



WOODSTOCK VILLAGER

Friday, January 14, 2022

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Community honors Joshua Kusek

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THOMPSON – Emergency responders from throughout the tri-state area came together on Jan. 8 to mourn the loss of East Thompson Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Joshua Kusek who lost his life to a sudden illness on Jan. 3.

Kusek was a graduate of Tourtellotte Memorial High School and would spend the latter half of his life serving his community as a member of the Community Fire Company and later joining East Thompson at 17-years-old. He ascended the ranks eventually becoming Assistant Chief, but his passion for service didn't end there. Kusek was also an experienced EMT becoming a paramedic and EMS instructor and working for American Medical Response, Webster EMS, and finally KB Ambulance where he became Paramedic Supervisor. He also served Thompson Motor Speedway as a medic.

Nearly 300 people took part in a candlelight vigil for Kusek a day prior to his passing while many more of his fellow first responders attended services or lined the streets for a precession in his honor on Jan. 8 to see him off one final time. The countless dedi-



Photo Courtesy

East Thompson Volunteer Fire Department Assistant Chief Joshua Kusek lost his life to an illness on Jan. 3. A Precession and memorial services were held on Jan. 8 in his honor along with his final call.

cations in his honor on social media serve as a testament to the respect many had for his contributions to his community and local departments and Kusek's reputation as a loving father, partner, mentor and friend to his family and co-workers.

Following the Jan. 8 service and precession both East Thompson Volunteer Fire Department and KB Ambulance posted tributes to Kusek while thanking everyone for their kind words in the wake of his passing.

"We are humbled and at a loss for words with the outpouring of support that was shown yesterday. Easily, 500-plus firefighters, EMS provid-

ers, police officers and dispatchers from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York were on hand to give Assistant Chief Kusek his final send off," the East Thompson Volunteer Fire Department posted on Facebook. "We will miss Josh dearly. He was our friend, our brother but most importantly he was family, our Chief. There is a huge void left within the walls of East Thompson Fire Department and our hearts are shattered."

The post, shared on Jan. 9, accompanied the radio communication for Kusek's final call which was made the

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Thompson receives grant for River Mill redevelopment

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THOMPSON – The town of Thompson has been awarded a Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Brownfield Remediation Program grant which will be invested in the continued revitalization of the historic River Mill.

The grant is designed to assist communities with assessing blighted properties and putting these facilities back into productive use. Thompson's funding includes \$2 million for the abatement of the buildings at the River Mill site at 929 Riverside Dr., an aging structure steeped in Thompson history that has seen a variety of different uses over the years. The funding will also be used for remediation of soil and groundwater on the 24.79-acre site which is



Photo Jason Bleau

Thompson has received a state grant to help bolster the planned repurposing and revitalization of the historic River Mill.

currently slated to be redevelopment for residential use.

Thompson Director of Planning & Development Tyra Penn-Gesek said in a press release that the redevelopment of the mill by develop-

er John Gumpert and River Mill Redevelopment, LLC will be a significant boost for the local economy while preserving a popular landmark in the town's center.

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Photos Jason McKay

Putnam's Cooper Livingston launches a 3-pointer in front of Tourtellotte's defense.

Team basketball helps Clippers rally to defeat rival Tourtellotte

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THOMPSON — Alonzo Henries poured in a game-high 18 points, 11 in the second half, as the Putnam High boys' basketball team rallied from a 13-point first-half deficit to defeat neighboring rival Tourtellotte High, 49-46, on Friday, Jan. 7 at Canty Gymnasium.

The Clippers improved to 2-5 with the victory, which snapped a five-game losing streak. Putnam opened its 2021-2022 season with a 46-27 win over Tourtellotte in the first round of the Clipper Classic Boys' Basketball Tournament on Friday, Dec. 17, 2021.

"Alonzo is an emerging player for us; he's becoming our go-to," Putnam coach Sean Deary said about the sophomore. "He had 29 in our last game [a 54-51 loss at Wheeler High on Monday, Jan. 3].

"Alonzo's just coming back from quarantine so he's not feeling his best. He's working his way back in; he's not

quite 100 percent," Deary continued. "He was a little tired and a little gassed at the end, but he was still able to come on late and help us through that final stretch."

Tourtellotte (3-3) used a balanced offensive attack to take control of the game from the outset, building leads of 13-4 (in the first quarter) and 28-15 (with three minutes left in the first half), before the Clippers played their way back into the game.

Sophomore Jake Patterson and senior Alex Grauer led the Tigers through the first 13 minutes of the game. Patterson scored eight of his team-high 17 during that period while Grauer added six of his 15 points during the same stretch.

Putnam finished the second quarter with a 9-2 run to trail by just six, 30-24, at intermission. Henries and junior Cooper Livingston (11 points) each scored three points in the spurt.

The Clippers picked up in

Turn To **HOOPS** page **A6**

QVCC Foundation's Tackle the Trail™ unveils permanent commemoration in Putnam



Photo Courtesy

Left to right: QVCC Foundation President Joseph Adiletta; Town of Putnam Mayor Barney Seney; QVCC Director of Institutional Advancement and Tackle the Trail Race Director Monique Wolanin; President of the Northeastern CT Chamber of Commerce, Putnam Businessm Association Business Coordinator and owner of The Courthouse Bar and Grille; Sheila Frost, Putnam Business Association President and owner of WINY Radio Gary Osbrey; WINY Radio Sports Director Mike Brunetti.

PUTNAM — On Thursday, Jan. 6, a group of local dignitaries gathered at the Henry Breault Bridge, Kennedy Drive, Putnam, to commemorate the addition of a permanent bronze plaque for the final stretch of The Quinebaug Valley Community College Foundation signature fundraiser and race, Tackle the Trail™.

Celebrating this milestone were QVCC Foundation President Joseph Adiletta, Town of Putnam Mayor Barney Seney, QVCC Director of Institutional Advancement and Tackle the Trail™ Race Director Monique Wolanin, President of

the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, Putnam Business Association Business Coordinator and owner of The Courthouse Bar and Grille Sheila Frost, Putnam Business Association President and owner of WINY Radio Gary Osbrey, and WINY Radio Sports Director (the 2021 race announcer) Mike Brunetti

QVCC Director of Institutional Advancement and Tackle the Trail Race Director, Monique Wolanin stated, "Thank you all and the Town of Putnam for your continued support

Turn To **PLAQUE** page **A3**

The days of the trolley line



KILLINGLY
AT 300
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MARGARET
WEAVER

Periodically, we have individuals stop at the Killingly Historical Center looking for information about the trolleys which once ran through this area. Did you know that there was a small trolley station at the corner of present-day Dog Hill Road and Route 12? After the trolleys ceased operation in the early 1920's, this little waiting station "was used for years as an ice cream parlor and lunchroom." (For a photo, see "Images of America Killingly" by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A Spencer, p. 84).

The Elmville corner was significant since two different trolley lines met there, and passengers could switch from one to the other. The north-south line, which came from Norwich through Plainfield and Danielson, towards Alexander's Lake, Putnam, and points north, was originally founded as the People's Tramway in 1893 but was merged with other Eastern Connecticut lines and became the Consolidated Railway Company in 1904. The second, east-west trolley line, known as the Providence and Danielson, "was a passenger and freight line. A freight and milk car made one trip a day from Danielson to Providence." ("Images of America Killingly" by Natalie Coolidge and Robert Spencer, p. 84) I remember the late Alton Aldrich of East Killingly telling us how one could ride

to Providence with the milk cans.

On page 107 of "Images of America Killingly," there are two photos related to the Providence and Danielson trolley line. One shows men constructing the track upon which the trolley ran. The caption noted "building the electric lines required a work force of about 100 men and very little in the way of machinery." The second picture shows the trolley near the small station in East Killingly.

Did you know that Dayville also was the site of several buildings related to the trolley? A sizeable trolley barn was located almost across from present-day Killingly Intermediate School. The half-dozen houses just north of Route 101 on the KIS side of Upper Maple Street were built as housing for the trolley workers. A trolley stand was also constructed near Wildwood Park at Alexander's Lake ("Images Of America," p. 92) to accommodate the many visitors who came to relax in that pleasant park. See "Images of America Killingly Revisited" by Natalie L. Coolidge page 95 for additional trolley-related photos in the Dayville area. There are also a number of photos in the two Images of America Killingly series showing trolley tracks in town. I'm sure many of you remember when they were still visible.

Another Images of America publication entitled "New London County Trolleys" noted the following, "Lack of good roads and the high cost of automobiles helped keep the streetcar lines relatively prosperous from 1900 through World War I. During that time, wages in the mills began to rise above the subsistence level, and for the first time since the Puritans settled in eastern Connecticut, families actually had extra money to spend. They could trav-

el by streetcar to Norwich and New London to shop in stores not available in small villages. Some people actually spent 70c to ride from New London or Norwich all the way to Worcester, Massachusetts. With this extra money, people were looking for things to do on the weekends. The trolley companies were also looking for a way to increase the profit on their cars by getting weekend riders. Trolley parks were built as a destination at the end of many lines, in places such as Franklin and Dayville (Alexander's Lake). These parks featured things such as picnic groves, ballparks, and dance halls." (Introduction to "New London County Trolleys")

"By 1920, the trolley business was not doing as well as...had been hoped. Operating expenses had increased considerably, especially the cost of electricity to operate the lines in eastern Connecticut. The generating station at Dyer Dam (just south of Danielson) had seen better days. The plant was no longer able to generate electricity using its water turbines, as the equipment had deteriorated, and the only source of power was the steam plant that was much more costly to operate than the water turbine." The high cost of operating the line, and the decreased passenger traffic, led to the closing of this trolley in the early 1920's.

Busses, which tended to follow Route 12, took up the slack. (Introduction to NLC Co. Trolleys).

"New London County Trolleys," which contains a chapter entitled Putnam Lines and a map of the north-south trolley route through northeastern Connecticut including Killingly, is now available for sale at the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center during regular hours Wednesdays and Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost is \$20; \$25

if you wish to have it mailed. Checks accepted but not credit cards. Please send a letter with your name, address and a check for \$25 if you wish to have a copy mailed to you. No phone orders, please. Other "Images of America" volumes are still available.

Since I not only write about the past, but also try to make note of events for the future, I'll mention this week's Nor'easter. My son Michael shoveled 14 inches of snow here on the Killingly-Putnam town line. I'm hoping this is our biggest snow of the season. However, I must say it was gorgeous to see the snow sparkling on the branches of the trees once the sun came out. A picture postcard scene!

Inclement Weather: If the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center is closed due to inclement weather, an announcement will be made on WINY. If you are not sure, call the Center at 860-779-7250 after 10:15 a.m. on a regularly scheduled day. If you get the answering machine, the Center is probably closed.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian January 2022. Parts of this column were extracted from the 3-9-18 Killingly at 300 column. Special thanks to Joe Chauvin for trolley information. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or contact the Killingly Historical Society at www.killinglyhistorical.org. Leave messages for the Killingly Historical Center at 860-779-7250. Visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday from 10-4. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center should be sent to P.O. Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239.

Town of Woodstock distributes COVID tests, masks

WOODSTOCK — The Town of Woodstock held two drive through COVID-19 rapid test kit and N95 mask distribution events Tuesday, Jan. 4 which started at 4 p.m. until tests ran out, and Saturday, Jan. 8 from noon to 2 p.m. Approximately 330 test kits were given out at the first event, and 375 at the second event. In addition, 150 kits and masks were distributed to Su Connor, Woodstock Agent for the Elderly. The Woodstock Fire Departments and EMS received a similar amount. Woodstock schools received 700 tests from the state; the town shared their allocation of masks with the Woodstock Public School System, Woodstock Academy, and Woodstock childcare centers.

The test kits and masks came from the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. When notified of availability, Woodstock Emergency Management Director David Elliot drove to pick them up from the regional distribution center. Turnaround time from delivery to handing them out was approximately 24-48 hours in order to get test kits to residents as quickly as possible.

With the help of constables and volunteers both events ran smoothly, with residents entering through the Bentley Athletic Complex, then proceeding to show identification and obtain tests and masks before exiting at the Town Hall. The Muddy Brook Fire Department

was on hand with a heavy rescue truck to provide additional light during the Tuesday night distribution.

"Our Constables, Emergency Management, Fire Marshal, and Fire Departments worked as a team with town employees, the Woodstock Academy, and volunteers to make both events a success. I'm grateful for their hard work and professionalism, and for the opportunity to provide tests and masks to our residents," said First Selectman Jay Swan. "Members of the Board of Selectmen were on hand at both events handing out supplies."

Chief Constable Stewart Morse added, "It is a testimony to the employees of the town that they were able to organize

these events on such short notice."

There are a small amount of test kits and masks still available, with a limit of one test kit per family. If you are a Woodstock resident who was unable to make the distribution events, please call the town hall at 860-928-0208, ext. 336.

The town Web site, town Facebook page, and WINY were used to help get the word out about these events. Citizens are reminded they can sign up for Town News and Announcements at <https://www.woodstockct.gov/subscribe> and like and follow the Town of Woodstock CT Facebook page to receive the most up-to-date news and information.

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Pomfret Republican Committee hosting Groundhog Day-themed event

POMFRET — The Pomfret Republican Town Committee has announced an event for all open-minded voters on Feb. 2, Groundhog Day.

The event, called "Sunshine ahead! Connecticut Rising," is an opportunity to "Learn How We Can Improve Our State For All Citizens" and is for all citizens. The location is Grill 37, 37 Putnam Rd., Pomfret Center, starting at 5:30 p.m.

"Feb. 2, 2022, is Groundhog Day, and based on the hit movie starring Bill Murray, this is a useful and fun analogy for Connecticut," said Ellsworth Chase, Chairman of the Pomfret RTC.

The Groundhog Day event poses the question for our state: 'Are we going to hit the clock radio and remain stuck in a time trap like Bill Murray?' Let's start this important election year on a positive theme of outreach, inclusion, and education. We can have fun too and learn more

about the challenges and opportunities ahead for our state.

The event will feature exciting speakers. Many well known in Connecticut and nationally, including:

Joe Markley, former Connecticut Legislator; What is really going on in Hartford and the opportunities ahead for improving the process of governance.

Carol Platt Liebau, President of the Yankee Institute for Public Policy; Where does our state stand in terms of economic security for our citizens and how can we chart a new course.

Dominic Rapini, Candidate for Connecticut Secretary of State; Why is a non-partisan approach to the Secretary of State office so important.

Jennifer Tafuto, Former Manchester Public School Teacher; Protecting our children's right to learn and what parents can do

"The event is planned to be

fast moving, informative and address key concerns on everyone's mind. More and more citizens are asking how we can change course and begin a new phase of respectful discourse and focus on sound principles of governance," said Ellsworth.

Cash bar and light appetizers will be available. Guests are encouraged to make a donation to support the event. Additionally, all guests are encouraged to consider donations to the candidates and organizations they support. Dress is business casual, and all attendees are required by the facility to wear COVID spread prevention masks.

RSVPs are appreciated at echase@chaselinks.com.

For more information, please contact Ellsworth Chase at 860-922-4400 or echase@chaselinks.com.

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Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of Jan. 3: American Tree Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, American Kestrel, Great-horned Owl, Barred Owl, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-tailed Hawk, Junco, Mockingbird, Bluebird. Visit ctaclubon.org/pomfret-home.

Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors earn three 2021 Five Star Wealth Manager Awards



Photo Courtesy
Left to right: WHZ Managing Partner, Chief Investment Officer Laurence Hale, AAMS, CRPS®; Vice President, Associate Financial Advisor Leisl L. Cording, CFP®; and Managing Partner, Chief Strategy Officer James Zahansky, AWMA®.

POMFRET CENTER — All three financial advisors at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors (WHZ) have been awarded the 2021 Five Star Wealth Manager Award, the largest and most widely published wealth manager award program in the financial services industry. Nearly 3,200 Connecticut-area wealth managers were considered for the award. Less than 10 percent of those wealth managers – 272 – were selected.

WHZ Managing Partner and Chief Investment Officer Laurence Hale,

AAMS, CRPS®, Managing Partner and Chief Strategy Officer James Zahansky AWMA® and Vice President, Associate Financial Advisor Leisl L. Cording, CFP® each received the award. This marks the eighth consecutive win for Hale and the third for Zahansky (he has been eligible for three years). This is Cording's first win, and the first year that she has been eligible per the stringent criteria.

WHZ provides comprehensive financial planning and wealth management services to individuals at every stage of life, from creating a strong financial plan for the future through to wealth management, retirement income planning and estate planning. WHZ also partners with business owners on strategies for business growth and succession planning.

The Five Star Wealth Manager awards are presented by Five Star Professional in partnership with Connecticut Magazine as a means to help consumers find wealth managers and investment professionals in their area. The award is given based on a multifaceted research methodology, which incorporates input from peers and firm leaders along with standards for industry experience, education and professional designations, client retention rates, and a thorough review of regulatory history.

“It’s already an honor to be among only nine percent of wealth managers in the state selected to receive this award, but to have all three of our advisors here at WHZ selected is an incredible accomplishment,” Hale said. “I’m so proud of our team for both the strength of their knowledge and skills, as well as the personalized service we provide to our clients.”

“This award really speaks to the level of care and attention we give to our clients to help them pursue their financial goals as well as the level of pride we

take in our work,” Zahansky said. “As fiduciary client asset managers, we put our clients’ best interests first and our mission is to provide the best wealth management experience for every client, every time, at every touchpoint. We do that by taking a comprehensive and strategic approach that organizes our entire team around helping each client to Plan Well, Invest Well and Live Well. We truly do strive to provide our clients with Five Star service.”

On winning the award in the first year she was eligible, Cording remarked, “I’m so proud to have been selected for this award and to be part of the great work we do for our clients here at WHZ. I’m especially proud to be one of the dozens of women to receive the award among hundreds of men, and to be part of a firm that empowers me to be a leader in the finance industry, which is still in need of female representation and leadership.”

The Five Star Award designations mark the second time in several months that WHZ advisors have been recognized for quality client service and industry expertise. Late last year, Managing Partner and Chief Investment Officer Laurence Hale was featured by Commonwealth Financial Network (CFN), as a speaker at the firm’s annual conference and in an article in its internal publication, for his expertise in maximizing productivity and time with clients. WHZ is a partner of CFN, the largest privately-owned independent Registered Investment Advisor/broker-dealer.

WHZ was founded in Pomfret, Connecticut in 2006. Today the firm offers wealth management and customized financial planning services to individuals, families, businesses, and not-for-profit institutions in 35 states. To learn more, visit www.whzwealth.com.

ACCURACY WATCH

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

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

PLAQUE

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of Tackle the Trail™, which proceeds from the race will help hundreds of students each year pursue their educational goals.”

Make Tackle Your Destination brings even more energy to the already vibrant Town of Putnam on the third Saturday of October and coincides with The Great Pumpkin Festival and the Roseland Cottage Fine Arts and Crafts Festival. Runners, fans, volunteers, business owners, and community members will enjoy a warm NE CT welcome and all that our region offers.

The Henry Breault Bridge recognizes Henry Breault, Putnam, Peacetime Medal of Honor Recipient, for action at Limon Bay, Canal Zone, Panama on Oct. 28, 1923. Citation: For heroism and devotion to duty while serving onboard the U.S. submarine O-5 at the time of the sinking of that vessel. On the morning of Oct. 28, 1923, the O-5 collided with the steamship Abangarez and sank in less than a minute. When the collision occurred, Breault was in the torpedo room. Upon reaching the hatch, he saw that the boat was rapidly sinking. Instead of jumping overboard to save his own life, he returned to the torpedo room to the rescue of a shipmate whom he knew was trapped in the boat, closing the torpedo room hatch on himself. Breault and Brown remained trapped in this compartment until rescued by the salvage party 31 hours later.

KUSEK

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morning of the precession.

KB Ambulance Chief Stephen Varga also posted an emotional statement of gratitude on Facebook.

“Words truly cannot express our loss and how we feel right now, but with such comradery, community, and commitment from everyone we have been on the receiving end of the comfort that we so desperately needed. As it was once written, ‘sorrow may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.’ The comfort we have received has brought us joy despite our loss,” wrote Varga.

A GoFundMe account has been set up to support Kusek’s family, including his son Stanley. As of this writing the account has topped \$27,000 with a \$100,000 goal. Those wishing to donate can simply look up “Memorial Fund for Joshua Kusek” organized by Amber Axtell on GoFundMe.com.

MILL

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“The project will spur transformational economic and community development for Thompson and the region. The completed River Mill project will be the largest adaptive reuse project and the most significant mixed-use development in eastern Connecticut,” Penn-Gesek said noting that the redevelopment of the mill will add an estimated property value of \$100 million to the tax base. “The rehabilitation of the River Mill structures will prevent these buildings from falling victim to decay, arson, and eventual demolition. While other historic mill sites around the region are now derelict buildings and piles of rubble and hazardous materials, the redeveloped River Mill will be safe, secure, and a major source of economic growth. It will also preserve a stunning architectural treasure and historic landmark.”

This isn’t the first time the River Mill project has gained attention and funding from the state. In 2018, Thompson received a \$170,000 Brownfield Area Wide Revitalization Grant from the State Department of Economic and Community Development that was used to develop a plan of implementation for the remediation and redevelopment of the mill. That grant was also designed to help create synergy between the mill and the surrounding areas of town denoted as the “BAR Project Area,” comprised of the villages of Grosvenordale and North Grosvenordale, Thompson’s most populated district. A Mill Sites Redevelopment Advisory Committee was also set up by the town to help lead the effort.

The River Mill has also been the subject of education programs over the last few years with the Thompson Historical Society holding a Mill Village History showcase in December with a specific focus on the mill and its place in Thompson economic and cultural history.

Meryl J. Reichman, MD
Endocrinologist

Sarah Balko, RD, CDE
Certified Diabetes Educator

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Endocrinology is one area of medicine that deals with just about every part of your health. So Day Kimball is excited to welcome two highly respected clinicians to our endocrinology team. Dr. Reichman, an esteemed endocrinologist, is here to treat you for issues ranging from diabetes to infertility to certain cancers. Just as important, Ms. Balko, a registered dietitian, can help you take control of your health through healthy eating and weight management. And they’re both accepting new patients.

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Make gardening your New Year’s resolution



GARDEN
MOMENTS
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The New Year is filled with resolutions that usually involve dieting and exercise. Gardening is a great way to help accomplish these two resolutions, while also improving your mood, reducing blood pressure, maintaining flexibility, burning calories and much more.

Resolve to grow your own vegetables and eat healthier in the New Year. Get your family and friends involved in planning ways to include gardening into your lives.

Explore ways to incorporate vegetables and herbs into your landscape. Vegetable gardens are not the only option. Tucking vegetables into flowerbeds, mixed borders and container gardens can expand your planting space. Look for new compact and colorful vegetable varieties that fit nicely into small spaces, planters, and ornamental gardens.

Take an inventory of any leftover seeds and make a list of those seeds and any plants you need to purchase. The earlier you order, the more likely you are to obtain the items on your list.

Don’t wait to start your year of healthful gardening and eating habits. Start by growing microgreens in January. They are quick, easy and require no special equipment. Plus, recent research found that many contain as much as 25 times

more nutrients than the leaves of the full-grown plant.

Organize a seed swap with family and friends in winter. It is a great way to extend your plant budget and experiment with new seeds. Turn old seeds that are no longer viable into artwork with sheets of paper or small pieces of wood, glue, and some creativity.

Start vegetable, herb, and flower seeds indoors in late winter through mid spring. Check the seed packet for timing and planting directions. Create a seed starting chart or mark planting dates on your calendar to ensure seeds get planted at the recommended time.

Monitor the weather and follow the recommended planting dates for sowing seeds directly in the garden and moving seedlings outdoors. Use homemade or DIY cloches, floating row covers and cold frames to jump start the season. These capture warmth near the plants for an earlier start in the garden. They can also be used to extend the end of the growing season.

Start removing weeds as soon they appear throughout the season. These unwanted plants compete with desirable plants for water and nutrients, and many are host to disease and insect pests. Pulling weeds is also a great way to reduce stress while improving the health and beauty of your garden beds.

Harvest flowers to enjoy in summer bouquets and arrangements. Pick a few extras to share with friends. Research has found immediate and long-lasting benefits generated from the gift of fresh flowers.

Pick vegetables regularly when they are at their peak for maximum productivity, flavor, and nutritional value. Share extra produce with family,



Photo Melinda Myers

Compact vegetable varieties can be tucked into ornamental container gardens if space is an issue.

friends, and the food insecure – many of which are children – in your community. Contact your local food bank, food pantry or Feeding America to donate garden fresh produce.

Cap off your efforts with a garden party. Invite fellow gardeners to bring a dish to share that incorporates homegrown vegetables. Share recipes, garden success stories, and begin planning for the season ahead.

For the recommended timing to do these and other gardening projects, check

my monthly gardening checklists.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener’s Handbook and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

Kaylee Staton honored as Westview Commons Employee of the Month

DAYVILLE — Kaylee Staton received the December 2021 Employee of the Month award at Country Living at Westview Commons.

Staton is a member of the dining staff at Westview Commons; primarily fulfilling the duties of a mealtime server in the Great Room of the Dayville independent and assisted living facility. In addition to bringing the residents their deliciously prepared cuisine, she brings her upbeat, effervescent personality to each table during mealtime service. She gladly describes how much she continues to enjoy getting to know the residents and staff at Westview Commons—and the effortless friendliness she conveys in conversations increases with each new detail she learns about her clients and colleagues.

Staton is a resident of Dayville and a proud graduate of Killingly High School’s class of 2016. She is certified in CPR and general first-aid; having previously worked as a personal care assistant in clients’ homes with a local home health provider. Her compassion for working with seniors is rooted even deeper in her own history, as she spent many hours volunteering at nursing homes around Windham County since she was a young girl. She loves to spend time around her family, gathering with her mother, Jenn, and father, Joseph whenever possible. Staton makes a point to visit her grandmother Eunice on the weekends, and she delights in the daily interactions of living with her boyfriend Andrew. She is also a proud pet-parent to two hamsters, Riley and Sweet Pea, and her beloved dog Finn.

In her own life, Staton likes cooking and baking; this passion surely giving her even more knowledge about the cuisine at Westview Commons. She enjoys a good afternoon outdoors, whether spent relaxing on a beach or hiking through the woods. She states that she



Kaylee Staton

“loves to clean” and she finds many housekeeping tasks to be calming and enjoyable. Her dedicated, friendly approach to her role at Westview Commons is genuine, and her passion is verified through the comments she made as she received this award.

“It’s truly an honor to be named Employee of the Month! In the past few months of working at Westview Commons, I have been lucky to meet and even befriend so many people that work and live here,” she remarked. “Seeing our residents happy makes me happy, and that gives me the motivation to do my best every day!”

Executive Vice President of Country Living at Westview Commons, David T. Panteleakos, is thrilled to have Staton on the facility’s staff and he welcomes her charismatic and charming contributions to the dining service.

“Kaylee has become another bright star among the stellar staff at Westview Commons,” Mr. Panteleakos said. “She lifts the spirits of our residents

before, during, and in-between each meal with her kindness and outgoing nature. Even when wearing a facial covering, you can see Kaylee’s smile in her eyes! Her friendliness extends to everyone at Westview Commons. I greatly appreciate how she brings that same joy to all of her interactions among residents, visitors, and coworkers.”

Country Living at Westview Commons is a 75-unit independent and assisted living community conveniently located in picturesque Northeastern Connecticut. Affiliated with Westview Health Care Center, a nationally-ranked nursing facility according to CMS and U.S. News and World Report for the past 14 years consecutively, Westview Commons is a catered living facility dedicated to a genuine 5-star experience including outstanding service, culinary expertise, and professional in-house entertainment. Located in Dayville, Westview Commons combines convenience, tranquility and comfort; providing a lifestyle that seniors deserve.

Killingly Historical Society receives grant

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. is the recipient of a grant from the CT Humanities (CTH) with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development / Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.

The Society has a vast collection of historical, cultural, and genealogical materials and artifacts. The \$5,300 grant will enable us to prepare a plan to build an accessible, integrated, safe database, including updating technology. This would enable future users to have greater ability to locate available information for research purposes.

The Society is grateful for this opportunity to make its resources more user-friendly in the future.

Interested persons are invited to visit the Killingly Historical Center to experience Killingly’s and other Eastern Connecticut towns’ historical and cultural history.

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Requests

5. Calendar month

8. Invests in little enterprises

12. Bird sound

14. S. American plant cultivated for tubers

15. Car

16. Bullfighter

18. Hill (Celtic)

19. Strong criticism

20. Detector

21. When you hope to get there

22. Having the skill to do something

23. Legendary MLB broadcaster

26. Vulcanite

30. C. Asian mountain range

31. In a way, healed

32. Midway between east and southeast

33. Small appendages of insects

34. __ Greene, “Bonanza” actor

39. A place to bathe

42. Postal worker accessory

44. Classical music

46. A way of wrecking

47. Terminator

49. You eat three a day

50. Pointed end of a pen

51. NATO official (abbr.)

56. Genus of clams

57. Boxing’s “G.O.A.T.”

58. A colorless, odorless gas used as fuel

59. Covered thinly with gold paint

60. Bachelor of Laws

61. Red fluorescent dye

62. Engineering group

63. Female sibling

64. Adjacent

CLUES DOWN

1. What a thespian does

2. Footwear

3. Adjust spacing between

4. Witnesses

5. Who shows excessive fondness

6. Distinct form of a plant

7. National capital

8. Hunting expedition

9. Related to medulla oblongata

10. European country

11. Cola

13. Excluded from use or mention

17. Speak

24. Bloodshot

25. Make better

26. Keyboard key

27. Type of degree

28. Paddle

29. Peacock network

35. Not young

36. Baseball stat

37. One’s grandmother

38. Breakfast food

40. Bathroom features

41. Disease-causing bacterium

42. NY ballplayer

43. Got up

44. Prophet

45. Part of the mouth

47. Unnatural

48. Acronym for brain science study

49. Three are famous

52. Languages spoken in Patagonia

53. Freedom from difficulty

54. Widely used OS

55. Many people pay it

Windham-Tolland 4H Camp holds open house

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

POMFRET – It’s been a challenging couple of years for the Windham-Tolland 4H Camp working around the ongoing pandemic but the summer of 2022 is on the horizon and camp is moving forward as planned.

The camp held an open house and tour of its facility at 326 Taft Pond Road in Pomfret Center on Saturday, Jan. 8 to welcome both new and old campers in anticipation of the 2022 camp season with guided tours of the grounds and insight into what both day and overnight camps provide for local kids and teenagers. Camp Director Heather Logee said the 4H Camp provides plenty for children to do and while COVID has forced the camp to adjust its approach over the past couple of years they intend to persevere.

“Traditionally, every kid kind of picks their own schedule. COVID is messing with that a little bit, but we are working through it and hopefully this summer we will be back to a little bit or normal,” said Logee. “In 2020, we weren’t able to open camp because of COVID, but last summer we did as many activities as possible outside so



Photo Jason Bleau

The Windham-Tolland 4H Camp held an open house on Jan. 8 in anticipation of the 2022 camp season.

we could operate. We had a successful camp season, but it limited the number of kids because of staffing issues. We usually hire international staff, and we weren’t able to do that last summer. We are excited to be able to do that this summer, so our staffing is already looking better. We are excited to hopefully be

back to a little more normal, but as we know COVID is unpredictable and we’re going with the flow.”

When asked what kids would learn for the experience of going to camp, Logee stated that it’s more than just the activities, it’s the socialization and the opportunities to learn more about

themselves and others that are the most valuable parts of the experience.

“I think the biggest thing kids take away from their camp experience is actually not the activities that we teach. It’s the friendships, the confidence in themselves, the ability to have some independence, and we are an electronic free facility, so they are really learning that human connection piece of life. We teach them the social skills they need to be better people in society and at school and home. They have the chance to do a lot of activities like swim, climb, archery, horseback riding, sports, music, drama, dance, all of those things as well, but I think what they really take away is those social skills,” Logee added.

Logee added that with the nation facing a mental health crisis due to the isolation of COVID and the dependence on social media and phones the camp also gives kids that much needed break away from all of that allowing them to explore the world beyond the screen.

Registrations for the Windham-Tolland 2022 summer and day camps are open now. Information on camperships can be found by visiting www.4hcampct.org.

Come visit the Putnam Public Library in its new home

PUTNAM — The Putnam Public Library is very happy to be in its new home in the Putnam Municipal Complex since reopening there Sept. 20. Two features in particular in the new library were purchased with funds from memorial donors who had a strong belief in the importance of a healthy, vibrant library.

The children’s circulation desk was designed for the new space out of the same materials as the adult desk, but more round and whimsical. The children’s circulation desk was funded using part of a bequest made by the estate of John Markis to the Library in 2009. Mr. Markis and his wife Lucinda were teachers in the local area who taught at Ellis Tech and Woodstock Academy. The decision was made by the Library Board of Trustees to purchase the desk in memory of Mr. Markis in honor of the many years that he had educated the youth in our community.

The tree mural in the chil-

dren’s department was also funded by memorial donations from some of the library’s well-loved patrons. The tree theme was suggested to the architect by library staff to celebrate the “Last Green Valley” aspect of our area and the theme is extended to the art on the end panels of the shelving units. The frog in the right hand bottom corner of the mural honors the memory of Shannon Labonte, a special young woman who was a voracious library user and local daycare teacher. Shannon’s family joined together in fundraising activities and donated a good portion of the funds to the library for the mural. Other memorials used for the mural are from Joe and Jane Flynn (Library Board member), Ray LeDuc (Library Board member), Marillyn Mayer, Mary O’Leary (Friends of the Library member), Sue McNally Everson (loyal library patron), Mary Child (Putnam teacher), Walter Euskas (veteran) and Jeannette Laurion (charter member of the

Aspinock Historical Center).

While there are many things that are wonderful about the library’s new home, some of the older furniture is special and carries warm memories of the former library. The Library had some of the existing furniture refinished, such as the circa 1955 maple chairs and tables, which are being used in the new building. The Putnam Public Library is proud of its history in the northeastern Connecticut community, and is thankful for the people who support the library in many ways.

The public is invited to visit the new library at 200 School St. and the staff welcomes the opportunity to assist the community with services, reader’s advisory and technology. Library hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. The library’s Web site is putnamlibrary.org and the telephone number is 860-963-6826.

ANNA MURPHY GRADUATES FROM ELON UNIVERSITY



Photo Courtesy

Anna Grace Murphy, daughter of Emily Jacobs Murphy of Woodstock and Dan Murphy of Putnam, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Elon University at the conclusion of the fall semester of 2021, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

QVCC Workforce Development and Continuing Education program to host open houses

DANIELSON – The Quinebaug Valley Community College Workforce Development and Continuing Education Department has expanded in staff, programs, and funding. With the recent growth of tuition assistance funds, more community members will have the opportunity for low or no-cost training to advance or start a career.

Patricia Meyer, the new Director of Workforce Development and Continuing Education, comes to QVCC from Fredrick Community College, MD with extensive experience in leading Workforce Development programs. Jennifer Armstrong, Continuing Education Aide and QVCC alumna, previously worked as a student worker at QVCC and is supporting enrollment of Workforce Development students.

The community is invited to attend one of the upcoming open house events to learn more about short-term workforce training options for this spring. Virtual Open House dates are Jan. 13 or 20, from 5 – 6 p.m., and an in-person event is scheduled for the QVCC Willimantic location, 729 Main St., on Jan. 18 from 3p-4p. QVCC is offering courses in Certified Nursing Assistant, Introduction to Medical Cannabis, Computer Skills, Pharmacy Technician, Real Estate, Business Leadership Series, Business Office Professional, Project Management, Dementia Care, MLT National Exam Preparation, and Veterinary Assistant. More courses will be added in the spring including the popular Motorcycle Basic Riders Course.

Twenty-seven years ago, community leaders started Learning in Retirement (now called LiR) at Quinebaug Community College to offer advanced learning and social opportunities for adults in the Quiet Corner. In 2008, as a thank you to the college, LiR started an endowed scholarship fund for those

students seeking a college degree and reached a goal of \$50,000 in 2012.

Bill Brower, former LiR President and QVCC Foundation member stated, “In 2012, LiR decided to endow another fund for students seeking professional certifications which would provide for better jobs/better lives. This year, despite not meeting because of COVID, we reached another \$50,000.00 goal.”

QVCC Director of Institutional Advancement, Monique Wolanin stated, “QVCC is made better thanks to our long relationship with LiR as part of our learning community. In addition to their course offerings, LiR Members volunteer at College and Foundation events, serve as QVCC Foundation Members, and thanks to the generosity of many members, provide annual scholarships to both credit and workforce development students. LiR has endowed two funds totaling over \$100,000!”

To register for an open house event, learn more about workforce develop-

ment programs and for the application for tuition assistance, visit www.qvcc.edu/workforce or call 860-932-4005 or Email workforcedevelopment@qvcc.edu.

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SPORTS

Another poor second quarter hampers Killingly in loss to Berlin

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — The Killingly High girls' basketball team started solidly and finished strong in its game against the visiting Redcoats of Berlin High on Saturday, Jan. 8. In between however, the team had trouble scoring, a familiar — and unwelcome — refrain to coach Gina (Derosier) Lindberg's ears, which resulted in, ultimately, a 49-43 Berlin victory.

The loss to Berlin was Killingly's fourth straight defeat — it also lost to Berlin, on the road, 52-39, on Thursday, Dec. 30. After the Saturday, Jan. 8 loss to the Redcoats, Killingly is 3-6 overall. Berlin improved to 3-3 with the win.

Killingly took a 10-7 lead into the second quarter thanks to 3-pointers by sophomore Sydney Crabtree (a team-high 15 points, including three 3-pointers), her twin sister Molly Crabtree (who also hit a free throw in the first eight minutes and finished with six points), and senior Makala Dube.

What's somewhat deceiving about Killingly's three-point lead after the first eight minutes is the fact that Berlin opened the game with six turnovers, three missed shots and one basket in its first 10 possessions, but Killingly was only ahead by five points (7-2).

Lindberg's team, however, scored just three points in the second quarter (another trey by Sydney Crabtree) and trailed at halftime, 17-13.

Killingly managed to score eight points in the third quarter (three drives to the hoop by Sydney Crabtree and a pair of free throws by Dube) but the Redcoats scored 16 and led, 33-21 as play headed to the final quarter.

"We consistently have had horrible second quarters the entire season," Lindberg said. "Last year we started slow, too, but we were able to get away with a slow first quarter or a



Killingly's Laura Farquhar shoots a jump shot with a Berlin defender attempting to block her but coming up short.



Grace Sumner of Killingly drives toward the net while being guarded by a Berlin defender.

slow first half. This year we're not.

"I think we come out decently strong; most game we come out of the first quarter with the lead, but then the second quarter hits and we get a little pushback from our opponent and we're back on our heels," Lindberg continued. "At this point we're not putting a complete game together. It's not for lack of effort, though, that's for sure. These girls are working hard; they work hard every day."

After scoring 21 points in the first 24 minutes of the game, Killingly found its offense in the fourth quarter, scoring 22 points and cutting the Berlin lead to single digits on three occasions. The closest Killingly got to the Redcoats was the final score, thanks to a 3-pointer at the final buzzer by Sydney Crabtree. Killingly, previously, cut the Berlin lead to eight, 46-38, on a bank shot by sophomore Laura Farquhar (four

points) with 21 seconds remaining in the game.

Hannah Grudzien, Killingly's 6-foot-2 sophomore center, supplied much of the team's offense in the fourth quarter, scoring nine of her 11 points in the frame (all 11 of Grudzien's points came in the second half). Grudzien was 7-for-7 from the foul line in the game.

"No. Absolutely not," was Lindberg's answer when asked if she feels Grudzien shoots as much as Lindberg wants her to. "Emma [Carpenter, a senior, scored four points vs. Berlin] doesn't either. They both need to take more shots. Hannah didn't assert herself until late in the game. I think it comes down to the fact she has a lack of confidence in her game right now. She has the ability; there's no question about that."

Over the years a lot of female basketball players, especially at the high school level, have admitted after the fact that they might not have shot as much as

they should have because they were fearful of being labeled a "ball hog" by their teammates. Male basketball players, even at the high school level, seldom seem worried that they are taking too many shots.

"That's a real thing, absolutely, but it can't be on our team because of what we preach," Lindberg said. "It's not Hannah posting up inside saying 'give me the ball.' It's us as a coaching staff saying, 'get Hannah the ball.'"

"The girls' game is a different game than the boys' game. It's a different perspective," Lindberg added. "It's Mars and Venus, right? Not for nothing, and we talked about this in the pregame; other teams are not dumb. If we throw the ball into Hannah in the paint, they're going to double down on her. We're not helping Hannah out by not knocking down shots from the outside. As of late we've hit a couple, but then there's some pushback by the other team and we go back on



Killingly's Hannah Grudzien, left, leaps into the air during the game opening tip-off.

our heels a little."

Fifteen of Killingly's 43 points came on 3-pointers.

HOOPS

continued from page A1

the third quarter where they left off in the second, using a 9-2 run in the first half of the quarter to grab their first lead of the game, 33-32, with 4:04 to play in the period. It was a layup off a fast break, started by a steal while employing a full-court press, by junior Tyshon Harper (six points) that put Putnam ahead.

"We basically used team basketball," Deary said, explaining how his team climbed out of the 13-point hole it was in. "We were settling too much for one and done. We started moving the ball around and waiting for the open shot; we made their defense work a little harder. In the second half we finished around the rim. In the first half we didn't do that. Even when it took two or three tries, we finally finished

around the rim."

Interestingly, Tourtellotte coach Neil Bernier thought getting away from the team basketball concept they used to build their lead was the Tigers' downfall.

"When we got out to the lead we were moving the ball well. We were getting the ball inside," Bernier said. "I've stressed to the team that in a lot of our previous games we've relied too much on a couple of passes and then we take a 3. They watch too much TV."

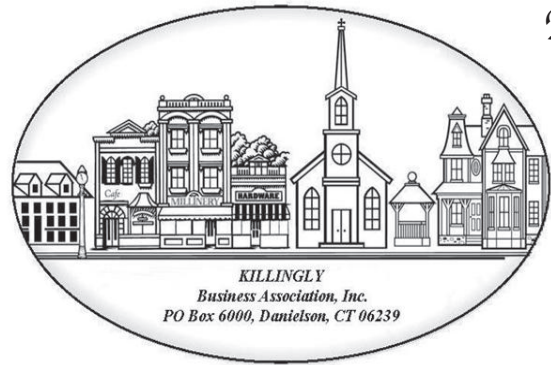
"When we do that our offense stagnates; it becomes patty-cake and then a 3 is shot," Bernier continued. "That's not successful. We don't have the size to rebound those shots. When we were successful earlier in the game, we were moving the ball around, all the guys were touching it, we were getting it inside, getting down low, getting out and shots were

Ryan Barbour of Tourtellotte sprints down the court while on the fast break.

being created by the offense. Once they started making that run, we stopped doing that."

Grauer put the Tigers back in front, 34-33, by sinking a right-side jumper with 2:40 remaining in the third quarter. The Clippers, however, scored the next four points (two free throws by junior Jacob Mailloux and an offensive rebound and put-back by Livingston) to take a 37-34 lead with 1:14 left in the period. Tourtellotte cut that lead to one, 37-36, entering the fourth quarter on a layup by Grauer with 12 seconds to go in the third.

Putnam maintained a slim lead throughout the fourth



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SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL NOTEBOOK

Kaden Ware of Killingly named Most Outstanding Wrestler at Casey Yates Memorial Invitational

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The Killingly High School wrestling team is off to a strong start, winning its first nine matches of the 2021-2022 season.

After a lopsided dual-meet win over Putnam High on Wednesday, Jan. 3, Killingly traveled to Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon to compete in the Casey Yates Memorial Invitational Tournament, where it finished second overall to Haddam-Killingworth.

Haddam-Killingworth, on the strength of six first-place finishes, finished with 186 points while Killingly, which finished the tournament with three first- and three second-place finishes — and a third and a fourth — rolled up 164.5 points. Killingly's second-place finish was achieved without a trio of its stalwarts, junior Soren Rief and sophomore twins Darin and Devin Exarhoulias.

The highlight of the tournament for Killingly was the performance turned in by Kaden Ware in the 126-pound weight class.

Ware, who was named Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament, not only dominated in his final match, defeating Montville's James Linder Jr., 17-0, but he finished the tournament not surrendering a single point to any of his three opponents. Ware, who had a first-round bye, outscored

his quarterfinal- and semifinal-round opponents by a combined score of 17-0.

Other Killingly wrestlers winning weight classes were freshman Brady Zadora (106 pounds) and junior Jack Richardson (145 pounds). Killingly's second-place finishes were achieved by freshman Mason Connetti (106 pounds), sophomore Amani Samuel (132 pounds) and junior Owen Turner (285 pounds). Freshman Anthony Oates finished third at 220 pounds and senior Seth Dootson was fourth in the 160-pound weight class.

Earlier in the season Killingly enjoyed dual meet wins over Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) rival Lyman Memorial (54-27), as well as New Britain (71-9), Cheshire (78-6), Suffield (69-10) and Fitch (57-24). On Christmas Eve, Killingly hosted a quad meet with Shepherd Hill Regional from Dudley, Mass., as well as Stafford and Ellis Tech high schools, and defeated all three.

Killingly began the season with a win in the Lancer Invitational at Waterford High's Francis X. Sweeney Field House back on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021.

Richardson was named Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament finishing 3-0 in the 152-pound division. Other Killingly winners at the Lancer Invitational were Zadora (113 pounds), Ware (132 pounds), and Rief (195 pounds), while Turner earned a second-place finish (285 pounds).

Boys' Basketball

The Killingly High boys' basketball team won its fourth straight game on Tuesday, Jan. 4, defeating winless Montville, 75-48, on Tuesday, Jan. 4.

Freshman Johnny Kazantzis led the way for Killingly (4-1), scoring a game-high 24 points. Junior Yianni Baribeau added 17 points and 15 rebounds, while classmate Thomas Dreibholz added 12 points and 12 rebounds to the win. Senior Jay Grzysiewicz finished with a season-high 12 assists to along with nine points, while fellow senior Justin Baker added eight points and seven rebounds.

Chas Terni led Montville (0-4) with 22 points.

Girls' Basketball

After four straight wins Ellis Tech has lost two games in a row. The Golden Eagles' latest loss was to Windham Tech, 38-8, on Thursday, Jan. 6. Junior Liliana Wong Kam led Ellis with three points while sophomore Kylie Damble and freshman Kiara Cartier added two points each. Windham Tech (4-3) was led by Grace Smith, who scored 12 points.

Prep School Basketball

The Woodstock Academy Gold team suffered a 67-64 loss to Notre Dame-West Haven on Wednesday, Jan. 5. Tyshawn Trail led the 9-7 Centaurs effort with 12 points while Jalen Bradberry added 10.



Photo Courtesy

Killingly High junior Kaden Ware was named Most Outstanding Wrestler of the 2022 Casey Yates Memorial Invitational Tournament. Ware dominated the 126-pound weight class, defeating Montville High's James Linder Jr., 17-0 in the final.

HOOPS

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Tourtellotte's Ryan Barbour elevates for a left-handed look from the interior while being well-guarded by Putnam's defense.

period, leading by as many as four on one occasion (40-36 with 7:10 remaining in the game) and as few as one on two occasions.

Turnovers and poor free throw shooting erased several chances for the Tigers to wrestle the fourth-quarter lead from the Clippers.

"In the second half when we started getting tired we got sloppy with our passes and we missed too many free throws," said Bernier, whose team finished with 16 turnovers, 10 in the second half. "We were something like 4-of-12 from the line [actually 4-of-13]; that's a killer. You can't do that in any game that's close and expect to win."

Bernier was pleased with the play he received from Patterson, especially



Jack Rindge of Putnam leaps into the air for a layup while Danny Boutin of Tourtellotte attempts to block.

early.

"Some guys had an off night but I thought Jake Patterson really kept us in the game. Early on he was playing really well," Bernier said. "In the second half he got a little stale; he became a stationary player."

"Other guys stood around, too, and the passing lanes were gone and the ball didn't move anywhere," Bernier continued. "It's too bad because I thought

they had some errors down the stretch that gave us an open window at the end of the game, but then we were 1 of 4 on our last four free throws, we missed a couple of close shots, we made a couple of sloppy passes and that was the difference. That was all it took."

Ahrim Esther Joy Kim named to Abilene Christian University's Dean's Honor Roll

ABILENE, Texas — Ahrim Esther Joy Kim of Gangnamgu was named to the Abilene Christian University Fall 2021 Dean's Honor Roll. Kim is a sophomore majoring in Animal Science.

Kim was among more than 1,300 students named to the Fall 2021 Dean's Honor Roll.

To qualify for the Dean's Honor Roll, students must be registered for 12 or more credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.6 or higher.

Abilene Christian is the highest-ranking university in Texas in a 2022 U.S. News & World Report assessment of institutions highly regarded for their commitment to student success. Nationally, ACU achieved Top 10 status in three and Top 50 in another of eight high-impact categories among 1,500 universities evaluated for the annual "U.S. News Best Colleges" edition. No other Texas university was named in the top 10 of any category. Learn more at acu.edu.

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EDITOR

Baby, it's cold outside

Newsflash: it's cold. Our little neck of the woods here has finally hit frigid sub-zero temperatures. Folks may be running low on fuel, or even running empty, causing frozen pipes to burst. Fuel companies are scheduled two weeks out in some cases, and several customers are feeling stressed due to the financial burden this cold weather brings. Our only advice is to hold on tight and think about how toasty things will be when temperatures soar into the teens and low 20s again.

The winter solstice on Dec. 21 has passed, and the days are getting longer... and, we hope, sunnier. One perk to this post-New Year's time is that, well, the holidays are over. The hustle and bustle starts in late November and doesn't calm down until the week following New Year's. Is it overrated? Maybe. We hope you are all able to relax in the days ahead.

When weather hits sub-zero, it's hard to remember why we live here. We live in New England because winter, for the most part, is fun and manageable. We love our snow sports, the smell of wood stoves cranking and the beauty of the snow-capped mountains.

Some of you may think of our ancestors who had to cut chords of wood by hand all year long just to prepare for the harsh New England winters. Houses way back when had no insulation or the walls were stuffed with straw and mud. Common houses were much smaller, therefore easier to keep heated with one wood stove. The fireplace was the focal point of a colonial home and was the place where family members would talk and work on small projects during the evening. The average size of a house according to today's standards is about 2,600 square feet. A home of that size hundreds of years ago was often occupied by the wealthy, who were able to afford to put a wood stove in each room of the house. Children often slept in lofts where the heat would rise and often shared a bed with siblings, using body heat to keep warm.

In days of old, people used thick curtains and down comforters to keep the heat in. Before bedtime, many would use a bed warmer, which was a brass pan with a long handle that was filled with hot rocks. Foot warmers were popular as well. These fancy contraptions were made of a wood framed tin box also with heated rocks that would be placed by the feet under the comforter. This heating method was used for trips in the horse and buggy as well. Church goers would bring their own boxes of heat and blankets to keep warm during a Sunday service.

Important to note is the fact that over the years humans have increasingly adapted to warmer weather as a result of modern technology. Our ancestors were able to withstand much colder temperatures and remain more comfortable in colder temperatures than we do today. All of that aside, we are pretty lucky to have the conveniences we do during these cold blasts.

Since winter is not nearly over, here are a few tips with regard to winter survival. Avoid frost bite and frost nip at all costs. When the water molecules in your skin cells freeze, they die. Once this happens, they can cause damage to your muscular and nervous systems. Exposed skin can develop frostbite within 30 minutes with winds of 10 mph and a temperature of -5 degrees. If you are outside and find your hands freezing, the warmest place for them to go is under your armpits, the warmest part of your body.

Another culprit is hypothermia. When your body hits 95 degrees you're entering the danger zone. When your organs start to drop in temperature they begin to shut down. If you notice yourself shivering or lacking coordination, it's time to get warm fast. Other more severe symptoms include low energy, difficulty speaking, a weak pulse and the cessation of the shivers. It's important to stay well nourished during any time spent outside, as your body needs that energy to stay warm. Always have a Snickers bar or something similar handy just in case. Staying hydrated is a must as you need water to keep your nervous system running properly. One rule of thumb is to never eat snow while trying to survive in frigid temperatures. Your body will be forced to warm it from the inside which wastes energy and can cause hypoglycemia. Try to keep your heart rate up as cold temperatures cause your heart rate to decrease. A higher heart rate will generate heat within your body however be sure not to do so much that you start to sweat, cold and sweat are never a good combination.

We hope none of you ever find yourselves in a situation where you need to implement any of the information above, however knowledge is power. Stay warm, summertime is just about six months away, where we will of course crank the air conditioning and complain about the heat and humidity.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Democrats are not to blame for Americans going broke

To the Editor:
Bill Hull reminded us last week that our government runs on a deficit which can only be met by increasing the money supply, which causes inflation. Citizens will go broke. He blames the current President for this.

Let's go back a few presidents: Reagan took the deficit from \$78.9 to \$158.6 billion. Bush 41 took it to \$255 billion. Clinton got it to zero. Bush 43 started with that surplus and took it to \$1.41 trillion. Obama took that down to \$584.6 billion in spite of spending us out of the Bush Recession. Trump got it back to a trillion.

I see the problem, but it's not with the Democrats. Democrats make deficits with public works and public benefit spending, like the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, public education support, things that benefit most Americans. Most of it ends up as pay checks. Democrats dare not raise taxes, so, there's a deficit.

Republicans demonstrate frugality by cut-

ting public assistance for the lower classes and helping the upper (actually, the very top) classes by cutting taxes, so, we get bigger deficits.

Americans do go broke: 65 percent of Americans who file for bankruptcy do so because of medical costs, and 70 percent of those had some medical insurance. Medicare For All would solve that problem, with a 6 percent overhead cost, as opposed to the 28 percent of our insurance fees that the corporations take as their costs and profits.

The Republicans plan to cut SS and Medicare as the baby-boomers retire. It's in their party's statements' warning about deficits. There is a Democrat solution: tax the 1 percent and all the 55 largest corporations that pay no corporate income taxes. Paying their share won't make them go broke.

G. LESLIE SWEETNAM
WOODSTOCK

Scholarships — a lifetime of benefit

To the Editor:
Researchers call it the “Fresh Start Effect.” This describes the beginning of the new year or some other “trigger” which causes us to refresh our perspective.

So much educational erosion in these last few years — some inconveniences and visible, others costly and under the radar, unless you are personally affected. The needs most evident are the calls for nearly instant help: those needs relating to food, housing, health. We know of immediate need through local radio, newspaper & Facebook. In the background are many other needs that come as a consequence of systems not working well. The need for increased scholarship funding lies less visibly within families and is a very much greater need than only two years ago due to Covid infection and the way the pandemic has damaged our established educational systems.

Those affected: According to the National Center for Education Statistics, using figures of June 2021, higher education enrollment declined by 603,000 students – seven times the already significant decline of a year earlier. By gender of the 603,000 losses, 400,000 were male and 203,000 female. Greatest decline within the 600K decline was the traditional college-age group of 18-24. Community colleges were hardest hit – accounting for 65 percent of the total decrease. These figures show the highest two year drop in 50 years—in a culture with education being the most influential factor in lifetime earnings and quality of life.

The total of US school debt is \$1.73 trillion- which is beyond our comprehension –so let's look at our state. Connecticut has the highest per student debt in the US @ \$38,546. As an indicator of the seriousness of household expense vs college savings...and the hope that is invested in college education, Lending Tree reports that, during Covid, approximately 40 percent of parents have tapped into their child's college fund to help cover household

expenses.

College costs in combination with reduced family income has resulted in 56 percent of students who say that Covid has impacted their ability to pay for school. Only 13 percent of those who drop out are likely to return within five years. Costs as experienced are becoming prohibitive. Remote classes and cancellations have resulted in lost learning that, without further attendance, subtracts from understanding.

Scholarships remain one of the most long-lasting uses of donation money. They open college doors, they keep students in school, education improves quality of life for families, education encourages highest/best use of aptitudes, education spurs civic interest and involvement: Further education is truly a lifetime benefit.

All of us who want to help others can easily make lists of organizations or individuals needing help. The list pares down as thought is given to justification and personal values. Giving is not an individual enterprise; it can also be through aware businesses, private groups, families as well as individuals. In all of time's advancing cultures, giving money or effort to a cause, with unknown others, has served the world well for the larger needs of betterment.

It's January, and a time of fresh thought — please give scholarship funding some thought.

The aim of this letter is to state the condition of existing debt, how it affects those carrying those debts and encourages voluntary support for higher education which has been damaged by the pandemic. It is not a political statement favoring the use of state or federal taxes to repay prior school loan commitments.

WOODY DURST
WOODSTOCK

Our system may be broken, but when will someone fix it?

To the Editor:
First off, I made a severe error in my “stark choices” letter by mentioning the “brown shirts,” and I have to thank Billy G. Taylor for me realizing that. My original intent was to include the “red shirts” (or “redshirts”) that were a white supremacist, terrorist group with allegiance to the Democratic party, and I apologize to the Villager readers for that mistake.

The timing of Todd Patrie's (Dec. 17) letter couldn't have come at a better time, as it reflects what I also said on that same day. Our Congress is eating each other alive with in-fighting, back and forth malicious Tweets, continual finger pointing, and many of them will not be seeking reelection. But we voted for them, and probably will again, and until we truly send a message to Washington, it's never going to change. Maybe we are our own worst enemy? And to quote Dr. Ben Carson: “We've been conditioned to think that only politicians can solve our problems. But at some point, maybe we will wake-up and realize that it was the politicians who created our problems.” As for Joe Manchin, his recent actions have drawn scrutiny from within his own party, especially from the squad who are a bunch of self-centered leftists that could care less about the people of Virginia. Right or wrong, Manchin is at least standing his ground for what he believes and it's refreshing to see he's not a total party puppet.

Yeah, sure, let's continue to blame the current border crisis on ineffective policies of the past. Trump inherited it from Obama, Biden inherited it from Trump - blah, blah, blah! Jen Psaki said: “We inherited a broken system.” Yes, it's a broken system, but when will somebody actually do something to fix it?

As for addressing climate change, in 2019, AOC said that the world will end in 12 years if we don't do something about it. Okay, so it is a concern which I'll say that the United States is dealing with, but AOC would be the last person I'd consult about that (or any other) subject. CNBC (on Nov. 16) reported: “some climate scientists, legal experts and politicians argued the final deal out of Glasgow resulted in incremental progress inadequate to address the

climate crisis.” Also: “that the real measure of success will be if and when countries turn their promises into action.”

So now a comment on this «build back better» legislation. Pelosi said: «Ibs already paid for.» (Really?) But that's coming from the dimwit that once said (of a proposed legislation): «We gotta pass it to know what's in it.» (Pelosi's quote sounds more like something you'd do with a stool sample than a way to pass legislation.) I'd actually agree with Pelosi had she instead said – we've got to pass it to know what you'll be getting stuck with. There are numerous opinions and predictions on “build back better,” but which one is actually truthful about its future consequences?

Bruce Shay, your comments (on Dec. 17) were fair and insightful, and I truly respect what you had to say. Yes, you were correct that I should have stated some instances to back up my claim, and I will now offer this - If you do a search for: “What schools in America make sexually explicit literature available to kids,” and you'll find that this is happening in Indiana, Wisconsin, Virginia and California and that it's been exposed to 3rd graders up to the high school level. Some will call this type of education (LGBTQ or CRT) necessary, while others will call it indoctrination. Opinions on those issues are also numerous, but they certainly have people at each other's throats and are yet another cause of our - continuing - national divide.

It appears that I've now insulted Billy G. Taylor, and why, for calling him a “cheerleader,” or referring to his responses as “Taylor tantrums?” Considering what he's continually thrown at me, I'd say it shouldn't even be an issue. It's definitely been quite lopsided with the give and take here, and I think I've taken it all pretty well. Mr. Taylor, you have the right to critique me all you want, but you have to admit that out of all the letter writers here, you are no doubt the number one cheerleader for Biden and the Democrats. And having said all this, I won't mention any of it again.

ED DeLUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

The reason is simple



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

Building or bridge collapse. Why? The answer is simple. Someone cheated. Someone came up with their own reality and many people suffered. They pretended they were being honest with codes and laws of nature.

Because we don't want incidents like the one described above, societies have discovered and agreed upon values. It doesn't matter what trade school, they all teach the same principles and use the same formulas. While every federal, state and municipal entity may use different building codes, they all agree on the freezing point of water, the danger of bare wires, the pull of gravity and the need to withstand wind, rain and snow. The builder or homeowner who cuts corners does so at their own peril, because saying that water no longer freezes at 32 degrees does not change the fact that it does.

Why did that bridge not hold up is very similar to why are there so many school shootings?

The answer is simple: society is accepting made up values. Our homes and communities were stronger when we agreed on the basics, such as the ten commandments. Once the cheaters talked many others into avoiding the hard work of honesty and integrity, the engineering and building codes for social entities degenerated.

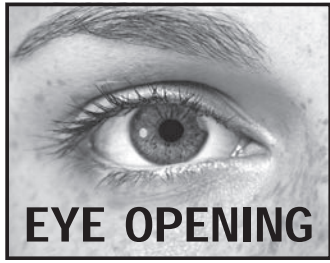
Even if we can't agree that there is a God or that the Ten Commandments came from him, we should be able to agree that killing, stealing, cheating, and lying are not good principles on which to build our lives and our social norms. When morals are no longer insisted upon (because enforcers are called judgmental), our society begins to collapse. The reason is simple: the universal laws of the universe don't change just because a group of people wants to do their own thing. People don't regulate the universe.

The most destructive kind of hate speech is when people teach or embrace values that are not accurate and have often proven to be wrong. The building inspector that allows building to be built with substandard foundations and weak steel may be rich from kickbacks from greedy builders, but his long-term impact is criminal. The parent, teacher or politicians who makes up their own values will answer for their impact on society with eternal consequences (according to the most authenticated book on the planet). However, those who hold fast to values even though they cost them more to live out, will enjoy eternal benefits.

Bishop John W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries located at 1366 Riverside Dr. in Thompson. Please visit www.ActsII.org for more information.

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

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



EYE OPENING

Open yourself to joy

February is the month where my disposition takes a leave of absence, but this year, the second week in January seems just plain awful. My husband tells me that the Federal Reserve is going to raise interest rates and engage in tapering. I like the word, tapering. I've been dreaming about taking up a craft, perhaps candle making, which I'll call tapering, but that's not what he means. He is talking economics, not melting wax. Economics, the dismal science, is rarely optimistic.

We know that oil and gas prices are up, Omicron is sweeping the world, the Russians are threatening Ukraine. Climate change is a nightmare, and our

remarkable country is divided in deep and intractable ways. Civility, especially on the highway, has declined, and at least the people I hear on the media are outraged all the time. How perfectly exhausting.

It's time to go in search of positive thoughts and moments of light over darkness. One place to look is the venerable Christian Science Monitor, a bastion of positivity and humane articles. I found a piece about adding joy to life, which is what we need right now.

A quote from Carl Sandburg in the article provides a prescription in his poem, Joy: "Reach out your hands/And take it when it runs by."

Joy runs by me when our toddler twin grandchildren visit. It runs all over and leaves an invisible cloud of energy that, like the crumbs from Goldfish crackers, takes half a day to settle down.

The joy I'm getting from my best friends – a chickadee, a tufted titmouse and nuthatch is consistent. All they ask of me is a daily refilling of the feeders and some fresh cakes of suet.

I've many casual acquaintances, the Blue Jay, several kinds of woodpeckers and the flashy cardinal couple, but like human secondary friends, they come and go without deep engagement, although I'm a sucker for flashy plumage and iridescent wings. Only the onslaught of grackles, who swoop in like a band of Hell's

Angels, distracts the pleasant give and take of the all-day, all-you-can eat buffet I place on offer. I think they will eat every last seed. The grackles show off a bit and intimidate, but move on in a choreographed swirl of noise and acrobatics.

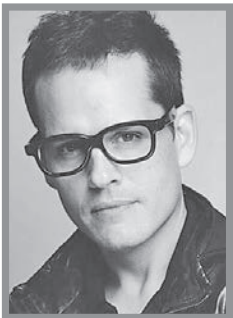
Noticing what is around us is the best way to find joy. It takes slowing down, looking more closely and shutting down the clamor in our heads that is on constant repeat of bad news, sad thoughts and dire predictions. Some mention reestablishing the practice of a Sabbath.

One day during the week is set aside as special, without routine chores. By adding quiet time, prayer for those who choose it and specific foods or rituals, time slows down and joy becomes possible. Imagine

how much better one might feel not reading email for even half a day. I enjoy sitting in my beautiful church watching the sun light stream through the stained glass windows. Colors bring spontaneous joy as does a sudden feeling of community.

Psalms 30.5 is: "Weeping may tarry for the night. But joy come with the morning." On dark cold days in mid-January there is at least joy in the sunrise, the early bird at the feeder and thought that we are inching toward spring. We have time to notice the world around us and reach out for joy. Two minutes a day of sunlight is reason enough to celebrate.

I don't understand the Federal Reserve, Omicron or Putin's aggression, but I know that being open to encountering joy is the best way to feel it.



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
**TOBY
MOORE**

I spent the New Year celebrating with my girlfriend in a beautiful, small, old town in northwestern Illinois named Galena. We had a wonderful time. Our dinner reservations were at the very historic Desoto Hotel, and to our surprise, nobody was there! People celebrated in the hotel outside of the restaurant, but the restaurant itself was empty. I asked the waitress, "where is everybody?", she responded, "A big winter storm is coming!" After dinner, we walked down Main Street and commented on how calm the weather was. There wasn't a storm. New Year's Day was sunny and cold. The weather was nice, so we decided to stay longer and visit some shops we hadn't seen. By mid-afternoon, the

clouds rolled in, accompanied by heavy snowfall. One of the locals cautioned us from driving home; we thanked her and explained how we had to get back home and go through the blizzard. I felt confident; I'd driven through many snowstorms all over the nation. I figured we could make it home in seven hours, moving slow. From the start, many times, I almost went off the road. Carefully, I pressed forward; every mile seemed to be more dangerous. I said to myself, "they will put salt on the roads; there will be snowplows..." But I saw no sign of a snowplow. Suddenly I felt the car being pulled to the right. I turned to the left to steer the vehicle back on course, but I drove into a ditch four to six feet deep. The snow piled so high in the ditch, it appeared even with the road, and looked as if there was no ditch at all. Within a couple of seconds, my car was deep in a pile of snow. My girlfriend was understandably

upset. "It's no big deal!" I reassured her as I called AAA roadside assistance. To our surprise, the weather was so bad they shut down service for this part of the country; nobody was coming to save us. The roads were empty. We were in the middle of nowhere with nothing but the heavy snow on a dark winter's night. It's been such a mild winter this year; I didn't bring the proper clothes with me. I didn't have a pair of gloves, a winter jacket, a stocking cap let alone a shovel. It was about 17 degrees, and there wasn't much I could do. I tried to calm my panicked girlfriend. About 30 minutes later, we noticed a light in the distance. The light became brighter and brighter, and it turned out to be a big white pickup truck. The driver slowly pulled up and shouted, "Do you need help?" My girlfriend noticed I was playing it cool, so before I could answer, she was yelling, "Yes! Help us, please!" After about 15 minutes of shoveling and clearing snow out from under my

car, he found where he could hook a chain and try to pull us out. Within 30 seconds, my car was pulled right out of the snow and back on the road. My girlfriend jumped out of the car, and we both thanked him profusely. I didn't have any cash on me; all I had was a bottle of wine leftover from the New Year celebration. I insisted he take it; we also offered to send him cash through an online app, but he refused. He helped us simply because we needed help. As we drove home, my girlfriend cried tears of joy. We were blown away by his kind nature and how willing he was to help. We talked about it the whole way home. Last week, I wrote about how one of my new year resolutions was to help people more. This man who helped us left a significant impact on me. People need help sometimes. It meant so much to us that he took the time to help while his family waited patiently in the car. I want to say thank you again, kind stranger.

Nix the “Behavior Gap” now for a happier, financially healthier 2022

Personal or widespread events that cause anxiety or panic often lead people to make poor financial decisions. The volatility of the last two years is no exception. As we head into 2022, much uncertainty remains. But the good news is, you can control the way you respond in order to set yourself up for better financial health in the year ahead. At Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors, we share a belief expressed by the notable financial planner Carl Richards, author of "The Behavior Gap." In his book, Richards writes, "It turns out my job was not to find great investments, but to help create great investors." In last week's column, I talked about the need to keep a long-term strategy mindset in the midst of a volatile market. This week, I'd like to delve a bit deeper. There's actually a framework that Richards has outlined in his book to explain how people's emotions interact with their actions when it comes to financial decisions. Understanding this process can help you to take control of it, and you'll be a better investor as a result. Understanding the Behavior Gap From increasing our budget mindfulness to taking a steadier approach to investing, Richards has drawn attention to the way our unexamined behaviors and emotions can be our detriment when it comes to living a happy and financially sound life. He's labelled this phenomenon "the behavior gap." The behavior gap refers to the difference between a smart financial decision versus what we actually decide to do. Many people miss out on higher returns because of emotionally driven decisions, creating a gap between their lower returns and what they could have earned.

4 Common Emotions that Can Create a Behavior Gap #1: Excitement When Stocks Are High Whether in a bull market or witnessing the hype from a product release, many investors may feel tempted to increase their risks or attempt to gain from emerging investments when stocks are high. This can lead to constant readjustment of portfolios as the market itself experiences upswings. An investor who follows such patterns is likely to do the same with declines and may end up always trying (and often failing) to time the market. #2: Fear When Stocks Are Low As a response to the coronavirus, the market has seen losses as many investors feel the need to choose more secure investments and avoid uncertain or seemingly unsafe investments. When stocks are low, a common response may be to sell and effectively miss out on potential long-term gains. #3: Engagement in the Search for Alpha People yearn to make money and take action to do so. Throughout our lives, this emotional desire is likely a constant one. As such, many seek the help of a financial advisor to procure above-average returns, otherwise known as "alpha."1 However, in this search for "alpha," our humanness - our emotions and our behaviors - may lead us astray. Ironically, studies done by DALBAR (the nation's leading financial services market research firm) have calculated the average investment return as compared to investor returns and have shown that investor returns are

FINANCIAL FOCUS JIM ZAHANSKY INVESTMENT ADVISER



lower.1 This is because investor behaviors often dilute the possible return on any given investment by switching investments too frequently in search of the next alpha. The underlying emotional desire and pursuit of money is exactly the recipe for unwise behaviors in response to emotions - but only if left unchecked. #4: Short-Term Anxiety and Focus As humans, viewing aspects of our lives through the lenses of current circumstances is normal. One emotional response to any event, however, is letting the moment consume us, especially if faced with grave consequences - from our personal health being compromised to the loss of loved ones. Many may find it difficult in these times to both think long-term and to remember logic. However, making a rash decision can inhibit the long-term benefit that comes from maintaining a balanced perspective without reactionary behavior. How to Lessen the Behavior Gap for Your Financial Health At any given point, the market can go up, down or it can remain the same. While market forces are out of our control, one thing we can control is how we handle our financial strategy. Take the effects of the pandemic, for example. In the past, the market has recovered in response to epidemics with an average of 17.17 percent over time.3 While no two situations are alike, remembering the likelihood of recovery over time - and the market's nearly inevitable up-and-down movement - can provide a more logical angle to calm the nerves. If you're experiencing financial

anxiety in response to the pandemic, current events, or other forces, take a breath and also remember the potential for long-term gains. Don't be a victim of the behavior gap in 2022. Instead, start the year off with a strong strategy and hold steady with that strategy in the weeks, months and years ahead. Doing so could make 2022 the most financially impactful year for you yet. We can help you to build a strategy that will allow you to Plan Well, Invest. Well and Live Well in 2022 and beyond. Learn more at our website, www.whzwealth.com, and contact us at (860) 928-2341 or info@whzwealth.com to get started. Presented by Principal/Managing Partner James Zahansky, AWMA®. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your representative. Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. 697 Pomfret St., Pomfret Center, CT 06259, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>. 1 <https://behaviorgap.com/outperform-99-of-your-neighbors/> 2 <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/10/staff-analytical-note-2020-22/> 3 <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/heres-how-the-stock-market-has-performed-during-past-viral-outbreaks-as-chinas-coronavirus-spreads-2020-01-22>



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
**WAYNE
TUISKULA**

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season and a great start to the new year. It's been several weeks since my last antique news update and there is much to report on. There was big news out of England at the end of 2021, when research found that a United Kingdom-based antiques dealer's 2019 auction purchase was actually a very valuable

Latest antique news

historic relic. Dealer Paul Fitzsimmons spotted a gilded oak bird at an English auction. Although it was covered in soot, he "instantly realized that it was a valuable object," according to Smithsonian Magazine. Although he didn't then know that the bird was the badge of Anne Boleyn, he "knew that it had some sort of royal connection because it had the crown and scepter, and it was a royal bird." Anne Boleyn was Henry VIII's second wife, whom he beheaded in 1536. Boleyn had begun to use the

falcon and roses badge around the time she married Henry VIII. It's believed that the falcon and roses were part of the palace's decorative scheme at the time. After her death, Henry VIII tried to remove all traces of Boleyn, including the falcon and rose badges. It's believed that the wooden falcon was in Boleyn's private quarters and had been stashed away by one of her supporters. Fitzsimmons paid \$101 for it at that 2019 auction. It's estimated to be worth \$270,000. He plans to offer it

Turn To **ANTIQUES** page **A10**



OBITUARIES

Cecile Elina Cloutier, 79

North Grosvenordale - Cecile (Patenaude) Cloutier, 79, of North Grosvenordale, died Thursday, January 6, 2022 at home . She was the loving wife of Henri Cloutier. Born in Southbridge, MA, she was the daughter of Samuel and Victoria (Lachapelle) Patenaude.



Cecile was a co-founder of Interfaith Stitchers and a local coordinator for the "Fresh Air Fund" for 10 years. In addition, Cecile was also a coordinator for the ABC Quilt Project.

Mrs. Cloutier enjoyed quilting. She volunteered and shared her time and talents at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam and Harrington Hospital in Southbridge, MA.

Cecile is survived by Daughter, Judith Folkerts of Woodstock, CT; Sons, Samuel Ducharme of Woodstock, CT, and Timothy Ducharme of Toronto, Canada; Sisters, Ann Arnold of Dayville, CT, and Susan Lataille of Southbridge, MA; Grandchildren, Dillon and Luke Ducharme, Evelyn, Jared, Emilia and Chandler Folkerts, and Elise Beasley; and Great-grandchildren, Jackson and Harlow Ducharme, Maverick Ducharme and Desmond Beasley.

Cecile was predeceased by Brother, Richard Patenaude and Grandson Jacob Folkerts.

Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Cecile's family from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Monday, January 10, 2022 at Valade Funeral Home & Crematory. Services will be announced at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to South Woodstock Baptist Church, Community Ministrv Fund.

For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Edward L. Bachand, 97

Edward L. Bachand, 97 of Dudley, Mass passed away on Wednesday January 5th at Webster Manor after a period of declining health. Edward was born on December 3, 1924 in Somerville, Mass, the son of Edward E. and Mary E.(Noonan) Bachand.



James Bachand.

Edward served in the Army during World War II with the 1st Infantry Division at the Battle of The Bulge. He worked at the Worcester Telegram & Gazette as a press operator - retiring in 1987, after 37 years of service. He enjoyed taking day trips with his wife, fishing, and enjoyed family time.



Rene G. Glaude

Rene G. Glaude of Danielson, CT passed away on January 4, 2022 after a brief illness at Backus Hospital in




of marriage. Rene graduated in 1957 from the Vermont Technical School of Agriculture. Over the years Rene worked as a Real Estate Agent and as a car salesman, but found his most success as a Real Estate Appraiser owning and operating Quiet Corner Real Estate Appraisal Service for more than 25 years. Rene lived on Woodward Street in Danielson for over 50 years with his wife and his 5 children. He was always considered a jack of all trades. When he built his home on Woodward Street, he did all of the electrical and plumbing work as well as building his many stone walls and later his Blacksmith shop. Rene enjoyed many hobbies over the years including: Collecting antiques, blacksmithing, stained glass making and gardening. But he always held on to his love of farming. This was most apparent, when one day in the early 2000's a 1954 model B John Deere tractor was delivered to his house. It was his pride and joy for many years. He would proudly park it on the front lawn, drive it around the neighborhood

and give his grandchildren rides. He enjoyed his last official farm duty at his grandson's farm where it was his job to make sure the animals were well fed. When he was there the animals would all run to see him. Rene is survived by his children Guy and his wife Linda of East Hampton, CT, Jeffrey and his wife Barbara of Simsbury, CT, Greg and his wife Tammy of Killingly, CT, Randie Long and her husband Ken of Danielson, CT, and Jamie and his wife Kari of Bloomfield, CT. His twelve grandchildren: Jennifer, Evan, Andrew, Eric, Alexa, Marc, Lindsey, Jason, Jessica, Gwendolyn, Parker & Jordyn and his two great-grandchildren Riley and Ellawyn. He also leaves behind his Brother Ronald Glaude of Brooklyn, CT, sister Beverly Musial of Killingly, CT and his Good friend Ann Arnold who he met at Westview Commons. He was predeceased by his Sisters Joyce Glaude, Claire Maynard, brother Lionel Glaude and his granddaughter Veronica Glaude. The family would like to thank all the staff on E4 and E3, and all the doctors especially Dr. Luna. For your support and empathy at Backus Hospital for taking care of him. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 10:30 AM at St. James Church, Danielson, CT burial followed at All Hollows Cemetery, Moosup, CT. In lieu of flowers donations in his memory to the American Kidney Fund 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 1010, Rockville, MD 20852. Share a memory at www.gagnonandcostellofh.com

Donald “Donnie” Robert Columbia, 72

PUTNAM – Donnie Columbia, 72, of Moosup, passed away at Day Kimball Hospital, Wednesday, December 29, 2021, after a brief illness, surrounded by family and friends.



Donnie grew up in Dayville and attended Killingly Public Schools. He worked for many years at Putnam Herzel in Putnam. In later years, Donnie bartended at Pulaskis bar and restaurant in Danielson and later purchased Pulaskis and renamed it Columbus. After retirement, Donnie served as a bartender at the American Legion, Godreau-McMahon Post 91 in Moosup.

Donnie proudly served in the United States Army during the Vietnam war

and was stationed in Germany.

Donnie is survived by his daughters, Tracey (Peter) Martineau, Jamie Columbia, several grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He is also



Sweeney and his loyal friend, Rhea Lynch.

In addition to his parents, Donnie was predeceased by his brothers, Leon Touchette, Joseph Touchette and Edmond Touchette, and a sister Rita Touchette Dragon.

There will be no funeral services. A Celebration of Life will be planned at a later date.

sports card collection and a wide range of other items. Contact us by email or phone if you have items you'd like to include. Please see our Web site <https://centralmassauctions.com> to join our email list and keep up to date on auctions and other events.

*Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula
Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass
Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate
Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111)
info@centralmassauctions.com*

READING NEWSPAPERS IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER

ANTIQUES

continued from page A9

on long-term loan to Hampton Court Palace.

Elsewhere, a Massachusetts estate sale find is also making news in England. “The Art Newspaper” reported that an Albrecht Dürer sketch was purchased from a Concord, MA estate in 2016. They write that “The Virgin and Child with a Flower on a Grassy Bank” was in the collection of architect Jean-Paul Carlhian. A man who wishes

David Allen
Holloway, 52

David Allen Holloway, 52 of Putnam
passed away on December 23, 2021.



er Richard, sisters Judy, Lisa, and Patty, nieces Jenny, Tina and Dawn and nephews Michael and Mark. Share a memory at www.smithandwalkerfh.com

to remain anonymous purchased the sketch for \$30 from Carlhian's daughters at an estate sale of his belongings. The buyer and seller didn't believe that it was an original work, and the buyer stored it in his home. Clifford Schorer of Agnews Gallery in London heard of the sketch when visiting Boston in 2019 and arranged to see it. Schorer told "The Art Newspaper" that when he first saw the piece he thought, "it was either the greatest forgery I have ever seen—or a masterpiece." Experts have examined the piece more carefully and

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Free workshops offered for Quiet Corner nonprofits

KILLINGLY — REAL Custom Training has announced a series of free workshops to benefit nonprofit organizations in Northeastern Connecticut.

According to owner Andrew Morrison, REAL Custom Training's Community Service Series will make professional development workshops available at no cost to nonprofit organizations, including charities, schools, and municipal agencies.

"I grew up in the Quiet Corner, and now my wife and I are working, volunteering, and raising a family here. We know that nonprofit service providers are a big part of what makes this community special," Morrison said. "I want REAL Custom Training to help the folks who help so many, and I do not want cost to be a barrier."

The Community Service Series will kick off with a two-part Running Meetings That Matter workshop in March, followed by a two-part workshop on The Art of Delegating Effectively in May. Both workshops will be held at the Killingly Public Library in Danielson.

"We're thrilled to make our meeting room available for these workshops," library director Claudette Stockwell said.

PARR to help resettle refugee family in Putnam

PUTNAM — Putnam Area Refugee Resettlement, working with the experienced New Haven-based refugee and immigrant social services agency, IRIS, is gathering funds and volunteers to mentor an Afghan or other refugee family in the town of Putnam, in order to help them become part of the local community.

PARR will take on the day-to-day work of helping the family to obtain appropriate housing, to enroll any children in school, and to apply for healthcare and benefits. Through language tutoring and cultural guidance, PARR will assist in easing the family's transition and maximizing employability, with a goal of independence within six months to a year.

Thousands of Afghan refugees are still on our military bases, awaiting resettlement.

"Those of us working in the public or nonprofit sectors need to develop leadership skills just as much as those in the private sector, but the funding for training isn't always there. REAL Custom Training's generosity will help address that gap."

As for criteria to attend the free programs, Morrison said that the workshops are open to both paid and volunteer staff of nonprofit organizations.

"Many nonprofits rely on dedicated volunteers. You might have a fundraising committee that's chaired by a volunteer who has to run those committee meetings and delegate tasks," Morrison explained. "If participating in one of our free workshops will help a volunteer make even bigger and better contributions to a nonprofit's mission, then we want that volunteer to join us."

Registration is required for the REAL Custom Training Community Service Series.

Registration forms along with workshop schedules and details can be found online at www.realcustomtraining.com or by contacting Andrew Morrison at andrew@realcustomtraining.com.

Putnam Area Refugee Resettlement is a group of interested individuals working together, from area faith groups, civic organizations, and all walks of life. It is currently accepting donations of gently-used furniture, monetary donations, and volunteer applications. There are short-term, long-term, behind-the-scenes jobs, and opportunities to work directly with the refugee family.

Tax-deductible donations may be made with a check to Putnam Area Refugee Resettlement, c/o Congregation B'nai Shalom, PO Box 46, Putnam, CT 06260. Volunteer and other inquiries may be addressed to Co-leader Sue Stern at susandstern@gmail.com.

WINNERS OF FIRE SAFETY POSTER CONTEST ANNOUNCED



Photo Courtesy
Haleigh Raymond and Connor Nieminen were recognized by the Windham County Fire Marshal's Association and awarded a \$25 gift card donated by the Town of Pomfret/Fire Marshal Office for their outstanding effort. The posters were presented for consideration in the State of Connecticut Fire Prevention Calendar for 2022.

If it's important to you,  It's important to us.
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LEGALS

**TOWN OF THOMPSON
PLANNING AND ZONING
COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission held a Public Hearing on Monday, December 27, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT and took the following action:

PZC Application 21-41- Applicant – Robert Werge and Petitioners – Statement of Request for Approval of Designation of Scenic Road, all of Lowell Davis Road or the portion of Lowell Davis Road from I-395 to Wilsonville Road according to Town of Thompson Ordinance 10-042 and Connecticut State Statute 7-149a. Approved with conditions.

File may be reviewed on line, Town of Thompson website, Planning and Zoning Commission.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman
January 14, 2022

**TOWN OF THOMPSON
PLANNING AND ZONING
COMMISSION
LEGAL NOTICE**

The Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Merrill Seney Community Room in the Thompson Town Hall, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT on the following application.

PZC Application 21-47, Applicant Town of Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission – Amendment to Article 5A, Section 5, Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Array Systems, B. Table of Permitted Uses, amend to add 7., Lake District, Residential – Roof Mounted, Zoning Permit*, (*Residential roof mounted, Zoning Permit) Residential Ground Mounted, Site Plan, Medium and Large-Scale Special Permit.

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
January 14, 2022
January 21, 2022

Town of Thompson
A certified list of 20 Republican Party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Thompson for election as Members of the Town Committee at large is on file in my office at 815 Riverside Drive North Grosvenordale, CT and copies are available for public distribution.

The number of Town Committee members to be elected, under party rules is twenty (20).
A primary will be held March 1, 2022 if five (5) candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of Town Committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 PM of January 31, 2022, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of Town Committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than 25%, no primary will be held.)
Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from Francis J. McGarry, Republican Registrar of voters, 225 Chase Road, Thompson, Connecticut. Renee Waldron
Town Clerk of Thompson
January 14, 2022

Town of Thompson
A certified list of 19 Democratic Party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Thompson for election as Members of the Town Committee at large is on file in my office at 815 Riverside Drive North Grosvenordale, CT and copies are available for public distribution. The number of Town Committee members to be elected, under party rules is twenty (25).
A primary will be held March 1, 2022, if seven (7) candidacies (which is at least 25% of the number of Town Committee members to be elected by such party in the municipality) are filed in accordance with 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive, of the General Statutes, by persons other than party-endorsed candidates, not later than 4:00 PM of January 31, 2022, provided the number of such candidacies plus the number of endorsed candidates, exceeds the number of Town Committee members to be elected. (If the number of opposing candidacies filed is reduced to less than 25%, no primary will be held.)
Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing opposing candidacies, may be obtained from A. Aileen Witkowski, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 334 West Thompson Road, North Grosvenordale. Renee Waldron
Town Clerk of Thompson
January 14, 2022

**Town of Woodstock
Legal Notice**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 7-394 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, notice is hereby given that: The Annual Financial Report of The Town of Woodstock for the Year Ended June 30, 2021, Prepared by MahoneySabol, CPAs and Advisors, was filed in the Office of the Town Clerk on January 5, 2022, and that the audit is open for public inspection. Dated this 6 day of January, 2022.
Attest: Judy E. Walberg, Town Clerk
January 14, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Marie E Blais (21-00443)
The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 30, 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:
Timothy E Blais
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS - 168 MAIN ST, P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260
January 14, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF William Charles Cote (21-00453) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 21, 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:
William Charles Cote, Jr.,
134 School Street, Putnam, CT 06260
January 14, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Stephen LaFreniere (21-00417) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 8, 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.

Mary Ann Champney, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Judith LaFreniere,
246 Valentine Road, Pomfret, CT 06259
January 14, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Theodore J Natorski, AKA

Theodore J. Natorski (21-00463)
The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 30, 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.

Mary Ann Champney, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
David P Natorski,
10 Blackman Road, Hebron, CT 06248
January 14, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Kenneth R Olson (21-00451) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 30, 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.

Mary Ann Champney, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Sharon Anne Olson, 61 Lakeside Drive, Thompson, CT 06277
January 14, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Lawrence F Sommer (22-00006) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated January 6, 2022, 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.

Mary Ann Champney, Chief Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Michel Sommer, 398 Federal Road #418A, Brookfield, CT 06804
Corinne Sommer, 335 Beach 73rd Street, Arverne, NY 11692
January 14, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Dorothy J Beatson (21-00462)
The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 30, 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 A Ouellette, 9 Tyler Lane, Norwich, CT 06360
January 14, 2022

Eastern’s Mama wins Benin’s (West Africa) top literary award

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University English Professor Raouf Mama’s newly published picture book, “La Jarre Trouee” has been named the winner of Le Grand Prix Litteraire du Benin for 2021, the top literary prize in Mama’s native country of Benin.

The prestigious honor comes with a cash award of 5 million West African CFA francs (approximately \$9,000 U.S. dollars). The story made headlines in nearly a dozen newspapers in Benin, and Mama was interviewed on several radio and television stations there.

“La Jarre Trouee,” which Mama wrote in French, was one of 10 finalists representing three literary genres: fiction, poetry and folk tales. It is an inspirational historical tale recounting King Ghezo’s use of a jar covered with holes as a teaching tool to impress upon the people of the kingdom of Danxome the virtues of unity and concord and the perils of internecine conflict and discord.

“In a world haunted by the specter of factionalism and the ‘me first’ impulse, the words the king spoke at the climax of the story are as relevant today as they ever were,” said Mama. “Behold, our fatherland is like a jar covered with holes,” said Ghezo. “Unless we stand together and stop with our fingers the holes in the jar, it would not hold the water of life.”

The jar covered with holes is a national icon in Benin and is widely regarded as a motivating force behind that country’s peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy in 1990.

Le Grand Prix Litteraire du Benin is the latest in a series of distinctions Mama has garnered over the past several years. In 2008, he won the National Multicultural Children’s Book award; the Kwabo Trophy in 2009; the Erasmus Mundus International Fellowship in 2011; Eastern’s Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award in 2012; the Benin National English Teachers’ Association Distinguished Merit Award in 2019; and a CSU Professorship in 2020.

In addition, Mama’s latest literary award signals his entry into the restricted circle of scholars and writers who have written award-winning books in French and English.

Mama teaches English and Storytelling at Eastern. He is the only person in the world today who tells folktales from Benin and other parts of the world in English, French, Fon and Yoruba.

EASTCONN’s COVID-19 vaccination clinic rescheduled for Jan. 28 & Feb. 18

HAMPTON — EASTCONN’s Vaccination & Booster Clinic, which was previously postponed due to inclement weather, will now take place on Friday, Jan. 28 and Friday, Feb. 18 from 2-6 p.m.

Connecticut’s COVID-19 Vaccination Vans will be at EASTCONN’s administrative offices at 376 Hartford Turnpike, Hampton to provide no-cost, walk-up vaccinations to area residents.

The highly visible yellow Vaccination Vans, provided by the CT Department of Public Health, are run by Griffin Health. Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are available as well as boosters (ages 12 and up) to all area residents without appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

All children must have a legal guardian present. Please bring a health insurance card and photo ID if you have them, but it is not necessary to have health insurance to receive a vaccine. No one will be turned away for lack of insurance or ID.

If you are receiving your first vaccine on Jan. 28, you may return for a second dose on Feb. 18. If you are receiving your first vaccine on Feb. 18, you will have to locate a second dose from another provider. For more information, please call Stefanie at 860-455-1505.

The DPH Vaccination Vans are part of the State’s effort to vaccinate as many Connecticut residents as possible. More than half the state’s population has received at least one shot since vaccinations began in December 2020.

For more information on vaccinations and COVID-19, visit ct.gov/covidvaccine.

At the clinic, we are accepting non-perishable food items for the EASTCONN food pantry that benefits our K-12 students. Donations of granola bars, snack bars, or single-serve, microwavable mac n’ cheese or pasta are greatly appreciated. Collection bins will be located at the door of the vaccination clinic. Thank you for your support.

Local Assumption students named to Dean’s List

WORCESTER, Mass. — Assumption University has announced those students who have been named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2021 semester. Students named to the University’s Dean’s List must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters. Local students include:

Alex Devolve of Danielson, Class of 2023

Taylor Kent of Brooklyn, Class of 2022

Samuel Roy of Tompson, Class of 2023

“The University is proud of those students named to the Dean’s List for the academic excellence they demonstrated in the classroom in their pursuit of a Catholic liberal education,” said Assumption University President Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D. “Through their commitment to their studies during the fall semester, students named to the Dean’s List have immersed themselves in their academic program as they are formed as individuals who will use the knowledge they have gained to live meaningful and purposeful lives and careers.”

Assumption University provides students with a comprehensive, Catholic liberal arts experience through curricular and co-curricular programs, including internship opportunities, recreational activities, and more than 60 on-campus clubs and organizations. An Assumption education forms graduates both intellectually and spiritually, inspiring wonder and purpose as they discover their vocation.

For more information, visit [assumption.edu](https://www.assumption.edu).

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England’s premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service. The University offers 34 majors and 49 minors in the liberal arts, sciences, business, nursing and professional studies; as well as master’s and continuing education degrees and professional certificate programs. For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

Quiet Corner Peace Jam provides warmth and comfort for local homeless population

DANIELSON — The Quiet Corner Peace Jam hat and glove drive was a great success! The group collected over 220 hats, gloves, and other warm items for local homeless shelter residents in Danielson. Peace Jam led the school-wide effort to collect the most items. Senora Werstler’s 7th grade homeroom students brought in the most items for this community drive.

Peace Jam joined forces with NOW (Northeast Opportunities for Wellness) and is now open to fifth through eighth grade students in surrounding towns to join in leading local peace and wellness efforts! See our Facebook page for details as Quiet Corner Peace Jam. We welcome in the new year and focusing our efforts on future projects to benefit local individuals in need. A huge thank you to Jennie Kesselman and Sherry Dery for their donations to our group; it takes a village and we



are grateful for your generosity! Peace Jam’s mission is to create a generation of young leaders committed to positive change in themselves, their communities, and world through the inspiration of Nobel Peace Laureates, and the spirit, skills, and wisdom they embody (<http://peacejam.org>).

NEWS BRIEFS

Regan Stuyinski named to Fall 2021 Dean’s List at Stonehill College

EASTON, Mass. — Regan Stuyinski, of Brooklyn, a member of the Class of 2023, has been named to the Fall 2021 Dean’s List at Stonehill College.

To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

About Stonehill College

Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 384-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.

Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.

Stonehill College educates the whole person so that each Stonehill graduate thinks, acts and leads with courage toward the creation of a more just and compassionate world.

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

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — 870 students have been named to the Plymouth State University President’s List for the Fall 2021 semester. To be named to the President’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.7 or better for the Fall 2021 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester.

Halladay Glode of North Grosvenordale

Hannah Mason of Thompson

Caroline Gagnon of Thompson

About Plymouth State University

Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.



LEGION DONATIONS

Photos Courtesy

American Legion Post 67 in North Grosvenordale donates money and food gift cards to St. Mary food pantry as part of their Holiday giving. Pictured are William “Bill” Juzwic, Sons of the American, Legion member and Lisa Martin Junior Vice Commander presenting the money and food cards to Fr. David Choquette. Post 67 donates to many local charities with the monies that they raise through meat raffles, dinners, and other social events.



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