



KILLINGLY VILLAGER

Friday, April 1, 2022

Serving Killingly since 2006

Complimentary to homes by request

Coffee shop launches weekly Nerd Nights



Chubby Dog Coffee Company owner Adam Rondeau shows off some of the arcade games available during weekly Nerd Nights.

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM – The classic days of arcade gaming seem to be fading into the past especially in recent years of social distancing, but one local business is looking to bring that joy back to the local community in the form of a weekly Nerd Night.

The Chubby Dog Coffee Company on Main Street in Putnam revealed its new game room on Thursday, March 24 with its first Nerd Night event, a new Thursday tradition geared towards bringing gamers of all different mediums to downtown. Fans of video games, card games, RPGs and the like are encouraged to visit Chubby Dog's new venue at 164 Main St. to embrace their inner nerd and met like-minded individuals with a passion for games and nostalgia.

The new addition shouldn't be a surprise to anyone who has visited the Chubby Dog Coffee Company. Walking in guests are greeted with toys and décor related to franchises like "Star Wars" and "Power

Rangers," giving the café a welcoming yet nostalgic vibe. Owner Adam Rondeau said he wanted to build off that image by adding another source of nostalgia.

"I love the idea of the old-style arcade rooms. You couldn't wait to get to the arcade and slap your quarters on a machine and say you had next," Rondeau said. "None of my machines cost quarters, but it's still the same idea of hanging out and nerding out playing games. I'm hoping to cultivate that with a very nostalgic '90s theme to the room."

The walls of the game room are decorated with throwback memorabilia and styles reminiscent of the '90s while visitors could engage in a variety of games including "Power Ranger" themes Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots, Nintendo 64 and Gamecube, and several modernized versions of classic arcade cabinets all part of Rondeau's personal collection of memorabilia. Several tables are also set up allowing guests to bring

Please Read **NERDS**, page **A4**

Health Department responds to petroleum spill in Putnam

BROOKLYN — On March 21, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) alerted the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) that they were investigating the release of approximately 25,000 gallons of #2 fuel oil from an above-ground storage tank located at 10 Mary Crest Dr. in Putnam. The release was originally contained within an older containment area with a clay floor that reduced, though did not prevent the migration of the fuel to the ground. Cleanup began quickly and the spill continues to be monitored and addressed by appropriate authorities. Some portion of the release was contained and some escaped to the environment, with the potential to impact other properties.

To date, there is no evidence that fuel has made its way into ground water that feeds nearby wells, but responding agencies are meeting regularly to coordinate efforts and take pro-active steps to protect public health and the environment.

"NDDH is one of a number of local, state, and federal agencies responding to this incident," said NDDH Director of Health Susan Starkey. "We are all working together to achieve common goals of protecting public health and minimizing any adverse environmental impact. Notification letters were delivered to homeowners who have private drinking wells located in the vicinity of the spill. NDDH sanitarians are collecting water samples

for analysis by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) laboratory, and bottled water is being provided to those homeowners for drinking and cooking purposes until further information is collected and appropriate action identified."

Residents in the affected area were advised to monitor their water quality and may contact NDDH to arrange for testing of their well water. Water should not be consumed if there is a taste or smell of fuel to it or if there are changes in the appearance of it. If this occurs, contact NDDH immediately at 860-774-7350.

"It's a very large and well-coordinated effort," explained Starkey. "NDDH is collecting samples and providing information on water quality and safety. The Town of Putnam is working with the state's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) and the responsible party to secure a temporary supply of bottled water and continues to monitor the situation closely. DEEP is coordinating clean-up operations and is working with the responsible party and environmental professionals to investigate the extent of the release. The CT Department of Public Health Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch (DPH/EHDWB) is providing guidance to protect health. Officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have also been on site to aid in the investigation."

Please Read **SPILL**, page **A3**

Rude Dog Boxing set to take East Coast Boxing Championships by storm

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

BROOKLYN — A contingent of fighters, families and fans from Rude Dog Boxing — an amateur boxing club located in possibly the quietest corner of The Quiet Corner — is headed to the 75th North Carolina Azalea Festival in Wilmington, N.C., April 8-10, but they will not be there to smell the flowers.

The other reason folks — including Rude Dog Boxing — are flocking to the part of The Tar Heel State known to locals

as Port City the second weekend of April is for the East Coast Boxing Championships, which is part of the Azalea Festival and will held at the North Carolina Convention Center.

Paulie Iannuzzi, founder of Rude Dog Boxing and an accomplished pugilist, will accompany nine fighters to the East Coast Championships, along with fellow coaches Jill Iannuzzi (his wife) and Tom Hall.

The fighters hoping to bring championship belts back

from Port City to the renovated chicken coop on Vina Lane are: Sharod "Hercules" Pipkin, "Dangerous" Danny Mosher, Chelsea "Vitamin C" Dinallo, Dylan "Pootie Tang" Roberts, "Captain" Peter Hoey, Louis "Knockout" Dias, Blake "Winky" Savalle, "Big" Jerry Polanco and Jesse "King Kong" Davis.

The 32-year-old Pipkin, will fight in the 125-pound weight class, while Mosher (14 years old) will fight at 132 pounds.

Please Read **BOXING**, page **A8**



Photos Courtesy

The Rude Dog Boxing Club contingent headed for Wilmington, N.C., to compete in the East Coast Championships, beginning Friday, April 8, are (front row, left-to-right): Sharod Pipkin, Chelsea Dinallo, Danny Mosher, Jill Iannuzzi (coach), and (back row, left-to-right): Peter Hoey, Louis Dias, Tom Hall (coach), Dylan Roberts, Jesse Davis and Paulie Iannuzzi (coach and founder of Rude Dog Boxing). Fighters attending the event not in the picture are Blake Savalle and Jerry Polanco.

Interact Club holds car wash benefitting Ukraine



BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PUTNAM – The Putnam Rotary Interact Club stepped up for an international cause on Saturday, March 26 raising hundreds of dollars to assist the Rotary International Ukrainian Emergency Relief Fund.

The Interact Club held a car wash at Putnam High School where members took donations of any amount to help support refugees fleeing from the war in Ukraine. The club collected \$847 by the end of the day. Event organizer and Interact Club President Amayah Chavez said the event was inspired by her learning about the ongoing crisis during her studies at Putnam High School.

"All the proceeds will help those fleeing from Ukraine and those still in Ukraine fighting in the war crisis right now. I was

inspired by my Human Rights class. We've been tracking the process of the war crisis since the beginning of it in January and I really wanted to do something to help those that are suffering and have to deal with what's going on," Chavez said. "I thought this would be really beneficial to put something like this together."

With the Interact Club comprised of teenagers from across the region, Chavez said she felt it was important to get her generation involved in supporting the cause and learning about how they can make a difference for others half a world away.

"It's good to see other people want to take action and believe in this cause," said Chavez. "It's always good for young people to be involved in their community and help

Please Read **CAR WASH**, page **A2**

Local news 100 years ago

This past weekend, on March 26, I had the privilege of speaking at the Rhode Island Genealogical Society meeting about the contents of the Killingly Historical Center. Do not be deceived by our name. Many of the holdings are from places other than Killingly. There are materials from other Northeastern Connecticut towns, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, other New England States, military references, Native American and African American materials to name a few. One of our research rooms holds ten file cabinets with family surname folders containing items such as newspaper clippings, past correspondence, and photocopies of land and probate materials. Since we had never counted the number of surname folders, Suzanne Gosselin and Frank Aleman counted the files prior to my meeting. How surprised we were to discover we had over 3,800 surname folders! Yes. Over 3,800! In fact, I sent Suzanne back an email asking if that was a typo. Perhaps your family has a file. Why not stop in some time and find out. We'd love to see you. Perhaps you like old maps and photos.

We also have a collection of those and old postcards. Once again, I'm perusing the old newspapers to see what was happening in late March and early April in past years. I'll start with 1922 so you can travel back in time to 100 years ago. "The first building enterprise of the spring season is under way on the triangle of land between Main, Water and Cottage streets at the bridge over the Assawaga river (Five Mile River). The plot is to be used for the construction of an elaborate filling station for automobiles, the plant to be much after the style that one sees in the cities and larger towns of New England. A small store that will cater to the refreshment needs of patrons of the place also will be erected on the premises. Amadee Boulais, brother of Contractor Damase Boulais, is owner of the enterprise. The plans are to have the place ready to do business about May 1." (Norwich Bulletin, Friday, March 24, 1922, p. 6; newspapers.com). "Use of horses by the local fire department will be dispensed with as the result of the decision of borough officials to purchase a used Cadillac car



KILLINGLY
AT 300

MARGARET
WEAVER

which has been the property of L. S. Ingalls of the West Side (Brooklyn) and convert the machine to the service of hauling the ladder truck and steamer when occasion requires. The automobile has been purchased at a very reasonable price and is in good condition to perform such service as will be required of it in its new field of activity. The ladder truck will be partly rebuilt so as to attach it to the chassis of the automobile. It has been difficult of late to obtain horses to haul the ladder truck at time of fire calls, so the new arrangement was suggested by Chief A. P. Woodward and has met the approval of the department." (Norwich Bulletin, Friday, March 24, 1922, p. 6; newspapers.com).

My youngest sister Susie is an avid fisherwoman so she and her husband, who live in New Jersey, have already been testing the waters. Fishermen one hundred years ago were rather disappointed with the weather at the beginning of the season that year. "It was a gloomy aggregation of trout fishermen—who have waited long and patiently for April 1—that cast weather eyes in to the northeast Friday afternoon and finally reluctantly admitted that there was no chance for good trout-fishing weather today, the opening of their favorite season. Inches of snow and slush cover the ground, ice fringes the brooks, and these conditions are not rated except as handicaps. In addition country highways heading to the best brooks in this territory are practically impassable for automobiles. And it has been so cold that few fishermen have been able to obtain angle works (Should

this be worms?). So there is no joy among the trout fishermen this morning, though some of them vowed that they would go on out with the break of day if they had to go on snow shoes, and they were willing to gamble that they would show good strings of the beauties by early afternoon. And here's good luck to them. Roads are so cut to pieces and deep with mud, east of here, that residents of some sections are practically marooned. Especially in the eastern part of the town, near South Killingly and beyond that place, and the roads near North Sterling are as near impassable for vehicular traffic as they have been in spring season for years. Many people over in that territory have said over telephone lines to friends in Danielson that they have had to abandon shopping trips to Danielson until the traveling is improved. Horse-drawn vehicles manage to get through, but automobiles are in the discard for the present..." (Norwich Bulletin, Saturday, 1 April 1922, p. 6; newspapers.com).

Do you ever think about how long it took various parts of Killingly to have our modern conveniences such as electricity? "The Connecticut Light & Power Co. is planning the extension of its electric service from Alexander's lake north to the Attawaugan crossing and thence westerly along the road leading to Cotton's bridge. The new line will serve cottages on the north shore of the lake, as well as homes along the route." (Windham County Transcript March 16, 1933).

Now to something from fifty years ago in 1972. "The Killingly Junior High School won the recently played tourney for this year's championship (of the Quinebaug Valley Junior Conference). Members of the team were Paul Cassettari, Scott Derosier, John Morrison, Tom Page, Robert Jodoin, Jay Cyr, Kirk Briere, Paul Hoyt David Phillips, Danny McConnell, Craig Anderson, Dale Vandermark, Davis Richardson, Tom Donlon, Doug

Vandermark, James Johns, Rand Joly, Tim Costello, David Duki, James Logee, and James Petana." (Windham County Transcript April 6, 1972). Perhaps you were one of the players!

"Quinebaug Valley Community College, northeastern Connecticut's first public institution of higher education, will witness the inauguration of its first president, Dr. Robert E. Miller, this coming Saturday afternoon, a fitting climax to a weeklong series of events that has brought a host of educational, governmental, and industrial dignitaries to the area. Dr. Miller will be invested with the symbols of his high office in inaugural ceremonies dating back into thirteenth-century Western European universities at 2:30 o'clock at Annhurst College in South Woodstock. More than 55 dignitaries will be in the academic procession that will march from the Student Center to the Cultural Center at Annhurst to participate in the inauguration." ((Windham County Transcript April 6, 1972, p. 1). How many of you remember Annhurst College?

Please feel free to share memories and visit our museum. Stop in and visit the Killingly Historical Center on a Wednesday or Saturday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian March 2022 For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or contact the Killingly Historical Society at www.killinglyhistorical.org. Leave messages for the Killingly Historical Center at 860-779-7250. Visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wednesday or Saturday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center should be sent to P.O. Box 265, Danielson, CT 06239.



**Auto Rates Rising?
Give us a call!**



Trahan Agency
860.564.3383

Discounts:
• Multi-Car • Good Student
• Homeowner • And More...

or email:
kevintrahan@allstate.com

Allstate
You're in good hands.



Woodstock • Public • Schools

**Woodstock Elementary School
Kindergarten Registration
2022-2023**

Children of Woodstock turning 5 on or before December 31, 2022 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten for the 2022 – 2023 school year.

Please contact the main office at 860-928-0471 or at wesoffice@woodstockschools.net to add your child's name to our Kindergarten list and receive a registration packet.

JOSPEH GNAZZO **NOW HIRING**

COMPANY INC. Entry level construction laborers

A great opportunity to join our team and develop in demand trade skills for a lifelong rewarding career.

Currently looking to fill multiple 40-45 hours per week positions.

Starting pay \$22 per hour - On the job training

Health Insurance - 401K

Paid Holidays - PTO (paid time off)

Sick Time - Merit based Bonuses

Company paid certification training (if needed)

We provide all the necessary tools, equipment, and PPE.

Find our complete job posting and job application at:
www.gnazzo.com click on our "join our team" tab

Hull 

forest products

Conserving Forests / Crafting Wood / Since 1965

**Custom and Stock
Wood Flooring Mill Direct**

Made from
Locally Grown Wood

Flooring showroom hours
8:30-4:30 Mon-Friday
Appointments Preferred



**Best Value & Quality
from CT's
Largest Sawmill**



Come see what we saw!

Family Owned & Operated since 1965
www.hullforest.com • (860) 974-0127

FCC Pomfret announces Holy Week schedule

POMFRET — First Congregational Church of Pomfret is pleased to be able to invite the community to join in observing Holy Week during a variety of special services and events that will be held during the week of April 10-17. Holy Week begins this year on Sunday, April 10 with a Palm Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Thomas Crumb will share a special message for these troubled times entitled: Bright Hope For Tomorrow.

On Maundy Thursday, April 14, the church will host a representative from the organization Jews for Jesus at 6 p.m., who will lead in a powerful, interactive experience entitled Christ in the Passover. A Passover Seder meal will be provided by the congregation making this a sensory exploration of the beautiful Jewish ceremony that Jesus shared with His disciples on the evening

before His crucifixion. As the traditional, symbolic foods are shared, the story of the exodus and freedom from slavery will be woven together with the messianic hope realized in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Jewish or not, religious or not—all are welcome for this unforgettable, thought-provoking experience. Reservations are requested to ensure that the proper amount of food is prepared. Please contact the church at fcfp@fccpomfret.org to reserve your place. Though there is no cost to attend this event, a freewill offering will be received.

At 7 p.m. on Good Friday, April 15, the congregation will gather for Journey to the Cross, a multimedia time of meditation and reflection on Christ's crucifixion. Using a blending of Scripture readings, great artwork of the past and present, music and song, you will be led

step by step through the unfolding series of events that culminate in the death and burial of Jesus.

Easter Sunday, April 17, will be celebrated with two very different events. A sunrise service at 6 a.m. will be held at Booth Farm, 549 Wolf Den Road in Brooklyn. Come enjoy the beauty and tranquility of this lovely spot as morning dawns and people gather to remember and rejoice in Christ's triumph over death and the grave. At 10:30 a.m., the congregation will gather once more for worship and celebration in the church sanctuary. Beautiful flowers, special music and a message by Rev. Crumb focusing on The Curse That Became the Cure are being prepared to enhance you and your family's celebration of Easter. Please feel welcome to participate in and enjoy any or all of these events at FCCP.

Team up to clean up Woodstock

WOODSTOCK — Team up to clean up the town of Woodstock from 8 a.m. – noon (rain date Sunday, April 24) at Roseland Park to register and gather supplies. The Woodstock Recreation Department and Woodstock Conservation Commission present Team Up to Clean Up Woodstock on Sunday, April

10th. This event is made possible by a grant from The Last Green Valley. Thank you to the Woodstock Highway Department and Roseland Park for supporting this event.

We will have orange vests and trash pickers (to be checked out and returned), as well as gloves, trash bags, water bottles

and snacks. Meet us next to the barn. Feel free to post photos of your clean up on the Woodstock Recreation Facebook page.

Simply fill out a registration form, contact the Recreation Director to pick up supplies if needed, and complete and return a Trash Tracker form afterwards.



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF POMFRET

13 Church Road, Pomfret
860-928-7381
fcfp@fccpomfret.org
Find us on Facebook!

BRIGHT HOPE FOR TOMORROW
Palm Sunday 10:30

CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER
Maundy Thursday 6:00
An interactive meal
Reservations requested to fcfp@fccpomfret.org

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS
Good Friday 7:00
A multi-media time of meditation and reflection

TWO TREES – ONE CROSS
Sunrise Service 6:00
Booth Family Farm 549 Wolf Den Road, Brooklyn

THE CURSE THAT BECAME THE CURE
Worship and Celebration 10:30


The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence

WE BUY GOLD

Specializing in Custom Designs

All types of Jewelry Repairs

MASTER JEWELERS™
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®

409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza



CAR WASH
continued from page A1

people around them and internationally as well. I think it's crucial for the young generation to be involved and aware of what's going on. We're the ones who have access to so many different opportunities and those in Ukraine right now don't. I think it's our duty as American citizens to do what we can to help those around us, here at home and abroad."

Among the other Interact members involved in the effort were Emily St. Martin, Lynn Rape, Emily Olecki, Abby Morin, Leilia Mackinnon, Emma Blanchette, Sierra Girard, Natalia Choruzek, Mykala Walford, and Iayah Burke. Advisors Woody Durst, Suzette Lefevre and Roberta Rocchetti were also involved in the initiative.

How to calculate your net worth & why it matters

We hear a lot about net worth, but what exactly does net worth mean and why does it matter? Here's a look at what net worth is, how to calculate it and the important role it plays in your finances, your investment strategy, and your ability to reach your financial and life goals for the future.

What does "Net Worth" mean?

Net worth refers to all of your assets minus liabilities, or what you own minus what you owe. For example, if your house is worth \$1,000,000 and you have a \$500,000 mortgage, you own \$500,000 in equity.

How do you calculate net worth?

To calculate your net worth, first, take an inventory of everything you own. Net worth generally includes cash, investments, property, vehicles and anything else you own. To get an accurate estimate for depreciating assets (such as cars), you may need to research how much they are currently worth. Remember, your net worth can include assets you are paying off (such as a home) because you will subtract what you owe.

Here are some things you should include when calculat-

ing your net worth (although this list isn't exhaustive):

Cash, including checking accounts, savings accounts, CDs (certificates of deposit), and other cash

Investments, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, securities, treasury bills, bullion (silver, gold, etc.), and other investments

Property, including real estate (market value), investment properties, vehicles, jewelry, art and collectibles, and other property

Retirement funds, including retirement accounts (IRA, 401(K), pension plans, etc.), social security and any other retirement assets

Once you have an inventory of everything you own, subtract what you owe. Some examples of liabilities include auto loans, mortgages, credit card debt, consumer loans, student loans and unpaid taxes.

After subtracting your liabilities from your assets, you will have your net worth.

Net worth, financial health and your life goals

A lot of people talk about net worth as a part of your financial health and while it's an important part, it's only one part of your overall financial



FINANCIAL
FOCUS
• • • • •
LAURENCE
HALE
INVESTMENT
ADVISER

picture. There are many caveats and considerations to take into account.

For example, net worth doesn't include your annual income, so someone with a high annual income but with higher expenses could have a lower net worth than someone with a lower annual income that invests in appreciating assets. Those focused on growing their net worth may consider investing in appreciating assets and lowering their debt and liabilities.

In addition, net worth may have implications on your taxes. Your tax bracket may be determined by your annual income, but those brackets don't necessarily include net worth.1 So if you are a high-income earner, and have a high debt-to-income ratio, and are in one of the highest marginal rate tax brackets, you may accumulate net worth much lower

than someone who makes less money annually, but has less debt, more appreciating assets and is in a lower tax bracket.

When working with our clients, we consider net worth as one important component of financial health, but we also consider lifestyle and what is impacting whether or not you are accumulating wealth. As part of our strategic Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well financial planning process, we'll also look at your investable assets, which is the amount of money you have ready to invest. Net worth can be tied up in property or other investments and may not be liquid enough to invest, so it's important to build your financial strategy on a thoroughly researched foundation that considers every aspect of your current finances in relation to your future goals.

We can help you to build a strategy that will leverage your current net worth and overall financial picture to help you achieve your goals. Learn

more at our website, www.whzwealth.com, and contact us at (860) 928-2341 or info@whzwealth.com to get started.

Presented by by Principal/Managing Partner Laurence Hale AAMS, CRPS®. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. These materials are general in nature and do not address your specific situation. For your specific investment needs, please discuss your individual circumstances with your representative. Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors does not provide tax or legal advice, and nothing in the accompanying pages should be construed as specific tax or legal advice. 697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259, 860-928-2341. <http://www.whzwealth.com>.

1 <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-provides-tax-inflation-adjustments-for-tax-year-2022>

FCC POMFRET COLLECTS DONATIONS FOR UKRAINE



Photo Courtesy

Arkin, Nora, Iver, and Oscar Braaten help with publicity and decorations to raise funds for Ukraine at First Congregational Church of Pomfret. More than \$2,000 has been raised so far from the sale of contributed handcrafts, art, baked goods, and other handmade treasures to benefit the good work of The Josiah Venture in Ukraine.

Daughters of Isabella to host Lenten soup supper

PUTNAM — The Daughters of Isabella will host a Lenten soup supper Friday, April 8 from 5-7 p.m. at St. Mary

Church in Putnam. Dine in or take out; \$5 a bowl.

Chowder, tomato, and broth-based soup will be served, along with salad and bread.

For more information, contact Jance at stthereseputnam@gmail.com.

Boy Scouts hosting free breakfast

PUTNAM — On Sunday, April 3, Scouts BSA Troop 21 will host a free breakfast for the public in the downstairs hall of St. Mary's Church, 218 Providence Street, Putnam, from 9:45 a.m. until noon. The menu will include pancakes, sausage and orange juice. For information, call (860) 928-7241.

SPILL

continued from page A1

Starkey emphasized that the potential for health impacts if contamination does occur should be taken seriously.

"We remind residents in the area that we do not yet have any indications that well water has been compromised, but we continue to take precautions and pro-active steps to protect their health. I encourage the homeowners with the private wells in the vicinity of the spill to contact NDDH to discuss testing of your water, even if you do not taste or smell fuel in your water at this time."

Water sampling test results expected early next week will determine next steps.

Crooked Creek Farm

~ est. 1992 ~

East Brookfield, Massachusetts

Stock up now!

Quarter, Half sides of beef available!

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!

To purchase your meat packages

CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308

www.CrookedCreekFarmMA.com

Email: crookedcreekfarmma@gmail.com

Find Us on Social Media

EYE CATCHING

THE SIDING STORE INC.

Siding • Roofing • Windows • Decks • Sunrooms

Winter Pricing

Now in Effect

Financing available to qualified customers!

thesidingstoreinc.com

860.423.7771 860.963.9035

860.886.1718 860.564.7088

References Galore • Fully Licensed • Senior Discounts • Lead Safe

AFFORDABLE!

Enjoy Life with Better Hearing!

Call 860-315-9656 to schedule a hearing evaluation.

HEARING CARE CENTERS

Does your insurance cover hearing aids? Let us check for you. We work with Anthem BCBS, United Healthcare, Hearing Care Solutions, Amplifon, Nation's Hearing, American Hearing Benefits, and CT Medicaid.

19 Quinebaug Ave, Putnam
351 Merline Road, Vernon
www.amplisound.com

Hearing Solutions for all Lifestyles and Budgets since 1981



From day care to au pair

Buy your evenings back.

You deserve a date night. We can help you get it. Leverage our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well process toward your life goals, and treat yourselves to something special on the way.

WEISS, HALE
& ZAHANSKY
STRATEGIC WEALTH ADVISORS

Plan Well. Invest Well. Live Well.™

whzwealth.com | (860) 928-2341
697 Pomfret Street, Pomfret Center, CT 06259
Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network®, Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Advisor.

Bring a bit of spring indoors

Many gardeners are busy pruning shrubs to remove winter damage, control the size, or provide a bit of shaping before the season is well under way. Save some of the branches or cut a few from spring flowering shrubs to brighten your indoors. You'll enjoy the added spring color provided by branches of forsythia, quince, pussy willows, and other spring flowering shrubs for bouquets and arrangements.

Use a pair of sharp bypass pruners with two sharp blades that cut like scissors. These make clean cuts allowing the wound to close quickly and reducing the risk of insects and diseases moving in. Start by removing crossing or winter damaged branches. This helps manage plant growth while harvesting some stems for your enjoyment. Look for stems at least 12" long with lots of flowers or buds to maximize flowering. Make cuts above a healthy outward bud, where a branch joins another branch or just above ground level.

Combine planned renewal pruning with a bit of indoor enjoyment. Remove a few of the older stems of forsythia, lilac, and other multi-stemmed spring flowering shrubs back to ground level. This encourages new growth at the base of the plant. Cut the larger branches down to a useable size for your indoor enjoyment.

Then finish any needed pruning after the plants put on their spring display so they can form new flower buds next



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Harvest stems for forcing on a sunny day or when temperatures are above freezing for better results. Don't smash the stems as often recommended. Instead make one or more slits in a crosshatch or star pattern on the bottom of the stems before placing them in water immediately after cutting.

If possible, submerge the whole stems in a tub of water overnight. This encourages the stems and buds to absorb water and break dormancy. Set the stems in a bucket of cool water, about 60° to 65°F, in a bright but indirectly lit location after soaking overnight or immediately after pruning. Mist the stems as often as possible the first few days or place a plastic bag over the stems to boost humidity and prevent the buds from dropping. Change the water every two or three days making sure the cut ends of the stems are always in the water.

The buds should start swelling and flowers start to appear in several weeks. Cut the stems to the needed length and use them in flower arrangements. They look great mixed with spring flowering bulbs, greens and other spring flowers from your garden or florist. Or display them in a vase all on their own.

spring. Avoid severe pruning that can result in excess growth. Removing no more than one fourth of the total growth will result in more even growth. Repeat as needed for the next year or two to reduce the size and improve the beauty of overgrown plants.



Photo Melinda Myers

The branches of 'Flowering Quince' add color and beauty to the indoors.

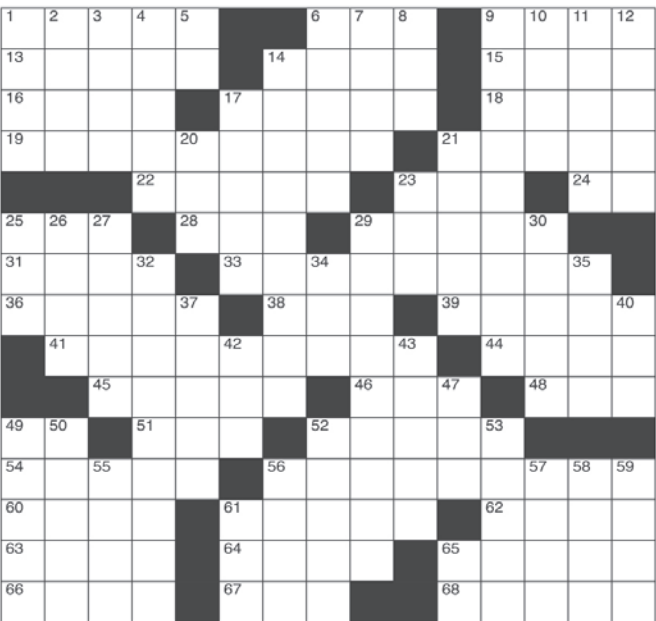
Continue cutting and forcing a variety of branches over time for continuous indoor bloom. Prolong their beauty by moving the flowering stems and flower arrangements to a cooler location at night.

Make notes on what worked well in spring arrangements to help you plan for next year. Whether you force them into bloom or harvest when in bloom, you will enjoy the added spring color indoors.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20

“Every Town Deserves a Good Local Newspaper”

www.ConnecticutQuietCorner.com



CLUES ACROSS

1. Hillsides
6. A way to ingest
9. Large number
13. Southeastern Minnesota city
14. Cronies
15. Having sufficient skill, knowledge
16. Supplements with difficulty
17. Former VP nominee Palin
18. Cambodian monetary unit
19. Where coaches work
21. Secret political clique
22. A type of lute
23. Tan
24. Empire State
25. Where golfers begin
28. For each
29. Muslim inhabitants of the Philippines
31. Bird genus
33. Popular Dave Matthews Band song
36. Domesticates
38. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
39. Asian antelope
41. One who takes apart
44. Kin
45. Dresses
46. Says something about you (abbr.)
48. Doctor of Education
49. One quintillion bytes (abbr.)
51. Overcharge
52. Sailboats
54. Indian musical patterns
56. Predisposition to a condition
60. Share a common boundary with
61. Wide
62. Skin disease
63. Monetary unit of Samoa
64. Source of the Blue Nile
65. Instrument
66. Red deer
67. Unidentified flying object
68. Bar or prelude

CLUES DOWN

1. Flying insects
2. Strong alcoholic spirit
3. Old
4. Moves in slowly
5. Symbol for tin
6. Having certain appendages
7. Expression of sorrow or pity
8. Type of hormone (abbr.)
9. One with an unjustified mistrust
10. Hebrew calendar month
11. Pure
12. LSU football coach
14. Unbroken views
17. Fathers
20. Part of a race
21. Hairstyle
23. Fifth note of a major scale
25. Body art
26. Amounts of time
27. Designed chairs
29. Sensational dramatic piece
30. Arrangement of steps
32. Classifies
34. Young child
35. Oh, no!
37. Astronomical period of about 18 years
40. Not or
42. Poke fun at
43. Consisting of roots
47. "___ Humbug!"
49. A way to remove
50. A confusion of voices and other sounds
52. Keyed instrument
53. Varnishes
55. Unpleasantly sticky substance
56. Unable to hear
57. A short erect tail
58. Indicates interest
59. Flow or leak through
61. British thermal unit
65. Iron

PUZZLE SOLUTION



LEGION MEMBER RECOGNIZED FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE



Photo Courtesy

American Legion Benson-Flugel Post 111 Commander Glenn Boies is pictured here presenting member Earnie St. Jean a special certificate commemorating St. Jean's 50 Continuous Years of Membership in The American Legion. The Certificate came from American Legion National Headquarters and is signed by National Commander Paul Dillard and National Adjutant Dan Wheeler. Post 111 is located in South Woodstock, and is comprised of 100 members spanning all generations of Veterans.

VILLAGER ALMANAC At CT AUDUBON

Bird sightings at the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret and Wyndham Land Trust properties for the week of March 21: American Woodcock, Tree Swallow, Bluebird, Mockingbird, Wood Duck, Mallard, American Kestrel, Turkey Vulture, Raven, Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, Flicker, Robin, Belted Kingfisher, Barred Owl, Cooper's Hawk. Visit ctaclubon.org/Pomfret-home.



TO PLACE A BUSINESS AD:

MIKAELA VICTOR
RETAIL ADVERTISING
860-928-1818 EXT. 313
mikaela@villagernewspapers.com
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:
KERRI PETERSON
860-928-1818, EXT. 303
kerri@stonebridgepress.news
TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:
E-MAIL
obits@stonebridgepress.news
CALL: 860-928-4215
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550
**TO SUBMIT A LETTER
TO THE EDITOR: OR PRESS
RELEASE**
E-MAIL:
brendan@villagernewspapers.com
OR send to Villager, P.O. Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550

VILLAGER NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK C. CHILINSKI
860-928-1818 EXT. 103
frank@villagernewspapers.com

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
860-928-1818 EXT. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DINICOLA
508-764-6102
jdinicola@stonebridgepress.com

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
860-928-1818 x 323
brendan@villagernewspapers.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
860-928-1818, EXT. 305
julie@villagernewspapers.com

The Putnam Villager (025-154), The Thompson Villager (024-998) The Killingly Villager (025-004) and The Woodstock Villager (024-999) are published weekly by Villager Newspapers, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Woodstock, CT and additional mailing office(s). POSTMASTER: send address changes to the Villager Newspapers, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Ukrainian embroidery exhibit at Pomfret Public Library

POMFRET — Pomfret Public Library is hosting an exhibit of heirloom traditional Ukrainian embroidery and contemporary pieces by award-winning textile artist Iryna Ostapchuk Huling during the month of April. Iryna immigrated to the United States in 2007. She and her husband and three children have lived in Pomfret since 2019.

“Stitching is something I always liked. In any form,” says Iryna. “It is an anchor that lets me better understand my roots, visually enjoy and appreciate culture, learn new things. I can tell my story with my stitching.”

Embroidery is integral to the Ukrainian national identity and culture. The traditional designs are rich in symbolism and have regional variations with many geometric forms and plant ornaments. It's used in folk wear, household linens, and the rushnyk, a cloth used in ceremonies such as weddings and funerals. The work can be multi-colored, but white-on-white with openwork is common, as is predominantly red, red-blue or red-black combinations.

Pomfret Public Library is offering take-and-make kits to make your own cross stitch bookmark or small wall hanging with a Ukrainian motif or theme. If you've not done counted cross stitch before, you can learn how at the weekly Common Threads Stitchery group at Pomfret Public Library, Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Iryna will be there if you would like to talk with her about her handwork, Ukrainian culture, or her relief efforts on behalf of the people of Ukraine. She will also be available on Saturday, April 9 from 11 a.m. – noon.

Pomfret Public Library is located at 449 Pomfret St., Pomfret. Hours are 10-6 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 2-6 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. All library programs and exhibits are free and open to the public.

NERDS

continued from page A1

their own tabletop games to play as well while enjoying a coffee from the café.

Rondeau is not the first to attempt to bring arcade-style fun to downtown. Bottomless Pit of Treasure previously hosted a large arcade in the neighboring Riverfront Commons Plaza. Rondeau said he felt there was a gap in the community ever since its closure and with another nostalgia and game themed shop located right next door in Wonderland Comics Rondeau felt the addition of a specific gaming area was just what downtown Putnam needed.

“I feel like with Wonderland Comics the nice thing about them is that the tabletop stuff is there and that's where you go to buy the collectable and cards and then they can come here to play the games,” said Rondeau. “I wanted people to have a place to hang out here. I think it fills a void and adds something great to downtown.”

The game room is also available for everyday customers during the week but is specifically reserved for Nerd Night participants on Thursday nights. The Chubby Dog Coffee Company's Nerd Nights are every Thursday from 5 until 9 p.m.

In the Studio

CYNTHIA SAARI



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

This week we’re meeting with multi-media artist, Rachel Lewis. You may have seen some of her “pot-heads” at Sawmill Pottery in downtown Putnam. If so, surely you smiled at the quirky humor in her work. I did not know until very recently that the precursor to her clay portraits took the form of paint on stone, drawing on her observational skill while walking the outdoors.

Rachel, how does this story begin?
In about 2002, we were on the Maine coast at low tide and noticed stones with moss growing on them. They looked like people just out of the shower, and I said they just needed some eyes. Our friend said I should take some home, paint the eyes on, and then bring them back to the beach. So, I did choose a few, gave them some features - and never took them back. People loved them, and even bought some.
After they had spent time away from the water, the moss dried out, eventually lost its green color, and flaked off. But



by that time, I realized that ordinary landlubbering stones had the potential for faces too, and I began to keep an eye out for promising features. In many cases, they needed only a little makeup to bring out their personality.
These are from 2010. I continue to do a few every year. They come in handy as birthday presents, also as donations to a community organization (such as in the town in Maine where it all started), and some are sold at M’s Boutique in Putnam.

Did it seem like a natural progression to move on to making these characters in clay?
Yes. Since I was already in the habit of seeing faces in random shapes, I found it irresistible to see them in pots, especially those that were having problems achieving a desirable form. I got some of my best inspirations from other people’s failures, if I was on the spot to grab them just before the unhappy makers balled them up and threw the clay back in the bucket. Here’s one of my favorites, from 2012.
A very good potter in 2007 intended this next one to be an elegant apothecary jar – but it had other ideas:

Was ceramics new to you?
I had always wanted to try pottery but, once I had the chance, I realized that it wasn’t as easy as I thought! It took more patience than I seemed to have, to develop real skill on the wheel. It also took time to find stones that had promising features. It didn’t take long for me to put two and two together and realize that, with clay, if I wanted a nose



somewhere, I could put one there! So that’s what I began to do. My noses wouldn’t be exactly like the ones on real people – but who would care? Nobody objected when the features on the stones were oddly shaped and placed.
It turned out that there was no need to agonize over the expressions on these faces, because I soon realized that whatever features one gives them, they will have an expression of some kind. It may not be the expression one had in mind, but there’s always a next time. As a potter, I’m a cartoonist!

I seem to recall an exhibition of yours in town. Do you still do work in other mediums now that you’ve developed the “potheads”?
I once showed things from my artistic life history at Sawmill Pottery. They included some fabric designs for prints. The highlight of my freelance career was having this print featured in an ad:
I was so tickled that I went to Lord & Taylor to buy the dress for myself (in real life I would never have dared to shop there, or pay \$40 for a dress). But when I saw myself in it, it was so bright and assertive that it made me look like the underside of a fish, and I put it back on the rack.
Other media in my past include linoleum block prints, a lot of logo designs for plays and for the Bradley itself in the ‘90’s (as well as designing and painting sets there), and colored pencil illustrations for a children’s book that came out in 1993. I still reach for my colored pencils now and then, but just as often lapse into letting the computer fill in the colors.

Were you trained in art?
I was an art major in college, but Hiram was a liberal arts school, and didn’t believe in teaching toward occupations (except for teaching and medi-



cine), so I emerged without vocational skills, and had to start at the bottom. Luckily, the cost of living was a lot lower then.
For many years, my daily work in graphics called for technical speed (which I didn’t have) and little originality. I did not foresee ending up with a collection of work in bulging boxes under the bed, and a choice of dozens of photos to illustrate an interview like this. It goes to show that things do accumulate, if one lives long enough.

What do you think living in the Quiet Corner offers creative people?
It offers us a clean slate. If we want to have music, we get people together and play it ourselves. If we want theater, we go to the Bradley and try out and paint sets and sell popcorn. Nothing we want to do is overwhelmed by professional, commercial enterprise.

Thank you for brightening my day with your whimsical pieces and for sharing some of your artistic experiences!
###

Word of the day
Lord & Taylor: American department store chain, which has now become an e-commerce retailer, it was America’s oldest department store, staying in business from 1826 to 2021. At the time of its closure, the company maintained 38 stores and one outlet store. The store was named after founders George Taylor and Samuel Lord.

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

Grange holds Community Art Show



Photos and art presented during the Senexet Grange’s Community Art Show.

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
WOODSTOCK – The Senexet Grange in Woodstock has been making special efforts over the past few years to becoming a larger part of the local community once more. The Grange took another step in that mission on Saturday, March 26 putting a special focus on some of the shining artists of the town through a Community Art Show.
The event was the brainchild of Grange Master Amy Monahan and doubled as a food drive to benefit TEEG in Thompson and provide financial support for the Grange

itself. The concept of an art show was born from the idea that it could bring individuals in to see the Grange while also experiencing a hidden beauty of Woodstock and the Quiet Corner.
“There’s a lot of talent in this region and I think art speaks to a lot of people,” Monahan said. “It’s something easy where the artists don’t have to stay, they can set things up and people can come and go as they please. I thought it was a pretty laid-back thing to put together. Art is an amazing part of our lives and it’s amazing to see the creativity the Quiet Corner has to offer is great.”
The show included a variety of art forms including photography, paintings, pottery and sculptures, and photography complimented by a large mural depicting Woodstock farmland and former and present Quiet Corner businesses on the Grange’s stage. In an unintentional twist most if not all of the pieces were focused on local agriculture or animals and nature in general, something Monahan said was a nice touch.
“Art is nature, it’s an expression of our lives and our lives are natural things,” Monahan said. “Our community here is agricultural so if you’re from Woodstock that’s what you see and what you’ve grown up around so it’s no surprise that agriculture and the outdoors seem to be a major inspiration for these artists. Art touches everybody so that’s why an art show made sense to me. Art can be anything, flowers, antiques, paintings, so everyone can find something to enjoy through a show like this.”

The Senexet Grange plans to continue to host community outreach programs to usher in a new generation of support under Monahan’s leadership. Those interested can learn more about the Grange by visiting the Senexet Grange Facebook page or by visiting the “What is the Grange” event on April 9 at 12:45 p.m. at the Grange’s facility at 628 Route 169 in Woodstock.

Brooklyn Democrats elect new members and officers

BROOKLYN — The Brooklyn Democratic Town Committee (BDTC) endorsed its 2022 membership on Jan. 4, and elected officers on March 24. The BDTC has a membership of 20.
Candidates elected to the BDTC are: Lisa Arends, Alyssa Arends, Joe Banas, Kate Bisson, Samuel Bonfante, Kathy Clark, Kim Conroy, Drew Dionne, Natalie Dionne, Richard Ives, Mae Lyons, Deanna Niejadlik, Tiffanie Schley, Carolyn Teed-Ives, Joe Voccio, Sherri Vogt, Susan Wasstrom, Ailla Wasstrom-Evans, Donald Williams, Diane Wimmer
Officers are: Ailla Wasstrom-Evans, Chair; Richard Ives, Vice Chair; Tiffanie Schley, Treasurer; Lisa Arends, Secretary
The Town Committee meets at the Clifford B. Greene Memorial Center (or on Zoom) on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. All registered Democrats are invited, encouraged and welcome to attend. Join us!

In addition to nominating a slate of candidates for local offices, we advocate for policies that align with our values, select delegates to state nominating conventions, choose a representative to the Democratic State Central Committee, and conduct election activities and fundraising in support of local, state, and national Democratic candidates. All Brooklyn Democrats are welcome to talk about the boards, commissions, issues, and concerns in Town.
We are always looking for new members who share our concern for quality education, clean environment, health and safety of our residents, preserving open space, a thriving economy, fair and equitable taxation, and a desire to preserve Brooklyn’s quality of life.
For more information contact the Brooklyn Democratic Town Committee at brooklyndtc@gmail.com or on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/brooklyndtc/>.




Buy Local • Dine Local • Invest Local • Think Local • Support Local

SHOP LOCAL
SHOP KILLINGLY

Planning your new kitchen?
Give us a call!

We offer all-wood cabinetry, countertops, tile, plumbing fixtures, bar stools and more.
Great service too!

Jolley Commons Plaza
144 Wauregan Rd (Rte. 12) • Danielson, CT • 860.774.5554
TAILOREDKITCHENSANNMARIE.COM



P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TELEPHONE: (860) 928-1818
FAX: (860) 928-5946
WWW.VILLAGERNEWSPAPERS.COM

FRANK G. CHILINSKI
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Thinking back: Nostalgia has its benefits

It's been one of those weeks where nostalgia has been hanging around quite a bit, whether it's reminiscing with friends or searching for old CD's or vinyl, nostalgia has a bit of magic all its own.

A study has revealed that nostalgia can actually reduce general aches and pains due to the reduction in brain activity. Apparently, a longing for a simpler time has proven to dish out an analgesic effect.

During one study, individuals were shown 26 old images while attached to an MRI machine. Such images included old TV shows, vintage candy and games. While attached to the machine, those people were also exposed to different levels of pain via a heat generator on their arm. Another group were shown images of the modern world. The study revealed that those individuals who were shown nostalgic images showed lower levels of pain.

Researchers continued to study the why's and how's of nostalgia. One psychologist mentioned that those who long for the past may be depressed, however this proved not to be true. Nostalgia has been linked to giving people a feeling like their lives had roots and continuity.

Recalling the past has been proven to reduce boredom, anxiety and loneliness. In addition, feelings of nostalgia tend to make us more generous and open minded with strangers. Friends, families and couples report feeling closer when reminiscing.

While it can be bittersweet to yearn for the past, most people recall those memories in a healthy way and actually can give the present more meaning. Most folks have feelings of nostalgia at least once a week and colder days seem to induce the feeling more as nostalgia tends to make us feel warm.

In the end, nostalgia brings into our mind treasured memories that make us feel loved and valued. While we think of the past, it's important to not compare it to the present.

The best way to evoke nostalgic feelings is to listen to old music, flip through old photo albums, or Google old images from your past.

In the words of Dr. Emmett Brown to Marty McFly in "Back to the Future": "Roads? where we're going, we don't need roads."

Woodstock Planning and Zoning Commission reviews affordable housing surveys

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) is continuing its work to update the town's affordable housing plan. A total of 473 people submitted survey responses. At its March 17 meeting, the PZC reviewed the results, as well as a housing needs assessment.

"The Commission is proactively looking into meaningful ways to address affordable and attainable housing in town", said Woodstock PZC Chair, Dr. Jeff Gordon. "This builds upon the good work the Commission has been doing over many years on a wide range of land use issues. It is another in-depth analysis that will result in the creation of an updated set of goals and logistics to achieve the goals."

Gordon further mentioned that "This is an exciting project to be involved with because it is one more way to help people who live, work, or move to Woodstock, and I look forward to the Commission's further work on this important issue."

The Woodstock PZC's next meeting is on March 31. During April and May, meetings will be on the first, third, and fourth Thursdays. All meetings start at 7:30 p.m., and can be attended either in person (lower level large room at Town Hall) or via Zoom link. Information about the meetings will be posted on the town's Web site.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Board of Education is failing to serve its community

To the Editor:

As a member of the National Association for Mental Health, I am disgusted by the response I have seen from the Board of Education regarding a mental health center being established at Killingly High school. Our B.O.E is meant to represent our community, and when the community is asking for resources, they should listen. When your student body, along with your teachers, and parents, ask for it, I cannot see any justifiable reason to vote against it.

I believe that the idea of mental health awareness is bringing fear to the board members. Considering the terribly dark side of mental health issues, the death, suffering, and sadness it can bring to families, that is a valid response for most people. For a group of elected officials, however, it is inexcusable. This is not an issue that will go away if we ignore it, this is a problem that will persist no matter what and can only be remedied by

professional assistance.

If it weren't for the mental health resources that my child's school offered, my child would not be here today. Coming from an emotionally literate parent, I can assure you that children will not confide in their parents in even the most accepting conditions. Children are also not apt to lie about the severity of their mental health when filling out anonymous surveys, and for Janice Joly to suggest this to a room full of students and parents is unbelievably invalidating to the people suffering. This emotional invalidation is not only harmful to our community, but astonishingly unprofessional. Janice Joly showed little respect to both professionals and her peers and does not rightfully represent our community. Step up or step down.

IVY ROSS
KILLINGLY

Thompson doesn't want, or need, change

To the Editor:

In meeting after meeting, I am being told by others, and observing myself, that there appears an effort to prep Thompson for some sort of change that may be taking place out of the public eye. Thompson does not need, nor desire to alter itself, to be transformed, or exploited by a trending ideology or policies. Nor by so-called councils of government, professional or industry related organizations, or "outside" developers, for that matter. Not even by some residents who wittingly or unwittingly appear to disdain the culture and character of Thompson.

It's okay to be a "peculiar" town; in fact, it is endearing and healthy to our homes, properties and finances. Sad it is to not recognize such an asset, but to view the roughly 48 square miles that has reared and nourished people for hundreds of years, as something akin to a wasteland or a wreck that is ripe for alteration.

None of these concerns suggest residents shouldn't welcome and promote the advantageous locale for businesses that can blend in and thrive. In parallel, every effort and act of appreciation should be shown to existing businesses, their owners and staff. Thompson has lost employers and taxes by neglect and unwillingness to find solutions when businesses encounter challenges.

Sound government proceedings are essential to a well-functioning and welcoming town; instances that fall short of the obligation and trust between officials and electors have raised eyebrows. Here's a few examples: a legally constituted petition was presented to the Town Clerk and then to the First

Selectman, requesting a town meeting for the electors to agree, disagree, or alter the language of proposals to return P&Z regulations to their previous state and whether to dissolve the P&Z briefly and re-form it. The intent being to address activity that trespassed on citizen's rights and also to return to following the P&Z's own regulations. Rather than honoring the request, signed by over 200 legal petitioners, the First Selectman not only has ignored the petitioners, but instead, gave it to the town attorney seeking a basis to deny the request. The tax dollars of the signers are being expended to subvert their wishes.

Another example recently witnessed by numerous people, was of a P&Z Commission member not recusing themselves from a discussion and vote on an application by a direct relative. After the applicant made their case, the disclosure was made, yet the member voted on the motion of acceptance! That Commission member and the chairman, who allowed it to happen, acted well outside the norms of a conflict of interest.

Nor has the Board of Selectmen acknowledged the irregularities, nor offered concern, for the 150 disenfranchised voters in last November's election.

I'm led to close with this thought - let's retain and promote our affection, respect and desire to see its inherent character and qualities endure; a shelter for its residents to pursue life, liberty and happiness.

SARAH (SALLY) FOLGER WHITE
EAST THOMPSON

Ms. George got one thing right – we won't take “no” for an answer

To the Editor:

I won't waste too much of the readers' time responding to the immature rants by Ms. Patti George in last week's paper. Many have witnessed her acting rude and disrespectful at the Board of Education (BOE) meetings towards both parents and staff...people she is supposed to represent. Ms. George, people who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

The only truthful thing Ms. George stated in her rant, is that parents, community, staff, and students will not take no for an answer. That is 100 percent correct! We will not take no for an answer when it comes to the mental health & safety of our children. We won't accept a no vote from the BOE without explanation (backed by factual data from legitimate sources, not conspiracy theories and scare tactics).

We will be paying attention and calling them out for any decisions they make that are not in our children's best interest. BOE Chair, Ms. Janice Joly presided over the March 16 meeting – cutting students, parents, and professionals off during public comment. One must conclude that Ms. Joly (and the others who voted no) had already made up their minds based on their personal agendas & not the students' best interests.

Those BOE members did not use the March 16 special meeting that they called to have any discussion or to learn more about the Generations Mental/Behavioral Health Center (SBHC), which would provide services at no cost to the District. Instead, they tried to sneak in this meeting and vote it down without too much attention.

In November, a student survey was conducted by SERAC, which promotes Mental Health in 41 Connecticut townships (www.seracct.org). When the results were mentioned during public comment, indicating

that 14.7 percent of the 477 students that responded had a suicide plan, BOE Chair, Janice Joly, called them liars. Ms. Joly stated, "How do we know those were honest responses...they could've written anything. That's what kids do." One student, who was among the 14.7 percent with a suicide plan was there at the meeting and Ms. Joly's comments reduced that student to tears. Ms. Janice Joly should immediately step down from her position as Chair and resign from the BOE. She is clearly causing more trauma to the students and has proven herself to be unfit to serve.

SERAC: Promoting Mental Health in 41Connecticut Towns

SERAC helps communities in eastern CT reduce the impact of substance abuse, problem gambling, and mental health....

The BOE members that voted no have taken a gamble with our children's lives. How long can we wait for this BOE to come up with a "comparable" and viable alternative before one of these students acts on their suicide plan? Generations had trained staff ready to go now. Generations staff would be allowed space within KHS so these students could access mental health services during the school day. There is absolutely no valid excuse for the no votes.

Parents, community members, and staff should not have to babysit this BOE's every move. This fact alone is disturbing. Never mind the comments made by the BOE Chair, Janice Joly. Rest assured – we will babysit, and we will not sit by quietly while they continue to dismiss our children's mental health needs.

Thank you,

RANDIE LONG
KILLINGLY

Hiding from life



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
**TOBY
MOORE**

It's easy to hide from the issues of life. Most of us have done it. I know I was hiding from things in my life that I should have faced years ago. Unfortunately, some people spend their whole life hiding from something that they eventually will have to face one way or the other.

Some are hiding from a broken relationship, refusing to ask for forgiveness and fixing what went wrong, holding onto the pain and the negativity.

It's easy to hide from addictions, knowing it's time to quit but putting it off.

Some are hiding from paying off their debt, finishing their education, or getting back in shape.

Maybe you've been hiding from opportunities. I knew someone who had a great job interview lined up that could have taken their career to the next level. They drove to the meeting location, but they were too nervous to follow through, and they turned around and drove home instead.

Many people hide from that small voice inside, telling them to follow their dream and fulfill their destiny. They feel like they're supposed to be doing extraordinary things, but the thoughts tell them that it's not worth the trouble, so they stay where they are.

It is normal to want to avoid the things we fear, but the problem with sweeping things under the rug is that it doesn't make them go away. Hiding can make our anxiety disappear for a little bit, but eventually, we pay the price.

Some knew they should have quit smoking twenty years ago, and now they're learning to cope with a difficult medical diagnosis. Some knew they needed to deal with anger issues at the beginning of their relationship, but now the divorce papers are served. Some knew they should have taken the chance and started the business, but now they're unhappy and feel like they missed their chance.

It's easy to make excuses — "I've always been angry - that's just how I am," "I've always been critical - I can't change that," "I've always been lazy - it's just how I was born," "I've always been prideful - it runs in my family," "I've always had this addiction, and I always will!" Don't make excuses for yourself. If you want to get to the next level, you will have to deal with the things keeping you from your potential.

It seems easier to hide because what we need to face requires work. Hiding makes us feel like perhaps we aren't responsible for what happens; we fool ourselves into thinking we don't have the power to face our demons; thinking we need something or someone to make it happen. It's an illusion: it's always better to fix a problematic situation before it's too late. Hiding and looking the other way seems easy, but is it worth the consequences?

Coming out of hiding doesn't have to happen all at once. You can test the waters; facing your fears can be done gradually. One step at a time, you can repeatedly go into uncomfortable situations, little by little, until you feel less anxious. Work your way up to facing things that cause you distress. Over time, you can build up your confidence and eventually conquer what's holding you down.

Whatever you do, keep moving forward, or you may find yourself waiting for a change that will not come on its own.

Whatever you decide, it's crucial to realize that you'll never become who you

Turn To **MOORE** page **A10**

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

Please include your place of residence and phone number for
verification, not publication.

Letters must be received by noon on Tuesdays.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop the lies and let the Board of Education do its job

To the Editor:

To the Killingly Democrats and those who lost the November '21 election — please, stop telling lies about me and the other Republican KBOE Members. Stop bullying, harassing, and defaming our individual characters. It's defamation of character, and it's illegal. Understand that because you continue to tell lies about me, I will be forced to press charges against any and all of you who are continuing to bully, harass, and defame me. This includes you, Mrs. Lannon. You are a blatant liar. I didn't ask you to leave the room to discuss the SBHC. I asked you to leave the room to request that you stop verbally attacking the Republican BOE members. I wanted to do it in private so you wouldn't be embarrassed. Your so called "mentors and advisors" are leading you straight into a lawsuit that you will not win; and neither will they. You are disgracing our KBOE with your lies about me. You are disgracing yourself, your family, your political party, and this town. You should be ashamed of yourself for the lies printed in that fake petition.

You all might recall that the majority of people in Killingly voted for the candidates they wanted to represent them back in November, and it wasn't the Democrats. Clearly, you are all struggling with that fact, rather like Hillary Clinton did when she lost the election. However, telling lies about the people who won the election won't help your struggle. Rather, it shows a lack of integrity on your part. It's sad that we now have to have a police presence at our BOE meetings. However, I feel unsafe when an angry mob of over 30 people is gathered outside the Town Hall and they are all screaming at me. What's the lesson you're teaching your children? Thirty against one is fair? Intimidation, bullying, harassment, and defamation is how you get things

accomplished?

Everyone should understand that KBOE meetings are for taking care of the business of our school district. We have children, teachers, facilities, policies, a \$45 million budget, and a host of other issues to address. We need, and must be able, to conduct the business of the KBOE with clear minds. Making decisions about important issues at 11 p.m. doesn't bode well for any of us, or the taxpayers.

You also might consider not telling the Republicans on the KBOE to step down. We are elected officials. None of us have any intention of stepping down. You are not entitled to request or declare any such thing just because you aren't getting your way.

You might want to consider looking within. The hate you constantly spew is a reflection of your character, not mine or any other Republican Board Member. The hate you spew concerning the citizens of this town is disgraceful. The very idea that you think you could cancel elected officials is ridiculous. Who are you to cancel anyone or anything on God's green earth? Who are you to twist the words of anyone on this KBOE to suit your cancel culture agenda?

Remember, this whole town is watching your actions, as well as many other surrounding towns. You might note that the "watchers" think you're acting like spoiled children who didn't get their way, so you're stamping your feet, spewing lies and hate for your neighbors, and behaving like an angry mob.

Let this Board of Education do the job we were elected to do. Take care of yourselves. Take care of your children. Take care of your home and heart. God bless you. Love is the answer.

Your neighbor,

JANICE JOLY
KILLINGLY

A one size fits all approach to affordable housing doesn't work

To the Editor:

Thank you to Jason Bleau for his article "Woodstock Planning Board Chair participates in affordable housing forum."

I support affordable housing. But I support doing it in a responsible, meaningful way. This includes, at a fundamental level, supporting your rights and opportunities to have local decision-making about land use in your own communities.

It is very important that common sense, local control of planning and zoning in each of the towns and cities of Connecticut be determined by the very people who live in each town and city. They are best positioned to elect their own local officials who are accountable directly to them and who know best how to work with them. They are best available to attend meetings and to have their voices heard.

There is a lot of activity currently in the Legislature regarding affordable housing, as there was last year. Unfortunately, the means being employed by the majority party and groups like Desegregate CT and Fair Share are a power (and land) grab. They are efforts to take away your voice in what happens in your own community and to replace it with state mandates. Why have others who do not live in your town or even know much about your town tell you what to do in your own community and neighborhood? It does not make sense.

These efforts are antithetical to the long established and long respected tradition of people in their own communities having a direct say in their own communities. People in their communities, including in the communities you represent, elect their own municipal leaders. A municipal Planning and Zoning Commission is comprised of people who live in the town and who are elected directly by the people of the town. This type of Commission is designed to and functions to work with people throughout the town to discuss, craft, change, and update the town's subdivision and zoning regulations. By working in such an inclusive manner, each town decides for itself what works and what does not work for its planning and zoning needs.

The state's affordable housing law (called 8-30g) is not working. It has been in place for a long time, and it has not yet met its goals of increasing affordable housing across Connecticut. It hamstring towns' abilities to properly review any type of affordable housing proposal and limits what you as a town resident can say or do about a proposal, even if the proposal could be harmful to such things as the environment, natural resources, traffic, and safety.

Furthermore, a lot of what people think is affordable is not actually fitting into how the state views "affordable." There is a difference between the strict criteria used by the state to define "affordable" and the real-world issue of what is actually "attainable" by people to find and to secure good housing.

The majority party's efforts (as well as those by Desegregate CT and Fair Share) are draconian in forcing upon

your community certain types and numbers of affordable housing developments. Many rural towns do not have the infrastructure, jobs, transportation, and finances to support such large-scale developments. Yet, your town could be punished and you have to pay more in taxes if it does not meet proposed, new state mandates. Why should your town be punished for not meeting a state mandate that is designed for failure?

Each town in Connecticut is unique. A top-down approach to zoning would be to attempt to hammer a square peg into a round hole. It does not work. It would be very unfair to the people of each community in Connecticut to have rules imposed them that have not been thought through thoroughly, with their direct involvement, for how the rules would work or not work in their communities.

The courts have upheld Planning and Zoning Commissions' use of land use regulations to be lawful in part when the process is fair, consistent, and whole. The same courts strike down illegal actions of Planning and Zoning Commissions, including any discriminatory actions that may take place. There are already laws focused on these concerns. Each town knows this to be true and endeavors to do what can be done to have a fair process for everyone, including those who live in town or who want to move to town.

New state mandates are not needed. Myself and others are advocating for the legislature to stop making new laws without first and foremost convening people from all around the state (not people selected by special interest groups) in an inclusive and collaborative manner to learn what is working and what is not working regarding affordable housing and to understand more about attainable housing.

The best way to continue to work for affordable/attainable housing and for a fair housing system is to do so locally in the communities across Connecticut. This is what towns across Connecticut have been doing and are doing. Let's support this good work.

Each community goes through a repeated process of looking at updating assessments of affordability/attainability for people. Because each of Connecticut's 169 municipalities is different from each other, each community's actual affordability needs and efforts to promote attainability are different from each other. The efforts in which I have been involved to look at the local issues affecting elder people, low to middle income families, or young adults be able to stay in their homes or to move to Woodstock, or for people to keep their working farms in their families or to have workers join their farms, are very different from the local efforts in Hartford, Bridgeport, or New Haven. Why? Because each one of these communities is different from each other. Trying to make a one size fits all approach work is doomed to fail and to have unintended consequences.

Speaking from my own first-hand experience these many years as

Turn To **GORDON** page **A10**

Janice Joly and the Board of Education owe this community an apology

To the Editor:

Did you know that the Town of Killingly will bring in \$2.5 million in revenue this year alone from the students who attend KHS from the 11 sending towns? This revenue will offset educational spending and, therefore, can reduce our mill rate...and benefit our taxpayers.

Killingly High School can accept 1,100 students. Our current enrollment is 780 students. We could recruit 320 more students from sending towns. If we recruit half that, that would be an additional \$2.5 million in revenue.

Right now, families from the 11 sending towns are having conversations around the dinner table with their eighth graders on the pros/cons of attending Killingly High School. They are watching Killingly BOE decisions closely at this time. They are watching community after community (like Woodstock, Putnam, and Thompson) talk about the success of having licensed therapists provide mental health counseling to students through similar programs housed in their schools. Yet, our Chair, Janice Joly, calls our students liars, and she and five additional members vote no to these free resources.

The BOE talks about fiscal responsibility, but they make decisions that can cost the district millions in revenue. This is important to every community member. Ask any Realtor; schools are the 1st thing young families ask about when choosing a town to live in.

Our high school children will graduate, work and live in Killingly and surrounding communities. Do you want a child to graduate with unmet mental health needs? The BOE is denying equitable access to these services when they voted NO. Many families can't afford to take days out of work to attend mental health appointments (if they can even find an appointment). Why would they restrict access to those services when they can happen right at the school and not burden parents to take time out of work and lose money?

The topic has been brought up about hiring more counselors/ social workers/psychologists to provide mental health resources to our children and pay them from grant money. I want to say I'm so happy to hear that the BOE sees the need for more of these positions. However, these positions should be in addition to an SBHC, not in place

of!

Reasons for this:

- First, we all learned from the Generations presentation and testimony from other professionals that school counselors DO NOT have the same training as licensed therapists. That's like asking a dermatologist to fix a broken leg.
- Second, BOE should use grant money to supplement existing programs for a short period, not to pay the salary for a position that the school will need for years to come.
- Third, it takes this district months to hire for these positions if they get applicants. You would only be creating another vacancy – not providing the help our kids need NOW (the SBHC can be up in the running in 6 weeks per their proposal - if they had voted yes in January, our kids would be receiving services RIGHT NOW).
- Fourth, these "proposed" positions CAN NOT provide our children (grandchildren) with the level of mental health services they can get from the SBHC and licensed therapists. Remember, 70 kids in our district stated they thought about suicide to the point of developing a plan - this is not what social workers and school counselors are trained for.
- Fourth, why would we even want to consider using OUR grant money when Generations will provide the mental health services from their OWN grants...at no cost to our district or families?

We have asked this BOE to make decisions based upon proven facts, research, and testimony from students, staff, professionals & community members. We have begged them to listen to their Superintendent. We've asked them not to be misled by the propaganda & conspiracy theories that the opposition has presented.

Yet, here we are, two months down the road and two months longer, our children, your children, are going without proper mental health resources. Everyone should be calling for this BOE to put the SBHC back on the agenda for discussion and explain (in detail, based on facts) why they voted NO, they owe us that!

Signed,

KRISTINE CICCHETTI
KILLINGLY

Lessons in diversity, equity, and inclusion: What would Prudence Crandall do?

To the Editor:

There are lessons to be learned from the events surrounding Prudence Crandall after she admitted Sarah Harris, an African American woman to her Canterbury Female Academy in 1832. In many ways, the reaction of the white parents whose daughters attended the exclusive school are no different than what we see at schoolboard meetings across the country in 2022. The rage and violence against inclusivity and equity was palpable in the 1830's as the nation struggled to maintain unity against a strong racist current, the undertow of slavery which nearly drowned the United States.

The mythology imbedded in textbook whitewashed history has glossed over historical truths about race, class and gender leaving those who live in the North with a smug sense that slavery, and consequently racism was and is a Southern problem. Worse, the omission of the truth about our long struggle to understand and rectify racism has served only to deepen the narrative that by shining a light on African American history we are snuffing out the light of white children. As any member of a dysfunctional family knows, if you don't talk about the big old white elephant in the room, he only gets bigger. Teachers and school officials are now being attacked by those who look a lot like the crowd that drove Prudence Crandall out of town. Sadly, they are manipulated by the same racist rhetoric that drove the white rage of the 1830's.

Canterbury, a scenic drive down route 169, was a microcosm of the growing pains America faced in the 19th century. When Prudence Crandall admitted Sarah Harris, the parents of her white students threatened to close her school. When she closed the female academy and opened The Canterbury School for Little Missus and Young Ladies of Color, the townspeople became violent, tried to burn the school down, defiled the well, and boycotted all goods and services that supported the school. When that didn't stop her, they lobbied for a law which made it illegal to teach Blacks from out of state and threw her in jail for breaking that law. When she won her court case, they destroyed the school by smashing all the windows and sashes. Clearly, she had overstepped her bounds as a woman and paid a heavy personal price, as did her African American students and their families. Looking back through the quaint lens of history, it's easy to see the racist agenda, the underlying themes of white supremacy. Crandall's opponents argued through phenology

(the study of bumps on the head) that her Black students were less human and therefore not fit to be citizens or enjoy the inalienable rights as stated in the preamble to the Constitution. We cluck our tongues. We roll our eyes. And in our 21st century smugness, we are baffled by the overt racism of the 1830's. We assume we have overcome.

Other than a few confederate flags peppered throughout Windham County in 2022, we have indeed come a long way. However, in these strident times of racial tension and division, the black lash against teaching Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) has been appalling but not unexpected if you see the present through the lens of history. Disinformation about CRT (critical race theory) has whipped parents into a frenzy. They have been misled by an uber right agenda that teaching African American history is the same as CRT, a graduate course in structural racism designed for law students, and that their children are being harmed by simple truths. This is no different than the crazy cancel culture of the extreme left. Slavery and the Jim Crow era were real. We cannot and should not cancel the past or the people who were part of it, nor is it our place to judge through our 21st century lens. It is what it is, and though we have come a long way we have more yet to overcome on the road to the best version of America. The disinformation about teaching American history (all of it) is no different than the fear mongering tactics used by Andrew T. Judson to pass the Black Law in 1833.

The conservative think tank, The Heritage Foundation, has been pushing a white supremacist agenda into the Republican Party for years. This is not to say that republicans are racists, but recently the rhetoric was capitalized by Republican Glenn Younkin in the Virginia Gubernatorial race. Some believe that he won the votes of white suburban women because of his anti CRT platform and the unfounded rhetoric that teaching Black History was traumatizing white children and teaching racism. Not unlike Andrew T. Judson, who convinced his neighbors that their property values were at stake by the presence of a Black school in their neighborhood, some republican strategists have reignited a firestorm of white backlash against the teaching of Black History. They couldn't keep the myth of CRT alive because it is simply not true. However, it didn't take long for schoolboard meetings across the country to be inundated by angry par-

Turn To **DUFRESNE** page **A10**

‘Brick by brick,’ new Woodstock Academy boys’ basketball coach Adams hopes to rebuild program

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

WOODSTOCK — Donte Adams, an assistant basketball coach last year with the Woodstock Academy prep program, has been named head coach of the Centaurs’ high school basketball team, the school announced on Tuesday, March 22.

Adams, 29, replaces Marty Hart, who served as head coach of the team beginning with the 2017-18 season.

“I’m super-excited and I think the kids will be also,” Woodstock Academy athletic director Sean Saucier said in a story about the hiring posted on the school’s website. “I got to know Donte well this past fall and he has a great demeanor and a great attitude. I think he draws people to him and I think he’s a good fit to the lead the program.

“A different energy, a new energy, can change things and it’s not always about the wins and losses,” Saucier continued. “It’s more about the energy and resurgence of the program. I want to see where he can take us.”

Adams said he was presented with the opportunity to be head coach of the high school program by Saucier. He said he accepted the position after discussing it with Jacques Rivera,



Photo Courtesy

The 29-year-old Donte Adams has been named head coach of the Woodstock Academy boys’ high school basketball team.

head coach of the Centaurs’ prep program.

“Jacque was all for it. He said to me that it was an opportunity for me to grow, build my resume and become a better coach,” said Adams, who has had his sights set on becoming a head coach for a while. “I wanted to, one day, become a

head coach, so this is a perfect opportunity, a perfect chance to begin my coaching career. And I get to do so at a great school like Woodstock Academy.”

Adams was quick to explain the different energy, the new approach he hopes to bring to the team, which finished last season 3-18.

“I’m all about hard work and dedication. Whatever you put in, that’s what you’re going to get out,” said Adams, who understands change will not happen overnight. “I’m hoping to install in the kids the mindset that it’s a slow grind. The work you put in today, you may not see the results right away, but if you keep on working each day, it will definitely happen. The more you work at the process, the harder you work at the process, the results will show. Maybe not right away, but they will show.

“It’s like when you’re deciding to cook your food in a microwave or in an oven,” Adams continued. “If you put food in the oven, it may take longer to cook, but it will taste better than the food you put in the microwave, which will be ready sooner.”

Translation: There will be no shortcuts to rebuilding the Woodstock Academy boys’ high school basketball program.

“Brick by brick, that’s the way you build a house, and that’s the way we’re going to build this program,” Adams said. “Every day we lay a brick down, that brick becomes part of the foundation that will make this program better.”

Adams grew up in New York City and attended Eagle

Academy, an all-boys school, in the Bronx where he was a member of the basketball team. After graduation he went to Neosho (Kansas) County Community College.

After NCCC Adams enrolled at Cecil College in Bay View, Md. Adams played at the Division 2 school for two years, finishing his career having scored more than 1,000 points. Following his final season he was named a Division 2 All-American. Adams finished his college career with stops at the University of Central Missouri, in Warrensburg, Mo., and Talladega (Ala.) College.

Adams also played professionally, for San Luis Potosi and Chihuahua in the Liga Nacional de Baloncesto Profesional, the top pro league in Mexico.

Adams inherits a team that will have almost half its 2021-2022 roster — Parker Anderson, Hamilton Barnes, Ethan Davis, Huck Flanagan, Jackson Goetz, and Everett Michalski — graduate later this spring.

Expected to return to the team for the 2022-2023 season are current juniors James D’Alleva-Bochain, Jackson Gallagher, Carter Morissette, Brandon Nagle, and Braiden Saucier, sophomore Hunter Larson, and freshman Brady Ericson.

Applications welcome for Killingly Board of Education scholarship

KILLINGLY — Killingly Public Schools announces the release of the 2022-23 Board of Education Scholarship applications starting April 1.

Applicants must be graduates of Killingly High School and students must be pursuing their first degree or a bachelor’s degree.

Applications can be accessed and downloaded by going to the KPS district Web page, and clicking on the Community tab or by typing in the following URL address: <https://www.killinglyschools.org/community/2022-23-scholarship-application>

Applications may be dropped-off or mailed but must be received and in Central Office (NOT post-marked) by 4 p.m., Friday, April 29.

No emails please. Applications will not be accepted after 4 p.m. on Friday, April 29 - no exceptions.

If mailed, please mail to: Killingly Public Schools Central Office Attn: Scholarships 79 Westfield Ave. Killingly, CT 06239

If you have any questions, please call Keely Doyle at 860 779-6603.

Putnam Lions Volleyball Challenge raises more than \$13,000

PUTNAM — The 2022 Putnam Lions Volleyball Challenge took place at the Strong Field House on the campus of the Pomfret School on Sunday, March 20. There were four teams participating. More than \$13,000 was raised to benefit the 40-plus organizations to which the Putnam Lions Club donates. These funds will be distributed during our annual Night of Giving which will be on April 8 this year. Sunday was our corporate division that competes for a cash prize and a travelling trophy. The winning team on Sunday was the Vertically Challenged team.

We want to thank all of our players, sponsors and Lion volunteers who made this year’s tournament such a success. We would especially like to thank our Diamond sponsor, KARS of Putnam, our Platinum sponsor: Day Kimball Hospital, our gold sponsors: Spirol International Corp, Hallisey & D’Agostino LLP, Rawson Materials, our gold sponsors with team Archambault Insurance Associates, Byrnes Insurance Agency, Dave and Eileen Stuyanski, our silver sponsors WINY Radio,



Gerardi Insurance Services Inc, Woodstock Building Associates, National Chromium Company, Bachand, Longo and Higgins and the more than 40 additional sponsors that donated to this event. Special thanks go to the

Putnam High School girls’ volleyball team, who did the refereeing for the entire tournament and the Putnam II Leo Club for helping with set-up and break-down.

READING NEWSPAPERS IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER

BOXING

continued from page A1

Dinallo (30) at 153, and Roberts (25) and Hoey (32) at 167. Rude Dog Boxing fighters in the upper weight classes are Dias (23) at 184, Savalle (20) and Polanco (28) at 190, and Davis (27) at heavyweight.

“This is a wonderful event in the sense that some of the finer fighters from the east coast are going down there to battle it out for the championship belts,” explained Paulie “Rude Dog” Iannuzzi, who has performed in the squared circle at the East Coast Championships.

“Six years ago we took a group of 21 fighters down there and we won 15 belts. That made us really proud,” Iannuzzi continued. “We’re not Brooklyn, New York, we’re Brooklyn, Connecticut. We have more cows than criminals here. We don’t have much street cred, but we know how to fight.”

Iannuzzi, who has given every fighter in his stable a nickname, got his moniker years ago when he was fighting in New York. During the bout he was head- and shoulder-butted by his opponent, who unable to stop Iannuzzi, bit him on the shoulder and then on the ankle.

Having had enough, Iannuzzi kicked his opponent, which prompted some other fighters to go after Iannuzzi, who

quickly headed to his dressing room.

“On the way I passed a guy who said to me, ‘the guy in ring just kicked his opponent. He’s mad, he’s crazy, he’s a rude dog,’” Iannuzzi said, finishing the story.

Iannuzzi is excited for all his boxers headed to Wilmington, N.C., but perhaps most excited for Dinallo, who will be making her debut in the ring and fighting for a championship belt.

“When Chelsea gets in the ring she’s like the Tasmanian devil on steroids with a bad attitude,” he said. “She’s nasty, absolutely nasty. She is just awesome, I love her.”

Dinallo, originally from East Haddam, moved to Brooklyn after her divorce was final about 18 months ago. She visited and then joined Rude Dog Boxing on the recommendation of a friend.

“I came here, literally, the day after I moved to the area,” said the 5-foot Dinallo, who lives in Pomfret. “I’ve been boxing for about six years. I started with a program called Pink Gloves for Women. It’s a program that taught the fundamentals of boxing. I got into boxing originally because I was very angry. I needed a healthy way to deal with that aggression and boxing worked.

“I really enjoy being in that ring,” she continued. “When I’m in there, everything else just falls away and I’m super focused. I have a lot of energy and I

channel it through me in the ring.”

Roberts is a gentleman farmer who owns and operates Coveted Farms, known for its salad greens and micro greens. He is a two-time finalist in his weight class in the Southern New England Golden Gloves amateur boxing championships. He served in the U.S. Army.

“When I got out of the military I felt lost. I was looking for some good structure. I was looking to challenge myself and build confidence and feel like I used to feel,” Roberts said. “I found this gem of a place the way people find things they’re looking for these days; by searching the internet. If you’re looking to boost confidence and become the best version of yourself, come through our doors. You won’t regret it.”

Davis, who learned about Rude Dog Boxing when he purchased a piece of equipment for his home gym from Iannuzzi during COVID, is also a former Golden Gloves finalist.

“Fighting is the best. There’s no team, it’s just you. It’s all about the work you put in versus the work he put in,” said Davis, who previously trained in jujitsu and mixed martial arts. “I go in the ring with the mindset that I have to fight so hard that should get arrested for assault.”

Iannuzzi gave Davis the nickname King Kong because he’s so big, but he refers to himself as Kong — for now.



Chelsea Dinallo (front), Dylan Roberts (left), and Jesse Davis (right) all have worked under the guidance of coach Tom Hall (center), and all have eyes on the prize.

“It’ll be King Kong when I bring the belt back,” Davis said.

Experienced Killingly golf team ready for another successful season

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

KILLINGLY — Some teams reload, others rebuild. Heading into the 2022 high school golf season, the Killingly High boys’ team will have to do neither. Killingly coach Kevin Marcoux will welcome back the top four golfers from last season’s Eastern Connecticut Conference Open championship team — and they’re all just juniors. The 2021 ECC Open Championship was the seventh in the last eight years for the school, and ninth overall.

Cameron Seiffert, Marcoux’s No. 1 golfer all of last season was an All-ECC selection who finished second (6-over-par 77) at the 2021 ECC Open. Ethan Lackner, also an All-ECC pick, finished third (7-over 78) at the end-of-season tournament. Harrison “Harry” Giambattista (80) tied for fifth at the 2021 ECC Open. Logan Gagnon also competed in the ECC Open in 2021, finishing 14th.

Cooper Morrisette, the lone senior on the team last year, finished eighth overall in the 20201 ECC Open Championship.

In 2022, the only change Marcoux has to make is writing the name Matt Card, another junior, on the match-day lineup instead of Morrisette. Killingly does have a senior on the team, Shane LeDuc, who was a member of last fall’s state championship-winning football team. LeDuc is a first-time member of the golf team.

Killingly, which won state titles in 2016 and 2018, finished fifth last year, six shots behind the state champion, St. Joseph’s of Trumbull, which had a winning score of 329.

“Six shots over the course of four guys playing golf is not a whole heck of a lot,” Marcoux said. “We were very close.”

Killingly figures to be in the state

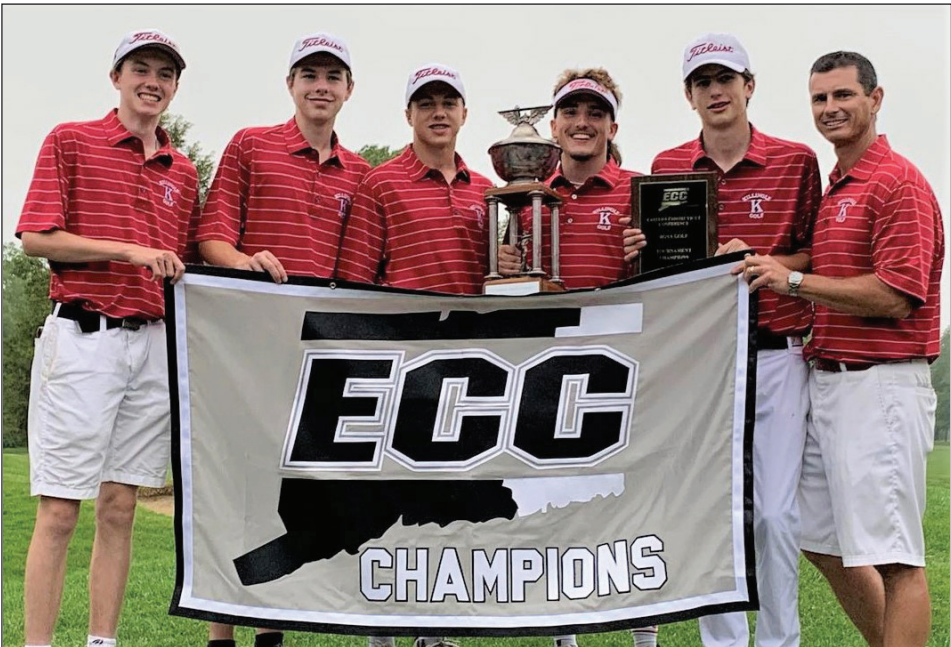


Photo Courtesy

Last year’s Killingly High Eastern Connecticut Conference (ECC) Open Champions (left-to-right) Logan Gagnon, Harrison “Harry” Giambattista, Ethan Lackner, Cooper Morisette, Cameron Seiffert and coach Kevin Marcoux.

championship hunt again this year, especially if the names Seiffert, Lackner and Giambattista are on the scorecard each match.

“Cameron is the player with the most experience. He’s been playing the longest of those three. Ethan and Harry are both soccer and basketball players, so they are three-sport athletes, which makes it difficult for them to focus on golf,” said Marcoux, who is 180-22-3 in his 11 years coaching matches. “Cameron skis a lot but the only sport he plays at the high school is golf so he plays competitively a little bit more than the other two.

“Cameron takes lessons; he works with Jimmy Jones over at Lake of

Isles,” Marcoux continued. “He was my clear No. 1 all year last year, all last year. They’re going to compete for their spots — nobody is locked into any one spot — but Cameron is the kid with the most polished game that I have. He’s got the whole package.”

Lackner is solid, too. Killingly, in fact, may have a No. 1 and 1A, rather than a No. 1 and No. 2.

“Ethan is also an excellent player. He works very hard, he just doesn’t have as much time, maybe, as Cameron does,” Marcoux said, “Ethan is a kid whose mental approach to playing golf is probably his strength, although he is a great ball striker and a very good putter.

“If you watch a golf tournament, suc-

cessful golfers are even keeled throughout the round. Their highs aren’t too high, their lows aren’t too low,” Marcoux explained. “They just plug away at the battle, at the match at hand. That’s probably Ethan’s strength, and he’s a very hard worker, too, that’s for sure.”

Giambattista is the short-game specialist of the trio.

“Harry probably has the best short game as all of them, and any kid I’ve had during my coaching tenure here at the high school,” Marcoux said. “He chips and putts really, really well, which is a great skill to have if you’re going to score.

“Harry is probably the strongest swinger, physically, of the golf club that I have. He just needs a little bit more time,” Marcoux said. “He had some great tournaments last year, and he struggled in some other tournaments. The goal for Harry is to get more consistent and keep the ball in play more regularly so he can take advantage of the short game skills he does have.”

Killingly will tune up for the season with a nine-day spring training trip to Myrtle Beach, S.C., April 14-23.

“It’s a tradition we started in 2015,” Marcoux said. “That was the first team to win the state championship. We had fund-raised for a number of years leading up to that point. We’ve made the trip every year except the last two years, because of COVID. We had it scheduled, but we had to cancel the last two years, literally, at the last minute.

“We’re excited to be able to do that again. We stay at the Legends resort, which has three golf courses and then we visit some other courses,” Marcoux said. “Legends has a tremendous practice facility; their driving range is lit up until 10 p.m. We’re going down there on a business trip to play some good golf and get ready for the season.”

Pomfret Recreation announces upcoming events

POMFRET — The Pomfret Recreation Department has announced its spring programming.

Easter Egg Hunt: April 9 for Pomfret girls and boys ages 1-10! Bring your own bag or basket to collect eggs. Bring a camera for pictures with the Easter Bunny. There will be two large silver eggs hidden amongst the four age groups. If you find one of those, you will win and Easter Basket. Be sure to check out our Facebook page and website for more information! Rain date if needed will be 4/16. If there is inclement weather on April 9, we will post on our Facebook page.

Spring Social: April 9. This program takes place in the PCS cafeteria for 3rd -5th grade boys and girls. Lots of games, crafts, music and contests!

ANNUAL CORN HOLE

TOURNAMENT: on Saturday, May 28 (noon), at the Rec. Park. \$30 per team (two people on a team). \$125 for 1st place, \$100 for 2nd place and \$75 for 3rd place. This is a double elimination tourney meaning that you are guaranteed to play at least two games. Team registrations are limited, sign up soon.

Annual Hooked on Fishing Derby: for Boys and Girls ages 5-15 takes place on Sunday, June 12. Fishing starts at 8:30 am. We will have tagged fish prizes at \$25.00 each. Picnic lunch included Fee: \$5 p.p.

2 LEGO CAMPS: – July 18-22. Animal Adventure Camp is for boys and girls ages 5-7 and runs from 9 am to noon each day. Jedi Master Engineering is for ages 8-12 and takes place from 1 to 4 p.m. each day. The camp will be held in the PCS cafeteria.

SUMMER YOUTH BASKETBALL: takes place from July 26 to Aug. 18. Four weeks of basketball playing every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings at the Rec. Park. \$35 for Pomfret residents and \$40 for out-of-town players
5 to 5:30 p.m. grades 3 & 4 Co-ed,
5 to 6 p.m. (separate court) grades 5 and 6 co-ed
6 to 7 p.m. grades 7 and 8 separated
7 to 8 p.m. grades 9-12 separated

Co-ed Adult Pick up Style Sand Volleyball: at the Rec. Park. Wednesdays, June 1 to Aug. 31. Runs from 6 to 8 p.m. Fee is \$10 p.p. for the season

Co-ed Summer Cribbage League: – for ages 16 and up. Tuesdays, May 31 to Oct. 18 at the Pomfret Community Center. Time is 6:30 to 9 p.m.-

ish. You do not need to know how to play, they will teach you. All equipment is provided. You can check out www.quietcornerleagues.com or the Recreation Dept. Web page for more information.

\$20 per person for the season with a tournament at the end. Teams consist of two players

Corn Hole Summer League: (co-ed) for ages 12 and up Thursdays 6 to 7:50 p.m. at the Pomfret Rec. Park.

Two people per team. Program runs from June 2 – Sept. 1, with a tournament at the end.

CONCERT AT THE PARK WITH THE BILLY PILGRIM BAND ON SATURDAY, JULY 30: This is a free concert. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and a picnic if you’d like. Concert starts at 5:30 p.m.

Coming Soon: Women’s

Tennis and more painting classes!

Scholarship: Please visit our Web site at: www.pomfretct.gov/recreation for this year’s scholarship information. The deadline is April 28.

WE HAVE TWO SEATS OPEN ON THE RECREATION COMMISSION. HELP THE COMMISSION BRING SOME MORE FUN TO POMFRET!

You do not need to live in Pomfret to participate in most Town Rec. programs.

Questions: 860-974-1423 To register for these events, the forms are available on our website:

www.pomfretct.gov/recreation or you can stop by the Pomfret Town Hall to pick one up.

Email: Barbara.gagnon@pomfretct.gov

Trout Unlimited works to promote catch & release

REGION — You may see some colorful new signs at popular fishing access sites in the northwest part of the Quiet Corner in the next few weeks.

The Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, with the support of local sportsmen’s clubs, are launching a campaign to encourage more catch and release fishing.

Gary Lussier, President of the Thames Valley Chapter of TU, states: “The intent is not to discourage people who like to enjoy a fresh trout now and then (who doesn’t?), but to raise awareness of the benefits of catch and release with minimal harm to the fish.”

Figures from Andrew Bale of the DEEP show about 120,000 freshwater licenses and permits being issued. This includes about 80,000 trout stamps. Plus who knows how many younger kids who don’t need licenses. At the same time the state stocks about 500,000 catchable size trout annually.

According to Steve Gerling, coordinator of the project: “Fishing provides a truly great opportunity to enjoy the best of the outdoors But with those numbers

it’s not hard to see why the lakes and streams can be quickly depleted of trout when many people keep their entire catch at every outing.”

He continues, “The main message of the campaign is that more catch and release will yield better fishing for more of the season. Especially in the case of trout, this also increases the possibility of more “holdover” fish and ups the chances for natural reproduction in our lakes and streams. The signs give tips on how to minimize injury to your catch, and will even have a small pair of pliers attached for those who wish to bend down hook barbs at waterside.”

In addition to the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the following clubs added their endorsement and support to the effort: Putnam Fish and Game Club, Pomfret Rod and Gun Club, Eastern Ct. Sportsman’s Club (Ashford), Fin, Fur, and Feather Club (Chaplin) and Stafford Fish and Game Club.

All of these groups ask you to please consider Catch and Release. It makes for better fishing for everyone.



OBITUARIES

Paul B. Thomson, 78

Putnam – Paul B. Thomson, 78, of Sabin St., died Sunday afternoon, March 20, 2022, at Day Kimball Hospital. He was the loving husband of Ines F. Granville and the late Annie Robertson. Born in Hartford, he was the son of the late Benjamin and Jeanne (Battay) Thomson.

Mr. Thomson worked for many years at AT&T as supervisor of quality control and had his own consulting firm.

He enjoyed golfing, sailing, and was an avid reader. Later in life he discovered the game of pickle ball and enjoyed playing it along with the love of his life Ines.

Paul is survived by his wife, Ines F. Granville; his siblings, Stephen L.



Thomson of Hilo, HI and Jeanne T. Hislop of Hubert, NC: his nieces and nephews, John S. Hislop, Colby B. Hislop, and Kylie H. Butler his step-daughter, Maria Gold and her husband, Ian of Boston, MA; and his step grandchildren, Gabriela, Ruby, Nora, and Henry Gold.

A celebration of Paul’s life is being planned in the near future. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to The Gilman Funeral Home & Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam, CT 06260.

Memorial donations in Paul’s memory may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Tribute Program, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105, or Hospice of N.E.CT, P.O. Box 632, Putnam, CT 06260. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

Steve Prassos, 84

Steve Prassos, 84, of 135 Woodstock Avenue, Putnam, CT, died on March 1, 2022 after a brief illness.

Steve was born in Putnam on August 16, 1938, to George and Demetra Prassos who immigrated to the United States from Crete, Greece in 1925. He attended St. Mary’s School and Putnam High School. He worked at Risom Mill in Danielson where he learned how build and upholster furniture. After leaving Risom, he started his own furniture upholstery business that he operated out of a workshop at his home. He also worked for the Town of Putnam as a landfill attendant.

He was a loving, selfless and devoted son, brother, and husband. He spent most of his adult years providing full-time home care for his brother John, who died of cancer and his mother who passed away at the age of 95.

In 1992 he married the love of his life, Carlene Wilson. They had many

happy years together until she also sadly became ill. He lovingly cared for her at their home until her untimely passing.

Steve enjoyed playing the guitar and was a body builder in his early years. He was a great lover of animals, especially his beloved cat Teddy. Steve is survived by his sister, Mary Harvey; brother-in-law Leslie Harvey; nephew Greg Harvey; nieces, Carla Cooper, Helen Frechette and Georgia Tatsie; as well as grand nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents George and Demetra Prassos; sister Angeline Pappas; brother John Prassos; and wife Carlene Wilson.

The family will hold a private gravesite memorial. Donations in his memory can be made to:

Paws Cat Shelter
240A Route 171
Woodstock, CT 06281

A celebration of poetry



NANCY WEISS

April already? Time to celebrate National Poetry Month with five columns devoted to the work of local poets. Our region is brimming with artists of every ilk, but poetry is especially popular. There are open mics, festivals, and workshops for anyone who wants to turn up and either read or listen. What a joy

after several years of isolation! We need each other and we want to communicate, sometimes in the clear, flat language of everyday speech and other times in the magic of poetic images.

Mary Ellen Ellsworth, a poet and writer from Eastford, sent this message to our haiku group. She received it from her daughter, Liz.

“If you
Are a poet,
You will see
Clouds floating
In a piece
Of paper.”

I think this would be an excellent verse to put on a t-shirt. Let’s read the poetry of our friends and neighbors that speaks to us in as many ways as we are open to take in. Perhaps we will see clouds in paper or see the world in a different way.

This year, I would like to begin with poetry from QVCC.

Jonathan Andersen is a professor of English at Quinebaug Valley Community College and the author of ‘Augur’ (Red Dragonfly Press, 2018)

Not Swish

But the buzz of the lights
In the park, the gallop across
Blacktop, the oof and the huh
In attacking the rim

Or the no-
sound of the backspinning
ball tracing the high arc
into which you launched it
from twenty-five feet out, over
a body lunging:

the hush
the scrape and the ring of the chains

Jonathan Andersen encourages and promotes the love of language both English and Spanish, in his students. Later in April, he and other faculty will select the winners of the 2022 Julius Sokenu Poetry contest.

I hope to include those poems in this column as well.

Here is a powerful poem from QVCC student, D.M. Mercer

Cindy

By D.M. Mercer

they said, ‘without it i would die’
so i killed myself just to stay alive
i extracted my spine
put passion aside
a cardboard cut-out of a life
a glimpse,
sometimes, in the sunshine
see your son shine

it’s not a submission, it’s a surrender
i am an actor, not a pretender

it’s not a submission, it’s a surrender
it is not the end if i just remember

they said, ‘without it i would die’
i killed myself just to stay alive
watching myself fly
severed my soul’s fetters
bound by breath,
I never left, I have been here
all this time

drop the sin from my name but i haven’t been saved

clawed my way from this place
managed by grace, powered by rage

drop the sin from my name but i haven’t been saved
clawed my way from this place
carried shame inside my rib cage

hallowed be the ground
now i choose to lie upon
lay to rest this set of ideals
peel back the layers this
essence revealed
lay to rest the best of the girls
make my peace with cindy
(you’ve served me well
for I survived
(this is going to hurt
you’re going to die))
i’m setting down the fight
I’m settling inside
D, I turn to
you this time
I turn to
me, I...

they said,
‘without it, i would die’
I am written proof
I am

alive.

Let’s pause and enjoy a poem filled with buoyant images that brighten my world, at least for a moment. This poem is the work of local resident, M. Constantine Cole. It is written as featured here.

ANGELS EVERYWHERE
ANGELS MAKE UP THE AIR
THEY ARE IN THE FLUFFY FUR OF A BEAR
THEY FLOAT IN THE BUBBLES
WHEN YOU WASH YOUR HAIR
THEY HIDE IN THE SEEDS IN THE MIDDLE OF A PEAR
THEY ARE SWINGING ON A SWING
FROM THE ARM OF A CHAIR
THEY ARE PEEPING THROUGH A PILLOW IN A TINY TEAR
THEY ARE SLEEPING WITH THE LIONS IN THEIR LAIRS

LOOK AROUND AND THEY’LL BE THERE
ANGELS ARE EVERYWHERE

This poem is dedicated to the women & children of the world, & is inspired by true events as told authentically to its author.

So Rocks The Cradle

Hung over with love & great concern
so begins a day
misplaced, such is life
matroyshoka (ma tre osh ka)
you sit on my shelf flowered & graced
lacquered so thin as your head goes-
Pop~
on the side of the road the poor women
screams
in her labored birth
Mid-Eastern Borders, Willimantic,
Ukraine
Always, yes always tomorrow they
say
but the birthing room’s gone
no doctors in site as the world’s
women wail
bleeding
erupting
forever, & a day.

6-14-21
Updated 3-17-22
Pomfret Center, CT
Mother Lightning
aka to family, & friends as, Cher /
Cheryl Kapelner Champ

During this month, treat yourself to a daily dose of poetry. Sign up for poem-a-day. It’s free and its delightful. It is one of the first things I read every morning. Often it gives me an image or an idea to get me through the day. The Writer’s Almanac is another great place to read about poets and poetry. It is also free.

If you would like to submit poems for publication during Poetry Month, please send them to brendan@villagernewspapers.com.

LEGALS

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK

On March 17, 2022, the Planning & Zoning Commission approved #653-02-22 MBLU: 7278-32-8B-2- Joy Rd- Daniel Flynn- 1 lot subdivision- convert lot into building lot; #653-02-22 MBLU: 7278-32-8B-2- Joy Rd- Daniel Flynn- construction of a driveway, activity on a scenic road.
Dr. Jeffery Gordon, Chairman.
April 1, 2022

TOWN OF KILLINGLY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 2023 REVALUATION

The Town of Killingly will be accepting proposals from qualified firms to provide Revaluation Services for the 2023 Revaluation. Interested individuals and firms can download the proposal instructions and details from the Town’s website beginning on April 4, 2022, at www.killingly.org or request them from the Finance Director, 172 Main Street, Killingly, CT 06239. Proposals must be submitted to Jennifer Hawkins, Finance Director, no later than **Monday, May 2, 2022, at 2:00 PM. LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**
April 1, 2022

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF THOMPSON ORDINANCES

At a Special Town Meeting held March 16, 2022, the ordinance 10-049 Voting districts was amended. Copies of the ordinances are available for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk during normal business hours and at www.thompsonct.org. This notice is prepared for the benefit of the public, solely for the purposes of

information, summarization and explanation. This notice does not represent the intent of the legislative body of the Town of Thompson for any purpose.

Renee Waldron
Town Clerk
March 23, 2022
April 1, 2022

TOWN OF BROOKLYN LEGAL NOTICE

The **FOURTH** installment of real estate and personal property tax of 26.42 mills on the dollar levied on the assessment of Oct 1, 2020 becomes due April 1, 2022. Bills will become delinquent on May 3, 2022 and subject to interest from the due date at 1.5% per month as prescribed in the General Statutes of the State of CT. Minimum interest penalty is \$2.00. The Tax Office’s hours are as follows: Mon-Wed 8AM to 5PM, Thursday 8AM to 6PM, and CLOSED FRIDAY. If you wish to pay by mail, enclose coupon of bill and address to: Revenue Collector, PO Box 253, Brooklyn, CT 06234. If a receipt is desired, please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. **ATTENTION:** You can pay via credit/debit card online or in the office. There is a processing fee of 2.50%. For more information, go to our town website www.brooklynct.org.

Jocelyne Ruffo, CCMC,
Revenue Collector
April 1, 2022
April 8, 2022
April 15, 2022

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PRIVATE SALE PLACE: AMERICAN SELF STORAGE UNITS

**79 QUINEBAUG RD.
NO. GROSVENORDALE, CT 06255
DATE: APRIL 12, 2022
INSPECTION TIMES:
10:00AM & 3:00PM**

Sale of all goods stored in delinquency at AMERICAN SELF STORAGE UNITS. The following named people have until the morning of sale to settle their account, including all subsequent fees pertaining to sale, and to vacate their unit or the unit will be sold to cover debts, Unit# sorted by contents.

**B62 DARLENE PILLING
D16 HOLLY JO DALBY
L28-4 CHRISTINA M, RAMIREZ
K22 DEBRA A, BUNN**
Cash or certified check only, All sales final. Merchandise must be removed within five (5) working days of hid acceptance. Highest bidder must pay a \$100,00 deposit on unit and will be returned when said unit is vacant. Highest bidder will be notified by telephone the following business day.
April 1, 2022
April 8, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Joffre R. Levesque (22-00080) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 22, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Elisabeth L. Levesque
c/o GABRIELLE LABONTE, LAW

OFFICE OF GABRIELLE LABONTE,
5 VINA LANE, P.O. BOX 709,
BROOKLYN, CT 06234
April 1, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF John H. Peckham (22-00097) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 17, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Elyssa A. Foley, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Kathleen Peckham
c/o CARL GOLDFIELD, MENE & GOLDFIELD, 234 CHURCH ST,
6TH FLOOR, NEW HAVEN, CT 06510
April 1, 2022

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Alan Scott Herman (22-00066) The Hon. Leah Pollard Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast Probate Court, by decree dated March 3, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Brenda Duquette, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Patricia M Herman,
43 Green Acres Lane,
PO Box 361, Quinebaug, CT 06262
April 1, 2022

Eastern implements ‘open pedagogy’ for educational equity

WILLIMANTIC — As far back as 2008, Eastern Connecticut State University faculty began helping their students save money on textbooks by adopting Open Education Resources (OER) in their classrooms. Many textbooks cost more than \$200, some as high as \$400 each. One in three students used more than \$300 a semester in financial aid to pay for their textbooks. At \$12/hour, a student would have to work more than 20 hours on campus to cover the cost of a single \$250 textbook.

Following the example of Mathematics Professor Kim Ward, today, Sociology Professor Nicolas Simon is leading the charge to raise the bar on OER. Utilizing “open pedagogy” strategies, students create their own OER materials such as digital learning modules, Power Point presentations, lectures, games, simulations and course syllabi that can be used for themselves and others.

Four of Simon’s students recently presented at the 2022 Connecticut OER Virtual Summit on March 4 as members of a panel discussion on “Student Perspectives on Open Pedagogy.” The summit was organized by the Connecticut OER Coordinating Council, funded in part by a CSCU OER grant.

The student presenters included Nelly Gonzalez of the Bronx, N.Y., majoring in Early Childhood Education and Sociology; Tyler Fairbanks of Norwich, majoring in Sociology, Kiyana-Nicole Smith of Willimantic, majoring in Pre-Early Childhood Education and Sociology; and Maya Vanderberg of

Lafayette, Ind., majoring in Sociology and Pre-Law.

During the panel session, the students shared their perspectives on the different open pedagogy projects they were involved with as creators and consumers of OER materials. They discussed their initial reactions to the assignments, the efforts involved, the challenges faced and reflections on the value of the completed works. They all agreed that OER was an affordable alternative to traditional textbooks and had a positive impact on student success. They explained that their engagement with open pedagogy projects brings many benefits beyond traditional classroom assignments, and was an affordable alternative to traditional textbooks with a positive impact on student success, bringing many benefits beyond traditional classroom assignments.

Vanderberg who served both as a student and teaching assistant to Simon, said her experience creating learning materials built “an appreciation for both the gifting and receiving of knowledge and (fostered) a powerful solidarity between students and professors. It helped me conquer my own initial doubts, work through the creative process, and reflect more on my work’s impact on me, those around me and the greater community.”

Vanderberg said open pedagogy empowered her to build her own professional legacy. “The unorthodox nature of the assignment broke up the flow of our work in a unique, yet educational way. The experience of creating pieces

was one that I found incredibly rewarding. It felt like we were part of a movement, in which the end goal was spreading our knowledge and making educational resources more accessible.”

Gonzalez, who is currently student teaching in Manchester Public Schools, discussed how much she enjoyed creating educational videos for children. “It was a project that I felt passionate about . . . Looking back, I can definitely see the effect that creating those projects had on me because I was not only able to understand the content better but it made me see how much I can do for myself and others . . . Earlier this semester, the first graders took time to record themselves reading non-fiction books and sharing what they knew about the topic, they were so excited to share their final product and even happier to see that they were all learning from each other and not just from the teachers.”

Smith, who uses Open Pedagogy to create quizzes, said, “This experience will help me in the future because I am practicing teamwork, collaboration and making sure all voices are heard. These skills are desired in a work environment, communities and other aspects of life. I want to be a teacher. This experience will help me give students the opportunity to be creative and take the initiative in their own learning.”

Fairbanks said his first encounter with Open Pedagogy was initially accessing the online textbook “Introduction to Sociology.” “For most of my life, I’ve been taught by the edu-

cational system to memorize and repeat the correct answers. Open pedagogy . . . asks students to participate in a much more intimate manner, challenging them to truly digest the material given and communicate its key concepts.”

All of the students expressed gratitude to Simon for carefully guiding them through challenges, helping them overcome fears, and becoming confident and self-assured in critical thinking, writing, creativity and teamwork. “The students were magnificent on the panel discussion,” said Simon. “Nelly, Kiyana, Maya and Tyler show so much passion for their Open Pedagogy experience and illustrated that passion so well that the audience was extremely reactive. The audience wanted to know more and the questions exploded in the chat.

“Open Pedagogy is a great journey that explores knowledge and skills. Students are not customers of a cultural product. They do not have to regurgitate what they learn for the few hours of the exam. They have to comprehend some content, appropriate it, transform it and create something new. They create for themselves and for others. With Open Pedagogy, their work matters. They can be proud of their work.”

“Open Pedagogy helps deconstruct traditional barriers to education and teaches new ways of thinking and problem solving,” said Fairbanks. “These can positively impact not only a student’s life, but the whole of society as well.”

Thompson’s Kies and Jared LaVack named Outstanding Young Farmers

THOMPSON — Connecticut’s agriculture industry grows great crops, including the next generation of farmers! Kies (Orr) and Jared LaVack of Fort Hill Farms, LLC in Thompson, have been chosen as Connecticut’s Outstanding Young Farmers of 2022.

The Outstanding Young Farmer Award is given annually by the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council (CAIC), as part of the festivities surrounding Connecticut Agriculture Day. Candidates are selected based on their achievements in their agricultural enterprises, involvement in the agriculture industry and their community, and their work on soil and water conservation projects.

Kies LaVack is the fourth generation of her family to grow up dairying at Fort Hill Farms. She studied plant science at the Killingly AgriScience Center so she could add soil and water conservation practices to the skills she’d need one day as farm manager. Jared LaVack hails originally from northern New York, and is himself a third generation dairy farmer. After meeting at SUNY Cobleskill, they joined forces and have been farming together and building their future at Fort Hill Farms.

That future is one that embraces the

agricultural diversity instilled in them by Kies’ parents, Kristin and Peter Orr. As herdsman, Kies oversees the 250 milking cows and more than 200 youngstock, and is in charge of milking and herd health. Jared puts his agronomy and mechanical skills to work in his role as crops manager and head mechanic. The farm is a member of Agri-Mark Cooperative as well as a six-way cooperative partnership for selling milk through The Farmer’s Cow – you may just have a Farmer’s Cow carton in your fridge! They also operate Fort Hill Farms Creamery with ice cream and Cabot Creamery products, a corn maze each fall, and offer the Fort Hill Farms experience with nature walks and products from their lavender fields.

Kies and Jared lead with a vision of agricultural sustainability. Fort Hill Farms operates an anaerobic digester, combining their manure with food waste from local institutions, to produce sustainable electricity for the local utility company. Jared took a leadership role in the creation and implementation of their comprehensive nutrient management plan, uses extensive no-till, cover cropping, and manure injection. Kies regularly teaches the importance of agriculture by sharing their farm and experiences to the surrounding community with regular spots with Gary O on WINY radio, the local news, and on-farm events. She’s a member of the CFBA Women’s Committee, a member of her local Ag Commission, and is an alternate on the Thompson Planning & Zoning Board.

Next up: Kies and Jared have plans for a robotic milking barn and are passionate stewards of the family’s legacy and preserving the farm and farmland for future generations.

The purpose of the Outstanding Young Farmers program is to bring about a greater interest in the farmer to foster better urban-rural relations through the understanding of the farmers’ endeavors, to develop a further appreciation for their contributions



Photo Courtesy

Kies and Jared LaVack and Kies’ grandparents.

and achievements, and to inform the agribusiness community of the growing urban awareness of the farmers’ importance and impact on America’s economy.

The state winner will be invited to compete nationally in the National Outstanding Young Farmers Program, which is sponsored nationally by John Deere. Connecticut’s Outstanding Young Farmers have a history of winning: Joe and Ida DeFrancesco

of Farmer Joe’s Gardens, LLC and Joey and Dawn Geremia of Geremia Greenhouses, both of Wallingford, have been national winners. Suzie Flores of Stonginton Kelp, Jamie and Christiana Jones of Jones Family Farm in Shelton, Russell and Christine Holmberg of Holmberg Orchards in Gales Ferry, and Matt and Chrissy Peckham of Elm Farm in Woodstock have also been national finalists.

CARPENTRY SERVICES CT, LLC

**Remodeling
Kitchens, Baths
and More!**

CALL Gene Pepper at 860-230-6105
carpentrysct.com

CT #0606460 • #MA-HIC#196807 • RI #763
Veteran owned and operated since '89

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS IN BUSINESS
Overhead Door Of Windham County

OVERHEAD DOOR

**Two 9'x7' Garage doors &
Two Electric Openers**
Now \$2,995
Exp. 04/30/2022

- ✓ Two Remotes & Wall Buttons
- ✓ Take Down Of Current Door
- ✓ Wireless Outdoor Keypad
- ✓ Photo Safety Eyes

CALL 860-889-3848 / VISIT OHDCT.com
93 Hartford Rd, Brooklyn, CT 06234

LEONARD ZADORA & SONS, LLC
DEMOLITION, SEPTIC SYSTEMS & EXCAVATION
FREE ESTIMATE

- New & Repaired Septic Systems
- Landscaping
- Stumping • Drainage Systems
- Sewer Connections
- Frost Walls • Cellar Holes
- Snow Plowing
- Loam • Sand • Gravel • Fill

860-774-1737

108 Thompson Pike, Dayville, CT 06241
40 Years Experience • Licensed & Insured

THE LAW OFFICE OF
GABRIELLE LABONTE
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

WILLS AND TRUSTS

MEDICAID PLANNING

PROBATE

5 VINA LANE P.O. BOX 709
BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT 06234

PHONE: 860-774-3700 • FAX: 860-774-6300

If it’s important to you,

It’s important to us.

ConnecticutsQuietCorner.com

Showplace Cabinetry is made in America by employee-owners who take great pride in every cabinet they craft for you. Your creative choices are nearly unlimited, and it’s all backed by the assurance of a lifetime warranty. Call us to learn more about what we can do for your dream.

SHOWPLACE CABINETRY

EMPLOYEE OWNED MADE IN AMERICA LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

Transform Your Home Today!

We are authorized retailer of Benjamin Moore Paints & Stains. Our Staff Makes it easy to find the right color, paint and supplies to ensure a successful project!

189 Eastford Rd., Eastford, CT 06242
ph: 860-974-1924 • fax: 860-974-0099
eastfordbuildingsupply.com

Monday-Friday 7am-5pm
Saturday: 8am-12pm
Sunday: Closed

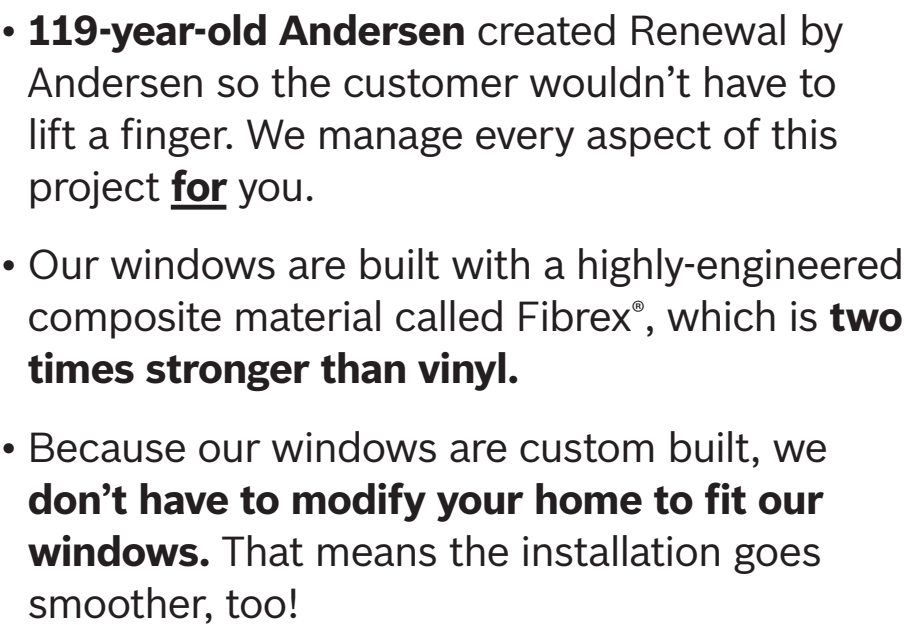


Sale ends April 18th!

There are limited appointments available.
Please call today to book your visit.

SAVE \$825
on every patio door¹

NO NO NO
Money Down Payments Interest
for 1 year²



959-456-0067



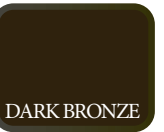
RENEWAL

by ANDERSEN

FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT



Nine Designer Window Colors



Subject to availability, on a total purchase of 3 or more, you will qualify for discount offer, initial contact for an appointment must be made and documented on or before 4/18/22 with the purchase then occurring on or before 4/28/22. 3% cash discount for payment in full by cash or check applied at time of sale. *No payments and deferred interest for 12 months available from third-party lenders to well qualified buyers on approved credit only. No Finance Charges will be assessed if promo balance is paid in full in 12 months. Products are marketed, sold and installed (but not manufactured) by Renewal by Andersen retailers, which are independently owned and operated under CT HIC.0634555, MA 173245, RI 36079. Southern New England Windows, LLC, d/b/a Renewal by Andersen of Southern New England. Southern New England Windows LLC is the authorized representative of Renewal by Andersen and the registered Home Improvement Contractor. Renewal by Andersen does not hold this HIC number. All residents of islands including but not limited to Martha's Vineyard will be subject to an island surcharge. See complete information and entity identification at www.rbaguidelines.com. ©2022 Andersen Corporation. ©2022 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *Using U.S. and imported parts.

Pomfret Dems elect delegates to state party conventions

POMFRET — The Pomfret Democratic Town Committee (PDTC) recently met to nominate and elect delegates to attend the upcoming Connecticut Democratic Party Conventions in May.

The PDTC selected Tamara Harris, PDTC Vice Chair, Patrick McCarthy, PDTC Secretary and Pomfret Selectman, and Maureen Nicholson, Pomfret First Selectman, to attend the State Party Convention on May 6-7. State Party Convention attendees will vote on the State Democratic Platform and will nominate and select Party-endorsed candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, and comptroller, as well as one U.S. Senate seat.

The Democratic Congressional Convention is scheduled on May 9 and the PDTC selected Pat Boyd, state representative for House District 50, Barry Reingold, and Norine Reingold to attend. Connecticut has elections this year in all five U.S. Congressional Districts. Congressman Joseph Courtney (D) currently serves Congressional District 2, which includes Pomfret.

The PDTC selected Tamara Harris, Margie Huoppi, PDTC Treasurer, and Ray Wishart, PDTC Chair, as delegates to the State Senate Convention on May 10. All 36 State Senate seats are open this year. Following the 2021 state redistricting, Pomfret moves from State Senate District 35 to District 29 for the November 2022 election. The current State Senator for District 29 is Mae Flexer (D).

All 151 State House seats are open this year. The PDTC selected Patrick McCarthy, Barry Reingold, and Ray Wishart to attend the State Assembly Convention on May 11. Pomfret remains in State House District 50, the seat held by Pat Boyd (D).

The last Connecticut Democratic Convention will be on May 12 for Probate Judges. The PDTC selected Leigh Grossman, Margie

Putnam II Leo Club selected to benefit in Stop & Shop Community Bag program

PUTNAM — The Putnam II Leo Club has been selected by local Stop & Shop store leadership as the benefiting non-profit in the Stop & Shop Community Bag for the month of April. The Stop & Shop Community Bag Program is an easy way for shoppers to give back to the local community and the environment.

As part of this ongoing program, every month at every Stop & Shop location a different local non-profit is selected to benefit from the sale of the reusable Community Bag. The Putnam II Leo Club was selected as the April beneficiary by local store leadership at the Stop & Shop store located at 60 Providence Pike in Putnam. The Putnam II Leo Club will receive a \$1 donation for every \$2.50 reusable Community Bag purchased at this location in April. All proceeds will be given back to local charities.

“It’s more important than ever to help reduce single-use plastic in the environment and give back to those in need,” said Connor Vassar, President of the Putnam II Leo Club, “Non-profits at the local level, like us, are in need of community support. This program offers the perfect solution to multiple issues of the world today. We hope you will support us in April by purchasing one – or two! – Community Bags at our local Stop and Shop!”

The Putnam II Leo Club is a non-profit youth community service club sponsored by the Lions Club International and the Putnam Lions Club which is based in Putnam. Founded in 2010, The Putnam II Leo Club works to encourage area youth to develop leadership qualities by participating in community service activities. Our club has students from neighboring communities and from several grade levels, most of whom are 12-18 years of age. Learn more about The Putnam II Leo Club by visiting <https://www.e-leoclubhouse.org/sites/putnam2/>.

For more information about the Stop & Shop Community Bag Program please visit stopandshop.bags4mycause.com.



Cary Marcoux, SRES®
Broker Associate | Licensed in CT, RI & MA
860-428-9292
CaryMarcouxSells@gmail.com



RE/MAX BELL PARK
610 Hartford Pike, Dayville CT

I'm your Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES®)



Whether you're moving closer to your family or closer to relaxation, a certified SRES Specialist will take the extra time to carefully help you with the Buying or Selling Process when you are ready

Over 27 years experience helping Seniors through the buying and selling process



POMFRET — A public hearing to present the proposed 2022-2023 budgets to Pomfret residents will be held at the Pomfret Community Center on Wednesday, April 13, at 7 p.m.

The General Government budget of \$3,160,260 is an increase of \$181,258 or 6.1 percent. Most of the increase is due to the Capital and Non-Recurring account that covers work on roads and bridges. Unusually severe storms the past few years have damaged a number of roads in town, most notably Taft Pond Road.


The Board of Education budget of \$10,707,843 reflects a 3.3 percent increase totaling \$341,593. An increase in the number of high school students has added \$281,055 in tuition to the budget. Without a high school of its own, Pomfret students may attend Woodstock Academy, Killingly High School, Putnam High School, Killingly Vo-Ag School, or one of several magnet schools. The total tuition line item, which includes special education, totals \$4,024,672 and represents 37 percent of the entire budget. Other increases are in contractual salaries, health insurance, and utilities.

The combination of these two budgets - \$13,868,103 - represents an overall increase of 3.9 percent over the current year's budget.

According to Board of Finance Chair Margie Huoppi, “While this increase is certainly substantial, we are hoping over half will be offset by a 3.3 percent growth in the Grand List. Based on our current mill rate of 25.73, there will be around \$370,000 in additional revenue.


“Most of the budget increases are costs we have no control over,” she adds. “The high school tuition increase alone represents more than half the total increase. We are very fortunate to have had substantial growth in the Grand List to soften the blow. Nevertheless, I do expect a small increase in the mill rate.”

Celebrate National Public Health Week, April 4-9, by Blazing a Trail to Health and Wellness!



NDDH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Discover over 500 miles of trails in the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor!




HealthQuest
Northeast Connecticut
Achieving Healthier Communities Together

Get a leg up on what ails you. Walking works to:

- Reduce anxiety, stress, depression, fatigue, and the risk of chronic illness
- Increase energy, improve your mood, and sleep quality


Discover these unique opportunities to get you moving in the right direction:




Follow the Fifty
MODELS OF HEART HEALTH

NDDH National Walk Day on the Putnam River Trail —
Wednesday, April 6, 2022 – Stepping off at 7:00am and 5:15pm. Join NDDH's Linda Colangelo and Madalyn Lowell for an energetic walk on the scenic Putnam River Trail. Meet at the bandshell on Kennedy Drive and we'll walk to the Putnam Farmers Market and back. Start your day refreshed with an early morning walk at 7, swing by after work for a 5:15 walk, or do both! Everyone is welcome. It's been 10 years since our remarkable Follow the Fifty Models of Heart Health campaign, and many have reunited for their health and well-being...so look for our red-shirted models along the way!

Spring Outdoors – March 20 – June 21, 2022 - The Last Green Valley features dozens upon dozens of unique adventures to walk, hike, bike, paddle, and explore the National Heritage Corridor. View the online calendar at <https://thelastgreenvalley.org/explore-the-last-green-valley/spring-outdoors/>.





CONNECTICUT TRAIL FINDER

CT Trail Finder - Discover this new, one-stop, growing web resource that provides easy, fast, and centralized access to maps and reliable information about Connecticut's terrific trails! Find the most popular and secret hidden gems. Post your comments and pictures. Developed and administered by the UCONN Department of Extension. <http://cttrailfinder.com/>

Watch for HealthQuest-sponsored and other physical activity events throughout the year at <https://www.nddh.org/>

Health prevails on the TRAILS!

This ad is grant-funded by the Connecticut Department of Public Health

A message from the Northeast District Department of Health

Advancing to a New Normal

COVID-19 appears to be releasing its stronghold but hasn't disappeared

Windham County has a **LOW** Community COVID-19 level according to the new [CDC COVID-19 Community Levels map](#). Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and get tested if you have symptoms.

Mask use as a personal choice is part of our New Normal

Wearing a mask is still a good practice to prevent respiratory infections and illnesses. CDC reminds us, *"People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask."* Please respect mask choices.

NDDH is still here for you for COVID-19 contact tracing and vaccination

You can still be at risk for exposure and illness. If you or someone you know are symptomatic and/or test positive for COVID-19 and have questions, call 860-774-7350 and ask for one of our contact tracers.

New Schedule Effective April 5, 2022

COVID-19 Walk-In Vaccine Clinics for Unvaccinated Ages 5+ and Boosters

Tuesdays 4 – 6 pm

NDDH Conference Room, 69 South Main St., Brooklyn

Other times by appointment by calling NDDH at 860-774-7350


An additional community clinic will be held:

Wed 3/30/22	1-3 pm	Town of Putnam Municipal Complex, Room 109, 200 School Street
-------------	--------	---

Walk-ins welcome • FREE • No insurance needed • No appointment needed


Minors must be accompanied by a legal guardian • Bring your vaccination card for 2nd dose and boosters

Masks required at all NDDH vaccination clinics



NDDH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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