

# THOMPSON VILLAGER

Friday, December 17, 2021

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## Killingly wins Connecticut Class M State Championship



Photos Jason McKay

Members of the Killingly High football team pose with their plaque and medals after securing the Connecticut Class M State Championship versus Rockville High, 28-14, on Saturday, Dec. 11.

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

NEW BRITAIN — Killingly High football coach Chad Neal spent much of this season convincing prospective opponents that his team had a legitimate passing attack. So, what did the longtime coach do against Rockville High in the Connecticut Class M Championship Game at Veterans Memorial Stadium on Saturday, Dec. 11? Run the ball early and often, of course.

Sophomore Soren Rief rushed for 183 yards and a pair of touchdowns on 17 carries, and senior Jack Sharpe added 102 yards and a scoring scamper on 23 rushing attempts, leading undefeated Killingly to a 28-14 victory over the Rams in front of a sea of boisterous, red-clad, screaming fans.

"We decided to stay with the running game for a few reasons," said Neal, whose

quarterback, Thomas Dreiholz, attempted just three passes. "First of all, we were able to establish the run game early, so we decided to stick with it. Another reason we stayed with the run game was that it was pretty windy out there. Also, when you're playing with the lead, you don't want to be conservative, but you want to stick with what's working, and we saw [Rockville] getting worn down as we kept running the ball at them."

Killingly, the No. 1 seed in Class M, finished its season 12-0. The plaque they received as a result of Saturday's win will go into the school's trophy case alongside state titles won in 1981, 1996 and 2017. The victory also allows Killingly to — finally — get rid of the sour taste of its last trip to a championship game, 2019, when it lost to Weston, 27-6. In addition, the win was the

Please Read **FOOTBALL**, page **A10**

## Roseland Park hosts inaugural Christmas Run

BY JASON BLEAU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WOODSTOCK — The Empire Timing Company hosted the first Roseland Park Christmas Run on Saturday, Dec. 11 bringing a holiday-themed road race to a community familiar with 5K runs and events.

The event feature three parts: a fun run, a 5K and a five-mile run. Mena Shehata of The Empire Timing Company said his company decided to host the event to bring some Christmas cheer to the area and provide another avenue for runners to test their skills and endurance. The event also helps support a couple of well-known local causes at the same time.

"I didn't see any Christmas run in town, so I thought it was time. Roseland Park is a great place for it. Hopefully it'll become a new tradition," said Shehata. "The 5K is an out and back course and the five-miler is a loop around the perimeter of Roseland Park. We also had a kids fun run to get everyone involved with their family today. We got the N.O.W. organization involved and the Judy Nilan Foundation and part of this is raising money for them, so people were happy to support this."

The top time of the 5K was achieved by Scott Deslongchamps of North Grosvenordale who crossed the line 18 minutes and one second after taking off beating second place finisher Christian Menounos, a Woodstock Academy track runner from Brooklyn, who crossed the line 21 seconds later. Deslongchamps called the run a "fun communi-



Photos Jason Bleau

A few young runners show off their medals after the Christmas Run Fun Run.

ty event."

"It was a great race. Second place and I went back and forth the whole time the last half-mile or so. You can dress for the cold but once you get moving your body starts to create a lot of heat so that wasn't too challenging. I love these local road races," he said.

The first woman across the line, and third-place finisher overall, for the 5K was Linsey Arends, a member of the Woodstock Academy Indoor Track who crossed the line after 20 minutes and 37 second. She called the race challenging but enjoyable.

"It was a really nice course. It was downhill most of the way, so you've got to pick up speed and then back there's a slight gradient so it's a little challenge, but it's really good," said Arends. "It was a little slippery, but it was awesome. It's nice to have the cool weather."

Please Read **RUN**, page **A5**

## Putnam VFW welcomes Mrs. Claus



Photo Jason Bleau

EllieAnna of Danielson poses for a photo during her visit with Mrs. Claus at the Putnam VFW.

BY JASON BLEAU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM — The Putnam VFW Post 1523 hosted a special guest on

Sunday, Dec. 12 as Mrs. Claus spent the morning taking pictures with local youngsters while members of the VFW served breakfast.

VFW Commander Hans Lowell said the event is part of the post's mission to become more involved with the local community. In addition, they decided to add to the event's community connection by also making it a toy collection for local non-profit TEEG.

"It's been my drive to get the VFW to rebrand its image here in Putnam and to do that I thought it was very important to get more involved with the community," said Lowell. "One of the ways we can do that is by opening our doors to community events like this. I know there are a lot of charities and groups out there that collect, especially during the holidays, but having grown up in this area I know what TEEG is and what they're all about and I know that everything they do stays in this area, and we try to make sure that everything we do stays in this

community."

Lowell also noted that events like Mrs. Claus' visit to Putnam are a way for veterans to find purpose as well. Having served himself and experienced the struggles of adapting to civilian life and finding meaning away from active duty, Lowell said that being a bigger part of the community helps veterans feel valued and allows

them to become a bigger part of the world around them.

"Being a Commander here at the VFW, it gives me something to wake up for each day and that's why I wanted to get involved in the community and not just have the building with a canteen downstairs," Lowell said. "After years of really having our hands tied and my objective of trying

to find purpose, I'm so grateful that we're finally able to open the doors and start sharing with the community. It gives me a reason to wake up and I know that's something a lot of veterans fight with. People don't realize it helps us more when it comes to stuff like this as much as we're helping them because we need something."

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## EARLY DEADLINES FOR CHRISTMAS

To ensure that the Dec. 24 editions of the Killingly, Putnam, Thompson, and Woodstock Villagers arrive in subscribers' mail boxes on schedule despite the holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week will be Friday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube at [brendan@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:brendan@villagernewspapers.com).

The staff of Villager Newspapers thanks our readers for their cooperation with this scheduling change, and wishes one and all a safe and happy holiday season.



# Recipes from long ago



KILLINGLY  
AT 300  
.....  
MARGARET  
WEAVER

Christmas closing: Since both Christmas and New Year's Day are on Saturdays, the Killingly Historical Center will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. It will be open on Wednesday, Dec. 29.

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

Congratulations to the Killingly High School Football team for winning the Class M State Football Championship on Saturday, Dec. 11 with a 28-14 victory over Rockville.

Several weeks ago, I wrote of the School Street, Danielson "Fish Market" Annex to the Killingly Grammar School and asked for memories and names from that school. Betty Graff Eldridge stopped in at the Killingly Historical Center and said that she had attended that school in the 1940's, when her family lived on Cook Hill Road ("before it was tarred"). She took a bus to school in Danielson. Miss Swaton was her first grade teacher. She used to rap Betty's knuckles to try to keep her from biting her nails. The desks in the room all faced the fire station. Lunch was at the "big school" so every day they had to climb up the all those stairs that were once behind where the Court now is. Betty had fond memories of the ice cream truck that would stop with its treats. She would get a double ice pop-sicle and split it to share. When I asked her about names of other students, she recalled that she thought she had a picture of the students and said that she would look for it. We were in luck for she brought two photos of with her classmates to the Center a few days later, and our archivist Lynn LaBerge has copied them for the files. (These were taken in front of the old Grammar School, not the fish market). Betty was even able to recall quite a few of the students in the

class. These are the ones she was able to identify from what I will call Photo 1: Clayton Hooper, Michael Gasiorek, Thomas Claire, Harold Arndt, Roger Pellerin, Robert Baker, Gertrude Graff, Ruth Charerneau(?). Sandra Clements (Ahola), Betty Carr, Elizabeth Ferris, Carol Ferland, Mark Best, Jack Hardell (?). D'Arcy Claire, Clarence Bonneau, Biran Baril (?), Kusti Murd, Charles Cunneen, Jane Schooner, Elizabeth Graff, Eileen Ainsworth, Julia Hewko, Dorothy Kohler, Lynn Birch. Few different individuals were identified on the second picture: Judith Rose, Richard Lors, Beverly Melanson, Ronald Perreault, Kiester Meard, Albert Pietras. Betty attended school in the "Fish Market Annex" until Killingly Memorial School opened. (Conversations Dec. 1 & 4; please forgive any misspellings and email corrections). If you were in Betty's class, please stop at the Center to look at the photos and see if you can identify other classmates.

At lunch at the Killingly Historical Center this past Saturday, Bernie Mitchell and Joe Chauvin were looking at a little recipe book from Danielson Federal Savings and Loan from the 1970's, "Flavorite Recipes from the Farmer's Almanac." This recipe sounded like it was meant for a quick, hot sandwich in a college dorm. "Iron cheese sandwich." Place cheese between bread and no need to use butter; wrap in one thickness of foil. Iron on high, heat until it's toasted the way you like it, flip it over and iron again and in minutes you have a grilled cheese sandwich."

Then there was "Irish Potato Salad. 3 cups cooked potatoes, sliced. 2 tablespoons vinegar, 1 teaspoon celery seed, 1 teaspoon sugar, ½ teaspoon salt, 1 can corned beef, chilled and diced, 1 ½ cups cabbage, shredded fine; 4 tablespoons dill pickle, minced; 2 tablespoons onion, minced; cook potatoes and slice while warm. Combine vinegar, celery seed, sugar, and salt and sprinkle over potatoes. Set aside for an hour. Add remaining ingredients; mix carefully and chill. Combine ¾ cup mayonnaise, 1 tablespoon vinegar, 2 tablespoons milk, ½ teaspoon salt. Pour over potato mixture. Toss gently and garnish as desired. Serves 8."

I was looking for Christmas-related happenings in the 1935 Windham County Transcript extracts and came across several. "Danielson Merchants to Open Holiday Campaign. Under the auspices of the Merchant's Bureau of the Quinebaug Valley Board of Trade

Danielson stores are cooperating in a holiday business campaign which will open this Friday. Booster coupons will be given with each fifty cent purchase during the Christmas shopping season. With these coupons the customers may obtain merchandise certificates which may be exchanged for goods valued at \$500. Nearly half a hundred merchants are cooperating with this campaign and are offering an excellent assortment in all lines of merchandise." (WCT Dec. 5, 1935). Some the businesses that were giving away the coupons were as follows. How many do you recall? Danielson certainly had a variety of businesses at that time. A & P Stores, Alice Eleanor Shop, American Fruit Store; Berthume, M. H. (Mose the Druggist); Blumenthal, D., Bon Marche, Bonneville Drug Store, Boston Meat Market; Boston Store; Burroughs & Hopkins; Charon's Dry Goods Store; Franklin Crosby, florist; Del Pesco, shoes; Darbie Furniture Co.; Danielson Wine & Liquor Store; Dowe's Inc.; First National Stores; Good Will Stores; Hard Pan Shoes store; Ideal Meat Market; E. H. Keach Co., hardware; Keech's Department Store; Lagace's Service, Lavalle, J. F. Clothing; Lord Shoe Store; Mailhot, Albert J., shoes; Mailhot, F. J. Cleaning, pressing; Meech, Andrew E. Hardware; McEwen, Henry A., jeweler; Modern Laundry; Myers, Henry A., Groceries; New England Food Market; Oliver's Radio Service; New York Fruit Store; Pappajoin Studio; Pellett, Ray W.; People's Dry Goods & Clothing Co., Puritan Clothing Co., Rosen Bros. Dept Store; Smart Shoppe; Shumway Clothing Co.; Star Bakery; The Sunshine Shop; Trahan's Super Shell Service; Woodward's Drug Store. (WCT Dec. 12, 1935). Please email me any memories you would like to share about these businesses.

"The Boy Scouts of District C will conduct a drive on Saturday to pick up old clothing and toys which will be made usable to be distributed the night before Christmas." (WCT Dec. 12, 1935)

"Choral society to sing Part I of 'Bethlehem'. The Danielson Choral Society, composed of ninety, directed by Henry N. Flagg, will be heard in Sunday concert at Westfield Church." (WCT Dec. 12, 1935)

"The American legion's living Christmas tree at Davis Park is to be illuminated at the Christmas season, but the Legion this year will not provide a Christmas Eve party for the youngsters of the community. It is considered

that the money available can be spent to better advantage through personal contact with those who need and will most appreciate the remembrance of the season." (WCT Dec. 12, 1935).

Newly Arrived at the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center: Copies of "Images of America Killingly" by Natalie L. Coolidge and Robert A. Spencer. This first book of Killingly photos has been out of print but is now available just in time for Christmas. Copies are \$20 if purchased at the Center; \$25 for postage and handling if the book must be mailed. Copies will be available during regular Center hours on Wednesday and Saturday from 10-4. Checks accepted but not credit cards. Please send a letter with your name, address and a check for \$25 if you wish to have a copy mailed to you. No phone orders, please. The second volume, "Killingly Revisited," by Natalie Coolidge, is also available for the same price.

Are you looking for an unusual Christmas gift for someone who grew up in Killingly or the vicinity? If you have a Civil War buff in the family, be sure to come to the Center and look at "Dear Transcript," which contains letters from Windham County soldiers during the Civil War. "Mills Along the Whetstone" would be perfect for those who are interested in Killingly's mill heritage. It contains many photos of mills that are no longer standing. There are also a number of postcards from Northeastern Connecticut and many other places for sale (\$1), reproductions of old maps from area towns including those dating back to 1855/6 and 1869 (\$3-\$5), and old journals with interesting short stories (\$1). Stop in during regular hours and see those and many other items.

*Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian December 2021. Special thanks to Betty Graff Eldridge. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or contact the Killingly Historical Society at www.killinglyhistorical.org. Leave messages for the Killingly Historical Center at 860-779-7250. Visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday from 10-4. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center should be sent to P.O. Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239.*

# Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors' Laurence Hale featured for expertise by Commonwealth Financial Network

POMFRET CENTER — Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors (WHZ) Co-Founder, Managing Partner



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and Chief Investment Officer Laurence Hale, AAMS, CRPS® has been featured by Commonwealth Financial Network (CFN) for his expertise in maximizing productivity and time with clients. WHZ is a partner of CFN, the largest privately-owned independent Registered Investment Advisor/broker-dealer.

Hale spoke on the topic at CFN's annual conference in November and is featured in a recent article for the firm's internal publication, the Commonwealth Business Review, on practices for financial advisors to maximize time with clients, optimize productivity and build a growth-oriented, enduring firm.

Hale was chosen by CFN as a conference speaker and featured advisor in the article because he was identified in an independent study commissioned by CFN as being among the firm's top decile performers in productivity.

According to the study these top performers spend, on average, 37 percent

more time on client meetings than other financial advisors. They also make a greater investment in their staff, infrastructure, and processes to optimize efficiency while delivering a consistently great client experience.

Hale says that at WHZ, those achievements don't happen by chance but are part of the strategic, data-driven approach the firm takes not only to their own operations but to the services they provide to their clients as well.

"Every year, we use a strategic planning process to get everybody rowing in the same direction," he says. "We identify current strengths and weaknesses and areas of opportunity for the business and industry. Our firm focuses on financial planning, so the most important question we ask each year is how our processes can be improved to elevate the client experience."

WHZ was founded in Pomfret, Connecticut in 2006 as a fiduciary, independent investment firm. Today the firm offers wealth management and customized financial planning services



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# Louise Taylor honored as Westview Commons Employee of the Month

DAYVILLE — Louise Taylor has earned the distinction of Country Living at Westview Commons’ Employee of the Month for November 2021.

In her role as the Activities Director at Westview Commons, Taylor is responsible for developing and delivering a great deal of fun pastimes for the residents of the 75-unit independent and assisted living facility in Dayville. Her efforts include organizing events like art projects; community clubs; confectionary baking; games, contests, and other physical activities; and booking captivating entertainers to present to the audience of Westview Commons residents. In addition to her role as Westview Commons’ Activities Director, she continues to fulfill her goals as the Therapeutic Recreation Director at Westview Health Care Center; having begun her creative coordination efforts there in February 2005.

Taylor takes care to deliver a wide variety of activities for residents at the two locations, offering calendars full of events ranging between special occasions and quiet pastimes, grand concerts and intimate performances, or on-campus crafts and extracurricular field trips. She possesses an Associate’s degree in Therapeutic Recreation from Manchester Community College, and complements her education by possessing over 16 years of experience delivering whimsical activities, holiday celebrations, solemn observations, and engaging entertainment to seniors. No matter the activity, she is sure to be found smiling from ear to ear as each moment materializes.

Originally hailing from Illinois and Wisconsin, Taylor has lived in Northeast Connecticut since 1985. She lived in Thompson for more than 35 years; there, raising her two wonderful kids, Kelsey and Jack, alongside many family dogs and cats. Currently, she lives in her recently remodeled antique home in Putnam with her life partner Dawn and their energetic feline, Fiona. Taylor is ‘head-over-heels’ in love with her one-year-old grandson Jed, and considers herself blessed with wonderful family and friends that maintain her good humor. Taylor wishes to observe the principle that ‘life is meant to be lived’ in her daily routines, both personally and professionally. When she is not at Westview Commons, she enjoys skydiving out of airplanes or riding in hot air balloons—events that she loves to talk about because she lived to talk about them! She calls traveling an ongoing adventure, having recently ventured



Louise Taylor

to Iceland and looking to visit Italy next. In quieter moments, she loves to read a good book or walk through the picturesque trails and neighborhoods of Northeast Connecticut. Taylor is especially looking forward to her next opportunities to ski and snowshoe in the New England winter.

Taylor is well qualified to be a source of warmth in the cold winter months, and this radiance is displayed in her acceptance to this accolade.

“During this season of recognizing our blessings, I find myself so fortunate to spend my week with the residents and staff at the beautiful, new Country Living at Westview Commons. The staff is wonderful, and all of us work together to achieve our common goal of providing a lifestyle our residents deserve. I am so grateful for the daily opportunities to be with the residents—they are so inspiring, caring, and fun! To all of my supporters, thank you for this honor,” she remarked.

Throughout the unprecedented challenges of this recent time, Louise’s passionate efforts are admired by David T. Panteleakos, Executive Vice President of Country Living at Westview Commons and Administrator of Westview Health Care Center.

“Louise loves what she does, and it shows,” stated Mr. Panteleakos. “She does such a wonderful job maintaining the smiles and good times for our residents by transforming our every-

day lives into special memories at Westview and Westview Commons. I am so pleased with the way she continues to accomplish this mission under such challenging circumstances. The talented and creative team of therapeutic recreational professionals she has assembled to facilitate all of this fun is a wonderful example of the indomitable spirit of Westview and Louise’s strong leadership skills.”

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

ACCURACY WATCH

The Villager Newspapers is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page A3 in a timely manner.  
If you find a mistake call (860) 928-1818 or e-mail [charlie@villager-newspapers.com](mailto:charlie@villager-newspapers.com).

## Local students named to High Honors List at Pomfret School

POMFRET — Students named to this list earned a grade point average of at least 3.670 and received no grade lower than a B+ for the Fall 2021 term.

Maya Gerum of Pomfret Center  
Jack Heroux of Pomfret Center  
Bridget Horst of Pomfret  
Fergus Litowitz of Pomfret  
Angelo Rovero of North Grosvenordale  
Founded in 1894, Pomfret School is an independent coeducational college preparatory boarding and day school for 350 students in grades 9 through 12 and post-graduates. Set on a stunning 500-acre campus in Northeastern Connecticut, Pomfret cultivates a healthy interdependence of mind, body, and spirit in its students as it prepares them for college, and to lead and learn in a diverse and increasingly interconnected society.

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# Eastern student participates in LEAP leadership program

Eastern student participates in LEAP leadership program

WILLIMANTIC — The Student Activities Office at Eastern Connecticut State University recently concluded its fall session of the LEAP leadership program. Standing for “Learn, Explore, Achieve, Perform,” the program is designed to help students develop their leadership skills through a variety of workshops. This semester’s session trained thirteen students.

Among the participants was Alex Rooney of North Grosvenordale, who majors in Accounting. Rooney was a council member.

“It is so important that students are seeking ways to develop and grow as leaders outside of the classroom,” said Casey Kensey, director of new student and family programs. “The time commitment for the LEAP program is minimal, but students will leave the

program with more confidence in their own leadership abilities and skills and hopefully continue to seek out additional ways to become active members within the Eastern community.”

Students who complete the eight-week cohort training and wish to continue with the program can transition to become LEAP council members.

“The council is a great opportunity for students to create their own growth past being a leader on campus,” said Joaquin Selmeski, graduate intern for orientation and leadership programs and LEAP co-organizer. “Unlike other experiences that solely teach students tools for success, the council relies on student experience to drive conversation. Their work as a group pushes them to consider how to transcend past being a student leader at Eastern while they are enrolled, but how to leave a legacy and be a leader in the professional world after they graduate.”

First Congregational  
Church of Pomfret

Christmas Eve Service  
6:00 pm  
*The Innkeeper’s Son*  
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★★★★★ NOTICE ★★★★★

In accordance with Section 7-109 of the General Statutes, revision of 1977, as amended, and with the State Department approval, the **Special Education Department of Woodstock Public Schools** will destroy all special education student records that became inactive (exited, graduated, turned 21) prior to 7/1/2015 on 12/17/2021.

If the owners if these records wish to claim them, please contact the Special Education Department of Woodstock Public Schools at 860-928-7453 Ext. 323. These records may be needed at some future date for social security benefits or for other purposes.

Season’s Greetings  
During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.

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# Pomfret School announces Fall 2021 Head of School Scholar Honors

POMFRET — Students named to this list earned a grade point average of 4.000 and received no grade lower than an A- for the Fall 2021 Term.

Cooper Ames of Pomfret  
Meredith Bergendahl of Pomfret Center  
Maya Bullied of Pomfret  
Isabella Canavan of Pomfret Center  
Lucas Canavan of Pomfret Center  
Tatum Fisher of Pomfret  
Benjamin Gordon of Woodstock  
Rebecca Hague of Pomfret Center  
Kale Hart of Pomfret Center  
Maxtin Hart of Pomfret Center  
Kellen Horst of Pomfret  
Luke Litowitz of Pomfret

Mia McCarter of Pomfret  
Matthew McClure of Woodstock  
Morgan Rice of Pomfret Center  
Calvin Wolanin of Pomfret Center  
Ian Wolanin of Pomfret Center  
Brody Zahansky of Pomfret Center  
Kisqu Levy of Brooklyn  
Mary-Aliya Turay of Rogers

Founded in 1894, Pomfret School is an independent coeducational college preparatory boarding and day school for 350 students in grades 9 through 12 and postgraduates. Set on a stunning 500-acre campus in Northeastern Connecticut, Pomfret cultivates a healthy interdependence of mind, body, and spirit in its students as it prepares them for college, and to lead and learn in a diverse and increasingly interconnected society.

# Local students named to Honors List at Pomfret School

POMFRET — Students named to this list earned a grade point average of at least 3.330 and received no grade lower than a B for the Fall 2021 term.

Carson Ames of Pomfret  
Grace Bullied of Pomfret  
Andrew Burnham of Pomfret Center  
Ethan Dinges of Woodstock  
Emma Ferguson of Danielson  
Adam Lee of Pomfret Center  
Jacob Marasco of Pomfret Center  
Calvin Matthew of Pomfret  
James Rice of Pomfret Center  
Johnna Romanek of North Grosvenordale  
Jessica Stolarek of Pomfret Center  
Adam Tillinghast of Danielson

Clayton Lehmann of Putnam  
Gabrielle Lemery of Putnam

Founded in 1894, Pomfret School is an independent coeducational college preparatory boarding and day school for 350 students in grades 9 through 12 and postgraduates. Set on a stunning 500-acre campus in Northeastern Connecticut, Pomfret cultivates a healthy interdependence of mind, body, and spirit in its students as it prepares them for college, and to lead and learn in a diverse and increasingly interconnected society.

READING  
NEWSPAPERS  
IS A QUEST  
LIKE NO OTHER



Runners take off for the inaugural Christmas Run 5K.



Scott Deslongchamps was the first to cross the line for the 5K event.



Runners head into the five-mile run, the longest run of the event.



The first woman across the line, and third-place finisher overall, for the 5K was Linsey Arends.

## RUN

continued from page A1

especially for a longer race, and I also think it's great that people are doing things around Christmas. It's very festive and fun."

The winner of the five-mile race was Pomfret resident Chris Chuckran with a time of 28 minute and 44 second. The first woman across the line for the five-miler was Linda Spooner of Sturbridge with a time of 32 minutes and 57 second.

## BARTENDER

continued from page A4

Denny Gates of Gates Automotive.

At 8:30 p.m., the "Wireless Warriors" fearlessly raised \$728 in tips with Josh Paul, Sam Stamatiou, Patrick Lynch, and Nick Rybacki, all of Version Wireless Zone!

The final Team the "Martial Arts Mommas" took the bar at 9 p.m. and helped NOW reach our final tip goal for the night, raising a total of \$835 with Kristin Duethorn, Michelle Lengyel, Erica Seraphin, and Kristen Finnemore, all representing Quest Martial Arts!

In addition to the tips from each shift, the event also raised funds through a raffle drawing for several items donated by local businesses and individuals. NOW volunteers sold pizza-by-the slice during the event and participants were encouraged to enjoy freshly baked holiday cookies and coffee generously donated by Sugarz Bakery and Chubby Dog Coffee Company.

NOW Executive Director Tayler Shea commented on the event, "We beyond amazed and thrilled with the results of the NOW Holly Jolly Bartender Night. We were optimistic that we would raise as much as the previous year's event but we were once again blown away by the generosity of our community and surpassing our goal by over \$3,000!"

All funds raised at the event will support NOW youth wellness programs in the region. NOW, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is dedicated to making a positive impact in the lives of Quiet Corner children by ensuring each child's access to social, emotional, and physical wellness. Serving the 10-town area of Northeast Connecticut, NOW partners with other local youth organizations to provide scholarships to children ages 3-14 who otherwise may not be able to afford such opportunities.



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# Killingly FFA holds 10th annual holiday shopping event



Woodturning creations by Susan Tetreault showed off the artists special touch to creating a beautiful handmade works of art.



The students of the Killingly Vo-Ag program and FFA Chapter put together gorgeous Christmas creations that were up for sale during the event.



A young visitor to the shopping night event pulls from a prize jar. Participants could pay to pick a random jar from a table with different kinds of treats inside.



The Pine Hill Alpaca Farm, LLC had a unique visual element to their stand where you could watch someone spin together the alpaca wool into the very products they had for sale.

KILLINGLY – The Killingly FFA Chapter held their tenth annual holiday shopping event in the main lobby of the Killingly High School on Friday, Dec. 10, bringing countless vendors from both near and far, many with a agricultural theme, to kickstart the holiday season. Everything from soaps to apparel, decorations, household goods, and more

were represented throughout the evening while visitors could also purchase products made from members of the Vo-Ag program and participate in a prize jar game. It was a delightful evening for all brimming with holiday spirit and a sense of community.

Photos Jason Bleu



Potential buyers examine the goods at Fairy Garden Sampler.



The Hay Burr Inn Equine Rescue and student Georgia Barry met with locals at their station during the Holiday Shopping Night event.



Jason and Julie Olson of Killingly Metal Fabrication show off their many metal creations.



Janet Hawkins shows off the products from Hawkins Goat Farm including soaps and other natural personal care items.



The crew from Creamery Brook Bison, including Brooklyn's recently elected First Selectman Austin Tanner, presented some of their delicious Bison soups and products for visitors to taste test during their stay.

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Buell's Dragonfly Farm brought a fine selection of Christmas treats and maple syrup for their station at the shopping event.

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# In the Studio



CYNTHIA SAARI

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

This week we’re meeting with **career sculptor, Nick Swearer** of Thompson, CT. His cast bronze and fabricated metal pieces make powerful statements, whether humanoid or fantastical animals. Nick has been creating art since adolescence, growing up in the Midwest, which brings me to my first question:

**Nick, what brought you the Quiet Corner?**

Serendipity. My mother was an artist so I have been around the arts since I was born. I sold my first sculpture at age 11, and by the age of 23, I was in need of a permanent studio. I grew up in a family that was in the public eye more than I liked. Thompson provided an escape from that sort of scrutiny. And the rural landscape and serenity to create, undisturbed, has made Thompson my home for 43 years.

**I pulled a studio shot from your website (nswearer.com). Tell us what’s happening in this photo.**

I am TIG welding a pair of giant bronze stags here that took me over 10 years to complete. I work on many projects at the same time; if you look closely at the photo, you can see I have many sculptures in process. This keeps my work fluid.

Bronze casting is quite a complex process. Your film interview <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=boBMhiUfwoA> really explains it all. What drew you to bronze casting?

For the first ten years of sculpting, I was solely fabricating (assembling) with metal. During that time, I was exposed to metal casting. I did oil sand aluminum casting in eighth grade shop and, at that time, was selling my sculpture at a small gallery run by a jeweler who did lost-wax silver casting. This opened up a whole new world for me in sculpting methods. I was sold and she is a lifelong friend.

**Some of your “Rat Race” figures**



Giant bronze stags

were shown at the Empty Spaces project in downtown Putnam a few years ago. What is this grouping about?

My depiction of the “Rat Race” has 13 characters. In the foreground of this photo is “Opposition” (those things that get in the way on life’s path), “The Lazy One” (they who drag down others by not doing their share), and “Tease” (life’s temptations or provocations). There is also the “Winner,” “The Loser,” the “One Who Fell Down,” etc. They are all running around in a continuous loop.

**You work in other mediums as well—drawing, painting, stained glass...**

**What are you working on at the moment?**

I have a great many projects going on at any one time. I like to work large, but know that little by little gets it done. Working this way, I carry ideas across projects. Of particular intrigue to me right now is a series of five stained-glass sea shell lamps with cast bronze bases using the slumped glass method. So far in clay I’ve created: nautilus, clam, scallop, snail and lobster tail. In the end they will each measure about two feet across. I have not seen done what I am envisioning, so it’s a true adventure, one of the best things about making art.

**Your human narrative pieces continue to grow. Which character is this one?**

“Tease” is a self-portrait, and yes, he does resemble me. He is me teasing you to look at who we are by observing my other characters and the narrations formed by them.

**If you were to choose a featured piece for a retrospective, what would it be?**

My “Humans” are one piece. They are a retrospective. I think of all of my characters as one sculpture. They

represent 40 years of my life and my views on life. If you wanted one character you may have found it in “Tease.” He represents me and the whole work. He is me observing you, observing me, observing you! Wrap your head around that and you’re in my position!

**This has been fascinating—thank you for your time, Nick. In closing, do you have any advice for students of sculpture?**

Two things come to mind. First, art is tough. Go about it with an open mind. Think about it. Get rid of your prejudices. Make comparisons and judgements. Carry that forward to every piece of art you look at. We all bring our individual experience to viewing any piece of art and the artist has used his/her experience to create the artwork. The art becomes a communication. It is a visual language, far more complex than written or spoken language. Enjoy the creative process—either your own or through that produced by others. Creating art should be an adventure and enjoying it should be, too.

Second, learn how to view art. Ask yourself:

What is the image? What is the meaning?

Why was it made? When was it made? In what context was it done? What is it made of? Who made it? How was it made? How well was it done?

**Word of the day**

**TIG welding** (tungsten inert gas): What separates TIG welding from most other welding processes is the way the arc is created and how the filler metal is added. When TIG welding, one hand is used for holding the TIG torch that produces the arc and the other hand is to add the filler metal to the weld joint (goweld.org). It requires much skill, and is used for many types of metals.

**Retrospective:** a generally comprehensive exhibition, compilation, or



Rat Race



Tease

performance of the work of an artist over a span of years (Merriam-Webster.com)

*About the writer: Cynthia Saari (Woodstock, CT) is a nationally recognized flamework glass artist. She has exhibited her work & taught for over 20 years; her glass beads have been included in numerous publications & invitations. Significant projects include costume work for the Santa Fe Opera, and flamework demonstrator at the Peabody Essex Museum. Cynthia offers talks & workshops in the Quiet Corner; she is an adjunct professor of art at a local college.*

# Panient awarded Horatio Alger National Career & Technical Scholarship

CHARLTON, Mass. — Marylee Panient of Woodstock Valley has been awarded the 2021-2022 scholarship from the Horatio Alger National Career & Technical Scholarship Program (CTE Scholarship).

Panient, a full-time practical nursing student at Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy will receive an award of \$2,500 for her practical nursing studies. CTE Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis of verification of good academic standing, high school completion or earned high school equivalency credential, enrolled in a career or technical certificate program leading to employment, attending a not-for-profit post-secondary institution, Pell Grant eligibility, US citizenship, and be under the age of 30.

Panient’s work experience includes reception at Harrington Hospital (Webster, Mass.), E-911 Dispatcher at Douglas Police Department (Douglas, Mass.), and server/supervisor at Mexicali Mexican Grill (Webster, Mass.). She graduated from Anna Maria College with a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice and minor in Forensic Studies. She is also working on her master’s in Criminal

Justice. She is on week 16 of the rigorous ten months of academics and clinicals to complete the practical nursing program and make positive contributions while continuing her service to the nursing profession. Panient was voted as one of the student representatives for the Practical Nursing Class of 2022.

The Horatio Alger Association honors the achievements of outstanding individuals in our society who have succeeded despite adversity and who are committed to supporting young people in pursuit of increased opportunities through higher education.

About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing 239 Causeway

Street Boston, MA 02114 617-973-0800 [www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn](http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards/rn)

The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education 840 Roswell Road Building 300, Suite 325 Atlanta, GA 30350 Telephone: 800-917-2081 [www.council.org](http://www.council.org)

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges 209 Burlington Rd, Suite 201, Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022 [www.neasc.org](http://www.neasc.org).



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**BRENDAN BERUBE**  
EDITOR

*An epidemic of ‘experts’*

*“Ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge.”*  
— Charles Darwin

It seems as though in today’s society, everyone is an expert. It’s one thing to have a specific belief system or an educated opinion on a certain topic, (with the operative word here being educated) this to include all topics. However, it seems as though critical thinking has all but flown right out of the window. Common sense is used less and less with people making outlandish assumptions, believing misinformation and falling into line with outright absurdities. Social media doesn’t help. Unfortunately, some people will read a meme and take it as face value. Some people even think JFK, Jr. is coming back to life.

With that, let us make one thing clear. None of us are experts — unless, well, we are. It turns out there’s a name for this phenomenon, called the Dunning-Kruger effect. This is defined as a cognitive bias in which people think they are smarter and more capable than they are. So much so that people don’t recognize their own incompetence.

The Dunning-Kruger effect takes place when a person begins speaking at length about a topic they know nothing about, yet claims everyone else is uninformed and wrong. For an example, if a student fails a test, yet believes they should have received an A. They are incapable of seeing their own faults.

David Dunning, an American social psychologist who along with Justin Kruger discovered the phenomenon, described it as such: “Instead, the incompetent are often blessed with an inappropriate confidence, buoyed by something that feels to them like knowledge. The trouble with ignorance is that it can feel just like expertise.”

The cause of this effect, as described by Dunning, is that people are too incompetent to realize how incompetent they are. These individuals will fail to recognize the skill and expertise of others.

Also mentioned by Dunning is what’s called metacognition. This is the ability to look within and evaluate yourself honestly. Oftentimes, those who suffer from this syndrome hear a small amount of knowledge on a topic, and then think they are experts.

No one person is an expert at everything. Dunning pointed out that everyone has areas in which they are incompetent. Oftentimes, if a person is an expert in one area, they mistakenly think they are an expert in all areas. Dunning did point out that those individuals who are genuine experts in any given field, are more likely to see their own flaws in other areas, and are able to accept the knowledge and expertise in others who truly possess it.

If your car breaks down, you will not bring it to the dentist. If you have a toothache, you will not go see a florist. Further, with the divide in our country politically, let us remember, that politics has zero to do with anyone’s skill set. Our healthcare workers are being harassed daily by those who believe they are experts. There are doctors, nurses and healthcare providers who are both Republicans and Democrats or Independents. Car repair is car repair, healthcare is healthcare, creating a fine dining menu and becoming a top-rated chef is simply about food and creativity. We need to stop politicizing anything other than politics.

Common sense and critical thinking needs to find its way back into our society. Common sense is defined as the sound and prudent judgement based on a simple perception of the situation or fact.

As far as the political divide that has taken hold in this country. It’s ridiculous. There is no need for anyone, on either side, to be filled with so much anger, because their candidate lost, or because someone disagrees with your way of thinking. The beauty of our country is that we can all think differently and still respect one another, and still have the ability to laugh over beers and pizza on a Friday night. The angry political signs still strewn about on either side, are tacky, immature and unintelligent. We can do better.



# OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Biden is not to blame

To the Editor:  
Sky high prices for fuel and groceries and the worst inflation in decades --- it’s all Biden’s fault!  
Well, no, not really. No president alone (not even Trump) can be blamed for a bad economy or take credit for a good economy. Our country’s economic system is a bit more complex than that.  
Any president can propose legislation to make policy changes, but the real power for change belongs to you know who --- Congress. Congress: that partisan, dysfunctional group of misfits who were elected to represent us, but only seem concerned with keeping or reclaiming their power. Both political parties are great at spending our tax dollars by the billions and trillions, and pointing fingers at the opposition when the

spending isn’t for something they can take credit for. A huge mess that just keeps getting worse. We’ll continue on this downhill spiral until Democrats and Republicans decide to work together for the benefit of the American people instead of themselves. I won’t hold my breath waiting for that. We’ve all seen the pictures of shipping containers sitting idle on docks blamed for the current supply shortages of everything. Thousands of containers full of items we need or want brought in from overseas. Here’s a thought --- maybe we should manufacture those items in the U.S. instead? Nah, crazy idea.

TODD PATRIE  
POMFRET CENTER

### NTE is a victim of its own lies

To the Editor:  
By Jan. 4, FERC (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) will decide whether to accept  
ISO New England’s recommendation to terminate NTE’s 650 MW gas power plant proposed for Killingly.  
In its latest “happy talk” memo in the Turnpike Buyer, NTE falsely claims that the ISO wants to terminate the project on “an incorrect assumption regarding financing”. For five and a half years, NTE has been claiming to be close to securing financing  
This is actually what ISO stated as to why it was necessary to terminate the project: “If as a result of milestone date revisions, the date by which a resource will have achieved its critical path schedule milestones is more than two years after the requiring of the Capacity Commitment Period for which the facility first received a Community Supply Obligation, then after consultation with the project sponsor, the ISO has the right to terminate the resource’s CSO for any Capacity Commitment Period.”  
In plain English, NTE promised the ISO that it would be producing energy by June 1 of 2022. And yet, NTE has not finalized its

financing, nor has it received final DEEP approval for its plan. Plant construction will take two and a half to three years after they find a funder and win final DEEP approval.  
NTE has failed to meet its Community Supply Obligation within the time allowed by ISO regulations. At its current pace of meeting its “critical obligations,” NTE will not be able to provide power before 2025 or 2026, and the ISO is prohibited by its own rules from extending the deadline.  
Once again, NTE is playing fast and loose with the truth. Last month in its Turnpike Buyer ad, NTE falsely stated that once the plant is constructed, local air will immediately improve. In its initial application NTE admitted that certain EPA pollution limits would be exceeded LOCALLY for such dangerous pollutants as nitrous oxide, sulphur dioxide and soot.  
NTE would have us believe that the ISO is the villain or is incompetent. NTE is a victim of  
its own lies and mistakes.

EARL MCWILLIAMS  
DAYVILLE

### Stark choices ahead

To the Editor:  
Thanks to Tami Jo Wykes and Lee Wesler for their kind words and additional comments. I certainly didn’t expect that, but I did, of course, expect yet another triggered TDS/DDS Taylor tantrum. (If I could only win the lottery that easily.) I only wonder why it took him that long to find his pom-poms?  
Kudos to Todd Patrie for his recent letter. In all the editorials published in this paper, it seems (from what I can remember) that only myself and Todd Patrie agree that our Congress can’t agree on a takeout order, never mind what’s best for the American people. One member of Congress, Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas), in his speech on the House floor, warned against high levels of spending by the government. He referred to the House as “the United States house of free stuff.” This man was dead on with his remarks and especially in blasting both his republican and democratic colleagues for putting their personal and political agendas before the needs of the American people. (Mr. Roy’s speech can be seen on YouTube.)  
CNN Politics (on Dec. 5) reported: «Biden ran on bringing people together - Hes failed so far.» Quotable from that article is: «the fact that Biden couldn’t stop the deepening political divide on different measures is notable. Unlike a lot of political figures recently, he ran on bringing people together. He has so far failed in that endeavor.» During the presidential debates, Joe Biden said (of Trump) that a man with this many Covid deaths

should not be president. I’d like to know how he feels about that now, seeing that there are now more Covid deaths under Biden than there were under Trump. But I doubt that in Biden’s mental state of decline that he’s even aware of any of it.  
Is the Republican party really “the party of death?” The Democrats were responsible for the Confederacy, the brown shirts, the KKK, the Jim Crow laws and the deaths they caused. The Democrats are responsible for defunding the police, and reducing and restricting the capabilities of law enforcement that resulted in deaths. Their ineffective governors and mayors did little to nothing while riots raged and people were being murdered, and in their governed states, crime is now more rampant and murder rates are rising. Twelve major U.S. cities set new records for homicides in 2021, and they all have democratic mayors. Chicago is beating out every other city in the country for the greatest number of homicides, and though they haven’t (yet) set a new record, they are up 3 percent from last year. So I’d say it’s the democratic party that truly deserves that “Party of Death” dishonor, and I’m sure that their number one cheerleader from Killingly will have something to say about that.  
Yes, the voters have «stark choices» to make in 2022 and in 2024, and a big part of that vote will come from the ever growing dissatisfied!

ED DELUCA  
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

### A response to Ed DeLuca

To the Editor:  
Correct — “[Expletive] Biden” in full view of everyone, including children, is not appropriate. Yes, I agree that similar expletives in a public forum directed against anyone is inappropriate. On that we can agree. It’s childish and counterproductive and divisive. Enough already.  
In regards the national discussion of LGBTQ and race being taught in “certain” schools - in the future, please be more definitive of which schools and please be specific on the book titles, otherwise, you are simply spewing rhetoric. But in any case, let’s talk about that a bit.  
LGBTQ covers a lot of ground and a great many of our citizens. It is not an illness. We do not choose this; it is handed down genetically just like hair color, eye color, nose shape, gender (and gender identity), race, skin color (please don’t confuse the two), blood type - well, you get the idea. If you think it’s a “choice” or “correctable,” then you are ill-informed. No – we are not “Domestic Terrorists.” We

are involved parents who care about our children and the future that they will own and must cope with. A well-educated and well-informed youth will shape our destiny. When a six-year-old first-grader calls a classmate the N-word, that is a clear indication that race education is needed. When a high-school student calls a classmate a homophobic slur, that is a clear indication that LGBTQ education is needed. Otherwise, the hate and the ensuing violence will continue. Clearly, these children are not receiving the education and information they need at home, so yes, it is up to the schools to provide a rational and consistent education on all topics, including these two. While they’re at it, I would like to see Civics added back into the required high school curriculum.  
You are correct. Trump was not responsible for the national divide. That has existed for years, well before any of us were born.

Turn To **SHAY** page **A13**

# Giving and receiving

Somewhere, there is a faded Polaroid photo of my father in the late 1960’s that was taken when he stepped into his living room and saw his Christmas gift — a color television! It was an extravagant gift, probably the most expensive item he was ever given.  
His reaction was perfect. He is caught arms flung outward, mouth open, eyes bright. He knew how to be a good receiver. He didn’t say – “Oh no, you shouldn’t have.” Or told my brother, the giver of the gift, “You spent too much money.” He just reacted. He loved television, and color TV was quite new. The set was large and looked like a piece of furniture. We were all as delighted as if the gift had been given to us.  
Being a good receiver is just as important as being a good giver, and often a bit harder. Regardless of whether we are being minimalists or going for broke, this holiday season we are often on both sides of the giving –receiving divide. The Biblical injunction that it is better to give than receive rings in our ears, but how can there be decent givers without appropriate receivers?  
There is a link between being able to accept a compliment and being good at receiving gifts. When I tell someone they have a nice haircut or a good looking outfit, they may respond by telling me they just threw on the clothes or haven’t combed their hair all day. Often the person complimented offers a compliment back. In the end, no one feels particularly satisfied and a chance to feel grateful and more connected is lost.  
I read a quote from Maya Angelou: “When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.”  
As usual, author Angelou is short and sweet about a complex transaction.  
When we give a gift, we enjoy the process of thinking about what the receiver might need or want. We can revel in our own goodness and generosity. Our creativity and thoughtfulness are on display. We look good.  
As receivers, feelings range from concern about being obligated or indebted. We have to return the favor and it might cost too much or take too much effort. Sometimes the gift reveals how much the giver really doesn’t know you or wants you to be something you are not.  
One Christmas, a month after our younger daughter was born, I was feeling blue. My husband was thrilled with the gift he bought me. I couldn’t wait. I needed something beautiful and uplifting. I was crushed when I opened a big box that held a dried sheep stomach that when rehydrated was part of the set of bag pipes. It makes us laugh now. It didn’t then.  
My grandchildren have no concerns about the obligations of being receivers. They approach it all with open hearts and complete honesty. If they like it, they show it. If they don’t, well that is obvious too. They sense that what we give them, except for boring clothing, is given out of sheer love and no expectation of anything in return. I hope they carry such behaviors into their adult lives.  
I wish I cried easily. A relative of mine cried every time she was given even a vaguely decent gift. It made me feel I’d done something wonderful. I’d like to be the kind of receiver whose response is a gift to the giver.  
This year, we can reflect on all we have received. We are still here. Nature shows us with constant glories and love is both given and received.



NANCY WEISS

Letters to the editor may be e-mailed to [brendan@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:brendan@villagernewspapers.com)

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



# Gifts that help loved ones live well (and offer tax advantages, too)

It's the time of year when many of us are frantically shopping online or at the mall, looking for the perfect gifts for the ones we love. But the things they might need and appreciate most aren't always necessarily able to be boxed up and tied with a bow. In fact, there are a couple of ways to give someone you love a gift that could be life-changing for them while also providing some tax benefits for you.

Give the gift of education  
Financial gifts you make are generally subject to gift tax. But the IRS considers payments for tuition made to a qualified educational organization on behalf of a student to be "non-gift gifts," which are excluded from the gift tax as well as the generation-skipping transfer tax (GSTT).

This exclusion allows you to pay an unlimited amount toward a loved one's tuition at any level of education, from elementary school to graduate school. It's also in addition to the annual gift tax exclusion. This makes it an excellent (and often overlooked) way to transfer wealth to your children and grandchildren while investing in their future. (Though it's important to note that the payment can be made on behalf of anyone – it need not be a relative.) It can also reduce your estate tax liability by removing the value of the payment from your gross estate.

To avoid it being a gift for gift tax purposes, the payment must meet several conditions. It must be for tuition only. Payments for costs such as supplies, books, dormitory fees, and board do not qualify for the exclusion. The payment must also be made directly to a quali-

fied educational organization – payments made to the student will not qualify.

The educational organization must also meet several conditions in order to be considered "qualified" for the purposes of making gifts of tuition. It must maintain a regular faculty, offer a regular schedule of courses, enroll students on a regular basis, and have a place where it regularly carries out its educational activities.

One potential drawback to think about when considering making a gift of tuition is any possible negative income tax consequences for the student or student's parents. If a dependency relationship exists between the student and another person, the tuition payment that you make will count in the calculation of the student's support. This could affect who is eligible to claim a dependency exemption for the student and could affect the parent's or student's ability to claim a personal exemption.

Lastly, if you do gift a loved one with a tuition payment made to a qualifying educational organization, be sure to get a receipt. If the IRS audits you, you may need to prove you made the payment directly to the organization.

Give the gift of health and care  
As with tuition payments, payments made directly to a qualified medical provider on behalf of someone else are considered qualified transfers or "non-gift gifts," and so are excluded from the



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gift tax as well as the GSTT.

This exclusion allows you to pay an unlimited amount and is an addition to the annual gift tax exclusion. It can also reduce your estate tax liability by removing the value of the payment from your gross estate.

Payments must be made directly to the medical care provider and may be made for medical expenses that are deductible for income tax purposes. In general, the medical expenses must be for diagnosing, curing, treating, or preventing disease, or for treatments that affect any structure or function of the body. Treatments that lessen the effects of disease (prescriptions, for example) and medical insurance premiums may also qualify. Cosmetic surgery, general health maintenance such as annual check-ups, nonprescription medications and toiletries are a few examples of expenses that do not qualify.

Keep in mind that any amount for which the patient is reimbursed by insurance does not qualify for the exclusion and is subject to gift tax. So if you pay a person's \$10,000 hospital bill and insurance reimburses them \$3,000, that \$3,000 portion of your payment will be treated as a regular gift and so will be subject to gift tax.

As with gifts of tuition payments, if you make a medical payment on another's behalf, make sure to get a receipt so that you can prove you made the payment directly to the medical provider,

should you be audited.

Helping loved ones live well requires that you plan well

The ability to provide support to help loved ones reach their biggest dreams and overcome their hardest challenges is one of the most meaningful rewards of building and sticking to a strong financial plan. Watching our clients carry out those goals is certainly one of the most rewarding aspects of the financial planning and partnerships we nurture here at Weiss, Hale and Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors. We welcome you to reach out and see how our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well process can help you to provide these special gifts for your loved ones now or down the road. Learn more at [whzwealth.com](http://whzwealth.com) and contact us at (860) 928-2341 or [info@whzwealth.com](mailto:info@whzwealth.com) to get started.

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# Plant a terrarium for a unique winter garden or gift

Create a garden under glass to enjoy or give as a gift to new, experienced, and even reluctant gardeners. This self-contained system makes it easy to be a successful gardener with minimal care.



## GARDEN MOMENTS

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MELINDA  
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Purchase a terrarium or repurpose something hiding on a shelf in the basement, garage or shed. Even a cool glass container, cloche or bell jar turned open side down and placed on a shallow planting tray will work. Just glue a decorative doorknob or handle on the top for easy access.

Make it more festive for the holidays. Visit the ornament aisle in your favorite craft store. Create a mini terrarium from DIY Christmas orbs for holiday decoration or the perfect hostess gift.

Use closed terrariums like this when growing tropical plants. They thrive in the high humidity and moist soil.

Leave the top off or use open containers like glass vases, or mason jars for cacti and succulents. Use a cacti and succulent mix for these drought tolerant plants. They prefer the lower humidity and drier soil that open terrariums and cacti potting mix provide.

Once you have the container, you

The key is not overwatering as the decorative stone and charcoal won't prevent waterlogged soil from killing your plants.

Consider covering the stone layer with black landscape fabric to prevent the potting mix from filtering through and covering up these items. Cover this with a layer of well-drained potting mix for tropical plants and cacti and succulent mix for drought tolerant plants. Add contours to the soil level if space allows for added interest.

Select a variety of plants of different heights, textures, and colors to create an attractive terrarium garden. Many garden centers now sell small specimens perfect for these mini gardens.

Low growing tropical plants such as baby's tears, creeping fig, moss, and ivies make excellent groundcovers. Small specimens of dracaenas, crotons, palms and podocarpus make nice upright features. Fill in the mid-

need to fill it with potting mix, plants, and other decorative items. Consider a layer of decorative stone, twigs, sea glass or sand at the bottom for added color and interest. Some gardeners include a layer of charcoal to help absorb any odor.

Use open containers like glass vases for drought tolerant plants that prefer lower humidity and drier soil.

Photo Melinda Myers

dle ground with ferns, nerve plants, polka dot plants and more.

Once assembled, terrariums are relatively easy to manage. Moisten the soil and cover. Crack the lid open if condensation builds up on the glass. Then replace the cover and monitor the soil moisture and condensation. Add additional moisture carefully. A turkey baster is an easy way to water only the plants in need of a drink.

Place your terrariums in a bright location away from direct light. Heat can build up in this covered ecosystem and cook your plants when placed in a sunny location.

Now is the perfect time to gather or purchase fun glassware, planting and decorating supplies, and, of course, plants. Then take a break from the hectic holiday season to plant up a few holiday decorations and green gifts for your loved ones.

*Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener's Handbook and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The*



*Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her Web site is [www.melindamyers.com](http://www.melindamyers.com).*

# Estate jewelry is bringing strong auction prices

Recently, estate jewelry has been bringing some of the strongest prices we've seen. In today's column I'll define exactly what estate jewelry is and share more about prices for this desirable item.

Even estate jewelry dealers' opinions differ on what estate jewelry is. However, the consensus is that estate jewelry is simply jewelry that was previously owned by someone else. There seems to mainly be agreement that costume jewelry isn't estate jewelry. It's generally believed that estate jewelry is fine jewelry crafted from precious metals like gold or platinum. Estate jewelry often includes gemstones like diamonds, opals, rubies, emeralds, jade, sapphires, etc.

Estate jewelry can be broken down further by the age of the pieces. U.S. Customs defines an antique as an item that's 100 years old or older. Therefore, jewelry made 100 or more years ago is considered antique. But what is considered vintage varies.



ANTIQUES,  
COLLECTIBLES  
& ESTATES  
.....  
WAYNE TUISKULA

Some consider vintage to be 50 years old or more. Others consider vintage jewelry to be 30 or even 20 years old. Some describe jewelry that isn't old enough to be antique or vintage as pre-owned.

Age is just one of the factors that determines the value of your estate jewelry. Most collectors want antique or vintage pieces as the value is typically higher for them. As with most items, the craftsmanship with older jewelry is often much better than with newer pieces.

The designer also makes a difference with estate jewelry. People will pay more for well-made pieces by companies like Cartier and Tiffany. Further, the size and weight are important factors. Larger, heavier pieces are worth at least the value of the gold they contain. Diamonds and other gemstones can have significant value. In one of our auctions several years ago, a three and a half carat diamond sold for over \$30,000. Whether you have an old mine cut, Marquise



cut, oval cut or any other diamond cut, the 4 Cs of diamonds still apply (color, cut, clarity and carat.)

Our November auction featured estate jewelry, gold coins and watches that brought nice results for the consignors. A newer 14-karat gold Italian 20-inch serpentine necklace sold for \$650. An 18-karat jade ring brought nearly \$900. A 14-karat gold with two and a half carat old mine cut diamonds and sapphire ring went for over \$1,000. An 18-karat seven-inch turquoise bracelet with small diamonds reached over \$2,100. A men's platinum moonstone ring with two small diamonds on the side sold for nearly \$3,000. A Tiffany 18-karat white gold, platinum, emerald and diamond ring fetched over \$4,000. A jeweled 18-karat gold dagger cut through all other items to reach the top auction price when it sold for over \$8,000.

We will be running Session 5 of the model railroad, die-cast cars and models next month. We are now accepting quality consignments for our next multi-estate auction including estate jewelry, sterling silver, coins, art, comic books, sports cards, advertising signs and other valuable antiques and collectibles. I'll be teaching my "Evaluating your Antiques" class again on March 23 at the Bay Path Evening school in Charlton, Mass. Please sign up for our email list on our website or follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on upcoming events.

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



SPORTS

Three seasons later, co-captains Sharpe, Keefe cherish state title



Photo Ken Powers

Killingly High's Nate Keefe, left, and Jack Sharpe are all smiles as together they hold the Class M State Championship plaque.

BY KEN POWERS  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

NEW BRITAIN — A dream come true, three years in the making. That's exactly what Killingly High's 28-14 victory over Rockville High in the Connecticut Class M Championship Game at Veterans Memorial Stadium on Saturday, Dec. 11 was for seniors Jack Sharpe and Nate Keefe. "Today didn't live up to our expectations, it surpassed our

expectations," said Sharpe, clutching the state championship plaque to his chest. "I was not expecting the police and fire escort back to school, or to see so many of our fans here waiting for us when we got here. We have such great fans. All season we have had so many friends and family and members of the community supporting us. We've got the greatest fans." Sharpe, Killingly's starting tailback, staked his team to an early 6-0 lead with a 10-yard

touchdown run. He finished the game rushing for 100 yards on 23 carries. The scene Saturday night was a lot different than two years ago when, as sophomores, Sharpe and Keefe were part of the Killingly High football team that lost in the Class M state final to Weston, 27-6. Sharpe has referred to that loss several times this year as a "crushing defeat." The silver lining to that 2019 defeat, Sharpe and Keefe knew back then, was that they would have two more opportunities to win the elusive championship. Then COVID-19 happened and, well, everyone knows the rest. "Losing last season to COVID definitely created a sense of urgency to this year," said Sharpe who, along with Keefe and classmate Ryan Miller, served as team captains this season. "I know if we didn't win the state championship this year, my high school career wouldn't have been as memorable as I wanted it to be. I'm very glad we won it. Everyone played hard. It was a total team win and I wouldn't want to have accomplished this with any other group of guys." Keefe, who started at both tight end and defensive end against Rockville, wanted a state championship as bad as his lifelong friend, but he knew if this team was going to make that dream a reality, he and Sharpe were going to have to be out front, leading the way. "We were the two guys who had been in this situation before, so we knew we had to lead this team," Keefe said. "We were the two guys on this team who had already been in situa-

tions we were going to face this year. Some of our teammates, the last time they played football was in KBMF [Killingly Brooklyn Midget Football]. We knew we had to get them going. We had to convince them to believe we, as a team, could do this." So, from the first day of off-season workouts, Keefe and Sharpe led the way and the entire team fell in behind its two leaders and marched to the state championship. "All the guys on this team, they did a great job following the example we were setting; they fed off the energy Nate and I were bringing to every workout, every practice, every game," Sharpe said. "But it wasn't just the examples we were providing in the locker room or on the field, it was the examples we were providing in life in general. Nate and I tried to show the rest of the team how they needed to carry themselves all the time." Keefe said it only took two practices for him and Sharpe to know that this team was going to follow their lead — good or bad. "We made sure we were always doing the right thing; we wanted to lead by example," said Keefe, who stressed that the examples he and Sharpe were providing weren't limited to football stuff. "They had to see us going to class every day, see us putting in the extra work. "Something our coaches preach to us all the time is that when you play for this program you're always representing this school, you're always representing this turf, you're always

representing this town," Keefe added. "Even if you're just out shopping in Target, everything you say, everything you do is heard or is on camera. Coach [Chad] Neal stresses the importance of always being the best you can be." Neal broke into a wide smile when he was asked about Sharpe and Keefe. "Jack and Nate are two kids who played significant minutes in 2019, so we relied on them a lot to carry us today with a lot of emotion and preparation," said Neal, who added that the pandemic provided a teachable moment. "I think one thing that COVID taught us is don't take anything for granted because you never know when it might end. That's how these kids approached the season. They took this year one day at a time, improved each day and appreciated every moment. In that process I think these guys also learned they needed to have fun in every moment." Sharpe and Keefe both said that when Saturday's game ended, they looked for each other, as two football players — who met as 8-year-olds on a baseball diamond — wanted to share the moment together. "We met in AAU baseball; I was an outfielder and Nate was a catcher. The first day of AAU baseball Nate was my catching partner," Sharpe said, laughing at the memory. "We batted in the lineup together; we were the (Nos.) 8 and 9 hitters. That's why we play football," Keefe said with a laugh. "We would either hit a home run or strike out," Sharpe added.



Devin Exarhoulias and Colby Lopes of Killingly come together to take down a Rockville offensive player.



Killingly's Ben Jax maneuvers his way through Rockville's defense after finding a hole at the line of scrimmage.

FOOTBALL

continued from page A1

100th of Neal's career, who has been Killingly's head coach for 18 seasons. For the game Killingly gained 291 yards on 44 rushing attempts. "We went old school in this one. We unleashed our RPO mindset [on Rockville]," said Sharpe, Killingly's starting tailback and a senior captain on the team along with tight end/defensive end Nate Keefe and offensive lineman/linebacker Ryan Miller. "RPO — Run People Over." Keefe agreed. "There was a lot of downhill blocking going on out there," Keefe said before breaking into a wide grin. Sharpe put Killingly ahead early in the game, 6-0, scoring on a 10-yard run. Rockville, tied the game, 6-6, moments into the second quarter, on a six-yard scoring run by senior back Travon Edmondson. The Rams then took the lead, 7-6, when Michael Naylor's extra point kick split the uprights. It was only the second time all season — and the second straight game — that Killingly trailed in a game. In its 13-12 state semifinal win over Branford, Killingly trailed, 12-7, in the fourth quarter. "The Branford win showed us if we keep fighting good things will happen," said junior linebacker Keith Perry, who led Killingly's defensive effort with 13 tackles, 11 unassisted,

two sacks and four tackles for loss. "We knew the momentum of the game would shift back to us. As long as we kept fighting and fighting and never gave up, we knew we had a chance to win the game. That's what happened, I think, today. We went down 7-6 and then we scored on defense and then we kept holding them the whole game." The defensive touchdown for Killingly was provided by junior defensive back Ben Jax, who picked off Rockville quarterback Matt Ryan and returned the interception 15 yards for a touchdown. Keefe then rushed for the two-point conversion and Killingly led, 14-7, at halftime. Killingly pushed its lead to 21-7 in the third quarter, Rief capping a 60-yard, 11-play drive with an awe-inspiring 16-yard touchdown run. Rief broke several tackles on his way to the end zone. "It was an awesome run. It was probably my top run all year," Rief said. "I was spinning off of guys and breaking tackles. The line did their job — everyone did their job — and I was able to make some good cuts, break some tackles and make it to the end zone." Neal thought Rief's touchdown run was the defining moment of the game. "That was a heck of a run by Soren," Neal said. "And it came at a key time. It was second and long because we had taken a penalty on first down and Soren just broke it. I think he would have kept running all the way back to Killingly if he



Soren Rief of Killingly attempts to drive through a Rockville defender while carrying the ball.

could. He just kept going." Rief pushed Killingly's lead to 28-7 with his second touchdown of the day, a 28-yard scoring scamper with 41 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Rockville closed out the scoring, cutting the Killingly lead to 28-14 with nine minutes remaining in the game, Ryan hitting Deshaun Perry with a 29-yard TD toss. When the victorious team finally made it back to Killingly High, the last few miles behind a police and fire escort, it found about 200 fans waiting to celebrate with them. Athletic director Kevin Marcoux quick-

ly put together a post-game rally, complete with music blaring from the sound system and speeches from Neal, Sharpe, Keefe and Miller. "One thing we talked about this week — and again before the game today — was that we were going to take one last ride together as a group," Neal said. "Eleven of these guys won't be riding with us next year because they're graduating. But they'll always be family. They'll always be welcome back. But boy, oh boy, did we take one hell of a last ride together today." Neal acknowledged after the

impromptu victory rally that the enormity of the moment — another state title, his 100th career victory — hadn't set in yet. "It hasn't, but it will at some point. I'll sit down and enjoy this over a cup of coffee," Neal said. "Then I'll get back to work and get ready for next year. It's been a long road. The last six years have been very special. But even the prior years, when we didn't have as much success, I truly enjoyed what I was doing because I was working with some great kids in this town at a great high school."



# Putnam High School inducts students into National Honor Society

PUTNAM — On Monday, Dec. 13, nine students were officially welcomed into the Putnam High School chapter of the National Honor Society during their annual induction ceremony. NHS Officers planned the beautiful ceremony in the PHS Black Box Theater under the guidance of chapter advisors Courtney Prendergast and John Allen. PHS Principal Heather Taylor and Putnam Superintendent Daniel Sullivan gave opening remarks while proud family and Putnam Board of Education members looked on. PHS would like to extend congratulations to the following inductees:

Alishia Thompson is a 16-year-old junior at Putnam High School. In the past three years, Thompson has participated in both Putnam’s SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) clubs. She is passionate about teaching Martial Arts to young kids at her dojang. After she graduates from high school, she plans to attend UCONN and study Psychology to help children and teens fight mental health struggles.

Guinevere Weiker is a 16-year-old junior at Putnam High School. In her time at PHS, Weiker has enjoyed serving as President of the SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) club and is currently also serving as the Co-President of the National Student Organization, “Text Less, Live More.” She is passionate about political science and making change. In the future, she wants to live unconventionally on a “schoolie” (converted school



bus) named Filmore after she has graduated from an Ivy League school.

Ella Schoppe is a 16-year-old junior at Putnam High School. In her time at PHS, she has enjoyed challenging herself through the most difficult courses offered. She is currently serving as Vice President of the PHS SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club. In her free time, Schoppe is passionate about art and competitive horseback riding. While undecided on her plan of study post-graduation, she knows she wants to use her love of design to help people.

Emily St. Martin is a 16-year-old junior at Putnam High School. At this point, she has accumulated close to 200 hours of community in

Northeast Connecticut, spending time working at Daily Bread or through Putnam Leo Club. In her spare time, St. Martin enjoys playing volleyball, basketball, and softball. After graduation, Emily is planning on pursuing a career in nursing.

Jacob Mailloux is a 16-year-old junior at Putnam High School. He has spent his time at PHS volunteering through the Putnam Leo Club and serving as a team captain on the Varsity Baseball team at PHS. He enjoys playing sports and spending time with his family and friends. After graduation, Mailloux hopes to attend a four-year college and study physical therapy or sports medicine.

Enrico Ong is a 16-year-old junior at Putnam High

School. Throughout his time at PHS, Ong has served as an officer in the Putnam Leo Club, and spends time playing sports through Putnam High School’s boys’ basketball and soccer team. In his free time, he enjoys sports and looking after his younger brother. While he is undecided on post-high school plans, after he graduates, he hopes to make a difference in people’s lives.

Tyler Fullerton is a 17-year-old senior at Putnam High School. In his time at PHS, Fullerton has worked hard to maintain high honors while holding down a part time job and playing soccer, volleyball, and football. He served as the co-captain of the first-ever PHS Boys Volleyball team. In his free time, he enjoys quality

time with family and friends. He hopes to attend UConn to study business after graduation.

Rafaela Araujo is a 19-year-old senior at Putnam High School originally from Rio De Janeiro. Before coming to America, Araujo volunteered at orphanages, children’s cancer hospitals, and read for people who were blind. She likes spending time with family, friends, and her community. She currently works at South County Hospital in Wakefield, R.I. After graduation, she hopes to become a criminal prosecutor.

Benjamin Northup is a 17-year-old senior at Putnam High School. While at PHS, Northup has volunteered many times for his class and has been involved in school events. He has maintained high honors while also managing a part time job and participating in soccer, volleyball, and basketball. He served as the co-captain of the first-ever PHS Boys Volleyball team. When not participating in school or work, he enjoys watching football and spending time with his family and friends. After he graduates, he hopes to study business at UCONN.

The PHS National Honor Society is committed to academic excellence and to serving as role models. Chapter members are leaders in student organizations within the school and community. They have accumulated more than 1,000 hours of community service hours and organized events including Relay for Life and the Veterans Day celebration. Congratulations again to this incredible group of young leaders!

# Tourtellotte Student Spotlight: Tara Heffernan



NORTH GROSVENORDALE — Each month, Tourtellotte Memorial High School’s Student Spotlight program recognizes a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement, character, leadership, attitude, and/or contributes to the school and community. December’s Student Spotlight honoree is sophomore Tara Heffernan.

Heffernan was nominated by fellow peers including Avery Butler, Jordyn

Butler, Isabelle Nieves, Kiera O’Brien, and Kaylee Beck.

Butler says, “Tara is contributing so much to try to make the school a better place. As President of the Diversity Club, an avid sports and team player, and leader, Tara spreads positivity everywhere she goes. Her kindness must not go unnoticed and her catchphrase ‘Go Team!’ should ring through the halls.”

Butler adds, “Whether it be through Diversity Club, NAMI mental health meetings, or student leadership, Tara is always looking to help make our school a better place. She is an extremely friendly and supportive person and overall an amazing friend. Go Team!”

Classmate Kaylee Beck echoes these sentiments, saying, “Tara has been doing so much for the school as Diversity President. She has been going to NAMI mental health meetings and incorporating so many ideas to help the school improve in as many ways as possible. She goes unnoticed much of the time for her many contributions, but she and her achievements deserve to be highlighted.”

Likewise, fellow Tourtellotte Student Leadership Team member Kiera O’Brien says, “Tara is a compassionate and positive leader at Tourtellotte. She is a very outspoken individual always willing to support and defend her ideas. Tara is a powerhouse on the field and the track; she works hard and constantly shows her dedication.”

Tara’s friend Isabelle Nieves also remarks, “Tara is a very hardworking individual. She never seems to surprise me with her dedication. No matter her mood, she always takes time to make sure each of her friends is in a good mood. She will always stick up for anyone in need and that is a trait that everyone seems to notice about her.”

Diversity Club Advisor Ms. Terrien wishes to add, “Tara is a fantastic individual. She is passionate about equality, and she stands up for what she believes in. Tara looks for opportunities to be responsible and helpful which makes her an important member of our community. This school is lucky to have her.”

When asked what motivates her, Heffernan says, “making the school a better place, my friends, my teachers, sports, doing my best, and many of the opportunities that I’ve been given over

the past year. This school has given me many lasting relationships with students and staff. I couldn’t imagine myself anywhere else. This school is my home.”

Besides being an excellent student, Heffernan plays multiple sports, including school and club soccer, basketball, and outdoor track. She is also President of the Diversity Club, a member of the Tourtellotte Student Leadership Team, and a member of the TMHS Concert Band, in which she has earned the The Instrumentalist Magazine Merit Award. Recently, she also helped to organize the TMHS Mental Health Committee that was responsible for arranging the Ending the Silence program that was presented at the school on Dec. 7 by the National Alliance for Mental Health (NAMI).

Heffernan says, “As the Diversity President, I try to make it so everybody’s voices are heard and that we as a school can recognize our differences and accept everyone for who they are. In the Diversity Club we try to bring awareness on many topics like mental health and try to educate others with multiple holidays, national awareness days and celebratory months, and multiple holidays.”

About her future, Heffernan states, “I’m planning on going to college for teaching. I truly enjoy working with kids and I love seeing people succeed in what they are passionate about. Another passion of mine is bringing awareness to many important topics like mental health. I would like to kick start a nonprofit organization mainly run by teens and young adults to spread awareness and show support for mental health.”

Finally, Heffernan’s message to her school and community is, “No matter how hard life gets, you’re never alone. Don’t be afraid to ask for help; it’s a sign of strength.”



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# OBITUARIES

## Dorothy J. Beatson, 91

Woodstock-Dorothy J. Beatson, 91, of Woodstock, CT passed away on Sunday December 5, 2021. Dorothy was born on November 1, 1930 in Boston, MA to William F. and Madeline V. (Kenniston) Dowling. She married Kenneth I. Beatson on November 21, 1953 at Sacred Heart Church, Weymouth, MA. Mother of Daniel (Kim) Beatson, Kathlene (Paul) Ouellette, Erin (Bill) May, Nora (Ted) Steinhauser, and Patricia Beatson predeceased on August 9, 1994. Grandmother to Erica (Kevin) Ducharme, Heather (Zachary) Yaroschuk, Caitlyn (Mitchell) Dupre, Brenden May and Andrew Perron. Great Grandmother to Camden, Chloe, Oliver and Wyatt.

Predeceased by husband Kenneth I. Beatson, daughter Patricia E. Beatson, two brothers Robert E. Dowling and William F. Dowling.

Personal thank you to Debra Labelle and all the Homemakers with Day Kimball Homemakers that made Dorothy's life easier.

A private family service was held at Most Holy Trinity, Pomfret, CT with burial at Elmvale Cemetery, Woodstock, CT. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Little Sisters of the Poor, 1365 Enfield St, Enfield, CT 06082. Funeral arrangements are entrusted with Smith and Walker Funeral Home in Putnam, CT. Share a memory at [www.smithandwalkerfh.com](http://www.smithandwalkerfh.com)

## Irene Mary Maynard, 92

Irene Mary Maynard, 92, passed away on Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at the Medical Center of South Arkansas. She was the wife of Milton R. Maynard, who predeceased her in 2017 after 54 years of marriage.



Born in Putnam, Connecticut, she was the daughter of Louis J. and Olive Gothreau LaParle. She graduated from Killingly High School and worked as a book-keeper and in retail for many years, in Connecticut and Florida.

Irene loved to crochet, knit, and make crafts which she shared with family and friends and enjoyed selling her special creations at craft fairs in Florida. Her home was always decorated for every holiday. She found such joy in it.

She is survived by her twin daughters, Sharon Holden, (Gary) of Brooklyn, CT,

Susan Rhodes of Arkansas, and Kim Renaud, (Gerry) of California, stepson Rick Maynard, (Susan) of Texas and a brother, David LaParle, (Roberta), of Beverly Hills, Florida. Irene loved her grandchildren, Paul Brown, (Melissa) of Danielson, Michelle Kennedy, (Don) of Arkansas, Erin Holden of Canterbury, CT, great grandchildren, Hayden Covey, (Cortlin) of Arkansas, Taylor Lee, (Leslye) of Arkansas, and a very special great-great granddaughter, Emberly Grace of Arkansas whom Irene adored.

Irene was predeceased by her first husband, George Brown, in 1962, husband, Milton Maynard in 2017, sons, Glen Brown in 1976, Randall Brown in 1994, along with her sisters, Louise White, and Elizabeth LaParle, and a son-in-law, Steven Rhodes.

A graveside service will be planned in the early spring in Connecticut.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society

## Theresa A. Labby, 99

DUDLEY - Theresa A. (Bonczek) Labby, 99, died Thursday, December 2, 2021 in Dr. P. Phillips Hospital, Orlando after a period of declining health. Her husband of 61 years, Peter T. Labby, died in 2009.



She leaves 4 children, Dorothy J. Reardon of Orlando, Cynthia L. Cioffi and her husband Alfred of Whitinsville, Peter T. Labby and his wife Kirstin of North Grosvenordale, CT, and Elaine R.

Nepini and her husband Michael of Cumberland, RI; 8 grandchildren, Shaune Reardon, Timothy Reardon and his wife Bonnie, Rebecca Freniere and her husband Paul, Nicholas Cioffi, Peter Labby and his wife Candis, Christopher and Jeffrey Labby, and Michaela Nepini; 8 great-grandchildren, Amanda Reardon, Abigail Reardon, Lucas, Nathaniel, and Jonah Freniere, Damian Bakerlis, and Deken and Dmetri Labby; a great-great granddaughter Aria Violette; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by 5 brothers, Anthony, Vincent, Victor, Chester, and Theodore Bonczek, by 2 sisters, Bernice Walusiak and Monica Drescher, and a son-in-law John Reardon.

She was born on June 22, 1922 at home, the youngest of the children of Stanley and Mary (Ponczatek) Bonczek and lived here all of her adult life. She graduated from Bartlett high school in Webster. She moved to Orlando 2 years ago to live with her daughter, Dorothy.

Mrs. Labby was an experienced sewer. She worked at the Herideen Rug Company in Webster for many years, first making ammunition bags for the troops during World War II and then braiding rugs. She was a stitcher at Ethan Allen Company before retiring in 1989.

She was a life member of Saint Andrew Bobola Church. She enjoyed solving jigsaw and word search puzzles and made clothes for herself and her children. She also loved to read.

Her funeral wase held on Wednesday, December 15, from Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street, Dudley. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Visitation was held from 9:15 to 10:15 AM in the funeral home on Wednesday prior to the Mass. Donations in her name may be made to Saint Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571.

[www.websterfunerals.com](http://www.websterfunerals.com)

## Franklyn (Frank) Leslie Monroe, 70

Frank Monroe, 70, beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, and friend of Dayville, CT succumbed to COVID-19 the afternoon of December 7, 2021, at Yale New Haven Hospital.



He was born February 7th, 1951, inn Woodsville, NH, the son of the late Allen Ezra and Roberta Elsie (Hildreth) Monroe.

Frank worked for General Electric in Schenectady, NY

for 13 years before pursuing his love of carpentry and homebuilding. He worked for various construction companies in New York, New Hampshire, and Vermont until he started his own general contracting business, Monroe Contractor, in the early 1980's. He built homes from Capes to Log Cabins, throughout the New England area for the next 40+ years.

He settled in CT after he met and married his beloved wife, Francine Nichols. Together they made home and raised two grandsons. The light of his heart, Gavin Daugherty and Christopher LaVigne both of Killingly. He was a very proud Pop!

Those you knew Frank would know what a wonderful person he was and his kind heart. He was a giving and loving friend to many. He dearly loved his

best buds, Mark Rabitor and Theresa Rzepa both of Killingly.

Frank loved fishing (often had a boat and Captain on Stand-by), cooking, and gardening. He enjoyed a good game of Pinocle with the guys at B.P.O.E. 1706. He was a lifetime Elk and was once Elk of the Year.

Frank leaves his wife and partner of 30 years, Francine Nichols, sons William Monroe (Sue), Mark Monroe (Catherine), and Michael Monroe, all of Schenectady, NY, Stepson Joseph LaVigne (Kelly) Pasadena, MD, Stepdaughter Francesca LaVigne of Thompson, CT. Brother Philip Monroe (Carol) of Madisonville, KY, Marilyn Schneider (Glen) of Johnstown, NY and Sheryl Greene of Oneonta, NY. In addition to his parents, Frank was predeceased by brother Robert Allen Monroe. Frank leaves behind 15 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the Spring of 2022. Date to be determined by the family.

His wife asks of those who are not vaccinated, to please get vaccinated so we might stop this terrible disease.

In Lieu of flowers, please donate in Frank's name to the Paul J. Aicher Foundation, 75 Charter Oak Ave., Suite 2-300, Hartford, CT 06106.

## Judith “Ann” Cobble, 78

North Grosvenordale - Judith “Ann” Cobble, 78, of North Grosvenordale, CT died November 29, 2021 at her home. She was born April 22, 1943 in Peoria,



Illinois, daughter of the late Milton and Lois (Snoko) Fandel. She was the beloved wife of James “Jim” Cobble, they were married August 11, 1979.

Ann made her home in North Grosvenordale for over 30 years. Ann enjoyed preaching, being a homemaker and making artistic cakes for her friends and wedding cakes. She was a member of the Connecticut Icing Artists (CIA) and the International Cake Exploration Societé (ICES) for

many years. She designed the CIA Logo and also enjoyed oil painting.

Her love and purpose in life was the worship of Jehovah God through his son Christ Jesus. John 3:16

Her hope was Revelation 21:3-4 She leaves her husband Jim, her daughter Christine Renée “Chris” Traeger of Montana, her son, William Daniel “Dan” Gerk of Brooklyn, CT, her stepson Trent Allen Cobble of Macon, GA, grandsons Tyler and Tate, granddaughter Jessica, all of Montana and several great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her mother and father, and her brother Robert Fandel. Burial will be in Dodge Grove Cemetery, Mattoon, Illinois.

Share a memory at [www.smithandwalkerfh.com](http://www.smithandwalkerfh.com)

## Cheryl Ricard Wakely, 71

Woodstock- Cheryl Ricard Wakely, 71, of Woodstock passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by family on Monday,



December 6th 2021. Born in Killingly, CT on September 23rd 1950, the daughter of Shirley Babbitt Ricard and Armand Ricard, Mrs. Wakely is survived by her two beloved sons,

Jonathan, and wife Jennifer of Washington, D.C., Stephen, and fiancée Melissa of Barrington, R.I., and grandchildren Samuel and Cecilia Wakely of Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Wakely was a 1968 graduate of Killingly High School, where she was a school piano accompanist, and a 1972 graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Business. She changed careers in 1996 when she received a Master's degree from Simmons College in Library Management. She was a member of Beta Phi Mu, the International Library Honor Society.

In an early career, Mrs. Wakely was the purchasing agent for Loos and Company in Pomfret. She later became interim director of the Stafford Public Library and director of three local school libraries: The Hyde School, Marianapolis Prep School, and Killingly High School. She was the owner of Woodstock Hill Antiques for forty years, helping many people furnish their homes with 18th- and early 19th-century antiques.

Mrs. Wakely volunteered for many

institutions and agencies, including: Chair of the Woodstock Wetlands Commission, serving on that agency for ten years; historian and librarian of the First Congregational Church of Woodstock, during the time of the church's 300th anniversary; president of the Woodstock Historical Society for eight years and on the Board of Directors for fifteen years; a member of the Woodstock Tercentenary Committee, on which she served as publications chair; and a long-time member of the Concert Choir of Northeastern Connecticut.

She was the author of From the Roxbury Fells to the Eastward Vale: A Journey Through Woodstock, 1686-2011; co-editor with Charlene Perkins Cutler of Heritage and Horizons: Woodstock Remembers 300 Years; and editor of the 300th anniversary edition of the Woodstock Parish Observer. She wrote many articles about Woodstock history.

Mrs. Wakely loved leading Walking Weekend history tours, singing with choirs in the Quiet Corner, sailing on Alexander's Lake, and playing golf at many local golf courses.

Donations may be made in memory of Mrs. Wakely to a memorial fund for the Killingly High School Library Media Center or to the First Congregational Church of Woodstock.

Relatives and friends are invited to a funeral service at 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 18, 2021 in the First Congregational Church of Woodstock, 543 Route 169, Woodstock, CT. For memorial guestbook visit [www.GilmanAndValade.com](http://www.GilmanAndValade.com).

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~ ~ ~

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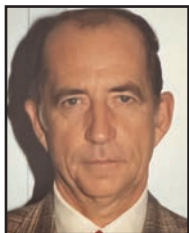
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# OBITUARIES

## Kenneth R. Olson, 83



Thompson - Kenneth R. Olson, 83, of Thompson, died on December 9, 2021 at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam. He was born January 7, 1938 in Providence, RI, son of Walfrid and Ruth (Russ) Olson.



Ken attended Tourtellotte Memorial High school class of 1955, and the University of Connecticut class of 1959. When gradu-

ating from UConn he was designated a distinguished military graduate and commissioned in the regular army. He attended the armored offi-

cer's course, Fort Knox, Kentucky and the Airborne and Ranger schools, Fort Benning Georgia he was then assigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, 14th Calvary on the German zonal border at Fulda Germany. Following this three-year assignment Ken was assigned to the 17th Calvary, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he attained the rank of Captain.

Resigning his commission Ken was honorably discharged and accepted an appointment as a special agent in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). He attended the FBI Academy in Washington, DC. Following graduation he had assignments in Oklahoma City, Los Angeles and Rochester, New York and also worked briefly in Miami, Phoenix and Kansas City. During his FBI career Ken was an expert marks-

man, a bomb and explosive expert, a relief supervisor, and a police instructor teaching constitutional law at various law enforcement academies. He also lectured at local colleges on organized crime. Ken Retired with 30 years of federal service.

In retirement Ken was active, traveled and had several jobs. His favorite was being an elk and deer hunting guide for Timber Basin Outfitters out of Gunnison, Colorado. He was a member of Cornerstone-Quinebaug Lodge #122 AF and AM for over 50 years.

Ken is survived by his daughter Sharon O'Brien and husband Michael of Thompson. His son Eric Olson and wife Heidi of Atlanta, Georgia. He leaves five grandsons Beau, William and Liam O'Brien and Riley and Foster Olson. Ken also leaves his life's partner and best friend Merry Bennett of

Thompson. He leaves a sister, Deborah Angell Of New York. His brother, Dennis, died in 2016.

A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at the Smith and Walker Funeral Home, 148 Grove Street, Putnam, CT, who have been entrusted with the funeral arrangements. A calling hour will be held from 9:30am to 10:30 am promptly followed by a funeral service. Immediate interment with Military Honors at the Swedish Emanuel Lutheran Church Cemetery on Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT. Memorial donations in Ken's memory may be made to Paws for Purple Hearts, PO Box 9288, Pueblo, CO 81008-9288, Share a memory at Smithandwalkerfh.com



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

TOBY  
MOORE

When I was a boy, my parents always told me, "Toby, you're so smart and handsome!" I didn't know any better, so I believed I was smart and handsome. When I started attending school, I heard something different. I heard whispers from my teachers to my parents about how they thought I had a learning disability.

Around that time, my parents started telling me, "Toby, you're smart, handsome, and you're a late bloomer." They were putting a positive spin on the situation.

I took to heart what they said, whenever I didn't do well in school, which was often, my parents would worriedly look

over my report card, and I'd reassure them, "Don't worry, I'm just a late bloomer, I'll get good grades someday!" which turned out to be true. A decade or more later, I started earning excellent grades while studying acting in college. To take my business to the next level, I recently graduated from a UCLA coding Bootcamp with almost all A's. I grew up with the expectation that one day I'd get good grades, and it came to pass.

What if instead of telling me that I was a late bloomer, my parents said, "you're dumber than a box of rocks." If they did, every time I got a bad grade, I'd say, "of course! I'm dumber than a box of rocks; I'll never get good grades. I'm an idiot!"

Some of you may have gone through life feeling like a loser

because that's what you were told at home. I think we're all born to win in our own way. It's never too late to change what you're telling yourself.

I learned in college that it doesn't matter what other people say or think about you. What matters is what you think and say about yourself.

When I became an actor, I was surrounded by people who were more talented than me. I had never acted before, and it took me a few years to get the hang of it. I remember hearing how some people in my classes thought I was a terrible actor. It was a massive blow to my ego, but rather than telling myself, "I'm a terrible actor, I'll never get better." I told myself, "I will become a talented actor; they don't determine how good of an actor I will become - I do." No matter how insecure I felt,

I kept telling myself, "I will become a talented actor!" For all the roles that I've booked on TV, Film and the Stage, I've never received a bad review.

I used to hear a former co-worker tell herself, "I'm so stupid!" whenever she did something wrong. Interestingly, I never heard her say, "I'm so intelligent!" when she did something right.

If you call attention to your mistakes by telling yourself that you're stupid, more stupid mistakes will follow.

I had a close friend who sarcastically told himself dozens of times a day, "I hate my life!" coincidentally, he was depressed and suicidal. His life seemed great; he had a great family and personality; why did he hate his life? Is there a connection between how he felt and what he told himself?

When you create a negative narrative about yourself, you're putting yourself into prison. It's a trap, and you'll become ensnared by your words.

I know people use their words to describe how they feel, but what if we used our words to change how we feel? What if you used your words to change the direction of your life?

Next time you feel insecure, tell yourself, "I'm talented, I'm secure, I'm valuable, I have everything I need to succeed!" Next time you feel like a failure, tell yourself, "Tomorrow will be better; my future is bright, I am a champion, I will accomplish my dreams!"

As you move forward, don't use your words to imprison yourself. Use them to set yourself free! Use them to set into motion the type of life you always wanted.

### SHAY

continued from page A8

However, Trump exploited and continues to exploit the bigotry and racism and partisanship that has permeated our country for years. He continues to push this for his own benefit, and make no mistake, it is about the money and his own ego, nothing else.

Yes, President Biden campaigned on bringing Covid under control. And a certain faction in this country has campaigned mightily against that very promise. "Vaccines are not effective" "Don't tell me what to do." Four states are even providing benefits to those who quit their jobs rather than get vaccinated, yet some politicians railed against the idea of vaccine incentives earlier this year. How does one reconcile that? The fact is, vaccines are amazingly effective and are our only hope for bringing this scourge to an end. As a reference point, smallpox no longer exists worldwide because of a vaccine (and, by the way, a mandate). Polio is no longer a real threat in this country because of a vaccine. Measles (the most communicable disease in the world), Mumps, Rubella, and Chickenpox are minimal threats because of childhood vaccine mandates in all 50 states. Because of a vaccine. Because of a man-

date. Mandates are not forcing people to lose their jobs. Obstinace and selfishness, fed by false information, are forcing people to lose their jobs. More than 770,000 Americans have lost their lives due to Covid. More than 500,000 of those people were of working age. Think about what effect that alone has had on the ability of businesses to hire workers and the hit to the economy. Dead people do not spend money, and do not contribute to the economy.

I am greatly offended whenever anyone tries to use Hitler, the Nazi Party or the Holocaust in any way to cast aspersions on policies or the individuals who are working to help this country. If you are not a Holocaust survivor or have family members who were Holocaust refugees or survivors (or in many cases, did not survive), then a person has no right whatsoever to invoke this despicable comparison. Doing so only serves to put on display their complete and abject ignorance of the subject.

Finally, an admission that Trump lost his bid for a second term. We can move on from that - except the continued talk about failed foreign policy. No one has ever won a war in the Middle East. The British couldn't do it, the Russians failed. There is a common thread here. It is not our role to build nations and solve their problems unless they specif-

ically request the assistance. Let's not forget that it was Trump who committed to pulling out of Afghanistan. At the time, his party thought that was a stellar idea. Now - not so much. In regards the "border crisis" - Interestingly, the United States is heavily reliant on migrant workers to harvest the crops that you and I consume. The crisis right now is that there is a shortage of these workers resulting in crop losses, resulting in shortages of some foods which is helping to drive inflation as well. And no - 25 percent of them are not infected with Covid. As long as we are going down that path, over 35 percent of Republicans are not vaccinated by their own admission. Less than 10 percent of Democrats are unvaccinated. Over 90 percent of Covid-related hospital admissions are by unvaccinated people. Do a little math and see where this takes you.

The continued, perennial angst regarding inflation and government's role, especially the President's role is interesting but is overworked and overestimated. The President (any president) has little or no role in driving or resolving inflation. This is the role of businesses and consumers. Supply and demand. Really not much more complex than that. Did Covid play a part in the current situation? Absolutely. People stayed home and didn't travel, so the travel and ser-

vice industries suffered. Many people then had surplus cash on hand which they spent on goods that they perhaps would not have in normal circumstances. This resulted in shortages of goods, exacerbated by shipping backlogs driven by worker shortages caused by...wait for it...Covid-19. So now we have a shortage of goods and pent-up demand. Things cost more as a result, a.k.a. inflation.

So finally, let's readdress race, "gender nonsense," white supremacy, cancel culture, et al. It is not "nonsense." It is what is tearing this country apart. The intolerance for our fellow human beings. The lack of understanding and knowledge about who we are and where we came from. You are not better because you are white. Neither are you worse for it. Your value derives from what you bring to the community, not what you take. We can continue to fight about this, pit neighbor against neighbor, call each other names and continue the downward spiral into our own little Hell, or we can step back for a moment, take a collective deep breath, and remember why we are here and what "good" can look like for everybody.

BRUCE SHAY  
POMFRET CENTER

# LEGALS

### TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On December 6, 2021, Woodstock Inland Wetlands Agency granted wetlands approval for the following applications: 11-21-12- Ronald Petro- Paine Rd- restore pasture area, restore stream bed, replace culvert pipe and concrete pipes from pond; 11-21-13 Siana Green & Casey Goodhall- 492 Rt 197- replace existing culvert pipe under driveway under emergency basis with conditions. Chair Mark Parker December 17, 2021

### TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On December 2, 2021, the Planning & Zoning Commission approved the Proposed Text Amendment for the Purpose of Updating Accessory Apartment Zoning Regulations; Article IV.A and Article IV.B.2.a., effective December 27, 2021. Dr. Jeffery Gordon, Chairman. December 17, 2021

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

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

**PZC Application 21-41- Applicant – Robert Werge and Petitioners –** Statement of Request for Approval of

Designation of Scenic Road, all of Lowell Davis Road or the portion of Lowell Davis Road from I-395 to Wilsonville Road according to Town of Thompson Ordinance 10-042 and Connecticut State Statute 7-149a.

*File may be reviewed on line, Town of Thompson website, Planning and Zoning Commission. Written communication will be accepted prior to the meeting*  
**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Joseph Parodi-Brown, Chairman**  
December 17, 2021  
December 24, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Ellen Mary Ashton (21-00431) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 2, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Deborah Ann Wiik, 52 Chapman Street, Apt 3, Putnam, CT 06260  
Christine Ellen Ashton  
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS  
168 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260  
December 17, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Carol Anne Fanning, AKA

Carol A Fanning (21-00408) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 6, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Donna S Clinton  
c/o STEPHEN J ADAMS, STEPHEN J ADAMS, ESQ, 158 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 682, PUTNAM, CT 06260  
December 17, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Marjorie E Janes (21-00432) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 7, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Lorinda Fearebay  
c/o WILLIAM H ST ONGE, ST ONGE & BROUILLARD, 50 ROUTE 171, WOODSTOCK, CT 06281  
December 17, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Chester A. Raszka (21-

00425) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 2, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Scott A Raszka  
c/o EDWIN C HIGGINS, BACHAND, LONGO & HIGGINS, HIGGINS-168 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260  
December 17, 2021

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Robert L. Swenson (21-00430) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated December 2, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Mary Ann Champney, Chief Clerk  
The fiduciary is:  
Jennifer Diehl  
c/o ERNEST J COTNOIR, MAHER AND COTNOIR, 163 PROVIDENCE STREET, P.O. BOX 187, PUTNAM, CT 06260  
December 17, 2021









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- Jeff S., Mystic, CT

Connecticut: 4.9 ★★★★★ 1,457 Google reviews



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<sup>1</sup>Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more. Initial contact for a free Window and Patio Door Diagnosis must be made and documented on or before 12/31/21, with the appointment then occurring no more than 10 days after the initial contact. <sup>2</sup>No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under CT HIC.0634555. MA 173245. RI 36079. Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. Southern New England Windows LLC is the authorized representative of Renewal by Andersen and the registered Home Improvement Contractor. Renewal by Andersen does not hold this HIC number. All residents of islands including but not limited to Martha’s Vineyard will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at [www.rbaguidelines.com](http://www.rbaguidelines.com). ©2021 Andersen Corporation. ©2021 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.



# Day Kimball Healthcare partners with ObservSMART to deploy patient safety technology

PUTNAM — Day Kimball Healthcare (DKH), announced a partnership with ObservSMART, a patient safety compliance system, to begin using its technology to ensure patient safety with validated observation compliance. ObservSMART is an innovative product from InvisAlert Solutions, which develops solutions to improve patient safety and quality of care for high-risk patient populations.

“We have made a commitment to patient safety, and ObservSMART will help our staff to manage patient observations better and ensure that our patients are safe,” said Kyle Kramer, Chief Executive Officer, Day Kimball Healthcare. “It also gives us better transparency with their robust reporting and customer success program, helping us drive best practice and evaluate performance, adding another dimension to our ability to care for our patient population.”

Designed by and specifically for behavioral health and substance recovery workflows, for patients in need of consistent monitoring, ObservSMART is a proximity-based system that syncs a patented, tamper-resistant wristband with a tablet to validate observations. The staff member needs to be within a certain proximity to the patient in order to complete their patient check. The ObservSMART App also provides real-time staff reminders to check on their patients. Leadership and other supervisors receive alerts for missed observations and additional safety concerns, allowing them to intervene in real-time, mitigating the potential of risk.



Jerome Johnson, ObservSmart Lead Trainer, hands Pete Neal, PhD, Director of Behavioral Health, Day Kimball Healthcare, a ‘Commitment to Patient Safety’ certificate, following a successful implementation.

“We’re looking forward to working in partnership with Day Kimball Hospital to improve patient safety, staff communication, and accountability, providing the highest quality of care to their patients,” said Christopher Dunn, Senior Vice President with InvisAlert Solutions. “Our technology will complement the excellent standards of care already in place at Day Kimball Hospital and will help them in their quest to

assist those suffering from behavioral health challenges.”

For more information about ObservSMART, visit <https://www.observsmart.com/>.

About Day Kimball Healthcare

Day Kimball Healthcare is a nonprofit community healthcare system composed of Day Kimball Hospital, Day Kimball Medical Group, Day Kimball Healthcare at Home, and healthcare cen-

ters in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam. Its service area includes Northeast Connecticut as well as nearby Massachusetts and Rhode Island communities. Day Kimball Healthcare’s comprehensive network employs more than 1,000 staff including nearly 300 associated, highly skilled physicians, surgeons and specialists. Its Web site is [daykimball.org](http://daykimball.org).

About InvisAlert Solutions, Inc.

InvisAlert Solutions, Inc. was founded by two women determined to find better ways to improve patient safety. A pioneer in developing healthcare products that enhance patient care and quality, InvisAlert Solutions leverages technology, people, and processes to solve critical problems in high-risk healthcare settings. Its innovative tools are designed to meet the demanding requirements of complex workflows, the essential needs of communication, and safety compliance. For more information about InvisAlert Solutions, visit [www.invisalertsolutions.com](http://www.invisalertsolutions.com).

About ObservSMART

ObservSMART is InvisAlert Solutions’ patient safety compliance tool that ensures patient safety by validating and documenting patient safety checks. Its proximity-based system ensures that patients are observed at the required interval, meeting the standard of care for behavioral health, substance recovery, and vulnerable patients. ObservSMART patient-check system delivers reliable compliance and reduces risk, errors, and costs related to sentinel and non-sentinel events. For more information, visit <http://www.observsmart.com/>.

## How to reduce reliance on big-box retailers

Big-box retailers span the globe. Though Wal-Mart, Target and Lowes may offer great deals, there’s often nothing unique about big-box stores. Proponents of Main Street also note that big-box stores can’t provide the small business charm that can make local neighborhoods special.

Balance is everything, and that even applies to shopping. Big-box retailers

can feature in consumers’ shopping plans, but there’s a place for small businesses as well. The following are some strategies to reduce reliance on national chains.

- Look at the alternatives first. Shoppers may look to big-box stores because they know what to expect and are familiar with their goods. But exploring smaller alternatives first can

turn up some pleasant surprises. Take walking tours of the community and make note of which stores are available. You might just uncover a hidden gem.

- Prioritize quality, not quantity. Big-box retailers frequently turn to foreign-made products and can offer very low prices because the huge amount of merchandise they sell enables them to negotiate lower bulk prices from suppliers. Mass production of products may result in lower-quality merchandise. Small businesses may pick and choose their stock, vetting items before the customer even does his or her research.
- Ask for recommendations. Reach out through social media for recommendations on small businesses in the area. Find out where others are shopping and what they have to say about certain companies. You may not have certain establishments on your radar and may be pleasantly surprised at the

competitive prices and outstanding service provided by local businesses.

- Shop in person. There’s no denying the convenience and all-hours capabilities of shopping online. However, it denies shoppers the experience of going into a store and browsing for products and getting a true feel for their sizes and quality. Modern consumers are no doubt familiar with the tedious nature of returning online items that fell short of expectations. Such experiences are significantly less common when shopping in-store, particularly at small businesses.
- Competition keeps prices lower. Big-box retailers may offer good deals, but over time those prices may rise as national retailers command more control of the market. A competitive marketplace encourages businesses to offer lower prices to attract customers. By shopping a variety of stores, customers can further this healthy competition across the board.

Big-box retailers need not be ignored. However, consumers can balance their spending at big-box stores and small businesses so they do not become entirely reliant on national chains.



GOOD NEWS

### Give yourself and others the gift of good health. Get vaccinated.

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, with millions of doses given under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.
- CDC recommends that everyone 5 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible and encourages a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose for all those eligible 16+.
- Cold and flu season is also here. Get your flu shot.
- Follow prevention strategies such as wearing a mask, washing your hands frequently, physically distancing from others, and staying home when you are sick.

### NDDH COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Schedule for Unvaccinated Ages 5+ and Boosters

Tuesdays 10 am – 2 pm & Thursdays 2 – 6 pm  
NDDH Office, 69 South Main Street, Brooklyn

Walk-ins welcome • FREE • No insurance needed • No appointment needed through December  
Note – Appointments will be required starting in January 2022

Vaccines Available	For Ages	# of shots needed to be fully vaccinated	WHO can get a COVID-19 booster and when you can get it
Pfizer	5+	2 (21 days apart) Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian	Ages 18+ At least 6 months after a 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose of Pfizer (Boosters for ages 16-17 will not be offered until NDDH receives required standing orders.)
Moderna	18+	2 (28 days apart)	Ages 18+ At least 6 months after a 2nd dose of Moderna
Johnson & Johnson	18+	1	Ages 18+ At least 2 months after a J & J vaccine

You may have a preference, but you can receive **any** authorized COVID-19 vaccine as a booster.

Vaccination offers protection *and* peace of mind.  
Find a COVID-19 vaccination site near you:



<https://www.vaccines.gov/>  
<https://www.nddh.org/>

This message is grant-funded by the CT Department of Public Health



### Residential Property Maintenance Laborer Webster Housing Authority

Full-time position with rotating weeks on-call hours. Requires work on variety of semi-skilled tasks in the maintenance and repair of the physical properties, grounds and equipment, such as painting, minor carpentry, electrical and plumbing work.

**Basic requirements:** High school graduate with at least one-year of full-time, or equivalent part-time experience in property maintenance, building custodial and grounds keeping. Valid driver's license and full COVID vaccination required. Must be able to utilize and navigate maintenance software programs for daily tasks and record keeping.

For additional details and requirements, and to submit a resume contact [paula.wa@onecommail.com](mailto:paula.wa@onecommail.com)

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