



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

Friday, December 25, 2020

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Santa Claus visits Putnam Knights of Columbus



Photo Courtesy - Brian Martineau

Santa Claus took time off from his busy schedule to visit the Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus Hall in Putnam on Sunday, Dec. 20. In the midst of the Coronavirus, with his red suit flecked with the afternoon's snowflakes, Santa stood on the building's front ramp, waving to the cars going by on Providence Street

PUTNAM — If you drove by the Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus Hall on Providence Street during the Sunday afternoon before Christmas, you stood a good chance of seeing Santa Claus.

“Not even the Coronavirus could stop Santa from coming to see his friends at the Knights of Columbus in Putnam,” said Cargill Council 64, K of C Deputy Grand Knight Brian Martineau, who arranged the December 20 visit by the jolly old elf. “Santa stood outside on the front ramp of our hall and waved to literally hundreds of

cars going by. It was great to see and hear so many people smiling and honking their horns. They were so happy. That made it all worth it.”

For years now, Cargill Council Brother Knights have hosted an indoor Christmas party for their children and grandchildren, with Santa as the guest of honor. Unfortunately, Coronavirus restrictions forced the cancellation of the party this year, but Martineau convinced Santa to come to Putnam anyway.

Please Read **SANTA**, page **A7**

Eastern students raise funds for scholarships in Haiti

WILLIMANTIC — For the third year in a row, Eastern Connecticut State University students enrolled in French Professor Michelle Bacholle's “Perspectives on Women's Issues” class engaged in a fundraising drive to provide scholarships for girls to get an education at the Jean Bruny College in Les Palmes, Haiti.

Bacholle's students did not let the pandemic stop them from completing their community engagement project. Two years ago, they raised enough funds for one-and-a-half scholarships. Last year, they covered four. This year's drive ended on Nov. 30 and raised \$915, covering about five scholarships.

Student Lyle Smith set up this year's GoFundMe page. He said he knew he had to take charge.

“Assisting in bettering the lives of women around the world is a very noble and necessary cause, something I hold close to my heart,” he said. “Being raised by my mother and grandmother, I've learned to respect the power and confidence that women exude. I was glad to facilitate the process of raising funds to help send underprivileged women in Haiti to school and provide them with a more promising future. This money will help provide a brighter future for not only these high schoolers, but their families as well. Annual tuition is only \$180 and our goal is to cover three scholarships. Every bit counts.”

Haitian students sent Bacholle four handwritten thank you letters, which touched her heart.

“This is a record high in the three years that I've asked students in this course to conduct a fundraiser to cover high school female students' annual stipend in Les Palmes, Haiti,” said Bacholle.

“I'm tremendously proud of my students for realizing that, although they are going through a rough time, young people in other countries have it worse, and that nothing, not even COVID-19, should get in the way of education, especially women's education. Research shows that families and the community fare better when females/mothers are educated.”

For more on Jean Bruny College, visit <https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/tracker?url=urn:aa-id:scds:US:de063fbb-3425-4807-8fd1-6f0bfff3d5453>

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state of Connecticut's public liberal arts university, serving 5,000 students annually at its Willimantic campus and satellite locations. In addition to attracting students from 162 of Connecticut's 169 towns, Eastern also draws students from 34 other states and 19 countries. A residential campus offering 41 majors and 65 minors, Eastern offers students a strong liberal art foundation

Please Read **STUDENTS**, page **A3**

Day Kimball names April Chitwood Employee of the Month for November

PUTNAM — April Chitwood, physical therapist and clinical supervisor in the physical medicine and rehabilitation department at the Day Kimball Healthcare Center in Putnam, has been named employee of the month for November by Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH).

Chitwood, who has been the physical medicine field for 28 years, began working as a physical therapist at both the Day Kimball Healthcare

Center in Danielson and Day Kimball HomeCare in 2008. In her current role as clinical supervisor for the physical medicine and rehabilitation department, Chitwood is responsible for supporting and mentoring clinical and clerical staff, in addition to providing direct patient care.

According to Chitwood's supervisor, Renee Smith, vice president of post-acute services, Day Kimball Healthcare, “Over the years, I have had

the privilege of working with April in two different Day Kimball settings - first, when she was a member of the home care therapy team, and currently, in her role as clinical supervisor for outpatient rehabilitation. While I have always been impressed by April's professional knowledge and clinical expertise, recently I have also learned to appreciate her remarkable ability to

Please Read **CHITWOOD**, page **A7**



Photo Courtesy

Day Kimball Healthcare's Employee of the Month for November 2020, April Chitwood, clinical supervisor in the physical medicine and rehabilitation department at the Day Kimball healthcare Center in Putnam.



Photos Courtesy Brooke Gelhaus

Woodstock Academy's Grace Gelhaus.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

TRIO OF CENTAURS EARN ALL-STATE SOCCER HONORS

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy soccer programs were well represented this year when the Connecticut High School Coaches Association announced their All-State players. Senior midfielders Huck Gelhaus (8 goals, 5 assists) and Rich Hickson (7 goals, 7 assists) were named to the Class L All-State team from the undefeated (11-0) boys' team, while sophomore forward Grace Gelhaus (16 goals, 10 assists) was named to the Class L All-State team from the 8-2-1 girls' team. Huck Gelhaus was also named the region's MVP by the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) coaches.

Killingly Girls' Soccer Players Also Honored

Killingly seniors Abbie Burgess and Grace Nichols, key members of the school's

ECC Region 3 Post Season Experience Championship team, were both named to the Class L All-State team for their efforts.

Burgess, who finished the season with 19 goals and 5 assists, finished her career with a school-record 75 goals and 31 assists. Burgess, who finished the season with one goal and three assists, and her career with two goals and 11 assists, is the first Killingly High girls' soccer player to be an All-State selection three times.

Teammates Hannah Siegmund and Emma Carpenter were also honored by the ECC. Siegmund, a senior, received the ECC Sportsmanship Award while Carpenter, a junior, earned the ECC Scholar-Athlete Award.

Killingly girls' soccer coach Jim Lackner confirmed recently that the team has announced its 2020 season team awards.

Please Read **SPORTS**, page **A7**

Miyoshi Kasei Group hosts ribbon cutting for solar panel installation

Miyoshi America President Tim Takagi has announced the commissioning of an 842 kW ground mounted solar power generating system with Dynamic Energy Solutions, LLC (“Dynamic Energy”) at Miyoshi America Headquarters and manufacturing facility.

The installation, which sits adjacent to their facility, will meet more than 40 percent of its electricity demand. By partnering with Dynamic Energy, a full-service solar energy solutions provider, Miyoshi America was able to develop a project from beginning-to-end that embraces solar energy as a pathway to achieving their corporate sustainability goals at a critical time. The resulting onsite solar system encapsulates Miyoshi America’s pledge to manufacturing ingredients for the cosmetics industry that embody a full product lifecycle approach to cleaner, more sustainable products for consumers. As a leading innovator in the scientific development of cosmetic ingredients, this project also reinforces Miyoshi America’s commitment to using technology to reduce the impact of energy consumption and CO2 emissions in the manufacturing process. By using solar technology to reduce their CO2 emissions and increase the adoption of renewable energy, Miyoshi America is promoting environmental conservation and an offset to traditional grid-supplied electricity.

“The Miyoshi Kasei Group’s goal is to provide products and services that offer peace of mind and safety to consumers and that are friendly to both society and the environment. We are committed to implementing initiatives that will protect the environment in harmony with local communities,” said Tim Takagi, President of Miyoshi America.

The ground mounted solar system installed by Dynamic Energy is set to be fully operational in January of 2021 and is comprised of 2,160 high efficiency solar panels. It is expected to generate over 1.13 Megawatt hours of electricity in its first year. This is enough electricity to offset approximately 798 metric tons (1,758,237 pounds) of carbon dioxide, equivalent to removing 172 cars from Connecticut’s roads, or the amount of carbon sequestered by 1,042 acres of U.S. forest each year.

“As consumers and end-use stakeholders continue to put increasing focus on how sustainability and environmental practices relate with the products that we all use, The Miyoshi Kasei Group has raised the bar to meet this critical objective, leading by example to help meet today’s global priorities as a world-class corporate citizen” said Tim Carr. “By converting otherwise dormant space into this facility asset, Miyoshi has successfully created a sustainability centerpiece for the Killingly community, as well as stabilized their electrical costs for decades to come. We commend Miyoshi for their forward-thinking and collaborative approach to this project and look forward to continuing our partnership for years to come.”

About Miyoshi America

Miyoshi America, Inc., along with the Miyoshi Kasei Group of companies, is the global leader in the development and manufacture of surface treated pigments and mineral substrates for the cosmetics industry. Established in 1985 as a wholly owned subsidiary of Miyoshi Kasei, Inc., Miyoshi America, Inc. has built on Miyoshi Kasei’s invention of the silicone surface treatment for cosmetics back in the 1970’s.

Recent innovations include MiyoAQUA alginate treated pigments, natural (seaweed origin), hydrophilic surface treated iron oxides that easily disperses into the water phase and the MiyoSYN Series of surface treated synthetic micas that provide the ability to control radiance level, long lasting, purity and traceability.

Miyoshi America, Inc. has leveraged its expertise and proprietary technologies in surface treatments to develop superior products for color cosmetics and skin care:

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- Innovative Functional Materials
- Easy to Use Dispersions

See www.miyoshiamerica.com for more information.

About Dynamic Energy Solutions, LLC

Dynamic Energy is a full-service solar energy provider that brings together the diverse expertise needed to design, finance, build and maintain projects to meet the needs of commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. With an in-house team that includes professional engineers, project managers, and master electricians, Dynamic Energy creates high-quality projects that reduce customer expenses, improve operating efficiency, provide an attractive return on investment, and achieve sustainability goals. For more information, please visit www.dynamicenergy.com.

Energy output	1.13 Megawatt Hours
No. of modules	2,160
Start of operation	January 2021

Eastern professor runs in memory of slain student

WILLIMANTIC — For the past seven years, Cara Bergstrom-Lynch, sociology professor and department chair at Eastern Connecticut State University, has run in the Hot Chocolate Challenge for Safe Passage in Northampton, Mass., an event designed to raise public awareness of domestic violence. Bergstrom-Lynch participates in Safe Passage in memory of Alyssiah Wiley, an Eastern sophomore who was murdered by her ex-boyfriend in 2013.

“This event is important to me as a way of honoring the memory of Alyssiah and supporting survivors of domestic violence,” said Bergstrom-Lynch. “The Eastern community always shows up in a big way and this year, when the service needs are even greater due to the pandemic, I am especially grateful for their generosity.”

In a non-pandemic year, Bergstrom-Lynch would be running alongside more than 6,000 other people. This year, all events to support Safe Passage were virtual. But if you know runners like Bergstrom-Lynch, even “virtual” means running!

“Runners could run anywhere, so I ran the 5k (3.1 miles) at home,” Bergstrom-Lynch said. “My family made me a ‘finish line’ and cocoa with marshmallows! There was a Facebook Live event at noon on Sunday afterwards to celebrate.”

Over the years, Bergstrom-Lynch has raised a total of \$13,640. “I wanted to raise \$1,500 this year, and thanks to the generosity of friends, family and my Eastern colleagues who sponsored me, I raised \$2,890! I nearly double my goal.”


Bergstrom-Lynch ranked as the sixth highest fundraiser out of 1,824 participants with 63 sponsors. This included 30 friends and family and 33 Eastern colleagues and former students who are now Eastern alumni.

Bergstrom-Lynch strongly encourages the public to keep the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) Hotline within reach. It is (888) 774-2900 (available 24/7) or visit www.ctcadv.org for more resources.

“You never know who might need that lifeline.” Bergstrom-Lynch hopes to attend the event in person in Northampton, Mass. next year



Insightful



American Red Cross
Connecticut Chapter

Support the Red Cross Mission of
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The American Red Cross of Connecticut is looking for volunteers to support our blood drives in Windham County. Our blood drive volunteers serve as the face of the Red Cross, check-in blood donors, and help with other tasks. If you have free time and enjoy meeting new people, this is a great opportunity!

The time commitment is one shift per month and you can pick the shifts that work best for your availability. The Red Cross provides all necessary training and you must be 18 years or older. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please reach out to Mar Parsaye at mar.parsaye@redcross.org, 860-480-5338.

CHASE GRAPHICS
DONATES SIGN
CAMPAIGN
PROCEEDS TO
LEGION

Photo Courtesy

Jim St. Jean (left), owner of Chase Graphics in Putnam, recently presented a check to American Legion Post #13 Past Commander and District #4 Commander Ronald P. Coderre from the proceeds of a sign campaign supporting veterans. The campaign took place in November. Chase Graphics donated \$5 from every sign sold to the Mayotte-Viens Post #13 of Putnam in recognition of its work and activities with veterans and their families.



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VILLAGER ALMANAC
At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Dec. 14: Black Vulture, Northern Harrier, Fox Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Flicker, Red-tailed Hawk, Song Sparrow, Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Goldfinch, American Kestrel, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home

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for information.

Pomfret resident releases first book

POMFRET — Charles Harrington, local resident, father of three, has released his first book for sale on Amazon.

Mr. Harrington has lived in Pomfret for 25 years, and is well known in Connecticut's quiet corner. He spent several years as the 'Voice of Centaur Nation', announcing various sporting events at The Woodstock Academy and was a youth sports coach over many years, for a significant number of children from Putnam, Woodstock and Pomfret.

Now retired, Mr. Harrington found ample time to gather his thoughts on both his own life's beginnings in the small town of Franklin, Mass., as well as family life later, in the 'Quiet Corner.'

As the middle child of nine siblings, children of John and Anne Harrington, Mr. Harrington has often been attributed to possess a significant 'gift for gab.'

Growing up, his challenge was to forge an identity in the middle of a large Irish Catholic family, full of quick wit, clever banter and boisterous personalities. Storytelling and writing were mainstays in that home, all encouraged by his father the English teacher, and his mother the daughter of her own gifted Irish storytelling parents. The book features essays, poems and letters compiled over the last few decades outlining experiences, both good and not so good, of a life well lived. The book was written as a labor of love intended to share the author's optimistic and grateful views on 'The gift of life.' In a world full of documented tales of woe and misery, with bookshelves brimming with the victim stories of multitudes, it is the author's intent to offer a counter point of view. Every life contains great moments of difficulty and challenge, no one is exempt from

that hard truth. Every life also however contains moments of great joy and blessings. We all choose, intentionally or not, how our individual story is both written, and read in our own minds.

Mr. Harrington describes the work as follows: " 'A Contemplative Life' is my story, a story of hope, optimism and gratitude. The life I have lived, cannot be written any other way, at least not by me. "It is my sincere hope that others will read and identify with some of my experience, in a manner that reminds them of all that has been good in their lives. We DO have that choice, and this book is a reflection of my choice."

The book contains 45,000 words on 172 pages and is available on Amazon, in paperback only and sells for \$16.50.

Direct sales are available and can be obtained by contacting the author at cfh95@aol.com



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.

POLICE LOGS

Putnam police log

PUTNAM — The Putnam police Department reports the following recent arrests.

Michael F. Fratus, age 27, of Brooklyn was arrested on Dec. 16 for Carrying a Dangerous Weapon and Breach of Peace.

Christopher Contois, age 46, of Putnam was arrested on Dec. 17 for Disorderly Conduct.

Red Cross assisting Putnam family displaced by fire

PUTNAM — The American Red Cross is helping one family – two adults, no children — after a fire last week on Laconia Avenue, Putnam. The Red Cross provided assistance to meet the family's immediate needs. Responders included: Lynda Joly, Fred Bolen and Sue Bolen.

The Red Cross is also providing comfort kits containing personal care items such as toothbrushes, deodorant, shav-

ing supplies and other items a resident might need when suddenly displaced from their home by a fire.

In addition, a recovery envelope containing information helpful to families recovering from a fire, including tips on cleanup; notification of important contacts; dealing with damaged items and more was provided.

Those affected will connect with Red Cross caseworkers in the coming days

to work on a longer-term recovery plan. The Red Cross can provide assistance through the generosity of our donors and the commitment of our volunteers.

For more information about the Red Cross visit [redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) and for information on our home fire preparedness campaign visit: <http://www.redcross.org/ct/schedule-a-visit> or call 1-877-287-3327 and press option 1.

STUDENTS

continued from page A1


grounded in an array of applied learning opportunities. Ranked among the top 30 public universities in the North Region by U.S. News and World Report in its 2019 Best Colleges ratings, Eastern has also been awarded 'Green Campus' status by the Princeton Review 10 years in a row. For more information, visit www.easternct.edu.

Local students named to President's List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — A total of 899 students have been named to the Plymouth State University President's List for the Fall 2020 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.7 or better for the Fall 2020 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester.

Halladay Glode of North Grosvenordale
Castor Ward of Pomfret Center
About Plymouth State University
Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New

Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.



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SANTA BRINGS HOLIDAY JOY
TO SENIOR CITIZENS!



Photo Courtesy

The Quinebaug Valley Senior Center located in Brooklyn held a “drive-up” Holiday event on Tuesday, Dec. 15. More than 50 seniors lined up in their cars and received a hearty “Ho Ho Ho” from Santa himself and a gift bag filled with treats and goodies. “It’s been a rough year for many of our members,” said Harry Adams, President of the Board of Directors. “We just wanted to see everyone and wish them a happy holiday season and let them know that we are still here for them if they need us,” shared Linda Lamoureux, Director. This safe event was well received by everyone who attended. Pictured: Maggie Grenier from Danielson received her gift bag from Santa! The event was made more special with the help of the Brooklyn Recreation Department who supplied the holiday music and decorated the area. Santa’s Elves included: Bucky and JoAnn Lohbusch, Lisa India, Marcia Manns, Harry Adams, Carolyn Logee, Dale Clark, Mike Lamoureux, and John and Linda Warner.

QVCC alumna joins
foundation staff

DANIELSON – Quinebaug Valley Community College is very excited to welcome Sarah Wolfburg back to campus. On Monday, Dec. 14, she joined the QVCC Foundation as the Director of Alumni Relations.

Raised locally in Plainfield, Wolfburg graduated from QVCC in 2002 and went on to earn both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in English at Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada. After returning to Connecticut, she began working for Villager Newspapers. In 2015, she became the first Executive Director for Northeast Opportunities for Wellness, Inc. (NOW), a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of youth wellness, offering scholarship opportunities to children in the region to access sports, fitness, and nutrition.

“Sarah exemplifies what we hope for in all our graduates: a person who has gone on to pursue her dreams while never forgetting where she started. Sarah’s learning curve will not be steep as over the past few years, in addition to her career and family responsibilities, she has made time to volunteer at QVCC Foundation events and served as an inaugural member of the Alumni Association Advisory Committee. I know our alumni and our students will benefit from having Sarah join our team,” said Monique Wolanin, Director of Institutional Advancement.

In addition to her professional roles, Wolfburg has served on the executive boards of both the Quinebaug Valley Regional Rotaract Club and the Putnam Business Association, including serving as chairperson of the First Fridays Committee. She resides in Brooklyn with her husband, Josh, and their son, William. In her free time, she enjoys



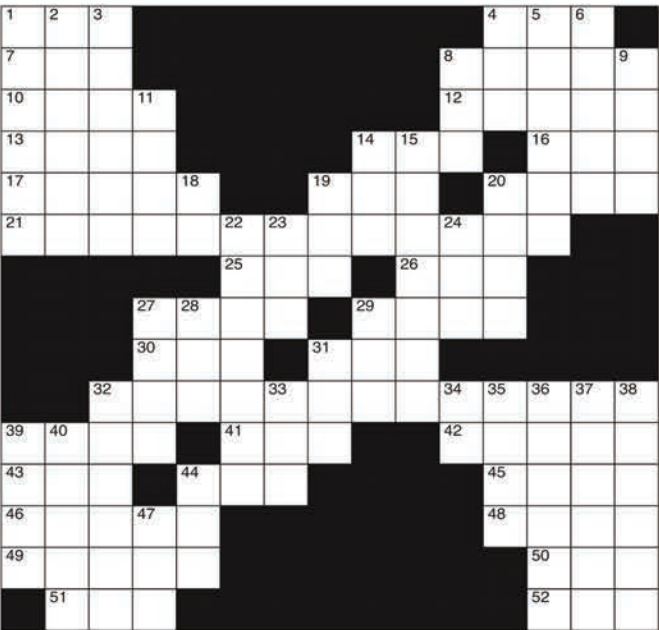
Sarah Wolfburg

cooking, reading, painting, and traveling.

Wolfburg is eager to make connections with QVCC faculty, staff, students and alumni, sharing “I am thrilled to be taking on the Director of Alumni Relations role with the QVCC Foundation. As a proud alumna, I am excited to engage with past, current, and future QVCC students. I believe in the power and importance of education and it is an honor to have the opportunity to support the students of QVCC.”

Wolfburg can be reached by email at swolfburg@qvcc.edu or by phone at (860) 932-4133.

4 factors to consider to
maintain winter safety



CLUES ACROSS

1. Crow species

4. Partner to flow

7. Male offspring

8. Sedate

10. Orange beverage

12. Pair of small hand drums

13. 12th month of Jewish civil year

14. Former Pirates star Jason

16. Computer company

17. Made angry

19. Beverage container

20. Charlize Theron film “__ Flux”

21. Localities

25. Consume

26. Don’t know when yet

27. Bed style
29. Make a low, continuous sound

30. Wrath

31. Pollinates flowers

32. Association

39. Prejudice

41. Unhealthy

42. Hasidic religious leader

43. Distinctive philosophy

44. Short-term memory

45. In a good way

46. Emperors of Ethiopia

48. Imaginary line

49. Of barium

50. One’s sense of self-esteem

51. Man who behaves dishonorably

52. Monetary unit

CLUES DOWN

1. Rear of (nautical)

2. He minds the net

3. Ring-shaped objects

4. When you hope to get there

5. Young children

6. Beloved hobbit

8. Pigen

9. Wish harm upon

11. Quick-eyed (Scottish)

14. Scrooge’s phrase “__ Humbug”

15. One more

18. A ballplayer who only hits

19. Once vital TV part

20. Sixth month of Jewish civil year

22. Advantage

23. Type of tree
24. Luke’s mentor __-Wan

27. Life stories

28. Vase

29. Tiny

31. Package (abbr.)

32. A photog’s tool

33. Wood

34. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)

35. Pueblo people of New Mexico

36. Wild goats

37. A way to comply

38. Horatio __, British admiral

39. Actress Leslie

40. Sir __ Newton

44. Pouch

47. Have already done



Many changes are to be expected as fall gives way to winter. Temperatures drop for much of the country, and depending on where one lives, snow, wind and ice are to be expected.

As beautiful as snow-covered landscapes can be, winter presents unique hazards, notably slippery roads and surfaces. Chilly temperatures also can put people at risk if they spend prolonged periods outdoors unprotected.

According to the insurance company Carsurance, more than 156,000 crashes occur annually due to icy roads. Roughly 17 percent of all vehicle crashes happen in winter conditions. Winter hazards are not exclusive to driving, however. That means winter safety involves a consideration of a host of factors.

1. Changing visibility

While slippery surfaces may contribute to some accidents, visibility can quickly change with winter weather. Blowing snow can contribute to whiteout conditions. In addition, fog can be hazardous to drivers, aviators and mariners and contributes to thousands of travel accidents every year, advises the National Weather Service. It’s important to slow down, leave plenty of distance, use your low-beam headlights, and recognize when it may be safest to pull over, such as when visibility is significantly compromised.
2. Snow removal

Shoveling snow or using a snowblower are common wintertime activities. Yet strenuous levels of activity in cold temperatures could put people at risk of heart attack, particularly if they are not acclimated to physical activity. Always warm up prior to shoveling snow to prepare the body for exercise. Go slowly and take frequent breaks. Avoid twisting and tossing snow over your shoulder, which can contribute to back injuries.
3. Carbon monoxide poison-

ing

Winter weather means turning up the heat or doing more indoor cooking. Carbon monoxide is produced through the burning of fuel in various forms, including stoves, engines, gas ranges, portable generators, and grills. The National Safety Council says carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can go undetected as it builds up in enclosed spaces. Never warm up the car inside of a contained garage. Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters indoors, and have furnaces, water heaters and other fuel-burning appliances checked and serviced by a qualified technician annually. Be sure that carbon monoxide alarms are on every floor of the home, and take it seriously if the alarm goes off.
4. Black ice

Black ice is a common



winter foe. Black ice forms when temperatures rise above freezing during the day, melting any snow on the ground and causing surfaces to become wet. If the temperature drops once more while the ground is wet, a thin, transparent sheet of ice can form. Black ice also may occur if moisture in the air condenses and forms dew or fog, and then the temperature drops below freezing, says the National Weather Service. Black ice gets its name because it looks black on asphalt roads. However, it also can form on sidewalks and overpasses, or spots shaded by trees or other objects. Slowing down and exercising extreme caution are essential.

Winter is a beautiful season. But it can be just as hazardous as it is awe-inspiring. Taking steps to stay safe in unpredictable conditions is a necessity each winter.

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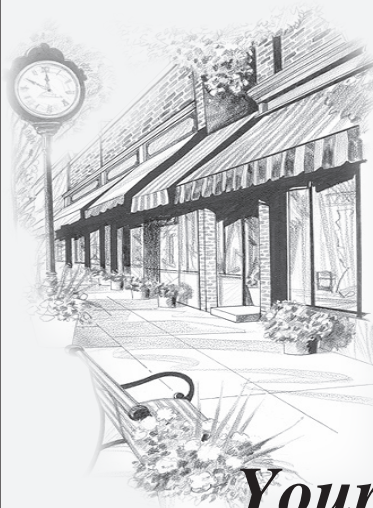
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SPORTS

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Burgess was named the Top Offensive Player while Nichols earned Top Defensive Player honors. Sophomore Casey Beauregard was named the team’s Most Valuable player while junior Sage Lamparelli took home the Most Improved Player. Sophomore Lyana Cuevas was named the team’s Rookie of the Year, while another sophomore Jada Neri, received the Coach’s Award. Carpenter was named the team’s Scholar-Athlete.

Killingly Boys’ Soccer Program Announces 2020 Team Awards

Killingly High boys’ soccer coach John Naylor confirmed the team announced its awards recently as well. Junior JR Simoneau was named offensive MVP and classmate Couper Jackson was named Defensive MVP. Jackson, sophomores Ethan Lackner, Josh Torre, and Lucas Clayton all received a Coach’s Award. Sophomore Harry Giambattista received an award for having scored the most goals while Lackner received the team Sportsmanship Award and senior Kevin Rice earned the team’s Scholar-Athlete Award. Killingly’s 20-21 captains were also announced — Rice, Jackson, senior Travis Sherman, and junior Billy Carver.

Killingly High Field Hockey Award Winners

Souki Syharat, Killingly’s field hockey coach, sent along her 2020 award winners. The Sportsmanship Award went to junior Julianna Morrisette while senior Mackenzie Farquhar was named the team’s Scholar-Athlete Award winner.

Killingly High Football Awards

The team didn’t have a traditional fall season, but two awards were presented by head coach Chad Neal. Senior Jacob Galarza received the ECC Lineman Award while classmate Chris Jax, earned ECC Skill Award honors.

Centaurs Announce Fall Sports Awards

Coaches Awards presented following the recently-completed fall season: Jacob Hernandez and Gavin Savoie, varsity football; Braiden Saucier, freshman/sophomore football; Maddy Silbermann and Lizzie Silbermann,

varsity field hockey; Amanda Bond, junior varsity field hockey; Ethan Aspiras and Hans Rhynhart, boys’ varsity cross country; Gavin Grant, boys’ junior varsity cross country; Brooke Bergevin and Iris Bazinet, girls’ varsity cross country; Carah Bruce, girls’ junior varsity cross country; Marissa Mayhew and Tabitha Bezanson, varsity volleyball; Emily Goodell, junior varsity volleyball; Jessica Stolarek, freshman volleyball; Gelhaus and Magdalena Myslenski, girls’ varsity soccer; Abigail Morin, girls’ junior varsity soccer; Gelhaus and Gabe Geyer, boys’ varsity soccer; Ethan David Ramos, boys’ junior varsity soccer; and Jung Son and Cassandra Cooper, varsity cheer-leading.

Several Woodstock Academy student-athletes received postseason awards recently from the ECC (Due to the changes in schedules made necessary by the pandemic, the ECC did not name All-League players this season). Boys’ soccer: sportsmanship – Colin Smith; scholar-athlete- Marco Maluf. Girls’ soccer: sportsmanship – Brynn Kusnarowis; scholar-athlete – Adeline Smith. Volleyball: sportsmanship – Annarose Avery; scholar-athlete – Leila MacKinnon. Field hockey: sportsmanship – Olivia Ott; scholar-athlete – Alexia Adams. Boys’ cross-country: sportsmanship – Seamus Lippy; scholar-athlete – John Peabody. Girls’ cross-country: sportsmanship – Leah Castle; scholar-athlete- Stella DiPippo.

Putnam High Announces Fall Sports Honors

Clippers’ athletic Director Glenn Senecal recently announced Putnam’s fall sports award winners. Boys’ soccer: Senior Colby Livingston, MVP and ECC Sportsmanship Award; sophomore Tyler Fullerton, Best Newcomer and ECC Scholar-Athlete Award. Girls’ soccer: Sophomore Bailey Touchette and senior Laylah Chavez, Co-MVPs; freshman Lily Goyette, Best Newcomer; senior Emma Braithwaite, ECC Sportsmanship Award; senior Emma Rudman; ECC Scholar-Athlete Award. Girls’ volleyball: senior Abby St. Martin, MVP and ECC Sportsmanship Award; junior Ewa Sekula, ECC Scholar-Athlete Award.

Tidbits From Around The Region

immediately surrounding areas served by St. Mary Church of the Visitation in Putnam, Most Holy Trinity Church in Pomfret, St. Joseph Church in North Grosvenordale and St. Stephen Church in Quinebaug. It’s one of 178 active local councils in Connecticut.

In addition to support for its members and their families, Cargill Council maintains a dedicated, strong, ongoing commitment to its four churches and the local community. Led by current Grand Knight John D. Ryan, the council’s elected officers run the organization. The Knights do their own fund-raising, using the net proceeds to pay for their programs.

Among its many activities, Cargill Council raised and donated thousands of dollars locally in the last year, as part of conducting literally dozens of positive, local programs and events. Highlights include raising over \$5,000 for the local needy as part of the council’s annual “Joe Bousquet Christmas Giving Appeal,” a year-round program for the widows of deceased council members, financial and moral support for a Norwich diocesan seminarian studying for the priesthood, holding a

named Clinical Instructor of the Year by the University of Hartford.

Chitwood was born in East Hartford, Connecticut and grew up in Manchester, Connecticut. She currently resides in Killingly, Connecticut with her two children Alex and Sam.

Day Kimball Healthcare’s employee of the month program is sponsored by Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut.

“The Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribal Nation and Foxwoods Resort Casino has been focused on taking care of the people that serve within our community, and we appreciate everything Day Kimball Healthcare does,” said Foxwood’s Director of Sponsorships and Partnerships Roy Colebut-Ingram. “Supporting meaningful employee recognition programs like that at DKH is just one way that we feel we can express our appreciation.”

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



Huck Gelhaus of Woodstock Academy.



Woodstock Academy’s Rich Hickson.

Aspiras, Woodstock Academy’s No. 1 runner, earned honorable mention All-State honors by the school sports

website GameTime CT. ... Killingly’s Burgess earned Second Team All-State honors by GameTime CT.

SANTA

continued from page A1

Just before he headed back to work at the North Pole, Santa took a few minutes to go inside the council hall to read the story of the birth of Jesus at the first Christmas recorded in the Gospel of Luke and the famous 1823 Christmas poem “ ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas” by Clement C. Moore. You can hear Saint Nick doing the readings on the council’s Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/kofccouncil64.org.

“Just because Santa had to keep his distance this year, that doesn’t mean we couldn’t bring his Christmas spirit to our friends and neighbors,” Martineau said. “It’s hard to get Santa Claus to come right before Christmas; he’s very busy after all. But if there was ever a time we needed a really big dose of Christmas cheer, 2020 is it. We’re really happy he could come here for us.”

Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus, is made up of over 200 local Catholic men and their families. The council serves Putnam, Pomfret, Thompson and Woodstock and the

CHITWOOD

continued from page A1

develop and lead successful teams, especially through times of change. April’s commitment to our patients and our employees is reflected in everything she does, and I’m so happy to congratulate her on receiving this much-deserved award.”

“April is a tremendous asset to DKH and the physical therapy profession,” shared Patti Bernier, director of ancillary services, Day Kimball Hospital. “Her passion for her patients, staff, the department, and the hospital shows everyday. April has made a significant impact in the lives of many patients, working with them to achieve their therapy goals.”

In response to being named employee of the month, Chitwood said, “I am grateful for the honor and for the recognition from my colleagues. It means a lot to have their regard.”

When asked what she likes most about her job, she said, “I enjoy working with patients to help them accomplish their individualized goals in physical medicine.”

Chitwood earned a bachelor’s degree in allied health with a major in physical therapy from the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut. She went on to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts and holds a certification in Instrument Assisted Soft Tissue Manipulation. In 2016, she was

The Quiet Corner Page

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Making SMART resolutions

With New Year’s Day just around the corner, we, like many, are thinking about resolutions. We could debate that September is actually the start of a new year given the clean slate of grades to start a new school year, but a new year is a new year, and not all of us are still in school.

More than half of all resolutions end in failure, but we like the fact that generally, we, as people, seek to improve ourselves and our lives. One reason resolutions fail is that a person just hasn’t chosen the right one, something that has meaning. Many people fail before the end of January.

A resolution isn’t the right one for you if it’s too vague, if it’s someone else’s expectations for you, or if you have no plan.

The acronym SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound) can be used to help facilitate your success. If you make a specific goal of losing a certain amount of weight, your goal will be easier to obtain. If you set a time limit, (baby steps) by saying I will lose one pound each week, your plan becomes more effective. As a side note if you haven’t seen ‘What About Bob’ starring Bill Murray, you must.

We all like to see progress and to see it fast. One way is to make something measurable. If you want to scale back on something, say using social media, you can use the ‘see how much time you’ve spent on Facebook’ setting to watch your usage go down. Or if you’ve set out to watch as many old classic movies or read as many John Grisham novels as you can this year, you can make a check list, and as you finish each one, check it off the list. Or bring an empty bookcase into your house, and as you finish a book, pop it on the shelf.

Pick a goal that is achievable. By taking a leap that is too big, you might find yourself in over your head and likely frustrated. Having a goal of saving more money than you can will leave you hopeless; however, if you can put away \$50 per month, then you’re on to something.

Choose a resolution that is relevant. Doing something for the right reasons is key. A relevant goal is a lasting goal. If you want to do more research on your family’s ancestry, so that your family will have the information for years to come, then what you’re doing has meaning to not only you but to the people you care about. Choosing to bring others in on your goal is never a bad idea either. We all need a coach at times.

Using a timeline for your goals should be realistic. Knocking off small goals along the way will lead you to your larger goals and will also give you a chance to create your new habit.

Learning something new is one of the most refreshing things about being alive. Being able to continually grow and morph into the best versions of ourselves is what life is all about. The more you enjoy, the more meaning you get out of life.

As the poet T.S. Eliot said, “For last year’s words belong to last year’s language, and next year’s words await another voice.”

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Happy Holidays from the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association

To the Editor:

Happy Holidays to all Woodstock residents and our neighboring towns from the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association Station #76 and Woodstock Emergency Medical Service! Here’s wishing you and yours a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year.

Station #76 is proud of the service we provide to our community all year long. We responded to structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, search and rescue efforts and support services where needed in 2020.

We also appreciate the support of our town, without which we couldn’t do what we do: save lives, protect property and make a difference. We are grateful for operating budget support, plus special funding that enabled us to obtain life-saving CPR equipment and a special grant for a washer-dryer system that can eliminate toxins from our firefighting

protective gear.

Maybe you saw our historic, restored 1925 Stutz Fire Engine (pictured above) in the Hallmark TV movie “One Royal Holiday” that was filmed here in Woodstock, Putnam and Pomfret. It was part of the Christmas parade in the movie. Quite an honor for WVFA Station #76 and for Woodstock!

Thanks to everyone for helping make 2020 a success despite the pandemic and associated restrictions. We look forward to a great year ahead in 2021.

Please be safe and stay well as you celebrate the holidays!

Gratefully,

ERIC YOUNG
CHIEF, WVFA STATION #76

RUSSELL DOWNER
PRESIDENT, WVFA STATION #76

Be careful what you wish for

To the Editor:

After reading a letter to the editor titled “Dishonorable discharge,” I am left shaking my head.

I know the hatred for Donald Trump is real with the Democrat/Liberal/Progressive/Left folks. I get it (but not them). I just cannot understand them. If I look back on the presidency of each man back to (but not including) Reagan, all I see is self-serving politicians on both sides who cater to the elitism that is overwhelming America. Obama was the worst with his “fundamentally transform America” garbage, but Biden/Harris would be even worse. Be careful what you wish for, people.

As for DJT, I am very happy with how America has gone the past four years. I would love to see four more. This election was a sham. There is a coup going on. It may succeed. I pray it won’t. I do not want to be governed by the Democrat Party. They are the party of abortion, open borders, defund-

ing police, scrapping ICE, high taxes, high regulation, high control, anti-gun ownership, common core, drag queen story time, trans this and that silliness, boys in girls’ sports and locker rooms, and I could just go on and on.

Trump is only about himself and his self-interests? That rings hollow to me because I see a man who left his life of leisure and refused a POTUS paycheck to help his country.

Self-interest? Look at Obama again. All he did was enrich himself while driving us into the dirt. Good luck to us if Biden actually becomes POTUS. The “machine” will have worked, and we will never have an honest election again. Be careful what you wish for, Dems.

And one last reminder...we are not a democracy. Thank heavens!

ROD BEDARD
POMFRET

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Please include your place of residence and phone number for
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Can employers mandate COVID vaccinations?



KATHLEEN M. CERRONE, ESQ.

Pfizer and Moderna may receive emergency approval of COVID-19 vaccines any day now. As the first doses roll out to Americans in waves, it has been contemplated among the legal community as to whether employers can or should require workers to be vaccinated.

Businesses who have faced shutdowns in part due to either exposure or illness among their staff or customers may be tempted to impose this require-

ment. You may be surprised to hear that, in general, federal law allows employers to mandate vaccinations. They may do this as long as they have accommodations for those who have disabilities or pre-existing conditions that would make the vaccine unsafe and for those who have religious objections. However, it is not clear whether employers could mandate COVID vaccines since they have only been approved on an emergency basis without full review by the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration have not yet issued guidance on COVID-19 vaccines in the workplace. It may be instructive, however, that in 2009 the EEOC put out guidance that said employers could require that employees get a flu vaccine.

Employees who object to this

mandate may be able to avoid the requirement in a few ways. First, the employee can argue that the COVID-19 vaccine is not like the flu vaccine, in that it has not been approved for use by the FDA. The employee could point out that the COVID-19 vaccine is approved only for emergency situations, and the closure of a business, although a financial emergency, is not a health emergency. Second, the employee can state that allowing work remotely can protect them and others from the virus while not requiring the employee to take the risk of the vaccine. Depending upon the industry, if an employee has been working from home remotely and completing their work successfully, it would be difficult for the employer to require them to be in person with a vaccine. The employer would have to show that working from home has been an undue burden to the business, and that the employee is required to work in person in

order to sustain the business.

There is all kinds of liability possible if an employer decides to administer vaccines on the premises. In my opinion, that would be ill advised. The federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act provides immunity to certain entities that administer vaccines. According to Attorney Jessica Taub Rosenberg, who was interviewed by Thomson Reuters recently, there is a fund under the PREP Act to compensate people who get injured from a vaccine, and workers’ compensation laws may cover those injuries depending upon the situation.

According to Rosenberg, some employers are preparing now to voluntarily encourage the COVID-19 vaccine, and to begin to prepare an on-site vaccination option if employees voluntarily choose to be vacci-

Turn To **CERRONE** page **A9**

Last-minute charitable giving opportunities



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December is the “giving season,” when many people consider using their wealth to help others. Because of the urgent need for generosity presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be looking for ways to stretch your charitable donations. As always, the use of tax-efficient giving strategies can help them go further.

This year, it’s also important to be aware of the tax incentives for philanthropy included in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The summary below explains how you can maximize these tax-efficient giving incentives during the final week of 2020. Two common vehicles for charitable planning—now and in the future—are also covered.

CARES Act Tax Incentives

These incentives, which are set to expire on Dec. 31, apply only to cash gifts to public charities made by individuals or corporations. Regarding your 2020 tax return, here’s what you need to know:

Are you taking the standard deduction? If you’re not itemizing, you can take an “above-the-line” deduction of up to \$300 for cash gifts to charities. The amount you claim will reduce your adjusted gross income (AGI). What about married couples filing jointly? As of this writing, your deduction also seems to be limited to \$300, according to IRS draft instructions.

Are you itemizing deductions? Typically, annual charitable deductions are capped at a percentage of a taxpayer’s AGI. For individuals, this cap has been set at 60 percent since 2017. Under the CARES Act, however, you may deduct up to 100 percent of your AGI for gifts of cash to a public charity in 2020. This rule excludes gifts to a donor-advised fund (DAF). For corporations, the AGI cap for cash gifts, previously set at 10 percent, has been raised to 25 percent for the year.

For both individuals and corporations, any unused deduction under this cap may be carried forward for five years, which can lead to the planning opportunities discussed below. The cap for gifts of appreciated assets has not changed.

Planning Opportunities

If you wish to fund large charitable gifts this year, the 100 percent AGI cap offers huge advantages. Here are several ways this incentive could help you manage high-income events:

Stock options and lump-sum payouts. If you’ve exercised nonqualified stock options from your employer out of concern for market volatility or received a large lump-sum severance package as a result of a layoff, charitable gifts can help offset the tax burden.

Roth conversions. If you’d like to make a large Roth conversion this year, you could also make a large charitable gift to offset the tax liability of the conversion. This strategy is especially beneficial because traditional IRAs have become a less attractive way to leave money to heirs since the 2019 passage of the SECURE Act, which requires most IRA beneficiaries to empty their inherited IRA within 10 years.

Business sale. Let’s say you have an expected AGI of \$1 million this year due to a business sale. You could make a charitable contribution that would completely offset the year’s income.

Combining gifts. Although the CARES Act incentive applies only to cash gifts, the IRS does permit taxpayers to combine different types of gifts. For instance, you could maximize your 30 per-

Turn To **HALE** page **A9**

When squirrels became pets

Merry Christmas to you and your families. Did you give your child or grandchild a pet for Christmas? Perhaps a dog or cat? Perhaps a hamster? I don't imagine any of you gave a squirrel for a present. According to a link my daughter-in-law Ashley Weaver sent me this past week, there was a time "When Squirrels Were One of America's Most Popular Pets."

IN 1722, A PET SQUIRREL named Mungo passed away. It was a tragedy: Mungo escaped its confines and met its fate at the teeth of a dog. Benjamin Franklin, friend of the owner, immortalized the squirrel with a tribute.

"Few squirrels were better accomplished, for he had a good education, had traveled far, and seen much of the world," Franklin wrote, adding, "Thou art fallen by the fangs of wanton, cruel Ranger". Mourning a squirrel's death wasn't as uncommon as you might think when Franklin wrote Mungo's eulogy; in the 18th- and 19th centuries, squirrels were fixtures in American homes, especially for children. While colonial Americans kept many types of wild animals as pets, squirrels "were the most popular," according to Katherine Grier's *Pets in America*, being relatively easy to keep. By the 1700s, a golden era of squirrel ownership was in full swing. Squirrels were sold in markets and found in the homes

of wealthy urban families, and portraits of well-to-do children holding a reserved, polite upper-class squirrel attached to a gold chain leash were proudly displayed (some of which are currently at the Metropolitan Museum of Art). Most pet squirrels were American Grey Squirrels, though Red Squirrels and Flying Squirrels also were around, enchanting the country with their devil-may-care attitudes and fluffy bodies." Photos accompanying the article include one by Han Holbein of a woman with a pet squirrel in her arms and a pet starling on her shoulder. Copley's "A Boy with a Flying Squirrel" is in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. My favorite is of President Harding with his pet squirrel Pete. He appears to be giving Pete a kiss on the mouth. So, if you want something a little different during these dark days of winter, take a peek at the article and enjoy the great details in the photos. (www.atlasobscura.com/articles/pet-squirrelcraze).

I was able to do some browsing in December 1970 Windham County Transcripts this past week. It's hard to believe that 1970 was fifty years ago. How many of these places do you recall? "Christmas Trees. Benefit of Crippled Children's Hospital. Newington, Connecticut. Rivers Plaza Route 12, North Main Street Danielson. Lowest



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prices \$3 to \$5". "Pointsettias. Rogers Village Greenhouse. State Avenue. Rogers" "Specialty Fruit Store, Main Street Danielson. Fruit Baskets made to order." Cigars in gift boxes. Cookies in decorated tins. Chocolates in Holiday Boxes." Holiday Greetings from Kingswood Dairy in Brooklyn "Debutante Shop in Brooklyn. Coats and Parkas starting at \$16. Quilted Robes starting at \$10." "Patterson's Jewelry Store. Main Street, Danielson. "Fraternal Emblem Rings ½ price while they last--Masonic, Elks, Moose, K. of C., Shrine, (and more). Berris Motor Inn. "Special New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Menus. Wolf Den Lounge Open until 3 a.m." (WCT Dec. 17 & 24, 1970). The Danielson Cinema was showing "Catch-22" with Alan Arkin, Jon Voight and Orsen Wells. The next features were "Let it Be" and "Yellow Submarine." Perhaps you saw one or all of them.

Are you familiar with the Christmas song "Go Tell it on the Mountain?" Unlike some

of the others that I've written about, this is an American song, an "African-American spiritual." Refrain: "Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born. Verse 1: While shepherds kept their watching Over silent flocks by night Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. Go Tell it on the Mountain..."

From gaither.com/go-tell-it-on-the-mountain-the-story-behind-the-song/ I learned the following about the history of the song, "John Wesley Work, Jr., may not have originated the Negro spiritual 'Go, Tell It on the Mountain,' but he can take credit for the fact that we still sing it every Christmas. As the son of a church choir director, Work grew up in Nashville loving music. Even though he earned his Master's in Latin and went on to teach ancient Latin and Greek, his first love continued to be music, and he went on to become the first African-American collector of Negro spirituals. This proved to be a daunting task for Work because they were passed down orally, from plantation to plantation; very few were ever written down. But Work proved up to the challenge, publishing his first book, *New Jubilee Songs as Sung by the Fisk Jubilee Singers*, in Songs of the American Negro, six years later. It was in this sec-

ond volume that 'Go, Tell It on the Mountain' first appeared. The original singers of the song fulfilled the same important task the angels gave the shepherds that first Christmas night outside of Bethlehem, proclaiming, 'that Jesus Christ is born!' And thanks to John Wesley Work, so can we."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Peace, blessings and good health for you all.

The mail and answering machine will not be checked on a regular basis during the Christmas-New Year holiday. Feel free to contact us after January 3rd. The Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center is closed.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, December, 2020. Special thanks to Ashley Weaver for the squirrel link. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (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.

Do-it-yourself holiday centerpiece

Dress up your holiday meals with a centerpiece crafted from greens, colorful stems and seed heads collected from your garden. Or purchase fresh materials you need from your favorite garden center or florist.

Most gardeners spend some time gathering a few blossoms and creating a bouquet or arrangement for their summer gatherings. Don't let winter stop you from crafting a festive centerpiece from materials collected from your gardens this time of year.

Start by gathering some greens. The fan-like sprays of arborvitae, blue-green sprigs of juniper as well as branches of yews, boxwood, pines and spruces can provide all the greenery you need.

Now look for items with interesting color or shape. Red and yellow twig dogwoods and paper bark birch add festive color to any arrangement. The interesting shapes of curly willow, contorted filbert and fantail willow provide intriguing form.

Next gather cones, berries, and fruits. Look for orange and red rose hips, blue berry-like cones of junipers, sweet gum seedpods, and alder's cone-like fruit. Gather a few evergreen cones to include in or around your arrangement.

Look for potential adornments that are lingering in the perennial garden. Coneflower, rudbeckia, and allium seed heads can add a bit of structure to your arrangement. Gather a few milkweed,



GARDEN
MOMENTS
MELINDA
MYERS

balloon plant and lotus pods. And don't worry, your milkweed plants will return for next year's visiting monarchs. Honor their natural color or add a bit of bling with some gold, silver, or red paint.

Include a few shiny ornaments as needed. Glittered stems, ribbons and candles can add festive color to nature's beauty in your centerpiece.

Visit your favorite florist or craft store for needed supplies. Pick up some floral foam to secure the stems. Cut it to shape to fit the size and shape of the container.

Moisten the foam before inserting fresh greens and cut flowers. Set the block of foam on top of a basin of water and let it sink. This allows all the air spaces to fill with water, ensuring your flowers and greens have the water they need. Use high density foam when working with evergreen boughs and branches.

No need to moisten the foam when using dried and artificial material. This material makes it easier to create your arrangement.

Consider purchasing a few seasonal flowers for added color for your special event. These can be placed directly in the floral foam or water filled florist tubes set in the arrangement. Simply remove faded flowers and replace as needed.

Or use miniature poinsettias, kalanchoes and cyclamen for longer lasting



Photo Melinda Myers

It is possible to create a festive holiday centerpiece crafted from materials found in winter gardens.

living color. Tuck them in the bed of greens or use them to decorate each place setting. Check the soil moisture frequently as the small pots dry out quickly.

The possibilities are endless, and the results are sure to brighten your spirits no matter how you are safely celebrating this holiday season.

Melinda Myers is the author of more

than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

HALE

continued from page A8

cent AGI cap for gifts of appreciated assets. The 100 percent AGI cap would be reduced by that amount, but you would still be able to deduct another 70 percent of your AGI by making cash gifts.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from an IRA, payable to a qualified charity. Although the CARES Act allows IRA owners to skip required minimum distributions (RMDs) in 2020, the rules for QCDs have not changed. If you own an IRA (including an inherited IRA) and are 70 and a half or older, you can make tax-free distributions of up to \$100,000 payable to public charities (excluding DAFs).

Here are some ways a QCD could help control your income:

If you decide to take an RMD this year (or must do so in the future), a QCD could be used to satisfy the distribution. This strategy would remove the tax burden associated with taking the distribution as ordinary income.

A QCD is not reportable as part of your AGI, which limits its impact on the taxation of social security benefits.

In future years, a QCD could also limit the impact of income on Medicare premiums, which are based on your AGI from two years prior.

Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs)

A CRT can help you (or your beneficiary) spread the tax liability on the sale of appreciated assets over many years. This may result in paying a lower overall effective tax rate. Let's look at how this works:

A CRT pays an income stream to a noncharitable beneficiary (or beneficiaries) for a term of years or for life. At the end of the income term, the remaining assets in the trust are distributed to a charity.

When you move assets into a CRT, you receive a charitable contribution deduction based on the present value of the remainder interest set to pass to the charity at the end of the income distribution term.

If you contribute appreciated assets (e.g., investment assets, closely held business interests, real estate, or collectibles), those assets can be sold without creating a tax liability to the trust itself.

As you can see, the primary benefit of a CRT is that the trust is exempt from taxes. But that does not mean taxes are entirely avoided for beneficiaries. In fact, the distributions to the income beneficiaries are taxable based on four buckets of income: ordinary income, capital gains, tax-free income, and return of principal. Each year, when the CRT makes its income distribution, it first pulls the funds available from accumulated ordinary income, such as interest and dividends, before distributing other types of income. The benefi-

ciaries would be subject to the taxation rules in place for these types of income. Need Additional Information?

If you're interested in exploring these options, please contact our office at 860-928-2341 or email us at info@whzwealth.com. We'll walk through how these giving strategies can help you meet today's urgent need for generosity—and help those in your community to live well.

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OBITUARIES

Victor E. Lippiello, 100

PUTNAM – Victor E. Lippiello, 100, of Emond St., passed away at home on Thursday, December 10th. Born July 16, 1920 in Putnam, CT, Mr. Lippiello was the son of the late Bartolomeo and Maria (Trama) Lippiello. He was married to the late Josephine (Barrille) Lippiello on June 21, 1947, in Buffalo, NY.

A member of the “Greatest Generation,” Mr. Lippiello served in the U.S. Army 11th Airborne – 511th Parachute Infantry as a paratrooper in the Pacific Theater of World War II. He made 27 jumps, including one combat jump over Japanese-occupied Manila. At the end of the war, he was stationed as a peacekeeper in Japan before returning home. His decorations and citations included the Asiatic Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Fort Devens in January 1946.

Upon returning home, he was employed by the Uncas Printing and Finishing Company in Mechanicsville. He also worked as an upholsterer for Risom Manufacturing before moving on to the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, from where he retired in 1992. Victor was a Life Member of the Putnam Lodge of Elks #574, a

member of the American Legion Post #13 Putnam, and a parishioner of St. Mary’s Church of the Visitation in Putnam. In 2020, the town of Putnam declared July 16th “Victor Lippiello Day” in his honor. Victor could often be seen on his daily walks and enjoyed playing cards as a member of the “Iron Dukes” at the Elks. He was an avid gardener and was known for his home-made tomato sauce. In addition, he was a 22-gallon blood donor with the American Red Cross.

Victor is survived by his daughter, JoAnn (Lippiello) Gorham of Woodstock Valley, his granddaughter, Victoria (Gorham) Ywarsky and her husband John of Brooklyn, CT; and his beloved great-granddaughter, his “Queen” Josephine Ywarsky. He is additionally survived by his siblings, Constantino “Connie” Lippiello and Matilda “Tillie” Deotte, both of North Grosvenordale, and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by his brother, Louis Lippiello, and sisters Lisa Pope, Carmela Czechowski, Lydia Cutter, and Virginia Lippiello.

Due to Covid-19, services will be private. A celebration of Victor’s life will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT 06260 or the American Legion Post #13, P.O. Box 123, Putnam, CT 06260. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

John C. Rukstela Jr., 78

BROOKLYN, CT- John C. Rukstela Jr. age 78 passed away Monday, December 14, 2020 at the Day Kimball Hospital, Putnam, CT. He was the husband of the late Barbara (Lynch) Rukstela who died in 1985.

He leaves two sons, Charles Rukstela and Thomas Rukstela and his wife Sandra, all of Brooklyn, CT. He also leaves his companion Betty McFarland of Brooklyn. John leaves grandchildren, Jordan and Ziden, he also leaves two sisters, Katherine Rukstela of NH and Joan Mayo of FL. He was predeceased by two sisters,

Patricia Hart and Barbara Hunter both of Brooklyn, CT. He was born in Putnam son of the late John and Anne Rukstela Sr. and lived in Brooklyn most of his life. He was retired from the State of CT Dept. of Transportation where he drove truck for many years. One of his joys was his greenhouses and his vegetable Stand. He was a member of the Mortlake Fire Dept. There are no calling hours and a celebration of life will be held at a later date. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with his arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

Regina Viktorija Taunys, 95

PUTNAM– Regina V. Taunys, 95, died Sunday evening, December 13, 2020, at Matulaitis Nursing Home. Regina was born on July 10, 1925 in Kaunas, Lithuania. As a child she enjoyed an upper middle-class upbringing. Her father, Antanas Matukas, was a physician and her mother a registered nurse. Being the oldest of four siblings, she had a

younger sister and two younger brothers. There were also numerous cousins. When Communist Russian tanks rolled into Lithuania in 1940, the family’s happy and serene life ended. From 1941 until 1944, Lithuania was occupied by Germans and in the summer of 1944, Communist Russians returned. During this time Regina graduated from High School in Kaunas. To avoid deportation to Siberia, the family fled to Austria and later moved to Bavaria. In 1947, Regina immigrated to Canada by signing a government contract to work for a year as a domestic and was assigned to a hospital in London, Ontario. With the assistance of a generous benefactor,

she was able to bring her parents and siblings to Canada where they settled in 1948. Eventually, Regina continued her studies and in 1958 she received a Master’s Degree in Social Work from St. Patrick’s School of Social Welfare at the University of Ottawa. Regina worked in various fields of social work: at the Toronto Children’s Aid Society, Catholic Family Services and as a clinical social worker for Penetanguishene Hospital. In 1975, Regina immigrated to the United States and was employed as a clinical social worker at the Matulaitis Nursing Home in Putnam, Connecticut for 30 years. Upon her retirement, she continued to live in her home in Putnam enjoying hobbies like reading, gardening and also keeping in touch with family and relatives in various parts of the world. All her life, Regina remained faithful to her Lithuanian Heritage and was a devout Catholic. A Funeral Mass was held on Monday, December 21, 2020. Burial in the Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT. For memorial guestbook, visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

www.860Local.com

Identify winter birds in backyards

Birds fluttering around the neighborhood are a common sight during spring and summer, and these welcome guests can be enjoyable to observe as they nest, feed and interact. When the weather cools in fall and winter, many birds seek out warmer climates, but a good number of these feathered friends stick around.

Certain birds can be found all winter long across regions of North America. The Great American Bird Count is a program that is run by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. Its purpose is to seek the help of volunteer birdwatchers across North America to observe and count all the birds seen in a 15-minute interval during a four-day data collection period. This program helps identify birds that are most commonly seen in cold temperatures and study the composition and distribution of the winter bird populations across North America. Birds seen during this time may change from year to year, though certain species are more likely to be around in the winter months.

- Northern cardinals: One of the more iconic winter birds, the bright red cardinals are around much of the year but perhaps most noticeable against the snowy, stark landscape of a winter’s day. Cardinals use their bright, powerful bills to crack open seeds and cut through sugary fruits to help them survive the winter.
- Tree sparrows: Tree sparrows are

large-bodied and long-tailed sparrows with gray and reddish-brown streaking along the edges of their feathers. They also wear a bright chestnut colored cap. Despite their name, tree sparrows spend much of their time on the ground feeding. The bird count has unveiled a greater number of tree swallows in recent years. These birds are insectivorous, so milder winters may be contributing to their increased presence.

- Tufted titmice: Tufted titmice resemble cardinals in body and head shape, albeit on a smaller scale, but they are pale gray in coloring. These are bold birds who defend territory with scolding calls.

- Blue jays: These common, vibrant birds are well known to many people. They are large-crested songbirds with broad, round tails. They have white or light gray feathering on the underside of their bodies with various shades of blue, black and white on the top. A favorite food is acorns, and these birds are often found on forest edges. Their calls are loud and carry long distances.
- Mourning doves: Many people hear mourning doves before they actually see them, as their soft cooing often comes from roof rafters and tree branches. These birds have plump bodies and long, tapered necks, with a head that looks particularly small in comparison. They tend to be brown to buff color. When the birds take off for flight, their wings make sharp whistling or whinnying sounds.



Birds seen during winter may change from year to year, though certain species are more likely to be around in the winter months.

- American goldfinches: These birds are sometimes called the “wild canary” of the Americas. They have distinctive yellow plumage that fades in winter to a palette of buff, brown and gray. They’re small seed-eating birds that often travel in flocks.

Birds may need a little help surviving in the winter. Keep fresh, unfrozen water around and supplement food scavenged with peanut butter, suet and nuts. Brush piles, roost boxes or birdhouses can provide needed shelter.



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the deadline is Monday at noon for that week.

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

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LEGALS

TOWN OF KILLINGLY BOROUGH OF DANIELSON SEWER TAX NOTICE

The third quarter installment of taxes as well as the supplemental motor vehicle tax for the Town of Killingly and the Borough of Danielson becomes due on January 1, 2021. The second installment of sewer use charge is also due January 1, 2021. Taxes will become delinquent on February 2, 2021. Sewer Use charges will become delinquent on February 1, 2021 and subject to interest at the rate of 18% per annum, 1 ½% per month or any fraction of a month, from the due date. A minimum of \$2.00 interest will be charged for each delinquent bill and installment. Payments will be received in the Revenue Office, 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, as follows; Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-4pm Tuesday 9-5pm Friday 9-11am. By mail at; 172 Main Street Killingly CT 06239, by text or online at our website www.Killinglyct.gov. Dated at Killingly this 14th day of December, 2020
Mrs. Patricia Monahan C.C.M.C.
Revenue Collector for the Town of Killingly
December 25, 2020
January 8, 2020
January 22, 2020

TOWN OF BROOKLYN LEGAL NOTICE

The **THIRD** installment of real estate and personal property and **ALL** supplemental motor vehicle tax bills of

28.92 mills on the dollar levied on the assessment of Oct 1, 2019 becomes due Jan 1, 2021. The **SECOND** installment for Sewer Bills becomes due Jan 1, 2021. Bills will become delinquent on April 2, 2021 and subject to interest from the due date at 1.5% per month as prescribed in the General Statutes of the State of CT. Minimum interest penalty is \$2.00. Please call 860-779-3411, opt. 5 to find out the hours of the Tax Office. If you wish to pay by mail, enclose coupon of bill and address to: Revenue Collector, PO Box 253, Brooklyn, CT 06234. If a receipt is desired, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. You can also drop off a payment in the drop box located at 4 Wolf Den Rd, Brooklyn. You can also pay via credit/debit card online or by phone. There is a processing fee of 2.50%. For more information, go to our town website www.brooklynct.org.

Jocelyne Ruffo, CCMC,
Revenue Collector

December 25, 2020
January 8, 2020
January 29, 2020

TOWN OF THOMPSON ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Zoning Board of Appeals held a public hearing on Monday, December 14, 2020 beginning at 7:00 PM via Zoom and took the following action:
ZBA Application #20-07- David R. Blake of 29 South Shore Rd, prop-

erty owner of 31 South Shore Road, Map 133, Block 1, Lot 48, Zone RRAD (formerly R20), request for a Variance, 20 foot front setback, to build a residential dwelling. Continued Public Hearing.

File may be reviewed on line, Town of Thompson website, Zoning Board of Appeals.
Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Beno, Chairman
December 25, 2020

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF WOODSTOCK TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

The second installment of real estate and personal property taxes, sewer use bills, and motor vehicle supplemental taxes listed on the October 1, 2019 Grand List becomes due and payable to the Town of Woodstock on **January 1, 2021**. Payment must be postmarked or brought into the office by **February 1, 2021** to avoid an interest charge. Interest will be charged on **February 2, 2021** on all delinquent payments at the rate of one and one-half percent per month, or a minimum charge of \$2.00 on each bill. Motor Vehicle Supplemental taxes not paid by **February 1, 2021** will be reported as delinquent to the Motor Vehicle Department. If you have any questions, please contact the Tax Collector's Office at 860-928-9469 ext. 318 or the Assessor's office at 860-928-6929 ext. 326. The Tax Collector's office hours **during**

the month of January, 2021 are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The town hall will be closed on Fridays.

The office will be closed at noon on Thursday, December 31, 2020 and will be closed on Monday, January 4, 2021 for New Year's Day Holiday and on Monday, January 18, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Linda Bernardi, CCMC
Woodstock Tax Collector
415 Route 169
Woodstock, CT 06281

December 25, 2020
January 8, 2020
January 29, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Carl L. Matson (20-00417)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of North-east probate Court, by decree dated, December 10, 2020 ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Ruth Everburg.
c/o ALYSON R ALEMAN, BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE, LLC,
155 PROVIDENCE STREET, PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260,
(860)928-2429.
December 25, 2020

Shovel snow safely this winter

The beauty of freshly fallen snow is undeniable. Such beauty compels millions of people across the globe to ski and snowboard each winter, while millions more enjoy simply looking out their windows at snow-covered landscapes. If it was as convenient as it is beautiful, snow would likely be welcomed with open arms whenever the local weatherperson includes it in his or her forecast. But heavy snowfall can be inconvenient, making it difficult to travel and even creating more work for individuals responsible for shoveling their driveways and walkways. Shoveling snow can increase a per-

son's risk for injury, and some may be surprised to learn just how frequently such injuries happen. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission notes that, in 2018, more than 137,000 people needed medical assistance for injuries that happened while shoveling snow or using snowblowers. Sprains and strains in the back and shoulders are the most common injuries when shoveling snow. But people also can suffer lacerations and injuries related to below-freezing temperatures when shoveling snow. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons recommends people keep these safety precautions in mind when shoveling snow

this winter.


- Stretch before shoveling. Just like you would do before exercising in a gym, stretch prior to picking up your snow shovel. Warm up your muscles with some light exercise for 10 minutes to reduce your risk of sprains, strains and muscle tears.
- Stay hydrated and take frequent breaks. The AAOS notes that snow shoveling and snow blowing are aerobic activities. Such activities require participants to be hydrated. In addition, taking frequent breaks can help prevent injuries.
- Avoid shoveling snow if you're at risk for heart attack. Some people should avoid shoveling snow entirely. According to the Harvard Medical School, researchers correlated hospital admissions and deaths due to heart attack the day after it snowed in Canada between 1981 and 2014. Researchers found that the deeper the snow, the more men died of heart attacks. In fact, researchers found that there was a 34 percent increase in heart attack deaths the day after an eight-inch snowfall, and those rates increased when snowfall increased. Most deaths were men, but both men and women who are at risk of heart attack should avoid shoveling snow, particularly after heavy snowfall.

Adults who are unsure of their heart health should consult with their physicians prior to shoveling snow.

- Use the right equipment. Ergonomic snow shovels can make shoveling less taxing, reducing your risk for sprains and strains. Spacing hands on the tool grip can increase leverage, making shoveling easier and less likely to lead to injury.
- Pushing snow instead of lifting it. The AAOS recommends pushing rather than lifting snow when possible. If snow must be lifted, squat with your legs, knees bent and back straight. When lifting, lift with your legs and do not bend at the waist. Scoop small amounts of snow at a time and walk to where you want to dump. The AAOS warns against holding shovels full of snow with arms outstretched, as doing so puts too much weight on the spine. Snow should not be thrown over the shoulder, as such a technique requires a twisting motion that puts stress on the back. In addition, the AAOS notes that heavy wet snow should be removed in pieces and not all at once. Anyone can get injured while shoveling snow. Such injuries are preventable when certain safety measures are taken.

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