field events. The band concert in Davis Park drew an estimated 1,000 listeners, and 1,500 persons participated enthusiastically in the huge block dance at the A & P parking lot where round and square dancing concluded the festivities.” A horse show was even held at the Killingly Memorial School field. (WCT July 7, 1960).

*Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, July 2020. Special thanks to Al Borders for his television program memories. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, Connecticut 06329.*

# Monitoring your portfolio at the mid-year



FINANCIAL  
FOCUS  
.....  
JIM ZAHANSKY  
INVESTMENT  
ADVISER

As we continue the discussion of important aspects of mid-year planning throughout July, this week’s focus will be on strategies for monitoring your portfolio. There’s a few ways to monitor your portfolio: very closely, hands off, or somewhere in between. The middle ground is a good way to stay in touch with the performance of your investments, but not too much where it might keep you up at night.

Especially right now, mid-year is a good time to look at your investment portfolios because of the ongoing market swings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Monitoring your portfolio can help make sure that your investments are still working to help you achieve your goals or realize that maybe it needs a few changes. There are four main areas you should monitor: long-term performance, diversification, asset allocation, and rebalancing.

The first step  
Checking in on the long-term performance of your investments is the first step when monitoring your portfolio. It can help you see if your investments are performing well enough to help you achieve your goals. After all, that’s the reason you are investing in the

first place!

Diversification: Spreading out risk

Diversification refers to the process of investing in a number of different securities to help manage risk. The theory is that if some investments in your portfolio decline in value, others may rise or hold steady.

For example, say you wanted to invest in stocks. Rather than investing in just domestic stocks, you could diversify your portfolio by investing in foreign stocks as well. Or you could choose to include the stocks of different size companies (small-cap, mid-cap, and/or large-cap stocks). If your primary objective is to invest in bonds for income, you could choose both government and corporate bonds to potentially take advantage of their different risk/return profiles. You might also choose bonds of different maturities because long-term bonds tend to react more dramatically to changes in interest rates than short-term bonds. As interest rates rise, bond prices typically fall.

Asset allocation: Investing strategically

Asset allocation is a strategic approach to diversifying your portfolio among different asset classes that seeks to pursue the highest potential return within a certain level of risk. After carefully considering your investment goals, time horizon, and risk tolerance, you would then invest different percentages of your portfolio in targeted asset classes to pursue your goals. A careful analysis of these three personal factors can

help you make strategic choices that are suitable for your needs.

Generally speaking, a large accumulation goal, a high tolerance for risk, and a long time horizon would typically translate into a more aggressive strategy and therefore a higher allocation to stock/growth investments.

The opposite is also true: A small accumulation goal (or one geared more toward generating income), a low tolerance for risk, and a shorter time horizon might require a more conservative approach.

Rebalance to stay on target  
Over time, an asset allocation can shift simply due to changing market performance, as we have seen in the last few months. For example, in years when the stock market performs particularly well, a portfolio may become overweighted in stocks. Or in years when bonds outperform, they may end up comprising a larger-than-desired percentage of the portfolio. In these situations, a little rebalancing may be in order.

There are two ways to rebalance. The first is by simply selling securities in the overweighted asset class and directing the proceeds into the underweighted ones. The second method is by directing new investments into the underweighted asset class until the desired allocation is achieved.

Keep in mind that selling securities can result in a taxable event, unless they are held in a tax-advantaged account, such as an employer-sponsored retirement plan or an IRA.

Points to consider

Keep an eye on how different types of assets react to market conditions. Part of fine-tuning your game plan might involve putting part of your money into investments that behave very differently from the ones you have now.

Diversification can have two benefits. Owning investments that go up when others go down might help to either lower the overall risk of your portfolio or improve your chances of achieving your target rate of return. Asset allocation and diversification don’t guarantee a profit or insure against a possible loss, of course. But you owe it to your portfolio to see whether there are specialized investments that might help balance out the ones you have.

Be disciplined about sticking to whatever strategy you choose for monitoring your portfolio. If your game plan is to rebalance whenever your investments have been so successful that they alter your asset allocation, make sure you aren’t tempted to simply coast and skip your review altogether. At a minimum, you should double-check with your financial advisor if you’re thinking about deviating from your strategy for maintaining your portfolio. After all, you probably had good reasons for your original decision.

Some investments don’t fit neatly into a stocks-bonds-cash asset allocation. You’ll probably need help to figure out how hedge funds, real estate, private equity, and commodities might balance the risk and returns of the rest of your portfolio. And new investment products are

being introduced all the time; you may need to see if any of them meet your needs better than what you have now.

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# The decisions that change your life

The decisions that we make determine the trajectory of our lives.

Last week, this column spoke of the choices we make. I said that we are who we are, what we are, and where we are in life because of the decisions we’ve made ... and it’s true. If you take a pad of paper and begin backtracking, step by step and decision by decision, your current situation, both good and bad, become clear. You are where you are because of the decisions and choices you made. That’s true for all of us.

I received an email disputing my claim. The writer said, “I’m a victim of circumstances. I’ve lost everything and none of it was based upon my decisions. My life has always been in the hands of others.”

My first question is, “Why is your life in the hands of others? Are they really making your decisions for you? Probably not.” And that question leads me to my next question, “What decision that you made placed you in their hands?”

Blaming others is easy. “It’s not my fault!” To blame others is also a decision you make and an awfully bad one. It’s a decision to not accept responsibility for your results.

Let’s say that circumstances were such that they were completely out

of your control. My next question would be, “What decisions are you making now to pull yourself out of this mess?” You can blame others and say it’s not your fault, but you must accept responsibility to move forward. The decisions you make will pull you out of the situation.

I was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year. I don’t know why. Maybe environmental ... maybe stress ... maybe genetic. I don’t blame others or take a fatalist view. I decided to do the research and find the right team of doctors at the right medical facility to give me the best chances to live. I decided that I was going to fight and win. I decided that I’ll die someday, but not today ... and not from this.

Many people accept their diagnosis, get their life in order, then go home to await the end. I chose differently. I decided not to die from cancer and that decision pushed me to make other decisions to find the right medical team and treatment. I am where I am now in my medical care because of decisions I’ve made.

The quality of our lives is determined by the decisions we make.

A friend on LinkedIn posted some-



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

GARY W.  
MOORE

more than doubles the value of your investment.

Now, take the same bar of iron and turn it into simple sewing needles. The value becomes thirty-five hundred dollars.

But if you turn that same five-dollar bar of iron into springs for Swiss watches, the value becomes an astonishing three-hundred thousand dollars. The decision you make of what you do with your iron gives you a variety of values and outcomes.” The decisions you make about how you live your life are the same. The quality and value of your life are determined by your decisions.

Stephen Covey says, “We are the creative force of our life, and through our own decisions rather than our conditions, if we carefully learn to do certain things, we can accomplish our goals.”

What about your decisions? Who you associate with, what you read, the importance you put into receiving train-

ing this morning that I found interesting and an example of how decisions impact results.

“If you have a bar of iron, it’s worth five dollars. If you make the iron into horseshoes, the value increases to twelve dollars. That decision

ing and/or education ... it all impacts your life by the decisions you are able to make based upon the knowledge you have.

You are influenced greatly by the people you spend the most time with. Choose your friends wisely.

You are who you are, where you are and what you are in your life based by what you allow into your mind. What you let in determines the decisions you make. Read good books and choose your entertainment wisely. Don’t allow negativity into your mind. Chose what and who you allow into your head.

Finally, I’ll share that I’ve never met a successful pessimist. The most successful people I have ever met are also the most optimistic. Successful people are those that believe in their success before it happens and they make the decisions to make it so.

Choose to be optimistic in all that you do.

What decisions will you make today?

*Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, “Playing with the Enemy.” Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com*







# OBITUARIES

## Philip S. Petrello, 47

QUINEBAUG- Philip S. Petrello age 47 passed away Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at his home. He leaves his mother Sandra Lapensee and her husband Douglas of Auburn, his daughter Shaianne Petrello and her fiancée Tim Whittemore of Webster his brothers Michael Warner of Webster and Scott Warner of Dudley. He also leaves his former life companion Karen L. ( Chickering) Petrello of Quinebaug, , a step-son Gregory Devlin, step-daughter Amanda Dube and her husband Justin Dube of Tolland, CT. Philip also leaves a Aunt Sherri Petrello of East Hartford, five grandchildren, Mason, Ethan, Kendra and Sophia, Brianna and several niec-



es and nephews, and a Aunt Sandra Taylor of Coventry, CT and half-sister Kristy Petrello of Hartford, Ct and a half brother Joseph Petrello of East Hartford. He was born in Hartoford, CT son of Philip Petrello and Sandra (Cramer) Lapensee. He was formerly employed at LKQ as a warehouse manager in Webster. Philip enjoyed, mortorcycles, NASCAR and cooking. Calling hours will be held Wednesday, July 15, 2020 in the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA Please omit flowers and make donations in his memory to Recovery Center of America at Westminster, 9 Village Inn Rd., Westminster, MA 01473. A guest book is available at [www.shaw-majercik.com](http://www.shaw-majercik.com) where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

## Roland E. Lalumiere, 64

Roland E. Lalumiere passed away on Monday July 6, 2020, unexpectedly at his home. He was 64. Roland was born on January 18th 1956. He attended Killingly High School and was a long-time resident of Central Village, CT. Roland was an enthusiastic camper and enjoyed spending his time camping with his wife. He was also a proud member of Yankee Yesteryear Car club and proudly displayed his later father's 1978 truck in the Putnam light parade. He loved to recount the 2016 parade, where he dressed his truck with his family as Mator from Cars™ the movie. He was a man of all trades, and a master of none, always willing to give a helping hand. Shortly after high school Roland met his wife Cheryl McQuesten-Lalumiere at one of his first jobs at Big Dollar and married the love of his life at St.



Johns Church in Plainfield. They were married for 43 years. He worked as an experienced sheet metal fitter at Electric Boat and as a machine operator at the Rogers Corporation. Roland and Cheryl and had two children. His daughter Crystal Lalumiere-Wood is married to Alan Wood and gave him three grandchildren Celeste, Bryan and Charlotte who all proudly called him Papa. His son Craig Lalumiere is engaged to Stephanie Whitten and he was looking forward to attending their wedding this fall. In addition to his wife, children and grandchildren, Roland is predeceased by his parents Jean Lalumiere and Roseanna Lalumiere. He leaves behind his one sister and two brothers whom he all loved. His tireless love and devotion to his family and friends were evident in all that he did. A services were held on Friday July 10th. Roland is laid to rest at Evergreen Cemetery in Plainfield, CT. [www.doughertybrosfuneralhome.com](http://www.doughertybrosfuneralhome.com)

## Charles “Butch” Samples. Sr., 79

Charles “Butch” Samples. Sr. a Marine Corps Veteran went home to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on February 21, 2020. He was 79 years old. He leaves his devoted wife Carole Samples, a son, daughter, adopted daughter. Grandson, granddaughter and great grandson, two sisters Evelyn and Betty with many nieces and nephews whom he loved. He was preceded in death by his younger brother Ronnie. He leaves many friends and acquaintances whom he laughed, smiled and shared Jesus with. There are no calling hours.



A Memorial Service will be Saturday July 18 2020 at 10 AM in The Mill Church, 45 River St., Millbury, MA. 01527. In lieu of flowers, donations in Mr. Samples name may be made to: VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th St., Kansas City, MO. 64111. The ROBERT J. MILLER FUNERAL HOME and LAKE CHAPEL, 366 School St., Webster is Honored to be assisting the family with arrangements. To leave an on-line message of condolence, please visit: [RJMillerfunerals.net](http://RJMillerfunerals.net)



## Helen T. Dabkowski, 101

Helen T. (Grala) Dabkowski, 101, beloved wife of the Late Henry Dabkowski, entered into eternal life on July 7, 2020. She was born on February 23, 1919 in New Britain, CT, daughter of the Late Frank and Rozalia (Swider) Grala. She lived in New Britain, Portland, Columbia and most recently Lebanon, CT. Helen was formerly employed by American Hardware. She is survived by a sister, Genevieve Alberti of New Britain, a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Walter and Joan Zeh of Thompson, CT, a sister-in-law Susan Dabkowski of New Britain, and several nieces and nephews: Dean Dabson, Christy Desiree,



Ronald Dabkowski, Sandy Dabkowski, Kathy Cameron, Suzanne Cyr, Jane Dagata, John Dabkowski, Stephen Zeh, Janet Zeh, Mary Anne Zeh, and Eileen Davies. “Niece Mary Anne Zeh, thanks for the help and care you have given me”. “Niece Janet Zeh thanks for your care and daily telephone calls”. “Mr. and Mrs. George Judkins, thanks for the help you gave me”. She was predeceased by two brothers, Frank Grala Jr., Henry Grala and nephews Robert Grala, Andrew Zeh. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, July 14 followed by burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery, New Britain. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. The family wishes to thank all the staff at Matulaitis Nursing Home for the excellent care she received during the last two years of her life.

## Charles E. Archambault, 87

North Grosvenordale – Charles E. Archambault, 87, of Riverside Dr. passed away peacefully on Saturday, July 11, 2020 at home. He was the loving husband of Alice (Simonzi) Archambault for 66 years. Born in Putnam, he was the son of the late Joseph and Bernadette (Coderre) Archambault. Charles attended St. Joseph’s High School in Thompson, CT where he graduated in 1950 with honors. He actively served in the U.S. Air Force and was honorably discharged with the rank of Corporal. After completing his military service, Charles signed a minor league baseball contract with the St. Louis Browns. In 1953, he joined his father’s general insurance agency and became a licensed agent a year later. In 1962 he incorporated the agency which became known as J.A. Archambault & Son, Inc. and was the President and CEO from 1986 until his retirement in December 1995. He proudly served as a director of the Citizens National Bank from 1965 until 2014 when the Bank was sold. He also served the Town of Thompson as a Tax Collector for three years, was a member of the Board of Finance for four years, the Zoning Board of Appeals for four years and the Building Committee for the High School addition. He served on the Board of Directors of Day Kimball Hospital for four years. He was the Chairman of the Development Committee for two years and was a member of the Thompson Historical Society and Thompson Village Improvement Society. Charles was a communicant of St. Joseph Church where he served as



the Trustee for the church for fifteen years, Choir Master for 27 years and four years on the Board of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Norwich. He was a past member of the Thompson Lions Club, Life Member and past Grand Knight of St. Bernard Council Knights of Columbus, Life Member of the Putnam Lodge of Elks, Life Member of the Community Fire Department and a member of the Oscar Swanson Post American Legion. In addition to his wife, Charles is survived by his two sons, David R. Archambault and his life partner Cynthia Stringfellow of N. Grosvenordale and Joseph C. Archambault and his wife Rabeya of New Bedford, MA; his daughter, Marianne Zwicklbauer and her husband Dr. Michael Zwicklbauer of Newport News, VA; his brothers, Monsignor Henry Archambault of Taftville, and Dr. Paul Archambault of MA; ten grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and brothers and sisters-in law. He was predeceased by his brothers, the late Maurice Archambault, Dr. J. Bernard Archambault, A. Leon Archambault, Rev. Richard L. Archambault and by his sisters, Jeanne Brodeaur and Denise Hutchinson. He was a dedicated friend of Bill W’s since 1984. Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Charles’ family from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2020 in the Valade Funeral Home & Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT with a Mass of Christian Burial to be held at 11:00 a.m.in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St, N. Grosvenordale, CT. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to TEEG, P.O. Box 664, N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255 or to Hospice & Palliative Care, P.O. Box 632, Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

## Henry K. Gunderson, 67

On July 1, 2020 Henry K. Gunderson, 67, of Thompson, CT passed away suddenly on his way to Day Kimball Hospital. He was the middle son of Patricia Gilbert Gunderson and the late Norman I. Gunderson. Henry had two brothers Kenneth N. Gunderson and the late Gregory K. Gunderson. He leaves behind his companion of 7 years Harriett Cotnoir as well as very close friends Shelly S. and David H. and many other friends who were special to him. Henry attended Killingly High School and went on to work at local scrapyards and worked doing automotive repairs locally. Henry, or “Hank,” was the kind of guy you either loved or you didn’t. He liked to portray himself



as “hard” but those who took the time to get to know him would soon find out he had a sweet and silly side to him. He loved animals and they loved him right back. He enjoyed goofing around with his friends, arm wrestling with them and showing them how strong he was, watching movies, and going out to eat. Hank loved old and fast cars, especially Chevys. He liked going for rides through the countryside to look at houses and going to flea markets and yard sales. Anyone who knew Henry knows he absolutely loved music. He liked all kinds of music and enjoyed showing off his good musical taste and vehicle’s sound system at cook outs by “cranking up the tunes.” Henry will be missed by many! A celebration of life will be held at a time to be determined next spring when it is hopefully safe to gather again. [tillinghastfh.com](mailto:tillinghastfh.com)

## Rita F. Langevin, 97

North Grosvenordale – Rita F. (Krolik) Langevin, 97, formerly of Main St, Mechanicsville, and Webster, MA, died Sunday evening, July 12, 2020, at Pierce Memorial Baptist Home in Brooklyn. Born in Webster, MA. She was the daughter of the late Frank and Mary (Terlicki) Krolik and graduate of Bartlett High School. Mrs. Langevin worked for many years as a waitress at the Vernon Stiles Inn and the Stables Restaurant retiring from the housekeeping department at John Dempsey Regional Center. Mrs. Langevin was a communicant of St. Joseph Church in N. Grosvenordale.



Rita is survived by her son, Bruce Langevin and his companion Lee Houle of Danielson, and two grandsons, Travis Beaulieu of Brooklyn and Tucker Langevin of Jewett City. She was predeceased by her two sisters, Cecelia Dudek and Wanda Belleville. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to a Mass of Christian Burial on Friday July 17, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255. Memorial donations may be made to St. Joseph Church, P.O. Box 665, Putnam. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

# Coping with the loss of a loved one while social distancing



Coping with the loss of a loved one can be challenging in the best of times, but many people have had to confront such challenges at a time that is unlike any other in modern history. By the start of the second full week of May 2020, the World Health Organization report-

ed that roughly 279,000 people across the globe had died from the novel coronavirus COVID-19. Many of the 215 countries, areas or territories that reported cases of COVID-19 implemented social distancing measures in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus. While such efforts no doubt saved lives, they also left many people without traditional means of grieving their deceased loved ones. For example, in March the Church of England limited the number of people who could attend funerals to immediate family members only, while restrictions on gatherings in the United States made it difficult if not impossible for more than 10 people to grieve together in person. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes

that grief is a normal response to losing a loved one. In addition, the American Psychological Association says that research has shown that social support can help people recover from such losses. Though traditional funerals and family gatherings may not be possible as the world responds to the COVID-19 outbreak, those who have lost loved ones can embrace various strategies to cope with their loss even while stay-at-home orders remain in place. • Host calls with family members and friends. The videotelephone and chat service Zoom has helped millions of people stay connected with loved ones while social distancing. Schools and universities even employed the service when in-person

classroom sessions were canceled to stop the spread of the virus. The CDC recommends grieving families employ such technology to connect with each other in the wake of a loved one’s death. • Share stories. Grieving family members are urged to share stories and pictures much like they would during wakes and funerals. Share them during group conference calls and/or via social media, emails or other modern modes of communications. Connecting in such ways can ensure no one is forced to grieve alone. • Seek support from your community. The CDC recommends seeking support from faith-based organizations or other trusted community leaders and friends. While in-person church

services may not be available, many local religious leaders have made themselves available to congregants and even non-congregants who may need help grieving. Local community organizations may have grief counselors available to help people cope with loss. • Take part in an activity that meant something to you and your deceased loved one. The CDC notes that doing something in memory of a loved one can help people cope. For example, plant flowers in honor of a deceased parent with whom you shared a love of gardening. Confronting the loss of a loved one during the COVID-19 outbreak can be challenging. But families can still overcome this challenge even if they cannot gather together in person.







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# Ephemera that was saved from the trash

Merriam Webster defines ephemera as “something of no lasting significance.” Their second definition reads “paper items (such as posters, broadsides, and tickets) that were originally meant to be discarded after use but have since become collectibles.”

Ephemera was not meant to be preserved. Posters were used to promote events like movies, plays, the circus, sport matches or to advertise products. The posters were typically ripped down after the event or another poster was plastered over them.

Tickets were typically ripped or punched. Most people threw them away as soon as the event ended.

Merriam Webster’s definition for a broadside is “a sizable sheet of paper printed on one side.” Broad­sides documented events prior to the Revolutionary War, during the Civil War, and throughout other significant times in history. They were intended to inform the public and were not expected to last long after they were printed.

There are also other types of ephemera not included in Merriam Webster’s definition. Postcards were meant to communicate with family and friends and then be thrown away. Programs for a play or sporting event provided you information on the event and performers or players. Most were not saved. Locally, Whitney in Worcester played a big part in producing greeting cards.



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
• • • • •  
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Those made in Worcester and elsewhere were usually discarded after the holiday or event passed.

As with other antiques or collectibles, it is often the things that most people threw away that are the most collectible. Some ephemeral pieces can bring large sums at auction.

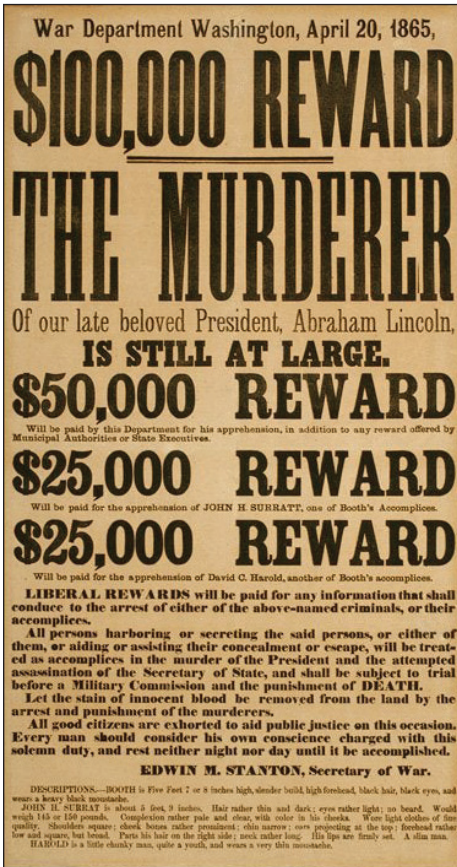
A 1959 ticket for a John F. Kennedy speech in Nashville, TN signed by JFK, Robert Kennedy and Jackie Kennedy sold for over \$8,000 last year. A “Mountain Road” lottery ticket signed by George Washington brought \$12,500 this year. The tickets were sold to raise funds for a proposed road to a resort in Virginia. A ticket stub for Michael Jordan’s first NBA basketball game from 1984 went for over \$36,000 at auction in 2018.

Real photo postcards are actual photographs with a postcard back and some can be quite valuable. A real photo postcard that read “WRIGHT AEROPLANE COLLEGE PARK MD OCT ‘09” pictured the Wright Brothers’ airplane. It sold for \$10,000 in 2017. A 1964 Beatles postcard signed by all four reached over \$18,000. As you might expect, sports related postcards can be some of the most valuable. A 1915 Red Sox team real photo postcard that included Babe Ruth during his rookie year fetched \$80,000.

A six-color broadside offering sale of Missouri lands in 40 acre or more lots by the Hannibal & St. Joseph’s Railroad brought nearly \$20,000 in 2013. A broadside advertising a \$100,000 reward for Abraham Lincoln’s assassins sold for \$80,000 in 2009. A rare July 1776 printed broadside of the Declaration of Independence sold at auction in 2016. The Massachusetts-Bay Colony’s Authorized Edition was printed by Ezekiel Russell of Salem, Mass. It realized over \$500,000.

An 1892 Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec poster, “AMBASSADEURS / ARISTIDE BRUANT,” brought \$50,000 in 2016. An 1864 campaign poster for Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson sold for \$250,000 last year. A 1932 movie poster for the Boris Karloff’s “The Old Dark House,” which was said to be one of two known to exist, went for \$950,000 in 2019. Bela Lugosi’s IMDb profile shows his highest salary for a film was \$5,000. Lugosi would have had to make 190 films to pay for the poster.

We will soon be hosting an online auction in Warren, RI. We are planning an estate sale in Auburn later this summer. We also will be offering toys from a huge collection in multiple online auctions. The first auctions will feature diecast cars and later auctions will feature some of the finest antique toys that we have handled. Please keep checking [www.centralmassauctions.com](http://www.centralmassauctions.com) for details.



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WORCESTER, Mass. — Worcester Academy proudly announces its Honor Roll and Headmaster’s List for Semester 2 of the 2019-2020 School Year. The honors represent the achievements that each Worcester Academy student has earned through academic excellence, challenge, and personal growth.

Among the students is: Avery Riva of

Woodstock, 12, Second Honors. About Worcester Academy

Worcester Academy is an exceptional co-educational independent school for day and boarding students in grades 6 through 12 and postgraduates. Through an innovative and thoughtfully designed curriculum, Worcester Academy instills in students a lifelong passion

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Few experiences provide as much relief as walking into a cool room on a hot summer day. Air conditioning systems make such experiences possible, and homeowners’ decision in regard to which one to install in their homes is significant.

Homeowners may not know where to begin in regard to finding the right air conditioning system for their home. According to the Air-Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Institute, the best systems provide steady, dependable performance for many years when sized correctly for the home. Correct installation and routine maintenance also can ensure homeowners’ air conditioning systems withstand the test of time.

How do I know which size is best?

When shopping for new air conditioning systems, homeowners must consider a host of factors to ensure they get the best match. The AHRI notes that the home’s age, the number and quality of its windows, how well it’s insulated, the number of stories it has, and its square footage are among the factors to consider. Homeowners can benefit from working with trained technicians who can investigate each of these factors and recommend the correct system. The AHRI recommends homeowners ask their technicians to perform a

Manual J analysis, which is a standardized formula that can help homeowners get the perfect system for their homes.

What about energy efficiency?

Energy efficiency is an important consideration when purchasing a new air conditioner for a home. Energy rates vary depending on where a person lives, but rates remain pretty high across the board. The Energy Information Association notes that residential electricity rates increased throughout the United States by about 15 percent between 2009 and 2019. An energy-efficient unit can help homeowners save considerable amounts of money, so homeowners

can ask their technicians to recommend energy-efficient units that suit their homes. A unit that adequately cools a home without consuming a lot of costly electricity should be every homeowner’s goal. The U.S. Department of Energy employs the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating, or SEER, to inform consumers about the efficiency of each air conditioner. This rating is noted on the Energy Guide® label on each unit, and the higher the number, the more efficient the unit.

Home air conditioning systems are costly. But the right choice of unit can keep homes cool without costing homeowners a fortune in energy costs.