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Friday, January 29, 2021

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Killingly officials request island be named for fallen soldier

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

KILLINGLY — The Killingly Town Council has requested that a small island in a local pond be named in honor of a fallen soldier who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Councilors took up the matter of naming a small island in Killingly Pond on Jan. 12 after a request had come forward to name the island in honor of June Hopkin-McCormack, a former property owner who passed away in 1993. The island is considerably small, at only three tenths of an acre, and is often submerged during rainy season although is often exposed when weather is dryer. The matter of naming the island came from the U.S. Board on Geological Names who received an application from Daniel Galgano of South

Salem, N.Y. The McCormack family still owns property along the pond's southern shore.

However, when researching the McCormacks with the help of Killingly Town Historical Margaret Weaver, Town Manager Mary Calorio found that naming the island after the family wouldn't fit the prerequisites set forth in the U.S. Board of Geographical Names' guidelines, specifically when it comes to honoring someone with a direct or long-term association with the town or who has made a significant contribution to the community.

"There is a property owned on Dam Road that appears to be owned by siblings of the family. I reached out the family numerous times via email and phone and received no response back. We were looking to try and get more information. Unfortunately,

with the little information that we did receive on the application it was still really hard to go back in history and find anything. It was almost like finding a needle in a haystack so there wasn't anything prominent in the Killingly history that tied to this family that we were able to find," Calorio told the Town Council.

This left the council with four options: to approve the name, deny the name, submit and alternate or allow the Geographical Names Board to make a decision without board input. This opened the door for a new discussion, naming the island after a fallen Killingly veteran.

Town Council Chair Jason Anderson brought up naming the island in honor of Christopher L.

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Stuck In the middle of Covid

BY LINDSAY M. JOSLYN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WOODSTOCK — Being a middle school student in a normal world is hard. Being a middle school student in a Covid world is even harder.

"When I was in middle school, I was always with my friends. We'd get dropped off at the library and study together after school, we'd hang out on the weekends- we were always together," says Angela Stringer, the School Counselor of Woodstock Middle School. "I would not have survived without the social connection if I were living through this time during middle school."

For the last 21 years, Stringer has been working with students in grades 5-8 at the Woodstock Middle School.

"I was a teacher for many of those years, but have served as a school counselor for the last seven," she noted.

Stringer describes her role as multi-faceted, with her main focus covering three domains: social and emotional health, academics, and career and college support. She provides these services to just under 400 students.

"This past October, our school psychologist sadly passed away," she explained. "We used to work together but when we lost her, I became a one man show. This year there has been an increased need for social and emotional support. The teachers have been instrumental in providing assistance

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Turn To **SCHOOL**, page A4

RETURN OF THE WOODSTOCK FAIR



Photo Courtesy

Embracing an optimistic attitude, the Woodstock Agricultural Society recently announced that the Woodstock Fair will tentatively make its return the weekend of Sept. 3-6.



WOODSTOCK VALLEY RESIDENT RECEIVES PROMOTION IN RANK

Photo Courtesy — Natalia Murillo, U.S. Navy
U.S. Navy Capt. Kyle Schuman, right, Commanding Officer of Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, congratulates newly pinned Chief Gunner's Mate Colin Bathgate of Woodstock Valley, left, after Camp Lemonnier's Chief's Pinning and Advancement ceremony, Jan. 24. The traditional ceremony recognizes the most significant promotion of a Navy Sailor's career. Camp Lemonnier is an operational installation that enables U.S., allied and partner nation forces to be where and when they are needed to ensure security in Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia.

"Eleventh Village" coming to Riverside Park in Thompson

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

THOMPSON — A new initiative is coming to Thompson to encourage micro-entrepreneurs to bring their products and ideas to local consumers as part of the "Eleventh Village," an installation of custom built mini-shops expected to open in Riverside Park this May.

The Thompson Economic Development

Commission officially announced the project in a press release on Jan. 22, but the initiative has been in the works for some time. Construction was commissioned by Thompson craftsman Dave Eddy of Orchard products and students from the UConn School of Engineering Class of 2020 assisting with drafting the layout and designing the shops. The

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Courtesy Photo
An example of the mini-shop that will make up the Eleventh Village as presented by local craftsman Dave Eddy at Thompson Community Day.

Plainfield proposes new Summer Academy

BY LINDSAY M. JOSLYN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

PLAINFIELD — Before Covid, the idea of summer school might have sounded like a punishment. But according to Superintendent of Plainfield Public Schools Ken DiPietro, that's not how it has to be.

"We're going to make it so inviting that people will hope to join us and that they will be asking for it," DePietro said.

Plainfield School District has been operating, like most Connecticut public school districts, between remote and hybrid models of education since March of last year. DiPietro knows they need

to be looking ahead to see how they can provide support to their approximate 2,000 students.

At the last Board of Education meeting, DiPietro explained they can't make up for lost time.

"We're not going to make up 180 days," he said. "There will be some children who have already missed 40 to 60 days. They may not be prepared to go to the next grade. Not because we don't want them too but because if we put them into a grade when they're not ready then we will see children failing in the wrong grade level."

DiPietro explains that the district hopes to get its students back to full

time in-person education possibly by May, but understands that other supports such as enrichment programs need to be reviewed in order to provide the best educational support for the district's pupils.

The proposed Plainfield summer academy is one way DiPietro hopes the district can do that. "It's going to be intimate and active and engaging and designed like an academy," he commented.

DiPietro says the summer academy will provide breakfast and lunch for the students who enroll, and bus transportation will be provided.

"The idea is that the students come three days a week, for four weeks or

more," he said, adding that enrollment will be open, but limited to what they can safely manage with staffing.

"We have an amazing staff, and because this is a summer program, we will probably have a blend of existing teachers willing to give up part of their summer to help the children here as well as some new hires that we will be hiring for the next year," he said.

Keeping class sizes to 15 students or less, Dipietro wants to incorporate STEM activities and projects that enhance core subjects such as reading, writing and math.

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Turn To **SUMMER**, page A3

Local Eastern students make fall 2020 Dean's List

WILLIMANTIC — Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester, in which more than 1,300 students were recognized for maintaining high GPAs.

Among the students are:

Adam Anastasio of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Political Science.

Jacquelyn Gendreau of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Art.

Harrison Graham of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Business Administration.

Josephina Keith of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Early Childhood Education and Psychology.

Olivia Majek of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Early Childhood Education and Psychology.

Ryan Noll of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Business Administration.

Rebekah Perez of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Social Work.

Marissa Poulin of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Biology.

Emily Rainville of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Elementary Education and English.

Ivy Roy of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Art.

Madison Skellett of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Early Childhood Education and Psychology.

Jared Tidwell of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Accounting.

Benjamin Torre of Brooklyn, a full-time student who majors in Business Administration.

Tyra Bergstrom of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Psychology.

Caitlyn Eldridge of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Early Childhood Education and History.

Morgan Harriott of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Health Sciences.

Felicia Horne of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Early Childhood Education and English.

Aaron Jocson of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in New Media Studies.

Lily Madden of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Elementary Education and Liberal Studies.

Lauren Mayotte of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Elementary Education and English.

Aboyowa Rone of Danielson, a full-time student who majors in Finance.

Oluwatodimu Akindude of Dayville, a full-time student who majors in Health Sciences.

Victoria Bryer of Dayville, a full-time student who majors in Criminology.

Zachary Capron of Dayville, a full-time student who majors in Criminology.

Courtney Ennis of Dayville, a full-time student who majors in Business Administration.

Jonathan Lepire of Dayville, a full-time student who majors in Environmental Earth Science.

Paige Norgren of East Killingly, a full-time student who majors in Biology.

Brandon Gaudreau of Rogers, a full-time student who majors in Political Science.

Samantha Mowry of Woodstock Valley, a full-time student who majors

in Physical Education.

Nigel Battye of Putnam, a part-time student who majors in General Studies.

Hannah Bowen of Putnam, a full-time student who majors in English.

Aidan Ciquera of Putnam, a full-time student who majors in Sport & Leisure Management.

Haley Russo of Putnam, a full-time student who majors in Health Sciences.

Hanna Russo of Putnam, a full-time student who majors in Social Work.

Theresa Blain of North Grosvenordale, a part-time student who majors in General Studies.

Cecilia LeBlanc of North Grosvenordale, a full-time student who majors in Early Childhood Education and Art.

Danica Seney of North Grosvenordale, a full-time student who majors in Business Administration.

Noelle Ciccarelli of Thompson, a full-time student who majors in Psychology.

Elizabeth Jourdan of Thompson, a full-time student who majors in Communication.

Katey Kwasniewski of Thompson, a full-time student who majors in Health Sciences.

Allyson Vandi of Thompson, a full-time student who majors in Social Work.

Olivia Mott of North Windham, a full-time student who majors in Psychology.

Amanda DeMaire of Pomfret Center, a full-time student who majors in Sociology.

James Hemeon of Pomfret Center, a full-time student who majors in Computer Science.

Allen Horn of Pomfret Center, a full-

time student who majors in History.

Gabrielle Larroo of Pomfret Center, a full-time student who majors in Art.

Isabella Symington-St. John of Pomfret Center, a full-time student who majors in Biology.

Danielle Chaput of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Biology.

Joshua Lavitt of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Criminology and Sociology.

Payton Muzyczka of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Elementary Education and Liberal Studies.

Samantha Orlowski of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Communication.

Andrew Roy of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Accounting.

Aidan Stewart of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Exploratory STEM.

Evan Wood of Woodstock, a full-time student who majors in Exploratory - Undecided.

Paula Hernandez Aulet of Eastford, a full-time student who majors in Secondary Education and History.

Emma Kellermann of Eastford, a full-time student who majors in New Media Studies.

To qualify for Dean's List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they've accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded course work with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Springfield College recognizes Dean's List students for the 2020 Fall Semester

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Springfield College Recognizes Dean's List Students for the 2020 Fall Semester.

Springfield College has named Luke Bourque from Pomfret Center to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Bourque has a primary major of Health Science and Pre-Physical Therapy.

Springfield College has named Arielle Johnson from Pomfret Center to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Johnson has a primary major of Health Science/Occupational

Therapy.

Springfield College has named Jordyn Staveski from Woodstock to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Staveski has a primary major of Health Science/Occupational Therapy.

Springfield College has named Chelsey Castle from Pomfret Center to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Castle has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Springfield College has named Justyna Gil from North

Grosvenordale to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Gil has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Springfield College has named Sidney Ratliff from North Grosvenordale to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Ratliff has a primary major of Mathematics.

Springfield College has named Justyna Gil from North Grosvenordale to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Gil has a primary major of Health Science/Pre-physician Assistant.

Springfield College has named Sidney Ratliff from North Grosvenordale to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Ratliff has a primary major of Mathematics.

The criteria for selection to the Dean's List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of "P" grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

Springfield College is an independent, nonprofit, co-educational institution founded in 1885. Approximately 4,100 students, including 2,500 full-time undergraduate students, study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass., and at its regional campuses across the country. Springfield College inspires students through the guiding principles of its Humanics philosophy - educating in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.

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Students named to Dean's List at Fitchburg State

FITCHBURG, Mass.—Fitchburg State University President Richard S. Lapidus has announced the students who qualified for inclusion on the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester.

A student is placed on the Dean's List for the semester if an average grade of 3.20 or better is attained, and the student is attending the university full time.

Fitchburg State University enrolls 7,000 day and evening students in more than 50 programs of study. The university was established in 1894.

N Grovesnordale
Emmalee L. Binette

Putnam
Matthew A. Kamfonik

ers, thus earning the project the nickname as the "Eleventh Village."

"During the heyday of the mill era, the neighborhood of North Grosvenordale had a bustling downtown full of local shops and other businesses. Many of these were demolished following catastrophic floods in the 1930s and 1950s and were eventually replaced by residences. Since that time, the lack of storefront properties has been a challenge to revitalization of the downtown," the Economic Development Commission stated in a press release. "As a way to sidestep these challenges, the EDC has initiated a project to activate Riverside Park, with a small 'village' of custom-built miniature shops."

The shops will be available for rent by local businesses from the months of May through October offering artisans, crafters, agricultural producers and others a new opportunity to connect with potential customers and increase their presence in the community. Opening day for the Eleventh Village is set for May 1 to coincide with the Second Annual Thompson Maker Fair. Vendor applications will be available in February of 2021.

VILLAGER ALMANAC AT CT AUDUBON

Week of Jan. 18: Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, White-throated Sparrow, Bluebird, Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Brown Creeper, Barred Owl, Great-horned Owl, Junco, Goldfinch, House Finch.

Murphy praises Biden's efforts to strengthen Buy American laws

BY JASON BLEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Connecticut State Sen. Chris Murphy is praising President Joe Biden's Executive Order geared towards strengthening Buy American provisions by supporting manufacturers, businesses and workers of American-made products. The order designates that the federal government will spend tax dollars on American-made products including investing in products made with American-produced parts.

Murphy's appreciation of the move shouldn't be a surprise. The Senator introduced The 21st Century Buy American Act in August of 2020 which itself was geared towards strengthening

existing Buy American laws seeking to have the government itself prioritize American-made goods. Senator Murphy has also been the lead sponsor of the American Jobs Matter Act requiring the Department of Defense to measure their impact on domestic employment. Some institutes have predicted the Buy America approach could bring around 100,000 jobs to the United States while others doubt its potential positive impact.

Regardless of the potential impact the act may have, the newly inaugurated President Biden has made Buy America a priority and Senator Murphy sees it as a great step forward.

"As a long-time champion for the Buy American movement with the introduction of the 21st Century Buy American Act, the actions taken by President

Biden are a big step in the right direction for American manufacturers," Murphy stated in a press release on Jan. 25. "During the global COVID-19 pandemic, stimulating local economies and creating well-paying jobs is imperative to strengthening our manufacturing sector against foreign competition. I applaud the president for signing this Executive Order that prioritizes domestic production and will help bring jobs back to Connecticut."

The specifics of President Biden's executive order are as follows: providing transparency for Buy American rules, waiving economic content requirements, mandating supplier scouting to identify domestic suppliers, and creating a new Made in America Office within the Office of Management and Budget.

SUMMER

continued from page A1

"It's going to be very enjoyable with hands-on, fun activities built on strengthening the core subjects for grades K-5, and then looking at middle and high schools as to what they would like to create," he explained.

DiPietro wants parents to know the summer academy may be recommended by a child's teacher not necessarily because of any deficits, but because some students may benefit from the accelerated opportunities that the summer academy can provide.

According to DiPietro, the state of Connecticut allows for certain monies to be set aside every year in what is called a Non-lapsing Set Aside Account.

"The voters approved a school budget last year, but because of Covid, we didn't spend all \$36 million, so we put well over \$400,000.00 into a set-aside Non-Lapsing account," he explained. "That means the money stays there until the school uses it."

DiPietro believes said monies may be able to help cover some of the costs associated with the proposed enrichment opportunities.

"We can address some of the challenges created by Covid to an extent by accessing the set-aside fund," he said.

First Selectman of Plainfield Kevin Cunningham meets with school leadership once a week, and is excited about the possibility of a summer program.

"Utilizing summer school programming to help students out is a great idea," Cunningham commented.

Cunningham's wife works in the Plainfield school district, which allows him to witness first-hand how difficult the remote and hybrid models have been on both teachers, students and parents.

"You can't get engaged with kids through remote learning and make sure they're focused when there is unstable internet connectivity," he said.

He acknowledges attendance is an issue, noting "Since schools went remote, there are approximately 38 students who

have not logged in at all."

Cunningham also knows that if students return to full-time in person school next year after having been out of school for such an extended period, that their test scores could hurt the district's school ratings. These tallies are published in Connecticut Magazine every year. "Annually, they come out with their scores for each municipality and I look at all those and think, 'how do I keep awareness of every single category?'" Cunningham said. "I know we are scored and based on those so to get our evaluations up you can't do that with a lower score for education."

Still, Cunningham believes Plainfield school district is doing a good job.

"No one could have predicted this, and changes have been rapidly coming in," he said. "The numbers of Covid infections are coming up, and there are a lot of people testing positive or coming into contact with someone who is and you have to make those adjustments on the fly."

With the recent addition of several new businesses in town and the proposed sale of two Industrial Park lots, Cunningham is optimistic about where the town of Plainfield is going.

That same enthusiasm can be felt in listening to DiPietro as he explains how his team is looking to the future and investigating ways to strengthen opportunities for the children in their care. They want to ensure that students are where they need to be academically to successfully

meet grade level expectations.

DiPietro imagines students might say "Yep, it was a little hard during the Covid year, but somewhere along the way someone kept watching me and making sure they provided me with enrichment, acceleration, and a summer academy program...a smaller class because that's what I might have needed during that time." He wants parents to know the district understands and has expectations that won't end at summer.

"We are creating an array of responses to the children who are coming in because we understand parents are doing everything they can to support us and their children," DiPietro said. "Our service now is to help them through this year and our service in the future will be to make sure all these children get re-tracked right to where they need to be."



ACCURACY WATCH

The Villager Newspapers is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected at the top right hand corner of page A3 in a timely manner.

If you find a mistake call (860) 928-1818 or e-mail charlie@villagernewspapers.com.

Maxwell Underhill named to Hofstra Dean's List

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Maxwell Underhill of North Grovesordale was named to the Dean's List at Hofstra University for the Fall Semester of 2020.

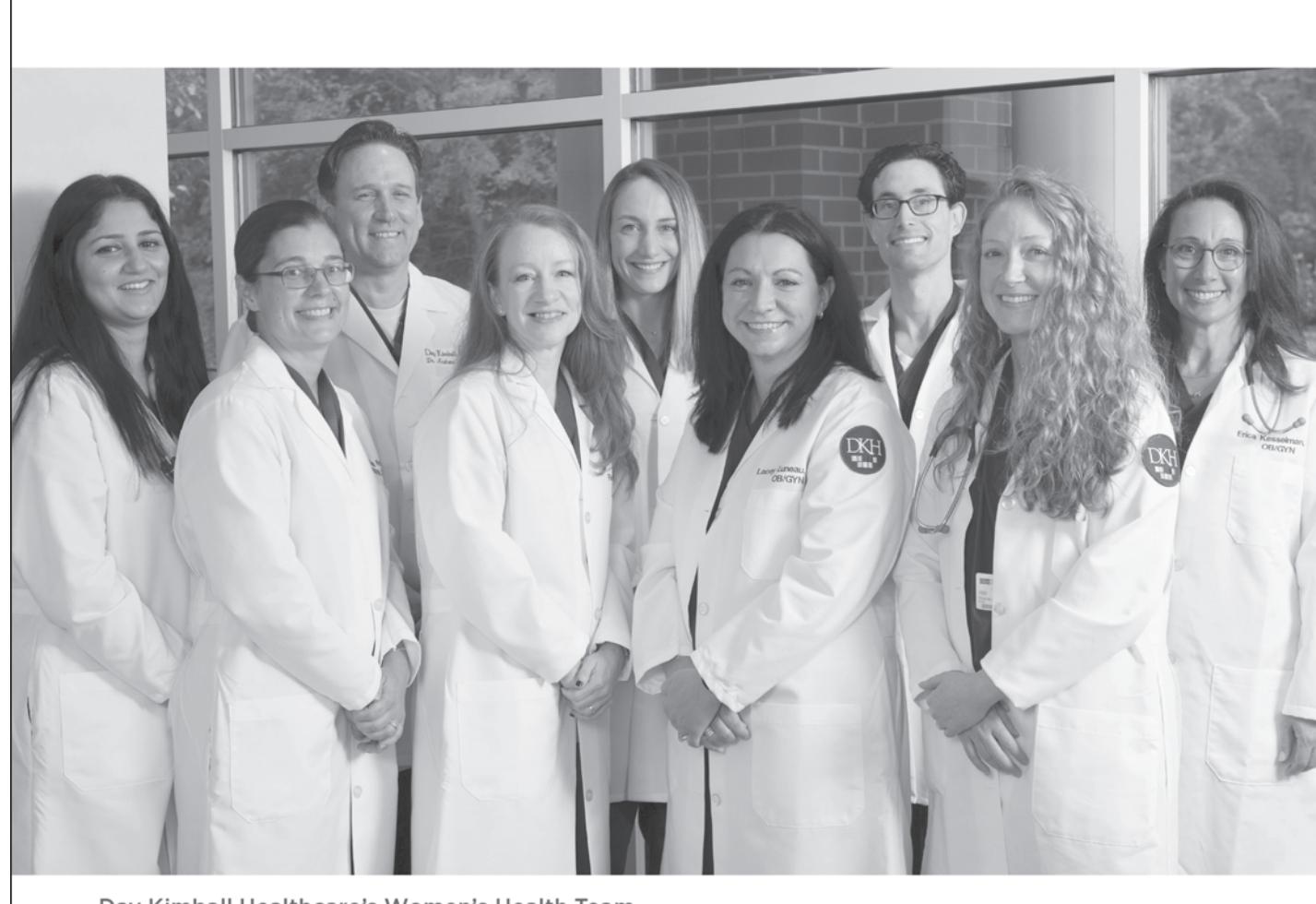


American Red Cross Connecticut Chapter

Support the Red Cross Mission of Collecting Life-Saving Blood

The American Red Cross of Connecticut is looking for volunteers to support our blood drives in Windham County. Our blood drive volunteers serve as the face of the Red Cross, check-in blood donors, and help with other tasks. If you have free time and enjoy meeting new people, this is a great opportunity!

The time commitment is one shift per month and you can pick the shifts that work best for your availability. The Red Cross provides all necessary training and you must be 18 years or older. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please reach out to Mar Parsaye at mar.parsaye@redcross.org, 860-480-5338.



Day Kimball Healthcare's Women's Health Team

Front Row: Amna Aziz, MD; Elena Poloukhine, MD; Robyn Martin, APRN; Lacey Luneau, PA-C; Regan Murchison, MD
Back Row: Andrew MacKenzie, MD; Julie Van Saun, PA-C; Devon Jacobson, MD; Erica Kesselman, MD

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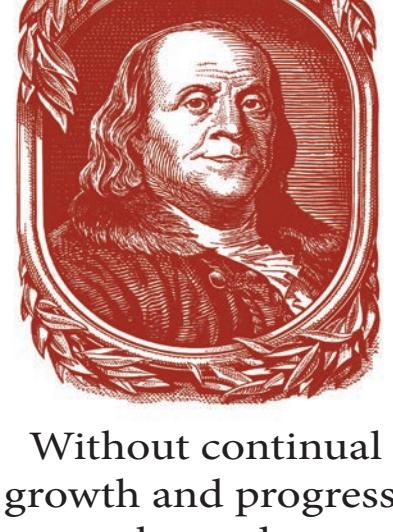
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Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.
— Benjamin Franklin
www.860Local.com

Scramble the Duck to predict spring weather



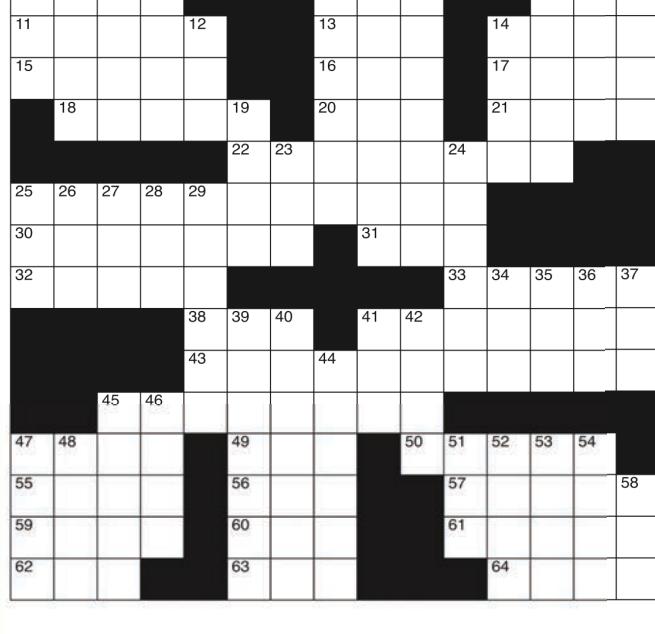
EASTFORD—Scramble the Duck, the accurate weather-predicting groundhog alternative, will be making his prediction next week, on Feb. 2, at 7:30 a.m. Due to COVID-19 concerns, his prediction will take place online without any in-person audience. Scramble will live-stream his prediction, forecasting six more weeks of winter or early spring, on his Web site, scrambletheduck.org.

Scramble the Duck is an alternative to groundhog forecasters like Punxsutawney Phil and others. Scramble the Duck, unlike any groundhog, boasts a perfect accuracy rate for every year he has predicted the weather.

The gathering of Scramble's supporters warms people across the community every year. The cancellation of the in-per-

son event is truly a disappointment to many, but the safety of Scramble's supporters is his top priority. Scramble encourages everyone to reach out to family and friends to celebrate the event online in some way. Scramble hopes that Duck Day, despite the online format, will still be an encouragement to many.

Scramble the Duck is an alternative to groundhog forecasters like Punxsutawney Phil and others. Scramble looks for his shadow to predict six more weeks of winter or early spring. Unlike any groundhog, he has a record of perfect accuracy. For updates about COVID-19 and Duck Day, visit scrambletheduck.org/covid19 or follow him on Facebook



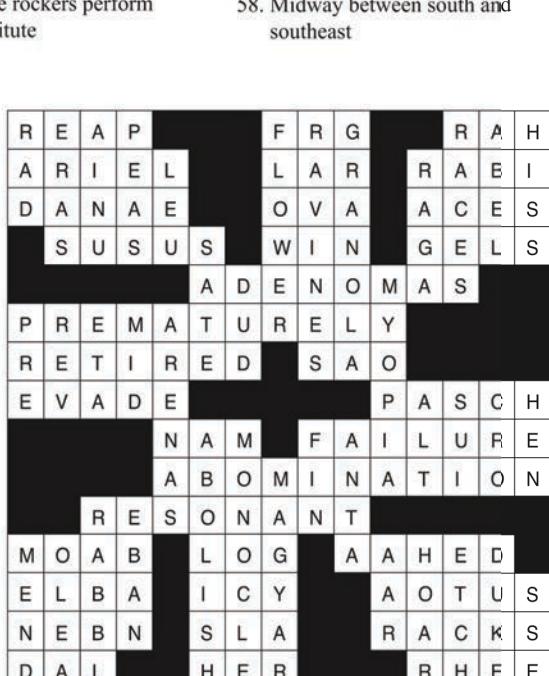
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Gather a harvest
- 3. Easter egg
- 5. Federal Republic of Germany
- 8. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 11. "The Little Mermaid"
- 13. The common gibbon
- 14. Volcanic island in Fiji
- 15. Mother of Perseus
- 16. Egg cells
- 17. Teams' best pitchers
- 18. Credit associations
- 20. Advance
- 21. Hair styling products
- 22. Benign tumors
- 25. Arriving early
- 30. Called it a career
- 31. — Paulo, city
- 32. Avoid with trickery
- 33. Veterans battleground
- 41. Lack of success
- 43. Thing that causes disgust
- 45. Deep, continuing sound
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. You might put it in a fire
- 50. Partner to "ooched"
- 55. Actor Idris
- 56. Slippery
- 57. Plant of the bean family
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Patti Hearst's captors
- 61. Places to hang clothes
- 62. Midwife
- 63. Of she
- 64. S. Korean statesman

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cool!
- 2. Amounts of time
- 3. Aboriginal people of Japan
- 4. Popular veggies
- 5. Wedding accessory
- 6. Deep, narrow gorges
- 7. Dry cereal
- 8. Competitions that require speed
- 9. Cain and —
- 10. Snake sound
- 12. Type of amino acid (abbr.)
- 14. Pattern of notes in Indian music
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Misfire
- 24. Nearsightedness
- 25. Indicates before
- 26. Increase motor speed
- 27. When you hope to get there
- 28. Indicates position
- 29. Where rockers perform
- 34. Substitute
- 35. — juris: of one's own right
- 36. Earliest form of modern human in Europe: —magnon
- 37. Adult female bird
- 39. Do away with
- 40. Lens
- 41. Flattened appendage
- 42. Post or pillar in Greek temple
- 44. A medieval citizen of Hungary
- 45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 46. Abba —, Israeli politician
- 47. Sew
- 48. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Grayish-white
- 53. A way to illustrate
- 54. College basketball superpower
- 58. Midway between south and southeast

PUZZLE SOLUTION



MAPFRE recognizes N. Grosvenordale resident as 2020 Community Champion



Photo Courtesy

MAPFRE employee Jill St. Cyr of North Grosvenordale holds trophy naming her a 2020 Community Champion, as part of Fundación MAPFRE's corporate volunteer award program.

NORTH GROSVENORADE — MAPFRE Foundation recently named MAPFRE employee Jill St. Cyr of North Grosvenordale among its 2020 Community Champions, as part of its annual corporate volunteer award program. The program recognizes employees who are passionate about volunteering and participate in activities during

the year to help their communities.

St. Cyr, a senior manager at MAPFRE, was recognized for work with It Starts at Home, Inc., a nonprofit organization that she founded in 2019 to help children through fundraising drives, volunteering activities, etc., in the Thompson, Conn. and Webster, Mass. areas.

McCormacks) had gotten back to us. It really would have given some better insight. As much as I would like to honor their wish, with no historical information that we can find I think that the better option is to honor a citizen who has given their life to our country in serving," said Councilor Raymond Wood.

Councilor Tammy Wakefield concurred.

"Chris was a native son. He served and he put his life on the line so that we could have freedoms and be sitting here discussing naming an island that

is almost as insignificant as a freckle on somebody's nose. I know the Hoskins family will appreciate that honor. I know we have a stone for him in Davis Park, but it's be even nicer to have a permanent land feature that has his name," said Wakefield.

The Town Council voted unanimously to request that the U.S. Board on Geographical Names consider naming the island after Hoskins although they did not put forth a specific name for the landmass.

social aspects of school."

Attendance is one way in which you can observe this struggle. Stringer reveals that attendance is more of an issue this year than in years prior. She describes some teachers have noticed that students will log in at 8am for homeroom because that's when attendance is taken but then not show up for other classes.

"It is difficult because sometimes, you have kids logging into a class, but when you call on them, they don't respond," she said. "How do you track that?"

Stringer realizes there are other reasons that make remote and hybrid learning problematic.

"We've essentially taken two worlds that used to be completely separate, school and home life, and meshed them into one," she said. "Kids are logging into school from home in their pajamas. They are surrounded by distractions like video games and phones." Stringer knows a lack of routine doesn't help. "Most students have lost the normal school schedule of waking up early, showering, eating breakfast and getting out the door to catch the bus. Now, we are seeing them rolling out of bed just in time to log in for homeroom."

Stringer believes remote and hybrid learning don't set the same expectations for students as full-time learning does.

"When you enter a school building, the expectation is that you are there for a job and that job is school work. At home, if parents aren't able to oversee their child's remote learning, students in this age group face huge distractions and lack the executive functioning to self-regulate and independently complete all of their work," she said,

noting that some older students may also be responsible for watching younger siblings while parents are at work.

Remote and hybrid learning isn't just hard on students and their families. Stringer illus-

trates the difficulties for teachers, nurses and administrators on the hybrid model.

"Hybrid is the toughest option for everyone from top down," she said. "It's a lot to manage to know who is where, who isn't where they should be and following up with parents regarding students who aren't connecting or signing in. Our school nurse has spent countless hours contact tracing and working with the Department of Health."

Stringer is worried about the teachers, too, commenting that "Our teachers have added responsibilities; at some point we need to look at what we are putting them through and what we are doing to the profession."

Stringer herself has three school-aged children, but they attend a public school that is open five days a week for in-person instruction.

"I'm grateful my kids are going five days a week and get to see their friends and have recess and eat lunch with different people," she said. "I don't know what it would have been like if they had had to go hybrid or remote."

When asked what people can do to support kids who are hybrid or remote, Stringer advises a focus on positive things,

commenting "Reflect on the last year and ask your kids what they learned? Ask them to look forward to the new year and set goals and make action plans to meet those goals."

She also thinks if the last year has taught us anything it's that we can be flexible and adapt.

"I've had to be flexible in letting my kids use more technology so they can facetime their friends, but I hope when this is all over they pick up a basketball or a baseball bat instead of a device," she added.

Still, Stringer believes at this point there is no right or wrong. Realizing how tough this would have been for her at the middle school age, she also sees that through these transitions, kids are learning life skills on how to adjust and yield to changes as we all work to get through this together.

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QVCC announces fall 2020 Dean's List

DANIELSON — Quinebaug Valley Community College is pleased to announce the names of 175 students named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List.

Brooklyn

Aidan Anderson, Aya Ashour, Hailey Barrows, Laura Bates, Stephanie Bellows, Eric Borkiewicz, Susan Burkart, Hannah Cloutier, Cathleen Dunlop, Caroline Hamill, Erica Lisee, Taylor Nicholson, Jesse Paprota, Madison Rattray, Natalia Reali, Itzel Rojas, Corissa Sharrow, Adam Shinkiewicz, Emma Turner

Danielson

Angela Dean, Dylan Everson, Kerri Fulton, Renee Gates, Sharon George, Tiffany Hicks, Tamarin Kelley, Candice Koolhaas, Michaela Marshall, Ethan Miler, Danilo Palenzuela, Elizabeth Patton, Christina Petty, Alisha Simonds, Brianna St John, Grace Terwilliger

Dayville

Reid Dumas, Nicholas Hindle, Hannah Kipp, Christopher Perry, Jarrica Rainville, Brandon Steen, Tayler Tracy, Bonita Woodward

Moosup

Bonnie Chambers, Taylor Denning, Michael Guilmette, Raymond LaRose, Tavy Lim, Nicole Mahon, Sydney Manthe, Angel Stewart, Tara Tetreault

North Grosvenordale

Lacey Allard, Rebecca Giles, Ashley Klein, Lukas Skaradowski, Gianna Stoico, Gabriel Waldron

Plainfield

Tyler Ahearn, Alyssa Aubin, Michael Banning, Taylor Gageby, Sierra Mercier, Kevin Murphy, Alexis Price, Joshua Sandage, Alexis Sangillo, Sean Sweeney, Madison Taturo, Cameron Verrette, Patricia Wilson

Pomfret

Dawn Libby
Pomfret Center

Shelby Pendleton, Angela Short, Jacob Trudeau

Putnam

Jared Brong, Kevin Champagne, Taylor Copeland, Selena Cordero, Samantha Delp, Jaden Garcia, Carissa Gaugh, Ismail Kiani, Jordyn Poole, Jeffrey Reed Jr., Heather Souza, Noah Tomkins, Evan Zach

Thompson

Paige Audet, Maya Blair, Roxanne Booth, Regina Cross, Caroline Gagnon, Kaitlyn Morton, Daniel O'Brien, Kaileigh Somers, Mary Walsh

Willimantic

Cristal Alvarez, Chiricahua Cochise, Carolina Feliz, Arely Garcia, Dakota Ibarro, Doralis Lozano-Santiago, Maximiliano Navarro Romero, Yarixa Rodriguez

Woodstock

Danette Busby, Antonia Carminati, Haley Farley, Marshal Gohn, Joseph Gottlieb, Christopher Harris, Lillian Mandeville, Zachary Mowry, Jolisa Peabody, Tristan Raszka

Woodstock Valley

Tarryn Desrosiers

Thompson Middle School honor roll

THOMPSON — Thompson Middle School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

Grade 5

High Honors: Daniika Beliveau, Ashley Boudreau, Evelyn Dos Santos, Jeremi Helwig, Parker Leveille, James McHugh, Ayden Perry, Madison Perry, Gabriella Santos, Adrianna Statkiewicz, Joey Sweeney, Brody Vincent

Honors: Graciella Baublitz, Lily Bogoslofski, Adam Boss, Payton Butler, Braedan Delaney, Madison Fitzgerald, Camdyn Foster, Christian Freeman, Sean King, Chloe McDonald, Rafaelle Mondarte, Jon Palmer, Landon Perry, Parker Ring, Ryan Szarkowicz, Stanley Ten Eyck, Aleck Thurber, Ryan Walsh

Recognition: Xavier Bilodeau, Kammy Boothby, Aiden Rafferty, Shane Roccia, Shane Yurkevicius

Grade 12

High Honors: Cole Coderre, Brayden Cutler, Alexis Elkinson, Elizabeth Gates, Daniel Heffernan, Lindsey Houghton, Kerrigan LaCasse, Kaitlyn Lamontagne, Luke Lessard, Emma Parmentier, Jack Smalarz, Christian Smith, John Steglitz, Kaylee Tackson, Makayla Tackson, Branson Waldrop, Gracen Van der Swaagh

Honors: Carter Cooper, Kaylyn Daigneault, John Embair, Matthew Fraser, Connor McMenemy, Kaden Strom, Nicholas Sturtevant, Patrick Sturtevant, Madison Yost

Recognition: Chase Fontaine, Brady Monahan, Lindsey Worster, Samantha Worster, Marc Yost

Mead, Riley Nolin, Alexa Street, Christian Tremblay, Jorge-Brylen Waldrop

Grade 7

High Honors: Dylan Bryniarski, Hailey Collins, Amelia Duquette, Kaydence Foster, Katherine Gates, Sam Giroux, Lacie Keegan, Ava McClure, Sahara Moore, Lily Peckham, Elizabeth Poplawski, Tyler Shead

Honors: Skyler Bennett, Darcy Billings, Alex Davis, Gia DiPasquale, Georgia Lapierre, Ember Merrill, Noelia Reed, Nathan Richardson, Makenna Sheridan, Kevin Vescera, Jadyn Ward

Recognition: Sierra Anderson, Bailey Benton, Vivian Hill, Caitlyn L'Heureux, Alexis Phav, Nathan Plaza, Gaige Smith, Ellah Therrien, Sophia Tomany

Grade 8

High Honors: Justin Griffiths-Lam, Eric Levesque, Margaret McHugh, Megan Nachtigall, Nicholas Ruggieri, Jackson Santos, Serena Smith, Sofia Thurber

Honors: Grace Akana, Gianna Brinson, Noah Brousseau, Christopher Holton, Travis King, Jack Lariviere, Olivia Martocci, Benjamin Munson, Pavanny Phav, Carter Rafferty, Jose Rivera, Travis Ryley, Luke Senosk, Lucy St. Germain

Recognition: Joseph Annese, Maja Bobinska, Aiden Bourget, Sage Bukowski, Bailee Carlson, Emma Chrzanowski, Keira Cotter, Lucas Gillon, Sebastian Hanshaw, Nicholas Helwig, Isabelle McGlynn, Mason Podgorni

Tourtellotte Memorial High School honor roll

NORTH GROSVENORDALE — Tourtellotte Memorial High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

Grade 9

High Honors: Kaylee Beck, Avery Butler, Jordyn Butler, Aidan Defilippo, Audrey Defilippo, Alex Harris, Cassandra McKeon, Zackary Minarik, Connor Pederson, Patricia Peterson, Peyton Richard

Honors: Benjamin Frenier, Brad Herlihy, James Julian, Madysen Koziak, Louis Ochoa, Sadie Pedersen, Jacob Perry, Noel Racicot, Alaina Salkiewicz

Recognition: Mateo Alvarez, Landon Corriveau, Elizabeth Davis, Tara Heffernan, Aliyan Lopez-Guadalupe, Isabelle Nieves, Joesiah Roman

Grade 10

High Honors: Saydie Cooper, Hailey Johnson, Alexander Nachtgall

Honors: Taylor Annis, Evan Antonson, Kayla Botelho, Madelynn Copley, Javier DeJesus, Katlin Larsson, Hanna LeClaire, Dylan Johnson

Recognition: Michael Carrion, Deidra Hanshaw, Chloe Manzo, Colin McAllister, Allison Thebeau, Alicia Tiffany, Tahlia Smith, Aidan Zimmer

Grade 11

High Honors: Zeynep Acun, Brooke Fettig, Kaylin Griggs, Kylene Smith, Michaela Waldrop

Honors: Alivia Dalpe, Leah Demers, Harley Dimock, James DiNoia, Katelyn Forcier, Kiera O'Brien, Zaria Pokropowicz, Megan Sweeney

Recognition: Brayden Akana, Kyle Busha, Alexander Grauer, Kaylin Kochinskas, Ariel Kopas, Ysabella Roccia, Shane Yurkevicius

Grade 12

High Honors: Cole Coderre, Brayden Cutler, Alexis Elkinson, Elizabeth Gates, Daniel Heffernan, Lindsey Houghton, Kerrigan LaCasse, Kaitlyn Lamontagne, Luke Lessard, Emma Parmentier, Jack Smalarz, Christian Smith, John Steglitz, Kaylee Tackson, Makayla Tackson, Branson Waldrop, Gracen Van der Swaagh

Honors: Carter Cooper, Kaylyn Daigneault, John Embair, Matthew Fraser, Connor McMenemy, Kaden Strom, Nicholas Sturtevant, Patrick Sturtevant, Madison Yost

Recognition: Chase Fontaine, Brady Monahan, Lindsey Worster, Samantha Worster, Marc Yost

careers. Nearly 1,800 students from the United States and around the world live and learn on the College's Worcester and Leicester campuses. With nationally recognized programs in nursing, game design and animal studies, Becker has been consistently ranked as a "Best College" for undergraduate education by The Princeton Review.

Becker College announces local student-athlete awards

WORCESTER, Mass. — Becker College congratulates student-athletes who received athletic awards for the 2019-2020 winter/spring season. Local award recipients include:

Ashley Veillette, of Danielson, a Forensic Science major, and a member of the Softball team, earned the NECC 2019-20 Winter/Spring Academic All-Conference Team Award. To be named to the New England Collegiate Conference Academic All-Conference

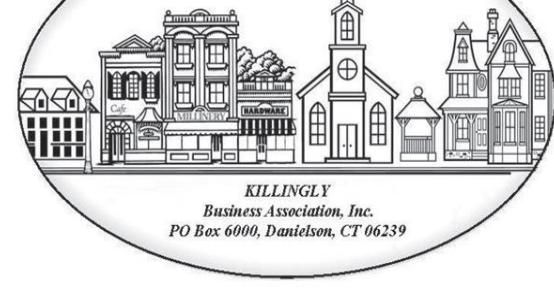
Conference Academic All-Conference Team a student-athlete must be a sophomore in academic standing and hold a cumulative GPA of 3.40 or higher.

Ashley Veillette, of Danielson, a Forensic Science major, and a member of the Softball team, earned the NECC 2019-20 Winter/Spring Academic All-Conference Team Award. To be named to the New England Collegiate Conference Academic All-Conference

Team a student-athlete must be a sophomore in academic standing and hold a cumulative GPA of 3.40 or higher.

To access more information on Hawk's athletics, please go to <https://www.beckerhawks.com/>.

Becker College is an undergraduate and graduate, career-focused private college, providing a supportive and inclusive learning community that prepares graduates for their first to last



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ATTENTION VETERANS: Did you know we participate in the VA Community Care Network for Chiropractic Care & Massage Therapy?

If you are a veteran receiving primary care at a VA hospital, you are able to request a referral for chiropractic care and massage therapy at our office, which will be paid for by the VA. Being Community Care Network providers allows us to offer covered chiropractic care and massage therapy to veterans right here in Dayville, and gives Veterans greater choice and accessibility to care outside of VA medical facilities.

New Year, New Treatment Options for Veterans!

Call today to book 60, 90 or 120 minute sessions!



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LEGALS

TOWN OF BROOKLYN

LEGAL NOTICE

The **THIRD** installment of real estate and personal property and **ALL** supplemental motor vehicle tax bills of 28.92 mills on the dollar levied on the assessment of Oct 1, 2019 becomes due Jan 1, 2021. The **SECOND** installment for Sewer Bills becomes due Jan 1, 2021. Bills will become delinquent on April 2, 2021 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.

Please call 860-779-3411, opt. 5 to find out the hours of the Tax Office. 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. You can also drop off a payment in the drop box located at 4 Wolf Den Rd, Brooklyn. You can also pay via credit/debit card online or by phone. There is a processing fee of 2.50%. For more information, go to our town website www.brooklynct.org.

Jocelyne Ruffo, CCMC,
Revenue Collector

December 25, 2020

January 8, 2020

January 29, 2020

LEGAL NOTICE

WITCHES WOOD TAX DISTRICT TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

The second installment of Real Estate bills listed on the October 1, 2019 Grand List become due and payable to the Witches Woods Tax District on January 1, 2021.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Governor Lamont's Executive Order 9R will extend the no-interest grace period for all taxpayers (except escrow accounts and non-qualified landlords) to April 1, 2021.

Payments must be postmarked by April 1, 2021 to avoid interest charges. Interest will be charged on April 2, 2021 on all delinquent bills at a rate of one and one-half percent per month, beginning with 6 % for April 2nd through April 30th, and ending with 9% interest for all payments made in June 2021.

All escrows and non-qualified landlords making payments on Real Estate bills have a due date of January 1, 2021. Payments must be postmarked or in the office by February 1, 2021 to avoid interest charges. Interest will be charged on February 2, 2021 at a rate of one and one-half percent per month or 18% annually.

There is a minimum interest charge of \$2.00 on each bill.

If you have any questions, please contact the Tax Collector's Office at 860-974-1354 or the Assessor's office at 860-928-6929 ext. 326.

Payments must be sent to:
WITCHES WOODS TAX DISTRICT
25 CROOKED TRAIL, WOODSTOCK,
CT 06281-2601

Frederick Chmura
Tax Collector
January 1, 2021
January 8, 2021
January 29, 2021

LIQUOR PERMIT Notice of Application

This is to give notice that I,
CRYSTAL A KISTNER
73 BIRCH ISLAND RD
WEBSTER, MA 01570-1547
Have filed an application placarded 01/21/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a RESTAURANT LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 1017 RIVERSIDE DR
NORTH GROSVENORDALE CT
06255-1709

The business will be owned by: DOL-DRE INC

Entertainment will consist of: Disc Jockeys, Karaoke, Live Bands, Comedians

Objections must be filed by: 03-04-2021

CRYSTAL A KISTNER

January 22, 2021

January 29, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF THOMPSON NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING February 24, 2021 NOTICE OF REFERENDUM March 9, 2021

A special town meeting of the electors

and citizens qualified to vote in the town meetings of the Town of Thompson, Connecticut, will be held at the Thompson Public Schools Auditorium, 785 Riverside Drive in North Grosvenordale, Connecticut on Wednesday February 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for the purposes stated below. Persons can also participate virtually by video using the following instructions for a zoom conference: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83556527919?pwd=aWROZFPemVgwek54dU5vYUkIMDNPZz09>

Meeting ID: 835 5652 7919

Passcode: 028293

Participation by telephone is not available because voter qualification cannot be reliably confirmed unless visually identifiable by being in person or on video. Video cannot be muted for a voter to qualify to vote. The purpose of the meeting will be:

1. To choose a moderator for the meeting.

2. To consider and act upon the following resolution:

(a) To adopt amended ordinance NO. 10-005, BUDGET; and,

(b) To adopt ordinance NO. 10-054, REFERENDA NOTICES

(c) To adopt ordinance NO. 10-019 ORDINANCE OF ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE THOMPSON FIRE ENGINE COMPANY, INC., WEST THOMPSON FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC., COMMUNITY FIRE COMPANY INC., QUINEBAUG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT INC., EAST THOMPSON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

3. To consider and act upon the following resolution:

(a) to authorize the issuance of bonds and notes to finance the appropriation of \$4,700,000 for costs related to the School Roof Replacement Project at the Thompson Public Schools Building approved at Special Town Meeting held

January 8, 2020 and Referendum on

January 15, 2020; to provide that the

amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued shall be reduced by any grants received for the project; to authorize the issue temporary notes of

the Town in anticipation of such bonds or notes and grants; and to authorize a majority of the First Selectman and the

Treasurer to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, re-

demption provisions, form and other

details of the bonds or notes, and to

perform all other acts which are nec-

essary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes;

(b) to take such action to allow tempo-

rary advances of available funds which

the Town reasonably expects will be

reimbursed from the proceeds of bor-

rowings; and to authorize a majority of

the First Selectman and the Treasurer

to bind the Town pursuant to such

representations and covenants as they

deem necessary or advisable in order

to maintain the continued exemption

from federal income taxation of inter-

est on the bonds, notes or temporary notes

authorized by the resolution if is-

sued on a tax-exempt basis, including

covenants to pay rebates of investment

earnings to the United States in future

years, and to make representations

and enter into written agreements for

the benefit of holders of the bonds or

notes to provide secondary market dis-

closure information, which agreements

may include such terms as they deem

advisable or appropriate in order to

comply with applicable laws or rules

pertaining to the sale or purchase of

such bonds, notes or temporary notes;

(c) to authorize the First Selectman and other proper officers and officials of the Town to apply for and accept federal and state grants to help finance

the appropriation for the project. Any

grant proceeds may be used to pay

project costs or principal and interest

on bonds, notes or temporary notes;

and

(d) to authorize the First Selectman, the Treasurer, the Board of Education, the Town Building Committee for the

project, and other proper officers and

officials of the Town to take all other ac-

tion which is necessary or desirable to

construct and complete the project, to

issue bonds, notes or temporary notes

and to obtain grants to finance the ap-

propriation for the project.

4. Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and Ordinance

No. 10-005, in the form most recently

approved May 6, 2019 regarding the

submission of nonbudgetary appropri-

ations to referendum, to adjourn said

town meeting at its conclusion and to

submit the resolution presented under item 3 to referendum upon voting machines, which vote shall be held on March 9, 2021, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. Electors will vote at the following polling places:

District No. 1 -Thompson Public Library/Louis P. Faucher Community Center 934 Riverside Drive North Grosvenordale

District No. 2 -Town Office Building, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale District No. 3 -Quinebaug Fire Department 720 Quinebaug Road, Quinebaug

District No. 4-East Thompson Fire Department, 530 East Thompson Road, Thompson

Persons qualified to vote in town meetings who are not electors will vote at: Town Office Building, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk's office.

Absentee ballots will be counted at the following central location: Norman Babbitt Veterans Conference Room, First Floor, Town Office Building, 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale. Action on said items at the Town Meeting will be limited to reasonable discussion only.

The aforesaid resolution will be placed on the voting machines under the following heading:

"SHALL THE TOWN OF THOMPSON AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION OF \$4,700,000 FOR COSTS RELATED TO THE SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT THE THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUILDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED AT REFERENDUM JANUARY 15, 2020?"

Voters approving the resolution will vote "Yes" and those opposing said resolution will vote "No."

Dated at Thompson, Connecticut, this 22nd day of JANUARY, 2021

Amy St.Onge, First Selectman

Susanne Witkowski

Kenneth Beausoleil

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

January 29, 2021

CORRECTION

Due to production error, this legal notice was printed incorrectly on January 8 and January 22.

Please see the corrected notice below, as submitted by the Town of Woodstock, Tax Collector

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF WOODSTOCK TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

The second installment of Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle taxes and Sewer Usage bills listed on the October 1, 2019 Grand List become due and payable to the Town of Woodstock on **JANUARY 1, 2021**. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, **Governor Lamont's Executive Order 9R, will extend the no-interest grace period for all taxpayers (except escrow accounts and non-qualified landlords) to APRIL 1, 2021**. Payments must be postmarked or in the office by **APRIL 1, 2021** to avoid interest charges. Interest will be charged on **APRIL 2, 2021** on all delinquent bills at a rate of one and one-half percent per month, beginning with 6 % for APRIL 2ND and continuing at one and one-half percent per month, or 18% annually.

All escrows and non-qualified landlords making payments on Real Estate bills have a **due date of January 1, 2021**. **Payments must be postmarked or in the office by FEBRUARY 1, 2021 to avoid interest charges.** Interest will be charged on **FEBRUARY 2, 2021** at a rate of one and one-half percent per month or 18% annually. There is a minimum interest charge of \$2.00 on each bill, including Sewer Usage bills. Motor vehicle taxes not paid by **April 1, 2021** will be reported as delinquent to the Motor Vehicle Department on **April 2, 2021**.

If you have any questions, please contact the Tax Collector's Office at 860-928-9469 ext. 318 or the Assessor's office at 860-928-6929 ext. 326. The Tax Collector's office hours **during the month of January, 2021**, are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The town hall is **closed on Fridays**.

The office will be closed at noon on

Thursday, December 31, 2020 and will be closed on Monday, January 4,

2021 for New Year's Day Holiday and on Monday, January 18, 2021 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Linda Bernardi, CCMC Woodstock Tax Collector 415 Route 169 Woodstock, CT 06281 January 29, 2021

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Victor E. Lippiello (21-00020) The Hon. Leah P. Schad, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Northeast probate Court, by decree dated, January 19, 2021 ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Alysia Casiano, Clerk

The fiduciary is:

Victoria E Ywardsky,

c/o NICHOLAS A LONGO (attorney for Victoria E Ywardsky), BACHAND, LONGO &, HIGGINS - 168 MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 528, PUTNAM, CT 06260, (860)928-6549



KILLINGLY
AT 300
• • • • •
MARGARET
WEAVER

Recently, Lynn LaBerge, archivist for the Killingly Historical Center, came across small cards (two and a half by three and three quarter inches) entitled "Bobby Benson's Game Circus." The description on the cards said, "57 ways to amuse yourself. Mosaic Designs, Number Formations, Fortune Telling, Card Tricks, Card Games, Puzzles, Magic, Party Games." The back of the tiny manual read, "Tune In 'Adventures of Bobby Benson,' 'Sunny Jim' and 'H-Bar-O Rangers.' Station WABC and Columbia Network. Monday to Friday. 6:15 p.m. 1934 Hecker H-O Co., Inc.

I had never heard of "The Adventures of Bobby Benson," et. al. but hoped a search of the internet might help. I was not disappointed. "The H-Bar-O Rangers" radio show began in 1932, presenting the adventures of Bobby Benson and his friends, and extolling the merits of H-O cereal. This card game was published sometime around 1933. The back shows a lovely drawing of Bobby riding the range with Sunny Jim, the sponsor's mascot, who was to be phased out of the program shortly after this. I like their blue and red horses." (ullagegroup.com/2011/11/16/childrens-card-games-153/#more-976).

As I searched, I came across several other promotional items for the show. "ORIGINAL H-BAR-O 808 RANGER RADIO SHOW BRACELET 5/16 INCHES WIDE METAL CURVED 'ADVENTURES OF BOBBY BENSON' *** CBS 1932 RADIO SHOW SPONSORED BY HECKER'S OATS BURNT ORANGE ENAMEL

The Adventures of Bobby Benson

PAINT DECORATED WITH YELLOW BRASS COLORED IMAGES OF INDIANS AND TEE PEES AND COWBOY'S ON HORSES PERFECT VINTAGE COLLECTIBLE IT IS IN REALLY GREAT CONDITION" (<https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/1930-bar-808-ranger-bobby-benson-169347237>). I also discovered a 1936 Bobby Benson Cereal Bowl. Do any of you have any Bobby Benson collectibles? If so, I'd love to hear from you. Perhaps a few of you even remember the radio program.

Cowboys and Indian shows were also all the rage on early television. I seem to recall my grandmother having Ranger Joe cereal bowls. A search revealed that Ranger Joe was a pre-sweetened cereal. The television show of that name, which originated out of Philadelphia, Pa., started in 1950 and aired on NBC and ABC in different years. Jesse Rogers played Ranger Joe. (broadcastpioneers.com). Does anyone remember them? It's funny that I don't recall the program at all.

Do you remember when there were all sorts of promotions at gas stations and grocery stores? You don't see that anymore. I wonder what you do with old S & H Green Stamps? I came across a number in a little used drawer. I'll have to check with Lynn and see if we have any in our archives at the Center.

Did you know that there was a Revolutionary War patriot physician/surgeon from Northeastern Connecticut who was at Valley Forge during that dreadful winter of 1777/1778? In fact, he kept a diary, which records first-hand the horrible conditions which the soldiers had to endure. In 1975 Mrs. Edwin J. Prior published a little booklet, including some extracts from the diary, entitled Dr. Albgence Waldo. Pomfret's Patriot. Revolutionary War Hero. 1750-1794

from which I have taken the following tidbits. "Dr. Albgence Waldo was born in Pomfret, Connecticut, Feb. 27 1749/50 and died in Pomfret Jan. 29, 1794, son of Zachariah Waldo and Abigail Griffen Waldo. Married 1st., prob. At Scotland, Conn. Lydia Hurlburt Nov. 11, 1772; married 2nd, Lucy Cargill, born August 16, 1762, died Northampton, Mass. July 31, 1830, daughter of Benjamin Cargill and Mary Hayward. There were seven children by 1st marriage and 2 by the 2nd. (Woodstock Genealogies, Bowen, Vo. VII, p. 429-430.)"

Waldo wrote this in his diary about Valley Forge. "Dec. 14 (1777). Prisoners and Deserters are continually coming in. The Army who been surprisingly healthy hitherto...now begin to grow sickly from the continued fatigues they have suffered this Campaign. Yet they still show spirit of Alacrity & Contentment not to be expected from so young Troops. I am sick...discontented...and out of humour. Poor food...hard lodging...Cold weather...fatigue---nasty Cookery. ...Vomit half ye time...smoked out of my senses. ...Why are we sent here to starve and freeze. What sweet Felicities have I left at home; A charming Wife, pretty children, Good Beds, good food, good cookery, all agreeable, all harmonious. Here all Confusion, smoke Cold, hunger & Filthiness...Here comes a bowl of beef soup, full of burnt leaves and dirt...' Dec. 25th Christmas. We are still in tents, when we ought to be in Huts, the poor Sick, suffer much in Tents this cold Weather."

Like the other men at Valley Force Dr. Waldo helped construct his own hut. Jan. 3rd. 'Our Hutt, or rather our Hermit Cell, goes on briskly having a short allowance of Bread this morning we divided it with great precision, eat our Breakfast with thankfull hearts for the little we had, took

care of the Sick...and went to Work on our little humble Cottage. Sunday Jan. 4th. Went to work at Masonry...being found with mortar & Stone I almost compleated a genteel Chimney to my Magnificent Hurt, however, as we had short allowance of food & no Grogg, my back ached before Night."

Following the Revolution Dr. Waldo practiced medicine in northern Windham County and worked hard to promote a county medical society and was "one of the organizers of the State Medical Society in 1792." (p. 13). Since today, January 29th is the anniversary of his death, why not take the time to say a silent "thank you" for the many sacrifices he and others made so that we might be free. May God bless America!

The mail and answering machine are being checked on a regular basis although the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center is closed to the public. Please send an email to the director or leave a message on the answering machine if you would like to donate items or have research questions.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, January, 2021. Special thanks to Lynn LaBerge for showing me Bobby Benson's cards. For additional information email me at margaretmweaver@gmail.com or visit the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 (when it reopens) or www.killinglyhistorical.org, or call 860-779-7250 (when the Historical Center reopens). Like us at Facebook at www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety. Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical and Genealogical Center should be sent to PO Box 265, Danielson, Connecticut 06329

NEWS BRIEFS

UA awarded some 2,257 degrees during its fall commencement Dec. 12.

With a beautiful campus, dozens of challenging academic programs, expert faculty and numerous opportunities for service and growth, The University of Alabama is a place where legends are made. UA offers its students a premier educational, cultural and social experience with more than 200 undergraduate, graduate and professional programs.

The University of Alabama, the state's oldest and largest public institution of higher education, is a student-centered research university that draws the best and brightest to an academic community committed to providing a premier undergraduate and graduate education. UA is dedicated to achieving excellence in scholarship, collaboration and intellectual engagement; providing public outreach and service to the state of Alabama and the nation; and nurturing a campus environment that fosters collegiality, respect and inclusivity.

Roger Williams University announces Fall 2020 Dean's List

BRISTOL, R.I. — Select students have been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester. The following students have earned this achievement:

Christopher Clapwood of Woodstock
Nicole Marmat of Pomfret Center

About RWU

With campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the heart of Providence, R.I., Roger Williams University is a forward-thinking private university committed to strengthening society through engaged teaching and learning. At RWU, small classes, direct access to faculty and guaranteed opportunity for real-world projects ensure that its near-

ly 4,000 undergraduates - along with hundreds of law students, graduate students and adult learners - graduate with the ability to think critically along with the practical skills that today's employers demand. Roger Williams is leading the way in American higher education, confronting the most pressing issues facing students and families - increasing costs, rising debt and job readiness.

Olivia Cunha of N. Grosvenordale named to Dean's List at Dean College

FRANKLIN, Mass. — Dean College is pleased to announce that Olivia Cunha of N Grosvenordale has earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. Students named to the Dean's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

Newton, Mass. — Lasell University students were recently named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List for strong academic performance, with a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Alexandra Chitwood of Dayville
Lexie Brunet of Dayville
Timothy Germano of N. Grosvenordale
Spencer Fulone of Thompson

For more information contact:

Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications at smocle@lasell.edu or at 617-243-2386.

Lexi Brunet of Dayville presents at Lasell University symposium

NEWTON, Mass. — Lexi Brunet, a Lasell University student from Dayville, presented at the University's Fall Career Readiness Symposium in December.

Brunet participated in a mock trial exercise as part of a course on legal studies. Brunet delivered the defense team's closing statement.

The December 2020 event showcased the work of Brunet and more than 150 other students in a dynamic digital format, a triumph for flexible teaching and learning amid COVID-19. The December 2020 event was reimaged to celebrate and showcase the ties between career preparedness and Connected Learning, thanks to a three-year grant from the Davis Educational Foundation.

All Symposium presentations focused on four of the National Association of Colleges and Employers' (NACE) career-readiness competencies: Global and Intercultural Fluency, Professional and Work Ethic, Leadership, and Career Management.

"The Fall Career Readiness Symposium showcased student work and experiences, especially ways in which students have applied Connected Learning to develop their careers through internships," said Provost Eric Turner. "The event highlighted competencies in leadership and global/intercultural fluency with an emphasis on ways our students lead and serve by example."

For more information contact: Samantha Mocle, assistant director of communications at smocle@lasell.edu or at 617-243-2386.

Lasell students named to Fall 2020 Dean's List

NEWTON, Mass. — Lasell University students were recently named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List for strong academic performance, with a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Alexandra Chitwood of Dayville
Lexie Brunet of Dayville
Timothy Germano of N. Grosvenordale
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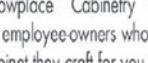
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE

EDITOR

Facts are stubborn things

John Adams was right when he said "Facts are stubborn things." It's pretty funny, albeit disturbing, to sit and listen to what some individuals believe to be true, not based on facts, rather hearsay. We've become a society where facts just don't seem to hold much weight anymore.

The sky is blue, grass is green, milk is good for your bones, helmets prevent head injuries in accidents, a cow has two eyes, and George Washington was our first President. All of these things we know to be true because we've either seen it with our own eyes, or trust the documents of history. Our grandparents tell us stories of days gone by about other family members and the way things were, and we sit and listen intently and enthusiastically, and while we take in this information, we know it to be true.

We can dig through old newspaper archives, old and current court documents, valid witness testimony, police reports, judges' orders, and we accept this information as fact. This isn't to say that certain things ought not to be questioned; however, when facts upon facts upon facts are staring you dead in the eye and you still believe them not to be true, well, that's simply dumbfounding.

We know that surgeons wear masks to prevent infection. We know that vitamin C boosts our immune systems. We know what elements make up oxygen and water. We know that Ibuprofen is an anti-inflammatory. We know that too much alcohol can hurt our livers, we know that plants need sunlight and water to grow. We know all of this to be factual, because of science.

So now, when scientists express how important mask wearing is during a pandemic to prevent the spread of a deadly virus (a practice done even in 1919), we have some individuals who just brush it off. It would be humorous if it wasn't so disturbing. The fact is, based on science, that proper masks prevent the spread of airborne viruses, just like sunblock can prevent a sunburn. Why is one scientifically proven technique widely accepted and the other not? Well, a sunburn has never been politicized. Science has been saving lives and keeping our parents, friends and family members alive for longer, since the dawn of time.

Enter the ever interesting topic of conspiracy theories. A conspiracy theory is an explanation for an event or situation that invokes conspiracy by sinister and powerful groups, often in political motivation when other explanations are based on actual, proven facts.

Such theories have been around for ever. They are nothing more than fairytales. Recently, psychologists have begun to unravel why certain individuals are more likely to believe in conspiracy theories and what attributes about them, make them so gullible.

Experts have surmised that characteristics of those people who are likely to believe in conspiracy theories include distrust of others, low agreeability and Machiavellianism (when a person is so focused on their own interests, they will manipulate, deceive, and exploit others to achieve their goals.)

Low agreeability is typically defined as someone who is not very kind, nor dependable or cooperative with others. People more susceptible to conspiracy theories are more likely to have lower levels of analytic thinking.

When a person who believes in nonsense, is presented with demonstrable, thorough, proven, hard facts, they are often responded to with even further out there thinking, and it is noticeable that there is very little critical thinking.

Further it has been discovered that conspiracy theories make a person feel special. Some individuals who need to feel unique but can't any other way, may fall prey. Conspiracy theories rely on 'secret information' which can give those believers a false sense of belonging.

It has been discovered that those individuals also are narcissists with a grandiose idea of the self and a touch of paranoia. Further, those who fall prey are likely more alienated, powerless and socially isolated.

Remember, conspiracy theories are brought about by people, not actual facts. Take note that you cannot argue with those who believe in conspiracy because those beliefs are not rational.

The simple answer here is to not ignore the facts — wear your sunscreen, wear your mask, drink water, eat your vegetables, have some fun, laugh and be kind to one another.

OPINION

Opinion and commentary from the Quiet Corner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Condemning Capitol violence

To the Editor:

Where were our Connecticut legislators this summer, when New York, Seattle, and Portland were burning?

Thirty-foot flames, broken windows, and burnt police cars were not exactly peaceful demonstrations.

The decline of liberty

To the Editor:

In his 1801 Inaugural Address to the nation, President Thomas Jefferson remarked that, "A wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government."

Now, 220 years later, what is the status of our government today? Instead of heeding Jefferson's prescient warning, the American government has become everything our third President despised. Frugality is nowhere to be found in the federal government as lawmakers continue to spend far more than is necessary. To put this into perspective, prior to the Great Depression, annual federal expenditures accounted for roughly three percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Since 1930, this number has routinely been over fifteen percent, and in the last decade, over twenty percent. Unfortunately, the massive increase in federal spending has not been offset by a corresponding increase in revenue. As a result, the United States has amassed a \$28 trillion debt that threatens the very existence of this great nation. This accumulation of debt is a shameful repudiation of our founders, who viewed excessive debt as

If they wanted to unite the country, they'd condemn all violence.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL LABONTE
PUTNAM

undemocratic and dangerous.

The increase in federal spending and expansion of government has had other serious consequences, most notably the loss of liberty. As Ronald Reagan stated in his 1989 Farewell Address, "I hope we once again have reminded people that man is not free unless government is limited. There's a clear cause and effect here that is as neat and predictable as a law of physics: As government expands, liberty contracts." This message was important 32 years ago, and it is now more critical than ever. The current power of the federal government would have terrified the founders, and it should scare all Americans today. The founders constructed a federal government that had few and defined powers, coupled with a union of states which had numerous and indefinite powers. Tragically, this framework has been completely reversed. The federal government now wields powers far beyond those enumerated in the Constitution. This power must be curbed very soon, because if it is not, liberty will fade into history as a glorious relic of the great American experiment.

ZACH FIEDLER
BROOKLYN

Our firefighters deserve your support

To the Editor:

Did you know the Town of Thompson currently has five Fire Departments? These Fire Departments are sorely underfunded and in desperate need of new facilities. The current approved budget for the Fire Departments is \$655,687. This represents approximately a 35 percent increase over the approved budget for the Fire Departments five years ago. This year, each Department received a grant of \$62,000 to cover their operational costs and Community Ambulance received a \$75,000 grant from the Town. The increases in recent years have not proven to be significant enough to bring these Departments into the 21st century.

As a town, we can appropriate additional money to the Departments in the coming year, but is a fundamental change necessary as well? As Albert Einstein is widely credited with saying, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over but expecting different results." It is insane to think that we can just keep appropriating dol-

lars to a system that may need to be revamped entirely.

I will admit that although I come from a long line of volunteer firefighters, I am no expert in fire department protocol or procedure. I do have an immense amount of respect and admiration for these warriors who answer the call day and night to serve their communities. They put themselves in harm's way and expose themselves to situations that most of us could not handle. These men and women are our neighbors and friends. It is our responsibility as a town to provide adequate protective gear, equipment, and facilities so that these individuals are safe when answering the call of duty in our community.

There was a time when these departments acted independently of the town. Fundraising efforts and donations were adequate to sustain operations. The costs associated with Emergency Services has risen to levels that

Turn To ST. ONGE page A9

Some questions for Mr. Taylor

To the Editor:

Last week, Billy G. Taylor put his own spin on the part in my letter where I said: "I do not agree with the actions of those who did this," which as of today, we are still all allowed to state differing opinions. (But more about that will follow.)

The deaths at the Capitol were indeed unfortunate, but the riots, the deaths and the destruction that happened previously doesn't seem to matter much anymore, now does it? The heat is apparently off of the useless Democrats who stood idly by and let that happen, and it's now all on Donald Trump; how convenient.

Aw, Billy G Taylor, did I ruffle your little feathers by calling out your cherished mem-

bers of Congress? What we really all should be appalled at is that on the day after Congress quivered, it's again back to business as usual for them and the finger-pointing and bickering continues. And in quoting "political science 101," Billy G Taylor, you're basically agreeing with me that they are a bunch of self-serving "whores" that go where the money is, and thank you for that. Are you blind to the fact that Pelosi said: "People will do things." Mad Max Waters said to: "Push back at Trump supporters," and Kamala Harris said: "These protests must continue?" A "not-too-subtle message that such actions were justifiable and even desirable," perhaps? I'd say that those were "obvious" messages that weren't

Turn To DELUCA page A9

How low can the Democrats go?

To the Editor:

Well, it's about time I respond to some past Letters to the Editor.

Why is it the Democratic Party condemns violence now, but said little or nothing when there were riots, looting and mass destruction months ago? Another letter writer compared a pro-Trump supporter to the Nazis and Stalin, and also — here it comes — the typical answer from these types of people, that cannot give facts, "it's all lies" when confronted with the truth.

Then we have another about the pandemic of lies, blah, blah, blah of President Trump, but never mentions CNN, MSNBC and others and Facebook, Twitter, who censor conservatives and more. And now the best for last...who usually calls people nasty names, writes long letters to make you think they are smart...Trump was calling for violence,

certain people calling for beheading people, and attempting a coup, Trump could have stopped it all, and the writer goes on to add negative adjectives to all individuals and uses their own "facts."

The Democratic party has reached the pinnacle of how low politicians can get. They preach about God and country and laws, but have done everything possible to destroy the Constitution, religious freedom, life, freedom and what made America great. They haven't represented the people in ages but have become rich for themselves and Republicans as well but not in the massive degree as the Democrats. They have let our Americans die overseas so as not to offend foreign nations and lie to our people about the cause and let our ambassador die without even attempting to send help. We now have a

Turn To PANDOLFI page A9

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.

Routine gives us power over time

As dawn breaks, I settle into a comfortable chair by the window and open a poetry anthology I received for Christmas. I read at least one poet's work before I allow myself to open my iPad and begin skimming the news or my email. The reason for the routine is simple. I want to exercise some power over time, as it seems to slip by in ways it never did before. I don't like feeling that my life is either passing too quickly, or as occasionally happens, creeping like a slug over slippery pavement.

Perhaps you've read or heard as much or more than I have about our distorted sense of time during these pandemic months. It seems that about 40 percent of us feel that time is moving more slowly. Forty percent think it is moving faster. What happened to the other 20 percent? I don't know. I assume they say it is all the same. I happen to be among the group that feel time is moving faster.

I'm grateful to be able to stay at home and do most of my communicating via Zoom meetings, emails, and bits of other social media. Most days, I walk for several miles with another person and take in the beauty of our region. Regardless of the weather, I suit up and step out the door. I can't imagine what it must have felt like for citizens of a number of European countries and parts of China to be locked down inside for weeks at a time.

I heard that in France, one could walk a dog as late as 10 p.m. without getting fined. It is always worthwhile to own a dog, but it could also bring a breath of air at the end of a leash.

All my life, I longed to have more time. I felt rushed, behind, always failing in some way to be on top of the schedule or even where I was supposed to be when I was supposed to be there. Time and I were in a constant battle. As I walked out the door for a meeting, I might water a plant, toss a treat to the cat, put the dry cleaning in the car and drag out the trash can.

No matter how many years I commuted to work, I always underestimated how long it really took. I was pulled over for speeding and given warnings. Each time I was intimidated enough to reform for a few weeks, until I went right back to my old ways. My family liked to tell me I had an unrealistic relationship with time and they were right.

There is little hurrying around now. Routine is the hallmark of the day, the week, the months. It seems one moment we are watching Masterpiece on Sunday night, and the next thing, we are ordering Friday night pizza from Sweet Evelina's. In between we are busily living our lives, but the sense of time is skewed. Time should feel slower without novelty, but it doesn't.

Routine, I read, makes us feel that time is passing by more quickly because there is nothing novel or exciting to reflect upon. When we remember what happened, all we have is a general sameness, which blurs it all together.

I was brought up to believe that being bored is a personal failing. It is an individual responsibility to be engaged and interested in all sorts of things.

These strange times will last a bit longer. We can look at time in new ways. After all, time is really all we have.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Killingly is in the crosshairs

To the Editor:

The state permitting process for construction of the NTE fracked-gas power plant near Alexander's Lake in Dayville continues to move forward despite the numerous reasons to prevent it.

Some of those reasons include the fact that in Killingly, approximately one mile from this proposed site, is an already-existing gas power plant which demonstrably operates only sporadically. Why would we need another one? We do not. Connecticut is an energy-exporting state with no shortage.

Estimates from NTE's printed materials show that two million tons of emissions, including carbon dioxide, particulate matter, and other pollutants, are expected to flow from the 150-foot-high stack every year. The stack is so low, per FAA regulations due to the nearby Danielson Airport, that those emissions will not diffuse high enough in the atmosphere and instead will fall into the soil and water and remain in the air breathed in Killingly, Pomfret, Putnam, Thompson and other towns where the air currents send it. That's forty tons over the twenty-year period that Killingly will receive the five million dollars promised annually by NTE. And how many pairs of damaged lungs?

As I have noted with horror previously, within a three-mile radius of this proposed project, we have Killingly High School, Killingly Central School, Goodyear Early Learning Center, Killingly Intermediate School, a day care center, Owen Bell Recreation Park, a convalescent center and a newly-constructed 74-unit elderly housing complex. Our most vulnerable residents are at risk for respiratory illnesses like asthma, or exacerbation of already-existing respiratory problems. Windham County, by the latest reports available, already has one of the highest child asthma rates in the state. Why would we risk increasing that rate?

Sierra Club of Connecticut has also warned of habitat damage to some endangered species, specifically the long eared owl, whose population is declining. According to CT.gov, "The main reason the long eared owl is endangered is because of the lack of habitat due to land development." The habitat will surely be disrupted or eliminated by the work recently permitted for pipeline expansion by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection along the Pomfret-Killingly border. Who cares about owls? Many of us do.

The Town of Killingly, who by the way had no voice in the decision by the Connecticut Siting Council to approve this project, is definitely in need of the millions of dollars contracted by NTE. But what happens if the facility is built and then NTE sells it to another entity—maybe a power plant company instead of a private equity firm? Does that agreement hold, or will it need to be

PANDOLFI

continued from page A8

President who is the epitome of corruption in politics and 47 years of absolutely how a politician can stay in office. They have given a new meaning to election fraud and no voter ID. They represent their constituents as if they were non-existent, and consider veterans non-essential any longer because of their age. They use blacks and racism as an answer when they are backed against the wall, and have no other explanation. They mention God as if they are all "Praise the Lord" church going while killing the unborn and live born as if they were a piece of meat while profiting on dead baby organs. They increase abortion rights almost daily in the name of women's rights, and we know it's plain murder.

If a woman decides she does not want a child, there are so many before and after precautions. Why not make abortions illegal and have them all put up for adoption? There are many people wanting to adopt without going abroad and paying exorbitant fees...all would be happy. They omit words from the Pledge of Allegiance, if they say it at all, the Lord's prayer and have destroyed our country's history and now are using gender to change names, allowing school bathrooms to be used by how a person feels that day. I'm not saying the Republicans are saints but the Democrats give new meaning to "how low can you go." Obama could have been the greatest president ever, and what America needed, but he and

re-negotiated?

This situation is a perfect example of why Connecticut needs to change the way public schools are funded—evidently a political non-starter from my conversations years ago with elected officials. Education is the largest town budget item, by far, as it should be. Our children need and deserve the best we can possibly provide them. But Killingly children are no less deserving of an equal per-pupil expenditure than the children of Greenwich and other wealthy Connecticut towns. Killingly does not need a second power plant. Killingly needs a fair shake for its education system, and should not have to choose between accepting a dirty power plant and adequately funding its schools.

Which brings me to a final reason for stopping this plant—although there are even more reasons. NTE has presented its fracked gas power as cleaner than coal or petroleum power plants, now being closed as they should be. That is not the same as guaranteeing this gas power is clean. It is not. Just as there is no safe level for lead or arsenic—although the Reagan administration changed those regulations and set «safe» levels for them—the claim of «cleaner» does not equate to «safe.» If NTE is interested in «safe,» maybe they could decide to invest in an energy storage plant to store solar and wind power. That way, power could still be provided when the sun does not shine and the wind does not blow. That, and water power, is clean energy.

Gov. Lamont has expressed his opposition to this plant, yet D.E.E.P. Commissioner Katie Dykes has apparently only taken seriously the «Energy» part of her department at the expense of the «Environmental Protection.» The remaining permit applications need to be denied, not rubber-stamped. Citizens of Killingly and surrounding towns have persistently expressed opposition and provided facts to support their concerns. This has not swayed Commissioner Dykes.

My first 41 years of life were in Killingly. I still consider it my home and have many people I love who still reside there. I live about nine miles north of where this plant will be sited. Plant emissions will no more distinguish between which town is polluted than the coronavirus determines its victims by political affiliation. This plant must be stopped and another public education formula devised that never puts another small, politically impotent town like Killingly in its cross-hairs. Call Gov. Lamont at 800 406-1527 or email him at governor.lamont@ct.gov to hold him to action that backs up his words. The people of northeast Connecticut deserve nothing less.

Respectfully,

CLAUDIA ALLEN
THOMPSON

his wife turned this country around to make it a racist nation which we have never seen before. It will now take decades to change how Americans feel against one another, and family against family. I hope I am wrong, but I feel America will never be the same. They now call for "unity," but have a vengeance by going after every conservative and businesses dropping them from any future dealings

Now let's get to your Savior and part of his 17 changes and more that are coming...Biden now allows boys to compete in girls' sports, so why should girls compete? Biden cancelled the 1776 Commission created to promote & encourage educators to teach our children about the miracle of American history and make plans to honor the 250th anniversary of our founding. Biden stopped building additional walls on the U.S.-Mexico border; sure, let anyone come in, the gateway to America. Opening the southern border to a flood of illegals that will take more jobs away. Biden previously promised a national mask mandate, but quickly backtracked from that position. Cancellation of the Alaskan Pipeline and over 1,400 jobs & Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau is very unhappy, as most of the jobs and many more are his people. Biden order lets people who quit jobs where they thought they might catch Coronavirus collect unemployment, and wait till the new taxes come in.

TOM PANDOLFI
WOODSTOCK

utive orders, Kamala Harris slipped in her own piece of paper, and now she is the President! Yes, this is an obvious attempt at humor, but (again) maybe now I shouldn't be saying such things?

Did you know that there is now a call to reprogram Trump supporters? You think I'm joking? Ibs out there; look it up! But isn't that something a dictator would do, and something right out of Nazi Germany or Stalinist Russia? Answer that question, Billy G Taylor.

Anyhow, imagine if the Villager editor was ordered by the censorship gestapo to only publish pro-Democrat points of view? I'd say that would be pretty scary, and also very boring.

ED DELUCA
NORTH GROSVENORDALE

Lobbying for the freedom to hate

To the Editor:

We are a nation of laws. It is against the law to yell "Fire!" in a movie theater. And even though the Declaration of Independence (which inspired the writers of the Constitution) emphasized the inalienable right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," it is still against the law to steal and murder. Yet the fire that burns in the belly of the uber right has been stoked by the illusion that our Constitutional freedoms protect us from the law itself. First amendment rights such as freedom of speech have become the centrifuge of extreme conservatives igniting the NRA and white supremacist groups to commandeer social media. And because we Americans hold sacred first amendment rights such as Freedom of Speech, we have tolerated a culture of hate for too long. Liberals, moderates and the media have remained blatantly silent while the maniac in the White House has been yelling "Fire!" for four years.

In retrospect, we are a bunch of cowards. We hold our Constitutional rights so dear, we tremble at the very thought of dousing the fire of thought and freedom of speech, even on the extreme right or the left. There has been a great reluctance to admit that social media has been driven by the rhetoric of hate, and that the "Fire!" law might apply when a sitting president incites a violent insurrection. Although clearly too little too late, it's about time that Twitter, Facebook, Parler, and other media venues manipulated by those who lobby for hate have finally been shut down.

Not surprisingly, the same people who assassinated Colin Kaepernick's career and made death threats to athletes, politicians and ordinary citizens who tried to speak up for racial justice are now outraged that their First Amendment rights are so-called under attack. The same haters of Black Lives Matter and the peaceful protest marches are lobbying that insurrectionists, seditionists and a president who has committed treason not be censured. They still fail to understand the difference between exercising First Amendment rights to peacefully petition the government to do justice (based on facts) and a violent attempted coup fueled by lies and incendiary rhetoric perpetuated by a sitting president. It is a matter of national security that Mr. Trump be cut off from the social media accounts through which he has trucked disinformation, hatred, racism, and white nationalist rhetoric for four years—not to mention insurrection.

Those who are up in arms (literally) about freedom of speech fail to understand that we are a nation of laws but there is no law that protects hate, insurrection, and treason. And before you start sending out threatening posts and Tweets, there is no double standard here. During the summer of 2020 and the Black Lives Matter protests, there were all kinds of infiltrators, many of them white, including anarchists, and other fringe groups that jump on the bandwagon of every movement. After the marchers went home, they incited riots, destroyed property, and burned neighborhoods. They too should be prosecuted for breaking the law. There are fools in every crowd. I'm sure there were many ordinary citizens who joined the protest on Jan. 6 who were simply ardent supporters of Trump, and though misguided by a pack of lies it was not their intent to storm the Capitol. However, social media networks were buzzing for weeks about overturning the elections and showing up with violent intent, armed up and geared up for an insurrection. Although some would like to blame the mythical Antifa, the responsibility lies clearly at the feet of Trump and his supporters. Furthermore, the absence of Capitol Police and the fact that Trump refused to call the National Guard is a blatant double standard as to who is criminalized and who is protected. Imagine, if you will, that the protest consisted of mostly black and brown people asking for racial justice. Washington would have been heavily armed by militarized police.

Those who have lobbied that hate speech is protected by the Constitution are in the same boat as the extremist NRA supporters who lobby for automatic weapons. The Constitution does not protect insurrectionists any more than their intention to kill people with weapons designed for war. It is designed to protect the right to differ in opinion and the right to engage in civic discourse (assuming that Americans would be well-versed in civics through public education).

I first wrote this essay in March of 2019, when some argued that the Constitution protects the Confederate flag and Confederate statues. At the time, I proposed that the Constitution might give you the right to fly the Confederate flag, but you should know it also gives me the right to call you out as a racist. Civil War relics are a reminder of hatred, racism, and treason unworthy of reverence in a democracy. Their presence in public spaces is offensive to anyone who holds the ideals of the Constitution, equality and civil rights dear. Likewise, the flying of the Confederate flag is not a Constitutional right, but an act of defiance against the progress and the good which was accomplished by the civil rights movement before and after the Civil War. It is no surprise that the recent insurrectionists planted a

Confederate flag, which appears to be the new republican banner, in the hallowed halls of democracy.

Freedom of speech and the right to bear arms have been usurped and misinterpreted by right-wing racists and fascists who falsely flaunt the Constitution as a shield to protect their racism, anti-Semitism, and beliefs in white supremacy. They represent the antithesis of the founding values of this country. They are not patriots, but cowards marching in a perpetual temper tantrum over the erosion of their white entitlement. Unfortunately, they infiltrated the White House long before Jan. 6 by electing a megalomaniac who would both stand up for them and join the fray, a traitor to his country. Shame on anyone who equates this violent hateful display as being even sided. There are no "good people" in the white supremacy movement. Shame on anyone who doesn't have the guts to call it what it is.

It is an American travesty that we the people have allowed the alt-right movement, with their radio-wave rhetoric, to infiltrate the political arena and usurp our civic duty to protect the Constitution. While we have been distracted by fabricated conflicts and the daily misguided rants of presidential Tweets, our true civil rights (not the imagined right to overthrow the government) have been systematically eroded. Freedom of the press and the right to voice our opinion in protest have endured violent attacks from Trump and his supporters for more than four years. They have been systematically squelched by the disinformation campaigns gassing out of the President's bully pulpit, and a pointed campaign to vilify journalists and intellectuals. Without the most basic of Constitutional rights to have a free press the People will not have an informed voice to keep the government in check. Instead, we are being fed propaganda by the President and his state news, Fox [The violence in Charlottesville was not the fault of the neo-Nazis and white supremacists, but those who were protesting against them; the elections are fraudulent], implying that those of us who dare to stand up for justice and speak out against hatred, deserve to be verbally and physically attacked. In fact, the president himself has been the perpetrator of verbal attacks which have ignited and empowered the extreme right to do his dirty work long before Jan. 6. Unlike any of his predecessors in over 200 years of the U.S. Presidency, this President lacks the moral character and leadership to stand with those of us who love our country and the ideals for which we stand.

Because he is a "businessman" and an ideologue, rather than a scholar of history and governance, Trump does not realize that the Constitution was humbly created by men who knew that they were flawed, and that their society was flawed. Yet they created a document which could be amended over time, based on the founding principle of equality - holding out an ideal for generations to live up to. ("Constitutions are writ broad for ages yet unborn.") Rather than living up to be the leader of the people and protecting the Constitution, Trump has chosen to align himself with those whom Hillary Clinton rightly called his "basket of deplorables." While Steve Bannon pulled the puppet strings behind the scenes, dismantling civil rights, Affirmative Action and environmental protection laws, the President fed us propaganda and corporate speak to cover up his treasonous acts. Obviously, Trump flunked American history since he prefers to buy into the likes of Steve Bannon's alt-right white revisionist history. Unfortunately, he is not alone.

The corporate model and corporate speak have not only edged their way into government. They have also infiltrated public education, with an emphasis on privatization, data-driven test scores and high-stakes testing as a means to dismantle yet another uniquely American right – the opportunity to acquire an equal education. Public education was meant to be the great equalizer, giving a leg up to all citizens regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity or economic status. It was also cleverly derived to teach American history as a means of cultivating citizenship. Thomas Jefferson, who

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ST. ONGE

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chicken BBQ's just cannot make up. As the town bears most fire department expenses, the Departments begin to lose their independent standing. Consequently, reorganization needs to occur because, getting by "the way things have always been done" simply is not working anymore. The Departments are currently discussing options of coming under the authority of one governing body or agency. I applaud the Departments as they search for ways to improve their facilities and the mechanism with which they currently operate. They have my full support as they explore options and unite to find solutions that will help them to advance into a new era of firefighting.

AMY ST. ONGE

THOMPSON

OBITUARIES

Claire A. Lajeunesse, 91 George L. Lajeunesse, 93

PUTNAM- Claire A. (Bouthillette) Lajeunesse, 91, of Woodstock Ave., died Friday, January 15, 2021 at Matulaitis Nursing Home. She was the beloved wife of George L. Lajeunesse. Born in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Oscar and Yvonne (Vadnais) Bouthillette.

Mrs. Lajeunesse worked for many years as a salesclerk at Sandy's Dress Shop and Kay's Dress Shop. She was a member the daughters of St. Mary, Ladies of St Ann's, and was a communicant of St. Mary Church of the Visitation in Putnam and enjoyed knitting.

Claire is survived by her son Lionel Lajeunesse and his former wife Jeanine of Danielson; two grandchildren, Lance Lajeunesse and his former wife Danielle and Shannon Schroth and her husband Jay and two great grandsons, Jonathan Lajeunesse and Dylan Deotte and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his siblings, Henri, Lucien, Robert, Emile, and Rene Lajeunesse, Rose St. Peters and Germaine Morris.

George L. Lajeunesse, 93, of Woodstock Ave., died Saturday, January 16, 2021 at Matulaitis Nursing Home. He was the beloved husband of the late Claire A. (Bouthillette)

OBITUARIES

Kelly Plante

DAYVILLE - Kelly (St. Denis) Plante, formerly of Thompson and Worcester, MA, passed away peacefully on January 18th, 2021 at Davis Place in Danielson, CT after a long period of declining health due to Frontotemporal Dementia, and complications from Covid-19. Kelly was born in Barnstable, MA, the daughter of Maureen (Spayne) St. Denis. She was raised with her grandparents, Mildred and Joseph Spayne, in Worcester, with whom she was very close. Kelly graduated from Tourtellotte Memorial High School in 1984, and from Worcester State University with a bachelor's degree in Biology in 1988. Kelly worked as a microbiologist for National Patent Medical and US Cosmetics Corp. in Dayville for many years, before moving on to Day Kimball Homemakers in Putnam, CT, where she finished her career there as Finance Manager in 2014. Shortly afterwards, her worsening symptoms made working difficult and she was diagnosed with Primary Progressive Aphasia/ Frontotemporal Dementia in 2017.

Kelly leaves behind her husband of 32 years, Gregory, of Dayville; her daughter, Emily (Plante) Kingston and her husband William of Lillington, NC; her two grandchildren, Liam and Eleanor Kingston; and her son, Jacob of Boston, MA. Kelly also leaves her sister, Jean St. Denis of Worcester, MA and her brother John St. Denis and his wife Jennifer of Griswold, CT. She also leaves behind the Wray cousins, whom she considered her siblings: Jennifer (Wray) Bombard and her husband Jason of Barnstable, MA, Pamela (Wray) Maccio and her husband

At her direction, there will be no calling hours or services. She requested we throw a party in celebration of her life, where we remember her happy and healthy. The date will be announced at a later time.

Domenic of Woolwich, ME, Denise (Wray) Morgan and her husband Rob of West Brookfield, MA, and Scott Wray and his wife Lauren of West Brookfield, MA. She leaves two maternal aunts, with whom she was very close, Cynthia Wray of West Brookfield, MA and Eileen Doreika and her husband Leo of Bar Harbor, ME, and her cousins Heidi Lawson and Eric Doreika, also of Maine. She also leaves her father and mother-in-law, Maurice and Pauline Plante of Worcester; a brother-in-law, Michael Plante, of Phoenix, AZ; and her brother and sister-in-law Jeffrey and Nancy Plante of Holden, MA, who were dedicated to helping care for her as she declined and visited her often at Davis Place. Kelly was predeceased by her grandparents, Joseph and Mildred Spayne, her stepfather Leo St. Denis, her sister-in-law Lisa St. Martin and her uncle, David Wray.

Kelly was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She always placed her family first, loved the beach and a good margarita, and her daily evening walks with Greg. The few lines written here could never sum up who she was and how much she was loved. She will be missed deeply and never forgotten.

Donations in her name can be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

She left this quote for us... "I'm off on another adventure. I have had a wonderful time, but now it is time for me to go. I will miss you and I will see you on the other side." For memorial guestbook, please visit www.GilmanandValade.com.

Miralda Pikel, 89

Miralda Pikel, 89, of Dayville passed away at Westview Nursing Home Wednesday January 13, 2021. She was born on the island of Saaremaa in Estonia on March 2, 1931. Daughter of the late Eduard and Liidia (Pölder) Piht. She was the wife of the late Peeter Pikel, who predeceased her. Miralda escaped Soviet-occupied Estonia in 1944. Fleeing to Finland, she then proceeded to Sweden on her westward journey to the United States. She and her family narrowly avoided Soviet aggression before sailing to the US. They landed in Southport, NC where they were then sent to Ellis Island. After processing through immigration, she became a United States citizen. She made her home in many states before finally settling in Connecticut. She was

a member of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Estonian Women's Organization in Danielson, and sang in the Connecticut Estonian choir. She was an avid painter and gardener. She was a go-getter and lived a spirited life. She was very proud of her Estonian culture and heritage and has passed that love on to her children and grandchildren. Miralda is survived by her children Sylvia Peckham (John) and Ilmar Pikel (Sandra); three grandchildren Ilea Peckham, Erik Pikel, and Julie Pikel; and two great-grandchildren. She is also survived by many relatives and friends in Estonia. She was predeceased by two brothers Edvin and Arne. Funeral services will be held at a later date. tillinghastfh.com

Jeannette Barrette, 85

DAYVILLE - Jeannette (Cloutier) Barrette, 85, of Ware Rd., passed away on Friday, January 22, 2021 at Westview Health Care. She was the beloved wife of the late Norman Barrette. Born in Putnam, she was the daughter of the late Alphege and Rose (Bonomconi) Cloutier.

Jeannette was a supervisor for American Optical as well as a teacher's assistant for Building Blocks Day Care in N. Grosvenordale; she loved children, so that was the perfect job for her. She was a member of the Daughters of Isabella and enjoyed gardening, knitting, crocheting and animals, especially her dogs. Jeannette is survived by her only son, Gary Barrette and his wife Laurie

of Brooklyn; her brother, Richard Cloutier of FL; her sister Mrs. Jean Dahl of Killingly her grandchildren, Craig Barrette, Corey Barrette, and Janessa Barrette; and her beloved great grandchildren, Alyssa, Thomas, Aiden, Amelia, Sullivan and Allister; many nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends were invited to visit with Jeannette's family from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 in the Gilman Funeral Home and Crematory, 104 Church St., Putnam. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2021 in St. Mary Church of the Visitation Church, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to ASPCA, PO Box 96929 Washington, DC 20090-6929. For memorial guestbook please visit www.GilmanAndValade.com.

DUFRESNE

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believed that "An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people", must be rolling in his grave. I imagine that Sandra Day O'Connor, who led the charge to teach civics in elementary schools, must be equally dismayed.

In the age of the corporate industrial complex, many schools have stopped teaching social studies. Like the president, we have generations of Americans who do not know their history. It is a sad truth that immigrants and naturalized citizens know more about the Constitution and American history than the average American Citizen, myself included, even though I am a lover of history. Perhaps this explains the America First anti-immigrant rhetoric of Trump and his ilk. I like to imagine that for the most part, new citizens hold their civil liberties dear, and that many are willing to protect our civil rights while the rest of us stand idle in our presumption that the government will do the right thing without our voice. It

is unfortunate that so few of the Republicans have had the courage of the late Sen. McCain to call Trump out for what he is. Only now, as the momentum of outrage rises in public sentiment against Trump's racist policies and incendiary rhetoric, do we hear the voices of the moderate right. Call it like it is. Speak the truth. Trump is and always has been a racist who identifies with extremist right-wing views. In 1927, Donald Trump's father, Fred Trump was arrested during a KKK riot that took place at the Memorial Day Parade in NYC. Although charges were dropped, and it's not clear why he was there or what his role was, it is doubtful that Fred Trump's presence was innocent. It is naïve to suppose that Donald Trump's racist views are purely his own, given Fred Trump's track record for red-lining real estate, blocking African American's from renting certain properties. In fact, both father and son were investigated in the 1970's for breaking equal housing and anti-discrimination laws. And let us not forget what Trump did to the Central Park Seven.

Given the fact that none of Trump's previously seditious and criminal acts led to any consequences, one must wonder if there are any republicans with enough cojones to invoke the 25th or the 14th Amendments. Some admit that he done wrong but believe that now that "his finger has touched the fire, he may have learned his lesson." Those Republican senators and representatives who continue to support Trump through impotent silence are complicit in enabling his behavior. At the very least, they too should be suspended from their duties. If Donald J. Trump is not impeached and forced to resign, he poses a threat to national security. Those who are lobbying for his right to tweet and pontificate anti-American propaganda are promoting sedition and the unleashing of a wrathful and dangerous man who will become the undoing of life as we know it in the United States of America.

DONNA DUFRESNE
POMFRET

Marilyn P. Stears, 79

Marilyn P. Stears, 79, of Danielson passed away at Day Kimball Hospital January 18, 2021. She was born in Willimantic October 21, 1941 daughter of the late Richard Stewart and Frances (Newton) Potter. Marilyn grew up in the Danielson area until the age of 5, then moved to Glastonbury. She graduated from

Glastonbury High in 1958. Marilyn was a life-long member of the Westfield Congregational Church. She was also a member of interfaith stitchers where she made dozens of thoughtful lap robes for people in need. She was always there for others and very giving of herself to everyone, whether just a smile, taking the time to listen, or giving a warm much needed hug. Marilyn was a teacher's aid for 12 years from 1969-1981. She always enjoyed when her students came up to let her know they remembered and liked her. Marilyn ended her career working for the Building and Zoning office at the Danielson Town Hall, retiring in 2003. During her employment there Marilyn made many close friends. Marilyn enjoyed being in her beautifully landscaped yard, hand planting all her flow-

ers and shrubbery. Her green thumb came natural to her as well as making everyone she came in contact with feel special and loved. Marilyn spent the last year of her life at Matulaitis where she received exceptional care. Marilyn was married to Ronald (Gus) Stears on October 1, 1960. For many years they loved to travel, take motorcycle rides, and go camping with their family. She loved playing cards, board games and her favorite show was Jeopardy, which became the standard rule "don't call mom from 7 to 7:30". She enjoyed fishing and just being outside. Marilyn also loved to cook and bake, especially making cookies with her grandchildren. Besides her husband, Gus, Marilyn also leaves behind a son, Michael A. Stears of Wilmington, DE, and wife Cynthia. A daughter, Laura L. Wolfburg of Danielson and husband Daniel Wolfburg. And three grandchildren, Michael Stears, Meghan Stears and Michele Burris. Due to COVID restrictions, funeral services will be private. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Matulaitis Nursing Home 10 Thurber Road Putnam, CT 06260. A special thank you to the Staff at Matulaitis for taking such loving care of her especially when we were not able to visit due to COVID. tillinghastfh.com

Rita O. Bernier, 100

PUTNAM- Rita (Blanchette) Bernier, 100, passed away on January 21, 2021 due to COVID 19 at Matulaitis Nursing Home.

Born in Central Falls RI, on May 15, 1920 to the late Hector and Yvonne (Chaput) Blanchette.

Rita was married to the late Gerard Bernier (July 1, 1998) on September 21, 1940. She was a communicant of St. Mary's of the Visitation Church in Putnam where she volunteered for many years, as well as in the cafeteria in St. Mary's School. Rita retired from American Optical in 1982 after 25 years of service.

Rita leaves a son, Michael (Elaine) of Putnam and their children Neil Bernier of Putnam, Amy Carbone (Tony) of Bristol RI, and Melody Thorstenson (Tim) of Danielson, a son Richard

Bernier (Carol) of Tolland CT and their children Cheryl Antil (Michael) of Tolland, and Michelle Fogarty (Ed) of Madison CT; six great grandchildren, Robert, Payton, Reid, Yvey, Joshua and Brandon and many nieces and nephews; and a sister, Priscilla Ethier of Millbury MA. She is predeceased by brothers, Roland Blanchette, Rene Blanchette, and Raymond Blanchette.

The family would like to thank the staff of A-Wing at Matulaitis Nursing Home for the exceptional care they gave her for over 5 years and especially during her last moments.

A Mass of Christian burial took place for Rita at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 25, 2021 at Saint Mary Church of the Visitation, 218 Providence St., Putnam, CT followed by burial in St. Mary Cemetery, 230 Providence St., Putnam, CT. For memorial guestbook, please visit www.GilmanandValade.com.

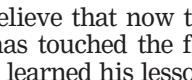
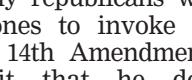
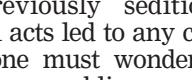
Tyler Sean Bates, 31

THOMPSON- Tyler Sean Bates, 31. An outstanding young man with a huge heart unexpectedly passed away on

Tuesday, December 29, 2020, to be with departed family and friends. Tyler was a son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, and friend, but most importantly he was a little girl's hero and daddy. He is survived

by his daughter, Lennix, who was the center of his life and sole purpose for being. Tyler took with him a piece of the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

A happy go lucky kind of guy, charming and charismatic, a friend to all. Always willing to help and most importantly to listen. Tyler was often seen



wearing a great big smile. In his free time, he enjoyed the beach, music, hiking, fishing, disc golf, camping, kayaking, and a rip-roaring fire to sit around with friends and family. Tyler had a real love for Subarus, he enjoyed going to the Wicked Big Meet and being part of the Subaru family. He loved to tinker around, much like his father, he was a jack of all trades, master of none.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please donate towards Lennix's expenses via: Tyler Bates Memorial Fund (<https://gofundme.com/love-for-lennix>) or Lennix Bates Fund, PO Box 313, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255

Arrangements are under the directions of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, MA.

www.websterfunerals.com

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**FINANCIAL
FOCUS**
• • • • •
**JIM ZAHANSKY
INVESTMENT
ADVISER**

Earlier in the month, we discuss how to Take Control to Begin Recovery or Acceleration of Your Financial Goals. We focused on keeping your financial goals top of mind, while creating a budget to help you work towards achieving those goals you set for yourself in the new year. Many people carry some amount of debt, whether in the form of a student loan, a mortgage, or a car loan. Indeed, making large purchases using someone else's money is often a smart financial move depending on the cost of the capital. Borrowing can be convenient, allowing you to purchase big-ticket items with less out-of-pocket cash. And, with today's attractive interest rates, it is relatively low cost. But taking on any amount of debt comes with risk. A financial setback can reduce your ability to repay a loan, and any amount of debt may prevent you from achieving those long-term financial life goals.

How Much Debt Can You Afford to Take On?

When analyzing your ability to carry debt, take a close look at your personal finances, focusing on the following factors:

Liquidity. If you suddenly lost your job, would you have enough

Taking control of your debt

cash at the ready to cover your current liabilities? It's a good idea to maintain an emergency fund to cover three to six months' worth of expenses. But don't go overboard. Guard against keeping more than 120 percent of your six-month expense estimate in low-yielding investments. And don't let more than 5 percent of your cash reserves sit in a non-interest-bearing checking account.

Current debt. Your total contractual monthly debt payments (i.e., the minimum required payments) should come to no more than 36 percent of your monthly gross income. Your consumer debt—credit card balances, automobile loans and leases, and debt related to other lifestyle purchases—should amount to less than 10 percent of your monthly gross income. If your consumer debt ratio is 20 percent or more, avoid taking on additional debt.

Housing expenses. As a general rule, your monthly housing costs—including your mortgage or rent, home insurance, real estate taxes, association fees, and other required expenses—shouldn't amount to more than 31 percent of your monthly gross income. If you're shopping for a mortgage, keep in mind that lenders use their own formulas to calculate how much home you can afford based on your gross monthly income, your current housing expenses, and your other long-term debt, such as auto and

student loans. For a mortgage insured by the Federal Housing Administration, your housing expenses and long-term debt should not exceed 43 percent of your monthly gross income.

Savings. Although the standard recommended savings rate is 10 percent of gross income, your guideline should depend on your age, goals, and stage of life. For example, you should save more as you age, and as retirement nears, you may need to ramp up your savings to 20 percent or 30 percent of your income. Direct deposits, automatic contributions to retirement accounts, and electronic transfers from checking accounts to savings accounts can help you make saving a habit.

Evaluating Mortgage Options

If you're in the market for a new home, the myriad of mortgage choices can be overwhelming. Fixed or variable interest rate? Fifteen- or 30-year term? If it were merely a question of which mortgage provided the lowest long-term costs, the answer would be simple. In reality, the best mortgage for a particular household depends on how long the homeowner plans to stay in the house, the available down payment, the predictability of cash flow, and the borrower's tolerance for fluctuating payments.

How long will you be there? One rule of thumb is to choose a mortgage based on how long you

plan to stay in the home. If you plan to stay five years or less, consider renting. If you plan to live in the house for five to 10 years and have a high tolerance for fluctuating payments, consider a variable-rate mortgage for a longer term, such as 30 years, to help keep the cost down. If the home is a long-term investment, choose a fixed-rate mortgage with a shorter term, such as 15 or 20 years.

Is a variable-rate mortgage worth the risk? Because the monthly payments are typically lower with variable-rate mortgages, they are generally the easiest to qualify for—and may enable you to purchase a more expensive home. Variable-rate mortgages also allow you to take advantage of falling interest rates without the cost of refinancing. But keep in mind that it's generally not wise to take on a variable-rate mortgage simply because you qualify for one. Although these mortgages offer the lowest interest rate, they're also the riskiest, as the monthly payment can increase to an amount that may prove difficult to meet. Selecting a shorter loan term, such as 15 years, can help lessen this risk.

Remember, when it comes to taking on debt, the loan amount you qualify for and the amount you can comfortably afford to repay may not be one and the same. Be sure to consider your special circumstances before tak-

ing on debt to buy a home or make another major purchase. If you need assistance prioritizing your finances to help you work toward your long-term financial life goals. Give our office a call at 860-928-2341, so that we can leverage our Plan Well, Invest Well, Live Well process to help you get to the financial freedom you desire.

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BEYOND THE PEWS

BISHOP JOHN W. HANSON

Before reviewing the prayer, let's consider why people in AA meetings have found the prayer to be such a comfort. Alcohol has been a social problem since the beginning of time. The website www.webmd.com describes the problem Americans have with alcohol like this:

It is estimated that between 18 million – or one in 12 adults – in the U.S. abuse alcohol or are chronic alcoholics. Nearly 100,000 Americans die each year as a result of alcohol abuse, and alcohol is a factor in more than half of the country's homicides, suicides, and traffic accidents. Alcohol abuse also plays a role in many social and domestic problems, from job absenteeism and crimes against property to spousal and child abuse.

The immediate physical effects of drinking alcohol range from mild mood changes to complete loss of coordination, vision, balance, and speech – any of which can be signals of acute alcohol intoxication, or drunkenness. These effects usually wear off in a matter of hours after a person stops drinking. Many law-enforcement agencies

regard a .08 percentage of alcohol in the bloodstream as evidence of intoxication. Larger amounts of blood alcohol can impair brain function and eventually cause unconsciousness. An extreme overdose, alcohol poisoning, can be fatal.

That academic description cannot begin to convey the grief and pain caused by people who are bound by alcohol. Neither can it begin to capture the frustration, shame, fear and helplessness experienced by those caught in its grip.

In 1935, two men set out to help people whose lives had been marred by alcoholism. They established a faith-based, twelve-step program called Alcoholics Anonymous. Bill Wilson and Bob Smith founded the first group in Akron, Ohio. The idea was to invite people to admit their need for help, turn to a higher power and then take steps toward overcoming the addiction. AA has been in existence for 80 years and there are now over 115,000 groups world-wide.

Each time a group meets, they recite the Serenity Prayer, so there is no telling how many people have prayed this prayer.

This prayer is effective because it is based on biblical truths and because of the sheer volume of people who have prayed it. Here is the most commonly used version of the Serenity Prayer:

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,

Courage to change the things I can,

And wisdom to know the difference."

The Serenity Prayer personifies how Believers can rest in God through prayer. We can have peace because, through prayer, God will help know what we need to do and what we need to leave up to Him. Prayer works and is powerful because the God to whom we pray is so big... and powerful... and full of mercy and grace. Because we pray to an all-powerful God, we can enjoy serenity, even in difficult circumstances.

Bishop John W Hanson oversees Acts II Ministries in Thompson. For information about service or the many prayer groups that meet in the area, please visit www.ActsII.org.

The Serenity Prayer



It is one of the most well-known prayers of our day. It was written by Reinhold Niebuhr, who was an American theologian and commentator. He was one of the leading intellectuals in the United States during the 20th century, who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964. He wrote this prayer for a sermon that he preached at Heath Evangelical Union Church, in Massachusetts. It was used in sermons in the church beginning in 1934, and, in 1951 it was published in a magazine. Since then, "The Serenity Prayer" has been popular with Christians of many denominations. But most people are probably familiar with it because it is used in Alcoholic Anonymous meetings all over the world.

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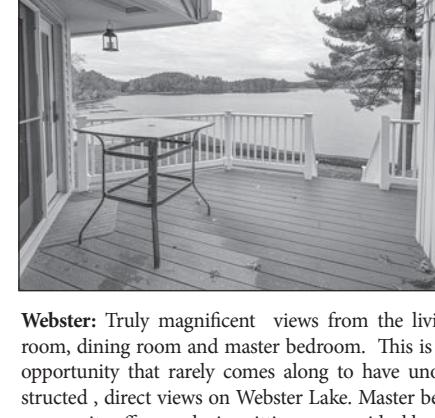
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LUNCH MENUS

| FEBRUARY 2021 | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Putnam Elementary Breakfast In Classroom K-3rd | | | | |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Blue Group WG Chocolate Chip Muffin W/ String Cheese 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 1 White Group WG Chocolate Chip Muffin W/ String Cheese 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 2 Blue Group WG Breakfast Cereal W/Graham Crackers 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 3 White Group WG Breakfast Cereal W/Graham Crackers 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 4 Blue Group Wg Mini Pancakes 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit |
| Blue Group Sliced WG Banana Bread 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 8 White Group Sliced WG Banana Bread 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 9 Blue Group Benefit Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Breakfast Bar 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 10 White Group Benefit Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Breakfast Bar 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 11 White Group Wg Mini Pancakes 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit |
| Winter Break | 15 Winter Break | 16 Winter Break | 17 Whole Grain Bagel 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 18 Whole Grain Bagel 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit |
| Winter Break | 22 Winter Break | 23 Winter Break | 24 Winter Break | 25 Winter Break |
| Blue Group WG Cinnamon Breakfast Roll 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 22 White Group WG Cinnamon Breakfast Roll 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 23 Blue Group WG Breakfast Cereal W/Graham Crackers 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 24 White Group WG Breakfast Cereal W/Graham Crackers 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 25 White Group WG Apple Muffin W/ String Cheese 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit |
| Blue Group WG Cinnamon Breakfast Roll 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 22 White Group WG Cinnamon Breakfast Roll 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 23 Blue Group WG Breakfast Cereal W/Graham Crackers 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 24 White Group WG Breakfast Cereal W/Graham Crackers 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 25 White Group WG Apple Muffin W/ String Cheese 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit |

We Serve Whole Grains, Low Fat Milk and Cheese, Reduced Sugar Cereals, and a Variety of Fruit and 100% Fruit Juice No Added Sugar.

We meet USDA Diet Regulations.
1% Milk, Low Fat Chocolate, and Skim Milk Is Offered With Every Meal

Menu Subject To Change

WG=Denotes the use of Whole Grain Products

W=With LF=Low Fat

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PAY FOR MEALS ONLINE

| FEBRUARY 2021 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Putnam Elementary Lunch Menu | | | | |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Blue Group "Wolf Meal" Beef Burger w/ Cheese Seasoned Curly Fries 100% Fruit Sherbet Milk | 1 White Group "Wolf Meal" Beef Burger w/ Cheese Seasoned Curly Fries 100% Fruit Sherbet Milk | 2 Blue Group "Wolf Meal" Beef Burger w/ Cheese Seasoned Curly Fries 100% Fruit Sherbet Milk | 3 White Group "Wolf Meal" Beef Burger w/ Cheese Seasoned Curly Fries 100% Fruit Sherbet Milk | 4 Blue Group "Wolf Meal" Beef Burger w/ Cheese Seasoned Curly Fries 100% Fruit Sherbet Milk |
| Blue Group Toasted Cheese Sandwich and Zesty Tomato Soup Cheddar Goldfish Crackers Fruit & Milk | 8 White Group Toasted Cheese Sandwich and Zesty Tomato Soup Cheddar Goldfish Crackers Fruit & Milk | 9 Blue Group Popcorn Chicken Potato Bowl Crispy Fried Chicken atop of Creamy Mashed Potatoes & Sweet Corn & WG Roll Fruit & Milk | 10 White Group Popcorn Chicken Potato Bowl Crispy Fried Chicken atop of Creamy Mashed Potatoes & Sweet Corn & WG Roll Fruit & Milk | 11 White Group Popcorn Chicken Potato Bowl Crispy Fried Chicken atop of Creamy Mashed Potatoes & Sweet Corn & WG Roll Fruit & Milk |
| Winter Break | 15 Winter Break | 16 Winter Break | 17 Whole Grain Bagel 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit | 18 Whole Grain Bagel 100% Fruit Juice Assorted Fresh Fruit |
| Winter Break | 22 Winter Break | 23 Winter Break | 24 Winter Break | 25 Winter Break |
| Blue Group WG Spaghetti W/ Meatball Dinner WG Texas Garlic Toast Roasted Broccoli Florets Fruit & Milk | 22 White Group WG Spaghetti W/ Meatball Dinner WG Texas Garlic Toast Roasted Broccoli Florets Fruit & Milk | 23 Blue Group Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes and gravy WG Dinner Roll Fruit & Milk | 24 White Group Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes and gravy WG Dinner Roll Fruit & Milk | 25 White Group Cheese Pizza Fresh Garden Salad w/ Cherry Tomatoes & Cucumbers Fruit & Milk |
| Blue Group WG Spaghetti W/ Meatball Dinner WG Texas Garlic Toast Roasted Broccoli Florets Fruit & Milk | 22 White Group WG Spaghetti W/ Meatball Dinner WG Texas Garlic Toast Roasted Broccoli Florets Fruit & Milk | 23 Blue Group Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes and gravy WG Dinner Roll Fruit & Milk | 24 White Group Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes and gravy WG Dinner Roll Fruit & Milk | 25 White Group Cheese Pizza Fresh Garden Salad w/ Cherry Tomatoes & Cucumbers Fruit & Milk |

Daily Meal Options: A,B,or C
A=Meal of the Day
B=Yogurt/Cheese stick, Soft WG Pretzel
C=Peanut butter-Jelly Sandwich

Daily Meal Options: A,B,or C
A=Meal of the Day
B=Yogurt/Cheese stick, Soft WG Pretzel
C=Peanut butter-Jelly Sandwich

Subject To Change

Milk Choices: Low Fat Chocolate, 1% White, or Skim Milk

USDA is an equal opportunity provider

All meals comprise of Meat/meat alternate, grain, vegetable, fruit and milk

*WG= Whole Grain Product

| Putnam High School - LUNCH MENU ◊ February 2021 ALL MEALS ARE FREE!!! | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|
| Monday | | | | |
| Blue Group Feb. 1 | White Group Feb. 2 | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| -General Tso Chicken- Breaded Chicken Tossed W/ Temp Seasoned Curly Fries Over Vegetable Fried Rice Or Spicy Chicken Sandwich Vegetable, Fruit, & Milk | -General Tso Chicken- Breaded Chicken Tossed W/ Temp Seasoned Curly Fries Over Vegetable Fried Rice Or Spicy Chicken Sandwich Vegetable, Fruit, & Milk | -Italian WG Spaghetti and Homemade Meatball Dinner- WG Bressick Or Bacon Cheeseburger Vegetable, Fruit, & Milk | -White Group Feb. 4 | Blue Group Feb. 5 |
| Blue Group Feb. 8 | White Group Feb. 9 | Bacon Cheeseburger Vegetable, Fruit, & Milk | White Group Feb. 11 | -Cheese Pizza Slice- Or -Mozzarella Sticks- Vegetable, Fruit, & Milk |
| -Toasted Three Cheese Sandwich ~ Zesty Tomato Soup Or Spicy Chicken Sandwich Fruit, & Milk | -Toasted Three Cheese Sandwich ~ Zesty Tomato Soup Or Spicy Chicken Sandwich Fruit, & Milk | -Crispy Chicken Tenders- Spicy or Plain WG Dinner Roll Or Bacon Cheeseburger Vegetable, Fruit, & Milk | -Crispy Chicken Tenders- Spicy or Plain WG Dinner Roll Or Bacon Cheeseburger Vegetable, Fruit, & Milk | White Group Feb. 12 |
| Blue Group Feb. 15 | White Group Feb. 16 | Blue Group Feb. 17 | White Group Feb. 18 | Blue Group Feb. 19 |
| Blue Group Feb. 22 | White Group Feb. 23 | Blue Group Feb. 24 | White Group Feb. 25 | White Group Feb. 26 |
| -Clipper Burger- American Topper W/ Bt Or Spicy Chicken Sandwich Vegetable, Fruit, & Milk | -Clipper Burger- American Topper W/ Bt Or Spicy Chicken Sandwich Vegetable, Fruit, & Milk | -Nacho Grande- Spanish Rice W/ Black Beans With Fixings Or Bacon Cheeseburger Vegetable, Fruit, & Milk | -Nacho Grande- Spanish Rice W/ Black Beans With Fixings Or Bacon Cheeseburger Vegetable, Fruit, & Milk | White Group Feb. 27 |
| Blue Group Feb. 29 | White Group Feb. 30 | Blue Group Feb. 31 | White Group Feb. 1 | Blue Group Feb. 2 |

"NEW" ALL MEALS ARE FREE TO ALL STUDENTS!!!! FREE BREAKFAST, FREE LUNCH, EVERY DAY!!!!

Menu Subject To Change

| January 2021 THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS "FREE" Breakfast & Lunch Menu | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|
| Meals available for "all" children 0-18! | | | | |
| Did you know? | | | | |
| January was a monumental year for Alaska! As of January 3rd, 1959, Alaska officially became the 49th state of the United States. | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | |

Rise and Shine

Putnam High School Breakfast Menu 2020-2021 Hybrid Blue and White

"New" quick grab and go Breakfast will be served on breakfast cart outside the gymnasium and also served in the Kitchen daily. Grab your FREE breakfast!!!

| BREAKFAST IS FREE TO ALL PUTNAM STUDENTS | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|
| Breakfast Served Daily 7:10-7:25am | | | | |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Special Entrées: | Special Entrées: | Special Entrées: | Special Entrées: | Special Entrées: |
| Bacon Egg and Cheese on English Muffin • Double Choc. Chip Muffin • Blueberry Muffin • Assorted WG Low Sugar Cereal • Chocolate Chip Benefit Bar • Pumpkin Bread | Bacon Egg and Cheese on English Muffin • Double Choc. Chip Muffin • Blueberry Muffin • Assorted WG Low Sugar Cereal • Chocolate Chip Benefit Bar • Pumpkin Bread | Sausage Egg Cheese on English Muffin • 2# Tuna Salad Btukie Breakfast Manager's Choice | Sausage Egg Cheese on English Muffin • 2# Egg Salad Btukie Breakfast Manager's Choice | Wake Up Wrap: Ham Egg and Cheese • Double Choc. Chip Muffin • Blueberry Muffin • Assorted WG Low Sugar Cereal • Chocolate Chip Benefit Bar • Pumpkin Bread |
| Choose Assorted Fresh Fruit 100% Fruit Juice | Choose Assorted Fresh Fruit 100% Fruit Juice | Choose Assorted Fresh Fruit 100% Fruit Juice | Choose Assorted Fresh Fruit 100% Fruit Juice | Choose Assorted Fresh Fruit 100% Fruit Juice |
| Assortment of Low Fat and Non Fat Milk Variety | Assortment of Low Fat and Non Fat Milk Variety | Assortment of Low Fat and Non Fat Milk Variety | Assortment of Low Fat and Non Fat Milk Variety | Assortment of Low Fat and Non Fat Milk Variety |

Putnam Middle School

Breakfast is FREE to all students
Everyday!!!

| Breakfast Menu: | | 2020-2021 | OTHER DAILY SELECTIONS: |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Day of The Week: | Menu subject to change | | |
| Monday | Bacon, Egg, Cheese Sandwich | Breakfast Bars | |
| Tuesday | Bacon, Egg, Cheese Sandwich | Assorted Wg Muffins w/Cheese Stick or Chorlites | |
| Wednesday | Sausage, Egg, Cheese Sandwich | Assorted Cereals w/Cheese Stick or Chorlites | Banana Bread |
| Thursday | Sausage, Egg, Cheese Sandwich | Cinnamon Buns | WG Bagel |
| Friday | Wg Maple Burst n' Pancake | | |

*If you choose a Muffins or Cereal, you may choose a string cheese or chocolate tortilles with your breakfast or 2 Cereals (2 or 1 grain items)
**No more than 2 fruits per meal
*Only 1 juice per meal. You may PURCHASE additional juice, ala carte pricing
All students MUST choose a FRUIT and/or 100% fruit juice with their meal
1% Low Fat Milk, Fat Free Chocolate, Non Fat Strawberry Milk and Skim Milk is Offered With Every Meal.

We serve whole grains, low fat milk, and cheese, reduced sugar cereals, and a variety of fruit and 100% fruit juice no added sugar. We meet USDA Diet Regulations.

1% Milk, Low Fat Chocolate, and Skim Milk Is Offered With Every Meal.

Menu Subject To Change

All meals comprise of Meat/meat alternate, grain, vegetable, fruit and milk

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