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Friday, February 24, 2017

Killingly approves sale of Main Street building

BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

KILLINGLY — The town of Killingly continues its effort to breathe new life into its downtown area. The Town Council recently gave Town Manager Sean Hendricks the go-ahead to put together a sales agreement for a building at the center of those plans.

The Town Council held a special town meeting on Feb. 14th where its members unanimously authorized the sale of the town-owned Tighe Building at 140 Main Street, most recently, was known to house a Sherwin-Williams Paint Store. The building has been part of Killingly's long-term plan for Main Street for years, touted as a future project during a visit by Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman nearly a year ago.

Now a potential new owner, developer Daniel Smiley of Daniel's Plumbing in Danielson, is looking to turn the storefront into retail space and create apartments in the upper area of the building. The town utilized \$85,000 from the Economic Development Trust in 2016 to purchase the building and plans on establishing a lease-to-purchase agreement spanning three years, using the lease payments to pay itself back into the Economic Development Trust.

The pending agreement was met with no resistance from Town Council members or members of the public. Killingly Business Association member and part owner

of Main Street business Black Pond Brews Mike Teed was the first to openly support the sale, albeit as a private citizens who did not speak for the Business Association as a whole.

"As an organization we obviously want to promote and create businesses here in town. I (personally) think this is a wonderful opportunity," said Teed. "This is a posi-

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Jason Bleau photo

The vacant storefront at 140 Main St, in Danielson.

WOODSTOCK WINS ECC TITLE



Charlie Lentz photo

DANIELSON — Woodstock Academy won its eighth straight Eastern Connecticut Conference Gymnastics Championship in a meet at Deary's Gymnastics on Feb. 15. Woodstock's Grace Logan competes in the balance beam. Story on page B-1.

Thompson taxpayers concerned with bus privatization

BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

THOMPSON — It seems taxpayers in Thompson and the town's Board of Education still don't see eye to eye on the concept of privatizing the school's bus services for students, even though there is no guarantee the Board of Education will even choose to utilize a private company in the near future.

The matter became

a topic of conversation around the town in late 2016. Early 2017 has seen little information released on the status of the bidding process for the privatized service. As part of a citizen campaign to express concern for the proposal several citizens came together in late January to record a video that has since been posted online and has made the rounds through social media. Led by Thompson

taxpayer Rob Mann, the video contained discussions that were held at the Thompson Public Library showing deep concern that the taxpayers of the town would actually spend more on a service some believe is fine just the way it is.

"Some people don't agree with the bus outsourcing. They're concerned with the safety of the children in

Please Read **BUS**, page **A14**

CUPCAKE WARS!



Courtesy photo

The first community-wide Cupcake Wars! were held on Feb. 11 at the Congregational Church of Eastford. Bakers from Eastford and surrounding towns vied for top honors. This creation from Liz Johnson won the blue ribbon in the Best Display category.

TURCOTTE HONORED BY AMERICAN LEGION

Courtesy photo

WOODSTOCK — On Feb. 11 at The Inn at Woodstock Hill, American Legion Post No. 13 Commander Ronald P. Coderre honored the Post's oldest living Commander, Richard "Dick" Turcotte. Turcotte served as Commander in 1966-1967.



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Putnam Selectmen push for traffic signal near YMCA

BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

PUTNAM — Putnam town officials have begun a more aggressive campaign to see traffic signals installed on Kennedy Drive at Technology Park Drive. Nearly a year ago the Hale YMCA Youth and Family Center first opened its doors and since then traffic in the area has increased significantly.

With the Interstate 395 on- and off-ramps nearby on heavily traveled Kennedy Drive, concerns of public safety are nothing new. Putnam’s Mayor and Selectmen believe they have waited long enough. Selectman Roy Simmons brought up the issue on Feb. 6 before the rest of the board noting that in recent month Police Chief Rick Hayes has expressed concerns. Simmons said he feels there are legitimate concerns.

“The Chief of Police has written a letter to start the ball rolling on a light at the intersection by the YMCA. After he sent the letter I started thinking it should be followed up with a letter by the Mayor and the Board of Selectmen with a request,” Simmons said. “Evidently, from what I’m told, the reason it’s so bad there is because it’s twice the amount of patrons that they expected at the YMCA.”

Putnam Mayor Tony Falzarano said he shares Simmons’ concerns and he has taken the liberty of reaching out to officials on the state level.

“I’ve already contacted Senator Mae Flexer and State Representative Danny Rovero to put a light there,” said the Mayor. “I’m just waiting for them to respond and I, as well, will write a letter of support on behalf of the board.”

Leading up to the opening of the YMCA a study was conducted to examine traffic near Technology Park Drive with the findings failing to justify the need for the traffic signal. The YMCA is successful and more businesses expected to fill the technology park. Simmons said he feels the numbers speak for themselves.

“If you use a number and you know that one number, in

and of itself, is doubled maybe they don’t have to do the whole (study) process all over again. We don’t have to wait several years before someone gets killed. Maybe they just have to plug in that number,” Simmons said.

Mayor Falzarano said any new study would have to start from scratch to get precise numbers to reassess and justify the need for the traffic signal.

“There are 10 warrants that they have to follow. It depends on the traffic flow,” Falzarano said. “If you’ve seen those things in the middle of the road to count cars at certain times they use that and they have their own process. I’m not saying it’s good, but they have their own process to follow.”

Selectman Simmons suggested that the town and Chief Hayes also look into the number of traffic incidents recorded in that area with the help of the State Police at Troop D. Simmons said a prolonged wait could result in even more traffic issues.

Jason Bleau may be reached at (508) 909-1429, ext. 110, or by e-mail at Jason@stonebridgepress.com



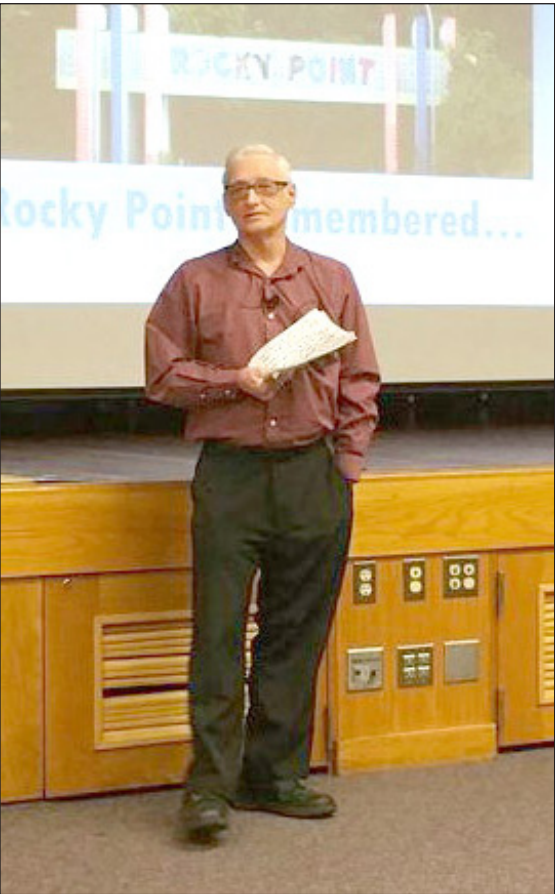
Jason Bleau photo

Near the intersection of Kennedy Drive and Technology Park Drive in Putnam.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

BROOKLYN	Thursday March 2
Wednesday March 1	Killingly Business Association, 7:45 a.m., Killingly Community Center Auditorium
Planning & Zoning, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall	PUTNAM
EASTFORD	Monday Feb. 27
Tuesday Feb. 28	Board of Finance, 7 p.m., Town Hall
Transfer Station Committee, 1 p.m., Town Office Building	THOMPSON
Wednesday March 1	Monday Feb. 27
Special Board of Selectmen Meeting, 9 a.m., Town Office Building	Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall
Democratic Town Committee, 7 p.m., Eastford Public Library	Wednesday March 1
Board of Selectmen/Camp Nahaco Commission, 7 p.m., Town Office Building	East Thompson Volunteer Fire Department Meeting, 8 p.m., East Thompson Fire Station
Friday March 3	Thursday March 2
Board of Assessment Appeals, 7 p.m., Town Office Building	Friends of the Thompson Public Library, 1 p.m., Thompson Public Library
KILLINGLY	WOODSTOCK
Monday Feb. 27	Monday Feb. 27
Board of Recreation, 6 p.m., Town Hall	Camp Nahaco Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall
Tuesday Feb. 28	Historic Properties, 7 p.m., Town Hall
Ag Commission Great Tomato Festival Special Meeting, 5 p.m., Planning & Development Office	Conservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall
Democratic Town Committee, 7 p.m., Town Hall	Tuesday Feb. 28
Wednesday March 1	Water Pollution Control Authority, 7 p.m., Town Hall
Permanent Building Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall	Wednesday March 1
	Democratic Town Committee, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall
	Thursday March 2
	Board of Selectmen, 4 p.m., Town Hall
	Planning & Zoning Commission Sub Committee, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall

QVCC open house highlights Rocky Point



Jason Bleau photo

Ed Morin gives a presentation on the legendary local amusement park Rocky Point during the program's open house at QVCC in Danielson on Feb. 17.

BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

DANIELSON — Quinebaug Valley Community College's Adult Learners program held an open house on Friday, Feb. 17 at the school's Danielson campus, which included a special presentation about the history of theme parks in New England and the once popular Rocky Point in Rhode Island.

The LiR program, which used to stand for "Learning In Retirement" before the title was dropped,

to promote the program for all seniors in the region, has been around for nearly 25 years. Former President Bill Brower, who presented the list of LiR courses during the open house, said the program has garnered quite the following and they are happy to see it continue to grow.

"We have classes every day of the week in the morning and afternoon. Basically it's all in the spring and then in the winter time we try to get people out of their houses providing free

classes, movies, and programs," Brower said. "Our most popular series of classes has been local history and last year, for the first time, we totally sold out the auditorium. Today is our open house presentation. It's to try and draw new people into the LiR fold and introduce it to people who have not been here before. LiR member Ed Morin picks a topic he knows will attract people. We've done local history and last year we did 'A Hobo Life In America' and we had a couple of real life hobos who came to the presentation so that was phenomenal."

Another former president, Lenore Gudmundson, said the program's students call themselves "life long learners" and that there is a lot of variety to what the seniors can learn from the program.

"It includes all kinds of things that people are interested in, but maybe didn't have time to do. So we do travel, we do current history, and health," Gudmundson said. "People enjoy it — there are 400 members and we all enjoy it."

Long time LiR member Ed Morin was charged with giving the presentation on Rocky Point and other amusement parks during the Open House. Rocky Point closed its doors in the mid-90s but served as a staple of the region since its opening in the 1860s. Moore said the presentation was designed to bring back

old memories of the fun the LiR members probably had in their youth at the park.

"It's kind of a general presentation on amusement parks and we key in on those in New England like Rocky Point. For the 10-town area that was the main one, but it wasn't the only one. We had White City in Worcester, across from UMass," Morin said. "So there were quite a few of them. We talk about penny arcades and the chowder hall so it brings back a lot of memories for those that were born and raised here."

Morin speaks from experience about the benefits of the LiR program. Around 16 years ago he joined after retiring as a chiropractor and within a few years began a new career of sorts, doing presentations like the one on Rocky Point. To date he has performed over 90 different presentations at local venues and said he probably would not have found that passion if the LiR program didn't provide a chance for him to explore it. He noted that he gets a lot of joy out of reminding his generation about the world they used to live in and seeing them embrace a program he himself has gained so much from being a part of.

"After I retired I was bored and someone was giving a Louis and Clark expedition presentation so I came down and I got hooked. I joined and I've been on the Executive

Board for 16 years. About 15 years ago I did my first presentation," Morin explained. "It's fun. A lot of people will give a presentation on something they are well versed in and they give scholarly presentations. Mine is more off the cuff — to have over 400 members and to be able to keep that number up year in and year out, because we do have a lot of turnover, we have to do some advertising and we have these programs twice a year to bring people in to be a part of this."

The Rocky Point presentation was given to a packed house of around two 200 visitors, some new and others familiar with the LiR program, but all of them eager to embrace the old adage as members of the LiR community — you're never too old to learn something new.

Jason Bleau may be reached at (508) 909-1429, ext. 110, or by e-mail at Jason@stonebridgepress.com



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Ordinance changes approved in Thompson

BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

THOMPSON — Thompson taxpayers approved several ordinance changes on Feb. 13 with no real objection or negative votes, making for quick tallies with near universal approval to end the night. The ordinance changes were non-contentious in contrast to controversial plans to replace the roof on the Ellen Larned Museum.

First Selectmen Ken Beausoleil said he was proud of the turnout and well-informed voters played a significant role in making it a cut-and-dry vote for each ordinance change. Especially relevant for one change in particular, which previously failed during a public meeting in 2015. That ordinance now splits the Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions in Thompson into two separate entities.

"Based on statutes we had separated out Inland Wetlands and Conservation back in 2013. It was left from the past administration to move it forward. They did attempt to move it forward in an October, 2015 meeting. There was a lot on the agenda that day and it got caught up in the hype of that night with a variety of things," Beausoleil said. "So this was prepared in 2013. It separates the two ordinances and gives specific powers and definitions of both commissions, and the main distinction is the First Selectman appoints Conservation and the Board of Selectmen appoints the Inland Wetlands. So it separated it out so these commissions are very distinct."

The other two changes were new proposals before the taxpayers, one impacting the budget season schedule and the second adjusting the town's conflict of interest regulations.

The first change set a new date for the annual town meeting in Thompson. Beausoleil said the shift is meant to bring the town meeting closer to the Board of Finance's usual finalization of the budget numbers. Previously voters had to wait weeks before the town meeting was held, leaving less time to vote or, if needed, re-vote to have the budget approved before the new fiscal year.

"The annual town meeting has been the third Monday in the month of May. We proposed, considering the state of what has gone on in recent years with budgeting, that since we are usually

Turn To **ORDINANCE** page **A4**

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Eastern professor is Windham County’s poet laureate

WILLIMANTIC — Daniel Donaghy, professor of English at Eastern Connecticut State University, is Windham County’s first-ever poet laureate. The position is a year-long term that allows the chosen individual to work with local schools and community groups to promote poetry through workshops and readings. The announcement was made on Feb. 14 at the Windham Town Hall during Willimantic’s annual Cupid ceremony, in which local residents are honored for their love and dedication to the community.

“My goal for the next year is to help students and other community members hear their inner voice and inspire them to tell their stories,” said Donaghy.

While the state of Connecticut has appointed a poet laureate, the Connecticut Coalition of Poets Laureate (CCPL) encourages cities, towns and regions to appoint local laureates as well. “The arts are essential to the health and vivacity of every community,” said the CCPL in a written statement. “Poetry is something people turn to for solace, enlightenment and delight. A poet laureate is someone who is recognized for his or her longstanding involvement in poetry. This person demonstrates passion and expertise in the field, and works to promote poetry in the general culture.”

At the inaugural event, Donaghy read William Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 29,”

which he considers to be the birth of blues and rock and roll music and a timely message for Valentine’s Day. “The theme is essentially, ‘I was nothing until I found you.’”

Over the years Windham County has demonstrated a strong commitment to the arts. “My hopes are to continue to build on the already established commitment and make literature, poetry and writing as visible in the town as theatre,” he said. “I want to make poetry something people need in their lives. I think poetry is an essential voice within ourselves. It’s where our stories, friendships, memories and regrets live. It’s all the important things about us.”

Donaghy expresses the importance that poetry has had on his life and how the work of Maria Mazzioti Gillan and Harry Humes really inspired him. “I want to help as many people as I can, as they helped me,” said Donaghy. “I want people to see that their voices matter. I want people to see the value in what they have to say. I think once you have a teacher who shows you that, no one can undo it.”

Throughout his career, Donaghy has been presented with numerous awards including the Connecticut Board of Regents teaching award, the CSU Norton Mezvinsky Trustees Research Award and Eastern’s Club Advisor of the Year award. Donaghy was promoted to full professor in 2015 and teaches several courses, primarily focused on poetry.

“Having a faculty member selected as the region’s poetry ambassador is an honor,” said Ginny Connors, co-founder of the Coalition of Poets Laureate. “This lends credit to the talents found at Eastern. Writing poetry — good poetry — is not as easy as people think. Workshops on poetry add to the culture and can help people feel comfortable with writing and reading poetry.”

Donaghy stresses the importance of writing and reading poetry throughout his teachings. “In our speeding world it’s pretty revolutionary to write a poem,” he said. “I know I’m supposed to be going around liking Instagram posts and taking funny selfies on Snapchat, but I’m not going to do that. I am going to sit here right now and think about what it means to be alive; make the world stop for a while and give myself the opportunity to grow. We never get a chance to nurture our inner voice or think about who we are and how we got here.”

Over the next year, Donaghy will influence the members of Windham County through readings and writing workshops. The job comes with no limits and no description. “I look forward to working alone and with my poetry students. My work as poet laureate will allow me to further Eastern’s mission as Connecticut’s public liberal arts university and will create exciting service opportunities for creative writing students.”



Courtesy photo

Daniel Donaghy, English professor at Eastern Connecticut State University, recites William Shakespeare’s “Sonnet 29” at the inaugural event for the poet laureate of Windham County.

Putnam after school services raise funds for veterans

PUTNAM — The recent announcement by American Legion Post No. 13 of Putnam that it’s embarking on a project to honor living World War II veterans has generated excitement among the leaders, parents and students involved in the Putnam After School Services (PASS).

Post No. 13, under the leadership of Commander Ronald P. Coderre, Past Commander Norman “Barney” Seney and Sons of American Legion Squadron Commander Arthur “Buster” Corey, is currently planning a program that will feature the photos and names of WWII vets on banners that will be located throughout the central core of downtown Putnam. A committee of Post 13 veterans along with Putnam Recreation Director Willie Bousquet is moving the project forward.

When Sue Allard, director of the PASS program and her assistant Colleen

Dicolella heard about the banners they responded immediately, saying the group would like to assist with raising funds to offset the cost of the banners. The estimated cost for the banners is \$3,000.

“The PASS program and the students have always had a special interest in programs related to veterans. When we heard of this project we felt that this would be a way of demonstrating our appreciation for those individuals who served in the military during WWII,” said Allard.

On Saturday, March 4 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., PASS is sponsoring a Chicken Parmesan Dinner at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post on Providence Street in Putnam. The dinner, prepared ala Chef “Buster” Corey will include salad, chicken parmesan, pasta, desert, coffee and bottled water at \$10 per person. Meals will be served at the VFW Hall

or will also be available for takeout. Tickets are limited to the first 300 diners.

“The members of Post #13 are thankful to the PASS program for this generous gesture. This collaboration between agencies and programs is another indication of the generosity of the people of the Putnam community. It is also a demonstration that the young people in our schools care about the veterans,” said Commander Coderre.

The Banner Project will feature colorful 30-inch by 60-inch banners with the photo and name of each honored veteran proclaiming them as “Hometown Heroes.” The committee is planning to display approximately 30 banners around Putnam. The cost of each banner is \$80, with the hardware and labor provided by the Putnam Recreation Department.

The “Hometown Heroes” will be on

display from Labor Day until shortly after Veterans Day. The Banner Project is being planned as an annual event by Post 13. In May of 2016 Post 13 was responsible for decorating the Veterans Memorial Bridge on Pomfret Street with flags. That project received rave reviews from the community and visitors to Putnam.

“The members of our Post are looking forward to seeing this project to its successful completion. This is another way of saying thank you to our veterans, especially those who served during WWII. We’re extremely grateful to the PASS program for its support,” said Past Commander Seney.

Tickets for the event may be procured from any member of PASS by calling (860) 771.1834 or RPC Associates (860) 928.6772.

BUILDING

continued from page A1

tive thing. I know that there has been a lot of back and forth on the issue, but I think overall, given the situation, I really am in favor of a more aggressive stance for creating economic growth in our town. I think that we’ve done a lot so far and we have a really great foundation of businesses and

business owners here, but I think this will be a really good step moving forward.”

Town Council members Joyce Ricci, who has been an outspoken supporter of growth on Main Street during her tenure on the council, said she believes the sale will allow Smiley a chance to add something new to downtown.

“I think this will be fantastic,” she said.

“His plans are wonderful. I hope it works out as well as he intends. He also wants to make an upscale apartment upstairs, which would be nice.”

Town Manager Hendricks told the council that even with the unanimous vote that was cast that night, the sale of the building is not a guarantee. The item was put on the agenda as a matter of proper

procedure, and now the real work to solidify a lease-to-purchase agreement will commence.

“Under the proposed terms of this agreement, which we are hoping will come before the Council in March, the ultimate term is the sale of the property after 36 months of development,” Hendricks said. “In order for the Council to enter into an agreement that calls for the

sale of the building in three years we need to have approval to sell the building in three years. So this is an approval for a sale that’s we don’t envision to happen for at least another three years.”

Hendricks added the possibility exists that the town may have some money available to help Smiley in developing the property. The town has received

funding from the state in the past to improve its Main Street area and Hendricks implied there might be some funding available to help with the facade or the roof at 140 Main Street in the future.

Jason Bleau may be reached at (508) 909-1429, ext. 110, or by e-mail at Jason@stonebridgepress.com



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LEARNING

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



PUTNAM HIGH STUDENTS MAKE TRIP TO CAPITOL

Courtesy photo

Putnam High SADD students (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and Putnam High School social worker and SADD advisor Lisa Mooney were recently selected to attend the CADCA Convention in National Harbor, Md., with a Capitol Hill Day as part of the trip. The Putnam PRIDE organization paid for the group to attend these trainings. The group went to Maryland and Washington, D.C., for five days along with Deputy Chief Leonel Konicki and Sergeant Niko Sezenias of the Putnam Police. Sezenias also serves as the school's SADD co-advisor. Also attending was Romeo Blackmar, who is the Putnam PRIDE coordinator. Pictured, from left, Sgt. Sezenias, Adriana Bravo-Santos, Lauren Derry, Doria Daviau, Jozzlynn Lewis, Jane Vongvirath, Lisa Mooney, and Romeo Blackmar.

Therapeutic student art project at Silver Circle Art Center

PUTNAM — In January, six students from Pomfret Community School exhibited paintings, masks, and hand-made jewelry at the Silver Circle Art Center in Putnam. The students had just completed the first session of a special Therapeutic Arts Mentorship program, designed to increase self-expression, confidence, self-image, and social skills among girls in grades 5 through 8. This program is offered through a partnership between Silver Circle Art Center and PCS, and funded in part through a Regional Initiative Grant from the Windham

Arts Council. Over the course of their six weeks together, the students created art projects that allowed them to explore their ideas about confidence and relationships, bullying and self-image, and their own identities. In one class, students asked themselves, “What gives me wings?” and then created butterfly wings using the words that give them wings. This art project served as a springboard for the students to discuss larger questions, such as “How do people gain wings?” and “How can I help other people gain theirs?” Projects such as this one allowed students to explore their relationships with themselves and the world around them, to affirm their values and self-belief, and to cultivate positive self-image. Three of the students in the fall Therapeutic Arts Mentorship session recently got together to describe their experience in the program. “We have learned that we can show our feelings by being creative,” they said. “We got to be ourselves.” Taught by Art Therapist Johanna Pike,

MA, ATR, in partnership with PCS Art Teacher Ana Lameiro, the Therapeutic Arts Mentorship program has just kicked off its second session, which ran through mid-February followed by another exhibit of student work at Silver Circle's Art Alley. A third session will be offered in the spring, and is open for enrollment for girls at PCS in grades 5 through 8. “The impact of Therapeutic Arts for these girls has been incredible,” said Pike. “Many students are busy with school, homework, and other after school activities. Often there is little time left for them to talk about the many issues they all may go through at this age. This program allows them time to discuss and express themselves on these important topics in a safe, supportive environment.” Silver Circle co-owner and Director Carly Sage Martin said “We hope to bring this program to other schools in the region.” Interested schools are encouraged to reach out to Silver Circle Art Center to explore options for bringing Therapeutic Arts Mentorship to their students. Meanwhile, Silver Circle offers a full range of Integrative Therapeutic Arts Programs at its art center in Putnam. It can be challenging for girls at such a fundamental and vulnerable age to discuss issues impacting emotional growth and development. By providing materials and therapeutic art projects based around specific topics, they have the support to openly address feelings leading

to personal awareness and growth, independently and within their social setting. The Therapeutic Arts Mentorship program is offering three six-week sessions at PCS during the 2016-17 school year. These programs are offered through a partnership between Silver Circle and PCS, with funding from Windham Arts. At the conclusion of each six-week session, students exhibit their work in an art show at Silver Circle's Art Alley. Using the arts as an outlet has been shown to be very beneficial for mental health. If you feel that your child or school could benefit from a program like this, please don't hesitate to contact Silver Circle Art Center through email at info@silvercirclegallery.com or phone (860) 928-2900. Integrative Therapeutic Arts Programs are led by Silver Circle artist instructors. The focus is expressive art and exploration with creative materials in a safe, supportive environment. Instructors use the language of color and symbolism as a way to facilitate creative and emotional expression through acrylic painting, watercolors, oil, drawing, and other visual mediums. We believe the arts, creativity, and imagination are agents of wellness. Art creates a life-changing space for expression, release, and healing. Creativity through art becomes a tool for communication, emotional release, self-empowerment, stress reduction, social connection, and ultimately enhanced quality of life.

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LEARNING

Putnam High students get sober lesson

PUTNAM — Motivational speaker Chris Sandy, whose program is called Choices Matter, shared his message on drunk driving at an assembly on Jan. 27 at Putnam High School. In April of 2000, at age 22, Sandy was of legal age to drink, attended a party where he drank beer and hard liquor. After the party he drove while intoxicated and crashed into a car driven by Mrs. Nellie King and her husband Mr. William King, both in their early 70s, and killed them both. Sandy spent eight and one-half years in prison. Mr. Sandy has spoken to over a million students in 35 states. His presentation at Putnam High School on making the right choices in life was funded by the Connecticut Highway Safety Office. Putnam High social worker Lisa Mooney is the faculty advisor for the school’s Students Against Destructive Decisions (SAAD) program.



Chris Sandy addresses a Putnam High School assembly.



Courtesy photo

From left Kayla Anderson, Jenna Tatro, Lisa Mooney (Students Against Destructive Decisions Advisor), Jewelia England, Jozzylynn Lewis (SADD President) and Chris Sandy.



Courtesy photo

A Putnam High student uses a driving simulator.

Woodstock’s Dufour returns after research project

WORCESTER, Mass. — Claudia Dufour of Woodstock, a member of the class of 2017 majoring in chemical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, was a member of a student team that recently completed an intense, hands-on research project in Venice. The project was titled Recreating the Neighborhood Marketplace. In their project outline, the students wrote, “This project explored the feasibility of a locally sourced and distributed marketplace comprised of revitalized local food stores.”

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven,

professional-level project that applies science and technology to addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university’s more than 40 off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people’s lives-and make a difference before they graduate.

“The WPI project-based curriculum’s

focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge to solve real problems,” said Professor Kent Rissmiller, interim dean of the WPI Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division. “Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat-all

valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today’s global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application.”

DEAN’S LIST

The College of Saint Rose in Albany, N.Y., congratulated Heather Mowry of Woodstock Valley, for being named to the Dean’s List for the fall 2016 semester. Mowry is one of 751 students to achieve this mark of academic excellence. To make the Dean’s List, Mowry had to complete a minimum of 12 credit hours and achieve a semester grade-point average of at least 3.5 with no grades of D, F, Incomplete or Pass/Fail.

Quiet Corner Garden Club offers scholarship

WOODSTOCK — The 2017 Quiet Corner Garden Club is offering a scholarship of \$1,000. The scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who lives in the Quiet Corner of Connecticut, has been accepted to a college majoring in agriculture, landscape design, horticulture, or other environmental sciences. This scholarship will be awarded based on a combination of academic achievement, leadership qualities, community service, letter of recommendation and the student’s essay.

Applications are available at high school guidance offices, local libraries, or via emails at quietcornergardenclub@gmail.com and on our website: quietcornergardenclub.org. Be sure to put Scholarship Application in the subject of all correspondence. Applications must be received no later than May 2.

Please mail the completed application and required attachments to: Quiet Corner Garden Club, c/o Scholarship Application, PO Box 1004, Woodstock, Ct. 06281. All applicants will receive notification shortly after the May 2 deadline. At that time, the winning applicant will be notified of an early June award dinner in his/her honor. The Scholarship Program’s main fundraising source is an annual Plant Sale, which will be held Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Agricultural Exhibition Building on the Woodstock Fairgrounds.

WOODSTOCK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING – MARCH 5, 2017

1:00 p.m. at the East Woodstock Congregational Church Fellowship Hall

GUEST SPEAKER: WILLIAM HOSLEY
American Art Specialist
Former Curator at Hartford’s Wadsworth Atheneum

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*Please bring a favorite dessert to share



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HEALTHCARE

Voluntary service for the greater good: priceless

Voluntary service is notably one of the most important dimensions of philanthropy and means by which society participates in voluntary action for the public good. It is about giving the gift of one's self: a precious gift of one's time, labor, or expertise for the benefit of others. It is often said that time is more precious than money. As such, so can the gift of service be more generous than a gift of money. This generosity in personal commitment has been at the core of Day Kimball Hospital since its inception and what continues to serve as the foundation for enriching the quality of everyday life of the patients and those who care for them.

If not for the voluntary actions of Mrs. Day Kimball to bring together a like-minded coalition of community volunteers, her vision for a community hospital may never have come to fruition. Formation of a voluntary governing Board of Trustees in 1894 was followed quickly by the formation of a voluntary Woman's Board in the same year who took it upon themselves to raise auxiliary funds for the hospital. It would take hundreds, perhaps thousands, of individuals since then on voluntary boards and committees to assist leadership with governance, fundraising, and social responsibilities to fulfill the mission of the hospital and its healthcare system. That commitment of community volunteers continues to assist in these roles today, as well as playing an integral part in advancing patient engagement and quality care.

Volunteer opportunities abound at DKH. Volunteers can work in 27 different departments across the organization, complimenting paid staff and those who provide core patient services. Led by Volunteer Services Coordinator, Janet Johnson, they assist in many ways, including escorting patients and visitors; running errands, delivering newspapers, cards, flowers, and medications; and providing clerical assistance in offices. Volunteers organize and manage the 'Comfort Cart,' bringing free items to patients in the hospital such as magazines, cards, puzzles, lip balm and other small personal items. Our Hospice volunteers offer respite to the patient's caregiver; provide transportation for patients and family members; run errands or grocery shop; plant gardens; offer massage, reflexology or healing touch; take photos; make decorative pins to commemorate loved ones; and fundraise for special needs of the patients.

The Junior Volunteer program engages local high school students in a seven-week program during the summer. The application process begins in January and students must have completed their freshman year to apply. The first 50 applicants are interviewed for up to 25 slots, depending upon needs. Junior volunteers do the same work as adult escort volunteers, work in departments on special projects, and engage in a fundraising activity to benefit a department of their choosing. They are led by a four-year, home-grown veteran of the program, Elizabeth Jezerski.

There are currently 134 active adult hospital volunteers and 60 junior volunteers. These numbers do not include other organized volunteer groups such as the 4WD volunteers who help to provide transportation during inclement weather; the Friends of Hospice Committee; Eucharistic Ministers; and Spiritual Care Committee members. Groups of students from the Regional Transition Program at Eastconn come in weekly and assemble charts for various departments. Our youngest volunteers are 15 years of age, and up until recently, our eldest was 98. The DKH community lost a dear friend and long-time volunteer with the passing of Cliff Buttermark this past fall – role model and mentor to young and old in service above self.

We continually seek volunteers to help in our Development Office with annual appeals, clerical duties, mail

Turn To **PHILANTHROPY** page **A9**

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

Brick Mill was a marvel of its time

Have you driven through the lower section of Danielson lately near the junction of Maple Street, Route 12, and Route 6? If so, I'm sure you've noticed a difference in the landscape since the old brick mill, which had badly deteriorated, has been demolished.

Better known in later years as the Powdrell & Alexander mill, the factory was erected by the Danielsonville Company on the site of the company store of the original Danielson mills. This store was run by Ebenezer and Comfort Tiffany (father of the noted New York jeweler Charles L. Tiffany). Articles about plans for the new factory begin appearing in 1866. Marilyn Labbe, Director of the Killingly Historical Center, recently extracted the following information about that mill, which was erected in 1868 and 1869. The following research is hers.

"In the Windham County Transcript of 16 Aug. 1866: The first great improvement already decided upon, is the erection by The Danielsonville Company of a new brick mill, 276 feet long and 74 feet wide, four stories high.

In the 18 April 1867 Transcript: The foundation of the new brick mill is nearly completed. In the 8 Aug. 1867 A story from the correspondent of the Courant:

Despite hard times the Danielsonville Company is building a new mill 216 feet long by 74 inside, and an ell adjoining of two stories, 60 x 40 feet. The main mill is to be four stories and basement.

"The 12 Mar. 1868: The Danielsonville Company have not yet fully decided to go on with their new mill, the foundation of which is already laid. It is believed, however, that they will decide to proceed with the work the present season.

"16 Apr. 1868: The Danielsonville Company are immediately to re-commence work on their new mill, Mr. Jeremiah Young will have charge of the work. The bricks have been purchased of Mr. Alexander, and before summer closes we shall see a handsome new structure on the foundation prepared last season. (Alexander's brickyard was located north of Alexander's Lake adjacent to the railroad tracks near present-day Trolley Road).

"23 Apr. 1868: Mr. George Clark, a competent mason, is to have charge of the brickwork on the new mill of the Danielsonville Company.

10 June 1868: The New Mill, being erected by the Danielsonville Company is going up rapidly. The Agent, Mr. Sherman, informs us that he would employ a dozen bricklayers if they are soon on the ground.

"23 July 1868: The new mill of the Danielsonville Company has reached to the third story and is being vigorously pushed by the Agent — Mr. Sherman. Some of the windows are quite ornamental and the structure is to be very imposing.

13 Aug. 1868: The New Mill has been completed to the third story. A smooth-cut stone with the raised figures 1868, to designate to the present and future ages the year in which the structure is erected, was placed on the south side of the building, on the second story, on Saturday afternoon. The "boss" carpenter and mason—Messrs. Jeremiah Young and George Clark—have the credit for mechanical skill they are displaying in the erection of this handsome mill.

"10 Dec. 1868: The outside of the magnificent mill is completed and the cupola is receiving complements on all sides for its artistic beauty. A new bell, the largest in the village, is to be placed in it, and it is hoped will ring out its peals on the Sabbath, as well as on weekdays. The bell is to be manufactured in Providence.

"7 Jan. 1869: The new bell in the splendid new mill of the Danielsonville Company,



KILLINGLY
AT 300
• • • • •
**MARGARET
WEAVER**

now daily sends its peals throughout the valley. 21 Jan. 1869: The machinery is now being put in, and early in the Spring we expect to hear its music." (Thank you Marilyn for this research).

The earliest Danielson cotton mill had been erected on the opposite side of the road in 1810 with a second mill being added prior to 1819. By 1868 they were sadly outdated although the Danielsonville panel in Grey's Atlas of Tolland and Windham Counties shows that they were still standing at the time the new brick factory was constructed.

Now I'd like to jump ahead to more recent times and jog your memories. The December 26, 1974 issue of the Windham County Transcript printed a summary of a few of the leading stories of the year. I thought I'd share some of them. "The Place held its grand opening August 16 on South Main Street (Brooklyn)." "The Dayville Girls Little League champions included Kelly Hanrahan, Lynn Bernier, Leslie Branski, Denise Landry, Kathy Ethier, Lisa Jacobi, Karen Hanrahan, Kathy Crowley, Kelly Smith, Cheryl Willard, Donna Vandermark, Andrea Jacobi, Sandra Radio, Patti Baiocchetti and Manager Pat Landry." "A new women's club was formed in the area with the creation of a new chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Club. This was the 26th unit former in Connecticut."

"The Killingly High School Marching Band performed during half-time ceremonies at the New England Patriots-Philadelphia Eagles game on September 8." Were you there? "The Killingly-Brooklyn Midget Football Association launched its first season which proved to be very successful. The Jets won the championship." "Homecoming Day at Killingly High School featured the 1949 Football Team, the school's first team to record an undefeated season. Homecoming Day queen was Lynne Chabot, with her attendants, Mona Derosier and Cindy Vachon. Greg LaBelle put forth a tremendous effort and made it to the regional contest in the Punt, Pass and Kick competition." "The Killingly Redmen put on one of the most thrilling gridiron displays Thanksgiving Day besting the Putnam Clippers 21-17. Dennis Petricola scored all three touchdowns for Killingly.

"The elderly housing complex, Maple Court, opened at the corner of Maple and North Streets." "Quinebaug Valley Community College announced the site for its new campus on the Alden Danielson property, Maple Street and Rock Avenue."

"State Senator Louise Berry of Killingly was honored for her leadership in special education."

"Eight Killingly athletes were named to Eastern Connecticut Conference All Star teams. Anne Seney, girls field hockey; Robin Godley, girls cross country; David Cassettari, football; Charles Adams and Eddie Berthiaume, soccer; Charles Lee, cross country; Kari Rajaniemi and Rene Barbeau, golf." Feel free to share memories on any of the above stories by emailing me or calling the Killingly Historical Center.

Note: In case of inclement weather, the Center may be closed. Margaret M. Weaver is a Killingly Municipal Historian. Special thanks to Marilyn Labbe for her research on the old P & A factory. For additional information visit the Killingly Historical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 (or by appointment) or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call (860) 779-7250. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical Center should be sent to P.O. Box 265, Danielson, Connecticut 06329. Margaret Weaver may be reached at margaretmweaver@gmail.com.

Thompson leader urges public input in school budget

GUEST COLUMN

BILL WITKOWSKI

Dear fellow taxpayers of Thompson, in recent years the Board of Education has stepped up its efforts to get more input from the community on the annual building of our town's school budget.

We've tried several approaches. We have set up booths, manned by board members, at community events. We have conducted market research studies of voters to understand ways we can improve the budget process. We have sent home both letters to parents and direct mail post cards to residents as we work to include all in this process.

Last year, many residents told us that holding our annual public budget forum on a weeknight made it difficult for them to attend or participate in the process.

This year, we are changing the day and time of our annual public budget forum to a Saturday morning in the hopes that more people can attend and participate. We want residents to provide their perspective and suggestions in creating a school budget that we can all support the first time through.

Last year, it took multiple town meetings to get our budget approved. The added costs and efforts in holding multiple town meetings is something our entire Board is hoping to avoid.

We are hopeful that with your involvement in the budget process early on, we can avoid a repeat of last year's events. We want our supporters and our critics to attend this Saturday's forum so we can understand how best we as a town can provide an education to the children of our town in manner we all can support.

The forum will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, in the Tourtellotte Memorial High School auditorium. We hope to see you there.

William "Bill" Witkowski is the Chairman of the Board of Education for Thompson Public Schools



Breweriana (Beer Collectibles)



Statistics by the Brewers Association (www.brewersassociation.org) show that beer sales in 2015 were nearly even with 2014 sales. Craft beer sales increased greatly though. 2015 statistics show craft beer sales grew by 12.8%. Some craft breweries' beer is highly sought after. Buyers may line up hours before it goes on sale to buy the limited

quantities that are available when a new batch is brewed. With the renewed interest in craft beers it's not surprising that beer related collectibles are also desirable.

As with most collectibles, the larger display pieces are typically the most valuable. Past auction results show rare, reverse painted, glass advertising signs have sold for over \$30,000. Other older (typically 19th century) wood, enamel and tin signs can also bring prices in the tens of thousands. Neon signs are still popular in taverns. Even newer ones have value to people who use them to decorate their home bars. Old ones in good condition are difficult to find because the neon can be so easily broken over time. They can bring five figure sums.

Beer trays were used to carry a number of beer glasses to the tables of thirsty



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COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

bar patrons. Pre-prohibition (1919 and earlier) beer trays in nice condition can sell for well over \$1,000. Even some post-prohibition trays can be desirable. One of the local ones that I typically see selling for over \$100 or more is for Tadcaster Ale by Bowler Brothers Brewery of Worcester. The Worcester Sun reported that Bowler Brothers produced over 160,000 barrels in Worcester during 1900. After prohibition ended in 1933, an attempt to revive the company in 1934 failed. Oscar Brockert then bought the company and called it Brockert Brewing Company. Following World War II, the name changed to the Worcester Brewing Company. Despite promotional events including bringing the Celtics to Worcester to play at Crompton Park, the company went out of business in

Turn To **ANTIQUES** page **A11**

Why a life insurance claim may be denied

Plan Well: Life insurance can be an important financial tool for you and your family. For example, life insurance can help replace earnings that would cease upon your death. It can provide a legacy for your children or grandchildren, and can even be used to make a charitable gift after your death. However, the fact that you've purchased life insurance doesn't guarantee that the death benefit will be paid when it's needed most — after you've died. There are several reasons insurance companies may attempt to deny, or at least delay, paying a claim for the death benefit. Here are some possible circumstances when a death-benefit claim may be contested.

Misstatements on the application A clause that's commonly found in life insurance contracts is the incontestability clause. A life insurance claim may be denied if the insurer finds that the applicant made misstatements on the policy application and death occurs within two years of the policy's start date. If the applicant makes statements intended to defraud the insurer, there is essentially no time limit, and the claim can be denied no matter how long the policy has been in force. That's why it is very important to provide accurate information

on the policy application and not withhold information or facts that are requested by the insurer.

Suicide clause Most life insurance policies contain a suicide clause, which generally states that no death benefit will be paid if the insured's death results from suicide within two years from the inception of the policy. Often, policy owners inadvertently restart the two-year suicide clause when they replace existing life insurance with a new policy. Even in the unfortunate circumstance that death by suicide occurs within two years from the policy's inception, the beneficiaries may still be able to receive at least a portion of the death benefit, depending on the circumstances.

Policy lapse A life insurance policy may not be in force because the coverage has lapsed. Policies may lapse for several reasons, including nonpayment of the premium and expiration of a stated term. Insurers generally send written notifications when a premium payment is past due, when the policy is about to lapse, and when a policy has actually expired. Sometimes the policy owner may inadvertently or intentionally neglect to make premium payments. In any case, the insurance beneficiary may not realize that the policy



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has lapsed until after the death of the insured.

An insurer may deny payment of the death benefit when death occurs outside the policy coverage term. Term life insurance provides death benefit coverage for a stated number of years, usually from one to 25 years, depending on the policy purchased.

What can you do? Nothing can be more emotionally trying than having a life insurance claim denied while dealing with the loss of a loved one. Here are some tips that may help get the death benefit paid.

Whether you fill out the life insurance application or it is completed by a life insurance agent, be sure you review each section of the application and answer each question honestly. Do not withhold or falsify information.

Pay the premiums on time. Indicate an alternative address for mailing the premium notices and name another individ-

ual to receive notices of premium lapses. If you move or change financial institutions and don't notify the insurer, you may forget about the premium payments and the policy could lapse without your knowledge. If you have group life insurance, verify that it is still in force at least once each year. Also, review your policy with an insurance professional. You may not realize that your life insurance will end on a certain date.

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1The Five Star Wealth Manager Award is based on 10 objective eligibility and evaluation criteria, including a minimum of 5 years as an active credentialed financial professional, favorable regulatory and complaint history, accepts new clients, client retention rates, client assets administered, education, and professional designations. In 2016, 1,985 Connecticut wealth managers were considered for the award; 417 (21 percent of candidates) were named 2016 Five Star Wealth Managers. (The criteria provided reflects the most recent year for which advisor received the award. The criteria used, the number of wealth managers considered for the award, and the percentage of those who receive the award, may vary from year to year). These awards are not indicative of the wealth managers' future performance. Your experiences may vary. For more information, please visit www.fivestar-professional.com.

Creative Uses for Common Products

In today's highly commercial marketplace, we are surrounded by an array of household products geared to make our lives a little bit easier. But very often the cans, bottles, boxes and bags of assorted "stuff" only makes an already overburdened household even more complicated. The key to reducing the mountain of home helpers is to choose handy products that have the versatility to perform multiple tasks around the house.

If "necessity is the mother of invention," then creative use is surely the offspring of a good imagination! Looking beyond the virtues of common items such as vinegar, salt and baking soda, all of which have been covered in past columns, we take a look at expanding the life of popular commercial items via creative alternative uses.

Savvy Skin So Soft Suggestions

Avon Skin So Soft has been a summertime staple for generations. Most people know the scented bath oil also serves as an effective mosquito repellent. Here are some more uses you may be surprised to discover:

*Field and Stream magazine touts Skin So



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Soft as a great flea and bug repellent for dogs. The magazine recommended the following formula: Five parts water to one part Skin So Soft. As a bonus, brushing the mixture into the pet's fur makes its coat gleam.

*Skin So Soft polishes up vinyl dashboards. It cleans up dust and dirt, while leaving behind a protective finish that prevents cracking.

*It works in the bathroom to clean away soap scum from shower doors. Skin So Soft also removes lime and hard water deposits from fixtures, tile, shower doors and windows.

*Struggling with stuck labels? Skin So Soft removes glue and gum left from price tags and labels from glass, metal and most plastics.

*Rub a little Skin So Soft on a shirt collar before washing to remove "ring around the collar."

*Skin so Soft works as a great hot oil treatment to soften fingernails.

*Skin So Soft cleans paint brushes easily, and as a bonus, leaves the brushes soft and silky.

*Some Skin So Soft fans report using it on the air conditioner filter screen with success. They say the bath oil not only freshens incoming air, but makes the filter easier to clean.

Essential Uses for Essential Oils

Essential oils are popular and readily available. Here are some interesting unconventional uses for the array of liquid oils on the market.

Note: Use essential oils with caution and read directions carefully before use. Keep out of reach of children.

*Dust mites are the source of many allergies. Recent research has shown that eucalyptus oil kills dust mites that live in bedding. For best results, use about 25 drops of eucalyptus essential oil to each load of laundry or add one half ounce to a jug of liquid laundry detergent.

*To disinfect and scent home saunas, add several drops rosemary, thyme, pine, or lavender to a spray bottle with water and spray surfaces. This water can also be used to splash onto hot sauna

stones.

*Adding essential oil to paint will counteract the unpleasant smell. And because essential oils are not fatty oils, they will leave no oil spots on the walls. Add several drops to one gallon of paint and mix well.

*A drop or two of rosemary essential oil on your hairbrush is said to promote growth and thickness.

*To release a stubborn splinter without pain or hassle, put a drop or two of lemon essential oil on the skin, apply a bandaid and leave it alone for several hours. The oil not only disinfects the area, but should make the splinter much easier to remove.

Super Softener Sheets

Fabric softener sheets have a variety of uses all around the house. Here are some ideas to add instant freshness wherever you need it.

*Tuck a fabric softener sheet inside a vase of silk or dried flowers for an extra bloom of freshness.

*Toss a sheet in your gym locker to deter odors.

*Give odors the boot by placing a dryer sheet in resting shoes.

*Tuck a dryer sheet in suitcases and vacation sleeping bags between uses.

*Keep a sheet in the

bottom of the hamper to chase away odors.

• Place a sheet under the mattress pad to keep the bedding fresh smelling.

*Keep a sheet in the car glove compartment. Not only will it freshen the car, it's handy if you ever need to run it over a skirt to alleviate static cling

Fabulous Filters

Working well beyond the coffee maker, absorbent coffee filters are handy for a variety of household uses.

*Put a coffee filter in the bottom of a plant pot to help reduce water draining out too quickly.

*Coffee filters can be substituted for cheesecloth when preparing foods.

*Open up a coffee filter to put at the bottom of round cake pans to keep bottoms from sticking.

*Instead of paper towels, use a couple of coffee filters to drain homemade French fries.

*Stacking glasses? A coffee filter tucked inside each glass prevents them from sticking together.

*Use coffee filters to wrap tiny holiday ornaments for safe packing.

*Coffee filters are the perfect size to use when cleaning the glass on small picture frames or prints.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a fabulous dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. Hints are entered into a drawing for a three course dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn! One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press publications? Send questions and/or hint to: Take the Hint!, c/o Stonebridge Press, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Or email kdrr@aol.com.

PHILANTHROPY

continued from page **A8**

ings and event preparation. There are a number of opportunities to serve on volunteer committees that plan and assist with events including the annual golf tournament to support the hospital; the annual race and walk, Cruisin' for Cancer Care, and winetasting events that support the NE CT Cancer Fund; and the annual auction and Tree of Life Ceremony, both of which benefit Hospice and Palliative Care.

The Woman's Board, currently led by President Nancy Dziki, has grown to 250 members since its founding in 1894, and continues to support the hospital by raising funds for needed equipment and programs. Funds are raised through the DKH gift shop which is operated by the Woman's Board and staffed solely by volunteers, as well as through a series of annual events including a Valentine Dance, ladies golf tournament, and spring luncheon to name a few. They continue to seek new members in support of these and other community engagement activities that will help them achieve their annual goals.

People volunteer for any number of reasons: to help others, promote a worthy cause, meet new people, gain experience, develop new skills, give back to the community, or because it simply feels good. Whether altruistically motivated or in self-interest, volunteering is an expression of commitment to the hospital and the community.

Volunteers are invaluable: as members of the community, our volunteers are often best attuned to what is needed to make our organization most effective in meeting community needs. In addition to assisting with service delivery, fundraising, and administrative tasks, volunteers serve as evidence of community involvement in the organization, helping us to build a foundation for social exchange and mutual trust.

Perhaps most important, is the value of a rewarding relationship and experience. There is proven research that shows that helping others brings feelings of happiness. A special report by Harvard Health Publications on healthy, happy living points out that while volunteering offers vital help to people in need, worthwhile causes, and the community, the benefits can be even greater to the volunteer (www.helpguide.org). The report points out four ways in which you'll feel healthier and happier as a volunteer: 1) Volunteering connects you to others and to your community to make it a better place; 2) Volunteering is good for your mind and body. This and other studies have shown that volunteering can reduce stress, combat depression, provides a sense of purpose, and helps you stay physically healthy; 3) Volunteering may also provide an opportunity to experience a field of interest without having to make a career change or long-term commitment. It can help you get experience in an area that interests you, provide the opportunity to meet professionals in the field, and practice important skills used in the workplace;

and 4) Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life, providing opportunities for renewed creativity, motivation, and vision that can carry over into your personal and professional life (www.helpguide.org).

While the value of volunteerism goes far beyond what can be measured in dollars and cents, the extraordinary economic impact of volunteerism is hard to ignore – nationally and close to home. According to the annual report of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), approximately 25 percent of all American adults volunteered through an organization in 2015 while nearly two thirds helped their neighbor in some manner. In the report, 62.6 million adults or 24.9 percent of the adult population volunteered in 2015, providing nearly 7.8 billion hours of service valued at nearly \$184 billion. In Connecticut, 28.2 percent of its residents performed 81.84 million hours of service at an estimated value of \$2.2 billion. The estimated average value of a volunteer in the US reached \$23.56 in 2015, with Connecticut having the fourth highest value at \$27.77 (The estimate is based on average hourly earnings plus 12 percent to allow for fringe benefits.) In 2016, DKH volunteers contributed 21,468 hours and the equivalent of over ten full time employees. If we were to apply the Connecticut average hourly value of a volunteer for 2015, that equates to approximately \$566,166 for our small community hospital.

While the value that volunteerism has had on DKH over the past 123 years

may be difficult to measure, its impact is clearly visible in DKH's physical presence and role in the community. Whether a few hours or days at a time, in the short-term or the long-term, your contributions in volunteer service and commitment of time – your most valuable asset and ours, will continue to make a difference at DKH today and in the future. Please let us know how you might want to become involved by contacting Janet Johnson in Volunteer Services (860) 928-6541, ext. 2279, or Kristen Willis in the Development Office at (860) 928-7141.

Do you have questions, concerns, stories to share, or topics related to philanthropy and Day Kimball Healthcare that you'd like to learn more about? Please feel free to reach out to Willis by phone or email kewillis@daykimball.org.



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18 Killingly Youth Wrestlers qualify for state meet

DAYVILLE — Killingly Youth Wrestling hosted one of four state qualifying tournaments in the state last Sunday, Feb. 19, at Killingly High School. Intermediate, Novice and Middle School wrestlers from 27 towns throughout eastern Connecticut com-

peted for an opportunity to compete at the state competition, scheduled for this Sunday, Feb. 26, at Hillhouse High School in New Haven. Twenty-five Killingly Youth Wrestlers competed in the qualifying tournament on Feb. 19 and 18 KYW grapplers quali-

fied to move on and compete at States in New Haven. Finishing in first place for Killingly Youth Wrestling were Intermediates Ammar Kuljancic and Brady Zadora, and Novices Ian Cathell, Kaden Ware, Andrew Reall and Darin Exarhoulias,




Jennifer O'Leary Cathell photo

KYW's Seth Christie wrestled James Linder from Montville.



Jennifer O'Leary Cathell photo

KYW's Ian Cathell wrestles Benjamin Fournier of Colchester to secure his place in the state meet.



The Dissipated Eight

Courtesy photo

Dissipated Eight perform at Westview

DAYVILLE — Westview Health Care Center was visited by 10 members of the all-male, a cappella group, The Dissipated Eight, from Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vt., on Feb. 10 for a lively performance. The Dissipated Eight, also known as the D8, is considered a contemporary a cappella group with the inclusion of vocal percussion and beatboxing in their performance. The group, formed in 1952, have been performing nationally and internationally for over five decades; assimilating new undergraduate members upon the graduation of their current seniors. Using only their voices as instruments, the group performed a wide range of musical selections for the residents of Westview including: “Sh-Boom”, “The Thing About Love”, “Running to Stand Still” and “All Along the Watchtower”. “We’re really excited to have been invited back to Westview,” said Harrison Shroder, Music Director. “We’re glad to spread our passion for music with all of Westview’s residents and staff today.” “Westview is fortunate to be able to provide our patients and residents with first rate entertainment offerings such as The Dissipated Eight,” said David T. Panteleakos. “Their harmonic and unique performance is always a joy for all of us to witness and experience.”

Woodstock’s Garceau nominated for coaching honor

WOODSTOCK — Richard Garceau, Woodstock Academy golf coach and social studies teacher, has been nominated as a finalist for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Coach of the Year in golf. Eight finalists from across the nation will be honored during The National Coach of the Year Awards Banquet which will take place at the National High School Athletic Coaches Association’s national convention at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria, Ill. on June 21. The highlight of the banquet will be the naming of the NHSACA national coach of the year in 19 sports categories. Garceau will also have the opportunity to present a mini-session on his area of expertise at the convention. Coach Garceau was selected for this national honor by the Connecticut high school coaches’ association. This selec-

tion was based on longevity, service to high school athletics, honors, championship years, and winning percentage. The nominees and finalists are evaluated by experts in the field of coaching using sport-specific rubrics to assign points in each category. The National High School Athletic Coaches Association is the oldest coaches association in the nation formed by coaches, for coaches, and has been recognizing national coaches of the year since 1978. “Really very surprised at being the Connecticut Nominee for National High School Coach of the Year, let alone one of eight national finalists,” Garceau said. Garceau began coaching golf at Woodstock Academy in 2004, the same year he began teaching Social Studies at the school. Since 2004 he has proven himself to be a dedicated member of the school community. “(Garceau is) very deserving of the NHSACA’s recognition given his commitment to both students and the sport,”

said Woodstock Associate Headmaster Holly Singleton. “Thrilled that one of our own, Rich Garceau, is in this elite group of nationally recognized golf coaches,” said Aaron Patterson, Woodstock athletic director. “(Garceau) takes this responsibility very seriously, often attending week long seminars to better himself as a coach. His years of training has not only benefitted him, but also the student-athletes he has coached over the years. His coaching goes far beyond the wins and losses. He has truly made a positive impact in the young people he has had the privilege of coaching.” Garceau credited his players. “Of course the young men who


have played golf at Woodstock Academy during my time coaching are really the reason for my receiving any recognition,” Garceau said. “Their hard work, commitment and dedication to Woodstock Academy golf has propelled this program to the respected stature it has achieved. I am just fortunate to be along with all of those people.”

ANTIQUES

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the 1960s. There are many collectors who specialize in collecting cans. Beer cans are post-prohibition collectibles. According to the Brewery Collectibles Club of America the first beer can was produced by The Gottfried Krueger Brewing Company of Newark, NJ in 1935. The original flat top cans used a “church-key” to open them. Cone-top cans came on the market in September of 1935. G. Heilemann Brewing Company of La Crosse, WI first introduced them and Schlitz was the first major brewer to use them. The Pittsburg Brewing Company introduced the pull tab in 1963. The pull tabs had the unwanted side effect of harming animals that ingested them. Stay tabs were introduced in 1975 and are used today. Older, rare beer cans in nice condition may also fetch prices in the thousands of dollars. There are other collectors searching for clocks, steins and even temperance movement related materials for their collection. It may be worth a look through those older pieces in your bar or attic to see if you have something valuable. Bottoms up! My “Evaluating Your Antiques” class takes place at Bay Path’s evening school on March 6. We have begun work on other upcoming events. See www.centralmassauctions.com for more information on future events.

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



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Courtney introduces bill tailored for young farmers

WASHINGTON, D.C. —Connecticut Congressional Representative Joe Courtney, Democrat, along with Rep. Glenn Thompson, Republican of Pennsylvania, and Rep. John Faso, Republican of New York, introduced the Young Farmer Success Act in the U.S. Congress on Feb. 16 in a bipartisan effort to preserve America’s agricultural economy and the security of its national food supply.

“America needs a new generation of farmers, now more than ever,” said Courtney. “The number of new farmers entering the field of agriculture has dropped by 20 percent, while the average farmer age has now risen above 58 years-old. The skyrocketing cost of higher education and the growing burden of student loan debt are presenting major obstacles for young farmers. The burden of student loan debt can thwart their ability to purchase the farming operations they need to get started or drive them away from a career in agriculture altogether. This legislation would assist new farmers during the costly, initial phases of opening a farming business, and allow them a fighting chance to build a life on the farm for themselves and their families.”

Thompson agreed with Courtney’s assessment.

“Farmers are stewards of the land and cornerstones of our rural communities,” said Thompson. “They provide the country with a safe and affordable food supply, but we need to do more to cultivate the future generation of farmers. They face tough odds by the very nature of the business, and this legislation will provide incentives for those who would like to pursue a future in the agriculture industry, which aids our national security and the long-term sustainability of our country.”

Lindsey Lusher Shute, Executive Director of the National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC), said: “It’s time to recruit a new generation of farmers who will support our rural economies and feed the nation for generations to come. We are grateful for the bipartisan support for this bill, especially for its champions, Representative Joe Courtney, Representative Glenn Thompson, and Representative John Faso. As this bill demonstrates, this is not a partisan issue. It’s not even a political issue. This is about protecting our nation’s ability to feed itself, and preserving our rural traditions.”

To address the critical shortfall of skilled young and beginning farmers and ranchers, the Young Farmer Success Act would incentivize careers in agriculture by adding farmers to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, an existing program that currently includes professions such as government service, teaching, and nursing. Under the program, eligible public service professionals who make 10 years of income-driven student loan payments can have the balance of their loans forgiven.

Farming is an expensive business to enter, in part because of skyrocketing land prices, and beginning farmers often see small profits or even losses in their first years of business. In 2011, the National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC) conducted a survey of 1,000 young farmers and found that 78 percent of respondents struggled with a lack of capital. A 2014 follow-up survey of 700 young farmers with student loan debt found that the average burden of student loans was \$35,000 and that 53 percent of respondents are currently farming but have a hard time making their student loan payments, while another 30 percent are interested in farming but haven’t pursued it as a career because their salary as a farmer wouldn’t be enough to cover their student loan payments.

Woodstock Centaurs to hold softball clinic

Woodstock Little League registration ongoing

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy Centaurs Softball is holding a softball clinic for all Little League Girls for levels Coach Pitch and up (age 6 and older). The clinic is free for all 2017 Woodstock registered players and open to all Little League softball players from surrounding towns for a fee of \$5. All proceeds are a fundraiser for Woodstock Little League.

The clinic is being run by Centaurs head coach Jason Gerum. It will be held on March 4 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Woodstock Academy Field House, 57 Academy Road. Sign-ups close on March 3. Woodstock Little League players must be registered in WLL before that date to attend for free. To sign up visit woodstocklittleleague.org, register online. For questions, please e-mail respo3@charter.net

WOODSTOCK — Woodstock Little League registration for the 2017 spring season is now open. Boys & Girls aged 4 to 12 may register to play. There are four different divisions depending on skill level and age. Ages 4-6 play in our Co-ed T-Ball Division, 7-8 can play in our coach pitch Baseball or Softball Divisions, 9-10 in our Minor League Baseball and Softball is for players aged 9-10 and those over 10 can play in our Major League Baseball and Softball

Division. Tryouts may be required to determine skill level for the Minor and Major League division. Registrations can be submitted online at <http://www.woodstocklittleleague.org/>. Registration through March 15, 2017 will be \$75 per player plus participation in the league fundraiser. Registrations received March 16, 2017 or later will include a \$25 late fee. Any questions can be emailed to woodstockllpresident@yahoo.com. Volunteer coaches and umpires are always needed as well.



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Eastford Congregational Church holds cupcake wars



Courtesy photo
The Cupcake Wars judges, from left, Heather Tamsin, Lennox Brodeur, and Brett Laffert.

EASTFORD — The first community-wide Cupcake Wars! was held on Feb. 11 at the Congregational Church of Eastford. Eighteen contestants from Eastford and surrounding towns vied for the best recipe and for the best display of their cupcakes. Contestants ranged in age from young children to older adults. The event was coordinated by Robin Sabad, Frietha Lawrence, and Allison Gormley.

Three leaders of the Eastford Community, Heather Tamsin (Eastford Elementary School Principal), Lennox Brodeur (wife of Eastford's First Selectman, Art Brodeur, who was unable to attend at the last minute), and Brett Laffert (Proprietor of Coriander Café

in Eastford), took on the challenging task of judging the competition. Awards were given to first, second, and third place in each category.

The top finishers in the best recipe category were: first place, Molly Rourke; second place, Madison Bates; third place, Johanna Wolfe. The top finishers in the best display category: first place, Liz Johnson; second place, Johanna Wolfe; third place, Cindy Labbe.

The event was well attended by many on-lookers. Everyone had fun watching the judges deliberate, decorating their own cupcake with the cupcakes and variety of decorating supplies available, or just chatting with new and old friends. There was much talk about



Courtesy photo
The many cupcakes that battled for the top prizes.

next year's competition. The coordinators of the event think they have started a new tradition here in Eastford.



Courtesy photo
Molly Rourke's creation won first place for Best Recipe

First Fridays returns with celebration of cinema

PUTNAM — Since its advent in the 1890s, film has found a way to capture our collective imagination, visually transporting viewers into a different world. Though technology has changed how films are made — moving from short, silent pictures to today's digital epics — the impact remains. Films stimulate the senses, challenge thought and perception, and bring the art of performance and story to a global audience. Titled, First Fridays Feature Films, the Putnam Business Association and First Fridays committee invites the public to celebrate six distinct genres of film with this fun, interactive outdoor art festival.

May 5 kicks off the seventh season of Putnam's downtown outdoor festivals on Main Street — happening on the first Friday of each month — with the fan favorite genre of film: Science Fiction and Fantasy. May's event is subtitled

"Revenge of the Fifth," with a playful nod to the celebrated Star Wars films. As with previous seasons, the First Fridays committee encourages visitors of all ages to dress up and engage with the theme. The evening promises art projects and performances that reference the many celebrated science fiction and fantasy films of the past and present.

On June 2 First Fridays will leap into Action & Adventure films, celebrating "Iconic Heroes." From the unlikely hero of a teenaged Marty McFly saving the future, to a resourceful Katniss Everdeen saving humanity, to the wise-cracking Iron Man and his band of Avengers saving the world, heroes come in all shapes and sizes. The evening will give attendees a chance to channel their favorite heroes.

July 7 celebrates the golden age of film of the 1930s and 40s with "Silver Screen Classics."

These films have a staying power that continues to ensure generations of future viewers will fall in love with the stories and stars of yesteryear. First Fridays will revisit the understated glamour of the many films that achieved cinematic greatness.

Aug. 4 will take a whimsical turn with a fun exploration of Musicals and Animated films, subtitled "Sound & Color." The evening is sure to be filled with the vibrant images and infectious songs that famously have become associated with family favorite films. From the Broadway musicals that have made the leap from stage to film, to the animated classics of Disney, the August event promises to be a fan favorite.

As fall approaches, First Fridays will head west into the territories of John Wayne and Clint Eastwood. The Sept. 1 event is subtitled "The Old West Comes East," and the eve-

ning will embody the iconic scenes, lawlessness, and adventure that are celebrated with the Western film genre.

As has become tradition over the last several seasons of First Fridays, the final evening of the season will take a symbolically sinister turn. On Oct. 3 First Fridays will celebrate the Horror genre with "A Nightmare on Main Street." Downtown Putnam will play host to the annual Zombie Fashion Show. Come dressed in costumes inspired by favorite horror films and join in the frightful fun of the evening!

With the 2017 season quickly approaching, the First Fridays committee is also launching the fourth annual First Fridays poster contest in search of a poster to represent the theme. Artists of all ages are encouraged to create an iconic movie poster with inspiration from all six film genres to be explored this sea-

son: Science Fiction & Fantasy; Action/Adventure; Silver Screen Classics; Musicals & Animation; Westerns; and Horror. The winning entry will encompass the season's theme with originality. The poster will be reproduced as the cover of the First Fridays Program, which will have 5,000 copies printed and distributed throughout the region. The winning artist will be awarded a \$250 cash prize and will be featured in the program.

Over the past seven seasons, First Fridays has grown in size and recognition, drawing crowds in the thousands and has transformed into an award-winning seasonal event. For more information on First Fridays, the upcoming season, and poster contest, visit <http://www.discoverputnam.com/firstfriday>.

ECSU presents Two Gentlemen of Verona

WILLIMANTIC — "Two Gentlemen of Verona," the second Main Stage production of the 2016-17 academic year, will be performed at Eastern Connecticut State University from Feb. 23 to March 5. Presented by Eastern's Theatre Program and Drama Society, the play is a musical adaptation of Shakespeare's early comedy about young people exploring love, friendship and the temptations of city life.

The musical will take place in the Proscenium Theatre of the new Fine Arts Instructional Center (FAIC) on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 26 at 4 p.m.; Thursday, March 2 at 5:30 p.m.; Friday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, March 5 at 4 p.m. The venue's pit will be used for the first time to feature a live band

of musicians.

Eastern's rendition of "Two Gentlemen of Verona" features a cast of 32 students, directed by Theatre Professor David Pellegrini, with musical direction by guest conductor Anthony Pandolfe and choreography by Professor Alycia Bright-Holland. The multi-level set was designed by theatre student Nicole Rivera, with lighting design by theatre student Megan O'Brien and costume design by Professor Anya Sokolovskaya.

Originally produced by the New York Shakespeare Festival (incubator of such landmark musicals as "A Chorus Line" and "Hamilton"), the play was adapted by award-winning playwright John Guare ("House of Blue Leaves" and "Six Degrees of Separation"). "Two Gentlemen of Verona" received rave

reviews after its December 1971 opening and won the Tony Award for Best Musical of 1972.

As Clive Barnes of the New York Times stated, "... it has a surge of youth to it, at times an almost carnal intimation of sexuality, and a boisterous sense of love.... The story of love and love's suddenness is certainly substantial enough for a musical, and archeological chips of the Shakespearean text that crop up from time to time fit in most snugly with the music and the additions. At times the poetry sounds ironic (which is fun enough), but most of the

time it seems perfectly natural, which perhaps shows that there is rarely anything wrong with a musical book that a little blank verse might not put right."

Tickets are free for Eastern students; \$5 for other students and groups of 10 or more; \$10 for Eastern faculty, staff, alumni and senior citizens; and \$15 for the general public. For ticket information and reservations, please call the FAIC box office at 860-465-5123 or email theatreboxoffice@easternct.edu. To purchase tickets online, visit www.easternct.showare.com/twogentlemen/.

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Villager Newspapers COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



“Shining a light on community events”

Water Birds In Love - Photography by Carol Lowbeer, free exhibit extended thru April 28 at the Center at Pomfret, 218 Day Rd.

February 24, Fri., noon-8pm
Knights of Columbus Council 2087 will hold a Friday fish fry, in the Knights Hall, 1017 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale. Fish and chips (\$10); fried clams (\$14); seafood platters (\$17), and more. 860-923-2967, council2087@att.net.

February 25, 5:30
The Killingly Grange will again have Blackstone Valley Bluegrass, along with Nick Anderson and Shady Creek for a bluegrass concert. Starting at 5:30 will be a chicken curry dinner, with salad, bread and dessert. Dinner at 5:30 is \$8, show is \$12. Keep bluegrass and your grange alive and active.

February 25, Sat., 8-11am
AYCE buffet \$8 children (ages 2-10) \$10 Adults, Under 2 Free. Pictures with fantasy friends! Face Painting! Putnam Music Association Fantasy Breakfast at St. Mary’s Church Hall 218 Providence Street, Putnam.

February 26, Sun., 11am – 3pm
PAWS Cat and Kitten Shelter Open House, 244 Route 171, Woodstock, 860-336-7129

February 28, 5:30pm
Killingly Grange will offer a wonderful breakfast for dinner – includes pancakes with sausage or bacon, eggs to order, various biscuits and breads, fruit bowl, and coffee or tea. All this for \$7!!

February 28, Tuesday, 5-6:30pm
Shrove Tuesday Pancake/Sausage Supper at Congregational Church of Putnam - join us for the pancake and sausage supper with all the fixn’s. Traditional supper.

February 28, Tues.,
Killingly Grange pancakes with sausage or bacon, eggs to order, Various biscuits and breads, fruit bowl, and coffee or tea, all this for \$7.

March 1, Wed., 10am-12pm
Mom to Mom at the Woodstock Evangelical Covenant Church – young moms meet together for quality Biblical instruction in parenting, small group. Community moms welcome! Free childcare is available through age 5. 24 Child Hill Road, Woodstock. Register at woodstockcovenant.org or call 860-928-0486.

March 1 – 29, noon
Wednesday Noon Walks - Meet at the Center at Pomfret, 218 Day Rd., free to CAS members; \$3 non-members.

March 2 - 30, 8:30am
Thursday Morning Walks, meet at the Center at Pomfret, 218 Day Rd. Bring your camera if you are so inclined, free to CAS members; \$5 non-members.

March 3, Fri., 7pm
The RSVP Veterans Coffeehouse is pleased to welcome multi-talented performer Sarah Jo Burke of Woodstock to the evening Veterans Coffeehouse at Westfield Congregational Church in Danielson.

BUS
continued from page A1

town and they like having people that are more involved with the town and live in the town driving their students in the busses. Accountability and safety are the big issues and we’re also concerned what the cost is,” Mann said. “I don’t feel there’s been any significant problems with the services we have now. I might not know all the fact of what’s gone on the last five to ten years at all, but those are the things we care about. The bus drivers are also concerned. Their job security is at stake. Some people don’t want to work for a private company. They like working for the town of Thompson.”

Representing the Thompson bus drivers was Mike Crougal who said he has had some trouble getting precise information from the Board of Education on bids it has received for the privatization proposal. He said they received some information during recent Board of Education meetings but he remains unconvinced that privatization would help the town in any way.

“They ranged anywhere from \$ 7.3 million to \$8.4 million. The reason we know that is because I was at the opening of the bids,” Crougal said, noting he had not received and official copy of the bids. “It seems like they are not sharing (the bids) with anyone except the bidding companies because the Board of Education’s lawyer offered to make copies for the competing companies. So the only figures I have is what I wrote down while they were reading them off.”

From his research Crougal argued the change would increase operating costs significantly. He noted that his own examinations have shown the current bus service, which is operated through the school district itself, has actually cut its costs in recent years.

“It actually shows that the transportation department has reduced their operating costs by approximately \$170,000 from 2014 to 2017. That within itself would have been enough to buy two buses in the past few years. I don’t know anywhere else where you can have no increase in expenses. I think that’s a great thing,” Crougal said. “I think the Board of Education did a wonderful job in keeping those costs stable and low. I give them credit for doing what they have done with what they have to do it with. Still, that’s \$170,000 savings. You’re not going to get that in a private company.”

Crougal did say that the numbers he was using are simply a “starting point for discussion” as he and others have not had the actual bid numbers made available to them. He also noted that if the town were to privatize its bus service it would cost an extra \$105,000 as a buyout to the bus drivers currently on staff. He warned field trips and sports transportation, among other things, would also increase if his numbers are anything to consider, some costs

tripling in his data. Thompson taxpayer Chrissy Campbell voiced her own disapproval with the privatization concept and said there are a lot of issues she feels the Board of Education has not resolved. “The RFPs went out without having permission to sell the school buses that belong to the taxpayers of the town. That was incorporated in the bid. Also the buses are parked at the town garage that was included in the RFP that they would lease the town garage to the bus company. That also does not have permission yet. I don’t understand how these things can be put in an RFP without having authorization first. It seems like you’re putting the cart before the horse and it doesn’t seem like much sense to me,” Campbell said. “The big picture here I think is that the Board of Education is trying to get out of being in the business of bus transportation. That seems to be the big thing here going on. Nobody wants to say it out loud, but that’s what seems to be happening.”

Board of Education Chair William Witkowski confirmed the status of the bids, received and opened, but clarified the proposals do not in any way guarantee that Thompson is in fact going to go the privatized route.

“The proposals are in for the contracts. Our budget director has gone through it and now it’s in the hands of our consultants just to compare the five-year span that the contract has to make sure that our five year projection is the same. We were hoping it would be done by now. I have not seen any of the results,” Witkowski said. “No decision has been made yet. We had the right as a board to go out and request bids and that’s all we’ve done. There has been no decision made on privatizing at this point.”

Witkowski said he certainly can relate to the members of the public who have concerns. He has his own concerns but in the end the Board of Education will have to answer to the town and its people regardless of the decision they make.

“I think it’s important to remember we’re in the education business, we’re not in the transportation business. There are companies out there where that’s all they do, so they can do it much better than we can in a lot of instances. We’re one of only about six or seven towns in the state that still have their own bus fleet at this point so there’s something to looking at the privatization and, again, that’s all we have done is look,” Witkowski said. “The Board of Education has always said that we’re not going to do this by ourselves. The Board of Finance will be involved. The Board of Selectmen will be involved. This will impact everyone and all the boards across town so whether we like the idea or don’t like the idea it will not be just our decision.”

Jason Bleu may be reached at (508) 909-1429, ext. 110, or by e-mail at Jason@stonebridgepress.com

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

www.860Local.com

HERE & THERE → Local Events, Arts, and Entertainment Listings

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

9:00 p.m.
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308 East Main St.
East Brookfield, MA
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SATURDAY, MARCH 4

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7:30 p.m. start up
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CADY’S TAVERN
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Chepachet, RI
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Cash prizes
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308 East main St.
East Brookfield, MA
774-449-8333



Quiet Corner Reads announces book selection

Quiet Corner Reads is thrilled to announce that “A Piece of the World” by Christina Baker Kline will be their One Book choice for 2017. Kline is the author of the very well known book, “The Orphan Train”, and “A Piece of the World” promises to be another best-seller.

In her new novel Kline turns her attention to another little-known part of America’s history: the story of Christina Olson, the complex woman and real-life muse Andrew Wyeth portrayed in his 1948 masterpiece Christina’s World. Told in evocative and lucid prose, A Piece of the World is a story about the burdens and blessings of family history, and how artist and muse can come together to forge a new and timeless legacy. Readers have been eagerly awaiting the book, which was published on Feb. 21.

In the spirit of the topic the public is invited to a 6:30 p.m. gallery reception with a Wyeth lecture following at Quinebaug Valley Community College on Tuesday, March 28. Light refreshments will be served at the reception, and copies of “A Piece of the World” will be available for sale. Book discussions and related programs will be offered at member libraries April through June.

“One Book” community reading projects, which connect people to literature through reading and discussion, have exploded in popularity in recent years. Quiet Corner Reads began their yearly One Book project in 2010, and the collaboration of libraries throughout northeastern Connecticut is still working together to encourage literacy, library support, and community development. Members include libraries in the towns of Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Eastford, Hampton, Killingly, Mansfield, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Thompson, Union and Woodstock. This year the addition of Quinebaug Valley Community College and the Pomfret School brings the number of individual libraries in the group to 20.

The One Book project each year encourages residents of northeast Connecticut to read the same book or author at the same time, bringing people together to discuss ideas and to broaden their appreciation of reading. Past books include “In Defense of Food” by Michael Pollan, “Bill Warrington’s Last Chance” by James King, “The Language of Flowers” by Vanessa Diffenbaugh, “Tag Man” by Archer Mayor, “The Obituary Writer” by Ann Hood, “What Strange Creatures” by Emily Arsenault, and “The Boston Girl” by Anita Diamant.

Quiet Corner Reads will host Ms. Kline at their finale event at the Pomfret School on June 13 at 7 p.m. Books will be available for sale, and the author will be autographing copies for attendees. Limited tickets will be sold at member libraries for \$15, which includes light refreshments. The author visit is sponsored by The Beagary Trust, The Leo J. and Rose Pageau Trust, Pomfret School and area Friends of the Libraries. For more information, visit QCReads on Facebook and at the quietcornerreads.org website.

Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department holds meeting

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association held its annual meeting on Dec. 5, 2016. Elections for new officers were held and are as follows, Line Officers: Chief- Michael Dougherty; Deputy Chief- Eric Young; Fire Captain- Lucas Young

Fire Captain- Will Skene; EMS Captain- Sue Calaman; Fire Lieutenant- Tony Foote

Fire Lieutenant- Dave Chrzan; EMS Lieutenant- Jake Keyes; EMS Lieutenant- Rich Dempsey.

The Executive Board includes: President- Russ Downer; Vice President- Erica Chrzan

Treasurer- Mark Collins; Secretary- Sue Calaman. The House Committee includes: George Molnar, Adam Plona, Larry Butts. Public Relations department: MaryJane Dougherty, Erica Chrzan, Diann Dempsey. Membership: Dave Chrzan, Scott Hazelton, Don Chrzan. Finance Committee includes: Russ Downer, Scott Hazelton, Dexter Young. Support Team: President- MaryJane Dougherty. Vice President: Diann Dempsey. Secretary: Erica Chrzan.

The total emergency call responses from Dec. 1, 2015 through Nov. 30, 2016 were 708 and were as follows: EMS- 570; Fire- 97; Combination Fire/EMS- 4.

The members of the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Association prides themselves in keeping our community safe and strives to recruit new members on a continuing basis. Anyone interested in Fire or EMS is invited to call or stop by at any time for an application.

Food Drive scheduled for Putnam pantry

PUTNAM — There will be a food drive for the Putnam area’s many needy people, at the Cargill Council 64 Knights of Columbus Hall, 64 Providence Street in Putnam, on Saturday morning, March 18, from 9 a. m. until noon.

Sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 21 and Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus, proceeds will benefit Interfaith Human Services of Putnam (IHSP), which operates the Daily Bread Food Pantry. IHSP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization. IHSP assists anyone in need in the towns of Putnam, Pomfret, Woodstock and Eastford.

Items in high demand are: dry cereal, peanut butter, jelly, rice, canned or instant mashed potatoes, canned fruit, baked beans, vegetables, canned meats and tuna, soup, pasta and pasta sauce, crackers and juice. Personal care items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper and deodorant are also needed.

Please bring your non-perishable food items, personal care items and tax-deductible monetary donations, to help your neighbors in need. If you can’t get there in person, donations may be sent in check form to Interfaith Human Services of Putnam, P.O. Box 281, Putnam, Ct., 06260. All donations are acknowledged. For further information, please visit www.nectinterfaith.org, or call (860) 928-0169.



John D. Ryan photo

Volunteer Shawn T. Johnston at the non-profit Interfaith Human Services of Putnam food pantry for the needy, at the Living Faith United Methodist Church.

POLICE LOGS

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

DAYVILLE

Thursday Feb. 16

PUTNAM

Saturday Feb. 18

Robert J. Contois, 43, of 88 Viens Street in Putnam was charged with risk of injury to a child and sexual assault in the fourth degree.

PUTNAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, Feb. 8

Leo Blain, 36, of 166 Farrow St. Apt.14 Putnam, was charged with disorderly conduct.

Friday, Feb. 10

Sean Morissette, 50, of 21 Franklin St. Putnam, was charged with failure to appear first degree.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

Alan Talbot, 52, of 207 Sabin St., Putnam, was charged with two counts of violation of probation.

K–12 Education Savings Accounts And How They’re Changing Kids’ Lives

(NAPS)

If you’re like many American parents, you may not be aware of a way to give your children a better education at little or no cost to you.

How It Works

A program known as education savings accounts (ESAs) lets parents withdraw their children from a public district or charter school that’s not working for them and get a deposit of public funds into government-authorized savings accounts with restricted but multiple uses. Those funds—often distributed via debit card—can cover private school tuition and fees, online learning programs, private tutoring, community college costs, higher education expenses and other approved customized learning services and materials. Some ESAs can even be used to pay for a combination of public school courses and private services.

One Girl’s Story

Consider the case of Valerie McMurray from Arizona. Her birth mother was a heroin addict and an alcoholic all throughout her pregnancy, and because of that, she was born prematurely and with cerebral palsy—a muscle disorder caused by damage to the brain, normally before birth. McMurray was adopted and struggled to learn to walk and talk.

Growing up, she said school was never something that came easy for her, whether in public or private schools. She was not getting the one-on-one care she needed as a student.

Finally, her adoptive mother was approached about the ESA program in her state, through which she would get government grants to learn at home.

McMurray discovered she did best at visual learning. She said she enjoys learning now, at her own speed—it doesn’t scare her anymore. “I like having one-on-one attention from my tutors,” McMurray said. “I ask questions without the fear of being made fun of or feeling embarrassed. My tutors teach me at my own speed.” She also said she is happy she no longer has to sit still in one spot for hours at a time. She enjoys being able to go on field trips whenever her parents and tutor think it’s best for her lesson plan.

Another thing McMurray loves about learning at home is that she doesn’t have to deal with bullies anymore. “In public school, kids can be really mean,” McMurray said. “At home, I am surrounded by people who are kind, understanding and actually care about my well-being. They don’t make me feel uncomfortable about the way I walk or speak.”

McMurray said the ESA program helped her self-esteem, not only through learning, but in the real world. She now has so much confidence in areas where she used to be confused.

Learn More

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Westviews names Keith
employee of the month



Courtesy photo

Emily Keith

DAYVILLE — Emily Keith, from Putnam, was named Westview Health Care Center's Employee of the Month for February. Ms. Keith is a 2014 Putnam High School graduate. She has been employed at Westview since August of 2013 and is currently a cook and night supervisor in the dietary department.

"It's a huge honor to have been chosen for this award and I feel so lucky to work in such an amazing establishment that holds the care of the residents and patients at such a high standard," Keith said. "It's easy to come to work every day knowing that I'll be surrounded by people who inspire me to be the best that I can be. I wouldn't have achieved this without them. It's a privilege to represent Westview for the month of February."

David T. Panteleakos, Westview Administrator added, "We're proud to award Ms. Keith with this notable distinction. Her dedication, dutiful mindset and caring disposition adds to Westview Health Care Center's continual commitment for providing the highest level of care to all of our patients and residents."

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Woodstock Academy dynasty flying high

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

DANIELSON — Grace Logan met Paige Stuyinski 13 years ago when they attended Village Green Preschool in Brooklyn. The duo never imagined the bond would endure to their senior year of high school.

“We actually went to preschool together. We’ve been together since age 5,” Logan said. “I’ve never really stepped a day in the gym without her. So it’s been crazy.”

Stuyinski and Logan are the latest links in Woodstock Academy’s chain of gymnastics excellence. The Centaurs dynasty is nearing a decade of dominance. Woodstock won its eighth straight Eastern Connecticut Conference Gymnastics Championship on Feb. 15 at Deary’s Gymnastics. Centaurs coach Kasey Fillmore does not take her senior captains for granted.

“They’re such great role models for this gym and especially the whole team,” Fillmore said.

Fillmore sensed their will to excel as youngsters — she should know, Fillmore was a state champion gymnast for Killingly High and went on to compete for Bowling Green University. The coach recalled a smaller, younger version of the pair — but both had a big work ethic.

“You can tell,” Fillmore said. “You can see that in them, the drive in them, the want to be here, live here, breathe gymnastics. Those kids got it and they’ve had that bug ever since they were little.”

The ECC title on Feb. 15 marked the first of four crowns the Centaurs seek to capture this season — the CIAC Class S State Championships are scheduled for Feb. 25 at Pomperaug High School, followed by the State Open Championships March 4 at New Milford High, and capped with the New England Championships, which Woodstock Academy will host on March 11 at Alumni Fieldhouse. The bar is set high and much work remains.

“We’re trying to take it one meet at a time,” Logan said. “So now we’re going to focus on states. We’re really trying to buffer out the little things — we’re going to work on all the imperfections and fixing those.”

Woodstock has won six straight Class S or Class M state titles. The Centaurs have captured five consecutive State Open Championships. And Woodstock has won two out of the last five New England Championships — finishing second at New England’s last two seasons. Logan and Stuyinski were freshmen when Woodstock last won New England’s and they aim to reclaim

that prestigious title. Woodstock’s team total of 150.15 points at the ECC Championships was a good omen.

“We’re extremely focused. The last time we won (New England’s) was our freshmen year and it was with a 150. Hitting a 150 tonight really set us up for that,” Logan said. “We’re peaking at such an awesome time and I’m so proud of this team.”

New England’s will be extra special for Stuyinski.

“We’re really focused especially because we’re hosting New England’s so that will be awesome,” Stuyinski said. “And I think tonight we showed what we’re capable of doing and we’re just going to keep improving from there.”

At the ECC Meet, Stuyinski won gold medals in vault (9.7), uneven parallel bars (9.8), beam (9.8), and all-around (38.9). Stuyinski won silver in floor exercise (9.6). Logan captured gold in the floor exercise (9.75), and took silver medals in vault (9.65), bars (9.65), beam (9.3), and all-around (36.35). Woodstock won the ECC team title with 150.15 points, followed by Killingly High (128.75), Norwich Free Academy (128.6), Stonington (126.6), Co-Op (124.15), and Windham (83.6).

Turn To **GYMNASTICS**, page 6



Charlie Lentz photo

Woodstock Academy’s Paige Stuyinski competes in the beam at the ECC Championships on Feb. 16 in Danielson.

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Ellis Tech wrestlers win Class M state crown

GUILFORD — Four Ellis Tech wrestlers won gold medals to lead the Golden Eagles to the state crown at the Class M Wrestling Championships last Friday and Saturday, Feb. 18-19, at Guilford High School. Ellis Tech won the state team title with 213.5 points followed by Foran (183.5), Guilford (170), Platt (158), and Killingly High (147).

Sean Johnson, Anthony Devanny, JoJo Gonzalez, and Cole Blair each claimed gold medals for Ellis Tech. Johnson pinned Berlin High's Nick Arborio at two minutes, 50 seconds in the championship match at 113 pounds. Devanny pinned Shayne McCourt of Jonathan Law at 4:37 in the 126-pound final. Gonzalez pinned Ryan Angers of Tolland High at 4:59 of the 132-pound final. Blair earned a 12-10 decision over Hunter Adams of Suffield High in the 138-pound championship match.

In the bronze medal match at 106 pounds, Ellis Tech's Gavin Rickaby earned a 12-2 major decision over Platt's James Rondini. At 220 pounds, Ellis Tech's Gavin Thuotte finished in sixth place, losing a 6-4 decision to Branford's Kyle Zalewski in the fifth-place final. Ellis Tech's

Josh Wojcik took fourth place at 182 pounds, losing a 10-0 major decision to Killingly's Ben Gosselin in the third place final. Ellis Tech's Collin Delsanto finished in fifth place in the 285-pound division, pinning Roarke Ryan of St. Bernard/Norwich Tech at 2:45 in the fifth-place final.

Killingly High's Danny Charron brought home a silver medal in the 106-pound division, losing a 1-0 decision to Waterford's Logan Smith in the championship final. Killingly's Mike Charron won bronze at 113 pounds, gaining an 8-4 decision over East Haven's Antonio Lieto in the third-place final. Killingly's Ben Gosselin captured bronze at 182 pounds, earning a 10-0 major decision over Ellis Tech's Josh Wojcik in the third-place final. Killingly's Derek Turner took home a bronze medal at 160 pounds, winning a 3-1 decision over Jack Sullivan of Bunnell in the third-place final. Killingly's Trevor Johnson finished in sixth place at 126 pounds, falling to Guilford's George Sanderlin in :32 in the fifth-place final. Killingly's Zach Burgess won fifth place at 138 pounds, earning an 8-0 major decision over Ryan



Ellis Tech's JoJo Gonzalez was among four Golden Eagles that won gold medals at the Class M State Wrestling Championships.

- Lindley of RHAM in the fifth-place final.

Complete team scores were: 1. Ellis Tech 213.5; 2. Foran 183.5; 3. Guilford 170; 4. Platt 158; 5. Killingly 147; 6. Lyman Memorial/Windham Tech 120; 7. Jonathan Law 118.5; 8. New Fairfield 100.5; 9. East Haven 99.5; 10. Berlin 99; 11. Bethel 97; 12. Branford 80; 13. Suffield 67; 14. Rham
- 63; 15. Stratford 58.5; 15. Waterford 58.5; 17. Bunnell 52; 18. Tolland 43; 19. Plainville 40.5; 20. St. Bernard/Norwich Tech 40; 21. Harding 35.5; 22. Avon 34.5; 23. Brookfield
- 31; 24. Weston 30; 25. Bacon Academy 24.5; 26. Woodstock Academy 14; 27. East Lyme 12; 28. Watertown 9; 29. Lewis Mills 2; 30. Torrington, 0.

Woodstock girls earn trip to ECC finals



Putnam High's Lucas Basilio scored 42 points an 89-86 overtime win over Cheney Tech last Friday.

WOODSTOCK — Jamie Woods scored a game-high 22 points to lead Woodstock Academy past Windham 62-50 in the semifinals of the Eastern Connecticut Conference Division II Girls Basketball Tournament last Saturday, Feb. 18. The win advanced the Centaurs to the ECC-DII title game against St. Bernard on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at Norwich Free Academy.

Ari Koivisto scored 15 points, Mackenzie Cayer scored nine points, and Heather Converse added eight points for the Centaurs. The win lifted Woodstock's record to 14-8. Shania Slyman scored 17 points for Windham (14-8).

WOODSTOCK 6 SHEEHAN 0

POMFRET — Ryan Black tallied three goals and added three assists

in the Centaurs hockey win over Sheehan on Monday, Feb. 20, at Pomfret School's Jahn Rink. Nathan DeLuca scored two goals and notched two assists for Woodstock.

Avery Riva had one goal and one assist for the Centaurs. Will Liscomb notched two assists and Gunner Moore and Pat Delany each had one assist. Woodstock outshot Sheehan 33-21. Cal Wilcox picked the win in goal for Woodstock (14-1). Sheehan's record fell to 6-9-2.

PUTNAM 89, WHITNEY 86

PUTNAM — Putnam High senior center Lucas Basilio scored 42 points and grabbed down 12 rebounds to help lift the Clippers over Whitney Tech 89-86 in overtime last Friday at Putnam High. Tied 77-77 after regulation, Putnam out-

scored Whitney Tech 12-9 in the extra session on Feb. 17.

Sebastian Ramos scored 16 points for Putnam. Zack Cutler added nine points and Aiden Ciquera tallied eight points for the Clippers. Connor Holloman scored eight points with seven rebounds and four assists for Putnam. The win lifted the Clippers record to 10-10. Juan Salas scored a team-high 29 points for Whitney Tech (9-8).

WOODSTOCK 60, UNIVERSITY 40

WOODSTOCK — Senior guard Nick Short scored 14 points to help Woodstock Academy get past University 60-46 last Friday at Alumni Fieldhouse. The win on Feb. 17 was the Centaurs eighth victory, giving them the required eight wins needed to gain a berth in the CIAC Class

L State Tournament — their first trip to the state tourney since the 2013-14 season. In their final game of the regular season on Feb. 20 the Centaurs fell to Plainfield High 44-39 to drop to a record of 8-12 through 20 games.

Woodstock Academy took a 16-9 first quarter against University and a 35-20 halftime lead — before University made a 15-point run in the third quarter to tie the game at 41. Woodstock outscored University 19-5 down the stretch as sophomore forward Cole Hackett made three key baskets in the fourth quarter and finished with 12 points.

The Centaurs hit 6-of-7 free throws in the final minutes to close out the game including 4-of-5 from Short. Woodstock sophomore guard Chase Anderson scored 13 points. Rasaun Russell scored a game-high 16 including for University (7-12).

PLAINFIELD 40, TOURTELLOTTE 38

PLAINFIELD — Senior forward Evan Ware led the Tigers with 17 points but Tourtellotte could not get the game-tying basket as time expired in Tourtellotte's loss to the Panthers in boys basketball on Feb. 16 at Plainfield High School.

Tourtellotte's Connor Weiss attempted a three-pointer with time running out and Tigers junior center Jackson Padula could not get the putback up before the final buzzer. Ware hit a three-pointer at the halftime buzzer to give Tourtellotte a five-point lead at the break. Plainfield took the lead with 7.7 seconds left in regulation on two free-throws by Markeith Conyers (11 points) — before Weiss's three-point attempt for the win hit the front of the rim. The loss dropped Tourtellotte's record to 6-13. The win lifted Plainfield's record to 16-2.

WOODSTOCK 60, GRISWOLD 28

WOODSTOCK — Mackenzie Cayer scored a team-high 11 points in Woodstock Academy's win over Griswold in the first round of the Eastern Connecticut Conference

Division II Girls Tournament on Feb. 16 at Alumni Fieldhouse. Katie Papp added nine points for Woodstock and Oliva Perry scored eight points for the Centaurs. Skylar Hanley led the Wolverines with 18 points. The loss dropped Griswold's record to 11-9. The win lifted Woodstock's record to 13-8.

Windham 71, Tourtellotte 31

WINDHAM — After Tourtellotte won an Eastern Connecticut Conference play-in round game one day earlier against Montville, the Whippets knocked the Tigers out of the ECC Division II tourney in girls basketball on Feb. 16.

For Tourtellotte: Emily Vincent scored 13 points with three rebounds, two steals and one assist; Katey Kwasniewski had six points, six rebounds, one assist and two steals; Ashley Morin had six points, four rebounds, and two assists; Skyla Wesolowski had four points, and one rebound; Brianna Loffredo had two points; Mary Steglitz had two rebounds and Becky Torres dished four assists for Tourtellotte (6-16).

PUTNAM 64, PARISH HILL 50

PUTNAM — Lucas Basilio scored 19 points and the Clippers shot 9-for-22 from beyond the three-point arc in the win over the Pirates in boys basketball on Feb. 16 at Putnam High School. Zack Cutler added 18 points for Putnam including four three-pointers. Jonah Dupuis scored 16 points for Parish Hill (10-8). The win lifted the Clippers record to 9-10.

LYMAN 62, TOURTELLOTTE 54

THOMPSON — David Lopez scored 22 points to lift Lyman Memorial past the Tigers in boys basketball on Feb. 15 at Cnty Gymnasium. Tourtellotte outscored Lyman 22-14 in the fourth quarter but the Bulldogs built a 48-32 after three quarters and could not be caught. Jackson Padula led Tourtellotte with 19 points and Spencer Fulone added 17 points. The win lifted Lyman's record to 12-6.

Tourtellotte's record fell to 6-12.

PUTNAM 40, BARTLETT 29

WEBSTER, Mass. — Maria Fredrette and Ashley Burke each scored nine points in the Clippers win at Bartlett High on Feb. 15 in girls basketball. Kira Clinkscale and Alyssa Espinosa each added seven points for Putnam High (13-7).

TOURTELLOTTE 36, MONTVILLE 33

MONTVILLE — Emily Vincent scored 13 points and grabbed eight rebounds to help the ninth-seeded Tigers defeat eighth-seeded Montville in the play-in round of the ECC Division II Girls Tournament at Montville High on Feb. 15.

Tourtellotte coach Carl Faucher credited both Amanda Bogoslofski and Skyla Wesolowski's defensive effort to hold Montville's scoring leader Emily Meigs to nine points. For Tourtellotte: Katey Kwasniewski scored six points with four rebounds, three assists, and one steal; Ashley Morin had nine points, seven rebounds, three assists, and two steals; Wesolowski had four points and four rebounds; Bogoslofski had four rebounds; Brianna Loffredo had one rebound and Becky Torres notched two points with four assists. The loss dropped Montville's record to 5-16. The win lifted Tourtellotte's record to 6-15.

KILLINGLY 52, WHEELER 31

DAYVILLE — Reagan Morin scored 15 points and Kylee Mazzarella added 11 points to lift the seventh-seeded Redgals over the 10th-seeded Lions in the play-in round of the ECC Division II Girls Tournament on Feb. 15 at Killingly High. Megan Dion added eight points for Killingly, Morgan Harriot scored seven points and Trinity Angel added six points for the Redgals. The loss dropped Wheeler's record to 3-18. Killingly lifted its record to 8-13.

Woodstock resets in drive for state title



Charlie Lentz photo

Woodstock's Nathan DeLuca, left, and Taconic's Nikos Gian, jostle for position at Jahn Rink on Feb. 18.

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

POMFRET — The pressure to stay undefeated can weigh like a ton of hockey pucks. Woodstock Academy's first loss of the season to Hall/Southington back on Feb. 6 might have been the best 3-2 defeat Nathan DeLuca ever suffered. It punctured Woodstock's unbeaten streak but reset the Centaurs on the

drive toward a state championship.

"I don't like saying it, I was disappointed we lost, we weren't unbeaten anymore. But after the game I felt like a weight had almost been lifted," said DeLuca, after scoring four goals to reach 200 career points in an 8-0 win over Taconic last Saturday. "Because at that point I think we still were look-

ing at the season like 'Finish unbeaten. Then win the state championship.' It's almost like, that loss happened, we can focus now on what actually matters."

Coach Mike Starr never likes to be on the wrong end of a final score but knew the defeat at the hands of Hall/Southington might turn out to be a positive. "None of us really wanted

to lose but at that same time I don't think any of us were really upset after the game," said Starr after the win over Taconic, Mass., on Feb. 18 at Jahn Rink. "There wasn't a lot of 'I can't believe this.' Being overconfident is a killer. And I think we might have had a little overconfidence going into that game."

Starr used the defeat as a teachable moment heading toward the state tournament, which is slated to begin on March 6.

"The message in the locker room after that game was 'Hey, listen, we didn't play our best hockey.' The kids knew they didn't play their best hockey," Starr said. "And I said this might not be a bad thing. Lose now. Realize that, hey, we can be beaten if we don't play good. We've got to come every night playing hockey. We need to keep that in the back of our mind. From here on out it needs to be playoff hockey all the time no matter who we're playing."

DeLuca, a senior centerman, scored his fourth goal against Taconic at 3:30 of the third period to lift his career point total to 200 (106 goals, 94 assists). Senior Ryan Black tallied two goals against Taconic. Senior Will Liscomb and freshman Jake Starr each scored one goal. Liscombe notched three assists. Black had two assists. Ryan Wojciechowski, Patrick Delany, Doug Newton, and Ethan Thorpe each recorded one assist. Woodstock senior goaltender Cal Wilcox made 18 saves to earn the shutout.

After losing to the Warrior-

Knights on Feb. 6, the Centaurs won four straight games to lift their record to 15-1-1. Woodstock is ranked No. 1 in the state in Division III.

"Since then we've just been playing hard. I think the loss woke us up," Wilcox said. "No give-up right now. We'll just keep going. Come states we can't lose like that."

The Centaurs are next scheduled to play at Joel Barlow on Friday, Feb. 24. Woodstock concludes its regular-season schedule at home against Conard at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25.

The game against Taconic on Feb. 18 was billed as Senior Night and the upperclassmen honored in a pre-game ceremony on the ice included DeLuca, Black, Wilcox, Liscomb, Jacob Brule, Bruce Dexter, Liam Dyer, Zach Gagnon, Tyler Huhtanen, Jack Jellison, Dawson Normington, and Cassidy Thorpe.

Those seniors recently had a ton of pucks lifted off their shoulders. The pressure to stay unbeaten is gone. Now Woodstock can focus another weighty goal — a state title.

"I think we reset," DeLuca said. "I actually think we're playing different now. I think we're playing better team hockey the last couple of games. I think everyone's getting involved when they're on the ice. I definitely think we're playing better hockey since the loss."

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Woodstock's netminder doesn't mind the pressure

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

POMFRET — Woodstock Academy's Cal Wilcox learned to skate when he was 4 years old and at 7 he started begging his father to let him be a goaltender. It took a few years but his dad, Keith Wilcox, finally relented.

"I told him when I was like 7 but he didn't let me until I was like 10," Wilcox said. "I just begged him because we needed a goalie one year and that was it — I think fourth grade, somewhere around 10 years old."

Wilcox figured he was a natural for the position.

"I've always been really flexible," Wilcox said. "Doing splits everywhere."

Goaltending isn't the most glamorous profession but he's never regretted the decision and every game presents a myriad of chances to stop the puck.

"I love it," Wilcox said. "I think it's kind of like anything happens."

Wilcox is well aware that on any given night he could wear the goat horns along with his goalie mask but accepts the scrutiny.

"You don't really get the credit if you win. You get the credit if you lose," Wilcox said. "But I kind of like that because it inspires me a little more."

Coach Mike Starr said Wilcox keeps an even keel and that rubs off on his teammates.

"It's funny. He can be the most intense person on the ice but at the same time he can kind of be making fun of his teammates and giving the coaches a hard time too," Starr said. "When it's time for him to be intense he's intense. And when it's time for him to kind of joke around he's that kid where he's joking around."

It's vital to wipe the slate clean after



Charlie Lentz photo

Woodstock goalie Cal Wilcox in action against Taconic on Feb. 18 in Pomfret.

allowing a goal.

"I don't let it hit me that hard. I usually let things blow by me," Wilcox said. "If you have a long memory then if the puck goes in the net you're going to be mad about it for a little while, so that will throw you off."

Starr said Wilcox will be integral to Woodstock's chances of reaching the state tournament championship game. Woodstock's record was 15-1-1 through 17 games. The Centaurs are ranked No.

1 in Division III in the state. The D-III state tourney is scheduled to begin on March 6.

"If you look at the past state championships in any division over the past couple of years, it all starts with goaltending, it really does," Starr said. "And then you need depth in your lines, and right now we've got some really good depth in our lines."

But Starr has no worries about Wilcox when the state tournament arrives in the

first week of March.

"He's going to have to be on his 'A' game. I have to say there's not many games when he's not," Starr said. "He knows he's got to step up his game and hopefully the kids in front of him respond."

Woodstock Academy honored its upperclassmen on Senior Night in pre-game ceremonies before playing Taconic, Mass., on Feb. 18. The bond between Wilcox and his fellow seniors started way before high school. He started playing with many of his Woodstock teammates over a decade ago. They began together as youngsters with the Griffin Youth Hockey program at Pomfret School's Jahn Rink. Among those skaters who were honored on Senior Night and have teamed with Wilcox through the years include Ryan Black, Nathan DeLuca, Zach Gagnon, Tyler Huhtanen, Will Liscomb, Dawson Normington and Liam Dyer. The bond is strong between the senior cohort.

"That's why we're all are so close because we've known each other for so long," Wilcox said. "I've pretty much know everyone on my team for almost my whole life."

On Senior Night Cal stood on the ice with his parents, Erin and Keith Wilcox, as Woodstock's upperclassmen were recognized in a pre-game ceremony at Jahn Rink — a rink he stepped on at age 4 — the net effect wasn't lost on the Centaurs senior netminder.

"It definitely flew by," Wilcox said. "It just hits you and you're like 'Wow, it's been awhile.'"

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Killingly reaches state tourney by default

BY CHARLIE LENTZ
VILLAGER EDITOR

PLAINFIELD — Killingly High won just seven games and finished the regular season at 7-13 — but 15 teams in Class M earned less wins than the Redmen. And although eight victories are required to guarantee a berth in the state tourney, 32 teams are needed to fill the tourney bracket. Killingly's record ranked it 30th in Class M so coach Jim Crabtree said the Redmen would reach the tourney "by default."

Crabtree would have preferred making the tourney with eight wins — and the Redmen almost got there last Friday night at Plainfield High. Killingly led the Plainfield by one point after three quarters but faltered down the stretch in a 50-40 loss to the Panthers at Plainfield High on Feb. 17. The Redmen fell to Waterford 68-65 in their regular-season finale on Feb. 20.

Senior guard Jared Gosper sank a three-point-

er at the third-quarter buzzer to put Killingly up 34-33 over Plainfield on Feb. 17. But Plainfield outscored Killingly 17-6 in the fourth quarter and dominated the offensive boards in the final frame. "We ran out of energy," Crabtree said. "We went brain dead offensively."

Plainfield put the game away with a physical presence in the paint — and seemed to be the beneficiary of the referees calls. Plainfield went to the foul line 30 times, sinking 16. Killingly went to the foul line just 10 times and connected on six. But Crabtree refused to use the disparity from the foul line as an excuse.

"Things that we did in the defensive set for three and a half quarters, leaving a shooter or finding this guy . . . (Plainfield) had some good size and they didn't make shots early but at the end they made them," Crabtree said. "It was like night and day, three quarters to the fourth quarter."

Killingly could not keep Plainfield junior

forward Chris Peasley off the offensive glass. Peasley scored a game-high 26 points including 11 in the fourth quarter.

"Their offensive rebounding killed us," Crabtree said. "That's energy. That's desire. That's toughness."

With Killingly trailing 37-34, Peasley sank a three-pointer with 5:35 left in the game to push the Panthers lead to 40-34. Killingly senior center Dommoy Ennis answered with a six-foot jump hook with 4:44 left to pull the Redmen within four points, 40-36, but Plainfield outscored Killingly 10-4 over the final four minutes. The win lifted Plainfield's record to 17-2. The Panthers were ranked No. 2 in Class M.

Gosper led Killingly with 18 points but no other Redman finished in double figures.

"We didn't get what we expected out of a couple a guys and we needed it. (Plainfield) stepped up and different guys made shots for them in the

fourth quarter," Crabtree said. "We were only getting it from one or two players."

But as Crabtree said, the Redmen will qualify for the Class M State Tournament "by default." And yet the coach said Killingly might find itself right back here at Plainfield High for a state tourney game. The coach would have preferred eight wins this regular season — the Redmen hope to get a few more in the postseason.

"We've got to work to do on our end. (The state tourney) is a long ways away. We'll see what happens in the ECC Tournament," Crabtree said.

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Charlie Lentz photo

Killingly's Bryan Albee goes up for a shot at Plainfield High last Friday.



Eastern Connecticut Conference Gymnastics Championships

DANIELSON — Woodstock Academy won its eighth straight ECC Gymnastics Championships at Deary’s Gymnastics on Feb. 15.



Charlie Lentz photos

Woodstock’s ECC Champions, from left, Elise Boisvert, Abigail Vaida, Grace Logan, Paige Stuyinski, Ali Crescimanno, Lydia Taft, Jenna Davidson, Maddie Grube (back row), Emily Arters.



Woodstock’s Jenna Davidson



Woodstock’s Lydia Taft



Putnam High’s Maggie McKeon



Woodstock’s Abigail Vaida



Woodstock’s Elise Boisvert



Woodstock’s Ali Crescimanno



Woodstock’s Lydia Taft



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GYMNASTICS

continued from page B1

Woodstock's team includes sophomores Lydia Taft, Abigail Vaida, Ali Crescimanno, Maddie Grube, along with freshmen Jenna Davidson, Elise Boisvert, and Emily Arters. Taft took home an ECC bronze medal in floor exercise (9.55), and placed fourth in the vault (9.45), bars (9.2), and the all-around (36.95). Crescimanno placed fifth in the all-around (35.95). Davidson took sixth place in all-around (35.4).

"The whole team, all nine of them, every single one of them put in something tonight," Fillmore said. "We have such a depth this year, they've had to fight on the team for their own spots."

Stuyniski and Logan can't do it alone. The Centaurs supporting cast will be critical over the next three week-ends.

"It takes a whole team to do well," Logan said. "Their contribution is literally just like the energy and setting us up for just awesomeness."

Stuyniski and Logan both know they're links in a long chain of excellence. Logan recalled Woodstock's win at the New England Championships at Algonquin Regional High in Northborough, Mass., in 2014 — Logan was a freshman and Courtney Osborn and Bree Husson were the senior co-captains she aspired to emulate.

"I remember thinking so highly of Courtney and Bree. I was only a freshman so I really didn't understand how important it was," Logan said.

Osborn finished in

first place in the all-around (38.125) at the 2014 New England's but Stuyniski and Logan made critical contributions at Algonquin High — Stuyniski won gold in floor exercise (9.575) and Logan captured gold in bars (9.725). Now the duo are the wizened veterans.

"Both Grace and I are captains now so we try to lead by example," Stuyniski said. "And help the other girls whenever they need it. We try our best."

Team gold at New England's was won when the duo were freshmen but has eluded the Centaurs the past two seasons.

"It was really frustrating because our freshmen year I think I kind of got like 'Oh, It's not that hard. We can do it again easily.' But there's a lot of good gymnasts in New England. It's hard. You can't have a bad meet and win," Logan said. "You need to do the best you can to win New England's and that's what we're really going to work on this year — is being so consistent that it's not even a question if we're all going to stay on the events."

Stuyniski hoped her experience will lead the Centaurs back to a championship at New England's.

"The first year you never know really what to expect. Now we know what to expect," Stuyniski said. "We know how hard we need to work to get back there and do really well again. I think it's going to be awesome and we're going to end with a bang this year."

Success at New England's will require a team effort.

"It takes a team hitting there. We can't afford those little mistakes," coach Fillmore



Charlie Lentz photo
Woodstock Academy's Grace Logan flips on the beam at the ECC Championships on Feb. 16 in Danielson.

said. "So they know that and it's what they've really been pushing and working towards."

Stuyniski and Logan push each other to do their best — links in a chain of gymnastics dominance.

"It's crazy how much me and Paige are alike. She is just the best teammate you could ever ask for," Logan said. "I want her to do so well, if that makes me be second place that's perfectly fine. There's no stress about who's going to win. We just want one of us to dominate."

From preschool to high school — sandwiched between countless hours at Deary's Gymnastics — the

friendship endures.

"I don't know how that aligned but it's awesome. She's one of the few who's actually stuck with gymnastics," Stuyniski said. "Grace and I have always been together. We were always in the same group, always working out together, at school together — it was crazy. And we're still together. I'm so glad I have her beside me. I don't know what I'm going to do without her and I'm going to miss her next year."

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

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OBITUARIES

Chris Natale Carminati, 89



WOODSTOCK - Chris Natale Carminati, 89, of 7 West View Dr., died, February 15, at Matulaitis Nursing Home. He was predeceased by his loving wife, of 55 years, Ann (Russo) Carminati.

Born in Calabria, Italy, Chris was the son of the late Dominick Carminati and Maria (Montalto) Carminati.

Chris was a graduate of Theodore Roosevelt High School in the Bronx, New York. Although he loved the city, he relocated his family to Woodstock in 1958 when he earned an opportunity to manage the Putnam Herzl Finishing Company located in Putnam. He worked there for 30 years and became Vice President and General Manager of the facility.

Chris always put his family first. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather who lived to enrich and enjoy the lives of his three cherished grandchildren. He and his wife grew to love living in the Quiet Corner as they made so many good friends over the years. Chris enjoyed inviting them into his house for a bite to eat, some cake and coffee, or maybe a drink or two. He also loved sharing holidays with his family and friends. One of his favorite times of year was Christmas. Maybe it was because his birth name "Natale" means Christmas in Italian which is why he was called Chris. In December, he loved decorating his entire house with colorful lights and on Christmas Eve enjoyed the traditional "Feast of the Seven Fishes" meal. On Christmas morning he could not wait to see the joy on his family's faces when they opened their presents. He also looked forward to bringing in each New Year with his family and friends at his annual New Year's Eve party where he would propose a toast for everyone's health and happiness.

For relaxation, Chris loved working on his property, tending to his garden and taking care of his lawn. Maybe that is why no one could ever beat him playing bocce on it. After he retired, he slowly started taking over cooking duties and became an excellent cook. He learned over the years by watching his wife make so many delicious meals. He also loved playing cards and pool at the house. In his younger years he would join a few of his closest friends he referred to as his "Goombadis" for their winter trip hunting deer in upstate New York. Even though he left the Bronx, he liked to stay in touch with the city. Chris enjoyed watching his New York sport teams and followed the Yankees, Giants, Rangers and Knicks. He also looked forward to his morning cup of coffee while reading the New York Post or the Daily News every day. For the last few years of his fulfilling life, Chris resided in the Matulaitis Nursing Home in Putnam, where the staff took such excellent care of him.

Chris is survived by two sons, Vinnie Carminati and his wife Rosemary of Dayville, Tony Carminati of Woodstock; sister, Lena Nilpetcharat of Jupiter, Florida; his two granddaughters, Natalie Carminati and Antonia Carminati and his grandson, Michael Carminati. He was predeceased by his siblings, Terry Carminati, Marion Raimo, Mary Carlucci, Sal Carminati and Tony Carminati.

Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Chris's family on February 18, at the Gilman Funeral Home, which was followed by a Mass of Christian Burial in Most Holy Trinity Church, Pomfret. Burial will take place in the Spring at the Elmvale Cemetery in Woodstock. Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, CT Chapter, 200 Executive Blvd., Southington, CT 06460. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com

Leonard G. Bissonnette, 77

BROOKLYN -- Leonard G. Bissonnette, age 77, died February 16. He leaves his wife of 54 years, Aida C. (Perreault) Bissonnette of Brooklyn, two sons, Jeffrey and his wife Jennifer Bissonnette of West Hartford, Marc and his wife Nancy Bissonnette of Warenton, Virginia; a daughter, Krista Estabrooks of Brooklyn; eight grandchildren. He also leaves a sister, Claire Mondor of Danielson. He was predeceased by two brothers, Roland Bissonnette of Danielson and Theodore Bissonnette of Killingly, and a sister, Jane Racicot of Brooklyn.

He was born in Dayville, son of the late Albert and Aldea Bissonnette and lived in Brooklyn since 1968, prior to that living in Killingly. He was U.S. Air Force Veteran. He enjoyed cabinet restoration and was a contractor most of his life working commercially. He was a former member of the Zoning

Board in Brooklyn, was a life member of the NRA. He enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, nature and feeding the birds.

There are no calling hours. A Mass will be held Wednesday, March 8, at 10:30 AM in Saint James Church, Franklin St., Danielson. Burial in Holy Cross Cemetery, will be private for the family only. Omit flowers and donations may be made in his memory, to the St. Jude Children's Hospital. Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street, Webster, Mass., has been entrusted with his arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may light a candle or post a condolence.



Marie (LeVasseur) Cote, 88



BROOKLYN -- Marie (LeVasseur) Cote, 88, of Brooklyn died February 15, at Davis Place in Danielson. Beloved wife of Paul E. Cote, he died April 21, 2016. She was born December 6, 1928 in Van Buren, Maine, daughter of the late Ernest and Emily (Gervais) LeVasseur.

Marie was a communicant of Our Lady of La Salette Church in Brooklyn. She worked as a bus driver for Brooklyn Schools for 11 years. Marie loved her children.

She leaves her son Timothy Ward of Connecticut, siblings Norman

LeVasseur of Maryland, Marcella Walz of West Hartford, Anne-Marie Fene of Atlanta, Georgia, Martha Grimaldi of Windsor, Priscilla Hughes of East Long Meadow, Massachusetts, grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her children Michael Ward and Kathleen Barry, siblings Ernest, Louis, Connie, Joseph, and Philip LeVasseur, Hope Bronson, Adrienne Sparne and Amanda Allen.

A Funeral was held Monday at Gagnon and Costello Funeral Home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of La Salette Church, 21 Providence Road, Brooklyn. Burial in Holy Cross Cemetery, Danielson. Calling Hours were held on Sunday, February 19. Share a memory at www.gagnonandcostellofh.com

Francesco (Frank) Marchionni, 70



P U T N A M - Francesco Marchionni, age 70, passed away on Saturday February 18, peacefully at Matulaitis Nursing Home. He formerly lived in East Killingly. He was

born May 31, 1946, son of the late Mario and Giovanna (Amici) Marchionni in the town of Palombara Sabina, Rome, Italy.

He is survived by his sister Anna Belotti of Palombara Sabina, Rome, Italy. His two daughters and son in laws Brenda and Larry Wallace of Danielson, Lynn and Noel Marino of Ledyard. His grandchildren Meagan, Eiel, Brandon, Tianna, and a great granddaughter Jorgina, and compan-

ion Eunice Brown, several nieces and nephews.

He worked for Amtrak railroad for 40 years. He was a parishioner of St. Joseph's Church in Dayville. He was a member of the Putnam Elks, he enjoyed many days riding his motorcycle and being with his family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Matulaitis Resident Recreation Fund. Frank enjoyed the many people there at Matulitis (Where good conquers) with a special thank you to all the A wing nursing and staff and all the facility staff.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday February 25, 2017 at 10:00 AM at St. Joseph's Church, 350 Hartford Pike, Dayville, CT. Tillinghastfh.com



DANIELSON -- Madeline P. (White) Bennette, 86, died Sunday, February 19.

She leaves three daughters, Yvette and her husband Rollin Fox of Dayville, Linda Genne of Danielson.

Carol and her husband Roger Hart of Dayville; nine grandchildren, Yvette, Rollin, Thomas, Jennifer, Jason, Kimberly, Dana, Ryan, and Gary; twenty-two great grandchildren.

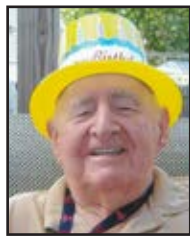
She was born in New London, and

lived in Putnam before moving to Danielson one year ago. She was a textile worker for many years. She enjoyed crossword puzzles, puzzles, knitting crocheting and her cat Angel.

There are no calling hours. A Celebration of life will be announced. Omit flowers and donations may be made in her memory to the MSPCA. Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street, Webster has been entrusted with arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may light a candle or post a condolence message.

Madeline P. (White) Bennette, 86

Theodore P. Mellen, 103



DANIELSON - Theodore P. Mellen, 103, of Birchwood Terrace, died Monday, February 13, at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam. He was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts

on August 31, 1913, son of the late Peter and Blanche (Piche) Mellen. Theodore was married to the late Lillian (Brown) Mellen who passed away April 2, 2009. He worked as an aircraft engine mechanic at Pratt &

Whitney for many years, retiring in 1976. He was an avid sports fan and loved to travel. Theodore is survived by his children, Barbara Knoll of Lafayette, Colorado, Carol Patten of Derry, New Hampshire, James Mellen of Brooklyn, Marvin Mellen of New Hampshire and Kathleen Campbell of East Hartford, nine grandchildren, many great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. Funeral services and burial will be held at a later date. There are no calling hours. Tillinghast Funeral Home, 433 Main St., Danielson is in charge of arrangements.

Harry G. Chartier, 75

BROOKLYN - Harry G. Chartier, 75, of Brooklyn, passed away Sunday at Hartford Hospital. He was born in Norwich on January 31, 1942, son of the late Harold and Elsie (Coombs) Chartier. Mr. Chartier worked as a waiter for many years. He is survived by his sisters, Arlene Gallant

of Brooklyn, Shirley Brown of San Antonio, Texas, and many nieces and nephews. Funeral service was held on Thursday in Tillinghast Funeral Home in Danielson. Burial will be in Hanover Cemetery. Calling hours were held Wednesday at the funeral home. Tillinghastfh.com

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LEGALS

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ESTATE OF OLIVER E. MAY
(17-00024)

The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated February 14, 2017, 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.

Janis E. Beltis, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Kathy A. Gallant
c/o Gabrielle Labonte, Esq.,
5 Vina Lane, PO Box 709,
Brooklyn, CT 06234
February 24, 2017

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF CONSTANCE J.
ROSEN LUND (17-00013)

The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated February 17, 2017, 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.

Janis E. Beltis, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Pamela J. Rosenlund
c/o William H. St. Onge, Esq.,
St. Onge & Brouillard, PO Box 550,
Putnam, CT 06260
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FAMILY

Friendships Come In All Dimensions— Sometimes In The Most Unlikely Sizes

(NAPS) What is so fascinating about unlikely friendships? Is it that opposites attract? Does it point to hidden mutual respect? Unlikely animal friendships have long held a particular fascination, documented with countless funny and adorable videos: a cat adopting baby ducks, a Labrador and an elephant, a baby lamb and a pig, a giraffe and an ostrich.

Child and adolescent psychotherapist Katie Hurley, a parenting expert and author of “The Happy Kid Handbook: How to Raise Joyful Children in a Stressful World,” notes “The wonderful thing about being a child is that friendships form just about everywhere! So it’s important to allow kids the space to form new relationships, even if they don’t appear picture perfect from the outside looking in.”

Nothing tells us more about this than characters in movies. Walt Disney Studios and Pixar have many improbable couplings in their tales. In “Finding Dory,” the mischievous Septopus Hank reluctantly befriends scatterbrained Dory, yet they overcome their struggles and help each other grow in wonderful ways. “Lilo & Stitch” brings a little girl and an alien together and the resulting bond teaches them companionship and understanding. “Toy Story” finds Woody and Buzz ultimately setting aside their differences and realizing they were meant to be friends all along. In “Ratatouille,” a human befriends a rat. Rats are unwelcome in all places, especially the kitchen. But Remy and Linguini find that love and compatibility can be found anywhere.

Disney’s “The BFG” and its remake of the classic “Pete’s Dragon”—both available November 29 on Blu-ray, Digital HD & Disney Movies



Disney’s “The BFG” (Big Friendly Giant) movie helps children understand that differences don’t have to stand in the way of friendship and fun.

So does the live-action remake of the animated classic “Pete’s Dragon.”

Anywhere—add beautifully to this legacy.

“The BFG” (Big Friendly Giant), directed by Steven Spielberg, is based on the beloved children’s classic by Roald Dahl. “The BFG” tells the story of a courageous and spirited orphan, Sophie, and the kind giant who becomes her protector. While initially afraid, Sophie comes to over-

look the superficial homely

appearance of the BFG and to appreciate his noble intentions. The BFG and, Sophie, are actually very similar—both are lonely and yearn for the connection and safety of a friend, which they’re able to find in each other.

“Pete’s Dragon” is a reimagining of Disney’s cherished animated and live-action film—the adventures of an orphaned boy named Pete and his best friend

Elliot, who just happens to be a dragon. Pete and Elliot belong to two different worlds but they still manage to build a foundation of love, compassion, caring and friendship. Both have lost those closest to them and are able to find comfort in each other.

Hurley adds, “As these movies so creatively suggest, helping children open up to aligning with someone different can

result in a whole new way of looking at things.” Here are some ways parents can encourage children to connect with a world outside the immediate family:

Be Open-Minded. Find ways to help your child identify the differences between themselves and prospective friends and look for ways those differences can make playing together more fun.

Adopt Optimism. A person different from your child doesn’t have to be viewed as a stranger. If he or she is friendly and open, everything else should fall into place.

Make It About Others. Help your child figure out how to show interest in someone else. Simple starter questions like “what are your favorite games?” or “do you like outdoor or indoor games better?” can prompt a lively discussion.

Make Them Laugh. Laughter makes conversation fun and joyful. Encourage your children to be silly, to share their sense of humor with others and to not take anything too seriously—just have fun with getting to know others!

Initiate Hang-Out Time. Help your child be brave enough to make the first move and invite a new friend to spend time together. Whatever the activity, the important thing is bonding. And if you support it, they’re more apt to take the chance and see what happens.

Discover Mutual Passions. If your son or daughter sees a new friend light up when talking about something, encourage your child to ask more questions about the subject. Or if there’s a key word that provides a clue to their friend’s interest, suggest they use that to talk more in detail. You’ll be surprised how helpful that can be in fostering a meaningful connection.

Homeschooling—The Original School Choice



For many parents, when it comes to a quality education for their children, there’s no place like home.

(NAPS)

While many families are considering area schools for their children, an increasing number of families are opting to homeschool their children. Since its rebirth in the 1970s, homeschooling has rapidly grown. Currently, more than 2.3 million students are involved in K–12 home education. More than 2,000 homeschool groups across the country are participating in National School Choice Week 2017 this week, highlighting an educational option that has been effective for their children and families.

Why is homeschooling becoming so popular? Many parents say they like being able to customize their children’s education in pace and curriculum and achieve more academically.

The freedom and flexibility that homeschool students experience allow them to progress academically at their own pace, taking 6th grade math and 5th grade reading in the same year, for example, or working through part of the summer to catch up or move ahead.

Homeschooling is legal in all 50 states, and the advantages speak for themselves. On standardized tests, homeschool students typically score in percentiles 15 to 30 points above their peers in public school, and they routinely score higher than aver-

age on college admissions tests like the ACT and SAT.

“All parents want to provide the best education for their children, and for many families, that means homeschooling,” said Andrew Campanella, president of National School Choice Week. “The time management and academic initiative that many homeschoolers develop set them up very well for further education and a career.”

Homeschool students participate in a variety of social activities, with their homeschool groups, churches, scouts, 4-H, sports teams, and art or music programs.

While homeschooling may seem like a daunting project for families just beginning to explore their options, it doesn’t have to be. More experienced homeschool parents and homeschool group leaders are usually eager to help new parents find the resources they need. For more information about National School Choice Week events in the area, including homeschool events, visit www.schoolchoiceweek.com.

National School Choice Week is an independent public awareness effort. The Week is nonpartisan and nonpolitical, and NSCW does not advocate for legislation.

Junior Achievement Reaches 100 Million Student Milestone

(NAPS)

Were you in Junior Achievement?

Since its inception in 1919, Junior Achievement (JA) has helped inspire more than 100 million young people with its programs focused on entrepreneurship, financial literacy and work readiness. Now, JA is hoping to engage these former students, today’s JA Alumni, as volunteers to inspire and prepare today’s young people for success.

JA programs have been demonstrated to have a great impact on students. According to a survey of more than 700 JA Alumni conducted by JA USA, former JA students are 30 percent more likely to have a four-year degree, earn about 20 percent more than the average American, and are 2½ times more likely to be involved in starting a business. Additionally, about one in three (30 percent) JA Alumni say their involvement with Junior Achievement influenced their career decision and one in five (20 percent) work in the same career field as the JA volunteer they had in school.

“Our alumni are an important constituent group for Junior Achievement,” said Jack E. Kosakowski, president and CEO of Junior Achievement USA. “With our 100th anniversary coming up in 2019, we invite anyone who had a JA program during his or her school years to reconnect with Junior Achievement. Our goal is to engage with alumni to help empower local students to own their economic success.”

Given the overall gains demonstrated by JA Alumni when compared to the general public, plus the benefits that many JA Alumni themselves attribute to their JA experience, what better way to engage today’s youth than through those who have already reaped its benefits?

Did JA make a difference in your life? Do you want to reconnect with JA? You are encouraged to find out more by visiting www.JA.org/Alumni, or by contacting your local Junior Achievement office.



Kids who join groups such as Junior Achievement are more likely to finish college and to start a business.

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2014 Toyota Corolla LE I-4 cyl, auto, front-wheel drive, 54K miles, A266590A	2012 Ford Escape Ltd SUV I-4 cyl, 6 sp auto, 42K miles, A266987A	2013 Chevrolet Camaro 1LT Coupe V-6 cyl, 6 sp auto, rear-wheel drive, 55K miles, A3952A	2012 Honda Crosstour 2.4 SUV I-4 cyl, 5 sp auto, front-wheel drive, 54K miles, A266462B	2012 Nissan Maxima 3.5 Sedan V-6 cyl, con var auto, front wheel drive, 54K miles, A4077A	2013 Toyota Camry SE I-4 cyl, auto, front-wheel drive, 32K miles, Carfax 1 owner, A4037	2015 Toyota RAV4 LE (A6) SUV I-4 cyl, auto, all wheel drive, 67K miles, Carfax 1 owner, A267159A	2015 Ford Escape SE SUV I-4 cyl, 6 sp auto, 4x4, 24K miles, Carfax 1-owner, A266109A
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