

THOMPSON VILLAGER

Friday, May 14, 2021

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Organizers of The American Legion District #4 “Family Kids’ Walk” pose following the successful Walk that raised \$5,100 for the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. Pictured (l to r) District #4 Commander Ronald P. Coderre, Walk Co-chairmen Chas Mackenzie and Frank Poirier, Walk Ambassador Addison Poirier and District Finance Officer and site coordinator Manuel “Manny” Rodrigues.

American Legion “Kids’ Walk” a huge success

REGION — Despite chilly blustery conditions at the Coventry High School Athletic Complex, more than 30 walkers of all ages turned out in support of The American Legion District #4 “Family Kids’ Walk” on Saturday, May 1. The proceeds from the Walk were dedicated to Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

The District #4 Walk was spearheaded by co-chairmen Chas MacKenzie of Mayotte-

Viens Post #13 of Putnam and Frank Poirier of Buck-Dubiel Post #101 of Somers. Poirier’s nine-year-old daughter, Addison, served as Kids’ Walk Ambassador.

“I’m extremely pleased with the turnout of walkers under the windy weather conditions. The concerted effort by the Posts of the District made our effort worthwhile,” said co-chair-

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Day Kimball Hospital recertified as Advanced Primary Stroke Center

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Hospital (DKH) in Putnam is pleased to announce it has once again earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® for Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers. The Gold Seal of Approval® shows an organization is accredited and meets The Joint Commission’s highest standards of care.

“Day Kimball Healthcare makes it a priority to deliver advanced care to all patients affected by stroke,” said Kyle Kramer, chief executive officer, Day Kimball Healthcare. “This recertification highlights the exceptional stroke care we provide and our team’s commitment to meeting the high performance standards set forth by The Joint Commission which are critical to achieving long-term success improving patient outcomes.”

Day Kimball Hospital underwent a rigorous virtual review in February 2021 to renew the certification, which it first received in 2013. During the review, a team of Joint

Commission surveyors evaluated compliance with stroke-related certification standards and requirements, including program management, the delivery of clinical care, and performance improvement. The reviewers also conducted virtual observations and interviews.

Established in 2003, The Joint Commission-accredited acute care hospitals Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers is awarded for a two-year period. The Joint Commission standards are developed in consultation with healthcare experts and providers, measurement experts, and patients. Learn more about The Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.org.

Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States, according to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds; some-

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HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Killingly boys’, Woodstock girls’ golf teams off to perfect starts

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly High boys’ and the Woodstock Academy girls’ golf teams each have yet to feel the sting of defeat this season.

Killingly improved to 7-0 with wins over Tourtellotte High (7-0, on May 5), Norwich Free Academy (5-0, on Monday, May 3), and Bacon Academy (171-196, On Friday, April 30). Ethan Lackner, Cam Seiffert, Cooper Morrisette, Logan Gagnon and Matt Card all won both of their matches against the Tiger and NFA. Against Bacon Academy, on the par-35 Chanticlair Golf Club, Gagnon shot 40, Seiffert 42, Lackner 43, Morrisette 46 and Card 50.

Woodstock Academy improved to 6-0 overall and 5-0 in the Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) with a 180-214 win over Bacon Academy on Monday, May 3, at Thompson’s Quinnetis Country Club. The Centaurs’ Mia Dang returned from pandemic protocol following spring break and shot under 40 for a third consecutive match. Against the Bobcats Dang posted a 3-over 39 while teammates Kaily LaChapelle and Alex Vaida added a 45 and 46 respectively.

BASEBALL

Undefeated Killingly improved on the greatest start in school history by defeating Griswold (19-0 on Tuesday, May 4) on the road, and taking two from St. Bernard at home (10-0 and 9-1 on Saturday, May 1) to push its

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Courtesy Photos

Killingly’s Ethan Lackner fired a 4-over-par 40, the low round of the day in the team’s win over Tourtellotte.



Killingly’s Cam Seiffert helped his fellow golfers stay undefeated, shooting a match-best 2-over-par 38 in a win over Norwich Free Academy.



Photos Courtesy

Front Row: Mckayla Tackson, Emma Parmentier, Chase Fontaine, and Branson Waldrop. Second Row: Kaylee Tackson, Madison Yost, and Brayden Cutler. Third Row: Kiera O’Brien and Alivia Dalpe. Fourth Row: Lindsey Houghton, Gracen vanderSwaagh, and John Steglitz. Back Row: Cole Coderre.

Tourtellotte holds its 19th Annual Integrity Plus Awards Banquet

N O R T H GROSVENORDALE — For almost 20 years, members of the staff at Tourtellotte Memorial High School have been honoring select students with the Integrity Plus Award.

Students who are chosen to receive this special award exhibit an outstanding sense of honesty, reliability, and civic awareness. They go out of their way to help others, are involved in the school, contribute in positive ways to their classes, try hard to succeed academically, and volunteer. They are also courteous, trustworthy, have open hearts and open minds, and consider the feelings of others before speaking.

The students who receive this award are first nominated by individual teachers. Then, a committee of teachers reviews the nominations in order to determine whether or not the students will be chosen to receive the award. Students who are chosen usually attend with their families a dinner banquet honoring the year’s award recipients.

However, over the last two

years, the awards ceremonies had to be altered due to Covid restrictions. Last year’s ceremony was held via the Zoom platform where students and their families gathered virtually with school staff to attend the ceremony. With some easing of restrictions, the May 4 ceremony was held in person in the Thompson District Auditorium, with socially distanced seating for those in attendance including the students being honored, members of their family, teachers, administrators, and members of the Thompson Board of Education. At this special event, the teachers who nominated each student were revealed and gave speeches honoring each of the recipients.

Plaques commemorating both the 2020 and 2021 Integrity Plus Awards recipients’ names will be hung in the main entrance with the plaques from previous years.

Congratulations to the 2020 and 2021 recipients of the Integrity Plus Award:

Turn To **AWARDS**, page **A5**

Three Eastern faculty receive Board of Regents Faculty Awards

WILLIMANTIC — Thomas Balcerski, associate professor of history at Eastern Connecticut State University, was named the statewide recipient of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) System’s 2020-21 faculty research award at the April 22 meeting of the Board of Regents.

The board also named statewide winners in the teaching category for full-time and part-time faculty, as well as campus-based faculty teaching and research awards for the 17 institutions in the CSCU system, in announcing its annual faculty awards program.

Susan DeRosa, associate professor of English, received Eastern’s campus-based teaching award, and Brenda Westberry, adjunct professor of sociology, won the campus teaching award for part-time faculty.

Balcerski, who received his Ph.D. at Cornell University, is a scholar of early American history, with a focus on the Antebellum period. His teaching interests include African American History, American popular culture, environmen-

tal history and U.S. presidential history. His knowledge of U.S. presidents and the political history surrounding them has made Balcerski a popular contributor and guest on CNN, the Washington Post, Smithsonian Magazine, Time, NBC News, C-Span, the BBC and a number of other national and international media outlets.

Balcerski has also published widely. In addition to authoring peer-reviewed articles and other written works, Balcerski recently published “Bosom Friends: The Intimate World of James Buchanan and William Rufus King” (Oxford University Press, 2019). “Bosom Friends” considers the personal and political relationship of James Buchanan of Pennsylvania (1791-1868) and William Rufus King of Alabama (1786-1853), and argues that it followed a common pattern of intimate male friendship during the first half of the 19th century. The “Wall Street Journal” declared that the book “enlarges our understanding of the factors that can erode friendships and rupture nations. Rarely has any scholarly treatment of the disinte-

grating Union felt more urgent.”

In describing her colleague, Barbara Tucker, emeritus professor of history, wrote, “He is a first-rate scholar, an excellent teacher and mentor, an active participant in academic societies, a valuable participant in university affairs, and an actively sought-after commentator on political events.”

More than anything else, Balcerski is proud of what his students learn from him. He was recently recognized with the 2021 Outstanding Thesis Mentor Award by the Honors Council and Eastern’s Undergraduate Research Creativity Mentor Award for nurturing the intellectual and personal development of students.

“Dr. Balcerski helped me develop several critical skills during our time working together on my honors thesis, ‘Maggie’s Ride: The Life and Legacy of a Civil War Horse,’” said Allen Horn IV ‘21. “He taught me how to read 19th-century handwriting, take detailed and helpful notes on secondary sources, and effectively use digital history databases. These abilities were ultimately integral to my thesis research. He also taught me networking and public speaking skills, which has greatly enhanced my presentation skills at conferences.”

Susan DeRosa, associate professor of English, was honored with Eastern’s campus-based teaching award. DeRosa is a rhetoric and writing studies specialist whose most recent research and publication has been on multi-modal writing theories, first-year college writers and writing center pedagogy. She earned her Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Writing Studies at the University of Rhode Island.

In addition to creating three new courses in Eastern’s English major, as well as helping to develop the Creative Writing concentration, DeRosa supports student writers on independent study projects, internships and honors theses. Writing experts regard the textbook she co-authored in 2011, “Choices Writers Make: A Guide” as a rare treat in first-year composition textbooks.

“Choices” is innovative, as English Professor Christopher Torockio notes, “in that it emphasizes the generative nature of genres and acknowledges how writers actually write. They publish their research and their ideas in many

different ways for different audiences. What works for one audience or purpose might not work for another because different audiences need the material presented differently. At the time, no other textbook took this approach.”

“Dr. DeRosa is a brilliant, inspiring teacher, a generous and supportive colleague, and a groundbreaking scholar,” said English Professor Daniel Donaghy. “Her tireless dedication to the Eastern community and her collaborative spirit serve as examples of the very best that Eastern professors can offer their students.”

Brenda Westberry, adjunct professor in the Sociology program, received the campus-based award for adjunct faculty. While teaching part time at Eastern since 2001, Westberry also has served as an adult probation officer in Connecticut’s Court Support Services Division, an experience she shares with students to provides real-world context in her courses. Westberry earned her bachelor’s degree at Western Connecticut State University and her master’s degree in sociology at Southern Connecticut State University.

Over the years, Westberry has brought her unique perspective to a wide range of courses-Criminal Justice and Society; Violence in Relationships; Victimology and more recently developed, timely courses such as Race, Crime, and Justice; Working with Violent Offenders; Current Controversies in Criminology; and Women and Crime.

Professor Westberry demonstrated her commitment to issues regarding domestic violence when she established the Alyssiah Wiley 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament in October 2019. This annual event focuses on domestic violence, highlighting the life of the late Eastern student Alyssiah Wiley, who was the victim of domestic violence in 2013.


“Professor Westberry exemplifies the very best that the Connecticut State University System has to offer,” said Criminology Professor Theresa Severance. “In her 19 years as a part-time faculty member in our department, she has touched the lives of countless students, many of whom have gone on to successful careers in Connecticut’s criminal and juvenile justice systems.”



MAY BASKETS

Photo Courtesy

On May 1, May Day, the Daughters of Isabella delivered 15 May Baskets to their oldest members. Reminiscent of days gone by, these ladies, the eldest Mary Vandt, age 95, recalled celebrating this nostalgic springtime festivity. This brought cheer to those who have been shut-in this past year during Covid-19. The project was chaired by Priscilla Dowd and committee: Ellen Knight, Sandra Montie, Maureen Desilets, Jean Ryan, Wanda Hicks and Janet Watson. The goal of the Daughters of Isabella is to spread charity, unity and friendship to our community and the world.




May is National Nurses Month

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Stonebridge Press and the following businesses would like to recognize nurses during National Nurses month.

Thank you for your selfless dedication, kindness, compassion, and bravery especially during these pandemic times. You are truly angels in scrubs. Thank you for all you do all year long.




How communities can recognize nurses

The vital role nurses play in health care settings across the globe was perhaps never more apparent than in recent months. When COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization in March 2020, nurses were on the front lines in the battle against the virus, and have remained there ever since.

In recognition of the sacrifices nurses and other health care workers have made to help the sick, individuals across the globe have placed signs in their yards thanking essential workers. In addition, many more have taken to social media to highlight the lengths individual nurses have gone to while helping them or their loved ones who caught the virus or fought other illnesses. Communities can follow such individuals’ lead by making collective efforts to thank the nurses who call their towns and cities home.

- Sponsor fundraising efforts. Town officials can help to organize a community-wide fundraising effort or a 50-50 raffle with the ultimate goal of donating to a charitable organization chosen by local nurses. Health care facilities have been stretched incredibly thin during the pandemic, so a donation to a charitable organiza-






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tion that benefits health care workers can be a great way for communities to honor local nurses.

- Encourage residents to lend a helping hand. The work frontline medical workers have done during the pandemic has been endless and exhausting. In recognition of that, community organizers can promote volunteer programs designed to lift some of the burden off local health care workers’ shoulders. Local hospitals, blood banks and health centers may need volunteers, and this is a great way for local residents to show health care workers their efforts are appreciated.
- Celebrate holidays that honor nurses as a community. The American Nurses Association notes that National Nurses Week begins each year on May 6 and ends on May 12. Though National Nurses Week is not a federal holiday, communities can still come together during the week to highlight the work their local nurses do. Township or other local officials can encourage businesses in the community to offer special discounts to nurses during the week, while schools can take part in collective efforts to thank nurses. For example, students from all grades can work on a banner thanking nurses and then showcase the banner by the entryway to campus so passing motorists can see it.
- Highlight a local nurse each week on so-

cial media. Community leaders can ask residents to nominate a local nurse each week and then choose one nominee to highlight on social media. Students or local officials can interview the nominee, asking them about their careers, including what compelled them to become a nurse and their most interesting experiences on the job. Interviews can be posted on community social media pages so all residents can get to know the unsung heroes in their communities.

Communities can work together on a variety of collective efforts aimed at recognizing the extraordinary efforts made by local nurses every day.



KILLINGLY
AT 300
.....
MARGARET
WEAVER

Looking at the various names of rivers, brooks, ponds, and streams can be a veritable history lesson in itself if one takes the time to find out the origin of a name. This week, I thought that I'd write a little about place names in Killingly and other Northeastern Connecticut towns.

The Town of Killingly, incorporated in 1708, was named for Killingly manor near Pontefract, Yorkshire (England), the ancestral home of Connecticut's governor Saltonstall. Likewise, Pomfret also had that same Yorkshire origin.

My favorite resource for local place names is a huge reference book at Killingly Public Library entitled "Connecticut Place Names" by Arthur H. Hughes and Morse S. Allen which was printed at the time of our nation's Bicentennial in 1976 by the Connecticut Historical Society. First, I'll write about some names associated with Killingly. Some of these names I'd seen before; others, I hadn't. A few are Native American names as is this first: Acquid(a)neck which was near the junction of Fall and Half Hill Brooks, a mile southeast of present-day Danielson. It was considered a boundary of the Quinebaug Country and was on the North bound of the Winthrop Purchase. Another was Acquiunk-the "Great Falls on the Quinebaug River at present-day Danielson. In conjunction with that was Acquiunk Hill, "30 or 40 rods from falls of the Quinebaug at Danielson; it means 'at the place below' the falls; agwi 'below,' also spelled Ocquiunk. An Indian fort was here. It was also "a point at the junction of the Quinebaug and Assowoga (Five Mile) Rivers" in present-day Danielson. As for the Native American fort, it was referred to as "Hyems Fort. Site in Danielson, between Dyer St. and the river. A palisaded fort built by the Quinebaugs circa the middle of the 17th century, under their sachem Hyems, alias Allumps or James. It was a boundary of a 1653 Winthrop deed."

Keep in mind that junctions of rivers and falls were significant places in Native American culture. It was not uncommon for several groups to gather together when the fish migrated since that was an important part of their diet. Remnants of an ancient fishing weir, which would have been used to help capture the fish, exist south of the falls on the Quinebaug River and can be seen in low water on that section of the River Trail below the baseball fields.

According to Hughes and Allen whether Attawaugan is a Native American name is debatable. Some references say is not. However, a Nipmuc village was apparently located in

the vicinity.

Aspinock Quarry on Whetstone Brook near Killingly Center (and East Killingly) was "once used by Indians from as far away as Michigan as a source of whetstones for arrowheads and utensils---Mahumunseque/Mahmunseeeg(e)." In her "History of Windham County Connecticut," Ellen D. Larned noted that it was a place where the Native Americans gathered "whetstones" or stones to be sharpened into projectile points---thus the name Whetstone Brook. This was such an important spot for the Native Americans that the Plainfield Purchase, purchased from Owaneco, son of Uncas of the Mohegans, came to its northern point near the brook thus also giving access to this valuable resource to the Nipmucks and Narragansetts.

Alexander's Lake, a mile Northwest of Danielson, was named Mashepaug by the Native Americans. "In 1721 Nell Ellick Saunders, a Scotch peddler, settled on the East side of the lake. The region was owned for generations by his descendants. 'Ellick Saunders' became Alexander. According to legend "the lake was once a mountain, submerged by the Great Spirit as punishment for the Indians who had drunken dances on the summit."

"Alexander Mill (1833)" was a small cotton mill on the Whetstone Brook; Amesbury Mill (1833) was another small mill located on the Five Mile River (near where Whipple's Chapel is located) in the Pineville/Ballouville section of Killingly.

Brooklyn has a most interesting early history as summarized in "Connecticut Place Names." It was named in 1752 'the Society of Brooklyn (brookline) from its east boundary on the Quinebaug River. "The history of this area is complicated by the overlapping of manors, Societies (church), and towns. It was part of the extensive tracts

claimed by Col. James Fitch in the late 1600's. Captain, sometimes called Sir, John Blackwell (from whom Blackwell Brook takes its name), the treasurer of Cromwell's army, in 1687 bought from Fitch 5,750 acres as a refuge for Irish dissenters under James II, and named it Mortlake (Mortlake Fire Department). He secured from the Connecticut General Court a patent for a separate township. About half of Mortlake was in present Brooklyn, the other in Pomfret. Settlement began in 1703 from neighboring Pomfret and Canterbury. Since the Irish had not come, Blackwell's son sold Mortlake in 1713 to Jonathan Belcher, later governor of Massachusetts, who divided it into two manor farms, Wiltshire, and Kingswood. In 1713, Pomfret was made a town, and in 1714 annexed land South of Mortlake, and in 1733, more land including the site of the present Brooklyn Village. In 1731 or 1732, the parish or Ecclesiastical Society of Mortlake was organized, called 'The Society taken out of Pomfret, Canterbury, and Mortlake.' The north half of Mortlake, (approximately Kingswood), was annexed to Pomfret in 1739. In the same year Israel Putnam bought part of South Wiltshire, 513 acres, and in 1740, Col. Godfrey Malbone (Malbone Old Trinity Church) bought the rest of Wiltshire and Kingswood. Shortly after, he bought another 1000 adjoining acres, and ruled the estate as lord of the manor. In 1752 Mortlake Society was combined with other tracts and named the Society of Brooklyn or Brookline. In 1765 Mortlake was peaceably incorporated in Pomfret, and the name Mortlake ceased to be used. In 1786 Brooklyn was incorporated as a town from Pomfret and Canterbury, including Mortlake and other tracts; but when in the same year Hampton was incorporated as a town, it took 2400 acres

from the west part of Brooklyn. There were 24 other Brooklyns in the U.S., two Brooklins, and five Brooklines." (p. 57-58).

I'm sure many of you have been to Allen Hill Tree Farm in Brooklyn. Although it was owned and occupied by descendants of Richard Adams for many years, it was named for a wealthy farmer Jabez Allyn/Allen who built the first grist mill in the vicinity, ca. 1770. (p. 58).

I'll give one additional Brooklyn place name, Basset(t) Pond which is located below the junction of Blackwell and Tatnic Brooks, southwest of the village. John and Joseph Basset of Killingly purchased a grist mill here in 1823 and owned it until 1903. It used waterpower until the 1936 flood.

Both towns have many more interesting place names as do the other Northeastern Connecticut towns. I'll use some in a future column. If you have a name you'd like to check, Connecticut Place Names is located in the genealogical reference section at the Killingly Public Library near the computers.

The mail and answering machine are being checked on a regular basis although the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center is closed to the public. Please send an email to the director or leave a message on the answering machine if you would like to donate items or have research questions. The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center will reopen on Wednesday, July 7. Face masks will be required.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, May 2021. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/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, Connecticut 06239

Everyone Is Invited To A

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

State Project No. 141-157

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Residents, commuters, business owners, and other interested individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed project.

Please join us on Thursday, May 27, 2021

The meeting will be live streamed via: Microsoft Teams Live Event and YouTube Live

Formal Presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.
Question and Answer (Q&A) session will immediately follow the presentation.

Instructions on how to access the meeting and on how to provide comments or ask questions, can be found at the project webpage:
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The Virtual Public Information Meeting is being held to provide the public and local community the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions regarding the proposed project. Persons with limited internet access may request that project information be mailed to them by contacting Raymond I. Basar by email at Raymond.Basar@ct.gov or by phone at (860) 594-3313, allow one week for processing and delivery.

Individuals with limited internet access can listen to the meeting by calling (888) 949-2798 and entering the Participant Code when prompted: 1591603. Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). The MS Teams Live Event offers closed captioning for the hearing impaired and non-English translation options. A recording of the formal presentation will be posted to YouTube following the event and closed captioning (including non-English translation options) will be available at that time. The recording will also be available in the list of DOT virtual public meetings here: <https://portal.ct.gov/dot/general/CTDOT-VPIM-Library>

Visit the project webpage for options for Apple users. During the Q&A session and the 14-day comment period that follows the meeting, individuals may leave a question or comment via email (preferred) at DOTProject141-157@ct.gov. Individuals may also leave a voicemail question or comment by calling (860) 944-1111. Please reference the project in your voicemail.

Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Department's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least 5 business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

VILLAGER ALMANAC
At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of May 3: Virginia Rail, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, Nashville Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Bobolink, Kestrel, Barn Swallow, Veery, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Parula Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, White-crowned Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Ovenbird, Pine Warbler. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.



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Pop-Up Putnam brings crowd to Rotary Park

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

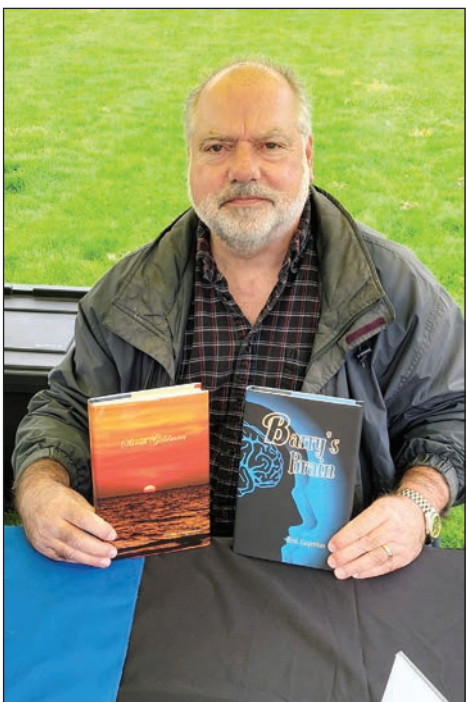
PUTNAM – The town of Putnam welcomed back the Pop-Up Putnam open air artisan and merchant fair on Saturday, May 8, the first edition of the monthly event that brought together numerous local vendors and offered activities for all ages throughout the day. From homemade treats to one-of-a-kind art

figures and live music, the first Pop-Up Putnam event of 2021 proved to be a big hit. The event will be held three more times in 2021, next on Jun. 26 then on July 24 and finally on Aug. 21 to close out the season. Details on the upcoming events can be found at www.discover-putnam.com.

Photos Jason Bleau, except where otherwise noted



Sisters Donna Worker and Debbie Brooks of Two Sisters in Wilmington show off their hand-crafted goods.



Sterling author Réal Carpentier was on hand to sign copies of his two novels, "Sarah Goldman" and "Barry's Brain."



Melissa Chaput of Chappy's Crafting in Danielson shows off one of the pieces of hand-made wood burned artwork for sale at her tent.



The Crafts-R-Us Dinger booth showed off this collection of colorful homemade wreaths.



Members of the local Young Marines and Boy Scout Troop 21 helped spread the word for the Pluck-A-Duck Raffle.



5. Members of the Northeast District Department of Health were on hand to help locals get access to the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.



The Keith's Kreations booth was a popular one with sweet and sugary treats for all to enjoy.



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Young Ryker of Brooklyn shows off a Moher's Day card and small rubber duck he got from the Pluck-A-Duck Raffle booth.



Artist Heather Lechene from Plus Five, LLC shows off one of her art pieces on display at her booth.

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Courtesy Photo
Dan Lapriore of Danielson says "bye, bye COVID" as he gets his COVID-19 vaccine from the NDDH trailer



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DON'T MISS A THING!

Creation Church welcomes guests from TeachBeyond Ministries

THOMPSON — Creation Church will be hosting Russ and Diane Kraines of TeachBeyond Ministries this coming Wednesday evening at their newly-formed Acts 1:8 Night at 6:30 p.m.

Acts 1:8 is an evening of praise and worship music combined with corporate prayer for our community, state, nation and world with an encouraging missions report from a ministry or missionary which the church supports. Recently the church has hosted Julia Budd of Josiah Venture, Sarah Brady of Hope For Tomorrow Guatemala, and Marissa Fagerquist of Your Options Medical. The evening is open to all.

Russ and Diane have served faithfully with Teach Beyond for nearly 20 years. TeachBeyond believes that education is an effective catalyst bringing hope to individuals and positive transformation to communities throughout the world. TeachBeyond recruits and sends Christian educators, administrators, and workers to serve in many different schools and organizations across the globe. They, also, equip educators, schools, and organizations to serve Jesus Christ in pursuit of a common vision for transformational education.

Russ is serving as an Asia Regional Informal Educational Services

Coordinator for TeachBeyond. He seeks to develop and serve as a consultant for Informal Education programs for TeachBeyond/Gateway in assigned Asia. He, also, serves a Regional School Services and Teacher Education Coordinator for TeachBeyond Global. In this role he assists TeachBeyond with the efficient and effective delivery of services to TeachBeyond owned and operated schools by coordinating School Services and Education programs and people for the assigned region.

Diane is serving as the Global Director of Informal Education for TeachBeyond. In her position she seeks to develop and oversee TeachBeyond's Informal Education programs including English camps, Language/Learning Centers, Leadership Training programs, Music ministry/education initiatives and any other non-traditional classroom endeavors. She has been in variations of this role for over 10 years and has seen the exponential growth of ministries, while recruiting and guiding many TeachBeyond members to invest in broadening, developing, and multiplying Informal Education Initiatives in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.

Creation Church is a non-denominational, Christian church located at 47

West Thompson Rd. in Thompson, across from the Thompson Dam. Their Sunday Worship Service times are 9 and 10:30 a.m., which includes a children's program called Creation Kids. "A Place of New Beginnings," the church's mission statement is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ by provid-

ing safe environments where people can be encouraged and equipped to develop a loving relationship with God, experience transformational fellowship within, and have life-giving opportunities without. For more information, please contact Pastor Bernie Norman at (860) 923-9979 or go online at www.creationchurch.org.

Eastern CT Lions to host live auction

LEBANON — Lions of Eastern CT, District 23C, invite you to our Kentucky Derby-style Live and Silent Auctions on Sunday, May 23 at the Lebanon Fairgrounds, 122 Mack Rd., Lebanon, from 4-5:30 p.m. Registration is at 3 p.m. in the Cattle Barn. The cost of a paddle is \$10 per person and each person must have a paddle to bid.

Attendees are encouraged to dress the part and wear your favorite derby hat, fancy hat, or fascinator to the festivities. You may bring in food and beverages to the fairground.

The "Race is On" to bid for some auction items. The top Live auction items include: a chartered fishing trip for four people, valued at \$850, two pieces of vintage art measuring 24 inch by 36 inch described as Mexican paintings on bark, a 24 inch tall and six and a half inch-diameter jar of U.S. pennies (at a minimum 20 years old), a stained-glass wall hanging of approximately 20 by 48 inches, a 15 inch by 15 inch New Mexico sand painting from the 1970's, two separate cords of wood, an IPAD, a 36-inch Vizio flat screen television, and a case of locally bottled wine.

Auctioneer Dan Stanavage will coordinate the Live Auction bidding and will help the Lions raise funds for

their Low Vision program. A variety of approximately 20 gift baskets will be included in the Silent Auction, all starting at a minimum bid.

All proceeds will benefit our Eastern Connecticut Lions Low Vision Center.

This Low Vision program serves the counties of Middlesex, New London, Tolland, and Windham. Low Vision is best described as insufficient usable vision to accomplish the task of daily living, even after conventional treatments such as medication, eyeglasses, or surgery. Lions provide low vision aids, at no cost, to enhance remaining vision. They optimize a client's remaining eyesight through the proper use of magnification, glare control, proper lighting, specialized reading techniques, and referral to additional supportive agencies. These devices empower the low vision individuals to improve their quality of life and maintain their independence. Visit <https://lionslowvisionctr.org/> for more information.

Questions about the auction can be directed to Lion Julie Shilosky, President of the Lions Low Vision Center, 860-490-6564, or govjulie23c@yahoo.com.

QVCC Foundation announces funding for summer college

DANIELSON – The Quinebaug Valley Community College Foundation is pleased to announce a \$25,000 block grant for 2021 Summer College courses. For any matriculated QVCC student, including incoming and existing QVCC students, who are pursuing careers in health care, may register for the following courses free of charge until funds have been expended:

- HLT 141- Intro to Phlebotomy
- MED 125, Med. Terminology
- HLT 170, Law and Ethics

Professor and Medical Assisting Program Coordinator Brian Clinton states, "This funding is serving students at different stages of their education. For those interested in new career fields and who need quick training, they can start with phlebotomy and medical terminology. For those students getting nearer to the end of their training, the health care law and ethics introduce students to the complex issues of bioethics, maleficence, and justice. These are often topics on the national board exams student take upon completion from the allied health

programs."

Director of Intuitional Advancement, Monique Wolanin, praised our donors for their continued support, noting "This generous donation from Steve and Marge Townsend, the Buttner Family and LiR members is truly a win-win. For our hardworking students, they don't have to worry about the financial burden of paying for these courses, while the greater community also wins as these same students will eventually graduate and go on to serve others in their chosen medical fields. As the pandemic has shown, health care providers are essential in all communities. These donors are helping educate our future essential heroes."

There are three summer sessions offered, two five-week sessions and a ten-week session, beginning June 7. Learn more about summer college at www.qvcc.edu/summer. For more information about the QVCC Foundation, please contact Monique Wolanin, director of Institutional Advancement at 860-932-4174 or mwolanin@qvcc.edu.

AWARDS

continued from page A1

- 2020:
- Jonathan Bickelhaupt
 - Channing Boss
 - Brayden Cutler (pictured)
 - Joslin Durand
 - Ashley Morin
 - Prince Patel
 - John Steglitz (pictured)
 - Gianna Stoico
 - Makayla Tackson (pictured)
 - Jesse Trotter
 - Branson Waldrop (pictured)
- 2021:
- Cole Coderre
 - Alivia Dalpe
 - Chase Fontaine
 - Lindsey Houghton

Kiera O'Brien
Emma Parmentier
Kaylee Tackson
Gracen vanderSwaagh
Madison Yost

Biannual cemetery meeting set for June 7

WOODSTOCK — The Biannual meeting of the South Cemetery Association (Barlow Cemetery) will be held Monday, June 7 at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Bradford Corner Road, West Woodstock. All who own plots or have interest are encouraged to attend. Masks will be required.

DKH

continued from page A1

one dies of a stroke every four minutes, and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

Day Kimball Hospital is also a designated Primary Stroke Center by the CT Department of Public Health and has earned the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Heart-Check mark for Advanced Certification for Primary Stroke Centers. For more information about stroke care at Day Kimball Hospital, visit www.daykimball.org/emergency.

About Day Kimball

Healthcare

Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed 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 employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is www.daykimball.org.

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Dr. Donna Leake, Superintendent Eastford School District
P.O. Box 158 12 Westford Road, Eastford, CT 06242-0158

Application materials may also be emailed to:
Carole McCombe, Principal cmccombe@eastfordct.org

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- On – Spot interviews



Nathan Lafleur named Westview Health Care Center’s Employee of the Month

DAYVILLE — Nathan Lafleur was announced as April’s Employee of the Month at Westview Health Care Center.

Hired in December 2017, Lafleur has become a valuable member of the trustworthy team in Westview’s dietary department. As a Dietary Aide, he assists the effort in delivering delicious meals to the patients and residents of the Dayville skilled nursing facility.

Considering the hundreds of meals that Westview Health Care Center provides throughout one given day, it is important for the entire dietary department to operate in full cohesion. Furthermore, they all must be able to coordinate and collaborate with the other departments in the building to

consider the myriad needs that may arise. Nathan is known for being easy to work with while also being a hard worker. The acknowledgement of Lafleur’s excellence reaches all the way to the leadership of Westview Health Care Center.

Their Administrator, David T. Panteleakos, had this to say: “Nate presents excellent qualities on a daily basis here at Westview Health Care Center. He is hard-working, dedicated, ambitious, and considerate of his coworkers—all of the right ingredients.”

In addition to Lafleur’s achievements as a dedicated employee at Westview, he is also a sophomore at Unity College in Maine. He gladly talks about his passion for nature and his pursuit of a degree in Conservation Law Enforcement; attending a

school known as “America’s Environmental College.” The great outdoors is not only the place where he wants to build a career, but it is also where he finds much enjoyment hiking and fishing.

When he isn’t at work or in the classroom or on a trail or near a lake, Lafleur might be found at a golf course or a baseball diamond. Currently, he calls Killingly his hometown, and enjoys spending as much time as possible with his mother Nicole, his father Phillip, and his sister Megan. Surely his family will be proud of this recognition, but also for the humble way he accepted it.

“I was aware of this award—but being a part-time employee I never expected to be chosen,” he said, adding “I am extremely honored to receive this distinc-

tion, and will continue to put forth my best effort in being a Westview Warrior!”

Westview Health Care Center is a 103-bed inpatient skilled nursing facility, which includes a distinct and self-contained 28-bed sub acute short term rehabilitation unit and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies including: Sports Medicine, Adolescent/Pediatric, Adult, and Aquatic Outpatient Centers, all dedicated to providing outstanding quality health care services. The Dayville, Connecticut facility is consistently ranked among the top nursing facilities in the nation, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as well as U.S. News and World Report, for the past 13 years.



Nathan Lafleur

The crossing from poor country to here

I always try to make sure my column has a point to it. I want to share a life lesson and encourage readers to live an optimistic and positive life. As for this column, I really don’t know what the point is, other than I’m missing my mom and dad now ... and decided to write about them. I hope you’ll allow me just this once.

May I?
My dad grew up in the coal mining area of deep southern Illinois. If you asked my dad what nationality we were, he’d usually laugh, then respond, “Hillbilly.” My mom was from Sands Springs, Oklahoma. When asked the same question, Mom would say, “Okie.” As such, they lived their newly married years bringing their culture with them to their new northern Illinois



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

GARY W.
MOORE

chicken.”

I look back and realize two things. 1. It was part of my parents’ culture, and 2. It was an economic issue. My mom would fry squirrel just like chicken and it was delicious. I loved it. The rabbit was usually made into a soup or stew and the catfish fried in cornmeal.

I realize many of you are grossed out

home. I remember early in my life, eating lots of squirrel, rabbit, and catfish. I remember a neighbor asking my dad in disbelief about eating squirrel, to which he answered, “When you catch a squirrel, it’s like being given a free

while a few may have some of the same early memories. When you were born into the Great Depression as both of my parents were, I think you ate what was available and were grateful.

Today, I look at my kids, nieces and nephews and realize they’ll be shocked to believe their dad and uncle ate squirrel ... and I did. Mom breaded the squirrel and fried it like chicken in an old cast iron skillet. After removing the squirrel, she’d make a milk gravy that we’d pour over the squirrel and fried potatoes. It was delicious.

I guess if tuna can be labeled “Chicken of the Sea,” squirrel can be labeled “Chicken of the Tree’s.” And I’d choose fried squirrel over tuna anytime.

My mom and dad are both gone but their lives and culture still course through our veins. I was born in Kankakee County, but I still feel as though the little coal mining town of Sesser, Illinois is home. There is a world of difference between where I live now in a growing sub-

Turn To **MOORE** page **A12**

Killingly to launch emergency vehicle awareness campaign

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KILLINGLY – The town of Killingly is working to increase awareness of emergency vehicles on the roadways through a new campaign set to launch on social media later this year.

Town Manager Mary Calorio has been tasked by the Public Safety Committee to spearhead an initiative to help raise awareness of proper etiquette and procedures for commuters when dealing with emergency vehicles. During a meeting on April 28, Calorio provided a brief look into how the campaign is coming along.

“I have one of my staff members working on creating (posts) into more of a digital content type of thing,” Calorio said providing some small examples for the committee to examine during the virtual meeting. “We’re still working on it. It hasn’t been rolled out yet. I want to do some more tweaks to it because I think for social

media platform you really have to chunk it down into small bits of information.”

The purpose of the campaign is to inspired people to be more aware and practice safe habits including pulling over when an emergency vehicle is approaching. The Public Safety Committee had previously discussed launching the campaign in February when the board considered two different approaches to the initiative, a “Move Over” campaign which would focus on how to react when encountering emergency vehicles on the side of the road, such as a police vehicle conducting a traffic stop, and a “SIREN” campaign which is geared toward properly reacting to an approaching emergency vehicle while on the roadway. The committee decided unanimously to move forward with a “SIREN” campaign. During the April meeting Calorio said she is hopeful the campaign could launch as early as mid-May.



Photo Courtesy

Day Kimball Healthcare’s Employee of the Month for April 2021, Gloria Singleton, scheduling supervisor, Day Kimball Homemakers.

PUTNAM — Gloria Singleton, scheduling supervisor for Day Kimball Homemakers, a division of Day Kimball Healthcare At Home, has been named employee of the month for April by Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH).

Singleton began working for North East Homemakers in 1998

which later became Day Kimball Homemakers. In her current role, she oversees the scheduling operations for Day Kimball Homemakers.

According to Singleton’s supervisor, Renee Smith, RN, MSN, vice president of post acute services, Day Kimball Healthcare, “For more than 23 years, Gloria has dedicated her time to serving our clients and supporting our employees, always putting the needs of Day Kimball Homemakers ahead of her own. Even during the most difficult of times, Gloria has never wavered in her commitment to our agency, and through her courage, hard work, and compassion she has often been the glue holding us all together. I am truly grateful for the privilege of working with Gloria, and I couldn’t be more thrilled to see her recognized with this award.”

In response to being named employee of the month, Singleton said, “I am so humbled.”

When asked what she likes most about her job, she shared, “I love being part of such an amazing team.”

A Northeast Connecticut native, Singleton was born and raised in Thompson where she still resides. She was recognized with the Day Kimball Homemakers “Above and Beyond Employee of the Year” award in 1998, and the

“Administrative Team Hero” award in 2018.

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

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

About Day Kimball Healthcare
Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed 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 employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is www.daykimball.org.

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In the Studio

CYNTHIA SAARI

"In the Studio" is a newer feature for the Villager Newspapers. The Quiet Corner is home to many artists and makers, some of whom have national or international recognition for their work in fine art, handcraft, performing art, art education, and graphic art. In this semi-weekly series, we'll talk with our artist neighbors and learn about their careers, current projects, and connections to our towns. We'll also learn some "artspeak" terms in our conversations, demystifying some of those "artist words." Today, we're speaking with Tom Bowen, naturalist and maker.

Hi, Tom. Thanks for taking the time to talk with me. Your handcrafted pieces incorporate components much like traditional work by Native American and Mountain peoples.

What are some examples of things that you create?

I make art and sacred tools from respectfully sourced natural materials like wood, bones, feathers, shells, stones, and the like.

How are your materials sourced?

Most materials are gathered on my regular daily walks in nature. I adhere to all laws regarding protected species. I do not hunt or trap, but do use wild animal remains, processing them respectfully without harsh chemicals. This takes more time and labor, but it preserves an animal's energy or "story."

You have a connection with nature which guides your work. Can you share a bit about your path in exploring this?

As a lifelong nature lover, I'm drawn toward using natural elements for my pieces. I tend to be minimalistic in my approach, so the elements chosen for a piece are highlighted or embellished in ways which compliment components rather than completely transforming



Tom Bowen

them. I understand that much of your work is commissioned. Do you get more requests for functional or decorative pieces?

Sacred tools, by far, account for the majority of my commissions, and tools are meant to be used. Functionality, practicality, and durability are all paramount in my designs and creations. I don't compromise on decorative aspects of a piece, even if they are minimally decorative; this is, after all, a piece of art as well as a functional tool. All is done in the spirit of honoring nature.

What does life in the Quiet Corner offer for your artistic pursuits?

I grew up in the Quiet Corner, and the nature here is truly home to my spirit. I'm deeply connected to this part of the earth, and the local species are family.

Where can people see your work?

People can see my work and offerings at Masterpiece Minerals (in Woodstock),



Abalone & Antler Cleansing Bowl

and on my Facebook wall. I also hope to participate in more Makers Fairs, art shows, and pow wows in the future.

Here are two photos I've taken of pieces you've made. Please describe them for us.

Photo #1

Abalone & Antler Cleansing Bowl

This is a smudge bowl. It uses abalone shell, deer antler, leather, feathers, and turquoise. Herbs (or incense) are burned in a purification ceremony which is called "smudging".

Photo #2

Deer Medicine Ceremonial Dance Stick

This is a deer medicine stick, which would be used in a Native American ceremonial offering to the spirit world. It uses a deer hoof along with feathers, beads, and leather fringe.

Other traditions involve "talking sticks". During a council meeting, only the person holding the talking stick when it is passed, is allowed to speak their point of view.



Deer Medicine Ceremonial Dance Stick

Thank you, Tom. I've really enjoyed learning more about your work and its relationship to Native practices.

Word of the day:

powwow

a large gathering organized by North American Indians for socializing, dancing, singing, and celebrating their culture.

a council or conference of or with North American Indians.

(historically, among North American Indians) a ceremony accompanied by spiritual, religious, and ritual practices, along with dancing, performed for the cure of disease, success in a hunt, etc.

(among North American Indians) a priest or shaman. (ref. dictionary.com)

About the writer: Cynthia Saari (Woodstock, CT) is a nationally recognized framework glass artist. She has exhibited her work & taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitations. Cynthia offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner; she is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.

Poetry At Roseland Park Summer 2021 series dates set

WOODSTOCK — Four free poetry readings will be held this summer at Roseland Park, 205 Roseland Park Road in Woodstock, in the beautiful outdoor amphitheater.

This series will be held from 2-4 p.m. on the following Sundays: June 6, July 25, Aug. 15 and Sept. 26. These readings are for people ages 14 and up. Wine will be served. Folding chairs or camp chairs are recommended for a more comfortable time. Besides featured readers there will be an open mic segment at each event as time allows.

This is the second year for these events and the series was expanded due to its great popularity. Covid guidelines will be met.

Some of the summer's featured poets will include National Beat Poet Laureate for 2020, Paul Richmond; Candace Curran, twice named as Western Massachusetts Poets' Seat Laureate; finalist in the Montreal International Poetry Contest and Woodstock resident Karen Warinsky; New Jersey author and founder of the non-profit collaborative, ARTS By The People, Paul Rabinowitz; T'Challa Williams, co-founder of Hartford's L.I. T., which presents monthly literary events for youth; Pomfret author and organizer of the Quiet Corner's branch of the Connecticut Poetry Society, Christine Kalafus; UCONN Assistant professor and author Brian

Sneeden; authors Robert Eugene Perry, Dina Stander, Gerald Yelle, David Wyman, author and Professor Emerita, UMass, Amherst Janine Roberts, and Heidelberg University student Jayce Porter.

This event is being sponsored in part by Sharpe Hill Winery, Linemaster Switch Corporation, Brunarhans, Inc., CR Premier Properties, St. Onge & Brouillard law firm, Weiss, Hale and Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors, the Woodstock Airport, Ashford's Xtra Mart, Bank Hometown, Charter Oak Credit Union and The Rusty Relic.

This series is being organized by Mrs. Warinsky, and she can be reached at karen.warinsky@gmail.com.



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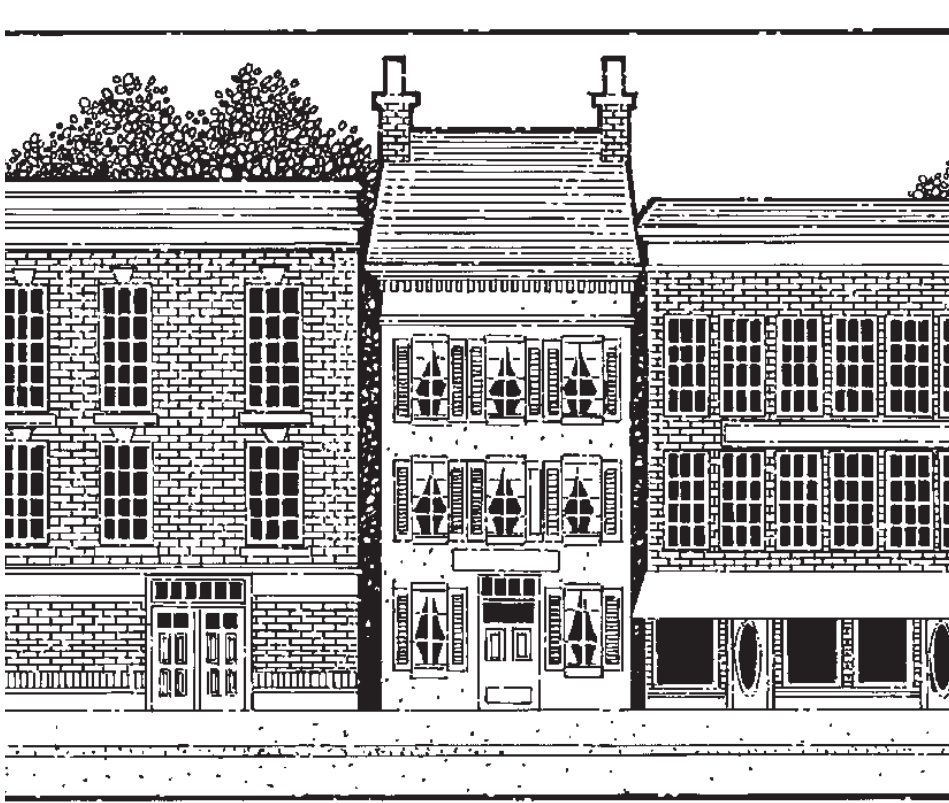
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EDITOR

Equalizing access to education

It's that time of year when high school seniors are committing to colleges and making a plan for what will happen after graduation day. College tuition has become so incredibly unaffordable that many students are opting out or seeking a career in various trades, in which they stand to make more money than a classmate with a four-year degree — depending, of course, on which route they take.

Harvard University cost ten schillings per year in the early 1700's, which was equal to about a pair of shoes and two pairs of stockings. Interesting to note is that back then, most jobs did not require a degree, license or certification and laborers learned via apprenticeship. If the price of Harvard over time had risen at the same rate as prices generally equaled to the rate of inflation, tuition today would cost \$1,703 per year. However, that is not the case, and the current tuition at Harvard is upwards of \$67,580.

As a society, we stress the need for a solid, good education. Any job that pays a livable wage requires you to have a degree, however many students are not making much more than their counterparts who chose to enter the work force right out of high school. Really this depends on where you live and what you do.

The significant increase in college tuition has angered many parents and students. One has to wonder how a financial aid office at any given school comes up with the numbers for a student's financial aid package. In one recent example, a college in Massachusetts, cost \$73,000 per year. Yes, you read that right. A student with a single mother who makes in the ballpark of \$30,000 a year was offered \$13,000 in financial aid for the year. Does this school discriminate based on socio-economics? One has to wonder. Are wealthy students somehow more special than their less fortunate counterparts?

Students who do make it through the four years will graduate with an exorbitant amount of debt, a bill they could potentially be paying well into old age.

Way back when, state universities were free, however did include a small fee. In the 1960's, social and legislative changes turned higher education into a business, hence the student loan debt crisis we see today.

Through some research, we discovered an interesting time line that laid out the path higher education has taken since its inception during Medieval times in Europe. Back then, few of these schools charged tuition and were supported by the government or a church, and areas of study were limited.

In 1796, Thomas Jefferson proposed an education system that was supported through taxes. He did this because he believed that for a government to truly work, that its people needed to be educated. As a result, in 1818, the government began subsidizing elementary schools and Jefferson used a \$15,000 grant to start the University of Virginia.

In the early 1800's, many colleges did not charge tuition; however, only the wealthy could afford the living expenses incurred during study. In 1810, students lived as simply as possible, keeping room and board rates extremely low, compared to today's living conditions.

In 1870, Harvard's tuition was \$150 per year, while Brown University was just \$75. This equals to about \$3,000 in today's terms. Again, only the wealthy could afford to attend.

A spike hit in 1920 when admissions doubled between then and 1930. The cost was about \$250 per year, with 20 percent of college aged Americans attending university.

The G.I. Bill was passed in 1944, but has since been modified.

In 1965, the Higher Education Act passed. This act helped provide financial assistance for those who needed it. In 1973, in today's dollars, an average year, at an average school cost just over \$9,000 and just over \$2,000 for an in state public school.

In 1972, only 49 percent of high school graduates went on to college. Back then, grants covered 80 percent of the costs. Today more and more students are heading off to school, leaving less grant money to go around. In 1975, the rates started to increase faster than inflation. Prior to the 1970s, tuition rates increased roughly two to three percent each year. In 2003, the cost went up 14 percent in just one year. In 1987, the rate for a public school saw a 44 percent change.

In the late 1990's, the debt was so bad

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OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Liz Cheney is a true hero

To the Editor:
Thankfully, we still have prominent elected officials who are compelled to speak power to truth.
In her May 11 House floor speech, Liz Cheney epitomized conscience weighing out over one's political future. She is a true champion for preserving our democracy and con-

tinuing to raise alarm over those who persist in peddling the Big Lie.
In a time when we have few in her party who will do so, she is a true hero. Let her voice be a call to similar action for all.

PATRICIA SUSLA
WOODSTOCK

Hit Congress where it hurts — the voting booth

To the Editor:
Donald Trump and Joe Biden are doing what they do best. Donald Trump is busy playing golf, eating cheeseburgers, and being the loudmouthed buffoon he's always been. Doesn't matter; it's just background noise now.
Successor Joe Biden is actually working at the job of being President, instead of acting like a game show host or bad standup comic. He seems sincere in wanting to do what's best for the country and the American people. Time will tell.
The real lawmakers are the members of the United States Congress — currently a dysfunctional mess. On one side, you have the Democrats in control (for now) by a very slim margin. The majority party always seems a little arrogant and less willing to compromise. On the other side, you have the Republicans, a party in real turmoil going through an identity crisis. A large number of party members still refuse to accept the results of a proven legitimate election, and instead cling to Trump's lies and fantasies. The result is legislative gridlock.
To be fair. There are members of Congress (from both parties) who want to do their jobs

and represent the American people, but they seem outnumbered by the loud voices who just spew the same old partisan nonsense.
As American taxpayers (who fight all the wars and pay all the bills), we need to remember a few basic facts: first, Congress works for us; we don't work for them. Second, we pay their salaries and generous benefits. Last, and most importantly, we hired them, and we can fire them.
The same people who keep telling us how divided we are seem to want to keep us that way. Don't hate your neighbor or family member because of what they stand for — that's misdirected anger. We need to reclaim our government and demand that Congress represent us, not themselves.
To be clear, I'm not suggesting actions like that of the lawless goons who stormed the Capital. That kind of violent stupidity only reduces our great country to the level of a banana republic. The American people need to confront Congress in the place they fear the most — the voting booth.

TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

NTE's latest ad misrepresents the facts

To the Editor:
NTE is the Florida corporation seeking to build a 650 MGW fracked gas power plant, the Killingly Energy Center, on Lake Road in Killingly, a mile from another existing fracked gas power plant, Lake Road Generating.
In its most recent monthly ad in the Turnpike Buyer and Shoppers' Guide, NTE argues that "Once operation, KEC will provide an immediate improvement in local air quality."
NTE has never before made such a claim, and for good reason. The statement is patently false, and is at the heart of why hundreds of local residents living near the plant are so concerned.
Very early on, we learned that the stack that will emit 2 million tons of pollution annually was shorter than guidelines called for by the Environmental Protection Agency. Originally, the stack was to stand 170 feet, but NTE shortened it to 150 feet to comply with Federal Aviation Administration height requirements, as the stack would be within 10,00 feet of the Danielson Airport.
Stack height is vitally important to ensuring that the heaviest pollutants are lifted high enough into the atmosphere to allow these most pollutants to be dispersed over a wide region. In its guidance, the EPA makes the danger of too short a stack clear.
On windy days, the heaviest, most dan-

gerous pollutants, including nitrous oxides, sulphur dioxide, and particulate matter 2.5 (soot), can be caught up at the top of the stack in a vortex which pulls the stack's plume down to ground level. The phenomenon is known as a "blowdown," which occurs when the stack is not sufficiently taller than the next tallest structure on the site. EPA calls for the stack to be two and a half times taller than the next tallest structure. The second tallest structure on the site is 110 feet, suggesting that the stack should be far taller than 150 feet to prevent these blowdowns. In addition, the stack is to be constructed in a depression 30 feet below grade.
In its Technical Report of May 2016, NTE concedes (page 21) that "impacts will exceed Significant Impact Level standards for NO2 and PM2.5 locally under some conditions."
NTE's published claim that local air quality will immediately improve is a lie by their own admission, and by the facts of the case.
In addition, NTE has agreed to D.E.E.P.'s requirement that no construction activity take place on the site from May 1 until late August so that the nesting sites of five threatened bat species will not be disturbed. We will be watching.

EARL MACWILLIAMS
DAYVILLE

Budget referendum in Thompson

To the Editor:
Thompson residents will have an opportunity to vote on the proposed fiscal year 2021-2022 budget this coming Monday, May 17. Here are some important things to consider when going to the polls.
This budget includes funding for:
- Roads and bridges. Every time we get into an automobile and pull out of our driveway, we are counting on the town to ensure safe roadways. This budget will provide three miles of new pavement in the coming year, helping to keep our roads safe and sound. This budget also provides the resources needed to begin much-needed repairs on two of our bridges, as well as inspection of all bridges under 20 feet long.
- Transfer Station. Last year, the Department of Public Works in Thompson asked the Board of Finance for a new truck to haul trash and recyclables away from our transfer station.

Rest in peace, GOP

To the Editor:
We should take a moment and take our hats off and bow our heads as we say our heavenly peace for the passing of the Grand Old Party, a.k.a. the Republican Party, as we also know it as.
Since 2015 and entertaining the idea of nominating the Cowardly Cult Leader, Donald J. Trump, to the office of President of the United States, the party has not only lost its soul, but also its mind, heart and purpose as a political entity. Like most of the businesses that the Cowardly Cult Leader has touched or stated, he has now killed, bankrupted, failed and any other word that business, professional entity that he has touched since the Cult leader

The vehicle currently in service for this purpose is an 18-year-old Mack Truck with 300,000 miles on the odometer. It breaks down frequently these days. And every time it does, we have to pay for repairs. The request for a new truck was denied last year because the pandemic created a lot of uncertainty about the economy. Now that the grip of the pandemic is loosening and the economy is coming back, the Board of Finance included a new truck in this budget.
- Town garage. When it snows in the winter, plow trucks clear our roads while spreading salt to melt the ice. All that salt comes from the town garage, where it is stored in a tired old shed. A recent town-funded study indicates there is potential risk for contamination of nearby property if the salt is not securely contained and monitored, potentially resulting in liability for the Town of Thompson. This

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was given a fortune by his daddy gave him in his early 20s. Google all his failures in business, and it is stunning at his failure rate. Failure and ineptitude maybe should be his middle names. He has cost the GOP, since 2015, a majority in the House, Senate and now the Presidency. What has happened to most Republicans is even worse than following his sorry [behind] down the rabbit hole of shame, stupidity and moral decay.
Republicans not only follow him and his "Big Lie" that he was not defeated, but due to voting irregularities he had the Presidency taken from him, he tried to take over and

Turn To **CASSETTARI** page **A9**

It's time to flourish again

I didn't alphabetize my spices nor learn how to play Mahjong, but I did clean my closets, bake a lot of bread, and gained a renewed appreciation for my husband and my cat. As an extrovert, I am as happy to be vaccinated and out in the world again. I still wear a mask sometimes, both as a form of respect and to follow the rules, but my goal is to flourish at this time of renewal. Here's what I suggest.

Visit a local nursery or garden center as soon as possible. They are brimming with beautiful plants and helpful staff. Last year one of the excursions I missed most was shopping for plants. Alison at Garden Gate in Pomfret supplied me with what I needed and I'll go there again. I've been to Sprucedale, Mackey's and Hart's in Brooklyn. Soon I'll go to Sunset Nurseries. I spend an inordinate amount of time looking around and talking. I buy too. I recommend it. Money spent on plants, shrubs and trees is never wasted.

While we were locked down, good things were happening. Connecticut Farmland Trust, an organization I've supported for decades, helped preserve a marvelous property, Prospect Farm, in Woodstock. The Wyndham Land Trust added two remarkable pieces to its roster of preserved places and I hope to hike on them soon. I got my first tick bite of the season at the fascinating Sprague Land Preserve. I'm being vigilant, but that won't keep me from being outdoors.

Last year, I was unable to take a friend on an annual excursion to the Wicked Tulip Farm. We made up for it. The tulips are planted in long rows saturated with so much color and texture that even a gray morning didn't diminish their impact. The young couple behind the business faced real challenges as they sell tickets for visits as well as bulbs. This year they came back strong with two farms- one in Exeter, RI, where we went, and one in Preston. The Preston location is still open. Get tickets on-line and tip-toe though a fine experience.

Lessons in gratitude come thick and fast from people who face health challenges. I've been stopped in my tracks by friends who count what is good about their situations rather than what is not. They keep gratitude journals and stay positive. For them, gratitude is something they practice every day. I'm reciting a gratitude mantra too.

The mRNA technology that led to the vaccine many of us were fortunate to receive may lead to new future vaccines and treatments for cancer and infectious diseases. How good it is to think that out of the darkness of the pandemic will come breakthroughs in other areas.

Recently, we've entertained in our home and been guests at others'. At first it was nerve-wracking. It seemed like ages since I set out food and drinks for friends. I felt I'd forgotten how to do it. We'd made chocolate for people, but cooking an entire meal was daunting until I plunged in. Everything fell together. We talked and laughed and the past slipped away.

I hope we all flourish. It's time to talk to people again, whether we know each other or not. We can applaud the health care workers and the cashiers, but we can talk to them again, too. I am feeling grateful for Sweet Evelina's asparagus pizza, and for big things like advances in medical science. I want to buy plants, feed my neighbor's baby goats, and take the lessons from last year and incorporate them into something good and new.



NANCY WEISS

529 Plans and Financial Aid Eligibility

If you're thinking about opening a 529 account, or if you've already opened one, you might be wondering how 529 funds will affect your child's financial aid eligibility. Here's what you should know in order to maximize the funds available for your child's education when the time comes.

First, understand the basics of financial aid.

The financial aid process is all about assessing what a family can afford to pay for college and trying to fill the gap. To do this, the federal government and colleges examine a family's income and assets to determine how much a family should be expected to contribute before receiving financial aid. Financial aid formulas weigh assets differently, depending on whether they are owned by the parent or the child. So, it's important to know how your 529 account will be classified, because this will affect the amount of your child's financial aid award.

Understand how financial need is determined.

The federal government and colleges use different formulas to assess financial need, but the basic process is the same. You and your child fill out a financial aid application by listing your current assets, income, and personal family information (exactly what assets must be listed will depend on the formula used). The federal application is called the FAFSA, which stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid; colleges generally use an application known as the CSS Profile.

This information is run through a specific formula to determine your expected family contribution, or EFC. Your EFC represents the amount of money that your family is considered to have available to put toward college costs for that year. The federal government uses its EFC figure in distributing federal aid; colleges use their own EFC figure when distributing their own institutional aid.

The difference between your EFC and the cost of attendance (COA) at your



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child's college equals your child's financial need. The COA generally includes billed costs for tuition, fees, room and board and a designated sum for non-billed costs for books, transportation, and personal expenses. It's important to remember

that your child's financial need will vary depending on the cost of a particular school.

The results of your FAFSA are sent to every college that your child applies to. Every college that accepts your child will then attempt to craft a financial aid package to meet your child's financial need. Some of the aid will be from federal programs and the rest will be from the college's own funds — but note that colleges aren't obligated to meet all of your child's financial need, in which case you will be responsible for the shortfall.

Now let's see how a 529 account affects federal financial aid.

Under the federal methodology, 529 plans are considered an asset of the parent if the parent is the account owner. In this case, the value of the account is listed as an asset on the FAFSA. Under the federal formula, a parent's assets are assessed at a rate of no more than 5.6%. This means that every year, the federal government treats 5.6 percent of a parent's assets as available to help pay college costs. (By contrast, student assets are assessed at a rate of 20 percent.)

There are a few points to keep in mind regarding the classification of 529 plans as a parent asset:

A parent is required to list a 529 plan as an asset only if he or she is the account owner of the plan. If a grandparent is the account owner, then the 529 plan doesn't need to be listed as an asset on the FAFSA (this doesn't seem fair, but grandparent-owned 529 accounts are counted in a different way, discussed below.)

Any student-owned or UTMA/UGMA-owned 529 account is also reported as a parent asset if the student files the FAFSA as a dependent student. (UTMA stands for Uniform Transfer to Minors Act and UGMA stands for Uniform Gifts

to Minors Act — both are accounts that are held in the name of a minor but controlled by a parent or relative until the minor becomes an adult.) A 529 account is considered an UTMA/UGMA-owned account when UTMA/UGMA assets are transferred to a 529 account on behalf of the same beneficiary.

If your adjusted gross income is less than \$50,000 and you meet a few other requirements, the federal government doesn't count any of your assets in determining your EFC. So your 529 account wouldn't affect your child's financial aid eligibility at all.

Withdrawals from a parent-owned 529 account that are used to pay the beneficiary's qualified education expenses aren't classified as either parent or student income on the FAFSA the following year.

Grandparent-owned accounts are not listed as an asset on the FAFSA. However, withdrawals from a grandparent-owned 529 account are counted as student income on the FAFSA the following year. Student income is assessed at 50 percent, which means that a student's eligibility for financial aid could decrease by 50 percent in the year following the withdrawal. As a result, grandparents may want to wait until the spring of their grandchild's junior year of college to make a withdrawal if they are concerned about the potential impact on financial aid — or contribute to a 529 plan established by the parent instead.

Important notes before you invest in a 529 plan:

Note that before investing in a 529 plan, you should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses carefully. The fees, expenses, and features of 529 plans can vary from state to state. 529 plans involve investment risk, including the possible loss of funds. There is no guarantee that a college-funding goal will be met. In order to be federally tax-free, earnings must be used to pay for qualified higher education expenses. The earnings portion of a nonqualified withdrawal will be subject to ordinary income tax at the recipient's marginal rate and subject to a 10-percent penalty. By investing in a plan outside your state of residence, you

may lose any state tax benefits. 529 plans are subject to enrollment, maintenance, and administration/management fees and expenses.

Planning well and investing well, in a way that best suits your own financial situation, is critical to ensuring your child's access to a college education.

With the high cost of college, saving for your child's education is a critical step to ensuring their access to higher education and the opportunities it provides. Although financial aid may be available, a lot can change with regard to what is available in general and what your family will be eligible for specifically by the time your child reaches college age, so planning well ahead of time and understanding how to make the right investment choices for your particular situation is crucial. Guidance from a financial planner can ensure you make the best choices possible.

At Weiss, Hale and Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors we help our clients to navigate the college planning process from every angle, so that they can be assured they're making the best decisions for optimal results. Take a look at the Resources page on our website at www.whzwealth.com/resources for some helpful information and guides to college planning, and contact us at (860) 928-2341 or info@whzwealth.com if you'd like a knowledgeable partner in the process.

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Vacation care for container gardens

Planning a few long weekends or a vacation may have you rethinking your garden plans. Don't let time away from home stop you from growing flowers and vegetables in containers.

Irrigation systems with timers and self-watering pots are options to make container gardening and vacation care easier. You may, however, just be looking for ways to adapt your existing container gardening care while on vacation.

Find a plant sitter and take time to provide needed plant care instructions. It can be difficult, but you may be able to convince the person stopping by to feed the cat to water your plants. Move containers to a shady spot to extend the time between watering. Make sure the hose is handy. The easier the task, the more likely it will be done, and your plants will survive. Sweeten the deal by offering to share the harvest or return the favor when they leave town.

Create your own self-watering system with a 5-gallon bucket and strips of absorbent material like cotton fabric



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MYERS

strips or rope to serve as wicks. Place the bucket amongst your containers. Run the fabric wick from the 5-gallon bucket into the drainage holes of your containers. As the soil dries the water will move from the water-filled bucket into the container moistening the soil. Use long wicks that reach and rest on the bottom of the bucket. Add a lid with holes for the wicks to slow evaporation.

Use an individual setup to create a water reservoir for each container. Set each pot on its own enclosed water filled container. Cut holes in the lid of the water filled container and run wicks into the drainage holes of the pot.

Test whatever system you create before leaving on vacation. You want to make sure everything is in place and working.

For short trips consider using a wine bottle or two-liter soda bottle. They can be used alone or combined with commercial products to help regulate the flow. Just punch a hole in the soil and insert a water filled wine or soda bottle. With cap

in place, punch 10 holes in the bottom of the plastic bottle before filling with water and setting in the soil. Evaluate and test how many bottles you need per pot and how long they can sustain your plants.

Increase the watering-holding ability of your potting mix with a product like Wild Valley Farms' wool pellets (wildvalleyfarms.com). This organic soil additive made from wool waste holds up to 20 percent of its weight in water. It releases water as needed, so you do not have to water as often.

Further reduce the need to water by growing more drought tolerant plants. Zinnias, lantana, sunflowers, and succulents look beautiful and tolerate drier soil conditions.

A beautiful and productive container garden does not have to stop you from enjoying a long weekend or vacation out of town. Make plans for your container gardens as you plan your next trip.

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 edi-



Photo Melinda Myers

Water or wine bottles can be combined with commercial products to help regulate the flow of water to container gardens while away on vacation.

tor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Wild Valley Farms for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

CASSETTARI

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overthrow our government and democracy; they still coddle and bow to him in hope of... what? He took the GOP from a party of conservative views, law and order — sorry, I laugh at that one — defense against Communism and spreading democratic ideals to the world, national defense, fiscal responsibility, and ran it into the ground and backed up and ran over it again. The major downfall of the present Republicans is that they are willing to go down the

tubes with this immoral, selfish, power hungry cult leader. When Liz Cheney presents them with the truth within the party, they do what? Get rid of her is their choice.

She blames — most sane people do as well — the cult leader for fanning and attempting to destroy our democracy. They want her to shut up and go away. Do it quickly because reminding them of the insurrection attempt to overthrow our democracy is something that they wish goes away. Buy more cult merchandise, bend the knee at his home and pledge total allegiances or risk being

faced with a primary and lose your sense of power. It is the only thing he can do.

A democracy needs two or more flourishing political parties to provide and ensure a thriving democracy. It does not, and will not, survive without it. With all his failures in business, etc., now you can add that anyone who gets close to him and needs help, you're going down and he will bury you, so he can continue. The question is, continue what? What do the Republicans stand for? They are against everything and anything. Are they working with Democrats to find and

help the individual Americans get through the times that we live in? No. If anything, they are making things worse. His goal is to enrich himself at others' expense to help pay off his upcoming IRS debt payments and lawyers to keep him out of the Pokey.

This country deserves and needs a thriving GOP, not what is going on now.

Who also benefits from this

upheaval in America? Russia and China. They love this. We need to right our ship and get back to being the United States of America, not the clown show that the Cowardly Cult Leader is trying to do. Remember, you cannot be president if you are in jail!

DAVID CASSETTARI
KILLINGLY

EDITORIAL

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that people put off weddings, having children and making other big lifetime decisions.

The year 2008 saw an increase of 439 percent since 1982, while income has only increased 147 percent. If things continue as they are in 2028, the cost will be \$340,800 for a private school education per year and \$95,000 for a public school.

Americans over the age of 60 currently owe more than \$86 billion in unpaid loans, and many of them are concerned that the government will garnish their Social Security, leaving them with nothing.

The proposed American Families Plan is slated to include, for those who wish, two years of free community college tuition.

Expenses for books and supplies would be funded by the student. In our small rural communities, we see high school seniors who really want to go to college, but just can't afford it. Often times they are working part time jobs to help support their own families which is commendable. It is extremely difficult, especially in rural areas for high school students to save up enough money to afford even a community college.

Often times those students who do attempt to save thousands of dollars, have to do so by giving up after school activities such as soccer, band etc. If the cost of colleges hadn't increased so drastically, we wouldn't need to think twice about this.

Many parents who make just over minimum wage are drowning in debt after taking out Parent Plus loans, just to see to it that their children can get an educa-

tion. Even trade schools are rising in cost.

A two-year tuition free community college (not universities — there's a difference) would be a great opportunity for any American wanting to get a jump start on their education, especially for those students who come from lower income households. Seniors who would never otherwise have had a chance at an education would now be offered one. Any opportunity for us to help educate our youth, especially those with the most need, is a good one.

Often times, it's hard to empathize with people, until you put a face to it. If you think hard enough, you can easily think of an individual in your life who could have really benefited from an opportunity such as the one mentioned above.

budget provides the resources needed to begin addressing the issue.

- School building. In a few years, Thompson Public Schools will need to renew its accreditation with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. In order to receive a passing grade, some deferred maintenance items will need to be addressed in the school complex. This includes repairs to flooring and lockers. The Board of Education asked for funding to complete both projects in this budget. In order to make taxpayer dollars stretch further, the Board of Finance decided to include one project for now, with plans to address the other project next time.

The Board of Finance voted unanimously to approve the proposed fiscal year 2021-2022 budget, including the projects listed above. That means

all six members voted 'yes.' There have been plenty of years when some members voted 'yes' on a budget while others voted 'no.' But this year, every member agreed this budget is needed for the good of our town and its residents.

It should be noted that Thompson currently has one of the lowest mill rates in the State of Connecticut. There are 169 municipalities in the State and 143 of them have a higher mill rate than Thompson. That means 84 percent of all cities and towns in Connecticut tax their property owners at a higher rate than Thompson does. Our little town knows how to get the most out of every dollar. And the proposed fiscal year 2021-2022 budget does just that.

AARON MCGARRY
CHAIRMAN
THOMPSON BOARD
OF FINANCE

OBITUARIES

Ernest J. O’Leary 92

Ernest J. O’Leary 92, of Thompson, CT passed away Sunday, April 25, 2021 at his home. Ernie was born in Burrillville, RI on August 9, 1928 son of Truman and Madeline (Wile) O’Leary. This proud Nova Scotian descendant was a lifelong dairy farmer who believed there was nothing more satisfying than a hard day’s work. Some of his favorite things in life were working the land, going on rides in his 1950 Willys Jeep and riding his motorcycle. He prided himself on his work ethic and being a member and past master of the Masonic Lodge for over 50 years. He was the family historian and all his stories, which will be heavily missed,



will continue to touch the hearts of many. Ernest is survived by his loving wife Norma O’Leary, his three daughters Kathleen O’Leary, Kristin Orr and Kimberly Thomas (Steve), his dog Spicer, his four grandchildren Karlin Thomas, Jarrett Thomas, Kies Orr and Lily Orr. Burial will be private in East Thompson Cemetery. A Celebration of Life Service will be held for Ernie at 1:00 PM May 15, 2021 at Fort Hill Farms, 260 Quaddick Road, Thompson, CT. Please bring a lawn chair and a treat to share. Covid-19 restrictions apply please wear a mask and social distance. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Thompson Hill Fire Department, 70 Chase Road, Thompson, CT 06277 or Thompson Historical Society, P. O. Box 47, Thompson, CT 06277. Share a memory at www.smithandwalkerfh.com



Patrick James Carrigan, 78

Patrick James Carrigan, 78 of Vero Beach, passed away Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at VNA Hospice House, Vero Beach.



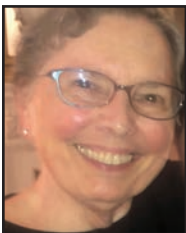
Mr. Carrigan was born in Bangor, Maine and has been a resident of Vero Beach for 5 years coming from Manchester, Connecticut. He retired from Nabisco Products after 20 plus years. After his retirement he owned and operated B&J Vending from 1993-2015. Mr. Carrigan was a member of St. James Catholic Church, Danielson, Connecticut. He was a United States Navy veteran having served during the Vietnam

War. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Barbara Carrigan; daughter, Susan Elizabeth Carrigan; son, Jeffrey Carrigan; siblings, Michael, Bill, Jerry, Jean and Mary; grandson, Ethan Carrigan and granddaughter, Skylah Carrigan. Mr. Carrigan was preceded in death by brothers, Bobby Carrigan and Chuck Carrigan. Arrangements are under the direction of Millennium Cremation Service, Sebastian. Condolences may be shared online at www.millenniumcremationservice.com.



Carolyn Ann Werge,75

THOMPSON – Carolyn A. (Gazzola) Werge, 75, of Lowell Davis Rd., passed away on Monday, May 3, 2021 at her home surrounded by her loving family. She was the beloved wife of Robert W. Werge, Sr. for 57 beautiful years. Born in the Bronx, NY, she was the daughter of the late William and Margaret (Scarpati) Gazzola.



Carolyn graduated from Dodge Vocational High School at the top of her class winning numerous academic awards. Carolyn had a brilliant mind, an unparalleled work ethic and a magnanimous heart. After raising her three children, Carolyn earned a Bachelor of Arts from Clark University, graduating summa cum laude in 1998 at the age of 52. She then continued her long and impactful career in environmental protection, preservation and conservation. Carolyn worked in various roles for the Town of Thompson including as a member and then Enforcement Officer of the Inland and Wetlands Commission for 21 years. She also served as the Conservation Commission’s Advisory Officer for 16 years where she most notably led the integration of the town’s mapping system and supported surrounding towns with her mapping expertise, as well as serving as a poll worker, mentor and Head Moderator for town elections. Through her work for the town and her volunteer efforts, Carolyn’s legacy can be seen in the natural beauty of Thompson, its preserved lands, protected wetlands and especially in the stunning collection of native cairns that Carolyn and her husband Bob preserved on their property for future generations to visit and enjoy. Carolyn most enjoyed time with family, volunteering her time in service to

others, hikes in the woods, kayaking and writing. She was an amazing cook, true to her Italian heritage. Sunday dinners, celebrations and holiday feasts at her table were everything to those she loved. She prepared every dish with the secret ingredient; love. She made each of us feel abundantly loved and cared for always. In addition to her husband, Carolyn is survived by her son, Robert W. Werge, Jr. and his wife Dolores of Thompson; her daughters, Regina Mannix and her husband Thomas of Southborough, MA, and Michele Allen and her husband Christopher of Cohasset, MA; her nine adored and adoring grandchildren, Ryan, Anna and Joseph Werge, Grace, Jackson and Tessa Mannix and Jake, Robert and Ainsley Allen, and her precious great-granddaughter, Lillian Barney. She is also survived by her dearest friend and sister-in-law Diana Gazzola, her loving sister Margaret Eltablawi and brothers David Gazzola and Paul Gazzola. Carolyn was predeceased by her mother Margaret Gazzola, her father William Gazzola and her two brothers Bill Gazzola and James Gazzola. A Mass of Christian burial was held for Carolyn on Saturday, May 8, 2021 in St. Joseph Church, 18 Main St., N. Grosvenordale, CT. Burial followed in St. Joseph Cemetery. The Valade Funeral Home & Crematory has been entrusted with the arrangements. Carolyn’s family wishes to thank you all for the love and support generously given and gratefully received. Memorial donations may be made to Thompson Together, a nonprofit organization committed to addressing needs within Thompson for the benefit of the community. Donations can be mailed to Thompson Together 988 Quaddick Town Farm Rd., Thompson, CT 06277. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Edward (Ted) C. Bigelow

Edward C. Bigelow (Ted) of Danielson died May 1, 2021 at his residence. He was the son of the late Harold H. and Ruth F. Bigelow. Ted was the husband of the late Beverly Robertson Bigelow. Ted was the father of Beverly A. Privee and husband Bill of Port Charlotte, FL, Gail R. Bigelow of Danielson, Janet F. St. Jean and husband Larry of Brooklyn and a brother William D. Whipple of Decatur, GA. Ted leaves his two grandchildren



Darrell E. St. Jean and partner Lori of Danielson, Darcy L. Green and husband Cliff and a great granddaughter Kendall M. Green all of Brooklyn. He is also survived by his Siamese cat Coco. Also, his special friends Ronnie and Fay Beriau. Ted was a member of the “greatest generation”. He was a WWII Navy veteran, service aboard PC491 in the south Pacific. He was an avid woodworker and enjoyed taking care of his home and yard. Memorial donations may be made to PAWS Cat Shelter in Woodstock or VFW Post 5446 in Plainfield. Please kindly omit flowers. tillinghastfh.com

READING NEWSPAPERS
IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER

Eastern student Alex Rooney inducted into DMD business honor society

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University inducted 25 students into the Delta Mu Delta Honor Society (DMD) on May 6. This international honor society recognizes accounting, business administration, business information systems and finance majors. Among the students inducted was junior Alex Rooney of North Grosvenordale, who majors in Accounting. Established in 1913, DMD has 199 chapters and more than 150,000 members. Its purpose is to foster the well-being of members and the business community through lifetime memberships. To be eligible, students must have a 3.25 major GPA and be in the top 20 percent of their graduating class.

God hates it



BEYOND
THE PEWS
.....
BISHOP JOHN
W. HANSON

It is an abomination to God; wicked, vile, exceptionally loathsome, hateful, and sinful. Satan used it to inspire the

first sin. It was a motivator in the first recorded murder. It has been the reason for, and the theme in, most wars since the beginning of mankind. It has been used by tyrants to justify the murder of millions, by educators to impose godless values on malleable minds, by crooked politicians to win power and by devious lawyers to get unjust verdicts. It has taken the form of sexism, racism, tribalism, and classism. It can be summarized in one phrase: “divide and conquer.” It can be expressed in one word: “division.” God hates it! Social engineer, Jacque Fresco,

explained how division is used politically: “If you make people uniform, you can control them. If you teach people to read, and think, and question things, you lose control. So, the best idea is to separate people if you wish to maintain a monetary system. It’s called divide and conquer. By dividing people, they’re not a threat, you can control them.” He just described a favorite tactic of Satan, who routinely uses division to control mankind. According to Scripture, God created mankind to be free, but Satan set out to control mankind. Whenever people have fallen for this tactic of the Enemy, everyone has always lost in some way. Division between God and man (sin) and division between people have mangled the human race and inflicted incredible pain and suffering on our world. But God had a solution. He stepped into time and into human culture to show us a better way. As He walked the earth, in the form of Jesus Christ, He modeled the solution to sin and division. Note that He did not try to solve the race problem, the class problem or the gender problem through

laws, through legal action or through protests. He just loved people. He ministered to everyone: Jew, Gentile, male, female, young, old, physically impaired, immoral, sinful, elite, outcasts, demon possessed, lepers, and the poor. “God so loved the world that He gave...” (John 3:16). Everyone benefited. It worked. The love of God has changed the world wherever it has been spread. With God’s help, people have come together to create loving families, wonderful churches and decent societies. Love has built hospitals, homeless shelters, schools and missions. Love has elevated the lives of millions of people. Of course, just as Jesus was politically railroaded and executed, good people have often been opposed. But if enough of us will keep hating what God hates and loving what God loves, division and war will lose their power, and mankind will be a just little more free.

Bishop John W Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For more information or to watch the latest sermons, please visit www.ctdistrict.org.

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Thompson denies request for QVCC and FCC new can, bottle drop point helping households connect during pandemic

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THOMPSON – The Thompson Board of Selectmen turned down a request with regret to add a bottle drop point in the town that would have benefitted the Arc of Quinebaug valley.

First Selectwoman Amy St. Onge brought forward a request from the Arc during a meeting in early May to add the drop point; however, after discussing the matter with her fellow selectmen, it was decided that a new bottle drop off bin would create too much competition in the town where other local groups and causes depend on recyclable

donations.

“I told them from the get-go that I didn’t think this was going to fly. It’s a donation bin like what you see where people donate their cloths, but this is for recyclables like cans and bottles. I didn’t feel it was going to fly only because our project graduation, I didn’t want to take away from them,” said St. Onge. “Project Graduation really relies on the can and bottle drive and I know the Boy Scouts do as well. I just didn’t think we needed one more thing that might take away from what their fundraising does.”

Selectman Ken Beausoleil agreed saying that the new bin

could cause confusion about which cause the cans and bottles would be supporting and would stretch local donations thin between three benefactors. Selectwoman Suzanne Witkowski also agreed saying the “fully supports the Arc,” but felt the new drop point isn’t in the town’s best interest.

The selectmen all acknowledged that if the box was a different kinds of drop point, like one for cloths or books, they might reconsider but that a can and bottle drop would sadly draw too much away from local causes that have depended on such donations for years.

DANIELSON — Quinebaug Valley Community College announced it is working to help build consumer awareness about the Emergency Broadband Benefit, a new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program. The temporary benefit will help to lower the cost of broadband service for eligible households during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The \$3.2 billion Emergency Broadband Benefit program provides a discount of up to a \$50 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for qualifying households on qualifying Tribal lands. The benefit also provides up to a \$100 per household discount toward a one-time purchase of a computer, laptop, or tablet if the household contributes more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase through a participating broadband provider.

A household is eligible if one member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

Has an income that is at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid or the FCC’s Lifeline program;

Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision, in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;

Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;

Experienced a substantial loss of income through job loss or furlough since Feb. 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or

Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider’s existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

Emergency Broadband Benefit enrollment will begin on May 12. Eligible households can enroll through a participating broadband provider or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using an online or mail-in application.

Additional information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit is available at www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, or by calling 833-511-0311 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. any day of the week.

Day Kimball Healthcare to host free Women’s Health and Wellness Day

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Healthcare’s (DKH) Women’s Health Program invites eligible women to a free Women’s Health and Wellness Day event on Monday, May 17, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Day Kimball Healthcare Center in Plainfield.

This free women’s health and wellness screening and education event is supported by the Connecticut Early Detection and Prevention Program (CEDPP)*, and the Connecticut Well Integrated Screening and Evaluation for Women Across the Nation Program (WISEWOMAN).

WISEWOMAN focuses on screening lower-income, uninsured, or under-insured women ages 30-64 for heart disease and provides lifestyle counseling and interventions to navigate women to a healthier life. Through WISEWOMAN, eligible women will be offered free blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose screening; health coaching; diabetes education; nutritional con-

sults; smoking cessation; consultations and follow-up office visits.

Enrollment appointments for the Women’s Health and Wellness Day are first come first served, and eligibility requirements apply.

Eligible women enrolled in the event with receive a women’s health office visit, including a clinical breast exam and pap smear if needed; a mammogram screening; a WISEWOMAN evaluation, including cardiovascular screening, blood pressure, blood glucose, and a cholesterol check; and lifestyle coaching.

For more information and to determine eligibility for the free Women’s Health and Wellness Day, please contact Morgan Clark, community health navigator, at (203) 814-2369, or Dawn Hippert, RN, BSN, women’s health system and clinical navigator, at (860) 963-3864.

To learn more about early detection and women’s health services at DKH visit daykimball.org.

org/women.

*The Connecticut Early Detection and Prevention Program funded by the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control for the period of January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023.

About Day Kimball Healthcare

Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed 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 employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is www.daykimball.org.

LEGALS

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

The Planning & Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing for Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 7:45 p.m., for application #648-04-32 – 115 Center Cemetery Road – Theresa Goulet & Tim and Danielle Heersink – new activity on a scenic road to be held in accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order 7B, conducted as a web-based virtual meeting via Zoom. Login information will be contained on the agenda found at the Woodstockct.gov website.

Chairman Jeffrey Gordon, M.D.
May 7, 2021
May 14, 2021

Witches Wood Tax District, Woodstock, CT Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Witches Woods Tax District will be held on Friday, May 21, 2021, at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held on ZOOM (see below) and in person at Congregation Church of Eastford, 8 Church Street, Eastford, CT 06042.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86391273054?pwd=dGNBLzluOWtWZGNUNkVzaTZRY1Bmdz09>
Meeting ID: 863 9127 3054
Passcode: 108532
Phyllis Bonneau
Communication, WWTD
May 7, 2021
May 14, 2021

TOWN OF THOMPSON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LEGAL NOTICE

The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, May 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom or Location to be determined on the following Applications.

PZC Application #21-09 Applicant Town of Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission, 815 Riverside Drive, Amendments to the Amended Planning and Zoning Regulations Approved on 9/15/2020.

PZC Application #21-10 Applicant Shelley Ashton-Briggs and Jeffrey Briggs owner of 30 West Thompson Rd, Map, Lot, Block, Zone RRAD requesting a Special Permit for Wedding/Event

Venue Business, according to the Town of Thompson Amended Regulations, Article 4A RRAD, Section 2 Table of Permitted Uses #17.

PZC Application #21-12 Applicant Strategic Commercial Realty, Inc. d/b/a Rawson Materials, of 6 Kennedy Drive, Putnam, CT property owner River Junction Estates, LLC., 204 Munyan Road, Putnam., Ct 06260 for Gravel

Mining at property located at 0 East Thompson Rd, Map 154, Block 5, Lot 10, Zone, RRAD creation of a 3.5+/- acre pond. Approximately 120,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel will be removed from the site to create the pond.

File may be reviewed on line, Town of Thompson website, Planning and Zoning Commission. Written communication will be accepted prior to the meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman
May 14, 2021
May 21, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF EASTFORD

In accordance with CGS 22a-42a(c) (2), the Agent of the Eastford Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission approved the following application(s):

21-02 Megan Budd, 7 Church Rd., Eastford CT, 06234 for the removal and regrading of garage foundation and filling of below ground swimming pool within the 100’ Upland review area.

Appeals may be filed with 15-days of this notice to require review by the Inlands Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. This may be done by:

- Sending an email landuse.townofeastford.com or
- Mailing the appeal to the Land Use Department at P.O. Box 98 Westford Rd., Eastford CT 06242. Please note that the letter must be postmarked before the 15-day appeal period expires. Please contact Jim Larkin, Inland Wetlands Agent, email: jim.larkin@necog.org or by calling (860)774-1253 ext:15 if you have any questions concerning this approval.

May 14, 2021

A Special Board of Selectmen’s meeting was held Friday May 7th at 2 pm to cancel the referendum scheduled for May 11th. A data error in the Assessor’s Office was detected this week by the Tax Collector and brought to the Assessor’s attention. The error resulted in a need to revise the 2020 Grand List. The situation was promptly looked into and handled by the Assessor, who informed the First Selectman and Finance Director of the corrected Net Grand List amount.

As a result, the FY 22 combined Board of Education and General Government budgets will need to be reduced by approximately \$32,000. A Special Board of Finance meeting will be held May 11th at 7 pm to discuss and act on adjusting the FY 22 combined budgets based on the change to the 2020 Grand List. The BOS will hold a special meeting May 12th at 4 pm in order to discuss and approve the FY 22 budget adjustments in order to comply with

Prop 46. They will warn a Special Town Meeting at a later date. The purpose of the Town Meeting will be to adjourn the vote on the FY 22 combined budgets to a referendum. The new dates will be May 27th for the Town Meeting and June 3rd for the Referendum.

First Selectman Jay Swan stated “The entire budget process has been labor intensive. Unfortunately, due to this recent discovery we must go back and reduce some amounts in the budget. We want to be transparent and make sure the budget being voted on is correct.”

Agendas for these and other town board and commission meetings can be found on the town website, www.woodstockct.gov. All agendas contain the link to join or call in to the Zoom meetings, and all minutes contain a link to the recording of the meetings.

May 14, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF THOMPSON ORDINANCES

At the Annual Town Meeting held May 3, 2021 the following ordinance was amended:

1) 10-019 Firemen Tax Abatement Amendment

Copies of the ordinance are available for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk during normal business hours and at www.thompsonct.org.

This notice is prepared for the benefit of the public, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation. This notice does not represent the intent of the legislative body of the Town of Thompson for any purpose.

Renee Waldron
Town Clerk
May 14, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PRIVATE SALE

PLACE: AMERICAN SELF STORAGE UNITS 179 QUINEBAUG RD. NO. GROSVENORDALE, CT 06255

DATE: May 25, 2021

INSPECTION TIMES: 10:00AM & 3:00PM

Sale of all goods stored in delinquency at AMERICAN SELF STORAGE UNITS. The following named people have until the morning of sale to settle their account, including all subsequent fees pertaining to Sale, and to vacate their unit or the unit will be sold to cover debts, Unit# sorted by contents.

A3 FRANK ZOLA
B36 VERONICA SARCO
B18 FRANK ZOLA
D22 BRANDY SULLIVAN
F37 FRANK ZOLA
J7 FRANK ZOLA
G33 BRENDA NOWAK

Cash or certified check only. All sales final. Merchandise must be removed

within five (5) working days of bid acceptance.

Highest bidder must pay a \$100.00 deposit on unit and will be returned when said unit is vacant.

Highest bidder will be notified by telephone the following business day.

May 14, 2021
May 21, 2021

LIQUOR PERMIT Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I, URANIA G PERRY 281 VALLEY RD DANIELSON, CT 06239-1513 Have filed an application to add live entertainment with the Department of Consumer Protection for my existing RESTAURANT LIQUOR permit A located at: 305 HARTFORD PIKE DAYVILLE CT 06241-2115 The business is owned by: GOLDEN GREEK RESTAURANTS INT’L INC Live Entertainment Added: Acoustics (not amplified), Disc Jockeys, Karaoke, Live Bands, Comedians URANIA G PERRY May 14, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Mary J. Rhault (21-00139) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated May 3, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Julie Warren,
c/o ERNEST J COTNOIR, MAHER AND COTNOIR, 163 PROVIDENCE STREET, P.O. BOX 187, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-9694
May 14, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Joan Cimochofski (21-00120) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated April 5, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Kathleen Gothreau, 53 Old Sawmill Rd, Woodstock, CT 06281 Bruce Bousquet, Jr., 85 Colonel Brown Rd., Griswold, CT 06351
May 14, 2021

Eastern student Jonathan Lepire recognized at earth science awards and induction ceremony

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University’s Department of Environmental Earth Science (EES) held its annual award and induction ceremony on May 6. Four students were inducted into the Theta Upsilon chapter of the Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE) national honor society in earth sciences and nine awards were distributed for outstanding work within the field.

Among the students recognized was freshman Jonathan Lepire of Dayville, who majors in Environmental Earth Science. Lepire won the Freshmen Academic Excellence Award.

Founded in 1915, SGE has almost 200 chapters throughout the country and is devoted to exploring and understanding the Earth. To be eligible for SGE induction, students must major in EES and have at least a 3.0 GPA.

EES students receive a foundation in environmental geoscience that draws upon classroom, online, laboratory and field-based experiences. Students develop an understanding of the natural world, its materials, processes and geologic records of environmental change and associated energy and sustainability issues. EES majors prepare for careers or graduate studies in geo-

science and energy studies.

Loryn Walker earns M.Ed. from Concordia University

SEWARD, Neb. — Loryn Walker of Woodstock earned a M.Ed. from Concordia University, Nebraska.

Concordia University, Nebraska, founded in 1894, is a fully accredited, coeducational university located in Seward, Neb., which currently serves over 2,500 students. Concordia offers more than 100 undergraduate, graduate and professional programs in an excellent academic and Christ-centered community that equips men and women for lives of learning, service and leadership in the church and world. For more information, visit cune.edu.

About Concordia University, Nebraska

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Spencer Fulone of Thompson

the voice inside yell, “Hey, aren’t you Gene Moore’s boy?” I’d stop and walk in. Someone would buy me a kiddy cocktail and start telling me stories about my dad and his baseball career. Getting up before the sun with my grandfather to go to the barn and get a bucket of coal for the furnace was an early morning joy. And yes, eating squirrel. The son of a Hillbilly and Okie is who I am, and I could not be prouder.

Our family prospered in an adopted life in the suburban north and our cuisine changed along with it. One thing that never changed was country music on the weekends and WSM Radio and the Grand Ole Opry on Saturday nights.

I moved to Chicago and received a degree in music education. And for a while, I turned my nose up to the

elected to Lasell University Student Alumni Association executive board

NEWTON — Spencer Fulone, a Lasell University student from Thompson, was elected to the University’s Student Alumni Association (SAA) executive board for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Fulone, a Marketing major at Lasell, was elected the SAA’s President.

The SAA is comprised of student leaders, ranging from first years to seniors, who engage with the University’s alumni community. Members serve as a liaison to alumni on behalf of the current student community. They are high-capacity leaders looking for a leadership development experience that heightens awareness about Lasell’s history and traditions and inspires a commitment to lifelong engagement with the University.

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

Local Eastern students inducted into biology honor society

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University’s Biology Department inducted 20 students into

the Beta Beta Beta (Tri-Beta) National Biology Honor Society on April 30.

Among the inductees were: Cassidy Bonin of Woodstock Valley, a senior majoring in Biology.

Vanessa Streb of Danielson, a junior majoring in Biology.

Eastern established its Eta Omega chapter of Tri-Beta in 1997. The mission of Tri-Beta is to promote scholarship within the field of biological sciences, promote the spreading of biological knowledge and encourage research. To be eligible, students must major in biology and have a passion toward understanding and improving biological studies and human knowledge with scientific research.

Eastern student Alex Rooney inducted into DMD business honor society

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Among the students inducted was junior Alex Rooney of North Grosvenordale, who majors in Accounting.

Established in 1913, DMD has 199 chapters and more than 150,000 members. Its purpose is to foster the well-being of members and the business community through lifetime memberships. To be eligible, students must have a 3.25 major GPA and be in the top 20 percent of their graduating class.

MOORE

continued from page A6

urban area, but when back in Sesser, I’m immediately transported back, unconsciously using the dialect and accent of the area.

While on a book tour a few years ago, the route took me near Sand Springs, Oklahoma and I stopped at the family cemetery to see my two oldest brothers. Once again, even though I had not been there in forty years, it immediately felt like home in ways my real birthplace never has.

The older I get, the more I yearn to relive my early days. To be scrambling up and down the streets of Sesser. To run past Caesar Marlow’s Bar and hear

music of my youth, but now it’s back in my life and I love it. The food and music are permanent threads in the fabric of our family. Over Memorial Day weekend when we all get together, just open your car window and follow the sounds of Merle Haggard, George Jones, Ray Price and Dwight Yoakum ... and point your nose to the smell of Barbecue Ribs. There you’ll find the kids and grandkids of a Hillbilly and Okie, celebrating our family and heritage ... without the squirrel.

My mom and dad were far from perfect people. At times, I think I may have been unfairly critical of their lives and parenting skills. The truth is they loved us and did the best they knew how. I was never hungry or without clothes. Their children all turned out well and

successful. Their grand kids and great grand kids are wonderful. I’d say all-in-all mom and dad raised a successful family. They never left us and always loved us. I wish they were here so I could thank them.

As the saying goes, “What is remembered, lives.” I guess I not only want my parents remembered in our family, but I also wanted you to know them too.

And besides ... no one could fry squirrel like my mom.

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.garyw-moore.com.

SPORTS

continued from page A1

record to 11-0.

Tate Larrow opened the scoring in the win over Griswold with a two-run single in the second inning. Jay Grzysiewicz picked up the win on the mound, allowing just one hit while striking out seven in four innings of work. Bo Yaworski singled, doubled and drove in two while Chris Jax, Nate Keefe, and Justin Baker all added RBI doubles. Brady Waterman added a pair of singles to the 15-hit attack.

In the game one win over the Saints, Yaworski picked up the complete-game (five inning) win, striking out 11. Keefe led the offense, going 2-for-2, Ben Jax drove in three runs and Baker added a pair of hits. In game 2, Cole Lavigne (three innings) and Jay Grzysiewicz combined on a one-run, six-hitter. Yaworski led the offense with a triple, Trevin Russ drove in two runs, and Cam Noury came off the bench and provided an RBI single.

Woodstock Academy went on the road and swept a doubleheader from Griswold, winning 8-2 and 5-0 on Saturday, May 1. In the opener, Jackson Goetz had three hits and drove in a pair of runs while Zach Roethlein added a pair of hits and an RBI. Jon Smith went the distance on the mound, allowing five hits.

In the second game Kaden Murphy allowed two hits and struck out 10 on the mound, and at the plate drove in a

pair of runs. Roethlein added two hits and two RBIs and Hamilton Barnes also had a pair of hits for the Centaurs. After a 3-2 loss to Plainfield on Tuesday, May 4, WA’s record stands at 7-3 (6-2 ECC Division 2).

SOFTBALL

Woodstock Academy won two games in four days, defeating Plainfield, 25-1, on Tuesday, May 4, three days after defeating Griswold, 1-0.

Leading the five-inning win over Plainfield for the visiting Centaurs was Mackenzie Leveille, who went 5-for-5 at the plate and struck out 11 in the circle. Lexi Thompson (two doubles) and Ainsley Morse drove in three runs each for WA. Against Griswold Thompson scored the only run in the game as she doubled, advanced on a passed ball and came home on an infield error in the fourth inning. In the circle she allowed just three hits. With the victories the Centaurs improved to 8-2 (7-0 ECC Division 2).

Killingly (8-1) swept a doubleheader against St. Bernard on Saturday, May 1, winning 20-2 and 18-0. Lexi Faucher got the win in the circle in game one, striking out six, while in the second game Emma Carpenter picked up the win in the circle, recording five strikeouts. Faucher, Hannah Cozza, Casey Beauregard and Izzy Robbins, all recorded multi-hit games in both contests.

Putnam swept a doubleheader from Tourtellotte, 10-3 and 13-1, on Saturday, May 1. In the first game Chloe Kerr drove in four runs while Autumn Allard had four of the Clippers 10 hits (and two RBI). Halie Reidy picked up a complete-game win in the circle, allowing four hits while striking out seven.

Celenia Lopez paced the game-two win with a pair of hits and four RBI, while Reidy and Abby St. Martin added two hits each, and Emily St. Martin drove in two runs. Abby St. Martin was the winning pitcher in the second game, allowing five hits while striking out five.

BOYS’ LACROSSE

Senior Guerin Favreau scored six goals and assisted on three others for Woodstock Academy, but the visiting 3-4 Centaurs were defeated by Bacon Academy, 12-10, on Tuesday, May 4. The Bobcats scored three of the final four goals in the game, breaking a 9-9 second-half tie. Favreau now has 32 goals and 16 assists on the season.

GIRLS’ LACROSSE

Shannon Gagnon scored four of her five goals in the first five minutes to help lead Woodstock Academy past Griswold, 20-10, on Tuesday, May 4. The win was the first for the Centaurs this season. Peyton Saracina and Rachel Canedy both scored four goals in the victory.

BOYS’ TENNIS

Woodstock Academy defeated visiting Lyman, 6-1, on Friday, April 30. Evan Haskins and Connor Quinn led the way with singles victories for the 2-3 Centaurs (2-1 ECC Division 2).


GIRLS’ TENNIS

Woodstock Academy improved to 3-1 (3-0 ECC Division 2) with road wins over Killingly (6-1, Tuesday, May 4) and Lyman (7-0, Friday, April 30). Addy Smith, Jackie Trudeau, Sydney Schuler and Alexa Fernandez all won their matches against both opponents.

The day before its loss to Woodstock Academy, Killingly shut out Montville, 7-0. Match winners were, in singles, Taylyn Lemoine, Julia Purcell, Rachel Sanchas, and Laylah Zea and, in doubles, Ava Johnson-Payton Cathell, Nicole Cicchetti-Kaitlyn Tingle and Malia Taylor-Robichaud and Caitlin Oleszewski.

GIRLS’ TRACK & FIELD

Woodstock Academy’s Bella Sorrentino was a triple-winner in the Centaurs’ 105-45 win over visiting Bacon Academy on Tuesday, May 4, capturing the 100-meter dash, the shot put and the long jump. Woodstock Academy improved to 4-0 (3-0 ECC Division 2), with the victory. Jillian Edwards (100-meter hurdles, high jump) was a double-winner for the Centaurs, as was Talia Tremblay (in the 200-meter dash and 400-meter run).



Register Your Tag Sale

9th Annual Town Wide Tag Sale in Woodstock

Saturday, June 5th, 2021

8:00 a.m. – Afternoon • Rain Date Sunday, June 6th, 2021

Proceeds benefit the Woodstock Fuel Assistance Program

The Recreation Department and the Selectmen’s Office will organize and promote its **9th Annual TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE** on **Saturday, June 5th from 8:00 a.m. – Afternoon**. All Woodstock residents, businesses, and organizations may participate. A **\$15 registration fee will place your location on the tag sale map** which will be available for the public to purchase. Maps will be available for purchase outside the Town Hall on Thursday June 3rd from 6-8pm. Maps will also be available the morning of Saturday, June 5th (rain date June 6th) at the Town Hall from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Cost to purchase a map is \$2.

***** If you only have a few items to sell, contact Recreation Director Anthony Pezzetti to reserve a spot at the Woodstock Town Hall to sell your treasures on Saturday, June 5th from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for \$10!**

Business advertising space is also available on the map at a cost of \$25 for standard business card size. Advertising is available to all Woodstock residents and area businesses on a first-come, first-served basis. Please attach your business card with the registration form below.

****Under current State guidelines face coverings are required for all buyers and sellers.****

To register, use the TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE Form below or print one from the website www.woodstockct.gov. Contact Recreation Director, Anthony Pezzetti @ anthonypezzetti@woodstockct.gov with any questions.

WOODSTOCK’S TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE REGISTRATION FORM

****Submit by Wednesday, May 26th, 2021 to be included on map****

Location of Sale: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Circle up to 3 items that will be available: Antiques - Baby Items - Children’s Items - Games, Toys, Bikes - Furniture - Shoes & Handbags - Clothes - Farm & Garden Equipment - Power Tools - Sports Equipment - Books - Dishes & Glassware - Camping Gear - Appliances - Exercise Equipment - Electronics

To help us locate you accurately on the Tag Sale Map, please indicate which end of street, nearest intersection, etc.

Fees for Registering Your Tag Sale - \$15

Fees for Bring your Table to Town Hall - \$10 • Fees for Advertising on the Map - \$25

Enclose this form with a check payable to “WRD” and mail to:

Woodstock Recreation Department, 415 Route 169, Woodstock, CT 06281



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 **10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

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Southbridge, MA**

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The Woodstock Academy would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support of our baseball team!

Come watch a baseball game and check out the sponsor banners!

- A1 Drilling & Blasting Company

Westview Rehabilitation

Woodstock Grill & Pizza

1st Choice Fuel

Accounting Services

CBS Payroll

J&L Contractors

TriTown American Legion Baseball

Boundaries, LLC

CR Premier Properties

Creation Church

EZ Does It Lawn Care, LLC

Family Health Care & Walk-In Center

Fiberoptics

Giles Construction, LLC
- International Paper Company

J&J Construction

Jeffco Fibers, LLC - Kelly Billings

Kazantis Real Estate, LLC

LeBoeuf Rubbish Removal

Linemaster

Rooterman Plumbing

Archambault Insurance Associates

DT Automotive

Earthworks Construction & Septic

Paquette Electric

Putnam Chrysler Dodge Jeep Kia Inc.

Quiet Corner Physical Therapy

Wheelabrator

man MacKenzie.

Promptly at 10 a.m., Kids' Ambassador Addison Poirier gave the walkers the signal to begin their trek around the Coventry track.

The group, which represented 10 Posts throughout Windham and Tolland

KIDS WALK

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counties, later presented Department of Connecticut Walk Chairman Louis Robinson with a check for \$5,100. The amount was the most collected among the seven Connecticut districts. In total The American Legion turned over more than \$13,000 to Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Fueled by the support of its membership, which brought in more than \$2,000, The Legionnaires of the Straza-Tonelli-Emhoff Post #26 led the way for the walkers.

"The overall support from all the Districts in the Department, especially District #4, which was our top fundraiser, will go a long way in maintaining the quality care provided to kids at CCMC," said Department Chairman Robinson.

"I'd like to thank District Commander Ron Coderre and his team for organizing a great day on behalf of the Medical Center," concluded Robinson.

Following the conclusion of the Walk, Coderre presented citations of appreciation to MacKenzie, Poirier, District Finance Officer Manuel "Manny" Rodrigues and Kids' Ambassador Addison Poirier.

"As veterans, one of the pillars of our Legion organization is service to Children & Youth. Being able to be here with my daughter Addison was very special for both of us today," said co-chairman Poirier.

"I'm very pleased with the overall result of the District #4 team. Our co-chairmen, finance officer and the commanders of the local Posts deserve all the credit for the work they put in to assure the success of our Walk," said District #4 Commander Coderre.

The Posts in District #4 include, Post #13 Putnam; #14 Rockville; #19 Willimantic; #21 Danielson; #26 Stafford Springs; #52 Coventry/Mansfield; #62 Ellington; #67 North Grosvenordale; #91 Moosup; #95 Hebron; #101 Somers; #111 Woodstock; and #203 Eastford.

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MEET

Ann Dettman

"I have my independence, but I can rely on resources if I need them. My family and I feel really good about that, I feel safe all around here. Everyone is so easy to talk to. At night, I simply lock the door and fall asleep!"



MEET

Richard Morrison

"Moving to a place like Westview Commons was on my agenda for a while. All of my sons and daughters are nearby. When they visit they all say they want to live here! They want me to have this lifestyle."



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