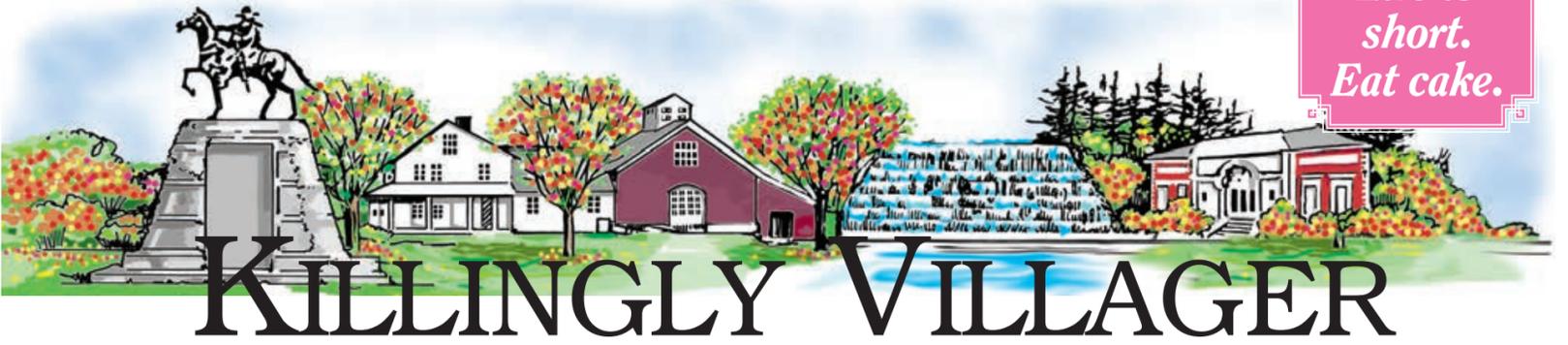


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Eat cake.



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

Friday, December 14, 2018

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Making a difference in the Quiet Corner

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN
NEWS STAFF WRITER

THOMPSON — Kimberly Becker has lived in the Quiet Corner all her life. Born in Putnam, she's lived in Thompson for almost 31 years. And she doesn't see her location changing any time soon, because Becker has a lot to love about the Quiet Corner.

One of the things that Becker has loved lately is her new job at The Arc Emporium. She's been there for a little over a month, and it's already had a huge impact on her life. Not only are her new coworkers like a second family to her, but the work she does means a lot to her.

At The Arc, Becker works with disabled adults as a job coach, helping them learn to perform work duties and reach job-related goals each day. The adults she works with are always "so proud" of what they accomplish at work, and Becker loves seeing their eyes light up. "My sister was disabled," she said. "She passed away a year ago, so this is very close to my heart."

Becker has seen firsthand



Olivia Richman photo

Kimberly Becker just started working at The Arc Emporium, a business close to her heart.

Please Read **BECKER**, page A19



HIGH SCHOOL HOOPS

Charlie Lentz photo

DAYVILLE — Woodstock Academy's Aaron Johnson goes up for a shot last season, splitting Killingly's Shayne Bigelow, right, and Sean Johndrow, left, in a game at Killingly High. A preview of the high school basketball season begins on page B-1 of The Villager sports section.

Wreath ceremony in Pomfret

POMFRET — The Sarah Williams Danielson Chapter of D.A.R. will hold the celebration of Wreaths Across America in Pomfret at noon on Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Veterans Memorial at the Pomfret Town Green at the intersection for State Routes 169/44/97. Seven wreaths, one for each branch of the military, and POW/MIAs will be placed. Simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies are

held throughout New England and the United States.

All are invited to the ceremony with complementary coffee being served to veterans at the Vanilla Bean at 11 am. Selectman Patrick McCarthy will sing the National Anthem. Guests included in the program that will honor our veterans include Rep. Pat Boyd, First Selectman Maureen Nicholson, American Legion

Commander Todd Smith, with Colors Guard performed by the Boy Scouts of Troop 29. Marion Hollowell of the DAR has organized the event in Pomfret for several years.

In 1992 Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, decided to send his surplus wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. He vividly remembered his experi-

ence visiting the cemetery as a young boy and felt he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans and remind people how important it is to remember, honor, and teach.

The annual tribute went on quietly for several years, until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the project

received national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help with Arlington, or to simply share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes.

In 2014, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers laid over

Please Read **WREATH**, page A19



SANTA VISITS EASTFORD

Carol Davidge photo

EASTFORD — Brianna and her mother, Paige Burgess, an Eastford Recreation Commission attend Cookies & Cocoa with Santa on Dec. 8 at the Congregational Church in town. First Selectman Jacqueline Dubois also pitched in. Co-sponsor was the Town's Union Society Building Committee.

Sailors' Valentines have a sweet history

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN
NEWS STAFF WRITER

WOODSTOCK — Not everyone has heard of Sailors' Valentines, but many people learned what they were when they visited artist Lynda Susan Hennigan's studio during the Artist Open Studios of NE CT between Nov. 30 and Dec. 9.

Hennigan's delicately and elegantly designed studio perfectly embodies the work she sells: Sailors' Valentines.

Made out of shells, original Sailors' Valentines were very popular between 1830 and 1890. According to Hennigan, whaling ships would come home after months or years at sea and give their wife a beautiful piece of art created with shells. At first people thought the sailors themselves were making them, but they were actually purchased in Barbados.

It wasn't until the 1970s that people started to discover old Sailors' Valentines in people's attics. Most are now in museums or private collections, and can be quite pricey.

When Hennigan was a young girl, she first saw a Sailors' Valentine while she was visiting a Maritime Museum in Cape Cod. She was fascinated about the mosaic shell design. But when she went back to the Cape 15 years ago to buy one she learned the one she had seen as a child had sold for



Olivia Richman photos

Lynda Susan Hennigan was one of the artists in the Quiet Corner that participated in the Artist Open Studios of NE CT.

\$20,000.

"I figured I'd just make one for myself," she said.

While Hennigan's may not be antiques, they are just as exquisite as the originals.

And in her retirement, it became her hobby, passion, and business. She not only sells her own shell art and Sailors' Valentines, but holds programs about them at various schools.

To be considered a valentine, you must use an eight-sided

Please Read **SAILORS**, page A4

Danielson restaurant celebrates anniversary

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN
NEWS STAFF WRITER

DANIELSON — Deb's Place celebrated seven years on Veterans Day after opening on 11-11-11. For many people, this opening date seems beyond lucky. And maybe it is: Deb's Place has been a dream come true for owner Debra Smith, who wanted her own restaurant since she was 16 years old.

I spoke with Smith about her restaurant in downtown Danielson, the path she took to get to Deb's Place, and her passion for her customers and staff.

What had made you want to open your own restaurant at such a young age?

I don't know, I just loved the atmosphere of it. I don't know. I just loved the atmosphere of it. My father had owned a restaurant, Savoie's Luncheonette, when I was a baby. There are 7 children in my family, but I'm the only one who was interested in opening a restaurant.

What did you like about working there?

I worked in many restaurants, and I like the freedom of not being confined. I like the multi-tasking. I don't do the same thing every day.

Is Deb's Place your first restaurant?

I owned another restaurant for six years. I also owned The Country View for three years. They've all been similar in what they have on the menu: Comfort food is the number one thing, for breakfast and lunch.

What makes Deb's Place different?

I think that we're healthier than some other restaurants that serve the same kind of food. We're not greasy. We take pride in having quality ingredients and being healthier in the way we cook things. I also don't believe in taking anything out of the can. Everything is fresh and homemade, including soup and desserts.

How do you come up with the items on the menu?

That's the funny part. I learned from my father, who was a cook in the navy. I'm definitely not a classically trained chef and I don't use any measurements. I just know what to put in there. I remember asking my father, 'How much do I put?' and he'd say 'I don't know. Just put it in.' My cook, John, also makes his own specials. We both have certain specials, whatever we make best.

You just know what tastes good.

I love food. I've been on a diet since 16. But I always have to try what I'm making, so when I make stuff I give it to other people to test. They give me the thumbs up or down, or tell me to what to add.

What have you loved about Deb's Place?

My first restaurant was also right here, the same building in 1996. I just

love being my own boss. And I love giving people jobs. And I love for them to have fun when they work. We have a lot of fun when we're working. Our regulars, we tell them 'This is free entertainment.' We're not the norm. We are a little crazy.

How do you like having a business in the Quiet Corner?

I have so many regulars. They just love coming here to sit with each other, talk with each other. They come after church. It's such a small town. You see the same people all the time, some that you haven't seen in a while... Everyone's always laughing and bubbly and having fun. I love the customers and I love how they feel at home.

Olivia Richman may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 112 or by e-mail at olivia@stonebridgepress.com



Olivia Richman photo

Debra Smith has always had a passion for restaurants. She wanted to open her own since she was 16.

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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. 3rd: Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Northern Harrier, Northern Shrike, Fox Sparrow, Cooper's Hawk, Song Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Brown Creeper, Bluebird, Red-tailed Hawk. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home

DON'T MISS A BEAT

CHECK OUT THE SPORTS ACTION!



Longest night service at Congregational Church

WOODSTOCK — The annual Longest Night service at First Congregational Church of Woodstock is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 21. The Longest Night service, so named because it is held on or near the winter solstice, is a time to acknowledge all the complicated emotions of this season. It is a time of quiet contemplation. It is a time of peace.

For some, the holiday season is filled with tidings of comfort and joy. For others, it is a difficult time tinged with sadness, grief, loss, pain, or struggle. For others still, it is so very busy that it's hard to even catch a breath.

The service will include prayers, music, poetry, scripture, communion, and several participatory opportunities for reflection, meditation, and prayer. Participants will be invited to light candles, to offer prayers in words or images, to receive a blessing, to sprinkle salt into water as a symbol of their own tears or the tears of the world, and to participate in other ways, including simply sitting quietly throughout the service.

"Christmastime can be very difficult for people who are grieving the loss of a loved one, or hurting in broken relationships, or struggling to make ends meet,

or facing illness or addiction or depression," said the Rev. Jocelyn Gardner Spencer, pastor of First Congregational Church of Woodstock. "We hope that the Longest Night service will be a time of healing and hope for anyone who needs it. It is good to be reminded that all our human struggles and sufferings are shared by the God who will never leave us or forsake us, the God who loves the world so much that God couldn't help but join us in it."

First Congregational Church of Woodstock is located at 543 Route 169, Woodstock and is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. All are welcome. Learn more at www.firstchurchwoodstock.org, call the church at (860) 928-7405, or find them on Facebook and Twitter @FirstChurchWoodstock.



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

ACCURACY WATCH

The *Killingly Villager* 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.

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In Print and Online



Holiday concert at First Church of Woodstock

WOODSTOCK — The First Church of Woodstock will host a Holiday Concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 16. Woodstock REVELations, this year's concert, borrows from the Revels, an Old English Tradition. Written by Donna Dufresne, the script maintains some of the traditional Revels themes, but is specially tailored to reflect the cultural and family traditions of members from the Church and the community beyond, with an immigration theme. It is a "slightly pagan, cultural, and historical look at Christmas traditions from around the world and right next door".

No less a personage than John Elliot,

from 1672 (played by Leslie Sweetnam) will make an appearance to explain the Puritan New England point of view on Christmas celebrations. The Rose and Thorn Morris Dancers will assist in the revelry, including the Abbot's Bromley Horn Dance, an extension of The Holiday Hunt story. The musical ensemble, under the direction of the church musical director Edward Bradley, consists of a choir of 15 singers, a small orchestra and the church organist, Leilani Nixon. The program will last about one-hour and admission is free.

Grant funds to The Arc from NEC fund

PUTNAM — Thanks to a grant approved by The Community Foundation-Northeast Connecticut Women & Girls Fund in the amount of \$1,750, The Arc Quinebaug Valley will be able to once again continue a curriculum of classes on positive choices and healthy relationships for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Representatives from The Arc accepting these grant funds were Susan Desrosiers, Executive Director and Judy Daviau, Chief Operating Officer.

"The Community Foundation-Northeast Connecticut Women & Girls Fund continues to make a difference at The Arc Quinebaug Valley and we cannot thank them enough for all of their support. Promoting healthy relationships and reducing domestic violence are important factors in our Positive Choices & Healthy Relationships program, as it will allow individuals with disabilities the opportunity to understand their own boundaries, bodies and relationships at a deeper level," said Desrosiers.

The Arc provides programs for individuals with intellectual, developmental and other life-affecting disabilities. Vocational, residential, recreation, education, day and retirement services offer opportunities for people with disabilities to reach their goals and be integral members of their community.

Pomfret carol sing and tree lighting

POMFRET — The annual Pomfret Holiday Tree Lighting and Carol Sing will be on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 5 p.m. at the Town Green across from the Vanilla Bean. Thanks to Joann and Paul Johnson and family, the lights are on the tree and it is ready to be lit up for the season. The white lights are lit until the annual tree lighting and carol sing, during which the colored lights are lit. Join your neighbors and continue the tradition of caroling on the Green and lighting the colored lights. Please, bring a flashlight for safety.



Courtesy photo

Last season's holiday tree lighting on the Pomfret Town Green.



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February Freeze to benefit Pomfret Community School

POMFRET — Pomfret Community School has scheduled its fifth annual February Freeze 5K Run/Walk event for 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2. The race course is on the campus of Pomfret School at 398 Pomfret Street (Route 169) in Pomfret Center. The event benefits PCS's eighth grade class trip to Washington, D.C. next spring.

The trip to Washington is a tradition that started over 40 years ago – the first trip was in 1976 – in honor of our country's bicentennial celebration. Since then countless PCS students have visited the Capitol, museums and National Monuments that make Washington D.C. so unique. For many, it serves as a rite of passage as it is often the first time they have travelled without their parents. Michael Galligan, Assistant Principal at Pomfret Community School, has been organizing the trip for the past 18 years.

"The Washington D.C. trip is such an important learning experience for all Pomfret chil-

dren in eighth grade. I have been going on the trip for 18 years and each year it is still memorable. It takes a village to make sure we offer this opportunity to the children in Pomfret," Galligan said.

The idea for the February Freeze was conceived five years ago by Pomfret residents, Monique Wolanin and Kathleen Johnson. Both runners themselves, they saw the potential of getting the community together for a fun, healthy event which at the same time could raise money for the eighth graders. New for this year, there will be a shorter Fun Run at 12:40 p.m. for children from preschool through fourth grade.

Pomfret School has been a sponsor of the race since its inaugural event in addition to donating the use of its campus and Parsons Lodge. The 5K (3.1-mile) course consists of three loops and winds through the campus and along the quad with a downhill finish to the



Charlie Lentz photo

Runners begin last year's February Freeze.

lodge. Finishers are rewarded for their effort with hot chocolate and refreshments by the warm fire in Parsons Lodge.

For more information for signing up or sponsoring visit the website: www.pomfretcommunityschool.org/february-freeze.

freeze. Cost is \$30 per runner. All proceeds go to the student trip.

NECASA Board forms endowed fund

POMFRET — The Board of Directors of Northeast Communities Against Substance Abuse (NECASA) has established an endowed fund at the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut to continue its mission of supporting prevention services in northeastern Connecticut. A NECASA Legacy Celebration will be held Thursday, Jan. 17, at 5:30 p.m. at Grill

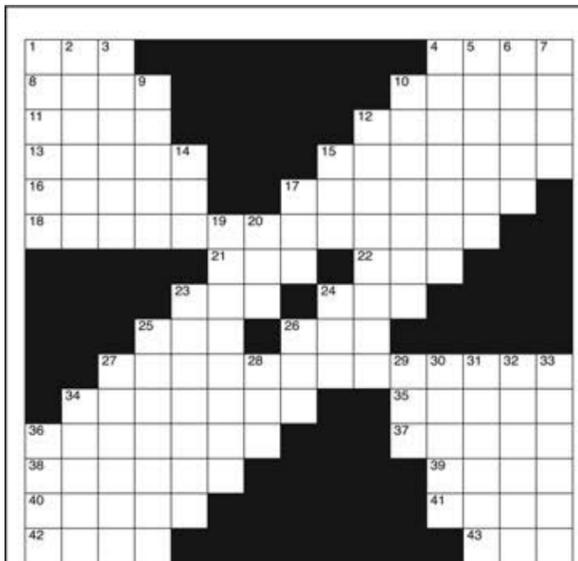
37 in Pomfret. During the event the Fund will be formally transferred to the Foundation. Tickets are \$35 per person for a buffet dinner and all proceeds will benefit the NECASA Fund. For tickets or more information on the event or supporting the NECASA Fund, please contact Lydia Basnight at United Services at (860) 457-4656 or lbsasnight@usmhs.org.

For more than 28 years, NECASA provided a local response to the need for information and training about substance abuse, mental health and suicide prevention for residents in northeastern Connecticut. Over the years NECASA raised funds throughout the community to support the agency's efforts and supplement grant funding. The grant funding has now been shifted to a new regional entity, and the Board has voted to transfer the remaining assets, raised in northeastern Connecticut,

to a Field of Interest Fund called the NECASA Fund within the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut.

The Community Foundation will manage the endowment and a grant-making process to distribute funding. Donations to the NECASA Fund are tax deductible and will expand the reach of prevention services in the Northeast.

NECASA closed in June following state funding cuts.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A great lunch
- 4. German composer
- 8. Expresses pleasure
- 10. Unit of energy
- 11. Genus of beetles
- 12. Type of respect
- 13. City in Netherlands
- 15. Showing lack of skill
- 16. Irish surname
- 17. Exaggerated or affected sentiment
- 18. Diversion
- 21. Journalist Tarbell
- 22. Wrath
- 23. Current unit
- 24. Sixers' Simmons
- 25. Makes honey
- 26. Tributary of the Rhine
- 27. Once home to a notorious wall
- 34. Gets back
- 35. She was beheaded in France
- 36. Cheer
- 37. Tropical Asian palm
- 38. Darker
- 39. Figures
- 40. Old World trees
- 41. Protects a broken bone
- 42. Dried-up
- 43. An enclosure for swine

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Blab
- 2. ___ Bacall, actress
- 3. Declaration of an intention to inflict harm
- 4. The most direct route
- 5. Affirm to be true or correct
- 6. Rift
- 7. Oil company
- 9. Alphabetic character
- 10. Large marsh bird
- 12. Hollywood event
- 14. Scottish port
- 15. French river
- 17. Something frustrating (abbr.)
- 19. More in time
- 20. Payroll company
- 23. Pokes holes in
- 24. A way to steal
- 25. Blacken with dirt
- 26. Autonomic nervous system
- 27. A lab tech's tool
- 28. A place to stay
- 29. UK school
- 30. Moroccan
- 31. Where rockers work
- 32. Most friendly
- 33. In a state of turbulence
- 34. "Bridget Jones" actress
- 36. Hebrew liquid units



Lynda Susan Hennigan's art studio.



Art created with shells.

SAILORS

continued from page A1

frame, to match the discarded compass boxes they originally were created with. The original valentines are also very geometric, and while Hennigan started off with those designs, she has since gotten a little bit more creative.

Of course, they're still traditional. And any design with a centerpiece uses antiques from the 1800s.

The process is quite simple, she said, but very time consuming. It can take a while going through hundreds of shells to find uniformed ones fit for her designs.

"It's very relaxing for me. Everybody that comes in here says, 'I'd tear my hair out if I did that.' But I love doing it," Hennigan said with a laugh. "I love the creative part of it. Each piece I do is different. I've never done the same one over again."

After the success of her Sailors' Valentines, Hennigan started created shell art based on pieces from the 1700s. She'll buy antique frames for them to keep with the traditional theme of her art.

"Shells were a big status symbol back then," she said. "Nobody could go to the Carribean, so the wealthy would buy shells in England. They were the only ones who could afford them."

According to Hennigan, there was one particu-



Olivia Richman photos

Lynda Susan Hennigan creates beautiful Sailors' Valentines – and also loves teaching others how to do them.

lar trading company that started seeing some real success after selling sea shells. It was so lucrative, in fact, that he ended up starting other businesses as well, including petroleum. That's where Shell Mobil comes from.

Telling the history of Sailors' Valentines is what makes the Open Studios even more of a delight for Hennigan. She loves teaching people all about this unique art form. For more information, visit <http://www.lyndasusanhennigan.com/>.

Olivia Richman may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 112 or by e-mail at olivia@stonebridgepress.com

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Warmth and wellness drive at Day Kimball



Courtesy photo

DKH's laboratory staff enjoyed decking the halls and decorating their warmth and wellness holiday tree.

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Healthcare's Warmth & Wellness Holiday Drive is back. For a second year, DKH will be collecting personal care items, hats, gloves, blankets and more for those in need across Northeast Connecticut.

DKH invites its staff and the community to drop off donations at Day Kimball Hospital's Main Entrance (Entrance A), Visitors Entrance (Entrance D), or the Plainfield Healthcare Center Lobby through Jan. 4. Donations will then be distributed to those in need through TEEG, Interfaith Human Services' food pantry, the DKH Family Advocacy Center and DKH's own outpatient and employee services.

The Warmth and Wellness Drive is seeking donations of the following

items: First aid items; toothbrushes, toothpaste and mouthwash; shampoo; bar soap, body wash, facecloths and hand towels; hand sanitizer and wet wipes; toilet paper and feminine products; hand warmers and foot powder; laundry detergent; new blankets, throws or sleeping bags; new bed pillows and pillowcases; new socks and pajamas for both children and adults; and new mittens, hats and scarves for both children and adults.

Day Kimball Healthcare thanks the community for its generosity this holiday season. For more information call the Development Office at (860) 928-7141 or visit www.daykimball.org/holiday-drive.

Cicchetti receives Patriot Award

PUTNAM — Putnam Plastics, Rick Cicchetti, recently received the Department of Defense Patriot Award from Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Vice Chair, Tom Pandolfi. Putnam Plastics employee and citizen service member Colin Bathgate nominated Cicchetti for this award for supporting him while in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Bathgate said Cicchetti was very understanding and accommodating of his training needs when away from his job. Having a supportive employer is essential to the military member and their families while away on training or drills. The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support citizen service members through a wide-range of measures including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families, and granting leaves of absence if needed.



Courtesy photo

From left, Colin Bathgate, USNR, Rick Cicchetti, Putnam Plastics, and Tom Pandolfi, ESGR Vice Chair.



PUTNAM — Master Mike Bogdanski and Master Kristin Duethorn of Quest Martial Arts in Putnam announced November's new graduates. Orange Belt: Ingrid Alves, Samantha Smyth. Orange-Blue Belt: Marge Azu, Ava Clark, Allyson Gagnon, Caleb Scaplen. Blue-White Belt: Caitlyn Cote, Larry Cote, Kai Frechette, Mason Needham, Thomas Needham Jr., Jacob Turner. Blue Belt: Emma Fournier, Cole Hopkins. Green-white: Kai Teed. Green-Red Belt Vincenzo DiMeglio, Lillian Frechette, Anthony Mills. 2 Stripe Blue Lucy St. Germain. 3 Stripe Green: Mike Demers. 2-Stripe Green: Beth Card. 3 Stripe Red: Emma Chrzanowski, Richard Grendell III, Caleb Koleszar, Rayne Norman, Brian Card. 2 Stripe Red: Carter Meehan. Tiger Belt: Samantha Mills. Green Dragon: Huxley DeSouza. Red Dragon: Chiara Rochette.

bankHometown kicks off pajama drive

PUTNAM — bankHometown kicked off its 16th annual pajama drive on Nov. 26 with a challenge to residents to help support local children in need of new pajamas or slippers. Until Dec. 15 all 13 bankHometown branches will be accepting pajama donations for children sizes 4T and up, as well as small and medium sizes in men and women. Pajamas must be in complete sets (top and bottom) or an appropriate nightgown. The pajamas and slippers will go to local shelters throughout central Massachusetts and northern Connecticut.

"We believe in giving back to our community all year round, but especially for children during the winter and holiday season," said Matthew Sosik, President and CEO of bankHometown. "This initiative is to give children in our communities the warmth and comfort they may need during the cold winter nights."

The pajamas and slippers are sent to local schools in northern Connecticut and central Massachusetts, as well as the TEEG (Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group) in Thompson.

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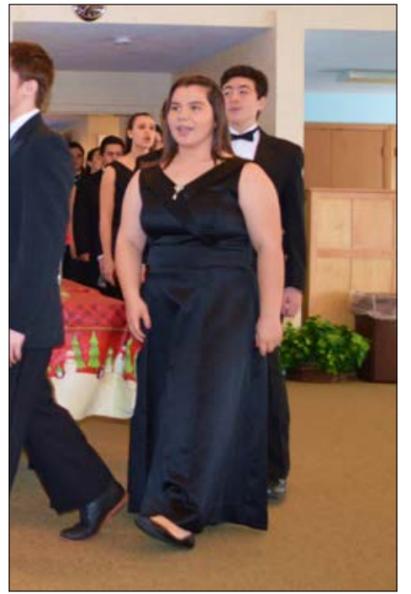
Eastford senior citizens join Community Day celebration

BY LINDA S.M. DOS SANTOS
FOR THE VILLAGER

EASTFORD — On Dec. 4 Woodstock Academy Hill Singers from Pomfret, Brooklyn, Canterbury, and Woodstock opened the Community Day Celebration hosted by the Congregational Church of Eastford. Area residents from the Quiet Corner, as far out as Sterling Connecticut, attend the Joyous gathering. In addition, Eastford Senior Citizens (ESC) joined the Community Day Celebration. (Unknown to many, this is the fourth year that the ESC has distributed gifts through the Grandparent Helpers program to Seniors in need, who are housing and financially supporting their Grandchildren.)

The Woodstock Academy Hill Singers entered the hall in full voice, oh, so beautiful the resonance. In addition to their stage performance, after the Ham dinner with all the fixing, topped with iced marble cake and chocolate candy kisses, the Woodstock Academy Hill Singers concluded the program from their luncheon seats with a Christmas Sing-Along. The Congregational Church of Eastford ended its program with a gift from the Church to everyone attending.

Courtesy photos



Ugly sweaters at Thompson Middle School

THOMPSON — Thompson Middle School's Student Council held an Ugly Sweater Fundraiser on Dec. 5. Students were able to spend the afternoon after school sewing, decorating and having fun making ugly sweaters. All the money raised was donated to Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group (TEEG) Operation Fuel program. Student Council members donated \$210 to the program, which will help keep area families warm this winter. Students will be able to wear their ugly sweaters during Spirit Week at Thompson Middle School.



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Gingerbread weekend in Putnam

PUTNAM – Gingerbread Weekend in Downtown Putnam once again brought the holiday festivities to the Quiet Corner with over 40 gingerbread house creations. On Dec. 1 through Dec. 3, Downtown Putnam invited residents to vote on their favorite Gingerbread House inside the Montgomery Ward building, and then explore downtown. Restaurants had special Gingerbread-themed drinks and desserts, while other shops had sales, raffles and live music. The Gingerbread Houses will be on display throughout the holiday season, and Gingerbread Trail Maps are available at Main Street shops.



A unique lighthouse Gingerbread creation at Sadie's Sweet Shop.



K's Sweet Spot's elegant Gingerbread House.



A Gingerbread House, created by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services.



Skeeter's Toy Box's Gingerbread House, surrounded by plushes.



August & March's beautiful Gingerbread House.



The Crossing's Gingerbread House is, of course, a train!



Olivia Richman photos

There are seven Gingerbread Houses created by residents and local businesses inside the Montgomery Ward Building that people can vote on.

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OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

Christmas takeaways

The true Christmas transformed the world. Whether someone believes what the Bible teaches about Christmas or not, it must be acknowledged that the birth of Jesus



BEYOND THE PEWS
 JOHN HANSON

Christ impacted the world more than the birth of any other human being in history. But it is even bigger than history. God coming to earth as a man (the incarnation) may not have

been the most significant thing God will ever do, but it is certainly the most significant thing He will ever do as it relates to mankind. It is classic God, and it teaches us a lot about his M.O. Consider the following questions about God and His relationship with mankind that are answered in the timeless, true story recorded in the Gospels (Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-20).

1. Does God force his will on mankind, or does he ask permission to include them in His plans? Mary had the privilege of carrying the flesh of God in her womb, but God first shared his plans with her, so she could be a willing participant. Joseph could have opted out of being Jesus' earthly father, but he responded to a dream by buying in to what God was doing. God always gives mankind an option.

2. Does God make life easy for those who are doing His greatest work? Mary and Joseph were greatly inconvenienced and very misunderstood as a result of accepting their assignment from God. Their plans for when to have a baby, where to have their baby and where to live after they had their baby were all completely altered as they accepted their key role in the salvation of mankind. Living for God is costly, but wonderful.

3. Does culture usually recognize the value and significance of what God is doing? Not only did most of the world completely miss the birth of Christ, but His entire ministry, His death and His supernatural resurrection were not well known until the early Christians spread the stories abroad. God seems to take pleasure in doing His greatest work under the radar. Man thinks he is running things and that his systems are important, but God is always in charge.

4. Does God include people of different races or walks of life? He began with an olive-skinned virgin and a decent, blue-collar man who were both willing to be misunderstood and inconvenienced with the task of raising the Son of God. God crafted the remainder of the cast from some lowly shepherds, a group of foreign wise men, and an innkeeper that had no room, but was willing to lend his barn. Notably missing were the elite, the educated, the religious and the politically powerful people of his nation. God doesn't need us, but He gracefully offers people a place in His-story.

5. Is God interested more in winning arguments with philosophers, kings and lawyers or in touching the lives of simple believers? The Christmas story tells of how God out-maneuvered a King, fulfilled multiple prophecies without any help from religious scholars, and lived an unassuming life amongst people who had no idea who He really was, for three decades.

The Christmas story is incredible because it is the story of God becoming flesh and dwelling among us. It is also amazing because God did it all in a way that demonstrates how He uses ordinary people who sincerely give their lives to His purposes. That gives us all hope that our lives can be meaningful and world-changing, as long as we are willing to be a part of His story.

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. Visit www.ActsII.org for more information.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Woodstock zoning change should go to a town-wide vote

Quin Li has done the residents of Woodstock a big favor (Guest column in the Dec. 7 Villager) by shining a light on a process proceeding quietly and under the radar — changing town-wide zoning regulations regarding lot size for new construction.

It may well be that, as Li speculates, “as a town we decided to cast off what generations before us have fought to maintain in our Quiet Corner, in turn passed on that stewardship to us, and instead our vision is a Woodstock overrun with 1.5 acre (with 1 acre buildable) subdivisions.” It may well be “that the will of the residents of Woodstock is to become just another town of subdivision sprawl that has only a distant memory of what we were once like...that our vision was to cash out.”

If that is, in fact, the case, I won't like it one bit but I can live with it.

If the elected Zoning Board recommends such a change (I'm hoping they listen to those

who have attended their meetings and don't make the change) — the only way to determine if this is indeed “Woodstock's Vision” is to give all Woodstockers an equal and real — not delegated — voice.

Such a significant change, which affects every man, woman, and child living in Woodstock should not be decided by a nine-member Board with apparent and not-so-apparent conflicts of interest. Such a significant change, if supported by a vote of the Board, should then have to be decided by a town-wide vote.

JOHN A. DAY, JR.
 WOODSTOCK VALLEY

(Editor's note: The Woodstock Planning and Zoning Commission has scheduled an opportunity for further input from citizens at a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 20 at Town Hall.)

Putnam man no fan of Trump

In the mid-1450's in present day Romania, then Hungary, the king was Vlad the Impaler. It is said he murdered over 100,000 by impaling them on pointed poles, sometimes eating dinner watching them die.

Not to make too sharp a point as a comparison, we have a wannabe king — Donald the Destroyer, whom I will call DD. DD is impaling America on the sharpened spikes of hatred, lies, arrogance, ignorance, hubris and, dare I say it, rank stupidity. As American bleeds, I fear that we might be seeing the beginning of a slide where American becomes a Second-World country.

To my mind, among the things DD has or is in the process of destroying include:

Reality. This is more fundamental than his destroying truth. DD is destroying the realities of scientific fact, fiscal responsibility, ethics, personal integrity, expert advice, loyalty and so much more. While these are intangibles, they are just as real and necessary to our society and body politic.

First Amendment. What can I say? His constant attacks on the Free Press is aimed at undermining one of our most important freedoms. And let's not forget his many other assaults on the Constitution.

Separation of Powers. This brilliant concept of the Constitution has been incredibly important to the survival of the Nation. DD is blurring the lines by pressuring the Congress to appoint judges based on political issues, by trying to control the Department of Justice, and by imposing his will on the Legislative Branch. The Executive Branch is to carry out the business of the government, not write laws or interpret them.

Disgraceful Behavior. The Presidency sets the ethical standards for the country. The leadership position has considerable power to shape these standards. DD has snubbed

our allies, vilified many great and good people, turned on people he appointed and lauded as the brightest and best, and pandered to dictators and despots.

Departments of the Government. DD has eviscerated or underfunded the State Department, the Department of Justice, the EPA and the IRS.

Debt Concerns. DD has repeatedly ignored our ballooning debt. He feels it is not important to him because when things really blow up, he said in a meeting, “Yeah, but I won't be here” (to take the blame). This year, our debt service will be over \$1.3Billion/day! Consider all the things we could and should do with all that money.

Courage. DD will not hold to any decision. He has not visited our overseas soldiers because he is afraid of being killed. He did not attend the Veteran's Day observances in the US because he would have had to face demonstrations. He did not visit the WWI ceremony in France because it was raining, but he sent others on the same helicopter he was to have used.

This is my 20th Op-Ed letter in the past two and a half years railing against DD. I could go on for another 1,000 to 5,000 words with little effort, but would be redundant. I have never recommended that DD should be impeached, since I'm not a Constitutional lawyer and I fear that Pence would be even worse. I feel we should resist, as best as we can for two years, and elect a more progressive and enlightened champion of reason, law and integrity. Maybe this champion can reverse all this destruction and keep America a First-World country.

STEPHEN ETZEL
 PUTNAM

Support Woodstock dairy farms

Times are tough for dairy farmers - so tough, that within the next year it is possible that a number of dairy farms in Woodstock might have to go out of business. That would be a blow not just to the farm families, but also to everyone who appreciates the open fields and agricultural beauty of the town.

Milk prices have been low for years. From 2010 to 2014, the futures price for a hundred-weight of class III milk waivered, reaching \$25 in 2014. Since then it has hovered around \$16, a drop of about 40%. But to produce a hundredweight costs more than \$18 nationally, and \$20 in Connecticut. Farmers can't operate at that loss much longer.

President Trump's tariff wars have not helped. Other countries have retaliated with tariffs on dairy products, reducing U.S. exports. And the president has done little to deliver on his promise of offsetting payments to farmers.

Farms are not only important to the beau-

ty of Woodstock, they are also important economically. For every dollar they pay in taxes, they cost the town only roughly \$0.31. In contrast, for every dollar a residence pays in taxes, it costs the town about \$1.06.

It is in the interest of everyone in Woodstock try to protect farms. How can we do that?

We can call our congressional representatives urging support for farms and reversal of the tariff impact: 1-844-USA-0234.

We can continue to support, or perhaps increase, funding of the Woodstock Agricultural Land Preservation and Land Acquisition Fund, which has helped to permanently preserve open space on more than a dozen farms. The most direct way to help is to buy locally. Explore the dairy farms in town from which you can buy wonderful products.

JOCK MCCLELLAN
 WOODSTOCK

To my reading friends

At this time of year, I look for writing that expresses what I feel. Just before dawn I like to read poetry in our living room while looking out at the garden. I was reminded of a poem I first encountered three years ago. I liked it so much I bought a printed copy and gave it to a friend as a Christmas present. I want to share it now. It is called “Letter to a Friend” by Fra Giovanni Giocondo. It was sent to his friend, Countess Allagia Aldobrandeschi on Christmas Eve, 1513. I've changed the format to make it fit the column space.

“I am your friend and my love for you goes deep. There is nothing I can give you which you have not got, but there is much, very much that while I cannot give it, you can take.



NANCY WEISS

No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in today. Take heaven! No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present little instant. Take peace!

The gloom of the world is but a shadow. Behind it, yet within reach, is joy. There is radiance and glory in the darkness, could we but see, to see we have only to look. I beseech you to look!

Life is so generous a giver, but we, judging its gifts by their covering, cast them away as ugly, or heavy, or hard. Remove the covering and you will find beneath it a living splendor, woven of love, by wisdom, with power.

Welcome it, grasp it, touch the angel's hand that brings it to you. Everything we call a trial, a sorrow, or a duty, believe me, that angel's hand is there, the gift is there, and the wonder of an overshadowing presence. Our joys, too, be not content with them as joys. They, too, conceal diviner gifts.

Life is so full of meaning and purpose, so full of beauty, beneath its covering that you will find earth but cloaks your heaven.

Courage, then, to claim it, that is all. But courage you have, and the knowledge that we are all pilgrims together, wending through unknown country, home.

And so, at this time, I greet you, not quite as the world sends greetings, but with profound esteem and with the prayer that for you now and forever, the day breaks, and the shadows flee away.”

In doing a bit of research, I found that this lovely piece contains some mystery and perhaps even misrepresentation. Most sources say it was written by a Franciscan friar, who was also a prominent architect. The British Museum said in 1970 that it may have been penned in 1930 by Greville MacDonald, a doctor and son of a prominent author. It may not be what it purports to be. Regardless, I find it beautiful and an expression of hope and gratitude.

The religion of my childhood was so austere that angels, except perhaps Gabriel, were not discussed. In college I toured great cathedrals and museums in France that were brimming with rich examples of religious expression. I'm grateful for the countless variations humans create to capture the mysteries of life.

In the “Letter to a Friend” the author, whomever it was, gives us beautiful images for the holiday season and beyond. We look for peace and love and joy and meaning in our beautiful corner of the world. We make our way through it together. So as “the day breaks and the shadows flee away”, my best wishes to you, my reading friends.

End U.S. involvement in Yemen

Washington is agonizingly slow at learning from its mistakes. Especially in the Middle East. Over the last decade and a half in that critical but chaotic part of the world, the United States has repeatedly witnessed the limitations of using the blunt instrument of American military force to solve complicated political, social, economic and religious conflicts. There is, of course, no better example of this failure to understand the limits of American military power than our decade-long disastrous invasion and occupation of Iraq. And yet we are now back to making the same mistakes, this time in a less well-known country called Yemen.

Yemen's humanitarian crisis worsens each day. Here's how to stop it.

For three years, the United States has supported a coalition led by Saudi Arabia that is waging war inside Yemen, trying to oust a rebel government made up of members of the Houthi tribe. Our role in the coalition is significant — we sell bombs

GUEST COLUMN

CHRIS MURPHY

and weapons to the Saudis, we help them pick targets inside Yemen, and until recently, we refueled their planes in the sky.

To anyone paying attention, it's clear that the United States is engaged in a war in Yemen. And yet this war has not been authorized or debated by Congress. Our involvement started quietly under President Barack Obama, and now President Donald Trump has increased our participation. And it's not as if our participation in the Yemen conflict hasn't come with serious consequences.

Yemen has become a hell on earth for the civilians caught within its borders. More than 10,000 innocents have been killed in the Saudi-led bombing campaign since the beginning of the civil war. Targets have included schools, hospitals, weddings, a funeral party and recently a school bus carrying 38 children to a field trip.

More than 22 million people — three quarters of the population — require humanitarian assistance and protection.

The country is on the brink of famine and is in the midst of the worst cholera outbreak in the world.

To date, an estimated 85,000 children under the age of 5 in Yemen may have died from starvation and disease. In many ways, this suffering is an intentional byproduct of the Saudi coalition, which has targeted water treatment plants, health clinics and even a Doctors Without Borders hospital, all with US assistance.

There is a US imprint on each of these civilian deaths. As the humanitarian nightmare worsens, it also provides the fuel to recruit young men into terrorist organizations such as al Qaeda and ISIS, which have been able to thrive in the power vacuum created by the war. For as many bad guys that we kill with this strategy, we create two more. Ultimately, our involvement is making the United States less safe as we create conditions that radicalize a generation of young Middle Easterners against us.

That's why I am working with Sen. Bernie

Turn To **GUEST** page **A9**

This year marks the 200th anniversary of Silent Night

This will be my last column this year so I thought I would focus on signs of Christmas and how they came to be associated with the holiday. I'm sure many of you will have a poinsettia in your home. It's amazing to see how many colors are now available. "Poinsettia plants are native to Central America, especially an area of southern Mexico known as 'Taxco del Alarcon' where they flower during the winter. The ancient Aztecs called them 'cuetlaxochitl'. The Aztecs had many uses for them including using the flowers (actually special types of leaves known as bracts rather than being flowers) to make a purple dye for clothes and cosmetics and the milky white sap was made into a medicine to treat fevers. (Today we call the sap latex!)"

"The poinsettia was made widely known because of a man called Joel Roberts Poinsett (that's why we call them Poinsettia!). He was the first Ambassador from the USA to Mexico in 1825. Poinsett had some greenhouses on his plantations in South Carolina, and while visiting the Taco area in 1828, he became very interested in the plants. He immediately sent some of the plants back to South Carolina, where he began growing the plants and sending them to friends and botanical gardens.

One of the friends he sent plants to was John Bartram of Philadelphia. At the first Philadelphia flower show, Robert Buist, a plants-man from Pennsylvania saw the flower and he was probably the first person to

have sold the poinsettias under their botanical, or Latin name, name 'Euphorbia pulcherrima' (it means, 'the most beautiful Euphorbia'). They were first sold as cut flowers. It was only in the early 1900s that they were sold as whole plants for landscaping and pot plants. The Ecke family from Southern California were (sic) one of, if not, the first to sell them as whole plants and they're still the main producer of the plants in the USA. It is thought that they became known as Poinsettia in the mid 1830s when people found out who had first brought them to America from Mexico.

"There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together, it goes like this: There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up. 'Pepita', he said 'I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy.' Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said. She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at



KILLINGLY
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MARGARET
WEAVER

the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'. The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity."(<https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/poinsettia.shtml>)

From the same site I found the following about one of most beloved Christmas carols, which is celebrating its 200th birthday this year. Silent Night. "The words of Silent Night were written by a Priest called Fr. Joseph Mohr in Mariapfarr, Austria, in 1816 and the music was added in 1818, by his school teacher friend Franz Gruber, for the Christmas service at St. Nicholas church in Oberndorf, Austria. Fr. Mohr asked Franz Gruber to compose the melody with a guitar arrangement. It was several years later that

Franz Gruber wrote an arrangement for the organ. Historians who have conducted research in recent years believe that Fr. Mohr wanted a new carol that he could play on his guitar.

"There is a legend associated with the carol that says, Fr. Mohr wanted the carol to be sung by the children of the village at the midnight Christmas Eve service, as a surprise for their parents. But in the middle of practicing, the organ broke and not a note would come from it! So the children had to learn the carol only accompanied by a guitar. They learnt the carol so well that they could sing it on its own without accompaniment. However, there are no records to indicate that a children's choir was involved or that the organ was broken!"

"At Midnight Mass in 1818, Fr. Mohr and Franz Gruber sang each of the six verses with the church choir repeating the last two lines of each verse. Mohr set down the guitar arrangement on paper around 1820 and that is the earliest manuscript that still exists. It is displayed in the Carolino Augusteum Museum in Salzburg. There are a number of manuscripts of various 'Stille Nacht' arrangements that were written by Franz Gruber in later years.

"The original words of the song were in German (and it was called 'Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht') and translated in to English went: Silent night, holy night, Bethlehem sleeps, yet what light, Floats around

the heavenly pair; Songs of angels fills the air. Strains of heavenly peace.

"It's thought that the song might have traveled around the area with an organ repairman, Karl Mauracher, who could have taken an early arrangement with him in about 1820. Then two singing families (like the 'Von Trappes' in The Sound of Music) seem to have discovered the song and performed it as part of their concerts. In December 1832, the Strasser family performed it at a concert in Leipzig. It was first performed in the USA in 1839 by the Rainer family, who sang 'Stille Nacht' at the Alexander Hamilton Monument outside Trinity Church in New York City. During this time the tune changed to the one we know and sing today!"

I recently had the pleasure of participating in the wonderful candlelit singing of Silent Night at the Victorian Christmas at Westfield Congregational Church in Danielson. This Sunday, December 16 the church will host their last Victorian Christmas for this year at 7 p.m. If you love Christmas music and gorgeous decorations, do try to attend. It is less than an hour in length.

If you have young children, or are young at heart and desire a display of lights (many of us miss Mervin Whipple's yearly display) visit Amarante's Winter Wonderland at 8 Pratt Road in Dayville. My son Michael and I really enjoyed it. The display, which includes 160,000 lights and a number of animated

inflatable characters, is visible from Route 101. Weather permitting it is open until New Year's on Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday 5-9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 5-10 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday. If you know how to do a search on the internet, you can see photos before you go.

Thank you all for following my column this past year. If you have ideas for new topics for 2019, please email me. May you and your families and friends have a joyous holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Note: The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center will be closed Wednesday, December 26th. It will be open Saturday, December 29th. It will be closed January 2, and will be open Saturday, Jan. 5.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian. Special thanks to Rev. Jon Chapman for the information that this was the 200th year for Silent Night and to Daniel Amarante for information about his display. For additional information email Weaver at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 or www.killinglyhistorical.org or call (860) 779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to P.O. Box 265, Danielson, Ct. 06329.

Retirement, life, and other goals

Looking back at 2018, it has been interesting. There has been plenty of domestic economic promise, coupled with increasing market volatility. No matter the current economic climate, as the year closes, it is important to make sure that you have taken care of all the year-end responsibilities for your finances, so you may Plan, Invest, and Live Well.

The following checklist could be helpful to you so you don't miss any important dates or key year-end responsibilities. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), signed into law on December 22, 2017, largely became effective in 2018. The law has changed many fundamental tax planning items in the process.

Although some aspects of the Act limit the benefits of year-end planning, other areas provide opportunities. It is now appropriate to review your existing year-end planning and turn your focus to some of the tax provisions that may affect you. Though this piece highlights important considerations, we recommend reaching out to your advisors to review the full impact of this Act on your current and future tax situation. Below is our 2018 checklist to help plan and organize the different aspects of your year-end finances.

Retirement: First, let's take a look at retirement. Consider

maximizing your 401(k), 403(b) or other company plan contributions. If you are 50 years and older, catch-up contributions are allowed. Maximizing your IRA contributions is also may be in your best interest. Consider converting traditional IRAs to Roth IRAs, especially if you are in a low tax bracket and can pay the taxes with other funds available.

If you are 70 ½, make sure you take your required minimum distribution. If you are self-employed, consider opening and funding a SEP IRA. You should also check beneficiary designations on all retirement plans. Lastly, consider making a 2018 charitable donation directly from your IRA using a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) if you are 70 ½ and older.

Gift-giving: Next, we will think about gifting. Consider using your annual gift tax exclusion amount (\$15,000 per donee) for cash gifts. Also consider using your annual gift tax exclusion to fund 529 plans. Based on what is right for you, you may use appreciated assets to fund your charitable gift, or use the best vehicle to use such as a donor advised fund, private foundations, or a charitable trust.

Consider using all or a portion of your lifetime federal estate, gift and GST exemption amount of \$11,180,000 by creat-

ing and funding an irrevocable trust. Before gifting any asset, know the cost basis and the tax consequences to the donee. It is also important to see how this best applies to your situation, revisit your gifting strategies and your estate planning documents, and make changes as necessary.

Income taxes: Work with your tax advisor to prepare an income tax projection for 2018 and 2019. One thing you may consider is "bunching" your deductions. You may consider with your tax advisor either accelerating income in the current year or deferring income to the following year. Be sure to check your withholding to avoid interest and penalties. You should also understand if you will be subject to Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) and how that may impact your financial picture.

Insurance: It also may be a great time to look at your insurance policies. Review your current policies and do some research about alternatives. If you have a material change in life, revisit the amount of coverage. Also checking the beneficiary designations on these forms. You can request an in-force ledger for all permanent life insurance policies.

This may be the time to think about transferring your life insurance into an irrevocable life insurance trust (ILIT). If



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your life insurance is owned by an ILIT, make sure you are providing Crummey letters to the beneficiaries.

Investments: Think about the goals you set for yourself and where you stood in the beginning of 2018. Have the strategies you chosen worked? How do you feel about your portfolio? You should review this and consider rebalancing if necessary. Check to make sure your investments are in line with your risk tolerance and investment objectives that you have set out to achieve.

You might sell some losers to offset gains. You can deduct up to \$3,000 of capital losses against ordinary income and carry forward excess capital losses to future years. If you plan to purchase a mutual fund toward year-end, check to see if the fund is making a sizable capital gains distribution.

Goals: Lastly, let's talk about your goals? What did you achieve this year? What didn't you achieve that you were

hoping too. Maybe you need to check the progress of some other goals, are they on track? It is important to check yourself to see if you have any new goals and how that may impact your strategy. For anything that may worry you, consider talking with a financial advisor who can help you develop and unique plan tailored to the needs that you reviewed in this checklist.

Live well: Making sure all your year-end goals are met is an important part to Living Well. Be sure that you are contributing and maximizing your potential for growth, so you can fulfill the goals you have set as you make new ones in 2019.

Presented by James Zahansky, AWMA, researched through First Republic Bank. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259, (860) 928-2341. www.whzwealth.com. You should consult a legal or tax professional regarding your individual situation as all investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there can be no assurance that any investment strategy will be successful.

GUEST

continued from page **A8**

Sanders of Vermont and Utah Republican Mike Lee to force the Senate to vote on a resolution that says this President and this administration cannot continue to engage in the conflict in Yemen without a declaration of war from Congress. Our legislation, which cleared a major procedural hurdle Wednesday and is working its way through the Senate under the 1974 War Powers Act, would require the administration to pull its support from the Saudi coalition until it gets that declaration of war.

It's time for Congress to reclaim one of its most fundamental duties -- deciding when and where the United States goes to war. For too long, we have been content to sit on the sidelines and cede this power to the executive branch. But in doing so, we are repeating the same mistakes we have made over the last 15 years of US foreign policy in the Middle East.

It's time for us to end our disastrous engagement in Yemen, and it's time for Congress to reclaim its role as the body with the sole authority to declare war. We can start by deciding to end our involvement in the war in Yemen.

Chris Murphy, a Democrat, is the junior U.S. senator from Connecticut.

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Frosty's night out in Danielson

DANIELSON — Davis Park was packed with festive families despite the chilly weather on Nov. 30. That's because they were waiting to meet Santa at the town's annual Frosty's Big Night Out. Keeping warm with hot chocolate, the people gathered at Davis Park enjoyed Christmas songs sung by Killingly High School's Concert Chorale.



Olivia Richman photos

Cathy and Jaime Dunlop came out for the music.



"We came for the lights," said Bonnie Kibela, pictured with granddaughter Wendy.



Killingly High School's Concert Chorale belted out Christmas classics for the crowd.



Miguel Antunes with his daughters Claire and Lillian.

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Kalenda Ramos and Atila Dossantos.



Lilly and Lori DiMeco enjoyed the holiday decorations at the park.



Andrew, Lacy, Avery and Aliza couldn't wait to see Santa.



Richard Lopez with his daughter Jennifer.



Warmed by hot chocolate, the crowd had a blast listening to Christmas music at Davis Park.

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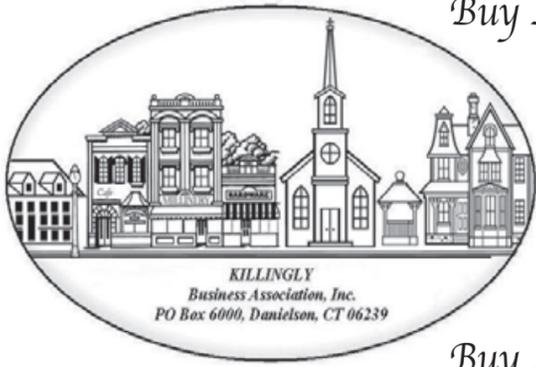
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Wishing all my patrons a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Santa Claus comes to Eastford

BY CAROL DAVIDGE
FOR THE VILLAGER

EASTFORD — More than 100 children, parents, grandparents and great-grandparents came to the Town of Eastford's "Cookies & Cocoa with Santa" on Dec. 8. After the usual location for the festivities fell through, the Congregational Church volunteered its spacious community room and saved the day. The Ashford Babcock Band, the oldest continuously performing band in the U.S., played festive

songs for an hour, and was playing "Sleighbells Ring" as Santa and Mrs. Santa arrived. The event leader was Valerie Katkaveck, Chair of Eastford's Recreation Commission, who manages many family events in town. Pastor Mike Moran and many members of the Church. Children told Santa their holiday wishes, decorated cookies, created snowflakes and centerpieces and played games. "We're grateful to the many volunteers who helped," said Katkaveck. First Selectman Jacqueline Dubois

also pitched in. Co-sponsor was the Town's Union Society Building Committee. "For 100 years, the Union Society celebrated the holidays with Santa who handed out an orange and candy to each child so this is an important event to sustain a great tradition," said USB member Mary Ellen Ellsworth. Ellsworth coached children at the ball-toss game and gave out oranges and treats. The most accurate ball-tosses from long-distance was 86-year-old Stanley Allaby of Woodstock who was

there with four generations of his family. Asked if he'd been a baseball pitcher in his earlier years, Allaby replied "I played second base - but now I play tennis." Katkaveck thanked Cindy and Richard Labbe who made sure Santa and Mrs. Santa found the new location, and the dozens of volunteers who baked cookies, set up tables, and helped plan the day. "It was a happy time for all, thanks to many volunteers," Davidge said.



Carol Davidge photos

Santa with Oliver, dad Adam and mom Abbie from Ashford



Three generations of Bruce Barlow's family turned out



Pam Desaulnier helped grandchildren with ball-toss



Yum! says Vincent from Eastford who came with mother Samantha and brother Nathan.



Johanna was master cookie decorator and first-prize winner of the Union Society Ball toss with a score of 95.



Israel, Ezekial, Eve, Asa and dad from Chaplin try the ball-toss.



Ashford Babcock Band played festive music



Town leaders (l-r) Recreation Chair Valerie Katkaveck, Union Society Committee member Mary Ellen Ellsworth, Congregational Church Pastor Mike Moran and First Selectman Jacqueline Dubois made the day happen with volunteers from the Church.



Stanley Allaby of Woodstock, age 86, won the long-distance ball toss game as his daughter and great-granddaughters look on.



The Ciovacco's of Woodstock are third and fourth generations of the Allaby family.



A young member of Barlow family of Eastford learns to decorate cookies

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**Candlelight Service
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**The Congregational Church
of Putnam
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Christmas Eve Services
7:00pm & 11:00pm
Monday December 24, 2018

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Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

Dec 24th - 7pm

Congregational
Church of Eastford



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*We are looking forward to seeing you
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as we journey through Advent and arrive
at the Manger on Christmas Eve.*

Sunday, December 16th
Sunday School 9:30 A.M. – Worship 10:30 A.M.
Friday, December 21st
Blue Christmas Service 7:00 P.M.
(Also known as the Longest Night Service)
Sunday, December 23rd
Sunday School 9:30 A.M. – Worship 10:30 A.M.
Monday, December 24th
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The Abington Church boasts the oldest meetinghouse in Connecticut, and is located a quarter mile south of the junction of routes 97 and 44 in Pomfret Center.

For more information phone
Pastor Hedman at 860-377-6190.

**CHRISTMAS MASS
SCHEDULE**



CHRISTMAS EVE - DECEMBER 24TH
4:00 - ST. JOSEPH'S – NORTH GROSVENORDALE, CT
4:00 - ST. MARY'S – PUTNAM, CT
6:00 - ST. STEPHEN'S – QUINEBAUG, CT
10:00 - MOST HOLY TRINITY – POMFRET, CT
MIDNIGHT MASS - ST. JOSEPH'S-NORTH GROSVENORDALE, CT

CHRISTMAS DAY –DECEMBER 25TH
8:00 - ST. MARY'S – PUTNAM, CT
9:00 - ST. STEPHEN'S – QUINEBAUG, CT
10:00 - MOST HOLY TRINITY – POMFRET, CT

DECEMBER 31, 2018
VIGIL FOR THE FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
6:00 PM AT ST. JOSEPH'S IN NORTH GROSVENORDALE

FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD ON JANUARY 1, 2019
9:00 AM AT MOST HOLY TRINITY IN POMFRET

5PM CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

11PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT VIGIL MASS

10AM CHRISTMAS MORNING EUCHARIST

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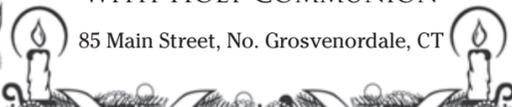
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The Greatest Gift I Ever Gave

Too often we let our lives go by and we fail to let the ones who are most important to us know just how special they are. This is where I was at one Christmas when I got a phone call that my father was diagnosed with lung cancer. That day I sat down and wrote my him a letter. This is what is said:

December 25, 1999

Dear Dad,

I'd like to take a few moments to share some things I have wanted to share with you for quite some time now, and in light of your present circumstance, I feel you need to know. Please accept my apology for having taken so long to tell you these things because I have believed them for a very long time.

Many times if life it is not until we put ourselves in someone else's shoes that we can truly appreciate where a person is coming from and why they do the things they do. Such has been the case for me in my adult years, particularly as a husband and father, as God has given me an appreciation over the years of who you are as a husband, a father, and now a grandfather.

Let me begin by telling you that you have served each of those three roles very well, and never with complaint. And much of this after having lost your own father as a young dad yourself with young family. I can't imagine what it must have been like without your dad for wisdom and advice during those years.

Speaking of advice and wisdom, I don't believe I know a wiser man than yourself. Your wisdom comes from a deep sense of duty, common sense, and just doing the right thing. Although you have probably felt that over the years I have not sought you advice much, you need to know that that could not be further from the truth. You see, there has never been a major decision I have made that did not involve thinking first what you would do in a similar situation.

You have always given me the freedom to fail, which is a wonderful gift to receive. If you have ever erred as a parent it has always been on the side of love. And we can never error too much on that side.

I vividly recall your statement to me at the Farmington Medical Center when Jared was born and his life was hanging on by a thread, that you wish you had made things more difficult for me growing up so that I'd have been better prepared for difficult situations in life. Dad, you could not have been further from the truth. You see, what carried me through that difficult time was the love you instilled in my heart, not the toughness you felt you should have taught.

I have learned over the years in observing you and my heavenly Father that it's the softness of a man's heart that matters most, not the roughness of his demeanor. I will never forget 20 years ago sitting in a church service in Groton, Connecticut and listening to a gentleman from Great Britain share the story of the prodigal son, who sought his inheritance early in life, squandered it, and came back to his father for mercy. The father had two choices: to accept his son, or reject him. This father chose a third option: he not only received his son back, but restored him again to full sonship, over and beyond what he deserved.

I thought to myself that evening that that is what my dad would probably do too, and that evening I asked Jesus Christ into my heart. And what has carried me and my family through the difficult storms of life has been the love in our hearts, not the toughness of our skin. This love which was first



evidenced from a loving father.

I have seen your love in three ways.

First, through your sacrifice for others. I remember you giving up playing softball just as I was about to begin playing baseball, never picking up your glove to play again unless it was with me. I remember you giving up time from work so everyone on our Babe Ruth team had an opportunity for full batting practice before the game. Those were two of my fondest years in all of sports with as our coach, and playing with my best friend, Brian.

Secondly, through your provision for your family. You have always provided for your family no matter what the cost. At the expense of having new cars or new homes, you have always sought to make sure that Julie and I would not go without. Whether it was bicycles as kids, braces as teens, or books for college, you always found a way to provide for us. And, how you put two kids through college on a lace weaver's salary I'll never know. I only know that you did and forever grateful.

Thirdly, through your humility. Dad, I have seen you turn down so many offers to become so many other things in life, and yet you have turned all of them down. At first I would wonder why you would not accept these positions in life, and be disappointed when you wouldn't. In time, however, I have begun to understand why. I believe it is because you already had the best positions in life a man could ever hold - that of a husband, a father and a grandfather.

Having been someone who for too long in my own life chased titles that I thought would give me self-fulfillment, I have come to the realization that my father holds the three best titles anyone could hold on earth. As a result of your example, Dad, and God's help, I hope to live the rest of my life to be the best that I can be as a husband, a father, and, hopefully someday, a grandfather.

Sacrifice, provision, and humility. These are the three things I pray that my children would see in me. They are also the three things that are evidenced in God's love for us. He humbled Himself and came to this earth as a man. He lived a perfect life and committed no sin, only to sacrifice Himself on a cross on our behalf. Why? Because He was the only provision to pay the penalty for our sins.

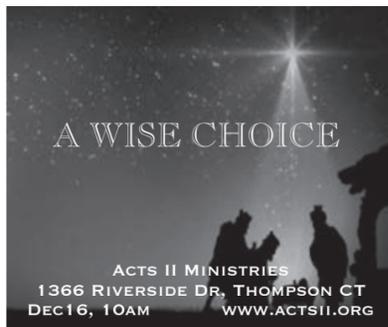
Dad, I want to conclude by telling you, I love you. There is not a day that goes by when I do not thank God that you are my father. Forgive me for the times I have caused you great heartache or grief, and know forevermore that you are loved by a son who believes you are the greatest dad a man could ever have. Know too that you are also loved by another son, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who sacrificed His life for you also.

It was not difficult to accept Jesus when I met Him, because I had a father who was just like him.

Merry Christmas, Dad!
Love, Bernie

My father lived for two and a half more years before passing away at 66 years of age. This Christmas will be the 16th Christmas without him and I miss him very much. I am so thankful to God for having had such a loving father and for encouraging me to write this letter to my him that Christmas. I believe they were the words that every parent longs to hear and I believe it was the greatest Christmas gift I ever gave.

Merry Christmas to All!
Pastor Bernie Norman
of Creation Church



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Join us Christmas Eve for a service of Scripture, Carols and Candles at 11pm.

Pastor Mitch Santelli
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**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

**Monday, Dec. 24
4 p.m.**

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www.eastfordbaptist.com

Creation Church invites you to celebrate

Christmas Sunday Service:
Dec. 23rd @ 10AM

Christmas Eve Service:
Monday, Dec. 24th @ 5:30PM

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CREATIONCHURCH.ORG

Creation Church is a modern, non-denominational, Christ-centered church at 47 W. Thompson Road, Thompson.

Christmas at South Woodstock Baptist Church

Live Nativity
Dec 16 at 6 pm

Advent Worship
Dec 2, 9, 16 at 8 & 10:30am
Dec 23 at 10:30am

Christmas Eve Service
Dec 24 at 5:30pm

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

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healing and stillness
rest and renewal

Christmas Eve Service
Mon., Dec. 24, 7:30 pm

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Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm

Christmas Morning
Julotta Service 6:00 am

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Merry Christmas

The Longest Night Service, Dec 21st 7pm, is a time to recognize that Christmas can be a bittersweet time of the year. Events take place at this time of the year that simply make celebration impossible: illness, death of a loved one, loss of a job, oppressive financial difficulties. On this longest darkest night, we come together to realize that we are not alone, and we share God's presence during this season.

Come worship with us at our traditional Christmas Eve service 7pm where we will sing carols, read the Christmas story, and will conclude with a candlelight singing of Silent Night. As always everyone is welcome at Thompson Congregational, United Church of Christ no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.

We worship at Marianapolis Prep School Chapel (26 Chase Rd, Thompson, CT)

THOMPSON CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

BROOKLYN

Tuesday, Dec. 18

Board of Education, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Agricultural Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Board of Finance, 7 p.m., Clifford B. Green

KILLINGLY

Monday, Dec. 17

Planning & Zoning Commission, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, Dec. 18

Housing Authority, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Water Pollution Control Authority, 6 p.m., Town Hall

Borough Council, 7 p.m., Danielson Fire Station

Killingly Conservation Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall

PUTNAM

Monday, Dec. 17

Library Board, 7 p.m., Putnam Public Library

Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Hall

THOMPSON

Monday, Dec. 17

Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, Dec. 18

Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Economic Development Commission, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall

Thursday, Dec. 20

Library Board of Trustees, 2 p.m., Thompson Public Library

Board of Finance, 7 p.m., Thompson Public Library

WOODSTOCK

Monday, Dec. 17

Conservation, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Garden Club, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall

WRTC, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Thursday, Dec. 20

Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Planning & Zoning, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

POMFRET

Monday, Dec. 17

Board of Selectmen, 8 a.m., Pomfret Community/Senior Center

ZBA, 7 p.m., Senior Center

Wednesday, Dec. 19

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

EASTFORD

Tuesday, Dec. 18

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

Wednesday, Dec. 19

Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Town Office Building

POLICE LOGS

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

TROOP D LOG

DANIELSON

Tuesday, Dec. 4

Randy Moran, 42, of 82 Llomme Street, Killingly, was charged with a warrant

POMFRET

Sunday, Dec. 2

Randy D. Kuhn, 57, of 81 Anderson Road, Pomfret Center, was charged with illegal operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs, failure to drive in a proper lane, and improper turn/stop signal

THOMPSON

Wednesday, Dec. 5

Cathlynn Frazier, of 155 Church Street, Thompson, was charged with larceny

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<p>AMUSE Caramelized Sweet Potato Bisque</p> <p>1ST COURSE Beef Tartare -egg yolk, dijon mustard, arugula, sea salt Shrimp Cocktail -tiger prawns, horseradish cocktail sauce, lemon Deviled Eggs -classic egg, herbed egg, spicy egg</p> <p>2ND COURSE Waldorf -apple, grape, candied walnut, greek yogurt Cesar -gremolata, white anchovies, shallots, parmesan Wedge -gorgonzola dressing, pork belly, roasted tomato</p>	<p>3RD COURSE Tagliatelle -braised short rib, housemade ricotta, basil oil Linguini -white sauce, clams, shaved parmesan Fettuccine -alfredo sauce, fine herbs, black winter truffle</p> <p>4TH COURSE Surf and Turf -filet, king crab, bernaise, confit shallot Prime Rib -pommes puree, demi mushrooms Scallops -risotto milanese, sweet peas, carrot reduction Winter Ratatouille -Rutabaga, parsnip, potato, celery root, apple</p> <p>5TH COURSE Creme Brulee, Chocolate Souffle, Salted Caramel Panna Cotta</p>
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TEEG hosts charity event

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN
NEWS STAFF WRITER

THOMPSON — Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group, TEEG, is hosting a Fill A Bus event on Dec. 15 and 16 at the Thompson Town Hall. People are invited to donate canned and boxed goods between 9 p.m. and 1 p.m., which will then be distributed at TEEG's Holiday Distribution Event on Dec. 19-20. After their successful Thanksgiving Food Drive, which provided 183 clients with complete Thanksgiving feasts, TEEG will be

serving even more clients this holiday season. And they know they can't do it alone. DATTCO is hosting the Fill A Bus event to continue their support of TEEG's programs. This came as a pleasant surprise to TEEG, according to Community Outreach Coordinator Jason Bleau.

"I can't say enough about DATTCO stepping up to be a part of their community. This is the first time they've reached out to TEEG and they have proven to be a good partner, and we hope this will be a yearly thing. We are grateful to them and every organization

that has stepped up to help us this holiday season," Bleau said.

With help of the community and local organizations, TEEG is able to successfully serve people from Woodstock, Thompson and Pomfret. While the community has people in need all year long, sometimes the need becomes more apparent during the holiday season.

"The holidays are very important time for everyone but it can be hard to capture the spirit of the holiday without giving the less fortunate something to smile about when they wake up Christmas morning," Bleau said.

"We try to empower our clients and help improve their situation. It's hard to empower somebody when they don't have something positive to lean on. Our hope is that we give them that nice holiday, something to appreciate, so they remember what they're fighting for as they try to work towards improving their situation."

Olivia Richman may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 112 or by e-mail at olivia@stonebridgepress.com

BECKER

continued from page A1

what having a job can do for disabled adults, who may otherwise be overlooked or misunderstood. While they may need more guidance here and there, they are more than capable, she explained.

Before landing her dream job, Becker worked at United National Foods building pallets for grocery orders. It wasn't really her thing. With over 10 years of retail experience, Becker has always had a passion for helping customers.

"I just like learning new things by talking to strangers," she said. "You get close with the customers, too. You have regulars. I'm learning something new every day."

While meeting new people is enjoyable for Becker, it's her family that has influenced her the most. She has stayed in Thompson to be close to her family, and has grown to enjoy the community as a whole as well, who she says "come together in times of need." One of the biggest support systems is the congregation at Creation Church.

"They help me, honestly. They help me stay sane. Every time I've needed something or someone, they're always there. I don't have a car right now. I had no ride to work and they all stam-peded into my life and said, 'We'll take you in this day,' 'We'll take you in this way.' I like the smaller churches. It feels more like a family," she said.

At first Becker was hesitant to attend

church, but her friend had "begged her to go to church for two years straight." When her friend passed away two years ago, Becker decided she would give it a go.

Now she says she is saved.

The Quiet Corner also has many sources of entertainment for the working mom. Becker has two children, 10 and four, who she loves taking to Tri-State Speedway. That's where they go to play arcade games, roller skate and even play on playscapes.

She also loves to go to Sherwood's with friends.

"I've gotten a little saucy a couple of times," she said with a laugh. "I like to hang out with my friends when I can."

Olivia Richman may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 112 or by e-mail at olivia@stonebridgepress.com

WREATH

continued from page A1

700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond, including ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, as well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the September 11 tragedies. The organization's goal of covering Arlington National Cemetery was met in 2014 with the placement of 226,525 wreaths.

Do You Remember the Quiet Corner of Many Years Ago?



We would like to hear from readers who have stories to tell about the way things were here in the Quiet Corner in days gone by.

Send us your memories from years ago. Any year or time period will do between the 1930s to the 1990s. We want to hear your memories! We will share them with our readers. Don't worry about your writing — we will edit it so it looks good.

You are welcome to send pictures too. Send your memories to us. Email or regular mail. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Mail: Memories
Villager Newspapers
PO Box 196, Woodstock, CT 06281

Villager Newspapers

www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

Villager Newspapers COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

"Shining a light on community events"

December 15, Sat., 9am-2pm

BIG ANNUAL HOLIDAY COOKIES "SOLD BY THE POUND" GREAT BASKET RAFFLE also Our Lady of LaSalette Church, 21 Providence Rd (Rt 6) Brooklyn (In the church basement) try us and it will become your new holiday tradition!

December 15, Sat., 10am-3pm

Lost & Found Cat Shelter, 459 Thompson Road, Thompson is having a craft fair. The craft fair will also be held on Sunday December 16, from 10am-1pm. (860) 315-5792 for info.

December 15, Sat., 10am-12pm

Santa will be in town at the Plainfield Social Club, and will be handing out gifts to the children, and you can have your picture taken with Santa as well! FREE event. 42 Railroad Ave., Plainfield.

December 15, Sat., 10am Cookbook Club's Annual Cookie Swap and Yankee Swap!! Bracken Memorial Library, 57 Academy Road, Woodstock.

December 15, 7-8:30am

Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund assistance is available every Saturday morning, at the Pomfret Senior Center 207 Mashamoquet Road (Rt. 44 in Pomfret. Best to call ahead, 860-928-2309. Always free/ confidential. (the fund is administered by the American Legion to provide temporary financial assistance for qualified veterans.)

December 19, Wed., 7pm

Bingo every Wednesday at St. James School, 12 Franklin Street, Danielson. Proceeds benefit St. James School.

December 21, Fri., 3-5pm Please join members of the Wyndham Land Trust at the Lyon Preserve in Pomfret on the afternoon of Friday, December 21, 2018 to watch the sun set on the shortest day of the year. Light refreshments will be served. The Lyon

Preserve is on Wright's Crossing Road, just north of the intersection with Route 101. Look for the gate and the land trust sign. Plenty of parking, all are welcome.

December 22, Sat., 10-11am Season of Snow Event at Aldrich Free Public Library - 299 Main Street, Moosup. Please come join us to make adorable snow measuring sticks made from paint sticks. We will provide everything needed including the pre-painted paint sticks. Children will be allowed to choose to make either a reindeer or a snowman. Questions? 860-564-8760 and ask for Amy or Darla

December 22, 7-8:30am

Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund assistance is available every Saturday morning, at the Pomfret Senior Center 207 Mashamoquet Road (Rt. 44 in Pomfret. Best to call ahead, 860-928-2309. Always free and confidential. (The Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund is administered by the American Legion to provide temporary financial assistance for qualified veterans.)

December 29, Sat., 10:30am-11:30am

Wyndham Land Trust Wee Wander: Ramble the Robbins Preserve to the Five Mile River, Robbins Preserve, Fred Davis Rd, Thompson, Quaddick Town Farm Rd to Fred Davis Rd. Park at gate. Interesting, unique wildlife and flora & fauna are on this preserve. Snacks and fresh air included. Contact: marcy.dawley@wyndhamlandtrust.org

December 29, 7-8:30am

Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund assistance is available every Saturday morning, at the Pomfret Senior Center 207 Mashamoquet Road (Rt. 44 in Pomfret. Best to call ahead, 860-928-2309. Always free and confidential. (The Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund is administered by the American Legion to provide temporary financial assistance for qualified veterans.)

This page is designed to shine a light on upcoming local nonprofit, educational and community events. Submissions are limited to 50 words or less and are FREE to qualifying organizations, schools, churches and town offices. To submit your event contact:

Teri Stohlberg at 860-928-1818 ext. 105, or teri@villagernewspapers.com.

Deadline for submission is Friday at Noon

A Real Keeper



PHOTO REPRINTS AVAILABLE

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Art at Thompson Public Library

THOMPSON — Jonathan Fritz's art has been featured in shops and throughout the streets of New York City, and now it's at Thompson Public Library throughout the month of December. The exhibit is entitled "Beauty in Bloom."

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Olivia Richman photos

Day at the Salon



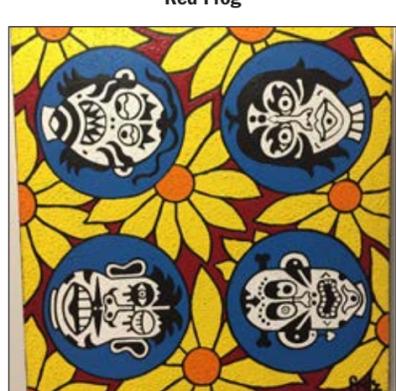
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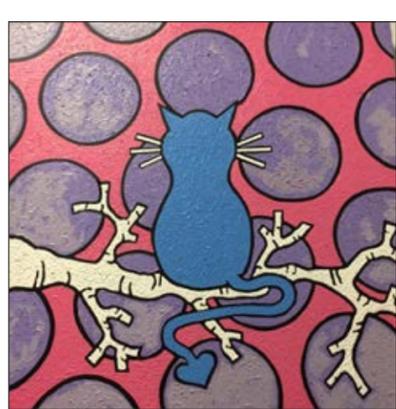
Barbed Wire Sunflowers



Four Tribe



Sunflower



Perched on a Berch



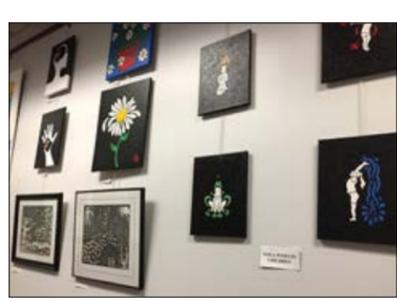
Abstract pieces entrance viewers.



Jonathan Fritz' work transformed Thompson Public Library's conference room.



The Dance



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Killingly boys add size and an Italian touch



Charlie Lentz photo

Senior guard Luke Desaulnier returns for Killingly High.

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

DAYVILLE — Killingly High has its top scorer back from last season but the buzz surrounding the school's basketball court is about the return of the big man who sat out a season and an import from Italy. A mix of veterans and newcom-

ers should make for an interestingly revamped Redmen roster.

Senior guard Luke Desaulnier is back after leading Killingly in scoring last season. Coach Jim Crabtree said Desaulnier, a four-year starter, must take another step forward this season.

"Hopefully he's ready to accept the role and responsibility of being a leader on both ends of the court," said Crabtree, in his seventh season.

Desaulnier will be complemented in the backcourt by junior guard Shayne Bigelow, who showed the ability to score from the perimeter



Charlie Lentz photo

Killingly coach Jim Crabtree is in his seventh season.

last season.

"Most likely he'll be our second leading scorer," said Crabtree of Bigelow. "We're going to need him to make better decisions when he shoots and to step up on the defensive end."

One of many interesting additions to the backcourt is senior guard Andrea Gotturdi, an exchange student from Italy. Like many European players, Gotturdi has a polished all-around game.

"He's great off the ball, very smart, understands the game," said Crabtree of Gotturdi.

Also in the mix for minutes in the backcourt are senior guard Josh Montpelier, junior guard Riley Zadora, junior guard Chris Lackner, senior guard Ryan Axtell, freshman guard Jason Grzysiewicz, and senior guard Nolan Marcoux.

At forward, Crabtree said the team will likely be without senior Quinn Gervasio, who injured his knee in Killingly's last football game on Dec. 2. Crabtree does not expect Gervasio back. But the coach said junior forward Ethan Preston

has "really improved his game" and expects him to contribute. Six-foot-4 sophomore forward Cole Lavigne will also be in the mix in the frontcourt.

Killingly's inside game got a big boost when coach Crabtree welcomed back 6-foot-4, 240-pound senior center Nsaiah Harriet. Harriet played basketball in his sophomore season before giving wrestling a try last season. He's returned to the hardwood and should provide physicality and rebounding on both ends of the floor.

"He's a big body," said Crabtree of Harriet. "He's excited to be back."

Last season the Redmen finished 9-13 overall. They were seeded 18th in the Division 3 state tournament and were defeated by 15th-seeded Farmington 71-55 in the first round of the tourney. Crabtree said Killingly will compete in Division 2 of the Eastern Connecticut Conference this season — along with Fitch, Woodstock Academy, Waterford, and Bacon Academy. The Redmen's schedule also includes a demanding rotation of

ECC-Division 1 schools including Norwich Free Academy, Ledyard, East Lyme, and New London.

"This is toughest schedule I've had in my seven years here at Killingly," Crabtree said.

Killingly has a grueling ECC schedule to navigate and posting the required eight wins needed to guarantee a berth in the state tournament won't be easy. Killingly has been re-classified and dropped down from Division 3 to Division 4 for this year's state tourney — so Crabtree said if the Redmen can survive the ECC and qualify for states they could make some noise in the post-season.

"If we get through the gauntlet of the ECC there'll be no one who can scare us in states," Crabtree said.

Killingly High opens the season on the road at Putnam High on Friday, Dec. 14, with tipoff against the Clippers set for 7 p.m.

Charlie Lentz may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 110, or by e-mail at charlie@villagernewspapers.com.

Killingly sets goals high for hoop campaign

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

DAYVILLE — Although Killingly High has a youthful roster led by a freshman point guard, coach Gina Derosier isn't willing to settle for a sub-par season. The Redgals finished 7-15 overall last season but Derosier said their sights are set high this year.

"Our goal is to get a home game in the state tournament," Derosier said.

Killingly will compete in Division III of the Eastern Connecticut Conference this season and Derosier has no illusions about what it will take to earn a record good enough to play host to state tourney game.

"It's certainly not going to be a cakewalk," said Derosier, in her third season.

The Redgals return an athletic crew and their success will likely depend on how they gel during the course of the season.

"We'll be very young this season but they have good heads on their shoulders," Derosier said.

Junior forward Trinity Angel returns to the starting lineup and will be counted on to score and rebound. Derosier said Angel has a high ceiling.

"She can score and rebound. She has to have that killer instinct," Derosier said.

A pair of senior guards will contribute in the frontcourt including Prachi Patel and Kera Crossman. Patel and Crossman will be a duo of the upper-classmen counted on to provide stabil-

ity.

The offense will be run by freshman point guard Emma Carpenter. Derosier has coached Carpenter in the past in AAU basketball and said she's ready to step up to the varsity level.

"I already know what kind of athlete she is. She kicked it up a notch in our scrimmages," said Derosier of Carpenter.

New to the varsity lineup is sophomore forward Grace Nichols, who brings athleticism and energy to the floor. The roster also includes sophomore center Maddy Sumner, junior guard/forward Emma Turner, freshman guard Sage Lamparelli, and freshman guard Makala Dube.

The Redgals are next scheduled to play host to St. Bernard at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14. Killingly will travel to Tourtellotte Memorial for a 7 p.m. matchup against the Tigers on Monday, Dec. 17.

Charlie Lentz may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 110, or by e-mail at charlie@villagernewspapers.com.



Charlie Lentz photo

Junior forward Trinity Angel returns for Killingly High.



Charlie Lentz photo

Coach Gina Derosier is in her third season at Killingly High.



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Centaurus must reap new hardwood harvest



Charlie Lentz photo

Senior Heather Converse returns for Woodstock Academy.

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

WOODSTOCK — Last season was the fruition of a long-term effort for Woodstock Academy's girls basketball program — six seniors helped the Centaurus finish with a record of 17-7 — a core group that coach Will Fleeton had mentored since his days as Woodstock's junior varsity coach. Those upperclassmen have moved on via graduation and Fleeton — now in his fourth season as head coach of the varsity — has a new crop of hoop-

sters. "It's a huge loss. It's irreplaceable to some extent. We just harvested," said Fleeton of last season's experienced group. "Now we're planting the seed." The Centaurus will be laboring in the fields of Division I of the Eastern Connecticut Conference this season. Should Woodstock qualify for the state tournament they will compete in the Class LL tournament. So the Centaurus have their work cut out for them with a revamped lineup. Fleeton knows the ECC Division I schedule will

be a test. "Hopefully it works as a learning curve to advance us quickly," Fleeton said. As usual coach Fleeton's philosophy begins at the defensive end of the court. "It's always been defense first so it still is," Fleeton said. And although many of his players will get their first extended varsity minutes this season he expects them to be ready. "They've been in the program," Fleeton said. "I think if the kids can make those adjustments we'll be taking the next



Charlie Lentz photo

Senior Mackenzie Eaton is back for Woodstock Academy.

step." Senior guard Aislin Tracey returns among a guard-heavy lineup. Fleeton said there's been competition for playing time in the backcourt. "At this point it's still up for grabs," said Fleeton of his backcourt rotation. Fleeton expects his guards to be able to run the offense as well as score so he doesn't classify any of his backcourt personnel as point guards, he prefers the term "combo guard."

In addition to Tracey the Centaurus' guards also include senior Mackenzie Eaton, junior Kayla Gaudreau, junior Linda St. Laurent, junior Marina Monrabal, senior Mikayla Wilcox, sophomore Peyton Saracina, and sophomore Alexa Pechie. Senior forward Heather Converse was a key component of last season's success and returns and returns to the frontcourt for Woodstock Academy. Junior forward Katie Papp is back but has bat-

tled ankle injuries in the past but will hopefully be able to stay healthy this season. Also on the roster at forward are junior Rachel Lambert, junior Caroline Hamill, sophomore Kaitlin Birkin and freshman Aurissa Boardman. Woodstock Academy opens the season at Plainfield High School on Saturday, Dec. 15, with tipoff scheduled for

12:30 p.m. The Centaurus home-opener is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 19, against Bacon Academy with a starting time set for 7 p.m. at Alumni Fieldhouse.

Charlie Lentz may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 110, or by e-mail at charlie@villagernews-papers.com.



Charlie Lentz photo

Woodstock Academy coach Will Fleeton is in his fourth season as head coach.

Putnam High girls return to ECC



Charlie Lentz photo

Putnam junior guard Kayleigh Lyons returns to run the show for the Clippers.

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

PUTNAM — With an independent schedule last season Putnam High finished 17-5 overall and reached the second round of the Class S girls basketball state tournament. The Clippers return to the Eastern Connecticut Conference this season and the competition will likely be much stiffer — but coach Mandi Hogan said her team is ready for the challenge.

"Last year we prepared for this move. We played (ECC schools) Plainfield, Griswold, Killingly," said Hogan, in her sixth season coaching the varsity and 12th overall with the program. "The competition this year is going to be good for the growth of our team."

Putnam earned the No. 3 seed in the Class S state tour-

nament last season and defeated No.-30 seed Windsor Locks 41-25 in the opening round. The Clippers fell to No. 14 seed Lyman Memorial. Putnam will play in Division IV of the Eastern Connecticut Conference. Hogan said another motivating factor for her players this season will be the chance to qualify for the conference tournament. With no conference affiliation last season they did not have that option. "It gives them something else to shoot for," Hogan said. The Clippers return a group of experienced players and should be competitive. "The core of the players are back. They put a lot of time in and effort in the off-season in getting better," Hogan said. Putnam will likely be solid in the backcourt with the return

of junior point guard Kayleigh Lyons. Lyons has been a starter since her freshman season. Junior shooting guard Molly McKeon also returns to the starting lineup. The Blackmars — senior forward Lauren Blackmar and senior forward Morgan Blackmar — return to the fold. Sophomore center Abby St. Martin saw plenty of playing time last season and will be a starter. Martin will be counted on to clear the boards and defend the lane. Sophomore wing Laylah Chavez also returns to the roster and should be a contributor. Putnam is next scheduled to travel to Lyman Memorial on Friday, Dec. 14, with the game set to start at 7 p.m. The Clippers will travel to Tourtellotte Memorial to take on the ECC-Division IV rival



Charlie Lentz photo

Putnam junior guard Molly McKeon returns to the backcourt.

Tigers on Wednesday, Dec. 19, with tipoff scheduled for 7 p.m. at Canty Gymnasium.

Charlie Lentz may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 110, or by e-mail at charlie@villagernews-papers.com.



Charlie Lentz photo

Putnam coach Mandi Hogan is in her sixth season at the helm.

Tourtellotte boys in rebuilding mode



Charlie Lentz photo

Senior forward Josh Dodd returns for Tourtellotte Memorial.

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

THOMPSON — Tourtellotte Memorial's boys basketball team lost eight seniors to graduation so the 'Tigers' hopes this season hinge on two key returnees — but fortunately for coach Neil Bernier they happen to both be clutch performers.

"Having your point guard back with experience and your tallest kid with experience is definitely a good place to start," said Bernier, in his fifth season. "We're kind of starting

from maybe not square one, but square one and a half."

The Tigers might be hard-pressed to return to the state tournament, which they reached for the first time in Bernier's head coaching tenure last season — when they finished with a record of 8-14 overall. The Tigers earned the 23rd-seed in last season's Class 5 state tournament and were edged by 10th-seed Shepaug Valley 59-57 in the first round of the tourney.

Senior forward Josh Dodd is perhaps the key returnee to



Charlie Lentz photo

Coach Neil Bernier is in his fifth season.

the lineup and Bernier expects him to pick up right where he left off last season — Dodd scored a team-high 24 points, with four rebounds and three assists in the loss to Shepaug Valley. Dodd is 6-foot-5 and Bernier said he's a versatile scorer.

"He can handle the ball. He can shoot. He can hit the mid-range jumper. He can dunk," Bernier said. "He's definitely our best player. He could be All-State if he puts his mind to it. He's going to have to carry the scoring burden for us. The only thing that can stop him is himself."

Dodd will be complemented by senior point guard Spencer Fulone, a three-year starter.

"He has to run the team. He should be our our best defensive player," said Bernier of Fulone. "He's going to be our second option on offense."

Aside from Dodd, the Tigers don't bring much height to the hardwood so they'll likely adapt accordingly.

"We have maybe two or three big men in the entire program," Bernier said. "Our offense is going to be more perimeter oriented."

The roster includes senior guard/forward Tony Ferraro, senior guard Dylan Vincent, junior center Devin Dalpe, junior guard Stephen



Charlie Lentz photo

Senior point guard Spencer Fulone is back for the Tigers.

Scrapchansky, junior guard Nima Sherpa, and sophomore guard Brady Monahan. With a limited roster Bernier said the Tigers need to stay injury-free this season.

"It's essential. If any of our first six guys get hurt we'll be trouble," Bernier said. "We're pretty thin."

Despite a lack of experienced personnel Bernier believes the Tigers can make it back to the state tournament if they can come through in tight games. Tourtellotte will compete in Division IV of the Eastern Connecticut Conference. Eight wins are required to guarantee a berth in the state tournament.

"We're going to have some

rough patches. We don't have a huge margin for error," Bernier said. "There are winnable games out there. There's no one we can overlook. We'll take our shot."

The Tigers open the season on the road at Stonington High on Saturday, Dec. 15, with tipoff scheduled for 7 p.m. Tourtellotte is scheduled to travel to backyard and ECC-Division IV rival Putnam on Friday, Dec. 21, with the game set to begin at 7 p.m. at Putnam High's gymnasium.

Charlie Lentz may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 110, or by e-mail at charlie@villagernews-papers.com.

Tourtellotte Tigers must overcome limited roster



Charlie Lentz photo

Senior forward Lauren Ramos returns for Tourtellotte Memorial.



Charlie Lentz photo

Senior forward Mary Steglitz will be counted on for rebounding.

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

THOMPSON — With one of the smallest student enrollments in the Eastern Connecticut Conference, Tourtellotte Memorial's girls basketball program faces its usual challenge. The Tigers have just four returnees with extensive varsity experience and a limited rotation to back them up.

"The important thing is we need to stay healthy," said coach Carla Faucher, in her 23rd season. "Because we're going to be extremely young off the bench."

On the positive side the Tigers have some clutch players returning to the hardwood. Senior forward Lauren Ramos returns. She can score, rebound, and will be expected to provide stability and leadership.

"She knows her role," said Faucher of Ramos. "She creates a calm for the other players."

Junior guard returns Ashley Morin will be a scoring threat from the perimeter. Junior point guard Emily Angelo is back. Angelo missed most of her freshman season with a broken wrist and spent time at the point last season but will now assume that role in a full-time capacity. Ramos and Morin can also handle the basketball and can distribute and run the point if needed.

Also returning is senior forward Mary Steglitz who will be expected to rebound and anchor the middle for the Tigers. Faucher will run a motion offense and expects all her players to contribute offensively.

"Everyone has to be a threat from everywhere," Faucher said.

Also on the roster are senior guard Brianna Loffredo, sophomore forward Leci Snow, sophomore Lindsey Houghton, freshman forward Zeynep Acu, freshman guard Alysha Bugbee, and freshman guard Alivia Dalpe.

The Tigers finished 9-12 overall last season. Ninth-seeded Coghinchau defeated No. 24 seed Tourtellotte in the opening

Ellis Tech headed in right direction



Charlie Lentz photo

Junior point guard Breeanna Bentley returns to the lineup for Ellis Tech.

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

DANIELSON — Ellis Tech's girls basketball program took a huge step forward last season and coach Ryan Ouillette hopes the Golden Eagles continue the journey. After a six-year drought Ellis Tech qualified for the Class S state tournament — it was the first trip back to states since the 2010-2011 campaign.

Ellis Tech has lost its leading scoring and rebounder (Sydney Tetrault) to graduation but the Eagles should once again be competitive in the Connecticut Technical Conference. Last season Ellis Tech finished with an overall record of 9-12. Last year sixth-seeded Sacred Heart defeated No. 27 seed Ellis Tech in the first round of the state Class S girls basketball tournament. Ouillette said the Eagles intend to return to the state tourney.

"That's my No. 1 goal," said Ouillette, in his third season. "And it's always my goal to be competitive in our conference."

The Eagles have a guard-heavy rotation and Ouillette said his players have to be versatile and willing to accept varied



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Chase Anderson led Woodstock Academy in scoring last season and returns for the Centaurs.

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Academy's boys basketball team returns an experienced roster led by senior guard Chase Anderson, who led the Centaurs in scoring last season with an average of just under 17 points per game.

Also returning for the Centaurs are senior forward Cole Hackett (10 points per game) and senior guard Aaron Johnson (eight points per game). Also back for Woodstock is senior guard Eric Preston, senior forward Luke Mathewson, senior guard Ethan Adams, junior forward Aidan Morin, and senior guard Jake Marsalis. Among the newcomers to the varsity are senior guard Avery Beausoleil, senior forward John Rogers, and senior center Andrew Roy.

The Centaurs finished with an overall record of 11-14 last season. They were seeded 23rd in the Division III state tournament and fell to North Haven 91-53 in the first round of the state tourney. Woodstock will play in Division 2 of the Eastern Connecticut Conference this season. The Centaurs open their season on the road on Tuesday,

Charlie Lentz photo

Turn To **WOODSTOCK** page B7

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20TH • 5:00 – 8:00 PM

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Food Drive - Please consider giving a monetary donation to support the IHSP DAILY BREAD FOOD PANTRY to help those in need in the greater Putnam area. All donations given at the CR Premier Properties Office on Dec. 20th will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$1,000. Checks can be made payable to IHSP.

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Clipper Classic on tap

PUTNAM — Matchups are set for the Clipper Classic basketball tournament, scheduled for the week-end before Christmas this year at Putnam High School's gymnasium. On Friday, Dec. 21: The Windham Tech girls will play Parish Hill at 1 p.m. The Putnam High girls will play Tourtellotte Memorial at 3 p.m. The Windham Tech boys will play Parish Hill at 5 p.m. The Putnam High boys will play Tourtellotte at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 22, the schedule at Putnam High is as follows: Girls consolation final at 1 p.m. Girls championship game at 3 p.m. Boys consolation final at 5 p.m. Boys championship game at 7 p.m.



This Royal Barry Wills Cape has all the charm and details you would expect like built-ins, Dutch doors, brick floor entry, and hardwood flooring....plus a great in-law that offers a multitude of possibilities from in-law to private master suite to maybe even potential rental income! There are lovely southerly views of open pasture land over the stonewall property line. Set up high off the roadway and nestled amongst lovely established landscaping and stonewalls, this 3500 SF home was built in 1972 and then updated since with central AC, solar hot water and updated mechanicals. Lovely front to back living room with fireplace and multi-paned windows, dining room with corner cabinet and a family room with paneled walls and lovely fireplace and a Dutch door out to an Ipe deck that takes in the entire property and offers peace and quiet! There are 3 bedrooms (2 on the first floor) and 3 full and 2 half baths! Detached garage can accommodate 2 cars back to back. Property consists of 3.5 private acres!

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The Gosselin Team: Stephanie 860-428-5960



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or fax them to (860) 928-5946.

Photos are welcome in JPEG format.

OBITUARIES

Carl P. Jankowski, 93



DUDLEY- Carl P. Jankowski age 93 died Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at the Harrington Hospital, Southbridge, MA. He leaves his wife of 69 years, Irene (Wedda) Jankowski.

He also leaves three daughters, Christine Laroche and her husband Gui of Milford, Debra Jankowski of Dudley, and Carol Parks of North Grosvenordale, CT., five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Carl was predeceased by three brothers, Louis, Chester and Ralph and a sister Josephine Patterson all of Webster. He was born in Webster son of the late Jacob and Anna (Tschierzy) Jankowski and lived here most of his life. He was a WWII US Marine Corp veteran. Carl was a machinist, and worked for Pratt Whitney in Hartford,

CT. He was a past commander of the PAV, and a long-time member of the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council. He was part of the invasion of Guam and Saipan. Carl received the honor of being the first Grand Marshall of the Veterans Day Parade.

There are no calling hours. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with his arrangements. A guest book at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle. A Memorial Mass will be held Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 11 am in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Webster, MA.. Please omit flowers and the family requests donations in his memory be made to a charity of donor's choice.



Sr. Marie Rose Courtemanche, DHS



WINDHAM - Sr. Marie Rose Courtemanche, 86, a member of the Daughters of the Holy Spirit, died on Friday December 7, 2018 at St. Joseph Living Center, Windham.

Born in Southbridge, Massachusetts on March 7, 1932, she was the daughter of Flavien and Amelia (Duclos) Courtemanche. She entered religious life in 1954 at the Holy Spirit Provincial House in Putnam and made her religious profession there on September 6, 1955. She was then known as Sr. Amelia Thomas.

Following her profession, she was assigned as dietician in several of our communities from 1955-1970 as follows: Fitchburg, Waterbury, the Provincial House in Putnam, Hartford and St. Elizabeth Guest House also in Hartford. In 1975 she began serving as a nurse's aide at the Villa St. Joseph in Putnam.

In 1982 she went to our mission in Kaele, Cameroon until 1992.

Upon her return to the United States she served again at the Provincial House as a nurse's aide and at Patient Care of Connecticut until her retire-

ment in 2002. In 2014 she entered the Holy Spirit Health Care Center and in 2016 she moved to St. Joseph Living Center in Windham.

She is survived by the Daughters of the Holy Spirit spiritual family - her sisters in community, the Consecrated Seculars and the Associates as well as three sisters, Mrs. Juliette Bertrand of Southbridge, Mass., Ms. Pauline Courtemanche of Southbridge, Mass., and Mrs. Jeanne Adamuzka of, Wilsonville, Connecticut. She is predeceased by two brothers, Robert Courtemanche and Leo Courtemanche and three sisters, Emma Rousseau, Rita Vincent and Helen Nasin.

Calling hours at the Provincial House Chapel, 72 Church St., Putnam, were held Tuesday, December 11, which was followed by a Prayer Service. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at the Provincial House Chapel, on Wednesday December 12. Burial will be at St. Mary Cemetery in Putnam. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the DHS Retirement Fund, Holy Spirit Provincial House, 72 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Louis J. Veilleux, 87



PUTNAM-Louis J. Veilleux, 87, of Vine Street, died Sunday morning, December 9, 2018, at Day Kimball Hospital. He was the loving husband of Jeanette (Sarette) Veilleux. Born in Hartford, he

was the son of the late Alcide and Evelyn (Lefebvre) Veilleux.

Louis was a proud Korean War veteran serving with the United States Navy. On November 4, 1950 at Sacred Heart Church in Webster, Massachusetts, he was united in marriage to the former Jeanette Sarette.

Mr. Veilleux worked for many years as an oil truck driver for Agway. After retiring from Agway, he worked part time as school bus driver.

He was a lifetime member of the Thompson Hill Fire Department and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and bowling.

Louis is survived by his wife, of 68 years Jeanette, two daughters, Cheryl Walsh and her husband Dennis of Putnam and Linda Thorstenson of Sterling; five grandchildren, Gary, Timothy, Dennis, Ryan, and William; six great grandchildren, Gary, Louis, Lauren, Aaron, Michael, Carter, and Peyton, and a great great granddaughter Elizabeth. He was predeceased by a son, Robert Veilleux; a brother, Gene Veilleux, and a sister, Evelyn McConnell.

Funeral arrangements are private and have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.



Yvette A. Pleau, 90



N O R T H GROSVENORDALE - Yvette A. (Demers) Pleau, 90, of Blain Road, died Sunday, November 18, 2018, in Matulaitis Nursing Home. She was the loving wife of the late Roland

Pleau. Born in North Grosvenordale, she was the daughter of Levis and Maria (Santerre) Demers.

Yvette was a lens inspector for American Optical and also worked as a winder for Cluette Peabody. She enjoyed playing the piano, reading, cooking, gardening and camping.

Yvette is survived by her children, Lorna Wade and her husband Joseph of Dudley, Massachusetts, David Therrien and his wife Susan, of Bangor, Maine, Robert Therrien and his wife Marie-Jeanne of Putnam,

Sherry Ann Lavallee and her husband Dennis of Putnam, Gerard Therrien and his companion Connie of Esmond, Virginia, Jeffrey Pleau and his wife Linda of Dudley; her daughter-in-law Gail Pleau of Jewett City; her sisters, Harriet Demers of Quinebaug and Janet Fafard of Ballouville; sixteen grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her son, Robert Pleau.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Yvette's family from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a. m. on Saturday, December 15, 2018 in the Valade Funeral Home & Crematory, 23 Main St. N. Grosvenordale, followed by a Funeral Mass at 10:00 am in St. Joseph Church, 20 Main Street, N. Grosvenordale. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Joshua A. Proulx, 35



N O R T H GROSVENORDALE - Joshua A. Proulx, 35, of Riverside Drive, unexpectedly passed away surrounded by loved ones on Sunday, December 2, 2018 at UMass University

Hospital from an illness. He was born in Southbridge, Massachusetts but lived his childhood in Dudley, Massachusetts. He attended school at Bay Path High School in Charlton, Mass. He was the loving companion of Callie Parker for 19 years. They have two wonderful children, Jameson and Kaylynn Proulx who both love and will miss him dearly. Josh was the son of Paul Proulx and Cindy (Leduc) Proulx, both of whom reside in Southbridge, Mass. He also leaves behind his grandparents, Roland and Shirley Leduc; two loving sisters, Kasey Proulx of Southbridge and Erin Proulx along with his brother-in-law, Christopher Nichols also of Southbridge, Mass.; and his nephews, who will miss him tremendously, and Jordan and Jionni Nichols. Josh has a big loving family which includes his aunt and uncle, Donald and Lynn of Texas; and their children, his close cousins, Dawn

Santasieri and Andrew Proulx, also from Texas. He spent many of his younger years close to his Taunte, Madelene Stubbs of Worcester, Mass. He leaves behind his Minoke, Christopher Leduc of Woodstock, as well. Josh was loved by many and leaves behind many friends and family. He is predeceased by his grandparents, Gerald and Jeannette Proulx.

Joshua enjoyed fishing, the outdoors sitting by the fire and most importantly, more than anything, his two children. He worked most of his life in the manufacturing business, mainly running around on his forklift truck and making everyone laugh. Josh was a loving father, boyfriend, son, brother, and will be missed very much by all of his loved ones.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Joshua's family from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 15, 2018 in the Valade Funeral Home and Crematory, 23 Main St., N. Grosvenordale. Memorial donations in Joshua's memory may be made to the Jameson Proulx Memorial Fund, or the Kaylynn Proulx Memorial Fund c/o Key Bank, 163 Providence St., Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Alexandria 'Sandra' Thomas, 90



FABYAN, CT- Alexandria 'Sandra' Thomas, 90, passed away peacefully on December 3, 2018 at Westview Nursing Home where she was a resident for the past few months. She was a lifelong resident of Fabyan, Ct.

Sandra attended Tourtellotte Memorial High School and worked many years at the former American Optical Co. and was a member of the Quarter Century Club, before retiring. She was a member of Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Webster and was also a member of the Philoptochos Society at her church.

She was born in Fabyan, Ct. May 22, 1928, a daughter of the late Demetri and Afroditi (Daniels) Thomas and lived in the home where she was born all her life.

Sandra is survived by two brothers, Peter Thomas and his wife Jeanne, and Philip and his wife Barbara of Quinebaug, Ct., also two sisters, Marian Thomas of Fabyan, Ct.,

and Irene Stefani and her husband Joseph of New Jersey, a sister-in-law, Katherine Thomas of Fabyan, Ct. and many nieces and nephews who were fond of her.

She was predeceased by a sister Sophie Bendo of New Jersey and three brothers, William, Michael and Vangel Thomas all of Fabyan, Ct.

During her younger years she enjoyed travelling and visiting several European countries.

There are No calling hours. A Funeral Service for Sandra was held on Friday, December 7, 2018 at 10AM in Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 37 Lake Parkway, Webster, burial followed at Mt. Zion Cemetery in Webster.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions may be made to: Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, P.O. Box 713, Webster, MA. 01570.

The ROBERT J. MILLER FUNERAL HOME and LAKE CHAPEL, 366 School St., Webster is assisting the family with arrangements.

To leave a message of condolence, please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net

Bernice B. Antul, 98

BROOKLYN, CT/ WORCESTER, MA- Bernice B. (Bojarski) Antul age 98 passed away Thursday evening at Pierce Care, Brooklyn, CT. She was the wife of the late Paul J. Antul Sr.

She leaves her daughters Paula Antul of Pomfret Center, CT, Pamela Antul of Brewster, MA, Debra Patchak of Jackson, Michigan and Loren Filgerleski of Gilbertville, MA, several grandchildren and great grand. She also was predeceased by a son Paul Antul Jr. of Worcester. Bernice

was born in Worcester daughter of the late Alexander Bojarski and Josephine (Jasinski) Bojarski and lived in Worcester for 64 years and for the past several years living in Brooklyn, CT.

There are no calling hours, all services are private. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with her arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or a light a candle.

Joseph "Roger" Garceau, 69

Joseph "Roger" Garceau, 69, of Candler, NC passed away peacefully at the Charles George VA Medical Center on December 8, 2018.

He was born November 22, 1949 in Webster, Massachusetts, son of late Byron and Marie Gingras Garceau. He served 2 tours in Vietnam, '67 & '68 with the US Army. Employed 30 years by New England Telephone/ Verizon.

20 years of service with Quinebaug Volunteer Fire Dept. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and camping.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 35 years, Charolett Latour Garceau; son, Spencer Garceau of Hilo, HI; son, Michael LePage (Gail) of Asheville, NC; grandsons, Benjamin & Kristopher LePage; sister, Jovette Gauthier of Southbridge, MA; brother, Michael Garceau (Mary) of Woodstock, CT; many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by son, Eric LePage. He is also survived by life-long friend, Bernie Chausse of Barefoot Bay, FL, and devoted dog, Charlie.

The family expresses a special note of thanks to the hospice team at Charles George VA Medical Center for their phenomenal care and compassion. Moore Funeral home is assisting the family. No services. Donations may be made to Autism Society of NC. Visit www.moorefh.net to sign the online guest book.

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

the deadline is Monday at noon for that week.

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

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

OBITUARIES are published at no charge. Email notices to charlie@villagem newspapers.com or fax them to (860) 928-5946. Photos are welcome in JPEG format.

Gilman Funeral Home
 104 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260

Valade Funeral Home
 23 Main Street, North Grosvenordale, CT 06260

860-928-7723

Robert R. Fournier Jr. - Funeral Director
 Locally Owned and Operated
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OBITUARIES

John F. Ostrowski, 93



WEBSTER - John F. Ostrowski, 93, of Webster died December 9, 2018 in Lanessa Extended Care after a brief illness. His wife of 67 years, Alice M. (LeBlanc) Ostrowski, died in 2016.

He leaves 4 children, John E. & his wife Muriel Ostrowski of Burlington, Patricia L. Lane of Thompson, CT, Dr. Edward S. & his wife Susan Ostrowski of Aberdeen, NC, and Diane J. & her husband Arthur Nawrocki of Sutton; 10 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; a sister, Sandra Markiewicz; several nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his infant sister Florence Ostrowski, his brother Stanley Ostrowski, his sister Jean Marshalkowski and by his son-in-law Paul Lane.

He was born and raised in Mayfield, PA, a son of Stanley and Pauline (Bilski) Ostrowski. He moved to Webster in 1942.

He was a veteran of World War II serving in the 1411th Army Air Force Base Unit from 1943 - 1946.

Mr. Ostrowski first worked at Anglo Fabrics in Webster. He later worked as a machinist with several companies in Worcester and finally with Gould & Eberhardt in Webster for several years, retiring in 1987.

As devout members of the Sacred

Heart of Jesus Catholic parish in Webster, Mr. Ostrowski and his wife Alice regularly attended Mass with their children as a family and they provided their children with an early Catholic education and training by attendance at St. Anne School - the parish private school. A devoted family man, he enjoyed many vacations with his family at the beaches in Maine, Charlestown Beach in Rhode Island, Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia, North Carolina and pool parties in Connecticut. He was an avid fan of the Red Sox, and enjoyed watching football games. He also played the keyboard for enjoyment. He loved to recount events from his life with great detail and flourish. He was also a handy man and fostered a love of sweets. His greatest joy came from the time he spent with his family.

Mr. Ostrowski's funeral was held Friday, December 14, from Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 16 East Main Street. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Visiting hours were held on Friday, December 14, before the funeral, from 9:00 to 10:30 AM in the funeral home.

www.scanlonfs.com



Alice E. Gerard, 91



PUTNAM - Alice E. (Morel) Gerard, 91, of Sabin Street, passed away Wednesday afternoon at Day Kimball Hospital. She was the loving wife of the late Roland "Mac" Gerard. Born in Woodstock, she was the daughter of the late Marcel and Denise (Hulot) Morel. Alice attended schools in Pomfret and Putnam High School.

Mrs. Gerard was a homemaker. She enjoyed dining out with her daughter,

shopping, and trips to the Foxwoods Resort and Casino.

Alice is survived by her daughter, Susan LaRose and her husband Leo of Putnam; four sisters, Nancy Dubreuil of Brooklyn, Antionette Roy of Shelton, Helen Beaulieu and her husband Edmund of Loudon, New Hampshire, and Lucille Moreau of Delray, Florida; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements are private and have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Ellen M. Frink, 72



DANIELSON - Ellen M. Frink, 72, North Street, died peacefully surrounded by family at the Hospital of Central Connecticut. She was the loving wife of James R. Frink Sr. for fifty years. Born in Putnam, she was the daughter of the late Kenneth and Hazel (Aldrich) Brooks.

Ellen earned her bachelor's degree

in social work and was employed by United Services. She was a member of the Red Hat Society.

Ellen is survived by her husband James Frink Sr.; her son James Frink Jr.; her two daughters Christine Frink of Danielson, and Sarah Booker of Danielson and nine beautiful grandchildren.

Arrangements are private and have been entrusted to Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Chelsea A. Paquette, 28



WOODSTOCK - Chelsea A. Paquette, 28, of Woodstock died Friday, December 7, 2018 at W. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich. She was born September 5, 1990. Daughter of Chandler Paquette and the late Karen (Campbell) Paquette.

Chelsea graduated from Woodstock Academy, class of 2008. She enjoyed cooking and baking fancy cakes. She was fond of four-wheeling in the country, and spending time with her friends and family.

She leaves her father Chandler Paquette and stepmother Heather of Woodstock, sister Amanda Leach, long-time boyfriend Justin Scricco, nieces Elizabeth and Jessica, Godfather Michael "Peach" Campbell, maternal grandmother Odena Campbell of Putnam, numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and her beloved dog Delialah.

Private family service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, JDRF, 20 Batterson Park Road, 3rd Floor, Farmington, CT 06032. Share a memory at www.smithandwalkerfh.com

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Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to jean@stonebridgepress.news



ELLIS TECH

continued from page B4

responsibilities.

"They may have played guard before but now they'll be at forward. When they get here they have to accept different roles," Ouillette said. "Learning a new position, they have to be open to that."

Ellis Tech accepts students from many sending towns so most of his players team together for the first time when they arrive at the school, presenting challenges for team cohesion.

"We had seven freshmen come out for the team this season. I don't think

any of them knew each other," Ouillette said.

Ouillette has a core of returnees who hope to get back to the state tourney. Junior Breanna Bentley returns and will run the point. The backcourt also returns junior guard Kalista Lovely and junior guard Alexis Rodriguez. Three sophomore forwards are expected to contribute and they include Amber Cutler, Vivianna St. Jean, and Lexus Lyon.

In addition to its rivals in the Connecticut Technical Conference, Ouillette has scheduled games against nearby schools Putnam High and Tourtellotte Memorial and said his players look forward to those backyard

battles. The Golden Eagles are scheduled to play host to Tourtellotte at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2. Ellis Tech is scheduled to travel to Putnam High for a 7 p.m. tipoff on Monday, Jan. 14. The Golden Eagles are set to play at Tourtellotte Memorial on Wednesday, Jan. 16, with tipoff scheduled for 7 p.m. at Cauty Gymnasium. If Ouillette has anything to say about it, the playoff drought years are over.

"I hate to lose," Ouillette said.

Charlie Lentz may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 110, or by e-mail at charlie@villagernewspapers.com.

TIGERS

continued from page B4

round of the state Class S girls basketball tournament last season. The Tigers will play in Division IV of the ECC. Eight wins are required to guarantee a berth in the state tournament and that remains the goal for Tourtellotte. With a competitive gauntlet of ECC teams to navigate, the Tigers will have to stay healthy to reach their goal.

"If we can get eight wins for the state tournament that's a successful season for us," Faucher said.

Tourtellotte is scheduled to open the season on the road at Windham High on Friday, Dec. 14, with tipoff set for 7 p.m. The Tigers return home to play host to Killingly High at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 17. The Tigers are scheduled to play host to backyard rival Putnam High on Wednesday, Dec. 19, with the game set to start at 7 p.m. at Cauty Gymnasium.

Charlie Lentz may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 110, or by e-mail at charlie@villagernewspapers.com.

What are the differences between sparkling wines?



As midnight approaches on New Year's Eve, revelers anxiously anticipate toasting the arrival of a new year with a glass of something bubbly. Once the cork is popped and the drinks are poured, the party can truly begin. Although revelers may assume any fizzy beverage they are served is champagne, by the true definition of the word, they actually may be drinking something else — one of many varieties of sparkling wine.

TRUE CHAMPAGNE

Authentic champagne is named after Champagne, France, the region where the grapes used to make it are grown, fermented and bottled. According to European law, the only labels that are allowed to include the name "Champagne" must be bottled within 100 miles of this region, which is close to Paris.

The taste of champagne is unique thanks to the soil in which the grapes are grown. It is a mineral-rich soil and imparts that flavor into the beverage. Champagne is made from a unique base of grapes that include Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Chardonnay grapes. Experts with Wine Country also say that roughly 90 percent of all blended champagnes use a ratio of 23 red and 13 Chardonnay mixes.

Another component that sets champagne apart is the process by which it is made. It is strictly controlled by the Appellation d'Origine Controlée. This certification

dictates how a producer may grow the grapes and how the grapes can be harvested and processed. Champagne is produced by méthode champenoise, a process that is said to have been invented by a monk named Dom Perignon. This procedure involves double fermentation in bottles and creates an earthy, yeasty flavor.

SPARKLING WINES

Champagne is sparkling wine, but not all sparkling wines are champagne. Other notable types of sparkling wine include Italian Prosecco and Spanish Cava. Sparkling wine is produced in regions of France as well as in the United States and Canada. But sparkling wine can be made just about anywhere grapes are grown. Sparkling wines are often double-fermented in steel containers instead of bottles.

People are drawn to other sparkling wines besides champagne for various reasons. For some, cost is a heavy consideration, as authentic champagne can be considerably more expensive than sparkling wine. In addition, some people find less expensive champagnes are not as palate-pleasing as sparkling wines.

Few things are more universally associated with celebrations than a bottle of bubbly. Subtle differences set sparkling wines apart from champagne, but personal preference is oftentimes the deciding factor when choosing which beverage to choose for a special occasion.

WOODSTOCK

continued from page B5

Dec. 18, at Bacon Academy. Woodstock has a home-and-home series against ECC-Division 2 opponent and backyard rival Killingly High — with the Centaurs playing host to the Redmen at Woodstock's Alumni Fieldhouse on Saturday, Jan. 5, with tipoff set for 6 p.m. The Centaurs travel to Killingly High for a road game at noon on Saturday, Feb. 2.

Charlie Lentz may be reached at (860) 928-1818, ext. 110, or by e-mail at charlie@villagernewspapers.com.

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Milton A. Schremser (18-00435)

The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated November 30, 2018, 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.

Heather Robinson, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Linda J. Antonio
c/o William H. St. Onge, Esq.,
St. Onge & Brouillard, PO Box 550,
Putnam, CT 06260;
(860)928-0481
December 14, 2018

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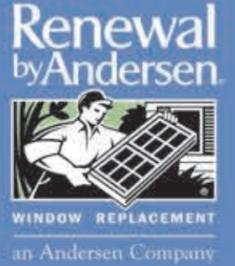


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