



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

Friday, June 12, 2020

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Bradley Playhouse honors Wendell Davis

BY REBECCA RAMSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM — Some laughs are unforgettable. Their memory sticks with us, and can be heard in our minds again and again. Wendell R. Davis, Sr. had one of those laughs.

According to Monique Maldonado, business manager of the Bradley Playhouse in Putnam, Davis's laugh was "soulful" and "contagious."

Davis was born in Milo, Maine, in 1938. He graduated from Old Town High School in 1956 and the University of Maine in Orono in 1960. He also held an advanced degree from Eastern Connecticut State University. After serving in the army from 1961-1964, Davis moved to Killingly, where he taught English at Killingly High School from 1966-1989. He later became a member of The Bradley Playhouse in Putnam, where he became enthralled by the stage.

"He went to every single comedy night we had here at the Bradley. Every single one," said Scott Higgins, Emcee, "always could see him up front,



Wendell Davis

always could see him on the way out."

Davis had two specific seats that he always sat in when he came for a show—D13 and A3—near the front. His presence in the theater had a unique effect on the actors. Upon hearing his large laugh, which carried all the way backstage, a wide smile would form on the faces of actors and crew members. They were always happy to see him in the audience.

Davis had a small history in stage performance and played in two shows at The Bradley Playhouse, in the ensemble of "Guys

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More than 130 gather at Pomfret vigil

Cris Cadiz — Courtesy

During a vigil in Pomfret on June 5, a 30-foot sign showed the names of 75 unarmed black victims of police in the United States.

BY CAROL DAVIDGE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

POMFRET — On June 5 at 5 p.m., more than 130 people of all ages from around north-eastern Connecticut spread out along Route 169 and Route 97 by the Pomfret Green. They showed up in solidarity with the mourners of George Floyd and others who have died at the hands of police. The protesters also knelt for eight minutes and 46 seconds, the time that a policeman's boot compressed Floyd's neck while he pleaded to be allowed to breathe.

Most of the 130 people carried signs and all wore masks and maintained social distancing. A sign 30 feet long bore the names of 75 unarmed black people who have been killed by police. "The vigil or peaceful protest in Pomfret was a last-minute, grassroots event organized by Quiet Corner Shouts! We wanted to show our grief over George Floyd's unnecessary death and for the hundreds of other people of color who have suffered the same fate at the hands of police in recent years. I was surprised that so many people came out. Our shared sentiment—support of Black Lives Matter, and support for



Rebecca Sumi Patenaude — Courtesy

Rori Mackenzie (left) and Louella Flanagan (right) came to the vigil.

equal justice and treatment for people of color in our country—was affirmed by this gathering. I am grateful that my friends and neighbors feel the same and are anxious for change," said Cris Cadiz of Pomfret.

Cadiz is Co-founder of Quiet Corner Shouts! and the creator of the 30 foot sign. Another participant was Cheryl Kapelner-Champ of Pomfret. "When I was a very young child, my father told me about an encounter he'd had on his way home from college in

Please Read **VIGIL**, page A7



Renovations complete at Lofts at Cargill Falls

BY REBECCA RAMSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM—For decades, the six-acre lot at 52-58 Pomfret St., across from the Quinebaug River, had sat abandoned, its 14 mill buildings slowly decaying. Many saw the buildings, dating from the 1800's to 1950's, as only reminders of past days, but Greg Renshaw saw them as an opportunity.

In 2013, he began a renovation effort to convert the

decaying mill into a commercial and residential campus, complete with 82 residential units and nearly 30,000 square feet of commercial workspace. Renshaw's vision was huge. The development he was planning would double the size of Putnam's downtown footprint.

Little by little, Renshaw began to dismantle the mill and transform the buildings into a livable space for tenants. Progress was slow but steady until construction came to a

startling halt in 2016.

On Aug. 22, Putnam police officers responded to a call from the Cargill Falls Mill complex for a report of a shooting. Entering the upstairs apartment, police found 55-year-old Renshaw suffering from a gunshot wound to the head. He died two days later at the UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, Mass.

Information about the cause of Renshaw's death was never released. Although the state

police described the shooting as an isolated incident, they never released a conclusive report on the shooting. The Chief Medical Examiner's Office said they have no record of Renshaw in their system and no formal cause and manner for his death. Hayes, the former Putnam police chief who oversaw the department the night Renshaw was shot, called the case one of the oddest he's dealt with in his decades-long career. Nearly four years have

passed, and the case is still considered open and active. Renshaw's death is becoming one of Putnam's unsolved mysteries.

For years after his death, Renshaw's multi-million-dollar mill renovation was understandably put on hold. Rumors quickly spread that the Cargill Falls Mill would be sold, but Renshaw's business partner Leeann Parker addressed those rumors in a statement

Please Read **LOFTS**, page A7



Photo Courtesy

An early race at Thompson Speedway.

Thompson Speedway celebrates 80 years in business

THOMPSON — The Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on East Thompson Road has recently passed their 80th anniversary. This raceway, which opened to the public on May 26, 1940, has a rich history in Connecticut.

The concept for the raceway began in 1938. On Sept. 21, a hurricane swept through the farming community of Thompson, Connecticut. Dark clouds billowed over the landscape,

Please Read **SPEEDWAY**, page A7



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QVCC Advanced Manufacturing program is up and running

DANIELSON — Quinebaug Valley Community College closed campus on March 12 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Most QVCC classes were able to resume online the week of March 23, but hands-on courses needing lab time needed a different solution.

QVCC Director of Advanced Manufacturing, Steve LaPointe received approval for a phase one re-opening of the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC) by Connecticut State Colleges and Universities President Mark Ojakian in late May. Using CDC guidelines, social distancing and safety precautions, the first group of students returned on June 2, and 12 students were able to complete their short-term training in Introduction to Machine Operator Program they began March 3.

The Introduction to Machine Operator Program, is a seven-week, 210 hour program through the Eastern Connecticut Manufacturing Pipeline, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor-Workforce Innovation Fund in partnership with the CT Department of Labor and the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board. This was the 21st Pipeline program run at QVCC. The training supports the hiring demands for Electric Boat, Eastern Advanced Manufacturing

Alliance (EAMA) and other manufacturers.

Mark Hill, interim president/CEO EWIB, congratulated the students on their success, commenting “Congratulations to QVCC and the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI) students for completing the Machine Operator training program! Using on-line training and other creative options, they persevered in the training program in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. The students acquired important skills which will help them in the job market in the future.”

On Monday, June 8, students who were enrolled in spring manufacturing courses started back at the lab to finish National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS) Credentials. Additional plans this summer include bringing Windham Early College Opportunity (ECO) students to campus starting July 6. ECO is a collaboration between QVCC and Windham High School, Willimantic, and provides a pathway of courses taught at Windham High School leading to a QVCC certificate in Advanced Manufacturing.

LaPointe stated, “It is great to get up and running again at the College. The students in the Pipeline program were



eager complete, as you can tell by their smiles (photo attached).”

LaPointe also talked about the upcoming fall semester, stating, “We will be running with half the capacity we nor-

mally run for a total of 24 students, dividing them between on-ground in the classroom and in the lab. Students who are interested in enrolling for fall should not delay.”

Day Kimball’s WIC program available for families affected by pandemic

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Healthcare’s (DKH) Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program is supporting many newly eligible families due to the economic impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

WIC is offered by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and administered locally throughout Northeast Connecticut by DKH’s Family Advocacy Programs, which work to support and strengthen families in the communities it serves.

WIC is one of the nation’s largest federal nutrition programs, serving approximately 6.3 million people, including

about half of all infants born in the United States. WIC helps low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 achieve and maintain a healthy lifestyle by providing healthy foods and nutrition education; promoting breastfeeding and supporting nursing mothers; and providing healthcare and social-service referrals.

With the passage of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act on March 18 to assist with the COVID-19 public health crisis, WIC received an increase in funding and increased ability to provide states with the flexibilities they need to support families that

rely on the program.

“WIC’s role in helping to improve food security and dietary quality, and to support overall health, is more important than ever because of the circumstances surrounding this public health crisis,” said Kera Morissette, WIC Program Manager, Day Kimball Healthcare. “This is true for families already on WIC and for the many people who are newly eligible due to recent job losses related to COVID-19. We encourage these families to reach out to WIC to see if they might qualify for assistance during this time.”

Individuals who have lost income due to the COVID-19

pandemic, or who are struggling to provide healthy food for their family during the crisis, should contact DKH’s WIC program to determine if they qualify to receive assistance.

To support social distancing, DKH’s WIC program is enrolling new participants over the phone. For more information or to determine eligibility, call (860) 928-3660 or email Kera Morissette at kmorissette@daykimball.org.

To learn more about Day Kimball Healthcare’s WIC Program visit www.daykimball.org/wic.

About Day Kimball Healthcare
Day Kimball Healthcare

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

James Allen Nelson

of Woodstock, Connecticut

graduated his Senior Year

of High School from Hyde

School in Bath, Maine.

Class of 2020.

James is the son of

Thomas and Traci Nelson

of Woodstock.

POLICE LOGS

Putnam police log

PUTNAM — The Putnam Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of June 1-8.

Jonathan Yater, age 39, of Dayville was arrested on June 1 for Disorderly Conduct and Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree.

Kyle Brinkley, age 24, of Webster, Mass. was arrested on June 4 for Possession of a Controlled Substance and Possession of Paraphernalia.

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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 Nov. 12: Carolina Wren, Pileated Woodpecker, Fox Sparrow, Junco, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Great-horned Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of June 1: Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Yellow-throated Vireo, Eastern Wood Pewee, Wood Duck, American Woodcock, Barred Owl, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Veery, Wood Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, Louisiana Waterthrush, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Eastern Towhee. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

Owl, Flicker, Goldfinch, Great Blue Heron, Red-bellied Woodpecker. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home

www.ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

Nichols College students named to Spring 2020 Honors List

DUDLEY, Mass. — Many hard-working students at Nichols College in Dudley, Mass., have achieved Dean's List or President's List honors during the spring 2020 semester.

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

Dylan McMerriman an Accounting major at Nichols College from Brooklyn, is named to the President's List.

Adam Sanderson a Corporate Finance & Investment major

at Nichols College from Woodstock Valley, is named to the Dean's List.

Benjamin Carbone, an Economics major at Nichols College from Brooklyn, is named to the President's List.

Nicole Durand, a General Business major at Nichols College from Danielson, is named to the Dean's List.

Jay Long, a General Business major at Nichols College from Brooklyn, is named to the President's List.

Abigail Teczar, a General Business major at Nichols College from Rogers, is named to the Dean's List.

Michael Wetherell, a Human Resource Management major at Nichols College from Brooklyn, is named to the Dean's List.

Megan Vertefeuille, a Marketing major at Nichols College from Dayville, is named to the Dean's List.

Alexis Lapointe, an Undecided major at Nichols College from Brooklyn, is

named to the Dean's List.

Cara Mayhew, a Undecided major at Nichols College from Brooklyn, is named to the President's List.

Nicholas Elliott, an Accounting major at Nichols College from Thompson, is named to the Dean's List.

Kendra Annis, an Accounting major at Nichols College from North Grosvenordale, is named to the President's List.

Shannon Gauthier, an Accounting major at Nichols College from North Grosvenordale, is named to the President's List.

Nicholas Kolodziejczak, an Accounting major at Nichols College from Thompson, is named to the President's List.

Evan Ware, an Accounting major at Nichols College from North Grosvenordale, is named to the Dean's List.

Maegan Roy, a Digital & Social Media Marketing major at Nichols College from Thompson, is named to the Dean's List.

Sophia Prouty, an Economics major at Nichols College from Thompson, is named to the President's List.

Olivia Antonson, a General Business major at Nichols College from North Grosvenordale, is named to the President's List.

Jason Walker, a Sports Management major at Nichols College from North Grosvenordale, is named to the President's List.

Grace Deneault, an Undecided major at Nichols College from Thompson, is named to the President's List.

Lucas Couture, a Human Resource Management major at Nichols College from Woodstock, is named to the President's List.

Christian Mayotte, an International Business major at Nichols College from Woodstock, is named to the Dean's List.

John Fox, a Finance major at Nichols College from Woodstock, is named to the

President's List.

Emily Faist, an Undecided major at Nichols College from Woodstock, is named to the Dean's List.

About Nichols College

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

Community supported milk donation helps families in need

BROOKLYN — On Wednesday morning, June 3, 1,550 gallons of milk were sent from the Guida's Dairy facility in New Britain, owned and operated by the dairy cooperative Dairy Farmers of America, to the Brooklyn Middle School where area non-profits and local service agencies picked up and distributed their portion of the donated milk.

This donation effort was driven by the dairy farm families of Connecticut who recognize and embrace their role in supporting their communities during both good and challenging times. Local dairy farmers partnered with the Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group (TEEG) on this donation and distribution effort. TEEG brought to the table their partners which include local school districts, hospitals, community kitchens, and more.

“What we did today was supply 1,550 gallons of milk to families with children in the Northeast corner of Connecticut, probably 50 gallons of that will go to seniors and single-person households, but other than that, it's all going to children who need this nutrition,” explained Anne Miller, Executive Director, TEEG. “The need is deep and it's wide, this will go very far towards helping people. And just knowing we may get to do this again is huge to us.”

Food pantries across Connecticut, the region, and the nation have seen a tremendous increase in the numbers of individuals and families they're serving as states and communities have adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic. In Connecticut, 1 in 9 people struggles with hunger. That number is one in six for children.

Efforts like the distribution which happened Wednesday morning not only puts a nutritious food source in the hands of families in need, it helps secure a market for dairy farmers' milk. This donation event supplied a week's worth of milk to families in need in the greater Windham County area.

While the milk is ultimately free for those families in need, there are still costs associated with processing, packaging and delivering the milk. To cover those costs, Jon Hermonot of Fairholm Farm in Woodstock reached out to area businesses who donated more than \$7,000 to cover costs. Dairy Farmers of America contributed \$1,500 towards that total amount through their DFA

Cares Foundation. This donation and distribution event wouldn't have happened without this community support.

“There's definitely a need in our Northeast communities, across the state really, for food and milk,” stated dairy farmer Jon Hermonot, Fairholm Farm. “Being able to team-up with TEEG, this amazing local, non-profit, and with our local businesses who have sponsored, it just feels good. Those of us who can give back, should do so. Helping families in need is a great cause and hopefully we can continue to do this.”

Hermonot, TEEG, and other dairy farm families of Connecticut hope to build upon this momentum with other

community funded donation efforts in the future.

Windham County area organizations who received milk include:

- Brooklyn Public Schools
- Daily Bread (Putnam)
- Day Kimball Hospital
- EASTCONN Educational Service Center
- First Congregational Woodstock
- Killingly Schools
- Project PIN
- Putnam Schools
- TEEG Youth
- Thompson Schools
- Woodstock Schools
- Hanfield & Franklin Food Pantries



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Insightful



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




It's time to catch up on your health. And it's safe.

Day Kimball Healthcare wants you to know it's time to get back on track with your health. If you've had to put off recent health appointments, we're here to help you return to care. **Our facilities have remained the safest in Connecticut throughout the COVID-19 crisis.** So you can rest assured that you'll be treated in as protective an environment as anywhere around. And we've implemented extra safety precautions to ensure just that:

- Mandatory screening for anyone entering DKH facilities
- COVID-19 testing several days prior to medical procedures
- Careful control of people entering, including limited visitations and social distancing
- Masks for everyone
- Readily available hand sanitizer throughout
- Adherence to CDC standards for more frequent cleaning and disinfecting
- and more

Remember, Day Kimball is here for you any time for any medical issue, from minor scrapes to emergencies. And your safety is always our number one concern. Plus we offer drive-up COVID-19 testing with a doctor's order.

So stay safe. Keep healthy. And thank you for trusting us with your care.



DAY KIMBALL HEALTHCARE
A community partner of YaleNewHavenHealth

daykimball.org/return-to-care

Local students earn placement on Assumption College’s Dean’s List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Assumption has announced those students who have been named to the College’s Dean’s List for the spring 2020 semester. Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters. Local students include:

Jacques Bergeron of Woodstock, Class of 2021

McKenna Gagnon of Pomfret Center, Class of 2023

Ellie Jellison of Pomfret Center, Class of 2023

Taylor Kent of Brooklyn Class of 2022

Matthew Mayotte of Danielson, Class of 2020

Samuel Roy of Thompson, Class of 2023

“This semester, our students faced unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic,” said Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D., president of Assumption College. “Following a rapid transition to remote learning, students adapted to the new form of education delivery amid difficult circumstances. The Assumption community is proud of these students who, despite the distractions of the COVID-19 situation, were able to remain focused and maintain

a commitment to their academic programs.”

Founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption in Worcester, Mass., Assumption College is a Catholic liberal arts institution that offers undergraduate students 33 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, and professional studies; as well as master’s and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs—each through an educational experience that is grounded in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition. The curriculum enables students to gain a depth and breadth of knowledge that leads to professional success and personal fulfillment.

Students—whether on the Worcester campus or at the College’s Rome, Italy, campus—become engaged participants in Assumption’s classic liberal arts education, exploring new ideas and making connections across disciplines. To prepare for the workforce, students learn cutting-edge theory and best practices, conduct innovative research, and develop excellent communication and critical-analysis skills. Assumption graduates are also known for their thoughtful citizenship and compassionate service to their community. For more information about Assumption College, please visit www.assumption.edu.

Spring 2020 graduates Announced at UA

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — The University of Alabama awarded some 6,326 degrees this spring. Among the graduates was Amanda Isbell of Danielson, who received a Master of Library & Information Studies.

The recent change to remote learning during this unprecedented time affected the University’s plans for traditional commencement activities. However, commencement is a milestone, and the University wants graduates to have the opportunity to walk across the stage in celebration of their success. Although any plans are contingent on how the

summer outlook progresses, all spring graduates are invited to participate in the summer commencement events scheduled for Friday, July 31, and Saturday, Aug. 1.

“We will also be recognizing the achievements of our spring 2020 graduating class through online and social media outlets to highlight our shared pride in them,” said UA President Stuart Bell. “I look forward to congratulating each student on stage very soon.”

With dozens of challenging academic programs, expert and world-renowned faculty and numerous opportunities for service and growth, The University of Alabama is the place where legends are made. UA offers its students a premier educational, cultural and social experience with more than 200 undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and gives students the opportunity to partner with faculty performing cutting-edge research.

Samantha Roy graduates from Bowdoin College

BRUNSWICK, Maine — During on online celebration of Bowdoin College’s Class of 2020, held May 23, Bachelor of arts degrees were awarded to approximately 473 students from 43 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and 32 other countries and territories.

Samantha Roy, of Stafford Springs, graduated with a major in neuroscience and a minor in visual arts.

The event was not a replacement for the traditional cap-and-gown Commencement that

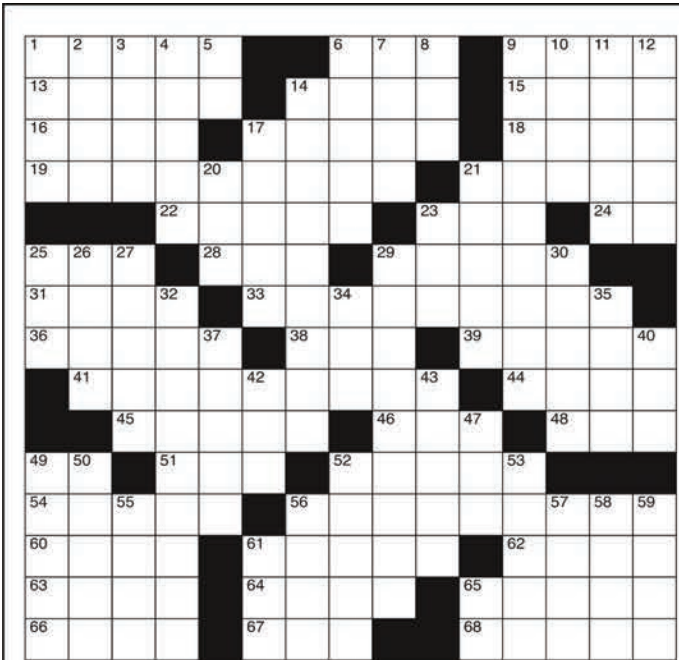
Bowdoin will hold on campus next May for the Class of 2020, but rather the first act, a way to recognize the achievements right now of an extraordinary group.

The program for this year’s celebration of the Class of 2020 was put together with ideas and preferences submitted by seniors.

More about Bowdoin College’s Class of 2020 Celebration here: Bowdoin celebrates the class of 2020

About Bowdoin College Bowdoin College has been

educating leaders on the coast of Maine since the dawn of the American republic. Founded in 1794, Bowdoin is a highly selective college of approximately 1,800 students of distinction from across America and around the world. Bowdoin offers Bachelor of Arts degrees in more than 40 majors, including interdisciplinary programs. A Bowdoin liberal arts education and residential life experience instill principled leadership, lifelong learning, and service to the common good.



CLUES ACROSS

1. American composer

6. Very fast aircraft

9. Workplaces

13. A mount on a surface

14. Small freshwater fish

15. Double-reed instrument

16. Canadian flyers

17. Famed astronomer

18. Smooth, shiny fabric

19. Profited

21. Conspiracy

22. Infections

23. Chum

24. Secondary school (abbr.)

25. Resistance unit

28. Sound unit

29. Ancient city of Egypt

31. Crease

33. Polished

36. For goodness ___!

38. College basketball tournament
39. Scorches

41. Describe precisely

44. Thick piece of something

45. Frocks

46. Indicates near

48. Senior enlisted US Army member

49. A note added to a letter

51. A nose or snout

52. Clumsy

54. Satisfied to the fullest

56. Display of strong feeling

60. Popular awards show

61. Cuisine style

62. Expresses pleasure

63. Monetary unit of the Maldives

64. Utah city

65. Fight

66. Messenger ribonucleic acid

67. Body part

68. Suspiciously reluctant

CLUES DOWN

1. Fruit of the service tree

2. At some prior time

3. Mongolian city ___ Bator

4. Strongboxes

5. Russian river

6. Gurus

7. Horse mackerel

8. Pearl Jam’s debut album

9. Confines

10. First month of Jewish ecclesiastical year

11. Famed Idaho politician

12. Prevents from seeing

14. Indicate time

17. Male parents

20. Tab on a key ring

21. The Great Dog constellation: ___ Major

23. Frying necessity

25. Former CIA

26. The leader

27. Produces
29. London soccer club

30. Closes

32. Region in the western Pacific Ocean

34. Not present

35. Small drink of whiskey

37. Begat

40. Helps little firms

42. Pointed end of a pen

43. Fencing swords

47. Inches per minute (abbr.)

49. Hymn

50. Philippine island

52. Flemish names of Ypres

53. A way to inform

55. Small lake

56. Linear unit

57. Central Japanese city

58. Partially burn

59. Sports award

61. Part of your foot

65. Atomic #21



QCC releases Dean and Merit Lists

WORCESTER, Mass. — Quinsigamond Community College has released its Spring 2020 semester Dean and Merit Lists. A total of 578 students were named to the College’s Dean’s List and 1035 students were named to the Merit List.

Students named to the Dean’s List must have a Quality Point Average (QPA) of 3.5 or higher and have earned 12 or more credits in a given semester. Students named to the Merit List must have a QPA of 3.5 or higher and have earned 6 or more credits in a given semester, but fewer than 12 credits.

For more information, contact

Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

Dean’s List

Putnam: Hazel Glaude, Debonie Thompson

Merit List

Danielson: Trishia Craig

Dayville: Kristine Souza

North Grosvenordale: Kaelin Andersen

Pomfret Center: Craig Fisk

Putnam: Christopher Rocca

Woodstock: Wendy Bates, Dawnn Williams

Aidan McGannon named to Dean’s List at Georgia Tech

Aidan McGannon named to Dean’s List at Georgia Tech

ATLANTA, Ga. — Aidan McGannon of Brooklyn made the Dean’s List for the Spring 2020 semester at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester.

One of the nation’s leading research universities, the Georgia Institute

of Technology is in the business of Creating the Next -- the next idea, the next technology, and the next legion of agile minds well equipped to imagine and engineer our future. More than 36,000 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled, and Georgia Tech is ranked in the nation’s top five public universities by U.S. News & World Report. For more information, visit gatech.edu.



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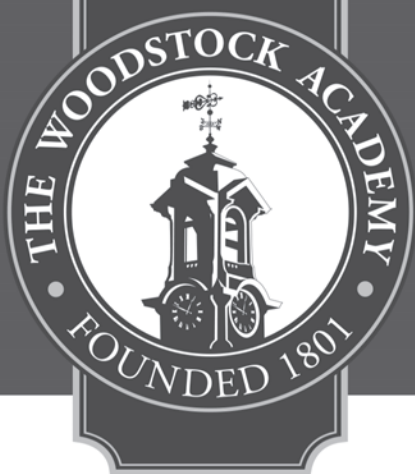
During the summer of 2020, we are making this a “work at home” position with all interviews being done over the phone.

For more information, send us an email letting us know a little about you to:

Brendan Berube, editor

brendan@villagernewspapers.com

Villager Newspapers



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY CLASS OF 2020!

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Aidan Erick Anderson
Alyssa Claire Arends ^{3, 10, 12}
Emily Leslie Arters ^{13, 14}
Izetta Lynn Asikainen ^{4, 13}
Paige Anne Audet
Ozias A. Autio
Isabella Marie Azzolino ¹⁶
YunFei Bai
Jonathan O. Bain
Abigail Lucette Barnes
Gabrielle Agnes Barnes
Mackenzie Renée Barrows ⁷
Sabrina Elizabeth Bastien
Annabelle Fe Bastura ^{13, 14}
Lillian Page Bates
Nicole Amelia Bavosi
Zoey Ann Beaudreault
Noah Raymond Beaupre
Russell J. Beausoleil ^{3, 8, 11, 12, 14}
Nathan J. Becher ^{3, 10}
Nicholas Philip Major Bedard
Corinna Ann Benoit ⁸
Tatum Lee Bentley
Remi Kay Sunshine Rose Benton
Zachary Peter Bertram
Nicolas S. Besette
Yvonne Michelle Besette ¹⁶
Elijah E. Blackman
Alison Elizabeth Blair
Elise Corinne Boisvert ^{5, 13}
Maximilian Ronin Bosio
Elie Boulanger
Alexia Taylor Bourbeau ^{5, 12, 14, 15}
Addie Joanna Bouten ¹⁰
Lily Alexandra Brin ^{4, 13, 16}
Jordyn Angelo Brousseau ^{3, 12, 14}
Keith Brousseau
Jack Ethan Butler
Reid William Butler
Kayleigh Lena Carbone
Kylie M. Casey
Soomin Chae
Jason M. Challinor Jr.
Jackson R. Chambers
Daniel D. Champagne
Jonathan C. Chan
Yuanrong Chang
Danielle Rachel Chaput ^{3, 13, 14}
Andrew Scott Charron
Vondre Hunter Chase
Corinne Saltonstall Child ^{3, 11, 12, 14, 15}
Panagiotis K. Chrisovechotis
Zachary A. Collins
Jonathan Robert Conover ^{5, 10}
Maia Rose Corrado
Mikayla Anne Corriveau
Reagan Olivia Couture ^{4, 6, 12}
Ethan Matthew Cowher
Nathan Patrick Craig ^{1, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15}
Chandler Michael Creedon ¹⁶
Shawna Lee Cudworth
Jifan Cui
Makenzie S. Czmyr
Jenna Davidson
Talia Moon Dazy
Milikai Jordan Delgado
Jaden Zachory Dennett
Tarryn Elizabeth Desrosiers
Kennedy James Edgar Dexter
Jorge Diaz Barreiro
Adam James DiMillio
Josephine Amelia Rose Dlugosz ^{5, 12}
Connor Michael Downing

Emma Josephine Durand ^{3, 10, 12, 13, 14}
Elizabeth R. Elza ^{3, 12, 14, 16}
Allison Kathryn Faist ^{3, 10, 12}
Christine M. Faist ^{3, 9}
Anya Libby Farutin ^{3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15}
Jaden Field
Kelsey Ryan Field
Paloma Flath
David M. Fleck
Joseph Fleck ¹⁴
Cassidy Ann Fortier
Caroline Cecile Frost ^{3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15}
Annafabia Gai
Lingxiang Gao
ZhiPeng Gao
Kayla Mackenzie Gaudreau ¹³
Maya Holly Germano
Evan Matthew Gianfriddo ¹⁶
Anthony Joseph Girard
Alexander Cole Gluck
Megan Elizabeth Gohn ^{4, 10, 13, 16}
Diana Carolina Gonzalez Caraballo ^{5, 9}
Chad J. Groleay
Marie Brooke Gravier
Benjamin Daniel Green
Ethen S. Greene
Jennifer Lee Groleau
Yifan Kendra Gu ³
Alexander Francis Guillot
Matthew Laurent Guillot
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Caroline Elizabeth Miano Hamill ¹³
Riley Katherine Hardacker ¹⁵
Chelsea Mae Hart
Elliot Maxwell Hellwig
Paula Victoria Hernández Aulet ^{3, 13}
Rachel Odette Holden ^{5, 13}
Tessa Rose Houlihan ^{3, 10, 11, 12, 13}
Yiyang Hu
Christian David Ignacio
Kathrine Pavel Ionkin ^{3, 7, 11, 12, 14}
Marlene Ishimwe
Rebecca Lyn Jarvis ¹⁴
Michael Jefferson
Sierra Rose Jerz
Alexander Alfred Jezerski
Qihao Jay Jin
Nathaniel Patrick Johnson
Avery L. Jones ^{3, 10, 11, 12, 13}
Jessica Lynn Kasacek ^{4, 7, 12}
Paige Corinne Kasacek
Jillian S. Keith
Josephina L. Keith
Jeffrey Keller
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Mia Ann Kozey Edwards
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Matthew David LaBounty
Ashley Ann LaFramboise ^{5, 12, 15}
Vy Kieu Lam
Bryce Ashton Lambert ^{5, 10}
Rachel Elizabeth Lambert ^{3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14}
Gavin Tyler-James Lanning
Joshua R. Lavitt
Abigail Kate LeBlanc
Madelyn Genevieve Lecuyer ^{4, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15}
Audrey Camille Ledbetter
Austen M. LeDonne ¹⁰

Ethan J. Leite
Grace Alexandra Leite
Victoria Lenotti
Huanpu Li
Jintai Li
Xin Li
Ruiyang Liang ^{3, 11}
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Tanner James Littmann
Ru Liu ^{5, 11}
Yi Liu
Jacob Mark Longe
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Mary Elizabeth Lucier
Dung Bui Ly ^{3, 14}
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Evelyn Rose Withers
Evan Hamilton Wood ^{4, 16}
Nicholas B. Zagrodny
Langqi Zhang ¹¹
Yukun Zhang
Junxia Zhou
Zejun Zhou ⁵
Yi Zhu

- 1. Valedictorian
- 2. Salutatorian
- 3. Summa cum laude
- 4. Magna cum laude
- 5. Cum laude
- 6. Chinese National Honor Society

- 7. French National Honor Society
- 8. German National Honor Society
- 9. Italian National Honor Society
- 10. Latin National Honor Society
- 11. Math National Honor Society
- 12. National Honor Society

- 13. Scholar-Athlete Honor Society
- 14. Science National Honor Society
- 15. Spanish National Honor Society
- 16. Tri-M Music Honor Society

Bake Sale

On Sunday, June 7, the Thompson Democratic Town Committee held a Bake Sale. People were given the opportunity to buy freshly baked chocolate chip cookies and peanut butter balls made by Our Father's Table or donate them to Thompson Fire Departments. Thompson Democratic Town Committee members Erica Groh and Jessica Bolte delivered the treats to all five fire departments in Thompson. Thank you to all the members from Thompson Fire Departments. You are greatly appreciated!

Photos Courtesy



Clemson awards degrees for spring 2020

CLEMSON, S.C. — Sheridan Kathleen Hogan of Danielson graduated from Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry. Hogan was among more than 4,007 students who received degrees awarded in May.



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A SOCIALLY DISTANT CELEBRATION



Photo Courtesy

Rita Bernier celebrated her 100th birthday on May 15 at Matulaitis Nursing Home with family just outside the window. It was difficult to be outside and not be able to hug her on her big day, but we were happy to see her doing well.

VIGIL

continued from page A1

Brooklyn, N.Y. On the subway home to the Bronx that night, he sat next to a man of color, and during the ride, they got to

talking. He told my father that even though he was a scientist with a Ph.D., he couldn't get a job because of the color of his skin. My father was a strong brave man, and served over in Germany during World War II. He even figured out a way for

his men to hide safely when German bombs were coming down on them. When he told me the story of the man on the train who was denied employment because of the color of his skin, his eyes teared and his throat choked up as he

was trying to talk. That family story is the main reason I've gotten involved in local causes. As a member of the Greater Putnam Interfaith Council, we learn about each other's religious beliefs and concerns and put together programs of peace and justice such as United Nations Peace Day, learning to respect one another in our community, and helping to plan and participate in recent vigils and protests," said Kapelner-Champ. Maureen Nicholson, First Selectman in Pomfret and Co-founder of QCS, expressed her appreciation for the demonstration, commenting "I am very proud to see the

strong presence of area residents coming together to show their support for change and the need to bear witness to the community. It is an impressive sight to see the streets lined with those who believe the time is now and the place is every community, no matter the size, to call for change. Standing up for the rights of others inspires hope: hope for our future and the future of our country." Quiet Corner Shouts! is a grassroots organization in northeastern Connecticut that encourages civic engagement for education, health care, social justice and environmental protection. For information, go to the Facebook page Quiet Corner Shouts Info.

LOFTS

continued from page A1

she made in 2016. "I have no intention of selling the mill," she said. "To the contrary, I continue to invest the time and resources needed to get the overall rehabilitation of the complex underway." True to her word, Parker took charge of the project and with help from Haynes Construction Company, began to make progress on completing the dream that Renshaw hadn't gotten the chance to fulfill. "We're starting now," Tim Sheldon, project developer, told

the newsroom in 2017. "We're doing the demolition inside the building, getting it prepped for building walls and putting in new floors for 28 residential units in the first section of buildings." People who walked or drove by the mill could hear rumbling machinery, clanging bolts, and crashing boards. According to Hayes Construction Company, the Lofts at Cargill Falls Mill was one of the most difficult and complicated projects they have ever done. Now, seven years and many challenges later, the project is nearly complete. According to Paige Dinwoodie, the

Regional Manager for Konover Residential Corporation, move-ins for the Lofts at Cargill Falls Mill are being scheduled to start July 1. "Interest in Cargill Mills continues to be vast," she said. "We have had 15 tours over the past week and have secured twenty-seven units to date." After such a long process, residents of Putnam are glad to see the project finished. Family and friends of Renshaw hope that people will remember Renshaw's vision and appreciate the hard work it took to transform an old mill into a beautiful apartment complex overlooking the Quinebaug.



DAVIS

continued from page A1

and Dolls" and in their second production of "The Crucible." "He loved the theater," said Monique Maldonado. Although Maldonado knew Davis for only five years, she "could tell he had a special place for the Bradley in his heart and was passionate about the arts." Wendell Davis passed away on May 24, at the age of 81. To honor Davis's unique and exciting life, The Bradley Playhouse hosted a Facebook Live Virtual Variety Show on June 6. During the live performance, members of the playhouse shared their memories of Davis and performed songs and skits to commemorate his love for the theater. Among the performances

were "There's a Tear in my Beer," sung by Bob Brandriff; "Adalaide's Lament," performed by Diane Pollard; "Kids" sung by Marc Cerrone; and many more. The event can be viewed on The Bradley Playhouse's Facebook page. The Bradley Playhouse is currently closed because of the coronavirus, but the president Don Gibbs is hoping to reopen soon. Yet, even after the playhouse reopens, performances will never be the same without Wendell Davis's boisterous, soulful laugh filling the auditorium. "Wendell, we love you. We miss you," said Jim Weagle, Davis's friend of more than 50 years. "But there will always be a seat for you in the front row of The Bradley Playhouse."

SPEEDWAY

continued from page A1

and heavy rain bore down on everything. The storm, known as "Long Island Express" and the Great New England Hurricane, devastated the landscape and destroyed everything in its path, including John Hoenig's farm. In the aftermath, while others slowly rebuilt or relocated, John Hoenig had a better idea. He began to remove the downed trees and clear the land. He brought in a rock crusher, built a sawmill, and moved thousands of cubic yards of gravel. Slowly but surely, his dream of creating the nation's first asphalt racetrack began to take shape. Unlike other racetracks of the day which were made from dirt, boards, or bricks and spanned only a quarter of a mile or less, Hoenig's track was laid with asphalt, surrounded by high banks, and reached five eighths of a mile. When its gates opened for the first time in 1940, the crowd was amazed by the size and design of the oval track. Before long, word of this "Super Speedway" spread across the country, giving Thompson the name "Indianapolis of the East." Fans from all over the country came to see the "big track" as its racers tore around the high banks in midjets and other open-wheel cars. When the track proved to be too fast for the stock cars and jalopies of the day, Hoenig constructed a quarter-mile track inside the larger oval to accommodate these growing racing conditions. As the pinnacle of the early racetrack's success, the newly organized NASCAR Grand National cars chose the racetrack for their event on Oct. 12, 1951. Drivers like Tim Flock, NASCAR Champion Herb Thomas, and Jim Reed led the Grand National line up which also included the famous New England drivers Jerry Russo, Dave Humphrey, and Reino Tulonen. At the end of the one-hundred-mile, 200-lap event, Neil Cole drove his way to victory in his 1950 Oldsmobile and collected one thousand dollars. Road racing was introduced to the speedway in the 1940s. The newly begun Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) began holding time trials and contests that used the two ovals to create a modified course. Seeing the potential, management constructed its first road course in the early 1950s that also used part of the oval. The original one-and-a-half-mile configuration is believed to have opened in 1952. The course was replaced with a

two-mile version in the early 1960s that did not use any of the oval. Version 3, introduced in 1968, included re-designed turns from the original 1952 layout and updated viewing areas and paddocks. This version is still used today. Over the years, the speedway has attracted some of racing's biggest stars, including Pete Hamilton, Geoffrey Bodine, Greg Sacks, Ron Couchard, Steve Park, and many others. More recently, the NASCAR Weekly Racing Series National Champion, Ted Christopher, gained his title from Thompson. Also, Richie Evans was inducted into the NASCAR hall of fame in 2012 and is a legend at Thompson to this day. Several additions have been made to the track throughout the years. The biggest additions were the Raceway Golf Club, a course that boasts 18 holes of classic New England golf, and the Raceway Restaurant, a bar and lounge to accommodate racers and golfers. The speedway is a piece of history not only for Thompson, but also for the United States. Dozens of racers had their start on John Hoenig's oval track—the first purpose-built road course and first asphalt high-banked oval in America. Eighty years have passed since the Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park (TSMP) first opened, and the racetrack is just as sensational as it was then. Though the track is currently closed because of the coronavirus, its owners Donald and D.R. Hoenig are hoping to reopen soon with many more exciting events. With its rich history and 500 acres of rolling hills, the TSMP is sure to attract many fans and racers for years to come.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

United we stand, divided we fall

In the 6th century B.C., Aesop shared a fable about the Lion and The Four Oxen. The story, if you have not heard it, goes like this....

A lion used to prowl around a field where four oxen dwelled. Several times, he would try to eat them but whenever he approached the four oxen would back their tales up to each other with their bodies pointed outward in different directions. No matter what direction the lion approached, he was met by the horns of one of them and could do nothing. Finally, the oxen began quarreling amongst themselves, and so each went off to a pasture of their own in a separate corner of the field. Then the lion attacked them one by one and soon made an end to all four.

Aesop’s moral to this tale has become one of the most well known sayings of our time, “United we stand, divided we fall.” President Abraham Lincoln parroted the sentiment in his acceptance speech, made in the year 1858: “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

As of late, it seems the division throughout the country and even in our small communities has grown deeper. What we noticed, however, is that most well minded, kind, compassionate, intelligent people all want the same things. To be happy and successful. The arguments ensue, when people have different ideas on how to reach such a state of success in our government, and even in our own lives. When one person thinks we should reach A by doing X and Y, and another thinks we should reach A by doing Z, tempers flare. We want to remind you, that there is no reason to get heated when talking to a friend or colleague. Getting heated at a stranger is even more inappropriate. It’s ok if someone disagrees with you. Remain calm.

What needs to unfold is the ability to hear each other out with a listening ear. Where one person’s experience ends, another’s begins. Solutions always appear in that middle area, where compromises are made.

To be steadfast in your beliefs is important, but it’s even more important to exercise some flexibility, that is where growth takes place. This is where we can learn from someone who doesn’t think the same way we do. It does not make a person weak, when there is a mind shift. It makes them smart.

We’re seeing a lot of arguing on social media, people publicly going back and forth and the thread never ends with any real change being made. If you want to have a meaningful, productive conversation with someone online, take it to a private message, where the world isn’t watching. In the public eye, we all can be defensive.

Now, there are extremists on both sides of any argument, in those cases, there’s not much you can do. There are people who want to see things through one lens and one lens only. Fine, let them. You will also see ignorance and evil come flying out of the mouths of those you never thought capable, fine let them. Remember that the majority of the people in this country want to unify. It comes down to common sense. United we stand, divided we fall. That statement couldn’t ring truer.

Be strong enough in character, where you are a leader, whether in your own community, at work or in your own family. Unity should always be the end goal. Therefore, if you see someone that disagrees with you, and you want to unify, have a conversation that will do just that.

Sometimes simply saying, “Hey the country is really divided right now, how can we start to unify on a small scale?” That question puts both people in a position to come up with a solution that works for everyone. Then the domino effect takes hold. Then unity happens, then change, then success.

In the words of author Ken Blanchard, “None of us is as smart, as all of us.”

READING NEWSPAPERS IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We must all speak out against prejudice

To the Editor:
The Woodstock Democratic Town Committee shares the nation’s horror at the recent murder of George Floyd at the hands of police, and we abhor the thread of racism that has prevented our nation from fully realizing the ideals set forth in its founding documents. We -- like all true patriots -- support the tens of tens of thousands of Americans who are exercising their First Amendment rights to protest violence and to support the equality of all peoples.
At the same time, we deplore the actions of

those who attempt to manipulate the current unrest for their selfish interests -- whether personal greed or racial supremacy, political advantage or foreign meddling. We urge all citizens of Woodstock, as well as our elected political leaders, to speak out against individual and structural racism, and to work for the dignity and humanity of all our citizens.

CHARLES M. SUPER
CHAIR
WOODSTOCK DEMOCRATIC TOWN
COMMITTEE

Why words matter

To the Editor:
A black NFL player (Colin Kaepernick) took a knee during the national anthem to call attention to police brutality and racial inequity. Rather than standing by the first amendment rights of Kaepernick and other NFL players to peacefully protest the systematic murder of black men in America, Mr. Trump chose to add fuel to the fire. With seething vitriol and hatred in his voice he reeled up his white supremacist base while ordering the NFL owners to “fire the sons of bitches!” Incapable of showing empathy or leadership, Trump continued to divide rather than unite the country, using racist innuendo in the guise of “patriotism.” It didn’t take long for the Trump zombie followers to join his well-orchestrated fray, accusing the protesters and Black Lives Matter movement of being unpatriotic and anti-police. Shortly there-after, a little girl in a classroom informed her teacher that “blue lives matter and black people wouldn’t be getting shot if they weren’t doing something wrong.”

The words and actions of the President of the United States should matter. They should not be taken lightly. After all, the rest of the world is watching us. I have never been more ashamed to be an American. Trump has failed to show true leadership during every crisis we have faced since he occupied the Whitehouse. Rather than manning up for the sake of unity he chooses division at every opportunity. His tweets have become the secret code, giving a green light to white supremacists and an over-militarized police force to carry out the systemic oppression and murders of African Americans, Hispanics and immigrants. And until recently, no one in social media has had the guts to hold the president accountable for his words and actions.

How is it that an American president is allowed to flagrantly incite violence and division without any accountability? His divisive words and actions are acts of treason. History might in fact put Trump in the same coffin as Benedict Arnold. His recent tweets to “Liberate Michigan” and other states insinuated that the white militia and protestors who stormed the State office with assault rifles and other guns had a right to take over the government because their “second amendment rights were under siege.” This was a group of entitled white people whining

Racial justice in the quiet corner

To the Editor:
For most of our lives, we have been proud and grateful to have grown up in a town as beautiful as Woodstock. A strong sense of community, events like the Woodstock Fair, and a high quality education provided by Woodstock Academy afforded us a strong foundation on which to build successful lives. Our picturesque upbringing has allowed us and many of our fellow community members to feel insulated from issues such as racism and police brutality in a town with no local police force and crime rates well below the U.S. average. However, our Quiet Corner community is far from immune to the effects of racism and the many shapes it takes.

On May 25, a Black man named George Floyd was killed after a white police officer, Derek Chauvin, used excessive and unnecessary force. After being accused of using a counterfeit \$20 bill, Mr. Floyd did not resist arrest. However, Chauvin kneeled on Mr. Floyd’s neck, and despite Mr. Floyd’s repeated exclamations that he could not breathe, Chauvin remained in that position for nearly nine minutes until Mr. Floyd died. Since then, the country has been witnessing protests and waiting to see what will come of this horrific act of violence. We are writing this letter to urge the Quiet Corner community to take action in response to the murder of George Floyd, and to provide potential avenues for our community members to do so. We also want to acknowledge that the following information has come from Black activists and journalists, and that our intended audience is white members of our community who have, in the past, felt insulated from race-related issues. We do not intend to speak for the Black members of our community or make assumptions about their experiences.

Racism did not end with the passing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Overt and systemic racism are ever-present in our society, which culminates in intense violence against the Black community, such as the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile, Freddie Gray, Trayvon Martin, and

countless others. We see racism when America denies and limits housing opportunities for Black communities, denying Black Americans loans at disproportionate rates and placing essential services out of the reach of many Black communities. Black patients in America often receive substandard medical care, and Black women are more likely to die in childbirth than their white counterparts. Evidence of racism is clear in America’s policing and incarceration of Black individuals with more violence and at higher rates than their white counterparts. In a town that, according to the most recent census data, is 98.2 percent white, it is easy to feel sheltered from these events, as they feel like the actions of bad people in far away places. However, racism also lives right here in the Quiet Corner.

Racism is asking the one Black student in the classroom for the Black perspective on “The Color Purple.” Racism is asking your Black friend if you can use the “n-word” when you’re reciting a rap lyric. Racism is proudly flying a Confederate flag as if it is a symbol of country life, rather than a symbol of the fight to maintain a society in which Black Americans were systematically bought, sold, abused, and murdered. But, most importantly, racism is complacency and silence. Failure to actively fight against racism, racist actions, and systemic oppression is to condone these systems and behaviors. When we refuse to speak up, we force the Black community to bear the effects of racism by themselves, and to fight for change alone.

It is not enough to simply think “racism is bad.” We must actively fight against racist behaviors and the systems that uphold institutional racism. People of color in our own community and throughout our nation deserve our support. Fortunately, there are many steps that we in the Quiet Corner can take to fight against racism.

Acknowledge: Acknowledge to one’s self and to others, “I am late to this fight. I want to be

A world of beauty

While the world of humans is in disarray, the natural world has never been lovelier. We are enjoying the last few weeks of spring, that have rolled out slowly. Perhaps because most of us stay at home or close by, we’ve had the chance to observe birds, our gardens, the insects that cling to the screens. I’ve never seen so many photos of baby birds, which are quite remarkable, or watched my own and other people’s gardens move from daffodils to lilacs, to iris and peonies. June is a month of flowers. Flowers and nature keep our spirits up.

Once, I visited the Boston Flower Exchange to buy materials for the centerpieces for our daughter’s wedding dinner. I went with Jackie and Ted, who are pros at getting around the place and who are authorized to shop there. I was in awe of what I saw and



NANCY WEISS

I wanted to buy everything. There were bales of lilacs and crates of peonies. Orchids of every description spilled over the sides of containers. Roses in rainbows of color looked like pillows of petals. The atmosphere was intense as buyers were in a hurry to complete their purchases and go to work, but the collective scent and humidity of so many flowers made it feel like the healthiest place on the planet. It seemed as curative and restorative as an ancient hot spring or the top of a mountain.

The heavy, almost sickening scent of a Miss Kim lilac, reminds me of my old friend, Tilly. She was an avid gardener, a cliché term that seems to fit a certain few. In my memory, she discovered Miss Kim. The lilac keeps its rounded form like an aging dowager, slowly expanding at the middle, and blooms later than the standard bush. The scent is strong, sneeze inducing, and nearly intoxicating. Bees love it. Every yard should have one even if only to enjoy a hearty ah-choo!

My heart always melts at the sight of a pair of old-fashioned lilac bushes framing an antique home or, more poignantly, a cellar hole. The lilacs remain long after the people and the houses are gone. They survive like the hearty souls who planted them.

Peonies, with their distinctive fragrance and heavy, nodding heads are another perfect flower for our times. Once established, they will last a hundred years or so. I’m not a believer in many rules, but tearing out an old peony bed ought to be a felony. I like the white ones that get sticky and filled with ants nearly as much as the new varieties that come in brilliant colors and frilled blossoms. The scent of peonies wafting through a church filled with the expectations of a June wedding is just about perfect.

David Austin roses can raise anyone’s spirits. They have the rosiest of rose aromas and the silkiest petals. I have two, one named Gertrude Jekyll, after the famous landscape gardener. There is a charming garden that she designed in Woodbury. If we ever set off on gardening trips again, I plan to stop. The David Austin roses can be bought many places and they make enduring friends in the garden. A cut glass vase filled with a few stems can turn any table into a banquet and make the world seem -- rosier, of course.

In our self-imposed bubble, I am missing much of what has always seemed so important in life. By staying in one spot, I watch nature and connect remotely with people. There is no sense lamenting the changes. They are here to stay like lilacs, peonies, sweet roses.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We must hold our leaders to a higher standard

To the Editor:

As a nation, we continue to find ourselves in desperate need of a leader who understands the complexities of issues that face our country around racism, inequality, environment, and global involvement/cooperation, to name a few. While understanding is necessary, it is not sufficient.

For an individual to have the capacity to lead, that person must also possess an inherent character that values discourse, deep analysis, and the wisdom that a broad historical perspective provides. A simplistic, short-term vision for the well-being of our nation will not do. Nor will an aversion to opposing viewpoints. The ability to articulate clearly a well-thought out and comprehensive vision must also be present, not merely communication consisting of tweets (regularly composed in poor English) and awkward reading from a teleprompter. Furthermore, effective leadership demands that there is a sincere humanity that permits one to step outside of his or her own orbit and experience to try to imagine something other.

Democracy depends on your vote

To the Editor:

I'm excited to vote for Joe Biden for President because he will handle our current crisis capably, because of his experience, and because he will renew our values. We must vote for Joe Biden because we need competent leadership, and this election is about more than the "who," it's about the "what." We are voting for principles: things that are not written, but are very much on each ballot.

American democracy depends on the rule of law, and the rule of law is on the ballot. That "no one is above the law" is our nation's founding principle. It means accountability, and strength over criminal faults. This value has been eroded, but will be renewed by Joe Biden as President.

American democracy depends on responsibility; the understanding that

Sadly, our current President possesses none of these traits. It is embarrassing to watch him try to show empathy or humility. It's just not in his DNA. His inability to control his need for constant affirmation of his self-pronounced yet unfounded intellect, prowess, and accomplishments is evidence of his ego-mania and narcissistic personality. His ruthless attacks on those who challenge him are not just childish, but dangerous as they encourage further discord and often promote falsehoods. Absent from Trump's meager repertoire of skills is self-control and maturity.

We deserve, as General John Kelly recently stated, to truly consider the character and ethics of those we choose to elect to office. This can be no more important than who we vote for to assume the presidency. To fail to do so leads us to having to deal with someone like the current occupant of the White House. Our country must hold itself to a higher standard.

PATRICIA SUSLA
WOODSTOCK

a president has people's lives in his hands, and responsibility is on the ballot. Life and death decisions, for the military and civilians, require integrity. The carelessness of a president results in death and division. Joe Biden has the experience to be entrusted with American lives.

American democracy depends on unity, and unity is on the ballot. Joe Biden will unify us, and bridge his decades of experience to the next set of American leaders. Contrast this with the backward-looking division that we endure now. Joe Biden is the President who will bring us together.

American democracy depends on you, it's on the ballot, and it depends on your vote for Joe Biden.

PAULA WILMOT
WOODSTOCK

Getting our country back on track

To the Editor:

There seems to be an endless stream of letters from both Republicans and Democrats pointing fingers at each other for everything that's wrong with our country. Our government is a mess, there's no disputing that, but both political parties share the blame in my view. "Government by the people, for the people" — really? Seems more like "Government by politicians for politicians."

I don't see any obvious "Good guys" and "Bad guys" in Washington, just a bunch of self-serving bureaucrats more worried about winning arguments and getting re-elected than doing what's best for the country. It's an old cliché, but all of us average working folk pay most of the taxes, fight all the wars, and have the least to show for it, while members of congress get paid a generous salary and enjoy great benefits — some for life.

Come election time, we usually find ourselves voting for the lesser of two evils, and hoping for the best. I believe many people voted for Donald Trump thinking he was a change of pace from the usual choices — sadly, they were fooled by someone who's only motivated by his own self interest and inflated ego. As a life-long "Unaffiliated" voter, I have no choice but to vote Democratic this November. Joe Biden isn't my dream candidate, but Trump needs to go, and we need someone (anyone) who will start to undue all the damage he's done to our country at home and abroad. If the Republican leadership had any guts, they would have owned up to the huge mistake they made in 2016, and put forward a legitimate can-

didate and dumped Trump. Maybe then the American people would actually have a choice based on policies and real issues. But instead, they want to torture the country with four more years of this dangerous, incompetent, idiot living in the White House.

Looking toward the future, how do we get our great country back on track? First, strict term limits for all members of Congress — no one should grow old and die there. Second, get rid of all the "Big Money" influence in Washington. Third, get rid of our electoral system — the popular vote is the only legitimate way to elect our leaders. Will any of this ever happen? I doubt it. Congress would have to make these changes, and it's pretty clear they like the current system. But "We the People" still have a say about who we elect to run this country, and we need to raise the bar a little higher.

I'd like to see more of my fellow veterans run for office. We've had too many presidents and other powerful leaders who "weaseled out" when they had the opportunity to serve, but became tough-guys from the comfort of their Washington offices — a.k.a. "Chicken Hawks." We also need a more youthful and diverse group of future candidates. There's way too many old white guys in Washington. Being an old white guy myself, I'm very comfortable making that statement. But first things first — let's get rid of our "Dictator in the Making" before he drives our country off the edge of a cliff.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET

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

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

JUSTICE

continued from page A8

a better ally now. I want to help." Any actions you may have committed in the past do not need to define your future actions. Understand that a racist joke, casual comment, or even an off-the-cuff remark is harmful and can have a lasting impact. Although to you a Confederate Flag might symbolize your pride in country life, historically it is a symbol of hundreds of years of suffering, oppression, and racism. To fight racism, we must all acknowledge our shortcomings and vow to be better.

Listen: When a member of the Black community is speaking about their experiences and their perspective, just listen. Do not provide a counter argument, do not express your feelings or worries, and do not put them in a position to comfort you as "one of the good ones." Just listen.

Talk about it: Have the hard conversations about racism with your kids. Tell your friend why his racist joke isn't funny. Go to the school board meetings (woodstockschools.org/domain/538) and challenge policies that may disproportionately target non-white students. Demand a more culturally relevant and inclusive curriculum from your children's schools. Demand that more people of color are hired as teachers. It is difficult for white people to discuss race, but we cannot incite change without having these difficult conversations.

Educate Yourself: Current public-school history curricula do not provide the space for individuals to learn

Black History well enough to understand the Black experience in America. We can all educate ourselves to be better allies – start with research. We encourage you to do this research yourself – black and brown communities have been explaining racism for centuries, and it has fallen on deaf ears over and over again.

Below is a list of educational resources compiled by anti-racism activists that you may find helpful. We encourage you to choose a podcast to listen to while you're driving to work or cooking dinner or choose a documentary to watch instead of your regular program.

Podcasts: 1619 (The New York Times), About Race, Code Switch (NPR), Intersectionality Matters!, Momentum: A Race Forward Podcast, Pod for the Cause (Leadership Conf on Civil & Human Rights), Pod Save the People (Crooked Media), Seeing White, Raising White Kids with Jennifer Harvey (Integrates Schools Podcast)

Films/TV Series: 13th (Netflix), American Son (Netflix), Dear White People (Netflix), If Beale St Could Talk (Hulu), King in the Wilderness (HBO), See You Yesterday (Netflix), The Hate U Give (Cinemax), When They See Us (Netflix)

Children's/YA Books: The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas (ages 13+), All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely (ages 12+), How it Went Down by Kekla Magoon (ages 11+), Monster by Walter Dean Myers (ages 13+), The Undeclared by Kwame Alexander (ages 6+), New Kid by Jerry Craft (8+), Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o (ages 4+), What is Given from the Heart by Patricia C. McKissack (ages 4+), Hidden Figures: The

True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly, Winifred Conkling (ages 4+)

Adult Books: White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo, How to Be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi, The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander, Divided Sisters by Midge Wilson and Kathy Russell, The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison, Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston, They Can't Kill Us All by Wesley Lowery, So You Want to Talk About Race? By Ijeoma Oluo, Locking Up Our Own by James Forman, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou,

Articles (compiled by Forbes.com): "For Our White Friends Desiring to be Allies" by Courtney Ariel, "75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice" by Corinne Shutack, "How White Women's Tears Threaten Black Existence" by Cameron Glover, "When Feminism is White Supremacy in Heels" by Rachel Cargle, "The Souls of White Folk" by Stephen Jamal Leeper, "The White Space" by Elijah Anderson

Take Action: Post your support for the Black community and the Black Lives Matter movement on social media to spread awareness. Attend a protest and show support if you're able. Organize a protest if there aren't any near you. Write to and call our local leadership and schools demanding we do better. Go to Congress.gov and search for bills involving social justice and police brutality, such as H.Res.988 - call our representatives and voice your support. Go to the Connecticut General Assembly website (cga.ct.gov) to research state bills that have been proposed.

Donate: If you are able to donate, there are many organizations at the community, state, and national level that are working to combat systemic racism in this country. Here is a list of a few organizations compiled by anti-racism activists: CTCORE-Organize Now! (ctcore-organizenow.org/mission), Re-Center (re-center.org), Black Visions Collective (blackvisionsmn.org), Reclaim the Black (reclaimtheblock.org), Know Your Rights Camp (knowyourrights-camp.com), Minnesota Freedom Fund (minnesotafreedomfund.org), George Floyd Memorial Fund (gofundme.com/f/georgefloyd), Campaign Zero (joincampaignzero.org), Black Lives Matter (blacklivesmatter.com), Communities Unite Against Police Brutality (cuapb.org).

The Quiet Corner has always prided itself on its strong sense of community. We take care of our neighbors and lift each other up when we need support – and our Black neighbors should be no exception. We need to fight with them, to be allies, and to demand change. For too long we have allowed ourselves to feel insulated from racist behaviors and systemic racism, believing those things can't happen here. However, complacency and silence here and across the country fuel these racist behaviors and systems. As a community, we can take actions both small and large to fight against these systems. It's time for us to come together to fight for a better future.

CATHERINE HATCH AND
BRIDGET MATSAS
WOODSTOCK

I'm optimistic that common sense will prevail



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

What a mess ... The tragic and unjustified death of George Floyd has shaken the soul of our nation and broken our collective hearts. It is compounded by the realization that he was murdered by someone we should have been able to trust. It wasn't just murder but preceded by eight agonizing minutes of torture. There is no excuse for what happened. There is no justification possible. I grieve for the Floyd family. I believe we all do.

As usual, a tragedy, that should spur positive change, has been hijacked, not for George Floyd or his family, but for a political ideology. The conversations are now all being directed by the extremists and it's turned into violence and more death.

What about the "Common-Sense Majority?" I'll coin the phrase here. I think it's a great descriptive label for most Americans.

What does the "common-sense majority" want? They want to be safe. They want to be left alone to raise their families, build their careers, and start small businesses. They want the opportunity to own their home and pursue the American Dream.

There is no color attached to the common-sense majority. I believe most black, brown, and white parents want the same.

They want to build a happy and successful family and safe life. Above all, they want to know when their kids leave home, they'll safely return.

Yes, black lives matter. I have no problem saying it. I believe it. It doesn't mean that all lives don't matter, it just means that the average black person in America is at greater risk. Unfortunately, the idea that black lives matter has been hijacked to become a political hashtag and the common-sense majority see it. Most are just afraid to say it because if you disagree with any part of the narrative, you risk being verbally assaulted.

Looting, burning, and destroying property is not a form of legitimate protest. Those politicians and political leaders defending these actions are only perpetuating the problem to gain favor with those committing violence.

We all know the name George Floyd and should ... but does the name Miosotis Familia ring a bell? Probably not. She's not given much attention at all and there is a reason.

ABC reported, "An on-duty New York City police officer was killed early Wednesday after a gunman walked up to a police vehicle and fired one round through a window, authorities said. Officer Miosotis Familia, a 12-year veteran assigned to the New York City Police Department's 46th Precinct's anti-crime unit, was taken to St. Barnabas Hospital

in the Bronx, where she was pronounced dead at 3:37 a.m. ET. She was 48 years old, according to police sources."

What the above statement didn't say, is she was black. Much was made of George Floyd's color but not Miosotis Familia. Did her black life not matter? The truth is that her story didn't fit the narrative, so her life didn't matter to this movement. Her death didn't advance their agenda, so there will be no protests on her behalf. Do you see the disconnect? Don't all black lives matter?

So, this column is entitled "Positively Speaking!" What's positive about any of this?

I believe cooler heads will prevail.

I believe in the American spirit. While many of our political leaders are bowing down to the political agenda and threatening the defunding of police departments, or disbanding them completely, I don't believe the majority of common-sense Americans, left or right, of any color, race or religion will allow that to happen. To believe if we didn't have police, anyone's life would be safer is nonsensical to the common-sense majority.

Members of the common-sense majority are often silent but consistently vote. They direct their dollars into causes they believe in. I know most protestors are peaceful and well-meaning, law-abiding citizens who are saddened and hurt. Unfortunately, the criminal element

arrives, and the legitimate protestors go home as their protest is hijacked by an angry mob with a violent and destructive purpose.

The common-sense majority will not violently protest, loot, or burn buildings. They deeply care but will not hurt others or destroy property to make their point. They support common sense politicians and vote out, for example, those who believe a nation without police would not devolve into chaos and mob rule.

The common-sense majority of all race, religion or political leanings must stand up and be counted. I believe they will. We cannot let our nation devolve into a lawless society run by those manipulating emotion and causing harm for their political gain. Yes, I said we. I am a member of the common-sense majority.

We as a nation are better than this.

I continue to grieve and pray for the family of George Floyd. We must demand justice, but I also grieve for the family of Officer Miosotis Familia. Does her family not deserve justice also?

I'm optimistic. Common sense will prevail. ■

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Convention History



KILLINGLY
AT 300
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MARGARET
WEAVER

Recently, Linden Whipple came across a small program he'd saved from when his father, Ray Whipple, was president of "Our Gang," which held a horseshow at the baseball field in Ballouville on Sunday, Sept. 30, 1945. The program for the day included the following: Grand Entry March; Pony Class-12 years and under; Three-Quarter Horse Class; Open English Class; Obstacle Race (must go, eat and drink all contents); Stock Horse Pair Class; Musical Chair(s) for Children; Ladies Stock Horse Class; Relay Race (one rider going down on one horse, returning with two riders); Road Hack Class; Musical Chair(s) for Adults; Stock Horse Parade Class; Tack Race (starting off bare back, returning with saddle); Working Stock Class; Balloon Busting Contest (must break balloon with hands. Last remaining one is winner); Jumping Class. If any of you recall this horseshow or other horseshows in Killingly, please email me with your memories. They add so much to the town's history.

With all that has gone on the past few months, publicity on the upcoming Presidential election has taken a back-seat to other news. Before we know it, we will be watching conventions. I found the following article in a June 1920 Norwich Bulletin quite interest-

ing and amusing. "Here in Danielson many men are trying to win a box of cigars by guessing who the nominee for president will be at the republican national convention in Chicago and upon which ballot he will be nominated. The guesses so far made show that there is a decided difference in opinion as to what is likely to happen in Chicago. P. S. Up to Tuesday afternoon not a solitary guess had been made that one W. J. B. of Nebraska, Florida, etc., etc. would be named as standard bearer." (Wednesday, June 9, p. 6; newspapers.com). Did you pick up on the fact that one hundred years ago the nominee was not likely to be named on the first ballot? Now the candidate is pretty well known in advance.

Before I mention the results of the conventions, it seems appropriate to mention conditions in the United States one hundred years ago. You'll see some sound familiar, don't they? Like now, it was a time of uncertainty. "As soon as World War I finished taking the lives of 100,000 Americans, a global influenza pandemic stole another 650,000 more. Race riots, labor strikes and a string of anarchist bombings—including one that slaughtered 38 people on Wall Street—rocked American cities following the war. The American economy was far from roaring in 1920 as unemployment soared and stock prices plummeted. Americans bitterly divided over whether to join the League of Nations, and fears of the spread of communism after the Russian Revolution sparked the Red Scare and Palmer Raids. A cheating scandal had tainted the national pastime with accusations that the "Black Sox" had conspired with gamblers to fix the 1919 World Series. Even the heavens appeared to offer little salvation as a cluster of nearly 40 torna-

does struck from Georgia to Wisconsin on Palm Sunday in 1920, leaving more than 380 dead. (//www.history.com/news/us-election-1920-warren-harding-return-to-normalcy

I must admit that I could not remember who ran for the various parties in 1920. (I would not do well on Jeopardy!) Thank goodness for the internet. According to en.wikipedia.com, " (James M.) Cox won the 1920 Democratic National Convention on the 44th ballot, defeating William Gibbs McAdoo (Wilson's son-in-law), A. Mitchell Palmer, and several other candidates. (Warren G.) Harding emerged as a compromise candidate between the conservative and progressive wings of the party, and he clinched his nomination on the tenth ballot of the 1920 Republican National Convention... A small-town newspaper publisher from a swing state in the American heartland who bridged the party's progressive and conservative wings, Harding was a safe choice who could deliver just the sort of political comfort Americans craved." "Harding won by a landslide victory, taking every state outside the South." I wonder who won the box of cigars? Maybe I will find something about the contest results in a July Norwich Bulletin.

Remember When! I'd like to jog your memories a little about a multi-storied brick business building that once stood in Danielson and any businesses and halls that occupied it. The Exchange Block was on Central St. across from the present Danielson Surplus Store on what is now a parking area. A photo of the business block appears on page 26 of Images of America Killingly by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A. Spencer. Perhaps you are old enough to recall when W.T. Grant & Co. occupied

a portion of the building. Grant's operated a department store there beginning in 1926. For many years prior to that the premises had been occupied by A. H. Armington's Grocery and Market. In time the Exchange Block went the way of a number of older business blocks In Danielson as it was demolished in the 1950's. An entry in the Killingly Business Encyclopedia by Natalie Coolidge, from materials gathered in 1953 for the Danielson Centennial, recorded that a new building for Grant's was being erected adjacent to the present Killingly Town Hall where the former Dexter Block recently had been razed. In 1971 Diskay Discount Store "took over for W. T. Grant." The next business to occupy the new block was Malloy's Five Cent to \$1 Store, which had its grand opening March 24, 1976. Its manager was David Irish. Perhaps you shopped in one or both of the buildings. Please feel free to share your memories by emailing me. (Coolidge, Natalie, Images of America Killingly Revisited, photo, p. 66; Killingly Business Encyclopedia).

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, June 2020. Special thanks to Linden Whipple for sharing materials. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistorical-society. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, CT 06329.

Manage mosquitoes for a safer and more enjoyable summer

Don't let the buzz of mosquitoes keep you indoors. Most mosquitoes are a nuisance, causing rashes and itching but some species can transmit diseases that can make you sick. Understanding how they breed and spread disease can help you gain the upper hand in the battle against these pesky insects.

Mosquitoes serve as a carrier (vector) in the spread of certain diseases. It starts when they feed on an animal infected with heartworms or an animal or person with West Nile, Saint Louis Encephalitis, Zika or other mosquito-vectored disease. The young heartworm or virus is taken in with the mosquito's blood meal. The heartworm larvae or virus is then transmitted to other organisms when the mosquito feeds on them.

Always take precautions when traveling to other regions. Find out about the health risks of the area and come prepared. Consult with your doctor and be sure to pack repellent and the appropriate clothing.

At home, start by eliminating mosquito breeding grounds. These insects need standing water to reproduce. The larvae hatch and feed on tiny organisms in the water. Once they morph into adults, they leave the water and look for animals and people to dine upon.

Get rid of any standing water to eliminate breeding grounds in your landscape. Clean clogged gutters where water can collect and mosquitoes can breed. Empty water that collects in



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

any items left outside. Change the water in your birdbath at least once a week or anytime you water your container gardens.

Toss an organic mosquito control, like Mosquito Dunks and Mosquito Bits (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com), into your rain barrel, pond or other water feature. Mosquito Bits quickly knock down the mosquito larval population, while Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of mosquito control. The active ingredient is Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis, a naturally occurring soil bacterium that kills the mosquito larvae but is safe for children, fish, pets, beneficial insects and wildlife.

Invite the songbirds into your backyard with birdhouses, birdbaths and feeders. Most of them feed on insects, including mosquitoes and garden pests, while adding color, motion and beauty to your landscape.

Keep the garden weeded. Mosquitoes rest in shrubs, trees and weeds during the day. Removing weeds and managing neglected garden spaces will make your landscape less inviting to these pests.

Further protect yourself by wearing light colored clothing, long sleeves and long pants when enjoying the outdoors. Apply EPA-approved repellents as directed on the label.

Use a fan when sitting on the porch or even working in the garden. The gentle breeze helps keep the weak-flying mosquitoes away.

Then add a bit of ambience to your



Photo Courtesy

Mosquitoes serve as a carrier in the spread of certain diseases, including West Nile, Saint Louis Encephalitis, Zika and other mosquito-vectored diseases.

next party by lighting a few citronella candles. Citronella oil and the scented candles do have some mosquito-repelling properties. Scatter lots of candles throughout the party and within a few feet of your guests for some short-term relief.

And be sure to keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair windows and screens that may be providing easy access into your home.

Taking a few precautions will help you manage these pests so you can enjoy the outdoor summer activities

you love.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers's Web site is www.melindamyers.com.



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Silver age comic books

In my last column, I offered a brief history of comic books and discussed Modern Age and Bronze Age comic books. I will discuss the Silver Age of comic books in this column, which took place from 1956 to 1970. Some sources, including Britannica, list 1969 as the final year though.

Even though comic books were popular during the Silver Age, Britannica notes that the genre faced new competition during the 1950's. The Adventures of Superman ran on television from 1953 to 1957. Many comic book readers switched from reading Superman to viewing him on television.

DC Comics turned to other themes like science fiction and the Cold War with Russia to attract more readers, according to Britannica. In 1955, they introduced the first new character in approximately 10 years, the Manhunter from Mars. They also released updated versions of superheroes from the past: the new Flash, the new Green Lantern, Justice League and the "New



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WAYNE TUISKULA

Look" Batman.

The Justice League was generating such strong results for DC Comics in 1961 that Marvel Comics shifted its focus to superheroes. The Fantastic Four's premier edition was published in November of 1961. Marvel later created the Incredible Hulk, the Mighty Thor, Daredevil, the X-Men, Captain America and the Amazing Spider-Man.

Guinness World Records website has a timeline of the introduction of new comic book characters. Supergirl first appeared in 1959. The Justice League was first published in 1960. As previously mentioned, the Fantastic Four was created in 1961. 1962 saw the introduction of the Incredible Hulk and Spider-Man. Ironman and the X-Men first appeared in 1963.

In our last live auction, we sold a first edition of the Incredible Hulk. Despite being in only fair condition, it went for \$4,500. High quality Silver Age comics in near perfect condition can bring huge prices. A Fantastic Four # 1 sold

for over \$200,000 in 2012. In 2018, Justice League issue # 1 also brought over \$200,000. An Incredible Hulk # 1 sold for over a third of a million dollars in 2018. A first issue of X-Men fetched nearly \$500,000 in 2012. A 1962 copy of Amazing Fantasy # 15 featuring the first appearance of Spider-Man sold for nearly \$800,000 at auction this year. That should have made the consignor feel almost superhuman.

Unfortunately, there is some disappointing local antique news. The July Brimfield Antique Show has been cancelled due to COVID-19. The September show is still scheduled though for Sept. 8 through the 13.

As I mentioned in my last column, we are changing our approach to keep everyone safe and healthy during these times. The good news is that we have reopened online bidding on our Rutland farm estate auction. We will have a preview on June 20. Masks will be required and we will be following social distancing guidelines. Bidding will end on June 24. We continue to accept smaller sized, high quality consignments that can be shipped to bidders across the country for our online only auction that



will take place this month, ending on June 25.

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser
Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales

and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612-6111) info@centralmassauctions.com

Lasell University students named to Spring 2020 Dean's List

NEWTON, Mass. — Lasell University announced students named to the Dean's List for their academic accomplishments in the Spring 2020 semester.

Alexandra Chitwood of Dayville
Matthew Walker of Thompson
Spencer Fulone of Thompson

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

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The Quiet Corner Page

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Muriel St. Hilaire (20-00179) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated May 15, 2020, ordered that all claims must be pretested to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Jaclyn Cirrone, c/o MICHELE ANN PALULIS (attorney for Jaclyn Cirrone), ATTORNEY MICHELLE ANN PALULIS, 158 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2, P.O. BOX 616, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-9928. June 12, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Joseph J. Lindley (20-00176) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated June 2, 2020, ordered that all claims must be pretested to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Suzanne Lindley c/o STEPHEN J ADAMS (attorney for Suzanne Lindley), STEPHEN J ADAMS, ESQ, 158 MAIN STREET, P.O. Box 682, PUTNAM, CT 06260 (860)928-6528 June 12, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Brian Dennehy (20-00168) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated June 3, 2020, ordered that all claims must be pretested to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Michele Rosenberg, CPA, Cornick, Carter & Sandler, 555 Madison Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10022 Kenneth Zuckerbror, Esq., Greenburg Traurig, LLP, MetLife Building 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166 June 12, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Robert E. Tamsin (20-00164) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated May 22, 2020, ordered that all claims must be pretested to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Kenneth Tamsin, 447 Williams Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106 Michael E. Tamsin 37 Timberline Road New Hartford, CT 06057 June 12, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Gordon L. Spink Sr. (20-00171) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated May 26, 2020, ordered that all claims must be pretested to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Jeannine G. Spink, c/o GABRIELLE LABONTE (attorney for Jeannine G. Spink), LAW OFFICE OF GABRIELLE LABONTE, 5 VINA LANE, P.O. BOX 709 BROOKLYN, CT 06234, (860)774-3700. June 12, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Linda S. Wilmot (20-00166) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated April 30, 2020, ordered that all claims must be pretested to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Jeffrey J. Alexander, c/o GABRIELLE LABONTE (attorney for Jeffrey J. Alexander), LAW OFFICE OF GABRIELLE LABONTE, 5 VINA LANE, P.O. BOX 709 BROOKLYN, CT 06234, (860)774-3700. June 12, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Maurice St. Hilaire (20-00178) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated May 15, 2020, ordered that all claims must be pretested to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is: Jaclyn Cirrone, c/o MICHELE ANN PALULIS (attorney for Jaclyn Cirrone), ATTORNEY MICHELLE ANN PALULIS, 158 MAIN STREET, SUITE 2, P.O. BOX 616, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-9928. June 12, 2020

TOWN OF BROOKLYN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF ACTION

At the regular meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, the following action was taken:

1. SPG 19-003 Gravel Special Permit – Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc, d/b/a

Rawson Materials, 30 acres on south side of Maynard Road (Map 29, Lot 5) in the RA Zone; Excavation of approximately 1.05 million cubic yards of gravel – APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS

2. SPG 19-004 Gravel Special Permit – Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc, d/b/a Rawson Materials, 200 acres+ on the south side of Rukstela Road (Map 21, Lot 7; Map 30, Lot 16) in the RA Zone; Excavation of approximately 1.55 million cubic yards of sand and gravel – APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.

3. SPR20-002 Site Plan Review for The Icebox, 17 South Main Street, Applicant: Matthew Nemeth, proposed rear deck – APPROVED

June 12, 2020

TOWN OF THOMPSON

On May 21, 2020 the following wetlands agent approvals were issued: Application # WAA20014 approved with conditions, Madison Avenue Investments, LLC, 0 Madison Ave. (Assessor's Map 103, Block 31, Lot 61) - construct septic system and footing drain in 100-foot upland review area for a new single family home and Application # WAA20015 approved with conditions, Carol Weiss, 1343 Thompson Rd (Assessor's Map 114, Block 24, Lot 56A) – repair a failing septic system in the 100-foot upland review area. Marla Butts, Wetlands Agent June 12, 2020

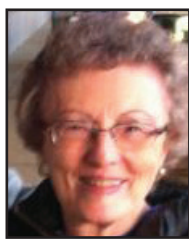
TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

At the June 4, 2020 Special Meeting, the Planning & Zoning Commission took the following action: Approved Special Permit: #638-02-22 Stephen G. & Lorraine E. Gabriele, Lot 39F, Crystal Pond Rd – Multi-family Residential Development. Chair Jeffrey Gordon, M.D. June 12, 2020

OBITUARIES

Thelma E. (Beazley) Kaitbenski, 88

SOUTHBIDGE: Thelma E. (Beazley) Kaitbenski, 88, went home to be with the Lord on April 29, 2020. She bravely battled ovarian cancer.



She is predeceased by her husband, Frank, who died in March 2008. She is survived by a daughter, Janet Atwell and her husband, Ray, of Charlotte, NC, a daughter, Donna Weaver and her husband, Lynn, of Woodstock, CT, and a son, Steve Kaitbenski and his wife, Suzanne, of Southbridge, MA. She had 6 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren along with several nieces and nephews.

She was born in Upper Zion, VA, on May 19, 1931, to Harry Murdock

Beazley and Leola (Hall) Beazley. She moved to Southbridge in 1955 and lived there the remainder of her life.

She retired from the American Optical where she had been an executive secretary for 39 years. She attended Faith Baptist Church in Southbridge. She enjoyed spending time with her family, traveling, line dancing, braiding rugs, rug hooking and exercising at the Y.

A graveside service will be at a later date. Donations in her memory can be sent to Faith Baptist Church Dennison Drive, Southbridge, MA 01550 or VNA Hospice in Worcester, MA.

Belanger Funeral Home, 51 Marcy St. Southbridge is in directing of arrangements.

An online guestbook is available at www.BelangerFuneralHome.com

Joseph P. Breton, 33

Joseph P. Breton, 33, of Woodstock CT died unexpectedly on Sunday, May 24, 2020. He was born in Anchorage, AK on April 16, 1987.



Joe grew up in Woodstock, where he gained an appreciation for nature and the great outdoors. He was very creative and loved drawing, sketching, creating his cartoon characters and simply just doodling. He developed a passion for taking photographs and also enjoyed skateboarding and spending time with his friends. Joe was very charismatic and easily made friends with all whom he met.

Joe leaves behind his father

Paul Breton and his wife Donna of Woodstock. His mother Valerie Breton and her fiancé Michael Gauthier of Tilton NH. His sister Michelle (Breton) Hoover and her husband Walter and kids, Odin, Warren and Alaric of Alpena MI. His grandmother Ruth Breton of Woodstock. Aunts, uncles, cousins, long-time friends Donnie Jorgensen Jr., Trish Frost and his cat Oliver.

Joe is predeceased by his Grandfathers, Paul M. Breton and H. Warren Day and his grandmother, Patricia Day.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date when family and friends can all be together.

Joe will be forever missed.

Share a memory at www.smithand-walkerfh.com

Christopher L. Ellis, 36

BROOKLYN – Christopher L. Ellis, 36, of Proulx St., died Friday morning June 5, 2020, at Day Kimball Hospital.



He was the loving longtime companion of Lisa Gavis of Brooklyn. Born in Westerly, RI, he was the son of Debra (Brainard) Ferland of NH and the late Thomas Ellis.

Mr. Ellis was the manager and partner of Performance Overhead Door Company for many years. He enjoyed fishing and riding his motorcycle.

Christopher is survived by his longtime companion Lisa Gavis of Brooklyn; his children, Christopher T. Ellis of Rogers and Adalena Ellis of Brooklyn; his stepson, Gaige Shaw

of Brooklyn; two brothers, Michael Brainard of Grafton, NH and David Ellis of Westerly, RI; five sisters, Cassie Marie Chase of Landaff, NH, Brenda Thornley of Exeter, RI, Tammy Drake of TX, Kimberly Williams of Westerly, RI. And Amy-Lee Spencer of Woonsocket, RI; and many dear nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles. He was predeceased by a brother, Thomas Ellis, Jr.

A Celebration of Christopher's Life will be held on Sunday June 21, 2020 at his former residence, 53 Proulx St., Brooklyn, CT 06234, from 11:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. all who knew and loved Chris are welcome. 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.

Richard E. Doyle, 84

CANTERBURY, CT-Richard E. Doyle age 84 passed away Wednesday June 3, 2020 at his home. Husband of the late Sally F. (Gorman) Doyle who died in 2019. He leaves a son Wayne Doyle and his wife Dawn of Marlborough, CT, two daughters Kathleen Loomis of Putnam, CT, and Keely Doyle of Plainfield, CT, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. He also leaves a sister Arline Scheibeler of Plainfield.

He was born in New Haven, CT son of the late Edward E. Doyle and Rose (Roy) Doyle living in Canterbury most of his life. Richard owned and operat-

ed Doyle's Autobody for 53 years retiring in 1962. Richard enjoyed, hunting, fishing, racing cars at Waterford Raceway, gardening and skydiving. A celebration of life for family and close friends will be held June 21, 2020 from 1 – 3 PM at 495 Westminster Rd., Canterbury, CT. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with his arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

Alphonso Esposito Jr.

OXFORD - Alphonso Esposito Jr., of 258 Main Street, Oxford, husband of 57 years to Carol Ann (Kral) Esposito,



passed away at home on May 31, 2020, with his loving family by his side, following an extended illness and period of declining health.

He leaves the love of his life, his three children, Karen Esposito (her husband David Silverman) of Oxford; Alphonso Esposito III (his wife Jayne Jewell) of Brentwood, TN; and, Kirsten Esposito Balboni of Oxford. He leaves and loved his six grandchildren, Samuel Silverman, Lorenzo Esposito, Aidan Esposito, Jayla Esposito, Giacomo Balboni, and Gemma Balboni. He also was graced with two great-grandchildren, Logan Silverman and Gabriella Silverman.

Born in Stoneham, MA, he was raised in Malden, MA, until his family moved to Oxford in his early teens. He graduated from Oxford High School and received his Bachelor's from Bryant University, RI. He continued on to receive his Master's Degree from Worcester State University in Business Administration. He began and ended his 40+ year career working in the Oxford Public Schools, holding many teaching and administrative positions. He retired as the Assistant to the Superintendent for Business in the early 2000's.

Alphonso (Al/Alphonse) was a father and family man first and foremost. A man of many talents, he supported his family and fostered his father's legacy. When his father passed in May 1969, he became a licensed and certified contractor by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and he and his wife finished a housing development in Webster, MA, built houses in Oxford, and renovated many others. He will be remembered by many as one of the best bartenders around. He was renowned as a man with integrity, operating a tax practice for more than 50 years. He earned the rank of Enrolled Agent, something he was so very proud to

have accomplished in his 60's.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army on June 29, 1954, with his best friend, Joe. He was proud to be a veteran who served his country. He was honorably discharged with a National Defense Service Medal and a Parachutist Badge, having jumped more than 42 times in Europe. This part of his flying career led him to earn his solo license only to fly once over his home to dip his wings to his family.

He loved to travel with his adoring wife, Carol Ann. In his early years, he traveled with his family, including his mother, Lucy, on long summer trips across the United States. Over the years, he traveled throughout the world visiting exotic places, two of his favorites being Aruba and Italy. Nonetheless, the greatest joy and place to be was with his family. He cherished Sunday family dinners, Italian style; summer evenings with his grandkids, toasting marshmallows, and laughing. He created memories that will last a lifetime.

He was predeceased by his parents, Lucia Manzi Esposito of Malden, MA, and Alphonso Esposito of Avellino, Italy; his sister, Virginia Herideen Spear, of Worcester, MA; and, his life-long friend, Joseph Reese Maynard of Oxford. In addition, he leaves behind his sidekick, Rene J. Hamel of Oxford, two brothers-in-law, Lennart (Butch) Kral (his wife Susan) of Salado, TX, and Leon (Skip) Kral (his wife Wiltrud) of Phoenix, AZ, and many cousins.

Much thanks, love, and appreciation for the outstanding care providers that helped him through the past ten years: Dr. Dmitry Levenson of Reliant Medical Group of Webster; VNA, Inc. and all of their service providers, with a special thanks to Nancy Noonan and her hospice caregivers. A special thank you to all of his family and friends at Accord Adult Day Center of Webster.

Due to current health restrictions, interment will be at a later date. He was a giving, kind soul, who always believed in paying it forward. In lieu of flowers, he wishes that donations may be made to Tunnel2Towers, 2361 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, New York 10306, or to the Oxford Ecumenical Shelf, 4 Maple Rd., Oxford, MA 01540, or to a charity of one's choosing.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements. To sign the online guestbook or leave a condolence for Al's family, please visit paradisfuneralhome.com

Judith Benoit Daviau

Judith "Chop" Benoit Daviau passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, May 24th. She was born in Norwich on September 4th, 1961 to Donald and Estelle Benoit.



Judy married Robert Daviau on Sept. 14th, 1991. They lived in a small farmhouse filled with love and laughter. Judy loved all animals, especially dogs. Through the many years together, all their dogs were free to roam the acres of beautiful countryside. Judy had an incredible green thumb and loved to tend to her gardens.

She was predeceased by her loving daughter Rae Anne Daviau in 2003. Rae Anne was the light of her life and was often referred to as her "Rae of sunshine." Judy loved being her mom!

Judy is survived by her loving husband Bob, her parents Don and Estelle Benoit, siblings Donald (Renee) Benoit, Donna (Jackie Krause) Benoit and Patti-Sue Brown. She will be greatly missed by her nieces Jacklyn (Nathan) Brodeur and Sarah Henry and nephews Marco Michalski, Ryan Benoit, Elisha Benoit and Cameron Henry. Judy leaves behind many aunts, uncles

and cousins. She touched the lives of many people and had a large circle of friends who became her extended family.

At the time of her passing, Judy was employed as Deputy Chief Quality and Operations Officer for the Arc- Eastern CT. Her dedication to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities spanned over decades of employment with various agencies.

Judy had a passion for knowledge and was always searching for the next thing to learn. Her interests ranged from learning to knit to becoming a certified Fitness Instructor and Holistic Nutritional Wellness Coach. She had an insatiable appetite for reading and often could be found in her hammock with a book!!



Judy loved words and she loved LOVE. She became a Justice of the Peace and used her voice to unite people in marriage.

The family would like you to know that because we cannot gather at this time due to the pandemic, we will be making arrangements for when we can. Until then we ask that you think of her when you look up at the Sun, when you put your feet in the water and remember to always live your life to the fullest.



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OBITUARIES

William John Streinz, 83

BROOKLYN – Born in Flushing, NY, William was the son of John F. Streinz and Florence Parkins Streinz.



At a young age, his family moved to Web Circle in Monroe, CT. Here, William started working to help the family with a paper route and then on local farms milking cows and mowing hay with

his Doodlebug tractor and his horse Oakey.

Before serving his country in the US Army during the Cuban Missile Crisis, he married the love of his life, Carole Poole Streinz. After his service, they moved to Oxford, CT where he started his first construction business, Streinz 24 Hour Service, designing and installing septic systems. William had a love and a talent for construction work. He found himself purchasing and fixing up old farmhouses where he would dig swimming ponds for summer fun and huge family gatherings to enjoy.

With his entrepreneurial spirit, William bought a farm in northern Vermont where he worked in the woods cutting pulp, renting a maple sugar house and making maple syrup, and building his own cedar leaf oil still which was featured in an April 1978 Yankee Magazine article titled “Distilling Oil From The Tree of Life” by Francis and Patricia Whitcomb. His last move was to Brooklyn, CT where he started Streinz Construction

with his wife and son. William was generous man with his time, talent, and construction equipment. He was always willing to help neighbors, friends, community organizations, and family members with construction and building projects.

His love of Vermont never left him and he continued to travel back with his son for snowmobiling, fly fishing, trolling for lake trout, and deer hunting. Never slowing down in retirement, he helped his wife with her pet sitting business and his son with building houses. William was strong-minded and instilled in his children a strong work ethic, a never give up attitude, and most of all his love of the outdoors and nature. This included teaching his three children how to raise and nurture a variety of farm animals.

William spent the last 3 years in a nursing home in Manchester, CT on an Alzheimer’s Unit where he passed from complications from Covid-19 on May 10, 2020. He leaves behind his wife of 60 years, Carole Streinz, his three children, Annamarie Feldman, Pauline Streinz and William Streinz, Jr and three grandchildren, Patrick McNamara, Benjamin Feldman and Rebecca Feldman. A private memorial was held at his home. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Alzheimer’s Association.

ten great grandchildren; Amanda, Vera, Fisher, Adrianna, Kameron, Adeline, Jaiden, Trenton, Poriana and Kensie. She also leaves two sisters, Arlene and Celia. Esther had a son who predeceased her, Dennis Giambattista of Danielson.

She was born in Putnam, CT daughter of the late John Brisson and Abbie (Monroe) Brisson living in Danielson most of her life. She enjoyed cooking, bingo and caring for her grandchildren. There are no calling hours, graveside services in Holy Cross Cemetery, Danielson, CT are private. Please omit flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Friends of Assisi Food Pantry, 77 A Water St., Danielson, CT 06239. 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 light a candle.

Esther M. Giambattista, 89

DANIELSON- Esther M. (Brisson) Giambattista age 89 passed away Saturday, June 6, 2020 with her loving family at her side.



She was the wife of the late Dominic Giambattista who died in 1971. She leaves five daughters; Brenda Souza and her partner Paul Moninski of Danielson, Pamela

Coutu and her husband Robert of Claremont, NH, Cynthia Laseter of Danielson, Sheila Kinney and her husband George of Plainfield, CT and Tina Veillette and her husband Michael of Stanford, CT, three sons; Wayne and David Giambattista and Tony Giambattista all of Danielson, fifteen grandchildren; Tammy, Jamie, Brandie, Amy, Tanya, George, Joshua, Sarah, Alexis, Abbygail, Lindsey, Michela, Bryce, Lennon and Harrison,

Bonnie Lou Williams, 82

PROVIDENCE, RI/ DUDLEY - Bonnie Lou. (Porter) Williams age 82 passed away at the Charlesgate Nursing Center, Providence, RI. She leaves three daughters, Edna Gazeille of Woonsocket, RI, Melanie Dunlevy of Charlton, MA and Amy Durand of Cranston, RI., a son Roderick Thompson of Cumberland, RI, two brothers Daniel Porter f Minnesota, and William Porter of Washington, twelve grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. She had a sister who predeceased her Carolyn Boucher of Apple Valley, Minnesota. She was born in Sioux City, Iowa and lived in Dudley for several years

as well as Milford NH and of recent Providence, RI. She was a certified nursing assistant and had worked at the Sandlewood Nursing home in Oxford, MA.

There are no calling hours and services are private at the Worcester County Memorial Park, Paxton, MA at a later date. 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 light a candle.

Omer Joseph Viens, 91

Omer Joseph Viens passed from this world to the next in the company of Angels at the age of 91 on Wednesday evening, May 27, 2020. Omer was born



September 15, 1928 to the late Ovila and Marie Bella (nee Cote) Viens of North Grosvenordale CT. He began a lifelong marriage of loyal, devoted, dedicated love to Theresa Antonia Marie (nee Gingras) on January 6, 1951 with the two conditions that he would attend the Catholic Church, and not ask her to be a Farmer’s Wife. All of their 7 children are protected with middle names of patrons St. Ann for the girls; and St. Anthony for the boys. He was an avid genealogist, wood carver, and pen and ink artist. His works spread out from Canada, Alaska, California, Italy, and Switzerland to everywhere in between. Omer worked as a maintenance mechanic at the Plainfield American Standard plant for many years and was a communicant of St. James Catholic Church in Danielson CT.

Kathy Ann Theresa Dexter (James Nelson). Kathy remembers Dad as a loving, caring, multi-talented plumber and jack-of-all-trades. He taught his children Love, Kindness, and Respect. She appreciates the many, many trips with the family to relatives, scenic places, and especially shopping. Kathy feels blessed to have had him as a father and wishes him to Rest in Peace with no more suffering; Kathy Loved Him So Very Much.

Robert Anthony Luke (Marilane). Bob loved sitting inside the car engine

bay while Dad worked on the family car.

Marc Anthony Francis Xavier (Lucy nee Trudo). Marc found Omer’s guitar in Dad’s closet and thus owes Dad for a life-long joy of the stringed instrument.

Naomi Ann Carpenter (Wayne). Some of Naomi’s favorite memories include father/daughter times Oil Painting at age 9; family walks in the woods in Autumn as a child; many happy trips to Vermont; a CT Art Gallery Exhibition with daughter Laura’s Photography which made 3 generations of Artists showing! As her Dad, Naomi thinks about his kindness, gentle ways, loving hugs, and most of all how he demonstrated the Love of God through the way he lived his life.

Elise Ann Marie Majur. Armand (Kathleen). Armand loved all the annual trips he took with Dad to Cape Cod and Vermont in the fall; especially the one with cousins Todd and Cindy that became a great lifetime memory.

Omer was predeceased in 2016 by his daughter Mary Ann, born May 9, 1953; his brother Donat; and sister Flora.

He is survived by 18 grandchildren: Jason, Jesse, Sarah, Erica, Devin, Michele Soares, Adenis Camara, Antares, Mary Rose, Selene, Orion, Deneb, Merak, Rijel, Elara, Laura (Christoph), Elyse Ann, Breahna Ann (Jeff), Josiah Adam (Natasha), Jamie Michael; 19 great grandchildren and many in-laws, nieces and nephews. Please add your thoughts and remembrances in the Tillinghast Funeral Home website (tillinghastfh.com) for us all to read. The Funeral Mass date is to be announced.

Charlotte A. Herlihy, 87

Charlotte A. Herlihy, 87, originally of Putnam, CT, passed away early Sunday morning, May 31st, at Westview Healthcare Center in Dayville, CT after



a period of declining health. She was predeceased by her husband of 61 years, Robert J. Herlihy, in 2016. Charlotte was born on July 15, 1932, the daughter of the late Seconda and Rita (Lavigne) Rovero. She graduated from Putnam High School, class of 1950, and later from St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Hartford, CT, class of 1953, where she obtained her degree as a Registered Nurse. She spent the majority of her career working at Matulaitis Nursing home from where she retired.

True to her French and Italian heritage, Charlotte believed in the tradition of “sharing a good meal” to bring people together. As many of her generation did, she had the ability to stretch a meal in order to feed her 6 children and sometimes their friends who happened to stop by. She was a mother

to many and a friend to all, and she loved her family and friends dearly and unconditionally.

Charlotte was also a firm believer in the handwritten note and never missed mailing cards for birthdays, anniversaries, or for sending notes of encouragement during trying times. She also loved watching and naming birds and always kept her field guide handy.

Charlotte leaves behind her 6 children, Daniel Herlihy (Liz), Michael Herlihy, Joan Woodis, Doreen Brooks (Rodney), Dorothy Herlihy, and Marla Allard (James); her siblings, Daniel Rovero, Malcolm Rovero, Paula Looby, and Maria Werner; her 6 grandchildren, Michael, Madori, Tamreh, Katelyn, Abigail, and Joshua; 4 great-grandchildren, and extended family and friends too numerous to mention. Besides her parents and husband, she was pre-deceased by a brother, Louis Rovero.

Funeral arrangements are private. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Westview Recreation Department, c/o Westview HCC, P.O. Box 428, Dayville, CT 06241. Share a memory at www.smithand-walkerfh.com

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Saving during a pandemic may seem out of reach – but does it have to be?

Last week, we introduced the concept of using short-term and long-term financial life goals and planning as a means to accomplish financial wellness. As we continue that conversation, this week will focus on strategies for keeping up with your savings – even during the pandemic.

Saving feels good; watching the amount in the rainy-day fund, savings account or retirement account grow can encourage savers to stick with their habits. However, the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting economic downturn has forced many to put their savings goals on hold while they maintain paying essential bills like mortgage or rent. In most cases, you have to focus on short-term expenses before you can focus on your bigger-picture long-term financial life goals. However, maintaining a savings mind-set can help keep your focus on the long-term.

In short, before you can be future-oriented, you have to first take care of your short-term needs. But pausing saving doesn’t have to mean losing motivation. Amid the current economic turmoil, here are some tips on how to pivot your finances without giving up on your goals altogether.

Don’t slam the brakes
Stopping saving altogether usually feels worse than gradually decreasing the amount you contribute toward a goal. Instead of suspending all contributions to your savings, you can try light-

ening up the pressure instead.

It might be that you reduce your retirement contribution down to the employer match, or you reduce your typical monthly savings goal in half or third or even to 25% of what you’re saving. Even just \$10 or \$5 a month can be enough to keep up your saving habits. Then, you’re just adjusting rather than stopping abruptly, and still making progress towards your goals.

For those who identify as a saver and take pride in that identity, keeping momentum toward your goal—even small amounts—can prevent you from giving up and feeling down.

Determine your motives
Many people tend to continue to hold on to their savings, even as they take on debt. For some, it may be for a psychological purpose. Perhaps you feel the need to keep money in your savings to continue feeling financially responsible.

Whatever your reasoning may be, make sure to keep your financial life goals in mind, even if they seem more out-of-reach than ever before. Ultimately, dropping them will only demotivate you from other, smaller goals. Having higher-level savings goals in mind also becomes really important



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for keeping your eye on making financially-wise and efficient decisions, even if you are currently taking on debt to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

Remember: it’s okay to extend your time horizon

For many people, it can be difficult to dip into their savings, even if it is necessary. However, if you’re pulling from your savings account or depleting your emergency fund to handle unexpected costs or loss of income, there is always a chance to make up for it in the future. While it can be hard to deplete savings you worked so hard to build, give yourself the credit for having done that hard work in the years leading up to using it.

Staying positive in the midst of delaying a long-planned goal can be difficult. However, stopping saving or delaying retirement, homeownership or some other milestone for a short time (a year or two) doesn’t ultimately hurt people and their financial health or keep them from ever achieving their goals. Research shows making a plan to catch up is key to recovering those savings.

For now, consider adjusting any big dates or timelines you already had planned before the pandemic. Extending the time horizon will help you look further down the line and remember why

you started saving to begin with.

For some, their financial goals have a nonnegotiable timeline. For example, if it has always been a long-term goal to retire by 65, but you find yourself in a situation where that’s no longer achievable, you may consider working part-time during the early years of retirement. This way, you will continue to receive a steady income, as well as other retirement-allocated funds (pension, Social Security, 401(k)).

You can also consider setting a calendar date for when you can think about resuming working towards your goals. Moving that time frame further down the road alleviates some of the immediate pressure to catch up or make up for lost savings, but it also allows you to stay positive about the future.

Key saving strategies to remember
Saving during this pandemic may seem like an unrealistic goal. But staying focused on your short- and long-term goals can be the motivation you need to keep up healthy saving habits. While you may find yourself needing to reduce saving and/or retirement contributions for a short time, by continuing to save small amounts you can remain confident knowing that you are still contributing toward your financial life goals. It also keeps your contribution habits moving forward, while being considerate of your own financial

What to do about an overfertilized lawn



Lush lawns are not achieved without a lot of hard work. That hard work often involves some trial and error, and one

of the simplest errors a person can make is overfertilizing a lawn. Overfertilization is an easy

mistake to make, but it's a mistake that can have long-lasting consequences. According to the lawn care experts at Scotts®, overfertilizing a lawn can damage grass. Overfertilized lawns are subject to excessive leaf growth, which may require more maintenance, like extra mowing, in the interim. Over time, an overfertilized lawn can develop a sponge-like feel and may be increasingly vulnerable to fungal disease. Of course, homeowners can only address an overfertilized lawn after they learn to spot signs that the lawn has been fed too much fertilizer. Brown and patchy grass is one of the telltale signs that a lawn has been overfertilized. This can occur because too much nitrogen has made its way onto the lawn. Scotts® notes that nitro-

gen greens up grass and helps it grow, but too much nitrogen can scorch the lawn, making it brown and patchy. Minimal growth after fertilization is another indicator of overfertilization. Some lawns that have been overfertilized may not grow at all afterward. Blackened or limp grass and crusting of fertilizer on the top of the soil are other symptoms of overfertilization. When fertilizing a lawn, it's important that homeowners recognize that many products are now slow-release fertilizers. Packaging will indicate if your fertilizer fits this mold, and if it does, don't be surprised if results are not immediate. Slow-release fertilizers can help with lawns where the soil does not drain especially well. Give these fertilizers

time to do their job and resist the temptation to apply more fertilizer. If a lawn has indeed been overfertilized, homeowners can remove any fertilizer they see on top of the soil. Once the fertilizer has been removed, water the lawn heavily, which can wash any remaining residue away. Watering daily in the ensuing days can remove any lingering fertilizer and reduce the likelihood that a lawn will develop issues with fungus. Fertilizing a lawn involves carefully adhering to manufacturer instructions. If a lawn is overfertilized, removing fertilizer on the soil and heavily watering the lawn can help restore it to health and reduce the risk for disease.

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GARDENING

The dangers of mowing too low



Spring marks the return of many things. Trees and flowers begin to bloom again in spring, while warmer temperatures are welcomed back with open arms. Grass also begins to grow again in the spring. That means it's not too long before homeowners have to dust off their lawn mowers and get to work. Those

who don't necessarily enjoy mowing the lawn may be tempted to cut their grass very low, as doing so can mean longer intervals between mowing sessions. However, mowing grass too low can have a very adverse effect on a lawn.

- Cutting too low can injure the grass. Cutting grass too low can injure

the grass, creating what's essentially a domino effect of problems to come. Injured grass will focus on its recovery efforts, thereby making it vulnerable to other issues.

- Cutting too low promotes weed growth. Injured grass is vulnerable to invaders, including weeds and insects. Weeds

and insects can attack grass as it recovers from injury, and before homeowners know it, their lawns are overcome with a host of problems.

- Cutting too low allows crabgrass to thrive. Crabgrass needs ample sunlight to grow. By cutting grass too low, homeowners may unknowingly be promoting crab-

grass growth. Crabgrass is unsightly and can rob surrounding grass of the moisture it needs to grow. So lawns cut too low may not only lose their lush appeal thanks to the unattractive appearance of crabgrass, but also because areas surrounding the crabgrass patches might turn brown due to lack of water.

- Cutting too low can stress the grass. Cutting too low also makes lawns vulnerable to summer heat. Without blades tall enough to block some of the summer sun, grass can quickly succumb to summer heat, leading to dried out, discolored lawns.

8 garden tools for beginners

- The right tool for the job is essential to working safely and efficiently. This is as true in the workplace as it is in the garden.
- Novice gardeners may not know where to begin in regards to which tools they need. The following are eight items that can serve as a solid foundation for beginning gardeners.
1. **Gloves:** Your hands will be working hard, so it pays to protect them from calluses, blisters, splinters, insects, and dirt. Look for water-resistant gloves that are also breathable.
 2. **Hand pruners:** Hand pruners are essential for cutting branches, cleaning up shrubs, dead-heading flowers, and various other tasks. Choose ergonomic, no-slip handles that will make work easier. Rust-resistant, nonstick blades also are handy.
 3. **Wheelbarrow:** A wheelbarrow can transport gear to garden beds or tote dirt, leaves, rocks, and other materials around the landscape. A good wheelbarrow is strong but light enough to maneuver when full.
 4. **Loppers:** Long-handled loppers will fit the bill for thick branches. The long handles provide leverage to cut through branches an inch or more in diameter.
 5. **Hand trowel:** A hand trowel is a handy tool that lets you dig holes or unearth weeds. While shopping for a trowel, consider getting a hand-held garden fork, which can aerate soil and cut through roots.
 6. **Hose/watering can:** Keeping gardens hydrated is part of ensuring their health. That makes a hose and a watering can two invaluable tools to have around. Invest in a lightweight, expandable hose if storage space is at a premium. An adjustable nozzle will enable you to customize the water flow as needed. A watering can is an easy way to tote water to hard-to-reach pots and containers.
 7. **Garden kneeler:** Gardeners often bend and kneel while working in the soil. That puts pressure on the back and knees. A comfortable garden kneeler with memory foam or one made from shock-absorbing material can reduce aches and pains.
 8. **Garden hoe:** Garden hoes till soil, remove weeds and perform many other tasks. A garden hoe can be used along with a full-sized shovel, trowel and garden rake.

This list is just the tip of the garden tool iceberg. Visit a garden center and speak with a professional about other tools that can be added to the mix.

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HALE
continued from page A13

needs at the moment.

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