WOODSTOCK VILLAGER

Friday, March 15, 2019 *Serving Eastford, Pomfret & Woodstock since 2005* **Complimentary to homes by request**

Courtesy photos

An alpaca

Farming for the sheer fun of it

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN
NEWS STAFF WRITER

THOMPSON — Farms are quite common in the Quiet Corner. But Morning Beckons Farm is a little bit different. For one, the alpacas. Then there's the emus, the Nigerian dwarf goats, the miniature pigs, the miniature donkeys, and the meat rabbits. Julie Butler and her husband, Vern, probably run the most unique farm in the area. And the best part is there's always an open house around the corner.

The Butlers have always loved farming. But they didn't consider something like alpacas until they visited the Big E 10 years ago. They witnessed an alpaca show and fell in love.

Alpacas are cute, said Butler, quiet, and clean. But they are also very useful animals. The number one thing they're raised for is fleece. They're considered hypo-allogenic, and Butler creates alpaca products from the fiber they collect from them once a year.

The Butlers also show their alpacas.

"We're nonstop trying to improve the quality of our alpacas to have a better fiber," she said.

Her husband is on the National Board of the Alpaca Owners Association, and Butler is a board member of the New England Alpaca Owners & Breeders Association. They're very active in the alpaca industry, and are trying to make alpaca meat a more common commodity in the area.

"We eat alpaca regularly," said Butler. "It's very lean."

The Butlers also raise emus, including three breeding pairs. The chicks can be sold for about $150, and they also can sell the eggs. And eat them, of course.

"The meat is phenomenal," said Butler. "A very red, dense meat that's very tasty."

Turn To ***FARMING*** *page* ***A11***

Dressed for success

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN
NEWS STAFF WRITER

Courtesy photos

Candy Vorasadhit, Ella Hutchinson, Claire Gorsuch, Lila Henderson, Jessie Farrell, and Catori Colbut are Pomfret School volunteers who collected over 130 prom dresses to make sure other girls in the area were able to have a great prom experience.

POMFRET — A group of Pomfret School volunteers hosted their very own Cinderella Project at Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group on March 1. Giving away free prom dresses to girls in the area, the girls had gone above and beyond what is required of them for the school's Project Pomfret Time.

Small groups throughout the school spent 10 days working on a project, divided into small groups that contain all grade levels. The girls — Candy Vorasadhit, Ella Hutchinson, Claire Gorsuch, Lila Henderson, Jessie Farrell, and Catori Colbut — searched the area for an existing Cinderella Project to donate to. But when they found out there were none, they decided to create their own, under the supervision of Director of Community Outreach Anne Richards.

How did you guys come up with this project?

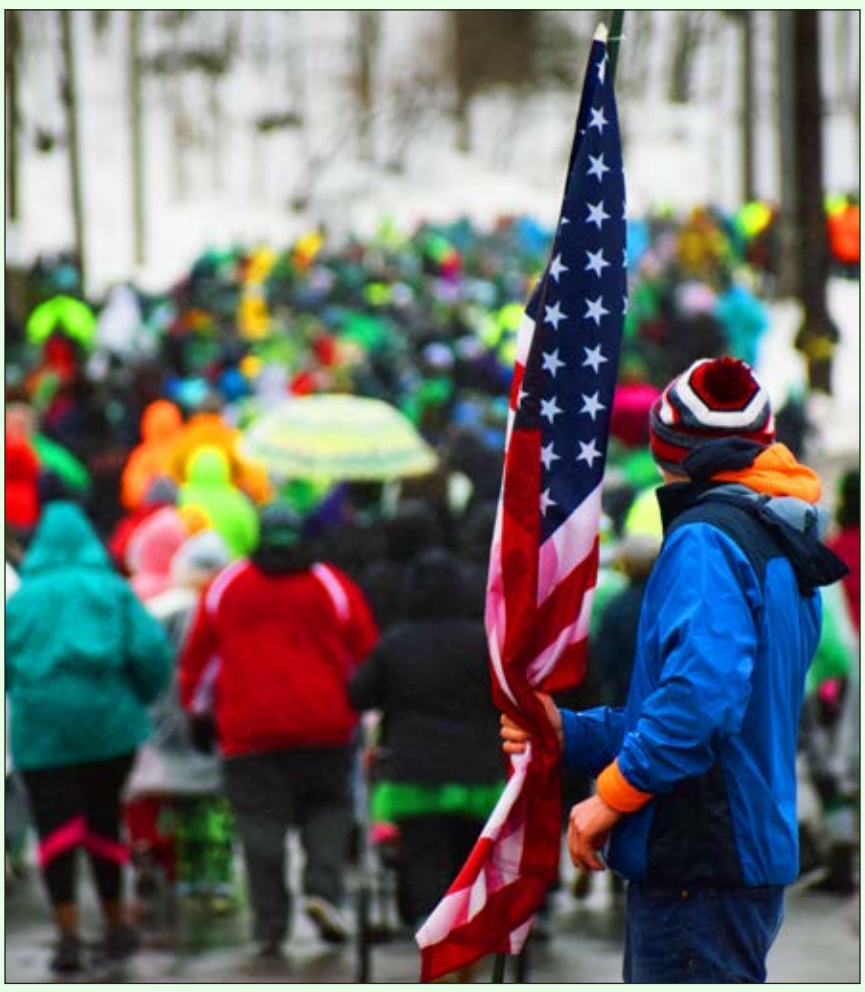
Candy Vorasadhit, Junior - Originally it came from recycling. I worked with Richards last year on a thrift store. We talked about doing the Cinderella Project and thought it was a great idea, not only to give dresses to girls who didn't have the chance, but also recycle them. We started at the beginning of the year and it developed into this big thing. At first we were just going to donate it so some organization online, but we decided to create one in this area.

Ella Hutchinson, Senior - We have a prom here ourselves. We noticed that many girl around the country, especially in our area, who don't have the money to spend on such an extravagant day. We want them to experience something special in high school. Without having to pay $300-400. We want them to feel confident and get that experience you dream of since middle school.

Candy – We reached out to the campus to start with at the beginning of the year. Seniors had also left some of their clothes here. But a lot of faculty began to reach out to us. Mrs. Melissa Bellanceau, who was recently crowned Mrs. New England, had a bunch of dresses. She also showed us vendors and stores that would be willing to donate as well, which we started calling. That included

Turn To ***DRESSED*** *page* ***A15***

THESE COLORS DON'T RUN



Charlie Lentz photo

PUTNAM — The American Flag bears witness to runners on Canal Street at the start of the Courthouse O'Putnam 5K run on Sunday, March 10.

WEARING THE GREEN

Charlie Lentz photo

PUTNAM — Race volunteers Earl Rosebrooks, left, and Jim Logsdon get in the spirit of St. Patrick at the Courthouse O'Putnam 5K run on Sunday, March 10.

Restoring Chamberlin Mill's 19th Century saw.

WOODSTOCK — This winter a group of expert volunteers has begun working in earnest to resurrect the 19th century circular saw that for many years produced lumber at Woodstock's historic Chamberlin Mill.

Andy Quigley, George French, and Nate Rosebrooks bring solid experience to this task. Andy, a member of Pomfret School's Facilities Mechanical Department, owns and operates Timberworks Sawmill in Pomfret. His saw, almost identical to the one found at Chamberlin Mill, is one he rebuilt years ago from a "heap of parts." George is in charge of saw maintenance at Hull Forest Products in Pomfret, and has worked most of his adult life in the lumber industry. He grew up near Chamberlin Mill. Nate, retired founder of Putnam's Fluid Coating Technology, Inc., brings a multitude of welcome skills and connections to the task.

For a number of years this group, spearheaded by Andy Quigley, has carefully stored important parts of the Mill's original saw, and searched for replacement parts they would need. Several years ago, a generous door, Jim Tumel, an acquaintance of a Chamberlin Mill, Inc. board member, made a quantity of parts available to the restoration effort. Then, in November, 2018, while making a daily internet check for remaining parts, Andy spied an identical 1870 vintage Lane #1 saw for sale. He sprang into action immediately and within four days began retrieving parts of the saw from a snowy Vermont woods. Using Nate's truck and trailer, Andy, George and Nate, hauled two more loads of parts to Connecticut. All necessary metal parts for rebuilding the saw were finally in place.

Courtesy photos

Andy Quigley (left) and George French (right) dismantle 19th century Lane #1 saw in Vermont, readying it for shipment to Connecticut's Chamberlin Mill.

Saw box and pulleys, close up.

Nate (left) and Andy (right) carry new set beam into Chamberlin Mill, ready for installation.

All that was needed was a replacement "set beam" to which all the metal parts attach. While the original beam still exists,it had been exposed to the elements and was too deteriorated for use. Such a beam, however, is not an everyday find. Here Nate's connections came into play.

In his retirement, Nate has volunteered regularly in the machine repair shop at Mystic Seaport, working on projects connected to the Morgan, its great whaling ship, refurbishing with others the 1928 Studebaker engine that provided power to the Chamberlin Mill saw in its late years of operation. and more recently, helping to support the Seaport's restoration work on Mayflower II for Plimoth Plantation. Through this last connection, Nate secured a timber large enough and strong enough for Chamberlin Mill's set beam. This timber had originally been part of the Groton Pier built in the 1890s. After the pier was dismantled in 1980, this timber was shipped to a Virginia dealer. It was brought back north in connection with the Mayflower II restoration. The remainder of the original timber will be used for the Mayflower II.

With all metal parts available and the new set beam on hand Chamberlin Mill, Inc., the non-profit steward for the historic Woodstock sawmill, hopes to bring the saw back to life within a year. Once rebuilt, it will be reconnected to the rebuilt Studebaker engine that once gave it power, and begin to produce lumber again, though this time for public education and enjoyment.

Chamberlin Mill is one of the last surviving sawmills in Connecticut that was once powered by water. Following "The Great Flood" of 1936, with its lower dam and penstock compromised, the Chamberlins kept the saw operating by using a powerful and steady Studebaker engine, connected directly to the saw's arbor shaft. This allowed them to operate their Mill for another three decades. The surviving mill structure dates to around 1900, though the site has been used for grist mill and sawmill operations since the 1700s. Chamberlin Mill is listed on the State Register of Historic Places.

Visitors will have an opportunity to observe the saw under reconstruction and to learn about the process of its rebuilding at an event on May 4 at 1 p.m., with rain date of May 5. Further information about this event is available on Chamberlin Mill's website: www.chamberlinmill.org.

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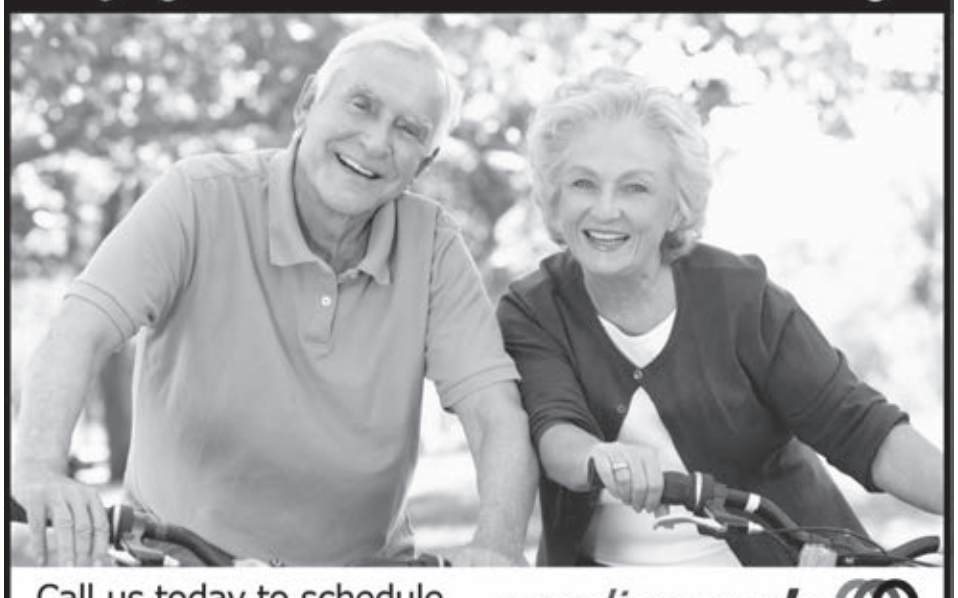

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VILLAGER ALMANAC
AT CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of March 4: Common Redpoll, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Raven, Turkey Vulture, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Robin, Bluebirds, Carolina Wren, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser. Visit ctaudubon.org/pomfret-home.

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Putnam American Legion Post 13 celebrates 100th anniversary

Courtesy photo

In this vintage photo from 1969 Robert St. Onge (center), Commander of American Legion Post #13 receives proclamations from R. Roger Brodeur (left), Mayor of Putnam and 2nd District Congressman William St. Onge. The proclamations were presented in recognition of the Post's 50th Anniversary celebration in 1969.

BY RONALD P. CODERRE
FOR THE VILLAGER

PUTNAM — During the past decade, from 2008 to 2018, the Mayotte-Viens American Legion Post 13 has regularly been in the news, through its numerous community activities, promoting its mission, "For God and Country." In 2019 Post 13 will celebrate its 100th Anniversary.

But have you ever wondered, "How and when did the world's largest veteran's organization get its start?"

In the fall of 1916 President Woodrow Wilson, campaigning on the slogan, "He kept us out of war," won a second term in office. A few weeks following his inauguration, on April 2, 1917, Wilson addressed a special session of Congress and asked for a declaration of war against Germany.

This war, World War I, "The Great War" famous for its "doughboys," is eventually what spawned the organization known as The American Legion. Following the signing of the armistice ending World War I on the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the wheels of action began to churn, pressing for an organization in which the doughboys of World War I could find the same sense of unity and camaraderie that they experienced in the military.

Under the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., the national organization got its start. A caucus of veterans meeting in Paris from March 15–17, 1919 officially formalized the establishment of The American Legion.

Soon after the Paris caucus Lt. Alfred N. Philips, who was appointed by Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. to establish a Department of Connecticut, arrived in Putnam to enlist the interest of 400 World War I veterans in organizing a Post in the town.

The first 50 years: Putnam's answer came with the submission of a charter signed by 25 area veterans. On July 7, 1919 the National Executive Committee formally certified and granted the charter. By December 9, 1919 an additional 202 members had added their names to the new Post. On July 22 Dr. Edward F. Perry was elected President; Harold S. Corbin, vice president; and Whitman S. Danielson, secretary-treasurer.

(The 25 veteran signers of the original charter were: James P. Ryan, Arthur P. Brodeur, Emilien Breault, Peter J. Magnan, Charles F. Donahue, Lorenzo M. Kennedy, Dr. William Saretski, Edmond Gagne, Eugene Miller, Albert J. Gregoire, John L. Wright, James J. Charron, Michael J. Daigle, Hyde Smith, Archibald Macdonald, Jr., Harold S. Corbin, John Lussier, Alfred L. Gilbo, Lucien Girard, W.D. Favreau, James E. Murray, Dr. Edward F. Perry, Norman E. Warren, A.C. Keith, G. Stanley Shaw)

In August of the same year, more than 100 members assembled at the former Union Hall and unanimously voted to name the Post, Anselm Mayotte Post. Father Anselm Mayotte was an assistant at St. Mary's Church. He was one of 40 young priests who answered the call of Bishop John J. Nilan of the Diocese of Hartford to serve the needs of the young soldiers as a chaplain on the battlefields of France.

Shortly after arriving in France the young chaplain was assigned to the 102nd Infantry Regiment and later transferred to 12th Field Artillery Regiment. While with both units, which were in the midst of heavy fighting, Chaplain Mayotte not only tended to the spiritual needs of the troops but also assisted with caring for the wounded. In addition to battling the German enemies, the men also battled what also prove to be a killer – disease. The real killer became the flu or influenza, which was accompanied by pneumonia.

Shortly before Thanksgiving 1918, just after the signing of the armistice, the chaplain and his unit were in Buchenofe, Germany when he was transported to a hospital in Echternacht, Luxemburg with full blown flu symptoms. He died there, six days before his 30th birthday, on December 5, 2018.

In February 1947, Post #13 officially changed its name to The Mayotte-Viens American Legion. The Post was renamed in memory and honor of George R. Viens, a Putnam High School graduate and United States Marine, who was killed by a sniper's bullet at Guadalcanal in September 1943 at the age of 21.

During its 100-year existence Post #13 has experienced periods of inactivity where its future was uncertain. Since its early beginnings when more than 225 men joined the organization, membership witnessed a growth to an all-time high of 280 members. Just prior to its 50th anniversary in 1969, the Post was almost abandoned due to low membership and poor financial conditions.

A concerted effort to revitalize the Post under the leadership of Commander Gerard "Gerry" Richard occurred in 1965. From 1966 through 1970 Commanders Richard Turcotte, Leo Beausoleil and Robert F. St. Onge continued the revitalization and growth of the Post.

From its inception in 1919 American Legion Post #13 has been fortunate to have had the leadership of strong veterans throughout the years. In the very early years such well- known names as its first commander Dr. Edward F. Perry have dotted the roster of commanders. G. Stanley Shaw, Sr. (1928-1929), Arthur Keith (1929-1930), Gilbert Perry (1931-1932), Rosario J. "Dodo" Beausoleil (1935-1936), James J. "Jimmy" Charron (1936-1937), Dr. Henry C. Breault (1937-1938), Sen. Henry Dunleavy (1941-1942), James W. Frost (1944-1945), and John W. Gahan (1949-1950) followed, providing the leadership that kept the Post intact and viable.

During the initial 50 years, two members Rosario Beausoleil and Norman J. Levesque were accorded life membership awards. Beausoleil was a World War I veteran who was a prominent businessman and Alderman in Putnam. Levesque, a World War II veteran served as Post Commander on three separate occasions, 1948-1949, 1950-1951 and 1952-1953.

From the pages of the November 12, 1925 edition of the Hartford Courant, the American Legion was cited for its involvement in a ceremony at the World War I Veterans Memorial Bridge on Pomfret Street.

The headline read, Observance of Armistice Day – Putnam Dedicates Bridge (from the Associated Press), "Putnam paid tribute to its war dead today and honored the living who took part in the struggle, when a memorial bridge across the Quinebaug River was dedicated and appropriate exercises were held. Between 15,000 and 20,000 persons witnessed the ceremonies which were attended by Governor Trumbull and many other prominent men."

Today, more than 90 years later, thanks to the initiative of the men and women of Post #13 that same bridge proudly displays the American Flag, the POW/MIA Flag, the American Legion and VFW flags, as well as the flags of the five branches of the military.

Since the first National Convention in 1919, to the 2019 National Convention, both taking place in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the veteran members of American Legion Post #13 have played a significant role in the establishment of the organization as it is formed today. Veterans who served in World War I, World War II and the Korean War carried the Post through its first 50 years.

(Editor's note: On March 15 American Legion National and on July 7 The Mayotte-Viens American Legion Post 13 will celebrate 100-year anniversaries. This is the first of a two-part story recapping a brief history of Post 13. Excerpts in this article have been taken from a history written by G. Stanley Shaw in 1969 and from articles in the 1925 Hartford Courant, 1970 Windham County Observer – Putnam Patriot and the book Sky Pilots. The second of Coderre's two-part story is scheduled for next week's Villager)

Villager Newspapers

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.

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Police Logs

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

TROOP D LOG

DANIELSON

Sunday, March 3
Conner A Greene, 27, of 15 Glen Rain Road, Killingly, was charged with larceny

Monday, March 4
Winston Akrofi, 24, homeless, was charged with breach of peace

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BRACKEN MEMORIAL LIBRARY
AUTHOR SERIES
Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.
Richard Foye

Rich Foye, former headmaster of The Woodstock Academy, will be at the library to talk about his new book, *Foye and the Filipinos*. This book chronicles his father's story of bravery and survival after his plane was shot down over the Philippines during WWII. He survived 4 months in the jungle after being rescued, hidden, and fed by Filipino guerillas and local citizens who supported the United States. Rich will have copies of his book available for purchase and signing at the event. This event is free and open to the public.

Bracken Memorial Library is located on the North Campus of The Woodstock Academy. Parking is available on Hill Cemetery Rd, or in the staff parking lot behind the school. If you have any questions, or would like more information, please contact the library at brackenlib@gmail.com or 860-928-0046. We hope to see you there!

Artists invited to exhibit at Eastford Church

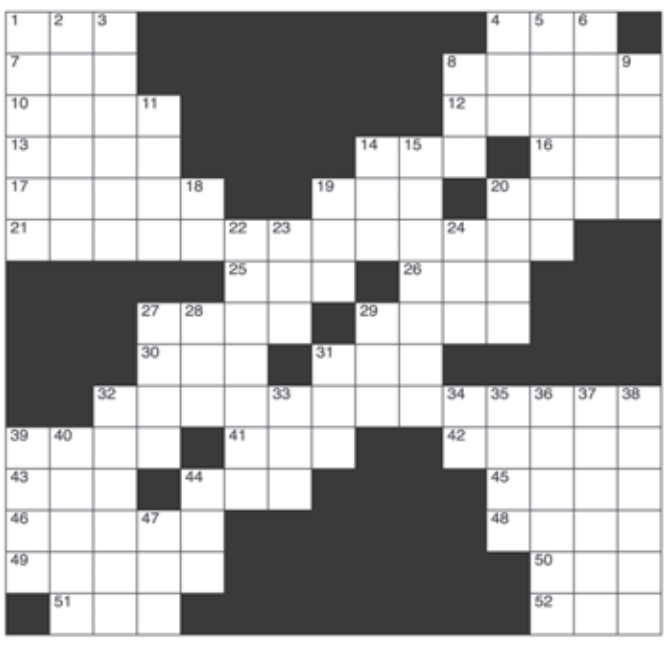
Rebekah Budd of Eastford with her 2018 display at Eastford's Creative Arts Exhibit.

EASTFORD — On March 30 from 6:30 to 8 p.m., folks from all over the Quiet Corner are invited to attend or bring their visual arts, music, poetry, quilting, crafts, singing, storytelling or other artistic pursuits to the Creative Arts Exhibit at the Community Room of the Congregational Church of Eastford, located at 8 Church Road. There will be refreshments. The event is free. The Community Room is universally accessible with ample space for large displays. To register for the March 30 exhibit, sign up at: http://www.cceastford.org/creative-arts-night/.

The church's community services, including Music for Preschoolers, Financial Peace classes, GriefShare, Celebrate Recovery, and other activities, are open to the public. We invite all to join in, said Pastor Michael Moran. For information, go to www.cceastford.org/events, or call (860) 974-0294, or E-mail: office@cceastford.com

Music for Preschoolers brings parents and children to learn to play musical instruments at Eastford Congregational Church, all are welcome.

Music for Preschoolers welcomes all families.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Employ
4. Not a starter
7. Matchstick game
8. One who receives a gift
10. One shows highlights
12. Open sore
13. Within
14. __ Caesar, comedian
16. Investment account
17. A negatively charged ion
19. Immoral act
20. Cheek
21. Lacking in vigor or vitality
25. Partner to flow
26. Ink
27. "Mad Men" actor
29. A taunt
30. Single
31. A very large body of water
32. A configuration of stars as seen from the earth
39. Herringlike fish
41. No (Scottish)
42. White-breasted N. American auk
43. American time
44. Adult female
45. Singer Horne
46. Pronouncements
48. From a distance
49. Indian term of respect
50. One from Utah
51. Never sleeps
52. Type of bulb

CLUES DOWN

1. Hard to believe
2. Used as a pigment in painting
3. Induces vomiting
4. Fifth note of a major scale
5. Written in a majuscule script
6. Brews
8. Misfire
9. Amounts of time
11. The act of perceiving something visually
14. Female sibling
15. First
18. Sodium
19. Brother or sister
20. Satisfy
22. The lands of an estate
23. Antiballistic missile
24. Taxi
27. Covers the engine
28. Commentator Coulter
29. Mousse
31. Witness
32. Unlikely to be forgotten
33. Bar bill
34. Morning
35. City south of Moscow
36. Highly incensed
37. Intricately decorated
38. Drew closer to
39. Beers
40. Central China city
44. Touch lightly
47. Habitual twitching

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Voices in Concert set for March 30

Courtesy photo

Donna LaHaie and Valerie Hauptman

KILLINGLY — Donna LaHaie, from Putnam, and Valerie Hauptman, from Colchester, will be appearing at the upcoming Broadway Live Productions "Voices in Concert with The New England Jazz Ensemble" on March 30, with shows at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m, at Killingly High School.

The concert is being produced to benefit both Killingly High School's Music and Drama programs as well as the Quinebaug Valley Community College Foundation. Music from Broadway, big band and jazz will be featured with local and regional vocalists including LaHaie and Hauptman. They have performed together numerous times in the past for Broadway Live produced events including last April's "The Conncert" that was produced at The Center for The Arts in Woodstock to support the Hale YMCA Youth and Family Center.

LaHaie, a 1982 graduate of Killingly High School and a QVCC student, has been performing and singing throughout the years as a standout performer.

"It was just 38 years ago when I made my debut as "Sandy" in the musical Grease at Killingly High School," said LaHaie. "My involvement with musical theater, chorus and the Big Red Marching Band provided me some of the most cherished memories of my high school years; and I am truly honored to be part of this benefit as a way to give back to where it all started for me." Hauptman is no stranger to the stage and Broadway Live events as well. Some of her appearances included: DIVAS in Concert, Broadway Live Christmas as well as The Conncert, last April.

"I am so excited to be working with the New England Jazz Ensemble alongside the incredibly talented group of vocalists for this worthwhile cause," said Hauptman. "Having the opportunity to perform these classic songs in such a professional setting is a very humbling experience for me."

Broadway Live Productions creator and Director David T. Panteleakos said "We are so fortunate to have both Donna and Val return to the stage for this exciting event. This concert is all about the power of music and education; and I am so excited to be able to bring together the 24 piece New England Jazz Ensemble with some of the most talented vocalists I have worked with over the years."

Tickets are now available on-line at www.mybroadwaylive.com or at Killingly High School

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TOUCH DOWN!
CHECK OUT THE SPORTS ACTION!

Blackmar is Day Kimball Employee of the Month

PUTNAM — Wendy Blackmar, pre-certification clerk has been named employee of the month for January by Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH).

Blackmar, who has nearly 30 years of experience in the medical field, began her career at DKH in February 2012. In her role, Blackmar acts as a liaison between the patient, physician, and insurance company and assists patients with the next level of their care with regard to financial responsibility and scheduling. Additional responsibilities include verifying patients' insurance benefits and eligibility, obtaining required pre-certifications, providing assistance and education to physician practices, and assisting patients in understanding their insurance benefits.

"I have worked with Wendy as both a peer and supervisor and from the beginning of our working relationship I have observed the qualities Wendy possesses as nomination-worthy. Wendy takes on additional responsibilities without being asked, she offers her help to anyone who appears in need of it without hesitation, and she is not afraid to step in and take charge if the situation warrants it. Wendy has an excellent rapport with all team members within the department. She can be direct, yet do so with finesse and professionalism, which in turn gains the respect of her peers," said Blackmar's supervisor, Patient Access Manager, Jill Privee,

"I am honored and humbled to be named employee of the month. We are all deserving of this award." When asked what she likes most about her job, Blackmar said, "Of course my co-workers, but I also love the investigative side of my job, making sure all of the insurance and authorizations are in place. I look forward to a long future at Day Kimball Healthcare," said Blackmar.

Blackmar was born and raised in New Britain. She currently resides in Putnam with her husband, Kevin, her daughter, Julia. Blackmar has two step-children, Katherine and Gavin.

Courtesy photo

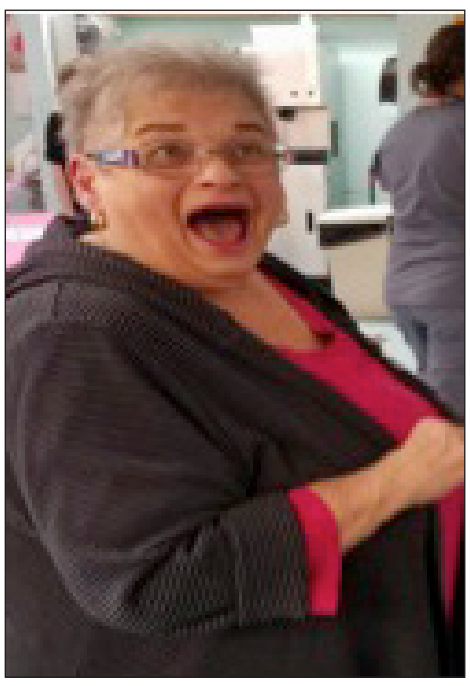
From left, Joseph Adiletta, Jill Privee, Wendy Blackmar, and Paul Beaudoin.

Pierce employee celebrates milestone

BROOKLYN — Elaine Barbeau-Femino, RN, a Brooklyn resident, began her tenure at Pierce Memorial Baptist Home on Feb. 13, 1969. She has worked in a variety of roles, including that of Charge Nurse and Head Supervisor. Throughout the course of the non-profit company's evolution to a skilled nursing facility, Barbeau-Femino has been an integral part of the Pierce community according to Linda Silvia, Executive Director of Creamery Brook Retirement Village and 33 year PierceCare employee.

"Elaine has a great spirit, provides exceptional care, and can always make us laugh," Silvia said.

Her primary role is to assist nursing management with quality assurance, and to ensure that our medical record retention policy is in compliance with federal and state regulations. In the weeks leading up to her anniversary, a surprise party was planned and exactly 50 years from her date of hire, employees from all departments gathered to congratulate her on this extraordinary accomplishment.



Courtesy photo

Barbara Femino

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LEARNING

SCHOOLS AND THE PUBLIC *are encouraged to submit items for inclusion on the Learning Page. The deadline is noon Monday. Send all items to Editor Charlie Lentz at charlie@villagernewspapers.com.*

Glode is in Tourtellotte spotlight

Courtesy photo

Halladay Glode

THOMPSON — Tourtellotte Memorial High School's Student Spotlight program recognizes a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, character, leadership, attitude, and/or contributions to the school and community. The March Student Spotlight honoree is senior Halladay Glode.

"She always has a smile on her face and she is extremely nice to everyone," said her nominating classmate, Laura Fournier.

"What I love about Halle is that she is not afraid to be herself and she genuinely cares about others," said senior Amanda Bogoslofski.

"Halle is there to provide unconditional support no matter the circumstances," said classmate Kae Heffernan.

Glode actively participates in her school community. She is Co-President of the Drama Club, a Peer Point tutor, a member of the Leadership Team, one of the secretaries of the Tourtellotte National Honor Society, and the student conductor of the TMHS Modern Music Ensemble. As a leader of this group, she has performed at many community events such as Thompson Community Day and the Martin Luther King Breakfast in Putnam, as well as for hospice patients and veterans. Outside of school, Glode is a summer camp counselor and proudly volunteers after school at the Thompson Public Library. She is an avid reader and writer, having written several short stories and novels. Also, Glode is currently rehearsing for the role of Dorothy in upcoming production of The Wizard of Oz that will be performed at the high school from April 5 through 7.

"I tend to be motivated when I think of my future. I try my best to focus on what I want to accomplish with my life. That way, I'm aiming for a bigger goal with every aspect of my life. My friends and family also extremely motivate me," Glode said. "I'm continuing my education at Plymouth State University this fall to study Elementary Education and Creative Writing. I also plan to be connected with music and theater once I leave Tourtellotte." Halle's message to her school community is, "Try your hardest, even when you feel like you possibly can't try anymore. Challenging yourself is how you grow."

Opioid talk at Woodstock Academy

WOODSTOCK — On March 25 and 26 Woodstock Academy will be sponsoring Jennifer Giminez, Tim Ryan, and John Lally at the Art Center for a conversation on the opioid and mental health crisis affecting our country and the Quiet Corner. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and is open to the public.

Courtesy photo

Thompson Middle School student council

Thompson Middle School student council donates

THOMPSON — Thompson Middle School student council members sold heart necklaces in the middle school in February to raise funds for charity. Student council members handed Chief Sharpe a check for $100. The money raised from this fundraiser was donated to our local Community Fire Department and will help support the upkeep of the fire department's defibrillators, which are heart saving devices used throughout the community. Pictured in the photo with Mrs. Groh and the TMS Student Council is Thompson Middle School Principal Steve Knowlton and Chief John Sharpe from Community Fire Department. Thank you to Chief Sharpe, as well as a special thank you to Mr. Joe Lindley, Thompson Board of Education member, who shared with Mrs. Groh many heart-worthy programs and causes that could benefit from the money they raised. Students were very proud to have raised money for such a worthy cause as the local Community Fire Department.

School Menus

MARY FISHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

March 18, Monday – Hot Dog **OR** Vanilla Yogurt-Muffin-Cheese. Oven Baked Potato's Baked Beans, Cucumber Wheels

March 19, Tuesday – *MARCH MADNESS Mango Fruit Freeze* WG Mozzarella Sticks, Dipping Sauce **OR** Turkey/Cheese Sandwich. Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Carrots Juice

March 20, Wednesday – Taco Salad w/ Fixings & Chips Salsa, Sour Cream WG Cookie **OR** Vanilla Yogurt-Cereal-Cheese Stick. Spinach Salad, Cucumber Wheels

March 21, Thursday – Cheese Pizza **OR** Ham/Cheese Sandwich. Oven Baked Potato's Fresh Celery & Tomatoes Juice

March 22, Friday -- Crispy Breaded Chicken **OR** Vanilla Yogurt-Muffin-Cheese Stick. WG Mac & Cheese Seasoned Broccoli.

POMFRET COMMUNITY SCHOOL

March 18, Monday – Cheesy Pizza Slice, Crispy Celery Sticks, Crunchy Baby Carrots, Ranch Dipping Sauce, Assorted Fruits, Milk. *Breakfast: Breakfast Pastry*

March 19, Tuesday – Brunch for Lunch: French Toast Sticks, Egg Patty, Tater Tots & Grape Tomatoes, Assorted Fruit, Milk. *Breakfast: Mini Pancakes*

March 20, Wednesday – Toasted Cheese Sandwich, Hearty Vegetable Soup, Sweet Potato Fries, Assorted Fruits, Milk. Happy Spring!! *Breakfast: Breakfast Pastry*

March 21, Thursday – Beef and Cheese Crunchy Taco. *National Crunchy Taco Day!* Tomato Salsa, Seasoned Rice & Golden Corn, Assorted Fruits, Milk. *Breakfast: Mini Waffles*

March 22, Friday -- Turkey & Cheese Sandwich**,** Lettuce & Tomato, Baked Potato, Chips, Assorted Fruits, Milk. *Breakfast: Egg and Cheese*

PUTNAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

March 18, Monday – WG Crispy Chicken Patty on WG Roll, Lettuce and Tomato, Potato Smiles

March 19, Tuesday – WG Pasta with Meat sauce**,** WG Breadstick, Seasoned Broccoli**,** 100% Fruit Sherbet

March 20, Wednesday – WG Mini Corndogs with Dipping Sauce, Baked Beans, Creamy Coleslaw

March 21, Thursday – Crispy Chicken Tenders, WG Breaded Chicken Tenders**,** Served W/ Gravy**,** Whipped Potato, Seasoned Corn & Whole Wheat Roll

March 22, Friday -- Putnam Special Pizza, Assorted Fresh Toppings on home-made Whole Wheat Pizza Dough**,** Fresh Garden Salad w/ Cherry Tomatoes and Cucumbers

PUTNAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

March 18, Monday – WG Crispy Chicken Patty on WG Roll Fixings Bar, Potato Smiles

March 19, Tuesday – WG Pasta with Meat sauce**,** WG Breadstick**,** Seasoned Broccoli**,** 100% Fruit Sherbet

March 20, Wednesday – WG Mini Corndogs with Dipping Sauce or Hotdog on Bun, Baked Beans

March 21, Thursday -- Crispy Chicken Tenders, WG Breaded Chicken Tenders Served W/ Gravy Whipped Potato, Seasoned Corn & Whole Wheat Roll

March 22, Friday -- Putnam Special Pizza, Assorted Fresh Toppings on home-made Whole Wheat Pizza Dough Fresh Garden Salad w/ Cherry Tomatoes and Cucumbers

THOMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL & TOURTELLOTTE (GRADES 5-12)

March 18, Monday – Hot Dog w/ Chili & Cheese OR Chicken Patty w/ Bun. Oven Baked Potatoes, Baked Beans

March 19, Tuesday – March Madness Mango Fruit Freeze, Mozzarella Sticks, Dipping sauce OR *Managers Choice.* "Ranch" Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Carrots

March 20, Wednesday – Taco Salad w/ chips, Salsa & Sour Cream OR Cheeseburger. Mixed Vegetables

March 21, Thursday – Big Daddy "Buffalo Chicken Pizza**"** OR Chicken Quesadilla w/ Sour Cream & Salsa. Oven baked Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans

March 22, Friday -- Crispy Breaded Chicken OR *Managers Choice.* WG Mac & Cheese Broccoli w/ Cheese Sauce

WOODSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 18, Monday – Hot Dog/Bun, Baked Beans, Fruit, Milk

March 19, Tuesday – WG Waffles, Hash Browns, Breakfast Sausage, Fruit/ Milk

March 20, Wednesday – Popcorn Chicken, Mashed Potato, Wax Beans, Fruit/ Milk

March 21, Thursday – Pasta & meat sauce, Steamed Carrots, Wheat Roll, Fruit/ Milk

March 22, Friday – Pizza, Spinach salad, Fruit, Milk

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Amplisound honors three employees

Courtesy photo

Brinda Farrell, Jim Verge and Sharon Perkins

Amplisound, a manufacturer and retailer of hearing aids, recently recognized three employees. Jim Verge, a Connecticut licensed and board certified hearing instrument specialist, has been with the company for over 31 years. Verge has advanced through the ranks from a manufacturing technician to an expert hearing care professional.

Brinda Farrell produces the custom hearing components that our clients wear in their ears, for the past 22 years she has devoted her time and talents to the better hearing of everyone.

Sharon Perkins has contributed her many talents to the hearing impaired for 18 years. As a highly skilled electronics technician, Sharon has the ambition and ability to meet the demands of highly miniaturized electronic component assembly and electro-acoustic engineering.

Dr. Suess celebrated at Mary Fisher school

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN
NEWS STAFF WRITER

THOMPSON — On March 27, a 6 p.m., the Mary R. Fisher Elementary School will be hosting a special reading program in celebration of Dr. Suess' birthday. Teachers and local community members will be coming out to read to children in their pajamas, and leading fun crafts at this evening program hosted by the Thompson Education Association.

The program is for Thompson students grades pre-K through fourth grade. Over 175 families turned up for the program last year, where ten different people read them books, including Senator Mae Flexer.

"Family involvement is essential in a student's education," said Reading Specialist Jennifer Bessenaire. "We wanted to make it at a time where they can come in as a family unit. It's a team effort. The teachers, along with the parents, work together to make sure the kids get the best education they can possibly get."

On top of programs like this, the teachers at Mary Fisher will send nightly books home for the kids to practice reading with their family. But it's also important for children to hear their parents read to them.

"It gives them an example," she explained.

According to a study, children who are read to at least three times a week by a family member are almost twice as likely to score in the top 25 percent. They have a firmer grasp on literary language and longer phrases, creating a strong foundation for the coming years.

And it also makes children love reading that much more.

According to a study on reading aloud to children, one-on-one attention from parents during reading aloud encourages children to form a positive association with books and reading later in life.

This annual program further emphasizes the importance of reading to children.

Board of education members come with their own favorite books, same as teachers. Community members can also bring their own books, or use books picked out by the school's librarian.

Seeing so many people from the community coming to support their reading program really meant a lot to Bessenaire last year.

"It was so exciting," she said. "It was so nice to see all the families there. And they were already asking if we were having it again this year. I think it's just a new, fun environment to have family time. Everyone's in their pajamas. It just brings everyone together and they can have fun with their children and other parents."

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

Free events set for QVCC

DANIELSON — Quinebaug Valley Community College will offer a number of free community events during the month of March at the Danielson campus.

Wednesday, March 20, Student + Alumni Networking Event, Danielson, 3 p.m. The QVCC Alumni Association is hosting this event for QVCC alumni and students in an afternoon of networking and career advice! Meet with successful QVCC Alumni, gain expert resume / cover letter advice, get a FREE professional head shot, and more! Students are encouraged to come dressed to impress in business attire. Contact: Elle-Jordyn Goslin, 860.932.4133 egoslin@qvcc.edu

Thursday, March 21, Women's History Month Event: Pushing Past "NO:" Overcoming Obstacles on the Path to Success. Presented by The Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, Tina Carlson, Robert E. Miller Auditorium, Danielson,12:30 p.m. Join us for an interactive multi-media program by the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame and be inspired by the stories of some of Connecticut's remarkable women who overcame obstacles and objections to achieve great things! Sponsored by the QVCC Cultural Programming Committee and Office of the President.

Wednesday, March 27, Tour and Information Session, Student Success Center, Danielson, 5:30 p.m. Did you miss our open house? No worries, come for a tour of the College and get your questions answered about our 50 degree and certificate programs; tour labs, art studios, Library and Learning Center. No RSVP required. Contact, Sarah Hendrick, 860.932.4096 shendrick@qvcc.edu

On Wednesday, April 3, Stories of Recovery, Robert E. Miller Auditorium, Danielson, 9 a.m., Panel discussion about the opioid epidemic, treatment and personal stories of recovery. Contact Katie Gregory, 860.932.4089 for more information.

Thursday, March 28, "Voices from the Immigrant Rights Movement": A Discussion Featuring Vania Galicia, Sister Mary Jude Lazarus and Erin O-Neil Baker, Robert E. Miller Auditorium, Danielson, 10:30 a.m. Event sponsored by the QVCC Cultural Programming Committee

Thursday, 28, Advanced Manufacturing Information Session, 5 p.m., The QVCC Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center. Learn about our two-semester certificate programs, meet instructors, and tour the labs. Apply to QVCC for fall 2019, attend the information session and qualify to win a $500 scholarship. Contact Steve LaPointe, 860.932.4111, slapointe@qvcc.edu

Saturday, March 30, Voices in Concert, Saturday2 and 7:30 p.m., Killingly High School, 226 Putnam Pike, Dayville, CT 0624. Special appearances by members of the KHS Drama, Choral and Band Programs and Quinebaug Valley Community College A cappella. Tickets are $16 for the 2 p.m. show and $18 for the evening. Proceeds from the event benefit the QVCC Foundation & KHS Music and Drama Programs. For tickets or more information contact: Monique Wolanin, QVCC Director of Institutional Advancement: 860.932.4174 mwolanin@qvcc.edu

QUEST MARTIAL ARTS

PUTNAM — Quest Martial Arts tournament champions from The Valentin Tournament in Meriden. Ed Vargas Youth Challenge Results: Vincenzo Dimeglio (pictured), 3rd in Forms and 2nd in Sparring. David May, First in Weapons and Third in Sparring, Richard Grendell III - 3rd in Weapons and 2nd Sparring, Aris Roane- 2nd in Weapons, 2nd in Forms, and 1st in Sparring, Maddie Frechette, Gold in Weapons, Lily Frechette, 2nd in Forms and 2nd in Sparring, Emma Chrzanowski, 3rd in Form and 2nd in Sparring.

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Another world

It was another dreary day and I was itching to get some exercise. I like to walk outside, but it was too ugly. A few months ago I bought a decent set of earphones to wear when I walk. Accompanied by The New Yorker Radio Hour or Radiolab, I am in my own world, but I needed to be inside. Fortunately, we have the Hale YMCA where we can get exercise in comfort and safety. Tune in or out as one sees fit.

Our local Y is the most diverse place I go in the area. There are people of a variety of races, ethnicities and, wide age groups. I think it is easy to be shuffled into one's own niche and remain there, frozen in the same cohort group. At the Y I meet a great cross section of people from the area, including from Rhode Island and Massachusetts border towns.

NANCY WEISS

For many years I went to a gym at the university where I worked. It was free and occasionally I was asked to participate in research projects by students studying sports medicine and related fields. Little was required of me except to fill out forms and I happily complied.

I realized that once I turned 40 I was largely invisible to others in the gym. It didn't trouble me except when people let the door shut in my face or wouldn't move when I wanted to use a piece of equipment. Students live in their own bubbles, which is part of the charm of those years, but it was annoying. I don't encounter the same behavior at the Y. Invariably doors are opened or held for me by whomever is coming or going. The pleasant behavior happens so often that I began to wonder if it was because I looked especially decrepit. Then I noticed everyone does. It is just part of the culture.

Locker rooms aren't a favorite place. I wasn't an athlete in school and phys ed classes were boring. My friends and I did our best to skip out. This has all changed for the better so that girls and women as well as boys and men who don't care for team sports can still enjoy exercise and pick up lifelong skills. I haven't ventured into the pool at the Y yet, but the locker room is full of women who love it. Often it is a multigenerational crowd with people taking time to chat before getting dressed.

I go to the gym in the late afternoon. I am often surrounded by people working hard on the equipment or on mats or with weights. The strength and determination are remarkable, sometimes among people who don't appear to be fit. Of course there is a core of people who seem destined for the Olympics they are so muscular. The staff are alert and ready to help.

I've never figured out the etiquette of tattoos. At the Y I see plenty, but I'm not sure if I should really look. Some are quite attractive and some not. Many are names, dates or saying. I'd have to get really close to read them and that might seem creepy. I guess it's better to glance.

The Quinebaug River rushes through evergreens and reflects the afternoon light. I press all the buttons to make the elliptical machine spring into life, turn off the TV, and retreat into a podcast. Around me, others are in their own worlds too, but the collective atmosphere is peaceful, lively, but polite. Not a bad place to spend an hour on a dreary afternoon.

LETTERS POLICY

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

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

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sunday gun hunting is Russian Roulette

Derek May's recent letter to the editor supporting firearms hunting on Sunday failed to address the biggest single argument against this proposal: for non-hunters, entering and enjoying public lands at the same time that hunters with guns are active literally feels like Russian Roulette.

Certainly most hunters are responsible, law-abiding citizens. But, accidents can happen, and it's just not worth the risk. So, like virtually everyone else who wants to hike, ride a horse, picnic, or simply experience nature on public lands during hunting season, we restrict our activities to Sundays, leaving the woods to the hunters for the remaining six days.

Currently there is a proposed bill to allow firearms hunting on Sunday. If this bill becomes law, then during hunting season all days would be hunting days. Non-hunters would face a choice: either stay off public lands entirely until the end of hunting season, or enter those lands with a non-zero risk of being shot or injured. Allowing firearms hunting on all seven days of the week effectively denies access to public lands to non-hunters for the duration of the hunting season.

This is unfair to non-hunters. All members of the public should have at least some safe access to public lands during hunting season, and this bill would deny this access.

Moreover, there is no compelling reason to allow firearms hunting on Sunday, since there are six other days available, including Saturday. Allowing firearms hunting on weekdays and Saturday while leaving Sunday for non-hunting activities, has been a long-standing and successful partnership between hunting and non-hunting uses.

Mr. May's letter stated he wanted to pursue his "outdoor activity on both weekend days like everyone else." But this doesn't make sense. Mr. May can already pursue his outdoor activity "like everyone else." Currently, both hunters and "everyone else" pursue their outdoor activities on one weekend day during hunting season. Hunters get Saturday, non-hunters get Sunday.

But, if firearms hunting on Sunday is allowed then Mr. May would be able to enjoy his outdoor activity on both weekend days and non-hunters would have no weekend days to enjoy their outdoor activity. In fact non-hunters would not have any days at all throughout the hunting season. This is manifestly unfair to non-hunters.

The new bills allowing firearms hunting on Sunday should be defeated.

JOAN AND MALLORY SELFRIDGE
EASTFORD

Climate change should be taken seriously

In 2013. the prestigious Los Angeles Times announced that it would no longer print letters from climate-change deniers. Paul Thornton, the page editor, wrote, "Simply put, I do my best to keep errors of fact off the letters page; when one does run, a correction is published. Saying "there's no sign humans have caused climate change" is not stating an opinion, it's asserting a factual inaccuracy."

But here we are, continuing to answer a Pomfret resident's letter denying the undeniable.

There are mountains of coherent, reinforcing data pointing to changes in atmospheric and oceanic temperatures. If you need more stats about record annual atmosphere and ocean temperatures, glacial melting and weather trends, you could be trying to address a personal optimism problem. To understand why that data cannot possibly be the result of grant-hungry scientists ringing false-alarm bells, you need to understand peer review.

To get a scientific study, a paper, into a reputable publication, the paper and the submitters' credentials and history are reviewed, as the publication's reputation is at stake with every issue. Then the gauntlet path to acceptance gets really rough. A scientific finding stands or falls, along with its scientists' reputations, on being reproducible. If another group of scientists can show that you fudged or misinterpreted your data, it is their reputation and careers that are advanced. It's a jungle out there. Weak climate assertions get eaten for dinner, like the one predicting an imminent ice age.

It's not just climate scientists who are documenting the effects and the threat to our fragile civilizations. Wildlife biologists, oceanographers, entomologists (insects), glaciologists, epidemiologists (diseases) and agronomists (all crops) are statistically alarmed. Heck, talk to a lobsterman, a nurseryman or the local folks tapping maple sap.

It is happening. Next week: why it's not just about warmer New England winters but an unpredictably desperate situation for our progeny.

G. LESLIE SWEETNAM
WOODSTOCK

Woodstock Academy's financial woes

Before anything gets taken out of context, I first want to say that our local high school - Woodstock Academy - is an outstanding educational institution. Fine teachers. A great music, arts, and drama program. One of the reasons I located to the fine town of Woodstock. Yet also a major portion of the Woodstock Board of Education's always-stressed budget.

There is no open checkbook. For good or for bad, Woodstock is constrained by Prop 46 which limits how much its budget can increase. Each year budget adjustments have to be made to remain under the Prop 46 limit. Last year amid much outcry the Town Hall's operating hours were cut to reduce costs on the general government side. K-8 school programs were not funded on the education side.

Anyway, Woodstock Academy eats up about one third of the entire proposed Board of Education budget for the coming year. Every dollar sent to the high school is a dollar unavailable to Woodstock's Public Schools and the students in grades K-8. This year the Academy tuition is slated to increase by 3.65% to over $6.2 million. That buys a lot of No. 2 pencils.

Recently Chris Sanford, Head of School, held a meeting with the Selectmen of the several sending towns advising that expensive repairs were needed at the Academy. Roofs replaced. Underground tanks removed. And rather than borrowing, the Academy announced a two-year special assessment or surcharge to the sending towns to cover these costs. For Woodstock alone, this would mean a $212,000 bill for the upcoming year.

And, interestingly enough, I reviewed the Academy's service contract with the sending towns and could find no provision for such capital cost pass-throughs. I guess Mr. Sanford can ask for a million bucks and hope for the best, but I don't see his position as sustainable. And I have great difficulty is using taxpayer funds to repair a private high school unless there is a clear obligation to do so.

I'm sure the Academy has looked into other financing options for these long term capital improvements. They took on significant debt in purchasing the former Hyde School, and perhaps this is one reason further borrowing is an option they did not (could not?) select. But in my humble opinion these are costs that should have been anticipated, not foisted over two years upon sending towns. I think the Trustees at the Academy have some 'splainin to do. The Academy answers to its sending towns, not the other way around.

As a disclaimer, I serve as a member of the Woodstock Board of Finance. This is my personal observation and may (or may not) mirror the position of other of its members. This involves your children and your tax dollars. Please come to our meetings and those of the Board of Education. Participate!

ROY BRADRICK
WOODSTOCK

Wilderness experiences

BEYOND THE PEWS

JOHN HANSON

In the bowels of a dark, damp, musty hideout, a powerfully built soldier suddenly wakes out of a deep sleep and jolts upright. Something is not right. The glowing embers and a few rays of moonlight reveal rugged rock walls and a dirt floor that make up his lodgings. The animal skins next to him are empty, making his heart rate quicken. His captain is missing.

Jashobeam jumps to his feet noting that it seems a little chillier than last night. Maneuvering out of his cramped sleeping area, he takes note that his back is stiff, and he feels cold through and through. Sleeping on the hard ground is taking its toll. It is not quite daybreak so he tiptoes past his fellow soldiers who are still asleep, knowing that, ultimately, it is his job to make sure nothing happens to their leader, who is not where he should be.

As he moves toward the cave entrance he hears what sounds like whimpering. Carefully, after moving closer toward the sounds he determines that the noise is more of mumbling combined with moaning. Then he sees him, head between his knees--crying. It is the famous shepherd-turned-soldier; his vagabond leader is sobbing. Huddled before him on the ground

Turn To HANSON page A9

Financial life planning for women

FINANCIAL FOCUS

JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT ADVISER

In financial planning, women face a unique set of challenges that require a strategic approach to managing their assets so they can achieve their goals. This March, in recognition of Women's History Month, we'll be exploring these unique challenges and strategies to overcome them. Also, be sure to tune-in to our podcast and radio show "You & Your Money" and follow us on social media where we'll be recognizing the smart and talented women of the Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors team.

To start off this month, we'll be discussing the challenges women face in financial planning.

Women are on the rise, financially speaking. Women control $5 trillion in investable assets in the United States, and the potential for future growth is enormous. Today, women represent more than 51 percent of the workforce and are starting businesses at twice the rate of men.

At times these dynamic shifts can make it feel like the economy is becoming a place where women hold the cards, but we know there is more work to be done. Our challenge is to protect, grow and spread the wealth we've already created. How can this work on an individual level so that every woman can forge a secure and successful financial future?

Why financial planning is a women's issue: Despite all the advances women have made in the realm of personal finance, when it comes to saving for retirement, they still lag behind their male counterparts. On average, men's retirement account balances are more than 50 percent higher than women's. The gender retirement gap is further compounded by the fact that women tend to live longer than men. This means not only that their assets must last longer, but also that they may have additional expenses, such as long-term care.

The data shows that, on their own, many older women have less money saved to draw from and higher expenses. All too often, this dangerous combination results in financial insecurity. Given these troubling facts, it's imperative that we ask not only why this gender retirement gap exists, but also what we can do about it.

The gender pay gap: Statistically, for every dollar men take home, women earn 79¢. That means women will make an estimated $530,000 less over their lifetimes, thus also reducing the amount of money they have to invest. This inequity need to be addressed as a society, but, in the meantime, there is something you can do about it on a personal level: Ask for a raise! This is one of the best personal investments you can make for yourself early in your career and a simple way to begin fighting for a more secure financial future.

Family responsibility: Many women take more time off work than their male counterparts to raise children or care for elderly parents, sometimes without fully considering the long-term financial consequences. Remember, not working means more than just losing a paycheck. It also means having less disposable income to invest in the long term and may translate into lower Social Security benefits.

The gender investment gap: Although women actually save more of their disposable income than men, they tend to invest less of it, leaving a lot of their money in cash or low-yield savings accounts. But when women

Turn To ZAHANSKY page A15

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The climate change scare

A recent letter writer tried to teach us all about the difference between the weather and the climate. One being local, the weather, and the other being worldly, the climate, and I agree. What the writer doesn't mention because everyone knows to be true, is that scientists are consistently wrong regarding the weather seven days prior but expect us to believe them when they tell us that the world will end in 12 years due to climate changes. A simple Google search proves the laughable lies that have been spun on this subject for at least three decades.

The scam surrounding this scare pushed by liberals in the media and academia is entirely about money and power. Surprise! Scientists must have problems to solve to compete for grant money from the government. This is how they enrich themselves and stay relevant in their isolated community. These fraudsters manipulate numbers to get the required results they need. They then enter these conjured-up numbers into their computers to get the "proof" they are seeking. This action actually has a name, and it's called "garbage in, garbage out." Computer algorithms used by scientists can and are designed to produce any desired result and they get away with it because 99% of the people wouldn't know the difference between that and a block of cheese. Personally, I trust scientists about as much as I trust all politicians from both sides of the aisle who lie to the trusting/ignorant masses.

The entire scam is designed to spread America's wealth around the world to impoverished countries. Think wealth redistribution from the wealthy in this country to those who refuse to work. This scam may also be equated to the socialist scheme of the "the green new deal" now being pushed by democrats. When the government takes our money and gives it to others, a certain percentage always falls on the floor for themselves during the exchange. This is why politicians in D.C. tend to be very wealthy and why they got into politics in the first place.

Before I will ever buy into this utopian farce, a few things need to happen. First, liberals must stop making us all believe that only they are morally superior to us agnostics on the issue. Anyone old enough has lived through the "scientific" hypothesis of global cooling, global warming to now climate change. After hundreds of millions of dollars in study and careful deliberation with their peers, these brilliant (insert cough here) scientists finally arrived at the answer that every junior high schooler has been taught throughout the 21st century, that the earth's climate is changing. What will these Einsteins validate next, that the earth revolves around the sun? Yes, even a blind squirrel will eventually find a nut. Liberals should stop believing in their own divinity by thinking that only they can stop or reverse what has been happening naturally for millions of years. Even the beloved scientists of liberals acknowledge that if all of their ideas were implemented today, it would only have a very negligible overall effect on lowering the earth's mean temperature by the year 2100. By which time the world may have already entered into another natural cycle of change.

Secondly, if the liberals in Congress truly believed that their actions could reverse global warming caused by manmade carbon dioxide, they would immediately pass legislation banning all private jets. This mode of travel is a major source of needless amounts of pollution caused by the rich for their own pleasure and convenience at the planet's expense. Don't expect this to happen though as only the poor and middle class are required to suffer for this climate scam because we are not important to our rulers. I forgot to mention that carbon dioxide is a naturally occurring gas that is crucial for all life on the planet. Liberals/scientists won't ever tell you that though.

Third, liberals in Congress must stop being hypocrites by always blaming America first and introduce legislation that condemns China and India for being part of the big three when it comes to CO2 emissions. These two countries have little or no concerns about protecting the world's environment because they have too many mouths to feed to worry about such things. CO2 does not simply hover over the source of its creation. It is like the wind in that it moves around the world by the jet stream and atmospheric changes in pressure. In other words: whatever happens in China and India will eventually cross our border faster than an illegal alien.

Fourth, politicians and environmentalists must accept that freeing up nuclear power plant creation is the best and safest way to ensure that we as citizens have the electricity that we have grown accustom to. Yes, I believe that burning coal is nasty for our health and the planet, but wind and solar power will never sustain the needs of this country. Unless liberals want to start using candles and cooking your food over a wood stove like our ancestors did, you had better start accepting these facts of life. CO2 is a naturally occurring gas, all life would become extinct without it and liberals can't do a thing about it, no matter how much they may cry, waste our money or lie about it. All the while pretending to be God.

Lastly, the greatest cause for an increase in manmade global warming is due to the explosion in the human population worldwide. So, sarcastically speaking, the best way to reduce CO2 to save the planet would be to euthanize half of the world's population. Please remember I did say sarcastically, but Medicare for all would be a good start as that will ensure rationed healthcare.

GERRY RENAUD
BROOKLYN

Killingly's Dixon was first woman to receive patent

KILLINGLY AT 300

MARGARET WEAVER

Not only is this Women's History Month but March 8 was International Women's Day. I've been busy researching and reorganizing my materials on Mary Dixon Keyes (Kies) of Killingly who was the first woman in the United States to receive a patent in her own right. Since my last paper on her was dated 2008, and much misinformation about her appears on the internet, I thought I would give you an update.

Mary Dixon was born in South Killingly March 21,1752, the daughter of John Dixon, formerly of Ulster, Ireland, New London and Voluntown, and Janet (Kennedy), his third wife. Mary was the youngest of nine children; her oldest brother Robert was born in 1701 in Ireland. Her closest in age sibling was brother William Dixon, who was born in 1748. Active in town affairs of Voluntown, Mary's father John Dixon was in his seventies by the time he moved to Killingly so politics was no longer a main part of his life. He died on May 6, 1759 in his 81st year while Mary was a young child. Her mother Janet remained on the family farm until her death about 1796 or 1797. (Family #20. Harvey, O. J. Harvey Book Giving the Genealogy of Several Branches of the American Families of Harvey, Nesbitt, Dixon, and Jameson , 1899; extracts at the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center)

Mary married first Isaac Pike by whom she had a son Isaac who was born December 27, 1770. Isaac, Sr. died about 1772 leaving Mary a young widow with a small child (Ibid). It's unknown exactly when Mary Dixon Pike married South Killingly resident John Keyes. Their son Daniel Keyes was born about 1776. Other children included James, John, William, Samuel, Harvey b. ca. 1787, Abigail (Nabby), b. ca 1792, and Mary (Polly). (Will of John Keyes , Plainfield Probate Vo. 13, p.239/40; distribution of Harvey's estate, Plainfield Probate, Vo. 18, p. 18) Mary and John Keyes would have been raising their children during the American Revolution and the early years of the United States. There is no record that John served in the Revolution.

South Killingly, where they lived, was one of Killingly's main villages in the mid and late 1700's. Present-day Halls Hill Road was part a major "road" that went on to Providence. Snake Meadow Road-Cook Hill Road was the north-south artery through the area. The village meetinghouse brought many families to the area on a weekly basis. (What is now Danielson did not exist until after the arrival of the railroad circa 1840). Alexander Gaston, father of future Massachusetts Governor William Gaston, had a bustling store in South Killingly at which the Keyes family would probably have traded. The John Keyes family lived a little west of the village center (1790 U.S. Census)..

Following the Revolution as the United States sought to produce its own fabrics rather than import them from abroad, Killingly became one of the earliest textile manufacturing communities in the state. By 1787 William Cundall had established a woolen mill that was located several miles west of the Keyes' farm on the Five Mile River in present-day Danielson. It was one of only four in Connecticut, the mill probably fostered more "traffic" through South Killingly to Providence, a busy port.

The seeds of Mary's invention perhaps were sown at the end of the 18th century. In 1798 Betsey Metcalf, a twelve-year old Providence girl, with the assistance of an aunt, perfected a method of flattening and braiding oat straw for women's bonnets. A cottage industry developed as she taught other women the process. However, despite the fact that patents were instituted in 1790, Betsey never obtained one (Internet sites including americaslibrary.gov; americanprofile.com).

Mary, too, must have been interested in improving the making of straw bonnets. On May 5, 1809 Mary Kies became the first woman in the United States to be granted a patent, which was for a method where straw was woven with silk (or thread) to produce material for bonnets. Her brother William Dixon and her sons Daniel Kies and Samuel Kies were all lawyers and may have helped with the paperwork needed to procure the patent, which was "signed by President James A. Madison". His wife, first lady Dolley Madison, expressed her appreciation of the fact that a woman had obtained a patent by sending Mary Keyes a note. Imports from abroad were being blocked at this time due to Napoleon's wars, so domestic goods were in much demand. A small cottage industry of the weaving soon developed, but unfortunately a number of unforeseen circumstances led to its demise (Larned, Ellen. History of Windham County, Connecticut, Vo. II, p. 432, 432). For a photo of the type of straw bonnet which was fashionable at this time put Mary Kies in an internet search and go to www.smithsonianmag.com.

Perhaps some of the greatest among Mary's trials and tribulations which helped lead to the demise of her cottage industry were the deaths of at least five close family members between October 1809 and March 1814---her brother William, her sons John and Harvey, her daughter Abigail, and her husband John Keyes who died August 18, 1813. Son Daniel, a lawyer who lived in Brooklyn, Connecticut, had many expenses in connection with dealing with the estate. Larned commented that he and others had invested heavily in Mary's enterprise and lost much money when it failed to thrive.

Changes in fashion, which of course were led by First Lady Dolley Madison, also contributed to the demise of Mary's cottage industry. Dolley was known for her ornate turbans with feathers---not straw bonnets decorated with ribbons. The end of the War of 1812 also meant it was easier to obtain imported fashions.

The War of 1812, which lasted until Christmas Eve 1814, the Great September Gale (a category 3 or 4 hurricane), and the extreme weather in 1816, which became known as the Year Without a Summer all impacted Killingly and may also have affected Mary's weaving enterprise. It is interesting to note that in the 1820 census she is listed as the head of her household, something that does not normally occur in the census records for that time (males were generally the heads of household). There was one adult male and another female living with her. One person is engaged in manufacturing in her household. Could Mary have still been weaving her straw and silk "fabric"? We'll never know!

Mary and another female, probably daughter Mary, were still living in South Killingly in 1830. They sold that property to Calvin Grover in 1831 (Killingly Land Records, Vo. 27, p. 21). Exactly where Mary spent her last days is unclear. In her History of Windham County, Connecticut, Larned said that Mary moved to Brooklyn, Connecticut to live with son Daniel and died there in 1837. However, an 1897 letter from an unnamed granddaughter to the Windham County Transcript, in the files at the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center, says that she lived and died in a house on Green Hollow Road that was later destroyed in a fire (WCT 8/25/1897).

Mary Keyes was buried in the South Killingly Cemetery adjacent to her husband John Keyes. Her grave remained unmarked for many years until Killingly Grange #112, under the Grange Master Mervin Whipple, decided to erect a commemorative headstone to this remarkable woman in 1965. Both tombstones for Mary and her husband can be seen at https://www.findagrave.com.

Samples of the straw fabric for which her patent was granted are kept in the archives of the Killingly Public Library in Danielson. They were donated by Miss Delia Taylor of Providence, RI, a great-granddaughter of Mary Kies. Other samples are at the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford. Connecticut (Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center family files article). The patent itself "was destroyed in a huge fire that swept through the Patent Office in 1836, decimating approximately 10,000 patents and thousands of documents, drawings and pending patents" (/www.smithsonianmag.com).

Mary Dixon Kies was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2006 (https://www.invent.org/inductees/mary-dixon-kies). Their museum is located in Alexandria, Virginia.

If you are a descendant of Mary Dixon Pike Keyes/Kies, we would love to hear from you. Please email me at the address below or contact the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center.

The next meeting of the Genealogical Club at the Killingly Public Library will be Saturday, March 16 from 10-11 a.m. Even if you did not attend last month's session, feel free to come. Exchange information about the families on which you are working and talk about your "roadblocks."

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian. For additional information e-mail her at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to P.O. Box 265, Danielson, Ct. 06329.

HANSON

continued from page A8

is a legend. Even as a Jashobeam had heard the story of David and Goliath. He, like most of his countrymen knew that the prophet Samuel had anointed that shepherd boy to be the next king. But tonight, David is hunkered down near the cave entrance where he has been forced to seek shelter from the mad monarch – his father in law, King Saul.

Jashobeam was one of David's mighty men and had seen a great deal of suffering in his years of soldiering, but this seemed like one of the saddest situations he had ever witnessed. It was so much worse than battles like the one David had fought with the heathen Goliath, because King Saul (the man to which David had been so loyal) had amassed his troops and set out to kill David. It was unfair and immoral. David and his family were on the run by no fault of their own. David had been driven to the wilderness where his family and many down-and-outers had joined him. Hundreds of good people were being forced to sleep in caves, and scramble to barely survive in the wilderness – All because their king was insecure and disobedient to God.

Jashobeam quietly settles in just a few feet behind his beloved leader and listens as David lifts his burden to His Creator and bares his very soul. This is what he heard:

"I cry out to you LORD; I plead for your mercy. I pour out my complaints before you and tell you all my troubles. When I am overwhelmed, you alone know the way I should turn.

Wherever I go, my enemies have set traps for me. I look for someone to come and help me, but no one gives me a passing thought! No one will help me; no one cares a bit what happens to me.

I pray to you, O LORD. I say, "You are my place of refuge. You are all I really want in life. Hear my cry, for I am very low. Rescue me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me. Bring me out of prison so I can thank you. The godly will crowd around me, for you are good to me." (Psalm 142:1-7 NLT)

Although the above story may not have unfolded exactly as depicted, we do know the prayer captured in this Psalm was written by the mighty warrior when in a wilderness cave. It reminds us that Authentic Christians need to expect real life to include wilderness times. Everyone will have wilderness experiences. But believers, like David, can have joy and peace in spite everything, because they have a Shepherd to lead them, and they know this world is not their home.

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

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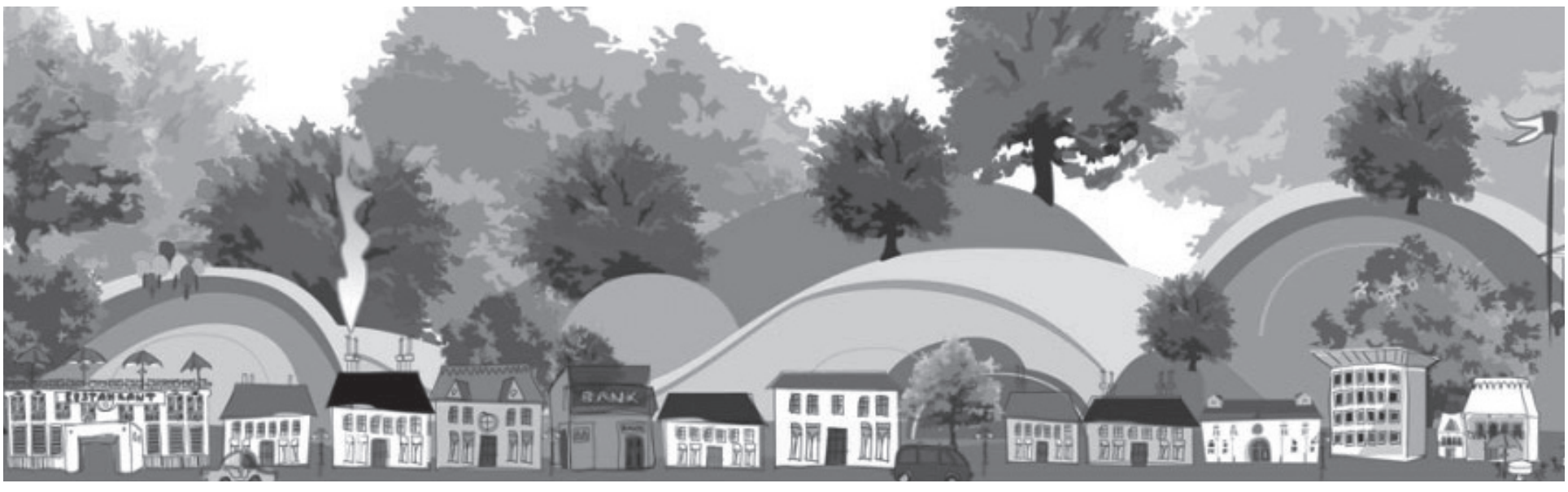

Day Kimball holds corporators meeting

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Healthcare held its annual meeting of the corporators on Feb 13. Each year's meeting invites DKH's corporators together to reflect on organizational achievements from the past fiscal year. At this year's meeting, DKH had something special to celebrate – its 125th anniversary of providing care to the residents of Northeast Connecticut. DKH also celebrated and recognized 36 corporators who have dedicated 25 years or more to the organization.

"It's an honor to be part of DKH's history; to listen to the experiences from our staff and physicians who have served our community, and from the patients who have trusted us with their health care for generations," said DKH President and CEO Anne Diamond.

Diamond spoke to DKH's multi-year strategic plan, a guidepost for the organization to reach new milestones and achievements. Accomplishments from the year included several national awards and recognitions for excellence in clinical care, patient safety, and patient experience; recruitment of new experts to better meet the region's needs while building a critical mass of services across the full continuum of care including new OB/GYNs, a psychiatrist, urologist, new director of emergency medicine, a pediatrician, and several primary care doctors; expansion of access to existing services; and investments in next generation technologies from 3-D mammography to digital mobile X-ray systems, and ergonomic ultrasound machines.

In its annual report, DKH reported a major financial turnaround for fiscal year 2018. The health system elevated its financial performance from a $6.2 million dollar deficit in 2017 to a posted total revenue exceeding $138 million, ending the year in black by $557,673.

Courtesy photo

Day Kimball Healthcare Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the corporators held on Feb. 13.

Julie Butler and her husband, Vern, have an alpaca farm in Thompson

Julie Butler is a boad member of the New England Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association.

FARMING

continued from page **A1**

But the emus are just as quirky as the alpacas – which, she confirmed, do spit. Emus may not spit, but they're quite the feisty farm animal.

"I was standing in the pen with the emus and I had a pair of mittens in my pocket. Two of the emus decided they were interested. So they each grabbed one and just bolted with them. They're very curious. If they see something cool, they grab it and run, she said.

And the Butlers are also eating rabbit.

"I know it's a running joke," she said, "but it really does taste like chicken."

Morning Beckons Farm has only been in Thompson for seven years, but they've found the perfect home. And they've already made quite an impact. They have visitors all the time, said Butler.

While people are allowed to visit the fence line whenever they want (and give the alpacas an approved treat from a gumball machine at the front of the farm), Morning Beckons does open houses regularly. You can find them on Facebook to see when their next one is.

Visitors get a tour of the whole farm during an open house, and they can even hold a baby alpaca.

Alpaca sheering is done once a year, and it's coming up. They do it every May, and you can also come and watch. Just find the dates on Facebook. They are also looking for volunteers to help out around that time. Then, in June, they will be hosting the North American Alpaca Sheering Competition, which is also open to the public.

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

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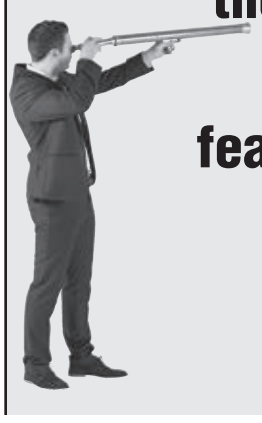
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Workshop at Killingly High on racism

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN
NEWS STAFF WRITER

KILLINGLY — The Anti Defamation League hosted a day-long workshop at the Killingly High School on Thursday, March 7, educating students and faculty on bullying, bias, racism, and sexism.

During a presentation, several students shared their own stories related to bias and bullying. The speeches were created with help from English teachers. This was followed by an open mic, where anybody was free to share anything they want about being within the high school community.

Trained facilitators then led small group discussions, debriefing how everyone felt after the speeches, and what they should do next. How should they treat people going forward? How should they deal with bullying? The groups included students and teachers.

"It's important to include everyone because of all the interactions we have in this community we're in together," said Principal Elise Guari. "Student-student. Teacher-teacher. Relationships can only improve if we all understand each other."

This was a program Guari and her two administrators decided to bring to KHS after they repeatedly heard concerns from students at the school, who were reporting bullying.

"They told us about very mean statements made by students to other students under the category of racism and bullying. Those are things that have a major impact on people, but we don't understand until we hear from the victim. That's why this presentation is about the students' voices," Guari said.

The presentations opened people's minds, giving them a deeper understanding of how to interact with people.

Having these types of discussions isn't new for the Killingly High School. Last year, the school hosted national author Jeff Yalden, who spoke to students about setting goals and how to deal with people who offend you. It was all about being the person you want to be.

"As we are developing human beings entering the real world, we want to help them with their people skills and their understanding of human interactions," said Guari. "Everyone is on a different journey, in a different place. We want them to be better problem solvers, better collaborators – better co-workers."

By bringing attention to bullying, something that is often underreported, Guari is hoping that people at the KHS will become more proactive instead of reactive, and not be afraid to report bullying.

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

Pomfret food pantry helps out

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN
NEWS STAFF WRITER

POMFRET — When people think of Pomfret they might think of beautiful land, horses, maybe big houses. A food pantry might be the last thing that comes to mind, but Garry F. Brown, the Director of the Pomfret Food Pantry, knows all too well that the food pantry is an important part of many residents' lives.

Brown started the food pantry 10 years ago, after retiring.

At first, Brown spent his retirement landscaping and "painting everything." But after two months he got bored.

With connections to Daily Bread and other organizations in the community, Brown decided it was time to turn to volunteer work.

"Pomfret is considered an affluent community and people think they don't need help," said Brown. "My wife asked me, 'What will you do it this doesn't work?' I said, 'Well, meanwhile we helped people out. At least we gave it a try.'"

Of course, that was 10 years ago.

According to Brown, the idea that Pomfret is not in need of a food pantry is a fallacy. Pomfret started off as a farm town full of mill workers. That was only a few decades ago. While many people do use Pomfret for their summer home vacation spot, there are still people in need out there, just like everywhere else.

And unfortunately, there weren't many places for them to turn. Many food pantries only serve Putnam and Killingly. And the few that did allow other towns to use them, they were too far for Pomfret residents.

"It's good we're helping people and it's great to see the community step up and support each other. But it's bad that there is a need for it. And I don't see the need going away," said Brown.

The Pomfret Food Pantry is unique for a few reasons. They allow people to pick up groceries twice a month, instead of the usual one. They are also open to veterans from any town in the surrounding area, even if they use another food pantry as well.

"We are fortunate enough that we can support it financially," said Brown.

The Pomfret Food Pantry stays running thanks to weekly donations from Avington Congregational Church, Most Holy Trinity Church, and Christ Church. They also have donation boxes set up at the Town Hall. Other organizations in town also help collect food, including the library's drives. Individuals also send monetary donations.

The Pomfret Food Pantry supports about 60 people a week. Brown manages the deliveries and pick-ups, and also purchases dairy and meat products. He also runs food drives, including the large one around Thanksgiving time with Troop D.

"I feel good because many of the people that come, we become friends with these people," he said. "Picking out this food, it means they can pay their utilities that month, or their phone bill. These people depend on it."

If you're interested in learning more, volunteering, or signing up for the pantry, call Brown at 860-928-2309 or email garry.brown71@aim.com.

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

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East Coast Canine Rescue adoptions

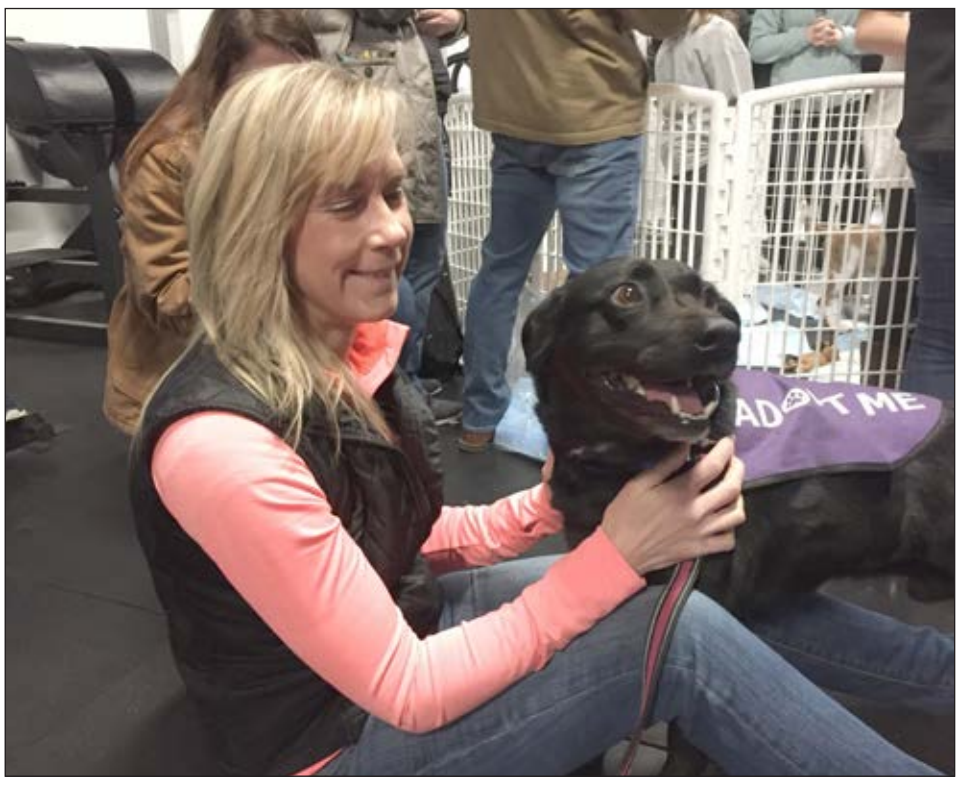
DANIELSON — East Coast Canine Rescue recently held an adoption event at Performance Fitness as a way to adopt out their rescue dogs and raise awareness of what the rescue does for dogs across the country.

Olivia Richman photos

Performance Fitness proved to be a very popular spot for the dog adopting event.

Many of the dogs at the event were adopted

Aiden Stewart with some foster puppies.



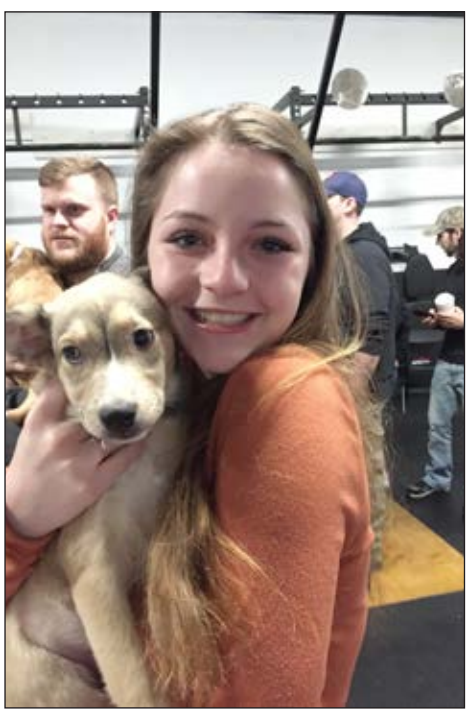
Gerri Kowolenko with six year old Arlo.

Professional dog walker Gerri Kowolenko enjoyed the event.

Janet McDonald cuddling with Nimh.

Evangeline and Blaise Gurski play with some puppies.

Vicki Gagne, Genny Christensen, and Meggan Lynch.



Cassidy Worden poses with a pup.

Kristine Kuhl, dog trainer and behavior modification, volunteered at the event.

Matt Lamoureux gets to know a hound mix.

Darleen Griffin adopted six month old Hooper.

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Deep roots in Danielson

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN
NEWS STAFF WRITER

DANIELSON — For the past 124 years, Logee's has been in the Quiet Corner with its vibrant greenhouse and one-of-a-kind plants. But what do they do there? What goes into running a place like Logee's? Nobody would know better than owner and president Byron Martin, a third-generation horticulturist with a passion for plants. But not just any plants. Martin spoke about what it is he does and some projects underway.

So how did Logee's come to be?

My grandfather, William Logee, came here in 1892. There was a small greenhouse, which is still here, that was empty. The cobbler next door owned it. My grandfather took it over. He became a local florist for the town. He married my grandmother, who lived across the street, and started a family two houses up.

Oh, wow.

During that time, some of the older sons got into horticulture. One in particular, Earnest. He added more greenhouses on. But he also had an interest in collecting plants and growing plants, as well as growing cut flowers as a florist. In the 1930s, because the collection had grown so large, they were trying to find a way to market them. They printed a list and advertised it in horticultural journals, the beginning of our mail order business. As that continued to grow, cut flowers became less of a focus. Now we're just growers of tropicals and house plants. Eighty percent of our sales are shipped out of the town.

Interesting how it transitioned. How did you end up getting involved with Logee's?

When I came into the world, when I was young, they were moving out of the cut flower business. I lived right next door, so I grew up in the greenhouses. I didn't start working here in a meaningful way until I was 18.

Were you interested in the family business at that young age?

No, not as a kid. When it's that close to your family it doesn't seem like anything to you as a kid. But I always had an interest in farming and plants. I helped out, but nobody forced me into it.

What finally peaked your interest?

There's a transition most people go through, growing up. When my father died, I took over his work. I found it easy to be in greenhouse production and growing plants. A lot of things were osmotic. But I became very interested. Unfortunately my dad wasn't there to teach me a lot, but I gained it over the years, studying and working, particularly hands-on.

What are the types of plants you find yourself working with?

A lot of the things we grow are quite rare, so there's not a lot of information, at least back in those days before the internet. We grow almost 1,000 varieties, so there's dozens to hundreds of needs for all these different plants. The challenge is to grow them successfully. You have to make sure they look good and healthy.

That's quite awesome that there's such an interest in rare plants.

Some people like to collect stamps, antique cars. Some people collect comic books. But there are some people who collect plants as a hobby. It's an interesting hobby for those of us that love plants. Logee's is not only a shipper of plants, but we're also collectors. And I certainly took on that piece. That's the most exciting thing, finding new stuff.

What is one interesting plant you've recently discovered?

We have a plant that's called Osa Puchellum, a member of the coffee family. It comes from Costa Rica. There is only one known stand of it left. It's endangered and very rare in cultivation. I got a piece of it from two botanical gardens, and I'm growing it now. And I'm learning. I haven't really mastered it yet, but it has these huge trumpet flowers, white and intensely fragrant. These big trumpets dangle down from the plant. It can grow up to 10-15 feet, but about 6-8 feet in a container. The reason it's so rare is because the climatic condition it grows in is different than our normal culture, nutrient-wise, soil-wise. I have enough now that I can experiment with it and learn to grow it.

Will you be able to sell such a rare plant?

In time, we will. That's the objective.

How do you find plants that are so rare?

We have contact with botanical gardens. That's one good place to find them. There's also private collectors that have unusual specimens. We also do seed growing, taking in seeds from all over the world. Being in the business this world, we have a lot of contacts from all over the place. Sometimes people will walk in the door and give us a piece of something unusual.

Olivia Richman photo

Byron Martin inside one of Logee's many greenhouses.

How have you liked working in Danielson?

Danielson has been good to Logee's. I grew up here, went to school here. I'm a country boy. I often go into New York City and I'm like, 'This is okay, but I'm glad to get the heck out of here.'

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

DRESSED

continued from page **A1**

The Trinket Shop, who donated a bunch of dresses with tags.

How did it feel to have such strong support from the school?

Candy – It was pretty incredible. We had faculty email us and tell us it's incredible. They said they wished more people were doing stuff like this. It was really touching.

Anne – The facilities staff volunteered in his free time to help us transport the things we needed for a dressing room at TEEG. Hanging racks, building dressing rooms. That was really amazing. We were really happy.

Ella – Teachers also helped us get dresses over to TEEG on the day of the event. Our project has definitely made an impact that's been clear as the kids and faculty come together. It's really impacted the community, not just the school.

How did you feel about the community's reaction to your project?

Claire Gorsuch, Sophomore - We had to contact a lot of vendors to get the donations. And all of them did, including for the raffle. Soleil even donated cupcakes, which was really nice of them.

Anne – We had to market this concept, letting them know it's a valuable thing to support.

Lila Henderson, Sophomore - With all the support from the vendors, we were able to put together four separate raffles, which had coupons to get your hair and nail done just to make prom even more special.

Catori Colbut, Sophomore – In addition to the raffle, we had goodie bags for each girl. We went to several different stores to get makeup products, like lip gloss and mascara.

How did the day itself go at the store you set up at TEEG?

Ella – At the beginning it was so hectic. We all had different ideas on how to design the room and put things together. But it was cool to see us all express our own ideas and see it come together. Even though it's a small group of girls with varying opinions, we all came together and made the event really successful and special. The room was really beautiful.

Lila – I hadn't known any of the girls in this group really well. In the beginning it was a little quiet and awkward. But throughout the week we have all gotten to know each other really well and it's been a great experience for us as well.

How many dresses were collected?

Ella – Over 130.

That's amazing

Anne – Our goal was to collect 100. The last day people were handing us dresses. We got so overwhelmed. We couldn't keep track.

Ella – Every single person who came in left with a dress. Some people even left with two. Seeing the girls try on the dresses... They started off really shy. But their faces would just light up. Their confidence boosted. Their nerves would fall away. It was nice to see the progression of the event.

The girls set up their own Cinderella Project at TEEG, complete with dressing rooms. Seeing girls become confident in the dresses was a very emotional experience.

How did it feel to make such an impact in so many girl's lives?

Jessie Farrell, Junior - I thought it was really incredible. We didn't even know if people would show up. But to see these girls coming in... It was amazing to see their reactions to the dresses. It was brightening their day and making their lives easier. They felt so confident and beautiful.

Catori - Although seeing the girls completely change was emotional, seeing their parents go from being worried and stressed, wondering how they would pay for a prom, to see them almost happier than their children... It was an experience that everyone should have in their life. Seeing how you can change someone's life.

Candy – The first girl that came in, her mother said they'd gone to three other stores and couldn't find anything. The second dress she tried on, her mom said it was the one. She started tearing up. We all got a little emotional.

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

ZAHANSKY

continued from page **A8**

put together personal plans to bridge the gender investment gap, it has dramatic, positive consequences for their financial lives. So let's begin by talking about why women often show hesitancy when investing. It's likely that they're buying into one or more of the many myths about women and money. the numbers.

Budget: Try to think of budgeting as less about numbers and more about personal awareness. It's a check-in to see whether you are spending on the things that matter to you most. Use that as your guiding principle, and you'll end up setting boundaries that ultimately will set you free to create and pursue the life you desire.

Save: Putting aside money is actually a way of caring for your future self. The rule of thumb is to save 15-20 percent of your income, but if you can't do that, save as much as you realistically think you can. Just as you go in for regular health check-ups, do frequent check-ins on your finances. Ask yourself if there isn't more you can do to protect your financial welfare.

Invest: The need to invest can be compared to our need for exercise. We exercise to fight the corrosive power of aging and maintain our health. We invest to fight the corrosive power of inflation and maintain our financial health. Your savings should be invested, rather than kept in a money market fund with low interest rates. Otherwise, inflation will erode the value of your assets.

Insure yourself: Most households invest in ensuring their family's well-being with health and life insurance, but many don't consider other risks that can leave their family vulnerable, like the cost of long-term disability and long-term care. But here's a little-known but important statistic: 80 percent of men die married while 80 percent of women die single. This is significant, because women are far less likely to have a partner to help care for them in old age. Therefore, you may need to find a way to pay for the added cost of a caregiver.

Plan, invest, live well: The differences women need to consider for their strategic financial plan is significant overtime. All of these challenges, from the pay gap, to other unique circumstances, the managing partners will talk with you about these needs when developing a plan with you. Then select an investment strategy based on those needs, to achieve your long term goals.

Presented by Principal Managing Partner James Zahansky, AWMA, researched through Huffington Post. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. 697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, Ct. 06259, 860.928.2341. www.whzwealth.com. You should consult a legal or tax professional regarding your individual situation as all investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal, and there can be no assurance that any investment strategy will be successful.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BROOKLYN

Tuesday, March 19
P&Z, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall
Board of Finance, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, March 20
Housing Authority, 10 a.m., Town Hall
Board of Finance, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Thursday, March 21
Emergency Management and Homeland Security, 7 p.m., Town Hall

KILLINGLY

Monday, March 18
PZC, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, March 19
Housing Authority, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, March 20
Water Pollution Control Authority, 6 p.m., Town Hall
Charter Revision, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall
Borough Council, 7 p.m., Town Hall
KCC, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Thursday, March 21
HDC, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Friday, March 22
NE CT Council of Governments, 8:30 a.m., Town Hall

PUTNAM

Monday, March 18
Board of Selectman, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Thursday, March 21
Municipal Complex Building Committee, 6 p.m., Town Hall

POMFRET

Monday, March 18
Board of Selectmen, 8 a.m., Town Hall
Board of Finance Workshop, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall
ZBA, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, March 20
Senior Council on Aging, 7 p.m., Senior Center
P&Z, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Thursday, March 21
Agriculture Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall

EASTFORD

Tuesday, March 19
Republican Town Committee, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, March 20
Recreation Commission, 4:30 p.m., Town Hall

Thursdsay, March 21
Grove Cemetery Trustees, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

WOODSTOCK

Monday, March 18
AG Commission, 1 p.m., Town Hall
ZBA, 6 p.m., Town Hall
IWWA, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Tuesday, March 19
WPCA, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Wednesday, March 20
Garden Club, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall
WRTC, 7 p.m., Town Hall

Thursday, March 21
Arboretum, 6 p.m., Town Hall
Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Hall
Planning & Zoning, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

EAST COAST CANINE RESCUE ADOPTIONS

Olivia Richman photo

Volunteer Page Sears with a 12-week-old puppy at the East Coast Canine Rescue recently held an adoption event at Performance Fitness in Danielson. More photos on page 14

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Bushey shines in rainy Courthouse O'Putnam 5K

Charlie Lentz photo

Runners begin the Courthouse O'Putnam 5K road race on Sunday, March 10.

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

PUTNAM — When Scott Bushey completed the Boston Marathon last April he had no way of knowing it was the prequel for last Sunday's Courthouse O'Putnam 5K. Last April Bushey faced sustained winds, temperatures in the 30s, and a steady rain on his 26.2-mile slog from Hopkinton to downtown Boston. So he knew the drill when he toed the starting line for Sunday's rain-soaked and frigid 3.1-mile dash through the snow-banked streets of Putnam.

"Boston was just like this," Bushey said. "So this is nothing."

Fittingly, over the final 200 yards Bushey ran past Putnam's Post Office — neither snow nor rain nor gloom of a 35-degree day deterred the 25-year-old from completing his appointed rounds on Sunday. He set a course record with a clocking of 16 minutes, 28 seconds — shattering the previous mark of 17:11, set by David Lusignan in 2012.

Bushey's victory snapped Michael Stadolnik's streak of six-straight Courthouse wins. Stadolnik, 45, from Plainfield, finished in fourth place among the men in 18:36. Adam Gootnick also broke Lusignan's previous course record. Gootnick, 33, from Unionville, finished in second place in 16:47. Piotr Kostyk, 28, from Bethel, captured third place in 18:09.

Bushey ran for the track team at RHAM high school in Hebron before going on to compete in cross country and track (10,000 meters) for Springfield College in Massachusetts. He runs between "80 and 90" miles per week in training and plans on running the Boston Marathon again on April 15. Bushey completed last year's Boston Marathon in two hours, 44 minutes. Sunday's race was Bushey's first try at the Courthouse O'Putnam 5K. His father, Kim Bushey, is employed a stone's throw from the finish line at Putnam Bank.

"My dad works right down the street," said Bushey, from Hebron.

Woodstock Academy sophomore Stella DiPippo ruled those streets on Sunday. DiPippo, 15, cruised to victory in the women's division with a time of 19:56. DiPippo bested second-place finisher Lindsay Hartzog, 38, from Glastonbury by two minutes and six seconds. Hartzog (22:02), was followed by third-place finisher Lauren Konicki, 34, from Putnam, who crossed the line in 22:17.

DiPippo had been chasing her victory for a few years. The Woodstock Academy sophomore finished in second place in last year's Courthouse O'Putnam 5K, falling to 33-year-old Jennie Cohen, from New York City. Cohen established the course record for women in 2018 with a clocking of 19:11.

"I was going to try to win. I was definitely going for a P.R. (personal record) today. I was trying to win," DiPippo said.

Her first-place clocking of 19:56 on Sunday eclipsed her previous best in the Courthouse 5K (20:07), which she ran last year. DiPippo was encouraged by fans along the race route, who apprised her of her standing during the event.

"I didn't see any women in front of me and a few people told me along the way that I was ahead," said DiPippo, who lives in Brooklyn. "It definitely made me keep pushing super hard so nobody could catch me."

DiPippo competes for Woodstock Academy's cross country team and said she has logged plenty of mileage in training. She runs 35 to 40 miles per week. So DiPippo wasn't surprised by her victory despite being just 15 years old.

"I've been training super hard. I know I'm in good shape," DiPippo said. "So I was ready to run fast."

Like Bushey, DiPippo wasn't deterred by the elements. She said the adverse conditions might have worked to her advantage. She would have felt right at home in Boston last April.

"I feel like I run well in tough races," DiPippo said. "It was kind of fun running in the rain."

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

Charlie Lentz photo

Stella DiPippo, a sophomore at Woodstock Academy, captured first place in the women's division.

Charlie Lentz photo

Men's division winner Scott Bushey crosses the finish en route to setting a course record on Sunday.

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**As published in the 2018 Banker and Tradesman's Massachusetts Banking Choice Awards.

Woodstock gymnasts win State Open title

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

Courtesy photo

Woodstock Academy's gymnastics team displays the State Open championship plaque at New Milford High on March 6.

NEW MILFORD — They're back. Woodstock Academy finished in first place at the State Open Gymnastics Championships at New Milford High School on March 6. Last season Greenwich High snapped Woodstock's run of six straight State Open titles. Woodstock exacted some revenge at New Milford High, capturing first with a team score of 142.475. Fairfield Ludlowe (136.65) was second and Greenwich High finished in third place with a score of 132.7.

Woodstock's Ali Crescimanno captured the gold medal in the uneven bars (9.5), won the bronze medal in the vault (9.425) and won the silver medal in the all-around (36.0).

Woodstock's Jenna Davidson captured the gold medal in the balance beam (9.3), won the silver medal in floor exercise (9.425), and took home the bronze medal in the all-around (35.875).

Woodstock's Lydia Taft won the silver medal in the uneven bars (9.05), tying Trumbull High's Merritt Stevenson (9.05) in that event. Taft finished fifth in the state in the all-around (35.475).

In individual competition, Putnam High's Maggie McKeon won the silver medal in the balance beam with a score of 9.0. Kiera O'Brien, representing Killingly/ Putnam/ Tourtellotte co-op finished in fifth place in the floor exercise (9.15).

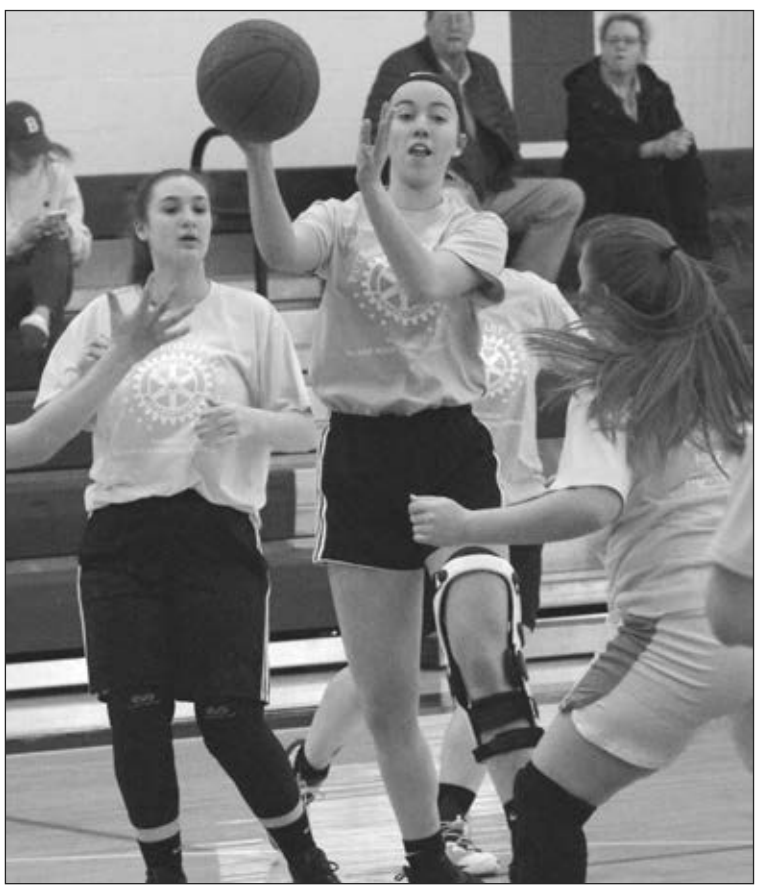
NEW ENGLANDS

HUDSON, Mass. — Woodstock finished third in the New England Gymnastics Championships at Hudson High on March 9. Newton South, Mass., finished first with a score of 149.3. Bridgewater Raynham Regional, Mass., was second (147.875). The Centaurs took third with a 144.5 score.

Taft was 10th overall in the all-around with a (36.6). Crescimanno tied for 13th (36.15) and Davidson was 15th (35.95) in the all-around. Crescimanno tied for fourth in bars (9.475).

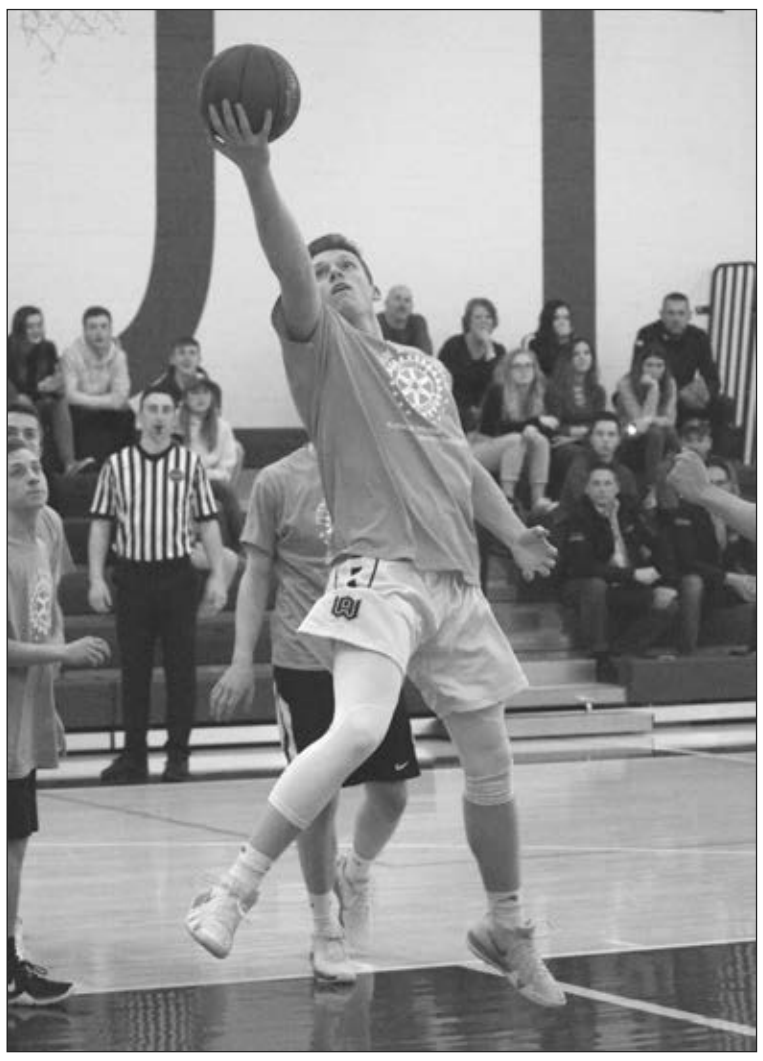
Locals star in Rotary's Ray Brosseau All-Star game

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR



Charlie Lentz photo

Tourtellotte's Lauren Ramos sets up a teammate at the Brousseau tourney.



Charlie Lentz photo

Woodstock's Chase Anderson drives to the hoop at the Brousseau tourney.

PUTNAM — The Ray Brosseau All-Star Senior Basketball Tournament was held on Tuesday, March 12, at Putnam High School's gymnasium. Putnam Rotary Club sponsored the event but it was made possible in part through the generosity of the late Raymond and Violet Brosseau.

Brosseau was a Putnam businessman who was the proprietor of Church Clothing in Putnam for more than 50 years. His business is long gone and is now the home of Victoria Station Cafe on Main Street. Brousseau was a member of the Putnam Rotary Club for over 50 years, achieving perfect attendance for 41 years. He also served as the club's President in 1941 and 1942 and was honored with the Paul Harris Award, the highest recognition in Rotary International. Brosseau was a World War II veteran who saw action in combat. He was always supportive of youth activities. Raymond Brosseau passed away in 1998 and Violet died in 2010. They were married for 50 years.

The Putnam Rotary Club awards several scholarships each year and organizes the annual All-Star Senior Basketball Tournament in Brosseau's honor. Without Brosseau much of that largess would not be possible. The Brosseaus left a bequest of $305,000 for the Putnam Rotary Club, which is the foundation of its scholarship program. They also willed Day Kimball Hospital over $400,000 and the Congregational Church in Putnam over $400,000.

In the girls all-star game on Tuesday, the "Blue" team, coached by Tourtellotte Memorial head coach Paula Faucher, defeated the Gold team (70-53) coached by Killingly High coach Gina Derosier. The Blue team's Brianna Dion, from Plainfield High, tallied 22 points and was her team's MVP. Tourtellotte's Lauren Ramos scored 19 points and Madison Kelley added 15 points for the Blue team. The Gold team's MVP was Woodstock Academy's Aislin Tracey, who tallied 19 points. All-star girls participants also included Prachi Patel from Killingly, Sophie Mercer from Plainfield, Lauren Blackmar and Morgan Blackmar from Putnam High, and Mary Steglitz from Tourtellotte.

In the boys all-star game, The "Blue" team, coached by Killingly High coach Jim Crabtree, defeated the Green (93-69) coached by Putnam Science Academy coach Tom Espinosa. Windham Tech's Abram Rosario scored 15 points and was named the Blue team's MVP. Woodstock Academy's Chase Anderson tallied 17 points and was named the Green team's MVP. All-star boys participants also included Ellis Tech's Jamie Talbot, Logan LeBlanc, and Alex Shaw; Killingly High's Ryan Axtell, Nolan Marcoux, Andrea Gottardi, and Luke Desaulnier; Parish Hill's Bert Augman and Cyrus Sprague; Plainfield High's Tyler Ahearn, Markeith Conyers, and Kyle Holt; Putnam High's Mike DiCollella, Dorian Frias, and Sebastian Ramos; Tourtellotte's James Cooper and Josh Dodd; Windham Tech's Daziel Colon, Sid Green, and Cole Paquin; and Woodstock Academy's Aaron Johnson and Jake Marsalisi.

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

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Killingly's Bowen earns coaching honor

DAYVILLE — Killingly High wrestling coach Rich Bowen has been named the 2019 CHSCA Class M Coach of the Year for Wrestling and Ron LeBeef has been named the 2019 Assistant Coach of the Year for Wrestling.

Bowen led the Redmen to their second consecutive ECC Open Championship and the Class M State Championship this past season. In the team's last dual meet this season, Bowen become just the second coach in state history to eclipse the 600-win mark and now has an overall record of 600-177-2. Under his leadership, four wrestlers won Class M state championships this season – Danny Charron, Mike Charron, David Charron and Derek Turner.

Coach LeBeef has served as an assistant coach at Killingly High School for the past five years but has had his hand in the Killingly Youth Program for the last 20 years. Prior to that, he was a past state champion in New York and wrestled in the Armed Forces.

Rainy day at Courthouse O'Putnam 5K

PUTNAM — Runners and race fans braved a rainy day to come out and support the Courthouse O'Putnam 5K last Sunday, March 10. Eight hundred and one hearty souls crossed the finish line on Main Street in downtown Putnam.

Charlie Lentz photos

Runners caused a logjam on Canal Street in Putnam at the start of the race.

From left, Dave Matthews, Melissa Mathews, Diane Mathews

From left, Crystal Ferace, Shan Riggs, Loli Aroscemina

From left, Teresa Labasa, Mary Labasi, Audrey Labasi

From left, Lynne Floyd, Peter Crizer, Brian Perchal, Rebecca Floyd

From left, Theresa Condict, Brittany Erskine, Jennifer Heath

Jake Gaeta and Jodi Palermo

From left, Heather Dubois, Anne Roy, Kathy Keable, Debra Jadack

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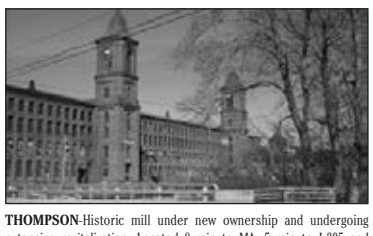
PUTNAM - Nicely maintained and turn-key 3 family multi-family investment property. Property has two-2 bedroom, 1 bathroom units (1st & 3rd floor) and one-3 bedroom unit on the second floor. Home has newer replacement windows, newer & updated individual electrical panels, vinyl siding, and a nicely paved shared driveway with plenty of parking. Home is fully occupied and is a good money maker with low owner expenses. **$199,900**

KILLINGLY-You must see this 3 bedroom, 1 bath ranch that sits nicely on .29 of an acre in a quiet Killingly neighborhood to believe all it has to offer. Hardwood floors throughout most of the home, attached garage, central air conditioning are just a few of the nice features here. The kitchen is large and sunny with loads of storage. The patio overlooks a private backyard. Save energy with the solar panels that have been recently installed. **Priced at only $169,900** this home won't last for long. Call today for your private viewing.

THOMPSON-This great Ranch style home has been well maintained. Home features 2 good sized bedrooms with hardwood floors & generous closets. The eat-in kitchen is neat and clean and has plenty of space. The living room also has nice hardwood floors and the windows make it nice and bright. The basement has a full walk-out and is a great workspace. There is a great detached 3 car garage with tons of potential! Great water view just off the backyard. **$179,900**

PUTNAM - Welcome home to this great 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom second floor rental opportunity. Located in a mixed-use building with one low impact commercial tenant on the first floor and just 1 other residential renter upstairs, this unit is just what you are looking for. The eating space kitchen has newer appliances (included) along with washer & dryer and is open to the large living room. Both bedrooms are good sized and feature generous closets. The full bathroom is neat and clean and there are hardwood floors throughout the entire unit. There is a great covered side porch entrance and enough parking on and off street. No pets, no smoking. **$875/mo**

BROOKLYN-The home has been completely updated and provides a very comfortable floor plan which includes a large kitchen with a center island and open eating area. The living room conveniently opens to the kitchen and large front deck for entertaining, relaxing, and endless views of the waterfront. There are 3 good sized bedrooms including TWO with attached full bathrooms. There is a third full bathroom centrally located for guests and a laundry room adjacent to the kitchen for easy access. One of the bedrooms also has a separate, private end deck for morning coffee. The property has abundant frontage on Tatnic Pond and is ideal for boating, kayaking, fishing and wildlife viewing. **$189,900**



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OBITUARIES

Virginia M. (Jean) Buswell, 90

WINDSOR, VT- Virginia M. (Jean) Buswell, 90, died Thursday(March7) at The Cedar Hill Memory Center in Windsor, VT where she was a resident since August 2017. She was the wife of the late Carl Buswell, Jr. Virginia was born in Claremont, NH on September 12, 1928 the daughter of the late Russell Rix, Lydia (Fountain) and Alfred Dubois. She grew up in Claremont, graduating from Stevens High School, Class of 1947 and worked at J.J. Newberry. Virginia and Carl lived in Claremont, NH, North Hartland, VT and West Thompson, CT. She worked at Giant Department Store and Jumbo Department Store in Putnam, CT. Her last place of employment before retirement was at Data General Campus in Woodstock, CT for Marriott Corp. After retirement they moved back to Claremont to her childhood home on Maple Avenue where Virginia had many memories. She often spoke of "Butch" her year-old husky-police dog. He was the first dog from Claremont to go to the US Army for active service during WWII. Virginia loved her family and enjoyed visits from all, especially seeing her grandchildren & great grandchildren. Her love for animals was evident with the many pet dogs and cats she had through the years. She enjoyed doing crafts and continued artwork with the residents while at Cedar Hill. She leaves her son, David Streeter (Marilyn) of North Charlestown, NH daughter, Cora Clemens (Robert Jr.) of Putnam, CT, daughter Kim Siekierski (Jeffrey) of Wilbraham, MA seven grandchildren, Jared Streeter (Janna), Berwick, ME, Amy Jankins (Brian) Sutton, MA, Season Smith (David) West Swanzey, NH, Tami Stein (Nathan) Ipswich, MA, Lori Solazzo (Matthew) Amesbury, MA, Alex Siekierski (Kristen) Medway, MA, Justin Siekierski Bath, ME, eight great grandchildren, Evan Stein, Ella Stein, Abigail Jankins, Kennedy Smith, Lucas Jankins, Hannah Jankins, Gabriel Solazzoand Madison Solazzo. She was predeceased by a sister Dorothy Rix. A Memorial Service was be held at 12:00 pm on Tuesday (March 12) at the Roy Funeral Home with the Rev. Arockia Antony, officiating. Committal will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery. Friends may call at the Roy Funeral Home, 93 Sullivan Street, Claremont, NH on from 11:00 am until the time of services. The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the Cedar Hill Memory Care Center Activity Fund, 49 Cedar Hill Drive, Windsor, VT 05089. You are invited to share a memory of Virginia with the family or leave a message of condolence in the family guest book at www.royfuneralhome.com.

Cheryl J. Pingeton, 71

BROOKLYN - Cheryl J. (Planeta, Cloutier) Pingeton passed away February 28, 2019 at Yale-New Haven Hospital at age 71. Cheryl was a lifelong Brooklyn resident, graduating from Killingly High School and The Paier College of Art in Hamden. She was the Art Director at Doring Labels. Cheryl and her late husband Charlie founded Package Systems Corporation, where she was the Vice-President and the Art Director. After retiring, she enjoyed sketching and weaving intricate baskets for her friends and family.

She is survived by her brother, Bernard Planeta Jr. of Stoughton, Massachusetts, two nephews; Stephen Planeta and his son Owen, and Kevin Planeta and his wife Missy Planeta.

A private service for friends and family will be held at a later date. Tillinghast Funeral Home, 433 Main Street, Danielson, is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be sent to Bernard Planeta at PO Box 719, Stoughton, MA 02072 or email CallBernie@verizon.net

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

Therese P. Meunier, 70

DAYVILLE – Therese P. Meunier, 70, of Dayville, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Sunday, March 3, 2019.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend to many. She loved nothing more than cooking and caring for those that she loved and spending time at her home which she referred to as her little piece of heaven on earth. She retired from Westview Nursing Home in 2012 and previously worked many years at McDonalds in Dayville. She was born on October 10, 1948 in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. She was the daughter of the late Delores J. (Racette) and Sylvio J. Ratelle.

She is predeceased by her husband Richard E. Meunier who passed away in November 2015 and brother Joseph Ratelle, who passed away in September 2009. She leaves behind her daughter Laurie Costa of Dayville; sons Jason and his wife Melissa Costa of Danielson, Michael Meunier of Dayville; stepchildren Bruce Meunier of Urbandale, Iowa, Lisa Carney of Durham, North Carolina; grandchildren Richard Meunier, Kristina Meunier, Josh Meunier, Ryan Carney, Robert Carney and Kenzi Costa; siblings, Wes and Linda Ratelle of California, Jessie Ianetti, Richard and Donna Ratelle, Linda and Richard Bowen; sister-in-law Linda Ratelle, all of Danielson, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Calling hours were held on Friday, March 8, 2019 in Tillinghast Funeral Home in Danielson. A Memorial Service was held at the funeral home on Saturday, March 9, 2019. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Theresa Lavallee, 91

PUTNAM – Theresa Lavallee, 91, of Mohegan Street, died Sunday, March 10, 2019 in Matulaitis Nursing Home. Born in Putnam, she was the daughter of the late Emile and Georgianna (Dragon) Lavallee.

Ms. Lavallee worked as a machine operator and mold maker for Colts Plastic. She enjoyed playing bingo with her mother and travelling. She also liked cats, animals, crocheting, knitting and loved to go out to eat.

Theresa is survived by her sister, Estelle Yakis of Putnam; her sister-in-law, Jeanne Lavallee of Putnam; her nephews, Kevin Lavallee of Putnam, Fred Lavallee and his wife Susan of Port Charlotte, Florida; her grand-nephews, Ryan Yakis of Eastford, Matthew Yakis of Eastford, and Nathan Yakis of Woodstock; and her grandniece, Meredith Messenger of Longmeadow, Massachusetts. She was predeceased by her bother, Frederick "Jimmy" Lavallee.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Theresa's family at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 15, 2019 in the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. in St. Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St, Putnam. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Charlotte Emma Gubber, 87

NORTH GROSVENORDALE - Charlotte Emma Gubber, 87, passed on Saturday March 9, 2019.

Charlotte was born in Oxford, MA on January 11, 1932; She worked, for many years, as a receptionist for Guardian Industries. Charlotte was a devoted wife to her late husband George J. Gubber, and will be deeply missed by her sisters: Louise Pierce of West Brookfield, MA and Dorothy Steiger of Warren, MA; two nephews: David Pierce and his wife Leane of West Brookfield, and Edward Caissie and his wife Carole of Spencer; her niece: Sandra Richer of Pennsylvania; She also leaves many relatives and friends.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday March 13, 2019 at 10:00 am in the West Thompson Cemetery in North Grosvenordale, CT. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home.

To share a memory, light a candle, or to offer condolences, a guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com

In lieu of flowers, Charlotte's family kindly requests that you honor her memory by contributing to St. Jude's Hospital or to a local dog/animal shelter of your choice.

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LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Lisa P Hennessey
(17-00419)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated January 9, 2019, 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:
Payton L Muzyczka
c/o Frank G. Herzog, Esq.,
Borner, Smith, Aleman,
Herzog & Cerrone, LLC,
155 Providence Street, PO Box 166,
Putnam, CT 06260-0166
March 15, 2019

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Lucinda L Hess,
AKA Lucinda Hess (19-00051)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 4, 2019, 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:
David R. Hess
c/o William H. St. Onge, Esq.,
St. Onge & Brouillard,
PO Box 550, Putnam, CT 06260
March 15, 2019

TOWN OF BROOKLYN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Brooklyn Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 26,2019 at 6:30p.m. at the Clifford B. Green Meeting Center, 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn CT, on the following:
ZBA 19-002 Brooklyn Sand and Gravel LLC, 530 Wauregan Road, Map 30 Lot 97, RA Zone, for variances of the Zoning Regulations pertaining to an existing gravel operation, as follows:
Section 13.3.3.1 for a ten-year permit term in lieu of one year currently allowed;
Section 13.5.2 for 1) a setback of 20 feet from property line where 100 ft is required; 2) setback of 50 ft from offsite structures where 200ft is required; 3) zero setback between excavation and highway line where 100 ft is required;
Section 13.5.3 for a slope of up to 30% within 25 feet of a highway where no slope exceeding 10% within 200 ft of highway is required;
Section 13.5.4.2 to increase the amount of material that may be imported for processing on site, from an amount equal to the material mined on site to ten times the amount mined on site.
Interested persons may appear and be heard. Written communications will be accepted. The file is availaole for review in the Land Use Office, 69 South Main Street, Suite 22, Brooklyn, CT.
Dated March 11, 2019
Dan Ross
Chairman
March 15, 2019
March 22, 2019

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Villager Newspapers
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
"Shining a light on community events"

Thursdays 11-1pm
First Congregational Church of Pomfret has a Knitting Group that meets Thursday's 11-1pm making hats for the needy. No experience necessary! Contact Penny Bennett for details 860-412-9811.

March 15, Fri., noon-8pm
Club 2087 will hold a Lenten fish fry from in its hall at 1017 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale. Fish and chips ($10); baked haddock or fried shrimp ($11); fried scallops ($12, $15); fried clams ($16); seafood platter ($17), and more. 860-923-2967, council2087@gmail.com.

March 15, Fri., 5pm
Killingly Grange will offer either a baked fish or a fried fish dinner with baked potato or fries, and coleslaw every Friday though Lent. $11 for baked dinner, $10 for fried dinner. Located at corner of Dog Hill and Hartford Pike in Dayville. Available for take-out or eat in.

March 15, Fri., 6pm
United Services Annual Irish Night, at The Mansion at Bald Hill in Woodstock featuring a corned beef & cabbage dinner (or fish and vegetarian options), live music, Irish sing-a-longs, and a silent auction. Tickets are $40 each or $350 for a table of 10 by visiting unitedservicesct.org/events/irish-night or call 860-774-2020 or email info@usmhs.org.

March 16, Sat., 11am
Cookbook Club, 5 ingredient recipes! Bracken Memorial Library, 57 Academy Road, Woodstock.

March 16, Sat., 10am-3pm
Bottle and Can drive at Lost & Found Cat Shelter, 459 Thompson Road, Thompson.

March 16, Sat., 9:30am-2pm
PAWS 3rd Annual Indoor Tag Sale at Killingly Public Library, 25 Westcott Road, Danielson.

March 20, Wed., 10-10:40am
(& March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1) Preschool Storytime, Killingly Public Library, A story time held on Wednesday mornings for children ages 3-5. Registration required. To register for children's programs at the Killingly Library go to www.killinglypl.org or call 860-779-5383.

March 20, Wed., 7pm
Bingo every Wednesday night at St. James, 12 Franklin Street, Danielson. Proceeds benefit St. James School.

March 21-April 25
Acting classes at the Bradley Playhouse in Putnam, CT for ages 7-17, Thurs. evenings from 5:30-6:30. Call 860-928-7887 for info.

March 21, Thurs., 5pm-9pm
Dining for a Cause at The Crossing (45 Main Street, Putnam) to benefit PAWS Cat Shelter. Raffle baskets!
Coupon must be presented in order for donation to be given. Call (860) 315-1228 for info.

March 22, Fri., noon to 8pm
Club 2087 will hold a Lenten fish fry from in its hall at 1017 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale. Fish and chips ($10); baked haddock or fried shrimp ($11); fried scallops ($12, $15); fried clams ($16); seafood platter ($17), and more. 860-923-2967, council2087@gmail.com.

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March 23, Sat., 5:30
Your local Grange will offer corned beef and cabbage, with boiled potato and carrots and dessert for $8. Dinner will be followed by a Bluegrass Festival with Shady Creek and featuring Redwood Hills, for a donation of $12, starting at 7pm. \ Located at the corner of Hartford Pike and Dog Hill in Dayville.

March 23, Sat., 4:30-6:30pm
PHSAAA and Pass Chicken Parmesan Dinner at Knights of Columbus Hall, 68 Providence Street (Next to Savage System, Sponsored by: Putnam After School Services. Tickets $10 available at the Putnam Recreation Dept. Make Checks payable to: PHSAAA or call P.A.S.S. at 860-771-1834 Take out recommended.

BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE FOR LOST & FOUND CAT SHELTER

Start saving your "empties," cause we're having a Bottle and Can Drive Saturday, March 16th! Please bring your (clean and dry) bottles and cans to the shelter any time between 10am and 3pm Saturday, March 16th. We're at 459 Thompson Rd., Thompson. 100% of the proceeds goes towards the care of our cats.
Thank you for your support!

This page is designed to shine a light on upcoming local nonprofit, educational and community events.
Submissions are limited to *50 words or less* and are *FREE* to qualifying organizations, schools, churches and town offices.
To submit your event contact: Teri Stohlberg at 860-928-1818 ext. 105, or teri@villagernewspapers.com.
Deadline for submission is Friday at Noon

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2017 DODGE DURANGO — NEW Retail Price: $42,715 — WHOLESALE PRICE: $32,677
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2016 FORD ESCAPE SE — NEW Retail Price: $29,095 — WHOLESALE PRICE: $17,255
#P11861L • HEATED SEATS, 4X4, TURBO, ALLOYS, BLUETOOTH
SAVE $11,800 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

2016 CHEVY MALIBU LS — NEW Retail Price: $24,195 — WHOLESALE PRICE: $10,944
#39281L • BLUETOOTH, ONSTAR, LIMITED TRIM, 16" ALLOYS
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2014 RAM 1500 4X4 — NEW Retail Price: $38,730 — WHOLESALE PRICE: $21,277
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#D9564R

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WHOLESALE PRICE: $18,277
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2017 HYUNDAI SONATA — NEW Retail Price: $28,775 — WHOLESALE PRICE: $13,999
#H0557L • SPORT TRIM, ALLOYS, HEATED SEATS, BACK-UP CAM
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2015 FORD EDGE SEL — NEW Retail Price: $34,650 — WHOLESALE PRICE: $21,355
#P11988L • ALL-WHEEL DRIVE, LEATHER, NAV, TURBO, ALLOYS
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LIKE NEW 2015 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4x4 SUV
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SAVE $11,100 OFF OF RETAIL PRICE!

LIKE NEW 2016 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LT
#19141A

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WHOLESALE PRICE: $24,677
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