

The Sculpture Affair merges art and nature



Photo Rebecca Ramsey

This year, to celebrate the arts, the town of Putnam has decided to set up an outdoor exhibit along the Putnam River Trail and downtown. This large-scale exhibit, called the “Sculpture Affair,” displays 20 unique metal sculptures along two miles of woodland, parks, and historic mills.

BY REBECCA RAMSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM — The flutter of a passing bird’s wings, the warmth of a summer breeze, the tumble of a nearby river—there is something calming and special about taking a stroll through nature. Throughout the years, millions of artists have strained their skills attempting to capture the allure of a sylvan landscape, but all their attempts—though lovely—fall short when compared to the real thing.

This year, to celebrate the arts, the town of Putnam has decided to combine the two—nature with its manmade interpretation—

by setting up an outdoor exhibit along the Putnam River Trail and downtown. This large-scale exhibit, called the “Sculpture Affair,” displays 20 unique metal sculptures along two miles of woodland, parks, and historic mills. The sculptures feature woodland animals, including a fox, dog, cat, bear, and owl, as well as more symbolic pieces such as two birds resting on a heart.

Each sculpture was originally designed, laser cut, TIG welded, and hand finished by local Massachusetts artist and professional metal sculptor Dale Rogers. His work is currently displayed in private collections in 46

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Putnam, Woodstock get a holiday makeover

BY REBECCA RAMSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

REGION — Putnam and Woodstock are getting an early Christmas makeover this July for the filming of the Hallmark movie “A Royal Holiday,” starring Laura Osnes, Aaron Tveit, and Krystal Joy Brown. Even during the late summer heat, sidewalks and brick walls are lined with white, puffy snow, and candy canes and tinsel are in abundance, showing that the movie’s production team have been hard at work.

According to Kate Eisemann, the location scout for the up and coming love story, the film will be released around the end of fall or shortly before Christmas. She said she chose Putnam and Woodstock because the areas create the perfect, hometown backdrop for the film. While walking around the area, she has enjoyed meeting locals and visiting the scenic places around town.

“Everybody’s been very accommodating. So, thank you, Putnam; thank you, Woodstock!” Eisemann said.

Information about the plot or what locations will appear in the film have not yet been made public, but locals have seen green screens and decorations set up around town. Woodstock First Selectman Jay Swan has confirmed plans to close Cemetery Road at some point. He has also confirmed that a scene was filmed at the Christmas Barn on Route 169.

The Loos Center for the Arts and areas of North Campus will also be used for filming, according to Woodstock Academy Head of School Chris Sandford. For the most part, locations are kept secret to prevent crowds from forming.

“A Royal Holiday” is among Hallmark’s 23 new movies debuting this holiday season. This number, in addition to 17 new Hallmark Movies & Mysteries premiers, is on track to tie the network’s record-setting number of 40 new films last year. Several of the films were already produced earlier this year, and pre-production is speeding up for many others for later this season. Both Hallmark Channel’s “Countdown to Christmas” and Hallmark Movies & Mysteries’ “Miracles of Christmas” are scheduled to kick off on Friday, Oct. 23.

Besides “A Royal Holiday,” seven other Hallmark movies have been filmed in Connecticut in previous years, including “Rediscovering Christmas,” filmed in Wethersfield and Hartford in 2019, and “Romance at Reindeer Lodge,” filmed in North Haven and Branford in 2017. But for Woodstock and Putnam, receiving this much attention from Hollywood is brand new. Many residents are looking forward to watching the classic love story this holiday season and seeing how Hallmark captured the beauty of their local towns.

Second Chance Nutrition announces Grand Opening

BY REBECCA RAMSEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER



Photo Courtesy

Schaniece Rodriguez, owner of Second Chance Nutrition.

WOODSTOCK— Schaniece Rodriguez remembers walking into a nutritional shop several years ago. At her heaviest weight, she was desperately searching for a way to look and feel stronger and more confident. Stepping into that shop was the beginning of her transformational journey toward a healthier lifestyle. It truly was her second chance at life.

“It changed my life completely,” she said.

After finding success through nutritional substitutes, Rodriguez wanted to share her experience with others and help them overcome their own unhealthy habits. She began diligently pursuing a business where she could guide others toward the success she herself had found.

Several years later, Rodriguez’s dream is finally fulfilled in her own nutritional shop in Woodstock.

She called the shop Second Chance Nutrition after her own second chance at health. She began serving the community energizing teas and full meal replacement shakes on July 18, but the store’s grand opening will take place on Aug. 2.

“I love all the things we offer,” said Rodriguez, “but I enjoy our teas mostly. As a mother of three, I need all the ener...

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Wildlife habitat protected in Pomfret

POMFRET CENTER—Pomfret’s wildlife habitat just got a helping hand thanks to the acquisition of land by the Wyndham Land Trust. The 9.5-acre property acquired by the Wyndham Land Trust sits on Harrisville Road in Pomfret and is adjacent to their existing Aicher and Holzer preserves. The three parcels combine to protect a total of 220 acres of valuable forest and farmland in the heart of Pomfret. The property belonged to Pomfret realtor Cici Cole who passed away in December of 2019. Local residents were alarmed when For Sale signs appeared in May, and they realized that the fragile habitat could quickly be replaced by house lots. The neighbors banded together with conservation-minded citizens of Windham County, the Town of Pomfret, friends of Bird Conservation Research Inc., and the Wyndham Land Trust to raise the funds to purchase the property. “It was heartening to see the community pull together in a short period of time to protect this valuable land,” said Wyndham Land Trust President Mike St. Lawrence. “It was an example of how a group of peo-



Photo Courtesy

The new acquisition is adjacent to existing protected forest and farmland in Pomfret.

ple with a common vision can make a difference. Future generations will thank them for their foresight.” “Through acquisition of this land, a contiguous band of natural habitat now exists,” said Bird Conservation Research Director Robert Craig. “The importance of parcel size for the protection of wildlife has been demonstrated by multiple studies and is a key principle in the field of conservation biology.”

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Memories of a favorite local restaurant

First, I'd like to make a correction to something that appeared in the July 10 Killingly at 300 column. Bernie Mitchell, president of the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, said that the proprietor of Roy's Fruit Stand was George Roy, not Turcotte. His wife Flora's maiden name was Turcotte. Bernie added that prior to having the fruit stand, "Roy" worked out of a truck, picking up produce in Providence and following his regularly established routes. (conversation, July 22). Wouldn't that option be wonderful in this summer of Pandemic? I remember growing up in Pennsylvania that my mother had an egg man, a potato chip/pretzel man, a milk man and a cleaner that all made regular stops at the house. What other deliverymen do you recall in Killingly?

Despite all the changes to our lifestyle lately, the Killingly Conservation Commission has been able to continue with some of its regular activities. They recently awarded their Environmental Award to Ralph S. Chartier, a 12-year member of the Commission. According to Commission Chairwoman Donna Bronwell, Ralph, A certified Master Gardner, has always been willing to share his knowledge and experiences about plants and flowers bringing articles from publications and attending workshops on related conservation topics. He worked many hours helping to clear what is now Cat Hollow Park and has helped clear and maintain trails at Killingly's many other open spaces. (email July 21). Ralph, thank you for all

your hard work and dedication to preserving Killingly's past.

In addition to writing about our past, I am challenged to note significant current events. It's sad but say, but one of Killingly's restaurants was destroyed by fire on Friday, July 17 (Norwich Bulletin, July 18). Thai Basil, owned by Lin Realty LLC, was located at 187 North St. in Danielson near the railroad tracks and not far from the former Connecticut Mills/Powdrell & Alexander mill complex which is no longer standing. According to the Bulletin, the building was constructed in 1985, but was not used as a restaurant until the following decade.

Bernie Mitchell recalled when the restaurant was the Fireman's Family Restaurant. An entry in the Killingly Business Encyclopedia by Natalie Coolidge provides the following: "South Killingly Fire Chief William Auclair, firefighter Arthur Nason, and firefighter Jason McNally have opened the doors to Danielson's latest business--Fireman's Family Restaurant. The entrance is marked by two fire hydrants and the dining room is lined with photos and memorabilia showing the history of local fire departments..." (from Norwich Bulletin Oct. 2, 1999). Please share your memories about these two



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restaurants and others that were situated on the premises. We do not seem to have a record of that at the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center.

Once again, I'm browsing through microfilms from the early 20th century; this time I chose July 1918. Keep in mind that during that summer we are still in the midst of World War I; the following articles reflect that. "Joining Merchant Marine. Young men here continue to show interest in the merchant marine service. A. W. Williams, the local recruiting officer, has sent out a considerable number of men, and they are unanimous in expressing their liking for the service. Truman Lyon who went in some time ago as a fireman, has been advanced to be an instructor on one of the training ships working out of Boston, and is now being well paid, though in the service but a short time. No men in this service receives less than \$40 a month, and there is a (?) per cent bonus for service in the war zone. Some of the boys who went in the service early in the spring have completed their training course, which is only 30 days, and already have () trips to South America and to other distant points. They are helping with the war, are seeing the world, getting better than army or navy pay for the same grades, are well fed, have good beds to sleep in and declare that 'this is the life'. Men are still being accepted for this service and many () be needed to man the host of ships being built and launched at American yards." (Norwich Bulletin, Thursday, July 11, 1918, p. 8; newspapers.com).

Young women were also being given opportunities to assist with the War effort. The July 30, 1918 issue of the Norwich Bulletin carried this article, "This morning there will begin in Killingly a campaign to recruit volunteers for the Student Nurses' Reserve. This campaign is being conducted by Mrs. Miranda C. Butler Robinson, who will have the assistance of able workers in Danielson and all over town. Enrollment stations have been

arranged as follows: Danielson, Red Cross Chapter Rooms over Windham County National Bank; St. James Parish Hall, Mrs. Morin in charge; Dayville Congregational Church (parlor?); Attawaugan, home of Mrs. Charles S. Blackmar; Ballouville, home of Mrs. Hector McConnell; Goodyear, Goodyear Social Club; East Killingly, Union Baptist Church parlor; South Killingly, Rev. Lydia Hartig; Connecticut Mills, Miss Mary Morris..." "Those who volunteer will receive a complete training course, extending from two to three years, and will receive it without expense as uniforms and text books will be supplied them, as of course, their living expense. Young women between the ages of 19 and 25 are wanted. The volunteers must have had high school training at least, but those who have had college courses are preferred." (p. 8; newspapers.com).

We've had several heat waves this month and apparently July 1918 was not very cool either. "Danielson experienced another day of terrific heat Monday, when the temperature ran up to 97."

That same week residents of Danielson were awaiting a new post office (location unknown). "The task of moving into the new post office is underway. And it is expected that it will be completed during Wednesday night so that the new quarters will be ready for occupancy Thursday, August 1." (Norwich Bulletin, July 30, 1918, p. 8; newspapers.com).

The mail is being checked. Please send your membership renewals to P.O. Box 265 Danielson, CT 06239.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, July 2020. Special thanks to Bernie Mitchell. For additional information email me at margaretm-weaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org. or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, Connecticut 06239

SCULPTURE

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states and four countries and on public display in over 100 communities in 27 states.

According to the Putnam Arts Council, the idea for a sculpture trail had been in the works for some time, but it had yet to become a reality due to lack of funding. This year, since many big-crowd events were canceled, the town decided to use the money usually donated for those purposes to fund the sculptures exhibit. Price Chopper, Wheelabrator, and Putnam Bank also provided funding for the sculptures, which cost about \$15,000 to rent from the artist.

Putnam is known for its unique and popular celebrations such as River

Fires, Holiday Dazzle Light Parade, Pumpkin Festival, Fire & Ice, Zombie Fashion Show, Savor the Flavor, Holiday Strolls, and more. Putnam Recreation Director Willie Bousquet was glad that the town and its sponsors were able to continue the fun this year despite the current crisis. In fact, with so many people visiting parks and nature trails, the Sculpture Affair came at the perfect time.

Since the display became open to the public on July 4, children and adults have been enjoying the beauty of the Putnam River Trail made even more enjoyable through the addition of Dale Roger's bigger than life geometric sculptures. It is truly a sight to see.

The exhibit will stay on display until Sept. 4. Maps showing the locations of the sculptures are available online and in local Putnam stores and restaurants.

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Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of July 20: Cerulean Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Red-shouldered Hawk, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Redstart, Bobolink, Cedar Waxwing, Wood Pewee, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Barn Swallow, Carolina Wren, Baltimore Oriole. Visit ctaudubon.org.

Steeple Chase Bike Tour unveils supported 20-Mile “Faith Ride”

WILLIMANTIC — The Aug. 15 Steeple Chase Bike Tour, which became a virtual event in 2020 amid Coronavirus concerns, today announced that it will offer one supported route for cyclists. The event’s popular 20-mile route has been renamed the “Faith Ride” for 2020 in loving memory of one of the event’s founders, Faith Austin, who died earlier this year. The route will be marked with directional arrows, and one rest stop will be open for riders from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“Faith Austin played a critical role in establishing this fundraiser, which is celebrating its 29th anniversary this year,” explains Dan Gerwien, chairman of the planning committee. “Her husband Ed came up with the idea for the event and she worked tirelessly with him for well over 20 years planning and executing each year’s Steeple Chase. Faith worked with Dave Stevens to establish the Holy Cow Shelter on Bassetts Bridge Road in Mansfield – one of the busiest rest stops on the tour where riders from every route except the Century stop for a break. She also created the recipe for Steeple Chase power bars that we still offer every year. We are so grateful for all she did to make this fundraiser a success, raising over \$1.6 million for human services in the Windham region, and are thrilled to offer this one in-person route in her honor.”

The Faith Ride travels more than 20-miles through Willimantic, Mansfield, Chaplin, and South Windham. It’s one rest stop for 2020 will be the Holy Cow Family Shelter on Bassetts Bridge Road in Mansfield -- the rest stop Faith Austin helped run, very near her home. To view or download the route, go to <https://steeplechasebiketour.org/20-mile-tour/>.

The Steeple Chase Ride/Walk benefits three critical human service orga-



nizations in northeast Connecticut. The Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation will match every dollar raised by participants and sponsors, doubling proceeds. All proceeds will be used to help people struggling with drug addiction, homelessness, mental health challenges, and poverty.

In a normal year, Steeple Chase cyclists and walkers of all ages and abilities would choose from pre-planned 20, 35, 50, 62.5 or 100-mile bike routes through eastern Connecticut or a 5-mile walk through Willimantic. This year, participants can ride wherever they want – through their neighborhood or hometown, on one of Connecticut’s traffic-free Rail Trails like the Hop River or the Airline Trail, or along one of the routes detailed on the Steeple Chase website. (The original five routes for

the tour are posted on the event website, www.steeplechasebiketour.org.) Participants can also ride or walk whenever they want, starting and finishing their route at a convenient time.

For those choosing to ride a Steeple Chase route, parking is available at the Park & Ride lot located on the corner of Route 195 and South Frontage Road in Mansfield. This is the closest public parking lot to the Steeple Chase’s normal day-of venue, the ECSU Athletic Complex on Mansfield City Road. Parking at the ECSU Athletic Complex will be closed this year due to COVID-19.

By reg-

istering online at www.bikereg.com/46719 or www.steeplechasebiketour.org/registration, and asking friends, family, employers and others to sponsor the ride, Steeple Chase participants can generate desperately needed funds for the Windham No Freeze Project (www.windhamnofreeze.com), Windham Area Interfaith Ministry/WAIM (www.waimct.org) and Perception Programs (www.perceptionprograms.com).

Pre-registration for the event is \$25 for individual riders or walkers. In addition to registration, each rider is asked to raise a minimum of \$75 in donations. Online registration for the Steeple Chase will continue through August 14 at www.steeplechasebiketour.org and www.bikereg.com/46719.

The Steeple Chase benefits from the generosity of corporate sponsors and donors including The Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation, IT Direct, The Chronicle, Thread City Cyclists, Home Selling Team, Sarazin General Contractors, and many others. Companies and organizations interested in sponsorship should call Perception Programs at 860-450-7122.

For more information, visit www.steeplechasebiketour.org, call (860) 450-7122, email steeple.chase@perceptionprograms.org, or follow the event on Facebook @SCbiketour, Twitter @SCbiketour, Instagram @steeplechasebiketour, and on LinkedIn.

HABITAT

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The land trust recognizes the importance of local agriculture and plans to preserve the open fields that cover much of the new property. “We will work with a local farmer to keep the large field in hay,” said Andy Rzeznikiewicz, the land manager for the land trust. “In the small field we will work with the American Chestnut Foundation and the State University of New York to raise chestnut trees that might show resistance to the blight that decimated them across the country 100 years ago.”

The Wyndham Land Trust was formed in 1975 and now protects more than 4,500 acres in Northeastern Connecticut. The work of the all-volunteer group is possible through the generosity and dedication of its members and donors. To learn more about the Wyndham Land Trust, visit wyndhamlandtrust.org. You can also follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

POLICE LOGS

PUTNAM — The Putnam Police Department reports the following recent arrests.

Alan Talbot, age 56, of Coventry was arrested on July 21 for Criminal Trespassing in the Third Degree and Larceny in the Sixth Degree.

Jacob Winchell, age 28, of Sterling was arrested on July 22 for Operating Under the Influence, Drinking While Operating, and Breach of Peace.

Joshua Palmieri, age 31, of Putnam was arrested on July 24 for Risk of Injury to a Minor, Strangulation in the Second Degree, and Breach of Peace.

Monique Muscara, age 47, of Webster, Mass. was arrested on July 24 for Operating Under the Influence.

Jeremy Lavallee, age 25, of Webster, Mass. was arrested on July 25 for Breach of Peace in the Second Degree and Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree.

Edward Chartier, age 47, of Danielson was arrested on July 25 for Operating Under the Influence.

Richard Newsome, age 42, of Putnam was arrested on July 25 for Breach of Peace in the Second Degree and Interfering with an Officer.

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Investing in your financial life goals

As July comes to an end, so does our discussion this month about mid-year planning. Our goal for these articles is to equip our readers with practical strategies to empower them to Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well.TM With the strategies from this month, you can estimate your retirement income needs, monitor your portfolio, strengthen your investment-focused traits, and now, establish your financial life goals – all while navigating the difficulties and effects of the COVID pandemic. A goals-based investment approach can help you stay focused on the future and confident in your portfolio.

How do you set goals? The first step in investing is defining your dreams for the future. If you are married or in a long-term relationship, spend some time together discussing your joint and individual goals. It's best to be as specific as possible. For instance, you may know you want to retire, but when? If you want to send your child to college, does that mean an Ivy League school or community college? You'll end up with a list of goals. Some of these goals will be long-term (you have more than 5 years to plan) and some will be short-term (five years or less to plan). You can then decide how much money you'll need to accumulate and which investments can best help you meet your goals. Remember that there can be no guarantee that any investment strategy will be successful and that all

investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Looking forward to retirement After a hard day at the office, do you ask, "Is it time to retire yet?" Retirement may seem a long way off, but it's never too early to start planning — especially if you want your retirement to be a secure one. The sooner you start, the more ability you have to let time do some of the work of making your money grow. Let's say that your goal is to retire at age 65 with \$500,000 in your retirement fund. At age 25 you decide to begin contributing \$250 per month to your company's 401(k) plan. If your investment earns 6 percent per year, compounded monthly, you would have more than \$500,000 in your 401(k) account when you retire. (This is a hypothetical example, of course, and does not represent the results of any specific investment.) But what would happen if you left things to chance instead? Let's say you wait until you're 35 to begin investing. Assuming you contributed the same amount to your 401(k) and the rate of return on your investment dollars was the same, you would end up with only about half the amount in the first example. Though it's never too late to start working toward your goals, as you can see, early decisions can have enormous consequences later on.



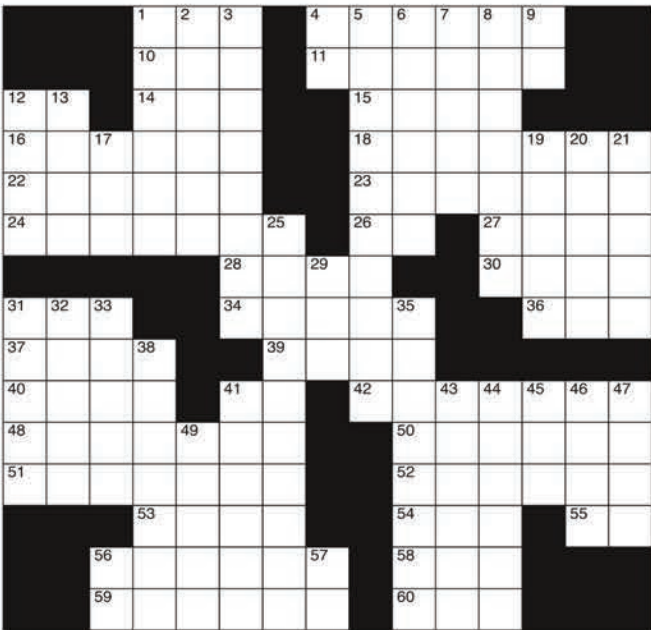
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JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

Some other points to keep in mind as you're planning your retirement saving and investing strategy include: Plan for a long life. Average life expectancies in this country have been increasing for years and many people live even longer than those averages. Think about how much time you have until retirement, then invest accordingly. For instance, if retirement is a long way off and you can handle some risk, you might choose to put a larger percentage of your money in stock (equity) investments that, though more volatile, offer a higher potential for long-term return than do more conservative investments. Conversely, if you're nearing retirement, a greater portion of your nest egg might be devoted to investments focused on income and preservation of your capital. Consider how inflation will affect your retirement savings. When determining how much you'll need to save for retirement, don't forget that the higher the cost of living, the lower your real rate of return on your investment dollars. Facing the truth about college savings Whether you're saving for a child's education or planning to return to school yourself, paying tuition costs definitely requires forethought — and the sooner the better. With college costs typically rising faster than the rate of inflation, getting an early start and understanding how to use tax advantages and investment

strategy to make the most of your savings can make an enormous difference in reducing or eliminating any post-graduation debt burden. The more time you have before you need the money, the more you're able to take advantage of compounding to build a substantial college fund. With a longer investment time frame and a tolerance for some risk, you might also be willing to put some of your money into investments that offer the potential for growth. Consider these tips as well: Estimate how much it will cost to send your child to college and plan accordingly. Estimates of the average future cost of tuition at two-year and four-year public and private colleges and universities are widely available. Research financial aid packages that can help offset part of the cost of college. Although there's no guarantee your child will receive financial aid, at least you'll know what kind of help is available should you need it. Look into state-sponsored tuition plans that put your money into investments tailored to your financial needs and time frame. For instance, most of your dollars may be allocated to growth investments initially; later, as your child approaches college, more conservative investments can help conserve principal. Think about how you might resolve conflicts between goals. For instance, if you need to save for your child's education and your own retirement at the same time, how will you do it? Investing for something big At some point, you'll probably want to buy a home, a car, maybe even that yacht that you've always wanted. Although they're hardly impulse items, large purchases often have a shorter time frame than other financial goals; one to five years is common.

Because you don't have much time to invest, you'll have to budget your investment dollars wisely. Rather than choosing growth investments, you may want to put your money into less volatile, highly liquid investments that have some potential for growth, but that offer you quick and easy access to your money should you need it. Goals-based investment approach A goals-based investment approach is one whose foundation is tailored to the future you want. Every person has unique financial life goals; they should have a unique investment strategy as well. As our discussion of mid-year planning comes to an end, take some time to think about your financial life goals, and consider how they are reflected in your investment strategy. For more information and strategies for financial planning, visit our website www.whzwealth.com/resources. If you are interested in working with a financial advisor, call us at 860-928-2341 or email us at info@whzwealth.com.

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Central processing unit
4. Military action
10. How electricity gets to train carriages (abbr.)
11. Unsafe
12. Of (French)
14. Autonomic nervous system
15. Type of bean
16. Accuse formally of a crime
18. Promote
22. Type of lava
23. Meat from a deer
24. Herbaceous plants
26. Potato state
27. Helsinki neighborhood
28. Sports officials
30. Shout wildly
31. Reptile genus
34. Frocks
36. Born of
37. N. Scandinavian indigenous people
39. Poultry cage
40. Aquatic insect genus
41. Of I
42. Ad. : tirelessly repetitive
48. Item
50. Produce
51. Seedless raisin
52. Bond in a third party's control
53. Legendary character __ Finn
54. Space station
55. Note at the end of a letter
56. In a way, contradicted
58. Midway between northeast and east
59. Bears important traffic
60. Brooklyn hoopster

CLUES DOWN

1. Presides
2. Artist's tool
3. On a higher floor
4. Commercial
5. Something to watch
6. Chased
7. Commercial producers
8. Keyboard instrument
9. Blue grass state
12. Phonograph recording
13. Unusual
17. Popular average
19. A native or inhabitant of Asia
20. N. Sweden river
21. Related on the mother's side
25. Mediator
29. Partner of to
31. Arm bones
32. Korean seafood dish
33. Tap of the foot
35. Astronauts
38. Carolina footballer
41. Indiana city
43. Of or relating to bears
44. Not widely known
45. Body part
46. At the peak
47. High-pitched cries of a cat
49. A way to intimidate
56. Prosecutor
57. Atomic #66



VENERATED VETERAN



Photo Courtesy

World War II veteran Victor E. Lippiello, who was honored by the Town of Putnam on the occasion of his 100th birthday, is pictured with three American Legion Commanders. Pictured (l to r) Dennis Beauregard, Department of Connecticut Commander; Ronald P. Coderre, District #4 Commander; Lippiello and Brian D. Maynard, Post #13 Commander.

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OPENING

continued from page A1

gy I can get!” The teas at Second Chance Nutrition are both tasty and energizing. They contain anywhere from 82-160 milligrams of caffeine. “They also help kickstart your metabolism,” she said. Just consuming the tea will burn 80-100 calories per serving. Their meal replacement shakes have 17-24 grams of protein in them, and they all start at 170 calories and never exceed 300 calories. Rodriguez is thankful for the support of the community who are helping to spread word about her new business. “The area is great,” she said. “Everyone is so friendly and spreading the word so quickly!” Rodriguez is passionate about health and about her business. She wants to give others a second chance to change their habits and strengthen their bodies. Second Chance Nutrition is there to provide a healthy and guilt-free treat that both satisfies the sweet tooth and benefits the body. “Feel free to stop in. You won’t regret it!” said Rodriguez. “We appreciate you all and look forward to serving healthy nutrition to the community!”

Maxfield Parrish prints

Antique oil paintings by listed artists can sell for thousands or even millions of dollars. A 2011 Ezine article said a listed artist “means that an artist has attained a certain level of recognition in the art world.” Auction results for listed artists can be found in “Davenport’s Art Reference and Price Guide” and in art databases on the web. On the other hand, prints by listed artists can be produced by the thousands and don’t bring as much as paintings. Some can still sell for hundreds or thousands though.

Maxfield Parrish is an artist whose prints appeal to many current collectors. He was born Frederick Maxfield Parrish on July 25, 1870 in Philadelphia, Pa. Britannica’s biography describes him as an “American illustrator and painter who was perhaps the most popular commercial artist in the United States in the first half of the 20th century.” After attending Haverford College, Parrish studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the Drexel Institute of Art.

The National Museum of American Illustration in Newport, RI’s website notes that Maxfield Parrish used a



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

shade of blue similar to the color of Lapis lazuli in many of his works. They state, “his signature use of this color was so powerful that a certain cobalt blue became known as ‘Parrish Blue.’” They consider Parrish “the most successful and best-known American illustrator of the early part of the twentieth century.” Parrish’s art was incorporated into magazine ads, calendars, and posters, along with lithographed prints that were produced to be framed and displayed. In 1925, 25 percent of American households had a Maxfield Parrish print on their walls. According to the National Museum of American Illustration, Victor Vasarely, Andy Warhol and Norman Rockwell were influenced by Parrish. Rockwell even said that Parrish was his idol.

With so many Parrish prints printed throughout his career, collectors can find some that are quite affordable. A Maxfield Parrish “Daybreak” print sold for \$60 at a Pennsylvania auction house in June. His “Circes Palace” print was sold at a New Hampshire auction for \$50.

Some Parrish prints are harder to find though and can bring much higher

prices. An 1896 poster depicting three golfers for Harper’s Weekly magazine sold for \$1,600 in 2016. A 1934 Mazda Edison 1934 calendar with a Maxfield Parrish “Moonlight” print and a 1922 calendar with an “Egypt” print each brought \$1,600 in 2013. A Ferry’s Seed advertising print with Parrish’s depiction of “Mary, Mary Quite Contrary” went for \$2,000 in 2013. Larger advertising pieces can bring significantly more. A GE Edison Mazda store display sold for \$5,000 earlier this year. A rare Fisk Tires poster fared even better, selling for \$5,500 in 2012.

When Parrish’s original paintings turn up at auction, prices can go through the roof. His “Autumn Woods” panel on wood went for \$300,000 in 2016. “The Knave” oil on board sold for \$600,000 in 2017. An oil on canvas of “Jason and His Teacher” brought \$850,000 in 2015. After selling that “Parrish blue” painting, the consignor could have painted the town red.

We will be auctioning the largest collection of Maxfield Parrish prints that we have ever handled in our upcoming Warren, RI online estate auction. We are also planning other sales during the summer and fall. Please keep checking www.centralmassauctions.com for updates.



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

Healthy plants, but no tomatoes?

No fruit on your tomato plants is likely due to the weather. Tomatoes thrive in warm, sunny conditions, but temperature extremes can prevent otherwise healthy plants from setting fruit.

When daytime temperatures rise above 90 degrees and night temperatures remain above 70 degrees, blossom drop, and poor fruit development can occur. Combine this with low humidity and the pollen is not viable. In hot and humid conditions, the pollen is too sticky and doesn’t move from the male to the female part of the flower. Without pollination the flowers won’t be fertilized and fruit will not develop.

Cool weather can also hinder fruiting. Night temperatures below the optimum of 59 to 68 degrees reduce the amount and viability of pollen the plant produces.

The simplest solution is to wait for the temperatures and humidity levels to return to those tomatoes need for pollination and fruit formation to occur. Once this happens, the plants will begin producing fruit.

When hot weather arrives, make sure the plants receive ample moisture. Mulch the soil with shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic matter to keep roots cool and moist.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
• • • • •
MELINDA
MYERS

Consider providing a bit of cool afternoon shade during hot spells.

Some gardeners enlist the help of blossom set hormone spray when conditions are not favorable for pollination and fruit formation. These hormones won’t increase productivity but may help plants set fruit when temperatures are not ideal. These products are most effective when temperatures drop below 60 degrees Fahrenheit. They are less effective at initiating fruit set when temperatures rise over 80 degrees.

Don’t let cooler summer temperatures greatly reduce your tomato harvest. Consider pinching off the growing tips of indeterminate tomatoes a month before the first killing frost. This redirects the plant’s energy into ripening the existing fruit instead of producing

more flowers and tomatoes that won’t have time to mature.

When frost is in the forecast, harvest green tomatoes to finish ripening indoors.

Pick any tomatoes that are starting to show color before the killing frost and finish ripening them indoors. Harvest tomatoes when the blossom end turns a greenish white or starts to color up. Store the tomatoes in a cool 60- to 65-degree location to extend their storage life. And don’t let those green tomatoes go to waste. Fry them or use them in salsa and relish. You’ll find lots of delicious green tomato recipes online or from friends.

Extend the growing and harvesting season with the help of floating row covers or other season extending strategies. These products protect plants from cold temperatures, allowing you to harvest weeks after the first fall frost.

If poor fruiting is a yearly problem

in your garden, look for tomato varieties better suited to your growing conditions. Next season look for recommendations from your local University extension service. They can help you select the best heat or cold tolerant varieties and those that best fit your gardening style and cooking needs.

With the proper selection and care you will enjoy an abundant harvest in spite of less-than-ideal weather conditions.

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

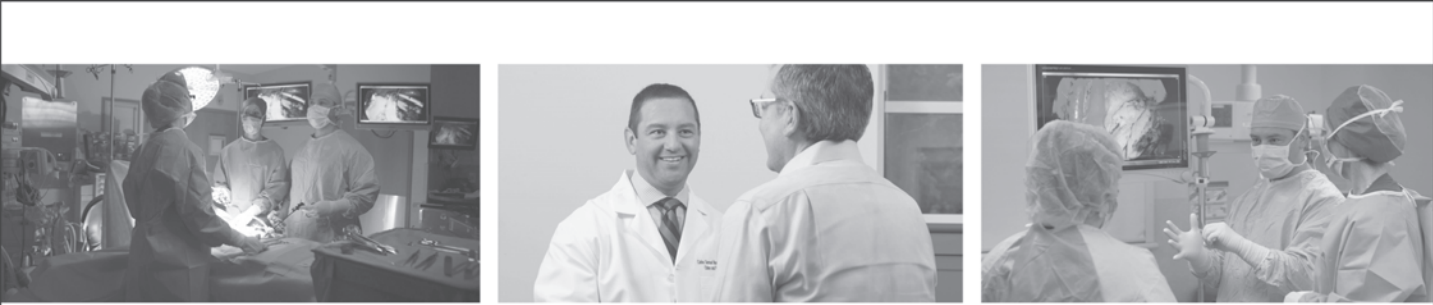


Photo Courtesy

All-America Selections winner Celano tomato is a semi-determinate hybrid tomato that produces sweet oblong fruits.

Reading the morning newspaper is the realist’s morning prayer.

George Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel



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Back to the beginning

With time on my hands, I began rereading all the columns I have written for The Villager newspapers. I was invited to be a columnist by the late David Cutler. I was meeting my friend, Cindy Sebrell, at 85 Main in Putnam and David Cutler was visiting the area with the intention of starting a weekly newspaper. While he was waiting, he was reading local papers and found a piece I had written. He asked Cindy if she knew the author and Cindy said that she did and that I was about to turn up. When I walked in, he introduced himself, invited me to join the paper and told me to visit the editor, Walter Bird, who had an office in Putnam. Thus began approximately 720 columns.

I can't find the first two years of my work, 2005-2007, but the columns must be online. Now I cut them out each week and file them in a ratty accordion file that I keep under my printer. I stuff in the latest piece and add any letters or cards from readers.

Every column is 600 words, no more, no less, as that is what Walter Bird told me to do. Even with my poor math skills, I know I have sent off over 430,000 words, which I could have been a very long novel had I turned my attention in that direction.

I've set up shop on our dining room table. I empty out the items by month, sort them by week and begin a list on a legal pad of the title, which is always written by the editor, and a line about the content. I make an instant rating as to whether it is good, very good, okay, dated, or odd. There are quite a few in the last category.



NANCY WEISS

Through the years, I have worked with five editors. I made a point to meet each one in person, although several were reluctant until we got together and had a pleasant time. I don't like to work for someone I've never met. I had lunch with Frank Chilinski, the publisher, is the big boss. Brendan Berube, the current editor, lives out of state, and as we are in a pandemic, coffee with him will have to wait.

It's a very difficult job to be the editor of a paper of any size, as almost all the work falls to them to sort out and produce a paper on time. I don't know how they do it, but I appreciate the titles they selected for my columns. They

did a wonderful job of finding the core message in my work. The title is a far better summary than I could do myself. I appreciate the clarity of their eyes.

Rereading the columns makes me feel the passage of time. I wrote about people and pets who died. I wrote about trips to places we can't go now. I wrote about selling our antique farm. I touch similar themes and values frequently, but so far, I am not repeating myself. At least not often.

I always have an "ideal reader" in mind when I begin. My reader is a mélange of people. I imagine a little chuckle, a nod of agreement or even a moment of saying... "not too bad."

Would I write 600 words every week without a deadline? No. Not me.

So thank you, Stonebridge Press, and thank you, Dear Readers, for giving me a place where I can share what wafts through my mind. I hope I can keep up our "conversation" for some time to come.

Learning to say goodbye

Arlene and I built our dream home twenty-six years ago. We put every bit of emotion and money into our dream. We even gave it a name, FoxMoore Farm. We finished raising our kids and enjoyed twenty-five Thanksgivings and Christmas's in this home that is way too big and sits on forty acres. Our youthful enthusiasm took over. Back in my entrepreneur/CEO days, I definitely lived by the saying, "Go big or go home!" Yeah ... we over did it.



It's been for sale for over five years and we were surprised to get an offer yesterday. Our home has been sold and we have fifty-five days to figure out what to do. Selling a home this large wasn't easy, and quite frankly, the investment was a financial disaster, but we enjoyed every minute of the time we lived here.

It's an odd and unsettling feeling. This is the longest I've ever lived in one place. Our kids are now adults. They are grown and gone. I'm fighting a life-threatening illness. The vastness of the acreage has become a burden, so this is the best news we could have received ... yet there is also a sadness hovering over us. The home we dreamt of, designed, and built will be home to someone new. I realize that a building is only a home when filled with the love and joy of a family. Our family has moved on, so it's time we do the same.

Like I said, our kids are grown, and my grandkids are in California. There was no reason for Arlene and me to hold on to this building with all the expense and work that accompanies it. Common sense is clear. It's time to move on, but the emotion blurs the vision. Our home will soon belong to others we don't know. Strangers will walk the halls and enjoy the rooms we built. There is a sadness I am unable to shake. Time stands still for none of us. Life changes and we must adjust with optimism. Moving on is part of life. We are say-

ing farewell to this beautiful place. I'm optimistic about our future and know it's in our best interest to downsize ... but saying goodbye is never easy. Optimism will carry us through this transition.

So, we are off on a journey. The next phase of our lives is before us and I'm positively anticipating happiness and joy. To look forward to anything else is a waste of time. Instead, we choose to look at it as a new adventure ...

an opportunity for exciting change and exploring new ways to live and how to reinvent our lives. The anticipation is a fun-filled life with less pressure.

Sure, as I said, the sadness of leaving a place where our kids were raised and our grandchildren love to visit is hard ... it's natural. We can dwell on that and be sad or we can focus on the stimulating opportunity ahead and find happiness and joy. Like almost everything in life, it is a choice. We choose the optimism of opportunity.

When change comes into your life, and it will, how will you choose to respond? Will you resist? Will you be angry or sad? Will you let the change negatively dominate your life, or will you choose the optimism of the opportunity and look at it as an exciting new journey? An optimistic life is a life filled with hope and happiness. The optimist always believes the best is yet to come. With that belief, the optimistic mind goes to work to make it so.

We are enthusiastically embarking on our journey! It's a choice we make, and we will always choose optimism. Will you join us? ■

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryWMoore721 and at www.garyw-moore.com.

QVCC offers new online performing arts courses

DANIELSON — This fall Quinebaug Valley Community College is pleased to offer several new and exciting performing arts courses—all live online experiences from the comfort of your living room. Students can now earn college credit while having fun in classes like dance, guitar, and theatrical improvisation.

Movement as Creative Expression explores the elements of dance including classical and contem-

porary technique, choreography/composition, and performance. Students will engage with technical dance genres, participate in creative choreography, and work on collaborative projects.

Tap Dance is a percussive form of dance utilizing time, weight, coordination, speed, and rhythm. Students will gain an awareness of tap techniques, its origins, impact, and evolution. Both dances classes are a fun way to get a good workout from the comfort of the

living room.

Guitar I and Guitar II courses encourage students to rock the guitar this fall. Both classes provide a basic foundation in guitar playing and musicianship. Guitar I is geared to students with no previous experience in guitar or general music. Literacy in guitar notation and tab reading, and basic rhythms and chords will be developed. Guitar II is for students who have some experience with the guitar, know a few chords, and feel ready to take their playing to the next level.

Improvisation, also known as the "Yes, and" performing art form, is based on theatrical games where actors create scenes and characters on the spot. Employed by business leaders and professionals in all industries, improv training sharpens the mind and helps shy people learn to socialize as they tap their comedic impulses. This online course is for all students, including those new to improvisation, as well as those familiar with establishing support, trust, initiation, agreement, and the other tools used by those skillful improvisers seen on TV shows like SNL and Whose Line is It, Anyway?

Dance classes are taught by Nichola Johnson, a choreographer who holds an MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College. Johnson's approach to education empowers the student to master technical elements and develop a rich personal style. Nichola is the Founder/Director of The Complex

Performing and Creative Arts Centre in Northeastern Connecticut and serves on the faculties of many high school and college performing arts departments.

Guitar is taught by Chris Monti, a professional musician teaching guitar and playing music professionally for more than 15 years. His eclectic style embraces rock & roll, country-blues, early jazz, and R+B. Singing and playing electric guitar and harmonica in several bands, he leads The Chris Monti Band, playing an upbeat mix of original dance music along with West African and Caribbean songs, and is a member of The Devilfish, a power trio dance band covering surf, mambo, cumbia, punk, blues, boogie and Latin pop.

Improvisation acting is taught by Tom Epstein, a performer who trained at New York-based Upright Citizens Brigade. Epstein is a house-team performer, coach, and instructor at P.I.G. (Providence Improv Guild www.improvpig.com), and an educator with degrees from Emerson College.

For more information regarding the Performing Arts courses, please contact Brian Kaufman at okaufman@qvcc.edu.

The first day of fall semester begins on Wednesday, Aug. 26. To apply to the College, visit qvcc.edu/admissions-financial-aid/admissions/ and be sure to apply for Financial Aid. If you need assistance, please email the Admissions Department at admissions@qvcc.edu and they will be happy to assist you.

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Cargill Council 64 celebrates 128 years of service



Photo Douglas Bergstrom – Courtesy

On Sunday, July 26, members of Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus, Putnam, held the council's annual memorial prayer service, in memory of the council's deceased Knights and their families. As part of Cargill Council's 128th anniversary celebration, more than a dozen Knights gathered at St. Mary's Cemetery on Providence Street, where they held their service at the grave of Edward M. Mullan, Cargill Council's first Grand Knight. He was elected when the council was founded exactly 128 years before, on July 26, 1892. The service was held at Mullan's grave, to serve as a symbol for all of Cargill Council's members down through the years.

PUTNAM — Although much has changed in northeastern Connecticut since 1892, Putnam's Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus, remains a force for good in the community. That was recognized on Sunday morning, July 26, when council members celebrated a Roman Catholic Mass to commemorate the council's 128th anniversary. Immediately after the Mass at St. Mary Church of the Visitation on Providence Street, more than a dozen Knights held the council's annual memorial prayer service at the grave of Edward M. Mullan, the council's first Grand Knight, at St. Mary's Cemetery, just down the road.

St. Mary's Pastor and Cargill Council Chaplain Very Rev. David P. Choquette, conducted both the Mass and memorial service, which was held in memory of the council's deceased members and their families. Council members spent the day before cleaning the Mullan family gravestones, in preparation for Sunday's prayer service.

The Catholic family fraternal benefit society was found-

ed in Putnam 128 years ago that very day, on July 26, 1892, only a decade after the international Knights of Columbus organization was begun in 1882. Continuously active since its founding, Cargill Council was the 64th council founded since the Knights came into existence.

Cargill Council's 20 original members elected Mullan, who later served as Putnam's postmaster, as their leader, known as the Grand Knight. Elected to three terms, he served as Grand Knight from 1892 to 1895. He remained a member of the council until his death in 1916, at the age of 61.

Although it may seem strange to some people to hold a prayer service in a cemetery, Cargill Council Chancellor and Memorial Program Director David R. Adams explained that there was an important principle behind the idea.

"Cargill Council has had several homes here in Putnam since it started 128 years ago," he said. "Its first home was in the Bradley Theater, downtown. Then we spent decades in a large building off Church Street. Since 1976 we've been

on Providence Street, in what used to be the Putnam Polish Club. We wanted to go right back to the beginning, in one spot. As Catholics, we pray for the dead as well as for the living. The grave of our very first Grand Knight is the perfect symbol to remember every member of Cargill Council, living and deceased, past and present."

Cargill Council 64, Knights of Columbus, is made up of over 200 local Catholic men and their families. The council serves Putnam, Pomfret, Woodstock and the immediately surrounding areas served by St. Mary's and Most Holy Trinity Church in Pomfret.

In addition to support for its members and their families, Cargill Council maintains a dedicated, strong, ongoing commitment to its two parishes and the local community. Led by current Grand Knight John D. Ryan, the council's elected officers run Cargill Council. The organization does its own fund-raising, using the net proceeds to pay for its programs.

For example, Cargill Council raised and donated thousands

of dollars locally in the last year, as part of conducting literally dozens of positive, local programs and events. Highlights include raising more than \$5,000 for the local needy as part of the council's annual "Joe Bousquet Christmas Giving Appeal," a year-round program for the widows of deceased council members, financial and moral support for a Norwich diocesan seminarian studying for the priesthood, holding a large food drive for the local poor, providing free winter coats and blankets for needy local children and families, as well as holding an annual council golf tournament and continuing work to end abortion and assisted suicide and to otherwise support the "Culture of Life."

Dignitaries in attendance at Sunday's memorial service included Connecticut State Knights of Columbus Council Advocate Dr. William P. Macnamara, III, of Brooklyn and Connecticut K of C State Deputy Gary P. McKeone of East Hartford. McKeone oversees the more than 23,000 Knights, serving in 178 active local councils throughout the state.

"Cargill Council 64 is one of the best local councils in Connecticut," McKeone said. "When it was founded 128 years ago, Catholics were being persecuted and discriminated against. In our society Catholics are being persecuted and discriminated against today. But with Knights like this who stand firm for their faith and work so hard for their families and their communities we'll still be here 128 years from now."

Council 64 and the world's other K of C councils provide members and their families with volunteer opportunities to serve the Catholic Church, their communities, their families and young people. Worldwide, in the 12 months that ended in June of

2019, the almost two million members of the Knights of Columbus donated more than \$185 million and 76.7 million hours of service to charitable causes.

The Knights of Columbus was founded in New Haven, Connecticut, on March 29, 1882, by a parish priest, Father Michael J. McGivney. Earlier this year, Pope Francis approved a decree recognizing a child's cure from a deadly case of fetal hydrops while still in his mother's womb as a miracle attributed to the intercession of Father McGivney. This means Father McGivney is scheduled to be declared Blessed by the Catholic Church at an October 31 ceremony at a Connecticut location which has not yet been determined. This is the last step before sainthood. If he is eventually canonized, Father McGivney would become Connecticut's first Catholic saint and the first American parish priest to be so honored.

Looking at the problems being suffered by immigrant Catholics in and around New Haven in the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century, Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus so that Catholic men could continue to practice their faith while supporting each other religiously, morally, socially and financially.

Since then, the organization has grown to become the world's largest Catholic lay organization, a worldwide fraternal benefit society operating in North America, Central America, the Caribbean, Asia and Europe. In 2005, the Knights of Columbus opened the first councils in Poland. In 2008, after a half-century of persecution, Knights began operating again in Communist Cuba. In 2013, the Knights continued their expansion, moving into Ukraine and Lithuania. The following year, the first local councils were founded in South Korea.

Killingly Conservation presents environmental award to Ralph Chartier

KILLINGLY — One of the many good volunteers in Killingly was honored recently with Killingly Conservation's Environmental Award.

Ralph S. Chartier was recognized for his commitment as Killingly Conservation Commissioner for 12 years, sharing his Master Gardener knowledge and numerous hours of service at Conservation Open Space properties in town.

He was certified as Master Gardener, and was always willing to share his experiences with plants and flowers, bringing articles from publications and attending workshops on related conservation topics. Composting was one of his favorite interests imparting to us the recommended temperature in our compost piles!

Chartier especially loved Cat Hollow Park.

"We worked many hours clearing briars, planting, and managing vine covered azaleas at the Lucas Dam area," noted Donna Bronwell, Chair, Killingly Conservation.

He helped in clearing, cutting and maintaining trails at Killingly's many other public Open Spaces: carrying heavy benches to the old foundation site at 1892/Sherman Land Trust off Breakneck Hill Road, tromped through the woods, evaluating the site, creating trails at . Quandoc Conservation Area. Mason Hill and Chase Reservoir (360 acres of protected open space on Pratt Road with beautiful pond, trails) also received his care.

Not only Conservation volunteer, he operated a remodeling business for about 10 years, was active as Boy Scout Leader and lector at his church.

Father of three sons, daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren, he is especially involved and proud of his two young grandsons.

Now he enjoys working in his garden and yard.

"Unfortunately, we are not as able to be active and involved trekking through the woods, cutting brush, getting buggy and sweaty ! But we still have the conservation mission at heart," said Bronwell, Ralph Chartier was honored

with this year's Environmental Award.

The Conservation Commission's purpose is to protect and promote open spaces in Killingly. They are stewards of conservation open spaces, creating trails, managing the conservation easements, which protect them from development.

For public awareness KCC conducts Back Roads Tours, Walktober events, and booths at various events, for example the Tomato festival, which unfortunately is cancelled this year.

Since 2002, KCC has presented an annual Environmental Award. Its purpose is

to recognize an individual, organization, school or business who:

-Contributes to the awareness, care, enhancement or protection of Killingly's open spaces and natural resources,

-Was instrumental in creating an environmental program in the schools or community,

-Participates in other environmental activities that merit recognition.

Jacqueline Low earns Dean's List honors at Roger Williams University

BRISTOL, R.I. — Jacqueline Low, of Killingly has been named to the Spring 2020 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

About RWU


With campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the heart of Providence, R.I., Roger Williams University is a forward-thinking private university committed to strengthening society through engaged teaching and learning. At RWU, small classes, direct access to faculty and guaranteed opportunity for real-world projects ensure that its nearly 4,000 undergraduates - along with hundreds of law students, graduate students and adult learners - graduate with the ability to think critically along with the practical skills that today's employers demand. Roger Williams is leading the way in American higher education, confronting the most pressing issues facing students and families - increasing costs, rising debt and job readiness.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

The darker the night, the brighter the stars

When we look up into the night sky, many of us are overcome with awe and wonder. It really does put into perspective just how small we are, as clich   as that sounds. Looking up, we have to wonder why all of humanity can't simply realize that what we are experiencing in life can happen just as well without violence and greed taking place all over the world, but alas here we are. A download of the app 'Star Chart' led us down a rabbit hole into astrology, with the focus being on the currently visible comet, Neowise. As a point of fact, Neowise was named after NASA's Near Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer.

First, a comet for those that don't know exactly what it is, is described often as a 'dirty snowball'. There are billions of them in our solar system, however it's a rare occurrence when one passes by the Earth, close enough to see it. A comet is an icy, small solar system body that warms when passing the sun. When this happens, it begins to release gases. This produces a visible atmosphere and sometimes includes a tail. Neowise, became closest to the Earth on July 22, just 64 million miles away. According to NASA, once it's gone, the comet will not be visible to the Earth for another 6,800 years.

The comet was discovered by astronomers in March, when it was noticed 160 million miles from Earth. The comet is a three-mile-wide chunk of ice and dust, apparently on a 6,000-year loop around the solar system. Many astronomers are relaying that it is the most impressive looking comet since Hale-Bopp, that appeared in 1997. That comet, is on a 2,500 year loop.

It was expected that Neowise would be visible until earlier this week; however, it may linger. When looking up to try to see the comet, look for the tail that has been described as 12 moons side by side. It is most visible at 10 p.m. according to the experts and binoculars will help for certain. The comet is located northwest, below the bottom left corner of the Big Dipper.

Perhaps the best discovery is to retrieve the benefits of stargazing. Since the beginning of time, mankind has gazed up at the stars. Before science revealed what exactly was going on, yet still unknowing, the night sky offered those who looked upon it a sense of calm, and a chance to de-stress. In our current climate, stargazing could be just one more way to reduce anxiety. To note, the telescope was invented in 1608. It has been proven, that soaking up the night sky, and staring at thousands of stars can help clear the mind.

Our ancestors once thought the moon was a God. Early art proves that man was just as intrigued by outer space as we are today. As we all know, mythology was born from space with the most famous gods being Chandra, Artemis, Tho   and Apollo. Tho   has been attributed to the invention of the 365-day calendar and was known as a 'wise counselor who solved disputes.' The Hindus said that an eclipse was the result of Rahu   the snake, who swallowed the orbs, causing them to go dark. A full moon was used to explain those who acted out in insanity.

Astrology is always fun if you believe in it. This pseudoscience goes back to the second millennium BCE, and was used to predict information based on the movement of what was going on in the solar system.

The most famous astronomer, Galileo Galilei (born in 1564), once said, "It vexes me when they would constrain science by the authority of the Scriptures, and yet do not consider themselves bound to answer reason and experiment."

Another one to remember, courtesy of author Richelle E. Goodrich, is "Sometimes while gazing at the night's sky, I imagine stars looking down making wishes on the brightest of us."

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In Print and Online



OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Statues of limitations

To the Editor:
A large crowd gathered in the city streets, raising their voices and shouting "Black Lives Matter!" and "I Can't Breathe!" The crowd was demanding systemic change and an end to racism. Before long, someone had toppled the statue of a 17th century slave trader who helped to create the wealth of the city's past. They rolled the bronze statue down to the docks and dumped him into the bay.
This was not a scene from Savannah, Ga. or Boston, Mass. This particular protest took place in Bristol, England. With vigils and rallies flaring up world-wide in recent weeks, it appears that George Floyd's desperate cry, "I can't breathe" has become the shout heard round the world. Once again, the world is watching us, waiting for America to live up to their dreams. An America which has certainly fallen off its own pedestal since the

Day Kimball — a community caring for its community

To the Editor:
On April 27, I gave birth to my second daughter at Day Kimball Hospital, and I must once again commend the entire staff at Day Kimball OB/GYN and the Labor and Delivery unit. It's not simply that they have provided excellent health care through two pregnancies now - that would have been sufficient on its own. It's the treatment I receive as a member of their community that really stands out. I am eternally grateful to be a patient of our community hospital, which we are so lucky to have, and that fact is made all the more evident when situations like this pandemic strike.
You can well imagine the stress one might be feeling being pregnant during this unusual time. I was 35 weeks pregnant when the "Stay Home" order was enacted. For those who don't know, this is the point in pregnancy where you have to go to the doctor weekly. It was a surreal experience, walking into a nearly empty hospital every week. I did so knowing that every necessary precaution would be taken to keep me and my unborn child safe. There was never once a time where I questioned that they would make the best decisions they could to keep this community and its members healthy. The really amazing part was how calm and caring the staff remained throughout this all. There was never any extra stress on me as a patient, though I'm sure there was plenty of extra stress felt by everyone at the hospital. My care was impeccable and every reasonable precaution was taken to make sure I was safe and healthy in all ways.
I am eternally grateful for the excellent

We're all in this together

To the Editor:
Thank you to all who called, emailed and posted comments in response to my recent letter on racism and racial injustice. I appreciated hearing the opinions of so many. It is helpful for public officials to know what you're thinking!
To clarify, I support the sentiments behind the peaceful protests against racism and police brutality. I never said I favored defunding the police. Cities and towns may be prompted to fund social workers and mental health professionals who are trained to deal with today's problems. Those municipalities may choose to use funds from their

The truth about Trump

To the Editor:
Trump's fans have been saying it for years --- he's "a businessman, not a politician." Well, that's half true. Donald Trump is a businessman; the same crooked, sleazy businessman he's always been. But not a politician. He tells his supporters only what they want to hear, he flip-flops on major issues, and he changes his position on critical policies based on poll numbers and advice from his re-election staff.

We need to move on from Trump's presidency

To the Editor:
This week, while on a Zoom Board of Education meeting about reopening schools, hackers got control of the virtual meeting and drew swastikas and wrote [an offensive phrase against] Jews on the screen. I still can't believe it.
This kind of behavior has been sanctioned and encouraged by this President, who stokes these fires with hateful words and acts. Why isn't our country coming together right now? We are facing a universal enemy, Covid-19, and yet Americans remain divided.
My grandmother told me stories of the World War II years, and of growing victory gardens for not only food but for morale too. Why isn't our struggle against Covid uniting us and stirring up proud demonstrations of civic duty? Because this President doesn't want us to be united but is instead actively

"divider in chief" occupied the White House.
Statues do have their limitations as historical markers, especially in a society which has undermined the teaching of history and forfeited truth and science for propaganda and doublespeak. It is downright amusing how those who lean toward the right have accused the protestors and especially the statue tippers of being Orwellian using quotes from the book 1984. It is not surprising during these highly divisive times that both the right and the left use George Orwell as the poster boy for their causes. However, George Orwell wrote "1984" in response to the Soviet Union and the rise of totalitarian governments. He despised totalitarianism, dictatorships and fascism. Surely, if there was a dystopia in the making it began in 2016, when America took a sharp right turn and put a megalomaniac

Turn To **DUFRENSE** page **A9**

care I received from the members of the Burdick Family Birthing Center. These doctors and nurses are not just delivering babies anymore - they're bellhops and waiters too. Patients are not allowed out of their rooms once admitted, so when we forgot a bag at home, Dr. Mackenzie personally delivered it to our room (Thank-you again!) Our nurses were also constantly refilling coffees and bringing in Jello. The care I received with my first daughter (who was born in March 2018) was already overwhelming, and for these nurses to take on even more roles for their patients is a tremendous act of love. Every encounter with every member of staff was positive; not a single person treated us with anything less than kindness and courtesy. I would like to draw special attention to the three women we had the most interactions with: my primary nurses Jenn Bulmer, Rachel Drew, and Molly Dyson. They were just so wonderful, no one could ask for better care and support. Companionship is always vital after the birth of a child, but never more so than now. With no visitors, our care team took on another role as friends and well wishers.

I must also commend the cafeteria - on a day where there would be no visitors, no presents, no flowers, they delivered a snack basket with a little note of congratulations. It was such a small act, but it meant the world to me that day. Here we were, with our brand new baby in this strange new world, and someone cared. It was such a small gesture, but it made my whole day. I still cry

Turn To **GARCIA** page **A9**

public safety budgets to do so.
Also, I did not say I support the organization Black Lives Matter or BLM. I said "I believe that black lives matter." That's especially important in these times. And, for the record, I believe All lives matter.
If each of us respects the dignity of others and acts morally, ethically and legally toward our fellow citizens, we'll strengthen our communities. And if we live by the "golden rule" everyone's civil rights, voting rights and human rights will be honored.

GREG KLINE
WOODSTOCK

If that's not a politician, what is?
Donald Trump is a crooked, sleazy politician. At least he's consistent. He didn't "drain the swamp"; he moved into it and felt right at home. Anyone who voted for Trump thinking he was something different or better, got fooled. Anyone who votes for him this time (after his disastrous presidency) is a fool.
TODD PATRIE
POMFRET CENTER

Living strong



BEYOND THE PEWS
.....
JOHN HANSON

Jerome was a good guy just trying to make life work. With a two-year-old marriage and a one-year-old son, his limits were being tested. He was now responsible for a family, money was tight, his job was challenging, and politics were driving him crazy.

Then came the weekend he had been eagerly anticipating, because he was spending it with a group of guys who were getting away solely for the purpose of finding their bearings and letting God make a difference in their lives. It was a men's conference that delivered. Come Monday, he was rejuvenated, inspired and back at work, ready to conquer the world.

Then, not really understanding what happened, Jerome seemed to hit an invisible wall. A funk settled in and his mind began drifting toward everything that was dark and unsettling. He began asking himself why he had let himself hope for good things, and wondered if things will ever change for him. While commuting home after a day riddled with problems a car nearly side-swipes him and he finds himself yelling at the stranger who had just put his life in danger.

Disappointed in himself Jerome wonders how God could work all this together for good. Then he recalls the devotion from men's conference about Paul's "thorn in the flesh." Maybe life was exposing some areas in his life where he could do a better job of letting God be his strength instead of trying to measure up on his own.

The speaker had reminded them that life was designed by God to be empowered by him. And that, before his ascension, Jesus told his followers, "ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:(Acts 1:8 KJV) Those followers who had cowered when Jesus was crucified became different people after the day of Pentecost when "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:4 NIV) God's power in them made all the difference.

Jerome knew what he had to do. He had to talk this over with God and open up his heart to receive that power. That meant admitting weakness and total dependence on God. After a few minutes of embracing God's forgiveness and grace, he felt that power surge into his heart and drive the funk away.As soon as he got home Jerome turned to 2 Corinthians 7:7-10 (MSG) and reviewed St. Paul's take on the matter. He said:

"Because of the extravagance of those revelations, and so I wouldn't get a big head, I was given the gift of a handicap to keep me in constant touch with my limitations. Satan's angel did his best to get me down; what he in fact did was push me to my knees. No danger then of walking around high and mighty! At first I didn't think of it as a gift, and begged God to remove it. Three times I did that, and then he told me, My grace is enough; it's all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness.

Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the handicap and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ's strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become."

Bishop J.W. Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. To view a series of messages on this topic, please visit www.ActsII.org, choose online sermons and look for the playlist titled "Inside Out."

Results of Northeastern Chamber Golf Invitational announced

WINDHAM — Nearly 130 golfers participated in the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce 32nd Annual Golf Invitational. Guests enjoyed a fabulous day on the course playing some challenging golf, and partaking of all you can eat, burgers, dogs, chips and hot fudge sundaes.

Our contests:

Longest drive contest on hole #1 and winner of a gift certificate from the Greater Hartford Hale YMCA.
Women's Longest drive: Jen West
Men's Longest drive: Ron Vargas

Closest to the pin contests on hole #2 with a distance of 11 feet, one inch and winner of a gift certificate to The Courthouse Bar & Grille is Tim Whitecross.

Closest to the pin contest winner on hole #7 with a distance of 47 inches and winner of a gift certificate to Giant Pizza is Greg Shetler.

Closest to the pin contest on hole #11 with a distance of nine feet, 10 inches and winner of a gift certificate to Giant Pizza is Paul Archer.

Closest to the pin contest on hole #16 with a distance of 18 inches and winner



Photo Courtesy

Pictured: Brendan, Jared and Mike Meehan. Missing from the photo was Mike Angeloff.

of a gift certificate to Giant Pizza is Archie Drobiak.

A number of skins will be paid out with checks to be mailed to team cap-

tain. They include:
#10 Eagle-Team Darigan
#17 Eagle-Team Meehan
#15 Eagle-Team Sarantopoulos
#2 Birdie-Team Archer

Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Manager passes industry exam



Holly Wanegar

POMFRET CENTER — We are proud to announce Holly Wanegar, Manager, Client Operations & Analytics has passed her FINRA® Series 7 exam. FINRA's Series 7 exam — the General Securities Representative Qualification Examination (GS) — assesses the competency of an

entry-level registered representative to perform their job as a general securities representative. The exam measures the degree to which each candidate possesses the knowledge needed to perform the critical functions of a general securities representative, including corporate securities, municipal securities, investment company securities, variable annuities, direct participation programs, options and government securities.

Wanegar joined our team in June 2019 from People's United Wealth Advisors. Before working

at People's, she worked at Bank of America and U.S. Trust Wealth Management. Wanegar has more than eight years of client service experience working with high net worth individuals and organizations. As part of her career development goals at Weiss, Hale & Zahansky (WHZ) Strategic Wealth Advisors, Holly passed her FINRA® Securities Industry Essentials (SIE) exam in November 2019 and most recently her FINRA® Series 7 licensing exam.

Wanegar assists WHZ clients with operational and administrative needs in

collaboration with our advisors to ensure the best client experience as we execute our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well process. In addition to leading our Operations team, Holly provides critical support to our Investment Committee with analytics related to investment portfolios and works with our Chief Investment Officer to implement portfolio and investment strategies.

We are happy for her on achieving this career milestone.

Visit www.whzwealth.com to learn more.

GARCIA continued from page A8

tears of gratitude just thinking about it. Thank-you so much for your generosity. Every moment in that hospital, from the multiple room cleanings to keep things even more sanitary than the impeccable standards usually upheld, to serving my husband meals as well, so we had one less thing to worry about, was an act of care and compassion. I am so incredibly proud and thankful to call Day Kimball my community hospital. That's exactly what it is - a community caring for its community. Thank-you,

SHANNON GARCIA
AND FAMILY
WOODSTOCK



DUFRESNE continued from page A8

in the White House. Despite what the "president" says, those who are exercising their first amendment rights, protesting systemic racism and demanding equal justice are not the ones we should be worried about.

When the Constitutional amendments were written, the drafters of this democratic republic wanted to make sure that the United States of America would never fall prey to a tyrannical king again. They naively assumed that anyone who became president of the United States would work with the three branches of government and respect the checks and balances derived to prevent dictatorship. The First Amendment gives American citizens freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the right of the people to peaceably assemble and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

If anything, the occupant of the White House is leaning toward fascism and autocracy behaving more like a banana republic dictator than an American president. This was evident when he tried to invoke the use of the military to turn against peaceful protestors equating them with thugs and looters who should be shot, and threatening life sentences for those who are tearing

down statues.

And what about those statues? As with the Confederate flag, these are not battlefield monuments erected in honor of the unfortunate boys and men who fought in the Civil War. Confederate statues were deliberately erected during the Jim Crow era in the South, during the period after Reconstruction when white supremacy flared up. The statues were blatant reminders that war would continue to be waged against African Americans through a white supremacist ideology and apartheid policies. Many of the statues were erected in the 1920's, another period of deep racism, anti-immigrant rhetoric and anti-Semitism. The monuments are really an expression of America's monumental flaws when it comes to living up to the dreams set forth in the constitution. They represent a system of injustice and hatefulness toward the ideals of democracy. Like the present, the movement toward fascism and hate became a world-wide problem, and when America sets the tone, the rest of the world follows. It took less than a generation for the hole torn in the fabric of moral justice to be filled by someone like Hitler.

If you visit Germany, you will not find any statues of Hitler or Nazi flags. They were removed by the Germans in acknowledgement of the mistakes that were made during the fascist Nazi regime. They were removed because

the real revisionist history was written by the Nazis and forced upon the public in the art and statues that celebrated an Aryan race. The confederate statues were imposed upon us in much the same way by white supremacists in a Jim Crow South which deliberately re-wrote history to reinforce the great white lie that African Americans were somehow flawed by nature. In America, we refuse to admit that slavery was a mistake and we continue to live with that big old white elephant in the room. The history of slavery was re-written with a white supremacist lens which omitted the fact that African Americans have lived with 400 years of racial oppression; and that slavery was not a choice. Captives were brought here against their will and forced to do hard labor without pay. So, it is no wonder that misdirected anger has toppled a few white supremacists off their pedestals – not because we want to "erase history", but because we want to tell the whole story.

You can tell a lot about a culture by what they choose to feature in their public art and whether history is based on primary documents or used as a tool for propaganda. The old "battlefield honor" for the confederate flag and statues is a weak argument for continuing the myths of a few white terrorists from the South. After all, I doubt many New Yorkers would be in favor of erecting statues of the terrorists who attacked

the Twin Towers.

That all being said, I don't think we should be wasting our time debating statues when the real focus should be on structural racism and engaging in conversations about reformation. Unfortunately, the issue behind the protests has been hijacked by a handful of mostly white liberals who toppled a few statues, and those uber progressives who want to ride the coattails of the Black Lives Matter movement. These shenanigans have given the Trump propaganda machine more fodder to sow division. Now, rather than having a frank and sensible discussion about reforms, Americans are riled up by false narratives about revisionist history, anti-police, and anarchy.

All I can say is that we white Americans seem to have the attention of a flea when it comes to supporting black and brown people. If we really want to do something about racism, we need to learn to listen to the black and brown community and follow their lead. We need to stay focused on our own work of becoming anti-racist as opposed to non-racist, while learning to disrupt subtle racism when we see it. In this moment, in this time we need to acknowledge that black lives do matter because black lives are in danger and we need to stop taking everything personally.

DONNA DUFRESNE
POMFRET

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Priscilla E Hicks (20-00228)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, July 21, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
ANDREW S GROHER, RISCASSI & DAVIS PC,
131 OAK STREET, PO BOX 261557, HARTFORD, CT 06126
July 31, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Deborah K Lucier (20-00257)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast

probate Court, by decree dated, July 21, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Alysia Casiano, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Alfred Gary Lucier,
c/o ALYSON R. ALEMAN,
BORNER SMITH ALEMAN HERZOG & CERRONE, LLC,
155 PROVIDENCE STREET,
PO BOX 166, PUTNAM, CT 06260,
(860)928-2429
July 31, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Michael M Antunes (20.00263)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, July 21, 2020, ordered that all claims must

be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Cheryl R Antunes,
24 Wrights Crossing Rd.,
Pomfret Center, CT 06259
July 31, 2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Pauline Linda Fontaine (20-00205)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, June 30, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Brenda Duquette, Clerk
The fiduciary is:

Marion Appleton,
37 Hackett St., Selkirk, NY 12158
July 31, 2020
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Phillip A. Raymond (20-0237)
The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, June 30, 2020, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.
Alysia Casiano, Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Kathleen M. -Raymond,
30 Cleveland Street,
Putnam, CT 06260
July 31, 2020



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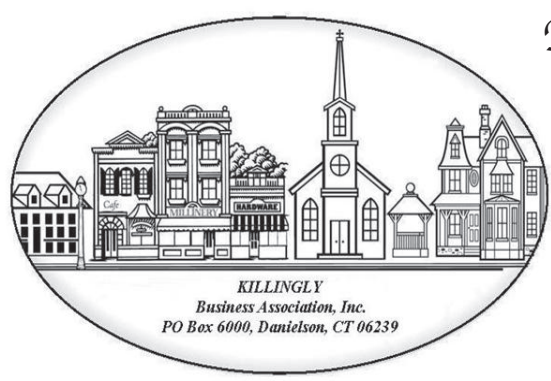


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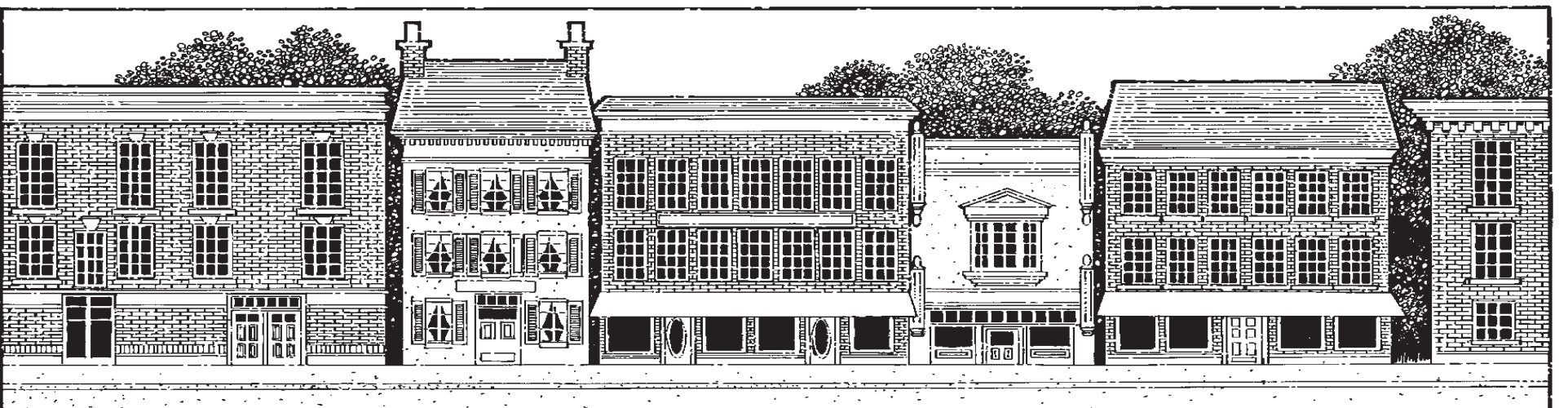
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OBITUARIES

Helen Van Nieuwenhuyze (nee Belhumeur)

Beloved third child of Rhode Island band leader and State Senator Arthur (Artie Bell) Belhumeur and his wife Jeanne (St Pierre) Belhumeur, Helen died peacefully at home on July 19, 2020 surrounded by her six loving children and her devoted husband of 64 years, William R. Van Nieuwenhuyze.

Born at home in

Central Falls, RI. Helen attended high school at St. Xavier's Academy in Providence, RI. She became an accomplished pianist, earning a full scholarship at 17 to continue her music studies at Anna Maria College in Paxton, MA. After marrying the love of her life, she moved to Thompson, CT and raised six children while finishing her studies, eventually establishing a successful teaching practice that included more than 400 students throughout N.E.C.T. As an organist she was sought after for weddings, masses and funerals, playing the organ for 43 years at Sacred Heart Church on West Thompson Rd and St. Joseph's Church in N. Grosvenordale. She was a piano accompanist and music director for many plays, concerts and events throughout the Thompson school system, and participated chorally in the Diocesan Choir at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich CT - performing at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. under the direction of the Los Angeles Master Chorale Director, Paul Salamunovich as one of only two singers from CT - and by invitation in musicals at Pomfret School.

Helen is survived by her husband, William R. Van Nieuwenhuyze of N. Grosvenordale CT; her daughters, Lynn Davis and husband Louis of Scottsdale AZ / N. Grosvenordale CT, Linda Van Nieuwenhuyze of Phoenix AZ, Debra and husband Joe Petrick of Henniker NH, Wendy Van Kirk of Shelton CT, Jennifer and husband Gary Gomes of Dudley MA, and son William S. Van

Nieuwenhuyze of Meriden, CT.

Her 15 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, Hillary Davis of Scottsdale, AZ, Alex Davis of Pittsburgh, PA, Beatrice DeSabatino of Bridgeport, CT, Andrew DeSabatino of Phoenix, AZ, Chris and Courtney Petrick; and great grandson Talis and great granddaughter Nessa of Windham, ME, William and Colleen Petrick and great granddaughter Ryan of Randolph, NJ, Joe and Kim Petrick of Henniker, NH, Charlie Petrick of Louisville, KY, Lindsay Van Kirk and Nate Graham and great granddaughter Flora Louise of Hastings on Hudson, NY, Aubrey Van Kirk of Shelton, CT, Ronald and Taylor Kong of North Haven, CT, William Van Nieuwenhuyze of Meriden, CT, Laratee Van Nieuwenhuyze of Meriden, CT, Kaelin Andersen of N. Grosvenordale, CT, and Quinn and Rebecca Andersen of Dover, DE.

Helen was predeceased by her parents and cherished older sister Georgette, and is survived by her sister Lorraine Belhumeur-Eramo and husband Richard Eramo of N. Providence, RI, her brother Robert and wife Kathy Belhumeur of Smithfield, RI, her brother-in-law and sister-in-law Robert and Marilyn Van Nieuwenhuyze of Smithfield, RI, brother-in-law John Taupier of S. Yarmouth, MA, her best friend Dottie and husband Merrill Seney, and many more cousins, nieces, nephews and friends than can't be recognized here.

Relatives and friends are invited to a visitation for Helen from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2020 in the Valade Funeral Home & Crematory, 23 Main St., North Grosvenordale. The family has asked that all Covid-19 social distancing precautions be observed during the visitation. Donations in her name can be made to the Alzheimer's Association of CT or to the Anna Maria Fund at Anna Maria College in Paxton, MA. For memorial guestbook, please visit www.GilmanandValade.com.

John E. Hibbard, 84

John E. Hibbard, 84, of Hebron, beloved husband of the late Bernice S. Hibbard passed away on Sunday, July 12, 2020 at Marlborough Health & Rehabilitation Center after a life well lived. Born in Woodstock on March 27, 1936, he was the devoted son of the late John E. & Sigrid (Nyholm) Hibbard.

John had a lifetime love for the outdoors. A 1958 graduate of UCONN, with a degree in silviculture, John became known as a passionate advocate and steward of the Connecticut landscape. After his compulsory military service and several years working in Florida for the USDA, John became Executive Director (Secretary) of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, where he lobbied the state legislature for passage of the Landowner Liability Law, served on state task forces for farmland preservation and dairy industry preservation, and was involved in creating Connecticut's Forest Practices act, as well as Connecticut's Environment 2000 plan. For his lifetime of service, John was presented with an Environmental Merit Award of Lifetime Achievement by the EPA, and recognized with proclamations by both the Town of Hebron and State of Connecticut.

Upon moving to Hebron in 1966, John expanded his life of public service, becoming active in Hebron politics, serving on a number of boards and committees including stints as Town

Moderator, as a member of the Charter Commission and as Chair of both the Boards of Selectmen and Finance.

In his private life, John was devoted to his family in Woodstock. He spent many weekends of his adult life doing chores like chopping wood and maintaining Christmas trees fields for his father and his father's siblings. When Bernice became ill with MS, for sixteen years he turned his focus to her care. He loved to riding his tractor and tending to his vegetable garden, sharing its bounty far and wide. John was a good man, a man of quiet faith who would help anyone in need.

John will be forever loved and remembered by his daughter, Beth Hibbard of Vernon and his friend and neighbor, Ron Fitch of Hebron. In addition to Bernice, John was predeceased his sister Ann Redman, his uncle, Raymond Hibbard, and his aunts, Mary & F. Veronica Hibbard.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the CT Forest & Park Association www.ctwoodlands.org/donate or the Gilead Congregational Church 672 Gilead St. Hebron, CT 06248. To leave online condolences, please visit the Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home website at www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Denise A. (Despin) Rurka, 64

Winchester, NH/Oxford, MA - Denise Ann (Despin) Rurka formerly of Oxford passed peacefully in the comfort of her home on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 surrounded by family.

She is survived by her husband, Michael of Winchester they would have celebrated their 45th Anniversary in August; a son Christopher (Heather) of NH; a daughter Louisa (Paul Martineau) of MA; four grandchildren: Jakob Rurka, Katelyn Rurka, Aurora Frenier, Emilie Martineau.

She leaves five sisters: Lena Deter of TN, Donna Nalewajk and Debra Light both of CT, Diane Kenney of FL and Melissa Saad of MA a brother Stephen Despin of FL, her in-laws, many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins and many "adopted children" from town.

She was predeceased by her parents Edgar S. and Anita B. (Deschenes) Despin.

Born on May 15, 1956 she was raised in Oxford, MA and attended the Oxford Public Schools. Moving to New Hampshire in 1975 Denise began watching the neighborhood's children until her children began school, she started working in the special education department at Winchester Elementary School, as both a paraprofessional and one-on-one aide. She then worked at Monadnock HS and Hinsdale. She then opened her own home daycare later working at the Winchester Learning Center.

After her children completed their college educations, Denise went back

to school and graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Early Education and was completing her Master's Degree when she became ill.

Known in town as Momma Rurka her love for children went beyond the classroom and many of her students and her children's friends grew up knowing her as a 2nd mother. Always available to talk to, confide in or just being there. Enjoying this role so much she co-led a Brownie Girl Scout Troop in Winchester for many years.

Besides the love of teaching and working with children, she loved to spend time with her family. Many weekends you would find her having sleepovers with her grandchildren, out with her sisters scrapbooking or watching her son and grandson race dirt bikes at the local track. She enjoyed family vacations including Virginia Beach, Myrtle Beach, Gatlinburg, TN, Cape Cod, camping, and her favorite, Florida especially Disney World and Universal Studios.

There are no calling hours or formal services. Denise always lived her life to the fullest and in order for others to do so in lieu of flowers the family requests you send donations in her memory to: American Cancer Society, PO Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 or Home Healthcare Hospice, 312 Marlboro St. Keene, NH 03431.

All services are under the care of the Cheshire Family Funeral Home and Crematories, 46 South Winchester St., Swanzey, NY 03446 (www.chesirefamilyfh.com)

Robert L. Hunter, 85

BROOKLYN, CT- Robert L. Hunter age 85 passed away Sunday, July 5, 2020 at the Westview Health Care Center, Dayville, CT. He leaves his loving soul mate Marlene Hansen of Brooklyn, CT, his sisters Marlene Wilson and her husband Roger of Willington, CT, Marjorie Auger and her husband Maurice of Putnam, CT, grandchild, Andrew Fredette and his wife Rachel of Thompson, CT. Robert had a daughter who predeceased him, Arlene Fredette of Moosup, CT and a brother Kenneth Hunter of Brooklyn, CT. Robert also leaves many nieces and nephews.

He was born in Danielson, CT son of the late Arthur Hunter and Beatrice (Colwell) Hunter Green and lived in Brooklyn most of his life. He was a chicken farmer for many years and

also owned Brooklyn Scrap Metal.

He was a former assistant fire chief for the Mortlake Fire Dept. and a member for nearly 60 years. He was very involved at the Brooklyn Fair grounds for many years. He enjoyed boating, hunting, fishing and time spent with family. He wore many hats and did many things in the community.

There are no calling hours, a memorial service will be held at a later date. Please omit flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Mortlake Fire Dept., Brooklyn, CT. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School St., Webster, MA has been entrusted with his arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle.

John "JB" Benoit, 70

WEBSTER, MA- John Benoit, 70, of 11 Black Point Road, died Monday, July 13, 2020, surrounded by his loving family at UMASS Memorial Medical Center. Born June 27, 1950 in Webster, he was the son of the late Ernest Benoit, Sr. and Lois (Baxendale) Benoit.

John grew up on the lake in Webster and was a veteran of the United States Army. He worked for Southbridge Public Schools as a custodian for over 20 years. John loved spending time at the beach. He

was an avid sailor and was a longtime member of the Webster Lake Sailing Association. John's greatest joy in life was spending time with his children and grandchildren who will miss him

greatly. He will be remembered for his unique sense of humor and his famous chocolate chip cookies.

John is survived by his children, Eric Benoit and his wife Melanie of Woodstock Valley, CT; and Valerie Imre of Dayville, CT; his brother, Ernest Benoit, Jr. and his wife Arlene of Webster, MA; his grandchildren, Jazmin Benoit, Katrina Imre and Alex Imre; and several special nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Rona Lussier, Ronald Benoit, Gary Benoit, and Debra Saad.

Funeral arrangements for John are private and have been entrusted to the Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory. Memorial donations may be made to Webster Lake Sailing Association, 4 Bates Point Rd, Webster, MA 01570. For memorial guestbook visit www.GilmanAndValade.com

Tracee Lee Gebo



Tracee Lee Gebo passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, June 11th Tracee was born in Putnam, CT on June 24, 1972. Tracee's father passed away on October 31, 2012.

Tracee enjoyed making her own little garden outside.

She also enjoyed taking short walks and playing with her nephews when they were little.

Tracee leaves behind her mother, Cheryl Gebo, he brother, Scott Gebo and a few aunts, cousins and friends.

Tracee will be forever missed. Sleep well my little angel. We ask that you think of Tracee every time that you look up to the sky. There are no services.

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Take-out tips when dining at home

Although takeout has long been a convenience enjoyed by people around the world, in recent months takeout became a key way for many restaurants to stay afloat when the novel coronavirus COVID-19 forced many to close their facilities to customers.

Restaurants have been allowed to remain open, though they have been forced to change their business models. In a matter of weeks, establishments that were not accustomed to offering takeout quickly reimagined their operations to offer curbside pickup or delivery options. In turn, many communities promoted movements to help keep restaurants afloat, with some encouraging residents to participate in Takeout Thursdays to patronize struggling bars, restaurants and delis.

Takeout has always provided a respite from cooking meals at home, but it seems especially welcomed during the COVID-19 outbreak. Now more than ever, individuals and families could use a break from cooking three meals per day. When opting for takeout, consider these tasty tips.

- Support small businesses. Independent restaurants could have a tougher time bouncing back from reduced sales and income than large restaurant chains. When seeking out food- and beverage-related businesses, lean heavily on mom-and-pop restaurants, many of which are pillars in their communities. These are the businesses whose owners may have children in your local schools or those who sponsor local sports leagues.
- Investigate food safety. Inquire about the safety measures restaurants are taking to ensure food safety. Most restaurants and delivery services are enacting even more safety measures than are required by law. Keep in mind, however, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said, “There is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with food.” Simple handwashing after touching food packaging and your food or face may be sufficient.
- Learn new protocol. Ask the business what their requirements are for ordering food. Some restaurants will bring the order directly to your car through curbside pickup. Others may enable you to enter the establishment if you are wearing a mask. Delivery only might be the policy at another establishment. Follow all rules, as they have been implemented to keep you and the business employees safe.
- Pay by credit card. When placing an order for takeout or curbside pickup, pay by credit card online or over the phone if that is an option. This limits how much you and restaurant employees have to handle cards or cash.
- Avoid direct handoffs. Ask the counter server or delivery person to



put down your order and step away before you grab it. This is an extra step to combat the spread of the virus. Even as stay-at-home restrictions are being relaxed, takeout figures to remain popular. Certain tips can keep everyone well fed and safe and help bars and restaurants stay afloat.

Pallet projects can be a handy hobby



Do-it-yourselfers can skip purchasing wood boards and upcycle wood pallets instead.

In recent years, the trend of upcycling, or transforming unneeded or unwanted materials into new items or products, has become more popular. Unlike recycling, which is taking consumer materials like plastic, paper, metal, and glass and breaking them down so base materials can be remade into new, lower-quality consumer products, upcycling produces items of a higher quality than the original materials.

Wood pallet projects are an excellent example of upcycling. Such projects involve taking wood pallets, which tend to be used to stack, move and store stock, and turning them into amazing wood products. Often free for the taking, pallet wood has become a popular building material for do-it-yourselfers. This rustic wood already has an aged look and decorative appeal. Pallets are often made from leftover wood, and using them anew is an eco-friendly endeavor that can add flair to any project. The following are just a handful of pallet project ideas.

- Christmas trees: Start thinking ahead to the holiday season. Cut pallet planks into sizes that incrementally get larger and attach to form a triangular Christmas tree shape. Decorate with paint or other accents, and don't forget to place a star on top.
- Pallet planter: Make a planter box as big or as small as you like to grow flowers, vegetables or herbs. A narrow planter also can be hung on a wall to add flair to spaces indoors or outside.
- Swing chair: A pallet, a supportive back and some cushions can be used to make a swing that is fastened to the ceiling of a porch or even a tree.
- Wine rack: Turn pallet wood into a wine rack that also has a space to store wine glasses below it.
- Outdoor table: Top a disused table with pallet boards nailed or screwed to the top. Stain or clear coat them, and the result is a brand new table for gardening use or outdoor entertaining.
- Platform bed: Pallets can be sanded, painted and placed to form the base of a platform bed. Utilize more pallets to serve as a headboard attached to the wall or bed frame.
- Bench: Make a pallet bench that can be crafted child- or adult-sized. Use it inside the house or outdoors on a patio.
- Garbage container: Instead of generic plastic garbage pails, make a pallet kitchen garbage container that has rustic appeal.
- Backsplash: Give a kitchen some rustic appeal with a pallet backsplash. Cut boards into desired lengths and stagger on the wall. Leave the wood raw or seal it for protection against moisture.

Pallet wood can be transformed into many different projects, helping do-it-yourselfers stay busy at minimal cost. Go online to search for plans for building an array of pallet projects.

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